



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$25.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- The annual meeting of the Society was held on July 19, 2025 via Zoom. Signed in were: Douglas Reckmann, Guy Windholz, Oren Windholz, Katherine Schuster Sanders. President Douglas Reckmann called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm. Due to extreme weather and personal conflicting schedules, the meeting was not held at the BSA headquarters and this caused a loss of participants. It was determined that we waive the 7 person quorum needed for the meeting. This is subject to approval of the board through a special notice to the board for a vote. Oren Windholz offered to handle this. The minutes from the prior year's meeting having been distributed ahead of the call, the minutes were passed and accepted as read. Douglas Reckmann presented the financial position from the prior fiscal year noting the Society earned \$998. The investment account balance noted at \$47,673.75.
- Board members terms set to expire as follows: Eileen Goetz, Norma Lang, Van Massirer and Oren Windholz. Guy Windholz made motion to reelect members to the board. Katy Schuster Sanders seconded and the motion was passed. There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:47pm.
- Douglas Reckmann opened the Board meeting to elected officers. Oren Windholz made a motion to reelect all officers. Katy Schuster Sanders seconded and the motion was passed. Douglas Reckmann offered to send the financial information to the board. Having noted the bank will soon have an online option, Douglas Reckmann offered to contact Alan Webber regarding the matter.
- Welcome to Life Member # 300, Andrew Karlstrom
- Ernest V. Pfeifer, Sr., of Ellis, Kansas passed away July 4, 2025. The family generously proved space on their land for a Bukovina headquarters sign East of Ellis. Use and

operation of tractor by Ernest. The sign space West of Ellis is thanks to Henry and Michelle Wiesner family.

- Siegfried Mirwald, one of the last researchers from the generation of contemporary witnesses, a collector and researcher of the history of Bukovina Germans, especially of the German Bohemians, passed away shortly after reaching the age of 90, born on April 16, 1935. He passed away on April 24, 2025 in his new hometown of Essen.

THE DEUTSCHER - SCHREIER STORY

By: Patrick Deutscher



Rudolph "Frank" Deutscher, 1884-1961

on May 25, 1977. He didn't view it as complete, but it circulated to everyone in the family and became our primary source for family history. There is a lot more information about the Deutschers of Saskatchewan now, thanks to the internet and other family historians who have ploughed away, but I hope reproducing the original text will be of interest.

There is a matching Gorski-Boni story, but I won't submit that as the Gorski family lived across the border in Galicia before migrating to Canada in 1901.

Ralph was the eldest male among the 13 children born to Rudolph (a recurring name!) Deutscher and Mathilda Gorski. His text follows:

Grandfather Deutscher's name was Frederick Deutscher. He was born on March 6, 1850, the son of Wilhelm Deutscher and Kathrine Hartmann in the province of Bukowina which was then in the state of Roumania, a part of the Austria-Hungarian Empire. More specifically, his birthplace was the village of Dembrova which is approximately one mile north of Zhadawa, the local post office served by a railway, and about forty miles south of Czernovtsy, the capital city of Bukowina. Their home in the village was beside the Seret River. The Carpathian Mountains and the Transylvania Alps were within sight of the village. The countryside consisted of forest land, pasture lands and small farms. Since the climate varies with each locality, it produced many types of fruits and cereals, the main crop being maize which was ground into corn meal.

My father informed me that they farmed a small acreage, but that his father's main occupation was that of cabinet maker, carriage builder and wheel wright, and that as he grew up he learned many of the skills related to wood-working tools from his father.

The district in which they lived was inhabited by people of many nations: Austrians, German, Roumanians, Ukrainians, and Serbians, as well as by Roman Catholics and Protestants.

Grandfather Deutscher was Lutheran by religion and German by descent and speech. He married Julia Schreier, a Roman



Ordination of Father Josef Deutscher, 1954



Julianna Deutscher geb. Schreier, 1853-1927

Catholic and German, who was the daughter of Heinrich Schreier and Teresa Kriegel. Before this marriage, grandmother, a girl of 16, was married to an older man by the name of Schmidt. Before her first child, a daughter Lena, was born, her husband died. When grandfather married grandmother, he adopted the baby, gave her his name, and brought her to Canada when they emigrated.

Before I close this section, I should mention that other families from the same district who came to Canada about the same time included the Seibels, the Langs, the Karsts, and the Reghettis.

Grandfather came to Canada with his entire family* arriving at Halifax in May, 1901. By C.P.R. they came as far as Balgonie where they detrained, as their friends, the Karsts, had settled in the area. Mr. Karst and grandfather, by team and wagon, went searching for a homestead -160 acres of free land. Grandfather selected a quarter-section along the north edge of Manybone Creek. While all vestiges of habitation have disappeared, it is easily located. From Odessa drive west on Highway No. 16 about three miles until you come to the junction of Highway No. 35, then left and proceed south until arrival at Manybone Creek; now turn right and then proceed about one-half mile west, and you are on the old homestead.

When they settled there, the nearest towns were Qu'Appelle and Indian Head, somewhat over 20 miles, mostly northward. A trip to town to sell produce (mostly grain and hay) and to buy staple foods was a two-day adventure.

In 1905 the C.P.R. built its branch line through Francis, which now became their trading center as it was only about 10 miles south. The C.N.R. branch on which Odessa was built was completed in 1908-1909, and provided a trading center only six miles away. Unfortunately, by this time grandfather had died and grandmother was getting ready to move to Unity.

Grandfather was killed in an accident in Francis. The circumstances leading to the fatal accident occurred in this way. My grandparents were just arriving on a business trip to Francis via horse and buggy. At this time a farmer in the area had loaded his wagon with lumber. As the C.P.R. engine approached, the blast of the whistle frightened the horses pulling the lumber wagon. The horses bolted down the street and rammed into grandfather's buggy as it was emerging from a lane. Both grandparents were seriously injured, but fortunately grandmother recovered; and unfortunately, grandfather suffered internal injuries which the doctor was unable to repair, and he died a few days later, July 28, 1908.

Grandmother then decided to leave the old homestead and with her daughter Anna (age 8) and youngest son Albert (aged about 15) moved to Unity, where her oldest son Frederick was living. She obtained some land and farmed it with the help of Albert and Annie. They remained on this farm until about 1922 when she rented it to a neighbour and bought another farm located between Pilot Butte and Balgonie, Saskatchewan. Later Albert took over this farm and grandmother, with Annie, moved to her small home on the 1800 block Montreal Street in Regina. Here she resided until her death in 1927. The Unity farm was now sold and the assets divided equally among her surviving children.

She was buried in the old Regina cemetery (Broad Street and 4th Avenue). In 1908 when grandfather died, he was buried in a private cemetery about three miles from Odessa. As this cemetery was being neglected and the possibility of it being plowed over existed, it was decided to exhume his remains and bury him in a plot beside his wife.

*The children's names are listed in both Hamburg emigration and Halifax immigration records, and in Julia's 1927 will. The nine children were: Karolina Knauf, 57 (Salem, Oregon); Ferdinand Deutscher, 55 (Portland, Oregon); Emilia Reiss, 48 (Regina, Saskatchewan); Rudolph Deutscher, 44 (Odessa, Saskatchewan); Julia Toscak, 41 (Tribune, Saskatchewan); Justina Gorski, 38 (Odessa); Teresa Leckie, 36 (Penzance, Saskatchewan); Albert Deutscher, 33 (Pilot Butte, Saskatchewan); and Anastasia Deutscher, 24 (Regina).

AUGUSTINE REUNION IN ELLIS

By Guy Windholz

What better to do on Saturday, June 14th, 2025 in Kansas, than attend the Augustine Reunion in Ellis?

I am no stranger to these triennial events. There are always lots of familiar faces and friendly people to chat with. At the last reunion, I did really well with some wins from the raffle prize table!

I signed in at the registration table and was welcomed by Ann Augustine, Sandy Augustine, and Nancy Augustine. Glancing over the crowd, I spotted John and Phyllis LaShell, and then city council member Martin LaBarge. I had not realized that he had married into the Augustine family?!. It was great to catch up with so many of the fellow Bukovina Germans, including Gilbert Augustine (91 years) who had served on the BSA Board of Directors for years along with Joe Erbert.

I always enjoy discovering connections with the "new faces". While talking with Michelle Lang from Overland Park, KS, I discovered that this young lady works in the Kansas City area with my son!

At 1,600 miles from Gervais, Oregon was Leah Duda, who traveled the farthest. Katie Eberle was honored as the most senior attendee at 102 years.



Augustine Reunion, June 14th, 2025, Ellis, Kansas

Daryl and Sandy Augustine, the reunion organizers, reported that the crowd totaled 168 people. Over the years, I have always stayed in touch with them so that I know when the next Augustine Family Reunion is happening. Pictures from the reunion have been posted on the “Ellis Kansas Photos and History” Facebook page.

POJANA MIKULI REUNION MUSIC AND MEMORIES

by Monika Hopfenwieser
Passau, Saturday, 28 June 2025

Kirchdorf - Sunshine and blue skies accompanied the Bukovina descendant reunion for Pojana Mikuli and Dumbrava, beginning their reunion at the Maria Wald Chapel in Julbach with a prayer service for all ancestors, those deceased, and the victims afflicted by flight and expulsion.

The Neuburger family band set the musical tone for the prayer service with “Ave, Ave Maria”. Pastor Wolfgang Reincke from Tann, whose mother was expelled from Czechoslovakia after WWII, spoke about support and sanctuary for those in need and distress, especially refugees of war and hunger in these times. A candle was lit and a small bell was rung for the deceased.

Gudrun Wachter and Sabine Wandke, both born in Neuburg, organized the large gathering for the first time. After the shared blessing and the hymn “Bless Us Mary,” Wanke thanked Reincke for the beautiful service. She also recognized Hans Krapf and his family for their care and maintaince of the Maria Wald Chapel with a small gift.

Krapf, in turn, acknowledged attendee Mayor Markus Schusterbauer, who has always actively supported the maintainence of the outdoor area of the Chapel. He also thanked the Haunreiter family, who daily locks and unlocks the Chapel. At the next meeting, the Pojana Mikuli flag, which is housed in the chapel, will be raised on the hill.

Wachter and Wanke were delighted with the great response to the meeting. More than 90 visitors from all over Germany and Austria came to “Hotel Inntalhof” for this meeting, exchanging memories with the descendants of their ancestral village.

Adolf and Irmtraut Schaper from Bad Lipspringe, North Rhine-Westphalia, made the latter possible with their exhibition of the historical milestones of the Pojana Mikuli and Dumbrava ancestors. With books, display boards, information about names and origins, and other visual aids, many descendants have found their ancestors’ roots. After all, Schaper said with a smile, all Pojana Mikuli and Dumbrava residents are actually related to one another.

Irmtraut and Adolf Schaper had organized the Pojana Mikuli reunion for four years. A gift basket was presented to the Schapers for their tremendous support by Wacher and Wanke. For the official opening at the “Inntalhof,” Gudrun, Sophie, and Patricia Wachter played “Waltz from the Mountains” on clarinets and guitar by Markus Heiden, a Pojana Mikuli native. At 95, Anna Heberger, geb. Hartinger, from the Allgäu region, was the oldest attendee. The youngest visitor was Ferdinand Auer, who was four and a half months old. Wacher welcomed Monika Johannsen from Aachen and Fridolin Schuster from Leverkusen, who traveled the furthest.

In various musical formations, the native Neuburgers and their descendants provided entertainment. The old Pojana Mikuli songs, such as “Da olde Wetzstoa” and “Heimat, wie bust Du so schön”, were played. The visitors loudly sang along, bolstering and reengaging the feeling of “Heimat” and a strengthened sense of togetherness.

Helmut Jaschusch from Illerrieden delighted the audience with the „Böhmerwaldlied“, along with other songs. Regina Besch yodeled skillfully accompanying herself on the guitar. Reinhold Czarny from Altena in North Rhine-Westphalia spoke about his life and recited the poem he had written about Czernowitz. His Bukovina parents originated from the city and he has grown to love through multiple visits.

All presentations were met with enthusiastic applause from the Bukovina families. Old acquaintances, as well as new faces, were present at this year’s gathering. Some met relatives they hadn’t known before, learning new and interesting facts about their ancestors.

Those who traveled from further distances met the previous evening for a fun and easy-going reception. Today’s big gathering concluded in a similar relaxed atmosphere.

DISASTROUS FLOODS IN THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF SUCEAVA COUNTY

Doug Reckmann

On July 29th, Luzian Geier, editor of “Der Südostdeutsche”, notified the BSA that on Sunday evening, July 27th, 2025 massive, disastrous, and deadly floods hit the southern mountainous area of Suceava County.



Broșteni, nestled along the Bistria River, which eventually flows through Watra Dorna, was hit especially hard. Three people died, hundreds of homes were flooded, and almost 100 victims had to be rescued via helicopter. Ostra, Stulpicani, (along the Suha River) and Frasin (where the Suha discharges into the Moldova River) were also hit hard.

Roads, bridges and water networks suffered serious damage, with over 500 homes affected, with some being effectively swept away or completely destroyed.

In the first hours after the disaster, with access blocked and information not yet reaching the rest of the country, the first to enter the affected area were the foresters. With backhoes, trucks and qualified personnel, they cleared the silt, sand, and gravel, reopened temporary roads, and erected temporary bridges.



Teams from eight counties came to the support of the damaged communities. Over 160 rescuers operated in the Broșteni area alone. The IGSU (Romanian General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations) supplemented its staff with over 200 firefighters. Hundreds of rescuers and support teams were directed to the area.



The newly homeless received temporary housing. Lumber and other building materials were sent so that people could repair their houses, outbuildings, and fences. Over 2,500 people from 11 localities were affected by the floods. Beyond the immediate aid, the figures show a worrying reality: only about 20% of the affected households had insurance policies.



BUKOVINA SOCIETY

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