

The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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

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Web Site: www.bukovinasociety.org



Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$15.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- We welcome three new life members of the Bukovina Society. Thomas Hodel, Saarland, Germany, Sonya Faulhaber, St. Petersburg, Florida, and Joneen Burrell, Los Angeles, CA. We appreciate your support to continue the preservation work of the Society.
- The Society received a book by Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer, a compilation of several years of research in Ellis County and several other Bohemian German colonies in the States and Canada. *Sprachenkontakt, Mehrsprachigkeit und Sprachverlust* (Language contact, multilingualism and language loss) was published in late 2017. Along with his wife, Dr. Nicole Eller Wildfeuer, they were guests of the Society numerous times during their work. Dr. Eller Wildfeuer's book will be published soon.
- We received a news photo and story on Paul Polansky, one of the founders of the Society. Along with two volunteers, they were in Roma, Kosovo on a humanitarian mission. Polansky has been involved in assisting people of this area for some two decades.
- Luzian Geier of the *Bukowina Institut* notified us of the death of Prof. Dr. Taras Kyjak on January 18, 2018 in Czernowitz. His contributions to the Bukovina social, political and cultural heritage are substantial and he was considered a great teacher/lecturer. He is responsible for the restoration of the Greek Catholic Church after communism fell and the founding of the Bukovina Research Center at the Czernowitz University as a partner institution of the Augsburg Bukovina Institute War Cemetery (World War I).
- The Society is operated entirely by volunteers, handling the daily routines which include: Responding to inquiries from people with an interest in Bukovina, maintaining

an informative museum of the immigrants to the New World, maintaining a photo and publications archive, selling Bukovina publications and memorabilia, managing the financial affairs and completing state and federal requirements of a non profit institution. One of the important functions of the Society is to increase and improve content of the website and Newsletter, and we welcome input. Encouraging new memberships is a volunteer effort that will assist the Society in our future preservation work.

MIHAI I, ROMANIA'S LAST KING

Michael I who died December 5, 2017 was given a royal funeral by Romania. He died in exile in Switzerland after being deposed by the communists for brave acts of loyalty in support of his homeland during the Second World War. The deceased monarch was placed in the hall of honor of the royal palace Pelesch, where he was born. He was then placed in the throne room of the royal palace in Bucharest. The solemn service was held in the Cathedral of the Bucharest Patriarchate. Michael the First, a Hohenzollern, was born on October 25, 1921 and was King of Romania from 1927-30, and from 1940-47.



REUNION IN KIRCHDORF/INN

Irmtraud Schaper sent notice of a meeting on May 12, 2018 of the descendants from Buchenhain (Pojana Mikuli) and Dumbrava in the former Bukovina. The first of these periodic meetings began in 1964. Guests from Germany, Austria and Switzerland resulted in over 100 visitors to the area. During the meeting on May 19, 1991 the well-known "Maria-Wald-Kapelle" (Mary Forest Chapel) in Julbach was dedicated. Its construction was possible through the support and labor of these German Bohemian descendants from Bukovina, who were able to establish a new homeland in Kirchdorf.

More detailed information is available by email at: adolfschaper@t-online.de

JOURNALIST VISIT TO THE SOCIETY

Last issue of the Newsletter featured the visit to the Society by freelance journalist Marion Hahnfeldt from Germany. Since that time, her website has added some highlights with photos and sound bites of her interviews with Dr. Bill Keel, University of Kansas, Marcy McClelland, Society VP, and Oren Windholz, Society President. You can find these at: <http://threemonths.de/index.php?id=93> The main website is: <http://threemonths.de/index.php?id=2> If the information appears in German text, most computers have methods of translation into English. For assistance in making a conversion to English, contact the Society by email.

HOW DNA WILL KEEP OUR SOCIETY THRIVING

By: Gail Tremblay Clark

I've been fascinated by my ancestors and genealogy research since I did a school project when I was around twelve years old. Almost as long I've had an ancestry.com account where I've kept a family tree and done my research. In 2009, my family decided to take a trip to Romania to see where our Bukovina relatives came from and this is when I stumbled upon the Bukovina Society of the Americas during my research online for a good Bukovina map. I was so delighted to discover the society as I had grown up knowing I was a Volga German from Hays, and didn't realize that my grandpa was from a whole other German tradition!

In 2013 I decided to take a DNA test with a few different companies because the paper trail could only tell me so much. I wanted to know more and to see if my years of researching were accurate. As many of you who have taken the DNA

tests know, we are more diverse than we had thought; which can be frustrating and delightful. The DNA results confirmed my paper trail research but also let me know that the mystery relatives in my family tree with no census records or background had some surprises in store. I was so excited by this that I've begged half of my family to also take the test. "The more you test, the more you know says ancestry.com and they're right. Both of my parents took the test, one of my maternal aunts, my grandpa (mother's father- Bukovina link), my great aunt (Volga German) and my husband and his parents have now taken this as well. We had no idea that besides being Volga German and Bukovina German on my mother's side, that we were also (with much smaller percentages): North African, Great Britain, Scandinavian, Iberian, Italian and Greek, Ashkenazi Jewish, Finish, Irish, Middle Eastern and Caucasian. I'm not even going to dive into my father's side (French Canadian).

I waited a few years and although I received many DNA cousin hints from my father's side, it wasn't until about a year ago that I finally hit the jackpot and started receiving emails from Bukovina relatives! The best part is that they didn't even know what a Bukovina German was.

One example of about half a dozen DNA cousin links is Sylvia Grossman. She was born in Germany in 1955 and migrated when she was five years old to Rochester, NY (coincidentally my husband's mother's family lives there). She contacted me about six months ago and said she couldn't believe she had relatives in America. She asked me if I knew how we were related and after checking her tree I confirmed she was a Bukovina German! Her family had not migrated to Kansas in the early 1900s but had stayed until World War II. Her grandfather had become a POW of the Russians and then moved to Germany. She had been told by her grandfather that they had never heard from the families that migrated to America and didn't believe they had actually survived the journey. I told her that I was unaware of any Bukovina families that had survived the World Wars and the Romanian communist government. Although she is now living in Hilton Head Island, SC, she has made plans with her husband to come to Ellis and visit the Bukovina Society of the Americas.

I feel that a new wave of Bukovinans will be discovered through DNA matches and that this may be the key to keeping and growing our Society through this next century. As DNA technology continues to evolve and demand goes up, more people want to discover about their ancestry and connect with others with distant relatives.

POLAND BUKOVINA FESTIVAL 2017

By: Mike Jaros

Our son Adam and his colleagues Mathew and Orion played and Adam sang American songs of Elvis, Dylan, Cash, Diamond and Vinton who composed a Polish song, My Dear I love you. I am very happy that our son and the band, all wearing ethnic dress, participated at the gathering because our brother Karl, Jozef Miketin, sister Branislava and I were supposed to perform several years ago, but could not make it. Thank God for my desire to have American Bukovinians perform fulfilled this year. Before the festival, I invited relatives and friends to show them where our ancestors lived. I hope Annette and I can make it to Ellis again some day.

GRAND PEOPLE

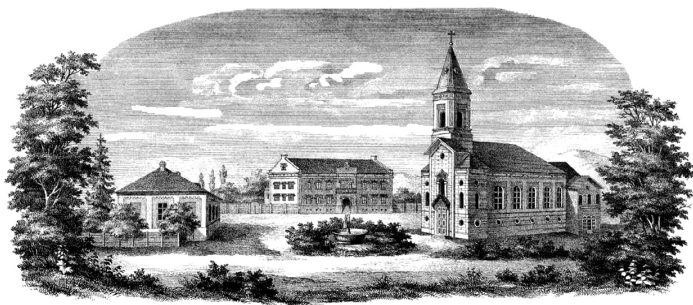
By: Jared Thom

(Grandson of Richard and Betty (Augustine) Younger)

When I rang the doorbell I could hear my grandma's sweet voice saying, "come in." We talked for awhile and I asked her about her life. She said she loved to dance and sew. My grandpa stated that he liked to do carpentry, play on the computer and dance his pants off. When I asked her where she lived when she was a kid she seemed flabbergasted. The she muttered, "I lived on a farm where the chickens pecked their food." My grandpa grew up on a farm where he had to do seven chores every day. Grandma is awesome, I love playing board games with her. I was really curious what my grandpa did for an occupation. He said "Well I was in the Air Force, then I was a paint chemist, and then I was a carpenter." I was eager to know what my grandma did for a living. "Oh my I did day care." Have you been to any interesting places? They said, "Probably the best one was going to Europe. We saw the Eiffel Tower, went to good restaurants and went to museums."

My grandpa said, "We went to your great grandfather's birthplace in Romania! (1996 Bukovina tour) We even went to Dracula's Castle. They went down in the dungeon and 'Dracula' was in the coffin." My grandpa was in the very back on purpose and my grandma was up in front and then "Dracula" jumped out at them and it scared my grandma, but not my grandpa! I stood there looking at them thinking they've had a really good life. I couldn't believe all the places they've been to. My grandpa told me that she got chased by a bull and then she almost stepped on a bull snake! She shrieked and ran inside!

My grandpa told me this awesome story. My grandpa had a pony cart and his brother was goofing off in the pony cart and he pulled the wheels forward and it scared the horse and it broke off and ran grandpa over! I can't believe how much my grandma and grandpa have impacted my life. My grandpa has taught me to be honest, respectful, religious, hardworking, and how to share with others. My grandma taught me how to sew, how to cook a little bit, and how to be kind. My grandpa is a kind, loving, caring, responsible, hardworking fun person and he is a person I love talking to. My grandparents are grand people and they are two of the best people I know.



The lithograph copy, courtesy of Luzian Geier dates from 1861, is one of over 400 in an album published for Christmas 2017 about Czernowitz. Drawn by Rev. Johann G. Jenker of Dornfeldk Galicia, the Church was in use until the resettlement in 1940. The Church was a model for the Evangelical Church of Illischestie in the former Bukovina.

MY GRANDFATHER WAS A DRAFT DODGER

By: Elaine Broughton

Most families who emigrated from their Bukovian homelands were prompted by the desire to create better opportunities for themselves and their families, sometimes for greater religious and cultural freedoms as well as to prove themselves worthy of such opportunities given to them.

The primary villages of my Grandfather Miller (Mueller) were Arbora and later Satulmare in the Fratauz Administration. The villages pertaining to my Grandmother (nee Hodel) were Itzkany, Mitoka Dragomirna and Illischesti. The former two villages were under the Suceava Administration and Illischesti was under the jurisdiction of Gura Humora. By 1900 Arbora had also been transferred to Gura Humora.

At some time during their later teen years my Grandfather Joseph (born 1873) and his brother Adolph (born 1871) sought work as millers in Jassy, Romania. At this time Romania was experiencing increased nationalism which

in turn led to a decree that all young men, regardless of citizenship (they were Austrian) were required to serve in the military. In order to avoid conscription, Joseph and Adolph, who were both eligible for army duty fled Romania. By day they slept under bridges or in forests until they were free of the Romanian border.

By 1889 a railroad branch line was completed connecting Radautz with the main railroad near Jassy - primarily to transport cavalry horses to Austria. Prior to this there was already well-established rail transport from Jassy to Czernowitz, Vienna and ultimately to the seaports of Hamburg and Bremen. (Early responders to the early call to emigrate to North America were already using this rail opportunity)

On April 10, 1891, Joseph and Adolph are listed sailing on the 'Oldham' and journeying to North America via Liverpool with an earlier stop at Grimsby on the east coast of England. In 1892 the ship's manifest of the liner 'Parisien' recorded Adam and Carolina Hodel along with their five children (one of whom was my future grandmother Amalia) sailing from Liverpool March 24, 1892, along with the ship's provisions for 37 days. It is interesting to note that, although they had Austrian citizenship, the Hodels were listed as Russian.



Joseph & Amalia (Hodel) Muller/Miller

In Canada the settlement of Assiniboia West, North West Territories (after 1905 the province of Saskatchewan) is directly related to the construction of the railroad as it proceeded west from Winnipeg. The Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) used the revenue from the sale of railway lands to settlers to extend its lines further west to the Pacific Ocean. By the time the Mueller brothers arrived in Canada the railroad had reached Balgonie - about 20 miles east of the capital, Regina, where the Mueller and Hodel properties were registered.

According to the Dominion of Canada Homestead Act, applications were approved under the following criteria:

1. build a home with a minimum value of \$300,

2. reside on the property for at least 6 months per year for a minimum of 3 years, and
3. improve the land which included cultivating a minimum of 30 acres and growing a crop plus becoming a Canadian Citizen. Joseph's land description at Frankslake was about 6 miles west of Edenwold and roughly 20 miles north-east of Regina.

At the turn of the last century early settlers were concerned with late frosts in June and drought as well as prairie fires which could come at any time. My father (b1900) talked of fears of fires which flamed vigorously over the bald plains fanned by continuous West winds which would rapidly devour fields of ripened grain. In one such event Grandfather let the horses out of the barn to seek shelter elsewhere but cows, being slower moving, were less fortunate. Farm people would first smell the smoke, see the oncoming haze with fire racing towards them and watch helplessly as their property was consumed. In the 1906 Census of Canada Grandfather listed 6 horses, 1 milk cow and 2 other cattle; one wonders if fires had depleted his cattle numbers.

Early settlers experienced isolation and loneliness - more expansive lands compared to what they experienced in the 'old country'; they travelled to neighbors and friends in the earliest days on roads no more than prairie trails, but family gatherings were always times of enrichment, merriment and comfort. The howling wolves and coyotes echoed eerily over the open spaces. There were also the joys of discovering wild strawberries and saskatoons (native to the Prairies) which housewives latched on to as well as early Prairie flowers, the scents of early blooms and newly mown hay. Some of these attributes (products) of the natural land still delight me today on trips back to Saskatchewan. In the early 1900's Grandfather purchased a large Rumely tractor which reduced the need for horse labour. It was as multipurpose as one could be in 1905-10 and was one of the earliest mechanized implements in his area.

As a child it was always an adventure to visit Grandfather's farm. After leaving the municipal road, travelling along a Prairie trail, along the edge of a field, opening and closing gates, we would be greeted by a turkey gobbler who performed his sentinel duties diligently and frightened me to death. As a child of 6 or so, I was fascinated to gather eggs in the hen house and to be allowed to operate the cream separator and watch the 2 streams of milk/cream come forth. I was intrigued by the desk in the bedroom where letters were kept with strange writing and stamps which didn't show King George. When my Father explained they were from Bukovina, my mind began to question where 'that' was. I believe that was my earliest invitation into studying family roots and stamp collecting.

At every available opportunity I listened to family stories - mentally logging names and getting a 'feel' for this family. Their discussions on church development, politics (2 favorite topics), the growing province and morals in society were always very vibrant; I sat at the feet of Grandfather and my uncles absorbing their sense of what was right. I didn't care a hoot about baking chocolate cake and strudel!

Today I marvel at Grandmother's act of servant-hood. Her whole life stemmed from her inner spirit and her faith which were manifested in service to her family. Like hundreds of other pioneer women she expended energy in baking and preparing meals for large family gatherings, all in a limited kitchen space, initially with a dirt floor, while at the same time firing a wood stove, baking breads, tending gardens, creating and preparing bedding and clothing, and even embroidering and knitting. She joined her husband in establishing their local church, the school and in giving support to other pioneer settlers.

The legacy of Joseph and Amalia was that of having lived a witness to the Christian faith, living honourable and honest lives, utilizing a strong work ethic, and being an inspiration to their family and community. This is easily recognizable in the lives of their children who each contributed with the measure of the education and skill they acquired, and who subsequently inspired and encouraged their own children to strive for their best.

Pretty good for a draft dodger, eh?

HEMETSCHWENGERS

This Austrian pastry recipe, brought to the Ellis area by Swabian Lutheran cooks has been passed down for over a century. Although similar to other apple pastries, this was served at the Bukovinafest 2017. Requests for the recipe resulted in placing it in the Newsletter.

1 cup heavy cream

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened

2 1/2 cups flour

4 Jonathon (or similar) apples, finely chopped

Mix cream and butter by hand until blended

Add flour until ball forms (similar to pie dough), do not overwork

Roll out dough 1/2 ball at a time on floured surface

Cut into 3 1/2 inch squares and put small amount of apple in center

Sprinkle with a little sugar, bring 4 points to center and pinch together

Bake at 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes

While still warm, roll in cinnamon & sugar mix

Can be frozen before cooking to bake later at same temp and time

BUKOVINA SOCIETY

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