



The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:
Lifetime \$150.00
Annual \$15.00

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

- The annual meeting of the Bukovina Society of the Americas was conducted on Monday, August 29, 2011. The purpose was to elect members to the Board of Directors for expired terms and to review the general business of the corporation. Terms expiring were those of Art Honas, Steve Parke and Martha McClelland. All were reelected to new terms. The Board of Directors met following the annual meeting for the election of officers and the following were reelected: Martha McClelland, President, Oren Windholz, Vice President, Shirley Kuppertz, Secretary, and Norma Lang, Treasurer.
- Gary Wiltscheck, an officer with the German Bohemian Heritage Society, and his wife will be attending Oktoberfest 2011 in Ellis County from New Ulm, MN. They will be guests of the Bukovina Society Board and in addition to visiting the fest, will be given tours of the German and Bohemian German heritage of Ellis and vicinity.
- The Hays Public Library has a collection of digital photos on their website of Ellis County and Kansas. See at: www.hayspublib.org click on Kansas Room and find the link to the archive. They plan to expand and improve the site this year.
- The Hays Convention and Visitors Bureau provided the following online cemetery tour of the Martin Allen Cemetery in Hays, Kansas: http://www.haysusa.com/html/cemetery_history.html

Membership News: Electronic Newsletter Now Available

The introduction of the electronic Bukovina Society Newsletter in PDF format has been well received. Members appreciate the convenience of being able to download and store their newsletters, complete with full-color photos, on their own computers. Society leaders and volunteers say that the electronic version saves preparation time and reduces postal and printing costs.

Rebecca Hageman, the Society volunteer who manages our electronic membership database, reports that 40 life members and 139 annual members are now receiving the Newsletter in the electronic PDF format. Paper copies are being received via postal mail by 34 life members and 178 annual members.

Members and friends will be interested to know that the respective prices of lifetime membership and annual dues have remained the same throughout our Society's twenty-year history. This is because website recruitment has provided revenue from new memberships and renewals that keeps costs down and makes it possible to maintain the same prices.

We can continue to maintain and even increase our cost savings if even more members opt to receive the electronic version instead of paper copies. Please be assured that Society members with U.S. addresses may continue to receive paper copies.

If you wish to receive the PDF version or if you have questions about it, please email rhageman@bukovinasociety.org.

Otto von Habsburg, Son of the Last Austrian Emperor, Dies

By: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

Otto Habsburg-Lothringen, the eldest son of the last Austrian emperor, died at his home in southern Germany on July 4, 2011, aged 98 years.

A champion of European unity, he spent most of his life in exile. He developed and articulated a vision of overcoming the Cold War divide of Europe and dedicated himself to making it happen.

Archduke Otto von Habsburg was born 20 November 1912. The Austro-Hungarian Empire collapsed in 1919, at the end of World War I. Austria abolished the monarchy and seized Habsburg property after the family fled to Switzerland.

When his father, the Emperor Charles, died in 1922, nine-year-old Otto became the head of the imperial House of Habsburg. He studied social and political sciences and graduated with a doctorate from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium in 1935.

He lived in Portugal, Spain, Belgium, France and the United States before settling in Bavaria after World War II. In 1961, he officially relinquished his claim to the throne. However it was not until 1966, after years of political and legal efforts, that he was allowed to return to post-World War II Austria.

Dr. Otto von Habsburg made a name for himself as a respected member of the European Parliament for the German state of Bavaria in two decades and lectured throughout the world on international affairs

The September 1998 issue of our Newsletter reported that Dr. Otto von Habsburg had addressed the Landsmannschaft der Buchenlanddeutschen (Bukowina) e.v. at its 48th annual meeting in Guenzberg, Germany on Pentecost weekend, May 30-31. He emphasized his close ties to the people of Bukovina, affirmed their accomplishments, and encouraged the Bukovina descendants, especially the younger generation, to spread the optimism needed to address European and global issues.

For more, see <http://www.ottovonhabsburg.org>.

Requiescat in pace; rest in peace

FAMILY HERITAGE VISIT TO ELLIS

By: Doris Chapman

On May 12th, 2011, Cecilia Keithley, her daughters Lois Chapman and Bette Johnson, her son Steve Chapman and his wife Doris traveled from Idaho to Kansas to see her land and the farm upon which she grew up on. Cecilia met her first husband Eugene Chapman in Ellis. She is the daughter of Frank R. and Barbara Goodchuck Erbert. Her brothers were Leonard and Harold. Cecilia grew up with an abundance of relatives, with never a shortage of cousins to play with, including numerous "double" cousins.

Cecilia's grandfather was Rudolph Erbert who was married to Katherine Neuburger and after Katherine's death he married Julia Neuburger (Katherine's sister). She remembered grandmother Katherine and Julia as being warm, kindly women. Cecilia fondly remembers visiting her grandfather Rudolph at his hotel in Ellis. She always enjoyed climbing the steps that led to his room. Before departing, Grampa would have her sit on his lap and hold out her hand, into which he would place a silver dollar. Often her dad would take her into the Erbert Variety and Grocery to spend her dollar and visit with more family.

Born in 1923, Cecilia grew up with the Erbert family Garage, Dance Pavilion, skating rink, hotel, Variety and Grocery store as a natural part of her life, along with community events at the park with bands, dancing, and picnics. Cecilia loved dancing, especially the Jitterbug! When her parents retired, they moved to Burlington, Colorado. Cecilia and her children would ride the train to Limon where Frank and Barbara would pick them up. They would also go on to Ellis to visit relatives.

Our main goal in planning the road trip was to visit Ellis and the surrounding area while we were able to experience it together with our mother. Since our parents had met there and both sets of our grandparents (Chapmans and Erberts) had lived there we had many family memories in the area. While finalizing plans, we found the Bukovina Museum when we Googled Ellis, Kansas. Cecilia's mother had always said that her family the Goodchucks and Wishnucks came from Austria and were of Polish descent. Later learned about Bukovina. Cecilia's father, Frank R. Erbert, was not much of a talker or family storyteller, so basically all she knew was that Erberts were Germans. Our attention and interest was increased when we saw the Bukovina Society website material on Bukovina German culture and history.



Rudolph and wife Catherine Erbert and their two daughters from the left, Albertine and Bertha.

Joe Erbert met us at the museum with a warm welcome and eagerly began sharing and explaining his extensive personal research on the Erberts. We never would have thought or hoped that there could be so much information available on our family. Oren Windholz also joined us; he has written a book on the Erberts and has a good understanding of Austria-Bukovina German history through the years. Oren has also visited the homeland. Joe and Oren are second cousins of Cecilia, and both told fascinating family history stories.

Joe took us on a walking tour of the original part of Ellis and showed us the buildings that Herman Erbert had owned and explained the businesses he operated, also the place where Rudolph's hotel had stood, noting its width and length. While talking about these things, Rudolph and Katherine's Victorian home was mentioned. We were extremely surprised to know it was still there! Joe led the way to the house, at the edge of town. We were delighted to see the original water fountain still stood out front, leading up to the porch steps. The original features of leaded glass windows and wrap around porch & gingerbread trim still remain, along with the original barn. Our town tour and museum visit exceeded any and every expectation we had. We highly recommend that relatives and members visit the museum as well as the memorial at the city park dedicated to the Bukovina Immigrants. We gained so much information; we were overwhelmed (in a good way) with all we learned and the knowledge that more is available through the museum's archives. If we had understood all that was there to learn and see; we would have planned a second visit to view the collection of artifacts in a more leisurely way and to clarify information, once we had time to absorb it.

We were very thankful to obtain maps, books and brochures from the Ellis County Historical Society and Bukovina Society Museum to read back home. We are still reading, processing and appreciating all we learned.

Augustine Family Reunion

By: Aldon Schick

A very well attended "Augustine Family Reunion" was held at Melville, Saskatchewan, Canada, June 25-26, 2011. Approximately 205 people enjoyed the gathering. Some travelled from as far as Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, USA; Alberta, British Columbia and Manitoba, Canada; and from Germany.

The celebration started with registration in the afternoon, followed by a supper and dance. An inflatable "bouncer tent" kept the youngsters busy, and a "balloon twister" lady entertained all with her twisted balloon creations. The roast beef and sausage supper was catered, complete with many salads, and all of the trimmings. The Kitz family supplied the music for a very entertaining music and dance evening. Later an evening lunch was supplied, and the music and dancing continued until about 1:30 a.m.

The next morning began with a pancake and sausage breakfast with about 100 people taking part. The day continued with socializing and visiting until after the lunch, when everyone left for their journeys home. Some attendees had arrived several days early and stayed with family, friends, or in their campers.

I personally had the pleasure of getting to know some new people, and also saw some whom I had not seen for a long time. It was nice to see so many attend and have such a good time just getting to know each other better. After all, "strangers are just friends that you haven't met."

A Visit with Augustin Descendants in Canada

By Michael Augustin

As early as the summer of 2002, I had the good fortune of having my friends, Frank and Juanita Augustine, of Ellis, Kansas take me along to Canada to visit the Augustin descendants who live there. Despite a distance of over 1,000 miles, it soon became apparent that numerous close relationships had existed between these two groups for many years.

Around the turn of the last century, the two brothers Josef (1866-1938) and Michael Augustin (1868-1949) from Karlsberg in Bukovina were seeking a better life for themselves and their families in the New World. Like his cousins Franz Augustine (who later returned to Bukovina), Franziska (Flachs/Flax), and Anna (Schuster), Michael and his wife Anna Adelsberger and five children left in 1902 for Ellis, where workers for the railroad were sought. In 1912, the older brother Josef, with his wife, Katharina Schick, ten children, and five dollars in his pocket immigrated to Regina, the capital of the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. Until the 1930s, he ran a farm in the vicinity of Greyson, about 100 miles east of Regina. Josef had followed his Galicia-born father-in-law Johann Adam Schick, wife Katharina Stoll, and son George, who had settled in Canada in the 1890s.

The two brothers, Josef and Michael, never saw each other again. It was not until 1949 that Josef's youngest son Jack began the search for his American relatives, and finally found them in Ellis, Kansas. Ever since this time, as noted above, close contacts including numerous alternating visits between the various members of both family groups have been maintained. A high point of these contacts was undoubtedly the first Canadian-American Augustin reunion, which took place on July 25, 1981, near Melville, Saskatchewan, on the farm of Ed Schick (a grandson of Josef). About 400 people attended, some 50 from the United States. And naturally, Augustin descendants from Canada have participated in the various family gatherings in Ellis.

Early this year, plans had been finalized and the date set for the third family reunion in Canada, my wife Bärbel and I did not hesitate to confirm our participation and to formulate our travel plans. Nor did we wish to miss the opportunity of seeing our Canadian relatives again and getting better acquainted. Moreover, the trip on June 19 afforded us an opportunity of making a stopover in Congers, a town about twenty miles north of New York City. For three days, we enjoyed the hospitality of the historian Sophie Welisch, who in the ten years we have known each other has served not only as a mentor in matters relating to Bukovina and genealogy, but has also become a good friend.

On June 24, we proceeded to Regina, where the eldest son of Ed Schick, Aldon, and his wife Jeanette picked us up at the airport. This couple had also generously invited us to stay with them during our visit in Canada. The family of Ed Schick and his wife Beatrice had always been a focal point for the affairs of the Canadian and American family members. After Ed's death in 2006, it seemed only natural that the greater part of the responsibility for the organization of

the next family reunion lay with the nine children of Ed and Beatrice. Since many of Josef Augustin's descendants still live in Melville, a town about 100 miles northeast of Regina with a little over 4000 inhabitants, it was only logical the family reunion would take place there.

On Friday, the day after our arrival, every helping hand was needed for kitchen duty, in particular for shopping and the preparation of the platters for the cold buffet. In the evening, we enjoyed a fraternal cookout at Aldon's house on an open fire as guests from the United States arrived throughout the day after their long trip. The joy of reunion was great and the festivity with some 50 guests developed into a mini family gathering.

In a separate article, Aldon reports on the more technical and organizational aspects of the family reunion, while I limited myself to some personal impressions. Since many of Josef Augustin's descendants can be traced through the female line, the number of participants at the Augustin family reunion who still carry the name was rather small. In the last analysis it is even more astounding that over two hundred people attended. One cannot more decisively demonstrate the cohesiveness of this branch of family. Moreover, the fact that over a dozen descendants of Michael Augustin undertook the long journey from Kansas, Oklahoma, and even from Texas, underscores this cohesion even more.

My Canadian colleague Gerald Christoffel also generated much interest with his databank and the genealogies, which he had printed out. He is the leading family researcher for the Canadian Augustins, and I am indebted to him for much information as well as for numerous family photographs. His father John, a 96-year-old grandson of Josef Augustin, was the oldest attendee at this gathering.

Finally, I cannot conceal the fact that my wife Bärbel's birthday fell on Sunday and its celebration took place in the context of the family reunion. Although many of the participants were no longer present on Sunday, my wife has never before celebrated her birthday with so many guests.

The days after the family reunion were partly dedicated to cleanup and breakup. There remained, however, sufficient time to tour various places in the vicinity of Melville, which were especially meaningful to the family of our host. Thus we saw, among others, the barns of the Schick farm, where public dances were held, bringing a certain kind of fame to the Schick family. Another interesting site is the old one-room schoolhouse attended by many of the Schick children. Aldon and his sister Mavis bought it for two dollars and have made it into a party room.

At this point we wish to express our heartfelt thanks above all not only to Aldon and Jeanette, but also to Aldon's mother Beatrice, his brother Garnet and his wife Gwen, as well as to other members of the family for the generous hospitality they extended to us. In retrospect, this family reunion with its many attendees will rank as the best yet. For its success, Aldon, his siblings, and all the others who assisted in its planning and execution, deserve thanks and appreciation. They have brought much honor to their family and to the memory of their father.

WEBER FAMILY REUNION

By: Jan Gagnon

The Weber family (descendents of Joseph and Agatha) had a reunion in Amarillo, Texas, during the 4th of July weekend. Relatives came from great distances and from many states. We visited the Cadillac Ranch, the surrounding canyons, and the Texas Roadhouse to sample the 72-ounce steak.

We spent much time reminiscing and reconnecting. The highlight of the family dinner was a German songfest. We are grateful to Joe Erbert who sent us a number of old songs with lyrics and musical arrangements. Some members of the younger generation have probably never heard a German song, and this was a great opportunity for them to learn what their ancestors did for entertainment.

Our next reunion will be in Minot, North Dakota.

ANNUAL NEMECHEK-ROURKE REUNION

By: Steve Parke

The annual Nemechek-Rourke Reunion was held at the Dane Hansen Scout Camp on the south shore of Kirwin Reservoir in North Central Kansas. It was the 25th year for the reunion at this particular site. As the weekend approached, we knew we were in for a scorcher as temperatures over 100 degrees were predicted. Fortunately a Friday afternoon thunderstorm dropped the temps to the low 80s upon our evening arrival.

Attendance was around 85 people as it has been in recent years even without some families who routinely attend. Two of the elders attended, Eileen Rourke-Nemechek from Goodland and Sr. Margaret Rourke, CSJ, from Salina. Of the baby boomer generation, only 13 were in attendance. The younger parents and their small children now comprise

the bulk of the attendees. Traveling the greatest distance were Eugene and Susan Herbers-Nemechek from North Carolina along with daughter Sarah and granddaughter, Melina. Their daughter Megan from Indiana was also present.

In regards to the Bukovina connection, the Nemechek family was part of the chain migration from Fuerstenthal to Ellis, Kansas, arriving in 1898. Stateside the extended family group of our immigrant settlers includes the Reitmeier and Schuster families from Fuerstenthal, immigrating in 1901 and 1904. The Rourke family is part a small Irish settlement around McCracken in Rush County just to the south of Ellis.

Very little genealogical work was done at this year's event other than taking note of the newest generation running about the campground with unbounded energy. And with so many little ones present, accidents did happen. Through slips and falls we saw more than one set of tears this year. The hero was little Morgan who caught a finger in a door jam and required a long trip to the emergency room for stitches. She came back to camp ready for more play and even the wading pool, showing great courage.

I did find time to share findings with some family members about the discovery of an ancestor's 1910 court case. The bottom line was that people had troubles back then just like today. This case had become a buried story until a distant cousin found it doing an unrelated court library data base search. An earlier generation had been able to hide the story for a hundred years but the power of a computer database search resurfaced the case. Possibly the lesson for today is to be honest about who we are and not practice denial as eventually our descendents will "Google" our stories.

Due to the heat we played only one softball game and I don't know the final score, if there was one. Thank goodness all those youngsters can now take the field and play with some skill. The longest hit goes to Zach Nemechek who is a walk-on tight end for the Kansas State University football team. Considering the 2011 pre-season Big 12 football rankings, he might be a starter if he went to Kansas University.

An annual activity is the Saturday evening prayer service. Mary Lou Nemechek-Harding plans and facilitates the event with help from various "volunteers", i.e. readers, singers, etc. With so many youngsters present, we took a different tact with this year's service. We moved outside on the grass and used children's songs, giving the children an opportunity to spontaneously create some lyrics. Did you know that God not only has the wind and the rain in his hands but the bugs and snakes as well?

For the older ones it takes some work to pull the event off but after so many years of experience, we have the routine down. Vern Harding from Wichita balances the books and did it this year even after leaving his notes home. John and Regina Nemechek-Mc Fall from Olathe bring the bulk of the softball equipment. Meals would seem to be a chore but the women know how to make and transport casseroles for several days. People volunteer for preparing a particular meal and cleanup. The men “cook” on Saturday evening and then on Sunday afternoon, more than a dozen pitch in for the final cleanup. But regardless of all the help pulling together each mom and dad has to pack their car back up for the trip home.

We will gather again next year in July. Possibly we will go over 100 people but do pray that the temperature stays under 100 degrees the next time around.

KANSAS BUKOVINA-AMERICAN FARMERS: RICH OR POOR IN 1905?

By Steve Parke

Have you ever wondered what type of economic life was lived by your ancestors? This question recently came to mind as I was reading a 1910 District Court transcript in which an ancestral Bukovina-American family in Ellis, Kansas, was referred to as “poor” by the defendant. I was puzzled by the man’s comment as the family’s oral tradition proclaims that they came with money in 1898, enough to buy 320 acres of land. We had thought they were rich, but in fact, were they poor? Surely not!

If your ancestors were land-owning farmers in Kansas, one method to check their early economic standing would be the Kansas census records which are available for public viewing. Every 10 years from 1865 to 1925 Kansas took a census that recorded people as well as economic and farm data. For purposes of Bukovina-American research relevant information can be found in the censuses taken in 1895, 1905, 1915 and 1925. Aware of this resource I decided to look at the 1905 census to ascertain if my immigrant ancestors were truly poor in this time period. This article is a summary of what I found, not only about my relatives but all of the Ellis area Bukovina immigrant farm operations.

The 1905 census might not be the best census to use. There were waves of Bukovina immigrants to Ellis County, Kansas, one in 1886-1889 and then another from 1892-1895, and then the bulk of Bukovina immigrants arriving in the 1900-1905 period. Using the 1905 census as a benchmark is somewhat problematic, as so many people had just arrived

1905 Kansas Census

Bukovina Catholic Farm Data

Name	County	Township	Acres	Land Val.	Bldg Val.	Equip.	Total Value
Erbert, Joe	Ellis	Hamilton	160	\$400	\$400	\$33	\$833
Lang, Ignatz	Trego	Riverside	160	\$800	\$0	\$100	\$900
Weber, John	Ellis	Ellis	157	\$750	\$250	\$50	\$1,050
Gaschler, Ambrose	Ellis	Hamilton	160	\$800	\$200	\$126	\$1,126
Knad, John	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$700	\$300	\$150	\$1,150
Schuster, Fred	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,200	\$0	\$0	\$1,200
Schuster, Frank	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,000	\$200	\$50	\$1,250
Augustine, Rudolph	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,100	\$100	\$75	\$1,275
Landauer, John	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,000	\$200	\$250	\$1,450
Flax, Joseph	Trego	Riverside	320	\$1,525	\$75	\$0	\$1,600
Augustine, Jake	Trego	Riverside	320	\$1,400	\$200	\$50	\$1,650
Gaschler, Frank	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,600	\$0	\$100	\$1,700
Flax, Frank	Ellis	Ellis	160	\$1,400	\$400	\$150	\$1,950
Flax, Jake	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$1,700	\$300	\$30	\$2,030
Weber, Joseph	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$1,500	\$500	\$60	\$2,060
Tauscher, Lee	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$1,800	\$200	\$150	\$2,150
Goodchuck, Mathias	Ellis	Hamilton	480	\$2,100	\$400	\$125	\$2,625
Nemechek, Fred	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$2,150	\$350	\$200	\$2,700
Aschenbrenner, John	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$3,100	\$100	\$50	\$3,250
Seibel, Rudolph	Trego	Riverside	320	\$2,800	\$400	\$100	\$3,300
Aschenbrenner, Adelbert	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$3,050	\$150	\$150	\$3,350
Sidel, Frank	Ellis	Ellis	500	\$3,800	\$200	\$125	\$4,125
Erbert, Jon	Ellis	Ellis	400	\$3,600	\$400	\$200	\$4,200
Tauscher, R.	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$5,700	\$300	\$200	\$6,200
Tauscher, John	Ellis	Ellis	360	\$5,300	\$700	\$300	\$6,300
Augustine, Frank	Ellis	Ellis	640	\$5,800	\$700	\$300	\$6,800
Honas, Jon	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$6,900	\$100	\$75	\$7,075
Gaschler, Mike	Ellis	Ellis	480	\$6,650	\$350	\$200	\$7,200
Schuster, Joseph	Ellis	Ellis	800	\$7,750	\$250	\$150	\$8,150
Erbert, Rudolph	Ellis	Ellis	1,680	\$14,800	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$18,800
Erbert, Frank	Ellis	Hamilton	1,760	\$17,600	\$1,000	\$265	\$18,865

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while some had almost 20 years to acquire assets. Yet this census tells us just how quickly the Bukovina immigrants were able to amass a fair amount of land, even those who had just arrived. As unfair as the 1905 census might be to late arrivals, it is telling.

Accompanying this article are two charts containing selected agricultural census data. I fretted over which data to use and how to sort the data for your viewing, finally selecting a format that might be fun to discuss, separating Catholics and Protestants. Most of the Protestants were Lutheran but there were some Bukovina Baptists. The Protestant listing is longer because there were more Protestant Bukovina immigrants settling Ellis than Catholics from Bukovina. Almost all of the Catholics listed were German Bohemians and almost all of the Protestants were Swabian Germans. Farms with non-Bukovina surnames but a Bukovina spouse are listed, i.e. those families known as part of a respective faith community like the Lutheran names of Krumfus, Kruger, Hamburg, Huck, Schaus, and Session. Names in the charts are listed as recorded by the census taker. As for data accuracy, the hand scribbled numbers were sometimes difficult to read.

In terms of total valuation, the Catholic Erberts were doing quite well by 1905 but so were the Asts and other Protestant families. The Erberts had been present since 1887 and the Ast, Koenig (King), Huber and Glass families, appearing in surname or as the spouse of non-Bukovina men, had been present since 1886 or 1887. Interestingly, the Massier family had just arrived in 1904. If you break the total

valuations into 3 groups, i.e. under \$2,500, \$2,500-\$8,500, and over \$9,000, the Protestants appear to have a bigger “middle-class” but many of these families had arrived in the early 1890’s. Several farms had extremely high valuations for implements, maybe steam tractors or thrashing machines. You can surely find other interesting perspectives in the charts.

1905 Kansas Census			Bukovina Protestant Farm Data				
Name	County	Township	Acres	Land Val.	Bldg Val.	Equip.	Total Value
Tomascheck, Peter	Ellis	Hamilton	160	\$500	\$100	\$39	\$639
Keller, Mike H.	Ellis	Hamilton	160	\$800	\$200	\$111	\$1,111
Iron, Micheal	Ellis	Hamilton	200	\$1,100	\$100	\$58	\$1,258
Aust, Adam	Ellis	Hamilton	160	\$1,500	\$0	\$133	\$1,633
Zachman, Fred	Ellis	Hamilton	260	\$1,350	\$150	\$134	\$1,634
Wendling, Jacob	Trego	Glencoe	160	\$1,400	\$200	\$50	\$1,650
Schause, Henry	Trego	Glencoe	160	\$1,100	\$500	\$75	\$1,675
Sauer, Fred	Trego	Glencoe	160	\$1,550	\$50	\$100	\$1,700
Zachman, John	Ellis	Hamilton	340	\$1,350	\$150	\$210	\$1,710
Glass, Samuel, Jr.	Trego	Glencoe	160	\$1,100	\$500	\$200	\$1,800
Wendling, Wm.	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$1,600	\$400	\$144	\$2,144
Zachman, Luisa	Ellis	Hamilton	400	\$1,500	\$500	\$164	\$2,164
Zerfas, P.A.	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$1,500	\$500	\$173	\$2,173
Freeze, Frank	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$1,500	\$500	\$225	\$2,225
Schonhaler, Jacob	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,000	\$500	\$31	\$2,531
Sauer, John	Trego	Glencoe	240	\$2,100	\$300	\$150	\$2,550
Zerfas, John	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,500	\$0	\$50	\$2,550
Sessin, Herman	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,150	\$250	\$250	\$2,650
Keller, Frank	Ellis	Hamilton	340	\$2,200	\$300	\$152	\$2,652
Fries, Fred	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,200	\$400	\$123	\$2,723
Karl, John	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,600	\$100	\$100	\$2,800
Ast, Ed	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$2,600	\$400	\$175	\$3,175
Kelsch, John	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$3,100	\$100	\$0	\$3,200
Keller, Jake	Ellis	Hamilton	320	\$2,900	\$100	\$230	\$3,230
Wagg, Lee	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$3,000	\$200	\$100	\$3,300
Armbruster, Jacob	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$2,800	\$400	\$200	\$3,400
Karst, John	Trego	Glencoe	320	\$2,900	\$300	\$200	\$3,400
Kerth, John	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$3,100	\$400	\$300	\$3,800
Schonhaler, J.W.	Ellis	Hamilton	560	\$3,900	\$100	\$60	\$4,060
Keller, Mike	Ellis	Hamilton	640	\$3,200	\$800	\$178	\$4,178
Armbruster, Christ	Ellis	Ellis	320	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$4,500
Deutscher, Carrie	Trego	Glencoe	480	\$4,300	\$500	\$200	\$5,000
King, Martin	Ellis	Ellis	480	\$3,300	\$1,500	\$600	\$5,400
King, Caroline	Ellis	Ellis	640	\$5,500	\$500	\$300	\$6,300
Sauer, William	Trego	Glencoe	640	\$5,900	\$500	\$25	\$6,425
Schonhaler, Adam	Ellis	Hamilton	720	\$6,400	\$600	\$240	\$7,240
Huck, Christ	Ellis	Hamilton	770	\$7,100	\$600	\$237	\$7,937
Hamburg, Wm.	Ellis	Hamilton	1,010	\$7,200	\$800	\$135	\$8,135
Glass, Samuel	Trego	Glencoe	1,600	\$7,000	\$1,000	\$200	\$8,200
Krumfus, John	Ellis	Ellis	480	\$7,500	\$500	\$300	\$8,300
Schaus, Andreas	Ellis	Hamilton	480	\$6,500	\$1,500	\$1,274	\$9,274
Massier, Samuel	Trego	Riverside	640	\$8,500	\$1,500	\$140	\$10,140
Kruger, Fred	Ellis	Hamilton	1,200	\$9,400	\$600	\$300	\$10,300
Ast, Jon	Ellis	Ellis	1,460	\$14,900	\$100	\$500	\$15,500

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The 1905 Kansas census contains scores of additional agricultural information that will not be covered in this article. Items recorded include the depth of the water wells, rods of fence wire owned, and acres of both tilled and untilled land. Crops grown such as winter wheat (the largest), corn, oats, barley, sorghum, millet, Irish potatoes and the acres per crop are listed. But for the rest of this article, I will focus on the farm animal report categories, which give an interesting picture of farm life. Here there was a solid trend in the broad variety but limited numbers of animals per homestead.

In 1905 Kansas farming was done with horses if not by hand. Thus almost everyone had 6-10 horses. About 10 farms each had 12-15 horses and most of these holdings were on Protestant farmsteads, an interesting trend. The only larger

numbers of horses owned were tallied by Rudolph Erbert who had a huge farming operation with 38 horses and Samuel Massier, who may have raised horses, with 60 on hand.

Of course everyone had milk cows with 3-6 cows being a common holding while others had 7-8. Larger milk cow operations were uncommon. William Hamburg had 15 cows and Rudolph Erbert had 25. There were no refrigeration units and no tanker trucks to quickly move the milk. Thus you could only milk what you could wagon to town.

Almost everyone had a few swine, usually 2-5. Three farms each had about 10 pigs. The largest swine operations were those of Samuel Glass, Carolyn Deutscher, Martin King, and Joseph Schuster, each holding 15-17. Again we see the smaller individual holdings most common but even the largest holdings were small by later farm standards.

Cattle holdings were common but again, small. This represents an amazing turn of regional events, as Ellis was a cattle drive railroad terminus as late as 1878, receiving cattle off the Western Trail through nearby Gove County. But in 1905 most Bukovina-American farmers had less than 10 head, nine farms each held about 2 dozen. There was only one owner with more cattle, Samuel Glass with 100 head west of Ellis.

Mules and asses, as so named in the census report, were more common in some neighborhoods than others. A dozen Bukovina-American farms each held one or two asses. One farmer owned eight! Kansas historians have noted higher counts of these animals correlating with higher percentages of local Kansas farmers being from the American Mid South, i.e., states like Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. On a similar note, it was the Southerners who were instrumental in bringing the cattle industry to Kansas.

Every farm had one or two dogs, barking or otherwise. Dog breeds were not noted. When was the last time the census taker recorded such items as dogs per household?

The category that showed the most variation was the line item for the value of poultry and egg products sold the preceding year. About a dozen farms reported no such income and many others sold less than a dollars worth per week. Yet some farmers focused on such trade as Franz Erbert, Ferdinand Nemechek, and Andreas Schaus each sold about \$125 worth and Rudolph Erbert and Samuel Glass, Jr., each sold \$200 worth that year.

Were my relatives “poor” with 320 acres of land in 1905? The answer is relative to whom? The man, who had made

the comment, a Southerner, was a horse trader and part owner and operator of an Ellis horse stable. In 1905 the Bukovina-American immigrants were not yet business owners in Ellis. The man's son also had 640 acres worth \$8,000.

Within the Bukovina-American farmers, my ancestors of concern were within the norm and certainly held more land than once held in Bukovina, maybe as little as 2-3 hectares. They got just as good a start as the other Bukovina immigrants. How their economic life later developed would have depended on their actions as well as life's twists and turns. On the up side, all of the Western Kansas Bukovina-American farmers had arrived just in time for the American agricultural boom of the early 1900s with rising wheat prices, increasing mechanization, and improved farming methods. These factors which surely raised everyone's prosperity were followed in the 1930s by the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression, times of great scarcity, which probably shape our ideas about the past far more than the 1905 census data presented in this article.

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