



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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windholz@bukovinasociety.org
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Editor: Dr. Sophie A. Welisch
e-mail: sawelisch@juno.com

Web Site: www.bukovinasociety.org



SOCIETY NEWS

The Bukovinafest, scheduled for September 18-21, 2003 in Ellis and Hays, Kansas promises to be a very interesting and historically valuable experience. Enclosed is the program of events, registration form and list of presenters. Please feel free to pass along a copy to anyone else who may be interested. If you wish the form sent to another person, please notify us by email or contact us via the Society postal address. Inquiries from numerous sources lead us to anticipate a good turnout. For those attending the convention, the Society has reserved a block of rooms with special rates ranging from \$55 to \$65 at the Vagabond Motel (Best Western), 2524 Vine Street, Hays, Kansas 67601. In addition, you may obtain cards for a free choice of a continental breakfast or a discount on a full breakfast at the Vagabond Restaurant adjacent to the motel. Arrangements may be made by calling the hotel's toll-free number at 1-800-432-2776 and mentioning your affiliation with the Bukovina Society. Vagabond and most area motels offer free transportation to and from the airport. For other motel and tourist information see: www.haysusa.net or www.discoverhays.com

The annual business meeting of The Bukovina Society of the Americas, a non-profit Kansas corporation will be held on Monday, July 14, 2003 at 6:00 p.m. at the headquarters in Ellis, Kansas. At this time we will conduct the normal business of the corporation, review financial reports, and elect members to replace those whose terms have expired.

The Bukovina Society has revised and printed a new brochure, a copy of which is enclosed with this mailing. The brochure is available upon request by contacting us via email or our postal address. The board thanks Dr. Sophie A. Welisch for her work in editing the new publication.

The Society requests members with an email address to forward it to us for our records. Based on the response, this may be a viable way to send certain communications. Please email them to: windholz@bukovinasociety.org

BUKOVINA SOCIETY PROFILE FEATURED IN GERMAN PUBLICATION

Der Südostdeutsche, the monthly newspaper of the *Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen* (Regional Association of Bukovina Germans) in Augsburg, Germany, featured the Society in a front-page profile in its April 20, 2003 issue. It was a great honor to have this comprehensive article printed by an affiliated organization abroad. Featured were the monument dedicated to the Bukovina German settlers in Ellis, Kansas, a picture of the Board of Directors elected at the first annual convention in 1989, and a print of the Society's emblem. Special thanks to International Board Members Dr. Sophie A. Welisch for editing the English version and Michael Augustin for the translation into German, and to Luzian Geier, editor of *Der Südostdeutsche*, for publishing it.

BUKOVINA PEOPLE AND EVENTS

The Bukovina Society sends sympathy to the family of Ethel Emma Haneke, who died in Ellis this past March 31st. Ethel was the wife of charter Board Member and Vice President Ray Haneke. She was very active in the Society and, along with Ray, attended nearly all functions and meetings throughout the years. Ethel's presence and support will be missed.

The Board of Directors of the Society sent thanks to Norbert Honas, who built a beautiful oak display cabinet for the Honas wedding dress. The special cabinet allows the dress, donated by the Honas family last year, to be displayed in a safe and preserved manner at the museum. Catherine Flachs, who wore the dress at her marriage to Joseph Honas in Pojana Mikuli on November 5, 1893, brought it, along with her wedding shawl and a blanket swaddling her infant son, John, when the family immigrated to Ellis in 1901.

The *Newsletter* editor again issues a call for articles relating to Bukovina and its people, past and present, both at home and abroad. We are seeking to enhance the content of the *Newsletter* with articles from individuals whose knowledge and experience will serve to draw a wider audience and be of interest to our readership. Suggested topics: family stories and experiences, research currently in progress, translations, old letters and documents, family reunions, aspects of Bukovinian history and culture, inter-ethnic relations, immigration, genealogy, travel to Bukovina, Bukovina today. These can be emailed to the Society or sent to our postal address.

The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) will hold its annual conference in Salt Lake City, Utah between July 18-20, 2003. This year's program will feature a format of lectures and workshops on the theme of "European Past of the American Present." For further information, you may contact the convention chair, Kahlile Mehr, by e-mail at mehrkb@ldschurch.org or through the postal service at P O Box 2347, Salt Lake City, UT 84110-2347.

NEW ITEMS FOR SALE

The Society has received a limited supply of maps of Bukovina published by G. Freytag. Suitable for framing, this map, with orthographic spellings of place names as used in the Austrian period, is in full color and measures 12" by 16". It may be ordered from the Bukovina Society at P O Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637 for \$5.00 US, which includes postage.

The Society has published an English translation of the Valentin Reitmajer cookbook *Deutsche-Bömisches Kochbuch*, translated by Dr. Sophie A. Welisch. Entitled *German Bohemian Cookery in 19th Century Bukovina* the English edition contains sixty-three recipes in numerous categories. It may be ordered from the Bukovina Society at P O Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637 for \$6.60 US, which includes postage.

BUKOVINIAN FOLKLORE

The following vignettes, based on a collection of Bukovinian folklore literature collected over the years by Dr. Claus Stephani, are reprinted from his book, *Das Mädchen aus dem Wald: Märchen, Sagen und Ortsgeschichten* (Bucharest; Ion Creanga Verlag, 1985), pp. 46-48. Dr. Stephani, who presently resides in Baldham, Germany, has authored numerous publications based on oral history he has personally conducted among Bukovinians, in particular the Zipsers. He is a frequent contributor to the Bukovina Society's web site.

1. The Black Giant (I). In about 1913 the glass maker "Stodla-Nani-Ambros" (Ambros Weber) of Woytinell stopped at the Fürstenthal forest ranger's house. It was a warm summer evening, the crickets were chirping, and Weber was smoking his pipe thinking about nothing unusual. As he was proceeding apace, he suddenly heard an eerie whistling coming from the Putna Forest.

Weber stopped and looked across to the mountains. Here he saw the black giant, as he was meandering between the fir trees, becoming very large so that he covered the entire evening sky. Then he slowly shriveled up, came down to earth and introduced himself to Weber: "It will become as dark as you have just seen it!" he said and dissolved in smoke.

World War I broke out soon thereafter, bringing also to Fürstenthal much pain and suffering.

"The black one has foretold this," the superstitious farmers thought at that time.

2. The Black Giant (II). This reputedly happened in the 1930s. One evening Johann Gaschler came home from Mardschina via Schwir Meadow Lane. In front of the homestead of Josef Stolarczuk, where Fürstenthal Lane turns left, he suddenly stopped: from the middle of the lane a big man dressed in dark clothes slowly approached.

Gaschler was surprised, since he had never before seen this stranger. When the black man stood in front of him, he was about one meter taller than Gaschler. "Listen, Johann," he said, "take leave, a time is coming when none of you will any longer be in the village!" Thereupon the black giant dissolved into smoke and disappeared.

When Gaschler recounted the episode to his neighbors, Schlehner, Kohlruss, Gnad and Dombrowski, who at that time all lived at the end of Center Street, they laughed: "You drank too much whiskey in Mardschina." No one took the story seriously.

But after some years the Fürstentalers were resettled [to Germany] and later expelled and scattered in all directions. Those who returned to their old homeland recalled Gaschler's encounter with the black giant.

3. The Black Giant (III). The black giant was once seen on the Bach meadow.

It was an autumn morning when several workers came from the sawmill on the street where the Prince Rudolf Memorial is located. When they had reached Adelstein's house and were about to cross the bridge, they spied the black giant to the left

of the Bach meadow. He stood motionless like a mighty fir tree on a windless day. The workers did not know what to make of it.

“Come on, let’s go,” one of them said and wanted to turn back and return home via Fürstenthal Lane. But then the black one waved; when he raised his right hand “as in a greeting,” they saw glimmering in the evening sun that blood was dripping from his hand! At that time the eerie apparition was thus interpreted: bloody times lie ahead and many people from the valley will die.

Indeed soon thereafter World War II broke out and in 1941 and 1942 the first of Fürstenthal’s young men were killed in action in the east, among them Julius Hoffmann (22 years old), Philipp Artmann (23), Anton Baumgartner (called “Wastl-Ferdl,” 16 years old), Michael Gruschinsky (22), and both the sons of Matthias Kappel, Ambros and Josef, one 22 and the other 18 years old. In sum 124 men did not return from the last war of whom 46 were missing in action.

Later several of the workers, now already old, recalled the black giant. Still superstitious, they exclaimed: “The black one said it. And that’s the way it happened!”

BOOK REVIEWS

By: Dr. Sophie A. Welisch (Congers, NY)

Maria (Hones) Beckers. *Heimatgedanken*. Cologne: By the author, 2002. 186 pp.

Born in Poiana Mikului (Buchenhain), Bukovina in 1939, the author as a small child experienced the evacuation of the German population of Bukovina in the fall of 1940, resettlement in German-occupied Poland, flight from the advancing Soviet troops in the winter of 1944-45, and finally integration in post- World War II German society. She has detailed her memoirs, replete with photographs, documents, and maps to illustrate the saga of a Bukovinian family, whose experiences were not a-typical of those of her erstwhile Bukovinian compatriots. Those pursuing genealogy of German-Bohemians who in 1841 left their homeland in the Bohemian Forest and founded the village of Poiana Micului will find in *Heimatgedanken* references to numerous families, including among others: Baumgartner, Beer, Flachs, Hable, Hackl, Heiden, Hoffmann, Hones, Lang, Neuburger, Reitmajer, Stöhr and Weber.

Nor is the book limited to family anecdotes and genealogy. In it the reader will find aspects of past and present village life in Poiana Micului as well as an overview of organizations and personalities currently active in preserving Bukovinian traditions and culture both in the Old World and the New.

Heimatgedanken is priced at 30 euros, which includes postage. Those interested in purchasing the book may contact the author either at her home address: Am Feldgarten 3, 50769 Cologne, Germany or via e-mail: <beckers@eureca.de>

An der Zeiten Ränder. Czernowitz und die Bukowina. Geschichte/Literatur/Verfolgung/Exil. Cécile Cordon and Helmut Kusdat (eds.). Vienna: Verlag der Theodor Kramer Gesellschaft, 2002. 396 pp.

An anthology of forty articles by thirty authors from five countries, *An der Zeiten Ränder* depicts the life and times of Czernowitz in particular and Bukovina in general. Using a thematic and chronological approach beginning with the Austrian annexation of Bukovina in 1774, the book includes memoirs, poetry, interviews, essays and over 150 photographs. Some articles have been reprinted from the literary quarterly journal, *Zwischenwelt* (Vienna, Austria); others are now published for the first time. Although heavily weighted to reflect the Jewish experience, articles by Ukrainian, Romanian and German authors give assurance of diverse opinions, aspirations, and life styles. The book includes biographical sketches of the contributors.

With themes of history, literature, persecution and exile, the reader experiences the multi-faceted ethnic complexity of Czernowitz, once called “Little Vienna.” An article by Günther Guggenberger discusses German-Jewish relations in Czernowitz until 1940 while Ion Lihaciu and Amy Colin trace the significance of the German language in theater, education and literature. Especially poignant are the essays by Margit Bartfeld-Feller, Gaby Coldewey, Vassyl Cholodnycky and Sergii Osatschuk, which, among others, depict the deportations and excesses inflicted both by Germany and the Soviet Union on select residents of Bukovina during the course World War II.

Be the reader’s interest in poetry, history, culture or politics, he/she will assuredly find much interesting and informative material in *An der Zeiten Ränder*. The book may be obtained from the publisher at Engertstrasse/204/14, A-1020 Vienna, Austria for 30 Euros.

This anonymous internet article from the 1985 Reunion Book of the Butz Family was brought to our attention by Society member Paul Massier.

ANTHONY AND MARIANNA BUTZ

Anthony Butz was born on September 17, 1854 in Illiboka, Bukovina, at that time a crown land of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. After World War I Bukovina, with the Black Sea to the east and the Carpathian Mountains to the west, came under Romanian jurisdiction. The area in which the Butzs lived was graced with gentle slopes on the north and south of the Suceava River, which lazily flows eastward to the Black Sea. Fields of corn, grain, cotton, flax and vegetables alongside orchards and pasture lands with grazing sheep, cattle and geese leaves a permanent impression on all who see it. A moderate climate, which seldom exceeds minus 20 C., makes the area a desirable region in

which to live. If the political and economic conditions at the turn of the century had been different, its citizens would undoubtedly have had no reason to leave for another country.

For reasons unknown to us (possibly poverty) Anthony Butz at the age of eight years was taken to Fratautz, a few kilometers to the south of Hliboka. There he stayed with his aunt until he married at the age of 23. At Fratautz, Anthony learned the trade of cabinetmaking. He distinguished himself as a cabinetmaker to the extent that over seventy years after having left Europe, he was still spoken of for his skills and excellent work.

Marianna Massier, who became the wife of Anthony Butz was born in Fratautz on July 19, 1856 to the Johann Massiers. It was while Anthony lived with his aunt in Fratautz that he became acquainted with the Massiers and subsequently married Marianna in 1877. As nearly as we can ascertain it was in the month of October that they exchanged their vows of marriage. The marriage remained intact until October 29, 1935, when Anthony at the age of 81 years near Southey, Saskatchewan, went on to be with the Lord. Marianna, his wife, outlived Anthony by almost four years. She joined her husband through death on July 17, 1939, just two days short of her 83rd birthday.

The Butzs had 12 children born to them in Hliboka. Three of the children passed away in infancy. Their oldest daughter Carolina passed away when giving birth to her firstborn.

During the period of time when Anthony and Marianna lived in Hliboka, there was little hope for economic progress. Large landholders controlled the agricultural resources and the economy in rural areas. Heavy taxation to maintain Emperor Franz Joseph's grandiose projects in Vienna further added to the burden of the average householder. The Butzs worked hard to maintain an acceptable standard of living by cabinet building and farming on a small parcel of land. Despite their efforts they could not visualize a sensible survival in Hliboka. Rosie Koenigfeld, a sister to Anthony, had moved to Saskatchewan. She urged the Butzs to join them in Canada. Rosie's positive remarks about Canada and the unheard of opportunity to become owners of 160 acres of land for ten dollars, convinced the Butzs to leave Austria for Canada.

After one month of travel with eight children ranging in age from 3 to 24 years, they arrived in Balgonie, Saskatchewan in 1904 in the month of May. After the Butzs temporarily settled in an empty house near Balgonie, they set out to make a living in a new world.

Some of the family members became employed while Anthony, with his oldest son Frank, went to their newly purchased homestead on the forested northern banks of the Qu'appelle Valley, eight miles south of Southey, Saskatchewan. By 1905 they had built a sod house and cleared two acres of land. Clearing the land of its trees and breaking virgin soil required arduous work and limitless patience. Nevertheless, by 1906 thirty acres of land were ready to be sowed. By 1910 a new log and mud plastered house was built. Other buildings soon became a part of the new farmyard. Later sidings were added to the house, which remained the permanent home of the Butzs until their death. Life for them while difficult and simple was not without hope for a better time, as had been the case in Austria. While they never became wealthy they had enough on which to live and sense security until their death. Their son, John and his wife Julianna took up the homestead farm once Anthony and Marianna were too old to care for it. They lived under the care of their children until death took them to a new world with their heavenly Father.

While Anthony and Marianna still lived in Romania they both desired a deeper spiritual life than they were experiencing. Anthony at that time became involved in secret Bible readings with others of similar interest. These secret Bible reading meetings took place in his father-in-law's hayloft. When this was discovered authorities drew him and Marianna to court and charged them with deliberate intentions of wanting to change their religion. They were both set free for lack of evidence.

After they were living in Canada, Marianna took the initiative to further her spiritual life by attending house meetings. Marianna came to a personal commitment to Jesus as her savior. Anthony, while reluctant to become a part of these meetings later decided to attend. He, too, through these experiences, made a commitment to Jesus and received Him as his personal savior. While Anthony at first found it difficult to identify with a fellowship that was different than he was accustomed to, through a series of experiences soon considered himself an integral part of the group which was meeting in Martin Sauer's house. This group of believers became the founders of the Southey Baptist Church in 1906. The church continues on in its witness to this day. Anthony and Marianna served as a deacon couple in the Southey church for some years.

With this the story of the Butzs does not end. The extended family has grown to over 400 members. Perhaps someone in the future will write about the wide network of families which have grown from Anthony and Marianna Butz who were known for their courage, resourcefulness, determination, stable character and vibrant living faith in God.