

## Alexanderdorf-Hoh 2019 Village report

Alexanderdorf (Volga) and Hoh were two separate neighboring villages, eventually merging; suggest they become one report. Please adjust accordingly on the AHSGR website.

Thanks for placing this in the village files.

### **NAMES**

Alexanderhöh, Alexandrhöh, Alexanderdorf, Alexander-Hey, Alexandrovka, Uralsk

### **HISTORY:**

- Alexanderhöh was a daughter colony that originally consisted of two colonies--one named Alexanderdorf and the other named Höh. The two colonies were located next to one another on opposite sides of the Nachoi River (Nachostrom), a tributary that branched off the Greater Karaman River (Großer Karaman Fluß) east of [Mariental](#). Alexanderdorf was founded in 1848 by 19 families from the mother colonies of [Schwed](#), [Schäfer](#), [Urbach](#), [Stahl am Karaman](#), and others.
- Höh was founded later (evidently 1860) by colonists from the mother colonies of [Schwed](#), [Stahl am Karaman](#), [Rosenheim](#), [Fischer](#), [Enders](#), and others. About the same time (i.e., in the first half of 1860), the names of the two colonies were combined into Alexander-Höh, which from then on became the name of the combined daughter colony.
- According to the 9th Revision for [Stahl am Karaman](#), the following families moved to Alexanderdorf: Michael Stahl (b. 1794), Konrad Stahl (b. 1797), Johannes Zitzer (b. 1773), Friedrich Zitzer (b. 1801), Heinrich Seibel (b. 1793), Friedrich Elberg (Ölberg?, b. 1810), and Christian Elberg (Ölberg?, b. 1814). In 1877-1878, 10 families departed for America.

### Projects:

- Data gathering is on-going from multiple sources, immigration, obituaries, census, civil records, and numerous publications. I seek data at libraries, on-line,---anywhere.
- Movement is being studied; families were often very mobile for various reasons, famine, war, and land for sons, etc. Including movement to Caucasus.
- Maintaining a log of time spent on research and various related projects, per request of AHSGR

### Goals:

- Locate additional information for this village and its peoples; and share.
- My personal interest in this village is for the Hert/Herdt families.
- Please forward any questions and suggestions.

Tool Kit: Purchasing resource materials as rapidly as possible. My collection contains all known census records, maps and various publications. Always looking for new information and sources.

DNA : Encouraging everyone to test.

Free Service: Explore the [CommunityFamilySearch](#).site for your research challenges. Translation services are also available. Word your request to include, “Germans from Russia”

Caution: Numerous villages within the Germans from Russia areas have similar names; ensure you have located the correct village. Alexandersorf’s are located in the Volga, North and South Caucasus. Check for correct long/lat. Consult gazetteers.

Respectfully submitted.

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[Intermountainchapterahsgrblogspot.com](http://Intermountainchapterahsgrblogspot.com)

Intermountain Facebook

## **Alexanderdorf, North and South Caucasus 2019 Village report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.
- Any Caucasus information shared with me would be appreciated; I am looking forward to learning as much as possible. Please suggest reading material.
- I maintain a Caucasus contact list; contact me if you are interested.
- EWZ records are being researched as time allows, they are an exceptional source of information for many families and villages. EWZ and numerous resources at the FHL are presently being scanned which will enable researcher’s greater productivity.
- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes, and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum: I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.
- Teaching Germans from Russia classes weekly at the Family History Library at the request of the supervisor. Shari Stone joins me, thanks!
- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
- Are you planning a research trip to the FHL, contact me in advance and chapter will assist.

Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com](http://intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com)

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### **Alexanderfeld, North Caucasus 2019 Village report**

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Dee Hert

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## **Alt-Dönhof 2019 Annual Report**

2109 was an active year for requests for information.

I had requests for the following families:

Vogel, Bender, Lai, Schwartzkopf, Stoll, Steinbrecher, Kaiser, Rutz, Haas, Keller, Thiel (Diel), Lissman, Schwab, Hettinger, Schaffer/Schäfer, Schnerr/Schnorr, Müller, Lichtenwald, and Baus. Almost all requests were from researchers from the United States, but I did have one request from Argentina. I was able to help most with at least some information, but there were a few requests for information for years which we do not have records.

I completed a new village tri-fold display for the 50th anniversary convention for AHSGR this past summer in Lincoln. The display included information for Alt-Dönhof, and daughter

colonies of Neu- Dönhof, Rosenberg, and Unterdorf. I was not able to attend the convention and want to thank Fabian Zubia Schultheis for attending.

Tibi Maw, Fabian Zubia Schultheis, and Lee Ann Schlager continue to put hard work into our village newsletter, "Die Dönhofer", and if you have queries or information you would like included in the newsletter, please contact Lee Ann Schlager ([laschlager@aol.com](mailto:laschlager@aol.com)). Also, contact Lee Ann if you are not currently on our mailing list and would like to be included.

I had several researchers share family information this year and would like to thank them for the additions to our files. Every bit of information we receive helps fill in missing pieces for families. I am finding that as more and more people are doing DNA testing, we are able to put families together through DNA matches. It is one more tool to use in genealogical and family history research.

An ongoing goal for 2020 is to continue to build the Alt-Dönhof database and to obtain more published information as it becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Kaiser  
Village of Alt-Dönhof

### **Anton 2019 Village Report**

Village research for Anton is on-going, working with interested researchers and always willing to share and learn from others.

Thanks for posting this report in the village files.

Projects:

- Data gathering is on-going for information from obituaries, immigration, census, and numerous publications.
- “Annotated Inventory of the Cases Handled by the Saratov Office of Foreign Affairs”, data entered into database. Book available at AHSGR.org.
- Movement among villages is being studied, including the Caucasus.
- Populating database as information is received.
- Maintaining a contact list of individuals actively interested in Anton information; contact Dee to be included.
- EWZ records are being researched as time allows, they are an excellent source of information for families and villages. EWZ and numerous resources at the FHL are being scanned which will enable researcher’s greater productivity.

- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum. I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.
- Post your research challenges to [communityfamilysearch](#), numerous services provided, including translation. Professionals will respond to your questions.
- Shari Stone and I are teaching Germans from Russia classes to the professional staff at the FHL. We are taking advantage of this opportunity to educate staff on various aspects of German culture in Russia. Anton and numerous villages and subjects are being introduced. We are not limiting classes to only Volga.
- Intermountain Chapter is collaborating with AHSGR at the 2020 RootsTech convention; objective is membership and community awareness.
- Maintaining a log of time spent on research and various related projects, per request of AHSGR.

Tool Kit: Purchasing resource materials as rapidly as possible. Collection contains all acquirable census records, complete set of AHSGR maps, Journals and numerous publications. Willing to do look-ups.

DNA is being encouraged among Anton researchers.

New Records: Anton records were purchased from Russia and translated for the years 1834 to 1863. These records are of great value; including maiden names and parents. Contact Sharon if you are interested in purchasing a set of records.

Additional Records: Anton records remain in the Russian archives for marriages, birth, personal records, etc. An Anton fund raising project is established, contact Sharon if interested.

Resource: Dr.'s Alexander, Jacob, and Mary Eichhorn published a book," The Immigration of German Colonists to Denmark and their Subsequent Emigration to Russia in the Years 1759-1766. The book contains data on families who went to Denmark before arriving in Anton. Village Coordinators have a copy of this book as well as the Family History Library.

Free Services: Explore the [CommunityFamilySearch](#).for your research challenges. Translation services are also available. Word your request to include the phrase "Germans from Russia.

I plan to attend AHSGR conventions and be available to answer questions and share data. An Anton binder was given to AHSGR and I will ensure it is updated annually.

Anton Village Coordinators:

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

Intermountainchapterahsgrblogspot.com

Intermountain Chapter Facebook

Assistant Sharon White

[slmwhite@aol.com](mailto:slmwhite@aol.com)

## **Avilovo 2019 Annual Village Report**

I have not been able to attend the AHSGR conventions for several years, and my health issues will probably keep me away in 2020 as well. I always enjoyed the meetings; I found them to be very educational and a valuable chance to meet others interested in our heritage.

Avilovo: I was contacted by a gentleman in June regarding his Winder/Winter family. He had found German origin information online for the family, showing they came from Heilbronn, Germany. Ancestry.com has recently added many documents on German vital dates, but with a very common name and vague records of where the family originated, I was politely skeptical of his information.

Erlenbach: I was greatly assisted this year with South American connections by Elena Vega Stehle & Patricia Gayol Windecker. A Facebook page, Erlenbach & Awilovo in Russia, was set up for queries regarding Erlenbach and Avilovo. So far there has been very little activity on the page.

I tried to assist 5 people with questions about their Stricker, Becker, Schmunk, Karg, and Heimbigner/Heimbichner families in the daughter colonies of Erlenbach and Avilovo; I also searched for the families in my available resources for the nearby daughter colonies of Oberdorf and Rosenberg. One of the persons who contacted me was a 3rd to 5th cousin DNA match on the Schmunk line. Because there are no publicly available church records for Avilovo, Oberdorf, Erlenbach, or Rosenberg, I was not able to tie his earliest known ancestor (b. 1884 in Rosenberg) to the Schmunk lines who settled in any of the nearby villages.

Over the past 5 years, I have purchased almost all the publicly available records for Erlenbach, Oberdorf, and Rosenberg. There are no publicly available documents for Avilovo. I have the 1857 census records for the 3 towns (Avilovo does not have an 1857 census), as well as census records for the villages from which people moved to Avilovo and Erlenbach (& for most of the settlers in Oberdorf & Rosenberg as well). I have used the censuses, First Settlers Lists, Kulberg Lists, Transport Lists, Eichhorn's book, and surname charts to tie most of the settlers of Erlenbach (& those I know about in Avilovo) to their Russian first settlers.

However, I continue to be frustrated at the lack of progress in getting the few available pages of church records for Erlenbach and Avilovo out to researchers. A cousin in Germany translated the Avilovo records a year or two ago, forwarded them to AHSGR, and his and my repeated requests for updates have not been answered. I have heard that the few available pages of

Erlenbach records have also been purchased, but again, I do not know the status of them. This has been very frustrating, as I can rarely assist folks who want to tie their immigrant ancestor to a family in the Erlenbach 1857 census or to other people researching the same family. Please, let's make some progress on the church records as soon as possible!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Stahlman, VC for Erlenbach and Avilovo  
[kbsgen@yahoo.com](mailto:kbsgen@yahoo.com)

## **Baku, Azerbaijan, Caussus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

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Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deeehert@gmail.com](mailto:deeehert@gmail.com)

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## **BALZER 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

2019 was an active year for the Balzer group. I continued indexing the Balzer records acquired in the previous years. This includes Communion records, baptism, marriage, and death records, and the 1897 census. Was also able to purchase two of the five volumes of the 1906-1921 Communion records.

With the generous assistance from co-coordinator, Dr. Darrell Weber, we continue to translate the massive 1897 census. It consists of 1,052 families entered in over 600 pages of documentation written entirely in Cyrillic script. Fortunately, the names retain their German spellings. Last year, I was able to download a copy of the index to this census from the Volgadeutsche website which will help in the translation.

Baptism and marriage records for a few more of the Balzer settlers who first went to the Danish colonies were identified. This includes Klein, Egner, Späth, and possibly Meyer. Less than six more baptisms to find in the Danish records.

Continued sending German origins results to Maggie Hein who has generously taken some of her valuable time to proof read my findings to be certain that they are spot on. She has then sent them on the the Center for Volga Studies. To date, I have identified at least partial information (baptism(s) or marriage) for 78 of the original 105 founding families.

In May travelled to Salt Lake City to do research at the Family History Library. While there met with Dee Hert (VC for Anton and several other German colonies), and Shari Stone (VC for Hussenbach) where we spent some time discussing our research and all of the exciting news of how they are assisting to educate the staff at the library to understand German Russian history and the related documents.

Throughout the year, I was contacted by researchers from the United States, Germany, Russia, and most recently Siberia. Pedigree (direct ancestral) charts were created for a few of these researchers. This includes Eurich, Heckmann, Lein, Schwabauer, Jackel, Bauer, and Rockel

Missed the annual convention last year because my wife and I were on a Rhine River cruise. On

this trip we were able to visit one of Diane's ancestral towns (Heidelberg), and take an in-depth tour of the site of the World War 2 Battle for the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France in which my father was personally involved.

Expect this year to be equally busy and productive: 1) continue with the translations and indexing, 2) hope to complete finding the Balzer ancestors who were born or married in Denmark and more in Germany. This is a slow process, especially when I have no help.

I have to honor the paternal side of my ancestry this year, so will be attending the 400th anniversary celebration of the founding of Plymouth (I have no less than 5 Pilgrim ancestors). I therefore will not be able to attend the AHSGR convention this year.

Finally hope to purchase a copy of the final volume of the 1906-1921 Communion records. Unfortunately, it is very expensive (\$1,300) and I currently have no funds to achieve this goal. Looking for a benefactor or a grant.

Wayne Bonner  
Co-Coordinator Balzer Colony  
whbonner@aol.com

### **Beideck 2019 Annual Village Report**

I answered questions from about 15 people this year. Most all of the people were LDS and concerned about doing temple work for them. I have been able to add family members in about 1500 cases that were not on the system. The current project I am on is to find complete families for all my connected ancestors. My biggest problem is data on families from 1857 and beyond, I use ancestry a lot to fill in the missing links.

John Lauck [jdlauck23@gmail.com](mailto:jdlauck23@gmail.com)

### **Blumenfeld, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.
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Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

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DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

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### **Dietel 2019 Annual Village Report**

Surname requests I worked with this year were Busch, David, Flegler, Hoffmann, Kern, Kindsvater, Klehmann, Kramer, Lackmann, Mill, Muller, Pitsch, Reichel, Reichert, Schadt, Schmidt, Schneider, Spreuer, Wambold, Weinmiester.

Two individuals, Ed Ring and Betty Carvalho, had sent information of their family history, mostly obituaries which I have entered into the Dietel database. Surnames were mostly: Bangert, Batt, Busch, Foos, Hettinger, Lackmann, Ring, Schmidt, Schneider, Weinmeister.

I have finally (over five years of work!) finished entering the birth-marriage-death records that were originally purchased by Brent Mai and then translated by D. Michael Frank and Dona Reeve-Marquardt. The Dietel database now has, Births: 1870-1884; 1885-1897; 1903-1911. Marriages: 1836-1904. Deaths: 1870-1916. Database has over 18,000 folks to date.

In 2019, Ms. Anna Kasterina Pleve, entered 'our' scene. She has offered to pickup where her parents left off by doing family pedigree charts – but she does it in digital form. All my Volga-German surnames have already been done, so I asked her if she could take the Kindsvater chart and digitize that for me since it was so difficult to read. For a reasonable price she was able to accomplish this for me and I really like it! She also forwarded three documents about my branch of the Kindsvaters. One of which was a census/family list page dated 1873; the exact same information was in the 1874 census; very confusing to me. Anna and I are going to work together and try and figure all this out. And down the line I hope she can fill in the gaps of the previous mentioned birth-marriage-death records.

This will, of course, take money. I don't have a definite plan yet on how to raise funds for that project.

I attended the Volga German Institute at Fairfield University Conference held in Leavenworth, WA in April; was unable to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> convention in Nebraska.

The Dietel Facebook page now has 312 members from all over the globe.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Bouton  
Co-VC Dietel Village

## **Dietel 2019 Co-Coordinator Report**

We have had a very good year as the History of Dietel by Olga Litzenberger was translated by a professional translator from Salt Lake City. The book chapter is available to anyone who wants to order it from me. As we all know the cost of getting information written and translated was quite expensive. The book is \$20.

I have also placed many articles on the Dietel Facebook page. We are also now placing new and old obituaries on the page so that Dietel folks can review the names for themselves in their search for ancestors. I have found that after you make a request to Karen one can place the request on the Facebook page and there may be relatives who can help with information.

I visited Dietel, Russia, this past year and was overwhelmed with memory connections. It made the past come alive in my mind. When it was time to leave, I wanted to stay longer to take in all

of the old village still left like it was when my family left for New York and Ellis Island. Dietel has a museum and many items related to the past history of Dietel. There was even a relative of my Kindsvater family still living in Dietel.

I would recommend to everyone to please visit your village before you get too senior to travel. The walkways and stairs are not very user friendly, so one must be careful. The younger the better to be able to walk around the old village. I found the Brent Mia tour excellent and would recommend that one consider going this summer if you can swing it. The members of Brent's staff spoke Russian, so we were able to understand everything that was said in Russian. The hotels were excellent, and the food was wonderful. The courtesy of the tour guides was a blessing as they were very supportive and helpful. I found that going there opened my mind up to many new insights and caused a desire to dig deeper into my past for information. My grandmas came alive for the trip and the memories still linger on several months later.

My CoCoordinator, Karen Bouton has also been very busy building a Dietel network of all Dietel people and including those from other villages.

Don Soeken  
Village of Dietel  
CoCoordinator

### **Dreisnitz 2019 village Report**

This year I had a only a few inquiries from individuals within the United States looking for information on their family lineage.

Some of the family surnames were Keller, Karg, Feil & Steinle.

I attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Annual AHSGR convention "Our Golden Jubilee" held in Lincoln, Nebraska and listened to a number of interesting speakers.

During the village area discussion I assisted several Dreispitz descendants looking for information on their family heritage.

I would be remiss if I did not mention that our AHSGR Executive Director Sherry Loos Pawelko retired this year and will be greatly missed.

We now anxiously await for a new Executive Director to take over the duties at our headquarters in Lincoln, NE.

This summer while attending The Great American Trucking Show (GATS) in Dallas, Texas my son and I stopped at a booth to watch a presentation.

About the time the demonstration was over I noticed the name tag of one of the young men presenting.

After the demonstration I quizzed the young man about his heritage and he confirmed he was a German from Russia.

He then introduced us to the other guy helping him which turned out to be his brother.

Both were very intrigued about their ancestry, so the next day I was able to provide them with some more information about their Great Great Grandfather Steinle which was from the village of Dreispitz.

I'm looking forward to attending the 2020 convention in Pasco, Washington the last week of July.

Mark Wills

Village Coordinator for Dreispitz

[mark.b.wills@jci.com](mailto:mark.b.wills@jci.com)

## **ENDERS 2019 Annual Village Report**

Enders has had very few inquiries this year.

Resources available for the village include the 1st settlers list (1766), as well as census and family lists for 1798, 1834, 1850, and 1857. In addition, census/ family list information is available for Mueller households 1897 and 1920.

Thanks to Dodie Rotherham and the George Lauren Foundation, we have been able to retrieve multiple records from the archive in Russia. I'm currently working on translations for Enders Marriages 1834-1883; Enders Births 1834-1849; Enders Birth, Marriage, Death and Confirmations 1829-1833; Enders Family List 1874-1896; and Enders, Reinwald, Fischer, Stahl am Karaman, Krasnoyar and Rosenheim births 1787-1805.

Translation for Enders Marriages 1834-1883 has been completed and will be available soon for purchase from the AHSGR store.

Join Enders on Facebook for updates.

<https://www.facebook.com/Enders-Ust-Karaman-Volga-Russia-146001585420351/>

Beth R Davenport (Mueller) [volgadeutsch@gmail.com](mailto:volgadeutsch@gmail.com)

Enders Village Coordinator

## **Egenfeld, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

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- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
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I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.



Respectfully submitted,

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## **Emmas, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

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### **Erlenbach 2019 Annual Village Report**

I have not been able to attend the AHSGR conventions for several years, and my health issues will probably keep me away in 2020 as well. I always enjoyed the meetings; I found them to be very educational and a valuable chance to meet others interested in our heritage.

Avilovo: I was contacted by a gentleman in June regarding his Winder/Winter family. He had found German origin information online for the family, showing they came from Heilbronn, Germany. Ancestry.com has recently added many documents on German vital dates, but with a very common name and vague records of where the family originated, I was politely skeptical of his information.

Erlenbach: I was greatly assisted this year with South American connections by Elena Vega Stehle & Patricia Gayol Windecker. A Facebook page, Erlenbach & Awilovo in Russia, was set up for queries regarding Erlenbach and Avilovo. So far there has been very little activity on the page.

I tried to assist 5 people with questions about their Stricker, Becker, Schmunk, Karg, and Heimbigner/Heimbichner families in the daughter colonies of Erlenbach and Avilovo; I also searched for the families in my available resources for the nearby daughter colonies of Oberdorf and Rosenberg. One of the persons who contacted me was a 3rd to 5th cousin DNA match on the Schmunk line. Because there are no publicly available church records for Avilovo, Oberdorf, Erlenbach, or Rosenberg, I was not able to tie his earliest known ancestor (b. 1884 in Rosenberg) to the Schmunk lines who settled in any of the nearby villages.

Over the past 5 years, I have purchased almost all the publicly available records for Erlenbach, Oberdorf, and Rosenberg. There are no publicly available documents for Avilovo. I have the 1857 census records for the 3 towns (Avilovo does not have an 1857 census), as well as census records for the villages from which people moved to Avilovo and Erlenbach (& for most of the settlers in Oberdorf & Rosenberg as well). I have used the censuses, First Settlers Lists, Kulberg

Lists, Transport Lists, Eichhorn's book, and surname charts to tie most of the settlers of Erlenbach (& those I know about in Avilovo) to their Russian first settlers.

However, I continue to be frustrated at the lack of progress in getting the few available pages of church records for Erlenbach and Avilovo out to researchers. A cousin in Germany translated the Avilovo records a year or two ago, forwarded them to AHSGR, and his and my repeated requests for updates have not been answered. I have heard that the few available pages of Erlenbach records have also been purchased, but again, I do not know the status of them. This has been very frustrating, as I can rarely assist folks who want to tie their immigrant ancestor to a family in the Erlenbach 1857 census or to other people researching the same family. Please, let's make some progress on the church records as soon as possible!

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Stahlman, VC for Erlenbach and Avilovo  
kbsgen@yahoo.com

### **Friedenberg 2019 Village Report**

In the past year I was contacted by two people looking for information on Friedenberg. I was able to provide them with a little information and for that they were very thankful.

I have kept their contact information in case I find anything else that might be helpful to them.

Brenda Silvey

VC for Friedenberg

### **Friedensdorf 2019 Annual Village Report**

Friedensdorf was a Mennonite village in the Molotschna Colony of South Russia, now Ukraine. It was founded in 1824 south of and parallel to the Begim-tschokrak River. Today the village is called Khmyelnitskoye. No Mennonite buildings remain in the area. A few gravestones can still be found in the Mennontische Friedhof (cemetery) but the inscriptions are illegible. (The previous information is from Find A Grave -

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2673263/friedensdorf-mennontische-friedhof>)

Friedensdorf was part of the larger colony know as Molochna (Molotschna). My own Niessen ancestors immigrated from Friedensdorf when coming to the USA.

I didn't receive any personal inquiries or receive any correspondence in the past year.

John Niessen - [jsniessen@yahoo.com](mailto:jsniessen@yahoo.com)  
Village Coordinator for Friedensdorf

### **Friedrichsfeld, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

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## **Göbel 2019 Village Coordinator Report**

Map 6, coordinates B7

Goebel AKA Gebel, Goebel, Göbel, Ust-Gräsnucha, Ust-Grjasnucha, Ust-Grjaznucha, Ust-Gryaznukha, Ust-Grasnukha, or Ust-Graesnucha

A Russian Catholic German village situated on the western side of the Volga.

I have a working file for Goebel village of names, births and marriages known regarding the village of Goebel. I have the AHSGR Village File information, and also files, links, databases and materials in addition to the 1798, 1816/1834 and 1850/1857 census reports I had already obtained from AHSGR, Rosemary Larson and Brent Mai respectively.

I also have a copy of Plevé's Vol II with the FSL for Goebel. I also have Göbel birth records (1894-1900) acquired from the Volgograd archive, with the help of Kevin Rupp.

I was not able to attend the 2019 AHSGR Convention. I received four direct requests in 2019; I was not able to help very much due to lack of village records in the times of interest.

Ben Markel

[bgmarkel@hotmail.com](mailto:bgmarkel@hotmail.com)

Goebel Village Coordinator

## **Gros Markosowka, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

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## **Hildmann 2019 Annual Village Report**

### Accomplishments

- With help from AHSGR members (esp. Margret Goebel) – put items on Hildmann Village file
- **1857 Hildmann Census** translation by Juri Schulmeister available on the Hildmann Village file
- Obtained most of the Catholic colony censuses in the Koehler/Hildmann area
- Purchased Igor Pleve's Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764 – 1787 Band 1 to 4 and Brent Mai's 1798 Census of the German Colonies along the Volga – Vol. 1 and 2 to assist with queries
- **EWZ War Records** - purchased Roemisch/Remisch and Guettlein/Gitlein EWZ Records from US National Archives in Maryland (also have EWZ Records available for Jakob Guenther, Adolf Guenther, Margaretha Guenther, Judith Guenther, Rosina Guenther, Nadja Guental, Anna Gugel, Aide Gugenheimer – please contact me if any of these people are of interest to you)

- Contacted Alexander Shpak – author and creator of Geschichte der Wolgadeutschen – [sakut@mail.ru](mailto:sakut@mail.ru) and Makeev Alexander in Moscow and found out about “Stalin’s List” and Gulags.
- Attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska. It was an excellent event and meeting all the people I chat with via internet was super.

People Assisted/Assisted by People - I found that it wasn’t assisting people so much as sharing with people inside and outside AHSGR – they contacted me or vice versa and we pooled what we had. I also seemed to do quite a bit of facilitating between individuals.

I helped Margret Goebel (and get her to join AHSGR) by lending my extra pair of eyes to her extensive Guetlein family list. We shared information and I provided the appropriate records I purchased and some of her family’s EWZ Records. Margret shared her knowledge of translating and organizing EWZ’s (and so much more) with me.

Barbara Bretz (AHSGR) shared information concerning Hildmann and I was able to send her EWZs and the name of a translator that was of assistance to her.

Provided George Weissbeck with pertinent family EWZ records. I am still keeping any eye open for Katharina Martinewski, Sophie Lang, and Josef and Christina Weissbeck.

I checked the last AHSGR “**Clues**” magazine. I contacted AHSGR members with similar surnames to mine and shared the digital marriage, death or birth records in my possession. Almost everyone responded. I will reach out again now that we have the new “**Clues**.”

Roger and Mary Burbank (AHSGR/CVGS) have shared their knowledge with me and I am now trying to return the favour by providing records as they become available to me.

I helped David Haspert (AHSGR/FindaGrave) by providing names, biographies, and gravestone pictures of Volga Germans in my family that went to Canada. David provided me with a digital copy of a plot map of Koehler. David’s nephew has done research on Koehler and will be providing me with information on the Remisch’s of Koehler. I encourage AHSGR members to assist David with his worthwhile project. Contact David at [davidhaspert@yahoo.com](mailto:davidhaspert@yahoo.com) or check out **Find-A-Grave** It is another source for info.

I had 4 queries related to DNA Ancestry.com – Ann Depp, Richard Ward, Gerd Hemminger and Regina Kling. I encouraged 3 of them to contact AHSGR because they “might” have roots in the Volga.

I have a request from Rudolph Kloster in Germany and David Haspert concerning Barbara Gertje and her deceased husband. I contacted Joe Gertge (AHSGR) and am awaiting his reply.

#### Current Projects –

Attempt to add a few more items to the Hildmann Village files.

Learn more about “Yuzhlag” and other Russian labour camps and how to obtain information from them.

#### Future Plans -

Encourage AHSGR to go digitally – including censuses.

Continue to encourage more sharing/pooling of information with other village co-ordinators.

Eventually start a Hildmann website (when I have information on Hildmann that warrants it).

#### Help Needed and Offered–

If anyone has any information on Hildmann to share – I would appreciate it. (I’m fine for pictures.)

I am looking for a digital copy of the plot map of Koehler. (Not the 1926 map from Sabine Gareis of Germany that was enhanced by David Haspert). This one is older. I have a copy that is not very clear.

I am unaware of a plot map of Hildmann but if you are aware of one – I would appreciate a digital copy.

In my genealogical travels – I have found these three individuals extremely helpful and will share them with you. *I have no stake in the 3 persons below and AHSGR does not endorse them. If you find my personal opinion here problematic – do not contact them. Anyone who is looking for another source of information – read on...*

**Leo Galinger** – a German from Russia (living in Germany) has helped me a great deal to find information – please do not hesitate to contact him (translate your e-mail to German for him). He has a lot of information and is willing to share. Contact him at [galingerleo@mail.ru](mailto:galingerleo@mail.ru). If you are aware of any Galinger’s – he would be interested.

As well, **Vasilij Schoenfeld** – another German from Russia (living in Germany) will gladly assist. Contact him at [plumbum63@gmx.net](mailto:plumbum63@gmx.net). He has provided me with information and enjoys helping. Translate your queries to German for Vasilij too. If you are aware of any Schoenfeld’s - he would be interested.

I hear many people complain about not having translators for their information.

**Juri Schulmeister** – another German from Russia (recommended by Leo - above) is an excellent translator of Russian/German and old German to English. You can contact him in English. He does charge but I have found he is well worth it. He is reasonable and has the background in these languages. As well, he is accessible, accurate and trustworthy. I recommended Juri to a gentleman in CVGS and Juri has done work for him. As well, I put Juri in contact with Barbara Bretz (vc – Koehler) and he is doing translating for her. If you want to check out Juri’s work please look at the Hildmann Village File for the Hildmann census he provided. He has also recently completed the translated censuses for Pfeifer.



**Juri Schulmeister** can be contacted at [juri.schulmeister@gmx.de](mailto:juri.schulmeister@gmx.de).

I just remembered that he was recently offered 1811 Censuses from the following colonies (if anyone is interested): Leichtling, Brabander, Dehler, Hoelzer, New Colony, Niedermonjou, Preuss, Rothammel, Seelmann, Seewald and Vollmer.

A big thank-you to everyone else who assisted me this year (my first year) and put up with my numerous questions (ie, Margaret Lawson, Ted Gerk, Sara Bailey Roberts, Cathy Hawinkels, etc.) .

Regina Remisch  
Toronto, Ontario Canada M4C 2W4

[reginaremisch@sympatico.ca](mailto:reginaremisch@sympatico.ca)

## **Huck 2019 Village Coordinator Report**

(This is a joint report from Pam Wurst and Dennis Zitterkopf)

Two new documents were translated and published this year, and are available in the AHSGR Store:

- 1844-1847 Huck (Splawnucha), Russia Death Records
- Huck 1941 Property Transfer Records
- o This is an intriguing record because although the excerpt is only for village Huck, it is from the Balzer Kanton Report of the sale of (some) Huck villager private property to the new inhabitants of the village during or after the Sept 1941 forced immigration. There must be bits and pieces of similar documents in the Archives for other villages in the Kanton as well as records of sales in other Kantons. From the Preface: There are 178 pages in the report for Balzer Kanton but only 14 were located for Huck which indicates other parts of the report may be somewhere in the Archives. Otto Pohl commented during the 2019 AHSGR Convention that such reports were very common and he knew about the so called compensation the original settler was to receive. He doubted that it happened, if at all, adding he knew sections of such documents existed in scrap form but were hard to find.
- o Mila Koretnikov added 'The story I heard last year was that before Germans were deported, they were told to give their property to the collective farm and they would be given a certificate where it was said what they owned and how much it was worth. They were told that when they get 'there' they will receive all this back. Because many did not trust it would happen, they did not all do it. One old lady told me that her father did it though and when they got to

Siberia, he went to the local collective farm and was given money and a cow and this is how his five children survived. ‘

Dennis corresponded with seven new Huck members as a result of the New Member Reports posted by Lincoln Staff. Most of those desperately wanted help understanding what information they had and where more could be found. Organizing their records in a descendant tree format made it easier to help them (and me) identify how help could be provided from existing Huck records and where other records of interest could or would exist (but require some expense to obtain). (I suggested they consider obtaining some sort of a program that would allow them to display their information in descendent, pedigree, family group sheets, etc. format.) Almost all of these new members are hampered by the absence of 1858-1888 available records, and Huck does not have an 1874 census. The translation and publication of other new village 1874 records gives me hope that someday such a file will be found in an Archive that has long been overlooked. In my lifetime it is my fond hope.

Pam continues to work on her data base trying to fill in the blanks. I am now searching other villages 1798 Census, looking for women who have married outside the village. I am thru the villages A-K, just a few hundred more to do.

It was a slow year and I had contact with 4 people asking for help, with their families in Huck but in searching one was found to be from Kutter, my other village. Names were Sack, Shaffer, Huck, and Wagner. Like Dennis has said most of these want that time period of 1858-1888. I was not able to help.

My big project for this year is to digitize all the information that I have in my office. I have boxes upon boxes and it is always a digging process to find the right folder. I guess that comes from doing this for the last 40+ years.

## **Johannesdorf, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

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## **JOST 2019 Annual Village Report**

Jost has had a few inquiries this year. With each inquiry, new information is added to the database and new connections are identified. You have probably sent your ancestral information to AHSGR.org, but please also send it to your Village Coordinator for the Village Database.

Many original Jost settlers can be found in the 1766 "Kulberg Lists." Also the First Settlers List for Jost is found in *Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764-1767*, volume 2, by Igor Pleve. Census lists are available for 1798, 1816-34, 1850, and 1857.

Jost births 1794-1811 have been translated and are available from the AHSGR store. Thank you Dodie Rotherham and the George Lauren Foundation for retrieving these records from Russia. Our database coordinator continues to pursue the ongoing task of adding this information to the database.

Facebook continues to be a great way to reach village descendants worldwide:

<https://www.facebook.com/Jost-Popovkina-Volga-Russia-145686028786783/>

Beth R Davenport (Mueller) [volgadeutsch@gmail.com](mailto:volgadeutsch@gmail.com)

Dave Halm [davehalm@heartofiowa.net](mailto:davehalm@heartofiowa.net)

Jost Co-Coordiators

## **Karlsruhe Causasus 2019 Village Report**

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## **Katharinenfeld, South Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

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## **Katharinental, Samara, Volga 2019 Annual Village Report**

I attended the AHSGR convention in Lincoln.

The 1920 Family List and 1920 Agricultural Census were located and the pages for the Keil families were acquired.

One inquiry was received from Argentina of the Ringler family. I sent census information for the Ringler families of Katharinental, Neu-Straub and Straub, and general information about Katharinental. I received information in return and a thanks.

I have the census of Katharinental for 1857.

I continue searching for records of families from Katharinental (immigration, naturalization, United States census, etc.). I plan to organize what has been found.

Few records have been found for Katharinental. The family list of 1920 appears to list only family members living in 1920 and does not list earlier or later information (as provided in some other family lists). Insufficient information is provided to construct family trees.

The following are known to exist. Assistance is needed to acquire copies.

Birth records of 1903 to 1918, Saratov archive, F. 637, Op. 19, D. 161

Family list of 1920, Engels archive, F. 871, Op. 2, D. 235

Agricultural census of 1920, Engels archive, F. 509, Op. 4, D. 9

Jeremy Landt

jeremysfnm@gmail.com

### **Kind 2019 Village Report**

I have been serving as the village of Susannental for many years. I have a lot of information on the villages of Kind and Meinhard/Unterwalden. I have been assisting people with these villages already. I have recently retired, and I thought I would volunteer to be a coordinator for those villages also since they do not have a coordinator.

Kerry Thompson  
AHSGR Coordinator for Susannental

### **Klein Markosowa, North Causasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.

- Any Caucasus information shared with me would be appreciated; I am looking forward to learning as much as possible. Please suggest reading material.
- I maintain a Caucasus contact list; contact me if you are interested.
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- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes, and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum: I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.
- Teaching Germans from Russia classes weekly at the Family History Library at the request of the supervisor. Shari Stone joins me, thanks!
- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
- Are you planning a research trip to the FHL, contact me in advance and chapter will assist.

Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deeehert@gmail.com](mailto:deeehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com](http://intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com)

Intermountain Facebook



## **Koehler 2019 Annual Report**

We've been able to help a number of researchers with the information in our data base. We appreciate receiving information on your families because that data may help another researcher. We are adding data almost daily so may have information that will help you. Please contact us.

Nick & Barbara Bretz

## **KLUTCHI (AKA Moor) 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

2019 was productive for Moor research. Inquiries were received from researchers in the United States, Germany, and Russia. I was successful in answering most of their requests. I was able to utilize the Moor church records acquired in 2017 to good use to create pedigree (direct ancestral) charts for Moor researchers (Rehm and Jäckel). Having the records indexed saves lots of research time.

German origins were identified for three settler families: Eichler, Geiswein, and Rose. I expect to renew this research in 2020, and complete the Kurhessen records (Brandau, Göbel, and Rehm). To date, I have at least partial information (baptism(s) or marriage) for 51 of the original 70 founding families. Through the generous editing of Maggie Hein, I submitted several new Moor German origins results to the Center for Volga Research.

In May travelled to Salt Lake City to do research at the Family History Library and while there met with Dee Hert (VC for Anton and several other German colonies), and Shari Stone (VC for Hussenbach) where we spent some time discussing our research and all of the exciting news of how they are assisting to educate the staff at the library to understand German Russian history and the related documents.

Missed the annual convention last year because my wife and I were on a Rhine River cruise. On this trip we were able to visit one of Diane's ancestral towns (Heidelberg), and take an in-depth tour of the site of the World War 2 Battle for the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France in which my father was personally involved.

Expect this year to be equally busy and productive: 1) continue with translations and indexing, 2) hope to complete finding the Moor ancestors who were born or married in Denmark and more in Germany and submitting these. This is a slow process, especially when I have no help.

I have to honor the paternal side of my ancestry this year, so will be attending the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of Plymouth (I have no less than 5 Pilgrim ancestors). Therefore, I will not be able to attend the AHSGR convention this year.

Wayne H. Bonner

## **Kraft 2019 Annual Village Report**

This is my third year as the Village Coordinator for the Village of Kraft. In 2019 we had 15 queries for information on ancestral family members coming from Kraft. 13 went to either Canada or the United States and some to both and 2 went to Argentina and Germany. This was

an increase of 67% as in both 2017 and 2018 had 9 each year. We were able to help 13 queries in various degrees and in two cases we were not able to identify names requested from our data base. In three cases I worked in conjunction with other VC's. Surnames requested included Brandt, Eckhardt, Geist, Goss, Karg, Luft, Reichert, Ruppel, Schmidt, Schneider, Sieguart, Wagner, Weimer, Wolf and Wunsch.

We were privileged to attend the Convention held in Lincoln, Nebraska in July 2019 and enjoyed the opportunity to visit head quarters and listen to the speakers and try to further our ancestral research in their library. We travelled by car and with a cousin of mine who had relatives buried in the Blue Hills area and she had us rummaging through all the local cemeteries.

Resources I have, include

1/A 8742 name database of people who resided in Kraft primarily up to 1866 but including some later updates.

2/ Original Settler's List at 1767 for Kraft.

3/Complete 1798 Volga Census by Brent Alan Mai.

4/ Census Reports for the years 1816, 1834, 1850, and 1857 for Kraft.

5/ Einwanderung in das Wolgagebiet 1764-1767 by Igor Pleve Vol 1 and 4. Unable to get Vol 2 and 3 as they are no longer in print at this time.

6/ Spreadsheet of Lutheran Church births 1848-1866 and 1902, marriages 1895 and 1905 and deaths 1904 recently translated.

Projects for 2020. This winter with the help from my wife we will continue to improve and update our database to eliminate duplicate name variations such as Gritzfeld/Kritzfeld etc. We also need to catch up on entering appropriate data from past queries made to us. We also plan to attend the 2020 convention in Pasco, Washington and/or make a once in a lifetime pilgrimage to visit the colony of Kraft, or what is left of it, in Russia.

Respectfully submitted by Gerald and Heather Sieb

### **Krasnoyar 2019 Village report.**

I did not receive any queries for the village of Krasnoyar. The 1834 birth records were received and forwarded to headquarter for translation from German script.

Sue Hess

VC for Krasnoyar

### **Kronental, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.

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- I maintain a Caucasus contact list; contact me if you are interested.
- EWZ records are being researched as time allows, they are an exceptional source of information for many families and villages. EWZ and numerous resources at the FHL are presently being scanned which will enable researcher's greater productivity.
- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes, and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum: I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.
- Teaching Germans from Russia classes weekly at the Family History Library at the request of the supervisor. Shari Stone joins me, thanks!
- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
- Are you planning a research trip to the FHL, contact me in advance and chapter will assist.

Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

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**Kutter 2019 Village Report**

I wish you all a very Peaceful Healthy New Year!

2019 I had only one request and as it turned out their family was not from Kutter or Russia but came directly from Germany. Convention only brought 3 to the Village area meeting, two of us were VC's and the other I had helped in previous years. I am still working on getting a data base established.

Pam Wurst  
Kutter Coordinator

### **Langenfeld 2019 Annual Village Report**

Hello, year end report for Langenfeld and Rosenfeld

I had a busy year for Langenfeld. My wife and I translated Birth records for 1872 thru 1891 as well as Death records for same years.

Maggie Hein purchased the records. This will become important as to where families went after leaving Villages like Frank, Hussenbach, Kolb and others.

We still have Birth records for Rosenfeld that need to be translated. Years are 1896 to 1916.

I had no inquires for either village.

Roger Burbach/Burbank

### **Leichtling 2019 Annual Village Report**

Well, as usual, we were slow at the beginning of the year. However, work picked up towards the end of the year.

I completely reworked the website at [www.leichtling.com](http://www.leichtling.com). Added a lot of new information that was not on the site. I also added a "new" data base of Leichtling names. People can submit their gedcom files of their genealogy and I will add it as we go.

I am in the process of moving to a new host that offers more "secure" websites. That should be done shortly.

I purchased the 1857 Leichtling census and it was translated for us. I have it indexed and ready to go and it will be added to the Leichtling website at [www.leichtling.com](http://www.leichtling.com) as soon as we finish moving to the new host. Very soon.

I have had some of the Semenovka **Parish** (which Leichtling is part of) given to me. 1806 to 1816 (Birth, Marriage, death).

The 1817 to 1825 records are missing and not available anywhere.

I purchased the Semenovka Parish records for 1826 to 1834 (birth, marriage, deaths).

I'm in the process of purchasing 1834 to 1840 Semenovka Parish records. The Parish records are all in Latin. Easy enough to read, but I must figure out how to present or offer them to the public.

I'm glad I retired this last year because I have a lot of work to do!! LOL

The 1857 Leichtling Village Census is now released. It has been translated and indexed and now available on the website at <https://leichtling.com>

Darryl Boyd

Village Coordinator for Leichtling, Russia

[www.leichtling.com](http://www.leichtling.com)

[boyd@boydhouse.com](mailto:boyd@boydhouse.com)

### **Lillienfeld, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

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I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com](http://intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com)

Intermountain Facebook

### **Marienburg, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

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### **Meinhard 2019 Village Report**

I have been serving as the village of Susannental for many years. I have a lot of information on the villages of Kind and Meinhard/Unterwalden. I have been assisting people with these villages already. I have recently retired, and I thought I would volunteer to be a coordinator for those villages also since they do not have a coordinator.

Kerry Thompson  
AHSGR Coordinator for Susannental

### **Messer 2019 Village Report**

2019 was another busy year. I have been contacted by Messer descendants in the US, Canada, Germany, and Russia. In most cases I was able to help them with their family research. During the year we were able to purchase, translate and publish "*Messer Births 1791 – 1820*". I was

also able to purchase Messer Confirmation Records for 1872 – 1891. These have been translated but there are earlier records that were in the same source book. When I have sufficient funds, I hope to purchase the rest of the book and translate it. When the entire book has been translated it will be published and made available for sale through the AHSGR Book Store.

I was able to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> AHSGR convention in Lincoln last summer and host a supper for Messer and Neu Messer descendants. 19 people were in attendance.

Don Beavers has agreed to be the Data Base Administrator for Messer and Neu Messer and has begun putting all the records into one searchable data base.

Two Messer / Neu Messer Newsletters were sent out during 2019.

The Messer / Neu Messer distribution list and data base continue to grow.

Mike Meisinger

Village Coordinator

### **Michaelsdorf, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

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## **MOOR (AKA KLUTCHI) 2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

2019 was productive for Moor research. Inquiries were received from researchers in the United States, Germany, and Russia. I was successful in answering most of their requests. I was able to utilize the Moor church records acquired in 2017 to good use to create pedigree (direct ancestral) charts for Moor researchers (Rehm and Jäckel). Having the records indexed saves lots of research time.

German origins were identified for three settler families: Eichler, Geiswein, and Rose. I expect to renew this research in 2020, and complete the Kurhessen records (Brandau, Göbel, and Rehm). To date, I have at least partial information (baptism(s) or marriage) for 51 of the original 70 founding families. Through the generous editing of Maggie Hein, I submitted several new Moor German origins results to the Center for Volga Research.

In May travelled to Salt Lake City to do research at the Family History Library and while there met with Dee Hert (VC for Anton and several other German colonies), and Shari Stone (VC for Hussenbach) where we spent some time discussing our research and all of the exciting news of how they are assisting to educate the staff at the library to understand German Russian history and the related documents.

Missed the annual convention last year because my wife and I were on a Rhine River cruise. On this trip we were able to visit one of Diane's ancestral towns (Heidelberg), and take an in-depth tour of the site of the World War 2 Battle for the Colmar Pocket in Alsace, France in which my father was personally involved.

Expect this year to be equally busy and productive: 1) continue with translations and indexing, 2) hope to complete finding the Moor ancestors who were born or married in

Denmark and more in Germany and submitting these. This is a slow process, especially when I have no help.

I have to honor the paternal side of my ancestry this year, so will be attending the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the founding of Plymouth (I have no less than 5 Pilgrim ancestors). Therefore, I will not be able to attend the AHSGR convention this year.

Wayne H. Bonner  
Moor VC  
whbonner@aol.com

## **Nalchik, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

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## **Neu Donhof 2019 Village Report**

We now have 181 villagers (Dönhof and Neu-Dönhof) mainly through referrals, most from Argentina, Germany and the U.S. We are slowly beginning to gain a following from Gnadenfeld (1855), Rosenberg (Umet 1847) and Unterdorf (1854), who migrated from Dönhof before Neu-Dönhof was an option as a daughter village. When attrition occurs, it is the result of people forgetting to inform us they've made an e-mail change even though we have a large banner in our newsletter reminding them that we have no other way of obtaining their new e-mail address.

A big accomplishment this year was informing our villagers of the existence of the Argentina Dönhof FB group with translator button. Although Fabián Zubia Schultheis was the creator of this group he has now turned management of the group over to Hugo Vazquez Eichhorn. Again, with the publicity in our newsletter Hugo reports that there is an upsurge in the use by villagers from the U.S. <https://web.facebook.com/groups/551198941909720/> .

This year marked our eighth year for the newsletter, one letter per quarter. Tibi Maw, has completed her second year as the layout person. Contributors this year beside myself have been Patti F, Rosalie K-M, Karen M-K, Hugo V-E, and Fabián Zubia Schultheis. Fabián has done an ongoing series on Dönhoffers coming from counties in the current German States of Palatinate and Hessen. These settlers arrived in two groups, the first on 4 July and the second on 21 July 1766, finally, a third group arrived on 18 June 1767. These families were recorded in the First Settlers List, also known as the 1767 Census, in the household where they were living, however, he has listed them in alphabetical order for ease of locating. He has not included the Schleswig settlers which can be found in the Eichhorns' book, *The Immigration of German Colonists to Denmark and Their Subsequent Emigration to Russia in the Years 1759-1766*.

I fulfilled research requests for Kraus, Müller, Fendel, Müller/Fendel/Haas/Huwa/Lind, Eichler/Laufer, Keller/Stromberger, Haas/Schwab, Baus/Schwarzkopf from Argentina,

Lind/Schwab, Kurtz/Lenhardt, Huwa/Rutz, Eichler/Rutz, Huck/Rutz, and Deines/Stumpf. I also did some major research for a friend/distant cousin in Germany from a totally different village, taking up a full quarter of the year.

Added to my Neu-Dönhof binder are: a copy of an 1885 baptism record at Rostov on Don of Alexander Reinhardt whose father Jacob is listed as being born in Neu-Dönhof; a copy of a photo of sisters and second cousin Elisabeth, Maria and Amalia Deines all born in Neu-Dönhof; a letter written in the late 1990s by Wilhelm Jakobi of Gifhorn, Germany, retelling the story his mother recounted to him about Rev. Jacob Flegler's (originally of Neu-Dönhof) return visit in 1928/29 and his hasty retreat when Stalin permanently closed the borders; a newspaper clipping from the Greeley Tribune announcing the 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Henry and Evelyn Martin Kurtz (Henry was born in Neu-Dönhof in 1899); an article about Wilhelm Schwarzkopf (aka Wm Schwartz) from the Casper Tribune (born in route from Neu-Dönhof to Bremen); a 1985 article about the Jacob Deines family reunion held in Cheyenne, Wyo.; and two 2011 and 2013 articles about Reichel family reunions held in Rush Center, Ks. which include both Deines and Reinhardt attendees originally from Neu-Dönhof.

I didn't attend the convention in Lincoln this year due to a previous family commitment, however, I did host Fabián Zubia Schultheis and Germán Sack before and after the convention as Fabián always likes to stop over in Portland to research at CVGS. We, Dönhof and Neu-Dönhof, were happy to place a fullpage ad in the Jubilee program and elated to have Dönhoffers Dona Reeves Marquardt and the late Irma Eichhorn honored for distinguished service.

My database consists of 13,880 souls, down from last year as a result of doing some cleanup work which needs to continue.

Personally, and as it eventually relates to Neu-Dönhof, from Germany I obtained a copy of a document from the Kuhlberg list on which my Schlager relatives appear and are recorded as German settlers to Russia. Secondly, just as I was getting ready to order the latest book by Idt and Rauschenbach I received also from Germany the translated copy of the page on which my Schlager ancestors appear. Unfortunately, they had the misfortune of getting entangled, from the very beginning, with the devious Recruiters LeRoi and Precourt who were stealing recruits from other recruiters only to transport them as far as Lübeck before doing a "bait and switch" regarding monies for provisioning--too far for the settlers to have traveled to turn back but also a very poor start to a very long process.

Again, on a personal level one of my biggest achievements this year was the realizations that of my first-generation family, full Volga Germans, born in America which only four of 17 remain, that it was about time I made an effort to collect their DNA. I bought two kits and contacted two cousins, begging them to convince two old men (ages 89 and 88) to spit into a vial for reasons they couldn't quite grasp. They did and I manage one account and a cousin manages the other,

the results have been very interesting. I encourage others to join 23 & Me and, once connected with family members to encourage them to join our village.

This year I will continue to work with village descendants who want to get started on their genealogy or who run into seemingly unsolvable problems. We plan to have a website in place soon for Dönhof to include Gnadenfeld, Rosenberg/Umet, Unterdorf and Neu-Dönhof. I continue to encourage contributors to our newsletter. Mila Koretnikov has provided a current list of documents available in Volgograd archives for Neu-Dönhof so perhaps this is the year we obtain and translate some of those. I continue to interact with both Dönhof Village Coordinator(s).

Lee Ann Schlager  
Neu-Dönhof Village Coordinator

### **Neu Messer 2019 Village Report**

2019 was another busy year. I have been contacted by Neu Messer descendants in the US, Germany, and Russia. In most cases I was able to help them with their family research. During the year we were able to purchase, translate, and publish "*1897 Neu Messer Census*". Thanks go to Tom Schantz who really pushed this project to completion. I was also able to purchase Messer Confirmation Records for 1872 – 1891. These include the records for young people who were confirmed in Messer between 1857 and 1863, and who later moved with their families to Neu Messer. These records been translated but there are earlier records that were in the same source book. When I have sufficient funds, I hope to purchase the rest of the book and translate it. When the entire book has been translated it will be published and made available for sale through the AHSGR Book Store. During the year "*Messer Births 1791 – 1820*" was also purchased, translated, and published. This includes the ancestors of the families of the people who left Messer to found Neu Messer in 1862 – 1863.

I was able to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> AHSGR convention in Lincoln last summer and host a supper for Messer and Neu Messer descendants. 19 people were in attendance.

Don Beavers has agreed to be the Data Base Administrator for Messer and Neu Messer and has begun putting all the records into one searchable data base.

Two Messer / Neu Messer Newsletters were sent out during 2019.

The Messer / Neu Messer distribution list and data base continue to grow.

Mike Meisinger  
Village Coordinator

## **Nieder-Monjou 2019 Annual Village Report**

Throughout the past year we received six queries or correspondence concerning the following Nieder-Monjou surnames: ANSCHÜTZ, HERBER, KARLE, MÜLLER, RIEB/RÜB, STOPPEL, SCHNARR, STANG and WIEGANDT.

Mike obtained some birth, marriage and death records for Nieder-Monjou. I am in the process of transliterating/translating these records and entering the information into our database.

Mike attended the 2019 AHSGR Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska.

AHSGR Nieder-Monjou Village Coordinators

Michael Grau and Steven Grau

Nieder-Monjou Web Site: <http://volga.niedermonjou.org:8000/>

## **Paulskoye 2019 Annual Village Report**

The most significant news for this year is that I have acquired Paulskoye Church Records: Births 1798 – 1833; Marriages 1801-1832; Deaths 1798-1857. The records have yielded a wealth of new information, particularly wives' surnames which do not appear in the 1834 and 1850 Census records. For now, I intend to develop a surname index to make it easier to locate desired entries.

In February I presented on the topic “Volga Germans of St. Clair County, Michigan” to members of the St. Clair County Family History Group and community at large. It was well attended and by many Volga German descendants too.

This year I have had success using [www.wolgadeutsche.net](http://www.wolgadeutsche.net) to make connections between the years 1857-1942, a gap many researchers have difficulty bridging. I encourage VCs to regularly visit this mainly Russian language website using Google Translate. For example, this year I helped one U.S. researcher by discovering an Omsk marriage record for her ancestors who migrated to the US which was serendipitously posted there. and in another case, I helped a U.S. researcher locate a descendant of a particular Thierbach family from Fischer who helped raise his wife's mother (nee Friebus) before she could migrate join her parents in the U.S.

One never knows where genealogy takes a researcher. I received an email via Ancestry.com from a woman in Germany. It turns out she and I share a common Wede ancestor in Sachsen-Anhalt, Germany, several generations prior to my ancestor who became a colonist to Russia. She provided me with German church records, and we were able to flesh out the Wede family tree more than I had already researched. It was nice to meet a new cousin and she was fascinated with the fact a branch of the family had migrated to Russia and eventually ended up in America.

On the genetic genealogical front, I've finally started to tackle some of my Volga German AtDNA distant cousin matches via AncestryDNA. In a first test case, I examined my matches' online tree, but it wasn't apparent to me how we might be related. Many people lack information

about their Volga German ancestors, so I knew the onus was mainly on me to solve this mystery and in doing so I helped my match with her family tree and also introduced her to AHSGR. In the process I advanced my own family tree in ways I hadn't yet done. In short, I was able to identify at least one set of common ancestors: Reinwalders Valentin Ruppel (b. 1745) and Anna Dorothea Eurich (1746) who were my 6<sup>th</sup> great grandparents and my match's 5<sup>th</sup> great grandparents. It was a very interesting puzzle to solve and allowed me to genetically verify this branch of my family tree is correct. I sought and received help from fellow VCs for which I am grateful: Sue Hess, Reinwald; Judy Kaland, Schulz; and David Schmidt, Stahl am Karaman.

I received several Paulskoye inquiries from abroad: Felsing surname from a researcher in Germany; Starkloff surname from a Buenos Aires, Argentina researcher with whom I previously corresponded back in 2016; Merkel surname from a German researcher who I had previously corresponded as well. I would like to acknowledge Duane Funk, VC for Rosenheim for his help.

Finally, this past summer I hosted a visit from Paulskoye distant cousins, and their friends who have familial connections to Yagodnaya Polyana. They all reside in Germany now. Everyone had a good time, including the American relatives I managed to rustle up for this Volga German reunion.

Respectfully submitted  
Tim Weeder, Village Coordinator for Paulskoye  
NEW EMAIL: tcweeder@gmail.com

### **Polish Volhynia 2019 Annual Report**

In 2019 there were no requests for Volhynian research received. New researchers information was added to the database researching the following surnames: Wiese, Banick; Shrader/Shroeder; Senft; Hanert; Schiewe, Keil; Zumwalt; Theodore, Frie(d)rich & Jacob Renner; and Wagner.

I was unable to attend the Jubilee Convention in Lincoln but did provide an updated database and new information for the Heritage Hall binder.

Mabel Kiessling

Village Coordinator for Volhynia

m.kiessling@shaw.ca

### **Reinhard 2019 Village Coordinators Report**

There were no inquiries this year for the Schaefer Village and nothing new to report

Brenna Stokes

Reinhard VC

## **Reinwald 2019 Village report.**

There were a few new members to AHSGR for this village and I contacted each of them. The Reinwald face book page had a good following.

Sue Hess

VC for Reinwald

## **Rosenberg 2019 Annual Village Report**

This year there have been no new developments in the search for records post 1857 relating to the village of Rosenberg.

I had only three enquiries relating to the village this year concerning the families Meier, Dahlinger, and Ziegler (2 enquiries). There was one other request relating to an 1880 birth in Rosenberg for a Walter family but this family do not seem to have been in Rosenberg village and it is possible that a baptism would be recorded in the parish of Rosenberg which comprised a number of local villages.

It is hoped that in the future further records for the second half of the 19th century will be found for Rosenberg.

### **Coordinator information:**

Richard McGregor ([richardmcgregor1@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:richardmcgregor1@yahoo.co.uk))

## **Rosenfeld, North Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.
- Any Caucasus information shared with me would be appreciated; I am looking forward to learning as much as possible. Please suggest reading material.
- I maintain a Caucasus contact list; contact me if you are interested.
- EWZ records are being researched as time allows, they are an exceptional source of information for many families and villages. EWZ and numerous resources at the FHL are presently being scanned which will enable researcher's greater productivity.
- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes, and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum: I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.



- Teaching Germans from Russia classes weekly at the Family History Library at the request of the supervisor. Shari Stone joins me, thanks!
- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
- Are you planning a research trip to the FHL, contact me in advance and chapter will assist.

Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com](http://intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com)

Intermountain Facebook

## **Rothammel 2019 Village Report**

We've been able to help a number of researchers with the information in our data base. We appreciate receiving information on your families because that data may help another researcher. We are adding data almost daily so may have information that will help you. Please contact us.

Nick & Barbara Bretz

## **Schaefer 2019 Village Coordinators Report**

There were no inquiries this year for the Schaefer Village and nothing new to report

Brenna Stokes

Schaefer VC

## **Rosenfeld am Nachoi 2019 Annual Co-Coordinator Report**

Rosenfeld am Nachoi was established as a daughter Lutheran colony in 1859, many of the descendants of this village may be unaware that some of their family moved to this colony. The settlers of Rosenfeld am Nachoi moved from the following villages:

- Enders (1 Family)
- Rosenheim (19 Families)
- Reinwald (30 Families)
- Krasnoyar (31 Families)
- Nieder-Monjou (2 Families)
- Schwed (1 Family)
- Schulz (1 Family)

I am in the process of building a database from the 1862 Census. The 1874 – 1899 Family List is currently being translated from Russian into English. The translation will be completed in 2019.

The facebook page entitled “Descendants of Rosenfeld am Nachoi” has not had any inquiries. rname inquiries have been received. As Village Coordinator, I will reach out to families with last names found in the

1862 and 1874 Revision List and invite them to join the group.

6981/403 Anna Dalhaimer Bartkowski

## **Rosenheim 2019 VC Report**

Hi Everyone,

There were only a few inquiries in 2019, but I believe I could offer some help to requesters. Many people are just starting the research journey, and it is nice to save people time by giving them some direction. I was able to assist to some degree with these surnames:

Alt, Ehlert, Horst, Dietzel

On a side note: I can't say enough about Brent Mai and his trips to Russia. Everything was well planned and the people were wonderful. Please go if you have the chance.

As I was putting this together, I looked through a few photos I took in Rosenheim. These are the gates to the Rosenheim cemetery as they look today.

See attached:

There are not many German grave markers left, but by chance I noticed this one in one of my photos. This headstone is right next to one from my family. I believe the German name is Gartman and may help someone's research. Feel free to reach out to me if this is a family member of yours.

Take care and have a safe and fulfilling 2020,

Duane Funk  
Rosenheim VC

### **Rosental, Samara, Volga 2019 Annual Village Report**

I attended the AHSGR convention in Lincoln.

I exchanged information with a member of the Sonnengrün family in Germany.

I have the following census records of Rosental:

- 1850 in Russian and translated
- 1857 in Russian and translated
- 1861 in Russian and translated
- 1874 Family list in Russian and translated
- 1910 Family list in Russian

The 1901 Family list is being translated.

Some families from Rosental immigrated to Amavir. I plan to investigate this movement.

I continue searching for records of families from Rosental (immigration, naturalization, United States census, etc.). I plan to organize what has been found.

The 1871 Family list (movement records) is known to exist and could be acquired. Engels archive F. 95, Od. 7, D. 9

Jeremy Landt  
jeremysfnm@gmail.com

### **Schaffhausen 2019 Annual Village Report**

Schaffhausen (aka Michaelis, Volkovo, Wolkowo) was founded in 1768 in the vicinity of the Little Karaman river on the Wiesenseite (meadow side) of the Volga River. Due to poor soil

conditions Schaffhausen and another 7 colonies were relocated to the northern stretch of the eastern Volga riverbank in 1770. Schaffhausen was the northernmost of these original Volga river colonies at position 51°56' N 47°18' E which is separated from the Volga river by marshland.

A very quiet year with no new contacts and only a single follow-up from a previous correspondent.

During the coming year I intend to stock take my existing holdings which form a tentative First Settlers List (FSL). As the first settlers wintered in existing colonies prior to founding Schaffhausen I would appreciate any information that Village Coordinators may have on movements from their colonies to Schaffhausen during the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

I am also interested in continuing research on migration from Schaffhausen and other colonies to the Samara region, especially the town of Bugulma. Any information that Village Coordinators may have on internal migration to the Samara region would also be appreciated.

Regards

Jim Parsonage  
Schaffhausen Village Coordinator  
Email: [jtp16@iprimus.com.au](mailto:jtp16@iprimus.com.au)  
Brisbane QLD, Australia

## **Seewald 2019 Village Report**

We've been able to help a number of researchers with the information in our data base. We appreciate receiving information on your families because that data may help another researcher. We are adding data almost daily so may have information that will help you. Please contact us.  
Nick & Barbara Bretz

## **Straub 2019 VC report**

I have had the following inquiries for these Straub families: Bengel, Bopp, Karle (4), Kruser, Lung, Maul, Schwabenland, Seher, Steitz.

I got the Straub death records for 1865, 1866, 1867. This was information on 158 people. I obtained the 1922 Straub census from a friend in Russia. This is information on 1,977 people. This was a surprise as this record is not listed on either the Saratov or Engles archive holdings.

This census only lists the name and age. It does not have the relationship. I have only been able to connect the older people listed. I need to get more Straub records to connect most of these people. My friend plans to get more Straub records.

Sharon White, Straub VC

### **Susannental 2019 village report**

This year has seen more requests for assistance than usual. I have been able to assist 7 persons with information about their families from Susannental

The Susannental data base now consists of 13020 individuals. Our pre immigration From Russia data base consists of 3728 individuals.

These records are available for Susannental:

1st settler list  
1798 census  
1816 census  
1834 census  
1857 census

Personal family book records have been obtained for 2 surnames.

There is a website, mail list, Facebook page and Facebook group for the village. The Facebook page shows ship records for those who immigrated to the US.

We have confirmed German origins for 2 surnames.

Some Information for the villages of Kind and Meinhard is also part of the records as there was a lot of intermarriage between these villages. I am in the process of starting a Facebook page for the village of Kind that will show ship records for those who immigrated to the US.

Kerry Thompson  
VC for Susannental

### **Tiegenhoff, Zaparozhe Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.
- Any Caucasus information shared with me would be appreciated; I am looking forward to learning as much as possible. Please suggest reading material.
- I maintain a Caucasus contact list; contact me if you are interested.

- EWZ records are being researched as time allows, they are an exceptional source of information for many families and villages. EWZ and numerous resources at the FHL are presently being scanned which will enable researcher's greater productivity.
- FHL progress, advancements, webinars, classes, and updates will continually be posted to the V.C. forum: I find this information to be extremely helpful. Receiving positive feedback.
- Teaching Germans from Russia classes weekly at the Family History Library at the request of the supervisor. Shari Stone joins me, thanks!
- AHSGR and the Intermountain chapter will collaborate to support a booth at 2020 RootsTech convention. Goal is increased membership and community awareness.
- Are you planning a research trip to the FHL, contact me in advance and chapter will assist.

Tool kit: I purchase resources as quickly as possible; collection contains gazetteers, census records, numerous maps, surname charts and various publications.

Future: I dedicate at least one day a week for research at the FHL, they possess many unique, valuable publications on Caucasus history. Numerous cultures and historical activities impacted the region, not an easy geographic area to study.

I encourage researchers to support efforts to obtain records from Russia and translation expenses. Consider donating to your village efforts.

DNA is a valuable tool, all coordinators and members should participate.

Future conventions: I plan to attend conventions, will be available for consultation. Send your questions and challenges to me in advance.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

[deehert@gmail.com](mailto:deehert@gmail.com)

Intermountain Chapter, Membership and Activities Chair

[intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com](http://intermountainchapterahsgrblogspor.com)

Intermountain Facebook

**Tifis, South Caucasus 2019 Village Report**

Projects:

- The Caucasus database is being populated as resource materials are located. I include any and all Caucasus villages with relevant data. The database is designed as an index, contact me for additional information. I intend to honor copyright.
- Any Caucasus information shared with me would be appreciated; I am looking forward to learning as much as possible. Please suggest reading material.
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Respectfully submitted,

Dee Hert

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Intermountain Facebook

**Unterwalden 2019 Village Report**

I have been serving as the village of Susannental for many years. I have a lot of information on the villages of Kind and Meinhard/Unterwalden. I have been assisting people with these villages already. I have recently retired, and I thought I would volunteer to be a coordinator for those villages also since they do not have a coordinator.

Kerry Thompson  
AHSGR Coordinator for Susannental

### **Volhynia 2019 Annual Report**

In 2019 there were no requests for Volhynian research received. New researchers information was added to the database researching the following surnames: Wiese, Banick; Shrader/Shroeder; Senft; Hanert; Schiewe, Keil; Zumwalt; Theodore, Frie(d)rich & Jacob Renner; and Wagner.

I was unable to attend the Jubilee Convention in Lincoln but did provide an updated database and new information for the Heritage Hall binder.

Mabel Kiessling

Village Coordinator for Volhynia

m.kiessling@shaw.ca

### **Warenburg 2019 Village Report**

I have had the following inquiries about Warenburg families: Constanz (2), Dein, Doring, Eisner, Engelhardt, Gobel, Horch, Ickstadt, Lorenz, Nickel, Roth, Schiffman, Schremser, Stumpf, Trippel, Vogt.

I obtained more 1885 Family Lists for these Warenburg families: Ickstadt, Lind, Scherer. These 1885 Family Lists are on order: Hess, Kisling, Rothenberger, Schwengel. This will bring the number of family lists for 1885 to 32 families. The archive keeps raising prices to get these records.

by Sharon White, Warenburg VC

### **Yagodnaya Polyana 2019 Village Report**

The number of emails this past year has been steady with people looking for: Bafus/Befus, Benner, Luft, Morasch, Scheerman, Schneidmiller, Stang, etc.

This will be the last year the YP newsletter will have 4 issues. The research portion has increased a great deal and very few subscribers are submitting articles. I have decided to reduce the number



of newsletters to once a year. I have reached out to all the subscribers (there are about 163 people receiving electronic copies of the newsletter) but I have had no interest from anyone to take over the duties.

The interest in the YP Facebook page continues to grow. We have well over 200 likes on the page with many living in Germany, Russia, Canada and the US.

One of the issues I have been dealing with this past year relates to knowing how much information we should be providing to people who are looking for their biological parents. There have been two cases where individuals have contacted me regarding people from YP, but they really did not know who they were looking for. They were guessing who their biological parent might be.

As a former employee of the Canadian Federal government I understand how individual privacy has become a real issue in this current day and age. It is one thing to divulge information on ancestors we know are related to individuals but to disclose personal information to individuals who may or may not be related does not “feel” right. It almost seems like a “fishing” expedition on their behalf. I realize many of those involved are deceased, but should we be providing information for those “fishing” for information?

With more and more people beginning to look for their biological parents I wonder if we as VC's need to establish some type of procedure to follow before disseminating any information.

Marlene Michel

Village Coordinator for Yagodnaya Polyana