



# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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

Vol. 27, No. 1 March, 2017

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
Annual \$15.00

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## SOCIETY NEWS & EVENTS

- Program of events and registration form in this newsletter. Register by postal mail or email to: [pat6363@yahoo.com](mailto:pat6363@yahoo.com)
- The Bohemian Association of New Zealand celebrated the 150 years since the arrival of the ship "Liverpool" in Auckland. They have an interesting website with photos, history, list of settlers and more. See at: [bohemianassociation.wordpress.com](http://bohemianassociation.wordpress.com)
- We express thanks to *Haus Des Deutschen Ostens* and authors Alfred Wanza and Emilian Fedorowytsh for the donation of a new book to the Society archives, *Bukowinafreunde*. In several parts of the book, the Bukovina Society and its leadership are given descriptive and complimentary coverage.
- A group of Bukovinians in Bavaria whose homeland was Poiana Micului (formerly Buchenhain) meet monthly. In their latest report by Elisabeth Heberger and her daughter Viola, in the December 2016 issue of *Der Sudostdeutsche* on their November *Bukowina-Stammtisch*. They sang in memory of Anni Hartinger, one of their group who died in June 2016. During a trip to the former Buchenhain, Anni sang the Ave Maria in the church. They meet occasionally in Kirchdorf/Julbach at the memorial chapel and as the year was coming to an end, reflected on the Bukovina contemporaries, survivors and descendants. Thanks were given for the valuable collaboration with the American Bukovina friends in the Bukovina Society who collaborate with Anni and Klaus Häusler.
- Oscar Honas, age 80, of Ellis, passed away Friday, February 10, 2017 at Trego Lemke Long Term Care in WaKeeney, Kansas. He was born May 27, 1936 in Ellis, Kansas to Ed and Agnes (Steckline) Honas. He graduated from Ellis High School in 1954. On May 9,

1955 he married Betty (Gaschler) in Ellis, Kansas.

- Carol Keller, 80, passed away January 31, 2017. Her husband Arthur A. Keller preceded her in death

## ANNUAL SOCIETY MEETING

The annual meeting of the Bukovina Society of the Americas, Inc., a Kansas not for profit corporation has been set for September 9, 2017, at 4:00 p.m. during Bukovinafest at Thirsty's Banquet Room, 2704 Vine St., Hays, Ks.

## JOSEPH FLAX APPOINTED TO USAFA

A young man, descended from one of the pioneer Bohemian German families from Bukovina to Ellis, Kansas, received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs. Joseph is the son of Tim and Michele Flax and will graduate in May from Thomas More Prep - Marian in Hays, Ks. He signed to play football for the Academy and looks forward to serving his country.

Coach Jason Cauley, an Army veteran, continued to inspire him to realize his potential from game to game. At the ceremony Cauley said, "I think the sky's the limit for Joe." A visit to the Academy sold Joseph after also considering his local Ft. Hays State University. He noted "the academics are very vigorous, but it's worth it. The Hays Daily News published a feature on the event, which occurred during Catholic Schools week in the Salina Diocese of Kansas.

## BUKOVINA GERMANS IN ELLIS VFW CELEBRATION

An interesting article was published in the February 23, 2017 issue of the *Ellis Review*. The weekly publication has been a supporter of the Bukovina Society since its founding in 1989 and has published numerous articles on our heritage. Cheryl Kinderknecht wrote a feature on the 70th Anniversary of the Ellis Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9139. She noted that only two of the original charter members are still living and active. Wilbert Keller, 89, and Ernest Zachman, 98, were honored at a banquet on February 25th where they received 70-year membership pins. Keller recalled, "When we came home from service, I think it was Eddie Neuburger, went around and got a hold of every veteran and told us what they were doing." Many family picnics, dancing and story telling followed through the years.

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### JOHANN AUGUSTIN FAMILY REUNION

The first Johann Augustin Family Reunion to be held in the Bohemian Forest will take place September 30 - October 3, 2017 in Hamry na Sumavi, Czech Republic.

Almost all persons from Bukovina with the Augustin surname in their family tree have the common ancestor of Johann Augustin (1770 - 1839). Johann migrated with his wife Anna Maria Bauer and his sons Mathias, Josef and Laurenz from the Bohemian Forest to Bukovina in 1803. Details about the findings of Johann's origins has been previously published in the June 2011 Bukovina Society of the Americas Newsletter, Vol. 21, No. 2.

The reunion is to be held in the very place where Johann was born and lived before his emigration. It is located at the foot of the Osser Mountain, on the German boarder in the Czech community of Hammern in the Bohemian Forest (Hamry na Sumavi).

The program will be presented in German. It will include presentations, side trips, as well as free time for making and renewing acquaintances. The program is tentatively set to encompass the earliest traces of the Augustin family in Bohemia, the history of Hammern, the history of the glass huts in the area, the immigration into Bukovina and the whole world, the resettlement in the German Reich, etc. In addition, outings will be made to the village of Hammern and to see the relics of the glass huts where Johann Augustin worked until his migration.

This is the first reunion for the Johann Augustin family. We hope that it will lay the foundation for a long

lasting tradition that will grow to be larger and include more members of our international family.

Program being organized by Michael Augustin - miau57@yahoo.de

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### MEMORIES OF VISIT TO ELLIS

Anni and Klaus Häusler wrote about their visit in June of 2016 to Kansas where she was able to meet cousins for the first time, most who have roots in her birthplace of Poiana Micului. One of her first stops was at the St. Mary's Church cemetery to visit the grave of Ignatz Lang. The couple has returned to the former Bukovina, now a part of Romania, and were pleased to meet an Ellis family from Romania. Cristina and Akos (Ben) Benecze and their three children were at the receptions for the Häuslers in Ellis. They appreciated the numerous events planned for them and very soon determined to return for Bukovinafeast 2017. Norma Lang hosted a potluck for family and friends at her farm home at the end of a pleasant week. They send greetings to all their new Bukovina cousins and friends and look forward to the fest in September.

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### THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN CZERNOWITZ

By: Ekkehart Lebouton

Original publication: "Die Evangelische Kirche in Czernowitz." *Czernowitz: Eine Stadt im Waldel der Zeit mit besonderer Berücksichtigung ihres deutschen kulturellen Lebens*. Eds. Irma Bornemann, Paula Tiefenthaler and Rudolf Wagner. Trans. and ed. by Sophie A. Welisch, (Munich/Stuttgart: Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen, 1988), pp. 84-88.

Temporary episodes in the Lutheran life of Bukovina included the establishment of a mint in Gartenberg (later called Sadagura) in about 1770 by a Russia German General Peter von Gartenberg with the aid of Lutheran-German workers and the settlement of Lutheran cloth makers in St. Philippen near Prelipcze on the Dniester by Count August von Poniatowski, the father of the last Polish king.

But only after the acquisition of Bukovina by Austria did the settlement of the land by German farmers, artisans and officials and therewith also the read Lutheran life in Czernowitz develop.

Initially a small Swabian-Lutheran community emerged in the suburb of Rosch to which artisans and officials from Czernowitz joined. Thereupon Rosch remained the point of crystallization of Lutheran life in the provincial capital of Czernowitz.

This was already the case in 1786 when pastor Himesch from the Galician parish of Zaleszczyki on the Dniester added to his tasks the pastoral care of the new community of Czernowitz-Rosch, which were then placed under the direction of pastor Daniel Hübel, whose seat was in Milleschoutz, a Bukovina-Lutheran community. Pastor Hübel was also the composer of a church song, the first German poetical work on Bukovinian soil.

The establishment of a Lutheran parish community only took place on January 30, 1797. Its pastor was Philipp Kern. He was followed in 1816 by Johann Szutor, one year later by Ernst Neuper, and between 1820 and 1845 by Christian Peters.

But it was not until his successor Johann Gottlieb Jenkner of Dornfeld in Galicia took over that the community experienced an upswing. At his side as curator was Camillo, Knight von Alth, after whom a street was also named, on which the Protestant community center stood. Jenkner, who was also chairman (*Senior*) of the Galician-Bukovinian seniority, died in 1876. For a time the applicant Peter Hodel administered the community; in 1877 Wilhelm Budaker became the pastor, followed by Josef Fronius of Mediasch in Transylvania, the actual organizer of the parish community and the Bukovina church district.

For a long time private homes in the Jewish quarter served as church and parish house. In 1809 the Wild brewery house on Veteran Street. In 1814 the old Catholic wooden church was bought.

Then the city of made available a plot of land between Alt Street and University Street, where the old church was built. In the meantime Chairman Jenkner took the initiative to construct a new church and with the help of the Gustav Adolf Association; this church was consecrated in 1849 by Dr. Theodor Haase. The Association even approved the financing of the tower and bells.

In 1853 the new elementary school was opened with Friedrich Mayer, born in Dornfeld, Galicia, appointed as rector. Rector Mayer and his successors appointed a number of significant leaders in the community. Chairman Jenkner was appointed school district inspector.

In the meantime Czernowitz emerged as the capital city of the newly established crown land of Bukovina. A series of imposing buildings embellished the city. The crowning glory was the founding of the Francis Joseph University (1875), next to the Lutheran community center, which by this time consisted of an attractive church with choir loft and organ, a roomy parish house with garden, school, living quarters for the teachers and cemetery.

Chairman Josef Fronius, as Transylvanian Saxon, was used to having the church be the center of public life and in

this manner to extend beyond the confines of the religious sphere. Since he was an especially effective speaker, he did not only participate in the greeting of Emperor Francis Joseph and Crown Prince Rudolf, but also at other popular events. He enlarged the school system, founded a number of organizations, e.g., in 1897 the "Lutheran Gustav Adolf Association" and the "Lutheran Women's Club" directed by Mrs. Fronius and then by Marie von Alth or Erwine Pompe. Later it was led by Isa Arz, Luise von Duesterberg, Marie Hoffmann, Luise von Minkucz, Hilde Herrmann, Berta Hubich and finally by senior teacher Erna Mayer. These associations concerned themselves with activities including the orphanage and sponsored annual Christmas programs and clothing drives for poor school children. Worthy of mention are the Berlin Children's Action after the First World War and various programs of all sorts.

The dissolution of the Dual Monarchy in 1918 also brought about a complete reorientation in religious affairs. Yet thanks to the decades'-old work of chairman Fronius the Lutheran Church and with it the Czernowitz ethnic group entered the Romanian era as a consolidated entity.

Most of the pastors and teachers came from Galicia or Transylvania, some also from Germany. Until the end of the First World War Bukovina established a seniority (*Seniorat*) within the framework of the Galician superintendency of Biala under the Lutheran Upper Consistory (*Oberkirchenrat*) in Vienna.

The presbytery of Czernowitz prided itself on attracting fine and respected pastors who usually also served as members of the seniority.

After the debacle of 1918 only a portion of the war refugees returned to Czernowitz although the community members of the suburb of Rosch, who constituted half of all the faithful, remained, thus enabling the consolidation of community life.

Annexation by Romania in March of 1918 also brought new organizational revisions for the church. The connection to Galicia and Austrian Silesia (Bielitz-Biala) and therewith to the Lutheran Upper Consistory was severed. Not only was the Lutheran church a Diaspora, as in old Austria, but also as a church consisting of Germans, it belonged to this minority. When later Bucharest centralism with its Romanization measures began to be enforced, the church schools were affected. It was the principle task of the German parliamentarians (Alfred Kohlruss and Alois Lebouton) to defend the maintenance of the schools. They united in this cause with the Lutheran Transylvania Saxons. Discussions took place at the regional church gathering in Hermannstadt (Sibiu) in 1920 attended by three delegates from the Czernowitz Presbytery (city pastor Viktor Glondys and later bishop in Hermannstadt. Alois Lebouton and rector Fritz Jenkner). Here the union of the Bukovina

ecclesiastical district and the newly constituted “Lutheran Regional Church A.B. of Greater Romania” was carried out.

In the following years the Lutheran Church in Czernowitz was influenced by the dynamic personality of its city pastor, Dr. Glondys, to whom Orthodox theology students as part of their curriculum were often sent and whose sermons were even attended by many Jews. The Orthodox Archbishop Repta often sought advice from Glondys, since relations with the Orthodox Church were very good.

The work was very demanding in that a large area of northern Bukovina belonged to the Czernowitz parish community. In addition religious instructions had to be offered in all schools. Czernowitz controlled even at that time a very broad spectrum in the further development of the schools. Before the First World War the parish included 6,200 people after which there were only 5,100. Considerable attendance at vespers with up to 1,200 participants was no rarity.

The work of the administrators and the presbytery deserves special mention. At that time under discussion Glondys was the father-in-law of counsel and administrator Hans Mayer. The Seniority then passed to the city of Radautz and to Senior Martin Decker.

Glondys became so well known in Transylvania that the large community of Kronstadt (Braşov) that in 1922 he was appointed to serve in the Black Church, where he later became vicar to the bishop and in 1932 bishop in Hermannstadt.

He was succeeded by the Transylvanian Pastor Dr. Wilhelm Arz, who became even more involved in ethnic activities, served on the directorate of the German Ethnic Council (*Deutscher Volksrat*) and as deputy chairman of the German Cultural Society (*Deutscher Kulturverein*).

At this time financial difficulties began to beset the community. With the assistance of a new presbytery under the direction of the secretary of the chamber of commerce Dr. Friedrich Decker, the schoolteachers (rector Ernst Mayer and headmaster Christian Müller), as well as a number of presbyters (Mrs. Depner, Mrs. Kittel, *et al.*) a strong foundation could again be laid. Social work became paramount with the establishment and maintenance of an orphanage association one of its achievements.

A highpoint in ecclesiastical life was the general church visitation by Bishop Friedrich Teutsch in 1924, who was greeted by all German associations also including the Orthodox Archbishop, the Catholic Vicar General, Minister, and other notables.

In 1927 the parish community opened a girls' secondary school, engaged a choirmaster and music director (Wuttke

from Bistritz) and until the resettlement carried on a very active life.

Above all, until the 1940 resettlement curator Adam Hodel distinguished himself by his prudent leadership of the community: first with city pastor Alfred Herrmann (later bishop vicar in Hermannstadt) and, after a short interim with deacon August Hargesheimer, finally with city preacher Herbert Rückemann.

In 1927 a new orphanage was built, opened a Lutheran kindergarten in Rosch in 1924, as well as one in Station-Volksgarten and in Kaliczanka (a suburb of Czernowitz). A special development was also the consecration of an assembly room and gymnasium in 1930 by master builder Franz Hubich and Friedrich Gerber in which many events could be held.

The second general ecclesiastical visitation by Bishop Viktor Glondys in 1934 marked the second highpoint at which all church dignitaries responded in their cult language: Greek, Latin and Hebrew.

Closely tied to the history of the Czernowitz community is also the beloved city preacher Rückemann, who led the parish in the last years during the parish vacancy. The recent death in Bamberg of preacher teacher Alfred Schemmel had organized a Lutheran youth group and sponsored many informational programs.

The last membership meeting of the Gustav Adolf Association took place in Czernowitz On July 1-2, 1939 with the performance of von Schönherr's *Glaube und Heimat* (Faith and Homeland). This presaged the upcoming resettlement in Germany. On October 29, 1939 Bishop Glondys once again visited Czernowitz and held the Reformation religious service in the overfilled church. In the evening a celebration took place in the large assembly room of the German House in the presence of the leading personalities of the German community. At the same time deacon Edgar Müller said his farewells to the honored former municipal pastor.

On June 6, 1950 Bishop Glondys directed his farewells to the resettlers of northern Bukovina—then the curtain fell. During 1941 and 1942, after the occupation of the German army and at the request of the bishop, I made contact with the small number of those who had chosen not to leave their homeland and again reopened the church.

But it was invasion of the Soviet army in 1944, which ushered in the last chapter of Lutheran German history in Czernowitz.

# BUKOVINAFEST 2017 ELLIS COUNTY, KANSAS

No fees are required; individual payment for meals at the times scheduled. Please complete the reservation form, required for meals. Other events are open and free to the public. Any revisions to the program will be sent in advance.

## Thursday, September 7

5:30 p.m. Early Bird social and dinner Smoky Hill Country Club, Hays

## Friday, September 8

9:00 a.m. Welcome and get acquainted Coffee, Society headquarters, Ellis  
Tour of remodeled and expanded museum

10:00 a.m. Optional Car pool tour: Society monument, St. Mary's Catholic Church and St. John's Lutheran Church

11:30 a.m. Box lunch at Headquarters, Power Point photos of present-day Bukovina/Romania by Klaus Häusler

1:00 p.m. Car pool to: Old Fort Hays, Ellis County Historical museum/Volga German House and Felten Gallery

5:30 p.m. Social and German dinner, Thirsty's Grill and Bar banquet room, Hays (short walk from motel) Joe Erbert, Dulcimer presentation. Accordion music and sing-along

## Saturday, September 9 – Thirsty's banquet room

9:00 a.m. Coffee (throughout day) Courtesy of Darrell Seibel, Vice President, Edward Jones Investments, charter lifetime member of Society

9:15 a.m. Opening – Invocation, Pastor Herman Otschofski  
Welcome, Martha (Schoenthaler) McClelland, Ellis County Commissioner  
My Bukovina Journey, Pastor Otschofski

9:45 a.m. Growing up Austrian in Ellis, Al Lang – a fun history quiz, Bukovina cultural influence on third generation descendants and folk stories of the elders.

11:00 a.m. Power point photo presentation of May 2017 Bukovina tour of Michael Augustin, Leah Duda, Nancy Hoedel and Peter Grunikiewicz

Noon: Lunch on own (menu service available in dining room next to meeting room/also nearby fast food)

1:00 p.m. Bohemia to Bukovina, Doug Reckmann – presentation of extensive research and recent discoveries for a pending book

2:00 p.m. Orphan train children in Kansas, Guy Windholz

2:45 p.m. Dietsch, Däätsch, Düütsch and Dietsch: Varieties of German in Kansas by Dr. Bill Keel, Professor of German, University of Kansas  
Kansas Bohemian German dialects compared to their former homelands, Dr. Alfred Wildfeuer, University of Augsburg

4:00 p.m. Annual meeting of the Bukovina Society

5:30 p.m. Social and German dinner, Thirsty's  
The Schnitzelbank Song, Dr. Bill Keel  
Larry Menistrina, Accordion music and sing a long

## Sunday, September 10 – TBA

## MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS

QUALITY INN (Choice Hotels),  
2810 Vine Street (US Highway 183), Hays  
Phone: 785.628.8008  
Email: GM.KS038@choicehotels.com  
Group name: Bukovina Historical #2646429  
Rates: \$60.00 to \$70, according to requested accommodations  
Policy: 4 p.m. hold, with cancellation allowed before hold time  
Rooms include free hot deluxe breakfast, 24-hour lobby coffee, newspapers, business center with free fax, and hotel wide Wi-Fi. Hotel has interior corridors, pool and spa.

RESERVATIONS, please reply by postal mail (PO Box 1083, Hays, Ks 67601) or email to: pat6363@yahoo.com so we can make plans.

#\_\_\_Thursday, Sep 7 evening dinner

#\_\_\_Friday, Sep 8 box lunch

#\_\_\_Friday evening dinner

#\_\_\_Saturday, Sep 9 evening dinner

BUKOVINA SOCIETY  
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