

# The Bukovina Society of the Americas NEWSLETTER

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Membership Dues:  
Lifetime \$150.00  
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**Bukovina Easter Eggs (Public Domain photo, eggs on display at Society museum)**

## SOCIETY NEWS

- Tracing Your Saskatchewan Ancestors, 4th Edition, edited by Laura Hanowski, is now available. It contains detailed explanations about each record group showing when and why it was created, where you will find the records today and how and why you would want to access them. In addition to these Saskatchewan records, there are chapters or sections devoted to federal records such as immigration, military, naturalization and National Registration. You will learn what the records are, the time frame they cover, where they are found and what areas of research they cover. Particular emphasis is placed on learning why the records

are important and how you use them to find more information. While emphasis is placed on how to use these records in Saskatchewan, the book also explains how to access them from other parts of the world. To order, go to [www.saskgenealogy.com](http://www.saskgenealogy.com) and click on "Marketplace" to find the order form. The book will be printed on demand. Please allow 4 to 6 weeks for delivery.

- The Canadian Great War Project is intended to promote interest in Canada's participation in World War I, or "the Great War," to research the Canadians and other nationalities who served in the Canadian Expeditionary Force (CEF).

The project's website content is primarily database-driven to facilitate searches for information. It is a work-in-progress and already includes over 160,228 entries of individual soldiers. This represents a lot of volunteer effort and collaboration by those who are transcribing information from attestation papers, war diaries and other sources to provide a better picture of the men and women who served Canada during the war. Database searches are available to all, but only registered users may update information. Registration is free and simple. Please go to <http://www.canadiangreatwarproject.com/> to learn more about this project.

- The Bukovina Society of the Americas has learned that Dr. Edward R. Brandt, age 81, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away peacefully after a long illness on January 17, 2013. Dr. Brandt, who had taken part

in one of our Bukovina events here in Kansas and other conferences in Regina and Minnesota, is survived by his wife Marie, family members, and friends. Ed was born to a Mennonite family in southwestern Kansas during the Dust Bowl, although he was raised in the small farming town of Steinbach, Manitoba. He was the first in his community to graduate from college and later earned an MA and a PhD.

- In 1958 he began a 10-year career as a foreign service officer for the U.S. Information Agency, part of the State Department, and realized his dream of seeing the world through postings in Bangladesh (then called East Pakistan) and in Germany. After he received his doctorate in 1970, Ed began a 20-year career teaching political science, with his happiest years spent on the University of St. Thomas faculty.

When Ed retired from teaching in 1992, he found a new passion as a Germanic genealogist. He co-founded the Germanic Genealogy Society and the multinational Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS), serving in a leadership capacity in both organizations. He became a leading authority on Germanic genealogy, authoring several books that presented groundbreaking research. As a specialist in deciphering the Gothic script used in old documents, he was able to research original historical records in Germany, Austria, Hungary, Switzerland, France, and Poland. Ed continued to working until 2012, when he slowed down with the progression of his illness.

He will be remembered for his gentle, loving heart and his immense curiosity about the world, as well as his brilliant intellect and achievements. In every area that caught his interest, he took a leadership role and broke new ground. The world is a better place because of his passion and devotion, wherever he was called. The memorial service was held Sun., Jan. 27, 2013, at the Germanic-American Institute in St. Paul, MN.

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## GERMAN PUBLICATION OF INTEREST

By: Sophie A. Welisch

On a trip to Germany some decades ago one of my relatives introduced me to an issue of *Der Südstdeutsche*. Since I have been interested in the homeland of my parents since childhood, I started to subscribe sometime in the mid-1960s. And as one usually does with newspapers, after perusing the

highlights, I religiously relegated them to the recycling bin. Then, in one of the SOD issues, I came across an article, which emphasized the historic value of the newspapers and what a treasure trove of knowledge they represent for future reference and for subsequent generations. This tweaked my historic sensitivity (I was a professor of history at a local college) and decided they were a “must have” for my personal library. As a result I now have on hand the 1969 series as well as all the issues from 1972 to the present.

Under the title of the *Der Südostdeutsche* appears the statement, which in translation reads as follows: “Bukovina German newspaper with regular reports about the Southeast Germans, about and from the southeast as well as Eastern Europe and about Bukovinians in all the world. Published on the 20th of every month.” In this 8-page newspaper the reader will find articles of political, cultural and historic interest, as well as photographs, announcements, and obituaries, among others. A one-year subscriptions comes to 30 Euros or, somewhere between \$41-\$44 depending on the current rate of exchange. Those interested in a subscription may contact me at 2 Hughes Street, Congers, NY 10920 or on line at sawelisch@juno.com

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## MT. ANGEL TREFFEN AND CONFERENCE

Make plans to attend the next Mt. Angel Treffen and Conference in Keizer, Oregon, on September 11-14, 2014! The annual event is an exceptional opportunity to learn more about the Germans who once lived in the southeastern part of the Habsburg Empire.

German pioneers settled in the Mt. Angel countryside, which is beautifully reminiscent of Bavaria. The Oktoberfest began in 1966 as a traditional harvest festival and has become Oregon’s oldest and best-loved folk festival. More about Mt. Angel, Oregon and its Oktoberfest is posted at <http://oktoberfest.org/>.

The conference website will soon be available at <http://danube-swabians.org/MtAngel/> (see <http://www.danube-swabians.org/>, find the drop-down for “Fun,” and look for the “2014 Treffen”). Be sure to check out last year’s conference and slide show, including PowerPoint images from “Banat and Bosnia in Bukovina’s Immigration” by Irmgard Hein Ellingson.



The 2013 Mt. Angel Presenters (left to right):

**Dr. John Michels, Henry A. Fischer, Irmgard Hein Ellingson, Rosina T. Schmidt, and Ray Borschowa.**  
 Photo by Ray Bauman from <http://www.danube-swabians.org/> and used by permission.

Note that there is no charge to attend the Treffen! The organizers kindly request that you contribute whatever you see fit to offset the costs of the lunch and refreshments, meeting hall, and other administrative expenses. A block of rooms will be reserved at a special rate at the Keizer Renaissance Inn in Keizer (<http://www.keizerrenaissanceinn.com/Location.html>) and you may make your own reservations. To get the special rate, be sure to mention that you mention that you are with the “Banat Group.”

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## Das Böhmerwaldlied von Andreas Hartauer

Dort tief im Böhmerwald, da liegt mein Heimatort.  
 Es ist gar lang schon her, dass ich von hier bin fort  
 Doch die Erinnerung, die bleibt mir stets gewiß,  
 dass ich den Böhmerwald gar nie vergiß.  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,  
 im schönen, grünen Böhmerwald!  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,  
 im schönen grünen Wald.

O holde Kindheitszeit, nur einmalkehr' zurück,  
 wo spielend ich genoß das allerhöchste Glück.  
 Wo ich am Vaterhaus auf grüner Wiese stand  
 und weithin schaute auf mein Vaterland.  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,

im schönen, grünen Böhmerwald!  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,  
 im schönen grünen Wald.

Nur einmal noch, o Herr, laß mich die Heimat seh'n,  
 den schönen Böhmerwald, die Täler und die Höh'n.  
 Dann kehr ich gern zurück und rufe freudig aus:  
 “Behüt Gott, Böhmerwald, ich bleib zu Haus.”  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,  
 im schönen, grünen Böhmerwald!  
 Es war im Böhmerwald, wo meine Wiege stand,  
 im schönen grünen Wald.

## DAS BÖHMERWALDLIED THE BOHEMIAN FOREST SONG

by Andreas Hartauer  
 translated by Sophie A. Welisch

Deep in the *Böhmerwald* there lies my homeland site.  
 It's been a long time since I left it far behind.  
 But yet its memory within me still abides,  
 so that the *Böhmerwald* in thought resides.  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald*, where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely verdant *Böhmerwald*!  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald*, where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely *Böhmerwald*.

You sacred time of youth, return just one more time,  
 to when I playfully the greatest joy imbibed.  
 Where I from father's house the fertile fields could see  
 extending to our homeland far and near.  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald* where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely verdant *Böhmerwald*!  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald*, where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely *Böhmerwald*.

Just once again, oh Lord, let me my homeland see,  
 the lovely hills, the valleys and its stately trees.  
 Then I'll to thee return and will with joy extol:  
 “Defend, God, *Böhmerwald*, I'm staying home!”  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald* where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely verdant *Böhmerwald*!  
 'twas in the *Böhmerwald*, where once my cradle stood,  
 in lovely *Böhmerwald*.

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## BOOK REVIEW

By: Sophie A. Welisch

**“ . . . , das war doch alles ganz normal!?”: Dokumentation des Schicksals der deutschböhmisches Dorfgemeinschaft Pojana Mikuli im historischen Kontext im Verlaufe von 200 Jahren** by Irmtraud Schaper (Bad Lippspringe: Adolf and Irmtraud Schaper, 2009), 241 pp. Price: 25 Euros for Germany; 33 Euros if sent via land and sea mail to USA and Canada and 38 Euros for air mail. Contact address: Adolf and Irmtraud Schaper, Fliederstrasse 21, 33173 Bad Lippspringe. E-Mail: adolf.schaper@t-online.de.

In the latest in a series of monographs published after World War II about erstwhile German communities in Bukovina, Irmtraud Schaper traces the rise and fall of Pojana Mikuli, an agricultural village founded in 1841 by forty families from the Bohemian Forest. Nor does the author limit herself to the history of this village but focuses also on such social aspects as lifestyle, dialect, religion, and the family. Overpopulation soon led to overseas immigration to Brazil, the United States and Canada, to Bosnia, and to the founding of the daughter colony of Dumbrava in Bukovina, all of which receive due attention.

The emphasis of the book, however, lies with the trials and tribulations of Pojana Mikuli's German population after their departure to Germany in 1940. Abandoning hearth and home, the vast majority of the Bukovina Germans, including those in Pojana Mikuli, voluntarily accepted the offer of the German government to resettle in the Reich. Beginning with page 99 the author presents aspects of this cumulative experience as seen through the eyes of the participants.

*Dokumentation des Schicksals der deutschböhmisches Dorfgemeinschaft Pojana Mikuli* includes numerous maps, charts and photographs and is based on over 100 eyewitness accounts as well as on contemporary published materials. This tome goes well beyond what the title implies and in effect represents a microcosm of the experiences of the Germans of eastern and southeastern Europe including those from the USSR, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, and Yugoslavia during and after World War II.

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## KACZYKA AND ITS BLACK MADONNA:

An excerpt from *Kaczyka und seine Schwarze Madonna Der Südostdeutsche* (Munich: December 2013)

By: Halrun Reinholz

Translated by: Irmgard Hein Ellingson

*Translator's introduction: The oldest and largest Christian denomination in the world is the Roman Catholic Church under the supreme authority of the Bishop of Rome, called the Pope. The Greek Catholic (Uniate) Church is one of the Eastern Catholic Churches that dates to the Union of Brest (1596). These autonomous, self-governing churches follow the Byzantine (Eastern) rite and are in full communion with the Pope.*

*The second-largest Christian denomination in the world is the Orthodox Catholic Church, also called the Eastern Orthodox Church, which dates to the year 1054. It contains more than a dozen self-governing bodies, each geographically and/or nationally distinct but unified in theology and worship. These bodies include the Romanian Orthodox and the Ukrainian Orthodox Churches. The name of the entity identifies the language and the rite used in the church, among other things.*

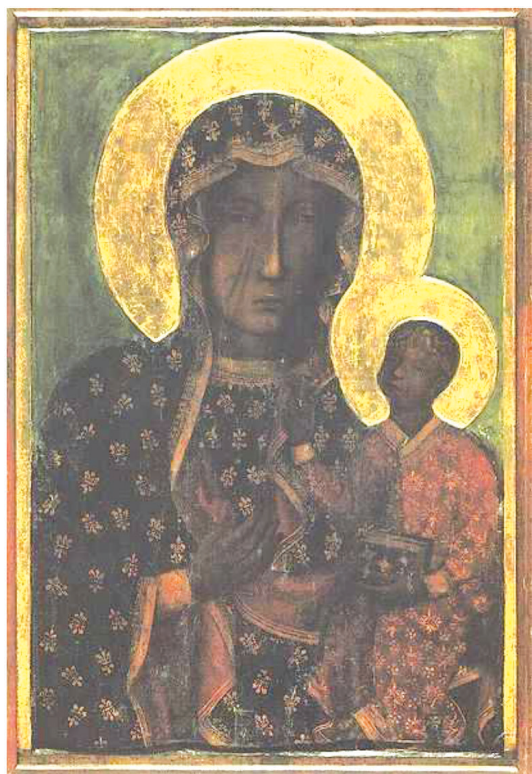
Historically Bukovina was often a pawn in the efforts of the Christian nobles of Moldavia to free themselves from Ottoman expansion (the establishment of Orthodox monasteries can each generally be attributed to a victorious battle), until the region passed to Austrian sovereignty in the year 1775. The existing ethnic and confessional diversity was further enhanced by all kinds of immigrants including farmers and skilled laborers whom the Austrian administration brought from all parts of the monarchy to this border region in the east.

When salt deposits were discovered in Kaczyka near the end of the 18th century, officials recruited skilled laborers from the Wieliczka salt works by Krakow [Cracow], Polish Catholics who brought their families to Kaczyka and settled there by the salt mine. Soon the village had its own Roman Catholic parish.

Since the construction of a Catholic church there was delayed by bureaucratic matters, the energetic priest Jakub Bogdanowicz had an underground chapel excavated 25 meters underground in the salt stone and furnished it with everything necessary for a church. The chapel was dedicated to St. Barbara, the patron saint of miners. The daily Masses were attended not only by Roman Catholic miners but also by the Greek Catholics as well as the Romanian Orthodox and Ukrainian Orthodox miners.

In 1810 a wooden church was built in Kaczyka and dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Bogdanowicz completed it with an altar painting, an exact copy of the Black Madonna in Częstochowa. This he had brought it from his homeland Galicia, where it had supposedly been among the possessions of a defunct Jesuit church. The church was dedicated to *Maria Himmelfahrt*, or the Ascension of Mary.

In about 1902, the concern of the missionary priests in Krakow for the approximately 85,000 Bukovina Catholics prompted the Lemberg archbishop to name Josef Weber, himself a Bukovina native, as the *Generalvikar* there. He made it a point to restructure the community and parish, which included about 1500 Roman Catholic und 5500 Greek Catholic believers at that time. The dilapidated wooden church was replaced by a Neo-Gothic structure and this was dedicated in 1904 with the festival placement of the holy picture of the Black Madonna.



The Black Madonna of Częstochowa  
(Public Domain Photo)

The Marienwallfahrt, or pilgrimage, supported and promoted by the archbishop, grew rapidly. Thousands of pilgrims came every year, especially at Maria Himmelfahrt, and Kaczyka became a "Tschenstochau im Kleinen" or "Częstochowa in Miniature." A Lourdes grotto and a hostel were added to the facilities of this pilgrimage destination.

## THE BUKOVINA GERMANS IN BRAZIL: The Associação Alemã-Bucovina de Cultura – ABC

By: Irmgard Ellingson

The *Associação Alemã-Bucovina de Cultura – ABC* is our sister organization in Brazil. Based in Rio Negro in the State of Paraná, their work includes the preservation of the history, customs, German dialect, cuisine, dance, folklore, theater, and music of the Bukovina Germans in Brazil.

The organization was founded by our good friend, Dr. Ayrton Goncalves Celestino, who served as its president from 1992 until 1998, when he was voted honorary president. He has written and spoken on the subject of Bukovina, visiting two of our fests and joining us in Canada, traveling to the Bukovina Institute in Augsburg, and visiting Bukovina as a guest of the Romanian government.

The annual Bucovinafest is hosted by the ABC with the folk group *Boarischer Wind*, made up of children, youth, and adults representing *bucovinos* from throughout the country. The festival celebrates the anniversary of the first Bukovina immigration to Rio Negro and neighboring Mafra. Events include a parade through the main streets of both cities, and a "Families Contest" won by the family with the most members in attendance.



The folk group Boarischer Wind from Rio Negro, Brazil

The 23rd annual Bukovina Fest was held June 30 to July 14, 2013. Rio Negro's mayor Milton José Paizani has not missed one single Bukovina Fest in the past 15 years and the deputy mayor James Karson Valério has maternal Schelbauer / Schafhauser ancestors who emigrated from Bukovina. Many still recall the visit of the Bukovina descendants including Dr. Sophie Welisch, Ed and Maria Lang, and Steve Parke from the U.S. in 2001.

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## WORLD WAR II-ERA FAMILY HISTORY DOCUMENTS

Based upon *Hinweise zu Familienunterlagen im Bundesarchiv  
Der Südostdeutsche* (Munich: December 2013)

By: Luzian Geyer

Translated/expanded by Irmgard Hein Ellingson

The German population of Bukovina was resettled to the German Reich by the terms of the Treaty of Non-aggression between Germany and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (1939).

Important documents about the people who were resettled – including family histories as well as property inventories – were collected at the *Einwandererzentralstelle* (EWZ), also called the Berlin Document Center, during World War II. This document collection was captured by the Western Allies and brought to the U.S. at the end of the war. The National Archives and Records Administration [NARA] made more than 70,000 rolls of microfilm reproducing the captured German and related records before returning them to Germany, where they are now housed in the *Bundesarchiv* [German Federal Archives]. The EWZ57 collection, which serves as the index to the material, was also filmed by Genealogical Society of Utah and may be viewed at the

Family History Library. Please note that in Germany, access to the records is restricted to those persons cited within them, or to their direct descendants.

At the time of the 1939 pact, Bukovina was divided between the U.S.S.R. and Romania. The pact's terms included the provision that the *Umsiedler* [pronounced OOM-zee-dler] or the Germans being resettled from Soviet or Romanian territory to the German Reich, were limited to a specified amount of baggage. All other property had to be left behind and became the property of the respective state (Romania or the U.S.S.R.). The pact stated that each state was supposed to forward compensation for these properties to the German Reich and that the German government would then reimburse the *Umsiedler*. This did not happen, for the most part, because of the war and other disruptions. In Romanian territory, so-called *Taxatoren* made duplicate inventories of *Umsiedler* properties. One copy was given to German officials and the other was retained. A collection of the latter is held in the Foreign Ministry archives in Bucharest.

More information about these unique records is presented veteran researcher Dave Obee in his article "Einwandererzentralstelle (EWZ) Films" at <http://www.volhynia.com/res-ewz.html>.



