



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY of GERMANS from POLAND & VOLHYNIA

HSGPV, 10014 – 81 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 1W4 Web: <https://hsgpv.org> Email: [hsgpv@telus.net](mailto:hsgpv@telus.net) Tel: 587-454-0825

**Annual General Meeting 2020: ~~May 9th from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.~~**

**POSTPONED DUE TO COVID19.**

**AGM information available in Board News.**

**HSGPV Library **CLOSED** until further notice.**



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We hope this newsletter finds you healthy and safe. Our library closed shortly after public libraries were mandated to do so. Our volunteers continue to monitor emails, and we hope to have our AGM in the fall.

Thank you to the many people who have complimented the new library space. Showcasing it at the December potluck, and the Open House attached to Trinity's Christmas Fair provided the opportunity for many people to view. Our main floor location has drawn ever more patrons.

Our research table is comfortable to work at, and we have a laptop for patron's use as well as free WIFI access upon request.

Our Family Histories Project will be a focal point at our AGM.

Many volunteer hours allowed this project to be finished in record time. The summaries are searchable on our website, using key words, including names. Displays at the AGM will include easy-to read printouts of the summaries.

AGM election information and speakers confirmed is available in our newsletter. Consider adding your story to our program or running for a board position.

We hope to see you soon.

Barbara Stenzel





## A Journey in Volhynia and Canada



Pages from the diary of Ernst Althausen, a former Lutheran pastor in Volhynia. Translated from German by Rev. Gerhardt W. Becker for *Wandering Volhynians* (a quarterly magazine). First printed, 1921. English translation, 1993.

### Summary by HSGPV volunteer, Erhard Pinno, August 2019

“Rev. Althausen was born the 13<sup>th</sup> March, 1863 in Kurtuseki, Cauasus, Russia; graduated in Theology from Dorpat University; Pastor at Tuczyn, Volhynia, 1888-1902; in Rowne 1902-1908; in Soellenthin 1908-10 and Rashkow near Ostrowo, Posen 1910-20. He passed away at Dallgow, Neu Mark, the 29 April, 1946.”

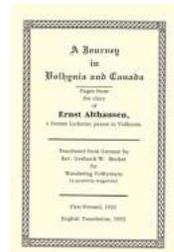
“In the period 1918-1920 many of Pastor Althausen’s former parishioners from Tuczyn and Rowne returned penniless from their exile in Siberia only to find their property confiscated and in the hands of the local Polish and Ukrainian peasants. Pastor Althausen decided to travel to North America to seek aid for these people from former parishioners who had settled in North America prior to the outbreak of WW I.”

Pastor Althausen set sail on December 18, 1920, arriving in St. John, New Brunswick on December 29. During his time at sea, he reflected on his time in his parish in Rashkow, Poland and pondered the purpose of his journey to raise support for the returning Volhynians. He recalled the many nationalities included among the 1,500 passengers, only few Germans and even fewer Lutherans. A few other passengers joined him in celebrating Christmas. When the high seas threatened the safety of all the passengers, he reflected on the suffering and plight of all, especially the Jews.

From St. John he travelled by train to Montreal where he briefly visited in a Lutheran congregation. On January 1, 1921, he travelled to Winnipeg. With the exception of a brief visit with the Neche congregation in North Dakota, the rest of his time (until about mid-February) was spent visiting congregations in Manitoba including Friedensthal, Emerson, Rosenfeld, Gretna, Winnipeg, Morris, Morden, Brown, Beausejour, Golden Bay, Green Bay, Libau (Latvian immigrants), Whitemouth, Camper, and Moosehorn. In each congregation he met with former parishioners and friends from Volhynia. Much time was spent reminiscing on the “olden days” but the focus was on sharing the plight of the Volhynians and encouragement for the relief efforts. He held the Russian church (Orthodox) responsible for the exile and persecution of the Volhynians because of their influence with the Tsar. Pastor Althausen established a German Settlers’ Bank Account to which his listeners were invited to contribute. Of course, many congregation members still had family or friends in Volhynia. It should be noted that he was invited to preach in every congregation, including some that were not Lutheran. Much of the diary entry for that day includes a summary of the sermon which usually focused on the application of the Bible readings to the plight of the Volhynians. (Note: Many of the congregations Pastor Althausen visited still exist and some of the names of the leaders of those congregations are well-known in Lutheran circles today.)

Readers may find some of Pastor Althausen’s impressions of church life in Canada of some interest. He lamented the sectarianism in many communities as a fever – Baptists, Adventists, and especially the Holy Rollers in Beausejour and Winnipeg. He was “quite confused” with the Lutheran synodical divisions in small towns like Moosehorn: “...here the sheep rule over the shepherd and the children over the parents”. Yet, he saw a rich spiritual church life: “When the congregations appear at the service in full numbers even on weekdays, when the elders are active in the worship service, when there is powerful singing, then you notice with joy, here there is real joy, it is active spiritual life, how they listen to the Word, how thankful they are for the sermon.” (pp. 42-3)

The selected diary days do not record the results of the relief effort nor how this aid was distributed in Volhynia. Nevertheless, it sheds some light on the plight of the Volhynians in the post WWI years and is a significant contribution to the history of the establishment of the Lutheran church in Manitoba. Faith, persecution, history and geography converged to strengthen the German-Volhynian spirit and community across the seas.



**This summary is available on our website. Copies of this 44-page booklet available for \$10 CAN through HSGPV.**



## Schicksalslied der Wolhyniendeutschen

Reprinted from: Wolhynische Hefte 4. Folge



*An introduction to our topic at our AGM.....*

Wolhynierlied aus der Vertreibung

Aus Wo - lhy-nien sind ver-trie-ben al-le Deut-schen arm und  
reich, Keiner ging den Weg auf Ro-sen, al-le  
wa - ren sie jetzt gleich. Kei-ner... gleich.

Sonntag früh, am fünften Juli, gerade zu der Erntezeit  
mußten weg die Vielgeplagten, alle, arm und reiche Leut!

freundlich wurden aufgenommen, fanden Wohnung,  
Nachtquartier.

Angespannt und schwer beladen stand der Wagen vor der Tür.  
Manche Sachen, o wie schade, blieben hier noch liegen mir.

Haben hier bei russ'schen Leuten Obdach für die Winterzeit.  
So sorgt Gott in schweren Zeiten, ihm sei Dank in Ewigkeit!

Vorwärts gings durch Sturm und Wetter, auf Befehl der Obrigkeit,  
Keiner fand jetzt einen Retter, der ihn aus der Not befreit`.

Was vergangen und geschehen, hat ein jeder schon gefühlt,  
aber wie's uns noch wird gehen, ist uns allen hier verhüllt.

So gings Vorwärts durch die Wälder, über Hügel, Berg und Tal,  
über Felder und durch Städte und durch Dörfer ohne Zahl.

Doch das eine ist uns sicher, daß es geht nach Gottes Rat.  
Er ist ja der rechte Richter, der noch nie gefehlet hat.

Auf den Strömen statt mit Dampfern fuhren wir in einen Kahn,  
und auf Wegen mancher Arten, dann zuletzt per Eisenbahn.

Er wird ja die Seinen schützen in der großen Trübsalszeit;  
Sollten gleich die Berge stürzen und uns droh'n die Ewigkeit.

Auf dem langen Trübsalwege kam der Tod, hielt gleichen Schritt,  
kleine Kinder, alte Leute, Jugendblüte nahm er mit.

Das hat Gott vor allen Zeiten jedem Gläubigen kundgetan  
Und er will auch uns bereiten ein gelobtes Kanaan.

Es ist gar nicht zu beschreiben diese große Trübsalszeit.  
Jeden drückten schwere Sorgen. Ach, wann endet doch das  
Leid?

Drum getrost in trüben Stunden, geht's auch gleich durch  
schweres Leid,  
denn darinnen hat gefunden mancher seine Seligkeit.

Endlich ist der Tag gekommen, da wir in Sibirien hier

Gott führt zwar auch seine Kinder oft in großes Herzeleid,  
damit doch ein jeder Sünder denke an die Ewigkeit.

“In der 3. Folge der “Wolhynischen Hefte: brachten wir das Wolhynierlied, das zwischen den zwei Weltkriegen entstanden war. Vorher aber gab es ein anderes Lied, das in manchen Abwandlungen nach der russischen Melodie “Volga, Wolge, matj rodnaja” das Schicksal der Vertreibung besang. Der hier wiedergegebene Text könnte die Originalfassung sein und soll in Sibirien 1915 entstanden sein. Es wird dem Kantor Gustav Frieske aus Wladzlawówka zugeschrieben.”

[Wolhynische Hefte 4. Folge, Seiten 98, 99]

**This melody is also called: Stenka Razin. Melody on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44wzqWQxHpQ>  
History of Stenka Razin: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stenka\\_Razin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stenka_Razin)**

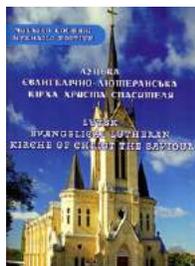
*Stenka Razin is the hero of a popular [Russian folk song](#), Ponizovaya Volnitsa, better known by the words Volga, Volga mat' rodnaya, Iz za ostrova na strezhen, and, simply, Stenka Razin.*



# NEWS



## Lutsk Evangelical Lutheran Kirche Of Christ the Saviour, by Mykhailo Kostiuk Review by Erhard Pinno, HSGPV Volunteer, March 2020



*I am humbled to write a brief review of Mr. Kostiuk's excellent research and writing to honour my own father who helped with the 'finishing' work in the building of another Lutheran Church in the area of Zyczynek, also located in Kreis (area) Lutsk. (E. Pinno)*

The book was printed in 2019 and is available in the HSGPV library in Ukrainian and translated versions in English and German. Some copies are available for purchase for \$20 CAN.

Mykhailo Kostiuk dedicated the second edition of his historical and architectural essay of the Lutsk Evangelical Lutheran Church to the blessed memory of his parents.

The history of the construction of this church is also the story of the Volhynian Germans who lived in Lutsk and the surrounding area at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thanks to their efforts, "a new unique and beautiful church – a real spot of Lutsk Gothic," was consecrated in September, 1907.

**Full Review available on our website: HSGPV Newsletters & Library News → Sale Items**

## Conferences of Interest



**2020 SGGEE Annual Convention: OUR ROOTS RUN DEEP**  
[https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention\\_news.html](https://www.sggee.org/convention/convention_news.html)  
 Friday – Sunday, July 31 – August 2, 2020. Portland, Oregon

**Genealogical Illumination Weekend**  
 September 11-13, 2020 (Friday-Sunday)..... *Digital conference being explored.*  
 Location: 14830 – 118 Street, Edmonton, AB (Caernarvon Community League Hall)  
 Contact: [ahsgr.edmonton@gmail.com](mailto:ahsgr.edmonton@gmail.com)  
 Website: <https://www.german-russians.info>

Plans finalized by July 1<sup>st</sup>  
 .... Check the website

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➤ Bi-annually: April 2021 [www.abgenealogy.ca](http://www.abgenealogy.ca)

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➤ Summer of 2021: Annual Conference. [www.sggee.org](http://www.sggee.org)

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➤ Bi-annually: July 16-18, 2021, Cincinnati, Ohio [igpp.org](http://igpp.org)

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➤ Bi-annually: July 16-18, 2021, Cincinnati, Ohio [igpp.org](http://igpp.org)

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**The Albertaner** is now available digitally!

Internet: <https://www.albertaner.ca> Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/TheAlbertaner>







## *HSGPV LIBRARY / BIBLIOTEK TREASURES! SCHÄTZE!*



Our new space has a comfortable research area!  
We're on the main floor and offer free WIFI. We  
have a laptop for patron use....just ask us!  
We're available to help. We look forward to  
your visit, when the library opens again!



**Could you help us find these? Price preferred: FREE or a great bargain!**

4 chairs to enhance the research space similar to this style: ⇒ light-weight, with arms.



A small lockable suitcase with wheels and handle, similar to this style: ⇒ to transport display materials to events



### **HSGPV Family Histories**

We've spent about a year looking at each family history book in our library collection and providing a summary of each. We are continuing with our project until all are included. Our summaries focus on providing a short overview of the content including the dominant family names within the resource. We felt this was important for patron research because we could offer a searchable database of these summaries on our website. They're located under **HSGPV Library Collection → Family Histories**. The "Search" line is on the right-hand side and accepts key words or names. Our hope is to make family histories more accessible online to help our patrons find meaningful genealogical connections. Research them further at our library!

**Do you need some information about an Alberta location?** Try....**Local and Alberta Histories** available through the University of Calgary portal: <https://libapps.ucalgary.ca>. The search function is powerful and easy to navigate. The collection describes the history of Canadian small towns, rural areas, and large cities.

### **Library Volunteers ... Many hands make our library great!**

Share your talents by joining a board committee! Check out some talents and time we're looking for on our website, or speak to any of our library volunteers or board members.

**HSGPV is operated solely by volunteers!**

**HSGPV Member Borrowing Privileges: 3 books for 3 - week loans**

*Our knowledgeable volunteers enjoy sharing their expertise!*



## INTERNET TREASURES / SCHÄTZE!



Source: <https://twitter.com/UKRintheUSA>

### Kyiv not Kiev: US changes spelling of Ukrainian capital

**Excerpted from Kyiv Post:** By Toma Istomina. Published June 13, 2019. Link: <https://www.kyivpost.com/world/kyiv-not-kiev-us-changes-spelling-of-ukrainian-capital.html>

The United States Board on Geographic Names, or BGN, has changed its English spelling of Ukraine's capital from Kiev to Kyiv, the Embassy of Ukraine in the U.S. announced in a statement on June 13, 2019.

The U.S. BGN is a federal body under the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that is tasked with deciding on the uniform standard of place names to be used by the U.S. Federal Government and its agencies. "This decision is extremely important and gives impetus to also correct the official name of Ukraine's capital outside of the United States," the statement reads.

The Kiev spelling is transliterated from the Russian language, while Kyiv is transliterated from Ukrainian. The embassy stated that the U.S. BGN had considered changing the English name in the database after receiving an appeal from Valeriy Chaly, Ukraine's Ambassador to the United States. ....

The embassy says that the move is of great importance, as many international organizations,

[Link: <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/honest-history-saying-the-ukraine-is-more-than-mistake.html>]

such as the International Air Transport Association, use the U.S. database of geographic names.

The board hasn't published any statement regarding the Ukrainian capital name. However, according to the embassy, the decision will come into force on June 17 2019.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry has launched a social media campaign to try to persuade international media, organizations and companies to use "Kyiv" for Ukraine's capital name instead of the traditional English spelling "Kiev" in October 2018. [Link: <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/kyivnotkiev-campaign-asks-foreign-media-to-change-their-spelling-of-ukraines-capital.html>]

Since the beginning of the campaign, many airports around the world have recognized the Kyiv not Kiev campaign and changed the spelling of Ukraine's capital accordingly.

Apart from Kyiv, the ministry also requests that international media, organizations and companies use the Ukrainian names of other cities, like Kharkiv, Odesa, Mykolaiv, Lviv, and Ukraine, instead of "the Ukraine."

Read the Kyiv Post Honest History Episode on why saying "the Ukraine" is more than a mistake.



*Enjoy our website filled with treasures for genealogical pursuits!*





# BOARD NEWS



## AGM Board Positions 2020

**HSGPV Bylaws require that positions come available on a rotating basis.  
The Nominating Committee Chair would be happy to speak to you.**

HSGPV Bylaws describe the duties of the various positions in Article 6, and are available in pdf on our website at HSGPV→ About Us. Board meetings are Thursdays 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM on the main floor of Trinity Lutheran Church, generally seven to eight months in the year, including the AGM in May. Our board meetings are canceled due to Covid19, and will resume, when we are able to library again. The following 2- year positions are up for election:

**President                                      Vice-President                                      Secretary\*                                      Directors – 5 positions**

**Secretary:** Familiarity with MS Word would be an asset. \* In 2020, a 1-year position.

**Directors:** Interest in committee work an asset.

**Executive:** Familiarity with MS Word & Excel and Dropbox an asset.

*Supportive environment and training/mentorship available for all positions!*

*Board meetings also available on a video-conferencing platform!*

**Contact HSGPV office, if you're interested in running. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor.**

## AGM 2020 Presentation Information

Erika Lefevre                      *Volhynians deported to Siberia.... A short history...., and how this affected my family!*  
 Barbara Stenzel                      *Overview of Family Histories on our Website. Print displays available for perusal.  
 Kaffee und Kuchen served and intermittent entertainment.*

Would you like to contribute? 10-15-minute topic or a display to share?  
 Please contact us! We are also able to accommodate your virtual display.

### Groups we collaborate with! Guests are welcome!

**AHSGR – Edmonton Chapter: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

**GFR: Germans from Russia Alberta**

**AHSGR – Calgary Chapter: American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

**AGS – Special Interest Group (SIG): German Heritage: Alberta Genealogical Society**

**GermantownYEG:** Walking tours of historical Germans in Edmonton.

**SGGEE: Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe**

**Germans from Russia Settlement Locations:** See Internet Treasurers in this newsletter.

**Links to each group's website, Facebook and further information available on our website.**

HSGPV Board 2019 - 2020					
Barbara Stenzel	President	Art Breier	Director	Ed Retzer	Director
Vacant	Vice-President	Walter Epp	Director	Kate Rittner-Werkman	Director
Brenda Javorsky	Treasurer	Erhard Pinno	Director	Helga Roth	Director
Vacant	Secretary	Dan Pretzlaff	Director	Victor Sedo	Director
Larry Javorsky	Past President	Newsletter Committee Lead: Sandra Tober			



## HSGPV NEWS



**HSGPV Library Hours: Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Open to the public! Borrowing privileges for HSGPV members.

**Visitors welcome! Guest WIFI available!**

Holiday hours on our website and answering machine.

Library visitations outside of the regular hours accommodated. Please email or call us to arrange access.

### *Consider a Donation to HSGPV Library.....*

*Help preserve records of your family's ethnic German heritage for the future.*

*Consider donating historical items such as books, maps, photographs, heirlooms.*

*Tax receipts are available for the value of the donation, and for any*

*contribution over \$10. Donations are accepted by members and the public!*

*Contact us for further information or fill out the form on our website.*



### *Thank you for your donations and membership fees!*

#### *You have supported the following:*

- Library Relocation: Moving and storage boxes, food & drink for volunteer movers.
- *Die Deutschen und die Polen* film: HSGPV provided support to this non-profit endeavour and anticipated loss. Ticket sales went far above our expectations and validated our efforts! We were able to reimburse all personal funds provided by members to allow us to risk this event.

#### **We thank our members for their generosity of risking personal funds!**

-  Website: Webhosting cost increases to migrate to the preferred https secure status. Users are confident with our site, because they see the padlock!
- Our new display, brochures and business cards: They were admired at the 2019 events: AGS Conference in April, AGM in May, Heritage Days and SGGEE conference in August!
- Annual General Meetings: room rental costs, coffee and cake.
- Library supplies: To serve members and public with their genealogical pursuits!

### *Time to Renew your Membership!!!*

*Membership Form is available on our website or by contacting our office.*

An annual membership fee of **\$25.00** is applicable and valid between January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Payments are accepted in the form of **cheque** or **cash** (at the library) or

**etransfer [NEW!]**, using [hsgpv@telus.net](mailto:hsgpv@telus.net) Password: **Library 2020**.

Two-year renewals are accepted. Membership is open to any person over the age of eighteen years of age.

*Due to Covid19, the 2020 membership will be a 2-year membership to include 2021.*

*HSGPV is happy to help with any genealogical endeavours!*