



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 81, Ellis, KS 67637-0081 USA

Vol. 26, No. 4 December, 2016

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Email: [pat6363@yahoo.com](mailto:pat6363@yahoo.com)

Web Site: [www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org)



Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$15.00

**Credit card payments:** In PayPal, type [payments@bukovinasociety.org](mailto:payments@bukovinasociety.org) in the **Pay for Goods and Services** payee box with the amount in US funds. PayPal will send receipts to the purchaser and the Society.

## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- As of this newsletter, a new Bukovina Society website has been placed online with the same URL: [www.bukovinasociety.org](http://www.bukovinasociety.org)
- We are grateful to Larry Jensen, who created the first website in his personal online account. This was followed through the volunteer and professional work of Werner Zoglauer and Rebecca Hagemann bringing new features including member access to a massive online database. Slowly, due to software changes, our site became static. Although informative for people doing Bukovina searches, we could no longer process online memberships and store purchases. Fortunately we were able to manually process credit card payments and assign passwords for the database. This feature has been responsible for a majority of new members and we thank the generous genealogists who shared their life work with the Society.
- The third website has been installed by Sicoir, a division of Eagle Communications in Hays. As to be expected, there may be items that need further revision, and you are all welcome to submit comments.
- This issue of the newsletter is being emailed to prior members and interested persons who may renew membership online or by the credit card instructions above.
- The annual meeting of the Bukovina Society was held on September 30, 2016. Expiring terms of Van Massier, Norma Lang, Eileen Goetz and Oren Windholz were filled by their reelection. After the regular business of the meeting, the next annual meeting was set for September 9, 2017 during the Bukovinafest. After adjournment, the Board of Directors met and elected the following officers: Oren Windholz, President, Martha McClelland, Vice President, Shirley Kuppetz,

Secretary and Guy Windholz, Treasurer. A draft of the Bukovinafest plans was reviewed and approved.

- Thanks to Luzian Geier, Augsburg "Acquisition of Bukovina by Austria" (in German script), 27 pp. by Raimund Friedrich Kaindl is available by email from the Bukovina Society.
- Lucille Dater, Denver, a charter member of the Society and participant has sent family histories and photos for our archives. We appreciate her thoughtful donation.
- The Bukovina Society has learned that Dorothy Massier of Las Vegas, Nevada, passed away September 22, 2016. Dorothy Hedlund Wright and Paul F. Massier were high school sweethearts from Pocatello, Idaho, who reconnected and married in 1978 after each had been widowed. The Massiers were founding members of the Bukovina Society, and Paul was a longtime international director. Many have appreciated Paul's genealogical and historical research, and have read his work, "Ferdinand Massier and the German Baptist Movement in Bukovina and Galicia." Dorothy will be remembered for the joy, enthusiasm, and positive energy that she shared with everyone she met. Memorials may be directed to the Paul F. and Dorothy H. Massier Mechanical Engineering Research Fund at Idaho State University at this address: Paul F. and Dorothy H. Massier Mechanical Engineering Research Fund  
Idaho State University Foundation  
921 S. 8th Ave, Stop 8050  
Pocatello, ID 83209-8050  
Our deepest sympathies are extended to Paul and their families.
- Anni and Klaus Hausler sent an interesting website featuring a number Bukovina German villages. [Bukowinasuceava.jimdo.com](http://Bukowinasuceava.jimdo.com)
- The front page of the November 2016 Augsburg publication, *Der Sudostdeutsche*, featured two photos of

our Oktoberfest 2016 tent courtesy of Luzian Geier.

- Frank Seidl whose heritage includes Bukovina, Brazil and the US wrote a few Brazilian notes for *Der Sudostdeutsche* recently. “The renowned Rio Negro graphic artist and book illustrator, Rogelis Arbigauss, portrays many scenes of everyday life involving the largest community of people with German Bukovinian ancestry in the world. Rogelis is descended from German immigrants from Trier, has no Bukovinian ancestry, but is inspired by our Bukovinian traditions.” Frank also reported, “September 7th marks the independence of Brazil in the year 1822 when Emperor Dom Pedro I announced separation from Portugal. Every year this date has been celebrated by parades in almost every city of the country. This year in the city of Maringa, Professor Roseli Maidl was especially honored. For many decades Roseli was internationally acknowledged as a folkdance teacher with international esteem.” She is the daughter of Sebald Maidl, mayor of Rio Negro (1951-1955), chairman of the Agricultural Society (Uniao) (1945-1949) and proprietor of the warehouse “Casa Maidl.” Sebald is the son of Karl Maidl and Maria Reitmeyer, immigrants from the village of Bori in Bukovina.

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## BUKOVINAFEST 2017

Below is an outline of the Bukovinafest. The March 2017 issue of the newsletter will contain a more detailed program of events with registration information. No fees are required, with individual payment for beverages and meals at the times scheduled.

### Thursday, Sep 7

5:30 p.m. Early Bird social and dinner Smoky Hill Country Club, Hays

### Friday, Sep 8

9:00 a.m. Welcome and get acquainted Coffee, Society headquarters, Ellis  
Tour of remodeled and expanded museum

10:30 a.m. Optional Car pool tour: Society monument, St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. John's Lutheran Church

Noon: Box lunch at Headquarters

1:00 p.m. Car pool to: Old Fort Hays, Ellis County Historical museum and Felten Gallery

5:30 p.m. Social and dinner, Thirsty's Grill and Bar banquet room, Hays (short walk from motel)  
Van Massirer: History of Bukovinafests, music and sing-along

### Saturday, Sep 9 – Thirsty's banquet room

9:00 a.m. Coffee

9:30 a.m. Opening – Invocation, Pastor Herman Otschofski  
Welcome, Martha (Schoenthaler) McClelland, Ellis County Commissioner  
My Bukovina history, Pastor Otschofski

Power point presentation of Bukovina tour  
Klaus Hauesler Michael Augustin  
Stories from Bukovina elders, Al Lang

Noon: Lunch on own (menu service available in dining room next to meeting room)

### Afternoon:

- Bohemia to Bukovina, Doug Reckmann
- Series of presentations by faculty of the University of Augsburg
- German settlements in Kansas, Dr. Bill Keel, University of Kansas
- Bukovinians in Kansas
- Panel discussion and Q&A on all things Bukovina

4:00 p.m. Annual meeting of the Bukovina Society

5:30 p.m. Social and dinner, Thirsty's  
Michael Augustin: My genealogy bug, Music and sing along

### Sunday, Sep 10

- Coffee and points of interest tours for those interested.

## MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

QUALITY INN (Choice Hotels), 2810 Vine Street (US Highway 183), Hays, Kansas

Phone: 785.628.8008

Email: GM.KS038@choicehotels.com

Group name: Bukovina Historical #2646429

Rates: \$60.00 to \$70, according to requested accommodations

Policy: 4 p.m. hold, with cancellation allowed before hold time

Rooms include free hot deluxe breakfast, 24-hour lobby coffee, newspapers, business center with free fax, and hotel wide Wi-Fi. Hotel has interior corridors, pool and spa.

RESERVATIONS for rooms are welcome now.

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## EARLY BUKOVINAFESTS

By: O M Windholz

In the early years of Society conventions, there would be several audience members who were born in Bukovina. After the First World War, some individuals who knew of the main emigration to America in the late 1800's had the good fortune of family here that assisted them in the relocation. I interviewed several of them after the founding of the Society in 1989.

Richard Hoffmann was born in Illischestie, which produced nearly half of the Swabian Lutherans who located in Ellis County. His grandfather received a plot of ground from the Austrian empire to locate in Bukovina. Their religion was mixed in their family where the boys took the religion of their father, and the girls that of their mother. It did not create problems, both in the family and community. Religion was not an issue and furthermore was not discussed, like who was Catholic or Lutheran. "Not like over here where they clashed." Illischestie was mostly Lutheran, with some Greek Orthodox, and about a half dozen Catholics who had services performed by a lay minister. His grandfather requested a priest for his funeral and Richard drove a horse and wagon to Cascica to pick him up and take him back. At funerals, the wooden casket was carried to the cemetery with everyone waling behind. They stopped every so often to say prayers and all three religions used the same cemetery.

Richard attended school for six years and his most vivid memory was being taught to respect elders and removing their hat upon greeting them. Families lived in the village and went out to the forest to clear-cut farmland and plant crops. They had six or seven cows and would sell the excess to poor people "for pennies." Weddings were a major event where they killed a hog, made all the typical German food, celebrating for two days, and danced through the night. They did not make wine or beer, but bought bottled "whiskey." A local poor family had a few members who provided the music.

Richard was 20 years old when he made the decision to relocate in 1921. In departing, his parents and two sisters remained. He said conditions were bad after the war and so much of the area had been destroyed by the Russians. He was able to travel to the "county" seat of Gurahumora and to Suceava. In addition to the native German language, he spoke and understood some Romania, Greek and Russian. He worked at a job helping transport the large amount of military equipment left behind. He was a member of the fire department, mandatory for boys after age 18. He also was one of the villagers who drove the elected "mayor" to Gurahumora to attend day meetings.

A few letters back and forth to Kansas kept him in contact with his brother to whom he asked for the funds to emigrate. He received \$103.00. The next year he worked in harvest and when he earned enough money, paid his brother back. He moved to Chicago after that, working until retirement in 1970. He married at age 28 and moved back with his wife, who preferred Ellis to her native Chicago.

A draft of this article was reviewed by Irmgard Ellingson, who sent the following:

"This story was shared with me by the late Adamine Keller of Ellis, Kansas. She was the daughter of Adam (Ed) and Barbara (nee Zerfas) Schoenthaler.

When Richard Hoffman, son of Friedrich Hofmann (1861-1935) arrived in Kansas, he was wearing a suit that Philipp and Karoline Zerfas had sent in a package back to Bukovina.

The Zerfases were Adamine's maternal grandparents. Adamine's paternal grandmother Marie nee Hofmann, wife of Adam Schoenthaler (1854-1930), and Friedrich Hofmann were sister and brother. Therefore Adamine's father and Rich were first cousins."

Irmgard is author of *The Bukovina Germans in Kansas: A 200 Year History of the Lutheran Swabians*.



**The first Bukovinafest dinner and dance in 1989 was also the celebration of the 25th wedding anniversary of Margaret (Johnson) and Reinhold Boschowitzki. For the wedding auto, "Reiny" bought a new black Cadillac and used the same vehicle for the 25th celebration.**

