

The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$25.00

SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Gilbert Joseph Augustine, age 91, of Ellis, Kansas passed away November 2nd. He was born July 2nd, 1934, on the family farm in rural Ellis, Kansas to Rudolph and Regina (Reitmeyer) Augustine. Gilbert served several terms on the Bukovina Society Board of Directors.
- The BSA received a yearly X-Mas greeting on December 7th from the Stadln (Bohemia) Reunion group. The next Stadler meeting will take place June 4-7, 2026 (Corpus Christi) in Petrovice, Czechia. Please view the related articles in this newsletter.
- On December 8th, the BSA received information regarding the 2026 Pojana Mikuli Reunion. It will be held at the Inntalhof in Kirchdorf am Inn, Germany in conjunction with the 35th celebration of the Maria-Wald-Kapelle in Jullbach. The complete program, along with contact and reservation information can be found later in this newsletter.
- In the spring, a new book "Bukovina, A European Multi-Ethnic Region" by Mariana Hausleitner will be printed in Germany. With numerous color and black-and-white illustrations, maps, and comprehensive indexes, approx. 400 pages, hardcover, € [D] 22.00. A review is found on page 2 of this newsletter.
- Welcome Sylvia Totzke, Life Member #331

A NOTE FROM THE BSA PRESIDENT

On October 8th, John Hageman, the husband of BSA Vice President Becky Hageman, texted me the following:

I am heartbroken to report that my Becky has past to join Jesus. She had been getting weaker, became jaundiced in color, was admitted to St Francis hospice care unit and passed away on Oct 7th at 7:45am. She was without pain & in her sleep.

I don't remember the first time that I met Becky; She was just always a fixture of the BSA. Becky was professional, technical,

and diligent. She was the person who always made sure that whatever was needed to be done for the BSA, actually got done. Becky's attitude was always: "If you can't do it, then I'll do it!"



Rebecca Dee „Becky“ Hageman
b. 27 January 1952, Dodge City, KS
d. 7 October 2025, Wichita, KS

Becky's connection with the Bukovina Society was via her passion to discover her Aschenbrenner and Schuster (Bohemian) roots. She helped Werner Zoglauer set up the original "bukovinasociety.org" website. She was a "hands on" officer of the BSA. Becky provided unending technical, moral, and phone support helping me in 2017-2018 as I cleaned up the BSA website upgrade from the old "static" pages into new software.

My fellow Bukovina descendant, colleague, friend, and University of Stuttgart Alum, Michael Augustin, fondly remembers his interactions with Becky through the years at the various BukovinaFests. Michael visited her and John on their own home turf in Wichita. Becky will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

Doug Reckmann

A 2ND NOTE FROM THE BSA PRESIDENT

November 5th, the BSA received information from Barbara Tremblay, that her father, Alfred J. Schuster died on September 14th. She requested that the following about her father be included in the upcoming newsletter:



Alfred J Schuster, of Hays, Kansas passed away September 14, 2025. Alfred became a lifetime member of the society in 2009, after returning from a trip to Bukovina (in present day Romania) with his daughter Barbara Schuster Tremblay, her husband Steve, his grandson Jared Tremblay, with spouse Catherine, and granddaughter Gail Tremblay Clark. They enjoyed a week exploring Bukovina and finding the towns his grandparents Frank Schuster, Anna Pöllman,

Alfred Joseph Schuster
*05 November 1935, Trego, KS
+14 September 2025, Hays, KS
G.Granddaughter Mabel Clark

John Aschenbrenner and Barbara Augustine had been born before migrating to Ellis, Kansas. Upon returning from their adventure, Barbara and Gail presented their trip to the Bukovina Society in September 2009, with Alfred present to witness and discuss with other members.



L>R, GGD_Mabel Clark, Alfred, GGD_Opal Tremblay



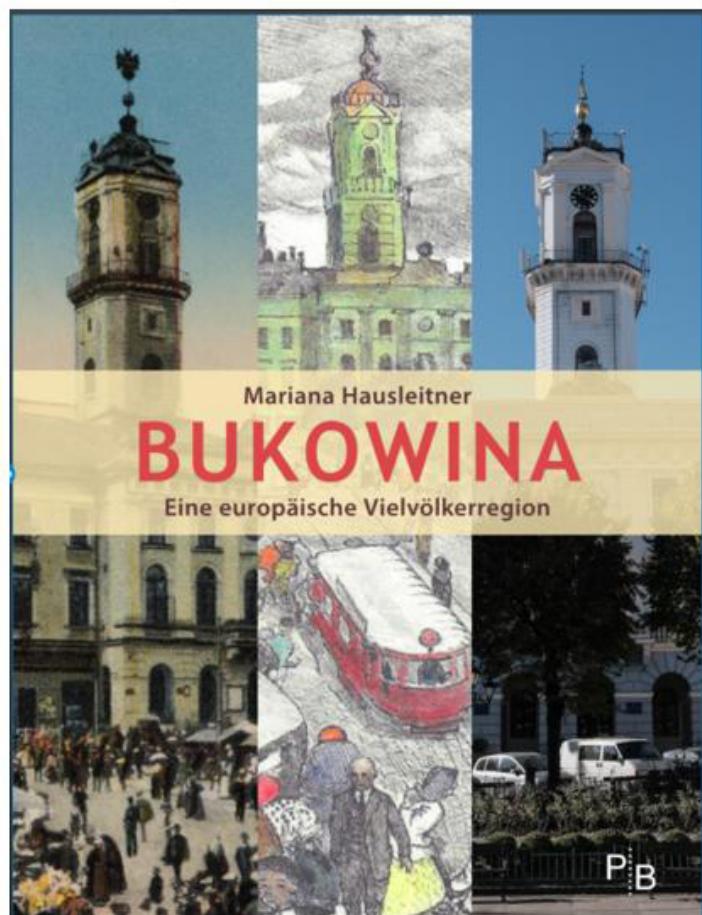
Front, D_Sherri Underwood, Alfred, D_Gerri Kielhofner, S-L_Brad Kielhofner
Back, GD-S-L_Michael Clark, GD_Gail Tremblay Clark, GD_Jane Kielhofner,
GD_Diane McGraw, GS_Jared Tremblay, GS_Thomas Kielhofner,
GS_Stephen Kielhofner, D_Barbara Tremblay, S-L_Steven Tremblay

BOOK REVIEW

Bukovina
A European Multi-Ethnic Region
By Mariana Hausleitner

Bukovina, today divided between Romania and Ukraine, was an Austrian crown land from the late 18th century onward. In this multi-ethnic region, a “Europe in miniature” developed, characterized by at least six languages. Its multicultural heritage continues to inspire artists, writers, and filmmakers to this day. The landscape and its intellectual center, Czernowitz (Ukrainian: Chernivtsi, Romanian: Cernăuți), have become known worldwide through the works of authors such as Karl Emil Franzos, Rose Ausländer, Paul Celan, and Manfred Winkler.

For decades, the historian Mariana Hausleitner has been researching Bukovina. In this book, she traces the historical development of the region, with particular attention to the German and Jewish populations. The narrative spans from its incorporation into the Habsburg Empire, when Germans and Jews immigrated to the region, through the interwar period, when the region became part of Romania, to the devastation of the Second World War and its subsequent division between the Soviet Union and Romania. The resettlement of the German population and the deportation and murder of tens of thousands of Jews represent the tragic low points of this history.



POJANA MIKULI - BUKOVINA REUNION

Bukovina German Descendants!

We cordially invite you to the next meeting on May 16, 2026. You are welcome to contribute old photos, texts, books, songs, poems, recipes, travelogues, or stories from “back then.” Please let us know at registration, so that we can better plan the afternoon. We are looking forward to seeing you again or meeting you for the first time.

Warm regards from Gudrun Wachter & Sabine Wanke

Program

Friday, May 15, 2026

Welcome reception for out-of-town guests in the evening and a relaxed get-together at the Inntalhof in Kirchdorf

Saturday, May 16, 2026

10:30 a.m. “May Devotion Celebration” at the Maria-Wald Chapel in Julbach. (In case of bad weather, at the parish church in Julbach.) Afterwards, we will gather at Inntalhof in Kirchdorf am Inn.

- Lunch
- Welcome and speeches
- Exhibition on the historical milestones of our ancestors
- Coffee and cake
- Social gathering

Please make your own reservation for accommodation reservations! When booking, please mention the keyword: “Buchenhainer-Treffen”.

Hotel and Restaurant Inntalhof
Hauptstr. 43, 84375 Kirchdorf a. Inn
Tel. +49 8571-92525-0
Email: hotel@inntalhof.de
Website: www.inntalhof.de

REGISTRATION deadline: April 15, 2026
Gudrun Wachter: +49 8571 926 55 65 or
Sabine Wanke: sabi.wanke@googlemail.com



Beginning in the 13th century, the area of the central Bohemian Forest was settled by farmers from Bavaria. They were “künische Freibauern,” (royal free peasants), directly subject to the royal chamber. Their motto was “Niemands Herr und niemands Knecht, das ist künisch Bauernrecht”. (No one's master and no one's servant, that is royal peasant law). The area was divided into eight districts: I St. Katharina (Sv. Kateřina), II Hammern (Hamry), III Eisenstraße (Hojsova Stráž), IV Seewiesen (Javorná), V Haidl (Zhůří), VI Kochet (Kochánov), VII Stadln (Stodůlky), VIII Stachau (Stachy).

Most of the settlers who founded the seven German-Bohemian villages in Bukovina were born in the above mentioned eight districts. These seven villages were: Althütte, 1793; Karlsberg, 1797; Fürstenthal, 1803; Bori and Lichtenberg, 1835; Pojana Mikuli, 1838; Schwarzthal, 1841. Almost all of the settlers of these villages were related before relocating to Bukovina.

My family roots were in Schwarzthal. My attempt to discover the Bohemian birthplaces of the original Schwarzthal settlers brought me into contact with “Traudl”. Gertrud Siewi geb. Rankel's parents were born in Lukawetz and Luisenthal, Bukovina, however her family roots were in Lichtenberg and Glitt. We started sharing data, links, hints, and results. Traudl retired from Deutsche Telekom, working in Germany next to the Czech border. She recognized all of the German-Bohemian family names and had a real knack for locating the original family villages in what was Bohemia. Through her Bohemian research, she came into contact with Hans Zettl. Hans was born in Stadln and was the founder of the annual Stadln Reunion.

Most Americans are not aware that WWII did not start with the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Nor are they aware that the atrocities of WWII did not end with the bombing of Nagasaki in 1945. The Treaty of Potsdam in 1945 legitimized the expulsion of approximately three million Czechoslovakian citizens of German heritage from their territory. After depopulation, hundreds of suddenly empty villages were razed, with most of the area becoming a restricted military zone. The village of Stadln in this military zone was used as a bombing range.

STADLN

By Doug Reckmann

Many of the Bukovina descendants of Bohemian ancestry, recognize the name of the village “Stadln” (now Stodůlky) located deep in the heart of the Bohemian Forest. Many Bukovina people named Artmann, Gaschler, Gebert, Haas, Jäger, Kopp, Petrowicz, Reitmayer, Richter, Schätz, Schmidl, Schmidt, Schröder, Straub, Weber, and Zettl have their family roots in Stadln.

After the Velvet revolution, this restricted military border region became Šumava National Park. It was at this time that Hans Zettl applied for permission to hold a memorial at a specific GPS location in the park, the location of the church in Stadln along with permission to drive to the location to transport aged participants to this event.

At the National Park office, the young man behind the counter asked about the purpose of having a memorial service in the middle of a National Park. Hans politely responded "It was where I was born!" In disbelief, the young man replied "You were born in the middle of a National Forest?" Hans responded, "I was born in a house in the village of Stadln!" In disbelief, the young man said "There were no villages in the middle of this National Forest!"

When Hans returned to pick up the permit, he was greeted by the same young man behind the counter, who explained that before, he had not been told what had happened there at the end of WWII. He asked questions, discovered what had happened and now wanted to apologize on behalf of his ancestors.

The memorial reunions have continued for 10 plus years.

STADLN REUNION REPORT

Anne Horn-Braehmer
Translated by Doug Reckmann

A very eventful and moving year is drawing to a close for us. In June, we were able to celebrate another wonderful Stadln reunion. In September, the Stadln memorial was inaugurated with a magnificent festival. Approximately 300 people attended, including Martin Baxa, the Czech Minister of Culture. Reports about this wonderful event appeared in the press, radio, and



Hans Zettl & Elfriede Endl, Stadln Reunion Originators
Czech Culture Minister Martin Baxa, left front

television. You can find further information on our website, www.stadln.de.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Šumavské cesty association from Pilsen, which erected such an impressive memorial to our vanished village.



The next Stadler meeting will take place from June 4th (Corpus Christi) to June 7th, 2026. As usual, please register with Luhán in Petrovice:

+420 376 588193
jan.luhan@post.cz
www.uluhanu.cz.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SATULMARE

From Deutsch-Satulmare
By Christian Armbrüster, pp. 66-70
Translation, Prof. A.I. Google
Sylvia Totzke, Editor

The eight settler families of Satulmare who received state funding in 1787 were Protestant. Peter Schmidt (*1774) and his wife Sophie Enz (*1765), were the first Catholic family in Satulmare. In ~1793/94, this family settled in Satulmare, taking over colonist farmstead Hs.#71 from first settler Christoph Schmidt. The birth of their son Heinrich in 1794 was registered at the Catholic parish office in Radautz. The co-signing of the settlement agreement of October 20, 1796, by "Peter Schmidt the Younger," distinct from "Peter Schmidt the Elder," who was settled on the farmstead Hs.#75. In Satulmare (Status Animarum 1828-1832), Peter Schmidt (*1774) is listed in the Catholic parish office in Radautz register of inhabitants as residing in Hs.#71.

Heinrich (*1794) married Elisabeth (*1796), the daughter of Protestant colonists, Friedrich Philipp Staudt and Maria Magdalena Pfeiffer from Hs.#73. This marriage produced a son (*1815), also named Heinrich who married Maria Elisabeth

Hoffmann (*1817), the daughter of Protestant colonists Johann Martin Hoffmann and Katharina Brod. Thus, the “S’Peter” family in Satulmare was founded, whose male descendants were Catholic and whose female descendants were Protestant.

A few years later, a Johann Schmidt (*1774) and his wife Anna Maria Kattler, both Catholic, settled in Hs.#139 in Satulmare. The family had several children—including the author’s maternal grandfather—who were born in Satulmare between 1811 and 1827. This family was given the house name “W’Schmidt-Hannese.” Intermarriage was unavoidable among the descendants of this family, however the male descendants always remained Catholic.

Genealogical research has so far been unable to determine the exact place of origin of these two Schmidt families. However, it is likely that both emigrants were among the imperial immigrants quartered in Galicia, awaiting settlement. This assumption is further supported by the fact that the parish registers of the Catholic parish of Radautz simply list “Germany” as the country of origin, without specifying a particular location. Furthermore, the settlement of Catholic colonists (including a Schmidt) in St. Onufry (Manastiora) lends credence to such conclusions.

The settlement of the Schmidt families in Satulmare laid the foundation for a later German Catholic community. Around the same time or shortly afterwards the “Kattler” and “Zurowski” families settled there.

The immigrant Johann Kattler (*1772, Catholic) and his wife Luise (*1766, Catholic) subsequently built Hs.#76 adjacent to the existing colony. A few decades later, the Catholic church was built on the same garden plot. Their son Johann (*1802) married Katharina Nunweiler (*1804), the daughter of a Protestant colonist, and lived in Hs.#76 with his father. The descendants were known as the “Hannickels” after his brother “Nikolaus”.

At certain intervals, more Catholic families move to Satulmare, with names such as: Brodner, Gattinger, Kohlruß, Baumann, Madega, Nemega, Melcher, Plechinger (Blechinger), Probst, Gärtel (Görtel, Gertel), Feigel, Flamann, Radetz, Bilawski, Pick, Schreiner, Wolf, Späth, Manus, Kuczynski, and others.

Prior to 1816, the local chaplains from the neighboring Hungarian settlements of Istensegits and Hadikfalva provided religious services to the Catholic settlers of Satulmare. After a Catholic parish was established in Radautz in 1816, it was only natural that the few Catholics of Satulmare would join that parish. The growth of the Catholic community in Radautz led to an increasingly vibrant church life.

The first parish priest in Radautz was Joseph Sattfeld, (installed on April 16, 1818, and died there in 1851). His successors were: Johannes Zukiewicz from Lemberg, who served from 1852 to 1878; Eduard Nistenberg from 1879 to 1903; Prelate Clemens

Swoboda from 1904 to 1921, who, after being appointed Vicar General, moved to Czernowitz on November 21, 1921; Consistorial Councilor Professor Joseph Myketiuk, who died in Radautz on May 15, 1923; Father Karl Morosiewicz from November 3, 1923, until his death on September 29, 1929. On July 31, 1931, Father Karl Schüttler was solemnly installed in Radautz and led the parish until its relocation in 1940. Born on January 1, 1881, in Itzkany, Father Schüttler died on May 13, 1944, in Kleinschweinbarth/Lower Austria.

In 1908 a Roman Catholic deanery was founded in Radautz. Repeated attempts to unite the Catholics of Bukovina into their own diocese never succeeded. Until 1930, it belonged to the Archdiocese of Lemberg, and then on to the Roman Catholic Diocese of Jassy. Gradually, a local clergy developed that was better suited to the specific needs of the German Catholics and allowing for a more vibrant, church-supported, and nationally oriented life in Satulmare as well.

Dean Karl Schüttler earned respect in the fight against state-imposed Romanization efforts through the establishment of a German secondary school, the Radautz “German Catholic Private Gymnasium.” The young priests Norbert Gaschler and Karl Hajek contributed greatly – also in Satulmare – within the framework of German Catholic associations to preserve national and religiously imbued customs and traditions.

The dream of The Catholics of Satulmare fulfilled a long-standing dream with the construction of their own village church. Between 1884 and 1887, the church was built on a garden plot provided by Johann Kattler at Hs.#76, right in the middle of the village between the colony and the outlying farms, so that the faithful no longer had to make the seven km journey to the parish church in Radautz.



Satulmare Catholic Church, Dedicated 1887

BUKOVINA SOCIETY
P.O. Box 81
Ellis, KS 67637

As a sign of the peaceful coexistence of Protestants and Catholics in Satulmare, both denominations agreed to consecrate their two newly built churches on the same day, November 12, 1887 (St. Martin's Day). The Protestants had postponed the consecration of their church, which had been completed a full year earlier, for this purpose.

From then on, the priests traveled from Radautz to Satulmare every four or six weeks to conduct church services, religious instruction, and other pastoral duties. The parish provided altar servers and organists from among its members and always ensured that the priests had the necessary transportation.

For decades, devotional readings, especially the May devotions, were led by †Peter Probst, a farmer and equally skilled spinning wheel maker, and later by †Johann Kattler (Werts Johann or Wiener Schuster), who was also a good organist in his church.

Cemeteries

In Deutsch-Satulmare, there were two cemeteries: a general municipal cemetery and a Catholic cemetery. The latter was established after the First World War through a pious donation of suitable garden land by former mayor Anton Kohlruß. Until then, the Germans of Satulmare had remained true to the saying of Emperor Joseph II, which went as follows: "My subjects shall live in peace with one another, therefore their dead shall also rest in peace with one another."