SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

• During Oktoberfest 2015 in Hays, KS, the Society Board hosted a display table in a large tent with the Volga German organization and the Ellis County Historical Society. Many school groups and festival attendees stopped to view our migration map and memorabilia from the museum. 10,000 people attended the 43rd annual fest with events featuring food, beer, dancing and other entertainment. The day was completed with a dinner by the Board for out of state visitors, Van Massirer, Steve Parke, and Pastor Herman Ottschofski at the home of Pat and OM Windholz. Van and Mary regularly attend Bukovinafests from their home in Crawford, TX and he is currently a member of the Board. Steve lives in Colorado and is the membership volunteer for the Society, maintaining the member database. Herman is a pastor in Colorado. He was born in Bukovina and at age one departed with the family during the Umsiedlung in 1940.

• The annual business meeting of the Society was held on October 2, 2015 at the Ellis County Historical Society in conjunction with the 43rd annual Oktoberfest in Hays, KS. Elected to the Board of Directors for new terms were: Shirley Kupetz, Darrell Seibel, and Guy Windholz. Membership and financial reports were presented. Members wishing to receive these by email may order from: HYPERLINK "mailto:pat6363@yahoo.com" pat6363@yahoo.com

• The board authorized a complete revision of the website and hope to resume online payments for membership, renewals and sales.

• The Board of Directors met on October 15, 2015. Elected as officers for the ensuing year: Oren Windholz, President, Martha McClelland, Vice President, Shirley Kupetz, Secretary, and Guy Windholz, Treasurer. The tentative date for the 2016 annual business meeting has been set for September 30, 2015. This is the date of the annual Oktoberfest in Hays; however, the meeting will be at a later time to avoid missing events at the fest. A final announcement will be made in a future issue of the newsletter.

• The Society learned of the September 3rd, 2015 death of life member Eric Slawski of Cologne, Germany. He and his wife Inge were special guests at a Bukovinafest where he gave a presentation. We offer our condolences to her and the extended family. Van and Mary Massirer met the couple then and later learned of a family relationship.

• Matt Erbert, a senior majoring in Finance at Ft. Hays State University is playing his final year as starting offensive tackle for the Tigers. A sixth generation Bukovina German Kansan. His mother Deb and grandparents Joe (BSA Secretary Emeritus) and Arlene Erbert attend the games with pride.

• Luzian Geier of the Bukowina Institut in Augsburg has provided copies of historical documents to the Bukovina Society. He recently found church records of the Fuerch family from the late 1800s and a 1914 document relating to Joseph Fuerch’s location in Ellis, KS. Lifetime member Wes Fuerch is sharing this with relatives working on their family tree.

• A Homeland Transplanted: German Bohemians in America, a 122 minute DVD produced by the German Bohemian Heritage Society, New Ulm, MN which has cultural ties to the Bohemian Germans from Bukovina. You can read a description on their website with purchase information at: germanbohemianheritagesociety.com

• Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer and Dr. Nicole Eller (Mr. and Mrs.), university educators in Germany, have periodically visited the Bukovina Society members in the Ellis area.
to study the German dialects. Their travels include numerous other communities with Bukovina German descendants. On a vacation to the western States, they detoured back to Ellis on a personal visit. On September 4th, the Bukovina Society Board, spouses and friends of the couple held a reception and dinner in their honor at the Ellis Country Club.

A QUIET AMERICA

In April 1976, Marc Schindler and a team from Swiss Television spent a month in Hays, Kansas, making a documentary titled A Quiet America. A significant part of the film featured the culture of the Volga Germans who came to Ellis County in 1876, ten years before the Bukovina emigration just a few miles west.

Marc Schindler came back to Hays in August of 2015 for three days to reminisce with old friends he made during the project. One of his stops was to the Eagle Community Television studio for an interview with Mike Cooper who, during Marc’s first visit was a featured participant. It was quite a surprise while watching the taped interview when Marc mentioned he was from Bukovina, now in Romania. Mike mentioned the Bukovina Society, which he was familiar with from his long time daily radio show.

It was gratifying to see the Bukovina Society receive this brief recognition, and following is the link to the video of the Cooper interview: http://www.hayspost.com/2015/08/10/community-connection-marc-schindler/

2015 BUKOVINA SOCIETY OF THE AMERICAS MEMBERSHIP REPORT

By: Steve Parke, Membership Volunteer, Pueblo West, CO, USA

Every five years we have a membership report in the newsletter. I wrote an article ten years ago, Becky Hageman five years ago. Here’s the September 2015 update. The volume of numbers herein might be overwhelming so you might want to read and reflect on just a few paragraphs at a time.

September 2015 Members… As of September 2015 we had 73 Annual members and 181 Life members for a total of 254 active members. We also sent newsletters to 38 genealogical societies, educational institutions, and historical societies for a quarterly newsletter outreach total of 292.

Most interesting is the geographic distribution of the 2015 membership. Members live in 29 American states with Kansas having the most with 62. California, Colorado, and Washington follow with 29, 17, and 13 members, respectively. Kansas 2015 members are 24% of the membership. Ellis County, KS, the location of the Bukovina Society of the Americas Museum, has 30 members, 12% of the membership.

Of similar interest is the global membership spread. 2015 Membership includes 49 people living in 10 foreign countries, representing 19% of the membership. Canada claims the most members outside the states with a total of 26. Germany follows with 11. Members are also in the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark, Bolivia, Poland, Austria, Spain, and Switzerland.

A significant number of people are Life Members by virtue of their one-time $150 Life Membership payment. 215 people have made this level of commitment to the Society since 1991 with 181 active in 2015. Active Life Members live in 28 states and 9 foreign countries. Of the 24 active Life Members outside the USA today, Germany and Canada have the most with 8 and 7, respectively.

March 2010 Membership… As a point of comparison, Becky Hageman, membership volunteer in 2010, reported 521 active members in March 2010, about twice as many as today. Annual membership applications were frequent with 17 in one month alone, January 2010. Foreign memberships then covered 18 countries. In large part at that time, our online PayPal application and membership processing method facilitated many memberships, gathering members from across the USA and globally. We hope to someday resume this online membership service.

Historical Membership Record… Having an ongoing, historical membership record provides interesting numbers. The best of our records tells us that we’ve had at least 1,280 member contacts since the organization was formed in 1989. Of these 1,280 member contacts, 575 were outside the USA, 45% of the total. Leading the way is Canada with 345 followed by Germany with 135. A total of 22 countries are represented in this global list, not counting the USA. This spread is quite amazing.

In the same historical list, 699 members are American, representing 55% of the total. This list includes 47 states and the District of Columbia. Kansas' members lead the way with 148 followed by California with 71, Colorado with 42, Washington with 38, and New York with 34. Eighteen states reach double-digit historical membership totals. The only states not represented are Hawaii, Kentucky and West Virginia. Of the 148 Kansas addresses, 66 are in Ellis County, 5% of the total historical membership. Bukovina Society membership has spread far since it's founding in Ellis, Kansas, in 1989.
Concluding Remarks… In closing some acknowledgments are required. I manage the membership list and respond to email requests from the website. Joe Erbert continues to process mail-in membership applications and today Guy Windholz processes the payments. Credit also goes to Werner Zoglauer for initially setting up the member database, the tool that facilitated the writing of this article.

I look forward to the next membership report, hopefully sometime sooner than five years from now. If you have any suggestions or further questions about membership or membership statistics, contact me through the website email address or the Society post office box. Thank you.

AUGUSTIN(E) REUNIONS IN KANSAS AND GERMANY

Information provided by Michael Augustin and Daryl Augustine

The 2015 Michael and Anna Augustine family reunion was conducted July 3-5 at the Ellis County Fairgrounds. Some 250 family members responded to the invitation from 11 States, 21 from Canada two from Germany, Michael and Baerbel Augustin.

The first day a golf tournament was held at the Fort Hays Golf Course for all ages. The winners were Matt and Ashley Augustine, Adam Augustine and Gianna Misenhelter.

Beginning on Saturday, as a result of the outstanding work by the organization committee, the reunion ran smoothly in all events to the full satisfaction of all participants. The excellent food and beverages resulted from the kitchen work of Duane and Mary Lang assisted by Randy and Elaine Augustine. Jeff Augustine and his helpers tended bar.

Gerald Christoffel and Michael Augustin provided genealogical databases to the attendees and kept busy answering questions and entering new information in their computers. A color poster noting the relationship of individual American and Canadian branches of the family generated great interest. Leah Duda from Oregon was of assistance in gathering previously untapped genealogical information.

A Mass was offered by Fr. Gilmary Tallman. Many other activities were enjoyed through the work of helpers and supporters too many to be named. Musical entertainment on Saturday evening featured Melissa Carper, daughter of Sheila Augustine Carper, with a mixture of bluegrass, country, and R & B, all well received by the dancers and listeners. The evening guests enjoyed traditional fireworks.

A reservation error reduced the Sunday time available in the festival hall, but participants did not let this ruffle them and had breakfast in a jovial mood and repeated discussions of the previous days. Some forty family members joined Juanita Augustine for lunch at her home with small groups meeting the rest of the day.

Although there have been larger reunions, all agreed the amount of intermingling was significantly higher. Many thanks and compliments to the organizers and the many assistants.

Since Frank and Juanita Augustine of Ellis, Kansas first visited Germany in 2001, it has become an established tradition that our cousin Regina Schiessl from Salzweg near Passau regularly spearheads a family reunion in early October. This gathering cannot be compared in size to the family reunions held in the United States and Canada. With some exceptions it is only the surviving siblings of my father as well as their children and grandchildren who attend, usually on average between 30 and 40 people. The majority live in or near Passau. This year’s gathering on September 26 again offered a good opportunity for an exchange of news and views. As in previous years the meeting took place somewhat north of Passau in the Country Inn/Knott, a restaurant and guesthouse that has been in operation for more than 160 years.

BUKOVINIANS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS ABROAD WHO ENTERED THE CATHOLIC PRIESTHOOD

Compiled by Allan W. Schmidt, Michael Augustin and Sophie A. Welisch

Astalosch, Franz. “On April 25, shortly after his 84th birthday, Father Franz Astalosch died in Kimpolung, Bukovina after a long illness. He was born on 25 April 1913 as one of eight children to Franz and Luisa Astalosch in Dorna Watra in the district of Kimpolung. Of these children he is survived only by his brother Samual (Sami) in Bucharest and his sister Blanka in Germany. As a seven-year-old child he lost his beloved mother, who until her death had raised him in piety and love. It is due to this maternal devotion that after primary school in Dorna Watra he enrolled in the seminary in Jassy (Iasi) and ultimately concluded his theological studies in Bucharest, where he was ordained on 9 March 1940,” (Der
Südostdeutsche, Augsburg, 15. September 1997, S. 10.)

**Bartz, Leonard.** In 1923/24 served as record keeper for the Roman Catholic Church in Kimpolung.

**Baumgartner, Albert.** Born c. 1913 in Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli), District of Gurahumora, Bukovina (son of Karl Baumgartner and?). Studied theology in Bucharest, where he was ordained in 1937. Presumably died sometime in 1945.

**Baumgartner, Rudolf.** Born 2 Mar 1911 in Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli), Bukovina, died 2 Apr 1974 in Plattling, Bavaria, Federal Republic of Germany (son of Karl Baumgartner and?). Studied theology in Bucharest where he was ordained in 1935. He was later assigned to the Ottmaringen parish in Bavaria.


**Brodin, Georg.**

**Brodin, Martin.**


**Deutscher, Joseph Charles.** Born 1 Nov 1922 in Odessa, Saskatchewan, Canada, died 24 March 2000 in Regina, Saskatchewan (son of Rudolph Frank Deutscher and Mathilda Gorski). Bombardier on Allied bomber aircraft with the Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII and credited with bombing Leipzig, Germany, he served in the RCAF for five years, retired with the rank of flight lieutenant and was awarded the “Distinguished Flying Cross.” On 13 June 1954 he was ordained in his home parish of Holy Family, Odessa, SK, served as priest for five years at Holy Rosary Cathedral, Regina, three years at McLean, six years at Camberlain and Craik, fifteen years at Little Flower Parish, Regina, and eight years at St. Anne’s Parish, Regina. After retirement he ministered at Pioneer Village, Regina until poor health prevented further service in the archdiocese.

**Dobos, Joseph.** Born 9 Dec 1941 in Rachiteni, Iasi County, Romania (son of Dumitru and Maria Dobos). He was ordained as priest in Bucharest where he was ordained on 8 Dec 1939. Served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Bucharest from 1990 until his retirement in 1994.

**Egner, Anton.** Born 5 August 1956 in Sighisoara, Mures County, Romania.

**Ettrmayr, Josef.** Born in Dorfen, Bavaria, Germany. Served as priest in Kimpolung, Bukovina (1910-1913) and then in Dorna Watra (12 Aug 1913 - 1915).

**Exner, Adam.** Born 24 Dec 1928 in Killally, Saskatchewan (son of Josef Adam Exner and Franziska Gelowicz). After completing his elementary schooling locally, he attended St. Joseph’s College in Yorkton, SK and St. Thomas College in Battleford, SK, where he completed First Year Arts in 1950. That fall he entered the Oblate Fathers Novitiate in St. Norbert, Manitoba, and upon completion of his novitiate, was enrolled in the Gregorian University in Rome, where he earned the degree of licentiate in philosophy in 1954 and licentiate in theology in 1958. On 7 July 1957 he was ordained to the priesthood in Roviano, Italy. In 1960 he got his doctorate in theology from the University of Ottawa. From 1960 to 1971 he was professor at Saint Charles Scholasticate (O.M.I.) in Battleford, SK, where he served as superior from 1965 to 1971. Between 1972-1974 he served as professor of theology at Newman Theological College in Edmonton, Alberta until named Bishop of Kamloops, BC. On 12 March 1974 he was ordained Archbishop of Winnipeg, BC. and installed on March 28, 1974. There then followed appointment as Archbishop of Winnipeg on 31 March 1982 with installation on 23 June 1982. On 25 May 1991 he was named Archbishop of Vancouver and installed on August 15, 1992 (Source: Canadian Catholic Church Directory, 1994, pp. 335-336).

**Exner, George.** Born 7 Feb 1915.

**Fink, Vincent.**

**Flax, Godfrey.** Born 1928 (son of Gottfried Flax and Katharina Weber), ordained in USA as “Father Myron,” OFM Cap

**Gabor, Paul.** Born 17 Feb 1940 in Iugani, Iasi County, Romania (son of Dumitru and Maria Gabor). He was ordained as priest in Bucharest where he was ordained on 8 Dec 1939. Served as Vicar General of the Diocese of Bucharest from 1990 until his retirement in 1994.

**Gazin, Mark Ross.** Born 22 July 1958 in Long Beach, California, USA, son of Chester Louis Gazin and Genevieve Marie Ross. He resided and went to school in Vancouver, BC and was ordained a Basilican Roman Catholic priest on 29 June 1980.

**Gorski, Isidore.** Born c. 1926 (son of Stanley Gorski and Julia Reiss). Ordained 1954 in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

**Hable, Johann.** Born c. 1890 (son of Franz Hable and Anna Fuchs of Pojana Mikuli, Bukovina). He was ordained in Vienna and later assigned to the parish in Fürstenthal, Bukovina.

**Haik, Ernst.** Served as priest in Wama, Bukovina.

**Hellingier, Arthur H.** Born 28 Nov 1914 in Gurahumora, Bukovina, died 8 July 1994 in Regensburg, Bavaria (son of Ferdinand Hellingier and Maria Lang). He studied theology and philosophy at the Theological Academy in Bucharest where he was ordained on 8 Dec 1939. Served as vicar in Popesti Leordeni near Bucharest, the largest Catholic community of 500 families. Transferred to Germany in 1940 he was appointed chaplain in St. Ruprecht in Austria on 30 Jan 1941 and on 1 Jul 1942 as priest in Warthenau, Upper Silesia. In 1945 fled to Bavaria where he then served in the diocese of Passau first as co-operator in Dietersburg, then in Fürstenstein, and for 25 years in Neuschönau. His last position was as priest in Haiming from 1973 until his retirement in 1981. (Der Südostdeutsche, 1994)

**Hohenecker, Leopold.** Born 2 Jan 1909 in Radautz, died 11 Jul 1992 in Bucharest.
Hornung, Anton. Born 26 Feb 1912 in Molodia, Bukovina, died 1971 (son of Isidor Hornung and Elisabeth L. Neumann). Studied theology in Bucharest and Czernowitz; ordained 19 June 1937. After World War II served as chaplain in Vienna and Tirol and 37 years in Maria Thalheim. Spent his retirement years in Caritas-Centrum in St. Johannes, Austria.

Hubenig, Alfred Adam. Born 28 May 1931 in Regina, Saskatchewan (son of Johann Hubenig and Magdalena Hicke). Ordained a Roman Catholic priest and Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate (O.M.I.) at Battleford, Saskatchewan on 8 June 1956.

Jura, Gerhard Emil. Born 20 Feb 1914 in Moldavia, District of Suceava, died 9 Dec 1949 in Kimpolung, Moldovia)

Karapczynski, Roman. Born 27 June 1910 in Dorna Watra, died 6 Feb 1977 in Breslau. Ordained 24 June 1934 in Bucharest. Between 1934-41 served as chaplain at the Baratzie church in Bucharest and taught religion at St. Andreas High School; served as pastor in Pitesti and as director of its Catholic school; imprisoned by the security police; freed through the intervention of the communists until 1946.

Klein, Kasper. Born 3 Nov 1920 in Fox Valley, Saskatchewan (son of George Klein and Elizabeth Rieger). First vows 8 Sep 1940

1946-1947-Secretary to Bishop Pocock, Saskatoon, SK
1947-1956-Oblate House of Studies, Battleford, SK
1956-1961-Army Chaplain, Wainwright, Alberta
1961-1968-Handel and Landis, SK
1968-1973-Trampling Lake, SK with Revenue and Broadacres
1973-1976-St. Walburg, SK
1976-1984-Unity & Reward, SK
1984- - St. Mary’s Regina, SK

Krassler, Josef. Born 7 July 1910 in Radautz, Bukovina, died 28 Nov 1989 (son of Adolf Krassler and Justina Robel); ordained as Roman Catholic priest on 9 Jul 1913. On 30 Mar 1939 was given the title “Monsignor” and as Vicar General was at the right hand of Bishop Michael Robu. Ministered to several parishes in Bukovina.

Lang, Edward. Born 15 Jan 1915 in Gura Humorului, Bukovina, died 14 Nov. 1977 in Vienna, Austria (son of Josef Lang and Vanda Onyszkiewicz). Ordained a Roman Catholic priest on 18 Mar 1939 in Rome, Italy. In 1928 attended the state high school (Lyzeum) in Gura Humorului; Ph.D. in philosophy and theology; religion teacher in Vienna, Austria. (Der Südostdeutsche, 15 Feb 1978, p. 9)

Leibham, Bernhard.

Mann, Leo. Born 30 Dec 1941 in Gravelbourg, SK, died 7 Feb 2011 in North Battleford, SK (son of Anton Mann and Mary Gross)

Morosiewicz, Karl. Served in Gura Humorului parish during interwar period.

Nestmann, Leopold. Born 25 Jan 1919 in Czernowitz, died 17 March 1993. Professor of theology in Iasi, Bucharest and Alba Julia, Romania; numerous arrests under Romanian communist government (1949-1951 and 1957-1966). After release was appointed spiritual leader of the College for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome; relocated to Austria in 1970 where he served in the diocese of Lemburg-Lahn and the Altötting monastery

Nikolajczuk, Karl. Born 26 Jan 1917 in Bockfliess/Vienna; ordained 29 Sep 1939 in Jassy; chaplain in Radautz until May 1940. After the 1940 transfer of the Bukovina Germans to Germany he was active in spiritual matters in the parishes of Reute, Ellwangen, Kalisch, Lodz and Posen; celebrated his 40th jubilee (1979) at which time he was honored for his service in the parish of Wetzelberg. (Der Südostdeutsche, Augsburg, 15 Nov 1979, p. 10)


Pilsner, Peter. Born 11 Dec 1962 in New York City, NY (son of Arnold Pilsner and Marcia Rowan). In 1990 Peter was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

Posar, Mathias. Born 11 Jan 1912 in Luiensenthal, Bukovina; died 13 Sep. 1978 in Tobelbad/Graz, Austria. Studied theology in Bucharest; ordained in 1939; imprisoned for12 years under communist rule in Romania, settled in Austria after his release and worked tirelessly at his parish in Tobelbad, where his efforts included the building of a youth hostel, a kindergarten and a cemetery chapel. (Der Südostdeutsche, Augsburg, 25. Okt. 1978, p. 10.)


Reitmajer, Johann. Born 16 May 1886 in Poiana Mikuli [Buchenhein], Bukovina, died 26 Nov 1952 in Karlsruhe, Upper Silesia, Poland (son of Josef Reitmajer and Franziska Lang). Studied theology at the University of Lemberg, Galicia; ordained as Roman Catholic priest on 9 Jul 1913. On 30 Mar 1939 was given the title “Monsignor” and as Vicar General was at the right hand of Bishop Michael Robu. Ministered to several parishes in Bukovina.


Schafaschek, Jorge. Born 25 Apr in Brazil (son of Wenceslaus Schafaschek and Francisca Liebl). Entered the Order of St. Francis in Brazil. Serves as a priest in the city of Chopininho, a small town in the southwestern part of the state of Paraña, Brazil.

Schafaschek, José Clemente. Born in Brazil (son of André Schafaschek and Berta Seidl). José entered the Franciscan Order in Brazil and became an ordained Roman Catholic priest.

Schmegner, Kurt.

Schmegner, Jakob.

Schmegner, Otto. Born 16 July 1894 in Kimpolung, died 30 Oct 1978 in Gossenheim bei Gemünden, Germany. Studied theology at the University of Lemberg (Lvov), Galicia; ordained 3 July 1924 in Lemberg; served as pastor in Radautz and then between 1929-1931 as parish administrator. In the same capacity he then oversaw the parish of Fürstenthal and later Stulpikany. In 1934 he was appointed pastor in Szczawno. Since half of this parish was in Poland, he did not resettle to Germany in 1940, much to the delight of the German Catholics who remained there. (Der Südostdeutsche, Augsburg,
15 Dec 1978, p. 10).

**Stadniczuk, Wilhelm.** Born 15 Sep 1916.

**Twardochleb, Emil.** Born 17 June 1895 in Radautz, Bukovina, died 12 Jan 1976 in Sisseton, South Dakota (son of Johann Twardochleb and Anna Czarowitz). Left Southley, Saskatchewan to become an Oblate at St. Boniface, Manitoba, Canada. He was ordained a priest in 1923 in Edmonton, Ontario, Canada and settled in the United States for health reasons.


**Weber, Julius.** 1872-1929 in Dorna Watra. Served as priest in Dorna Watra (1915-1929) and for a time as the town’s mayor (1917-1918).


**Weekend, John.** Regina Parish, Saskatchewan, Canada

**Welisch, Emil.** Born 20 Jan 1884 in Gurahumora, Bukovina, died 30 Apr 1954 in Glatz, District of Breslau, Silesia, Poland (son of Sebastian Welisch and Barbara Rückel). Emil Welisch studied at the university of Lemberg (Lvov) and was ordained in 1909. He taught religion at the university in Czernowitz and was a member of the Deutsches Rat für die Bukowina (1919). Until the 1940 resettlement of Bukovina’s German population to Germany he served as director of the Josefium, a Catholic orphanage in Czernowitz and as parish administrator in Hliboka [Adâncata].

**Wellisch, Denis.** Born 7 Mar 1966 in Colmar, France (son of Adolf Wellisch and Gabrielle Krall), ordained 5 July 2003.

**A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL**