



The Bukovina Society of the Americas

P.O. Box 1083, Hays, KS 67601, USA
Oren Windholz, President windholz@bukovinasociety.org



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

Editorial response to
P. O. Box 1083
Hays, KS 67601-1083

E-mail: windholz@bukovinasociety.org

BUKOVINAFEST 1998

The Bukovina Society sends its heartfelt thanks to **Prof. Dr. Kurt Rein** of Munich for being with us at the 10th annual convention. He brought greetings from our affiliated organizations in Germany and our many friends there. From Thursday evening through Sunday morning a collegial group of people with Bukovina ties attended a variety of interesting historical and cultural presentations. Peak attendance was 150 at the annual banquet and dance. The speakers and presenters who were listed in the last newsletter and program all were very generous in giving of their time and talent to make the Bukovinafest a great success and we thank them.

Picture not available.
 Henry Sinnreich showed his extensive material on the history of Bukovina to other speakers Dr. Sophie Welisch on the right and standing, Prof. Dr. Kurt Rein and Dr. William Keel

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New lifetime members since the last newsletter, the first by mail and other three from the festival. We appreciate their addition to the lifetime endowment.

No. 104 **Douglas H. Reckmann**, Portland, OR
No. 106 **Jode Garbe**, Tacoma Park, MD

No. 105 **Janet (Weber) & Wilfred Gagnon**, Fairfax, VA
No. 107 **Thomas, Marianne, & Franz Gaschler**, Denver, CO

Two members have recently made donations to the society, a video tape of the Bukovina and Volga Germans Christmas customs from **Dennis Massier** and a cash donation for sending books to Bukovina from **Joe and Bev Augustine**. A taped copy of the program made during the Christmas 1998 season is available at the society headquarters for \$12.00 or by mail for \$15.00.

The annual business meeting of the society was held during the Bukovinafest. The terms of board members **Shirley Kroeger, Ray Schoenthaler, and Ray Haneke** expired and they agreed to serve another term. Due to moving from the area, **Alice Fox** resigned and the unexpired term was filled by **Frank Augustine**.

BUKOVINA HOMELAND TOUR--1999

By Jode Garbe

Enclosed with this newsletter is a brochure describing the tour to Bukovina that I am organizing **for April/May of 1999**. The tour will be focused on helping us find our roots, experiencing Bukovina culture (both current and past), meeting new friends (and relatives), and having an enjoyable time. Duration is expected to be about 14 days; to occur in the latter part of April or early May. At this point, I need your input on villages you would like to visit and activities you would like to experience such as local performances of traditional dance, music, crafts, monasteries, meetings with local business people, etc. Indicate time preference (April or May) if that is an issue. Please return the enclosed brochure to me as soon as possible if you are interested in participating. Returning the brochure does not indicate a commitment to go; it just lets me know of your interest and provides a way to contact you once details of the trip are finalized. Sending responses by email to: jlgarbe@juno.com works, as well. I expect to have details of the tour finalized (based on your indicated priorities) for the December newsletter. Thanks for your input and I look forward to a great tour!

BUKOVINA PEOPLE

Life member Most **Rev. Adam Exner, O.M.L.**, Archbishop of Vancouver Archdiocese in Canada was featured in *Der Südostdeutsche* issue dated May 15, 1998. Archbishop Exner was a very early supporter of the Bukovina Society. He was born in Killaly, Saskatchewan, and after receiving his elementary schooling there, attended St. Joseph's College, Yorkton, and St. Thomas College, Battleford. He entered the Oblate Fathers Novitiate in St. Norbert, Manitoba in 1950, followed by studies at the Gregorian University in Rome where he obtained the degrees of licentiate in philosophy in 1954 and theology in 1958. He was ordained to the priesthood in Roviana, Italy, on July 7, 1957. He obtained his doctorate in theology from the University of Ottawa in 1960. He was professor of theology and superior of the order before being ordained Bishop of Kamloops on March 12, 1974. He was installed Archbishop of Winnipeg on June 23, 1982, and installed as Archbishop of Vancouver on August 15, 1991.

David Bell was searching the internet one evening and looked up the surname of his girlfriend's family, Bukovina. He was startled to find all the information contained on the society web site and sent an e-mail to me. The Bukovina family did not know there was a former country with the same name, but do have roots in Romania and Ukraine and now want to visit there. David ordered some t-shirts, a mug and other memorabilia for the family with the same name as ours.

Richard and Susie Douglass wrote to **JoAnn Schoenthaler** about their visit to **Roy Kerth** at the Veterans Home in Grand Island, Nebraska. Roy is back on the computer doing genealogy, his health has improved and he is in good spirits. We hope this is good news to all of Roy's friends in the Ellis area. Roy was a main event at our first several Bukovina Society conventions with his computer data base of names. He spent every waking hour giving people information on their family tree. We appreciate the contributions Roy made to the society in its founding stages.

Haraldo Erbert of Carazinho, Brazil, a retired pharmacist has been searching out his roots. He wrote a letter to **Harold Erbert** from a phone book from Kansas. Harold contacted society secretary **Joe Erbert** who quickly got in touch with Haraldo who can trace his ancestors back to his great great grandparents who came to Brazil in 1916 from Germany. Joe informed him of the two family reunions Erberts have held in Ellis. There is no family connection at this point, but Joe and Haraldo plan to continue the search. A copy of the book on the Erberts is being sent to him.

A young lad from Czernowitz found the society web site and wrote of his activities there. **Andriy Savitskiy** is a graduate student at Chernivtsi State University studying International Economics. He is active in the Bukovinian Youth Block and has created a web site for the university. He was chosen to attend the Harvard Ukrainian Summer Institute this past summer. He plans to also create a web site for the Bukovinian Youth Block.

Picture not available.

The [Bukovina Records Extraction Group \(BREG\)](#) celebrated their fourth anniversary in February, 1998 with a Sachertorte from Stubbe, Ottawa's finest German bakery and chocolate shop. Pictured are Barry Ginn, Steve Puziak, Richard Carruthers-Zurowski, Mrs. Joyce Hopp and Allan Schmidt, taking the picture was Mrs. Ulrike Schmidt who provided a Mohnstriezel for the occasion.

Picture not available.

Ralph and Julie Honas were the host family for our special guest from Germany, Prof. Dr. Kurt Rein. Dr. Rein said the Honas garden was a "jungle" of fresh vegetables and pitched in to help harvest the tomatoes. The Honas "half sauer gork" was served at the banquet.

BUKOVINA BRIEFS

A visitor to the Ellis County Historical Society donated a copy of the *Seattle Genealogical Society Bulletin*, dated Summer 1995 for the Bukovina Society headquarters which featured an article by **Mary Lee Rose** about the [Bukovina Germans in Lewis County, Washington](#). We are sorry that the staff of the museum was unable to get the donors name, but we send our thanks.

The *Colorado Springs Independent* of June 17-23, 1998 contained a very interesting article about life in Romania today, including the Bukovina district. While browsing the Barnes and Noble for local news while in the Springs for vacation, I came across the article written by **Steve Scherer**. Steve bartended for two years in Cripple Creek before leaving his Springs home for a job teaching English in Romania. He was paid the average wage over there, about \$50.00 per month, and lived among the people which gave him a very close look and experience of the culture, traditions, and present lifestyle of the people.

The-May June, 1998 issue of the *Romanian American Heritage Center*, Jackson, Michigan, contained an historical photo of "The Executive Committee of the Bucovina Society, Detroit, Michigan in 1972." There have been other Bukovina societies in existence in this country, notably a German speaking group of Jewish people in New York with Bukovina ties. **Dr. Kurt Rein** pointed out that the first society after the Second World War was a Bukowina Deutsche Landsmannschaft in Israel. The reason the German organization adopted the name Buchenlanddeutschen Landsmannschaft was to avoid duplication. He has attended their meetings and said they still enjoy sitting around and telling jokes and stories in the German language.

Ray Haneke is representing the society in the formation of a group of cultural organizations in Ellis County and surrounding area. They have a common purpose of assisting each other with museum and tourism development Organizational meetings are being conducted with a name mission statement to be established.

GESCHWENDTNER

Renate Geschwendtner of Dingolfing, Germany came across the e-mail screen this summer, so I wrote to tell her of the Geschwendtner families in Ellis. She wrote back that her husband Johann's ancestors are from around Wasserburg-Upper Bavaria, therefore not related to the Kansas clan. She went on to write that her mother's side is from Bukovina, **Edith Oberländer**, born in Eisenau. Her "ancestors were Zipsers who moved to Jakobeny and Eisenau with the workers who were fetched by the aristocrat Ritter von Manz." Other people from Eisenau live in Renate's hometown Dorfen and the neighboring town Taufkirchen/Vils. They came during the resettlement of 1940 of Germans from Bukovina. Renate is searching for the **surnames: Oberländer, Hennel, Pellon, Löffler, Gorskl, Christofori, Haas, Benedik** and would appreciate information on the names which she has been researching for 12 years. She has perused our web site and past newsletters and found the article about **Ulrike Christofori** from 1996.

SHARON LEWCHUK

wrote to the Bukovina mailing list, "Friday June 12, 1998 was a day of celebration for our family. The 60th wedding anniversary of **Albert Richard Wolfe and Elsa Ida Wolfe (nee Klatt)** was held in Regina. Their grandson, **Christopher David Sulma married Sharon Lynn Rose Perkins** on the same day. Both couples were honored during the ceremony/ service which was held in Trinity Lutheran Church in Regina. This is the same church where Albert and Elsa were married in 1938. Albert is a direct descendant of the Wolf family from Satulmare and Molodia, and the Sauer family of Satulmare and Tereblestie. **Albert and Elsa Wolfe** are my parents, and Christopher is my son.

There were many descendants of Bukovinians in attendance. The names of those guests are: **Ast, Exner, Kroiter, Manz, Meier, Miller, Mirwald, Pfeifer, Radmacher, Rumpel, Sauer, Wendling, Wolfe** who are all of German descent. Those of Ukrainian descent from the Bukovina are: **Danylchuk, Hnatiuk, Lewchuk, Puscas, Shewchuk (Shevchuk)**. Other names which could tie in with some list members from Kansas are **Radtke, Klat, Pidde, Flaun, Lindemann, Geisinger, Nachtigal, Tiefenbach, Fuhrman, Peilak, Timnick, Borgart**. Many of these families emigrated from Volhynia (Russia) now the Ukraine near Kiev.

It was a fun time of exchanging memories and stories, renewing old friendships and forming new bonds. Because there were many people from all three generations it was a special day of sharing. We had many laughs and made many comparisons i.e. height, coloring, and because of our special qualities ... lengths of noses, etc. (Sorry for that, I couldn't resist :-)

Madeline Wenzel Turner attended. We were very pleased to have her as a guest and also her traveling companion **Betty Mirwald**. They flew in from Portland, Oregon to represent the American branches of the family tree.

I hope this is of some interest to members connected to the above names. We do still practice the tradition of large family gatherings for weddings as was done in Bukovina. The custom endures, although in an updated form. I also attended recently the 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration of **Gertie (nee Wolfe) and Max Sauer** at St Marks Lutheran Church in Regina. They are my 2nd cousins and descendants of Bukovinian."

MARIA BEER HONES

Karl and Elfriede (Beer) Flachs of Waldkraiburg, Germany wrote a tribute to their **aunt Maria on her 100th birthday** in the June issue of *Der Südostdeutsche*. Maria was born in Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli) Bukovina on March 10, 1898 and grew up among 12 children. She married **Josef Hones**, now deceased, in 1920. They had six children, four of which are still living and helped celebrate her birthday. According to the article, two of Maria's brothers, now deceased, migrated to Ellis, Kansas in 1909 which they pointed out was the home of families from both Pojana Mikuli and Fürstenthal. Both the Hones and Beer families came from Bohemia, Austria before migrating to Bukovina.

According to society secretary **Joe Erbert** the brothers of Maria in Ellis were **Andreas and Wenzel**. Some of their children still live in the Ellis area. The Honas families in Ellis are connected to the **Josef Hones** family tree. Maria will soon be getting birthday cards from extended family members she has never before heard about or heard from. **Gisela (Fuchs) Staab** of Ellis, also born in Pojana Mikuli, remembers Maria from her childhood there.

1998 ANNUAL MEETING OF BUKOVINA SOCIETY IN GUENZBURG

from *Der Südostdeutsche* by: Dr. Helmut Schmeller

The 48th national meeting of the Bukovina Association was held during Pentecost in Guenzburg and was attended by three hundred members from all over Germany. Regrettably, attendance was considerably lower than at past meetings; particularly noticeable was the absence of the younger generation.

The two-day program featured a mixture of cultural, political, and entertainment programs. In the course of the many meetings, speakers presented reports about support programs in the southern Bukovina as well as reports from the various regional chapters. Other presenters focused on the work on the Chronicle of Rosch, genealogical research and the financial situation of this newspaper. In his concluding remarks Federal Chairman **Ewald Zachmann** emphasized the many positive aspects and praised regional associations for their dedicated work.

Following this segment of the program, the **Raimund Friedrich Kaindl Association** held its annual meeting. The President of the Association, **Prof. Dr. Kurt Rein**, offered a tribute to the recently deceased Bukovinian author **Gregor von Rezzori**. Rein also informed the assembly of the meeting of the Bukovinian in North America on August 13 which was organized by the Bukovina Society and of the fall meeting of the Kaindl Association.

A major address was delivered by **Otto von Habsburg**, a member of the European Parliament. Dr. von Habsburg again emphasized his close ties to the people of the Bukovina and reminded his listeners that they had every reason to take pride in their past accomplishments. He also expressed the hope that they, especially the younger generation among them, would become messengers of the kind of optimism needed to address European and global issues. Following Dr. von Habsburg's speech, an ecumenical service was held in the course of which the speakers emphasized the ties to the churches in their old homeland notably to the diocese of Jassy.

The cultural program featured dancers in their traditional costumes. Musical entertainment was also provided by a brass band from Guenzburg with their rendition of the Bukovina March. The highlight of the meeting was the plenary assembly which began with a welcome by **Federal Chairman Zachmann** and greetings from the First Secretary of the Romanian Embassy in Bonn, **Alexandru Irimia**, who commented on the current situation in Romania and expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with the association. The keynote speaker was **Dr. Georg Simnacher**, a pillar of our association, whose speech about the many undertakings involving the Hilfswerk Bukowina, the Bukowina-Institut and the Bukovina Association was warmly received.

The meeting concluded with a speech by **Erwin Misakewicz** who proposed that our sponsor, **Dr. Simnacher**, be made an honorary Bukovinian in recognition of his numerous contributions to the peoples from the Bukovina.

The Bukovina Society of the Americas was invited to two programs of the Bukovina Institute of Augsburg held on August 1, 1998. A Literary-musical afternoon and the celebration of the 10 year existence of the Bukovina Institute.

Note: **Larry Jensen** e-mailed the Bukovina news group of **Gregor von Rezzori's death**. Larry sent the following from other sources, "Mr. Rezzori, who was born in Czernowitz only months before the start of World War I, is called one of the most serious writers in the German language." Several of his books, including his novel, "Memoirs of an Anti-Semite," and his non-fiction works, "The Snows of Yesteryear. Portraits for an Autobiography," and "Anecdote: A Summation," draw on his experiences of growing up in Bukovina, and on a return visit made to his birthplace in 1990. Jensen noted that several of Rezzori's books are readily available in English translations. These and his numerous other books can be found in public libraries and book stores.

Picture not available.

Dr. Gabi Lunte was one of many who were shown the data base created by Werner Zoglauer for the society.

SURNAME EXCHANGE/RESEARCH

Persons tracing relatives who were part of the **resettlement (Umsiedlung)** to German lands from Eastern European countries may wish to purchase **microfilm** which contains their applications made around 1940. The German EWZ created these records which fell into American hands at the end of the Second World War. Copies are now in Washington D. C. at the National Archives. The toll free number for information is **1-800-234-8861**. It was described as a genealogical windfall by **Sylvia Hasenkopf**. She said each application goes into detail about the individual applying, their spouse, birth date, date of marriage of the applicant, the parents names, their birth dates, their location of birth and death, children's names and birth dates and location, etc. It also indicates which "camp" they were sent to pending resettlement

Douglas Reckmann wrote a letter with his lifetime membership informing us of his Schwarzthal project. His grandmother immigrated from there to Portland, Oregon in 1910 as a baby with her parents. His family names include **ANGER, BEER, BERNHAUSER, BINDER, FÜRST, JUNG, KOLLERMANN, KUBECK, SEEMANN, STRAUB, WEINFURTNER, AND WINTER**. Along with a cousin, the project is to research all of the descendants of the early families of Schwarzthal. It is a parallel project to the "Bori Story." Most of the families from Bori had close links to Schwarzthal. Interested people can contact him at 3850 SE 40th, Portland, OR 97202, and e-mail at: reckmann@teleport.com

Thanks to **Fay Schmahl Jordaens** whose contact with **Erich Slawski** in Germany put us on to a web site that has an extensive family tree for the **Schoenthaler family**. The **Randy & Patti Bertrand Family Home Page** begins with **Hans Schonhaler** about 1632 in Feldrennach, Germany and traces descendants to Bukovina and America. Considerable Deutscher information is in this tree. <<http://www.familytreemaker.com/users/b/e/r/Patricia-J-Bertrand/index.html>> Patti is also looking for information on the loader **Befort and Rose Urban** families of Ellis County, Kansas. e-mail her at: bertp@midusa.net or write to 108 S 1st Ave, Minneapolis, KS 67467-281

Doris Wastradowski <dwastra@worldaccessnetcom> would like help on the surname of **Milecki**. She has **Catherina Milecki** married to **Maximillian Kosczuk**, parents of **Theresia Kosczuk** who was married to **Frank Ruhr**. They resided in Rosch.


Raymond J. Manz, 300 Halifax North, Regina, Sask. Canada S4R 2W8 plans to write a Manz Family History and requests help for two items. "the town plan of Arbora and any old photograph reproductions."

Werner Zoglauer found the following introduction to a web site: "The breweries in the Rhön had a long tradition which goes back to the 16th century. It was the custom that the Kaltennordheimer (people) were able to brew their own beer in the community brewery. With its sale to the hostess (landlady) **Margaretha Marshall** and to the innkeeper and butcher **Friedrich Christian Dittmar** the two also received the brewing rights. He started with the beer sales and made it famous beyond the borders of the town. **Friedrich Dittmar** laid the foundation for the brewing tradition in his family. He also taught the trade to his son Gustav." Because of research on the name **Margaretha Marshall (who married Philipp Erbert)**, this is printed in the hopes someone might find a clue here. The site is at <www.rz.tu-ilmenau.de/-schmidta/rhonbier.html>

To write for a copy of the SS application your ancestor completed, Social Security Adm, 4 M 5 South Block, 300 N. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Use Form SS-5 or send a letter Re: Freedom of Information with death certificate or date of death. \$7.00 if you know the number or \$16.50 if you do not.

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Werner Zoglauer zoglauer@bukovinasociety.org & Rebecca Hageman rhageman@bukovinasociety.org