



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$15.00

CHRISTMAS DVD AVAILABLE

On November 30, 1997 at Society headquarters, *Christmas Customs of the Old Country* was presented by members of the Bukovina Society and the Sunflower Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. Authentic costumes, songs and skits enhanced the portrayal of early German Christmas traditions in Kansas. Society member Dennis Massier made a videotape of the program, which ran an hour and 30 minutes. This has been copied in DVD format by the two organizations and is for sale again, as a great Christmas present and historical treasure. The Society has copies available for shipment now.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- Welcome to our newest life member Ingrid Weniger, Kanata, Ontario, Canada #203.
- Eileen Goetz and her sister Jeannette Bollig have been exceptional supporters of all of the activities of the Society. They have collected Bukovina German memorabilia nearly all their lives beginning with early years living in Ellis. Many of their works have been donated to the Society. Eileen presently serves on the Society Board of Directors. The article on Adam Massier in this issue was from their collection and, fortunately for the Society, more of these will appear in the future. Our deepest thanks to them.
- Brazil's first emigrants from Bukovina, then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, immigrated to the

city of Lapa in the Paraná state of southern Brazil in 1889. Many of their descendants still live in the city today. Over the course of the last hundred years or so, the emigrants and their descendants intermarried with other German speakers, including Germans from Bohemia, Germans from Russia (Volga Germans as well as Germans from Volhynia in western Ukraine), Prussia, Germany and Switzerland, as well as Italians, Poles and Brazilians. Their story is introduced on the website "Genealogy of the emigrants from Bukovina in Lapa, Brazil". It provides easy access to the genealogical data of these emigrants who settled in the villages of Colônia Johannesdorf and Colônia Mariental. Data for over 2000 names may be reviewed at the Surname Index, and countless photos are included. The site was posted by J. R. Hoffmann, whose Bukovina surnames include Hoffmann, Hartinger, Hellinger, Herzer, Fuchs, Landauer, Pscheidt, Rankel, Schuster, Wagner, Weber and more. Their villages of origin included Schwarzthal, Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli), Lichtenberg, and Radautz. Visit the websites <http://www.bukovina.tripod.com/> in Portuguese, or http://www.bukovina.tripod.com/index_english.htm in English for more.



Dr. Kurt Rein

Dr. Kurt Rein, a dear friend of the Bukovina Society of the Americas and a member of its International Board, celebrated his 80th birthday on March 6, 2012. He is one of the two representatives in the federal governing body of the *Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen* and serves on the board of directors of the *Bukowina-Institut* in Augsburg. He was also the last chairperson of the *Kaindl-Gesellschaft*, which has since been dissolved. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our friend upon the occasion of this milestone birthday!

THE MT. ANGEL TREFFEN AND CONFERENCE

Thu. Sept. 13 – Sun. Sept. 16 in Keizer, Oregon

<http://www.danube-swabians.org/treffen>

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Bukovina descendants and friends, make plans to attend the 2012 Mt. Angel *Treffen* and Conference in Keizer, Oregon, just north of Salem, on Thursday, September 13, through Saturday, September 15, 2012! It will be held at the same time as the annual *Oktoberfest* and Danube Swabian Heri-

tage Celebration in nearby Mt. Angel (see www.mtangel.org and www.oktoberfest.org).

Beginning in the 1600s, the Habsburgs recruited German-speakers from the German principalities, France, Switzerland, and other parts of their empire to settle newly acquired lands. Because groups of settlers traveled down the Danube (*Donau* in German) from Ulm in Swabia (*Schwaben*) to Vienna, they became known as the *Donauschwaben*.

More than a decade ago, West Coast researchers interested in Danube Swabian history, customs, and genealogy met at Mt. Angel, Oregon, and held the first Mt. Angel *Treffen*. Mt. Angel, located 18 miles northeast of Salem, was founded by German settlers in the late 1800s. Its Bavarian-style storefronts and beautiful Benedictine Abbey provide an Old World air for the *Oktoberfest*, Oregon's largest folk festival, which always begins on the second Thursday after Labor Day.

The *Treffen* is a friendly, inclusive, and informative event for all who are interested in our mutual heritage in the former Habsburg Empire. This year's tentative schedule:

Thu. September 13

- 2:30 p.m. Making Cabbage Rolls with Bukovina Society member Leah Augustin Ott
Note: this event is limited to 10 people, so please register online and reserve your space on your profile!
- 7:00 p.m. Dutch-Treat Dinner at McGrath's Fish House 3805 Center St N.E. Lancaster Mall, Salem OR 97301 Telephone (503) 485-3086

Fri. September 14

- 9:00 a.m. Meet and Greet at the Keizer Heritage Center
Silent Auction begins
- 9:30 a.m. Irmgard Hein Ellingson: *German Settlements in the Habsburg Lands: Introduction and Historical Overview*
- 10:20 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Elizabeth Walter: *Kirchweih Fest*
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch on-site: Cabbage Rolls
- 12:30 p.m. Ray Borschowa: *Discussion on Mt. Angel Treffen - venues, fees, etc.*
- 1:00 p.m. Rosina T. Schmidt: *The Balkan Wars*
- 1:45 p.m. Break
- 2:00 p.m. Dr. John Michels: *Danube Swabian artist Sebastian Leicht*

- 3:00 p.m. OPTIONS:
 a. Attend the Oktoberfest in Mt. Angel
 (you will need your own transportation)
 b. Informal discussion and *Gemueticlichkeit* for
 those who do not wish to go to
 Oktoberfest (coffee and cake will be
 available until 4:30 p.m.)

Sat. September 15

- 9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet at the Keizer Renaissance
 Inn
 Silent Auction continues
 9:40 a.m. Glenn Schwarz: *Why Regina (Saskatchewan)?*
 10:30 a.m. Break
 10:40 a.m. Henry A. Fischer: *Ethnic Germans in
 Romania between WWI & WWII*
 11:40 a.m. Lunch Break on your own
 1:00 p.m. Irmgard Hein Ellingson: *German Settlement
 in the Eastern Habsburg's Lands: Galicia &
 Bukovina*
 1:50 p.m. Break
 2:40 p.m. *Danube Swabians - a Film* by Marko Cvejic
 4:00 p.m. Silent Auction ends
 6:00 p.m. Cocktail Hour / Reception at the Keizer
 Renaissance Inn
 7:00 p.m. Dinner at the Renaissance Inn

Sun. September 16

- 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. *Treffen* Review: an informal meeting
 to collect comments and ideas about
 the 2013 event will be held in the
 Renaissance breakfast room

Conference attendance is free! The event organizers kindly request that attendees contribute whatever they see fit to offset the costs of the buffet lunch, the meeting hall, and various administrative costs.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Keizer Renaissance Inn and Conference Center (<http://www.keizerrenaissanceinn.com/>) at a special rate of \$75 USD single and \$85 USD double occupancy per night. To get the special rate, please book your room by mid-August, and be sure that you mention that you are part of the Banat Group.

Go to www.danube-swabians.org/treffen/ for more information. If you plan to attend any of the events, please be sure that the "More Info" field in your Registration has the right number of people for each event.

ADAM MASSIER

"The Unassuming Diplomat of Good Humor and Courtesy"

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

with grateful thanks to the late Kittie Dale
 and the Ellis Review

Bukovina emigrant and Kansas pioneer Adam Massier was interviewed on the occasion of his 93rd birthday in 1997 by Kittie Dale a.k.a. "The Story Peddler" of the Ellis (Kansas) Review.

Adam Massier was born January 17, 1884, to Nikolaus Massier and his wife Amalie nee Rau in Tereblestie, Bukovina. His father Nikolaus, the son of Johann Nikolaus (or Nikolaus Johann) Massier and his wife Katharina Elisabetha nee Manz, was born 1 March 1840 in Tereblestie. His mother Amalie was born 16 October 1848 in Neu-Itzkany, Bukovina, where she and Nikolaus were married on 14 February 1870. According to entries in the Bukovina Society's database, she died 15 April 1902.

Adam's father was a blacksmith who also made walking plows and nails in his shop. Young Adam painted machinery. He was not paid for that but his father provided him with everything that he needed. In that time and place, wages were 30 cents per day.

His parents and his older sister Caroline had died by 1902, when he was eighteen years old. At that time, his brothers advised him to go to America, where he could have more opportunities. After a sad farewell to his brothers Karl, Wilhelm, Jacob, and Emil and his little sister Henrietta, he left his native village in Bukovina.

He sailed on the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, a German ship, on a journey that lasted seven days. Traveling with him in steerage were Johann and Barbara (Rumpel) Sauer and family, Karl and Karoline (Massier) Deutscher and their ten children, Adam Nimigean, Jakob Sauer, and others from his village including Eduard Manz and Franz Miller.

Kittie Dale noted that various age groups of emigrants had differing recollections of their experiences. For example, she had interviewed Eva Sauer Haneke, daughter of Johann and Barbara Sauer, in 1972. Mrs. Haneke, who had been a child on the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* in 1902, remembered the ship as being "on stay" for part of a day and a night due to dense fog on the ocean and recalled the constant, eerie sound of the ship's foghorn in the darkness. She said that a boat had come from a port and joined them at sea. On it was Susanna Sauer and her daughter Katharina (Katie): they had missed the boat that would take them to husband and

father Frank, who was waiting in the United States.

Adam Massier told about a storm at sea. Waves rose so high that they splashed up and over the high canvas that curtained the sides of the lower deck. It was a terrifying experience; people were seasick and clung desperately to the ropes stretched across the deck. The ship band struck up a patriotic tune to try to calm the frightened passenger with the loud, lively music but it only added to the bedlam.

“It really was a mess,” Massier recalled, “and I vowed to myself if ever I got off the ship, I didn’t care if I ever saw America!”

Once the ship docked at Ellis Island in New York harbor in early June 1902, they were directed into a center where they were questioned for about an hour by immigration inspectors before being admitted to the United States.

Asked what he thought when he saw the Statue of Liberty in the harbor, Massier thought a bit and then replied, “I didn’t see it.” Then he added with an impish smile, “I don’t think it was there yet.”

Mrs. Dale assured him that it had been erected in 1886, just two years after his birth, and then spoke the words of the sonnet engraved upon it: “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me. I lift my lamp beside the Golden Door.”

Massier replied, “That was us all right, all huddled together.”

Once they were all settled in their seats aboard the train, he felt a vibrant thrill of excitement and a streak of curiosity as big as the outdoors that he saw flashing by the window. What would this new land be like, he wondered to the clackety-clack of the wheels on the railroad track.

“Well,” he admitted with a rather laconic air, “I guess I’d had my head down thinking: waiting for the moment that I could get off the ship.”

Arriving in Ellis with Manz and Miller, the three youths stayed in a little red rooming house at what is now 107 West 11th Street. Fred Kroeger, whose wife Johanna Werb had immigrated from Illischestie, Bukovina, came to the rooming house to hire all three of them as harvest hands. The pay was 50 cents per day with room and board.

Every morning at four o’clock, there were lots of chores to be done but not more than one man could handle. The

three young men figured out a way to rotate the work by alternating it between them and thereby get a few more hours of sleep

After harvest, the three young men went their separate ways. Adam Massier went to work on the Gugler, Huck, and Spilker farms where he was treated as one of the family. He was able to quickly learn English by listening to the children talk wherever he worked and just by being among people.

“Once, later working on a farm north of the Saline River, I harnessed my first horse, and I think the horse knew it,” he laughed. “But I learned.”

His living quarters was an attic room, bare except for a bed, in a primitive old house from which he could see the sky through the holes in the roof. Downstairs, the cow chips that were used for fuel were stored in bins and stacked on the floor. There were a lot of cows and here too, chores started at four o’clock in the morning.

He said, “By winter, it was bitterly cold, sleeping in that dismal unheated attic. I felt numb, chilled to the bone. How I stood that shivering cold, I don’t know, but my sheep-lined coat was a big help. Sometimes, you know, I still feel it. I thought I would never get warm again. I could never do that to any man.”

One morning, he could not take it any longer. He finished his work and then asked for his wages, telling his employer that he was quitting his job and going to work in Ellis. Snow was knee deep everywhere but in desperation, he started to walk in what he hoped was the direction of Ellis. A solitary figure, he plodded along in a strange, snow-covered land, wondering what he should do next, and wishing with a wave of homesickness for the comfort and advice of his older brothers and the warm affection and understanding of his little sister.

After trudging along for what seemed like hours and nearing exhaustion, he looked up and suddenly, silhouetted against the skyline, was the steeple of St. John’s Lutheran Church. Never had he been so thankful. Not only was he walking in the right direction, but he also knew that the Fred Kroeger family lived just west of the church. With renewed fortitude, he turned toward their farm.

At their door, he was welcomed with friendliness, a warm fire, and an invitation to share their hot meal. He felt a surge of everlasting gratitude. Later, after he had thawed out, he told them about his plans to find work in town.

Kroeger said, "Have a good night's rest and tomorrow after breakfast, I will take you into town as I plan to haul in a load of wheat." This was music to Massier's ears.

The secure comfort of the soft feather tick on the bed enfolded him with its warmth, relaxing him for the first time in a long succession of cold nights. It restored his faith in addition to his wellbeing.

Johanna, the eldest of the six Kroeger children, was a lively young teenager at that time. Kittie Dale's interview with Adam Massier took place shortly after Johanna Kroeger Hagen had celebrated her 88th birthday. In a subsequent visit with Mrs. Dale, she recalled that her family had always been fond of Massier. That night her father had told him to consider their home as his, whether or not he was working there.

Mrs. Hagen recalled an incident on their farm that still filled her with merriment. "I can still see it today," she said. "It probably doesn't strike others the same way, but when I saw those two grown men suddenly ram their heads and hands into the haystack, it was too much. Not that they didn't have good reason to," she admitted.

"I always helped with the farm work and one day while raking the mowed prairie hay, the hay-rake hit a bumble bee nest. My sunbonnet protected my face from the bees. Before I could warn my dad and Adam, they came along and loaded the hay on the hayrack. When they began to unload it on the stack, the air was charged with bumblebees, zooming out and swarming all over!

"I was watching," Mrs. Hagen said, "and when one man suddenly stopped work, looked around, then quickly rammed his head and hands inside the stack and the other one on top of the stack bent over and did the same thing, well, I laugh about that scene even today!"

"They escaped any bee stings but I got stung in the eye, which wasn't funny at all.

"I was married before Mr. Massier was. You know, life is surely full of unpredicted and surprising events! Who ever thought I could have a son, William Hagen Jr., and that he would grow up one day to marry Adam Massier's daughter Lena?"

Massier got a job working on the railroad as a section hand and in the yards for \$1.25 a day. He paid \$12 a month for room, board, and laundry at the Frank Sauer home. It was hard to save any money and then he heard that some of

the young immigrant men were planning to leave and go to Canada. He remembered that when he arrived in America, it had never been with the intention of staying here. He had made up his mind to work only long enough to earn enough money to return home to Bukovina with some extra capital to get started in farming.

Once he got to Kansas, he despised the everlasting wind that nearly blew him over. He dreaded the intense heat of the prairie summer and hated the cold blasts of winters. Most of all, he was homesick for his family circle. He wished he had never heard of America.

But time went on and one day, he realized that he had saved enough money to fulfill his dream of going back to Bukovina with the independent feeling prompted by a little cash security. Something was wrong, though; the prospect did not make him happy at all.

"I felt real strange," Massier said, "and then it all rushed over me." He realized that in his heart and mind, he had grown fond of the land. Without realizing it, through all the vicissitudes of a pioneer, he had put down deep roots. He loved America and wanted to stay here. It was a decision that he never regretted.

He decided to invest his money in land, purchasing one quarter [160 acres] located 10 1/2 miles northeast of Ellis. On June 2, 1910, he married petite Wilhelmine (Minnie) Homburg. Her mother Katharina had been born in Bukovina and immigrated to Kansas with her parents Johann and Klara (Zachmann) Huber in 1886. Adam and Minnie's wedding dance was held in the lantern-lit barn loft, as was the custom at that time, and the big doors on the loft were open to the moonlit evening. A hired orchestra played from an improvised platform in a corner and the lively string music kept the guests dancing far into the night.

Midnight was a magic time. The sleepy children awakened when lunch was brought from the house to the barn, and cream cans of coffee and tin tubs filled with sandwiches and cake were carried up the stairway to the loft. The guests had come from all over the countryside, bringing the food with them. "It was a happy, sharing time," Massier declared, "and no one went away hungry."

After the wedding, the couple moved to their farm. There they became the parents of four children: daughters Lena and Margaret, and sons Ernest and Edwin.

Life had also changed in the meantime for his little sister Henrietta, who had married and had become the mother of

two daughters. She said in her letters from Bukovina that she had a job polishing walnuts on a cousin's farm for 25 cents a day. Massier still hoped to see her again.

In 1936, Gustav Deutscher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Karl Deutscher who had traveled on the same boat with Massier, decided to go back to Bukovina, which was now part of Romania, on a nostalgic trip. He visited many relatives and friends, including Massier's family, in the four months that he was abroad. He found Henrietta well and eager for news about her brother in America. "So," Deutscher said, "it was a great shock when I arrived home in States to learn about her death."

Massier grieved deeply when he received the black-edged letter from his brother. His sister, whom he had hoped to see again, had been a significant part of his life and now he had to face the finality of a hope ended. As a symbol of mourning, he purchased a black tie. It brought him comfort and he wore it everywhere. But he didn't tell his family about her death right away. Things were busy at home and at church with preparations for the confirmation of one of their children.

One day his wife Minnie complained about the unattractive tie that he was wearing everywhere and questioned why he was wearing it. Once he explained, her thoughts accorded with his.

"We had our ups and downs like any married couple," Massier said. "Being farm people, we didn't live too exciting a life. We had our happy times but we worried about our wheat crops, our cattle and pastures and the unpredictable harvest weather.

"Our church was a great comfort. We had plenty of friends with the same problems to solve so we visited in each other's homes, talking things out and sharing opinions.

"But there was plenty happening around us. First thing we knew our children were grown up and gone, married with lives of their own.

"We decided it was time to take life easier so we moved to town in 1948. Ellis had certainly changed from the first glimpse that I had of it as a young immigrant from Bukovina, Austria.

"I was to realize how much I too had changed. In June of 1960, we observed our golden wedding anniversary. Relatives I had never seen came to share the family celebration.

"But the golden bells really rang out for me in November of 1960 when my brother Karl, on a visa from West Germany, came to visit me. It was a joyous reunion but a little sad too. For even after 58 years separation, it didn't seem possible that each of us had changed so much.

"Unfortunately, in our minds it was still 1902, when we parted, that we just stood there remembering. Just the way I pictured Henrietta, always as a small child."

"We found comfort in each other, [and] it was wonderful to have my brother here in my home. I convinced him his decision to send me to America had been the right one."

Then Massier said, "I think I've said enough! Anyway, my life wasn't so different. Of course, I'll hang on to some of my memories. It's best not to tell some things regardless of their merit." Again his inscrutable smile hovered, convincing us that such provocative secrets were indeed his own.

"You think people are going to read this?" he asked Mrs. Dale.

Yes, indeed! Thirty-five years later, people will be reading all about Adam Massier, Bukovina's "unassuming diplomat of good humor and courtesy."

When his nephew Harold Homburg left the party, he said to his uncle, "I'll see you next year, Uncle Ed."

In high good humor, Adam Massier replied, "I'll be here!"

Postscript: Adam Massier died June 24, 1977. He was buried June 27 next to his wife Minnie in the St. John's Lutheran Church cemetery north of Ellis.

NEWS FROM ABROAD: DER SÜDOSTDEUTSCHE

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Der Südstdeutsche, or SOD, is the newspaper published by our sister organization, the *Bukowina-Institut* in Augsburg, Germany. It is edited by our colleague Luzian Geier. The Bukovina Society of the Americas is pleased to share highlights from recent issues with our English-speaking readers.

January 2012

The *Bundestreffen der Buchenlanddeutschen* is the annual meeting of our sister organization, the *Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen (Bukowina)* e.V., in the Federal Republic of Germany. This year it will take place in the historic city of Kaufbeuren in association with the *Schwabentag 2012*, or Swabian Day 2012, on Saturday and Sunday, June 16 and 17. Kaufbeuren is an independent city located in the foothills of the Alps, located in the *Ostallgäu*, part of the *Schwaben* district in southern Bavaria.

The 2012 issue of the annual publication *Zeitweiser der Galizierndeutschen [ZdG]* has been released, according to SOD, page 4. It is the festival 50th edition but unfortunately it is the last issue. The ZdG content has always included material of interest to Bukovina readers, and this time it is an article about the 1939 - 1940 resettlement of east European Germans in the Reich. Bukovina family researchers can find lots of information in the genealogical *Ortsfamilienbücher*, or village family books, that have been developed by Manfred Daum of *Genealogischen Forschungsstelle der Galizierndeutschen (GFG)*, or the Genealogical Research Center of the Galician Germans).

Here *Galizien German Descendants [GGD]* must be introduced. The website's table of contents includes a link to the Galician German Family Books that are available on CD. "Each of the *Galizien Village Family Books* is a collection of families who are known to be residents of a particular village. The GFG ... created these family books by transcribing births, deaths and marriages from the original church records into family groups and then combining all the family groups in a village into a single village book." The webpage includes a sample entry of a family group in the family books. For more, go to <http://www.galiziengermansdescendants.org>.

Erstellen von persönlichen Familienstammbäumen, Schreiben von individuellen Familiengeschichten, Genealogies der Bukowina, or "Preparation of Personal Family Trees, Writing Individual Family Histories, Bukovina Genealogy" is the title of an article by Irmtraud Schaper on pages 5 and 6. She identifies the three pillars of family research as [1] preparing a family tree with the relevant documentation of names, dates, and places, [2] conducting personal interviews and collecting oral histories, and [3] doing historical research to establish ancestors in their own times and places.

"*Auf den Spuren der deutschböhmisches Ahnen, ein Reisebericht*" (On the Trail of the German Bohemian Ancestors; A Travel Report) by Irmtraud Schaper, nee Hartinger, is

posted on our Bukovina Society website. She has written two works. One is "*An den Hängen der Karpaten – Buchenhain, die Heimat unserer Deutschböhmen,*" Josef Neuburger's comprehensive book about the history and life of the German Bohemians who went to Bukovina. Another is her own book "... *das war doch alles ganz normal!*" which traces the 200-year history of the German Bohemian community Pojana Mikuli. These may be ordered from her at <http://bukowinafreunde.de/literatur.html>.

Straja – Gemeinde and früher grosser Gutsherrschaft was written by our friend Herr Geier as a historical introduction to Straja, a rural community and a former large *Gut* (manor, estate) in the Suceava district of Bukovina. This community on the left bank of the Suceava River is adjacent to Ober-Vikow (Vivovul de Sus). In the 19th century, it was actually only half the physical size of the estate. The 1895 population was 2896: the majority was Romanian Orthodox and only a small few were Germans and Jews. Located here were a forest- and crown-land administration office, a post office, railroad depot, telegraph office, and a savings-and-loan. The butcher, three mercantile store owners, nine *Greislereien* (proprietors of small shops), seven *Schenker* (licensed operators of a bar or tavern), a wholesale trader, two *Wirte* (restaurant proprietors), etc. were Jews. The artisans, including blacksmiths Ferdinand Mirwald and Friedrich Zachmann as well as shoemakers Andreas Geisler, Franz Geisler, Anton Korbel etc., were Germans. The railroad was vital to the local economy, which was supported by a sawmill, a cement kiln, and a factory that produced *Resonanzholz* (the wood used in musical instruments). Today the only church is Romanian Orthodox.

February 2012

This issue includes an illustrated two-page article titled "What the Graves of Bukovina Germans in the Althausen Cemetery Tell Us" (*Was uns die Gräber von Buchenlanddeutschen auf dem Althausen Friedhof erzählen*) by Elmar Hugger. Between Althausen and Aulendorf in *Landkreis Ravensburg* in southeastern Baden- Württemberg [Germany] is Blönried, which is officially part of Aulendorf. In Blönried is the *Missionhaus St. Johannes Evangelist*, a monastery and school operated by the Society of the Divine Word (in Latin: *Societas Verbi Divini* or SVD, usually called the Divine Word Missionaries or the Steyler Missionaries). The SVD is one of the 23 *sui iuris* churches in the Roman Catholic Church, and is the largest of its missionary religious congregations.

At the end of 1940, the Blönried monastery was confiscated by the Nazi German government and it was used to house

280 Germans resettled from Bukovina. These resettled Germans included Johann Leopold Henriss, now 96 years old and a resident of Aulendorf, who was born in the Zipser village of Freudenthal, or Watra Moldawitza, Bukovina. Henriss tells the story of Bukovina, the people of his village, and their World War II resettlement. Four – two men, a woman, and a child - died during their time in Blönried. According to the gravestone inscriptions:

- Ludwig Hanazeck, born 3 March 1894 in southern Bukovina, died 8 May 1941
- Reinhold Henriss, born 16 Dec. 1903 in southern Bukovina, died 19 Sept. 1941
- Susanna Stöbermann, born 29 July 1863 in southern Bukovina, died 30 March 1941
- Else Spielmann, born 28 July 1940 in southern Bukovina, died 23 January 1941

Inscribed on each stone is a runic cross, upon which each of the two arms is bent down at about a 45-degree angle. A runic cross was used to symbolize death in the Third Reich.

March 2012

The *Bukowina-Institut* in Augsburg is planning a tour of the capitals and major cities of central and southeastern

European lands from September 10-21, 2012. Destinations will include Marburg/Maribor, Ljubljana/Laibach, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Podgorica, Tirana, Skopje, Sofa, Belgrad, and Budapest (note: no part of the former Bukovina is included). Additional information will be published in the next issue and is available from the *Bukowina-Institut* by email at info@bukowina-institut.de.

“And do not forget to observe Lent” (*Und vergesse nicht auf die heilige Fastenzeit*) is a 1914 letter written by Ignatz Schaffhauser in Bori to his son Karl, who had immigrated to Brooklyn, New York, before the outbreak of World War I. This letter was translated into English by Dr. Sophie A. Welisch and published in the June 2002 newsletter of the Bukovina Society of the Americas. Back issues are posted online at <http://www.bukovinasociety.org/Newsletters.html>.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about these or any other SOD issues at: irmgardellingson@bukovinasociety.org



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