

The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$15.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Welcome to new life member Scarlette Kronenbitter, Yuma, AZ.
- Thanks to Doug Reckmann, Jacob Everist and Becky Hageman who are working to bring much more content to the Society website.
- Thanks to Anni and Klaus Häusler for donating a book placed in the museum featuring her mother's life. It traces the family in Pojana Mikuli, through the *Umsiedlung*, and back to Bukovina.
- Mike Jaros, an elected member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, has attended several Bukovinafests and kept in contact with us. In June of this year, he and numerous family members toured their homelands and attended the 28th Bukovina Festival in Poland. He sent an article to be published in this newsletter. (A Google search Bukovina Festival Poland will show info, photos and video.)

BUKOVINAFEST 2017

Prior to the Bukovinafest 2017 in September in Ellis County, KS, some of the guests arrived early to enjoy local hospitality. Michael Augustin and his wife Bärbel from Germany have visited numerous times in the past and brought with them, Nancy Hoedel from Alaska and Leah Duda from Portland. Michael is related to local Augustines who all share a heritage in Fürstenthal, Bukovina. Juanita Augustine, Norma Lang, and Pat and Oren Windholz hosted them at various lunches. The board of directors scheduled a welcome dinner Thursday before the fest for others who arrived early. Three additional special guests attending were Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer and Dr. Nicole Eller, professors at universities in Germany and Doug Reckmann, Portland. They all have also been prior visitors to Ellis County.

Selections of three excellent dinners were offered at the Smoky Hill Country Club. Desert was Hemetschwengers, from a pastry recipe brought here from Bukovina by the Swabian Germans and passed on to Pat Windholz from the elder ladies.

Society members arrived at the headquarters Friday morning for a get acquainted coffee. After a ribbon cutting and welcome to all the guests by the Ellis Chamber of Commerce, some 50 people, members and public, toured the Bukovina Society refurbished museum. A special display for the morning at the museum featured local artist Kenneth Eberle showing his spectacular "turned wood" exhibit. Out of area visitors enjoyed Ellis points of interest and were treated to a special ride on the famous "miniature train" by the Railroad Museum staff. Some Society members have local relatives of Bukovina descent and were able to reunite with them.

Friday evening started at 5:30 with a social and dinner followed by entertainment. Joe Erbert played his hand-made dulcimer, and then was joined by Paul Flax on accordion. Paul, a volunteer, plays at area nursing homes for the residents. Dr. Bill Keel led the audience in a series of German songs, the lyrics projected onto a large screen. A few polkas provided for dancing. The meat dish was chicken fried steaks and one participant asked if that was German food. Darrell Seibel related that in the Society's first years, the board and spouses met each month to plan and work on the next Bukovinafest. Everyone ordered the "chicken fry" after the meeting at the Ellis bowling lanes, and soon it was declared the official dish of the Bukovina board. Anni and Klaus Häusler, Munich, sent a donation for the fest, which was used to provide German "Kucha".

On Saturday morning, the meetings began at Thirsty's banquet hall, part of a restaurant complex. State of the art audio/video equipment was available to presenters. Darrell Seibel, Vice President of Edward Jones Investments,

sponsored coffee and cold beverages. The meeting room was staffed with a cash bar for evening events and accessible restrooms. Society president Oren Windholz opened the meetings, with the invocation given by Vice President Marcy McClelland. She then gave the official welcome in her capacity on the Ellis County Commission. A series of power point presentations related to Bukovina were given during the day, which at times numbered some 75 people. News announcements brought in people with other ethnic interests.

The morning session began with Al Lang giving a talk on growing up “Austrian” in Ellis with stories and experiences when he was young. He is the author of two books on the Bohemian Germans, and is working on a book sharing the folklore of his elders. As an exchange student in Germany, he connected with distant cousins in Bavaria who left Bukovina in 1940 during the Umsiedlung. Al combined a Bukovina quiz with humorous and informative stories. In keeping with a German tendency to have long words, he gave the audience one he coined. Bukovinanachkommensgemeinschaftsammlung, Bukovina descendents society meeting.



Michael Augustin, Nancy Hoedel and Leah Duda projected photos of their recent tour to the former Bukovina. They each narrated parts of the tour, which featured the rural areas of the country and their common interest in Fürstenthal. Michael is a semi-retired engineer at Porsche. As part of his career he was assigned to work with Harley Davidson in Kansas City. This gave him the opportunity to visit the Augustine families in Ellis. His interest in ties to Fürstenthal led to assembling a database with 37,600 entries, and 5,600 names of descendants of Johann Augustin.

Lunch was “on your own” and participants chose from the next-door restaurant, nearby fast food, and even a trip to Lb Brewery downtown. Doug Reckmann presented on the migration from Bohemia to Bukovina. He gave an illustrated guide to doing research on that ethnic group. Doug has been researching his Bukovina, Switzerland and Hannover heritage since 1968. He has compiled massive amounts of research and plans to publish a book on Schwarzthal. It will include a monograph of all the families

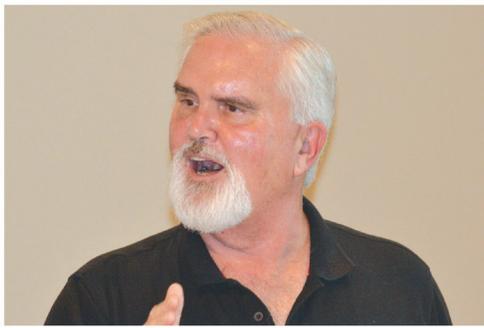
who lived there for it’s nearly 100-year Bohemian German existence. Guy Windholz gave a history of the orphan train children with photos and personal stories of those who settled in Ellis County. He graduated from Ft. Hays University and spends his retirement time as a community volunteer which includes Society treasurer, membership chair, and museum curator. Photos and personal stories added to the orphan train saga. Dr. Wildfeuer and Dr. Keel, University of Kansas professor, gave presentations on the local German dialect. Dr. Keel has identified every community in Kansas with a German heritage and has recorded their language dialects. As director of graduate studies, one of his doctoral students, Gabi Lunte, did research in Ellis and published a book. Dr. Wildfeuer’s presentation focused on the local dialect known as “Boem-Deitch”, one of the two local dialects, the other that of the Swabian Germans. He and Dr. Eller traveled to every colony of Bohemian Germans in Canada and the States. Both will have books published next month. Nicole and Fred’s close ties to the Society were evident when they scheduled a wedding reception at the Ellis Country Club.

Members enjoyed another social and dinner Saturday evening. The buffet was capped with German chocolate cake baked by board members and spouses. After dinner, Joe Erbert continued with accordion music and Dr. Keel taught the audience the Schnitzelbank song. A spontaneous special extended the evening entertainment when Al Lang took the accordion, playing and yodeling, a nearly lost tradition of the Bukovinians in the Carpathian Mountains. Dr. Keel led more singing and the polkas provided for dancing.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Bukovina Society was conducted during the Bukovinafest, Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Minutes of the prior annual meeting and a financial report were given to the members. Board members elected for the terms expiring were: Martha McClelland, Art Honas, Van Massirer, and Rebecca Hageman. Doug Reckmann gave the members a report on website progress. There was no further business.

Following the annual meeting, the board met to select officers for the ensuing year and the following were elected: President, Oren Windholz, Vice President Martha McClelland, Secretary Shirley Kuppetz and Treasurer, Guy Windholz.



BRIEF HISTORY OF MY ANCESTORS

By: Mike Jaros

My mother's parents, Jozef Neuburger and Rozalia Papik and their ancestors originated from the village of Dambaska, Kuznia, around Opole, Silesia in South West Poland. About 500 years ago they emigrated to Chadca, Slovakia and lived there until 1803 when they moved to Bukovina and thereafter to Bosnia-Hercegovina in 1895. My father's parents, Karl Jaros and Apolonia Shkutnik emigrated to Bosnia-Hercegovina in 1895 from Bojanow, Galicia.

They were given forested land in the village of Chelinovac, Bosnia between the Sava River and Kozara Mountains where they put up temporary tents, cut trees and extracted the roots to plow, harrow, sow grain, plant potatoes, fruit plants and other garden goods.

Bukovina and Galicia were provinces in the Austro-Hungarian Empire and when Bosnia and Hercegovina became part of the empire in 1878 it needed people to teach Bosnian natives, who raised pigs and sheep and other farming.

Life was difficult for the new colonists, as they had to do a lot of physical farm work plus get used to the new environment, learn the language and deal with problems that ethnic and religious minorities faced. In addition to my ancestors came Austrian, Czech, German, Italian, Slovak, Rusin and Ukrainian colonists.

There are only 25 homes in Chelinovac now. Most of them are seasonal. All of my relatives as well as the majority of our settlers in Northern Bosnia went to South West Poland in 1946, back to their ancestral land. Some moved to Vojvodina, Serbia, others went to Germany during the Second World War (where I was born) and some to America. My family returned to our farm in Bosnia and lived there until 1958 when we moved to Curug, Vojvodiana in Serbia from which our parents emigrated to the States. My brother Adam, sister Hilda and I followed them in 1960. Later my sisters Monika, Rose, and Helen came with their families.