

The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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

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Email: info@bukovinasociety.org Website Volunteer: Doug Reckmann, Chair

Web Site: www.bukovinasociety.org



Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$25.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- The annual meeting of the Bukovina Society of the Americas, a non-profit corporation in the State of Kansas, will meet via ZOOM on July 19, 2025 at 1:30 p.m. Instructions for logging into the meeting will be available by email request to Doug Reckmann, president, via info@bukovinasociety.org. The meeting purpose will be to conduct the normal business of the corporation and elect a board of directors. The board will meet following to elect officers for the ensuing year.
- We welcome our newest life members who have been placed on the honor plaque at the headquarters/museum.
 - # 324 Gabriele Stevens
 - # 325 Jeff Augustine
 - # 326 Donna Junkins
 - # 327 Carolyn Bilbeisi
 - # 328 Allen & Kim Weber
 - # 329 Michael & Susan Dobson
- Welcome to the Society board, filling a vacant seat, Allen Weber, He was born in Hays, Kansas in 1958 and grew up on a farm southwest of Ellis and graduated Ellis High School. He went to work as a bookkeeper before entering the banking field in 1979. He retired from banking after 46 years. With his wife Kim they have 2 children and 3 grandchildren, with hobbies of traveling, camping and listening to music.



BLACH REUNION JULY 25-27, 2025 138 YEARS!!!

Blach Homestead
49186 County Road H
Yuma, CO 80759



Friday, July 25, 2025

Afternoon Gathering at the Homestead
5:30p.m. - Local Farm to Table Taco Dinner at the Homestead

Saturday, July 26, 2025

Silent auction items displayed throughout the day that will end at 7:00pm
12:00 pm - Grab and Go Lunch will be available
10:00 - 4:00 pm - Pasture Golf, Water sports, and Games at the Homestead. Come enjoy an afternoon of fun. Bring your swimsuit!
12:00-2:00 pm - Painting under the tent
2:00 pm - Farm Tour
4:00 pm - Outdoor Mass at the Homestead

5:00pm - Traditional Family Picture on the west side of the Barn
 6:00pm - Dutch Oven Cousin Cookout
 7:00pm - Silent Auction Announcement / Barn Dance
Sunday, July 27, 2025
 7:30 am - Breakfast and Goodbye till next time (2028) at the Homestead.

Contact:
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 Yuma, CO 80759
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FROM THE SÜDOSTDEUTSCHE NR. 2 MARCH/APRIL 2025, P.4

Courtesy of Luzian Geier

Evidenz-Blatt		Nr.: <u>00:78</u>
des/der in <u>Russland</u>		
in Kriegsgefangenschaft / Arbeitsverpflichtung befindlichen Volksdeutschen:		
Familien- und Taufname:		<u>Huber Elisabeth</u>
Bei kriegsgefangenen oder arbeitsverpflichteten Frauen auch Mädchenname:		
Geburtsdaten:	<u>16.5.1922</u>	
Geburtsort:	<u>Molodia</u>	
Heimatland:	<u>J. Rumänien</u>	
Derzeitige Anschrift:	<u>UdSSR, CCCP., Stalinabad, Ziegelfabrik</u>	
Lager-Nummer:	<u>Baracke 12. KW 2</u>	
Letzte Nachricht:		
Name des Familienangehörigen:	<u>Huber Anton</u>	
Verwandtschaftsgrad:	<u>Vater</u>	
derzeit wohnhaft in:	<u>Vorchdorf</u>	
genaue Anschrift:	<u>Theuerwang 16</u>	
Land:	<u>Oberösterreich</u>	

At the numerous commemorations of the deportations to the former Soviet Union 80 years ago, the deportees from Bukovina are hardly mentioned, and certainly not the deported re-settlers who were arrested by the Red Army during their flight. This search document, which was prepared at the central office in Linz in the summer of 1949, proves that Elisabeth Huber, born on May 16, 1922, in Molodia, had to do forced labor in a brick factory in Stalinabad (today Dushanbe). This concerned a larger group of deported re-settlers who were only released from Tajikistan in the 1950s. Elisabeth Huber was wanted by her father Anton, who had ended up in Vorchdorf in Upper Austria while fleeing with other re-settlers. *Dr. Bill Keel, trans.*

THE CARPATHIAN MOUNTAINS

by Oren Windholz

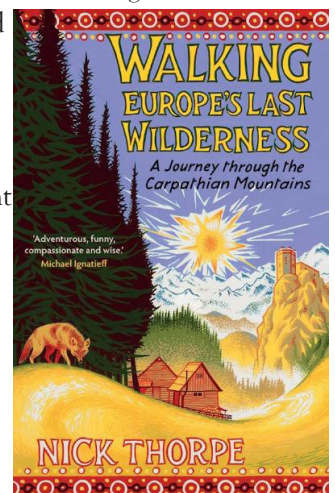
Reading the morning news in March, I came upon a book review in the Wall Street Journal: *Walking Europe's Last Wilderness: A journey through the Carpathians*. The book was published in February by Budapest author / hiker / camper, Nick Thorpe. It is a travelogue of his explorations in our ancestor's beloved Carpathian Mountains, "the last wild place on a crowded continent" between 2018 and 2024.

The Carpathian Mountains curve in a rough horseshoe arc starting in upper Slovakia, heading east crossing lower Poland and Ukraine, circling south through central Romania, then returning west to end in Serbia. Bukovina is located on the eastern side, with the Bohemian German villages at the foothills.



The author is a BBC reporter who has camped and hiked throughout this historical and "exotic" area, experiencing the huts, people, and culture in thousand year old villages. He has learned their history, customs, and ceremonies, including playing the trembita, a hardwood trumpet, sending "a deep mournful sound filling the meadows." He has tasted their homemade goat cheeses and polinka, their liquor. This beverage made its way into the German Bohemian villages of Bukovina, where some of us who visited Poiana Mikului on the 1996 bus tour of Bukovina were served it by the local pastor. The tradition is: if you finish a drink and want no more, the glass must be turned upside down or it will be refilled.

The entire ancient Carpathian Mountain Range area is changing. Growing population and modern technology has invited suburban sprawl. Many old growth (never cut) forests are now being harvested. Outside investment for roads and recreational development are being built for future access. In Ukraine, this area is being affected by the refugees fleeing the Russian invasion. In the Carpathians, the hunting of bears is big business. Wolves, chamois, lynx, and auroch also roam here. (See BSA Newsletter, Vol.#3, Sept.2022).



My thanks to Dominic Green, *Wall Street Journal* contributor, for his fine book review.

Doug Reckmann
BSA President

The first Bukovina Germans in Ellis (1886) were Protestant and came from Illischestie seeking relocation. The Bukovina custom of large families and division of the family property between the children, rarely left enough land to live on, much less live prosperously. The positive reports of these first settlers sent back to Bukovina resulted in a large influx of further settlers to Ellis for the next two years. Not just Protestants from Illischestie, but from other surrounding villages. And Roman Catholics from Pojana Mikuli, Fürstenthal, Bori, and other Bukovina Bohemian villages.

This Bukovina emigration continued and was not just to the US, but also to Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and Bosnia. And not just Protestant and Roman Catholic, but also Greek Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Jewish.

The Bukovina Society of the Americas remembers, honors, documents, and celebrates all people with Bukovina heritage. The info@bukovinasociety.org email has provided numerous Bukovina descendants a credible “go to” resource for queries, as the descendants of this diverse culture research their Bukovina ancestry. Not everyone had a great grandmother to pepper with questions as I did when I was a college student. It is very encouraging to see so many young people trying to learn about their ancestors. Many of the “older” generation are kicking themselves for not asking questions 50 years ago.

Being one of the individuals who is responsible for replying to messages sent to info@bukovinasociety.org, has immensely broadened my personal knowledge and experience regarding the mixed and varied cultures and religions of the people from Bukovina. The following is an overview of some of the inquiries that have been sent to info@bukovinasociety.org in the last year.

Kimberly contacted the BSA on 14.03.2025 seeking current contact information about Bukovina researcher, Xx Xxxxxxx. I gave her the last address and email that I had, wishing her luck.

Susan contacted the BSA on 15.02.2025 about a possible future visit to the BSA Museum in Ellis when driving through the area. Her grandparents were from Arbora and Gurahumora. She quickly became a new life member.

Jacques (Jacob) contacted the BSA on 02.02.2025. Some of his family members came from Czernowitz, Austria. He wanted to know if this was Czernowitz, Bukovina? An easy answer. Where and how should he start the search for information about this relatives? He also wanted to know if the BSA had a database of the Naturalization of Bukovina immigrants? I wish! Or any hints about where to find the book *Where Aspens Whisper* by Hanelore Frombach? (I found it online for only \$295.00!) He

ended with questions about recruitment fliers from Bukovina advertising Canada as an immigration destination? Another I wish!

Karel from Czechia contacted BSA on 20.02.2025 seeking seeking verification/documentation about his great grandfather who was born in Bukovina and emigrated to Bohemia some time in the early 1900's. His great grandfather, Christian Josef Kopp, was a teacher. Was this the correct Christian Josef Kopp? I discovered his marriage documents and those of the parents, who were teachers in Itzkany, Tereblestie, and Satulmare.

Cherise emailed the BSA on 20.08.2024 regarding her great grandmother's emigration from Bukovina to Canada in the 1920's. She sent me names and dates of her great grandparents. I discovered that they were both from Bukovina and were married in Neu Zuczka. And on their immigration to Canada, they were listed as Baptists. The family thought that they were Greek Orthodox. Cherise became a BSA member.

Christy became a BSA member on 22.08.2024. After the registration, she sent me information about her grandmother being born in Illischestie, emigrating to Ellis, marrying, and living in Wakeeny. She knew that she had Austrian/Romanian ancestry. She knew that her great grandfather tended official Austrian horses. The only “Official Austrian Horses” that most Americans know about are the Lippizzaner, so the family presumption was that they were Lippizanners. There were other official breeds of horses in Austria, always kept in different locations. The Radautz Stud Farm raised Shagya-Arabian horses. Christy told me about her daughter who is studying Opera Performance at Rice. Her daughter was told that if she had EU citizenship, it would be much easier to study there and find Opera Performance jobs. Christy is researching and collecting documentation to obtain Romanian citizenship. She is hoping that this might be helpful for her daughter to do the same. She wants to do everything possible to help her daughter live her dream.

Rai contacted the BSA on 12.02.2025 regarding his father, who was born in Illischestie in 1924 and his grandfather who was also born there in 1901. After their deaths, he became interested in his family tree. Where and how can he find information to document everything?

Rita mailed the BSA on 10.05.2025 regarding the family of her grandmother from Katharinendorf and Alexanderdorf. She was Gisela Gross, the daughter of Wilhelm Groß and Marie Lay/Lai/Laj. She has relied on a lot of information about her family that has been posted online at the MyHeritage.com website. Unfortunately, there is a lot of incorrect information posted at that site. Rita thought that if it was online, then it must be accurate. Dozens of other “researchers” have done the same thing. I explained that just because 30 people copy the same incorrect information and repost it, it does not make the information correct. The researcher needs to verify everything.

Kathleen contacted the BSA on 07.03.2025 seeking input about about her great grandmother who was born in Unter Stanestie, and emigrated with her family to the US in the early 1900's. Beside finding information about her ancestor, she requested input on how to approach Romania to get a Romanian Passport via her great grandmother's Bukovina birth.

Dioni emailed the BSA in Portugese on 04.04.2025 to try to find information about his grandfather, João Hartinger, who was born in Mafra, Brazil, the son of immigrants from Pojana Mikuli who arrived around 1895. His grandfather died young and the family was estranged. Only recently has he become interested in his family history to be able to pass information onto his children. He has reached to the "Bucovina de SC" and has received some information from them. I have connected him with contacts in Brazil, with whom I have connections.

David renewed his membership with the BSA in January of this year. Responding to his renewal, I asked him about his connection to Bukovina and whether he has found information that was useful for him? I asked if I or the BSA in any way could be more helpful to him? He told that he has been researching his father's side of the family, who were from Bukovina. The family was spread out, from Czernowitz to Suceava. He is Jewish and has been very excited that the Bukovina Jewish cemeteries are being photographed and indexed.

The above information was very helpful when Mark joined the BSA on 29.05.2025. He is searching for information about his Jewish great grandfather Bukovina who listed his birthplace

as "Iwankoutz" Bukovina. Mark thought that the place was actually Iwankoutz / Ivankivtsi. The documentation that Mark sent to me clearly indicated that his great grandfather was from Bukovina. My guess was that the village might be Itzkany? It is close to Suceava where there was a sizable Jewish population.

I contacted David to see if I could connect him with Mark regarding this. David looked through the list of Jewish Shtetls in Bukovina and quickly came up with "Waschkoutz". (Talk about feeling stupid...)

On 15.04.2025, Yaron from Los Angeles inquired about researching his grandmother's birth into a Jewish family in Czernowitz in the 1920's. The family name that he was researching was Zeifer, also spelled Zaifer/Seifer. He was also looking for an expert in Jewish genealogy. I had to admit that my experience researching German Protestant or Bohemia family connections was not that helpful with Jewish connections!!

While writing this article, I saw that I could now better respond to Renata, who contacted the BSA on 29.08.2024. She lives in Mexico City and is researching her Jewish grandmother who was born in Czernowitz in 1916. Her grandmother and other Herzig and Freier relatives emigrated to Mexico together before WWII. She is searching for birth documentation of these family members.

I wonder what the next questions will be?