



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637 USA

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$15.00

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- The annual meeting of The Bukovina Society of the Americas, a non-profit Kansas corporation, will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 10:30 a.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect members for expired terms to the board of directors, to review the financial statement of the Society and to conduct any business to come before the meeting. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting, however, eligibility to vote is based on paid membership in the Society.
- Welcome to new life member #206, Kim McBride of Ohio.
- The Society website has a page *Contact List of Bukovina Genealogists*. In an effort to bring this up to date, one of our board members contacted each person by email. Several of these came back, most likely due to change of email address. We encourage those who are listed, but have not responded, to let us know if you wish to continue and your current contact information. Please see: <http://bukovinasociety.org/contact-list.html> and reply to pat6363@yahoo.com
- Society International Board member and newsletter contributor, Steve Parke, had an article published in the March 2013 edition of *Nase Rodina (Our Family)*, the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's quarterly publication. The article "Traces of the Bednasek Family Lodge Trail", follows the Bednasek family's fraternal lodge involvement from the stock yard neighborhoods of Kansas City to the farmlands of Central and Western Kansas, including the towns of Wilson and WaKeeney.
- The 2013 Conference for Saskatchewan Genealogical

Society will be hosted by the Moose Jaw Branch October 4-6, 2013 at the Heritage Inn, Moose Jaw SK. Titled "Footprints Through Time", information on the conference is available at:

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~skmjbsgs/

- Heimatbrief, Stories of German-Bohemians, a 400 page book compiled by the German-Bohemian Heritage Society is now available. Their Society has been collecting these stories since founding in 1984. A check should be sent to their Society for \$34.95 US funds which includes sales tax and shipping. Postal address is: P O Box 822, New Ulm, MN 56073

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO VISIT BUKOVINA SOCIETY AND THE ELLIS COUNTY OKTOBERFEST

Ellis County, Kansas, the German Capital of Kansas, will host its annual Oktoberfest on Friday, Oct 4, 2013. On the very next day, Saturday, October 5, the Bukovina Society will host programs of interest at our headquarters in nearby Ellis. Plans are being made for some social times and meals on both Friday and Saturday evenings.



The Days Inn in Ellis is a new motel located at 205 Washington, just off Interstate 70 and north of Bukovina Society headquarters. Arrangements are being made for a special rate of \$65.00. Mention the Bukovina Society. For more information about the hotel, log on to <http://www.daysinn.com/> and then search for "Ellis, Kansas." To get the special rate in the Bukovina block, call them at (785) 726-2511. At the same time, please also send an email or notice to the Society so we can plan for the group activities. There are no registration fees.



Klaus and Anni with their daughter and son-in-law.

ANNI AND KLAUS HÄUSLER

Anni and Klaus Häusler of Munich, Germany, have written to say that they plan to attend the 2013 Oktoberfest and visit the Bukovina Society.

Anni lived in Bukovina from 1945 until 1961. By this time, southern Bukovina was part of the Suceava *Judetul*, or county, in Romania. She and her family lived in Poiana Micului, where her parents had both grown up, and later they moved to Gura Humorului. Her family has ties to the Reitmajer, Lang, Flachs, Seidel, and Honas families, many of whom homesteaded in Ellis, Trego and Ness Counties in Kansas. Her mother Maria nee Reitmajer was married to Sebastian Hartinger, who died in 1949 in Poiana Micului. Her grandmother was the youngest sister of Ignaz Lang, so that Anni is related to our board member Edward Lang.

She wrote the following in the November 2012 issue of *Der Südostdeutsche*:

Dear Bukovina friends!

... In May 2012, my husband Klaus and I, Anni nee Hartinger,

flew to Bucharest where within a short time, we acquainted ourselves with the beautiful sights and the night life in the city's old center. Private businesses are active; we experienced no problems.

Then we rented a car and drove about six hours to Gura Humorului in Bukovina. We experienced no traffic jams or accidents in the 1436 kilometers of our travels in Romania. The Gura Humorului streets that we traversed were well-maintained. In spite of many little cars and the trucks, there was adequate parking along the streets. Many stork nests were visible along the way from there to the Putna monastery. The entire countryside was very lovely and interesting for us.

Our main destinations were the village Poiana Micului and the small city of Gura Humorului, where I lived until my family and I immigrated to Munich in 1961. I wanted to visit the grave of my father, Sebastian Hartinger, who died working in the forest at the age of 35 years in Poiana Miculu in 1949

It is interesting to see the new development in Bukovina. Individuals who work abroad incorporate various design elements from those locations in the construction of their new homes here. A new kind of architecture is developing, which is not as Romanian as it once was.

There is a little airport along the way from Radautz to Alt-Fratautz. From there we were able to make a flight over the wonderful forest, the monasteries, and of course over my village Poiana Micului and the city of Gura Humorului. The pilots, Sorin and Radu Trelea were very happy about our visit, which we had scheduled in advance, and we had a pleasant time with their family.

We would be glad to share information about our trip with those who are interested.

ZITA WATZLAWIK

The metro Los Angeles area is the home of Johana Zita Watzlawik, a member of the Bukovina Society and a contributor to recent issues of our newsletter.

Her grandparents Johans (Juan) and Petrona / Petronila (Tolkan) and their children were born in Augustendorf, Bukovina. In 1912, Johans and their oldest child Albina Lola immigrated to Argentina and in 1913, Petrona and their next child Maria followed them. It wasn't until 1924 that the two youngest boys – Julius and Ludwig (Zita's father) – could join them. The oldest son Julius and his own child Fridolin did not arrive in Argentina until 1930.

They listed their nationality as German and they were “deeply rooted in German traditions,” according to Zita. She recalled that her father would carry her to the German Club in Buenos Aires to enjoy the entertainment there.

Zita has spent many years researching her family history. To date she has presented two papers at a reunion in Buenos Aires and is planning to use that material in a book. Although good immigration and naturalization records are available in Buenos Aires, the population data lists Germans without any specific mention of their places of origin. Scholars and historians have indicated that two million Volga Germans, 600,000 with origins in Germany and 400,000 of Mennonite and Swiss extraction, may live in Argentina. Therefore she says that her next project will be to establish the number of Bukovina immigrants and descendants in Argentina. Her family alone accounts for about 100 descendants. Within her own family, different opinions exist about their origins: some say Germany, others say Austria, and still others say Romania. We know that there is truth in each, depending upon the given time period.

In September 2011, she traveled to Bukovina with a heritage group facilitated and led by our sister organization, the *Bukowina-Institut* in Augsburg, Germany. A highlight of the trip was a visit to Augustendorf, the village in which her grandparents and her father had been born.

STEVE PARKE

The presentation “Austrians from Bukovina: The Ellis, Kansas Settlement” will outline the story of the Bukovina immigrants who settled in Western Kansas in the late 1880s and early 1900s. Both the German Bohemians and the more numerous Swabian Germans, all part of the early Ellis area settlement, will be covered but the primary focus will be on the German Bohemians, Steve’s primary area of research. This historical, genealogical and cultural tour will move from the Bohemian Forest to Bukovina and then to the Ellis area. We will look at the Austrian Empire of the 1800s, American Westward Expansion, Bukovina immigration to the Ellis area, German Bohemian core cultural values, and Bukovina immigrant economic ventures in Western Kansas.

HERMAN OTTSCHOFSKI

We look forward to another visit to the Society during this time by Mr. Ottschofski who recently toured the former

Bukovina and will make a report to the members during the Oktoberfest time in Ellis County.

BUKOVINA SOCIETY VISITORS

Recently two ladies made an extraordinary trip to visit the Bukovina Society in Ellis, Kansas. Brenda Christie and her husband Jonathan began to drive from their home in Phoenix, Arizona, to Kansas City for her family reunion. During the drive, she called to coordinate a visit to the Society’s museum but unfortunately they hit a Midwest blizzard and had to spend the night in their truck. Therefore they had to bypass Ellis in order to get to the family reunion. The event was attended by about 300 guests, and Brenda was able to interview 10 relatives who were 75 to over 85 years of age. After the reunion, her pilot husband had to depart for home so she and her cousin Margaret Burton made the trip to Ellis, where they met with society board member Joe Erbert.

Brenda’s first relatives immigrated to the United States in June 1910. They were Jacob and Eva (nee Korzeniowski) Samborski, newlyweds from Solca [Bukovina], and they were sponsored by a family named Gerhart whom they had known in Solca. They lived in Kansas City, Missouri, in the East Bottoms.

Eva’s brother Adam Korzeniowski came to Kansas City, Kansas, in the early 1920’s and then their sister Julia and their younger brother John arrived. Eva Korzeniowski married Jacob Samborski, and her Julia Korzeniowski married Louis Samborski, Jacob’s brother.

Several of Brenda’s relatives have returned to Solca and also visited Landshut, Germany where her great-grandmother’s sister lives with her sons. Through the internet, they found an English speaking cousin named Gabriel Donici in Romania, who has sent photos and translated for them. He recently finished his thesis on the economic history of Bukovina.

Many interesting family stories have been recorded, and old friendships have been renewed. A picnic is scheduled to be held in Kansas City this summer and in 2014, a trip to Landshut, Germany and Solca, Romania, are planned.

More about the Korzeniowski and Samborski families will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

MT. ANGEL TREFFEN AND CONFERENCE

Keizur, Oregon
September 12-15, 2013

Good news! The next Mt. Angel Treffen and Conference will take place in Keizur, Oregon, on September 12-15, 2013! The date will allow attendees to take part in the annual Oktoberfest in nearby Mt. Angel, Oregon.

Mt. Angel, Oregon (2007)
photo by Andrew Parodi

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The annual event is an exceptional opportunity to learn more about the Germans who once lived in the southeastern part of the Habsburg Empire. This year the activities will include a visit to a hop-farm.

Mt. Angel is small community was settled by German pioneers in the 1800s. The countryside around it is reminiscent of the beautiful, rich Bavarian countryside. Oregon's oldest and best-loved *Oktoberfest* began in 1966 as a traditional harvest festival to celebrate the bounty of the earth and the goodness of creation. It is now Oregon's largest folk festival.

The preliminary schedule for the 2013 Treffen and conference has been announced.

Thu. Sept. 13

dinner for early arrivals (dutch treat)

Fri. Sept. 13

"Bukovina" - Dr. Viola Carlile

"Genetic Genealogy, The Use of DNA Testing to Aid Genealogical Research" - Emily D. Aulicino

Onsite Luncheon provided by Leah Augustin Ott

Conference Information – Ray Borschowa

"1944 Fleeing Home, Sent to the Ukraine & Russia" (video) – Ann Morrison

Options (select 1 of the following)

Go to the Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel

Take the Hop Farm Tour with Wayne Neuberger (must register for this free tour)

Informal discussion and Gemuetichkeit over coffee and cake

until 4:30 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 14

"Yugoslavia between World Wars I and II" - Henry A. Fischer

"Departure & Destinations - Banat & Bosnia in Bukovina's Immigration" – Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Picnic Luncheon provided by Leah Augustin Ott

"Travel Slides from the Banat and Bukovina" - Dr. Viola Carlile

Dinner at host hotel (registration required)

Sun. Sept. 15

Breakfast and Conference Review at host hotel

There is no charge to attend the *Treffen!* The organizers kindly request that you contribute whatever you see fit to offset the costs of the buffet lunch, meeting hall, and other administrative expenses.

Mark your calendars and plan to take part in the *Treffen!* The conference website is now available at <http://www.danube-swabians.org/> (go to the drop-down for "Fun" and then look for the "2013 Treffen").

You are encouraged to make your hotel reservations at the Keizur Renaissance Inn in Keizur (<http://www.keizerrenaissanceinn.com/Location.html>). A block of rooms will be reserved at a special rate. To get the special rate, be sure to mention that you mention that you are with the "Banat Group."

To learn more about Mt. Angel, Oregon and its *Oktoberfest*, go to <http://oktoberfest.org/>.

BUKOVINA CEMETERY UPDATE

Excerpts from *Zum stillen Gedenken an alle Buchenlaender Toten und Vermissten:*

Forschungsreise zu Bukowiner Friedhöfen in Der Südostdeutsche (November 2012)

By Nicole Rieskamp, translated and edited

By Irmgard Hein Ellingson

The Suceava Pacea, Radautz, Jakobeny, and Frassin cemeteries were my focus again this year. New to my research were Glitt, Lichtenberg, Moara (by SV), Watra Moldowitza, Pojoritta, Kimpolung, Luisenthal, Valea Putnei, Dorna Watra, and Mariensee.

Glitt - the graves of Greek Catholics (mostly Ukrainians) are now found by those of Roman Catholics.

Lichtenberg - the cemetery is comparable to an impenetrable primeval forest with all kinds of thorny brush. Although grave stones are said to be standing in there nothing can be seen. Part, or possibly all, of the cemetery land belongs to the Adventists, who fence and mow their property here, as they do in Alt-Fratautz.

Moara - the Stoner and Feigel family graves are the only ones to be found.

Watra Moldowitza - the cemetery in is located by the monastery and in the front right part of it are the graves of the German families.

Pojoritta - a narrow path leads right to the nicely located cemetery. Once again it is evident why the graves of the former Germans are untended. The few Germans who still live here are usually elderly, and fewer and fewer young people are interesting in tending their family graves. In addition, one must be physically fit in order to reach the cemetery, which is located on a steep mountainside. I was not able to find even one grave with a legible German inscription or name. There may still be graves but no names are visible on the many wooden crosses.

Luisenthal - the cemetery is located in a lonely valley. For the most part, it is overgrown with birch trees and with berry bushes. A Romanian woman who lived in Luisenthal showed me the way to the cemetery. She told me that it had been about three years since the last burial had taken place there and that no one had visited it since then.

Kimpolung – the cemetery is laid out according to a design. The graves are arranged in lines and rows, the original road has remained, and the area is mowed. The scene was only marred by the street dogs who apparently live there. The tomb of the Kühl family is the first thing to be seen here. Next to it stands the cemetery chapel in which Irma Gehl (1927-2002) is buried.

Dorna Watra - in the Roman Catholic cemetery, a portion of the cemetery road remains. Many German names can be found and there is a memorial to the 1940 German resettlement here.

Mariensee - we were given incorrect directions to the Roman Catholic cemetery and found ourselves in an open hilly meadow where a fence set apart a cemetery for Russian soldiers. We asked again for directions. This time we found the right cemetery with what had once been mighty trees. The graves of the Germans were scattered across the vast area but were basically located in the front to the middle sections.

Radautz – grave stones had been cleared from the cemetery and dumped with plant- and stone remains on a little hill.

Jakobeny – when I visited the Evangelical Lutheran Church here, I was impressed by the stately size and the furnishings, but was troubled by the poor condition of this worship

facility. Translator's note: Ms. Rieskamp's photo of the entrance to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jakobeny appeared in the January 2013 issue of *Der SOD*. The caption reads: "The Roman Catholic church in the village radiates resplendence [but] time is running out for the Evangelical Lutheran church. The structural condition of this stately and beautiful church is cause for concern. The roof is in urgent need of repairs, and a number of the walls are wet. Irma Rusti and Rosa Volk, the two retirees who take care of the church, do their best but they have financial limitations. They have a wood burning stove, which is only rarely lit. At the time of my July 2012 visit, no worship service had yet been held there in that calendar year. Plans to hold worship keep being put off again and again for them and for the other remaining Protestants in Bukovina."

Researchers and genealogists should not give up too quickly. The general answer given by private persons, in libraries and in archives is "Gibt es nicht" ("no such thing") or "haben wir nicht" ("we don't have it"). When one persists, however, some things can still be found within the comprehensive spiritual or material resources. Often the workers do not know what kind of treasures they have, because they themselves do not read or speak German.

Additional information, tips, or clues are welcome. Please contact me at this address: Nicole Rieskamp, Jugenheimer Str. 29, 64665 Alsbach, Deutschland/Germany, email nrieskamp@gmx.de.



Roman Catholic Cemetery in Solca, Bukovina:

Translator's Note: Pictured above is the grave marker of Stefan Tyszinski (died 1915) who married Victoria Valeria Kuffner on January 28, 1875. It is posted with a family history at findagrave.com as Find A Grave Memorial# 17746872 (Solca Catholic Cemetery, Solca, Romania). Copyright fair use is intended.



MIKE JAROS
A Life Member Update

Mike Jaros became a life member of the Bukovina Society in 1996. Later that year, he participated in the Seventh Annual Bukovina Festival in Jastrowie and Pila, Poland, which attracted more than twenty folk groups from Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Ukraine. He also made the trip from his home in Duluth, Minnesota, to Kansas for our Society's festival,

Mike was born in Braunschweig, Germany, in 1944 but his ancestry in Polish. His maternal great grandparents lived in Poiana Micului, Bukovina, and his paternal ancestors lived in Galicia, the neighboring province in the Habsburg Empire. After the 1878 Congress of Vienna, when the empire occupied and annexed lands on the Balkan Peninsula, his ancestors moved to Bosnia. Their story is told in Mike's article "Bukovinian and Galician Poles in Bosnia: 1895-1995," published in *The East European Genealogist*, Vol. 13, #4 (Winnipeg: East European Genealogical Society, Summer 2005).

Mike served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1972 to 1980 and from 1984 to 2009. In 2008, he decided not to seek re-election. "It's been great, and I'm really grateful, I'm really grateful, you know, a poor immigrant coming, to be elected, it's an honor" (quoted by LeAnn Wallace in "Mike Jaros Looks Back on 32 Years of Representing Duluth," dated September 9, 2008, at [\[www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/local/28104739.html\]\(http://www.northlandsnewscenter.com/news/local/28104739.html\)\).](http://</p></div><div data-bbox=)

The Bukovina Society congratulates Mike Jaros for his years of public service and wishes him continued success in his future endeavors.

ALLES LEBEN IST AUFBRUCH –
EIN ZEITZEUGNIS

(All Life is a Beginning – A Contemporary Witness)

A New Book by Karl Lang

in *Der Südostdeutsche*, December 2012

translated By Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Karl Lang first glimpsed the light of day on 14 June 1937 in Bukovina, which had once been a Habsburg crown land but had become part of Romania. His parents originated in Bori, a southern Bukovina village that had been established by Bohemian Germans about a hundred years earlier. Over the years, Lang has personally organized trips to Bukovina, where he has taken many photographs and made films. He is a member of the *Landsmannschaft* in Austria, and an SOD subscriber.

In A Look back at the Ancestors, the book's introduction, Gerhard Zeihsel relates that Lang was a religion teacher in Vöcklabruck, Austria. Within the circle of his friends and acquaintances, he would often talk about his life and others, finding his experiences to be so interesting, would tell him that, "it would be a shame if all of this was lost or forgotten." That was the impetus for Lang's book, in which he sets his own life within a larger historical context.

Lang writes about the künische Freibauern (königlichen Freibauern, or "royal free farmers"), whose privileges included exemption from feudal duties, exemption from military service except in the times of greatest necessity, the right to administer their own jurisprudence, hunting and fishing rights, etc. This was in accordance with the Grundsatz, or basic principle of law: Niemand's Herr und Neimands Knecht, das ist künisch Bauernrecht "(No one's master and no one's servant, that is the --- farmer's right)". With diligence and perseverance, they cultivated the Bohemian Forest and made it fruitful, eventually gaining financial security. Characteristic of them was deep religiosity with loyalty to their Catholic faith.



The Roman Catholic Church in St. Maurenzen (2009)
Förderkreis zur Erhaltung von St. Maurenzen e. V.
München, Eichinger

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In 1835, seventy families gathered in Bergreichenstein, Bohemia, and prepared to move to Bukovina. Their decision was promoted by overpopulation, lack of land and ground, limited income opportunities, hunger, and arbitrary demands for military service. Promoters in the Vienna chancellery favored entire families. Among the Bohemian Germans from the Prachiner Kreis, (the Prachatitz district) were Franz Lang from Stepanitz in the St. Maurenzen parish (see photo above) and his wife Maria Ash from Unterkörnsalz in the same parish. The journey, which began on 7 May and ended in Czernowitz on 10 June, was undertaken with only hand carts – without horses. From Czernowitz they moved to Radautz, so that they traversed over one thousand kilometers. Then the real work began, as the book describes in enthralling detail!

With practically super-human effort, they achieved at least a halfway normal and financially secure life. The Bohemian German villagers in Bukovina – Bori, Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli), Fürstenthal, and Schwarzthal) were rooted in tradition and maintained close contact with one another.

Lang devotes considerable space to the difficult departure from Bukovina at the end of 1940. That includes resettlement by train to Trofaiach/Stmk and then to Bielitz-Biala with settlement in Fischersdorf (*Oberschlesien*, or Upper Silesia). The family began to develop their

settlement but the advancing eastern front necessitated their flight from Silesia in January 1945. They reached Enns on 4 March 1945 and two days later, their refugee trek ended in Marchtrenk.

Many other *Aufbrüche* – dawns or new beginnings - followed in the course of the family's life in Austria, their new home. After a long incarceration in West Germany, their father was able to join them and they were built their own home. Karl's own life journey led him to theological studies, to his career as a religion teacher in Vöcklabruck, to travels back to his homeland as well as to the lands of the Bible, and finally, as Lang himself says, to his experience of Parkinson's disease, which has recently played a certain part in his life and will be increasingly significant in the future, until the day dawns in which he reaches the eternal home that has been promised to him.

The book is a fascinating contemporary testimony placed within relevant historical context. It was self-published in the spring 2012 and contains 144 pages with many color pictures and documents. The price is 28 Euros plus postage and handling. The book is available from the author: Mag. Karl Lang, Pilgramstr. 5, 4840 Vöcklabruck, Österreich/Austria, telephone 0043 (0) 7672 22800, email mag.k.lang@aon.at.



Easter Eggs from Bukovina
photo by Julijan NyCa (2011)

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HERZ JESUKIRCHE (DIE
JESUITENKIRCHE) IN CZERNOWITZ:
DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR ITS
PRESERVATION

from *Der Südostdeutsche*, February 2013
translated by Irmgard Hein Ellingson



A call for donations to support the preservation of the Jesuit church in Czernowitz has been issued by *Landsmannschaft* member Olga Horbeck, and has been endorsed by the SOD. The church is endangered and the materials needed for the repairs are lacking. During the Soviet occupation of northern Bukovina, the building served as the *Staatsarchiv*, or state archives. Mrs. Horbeck travels to Czernowitz every year and has an exact understanding of the situation. She will assure that contributions are properly directed. Those who are interested in this project may contact her by telephone at 040-6735959 or at the following address: Olga Horbeck (by Miller), Ellerneck 96, 22149 Hamburg, *Deutschland/Germany*. The photo (above) was taken shortly after the church's construction at the beginning of the 20th century.

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