



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- The annual membership meeting of the Bukovina Society of the Americas, Inc. will be held on July 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at the Society headquarters in Ellis, KS.
- Members of the website committee are listed above. Thanks to them and other volunteers helping the Society.
- The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Lincoln, NE, will conduct their 2018 international convention in Hays, KS July 30-August 2 at Ft. Hays University. Among the tours on Monday, July 30 will be a visit to the Bukovina Society museum. You are welcome to join with the Society board in welcoming them. No fee for any visitor.
- The Society received the book recently authored by Dr. Nicole Eller Wildfeuer. Published in German, the translated title is: *Speaker Biographies and Multilingualism*. The book is a result of extensive travel and research in Bohemian German colonies in the New World. Her book and that of her husband and co-researcher Professor Alfred Wildfeuer's are in the Society headquarters. According to Luzian Geier Prof. Wildfeuer gave a recent lecture at the Bukovina Institute about German Bohemians and Bukovina Germans in the USA, with many references to the Bukovina Society.
- Nicholas Medforth-Mills, the only grandson of the late former King Michael of Romania, will marry Alina-Maria Binder. The wedding will take place on September 30th, 2018 in an Orthodox church in Sinaia, the town where Michael was born.
- FORGOTTEN VOICES FROM CZERNOWITZ: September 27-29, 2018, a presentation of a journey through Czernowitz's musical history will feature Eusebius Manmdyczewski's symphonic contata "Im Buchenland."

- Madeline Schoenthaler, age 94, of Ellis, Kansas passed away Friday, May 25, 2018 at the Good Samaritan Society, Hays, Kansas. She was born June 17, 1923 in Ellis County, Kansas to John and Minnie (Schwab) Huck. She graduated from Ellis High School in 1941 and from the Salt City Business College in Hutchinson, Kansas. On October 21, 1945 she married Raymond F. Schoenthaler. He preceded her in death on March 22, 2007. Raymond was a board member the Society and the daily caretaker of the museum. At all meetings and events, Madeline was by his side helping the Society through its formative years.

AUGUSTINE FAMILY REUNION

The next periodic Augustine reunion will be held July 13-15, at the Rose Garden in Hays, KS. The family has enjoyed reunions in Kansas and Canada for years to celebrate their heritage. Prior to the main two days, a golf tournament will be held at The Fort in Hays on Friday the 13th, a four person scramble for golfers, who may make up their own teams, or singles to be paired up.

Saturday morning the 14th will begin with registration at 10:00. Main program times are lunch at noon, a raffle at 3:00 p.m., Polka Mass at 4:00, Supper at 5:30 and Polka Dance at 7:00. On Sunday the 15th, Brunch is scheduled for 8:30 and a leftovers lunch at 11:00.

Invitations include family guests and the contacts are Daryl and Sandy Augustine of Hays.

It was Henry Ford, not Kaiser Bill, who was responsible for the decline of the distinctive German dialects spoken by immigrants and their descendants in five Kansas and Missouri settlements during the 20th century. That has been University of Kansas researcher Dr. William Keel's thesis for the decades he has studied and documented these nonstandard-German speakers. You couldn't keep their youngsters down on the farm after Ford's automobile came to the isolated agricultural settlements that had been established in the mid-19th century.

It was that, far more than any anti-German sentiment in the aftermath of the First World War, that led to the decline of these linguistically distinctive communities, Keel says, and so he argues in a chapter of a book published last year, "Contemporary Language Contacts in the Context of Migration" (Winter publishing, Heidelberg, Germany).

The exception to the rule is the increasing population of speakers of Pennsylvania German in Kansas: Old Order Amish. They shun the automobile and remain in rural isolation. Keel, professor of Germanic languages & literatures, has been studying – interviewing, recording and writing about – these communities since the 1980s. He and his students have published online the Linguistic Atlas of Kansas German Dialects, where the settlements are mapped out and sound samples of native speakers are preserved. In his article, Keel profiles German ethnic groups, sketching their migratory history, landmarks and distinctive communal features, often involving religion.

In each case, the decline in language usage followed a similar, generational pattern, until today there are only a few hundred fluent speakers of these dialects in the two states. "There were maybe 5,000 Volga German speakers in Ellis County, Kansas, in the 1980s," Keel said. "Today, there are a few hundred."

Interestingly, Keel said, the 21st century has seen the growth of one other pocket of German-speaking immigrants – by way of Poland, Ukraine, Canada and Mexico, believe it or not – in southwest Kansas, who have been attracted by jobs in feedlots and meatpacking.

"They speak a variety of Low German called 'Plautdietsch,'" Keel said. "There are maybe 3,000 to 5,000 German-speaking Mennonites in southwest Kansas. It impacts the school system, with requirements for English as a Second Language courses. It also affects the Kansas statewide health program for farm workers."

Keel gave his "Henry Ford vs. Kaiser Bill" talk April 20, 2018 in Indianapolis as the keynote address at the 42nd Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies. He is also publishing a forthcoming article about the German-

speaking community of Victoria, Kansas, in an anthology on "Varieties of German Worldwide."



After donating substantial memorabilia from the Ernest and Minnie (Irion) Kroeger estate to the Society museum, family members toured the museum. Pictured from the left are: Mike Kroeger, Tim Kroeger, Julie (Kroeger) Schoenberger and Holly (Kroeger) Gilbert.

FROM THE NEW ZEALAND HERALD 1953

PEOPLE OF PUHOI RE-ENACT 1863 JOURNEY. BOHEMIANS OVERCAME HARDSHIPS WITH PATIENT COURAGE

On the night of June 29, 1863, an intrepid band of 82 settlers paddled four miles up the bush fringed Puhoi River on the last stage of a four-month journey from Bohemia. They landed on a spot which was to be their permanent home and through toil, extreme hardship and unity they made it a place of beauty and profit.

Yesterday, 90 years later, the descendants of these pioneers gathered to honour their forefathers. They were joined by friends and well-wishers until their ranks numbered nearly 1000. Among them were old men with handlebar moustaches and youngsters who bear names like Schollum, Rauner, Wenzlick, Wech and Schischka. In the speech of many there was slight hint of the German inflection.

From Waiwera, 30 miles north of Auckland, the river goes inland to Puhoi. Up the stream yesterday morning young descendants of the pioneers came in a dingy to re-enact the landing. High-hatted and bearded they stepped ashore to the cheers of their watching kins folk.

Earlier the Minister of External Affairs, Mr. Webb, had officially opened the new wrought iron gates of the Puhoi Pioneers' Memorial Park, on the far bank of the river against

a hill of native bush. The pillars of the gates will become a memorial to the men from Puhoi who fell in two World Wars.

Mr. Webb paid tribute to the great courage and patient endurance of the pioneers. Their achievements were known far beyond the confines of the settlement. He told the people that the Governor-General Sir Willoughby Norrie, was interested in the settlement and that he and Lady Norrie might visit it in the near future.

The landing re-enacted, 500 of the throng filed into the Puhoi Hall. In the place of honour sat Mrs. J. Tiord, who, at the age of 90, is one of only two surviving pioneers and Mr. Tiord. With her sat the Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, the Most Rev. Dr. J.M. Liston; the chairman of the committee which organized the celebrations, Mr. W.K. Schollum; Mr. & Mrs. Webb; Mr. D.M. Rae, M.P. for Parnell; and Mr. A.J. Murdoch, M.P. for Marsden.

During the day and at the dance in the evening the revelers feasted on 16 turkeys, 5 hams, 20 pounds of corned beef, 40 loaves of bread, 20 pounds of small saveloys, more than 250 dozen cakes and about 1000 sandwiches. A fitting substitute was found for the beer of old Bohemia.

Speeches were numerous and many were the tributes paid with sincerity to the pioneers. A former parish priest, Father D.V. Silk, of Matamata, spoke of the great loyalty of the people of Puhoi to their adopted country and told how men from the settlement fought for the Empire in the Boer War and in the two World Wars.

Bishop Liston presented Mrs. Tiord with an inscribed box containing a set of mother-of-pearl rosary beads.

Later in the afternoon and well into the night the young people had their fling. A day which had begun with the celebration of High Mass in the settlement's fine church ended on a note of revelry with dancing and music. Once again the Hall resounded to the notes of accordions and Bohemia's own instrument, the dudelsack or horned bagpipes.

The story of the pioneers was told to the people over a loud speaker. Tiring of the feudal rule of the landlords (Correction: "compulsory labour" to the landlord, in this case, the Choeschau Convent, was abolished in 1845) in Bohemia, 83 accepted the opportunity of free 40 acre blocks in New Zealand. Misfortune befell them on the four-month voyage, when a young immigrant, Mr. L. Turnwald, was killed in a storm. His wife and five children came on to Puhoi alone to take up the land allowed to them.

Once settled, the immigrants set to work with a will, clearing the bush, building their homes in the valley and making their initial earnings by splitting posts, firewood and shingles.

Landing with little money, few tools and no language contact with the people of the country, they made superhuman efforts to survive.

Typical of the plucky immigrants was the woman whose child fell and broke a leg. She carried the child more than 30 miles through the bush to Auckland and the same distance back. One man took three years to pay off a cow.

For years the farms of Puhoi have been productive and well kept and today the scene around the settlement is one of beauty and peace. The people have always adhered to their faith and in addition to the church, there is a charming convent school.

To the visitor it would appear that the words of a speaker at the celebrations are indeed true: "The people of Puhoi are as fine a type of immigrant as ever came to New Zealand."

PUHOI WAYSIDE SHRINE

By: Biddy Orr

New Zealand's first wayside shrine, and possibly the only one, was erected at Puhoi for the settlement's 90th anniversary in 1953 on the initiative of the late Steve Straka. It is on the right-hand side of the road just before you drive down to Puhoi village and sets the tone for Puhoi's unique history for visitors and descendants alike.

The wayside shrine (as its name implies) is a religious image, usually, in some sort of small shelter, placed by a road or pathway, but often in the middle of an empty stretch of country road or at the top of a hill or mountain.

The most common subjects are a plain cross, a crucifix or an image of the Virgin Mary, but saints or scenes may also be shown. Some feature a small kneeling platform so that faithful may pray in front of the image.

Wayside shrines were common in many parts of Catholic Europe, notably Poland, Austria, Southern Germany, Slovenia, Slovakia and the Czech republic. (Editor's note: These are found in the former Bukovina to this day.)



Bohmerwald-Lied
First Stanza
Translation by Dun Heinrich
Tolzman

It was the Bohemian woods,
that's where my cradle stood
and its been all so long
that I've been gone from there.
But my heart knows so well
and I'm certain that
I won't forg't the Bohemian woods.

It was the Bohemian woods,
that's where my cradle stood,
the evergreen Bohemian woods.
It was the Bohemian woods,
that's were my cradle stood,
the evergreen Bohemian woods.