The Center for Ethnic Studies Forsyth Library Fort Hays State University

Story of the Volga Germans of Ellis and Rush Counties

Kansas Genealogical Society Annual Meeting June 8, 2013

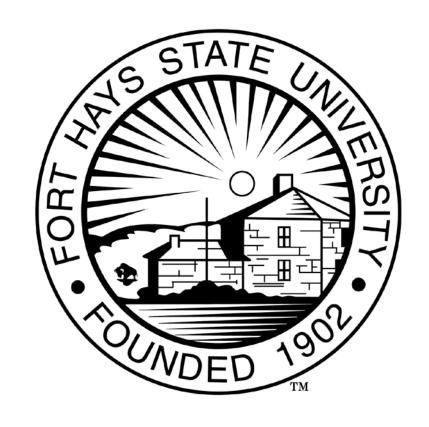
Fort Hays State University

Patty Nicholas
Special Collections and
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Forsyth Library

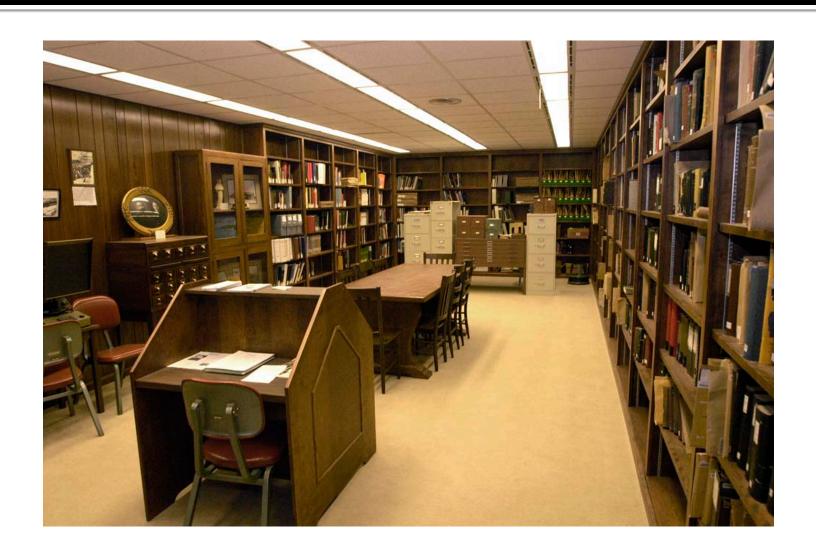
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Center for Ethnic Studies Room



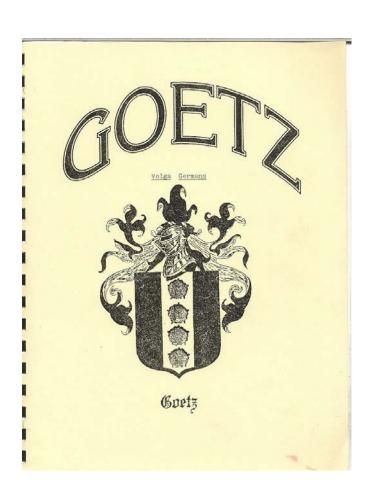
Focus of the Room

- Center for Ethnic Studies
 - Established for the study of Ethnic Groups which settled in Kansas
 - Main focus is on the Volga Germans
 - Bukovina Germans Ellis
 - African Americans Nicodemus

Items in the Center

- History books
 - Germany, Russia and the Volga region
 - Areas in U.S. with Volga-German population
 - Volga-German settlement in Ellis and Rush Counties
- Novels
- Obituaries
- Journals and newsletters
- Column from the Ellis County Star
 - "Volga German Traditions" by Lawrence Weigel
- Speeches
- Videos

Family Histories

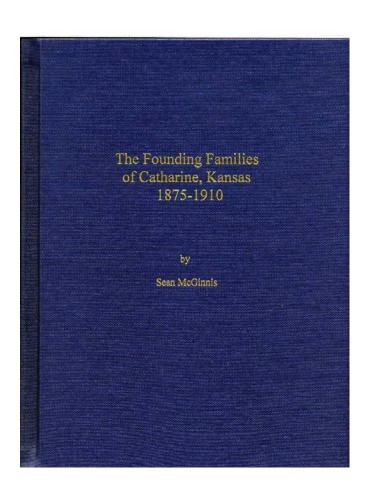


- Brungardt
- Goetz
- Weigel
- Braun
- Pfannenstiel
- Werth
- Stecklein
- Younger

Family Genealogy Compilations

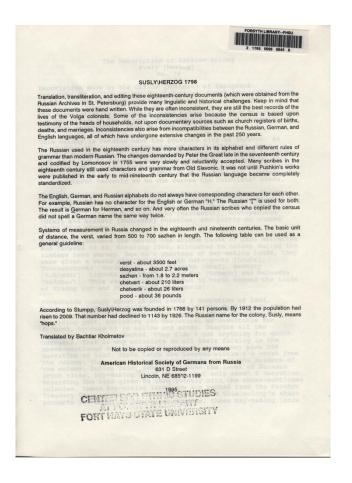
- Kevin Rupp, an avid genealogist and historian, has compiled a number of family genealogies which can be purchased from him.
- See the following web page:
 - <u>www.volgagerman.net</u>

Town Histories



- Catharine
- Liebenthal
- Munjor
- Pfeifer
- Schoenchen
- Victoria (Herzog)

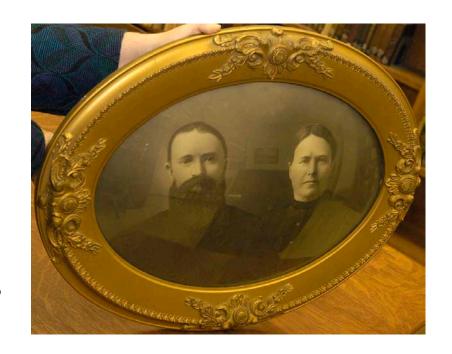
Census Records



- Records from the colonies along the Volga River
- Most are from the 1798 census
- AHSGR in Lincoln has a much larger collection

Haberkorn Letters

- Anna Maria (Haberkorn)
 Dinkel, who lived in
 Walker, received letters
 from her siblings in
 Russia
 - Joseph Haberkorn
 - Apollonia (Haberkorn)
 Dieser
 - Margaret (Haberkorn) Burgardt
- Picture is of their parents
 Johannes and Elizabeth
 Haberkorn



Haberkorn Letters

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Letter received by Mrs. Peter A. Dinkel of Walker Kansas from her brother Joseph Haberkorn in Russia. Letter donated to ethnic library collection FHSU by the Peter A. Dinkel family.

Jan. 21, 1931

Hearty greetings from me Joseph Haberkorn and family. We wish to let you know that yesterday we received your letter of Dec. 15. We are all well and hope you are the same.

I am going to sendyou the address you wrote me, and let you know you should use this address. This address is all right, even thou it is in German. I would like to know who gave you this address? I believe it is he who you wrote is in Siberia. Hopefully he isn't any further away from you then Herzog? *

Nothing is especially good here. This is the second letter I am sending today. Hope you receive both. All other brothers are well and send greetings.

Our children are all in school. What they learn I can't tell you, because I don't know what will result without religion. I believe there will be good Communists.

Farewell, greet all who ask about us.

Your brother-in-law and brother

Joseph Haberkorn

Please answer soon.

* Note: Fr. Kappes was here in Ellis Co. in 1921 with Bishop Kessler to raise money for the starving people in Russia, and may be the one he refers to. (Translator).

Joseph Haberkorn, the writer of this letter was born in the U.S. and returned with his folks to Russia in 1909, and then later was caught up in the revolution, the famines of 1921 and 1931 and later the deportation to Siberia. (Translator)

Translated by L.A. Weigel

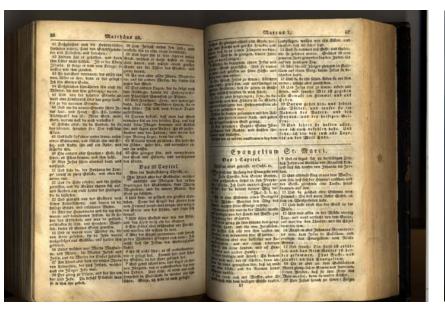


her is misht with all laying ory sid interpret ist, min gibt is visil the act met be bounder gut it do not deep that the best was not seep that she he with being was not seep the and while written register said much general was well with mich general was noch grand with with a belief was the well with mich well word such well word such so well word with most such most well with any such most well with gift well to be however the such well with any such most well with grand alle woo with my fift well to however the flank in fifth with the however down fright wir I there well to be for the form of the provide alle woo with my fifty will grand alle woo with my fifty in the such grand the wood was fright as the such the word of the such grand the wood with the such grand a such the such the such as the such a such a such grand the wood was the such a such a such a such as the such as t

Maps

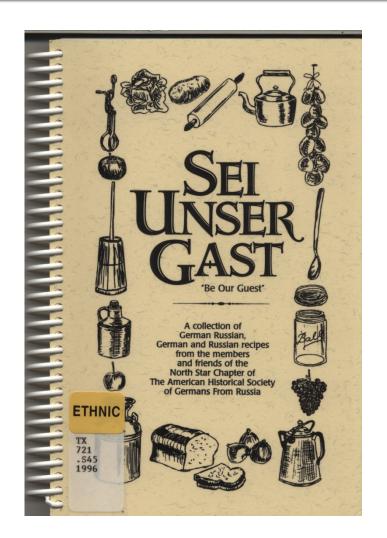
- Germany
- Russia
- United States
- Some of the maps are in the German language
- The rest are in the English language

Bibles and Songbooks





Cookbooks



The the spices in cheesecobn. Cut the rabbit into serving pieces; dredge in flour. Melt the butter in a heavy skillet and brown the pieces, removing them when browned. Add the vegetables to the butter remaining in the skillet and saute 5 minutes. Place the rabbit and vegetables in a dutch oven, add the broth and spice bag, and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover, and simmer 30 to 40 minutes, or until meat is not quite done. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Remover arbbit from dutch oven and keep warm. Discard spice bags strain cooking liquid, reserving the vegetables. Puree vegetables in food processor or force through a sieve; mix with sour cream; salt to taste. Return rabbit to dutch oven and cover with sauce. Bake, uncovered, for 20 minutes or until tender. Serve with boiled potatoes and Marinated Beet Salad feeper for-

Marinated Beet Salad (Salat iz Marinovannoy Svyokty): You will need 1 lb. of fresh beets, all about the same size. Scrub the beets and cut off the tops, leaving about 1" of stem. Brush with vegetable oil, place in a baking pan, and bake at 275 degrees. Feet 1 bour or until tender.

While the beets are baking, prepare the marinade in a stainless steel or enameled saucepan. Mix 1/2 c. vinegar, 1 c. water, 1 bay leaf, 4 whole alispice. 4 whole peppercorns, 1 a whole drove, 2 Tbys, sugar, and 1/2 sp, salt. Bring marinal ingredients to a boil, simmer 5 minutes, remove from heat, and let cool. Strain marinade, discarding the spices; mix marinade with 1 Tbpo, olive oil.

Remove beets from oven, let set until cool enough to handle, peel, and cut into thick Julienne. Mix beets with marinade, cover, and store in refrigerator for 1 day before serving.

KLÖBE, NUDELN UND TEIGWAREN

(Dumplings, Noodles, and Pasta)

That this section turned out to be one of the longer is no accident. For every person who considers the potato the heart of German Russian cuisine, there's another who would argue it's the dumpling. There are even some who would elevate noodles to that exalted noodline.

In the old country and in the early years in the New World, dumplings and noodles were ideal foods for large, hard-working German Russian familles. They were filling, packed with calories, nutritious, and perhaps most important of all-cheap to make. Furthermore, they were made of ingredients-flour, eggs, cream, and butter-that every housewife had in abundance.

The German Russians, like their German forebears, prepare dumplings and noocide slines in an amazing number of ways. Dumplings and noocides find their way into soups. Noocide dought is filled with a variety of savory and sweet fillings. Both dumplings and noocides are bathed in Schmettz or field. Dumplings are cooked with sauerkraut. But perhaps the favorite is a combination of potatoes and dumplings for sometimes potatoes and noocides.

We decided to take the easy way out and use 'Klôße,' one of the many names that the Germans have for dumplings in the title of this section. This seemed like the only way to not favor one German Russian group or colony over another.

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Oral Histories

- Interviewees subjects
 - History of Ellis County
 - Their ancestors
 - Their customs and social life
- Cassette tapes

Photographs - Families

Anton Dreiling Family





Nick A. and Anna Pfannenstiel

Nicholas and Eva Eberle





Peter A. Gross Family

A Guide to the Collections

- Available at the following URL:
 - http://www.fhsu.edu/library/ethnic/center-forethnic-studies/
 - At the bottom of the page, there is a link to click on to retrieve the PDF

Hours and Parking

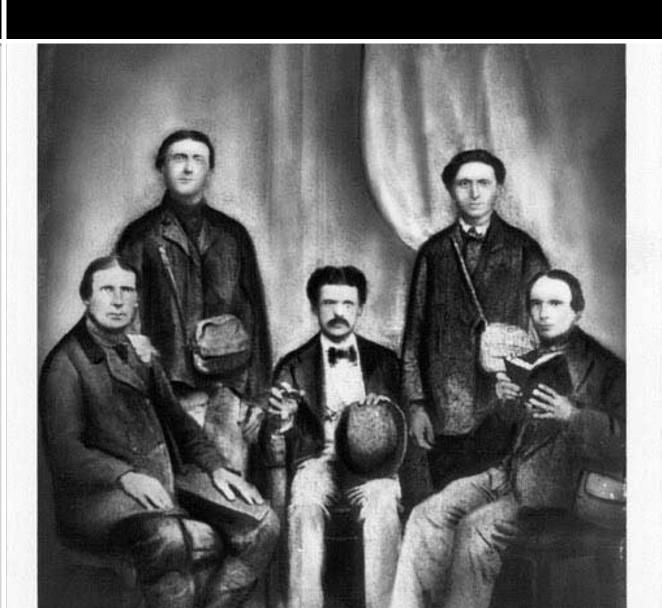
- Regular hours are:
 Monday through Friday 8:00 4:30
- Exceptions: Summer hours (usually begins the 3rd or 4th week in May and ends the first week of August) Monday through Thursday 7:00 – 4:30
- Library is closed for legal holidays and the week between Christmas and New Year's Day.
- Parking will need a visitor's permit if there are no available visitors parking spaces during the weeks that school is in session

Story of the Volga Germans

- Began in Germany after the Seven Years War
- Catherine the Great issued a manifesto
- Approximately 25,000 Germans moved to Russia
- Nearly 200 German villages and towns were established
- In 1873, only 100 years after moving to Russia, the promised freedoms were threatened

Scouts

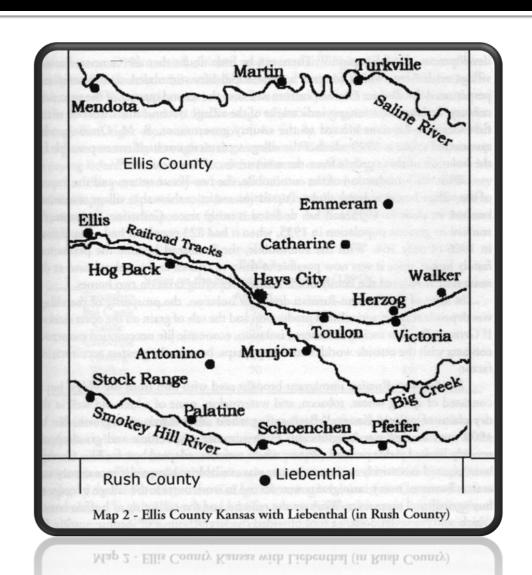
From left to right:
Peter Stoecklein
Jacob Ritter
Nicholas Schamme
Peter Leiker
Anton Wasinger



Schools and Churches

- The two most important things in the lives of the Volga German settlers were education and faith. The school and church were the foundation of each community.
 - Children were taught in people's homes until school buildings were built
 - 1st Parochial School Herzog (1879)
 - 1st Church Building A frame structure added to Alois Dreiling's house in Herzog (around 1876)

Map of Volga German Settlements



Liebenthal (Rush County)

- First Volga German village to be established in Kansas
 - February 21, 1876 by settlers from Liebenthal,
 Russia
 - Two more groups arrived in August and September
- Most of the people of the latter two groups established the town of Schoenchen in Ellis County at a later date

Liebenthal

- First Parochial School
 - Built in 1890; addition built in 1897
- First Church building
 - Built in 1877-1878
- St. Joseph's Church
 - Built 1902-1905
 - Fire gutted the church in 1917 and again in 1959 – rebuilt both times
- School
 - Built 1917
- Rectory
 - Frame structure 1889
 - Stone structure 1910



Catharine (Katharinestadt)

- Largest of the German colonies along the Volga River
- Emigrants left on October 22, 1875 and arrived in Baltimore on November 23
- Came to Hays on March 1, 1876 after staying in Topeka for the winter

- Town was established about 10 miles northeast of Hays on April 8, 1876
- Residents of Catharine were better off than their neighbors
- Several Moravian
 Austrian families
 joined the community
 between 1878-1883

Catharine





- School
 - Built in 1879
 - Both classes and worship
- Catharine School
 - Built 1902 by Justus Bissing, Jr.
 - Identical school building was built in Munjor
- St. Catherine Church
 - Built 1891-1892

Story of two towns – Victoria (Herzog)

- Colony of Victoria was established in 1873 by Scotch and English families
- George Grant brought what is believed to be the first Polled Angus cattle in America
- His dreams of a colony of cattle and sheep ranches for sons of nobility fell through
- George and Alex Philip were more successful
 - Philip Hardware Store in Hays
 - Philip Ranch is still a working ranch

- Emigrants left Russia on October 24, 1875 and arrived in Baltimore November 23
- Wintered in Topeka through March 1876 and founded the town of Herzog on April 8
 - Located ½ mile north of the English colony of Victoria
- Largest single group to leave the Volga region arrived in Herzog on August 3
- Herzog became the largest colony in Ellis County
- Absorbed its English predecessor, but kept the name Victoria

Herzog/Victoria

- First Parochial School
 - Opened in 1878
- First Churches
 - Frame structure that was built onto a house
 - Stone church built in 1877 quickly became too small
 - Another building was built in 1884
- St. Fidelis Church
 - 225 families of the parish
 - Built in 1909-1911





Munjor (Obermonjour)

- Founded by settlers that were part of the largest group to emigrate from Russia in August 1876
 - Settlers stayed in Herzog and moved to Munjor in October
- Several more groups joined them over the next couple of years with the last group coming in September 1878

Munjor







- First Church
 - Frame built in 1877
- St. Francis Church
 - Built 1890
 - Steeple was damaged and never replaced
- St. Francis School
 - Built in 1893 by Justus Bissing, Jr.
 - Identical school building was built in Catharine in 1902

Pfeifer

- Founded on either August 21 or 24, 1876 by emigrants from Pfeifer, Russia
- Located along the south bank of the Smoky Hill River
- Final group came from Kamenka, Russia and arrived in Pfeifer on June 20, 1878

Pfeifer

- First Two Churches
 - Frame built in 1879
 - Stone built in 1890-1891
- Holy Cross Church
 - Built in 1915-1918
- School
 - Built in 1898





Schoenchen

- A conflict among the 1st settlers in Liebenthal lead to the founding of this village
 - Settlers had begun building homes in Section 16 because of better water supply
 - Johann Schaefer donated 4 acres in Section 21 to be used for building a church
 - People who had homes in Section 16 moved their residences to Section 28 in Ellis County

- Original name was San Antonio
- Settlers were from Schoenchen and Neu-Obermonjour in Russia and wanted the town to have one of those names, so they came to a compromise
 - Village was named Schoenchen
 - Church was named for the patron saint of the church in Neu-Obermonjour, St. Anthony

Schoenchen





- First Churches
 - Stone 1880
 - Frame 1881
- St. Anthony's Church
 - Built 1900-1901
- First Public Schools
 - Stone 1880
 - **1**926-1927
- Parochial School
 - Stone 1917

More Information

- http://www.fhsu.edu/library/ethnic/center-forethnic-studies/ - Center for Ethnic Studies located in Forsyth Library
- http://www.fhsu.edu/library/ksheritage/Volga-Germans-in-Ellis-County/ - Web pages that are part of the Kansas Heritage Project at Forsyth Library
- http://www.volgagerman.net a wonderful website put together by some local historians
- http://www.ahsgr.org/ American Historical Society of Germans from Russia with headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska