The Bukovina Society of the Americas
NEWSLETTER

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

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SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

• The first Board of Directors of the Bukovina Society of the Americas was elected at the first Bukovinafest, held in July 1989. The directors were nominated and elected with an emphasis upon inclusion of representatives from other communities and countries. The list of interested Bukovinians expanded so that a second board was created. This was called the “International Board” but it was designed to be an advisory body. Our Society’s work has benefited from the contributions of the International Board members, many of whom have visited Society headquarters and have given historical and/or heritage presentations at our conferences. Recently the management of the Society has involved much less volume, in part because conventions are being held less frequently. The consolidated board as listed on the letterhead includes three former International Board members who will continue to broaden our base and make significant contributions to our efforts. We express our gratitude to all the former members of the Society’s two boards and will continue to welcome their input and support.

• The Society’s Board of Directors met on February 13, 2015, in regular session and elected officers: O. M. Windholz, President; Marcy McClelland, Vice President; Shirley Kuppetz, Secretary; and Guy Windholz, Treasurer.

• The photo archive on display at the museum is growing and will be a highlight for visitors. We are interested in old photos and documents of the emigration to the New World from the former Bukovina. Photos from Bukovina and the early arrivals, particularly wedding and family groups are needed. All photos will be scanned, enlarged for the display and returned to the owner. Please let us know if you wish to have your ancestral family as part of this collection. We can pick them up if nearby or those from more distance can mail them to: Bukovina Society Collection, P O Box 1083, Hays, KS 67601. Email contact is: pat6363@yahoo.com and phone contact is: 785.623.7844.

• For those living near the Society headquarters, Family History Detectives – Library Edition! will be presented at Ft. Hays University Forsyth Library on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Registration is $5.00. You will see the wealth of resources available through the library to get started on your family search. A computer lab location will give you access to the internet, or bring your laptop with wireless capabilities. The class will be taught by Susan Schlichting of the Ellis County Extension service of Kansas State University and Patty Nicholas, Ft. Hays University archivist. The Ellis Recreation Commission will accept reservations at 785.726.3718.

• Frank Schneller, formerly of Ellis and Hays, Kansas, died at the age of 102 years in Overland Park, Kansas, on Christmas Day 2014. Frank was the son of Bukovina immigrants Leon and Mary (Erbert) Schneller of Ellis, Kansas. His enthusiasm for Bukovina family history was instrumental in bringing Paul J. (Schneller) Polansky from Europe to Kansas in September 1988. Among Frank’s contributions to the Bukovina Society were family photos that he shared with Paul for display at
the 40th annual meeting of the *Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen (Bukowina) e.V.* in Augsburg, Germany, in 1989. These photos are now part of our museum collection. He was the grandson of pioneer Frank Erbert who led the first group of Bohemian German Catholics from Bukovina to Ellis. His oral history contributed greatly to our knowledge of their early history.

- Guido Ast of Heidelberg, Germany, visited one of our early Bukovina Society events. Both of his parents were born in Illischestie, Bukovina, where their ancestors had lived for 150 years. Guido, a retired architect and city planner, has recently published his autobiography, titled *Man Nannte Mich Bwana Soko: Biografische Notizen eines Architekten und Stadtentwicklungsplaner* (“They called me Bwana Soko: Biographical Notes of an Architect and City Planner”). The 288-page German-language book provides reports from his three decades of experiences in Algeria, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Yemen, and Kenya. To obtain the book, email the author at Guido.Ast@t-online.de or order by the ISBN number: 978-3-9816366-3-5. Guido plans to develop a gallery of his African artifacts in the Heidelberg Altstadt (“old city”).

- Mark your calendars for the 2015 *Eastern European Family History Conference* to be held at the Plaza Hotel in Salt Lake City on August 11-15, 2015! The annual event is hosted by the Foundation for East European Family History Studies (FEF) EHS). Details will be announced in February 2015. For more about the event and the work of FEEFHS, log on to http://feefhs.org/.


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**MEDALLION PRESENTED TO BUKOVINA SOCIETY**

Ovidiu Corduneanu is a numismatist, or coin and metal enthusiast, as well an engineer in Campulung Moldovenesc, a town with Bukovina German history near Suceava in northeastern Romania.

At his own expense he designed and struck a commemorative medal for the 150th anniversary of “The Old Town Hall.” The building was constructed during the time of the Austrian [Habsburg] Empire when Campulung was elevated from the status of a village into a town. The medallion is one of only 22 in the world and will not be reproduced.

Two other medals have been created by Mr. Corduneanu. The first celebrated the 600th anniversary of Campulung and the second marked the 140th anniversary of the birth of Vasile Gheorghiu, a professor of theology in Czernowitz, the former provincial capital of Bukovina.

Mr. Corduneanu sent a commemorative medallion to the Bukovina Society in January 2015. In appreciation of this honor, the Society Board sent a box of books and memorabilia from the headquarters museum to him. The medallion is now on display at the museum.
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

War had come to Bukovina one hundred years ago. It was especially hard in Bukovina, the easternmost land of the Austrian empire, which was directly adjacent to the Russian empire. Austria had declared war against Russia on 6 August 1914 and about a month later, on 2 September 1914, the Russians occupied northern Bukovina, including the provincial capital Czernowitz, as far south as Sereth. Shut off from the outside world, Bukovina's population was denied any freedom of movement and subjected to plunder, impoverishment, forced labor, and murder.

Seven weeks later, Austrian forces regained the city and surrounding area on 21 October 1914, an opportunity that allowed many Bukovina people to flee to the west. But on 26 November 1914, the Austrians were again forced to evacuate and this time the entire region, with the exception of a tiny area in the south, was given up.

Cessation of hostilities ceased in Bukovina after an armistice with Russia on 9 December 1917. The remaining areas of Bukovina under Russian occupation were cleared of occupying forces on 7 March 1918. The end of the war brought the end of the Habsburg monarchy, the end of Austrian sovereignty in Bukovina, and occupation and annexation of Bukovina by Romania.

IS GENEALOGICAL DNA TESTING FOR YOU?  
PART 1

By: Steve Parke

DNA testing for genealogical purposes has become very popular. A number of companies are taking the lead on providing such a product. Various genealogical societies have started study groups. Surprisingly we have not taken action on testing projects through the Bukovina Society. It's time for us as individuals to move into this rapidly developing dimension of genealogical research. There's much to learn and it's fun. I will share a sample of my experience. Rather than delve into the technical aspects of such research, aspects of which I am not an expert, let me outline some of what I've learned and discovered since first testing in 2006. Maybe you too would like to test!

First of all, taking the test is very simple. I've provided test samples for two companies, National Geographic and Family Tree DNA. I used the kit provided, scraped saliva off my cheeks and returned the sample in a sealed test tube. As you can see, such testing has a very “low tech” entry point.

Seeing the results is the fun part. I will examine the results of one test in this article, the autosomal DNA test. Family Tree DNA, my testing company of choice, has name brand named their autosomal DNA test, the Family Finder. Y-DNA or MtDNA tests are also available and I will cover them in later articles.

Just what does the Family Finder test discover? When you were conceived upon the joining of your mother's egg and your father's sperm, approximately half of your autosomal DNA randomly came from each of your parents. Your parents had similarly received about half of their autosomal DNA from each of their parents and thus you would have about 25% of the DNA from each of your grandparents. From each of your great grandparents you would have about 12% of their DNA and so on with the percentage of DNA received from each progressively distant ancestor.
getting cut in half. After 5 or so generations back, the genetic contribution becomes so small that it is statistically unreliable to predict who inherited what gene from whom and thus autosomal test predictions are reliable for only about 5 generations back. But the undeniable fact is that if you are related to someone within 5 generations, male or female, autosomal DNA testing will find DNA markers to predict or confirm that relationship. Such connections can be found in your direct ancestral lines and through all related lines, creating the potential for finding a huge number of genetic relatives.

I was slow coming to the autosomal DNA testing party, only submitting my sample and paying the $99 test fee to Family Tree DNA in 2013 but the results have been rewarding. My first discovery was seeing “Randolph John Gaschler” appear in my results. Both Randy and I had chosen to make our results and email addresses available through the Family Tree DNA website. We started communicating and rather quickly realized that our common, most recent Bukovina ancestors were Johann Nepomak Gaschler (1819-1887) and his wife, Anna Artman (1823-1888) of Fuerstenthal; I descended from their daughter, Teresa, and Randy descended from their son, Michael. Yes, DNA testing works!

Results can be even more confirming if you move the sample, the tester, back one more generation. To that end I enlisted my mother, Barbara, in late 2014. Much to my surprise, she was more than willing, wanting to learn more about her family roots. I was excited about her testing because it would push our autosomal DNA test sample back one more generation. Randy and I had 49.44 shared cM’s and not surprisingly, mom and Randy had shared 73.41 cM’s. While these numbers may not mean much to you, they statistically point to a relationship within the last 3 generations. And since we’ve done such good genealogical work as a Society, Randy and I could also specifically point to our shared ancestors, the couple of Johann and Anna Gaschler, married in 1842, an ancestral couple three generations distant from my mother. Our church document paper trail was confirmed with autosomal DNA testing.

Such testing can also uncover unknown ancestors. This can be a great boon to those looking for lost ancestors. It can also be a great surprise as one discovers family history unknowns. In doing tests on my mother and me, we found a surprise match, a connection to “Harry in Sweden”. My autosomal test indicated 46.03 shared cM’s with Harry; mom’s test showed 42.33 shared cM’s. These matches were both on chromosome 11. Another cousin, Gail Marie Tremblay, shares approximately the same markers on chromosome 11. (Family Tree’s “Chromosome Browser” allows one to compare (triangulate) results and see connections as just outlined.) Gail also shares Schuster and Aschenbrenner Bukovina ancestors with my mother and me. How is Harry in Sweden connected to all of this?

I started the email process with Harry, asking questions, looking for clues. We swapped stories and quickly found a lead. His ancestors were glassmakers from Bavaria and Bohemia. His family with ancestral names like Grundel, Nachtmann, Siegerling, and Greiner moved to Sweden in 1803. I do not see familiar Bukovina German-Bohemian names in his family tree circa 1800, but most probably his ancestors in Bohemia intermarried with my Schuster and/or Aschenbrenner ancestors before moving to Sweden. We cannot find a common ancestral village. But the DNA confirms common family heritage.

I have found other autosomal matches regarding my Kelly and O’Toole relatives in Ireland. My grandfather Peter Parke’s mother was an O’Toole and his paternal grandmother was a Kelly. I had recent test matches in Ireland with O’Toole and Kelly descendants from Baltinglass in County Wicklow, our common ancestral village. Unfortunately many Irish records were destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922 and we will never confirm our relatedness with documents. Still the autosomal DNA testing says we are from the same family groups around 1800. At the same time, my autosomal DNA did not confirm a relationship with an Irish born Parke descendent now in England. No paper trail exists either. In cases such as these, DNA testing is a solution of great accuracy, even if disappointing.

It’s time for members of the Bukovina Society to start testing, if you’ve not already done so. I’ve slanted this article towards my testing company of choice, Family Tree DNA, based in Houston, Texas. Why? This company has the largest database for potential matches, their rates are competitive, there is no monthly subscription fee, and they are devoted exclusively to the field of DNA testing for genealogical purposes. As do most companies, they have strict confidentiality rules. With your online account at www.familytreedna.com, you control who sees what aspects of your results.

I’ve also tested with National Geographic, my first testing company, at https://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/, but transferred the results to Family Tree DNA to expand my research and match making potential. National Geographic’s Geno 2.0 test is an informative product for basic autosomal, YDNA, and MtDNA tests, for $160. These results and the results of other companies as well can be transferred to Family Tree DNA’s database.

Now for some disclaimers: I have not covered the genealogy
oriented YDNA or MtDNA tests earlier mentioned in this article but will do so in following newsletter articles. Nor did I delve into the geographical ancestry predictions made with autosomal testing. There are other testing companies not covered here. And I should also note that the testing covered in this article is not for medical purposes.

I would be happy to discuss any questions you may have about testing, the results, and the various testing companies. Make contact with me through the Society's website, using the email address found at www.bukovinasociety.org. Or send a letter to the Society's post office box noted on the newsletter and it will be forwarded to me. Let's get a Bukovina DNA testing effort rolling! You may even want to help organize a Society study group. Let us know! The autosomal, Family Finder test discussed here would be an easy initial route to fun and informative results for all.

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THE GERMAN CHURCHES IN IȚCANI (ITZKANY), BUKOVINA

The former German Lutheran Church in Ițcani (Itzkany) now the Orthodox Biserica „Sfîntii Apostoli” din Ițcani
Photo by Cezar Suceveanu, placed in CC by 3.0 (Creative Commons)
http://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biserica_Sfin%C8%9Bii_Apostoli_din_I%C8%9Bcani#Func.C8.9Bionarea_ca_biseric.C4.83_luteran.C4.83

CHURCH DEDICATIONS IN GLITT AND THE VILLAGE OF PUTNA
From Kirchen-Weihefeste in Glitt und Putna-Dorf

By: Ioan Șmid, translated by Irmgard Hein Ellingson
Der Südostdeutsche (Augsburg, Germany), 20 July 2014, page 4

The Roman Catholic churches in the Radautz parish have been especially grateful for the financial support that the family of Ioan and Elena Zaremba of Fürstenthal (Voivodeasa) has provided for restoration projects. Work in the Catholic Church in Fürstenthal began in 2005, ten years after the building had been returned to the Catholic congregation by the Orthodox Church. The roof and exterior/interior walls of the Glitt church were repaired after that.
In 2013-2014, the church in Putna was renovated. The structure required stabilization as well as roof and frame renovations, masonry repairs, installation of electrical wiring, and installation of noise-reducing and energy efficient windows, with the preservation of the stained glass. The old altar was replaced by a mosaic icon designed in the tradition of the old altar picture, Ausgießung des Heiligen Geistes (The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit). Parquet replaced the old flooring and an artistic mosaic was spread over it. The old pews and the old holy pictures were restored; the church yard and environs were refurbished.

The Rev. Dr. Eduard Ferent, who served this congregation from 1984-1990, and the architect Gheorge Heres of Iasi directed the project, and the Ioan and Elena Zaremba family provided financial support. The church, built in 1928-1930, was dedicated to the Holy Spirit on 18 Sept. 1935 when the Catholic parish in Putna numbered 248 families with 1030 souls and was part of the Karlsberg / Gura Putnei parish. The cleric was Francis Luczko, born in Radautz, and the architect was Straub, born in Karlsberg.

A two-part illustrated book has been published to commemorate the dedication of the renovated Catholic Church in Putna. Comunitatea romano-catolica din Putna (Die römisch-katholische Gemeinschaft in Putna, or the Roman Catholic congregation in Putna), was prepared by Ioan Ţmid of Rădăuți (Radautz). The ISBN number for the 72-page publication, with Romanian and German text, is 978-973-0-16810-5. The first part is a monograph based upon historical documents and reports of the Putna congregation, which was influential in this traditionally Orthodox region during the German settlement in the Habsburg period. The second part of the book explains the symbolism within the church.
Information about Lichtenberg also appears beneath the alphabetic heading for the community of Glit, since the two villages formed a single community. Unfortunately the entries here were made together and not separately (see page 103, first paragraph). Note that the [Romanian] spelling at that time (1908) was Glit and that the modern [Romanian] spelling is usually Clit.

Lichtenberg is included under the heading for the letter “L” on page 129, paragraph 3. The translation: Lichtenberg or Lichtendorf, in Romanian Dealul-Ederei, village in Bezirk (district) Gurahumora, on the northwestern side of Glitt (note spelling). The houses are arranged side by side on a long stretch of the Bezirksstrasse, or district road, that runs between Wikow and Solka. The area is given with that of Glit: a total of 15.49 square kilometers. Further information does relate specifically to Lichtenberg: population 404, German, with a Roman Catholic (this point was added by Luzian Geier) single-class primary school.

The village was named in 1836 by the German-Bohemian settlers for a small nearby hill, where they had cleared the woods. The German verb auslichten refers to thinning or clearing trees and the noun Berg refers to a large hill or mountain and from that, the name Lichtenberg was coined. The residents occupied themselves with agriculture and forestry. In the village there were 89 horses, 221 head of livestock, 84 hogs and eleven beehives.

Toponomy, or Place Names

Some useful information about villages and locales may be found in two Romanian-language volumes relating to the names of fields and streams in Bukovina. Written by Nicolae Gramada, they were published by the research institute in Radautz in 1996. For example, the village near Solka that came to be known as Clit or Glit was already cited in a historical document in the year 1633. The designation Dealul Ederei was associated with the place as well as with a hill, and as a later detail relating to Glit (Volume 1, page 231). The name Lichtenberg and most of the German village- or location names do not appear, as may be expected given the Romanian-language title Toponimia minora a Bucovinei and the book’s main goal, that of presenting the names of locations and streams. Towns like Cernauti, Gura Humorului, Radauti, Siret, and Suceava are worked into the text and topographical material from old cadastral records is cited.

Demography, or Population

A half dozen references and entries about Lichtenberg (Dealul Ederei) were made by the more contemporary Romanian historian Constantin Ungureanu of Chisinau, Moldavia, in his book about Bukovina and its population movements during the time of the Austrian administration (1774-1918). As one well acquainted with the sources, the available literature, and the German language, he has explored everything that he could find, including the settlement history (Lichtenberg appears on pages 93, 96, 98-99, for example, and the tallies for independent German Bohemian villages, population growth, etc. appear on page 154). Glit received German Bohemian Zusiedler, or additional settlers, somewhat later with the first sixteen families arriving in 1843. Information relating to demographical developments is presented on page 260 in a table about conditions in the year 1900, prepared with documentation from Norbert Zimmer and published in Plauen [Germany] in 1930. At that time, at about the turn of that century, the village had 485 residents, of whom 481 (99.2%) were German. In Glit, Germans were only 49.3% of the population.

Artisanry, or Skilled Trades

Various annual publications are enlightening in regard to artisanry and trade. The Adressbuch von Bukowina (Vienna: 2nd and updated edition, 1908) notes that the village community Lichtenberg, Dealul Ederei belonged to the Solka Gerichtsbezirk, or judicial district, and to the Gurahumora provincial district, had 485 German residents and a school (pages 85-86). The post office was located in Glitt. The village grocer was Franziska Schätz, the tobacconist was Ferdinand Schaller, and the furniture shop was operated by Eduard Fuchs who was also a trained and certified builder. For part of the village, Berl Schieber was the Propinationspächter, the state-authorized leaseholder of the liquor shop, and in Gurahumora, it was Chaim. It is worthy of note that by that time, Lichtenberg had a savings and loan bank, formed as an association of members and as a registered society with unlimited liability.

This may be compared to similar information in the somewhat older Adressbuch der Reihe “Österreichischer Zentralkataster” für Galicia und Bukowina (first edition, 1903). Beneath a heading with the same name on page 1440, the same total population is entered, evidence that the same information has again been used. The post office, however, was located in more distant Solka. The hog buyer is listed as Franz Schätz, son of Wenzel Schätz. It is not clear whether or not the stated grocer (see above) is his wife. The tobacco and furniture shops were already in existence and being operated by the same master artisans, and the liquor shop Pächter, or lessee, were the same individuals. In addition Samuel Hard is cited as Gemischtwarenhändler, or seller of mixed wares.
Similar books published in Romania after World War I do not list Lichtenberg at all. One book does mention Clit in the Suceava district but provides no additional information (page 61 in Anuarul Muncii, 1929-1930 edition, Bucharest, Romania: 2nd year of publication, 3rd edition).

Lichtenberg with Clit, Barnareni, and Arbore is now part of the Arbore municipality. In the year 2000, the population was 7060.

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**THE ORIGIN OF THE OBERLÄNDER FAMILY OF BUKOVINA**

By: Renate Gschwendtner

The Bukovina Society’s newsletter No. 3 of September 2013 included an article by Claus Stephani, which was first published in 1978 in the newspaper Neuer Weg. It is titled “The Work Colony of Eisenau: The Founding of the Settlement of Prisaca Dornei in Bukovina”. The same article can be found on the website of the Bukovina Society.

The article states that the Oberländer of Eisenau emigrated from Swabia to Bukovina. According to Dr. Stephani the source of this information is word of mouth, in other words oral history. Yet many genealogists have stated that people’s memories are not always accurate because they fade over the years, or they rest upon erroneous assumptions.

This also applies to the alleged origin of the Oberländer from Swabia. It is a fact that the first Oberländer who settled in Eisenau came from Göllnitz in Zips (formerly Upper Hungary, today Slovakia). He was a blacksmith in the hammer mill and his name was Gottlieb Oberländer, born on Sept. 6th, 1788 in Göllnitz, Zips. His parents were blacksmith Theophilus (Gottlieb) Oberländer, born on Oct. 4th, 1762 in Göllnitz, and his wife Susanna Kappel. His grandfather was blacksmith Karl Oberländer who married Catharina Czisco in 1743 in the town of Göllnitz. The church record of Karl Oberländer claims he was a Lutheran from Silesia. A closer, more precise, location was not specified.

Gottlieb Oberländer (born 1788) was one of the 38 miners and hammer mill laborers brought from the Zips by Anton Manz von Mariensee, because he needed workers for his hammer mill in Eisenau. The first marriage entry in the church records of Gurahumora which is related to Eisenau, is about the wedding of Gottlieb Oberländer and his wife, Elisabeth, nee Christofory, on Oct. 25, 1812.

**Sources**

Church records Göllnitz/Zips (1726-1753, page 265; − 1754-1769, page 99; − 1783-1789, page 12).

Church records Gurahumora, No. 3624, page 17.