



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Publisher: O.M. Windholz
windholz@bukovinasociety.org
Webmaster: Werner Zoglauer
zoglauer@bukovinasociety.org
Asst. Webmaster: Rebecca Hageman
Member Data Base: Rebecca Hageman

Editorial Committee:
Irmgard Ellingson
Irmgard@bukovinasociety.org
Rebecca Hageman
rhageman@bukovinasociety.org
Steve Parke
sparke@bukovinasociety.org

Web Site: www.bukovinasociety.org



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PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- Welcome to our newest life members Charlotte Albers of Grinnell, KS, # 201 and Gene Augustine, Denison, TX # 202.
- Society Vice President O. M. Windholz contributed German Christmas stories and customs for a daily polka program on two western Kansas radio stations.
- Werner Zoglauer has resigned as Webmaster after years of managing an award-winning site for the Bukovina Society. The Society thanks him for the many years of leadership, countless hours of work developing our website, and freely sharing years of extensive genealogical research that has helped other members to find their Bukovina roots and build many of the databases found on our website. His efforts have truly brought the Bukovina Society into the global world of the 21st century.
- In April 1988, before the Bukovina Society of the Americas was founded, Paul J. Polansky Schneller traveled to Bukovina on a research trip. He asked Irmgard Hein Ellingson, whose book *The Bukovina Germans in Kansas: A 200-Year History of Lutheran Swabians* if she would like anything from Bukovina. Her reply: "pictures of Illischestie." The photos that he took almost 24 years ago have now been posted online at HYPERLINK "<http://bukowinafreunde.de/>"http://bukowinafreunde.de [literally "Bukovina friends"]. To access these and other pictures, click at left on Fotogalerie / Mediathek, or go to HYPERLINK "<http://bukowinafreunde.de/mediathek.html>"<http://bukowinafreunde.de/mediathek.html> and scroll down to "Illischestie in 1988."
- George Glotzbach of the German Bohemian Society paid another visit to Ellis County on a trip to Califor-

nia. Although the time was short, Marcy McClelland and Eileen Goetz met with him and his wife Sharon. George, the GB and Gary Wiltscheck generously donated numerous newspapers, books and an audio CD on the Bohemian German dialect. These will be placed in the Society museum. We extend our sincere appreciation to them.

SOLVING A 100 YEAR OLD AUGUSTINE FAMILY MYSTERY

By: Chad Augustine

"What happened to her body? What happened to her little body? We gave two men some money and her little body and never saw her again. Oh, what did they do with her little body?" Anna Augustine worried over those questions until the day she died. She never found out the answers. So, I set out to find the answers to those questions.

Michael and Anna (Adelsberger) Augustine came to America from Austria on June 5, 1902 aboard the S.S. Chemnitz. They arrived in Baltimore on June 19, 1902. According to the ships manifest, the couple had 5 children with them. When they arrived in Ellis, Kansas the next week, they only had four children. One-year-old Mary had died along the way. Although aware of this story, all I knew was that she most likely died in Chicago, Illinois.

I started my search by searching for Chicago death records. I came across a very handy website for any genealogist, www.deathindexes.com. Simply by clicking the state I wanted, Illinois, then clicking the Chicago & Cook

County death records link. I was guided right into the site. I searched for Mary Augustin in 1902. There was only one result and I clicked it. Staring me in the face was Mary's death record. It was something that only a couple of people have seen in over a hundred years! The information on the death record was amazing. She died on June 21, 1902 around 1 p.m. Not only did I now know when she died, I also noted that it took two days by train for them to get from Baltimore to Chicago. The death record said that she died in the Union Station depot of cholera. And finally, my great grandmother's final question was answered as well: she was buried in St. Boniface cemetery.

My quest led me to do a Google search for St. Boniface cemetery, and I found the Chicago Catholic Cemeteries website. I was able to submit a request to them for the location of her grave. I received a reply that a Maria Augustin was buried in Lot 22, Block 22, Section B on June 23, 1902. I had to assume that Maria and Mary are the same person.

Mary Augustin Death Record

The final stop on my journey was www.findagrave.com. This website is a must for anyone who is looking for a grave, and it is especially useful for finding graves in other areas. And, it is free to join. I created a page for Mary's grave location and submitted a request for a volunteer to locate her grave and take some pictures for me. By the next morning, I had an email from a lady in Chicago who volunteered to take pictures of her grave for me. A few weeks later, I received some bad news from her. I was informed me that she could not find Mary's grave. She went so far as to contact the cemetery to help her locate it. They said it no longer exists. I did a search to see why the grave no longer existed and found an online article about term graves. It turns out that people who couldn't afford perpetual, or lifetime graves, could purchase a term grave. The length of time was usually 20-25 years at which time the headstone was removed and the gravesite was resold.

I contacted the St. Boniface cemetery once again, hoping to find out where the grave used to be and who actually had

her buried. I was told no records existed for where the grave is now, and they didn't keep records before 1908. I did find out that the cemetery is just a few blocks from Lake Michigan and is near Wrigley Field, and also that the cemetery is named for Saint Boniface who was known as "The Apostle of Germany."

So, after not knowing for 109 years, the mystery of Mary's death is solved. But Michael, Anna, and their other twelve children all died without ever knowing the final fate and resting place of their daughter and sister Mary.

BUKOVINA TOUR

By: Zita Johana Watzlawik

Last September, the tour I made to Bukovina was very emotional for me because I met almost 40 descendants who had the same ancestral home as me. I was especially excited about visiting Augustendorf where my grandparents and my father were born. The tour was excellent, covering five countries and the former Bukovina villages in 10 days! Thanks, Lucian Geier, Mary Scheinost and Carola Neidhart! From these wonderful people I learned much of my family history. In the library of the Bukovina Institute in Augsburg, Carola gave us information and a list of resources noting records of our ancestors, although only available in the German language.



Restored school building in Augustendorf in the former Bukovina.

I was very lucky to find myself on this journey with Ingrid Weniger, from Canada, whose great grandparents, grandparents and mother were born in Augustendorf. She speaks German and English and helped me. My language is Spanish with limited English. Ingrid provided me with important information about families in Augustendorf. I read this material carefully and found that our grandparents were

neighbors. In the school class list of 1913, Ingrid's two great uncles were listed as classmates of my uncles Anton and Julius and my father Ludwig, who was five years old at that time. Ingrid's material showed seven Watzlawik names in Augustendorf, one of whom was my uncle Anton.

In the cemetery at Radautz, I found seven Watzlawik grave-stones. I am investigating their connection to my grandfather Johans Watzlawik. It is hard to believe this is all true.

BUKOVINA HERITAGE TRIP 2011

By: Roma Kutzik

Ed. Note: Bukovina Society member Roma Kutzik journeyed to her ancestral homeland with the Bukowina-Institut of Augsburg, Germany in September 2011 and wrote a report to the Society headquarters on December 12, 2011.

Thank you for your help in placing me in contact with the Bukowina Institut! Our 2011 trip to Bukovina, the home of our heritage, was a success in so many ways.

Our trip began in Bavaria, and covered parts of Germany, Austria, Hungary, Romania and the Ukraine. We visited Eisenau (Prisaca Dornei), the Kutzik family's hometown in Bukovina, which was once part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and is now part of Romania. As we looked out across the beautiful vistas in the countryside, we learned about our heritage from our fellow travelers and tour guides, Herr Geier and Caroline and Mary Scheinost of the Bukowina Institut in Augsburg, Germany, as well as the people whom we met.

My grandfather Johann Kutzik was schooled as a tailor in Radautz, Bukovina. He immigrated to the U.S. before World War I, in 1908. My dad, Reinhart Michael Kutzik, age 19 years, followed in 1920 and in 1923, my grandmother Ludwina Munster Kutzik came with her two girls, Elizabeth and Gertrude.

I walked many miles and learned that there is indeed evidence of Kutzik family history. The white Evangelical (Lutheran) church with its tall steeple, cherished by our grandmother Ludwina, still stands on the hill in Jakobeny [now Iacobeni]. Family records of marriages, deaths, births, and baptisms were kept there and in the cemetery we were able to find family names including Schmegner, Tomascheck, and Wagner.

I met a distant relative, Renate Gschwendtner, granddaughter of the late Gisela Oberländer, who furnished me with

details of church records. I was also delighted to learn that our family had participated in their community as carpenters, hammer-smiths, and shoemakers as well as tailors.

One of my favorite sites was St. Nicholas, the wooden church at Bogdan Voda of Maramures in northern Romania. It took my breath away with its design, artistry, and craftsmanship! In Bukovina, we visited the Voronetz and Moldovitz painted churches, surrounded by monasteries, which were a gift of Stephen III (also called "the Great") to the Bukovina people in the 15th and 16th centuries. Beautifully designed with painted frescoes of Bible stories, they supplied teaching to illiterate community members as well as the women who were not allowed to enter. Sermons were for the men; women often stayed outside, looked at the pictures, and listened.

I loved Mozart's scenic Salzburg, Augsburg, Luther's church, the Rathaus (city hall), the shops and town square as well as Oktoberfest in Munich, four awesome days in Berlin, the Dom (cathedral), Budapest and Vienna and Chernivtsy [Czernowitz] with its beautiful university, the museums and other buildings, great food, and wonderful company.

Our experience included so many sights and even more learning than I can list. I will always remember the Bukovina horses with their red tassels, the cemeteries, the food, the haystacks, the roads, the personality revealed in the clothing people wore and the buildings of Berlin, Vienna, Budapest, Cluj Napoca [in northwestern Romania], and Chernivtsy as well as the sweet homes nestled in the Carpathian hillside, and, of course, Eisenau.

ARGENTINE CONNECTION: A SECOND STORY

By: O. M. Windholz



*Reunion of Augustendorf descendants
living in Buenos Aires*

In the June 2011 issue of the Newsletter, I wrote of my contact with Volga German cousins in Argentina. In the article it was noted that Society member Zita Watzlawik lived in Buenos Aires, her father having emigrated from Bukovina in 1924. I put my cousin Carlos Lohrmann in contact with Zita and they planned to meet during her next trip to Argentina. Zita met with her large family in Buenos Aires in August 2011 to present her work on the Bukovina Germans in Argentina for which a book is planned. Carlos and his daughter Camila attended the events and had a wonderful first meeting with Zita and her family.



Johana Watzlawik meeting with Carlos Lohrmann and his daughter Camila.

Carlos is also doing extensive work on the Volga German history of Argentina, which traces back 16 generations. His paternal ancestry through his father Adolfo Windholz Lohrmann goes back to Herzog, Russia where my great grandfather was born and raised before coming to Kansas.

Zita informed her family of the plans to tour Bukovina (see story elsewhere in this issue), particularly a visit to their ancestral village. She gathered more information and photos while in Argentina for her pending book.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Der Südostdeutsche, or SOD, is the newspaper published by our sister organization, the Bukowina-Institut in Augsburg, Germany. Our colleague Luzian Geier edits it. The Bukovina Society of the Americas is pleased to share highlights from two recent issues with our English-speaking readers.

November and December 2011

The second of two study/research trips hosted by the Bukowina-Institut in 2011 took place in September. The November and December issue of SOD featured the second and third installment of the travel report titled, *Eine wunderschöne Studien- und Erlebnisreise, zu den Wurzeln und auf Spurensuche in beiden Gebieten der Bukowina*, by Luzian Geier of the Bukowina-Institut [note: the first part was published in the October 2011 SOD issue and was cited in the last issue of our newsletter]. Twenty Canadians and Americans, including an Argentinean living in the US, joined eleven Germans for the two-week trip to parts of Bukovina now located in the Suceava judetul (county) of Romania and the Chernivtsy oblast (district) of Ukraine. Accompanying them as their interpreter and translator was a Swiss woman with American citizenship and Bukovina roots.

This segment begins with the group's arrival in Radautz in the Suceava County. From there, they set off in various small groups to visit neighboring villages. These were positive experiences, although it was initially painful for members of the generation that left Bukovina. Eighty-nine year old Eduard Wolf and his son Gerhard were saddened to find that the village of his childhood and youth was no longer as he remembered it.

Equally satisfactory were visits and conversations with the residents of Satulmare, where no gravestones remain in the Evangelical [Lutheran] cemetery and the Catholic Church no longer stands. In spite of language limitations, group members enjoyed their visits in the monastery and in Putna, Karlsberg (Gura Putnei), and Fürstenthal, thanks to the German- and/or English-speaking students from Radautz who accompanied them.

Karlsberg, located in the northern part of the Suceava district, was once a central settlement of Bohemian Germans in southern Bukovina, as was Alt-Hütte. In 1811, a number of families were shifted to neighboring communities, from which they took part in establishing Augustendorf in 1850 and other villages. The Waclawik / Watzlawik group members, for example, discovered family graves in Radautz but in some of the trip's most moving moments, were also surprised to encounter people from branches of their family. In addition, group members discovered that they were distantly related with one another although they were previously unaware of it.

The group's time in Romanian Bukovina concluded with a program and reception celebrating of the 20th anniversary of the Democratic Forum of the Germans in Southern Bukovina in the German House in Radautz. On Sunday

morning, the group attended the German-language mass at the Catholic Church in Radautz before heading north to Sereth, the first capital of the Moldavian principality on the present Romanian – Ukrainian border. Here again the group fanned out in search of their individual roots. Only a short time was spent in the Roman Catholic Church because mass was about to begin but it was apparent that services there and in the smaller Orthodox church (formerly the Evangelical Lutheran church) were well attended. The visit to the former cemetery, predominately German Catholic, lasted longer because it spans 200 years, is a rich source of information for family researchers, and is also fairly well maintained (see photos in the October SOD).

The border crossing from Romania into the Ukraine was uncomplicated, allowing the group to proceed to Chernivtsi (Czernowitz), the old provincial capital and present administrative seat of the Ukrainian oblast. Few group members had previously visited the city so many sites were visited, including the Emperor Franz Joseph memorial, the Jesuit church, the Paul Celan memorial, the university (the former archbishop's residence), and the city's historical and significant cemeteries.

The third installment of the report, published in the December issue of the SOD, takes the group from Czernowitz to the large, increasingly unkempt cemetery at Rosch, the oldest German settlement in Bukovina and now a Czernowitz suburb. Most Rosch people were Evangelical Lutheran; the Catholic Church near the cemetery was only completed after the 1940 resettlement of Germans to the Reich.

Then the group made its way over increasingly poor roads to Storojinet, where a German settlement was formed in 1850. The town's well-known silhouette is that of its three church towers: Orthodox, Evangelical Lutheran, and Roman Catholic. About a decade ago, the Evangelical Lutheran church building was turned over to a Ukrainian Baptist congregation, which has restored it and its environs. Unfortunately the group could not locate the former German cemetery here.

Next they went to Neu-Jadowa, the youngest of the German daughter communities in Bukovina, once composed of roughly equal numbers of Lutherans and Catholics. It seems that the cemetery is no longer recognized by its present inhabitants; only one legible gravestone was found in the overgrown meter-high blackberry brambles and dog roses (Heckenrosen). Beyond the former German cemetery were a few newer Polish graves and a monument for the Jews murdered here. History is found in such proximity here but only the graves testify to it.

With more hopeful expectations, the group made their way to Augustendorf/Banila along the worst stretch of road they had yet encountered. The Catholic Church, built in 1907, has become Polish and has been renovated but the old school appears to have exceeded its usefulness. The cemetery was the big disappointment for the group participants, including those seeking Watzlawik ancestors. Although the premises are maintained and accessible, practically all the gravestones are gone. Upon only one could a name, "Josef Hasenkopf," be read.

The group crossed the border back into Romania, spending the night at Suceava before visiting Mitoka Dragomirna the next day. Here the village's four churches have a well-tended community cemetery with many old gravestones that are still in good condition.

The travelers made their way via Dorna Vatra, the Borgo-Pass, Cluj-Napoca (Klausenburg), and Budapest back to Munich, thereby completing their 3700-kilometer [2300 mile] trip.

The November and December issues of SOD include the two parts of a separate travel report titled *Unsere Czernowitz-Fahrt* in August 2011 by Reinhold Czarny. He described six days in Czernowitz, with particular reference to the condition of the city's cemeteries, the Stadtarchiv (city archives housed in the former the Herz-Jesu Kirche or Sacred Heart Church), and the university, and then a shorter visit to Romanian Bukovina including Radautz and outlying villages in which his ancestors lived.

A final note: those interested in Bukovina, its history, and its people will be interested in a new 800-page work, *Bibliographie zur Kultur und Landeskunde der Bukowina 1996-1999* [bibliography of Bukovina culture and tradition, 1996-1999] prepared by Dr. Erich Beck and published by Harrassowitz Verlag Wiesbaden in August 2010. The volume's ISBN number is 978-3-447-06293-0.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions at:
Irmgard@bukovinasociety.org

BUKOVINA AND ITS BUKOVINA GERMANS

Die Bukowina und ihre Buchenlanddeutschen

By: Willi Kosiul

Translated by: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Dear Bukovina friends and those interested in Bukovina,

As a Bukovina German of the Erlebnisgeneration, or the generation who personally experienced Bukovina, the homeland of my ancestors and also of my own childhood has never released me. This has led to the fact that for the last 20 years, I have intensively occupied myself in archival research and with study of the comprehensive literature concerning Bukovina, in order to learn more about the region. This work has so fascinated me that a number of books have been produced. My basic approach was and remains this: to learn everything about the historical development and the people of Bukovina, from its origin until the resettlement of the Germans. Therefore one does not just get a cursory overview from my work but will rather obtain new insights, new truths. It was also important for me to compare various publications about the former crown land and its Bukovina Germans with one another to express everything in the most truthful and understandable manner.

So my books are interesting not only for Bukovina people and their descendants, but also for every person who is interested in history and especially in the history of Bukovina. Bukovina lies on the eastern curve of the Carpathian forests. Many peaceful people, including the Germans, lived together there with their own traditions, their interesting cultural and successful economic development.

A great deal of interesting and important information, as well as many pictures and scans of original documents, contributed to the more than 600 pages in the two volumes. Fortunately the Reimo Verlag, located at Am Mitterfeld 3 in D-85445 Oberding, Germany, was prepared to publish these two books with the title „Die Bukowina und ihre Buchenlanddeutschen“ (Bukovina and its Bukovina Germans) as well as another book, „Ortsgeschichten aus der Bukowina“ (Village Histories from Bukovina), which is still being prepared. Herr Dr. Valentin Reitmajer, who operates the Reimo Verlag with his wife, is known to many as the publisher of interesting books in addition to being a Bukovina descendant who is well acquainted with the region. The first volume appeared at the end of 2011. The second volume will follow in the beginning of 2012. The books may be ordered online at [HYPERLINK “ http://www.reitmajer-](http://www.reitmajer-verlag.de/)

<http://www.reitmajer-verlag.de/> Reimo Verlag Dr. Valentin Reitmajer, Am Mitterfeld 3, 85445 Oberding, Tel: 08122/4799715 oder 7990, Fax: 08122/4799714, E-Mail: reimo_verlag@gmx.de at a cost of 51,90 Euro per volume.

Volume I: The Origins of Moldavian Bukovina in 1343 until the End of the Austrian Monarchy in 1918

Bukovina ...

- until 1774 – a part of the principality of Moldavia
- from 1774 until 1786 – under Austrian military administration
- from 1787 until 1849 – a county within the [Austrian] Kingdom of Galicia
- beginning in 1774 - immigration of the Germans in Austrian Bukowina
- from 1849 until 1918 – a duchy of the Austrian monarchy

Volume II: The Romanian Bukovina from 1918 until 1940 and the Resettlement of the Bukovina Germans in the German Reich in 1940

- annexation of Austrian Bukovina to the Kingdom of Romania in 1918 until 1940
- life of the Bukovina Germans as a national minority under Romanian rule
- the resettlement of Bukovina Germans in the German Reich in 1940
- camp life in the German Reich, the processing as well as naturalized citizenship and settlement
- flight of the Bukovina Germans in 1945 from the eastern settlement regions toward the west

An additional book titled „Ortsgeschichten aus der Bukowina“ or Village Histories from Bukovina is being prepared for 2012.

The emphasis in this book is detailed information about various cities as well as villages and communities with at least 100 German citizens in Bukovina.

From the establishment to the resettlement. With mention of the founding families and an account of the land and people.

In the process of writing the book, I have experienced much joy, which the reader will discover and share.

Willi Kosiul, Brodaer Str. 1 a, 17033 Neubrandenburg –
Telefon 0395/5824772

My Brief Biography

I was born in Czudyn in northern Bukovina in 1930, and grew up in a multi-national family. My father was Polish and German, and my mother had German, Polish, Slovakian, and Moldavian ancestry. We lived peacefully with many nationalities, although the national orientation had long since ceased to have a German orientation. Therefore I had to attend the Romanian primary school from 1937 to 1940.

The resettlement at the end of 1940 opened the path to an unknown future for me and for all Bukovina Germans. I was just 10 years old as the unforeseen odyssey began.

Life in various resettlement camps under National Socialist administration was particularly difficult for my mother and her three children because of her multi-national background. My father and my oldest brother remained in Bukovina. Of our eight siblings, four died in Bukovina in the meantime. It was only in March 1943 that we were resettled on a farm in Oberschlesien, or Upper Silesia. Here I was able to attend the German primary school, which I had to leave only two years later with the beginning of the flight from the Soviets. My oldest brother (of those who had resettled with me) had died in battle in Russia in the meantime. In the chaos of the advancing eastern front, I fled alone as a 15-year-old with strangers on a horse-drawn wagon. Weeks later, I found my mother and sister again. Upon arrival in Schwarzenberg in the Erzgebirge (Harz Mountains), the local Soviet commandant ordered us back to Bukovina.

After various stops, I was interned in the „Deutschen Haus“ [German House] in Radautz on bread and water rations, awaiting deportation to a Soviet military camp for forced labor with my mother in February 1946. Fortunately the journey did not take us to Siberia, but rather to Riesa by Leipzig. After some additional stops, we settled in Mecklenburg. In the meantime, my sister had arrived by her husband in Chemnitz. In Mecklenburg, I was able to obtain an administrative job in spite of my poor schooling. I started a family and my mother lived with us until the end of her life. My desire for advancement took me to evening school, where I repeated the school examinations, improved my general knowledge, and earned additional qualifications. I carried my love for my lost homeland Bukovina deep in my heart. I have visited Bukovina four times and to this day maintain contact with my relatives there. After intensive archival research and through study of the literature pertaining to Bukovina, I have prepared two comprehensive books under the title „Die Bukowina und ihre Buchenlanddeutschen“

[Bukovina and its Bukovina Germans] for my fellow countrymen and -women, their descendants, and for all who are interested in the history of Bukovina. An additional book with the title „Ortsgeschichten aus der Bukowina“ [Village Histories from Bukovina] is being prepared and will appear in 2012. Writing this book afforded me with great joy because I have learned so much more about the establishment, the life, and the resettlement of our people in Bukovina.

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