



Sunflower Chapter  
Hays, KS

# Sunflower Chapter NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

vol. 13, issue 2



## The Last Time

By Judy Hoffman

During the course of our guest speaker's story of life in wartime Germany, Fritz Kramer emotionally stated, "This is the last time I will tell my story. It's too painful."

Fritz grew up in Eastern Germany. The Crusaders had settled there in the 1200s. Danish, Dutch, and Germans settled there. The language was Low German and still is today. It's called "Low German" because it's spoken in the lower part of Germany.

In the 1930s Germany was in bad shape. That's why Hitler was voted in; he promised all kinds

of things. For example, he promised every German a car. After the Nazis won the election, there was great pressure to join the Nazi Party.

The religious faith of Fritz's family was Seventh Day Adventist, and they noticed that periodically secret police would attend their church services. Fritz's parents did not agree with Hitler and the Nazi Party. They could never accept hatred of the Jews.

His family lived on Hitler Street, a fancy street lined with really fine homes. But his own family lived in a caretaker's apartment. His dad was a blacksmith who would not work on Saturdays because of his faith. During the war, though, he was forced to work those days, too, in violation of his religious beliefs.

In 1939 Fritz was playing in the yard with his sister. Suddenly they heard lots of noise and looked up, where they saw German war planes going to bomb Poland. Fritz was 10 years old in 1940 and experienced a great deal of peer pressure to join the Hitler Youth, so he joined. In 1944 he became company commander of 100 boys. Still he could not accept hatred of the Jews. One day he was given an order, but Fritz told his commander to "kiss my a\*\*." Immediately he was taken before his leaders and stripped of his medals and rank, but he remained in the company.

Although Germany had been very successful during the first few years of the war, in 1944 everything changed while they were battling Russia. Fritz decided to return home to protect his mother and sister from advancing Russians. By then his dad had been conscripted into the war effort. While Russians surrounded his town, his national guard

group retreated to an island peninsula. They were armed and hungry, but fortunately needed to do no fighting. Fritz found his dad there and got some food from him.

Later his dad was taken prisoner by the Russians and spent two years in a POW camp. Fortunately he spoke some Russian as a result of capture by the Russians in World War I. Back then, he'd been a cavalryman. When his horse was shot, he was captured and ended up spending six years in a POW camp in Siberia. So here he was with history repeating itself.

Meanwhile, Fritz became part of a group of twenty military youth who were put on a sub and taken to Western Germany. There was no food there so they were given the freedom to go to their nearest relatives. He went to Berlin and stayed with an aunt. Berlin was being bombed heavily, so they spent most of the time in an air raid shelter.

Then the Russians arrived in Berlin. It was terrible; you could hear the women screaming as they were being assaulted. Still being a brave--or perhaps foolish--boy, Fritz volunteered to be a courier to German troops. His first effort was his last, for machine gun fire as he tried to cross a street drove him back. He hid with his aunt in the cellar. When Fritz finally came upstairs, there were two Russian soldiers with guns trained on him. For some unknown reason, they let him go.

In Russian-occupied Berlin they could find no food, no water. Somehow they survived. They did find lots of wine in cellars, as well as lots of dead German and Russian soldiers. Fritz also saw the ghastly sight of fellow Germans hung by diehard Nazis who considered them traitors for refusing to comply with Germany's orders.

## Next Meeting

April 11



**Social ....12:00 - 1:00**

**Library....12:30 - 1:00**

**Meeting ... 1:00**

**Program ... 1:30**

**Refreshments: Cake & Ice Cream**

**Library ... opens after meeting for 1/2 hour.**

Winter is finally over and Spring has sprung. Join us for our Spring meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at the Munjor Parish Hall.

Our main program will be a DVD entitled, "The Good Man from Saratov, Russia" Bishop Pickel travels through his diocese from prison colonies to the old and infirmed. Though he is without money and answers, he always brings sympathy, care and laughter to the faithful. The DVD also shows many on the Volga German colonies that still exists along the Volga river. The DVD run 28 minutes in length.

**Folklore:** This meetings program on folklore will present the use of "Nick-names" in the Ellis County Villages.

**Music:** Be sure to bring your singing voice with you because we will sing a few "dumheit-lieder".

**Library:** This will be the first meeting were we will be able to break in our new library cabinet. The library will be open 1/2 before the meeting begins and roughly 1/2 after the program. Since the library cabinet needs to remain upstairs, we will have a listing of the books that our library currently holds at each meeting. Books may be checked out at the meeting and need to be returned at the following meeting. Shirley Brungardt, our Chapter Librarian, will be glad to help you with any of your questions. Donations are being taken for any books that you might like to see added to our library.

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Somehow Fritz found enough food for his aunt and him to survive., but he really wanted to return to Eastern Germany to find his mother and sister. He had a bike and decided to go find an uncle, but Russian soldiers stopped him and took his bike away. Ticked off, he demanded to see the Russian commander. When he spoke to the commander about his bike, the commander laughed and said to his men, "Give him another bike!" The soldiers then took him to a building where he found hundreds of bikes, and he was given his pick. Fritz chose one and started out on his trip of several hundred miles. He decided to take the tires off the bike and just ride on the rims so the Russians wouldn't take his bike again.

When he came to a river, a fisherman took him and his bike across. On the other side, he encountered Polish soldiers who promptly took him prisoner. Somehow he escaped and got back on his bike. He followed a set of train tracks, hungry all the while and looking for food. Eventually, now walking along the tracks, a Russian soldier stopped him and took him prisoner. A Pole came along, and the Russian traded Fritz to the Pole for a bottle of vodka. Fritz then was taken to a farm and forced to work for two weeks, where he ended up sleeping in a bed that a Russian had slept in. As a result, he got lice. He was upset but what could he do? After the Polish farmer let him go, Fritz returned to the train track and walked until he came to a train station. He hopped a train that went to his town where he found his mother and sister. His mom took one look at him and said, "You have lice!" and promptly got him into hot bath water.

In their town of Stolp, Russians had stolen everything they possibly could and shipped them back to Russia, but there were still some cultural events going on. Fritz and two friends decided to go to a movie. When one of the boys made some comment about Poles, soldiers suddenly appeared and the boys were taken for interrogation. Fritz was beaten and tortured with electric shocks. When he quit screaming, he was put in a cellar. Two days later he was released through the help of his mother. When she had found out what happened, she had gone to a Polish soldier who was Seventh Day Adventist, and the soldier got him freed.

Another time he was watching a theatre performance when Russian soldiers came in and marched off all the young men. They lined them up in front of the courthouse where big Russian banners bearing the images of Stalin, Molotov, and other heroes were hanging. Fritz pretended to be very interested in the banners, gazing up at them while backing slowly away. Suddenly he took off running; the soldiers didn't fire at him, and he got away. All the others were marched off, and Fritz never found out what happened to them.

He had a friend who was always cooking up schemes to make money. His friend said he had relatives in the country who would buy some furniture if they could just get it there. But on their first try they were stopped and it was confiscated.

Then they decided to go to the country and teach school kids. The families would feed them if they'd teach their kids. They went to a little village where they stayed with farmers. Fritz was 16 years old and teaching kids. He had some music skills so he put together a choir. One day a neighbor knocked on his window at the farm where he was staying and said, "Hey Fritz! They're coming for you!" But the warning was too late; Fritz climbed out the window and was met by five armed soldiers. They demanded the school's maps--that was all they wanted. Fritz didn't think the maps were all that valuable, so he turned them over.

There was a Russian outpost at the village. The Russians and the Poles did not like each other, and there was lots of disease now, including typhoid fever and diphtheria. With no medicines available, people were dying. The nearest big town was 50 miles away. So the people went to the Russian soldiers to ask for help. By this time, after all his experiences with Polish soldiers, Fritz was so full of fear that he got sick to his stomach every time he walked by a Polish soldier.

A year later Fritz, his mother, and his sister we were forced to go to another town. His

..... continued from page 2

mother managed to smuggle some money through customs by hiding it in a teddy bear. Now they were in Holstein, and the year was 1946. They stayed there several years. At first they were housed in a gym containing 100 people, mostly women and children. One morning the door opened, and a man stood there with a Russian coat-it was his dad! He had tracked them down. They next moved into a one-room apartment and lived there several years.

Fritz attended a music school until it closed. Then he worked in an asbestos factory. The Adventist Church was now sponsoring families to come to America, so in 1951 Fritz signed up. He ended up in LaCrosse, Kansas, where a friend said, "Let's go to Hays--there's a college there!" He did, but Fritz couldn't even read the entrance exam. He didn't know enough English yet. So he went to Liberal, Kansas, and taught music.

Later Fritz was drafted into the US Army and ended up playing the glockenspiel in the army band. Eventually he was sent to Germany as an interpreter for a colonel. After his return to civilian life back home in the USA, he met his wife in 1959 and in 1960 he finally got his college degree. He spent the rest of his career as a teacher in the Hays school system.

Fritz's closing remarks included a reading recommendation. "If you'd like to know what it was really like in those POW camps, read the book *The Longest Walk*." Then he ended his presentation with a violin duet with one of his current music students, Roy Schmeidler. What a grand ending to a breathtaking tale of adventure and survival!

AHSGR is now on "Facebook"



Go to the AHSGR Website, [www.ahsgr.org](http://www.ahsgr.org), go down to the bottom of the page and click on this symbol and look for "Become a Member"!

## New brochure promotes Ellis County as the German Capital of Kansas

Hays, Kansas – The Ellis County Historical Society Museum received a shipment of 20 boxes of brochures today and their reaction could best be summed up in one word, "Wunderbar". The German definition for "wonderful" was a fitting way to describe the new brochure that was produced with the intent to promote all of the German attractions, events and historic churches in Ellis County. The museum received 10,000 copies of this new "German Capital of Kansas" brochure, and is now ready to distribute them.

On September 20, 2003, Ellis County was proclaimed the official "German Capital of Kansas" and a ceremony was held during the annual Midwest Deutsches Oktoberfest. Local and state politicians as well as members of the various Ellis County German organizations attended. Two national German organizations also provided proclamations and certificates to endorse this deserving title for Ellis County.

Since that time, the Ellis County Historical Society Museum and the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau felt the need to have a more comprehensive marketing piece to promote "Everything and Anything German" for Ellis County. Instead of continuing to use out-dated literature, a variety of photo copied handouts or limited quantity brochures to try to help publicize the local German heritage, the museum decided to have an attractive 24 page German Capital of Kansas brochure printed. The Volga German Society, Midwest Deutsches Oktoberfest Association, Sunflower Chapter of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia and the Bukovina Society Museum in Ellis assisted by providing information and photos for the brochure.

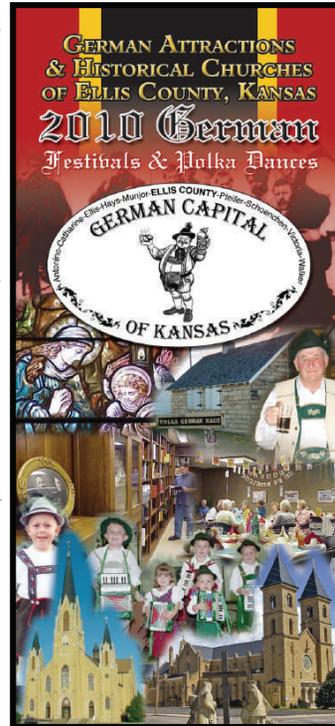
Both the Ellis County Historical Society Museum and the Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau wanted to increase the exposure for the valuable resources of German historical collections at the museums and attractions. These include the Volga German Haus, Bukovina Museum, the beautiful historic churches in each of communities and the cemeteries with the German crafted iron cross grave site markers. Probably the most important aspect of the German heritage of Ellis County are the various Oktoberfests, polka dances and German celebrations that help promote, preserve and pass on the local German heritage. In an effort to have one comprehensive "German Capital of Kansas" brochure that includes information about the attractions and events, the museum produced this much needed marketing piece and plans to begin distributing the brochures immediately.

This new brochure will be distributed locally through the Ellis County Historical Museum, the Hays Welcome Center and over 25 other brochure racks throughout Hays. Travelers throughout Kansas will also be able to pick up the brochure at 30 or

more Visitor Information Centers in Kansas. Those looking to the internet for travel information are able to view and print off the brochure on several websites, including the museum website ([www.elliscountyhistoricalmuseum.org](http://www.elliscountyhistoricalmuseum.org)), Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau ([www.haysusa.net](http://www.haysusa.net)) Volga German website ([www.volgagerman.net](http://www.volgagerman.net)) and the Midwest Deutsches Oktoberfest ([www.midwestdeutschefest.com](http://www.midwestdeutschefest.com)).

Plans are to re-print the brochure each year because the dates for the festivals and events change from year to year and additional new advertisers can be included next year. Call or stop by the Ellis County Historical Society Museum to request a brochure. 785-628-2624

Submitted by Rueben Schukman, CVB



## Marcellus F. Schmeidler, Missing in Action in WWII

By Martha A. Brungardt

During WWII, my dad's rank in the US Army was Technical Corporal. I'm not totally sure what that meant. I know that his job was to go and get the mail and take it back to his unit. He received the Good Conduct Medal and the Purple Heart. I know there were other ribbons and awards, but I don't remember what they were.

My dad did not talk about his war experiences with his family. Therefore, I do not know much about them. However, when he was with others who had fought in WWII, he would sometimes speak with them. First he always made sure we were not in the room, but one time he forgot I was there and I learned a bit about his experiences. He talked about the beachhead landing in Normandy. Dad said he was lucky he was in the second wave because hardly anyone survived the first wave. It was the second wave that established the beachhead.

He also shared about his experiences in the Battle of the Bulge. In this battle he was wounded in the back and captured by the Germans. He did not tell his captors that he was wounded because he figured they would not want to be encumbered by a wounded prisoner, and they would kill him. He walked for most of that day with

his wound. Later Dad and all those captured with him were interrogated, but they gave only their names, ranks, and serial numbers. Because the Germans wanted more information, they took Dad away and pointed a gun at his head. When he did not give them what they wanted, they pulled the trigger. He did not know if they were simply trying to scare the other men and had blanks in the gun, or if it misfired. When he was reunited with the rest of the men, they told him they had thought he was a goner. Eventually, he was put in a prison hospital, and he was freed ten days later as the Allies fought their way forward into Germany.

I once saw an article in the paper from that time. It said that Marcellus F. Schmeidler was missing in action. Usually that meant that a person was dead. It was a strange feeling to realize that if Dad had not returned, my sister, brothers, and I would not exist. It would also mean that my children, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandniece, and grandnephews would not exist. It makes a person think about how one life can make a major difference in the lives of others.



### IN MEMORIAM

Irene (Rupp) Leiker died on Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2010, at the Hays Good Samaritan Center.

She was born Feb. 6, 1917, in Hays to Joseph and Sophia (Pfannenstiel) Rupp. She married Clarence M. Leiker on Jan. 2, 1958. He preceded her in death Jan. 1, 1994.

Irene was instrumental in starting our Sunflower Chapter and was the first president. It is truly a sad note that she should die on the eve of our 30th year celebration, but she will certainly be with us in spirit on this day!

### President's Message:

This past March I was in Lincoln, Nebraska to participate in the AHSGR Board of Directors meetings. There is just too many things to tell you in such a little space so I will leave that for the meeting on Sunday, April 11. I hope that you will be able to make it. Our 30th anniversary as a chapter is approaching very quickly. Tickets for this event will be available at the meeting in April. All of our Sunflower Chapter members will get a special rate so be sure to see our Treasurer, Robert, at the meeting to get your tickets. This year our Chapter will be host to the 2010 Kansas Round-up of Chapters so be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, October 23.

*Kevin Rupp ~ President*

## WINDHOLZ FAMILY REUNION

Descendants of the Windholz family who came to Kansas from Herzog, Russia, will celebrate as part of the 2010 Midwest Deutsche Oktoberfest in Ellis County September 18-19. Their original ancestor was Anton Windholz, who departed from Regensburg, Germany for Graf, Russia, and was the only person with that surname. The first reunion was conducted in 1994 at the Ellis County Fairgrounds, and the committee in charge was encouraged to make plans for future gatherings. In 1997 a small reunion was held to honor Simon Windholz, who was born in Herzog and became part of the tragic uprooting of virtually all of the Volga Germans from their homes. During the Second World War he was drafted into the Russian Army and later captured by and inducted into the German Army. An escape from the train returning POWs to Russia enabled him to live as a free man in Germany along with his first cousin, Ferdinand Rome. The next major reunion was in 1999 at which a book was prepared on the genealogy and history of the family. This book has been given to the new Sunflower Chapter library.

The catalyst for the 2010 reunion came from a descendant of the Herzog Windholz family in Argentina. Carlos Lohrman has been in e-mail contact with Oren Windholz for eight years and suggested an international reunion of the family which led to the Oktoberfest plans. In addition to members of the Lohrman family, several Windholzes of Volga German heritage in Germany are interested in attending.

For prior reunions, the committee had a mailing list that by now is obsolete. In the new age of the internet, plans have been announced on a family website: [www.windholz.us](http://www.windholz.us) Along with advertising and contacts by representatives of each family branch, there is a lot of excitement building for the 2010 event. In addition to the website, reservations and further information is available by email at [pat6363@yahoo.com](mailto:pat6363@yahoo.com), by phone at 785-766-2933 and by postal mail at Windholz Reunion, PO Box 1083, Hays, KS 67601.

## John Jacob Staab and ‘Schmier Laura,’ Early Settlers of Katerinenstadt, Russia

*ED. NOTE: This article begins a continuing series about the family of Ambrose and Sophie Staab. It was written by a cousin of LeRoy Brungardt, who has obtained the author’s permission to share this genealogical material with us. Hopefully, it will inspire many of you not to put off writing your own family stories.*

### 1979

I was thirteen when my grandfather, Ambrose, died in 1951; thus, I lost my best chance to learn the true family history. Later, my father, Frank, Uncle John, my mother, Clara, and I sat around the kitchen table countless times talking about the past. But always, there was time, time, time. But one by one they slipped away: Frank in 1973; John in 1976; Clara in 1979. Now I find myself writing with a sense of urgency. My intention is to write a personal story from my point of view, blending documented facts with oral tradition.

### 2005

Yes, I did begin to assemble the family history in 1979, but time and life got away. I put it aside and now it is 2005. Since then, all of Ambrose and Sophia’s children are gone. My remaining source—my brother Gene—went into his own “twilight zone” when he had a massive stroke in 2001. Not a word has crossed his lips since then. Now I am nearly the last of my generation with any recollection of those wonderful, brave, dedicated souls who worked so long and hard to make us productive, successful people in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Here is the story of the Staabs and Karlins from our first known ancestors through Ambrose and Sophie’s children. It is my hope that those of you who read this will use it as an introduction to your own family’s history with this caveat from me: write it as it happens.

We agreed that Ambrose said the Staabs were from the *Schwartzwald* (Black Forest) area of Germany, but this cannot be documented. When Catherine, the Empress of Russia, invited Germans to settle in the Volga River region, they were

among many thousands who answered her call. Apparently, there was great unrest in Germany with constant wars and rumors of war. Catherine promised freedom from military service and taxation, a certain amount of land, and a place to live when they reached Russia. According to Ambrose and numerous other sources, the people suffered great hardships those first years because no shelters had been erected for them. In time, however, their German persistence paid off and they were reasonably comfortable. (Since the fall of communism, much more information has become available, and there are numerous books available for anyone who would like in-depth information.)

Our first known ancestors were John Jacob Staab and Laura Amich (or Oemich—spelling uncertain), grandparents to Ambrose. I do not know if they were born in Russia or Germany. Their part of Russia had been settled by Germans for 36 years when their son John Jacob was born. The Staabs settled in Katerinenstadt (later renamed Marx). It was a large trading town with both German and Russian residents who were Roman Catholic, Lutheran, and Russian Orthodox. That was not true of other Volga villages because Catherine believed that mixing religions caused dissent and forbade it.

Family tradition has always held that the Staabs were Roman Catholic and Laura Amich was Lutheran. So John and Laura raised their boys as Catholics and their girls as Lutherans. Ambrose’s niece, Sophie Staab Pelzel, said in 1976 that she was told the arrangement worked very well, but that the children argued religion among themselves!

Laura was known as “Schmier Laura.” She often was called upon to rub chests for colds and probably was able to massage.

John and Laura’s son, John Jacob, married Anna Maria Fahler. They had 14 children, with Ambrose being the third-

youngest, born in 1862. Tradition says that both of them were extremely strong, especially Anna Maria. They were said to lift barrels from wagons with great ease. Susanna Meir said in 1978 that she remembered both of them well. She said John Jacob was *grob*, which translates as “harsh” or “gruff.” Anna Maria was gentle. In her old age she was blind and would pat her grandchildren’s faces to identify them.

In Russia, John Jacob was a butcher and sausage maker by trade. (This knack was passed on to succeeding generations, and I well remember John passing judgment on sausage. “*Schmecht gut*” was the supreme compliment.) They also had a type of boarding house or inn for people who came to Katerinenstadt on business.

Each family was allotted a certain amount of land to farm, not own. Because there were five grown men in addition to their father—and the shared work and profit—they were financially comfortable. This Frank remembers from hearing Ambrose speak of it.

*(to be continued in the next newsletter)*

### Coming in 2010

April 11 - Spring Meeting  
Munjour, Ks.

May 28 - 30th Anniversary Bash  
Fairgrounds - Hays, Ks.

July 11 - Summer Picnic  
Munjour, Ks.

August 1-8 - AHSGR Convention  
Lincoln, Nebraska

September 12 - VFW Breakfast  
Hays, Ks.

Sept. 26 - Annual Banquet  
Munjour, Ks.

Oct. 23 - Ks. Round-Up of Chapters  
Hays, Ks.

December 12 - Christmas Potluck  
Munjour, Ks.

# German Origins Project

By Dick Kraus

The German Origins project of the AHSGR intends to provide, in one place, reference to all the information available regarding the pre-Russia origins of the first settler in any GR family line. This is a huge undertaking and may never be finished! But the project site in the AHSGR web site already is almost a half million words. Enormous progress has been made.

At the 2004 AHSGR Convention in Modesto, our Village Coordinators, having noted that much, often isolated, research was being done, decided it was time to try to assemble in one place everything reported or known about the origins of settlers in the German colonies in Russia. That way someone wanting to look into his or her family's pre-Russian history would not have to start from zero. Dick Kraus volunteered as editor to begin the project. He continues in that role today and is being provided good information by other Village Coordinators and AHSGR members.

You find the GO project by typing "AHSGR GO project" with no quotation marks into your Google search engine. Click on the first suggestion that comes up and you will be taken to the Project. Once there it is a very good idea to read all of the introductory material. You will soon see that the project is one huge alphabetical Index, so we often refer to it as the Index, or the GO Index. To find a family name or a place name, left click on the alpha section that will include that name,

then scroll down until you come to the name.

An entry in GO is very succinct and uses many abbreviations and cross references. Most of the abbreviations are explained at the beginning of each alpha sequence; if one is not there, look for it in the Index itself. A word in **bold** type is a cross-reference and has its own entry in the Index. To get full benefit of the Index, look up in the Index all the **bold** words you find in an entry that interests you. Statements in **red** have been proven in original, usually German, records. So look for your family in the GO Index. If your people settled on the Volga, currently there is a 9-1 chance that you will find reference to the original settler there. If you not only check that entry, but all its **bolded** cross-references, there is a 3-1 chance that either 1) you will learn something(s) you did not know, or 2) I will learn something if you tell me of any errors you find or about any information that you have which is missing from the entry.

The project is far too big to be done justice in these few words. I will be offering a much more in-depth demonstration of the Project at the upcoming AHSGR convention in Lincoln. Maybe I will see you there!

GOOD HUNTING,

Dick Kraus, GO Editor

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## KUHLBERG BOOK TO BE RELEASED



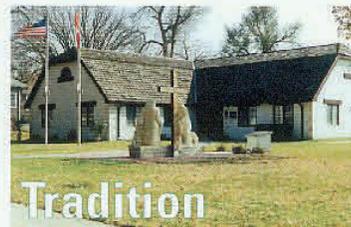
A long awaited book compiled by Dr. Igor Plevé will be available by A.H.S.G.R. in late spring, "*Lists of Colonists in Russia in 1766 – Ivan Kuhlberg's Reports*". The book will include 20,000+ colonists and ship, commander, and arrival information. Titular Counselor Ivan Kuhlberg compiled the "Kuhlberg Lists" as the colonists arrived in Oranienbaum. More than 20,000 persons, or 6,500 families are reflected in the Kuhlberg lists. They are compiled by ship, with an indication of the date of arrival in Russia, port of departure, the name of the ship, and the name of the skipper. The name and surname of the colonists are listed, the composition of the family (age of children was indicated), location from which they came, religious confession and place where they desired to settle.

The volume will be published in Saratov in English and consist of 550. As soon as A.H.S.G.R. acquires this book announcements will be made on the cost and shipping release dates. Watch our website, [www.ahsgr.org](http://www.ahsgr.org), for updated information on this exciting new book provided by A.H.S.G.R.

International Convention Of  
**Germans from Russia**

Embassy Suites - Lincoln, Nebraska - August 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010

# CELEBRATE!



Genealogy

Research Center

Storytelling

Tours

Bookstore

Welcome Night

Heritage Hall

Folklore

Informative Speakers

Sing-Alongs

**American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

**631 D Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1199**

**Visit the convention website at [www.ahsgr.org](http://www.ahsgr.org)**



# COME CELEBRATE 30 YEARS WITH US!!!

Come join the AHSGR Sunflower Chapter as we celebrate 30 years as a Chapter. Registration begins at 3:00 p.m. in the Schenk Building at the Ellis County Fairgrounds. Come early and have a beer and enjoy the fine music and look over displays.

Brent Mai, curator of the Center for Volga German Studies at Concordia University, Portland, Oregon, will be our guest speaker. Brent is a native Kansan with roots in the Sharon Springs area.

Our meal will consist of a traditional Volga German Wedding meal of Roast Beef, Chicken and noodles, Galuskies, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Tea/Coffee and of course a Birthday cake.

The evening will continue with a Memorial Service to "Unsere Leute" and celebrate life with the Wes Windholz Polka Band!!!



## Sunflower Chapter Hays, KS

May 28, 2010

Location: Schenk Building  
Ellis County 4-H Fair Grounds  
Tickets - \$20.00 a person

Tickets will be available at the April 11 meeting or you may pick them up from Kevin at the St. Joseph Parish Service Center, Leonard or Robert Taubert in Ellis.

### Schedule of Events

- 3:00 pm - 5:00pm: Registration Hospitality
- 5:00pm - 5:30pm: Speaker, Brent Mai  
"Documents from Russia: What's Available and Who's Got it".
- 5:45pm: History of the Chapter  
6:00pm: Traditional Volga German Wedding Dinner
- 7:00pm - 7:30pm: Speaker Brent Mai  
"The Volga Relief Society: Volga German Americans Rescue their Own in 1921"
- 7:45pm: Memorial Service
- 8:00pm - ?: Wes Windholz Polka Band

### SUNFLOWER CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

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- 2... The Last Time, pt. 2
- 3... The Last Time, pt. 3
- 3... New brochure promotes Ellis County
- 4... Marcellus F. Schmeidler: Missing in Action in WW II
- 4... In Memoriam: Irene (Rupp) Leiker
- 4... Windholz Family Reunion
- 4... President's Message
- 5... The Staabs & the Karlins, pt. 1
- 6... German Origins Project
- 6... Kuhlberg Book to be released
- 7... 2010 AHSGR Convention
- 8... Come Celebrate with us

*\*Proverbs at the bottom of the pages were taken from the book, "Heritage of Kansas" Vol. 9; #2 & 3*