

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM POLAND & VOLHYNIA



*A Society dedicated to preserving and promoting the historical heritage of
Ethnic Germans—highlighting those from Poland & Volhynia.*

Plowing Scene –Brücke zur Heimat (1957) + Der grosse Treck –Jahrbuch Weichsel-Warthe 1993]

Room 11, Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014-81 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T6E 1W8

Editor Sandra Tober

HSGPV

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **2013 HSGPV AGM** Trinity Lutheran Church **Sat. May 25**
2:00 p.m.
- **Book for Sale: *Step Back in Time! Vol. 1*** By Lorraine Dreger Yackulic.
- Copies of **HSGPV's German Cookbook** are still available and will be on sale at the AGM May 25th.

2013 HSGPV AGM

Saturday May 25

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Luther Centre

Trinity Lutheran Church

10014 – 81 Ave.

Calling all members!

It's time for the Annual General Meeting once again! Members and friends are all invited to attend.



Please join us in the
Luther Centre for
Koffee und Kuchen.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BY DAN PRETZLAFF

Dear Friends & Members

This year marks 10 years that I have had the great privilege working with this group, & I am grateful for this. I began my journey Dec. 5, 2002, when I was asked by Nelson Hanman to take over the Chair of the Steering Committee of the HSGPV.

A lot has happened since then & I am thankful to all

that helped bring us to where we are today.

The founding members, some who are with us today—Barbara, Helga, Phillis — had great foresight & stepped forward, and with great help from the Wuschke Family and dedication from Lorraine Yackulic and others like Wally Linneman, this Society is what it is today.

We have been blessed & we are thankful to the Trinity Church Council that we have this room & space for ourselves & our friends, Germans from Russia.

It is now time for me to step back. Larry Javorsky, our Vice Chair, has taken over a good part of my duties & I thank him for that. I will not stand for re-election.

Thank you & good luck!

RESEARCH BY HORST W. GUTSCHE

(The following is an excerpt from Horst Gutsche's list of research he has conducted over the years)

I was born of Bessarabian German parentage in Hoyersdorf, Germany. Our family immigrated to Canada in 1956 and moved to a farm near Onoway in 1962. I graduated from high school in Onoway in 1969 and studied in Watertown, Wisconsin; Oberusel/Taunus, Germany; graduated with a B.A. majoring in Germanic languages from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, and a Masters of Divinity majoring in Old Testament from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in May 1974.

I was a student pastor in Winnipeg for one year and after that served bilingual English-German congregations in Vancouver, Edmonton, Brooklyn (New York), Calgary, Vernon (B.C.), Morinville (A.B.), Onoway (A.B.), San Francisco and Barrhead in Alberta. At present I serve a small rural congregation part-time and translate books and documents. This has allowed me to do a lot of research focusing on that which I perceive to be for the benefit of both ethnic and religious community at large.

I set the goal of translating village history books that were written on German settlements in Bessarabia where my ancestors and extended family had previously resided, as well as other materials into English in order to make this information accessible for descendants of Germans from that former Russian and then former Romanian province not able to read German.

My congregation continues to gather funds for Lutheran mission work in Moldovan Bessarabia and I continue to be informed about conditions in the "old country", thus my interests are current and not just historical. I am also interested in the retention of the heritage languages and culture but see some ongoing insurmountable conditions that severely restrict religious, language, and cultural retention.

From July 1998 until January 2004, and from January 2008 until the present, I completed the following research or translation projects dealing with the ethnic German population in Eastern Europe as well as their descendants in and other English speaking countries. These projects are also reflective of my research interests, they include some other ethnic studies as well and they are the reason why I determined to become a polyglot during my teens, 20s, and early 30s.

1. The History of the Diocese of Tyraspol — The History of the German Catholic Diocese in Imperial Russia (80% of the members of the diocese used German as their first language); about 200 pages by Bishop Joseph Kessler; first published in German in Dickinson, North Dakota in 1930. Sometime in the future this book will be published in serial form in the Heritage Review of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society.
2. The History of Alt Elft in Bessarabia, about 150 pages, written by Otto Lehmann and first published in 1969.
3. The History of the Community of Tarutino (Bessarabia), more than 200 pages, by Wilhelm Mutschall, first published in 1934. This book is presently being published in serial form in the Heritage Review of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society and is sent to 2,400 members.
4. The History of the Parish of Neu Srata; about 100 pages by Willi Krueger and Pastor Emil Luka; information compiled from various sources and translated into English. This material is presently being translated into Russian and Romanian in order to make it accessible to individuals who read those languages in the Old Homeland/Alte Heimat. It will be distributed in those Moldovan villages so that the population can learn about the early history of their communities and more easily connect with the families of former ethnic German inhabitants who reside elsewhere. This is a type of historical ethno-tourism.

5. The August Belter letters from Volhynia to Canada; correspondence between August Belter and relatives 1929—1950; about 60 pages.
6. A List of Germans from Russia Heritage Christian Congregations; about 200 pages, by Horst W. Gutsche published in 2000. This material has been used in order to carry out mission trips for the support of Evangelical Lutheran congregations and other charitable work. This tome took four months to complete.
7. A History of Alexanderfeld, by Wilhelm Christian Wagner; 15 pages; first published in Germany in 1931.
8. The German Lutheran and Reformed Parishes in the Volga Meadow Side in Imperial Russia; 40 pages (author unknown), first published in 1909.
9. His Footprints in the Steppe by Pastor Samuel Keller, a Lutheran clergyman who describes his ministry and experiences in eastern South Russia; first printed around 1905.
10. Wittenberg, A Community in Bessarabia; 220 pages plus a CD with a huge amount of genealogical data by Klara Bollinger; written by Paul Rath and published in Germany in 1981.
11. The Customs and Folklore of the Volga Germans by Pastor Eduard Seib (1914); 151 pages.
12. A Directory of German (High and Low German) and bilingual German-English Christian Congregations. This work was funded by a Spletzer Family Foundation grant in 2008. The directory has been posted.
13. I have been translating an English language summary of the Bessarabian German Journal/Mitteilungsblatt on a monthly basis and post this material on an electronic mailing list that has about 150 subscribers.
14. In 1998 and 1999 I spent 13 months researching and transcribing data on the extended families of my four grandparents; Rudolf Gutsche and Sophi Gutsche (nee Hiller) and Willhelm Zollmer and Maria Zollmer (nee Hass). This work has allowed me to contact hundreds if not thousands of relatives around the world.

**THE
ULTIMATE
GERMAN HERITAGE SIGHTSEEING
GUIDES FOR ALBERTA**

Think back to the days of the early German pioneers in Alberta. Remember: the places named after them; the settlements they built; and the family names they left behind.

*Enjoy touring Alberta by touching base with early locales of significance to you and your family. Look for the **footprint** your German ancestors may have left behind.*

Contact the HSGPV to purchase the first book (550 pages) in the three-part series.

**STEP BACK IN TIME!
Volume I**



NORTHERN ALBERTA

*An Historical Travel Guide
for Albertans of German Heritage*

Lorraine Dreger Yackulic

CHARTER / LEASE OF A VISTULA LOWLANDS SETTLEMENT

BY PASTOR FRED TOBER

The following is an example of the kinds of agreements made between the landowners and the settlers. This particular lease was written in Polish and signed on August 1, 1645.

Note, in this case the settlers, judging by their names, actually appear to be Dutch. The Dutch were among the first to settle in the Vistula flood plain (Weichselniederung; Vistula Lowlands). Later, German settlers were also referred to as "honorable Dutchmen". That is, they settled according to the Dutch manner: they settled as a complete community. They made a lease agreement with the landowner as a community, and they governed themselves by a community constitution which they adopted themselves. External relations were governed by the charter or lease, while community matters were governed by the "Willkür", their own constitution.

Translated by Pastor F. Tober

"The following agreement was concluded between Mr. Dadzibog Niemojewski of Lubin, the voievode of Pomerellia and privileged leaseholder of Schlonsk on the one hand and Urban Nigbor, Jurga Grawans, Jachim Maska, Simon Bohning and their neighbors, on the other hand. Mr. Dadzibog Niemojewski, leaseholder of Schlonsk, intends to lease certain unproductive lands, called Piaskowe, which belong to his leasehold Schlonsk and lie between the lands of the old and newly settled Dutchmen of Polish Schlonsk, which up to now are subject to flooding by the Vistula and thus do not produce any income, to the above-named Dutchmen and their neighbors as well as their descendants according to Dutch Law for a period of 40 years, as of August 1, of this year 1645, for their possession and revenue of the uncultivated lands and its produce.

1. The lease agreement shall become effective as quickly as possible, to the end that the harvest yield of the Schlonsk leasehold increase and multiply
2. The lessor promises the named Dutchmen and their descendants that they may keep their rights and customs listed below, and in the event of the death of the present lessor, the successors of the leasehold estate (the starosts) to preserve, maintain their freedoms and rights which they received from the king., and promise to maintain the contract to their (the lessees') advantage.
3. According to the right and possession of the land, the above named Dutchmen, their neighbors, and successors, shall pay each year on St. Martin's Day the annual rent of 25 Polish zlotys per "Kulmisch Hufe" without arrears or omission to the lessor or his representative. All for one, and one for all are liable for the payment of the rent.
4. The lessor is not permitted to force them to do any unpaid labour (corvee), or demand such.
5. The above named Dutchmen and their successors may sell, turn into cash all produce, dairy products and grain wherever they please, with no detriment to the lessor who promises to protect them from violence and injustice.
6. Mayors (Schultzen) who manage and regulate their business and judge neighborly disputes, may customarily, without the permission of the lessor, be elected freely by their own community.
7. An appeal to the lessor regarding a mayors' judgment is freely available; likewise criminal acts can be judged by the lessor only.
8. The leased lands may be managed freely according to their own judgment. They may dig ditches, dig

out trees and weeds to suit their needs.

9. They may grind grain for their own use wherever they wish. If, however, a mill exists on the leasehold estate, they must have their grain ground at that mill.

10. All game may be hunted on their own grounds.

11. They may conduct their own customary worship services, and shall not be forced to worship in any other way..

12. If on their property they keep bees, the bees shall belong to them for their own use.

13. Except for the agreed upon rent, they do not have to pay any additional taxes.

14. Like everyone else, they will have to pay all royal levies (Abgaben).

15. If, in case of war, they have no income from their land, or if they have to leave their land for a while, they do not have to pay the rent for that time period.

16. In case they have to leave their land, their rights may not be rescinded. After their return to their property they are entitled to all their rights and freedoms.

17. During their rental period they may choose to distribute, give as gifts or sell their fields and lands or otherwise dispose of according to their own discretion. Whereby their successors have the same rights and obligations they had before.

18. In case it should be necessary to build a dike for the Schlonsk leasehold estate in order to protect it from destruction through flooding by the Vistula, they should do this together with the Dutchmen of Old and New Schlonsk.

After the expiration of the above named lease, the lands, fields and all buildings shall be at the disposal of the lessor of the time. Household implements and cattle are left to the Dutchmen as a guarantee, that after the expiration of the 40 years the same Dutchmen and their successors with the approval and consent of the then current lessor, that they shall be the next ones (i. e., that they as the old-established, have precedence in renewing their lease). To certify this agreement, Mr. Dadzibog Niemojewski, the current lessor of Schlonsk, has personally, with his own hand signed his name and applied his seal.

This took place in Sluzewo on August 1, 1645".

Source: Emil Mielke, Schlonsk, Chronik eines deutschen Dorfes an der Weichsel

Von Vater hab ich die Stature

Des Lebens ernstes Furhen

Von Mutterchen die Frohnatur

Und Lust zu fabulieren.

—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

News From the HSGPV

Open House: HSGPV held an open house on Saturday January 26, 2013. It was held in our new library room granted to us by Trinity Lutheran Church. Art Bri-er & Adam Roth cleaned the carpet and painted the walls. They also mounted a large bulletin board. Thank you for that! A luncheon was enjoyed by all. Thank you to Talita Klingbeil, Wilma Gwinner, Margarete Tober, & Helga Roth for helping. 32 people attended (members & guests).

Microfilm Purchase: The HSGPV has accepted a donation of a microfiche reader from Peter von Lipinsky. We thank him for this donation & look forward to having this addition to our library.

New Books: We thank Mr. Lotz for the books he donated books to our library.

HSGPV


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Board Members

Daniel Pretzlaff (Chair) Larry Javorsky (Vice Chair)
Helga Roth (Treasurer) Barbara Stenzel (Secretary)

Directors:

Art Breier Betty Scharff Talita Klingbeil
James Natriss Fred Tober Sandra Tober

Honorary Member: Maria Wuschke

Contacts:

Helga Roth (780) 464-4173
HSGPV Membership: \$20.00/person

HSGPV Library

Location: Room 11, Trinity Lutheran Church, 10014—81 Ave.
Hours: 10 a.m.—2 p.m. every Thursday
Librarian: Leane Evans

If you would like to visit the library outside of the regular hours, please call Leane at (780) 469-6118 to arrange access.

Library Access

To access the library, please avoid walking through the daycare in the basement. Instead, take the entrance to the basement that is past the office and down the hallway.

Invitation from the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

Anyone interested in joining the AHSGR or receiving their newsletter please visit their website for more information: <http://ahsgr.org>

Books for Sale through the HSGPV

- HSGPV German Cookbook (\$12)
- Complete set of E. Wuschcke's "Wandering Volhynien Magazine" (\$100)
- Marsh Family Book (\$20)

HSGPV German Cookbook

The Following Recipe is a sample from the HSGPV Cookbook created last year from recipes submitted from members and friends. Copies are still available for purchase.

MANDARIN-WHIPPED CREAM TORT

Ingredients

The bottom of cake

75 grams butter (2 ½ oz.

150grams (5 oz.) flour

75 grams (2 ½ oz. sugar)

1 tsp. baking powder

1 egg

Filling

3 cans of mandarin oranges

2 packages Vanilla Pudding

½ litre (2 cups) milk

20 oz. sour cream

200 grams (7 oz. sugar)

1 package Dr. Oetker glaze

Preparation

1. Mix butter, sugar, baking powder, and egg until you have a mixture.
2. Place into a cake form with removable bottom. Make the edges higher than bottom.
3. Cook pudding and add the sour cream. Mix well.
4. Add this pudding mixture to cake bottom and top with mandarins.
5. Bake for approximately 1 hour in a 345°F oven. Cool.
6. Top with 1 package Dr. Oetker topping mixed according to directions or own glaze.
7. This torte can be served with whipped cream.

Submitted by Elizabeth Quedenbaum