

ATS Founded in 1902

November 13, 2020

#### Peter Karsti II Past ATS Trustee 1933-2020



We sadly report the death of Past ATS Trustee Peter Karsti II. He died at his home on Sunday, October 25, 2020. Peter was born July 7, 1933, the son of Peter and Katharina Bohm Karsti in Waltersdorf, Transylvania. He married Eva Abrell Karsti on January 12,1951, and the couple came to the United States in 1952, eventually settling in Youngstown. Ohio. He leaves his wife. Eva, with whom he shared 69 years of marriage; his children Peter Karsti (Mary Kay), Monika Christopher, and Avie Ellis (Brian); his grandchildren Natalie, Jennifer, Katie, Gregory, Grace, Brandon and Michael; greatgrandchildren Evelyn, Connor, Clare, and Bret. He also leaves his sisters Katherina Benesch, Marie Bachinger, and Rose Smith, along with many nieces and nephews.

He retired from Compco as a press operator. He was a member of the former Honterus Lutheran Church, where he served on church council and for many years was the church sexton. He was currently a member of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Peter had a love of music and in 1967 formed the Eintracht Band, and for many years played throughout Ohio and Pennsylvania. He was also a founding member of the Youngstown Saxon Brass Band and Culture Group, of which he was the director and President for many years.

Peter was proud of his Saxon heritage and was a 40 year member of the Youngstown Saxon Club. He put in many hours at the club, working on the grounds and the buildings. He had also served as Branch 30's First Vice President.

Peter was appointed to the ATS National Committee in 1999, and elected to the ATS Board of Directors in 2002. He served as an ATS Trustee



Peter Karsti II

until 2018 when he chose not to run for re-election. Over the years, Pete served on the Auditing Committee, the Cultural Promotion Committee, the Fraternal Activities/ Scholarship Committee, the Salary/Pension Committee, and the Youth Activities Committee of the ATS.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family. The Saxon community has lost a good friend. Pete loved his family and friends dearly and we were so fortunate to have him as a member of our fraternal family.

## Give Your Children A Gift That Will Last A Lifetime

Why not give a gift that will grow in value and last a lifetime? Consider purchasing life insurance or an annuity from the ATS. Contact your local ATS Deputy or the ATS Home office for detailed information on our insurance plans and annuity plans.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford ATS Nat'l President



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I wish to extend our sympathies to the family of Peter Karsti II, former ATS Trustee, who passed away on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Most people who knew Pete will always remember his love of music, especially him playing his accordion and singing songs. Pete was a good man and we will miss him. Please keep Eva and the rest of his family and friends in your prayers.

I am pleased to announce that the ATS has a new Home Office Manager. We welcome Lisa Deaton to the ATS family. She holds an Associate Degree in Applied Business and a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. With her strong accounting background, we can be sure that the ATS remains in good hands. We are happy to have her join our Home Office Staff and look forward to her many years of service to our organization. Welcome aboard, Lisa!

I want to thank John McPike for all of his years serving as the Investment Counselor for the ATS. He retired as of November 1<sup>st</sup>. John started with the ATS back in 1966. He worked for Moody's and Alliance Capital advising the purchase and/ or sale of ATS investments. In 1983, he started his own company, Investment Advisory Services, and the ATS became one of his clients. Over the years, John has helped the ATS investment account grow into the strong and healthy portfolio that it currently is. John, Thank you! Enjoy your retirement!

The last of the winning essays from the Essay Contest are in this issue. Please check them out.

Issue 23

# TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY MAILED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2020

Attention Postmaster: Send all Changes of Address to: The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons 5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129-1597



Did you know that Veterans Day was originally Armistice Day? Veteran's Day is a U.S. legal holiday dedicated to American veterans of all wars. In 1918, on the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month, an armistice, or temporary cessation of hostilities, was declared between the Allied nations and Germany in World War I, then known as "the Great War". One year later, in November 1919, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed November 11<sup>th</sup> as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. It became a federal holiday in the United States in 1938. In 1954, after World War II and the Korean War, President Dwight D. Eisenhower officially changed the name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day, to honor American veterans of all wars. Thank you, Veterans! Until next time....

#### Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsens to house Sachsen artifacts, books and other historical documents and records. It is important to our worldwide Sachsen community to help in the maintenance expenses of this historical facility that will preserve our Sachsen culture and heritage.

The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons requests donation to help in the funding of the facility. If you are interested in giving a donation, please complete the form below and send to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129.

Please make your check payable to the ATS.

DONATION FOR SCHLOSS HORNECK

Name		
Address		
City	State	
Zipcode		
-		

Amount Donated \$\_

Please indicate if donation is in memory or honor of someone

#### **BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Robert Hanek**

The leaves are falling and the goblins and devils are nowenjoyingtheirHalloween treats. Unfortunately, our children's parties, Veterans Day meal and the Dance Group's Traubenfest have been forced to cancel this year.

In these difficult times, I would like to thank all of our cultural groups for their generous support of our Sachsenheim. The Eintracht Saxonia Sachsenchor's and the Ladies Branch 4's financial donations are truly appreciated. Our manager, Scott Lindel's hard work and commitment has also been instrumental in keeping our doors open. It has truly been a team effort! On a tastier note, Branch 1's Sausage Sale will be held on Friday December The price is \$3.75 11<sup>th</sup>. per pound with a 3 pound minimum for orders. The

DEADLINE for orders is Monday November 30<sup>th</sup>. Due to the pandemic, food and drinks will be available in the bar only. Order pickups will begin at 1 p.m. People will remain in their car until their order is ready. We have also decided to deliver orders of 10 pounds and larger to our active Branch 1 and 4 members. Payment for delivery orders will be by check or COD only. Membership has its privileges!

always welcome for sausage making and weighing orders. Meat preparation will be on the Thursday. As per health guidelines, the number of people working will be reduced and safely Orders can be spaced. placed with me at (440) 356-5582 or Grumpy at the Sachsenheim (216) 577-7727.

#### **BRANCH 8**, **ALLIANCE By Lesley Reed**

Branch 8 held its October meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. We had ten members present with five excused. We were reminded there won't be a November meeting but we will meet December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. at Hart Mansion restaurant in Minerva for our annual Christmas get together. Details on the menu will be forthcoming from President Aeling as the date approaches. There were attendance awards given to Alice Freeders and Helen Aeling this month and we had one scholarship award given to Sydni Hertel. Received as correspondence this month was a thank you note from Emily Brennan for the scholarship award she was presented in September.

A few topics were discussed under "old business." Our branch is in need of a deputy to sell ATS insurance. Congrats again were given to Mary Craven and John Zerbey on their marriage. Thanks were given to Alice Freeders, our vice president, for leading last month's meeting. And lastly, the trustee's annual audit report will be presented at the next formal meeting to be held in February.

"New business" included several important points. Our election of officers for 2021 was carried out. Shari Edwards motioned to retain our current slate of officers for next year. Karen Kinser seconded the motion and it carried. Those officers are President Helen Aeling, Vice President Alice Freeders, Treasurer Denise Crawford, and Secretary Lesley Reed. We also thanked ATS President Crawford for agreeing As always, volunteers are to continue to serve as our branch treasurer for another year in addition to all of her other duties! We also look forward to receiving additional information in the Volkblatt about the 2021 Heimattag, taking place in Salem next summer, sometime after the first of the year. Here's to hoping everyone continues to stay healthy this fall and we are able to come together on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate the upcoming Christmas holiday as we have planned!

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Home Office: 5393 Pearl Rd., Cleveland, Ohio 44129 Telephone: (440) 842-8442 FAX: 440-842-5442 E-mail: office@atsaxons.com Website: www.atsaxons.com

**National Board of Directors** President -Denise Aeling Crawford Br. 8 (330) 257-0267 5934 Stumph Rd #416 Parma OH 44130 **Honorary Past Presidents-**Thomas J. Manning Br. 2 (814) 864-6072 3909 Schaper Ave #203 Erie PA 16508 Joan Miller-Malue Br. 4 (216) 233-8631 17105 Hilliard Rd., Lakewood, OH 44107 First Vice President -Robert B. Cunningham III Br. 1 (216) 398-7520 9005 Memphis Villas Blvd., Brooklyn, OH 44144-2426 Second Vice President -Monica M. Weber Br. 4 (440) 356-5936 Third Vice President -Randall Floyd Br. 26 (219) 798-6908 1806 E 73rd Ave, Merrillville IN 46410 Secretary-Monica F. Gilles, Br. 5 (440) 309-7894 3520 Beavercrest Dr, Apt 107, Lorain, OH 44053 **Treasurer-**Michael Teutsch, Jr. Br. 30, (330) 509-9670 140 Neff Ct. Canfield, OH 44406-1289 Trustees -Jacob F. Spor Br. 25 (724) 657-3773 2940 Plank Rd., New Castle PA 16105 Barbara Spack Br 18 (330) 337-7487 1389 Brookview Dr., Salem OH 44460 Ingrid Weihs-Ferguson Br. 37 (586) 264-6136 11711 Lancer Dr., Sterling Hts., MI 48313-5148 Margarete Ziegler, Br. 33 (440) 951-0159 38047 Parkway Blvd., Willoughby, OH 44094-7543 Michael Bachinger, Br. 30 (330) 540-5168 3134 Neosho Rd, Youngstown OH 44511

**Chief Medical Examiner-**

Dr. Andreas W. Schuster, Br. 1 Cleveland

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#### SECRETARIES TAKE NOTICE:

THE DEADLINE DATE FOR ARTICLES IS WEDNESDAY - 12 NOON.

You may either MAIL:

29076 Fall River Dr Westlake OH 44145



E-MAIL: saxonvolksblatt@aol.com

Articles e-mailed will receive an e-mailed confirmation by Noon Thursday. If you did not receive a confirmation, please give us a call.

**DEADLINE DATES FOR ARTICLES:** DEADLINE ISSUE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2020 FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2020 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020

Please have your articles in by 12 Noon.

Did you miss the deadline? Have you emailed your article past 12 Noon? Please call Hanz Hermann at (440) 525-0020



St. Peter's German and Saxon Lutheran Church 11423 Chicago Rd. Warren, Michigan 48093 (586) 979-3850 stpeters \_church@sbcglobal.net www.stpeterswarren.or

10:00 Bilingual Service Nursery Coffee following service **Senior Circle Sunday School Church Choir** 

**Bell Choir** 

St. John's Lutheran Church 1000 Ford Road Highland Hts., Ohio (440) 449-1334

Rev. Barbara Holzhauser Pastor

10:00 Worship Service



1<sup>st</sup> Prize \$1,000.00 Eugene T. King 2<sup>nd</sup> Price \$800.00 **Randolph Simonis** 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize \$500.00 Jeanne Petty 4<sup>th</sup> Prize \$400.00 **Brian Gilles** 5<sup>th</sup> Prize \$300.00 Clara Weber 6<sup>th</sup> Prize \$200.00 Adolf Fischer 7<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100.00 Edith Hebrank 8<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100.00 Bridget Schuster 9<sup>th</sup> Prize \$100.00 Patty Cunningham 10<sup>th</sup> Prize \$50.00 **Robert Herman** 11<sup>th</sup> Prize \$50.00 Terri Munroe 12<sup>th</sup> Prize \$50.00 George Spack



#### **Cleveland West Branch 1** Wurstmarkt / Sausage Sale

Friday, December 11, 2020 **Cleveland Sachsenheim** 7001 Denison Avenue

Pork Sausage with, or without garlic \$3.75 per pound **Deadline for orders November 30th** 

Orders being taken by Rob Hanek (440) 356-5582 or Grumpy at the Sachsenheim (216) 577-7727.

Covid compliant Drive thru order pick ups beginning at 1 p.m.

Delivery available to active Branch 1 and 4 members (Orders of 10 pounds or more)



## **Essay Contest for All Ages**

### Why my Cultural Heritage is Important to me

#### Why Cultural Heritage is important to me?

Family, it is the people you surround yourself with, the people who raise you, and the people who love and support you the most. Having just arrived at college, I just lost the proximity to most of my family. They raised me to be who I am and now, and now I am on my own using what they taught me to succeed.

Then you ask, who is my family? They were made from generations of life lessons, successes, and failures. Each being passed down from one generation to the next to make the best person possible. Their culture shaped them into who they are, by way of their stories, the way they communicate, and how they love.

Cultural Heritage is important to me because it made me who I am, whether I like it or not, many aspects of my personality stem from my parents, grandparents and so on. I love myself and that is also why I love my family.

> **Braedon Gilles** Cross Plains, WI Branch 5 Lorain

#### Why my cultural heritage is important to me

I was raised on Saxon sausage, Sachsenheim parties, and Christmas "oom-pah music." I mixed and mingled at an amazing Jugendlager, and attended college in part thanks to the help of a generous ATS scholarship. As I've grown into an adult with my own family, one of the first things I wanted to do when I had children was make sure they joined the ATS. I want them to know that connection to their family and to their roots, and I wanted to give them that sense of pride and of purpose that comes with knowing that you're part of a club that's done so much for so many for so long.

A few years ago, my husband and I went to Transylvania. We went to my greatgrandfather's church in Mediasch, ate hearty stews

#### The kids' Thanksgiving table

With many people at Thanksgiving dinner, children are often seated at a card table apart from adults. Some kids think it's OK, but some feel slighted.

To make the card table more interesting, you can decorate it and give the kids special treats. You or your children could wrap the table legs with red, orange, and yellow crepe paper.

Provide silly straws, candy kisses and napkin holders shaped like pumpkins. If there's time, let kids make pilgrim headbands. Make it special.





We remember our Sisters and Brothers who have departed this life in recent days. Our sincere sympathy is extended to the members of the bereaved families.

Thomas L. Nevin Age 59 Died: September 13, 2020 Branch 30, Youngstown OH

Emma Perz Age 100 Died: September 28, 2020 Branch 33, Cleveland OH

**Georgetta Presnar** Age 90 Died: October 9, 2020 Branch 27, New Castle PA

**Maria Wuerch** Age 96 Died: October 10, 2020 Branch 27, New Castle PA

Albert R. Lachman Age 97 Died: October 22, 2020 Branch 5, Lorain OH

John Schuller Age 86 Died: October 25, 2020 Branch 9, Chicago IL

Peter Karsti, II Age 87 Died: October 25, 2020 Branch 30, Youngstown OH

William R. Dick Age 82 Died: October 27, 2020 Branch 30, Youngstown OH

Shirley R. Thompson Age 88 Died: October 29, 2020 Branch 30, Youngstown OH

William J. Stuehler Age 89 Died: November 3, 2020 Branch 1, Cleveland OH

and heaps of cabbage, and drank good, cold beer while gazing into beautiful town squares. I felt connected to history, and was filled with love for both my family and so many of the amazing Saxons I've met throughout my life. I want my children to know that feeling, and I'm incredibly grateful that my parents-and their parents and grandparents before them-wanted that for me.

Marah Eakin Pasadena, CA **Branch 4 Cleveland West** 

#### Dear Abby's 1999 **Thanksgiving Prayer**

#### **O** heavenly Father:

We thank thee for food and remember the hungry. We thank thee for health and remember the sick. We thank thee for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank thee for freedom and remember the

enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service That thy gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

#### FRATERNAL CALENDAR

#### NATIONAL EVENTS

March 7, 2021 TSBA Spring Tournamant Host Youngstown Bowlers July 9-11, 2021 North American Saxon Heimattag Host: Salem Saxon Club

#### LOCAL EVENTS

November 15, 2020 Cleveland Sachsenheim Onkel Grumpy's Schnitzelfest December 11, 2020 Cleveland Br 1 Sausage Sale December 12, 2020 Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Social Distance Children's Christmas Party

#### Freshwater fish have omega-3s

If you're a fisherman or have friends who share their catch with you, here's good news: Ocean-going fish may be rich in those important omega-3 fatty acids, but salmon, tuna, mackerel and herring are not the only sources.

Freshwater game fish have omega-3s, as well. Lake Superior lake trout are actually richer in this nutrient than Atlantic salmon or Atlantic mackerel. The trout has 3 grams per 3.5-ounce serving as opposed to 1.84 for the salmon and 1.2 for the mackerel.

Other freshwater game fish with omega-3s include whitefish with 1.6 grams per 3.5 ounce serving, chub



with 1.5, herring with 1.1, bass with 0.9, smelt with 0.5, walleye at 0.4, and northern pike with 0.1 ounces per serving.

Doctors at the Mayo Clinic say it's true that the content of most game fish isn't as high as that of ocean-going cold-water fish. But fish, as long as it's not fried or prepared with a lot of added fats, is still a better choice than meat. Meat is typically higher in undesirable saturated fats and cholesterol.

## ATS Masks for Sale





The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons is looking for members to share their family's personal story of life in Transylvania and their journey to America.

The ATS is hoping to gather enough stories that we can publish a book that will be valuable to future generations on learning from personal memoirs on how our Saxons lived in Transylvania and their travels from their homeland.

Individuals submitting their stories can also include photos.

Submit your story to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129. Include your full name, phone number, email and local Branch No.

We hope that we can collect enough stories within the year that we can publish a book of Transylvanian Saxon Memoirs.

# November is American Diabetes Month

## SANTA WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU and ...

... all the junior members of Branches 1, 4, 5 and 33 at the Westside Sachsenheim on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> but the visit will be a little different this year.

Santa will be outside in the Sachsenheim's back parking lot by the garden gate – you and your family are invited to a "DRIVE THRU" visit starting at 1:00 pm.

If your parent would like to take a photo of you with Santa they may do so (at a safe distance, of course) and all MUST WEAR A MASK!

You may let Santa know what you would like for Christmas by writing him a note. One of his helpers will make sure he gets your request. After seeing Santa, you will receive a special gift picked out just for you, plus a treat box.



The ATS has face masks for sale. ATS Secretary, Monica Gilles, modeled the mask while working at the ATS Office.

Masks are \$5.00 each. Send checks payable to

ATS Home Office 5393 Pearl Road Cleveland, OH 44129 Because of the unusual circumstances this year, it is essential that you make your reservation soon.

You may make your reservation by calling:

Patty Cunningham (216) 398-7520 E-Mail: <u>prscunn@yahoo.com</u>

(If you reach the answering machine, please leave a message <u>and</u> your telephone number. Patty will need to know the name and age of each child <u>PLUS</u>. you will be notified of a <u>specific time</u> for your drive thru visit.



FIRM DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: NOVEMBER 24TH

#### BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS By Donald Blum

#### FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Facebook page continues to draw interest from Saxons in many places. We are now at 96 Facebook members and growing weekly. Many of the new Facebook members are sharing interesting stories of their Saxon family background. This is just another way on keeping the Saxon history alive and relevant today.

#### Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, Columbus Branch 10

We will continue to modify and improve the Facebook page as needed. You are invited to join our Facebook group and share your Saxon history or just enjoy what others post. If you are interested in becoming part of the Facebook group you can request an invitation or send me your email address (donaldcblum@prodigy.net), and we will set you up.

We are happy to say, we continue to add Saxon/ German heritage individuals to the Facebook Group. Some of the new members include people from Europe and Canada. We encourage you to spread the word about our group and invite others to join.

#### **MEMBERS**

Mike Roth has had shoulder surgery. He is recovering and will eventually begin physical therapy. Please join me in wishing Mike a speedy and complete recovery.

Jill Blum should be completing her physical therapy in December for her Achilles tendon surgery.

Mary Lassel has been doing physical therapy. Please join me in wishing Mary success in her treatments.

#### HISTORY OF TRANSYL-VANIA-HOLY LEAGUE

On the much appreciated advice of a reader of the articles, I will research the names of towns mentioned in the articles, to insure the town names reflect a German, more recognizable name. Additionally, throughout this series I have referred to one of the main characters as Michael the Brave. In actuality, I wanted to clarify that in the series references his name as Mihai(Me-High). Again, thanks to the advice to make the articles more appropriate for the readers of the Volksblatt.

Moliva in the Hotin castle fortress. Most of Moliva's troops had deserted him and left him with a small Polish contingent to protect him. Under the cover of darkness, Moliva and a small contingent of Polish soldiers sneak out of the fortress.

The military quests of Michael resulted in, for the first time, unifying the three principalities of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia under a Romanian ruler. Does the story end here or does fragile unification of the Holy League face future obstacles.

Even though Michael had had many military conquests, he was now faced with a new and more formidable problem. These conquests had resulted in the unification of the principalities of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia and posed a military and political threat to neighboring powers. We will see how Michael plans to keep his unified state in power and deal with the neighboring powers. (While we state that the three principalities were united under one Romanian ruler, the actual distinction of the country of Romania has not historically occurred at this time).

In the town of Miraslau, Michael's soldiers are bartering with locals to replenish supplies. Michael's scouts return to advise that a well-equipped army is only kilometers away from attacking. The Battle of Miraslau is about to take place and could decide the future of this newly formed kingdom.

By securing the Danube against the Ottoman empire and incorporating the three principalities together, Michael proved he was an outstanding military leader. He had studied how to use military tactics of speed in attack, flanking the opponent, double enveloping the adversary and especially in using the terrain to his advantage. Michael was not sure of how the consolidation would be ruled but it was presumed that he envisioned it as a Wallachian state, with most of the ruling being done by loyal Wallachian elite. It was clear that the unification caused both external and internal complications. The Habsburg, Emperor Rudolph II still wanted control of Transylvania and its numerous resources. He was upset that Michael was calling himself King while Rudolph II still considered him governor over the area and subservient to the Habsburg empire. The Polish/ Lithuania wanted Moldavia as their buffer state. Finally, the Ottoman Empire wanted again to extend its authority over all three principalities.

Michael's problems were further complicated by the fact that under previous control of the Ottoman empire, Wallachia and Moldavia were forbidden to have any fortifications, which left them open to quick and easy invasion of these areas. Michael wanted to be recognized as the direct leader of the area and not under the rule of the Habsburg. Also, he was to further extend control over the entire Carpathian mountain region, which was a problem to Rudolph II. Additionally, the Polish/ Hungarian nobles were not happy with losing the rule over Moldavia.

Michael had additional political problems. He merged the political governing bodies of Wallachia and the Transylvanian Diet form of government. He did not want to upset the successful government style of Transylvania. In addition Szekely and Hungarian Transylvanians were invited to assist in the administration of Wallachia. Also, Michael set up the elites of Moldavia and Transylvania with considerable power and in return would receive favorability. To further his support with the elite, he relieved orthodox priests of manual labor and taxation. Michael gave the Wallachia church official rule over Romanians living in Transylvania. This upset the Transylvanian Diet because it took more authority from them and caused much frustration. A further problem, Michael never tried to improve the situation of the poor in Transylvanian, which most were peasants and serfs. He ignored the poor, as he wanted to keep things status qua, in order to gain support and fill the state's coffers. Michael supported the Hungarians when they would crush any uprisings against the government. The poor sent delegations to meet with Michael to discuss relieving them of the harsh physical and financial burdens. In spite of their request, Michael actually increased taxes over 500% and they were obligated to make food deliveries to the army. The poor were unable to pay their financial obligations so they would enter into the army as mercenaries or just fled

the country completely. This caused problems because the Hungarian nobles lost substantial tax revenues. The Szekelys got back their privileges that had been previously taken away. Saxons were upset because they found themselves having to provide loans to Michael.

The situation in Moldavia was not going well either. Many of Michael mercenaries that had been unpaid began to sack and plunder the land in order to survive. This angered the Moldavian nobles and serfs.

The united principalities now had the capability to raise an army of 60,000 men, but with the unstable economy and lack of revenue from taxation, Michael could only raise any army of 15,000 men. Also, because there had not been any recent battles against enemies, the plunder of towns/villages supplies, money and revenue from taxations had dwindled substantially. Michael was no longer able to sustain his mercenary armies as he was lacking in revenues to pay them. Michael came up with a partial solution. He awarded four Transylvanian

#### **Continued on Page 6**

#### **2020 HOLIDAY GIFT IDEAS**

Looking for a unique way to pass on your Saxon heritage to someone on your Christmas list? Why not check out the exclusive items offered for sale at the ATS Home Office. Prices are very affordable and these items won't be found at your local department or book stores. Some supplies are limited. Order today!

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries		CD "Glück Auf" by Eintracht Männerchor	\$ 5.00	
by Rev. John Foisel	\$15.00	Saxon Apron - "I 🛛 🕈 Saxon Cooking"	\$15.00	
Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy		Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon)	\$ 7.00	
by Barbara Ohler Weber	\$14.00	Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon Plus choice of Canadian or German)	\$ 9.00	
<u>Flucht aus Siebenbürgen</u> (German Text)		ATS Navy Knit Cap with ATS Logo	\$10.00	
by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider	\$20.00	Baby Knit Cap in Pink or Baby Blue	\$10.00	
Ant People_ Children's book		Black T-shirt with Saxon Wappen	\$20.00	
by Anne Junesch	\$10.00	Navy Sweatshirt with ATS Logo	\$25.00	
<u>Saxon Cookbook (</u> third edition)	\$12.00	ATS Cloth Face Mask	\$5.00	
Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here? \$24.95				

by Gerhard Maroscher

#### HOLIDAY ORDER FORM

NAME				
ADDRESS			EMAIL	
CITY/STATE/ZIP			PHONE	
	Quantity	Price		Quantity Price

What is the Holy League and what significance does it have for Transylvania? **PART 6 IN A SERIES.** 

As we left the escapades of Michael, Michael had corned

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries		ATS Baby Knit Cap	Pink
Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy			Blue
Flucht aus Siebenbürgen		Black T-shirt	Small
Ant People	<u> </u>		Med
Saxon Cookbook Why Can't Somebody Just Die			Large X-Large
Around Here?			XX-Large
CD "Glück Auf"		Navy Sweatshirt	Small
Saxon Apron "I love Saxon Cooking"	· · · · ·		Med
ATS Cloth Face Mask			Large
Desktop Flag Set (American & Saxon)			X-Large
Desktop Flag Set (3 Flags)			XX-Large
Indicate Flag choice: _German _Canadian		TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$
ATS Navy Knit Cap		Make Check payable to: ATS	
		ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl	Road, Cleveland, OH 44129
Credit	card number		(\$25 minimum)
	ntion/	Security Code Billin	g Zip Code

#### BRANCH 10 Cont'd from Page 5

castles important political positions to mercenary commander to which he had developed close relationships. These mercenaries were primarily from Serbia, Bulgaria and Albania. They essential became mercenary warlords and suppressed local nobility and peasantry. Widespread corruption and extortion flourished under their rule. This sowed the seeds of resistance across Transylvania and Moldavia.

The Hungarian nobility undertook a revolt to overthrow the rule of Michael. Additionally, they gained support from the Habsburg army in their quest to overthrow Michael. Their unified army was commanded by an Italian general named Giorgio Basta. The army marched on the Transylvanian capital but was soon intercepted. The political instability over the past few months had caused numerous problems but the nobles of Transylvania but they had still retained most of their power and were content to retain Michael as their ruler. There was a rumor that Michael was considering taking away the power of the Transylvanian nobility and turning it over to the control of Wallachian nobility. This made the question of negotiations before the battle was impossible and now Michael was faced with the oncoming army.

This brings us back to the town of Miraslau and the battle of this town, in the valley north of the Mures River. General Basta leads the troops supported by Hungarian Nobility of Transylvania and the Austrian and Flemish Knights, Wollens, French musketeers, artilleries and mercenaries. Basta had the numerical advantage of 20,000 troops and the element of surprise over the 12,000 troops of Michael. Michael had only a portion of his mercenary troops and the support of General Starina Novak and his Serbian calvary. Michael tried to offset his disadvantage by using the terrain of the Mures River and the hills in the valley, that had numerous ditches and barricades as obstacles to his advantage. The battle began with a bombardment of artillery and no side seemed to have an advantage. Then Michael gave the signal and a thundering roar echoed from the hills on the right flank of Basta. The bombardment caused substantial damage to Basta's troops. Basta's troops were

stunned and the first line of defense, the calvary began a retreat. Michael recognized an opportunity and ordered a direct advance and attack. Basta's retreating calvary wanted to get out of range of the cannon fire overtook the infantry, leaving them unprotected. As had been a battle tactic, troop losses were the greatest when in retreat. This prompted Michael to continue his attack and he sensed another military victory. Then, and very suddenly, Basta's army turned around to took a defensive formation, and the retreat had ended. Basta's army was now out of range of the hillside cannon barrage. Michael had made a huge military blunder. He had not recognized an organized and a fake retreat. Michael was now out of range of his artillery support. Michael's advancement had left his calvary without the infantry support. Michael found himself trapped by an outflanking technique he had used so many times in battles against his enemies. Michael's right flank had completely collapsed. Michael found himself caught in a musket fire battle. Szekely soldiers surrendered after being assured they would be set free. This was a futile gesture, as after the surrender Basta's army killed them all. The loss was devastating as 4,000 of Michael's troops were lost and Michael barely escapes on horseback and ends up having to swim across the Mures River. Michael does escape to the mountains across the Mures River, with a depleted and devastated

No one was sure why Michael, a victor in so many battles fell victim to a faked retreat and abandoning his superior military position. Perhaps it was overconfidence or the need to gain a quick victory in order to address other potential points of external attack.

small amount of troops and

vulnerable to further at-

tacks.

table nearby. I asked her, "Do you know him?" She sighed and said, "Yes, he's my old boyfriend. I understand he took to drinking right after we split up many years ago." I said, "My gosh, who would think a person could go on celebrating that long."

And then the fight began...

#### CONCLUSION

We are coming to a wonderful time of celebration, Thanksgiving. In these unorthodox times of uncertainty, the virus and other things happening in our society, we should not loose sight of the important things in our lives. We still have our families, friends, church, pets, our Saxon Club members and a beautiful world that God has provided. It is more important to count our blessings than to dwell on the obstacles with which we are faced.

Happy Thanksgiving and God Bless!



#### Sweet corn custard pie: A surprising twist on a traditional food

Not much is known about the first Thanksgiving feast in 1621, when settlers and indigenous Americans from the Wampanoag tribe gathered to feast for three days after a successful harvest, according to Smithsonian Magazine. Historians believe that flint corn, as a staple crop, would have featured heavily during the celebration. Today, modern varieties of sweet corn show up on many Thanksgiving tables in casseroles, breads, stuffings and pies.

Adapted from The Four and Twenty Blackbirds Pie Book by Emily Elsen and Melissa Elsen, sweet corn custard pie combines the sunny flavor of sweet corn with the silky texture of egg custard, no stove-top tempering required. Try fresh kernels if you can find them, but if not, frozen sweet corn, thawed and drained, will also work. Use your favorite pie crust recipe for the pie shell or save time and pre-bake a store-bought frozen pie shell. For a gluten-free option, prepare the filling as written with a gluten-free pie shell.

#### Sweet corn custard pie

1 pre-baked pie shell Filling:

- 3 cups sweet corn kernels from 5 to 6 ears of corn (thaw and drain frozen if fresh is unavailable)
- 2 tablespoons neutral
- vegetable oil
- 1 cup heavy cream
- $1 \frac{1}{4}$  cups whole milk
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup granulated sugar



the corn until caramelized, about 12 to 15 minutes. Stir periodically and watch carefully to prevent burning. Combine hot caramelized corn with heavy cream and whole milk. Puree in a blender or with an immersion blender and allow the mixture to steep for at least 15 minutes. Meanwhile, reduce the oven temperature to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. While the corn mixture steeps, combine the melted butter with the sugar, cornmeal, salt and corn syrup. Stir in the eggs and yolk one at a time, mixing thoroughly after each addition. Add

Strain corn mixture through a fine mesh sieve over a large bowl. Using a flexible spatula, press mixture against the sieve to remove as much liquid as possible. Stir and press until all liquid is removed. You will have around one cup of liquid and a few bits of corn. Add the strained liquid to the egg mixture and discard the leftover corn solids.

Pour the liquid into the pre-baked pie shell and set on the middle rack of the oven. Bake for 40 to 45 minutes. Check the pie at 30 to 35 minutes and rotate if the edges have started to set. The pie is done when the edges are slightly puffed and the center is wobbly, but not liquid. Be careful not to overbake as the pie will continue to cook and set after coming out of the oven.

This ends this part of the series. Stay tuned for the next series, Series 7, to see if Michael's unified Romanian state is broken and it is the final blow to the original Holy League of principalities of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia.

#### HUMOR

My wife and I were sitting at a table at her high school reunion, and she kept staring at a drunken man gulping his drink as he sat alone at a 2 tablespoons stone-ground cornmeal

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> teaspoon kosher salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup light corn syrup 3 large eggs

1 yolk

1 tablespoon fresh lime juice

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit and line a rimmed baking sheet with foil. Stir vegetable oil into fresh or thawed corn and spread onto the baking lime juice. sheet in a single layer. Roast

Cool the pie completely on a wire rack. Cut in eight to 12 small slices.



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## THANK YOU VETERANS!

A Prayer for Our Veterans:

Father, please turn your gaze to those men and women who in their military service have sacrificed time, comfort, strength, ambition, health, and prosperity for the peace and safety of family and friends and others they've never even known. Please reward them a hundredfold for all their sacrifice and service. Bless them far beyond all their expectations. Reward them richly for all they have given. Amen.

Honoring all Veterans on Veterans Day

We thank you for your service and sacrifices. We are forever grateful. We are the land of the free because of the brave.

