



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$25.00

## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Welcome to the newest life member: # 310 Jelene Virt
- Luzian Geier sent a youtube site to be shared with Bukovina interests: [https://youtu.be/K89rRM\\_1OZs](https://youtu.be/K89rRM_1OZs) The presentation is in German, but English subtitles provides for an interesting information.  
Dr. Demeter Ritter von Tuschinski was the first president of the Court of Appeals in Czernowitz between 1926-1938. The press called him “one of the most noble personalities in the entire Bucovina”. Despite this, no research has been published on him until today. Alexander Tuschinski, his great great grandson and sole living relative is currently preparing his doctorate about him and presented his current state of research at Bucovina-Institute Augsburg at the first international conference for junior scientists on November 22, 2023.
- Andrea Zody and husband John with her parents Norbert and Donna Honas were among the recent visitors. A special dress on display was one worn by Catherine Flachs Honas on her marriage day to Joseph Honas May 11, 1893 in Pojana Mikuli in the former Bukovina. The dress scarf was a gift from Joseph and a blanket for the infant son John.
- Visitors Ben & Arlene Zook from Rozel, Kansas were interested in learning of the culture and location of Bukovina. Ben’s grandmother came to Kansas on the Orphan Train. A girls bonnet on display made by Caroline Schumm reminded Arlene when she began sewing at the age of 12. She said flower sacks were used to make clothes and dresses for youngsters in the early years. Another home-made product was making soap out of lard, lye and water.

## ARCHIVE NEWS RELATED TO BUKOVINA

By: Doug Reckmann

On October 13, I received an email from BSA Lifetime Member Viktor Pordzik. Viktor is an archivist in Bremen and has been working on a database to discover, document, locate, sort, and summerize all of the church registers from Bukovina. He sent me the following message: “I don’t know whether you have already heard about this great news. I am forwarding the message (in German) from another friend and hope that this is okay.”

Here is the (translated) message:

“In the current issue (2/2023) of the magazine Computergenealogie an article appeared on page 24 entitled Digital Civil Status Registers in Romania by CompGen member Dr. Günter Junkers, the former chairman of the “Working Group of Danube Swabian Family Researchers.”

“The project is called Spre guvernarea digitala. Starea civila electronica în cadrul Arhivelor Nationale ale României (eANR) (Towards digital governance. Electronic civil status within the National Archives of Romania (eANR). It will be funded by the EU Social Fund and cost approx. €4.38 billion. It is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2023. The church records before 1920 will presumably also be made available online at this time. The archive in Suceava was closed for the related scanning work from May 29th - June 12th and July 5th - 6th, 2023. When finished, the scans will probably be found on the online portal of the Romanian National Archives.”

The civil status archives make up only about 2.5 percent of the total archive holdings. However, 22 percent of the access to the archive reading rooms is for access to these civil status documents. Certified copies of these civil status documents made up 12 percent of the total requests made to the National Archives.

Hopefully, everything will go as planned and the BSA can post information about accessing the online portion of the Suceava archive in the next newsletter.

On October 20, BSA Lifetime German Member Michael Augustin emailed me to let me know that the Regensburg Diocese records are now online. The portal is located at the same site as the Passau Diocese: <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/>.

Many German Bohemian settlers in Bukovina have their roots in Bavaria. The bordering Bavarian Roman Catholic church records from “North of Eisenstein” (the Regensburg Diocese) and “South of Eisenstein” (the Passau Diocese) are now both available online to Family Tree Researchers.



A group of regular Bukovinians meeting at their dinner table:

From left: Treasurer and organizer Ottmar Heumann, Hannelore Andruschka, Gerlinde Heumann, Anni and Klaus Häusler, Wagenknecht couple, Otto Hallabrin, former managing director of the Bukowina Institut, and Edith Hanus. Not pictured is photographer Luzian Geier, Verantwortlicher Redakteur Der Südostdeutsche (Responsible Editor of the Southeast German Newspaper).

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## THE MEMORIAL FOR THOSE FROM WAMA AND EISENAU WHO DIED IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The war memorial for the fallen from the villages of Wama and Eisenau was built long after the First World War. A citizens' committee, which consisted mainly of Romanians, and only a few members of the German minority, had supported this. The dedication was held in Wama on Whit Sunday [see notes below] - May 31, 1936.

A nice place was chosen for the monument: next to the Orthodox St. Nicholas Church, right on the main street. The war memorial was created by two people from Eisenau, namely a stone mason, Adam Duerner, and his assistant Franz Presser. Duerner chose to build it using hard sandstone, which was mined near Wama. Sandstone is considered to be soft, and not particularly weather-resistant. But this doesn't apply to all varieties of it.

In an article in the “Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost” from June 19, 1936, the monument was described as follows:

The monument itself consists of a large, step-shaped stone pedestal, atop which rests a stone obelisk that is several meters tall. There is a raised design on the front side, of a gun, an airplane, and a soldier with a rifle and steel helmet. The top of the monument is adorned with a stone cross. On the front and side walls of the monument are recorded the names of all the fallen from the area, according to their ethnicity: 130 Romanians, 56 Germans, and 13 Jews.

The total number of 199 victims mentioned in the newspaper article does not match the number of names on the memorial stone. There are 194 fallen recorded on the memorial. The monument was later modified and, in place of Duerner's stone relief, a metal plate was installed, which is signed at the bottom right with the names of Romanian artists Emil Mereanu (1903-1991) and Gheorge Bilan (born 1883). Next to it is the year 1938. It shows two soldiers, each of whom is holding a grenade in his right hand, ready to throw it. What is unusual about the war memorial is that the citizens' committee consisting of eighteen people had themselves immortalized on the front. The back wall and the side walls remained for the names of the fallen. The committee included fifteen Romanians, and three Germans. The latter were Josef Muenster, Titus Kazimirski, and Heinrich Hennel.

In 1910, Wama had 4,472 inhabitants, Eisenau 915 inhabitants, for a total of 5,287. At the beginning of the First World War in 1914, there were probably only slightly more. Losing almost 200 young men was a high death toll. And there were also the wounded who suffered permanent damage, grieving parents and widows, and fatherless children.

- Names on the back of the monument:

### Back wall, upper section:

CALINESCU, GRIORI a. VA., CALINESCU VASILE a. IO., CIOSNAR COSTAN a. ILIE, CIOSNAR COSTAN a. IFTI., GHECHERITA GHEORGE a. V., CRAMARIUC TOADER a. PE., BALTAG GAVRIL a. IOAN., BALTAG TOADER a. GRIG., BALMOS TOADER a. SAF., BALMOS GEORGE MAT, BLAMOS MIHAI a. GEO., BERCEA GEORGE a. ILIE, CALINESCU CONSTANTIN a. I., KOCH JOSEF, DRANCA LAZAR a. C., GOLDHAGEN SALOMON, DRANCA IOAN a. GEORG., EISENKOLB ALOIS, EICHHORN WILHELM, FERARI ALEXA[N]DRU, ISTRATE COSTAN a. MIH., ISTRATE COSTAN a. DOM., ILIE DUMITRU a. GEORG., ILIE GEORGE a. MAR., ILIE IOAN a. VAS., ILIE IOAN a. NIST., JOSEP ILIE a. SAMOIL., JOSEP GEORGE a. IOAN, SIMIONESCU NISTOR a. II., MIHALACHE PETREA a. VA., MANDRILA VASILE a. DE., MIRON DUMITRU a. NIS., MORARI GEORGE a. DU., MORARI NICOLAI, MOROSAN NISTOR a. ION., MOROSAN FERDINAND, NIGA GAVRIL., PREUTESCU GEORGE a. ION, PAZAR PETREA a. GEO., POPA DUMITRU, POPA TOADER a. DUM., PUIU GRIGORI a. PAR., PEIU LEON, RODUNDU

MIHAI, RACK JOSEF

**Back wall, lower section:**

LEONTIES TEODOR a. IO., LUPASCU NICOLAI a. VAS., LUPASCU IOAN a. GRIG., LUPASCU IOAN a. GAVR., LUPASCU IOAN a. GRIG. a. I., LUPASCU GEORGE a. GAVR., LEONTIES IOAN a. NIC., LUPASCU GEORGE a. GAV, LUCAN NISTOR a. IOA., LUCAN PETREA a. TO., LUCAN NISTOR a. GEORG., LUCAN PETREA zis MAX., LUCHIAN VASILE a. NIC., LUCHIAN NICOLAI a. DU, SIMIONESCU GAVRIL a. PE., SASU TOADER a. GAV., SASU IOAN a. GEORGE, SASU COSTAN a. GAV., SANDU NICOLAI a. COST., SESTAC VASILE, SESTAC NISTOR a. IOAN, VICOVAN IOAN a. VAS., LUCHIAN GEORGE a. DUM., LUCHAIN NISTOR a. AX., LAZA PETREA a. NIC., LANG RUDOLF, LUTEK ILARION, LIPAN VASILE a. STEF., LIPAN DUMITRO a. STEF., LIPAN TOADER a. STEF., LIPAN VASILE a. IFT., DIACON VASILE a. GEO., PIRCU STEFAN a. SIM., BARDAN SIMION a. GAV., BADALE TOADER a. ION., BADALE NISTOR a. ION., FELDHAMMER SIMICHE, ADLER DANIEL, MONTAG EFROIM, LAUFER MUNESCH, SILBERHERZ HERSCH, ROSENHECK SALOMON

**Left side wall, upper section:**

[Illegible surname] NICOLAI a. GHEORGE, ?FARAGIN?  
[Some letters are not clearly legible] IOAN, DOBOS NICOLAI, KAZIMIRSKI JOHANN, LUPASCU GHEORGE a. JOAN., AXENTI NISTOR, CIOCAN GRIGORE, DIACON VASILE, BADLE IOAN a. VAS., TANPESCU IOAN a. GH., CRACANU GHEORGE, BADALE IOAN a. VAS., TANPESCU IOAN a. GH., CRACANU GHEORGE, BADAL IOAN a. MATEI, TEODOROVICI IOAN, ADELSTEIN BERL, LUPASCU IOAN a. STEF., BADALE TEODOR a. CONS., LUDWIG KARL, CALINESCU GHEORGE a. SIM., BADLAE ANDREI a. PET., SANDRU NISTOR a. GH., BALMOS TEODOR a. PET., PUIU TEODOR, MIHALACHE NISTOR a. ION., MIHALACHE GHEORGE a. ION., AXENTOI PETRU a. DUM., SESTAC PETRU a. IOAN, ILIE CONSTANTIN a. GH., ALTMANN BARUCH

**Left side wall, lower section:**

ILIE PETREA a. TEODOR, ISTRATI NICOLAI, ISTRATI GHEORGE a. PET., SASU TEODOR a. GH., BADALE LEON a. STEP., ILIE GHEORGE a. GRIG., EICHORN JOHANN, MIHALACHE IOAN a. DUM., PRENTESCU ILIE a. GH., LUP...[Surname illegible] GHEORGE, PRENTESCU GHEORGE a. PAV., ISTRATI NICOLAI a. CAT., DEUTSCH DAVID, RUENER BENJAMIN, CISTOF FRANZ, LUCIEAN IOAN a. NIC. ROMAN VICTOR-MOSE, LUCIEAN VASILE, LUPASOU ILIE a. VAS., NEUMANN MOTL, RUSU PENTELE a. NIST., AXENTI DUMETRU a. t., AXENTI GAVRIL a. IOAN, AXENTI DOROFEI a. NAS.

**Right side wall, upper section:**

THEIS EBERHART, THEIS FRANZ a. KAROL, THEIS LUDWIG a. KAR., HOENIG VINZENZ, OBERLAENDER FRANZ a. KA., GAERTNER ADOLF, GEITZ ALBERT, GEITZ JOHANN a. JOH., GOELLNER ADOLF GOELLNER REINERT, GOELLNER WILHELM, GOELLNER ALOIS, GEHL STEFAN, WAGNER JOSEF, CHRISTOFORI KARL a. JOH., CHRISTOFORI FRANZ, CHRISTOFORI HEINRICH, KNOBLAUCH KARL, KOLLER GUSTAV a. JAKOB, KOLLER FRIDRICH, KOSMANN ANDREAS, KOEHLER FRIEDRICH KOTZOR OSKAR, SAVOTNIK HEINRICH, SCHILLER ROBERT, SPIELMANN KARL, SAMOVILLA VALENTIN, ADELSTEIN JACOB

**Right side wall, lower section:**

MATERNA GUSTAV a. GOT., NOVAK GUSTAV, AWRAM VIKTOR, HENRIS GUSTAV, HENNEL PAUL, HERBAN FRANZ, PAETSCH FRANZ, WAGNER JAKOB, KIRSCHNER FRANZ a. FR., GUNDEL GUSTAV, OBERLAENDER FRANZ a. G., OBERLAENDER GEORG, OBERLAENDER MICHAEL a. F. KOCHMINSTER PAUL, BADALE PETREA a. NIST., BADALE TOADER a. GAV., BADALE NICOLAI a. NIST., BADALE IOAN a. NIC., BALTAG TOADER a. GH., WOLRAPP JOSEF a. JA., SEDLITZKI FRANZ, IST...[Illegible surname] A. IOAN, SA... [Illegible name], TOT ALFRED

**Sources:**

General directory of the local communities and towns in Austria according to the census of December 31, 1910, published by the K. K. Central Statistical Commission in Vienna, printed and published by the K. K. Hof and the State Printing Office, Vienna 1915.

Czernowitz German Daily Post from June 19, 1936, volume 13. No. 3,678, Page 6.

Photos of the war memorial can be found online at the following address:  
<https://historia.ro/sectiune/actualitate/monumentele-marelui-razboi-monumentul-eroilor-571506.html>  
(Last accessed [probably updated] on November 21, 2023.)  
The images are protected by copyright.

<https://muzeulartalemnului.ro/de/mediateca/ciprian-porumbescu-bust>  
(accessed [probably updated] on November 13, 2023) Photo of a bust created by Gheorge Bilan.

Romanian Wikipedia: Emil Mereanu (last accessed [probably updated] on November 13, 2023.)

**Notes:**

Whit Sunday (also called Pentecost) is the seventh Sunday after Easter. It is observed as a feast in commemoration of the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles, 50 days after Easter.



The “Czernowitzer Deutsche Tagespost” was a daily German Newspaper produced in Czernowitz.

By: Renate Geschwendtner  
Translated by: John Losee

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## ZITA WATZLAWIK'S REQUEST (AND MINE)

By: Doug Reckman, BSA President

Zita Watzlawik contacted me on November 4th seeking clarification about the correct usage of “Austria” in her family history. She is a Lifetime BSA Member, as is her daughter Sandra Zita Gonzalez, along with Sandra’s children, Isaac Dan and Giovanna Dan. Zita has written a book about her Bukovina ancestor’s who emigrated to South America before World War I, looking for better opportunities in the world than those that were available at that time in Bukovina. The family, however, did not emigrate to Brazil, but instead to Peru, where Zita was born. The family later moved to Argentina.

Zita’s ancestry interested me because she was not sure exactly where her grandfather was born. It did not take much time for me to find out a lot about her family.

Zita’s father, Ludwig Watzlawik, was born in Augustendorf in Bukowina in 1908, part of Bukowina, a Duchy of Austria, in the Austrian part of what was the Dual Monarchy of Austria-Hungary. Ludwig’s father, Johann Watzlawik, was born in Banilla in Bukovina in 1865 in the Austrian Empire before Austria and Hungary were united into the Dual Monarchy. Johann’s father, Johann Nepomuk Watzlawik, was born in Klostermühle (by Unterreichenstein) in Bohemia in 1827, which was a Kingdom in the Austrian Empire.

I sent copies of the information that I found about Zita’s ancestors to her. This included information about siblings of her grandfather, which she did not know about. Also, I found siblings of her great-grandfather who died as infants, which she also did not about.

When I sent this information to Zita, I asked if she could write something about her family’s Tango connection and include a picture, since Oren and I were still looking for articles for the BSA Newsletter. When I contacted Oren, I found out that he had contacted our German Lifetime BSA Member, Renate Gschwendtner, regarding possible newsletter article information, and had received a positive response from her. These articles are found in this current Newsletter.

Currently, the Bukovina Society has a few members who were born in Bukovina. Many, many more are the children or grandchildren of people born in Bukovina. Some of us were lucky to grow up knowing where and what Bukovina

was. In recent years, most of our new members are Bukovina descendants, who only recently became interested in their family heritage and via their research, discovered the BSA. Sometimes their parents or grandparents didn’t talk much about their life in Bukovina. More often, at that time in their lives, they weren’t that interested and just didn’t pay that much attention.

We now live in a digital age, where passing on knowledge or history or heritage is so much easier. And we now have “Spell Check!” Every family has interesting, personal family stories which would be delightful for others to hear and relate to. As a college freshman, I visited my great-grandma and asked her about her childhood. I ended up knowing more about her than my mother or her cousins did. In many ways I know more about her than her own children knew about her. And that knowledge will disappear if it doesn’t get written down to pass it on. Please think seriously about writing your family’s stories so that we can post it in the newsletter. Share in the BSA Newsletter the information about your personal search to rediscover the long forgotten “other relatives.” Your story will be a great addition to the Newsletter. Contact Oren Windholz or myself via email (if you have our personal email) or use [info@bukovinasociety.org](mailto:info@bukovinasociety.org).



Visiting after the Augustine family reunion are from left: Michael Augustin, Baerbel Augustin, Norma Lang and hostess Pat Windholz at the Windholz home.

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## SPITZBUBEN

By: Oren Windholz

In June, 2023 we enjoyed several family events and were hosted by our Granddaughter Natalie at her home in Lawrence, Kansas. Our younger Granddaughter Lacey was departing after dinner one evening for school in Kansas City, laden with goodies from Grandma Pat. As I was walking out with her, a neighbor, Christina Tappan, and her niece Alice were walking by and the little girl said, “she dropped her bag of cookies.” Christina looked down and exclaimed, “Spitzbuben”. She asked

if we were Volga German and I said yes and she mentioned their same heritage. Her mother Margaret (Schmidtberger) Tappan lives across the street. Her brother Lucas was there playing pinochle. He came over and we all talked about our Volga German experience and compared notes on all our relatives and friends from Victoria, in Ellis County. He said his mother and aunts sang a few Volga German songs with him that evening. Lucas keeps very informed on family history and heritage.

Some years ago, after our son Greg moved to Lawrence, and during our visits there, I would go to the jazz night Thursdays at the American Legion. One night I ordered a Schlitz, recalling a popular beer in Ellis County. A man came over to introduce himself. The bar stocked Schlitz for him because he was the only one who drank it and the wait staff was so surprised at my order, they informed him. He was a Schmidtberger who said he moved to Lawrence after the Second World War for work. The Lawrence area has numerous Schmidtberger families. Greg met Mark Schmidtberger at a golf club in Lawrence and graduated from TMP/M in Hays with his younger brother Greg, now also in Lawrence. Thanks to "Spitzbuben" we met some new neighbors and friends for our future trips to Lawrence.

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