



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$15.00

## ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUKOVINA SOCIETY

The annual meeting was conducted in conjunction with the normal business of the Society. Terms expiring were filled by the re-election of Guy Windholz, Darrell Seibel, Tim Flax, and Shirley Kuppetz. A special guest, life member Michael Augustin, attended the meeting before the Augustine reunion days. Members discussed the need for more volunteers, particularly those with computer skills. Also needed are more articles of interest for the Society Newsletter.

A board of directors meeting followed for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year. Re-elected were, Oren Windholz, President, Martha McClelland, Vice President, Shirley Kuppetz, Secretary and Guy Windholz, Treasurer.

a limited reprinting of the book due to inquiries. It will include an addendum with a significant change in the known history since that time. He will fill existing requests and announce the available reprint on the Erbert R us site. Readers may also email us at: pat6363@yahoo.com

- Members of the Kansas Chapter of the Holiday Rambler RV club stayed at the Ellis Lakeside Campground and made the Bukovina Society headquarters one of their museum visits. Guy Windholz served as Society host. The other sites on the visit were the Miniature Railway train, the Railroad Museum and the Walter P. Chrysler boyhood home. The Ellis camping facility, near I-70, is located on Big Creek Union Pacific Dam and is a popular attraction to Ellis. There are expansion plans due to the popular demand.
- Paul Jacob Flax Sr., age 84, of Hays, KS, passed away on Sunday, July 8, 2018. He played the accordion for Andy Anderson Dance Band and volunteered his musical talents at various nursing homes in the area. He asked to play at the Bukovinafest 2017 and along with Joe Erbert and Al Lang and all were able to have two nights of wonderful music and sing-along's.

## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Steve Parke died Friday, May 25, 2018, in Colorado Springs after a brief illness. Steve was a life member of the Society and frequent presenter at Bukovinafest celebrations and other cultural events. He was a past board member of the Society and served in numerous volunteer capacities.
- Following is a short URL to the site for an article in the German for Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer's recent presentation at the *Bukowina Institut* on the Bukovina Germans in Middle America. <https://tinyurl.com/y7z56hq4>
- Erberts have a site on Facebook and upon log in, enter Erbert R us. The first reunion of the descendants of Josef and Josepha Fuchs Erbert was conducted in 1991 in conjunction with the Bukovinafest in July of that year. The book *THE ERBERTS* was published for the reunion. One of the FB members, Alex Begler, has arranged for

## AHSGR TOUR OF BUKOVINA SOCIETY

By: Guy Windholz

As noted in the last newsletter, the 49th International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia was conducted in Hays, KS at Ft. Hays State University July 30-August 2, 2018. This was the second time Hays was selected to host the convention. Special bus tours were available on the first day for registrants, which included a tour of the Bukovina Society museum.

Joe Erbert and I greeted two busloads of some 65 eager and delighted people led by Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau guide Janet Kuhn. The tour participants asked a lot of questions and were awed by the similarities between the heritage of the Germans from Russia and the Germans from Bukovina in that both ethnic German groups answered the call to settle undeveloped Eastern lands.

The following day a lady from Canada called to arrange a tour with her sister and three nieces who could not make the regular AHSG tour. We learned they had ancestry similar to Joe and me, which made the visit special.

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## AUGUSTIN(E) REUNION IN HAYS, KS

By: Michael Augustin  
Translated By: Leah Duda

The Augustine Family Reunion took place July 13-15, 2018. The last reunion was three years ago in Hays, KS. Planning started early to enable as many people to participate as possible. As in previous years, it was organized by reunion committee members consisting of family members. This reunion was held for the first time at the Rose Garden Banquet Hall on the southeastern outskirts of Hays. Pam Burgardt (nee Flax) has owned, operated and catered the food at the Rose Garden for 15 years. Pam is also a part of the Augustine family. The size, location, decor of the hall and food were excellent and proved to be a good fit for the event.

As registrations were rather hesitant until the end of June, it was all the more gratifying when 249 family members arrived. A large contingent from Canada made the long journey down and made up almost 10% of the total number; six of them attending for the first time.

The reunion, as is tradition, was opened on Friday with a golf tournament. Interest in this part of the event is growing and there were 36 participants this year. The tournament had to be cut short due to the heavy thunderstorms in the area on this Friday the 13th. The prizes were nevertheless awarded to the best teams.

The program on Saturday started at 10 o'clock and as always the main activities were: seeing relatives, talking, getting to meet new relatives and exchanging news. The other activities that could not be forgotten were eating and drinking, of which we were well taken care of and having fun. There was also the raffle with numerous prizes, a Polka Mass held by Pastor Earl Befort with a choir and in the evening there was music and dancing. The Wes Windholz Polka Band was well received as the dance floor was always filled until the music stopped playing at 10 p.m. There was a lot of picture taking and of course there was the genealogy corner in which Barbara Schuster, Ann Augustin (nee Klaus), Gerald Christoffel and Micheal. Augustin were available for questions on family research. Mrs. Virgil (Ann) Augustine displayed a quilt made up of marriage pictures of Michael and Anna Augustine and their family. Leah Duda (nee Augustin) from Oregon circulated the room updating family information.

Sunday morning was again well attended. There was breakfast with Pam's famous cinnamon rolls and later a lunch with the abundant leftovers from the previous day. The morning was again marked by talking and catching up, but also of saying farewell. It was repeatedly heard that this reunion was one of the best - if not the best that has taken place so far. This is where you can feel the decades of experience of the organizers.

A big thank you to all who helped with the preparation and implementation of the reunion, be it registering the participants, serving at the bar, conducting the raffle or cleaning up in the evening and after the event. Everyone enjoyed it very much and are looking forward to the next Augustin(e) Family Reunion, which - as has been suggested several times - may take place in Canada.



## DEATH OF PAUL MASSIER

Sent to the Bukovina Society for publication

Paul Massier, a member of the International Board, passed away on July 6, 2018, at the age of 94. He was an active member of the Society since it was first organized.

At various Bukovina Society conferences, Paul gave lectures about his ancestral migration from the German state of Birkenfeld to Bukovina, about family history, and about methods of documenting family histories. Both his paternal grandfather, Ferdinand, and his father, Johann, were born in Alt-Fratautz, Bukovina, Austria. His grandfather was a missionary who pioneered the German Baptist movement in Bukovina and Galicia during the late 1800's and early 1900's. Paul's father emigrated to the USA in 1903, settled in Chicago, later became a homesteader in Idaho and after several crop failures moved to Pocatello, Idaho to work for the Union Pacific Railroad. There he joined the First Baptist Church and became a very active member.



Paul has written many books about his family history, genealogy, travel to Bukovina in Romania and his own memoirs. In 1989 he retired from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California where he had worked for 34 years as a researcher and supervisor. His advancements in technologies and sciences included investigations of heat transfer in rocket engines, new horizons in rocket propulsion, basic noise research in supersonic jets, use of supersonic diffusers for rocket engine testing, confined vortex flows in supersonic nozzles, direct conversion of heat to electricity, and many other investigations. Results of these investigations were presented at national and international technical conferences and were published in many technical journals.

He was a member of several professional organizations, including the New York Academy of Sciences, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, the Research Society of Sigma XI, and others. Biographical sketches of Paul appear in many Who's Who type publications, including Who's Who in the World, Who's Who in America, Who's Who in Frontier Science and Technology, Distinguished Achievements in Engineering, Leading Engineers in the World.

Paul obtained a Master of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(MIT) in 1949. He served in the U.S. Army for nearly three years during World War II and during that time participated in the Battle of Okinawa in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations.

Paul was preceded in death by his first wife, Miriam Parks Massier, by his parents, John and Katie Massier, and by three brothers: Johnny, William and Emil. Surviving him are his two daughters: Marilyn Schwegler and Paulette Holden, two sons-in-law, Spencer Schwegler and Douglas Holden, four grand children and nine great-grand children.

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## GERMAN BOHEMIAN DIALECT CD

Dr. Valentin Reitmajer sent a copy of his CD to me from Germany: *Deutsch-Böhmische Mundart: Erzählungen, typische Ausdrücke und Lieder*. Dr. Reitmajer also authored a cookbook of the Bohemian Germans in Pojana Mikuli (Buchenhain). He generously donated the rights to the cookbook to the Society as translated by Dr. Sophie Welisch. This has been a best seller through mail order at Bukovinafests. The CD is for sale for 15 Euros plus shipping costs. To ascertain the correct amount, please contact him at: [reimo\\_verlag@gmx.de](mailto:reimo_verlag@gmx.de). Please note we placed a space after the first letter to avoid automated computer harvesting of his address.

The CD contains 14 tracts of text and songs as edited by Dr. Reitmajer with participants, Rainer Fuchs, Gretl Geishauer, Maria Hackel, Edeltraut Pinzl, Monika and Dr. Reitmajer, and Angela Stöhr. The singers are the *Chor der Buchainer Nachkommen* directed by Irene Schreiber with accompaniment by Max Heiden.

I was particularly pleased with a tract on my ancestral village of Pojana Mikuli. If interested persons wish, I can scan and send by email the list of 14 tracts. We thank Dr. Reitmajer for his dedicated work on our Bukovina heritage and generous support of the Society.

BUKOVINA SOCIETY  
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