

THE SAXON NEWS

Volksblatt

Celebrating over 100 years of Saxon Fraternalism

Published by
**The Alliance
of Transylvanian Saxons**
Home Office: 5393 Pearl Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597
Tel: (440) 842-8442

ATS Founded in 1902

November 27, 2020

Issue 24



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.

**TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020**

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



**KEEP CALM
AND
WEAR A MASK!**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling
Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



I want to wish everyone a safe and healthy Thanksgiving. With the pandemic still raging and stay-at-home orders being announced, it appears most of us will be celebrating this year with a small group of our family rather than the big, loud, boisterous celebrations of years past. I recall big feasts when I was young. Lots of aunts and uncles and what seemed to be all of the cousins gathered at one place. Then, after we all ate way too much food, it was time for the famous "Thanksgiving Nap". It seemed as though eight or ten of us cousins would all manage to fit on one couch and snooze until it was time to eat again! These days, not as many of us would fit on that couch. Although, it seems we still look forward to the snooze after we're done eating! Stay safe, everyone, and be thankful for your family, your friends and your health.

'Tis the season for....Branch Officer elections! The ATS Home Office is mailing out Branch Roster forms. Once your Branch has your new slate (or same slate) of Officers, please make sure that your local Branch Secretary completes the forms and mails them back to the office. This information is used by the Home Office for various mailings during the year. Some correspondence goes to Branch Presidents, while other communications go to Branch Secretaries or ATS Secretaries. Some of the officer names are listed in the Branch Directory in the Volksblatt. Out-of-towners use this information when they need to contact someone from their Branch for either dues payments or benefit requests. So, please send the form back to the office.

Did you know that the woman behind "Mary Had a Little Lamb" is considered to be responsible for Thanksgiving's recognition as a national holiday? Writer and editor Sarah Josepha Hale had written the children's poem, originally known as Mary's Lamb in 1830 and she helped found the American Ladies Magazine, which she used a platform to promote women's issues. Sarah was also the editor of Godey's Lady Book for more than 40 years, turning the magazine into one of the most influential periodicals in the country at that time. While at Godey's, she often wrote editorials and articles about the Thanksgiving holiday and lobbied state and federal officials to pass legislation creating a fixed, national day of thanks on the last Thursday of November. By 1854, more than 30 states and U.S. territories had a Thanksgiving celebration on the books. The concept of a national Thanksgiving did not originate with Sarah Hale. In fact, the idea had been around since the earliest days of the republic. In 1789, a newly inaugurated George Washington called for a national day of thanks to celebrate both the end of the war and the recent ratification of the U.S. Constitution. Both John Adams

Continued on Page 2

Schloss Horneck needs OUR help!



Schloss Horneck located in Gundelsheim, Germany is the international location for our Siebenbürger Sachsen 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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Cont’d from Page 1

and James Madison issued similar proclamations of their own. Thomas Jefferson did not, citing separation of church and state ideals and felt that the religious connotations surrounding Thanksgiving were out of place. No formal declarations were issued after 1815. The outbreak of the civil war did little to stop Sarah Hale’s efforts to create such a holiday. She continued to write editorials on the subject, urging Americans to put aside sectional feelings and local incidents and rally around the unifying cause of Thanksgiving. The holiday continued, despite hostilities, in both the Union and the Confederacy. In 1861 and 1862, Confederate President Jefferson Davis issued Thanksgiving Day proclamations following Southern victories. President Abraham Lincoln called for a day of thanks in April of 1862 following various Union victories, and again in the summer of 1863 following the Battle of Gettysburg. Shortly after Lincoln’s summer proclamation, Hale wrote to both President Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward, once again urging them to declare a national Thanksgiving Day, stating that only the chief executive had the power to make the holiday “permanently an American custom and institution”. Whether President Lincoln had it in mind to issue the proclamation before receiving Hale’s letter is uncertain. But within a week of the letter, Secretary Seward drafted Lincoln’s official proclamation fixing the national observation of Thanksgiving Day on the final Thursday in November, a move the two men hoped would help “heal the wounds of the nation”. After more than three decades of lobbying, Sarah Josepha Hale (and the United States) had a national holiday, earning her the name the Mother of Thanksgiving. Until next time....

BRANCH 2, ERIE
By Tom Manning

As we continue to move through these very challenging times, I want to update what is happening at our Branch. The Siebenbuerger Club has been open for business with limitations of 50% capacity and masks must be worn until you are seated. Distancing is observed. Alcoholic beverages and smoking are prohibited during our meeting.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. at the Club. This will be a business meeting only. The Dinner has been canceled and I have postponed the Election of Officers until further notice.

We urge our members to attend this very important meeting.

We wish our members a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

For more information you can call Tom Manning at 814-864-6072.



The first
‘Thanksgiving’

After the dark days of 1620, the Pilgrim’s 1621 harvest festival was their first celebration of plenty. It has become a model for present day Thanksgiving feasts. Their festival is described in a letter by Edward Winslow to friends in England:

“Our harvest being gotten in, our governor sent four men on fowling, that so we might after a special manner rejoice together after we had gathered the fruit of our labors. They four in one day killed as much fowl as, with a little help beside, served the company almost a week. At which time, amongst other recreations, we exercised our arms, many of the Indians coming amongst us, and among them rest their greatest King Massasoit, with some ninety men, whom for three days we entertained and feasted, and they went out and killed five deer, which they brought to the plantation and bestowed on our governor, and upon the captain and others. And although it be not always so plentiful as it was this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want that we often wish you partakers of our plenty.”

Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
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The Saxon News Volksblatt (ISSN 0894-1165), the official publication of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597, is published Bi-weekly.

Annual Subscription rate for non-ATS members
USA - \$15; Canada and Europe -\$50

Managing Editors HB Laser Communications,
29076 Fall River Dr, Westlake, Ohio 44145.
“Periodicals Postage Paid” at Cleveland, Ohio.
Postmaster: Send address changes to the Saxon News
Volksblatt, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

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, DECEMBER 2, 2020	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020	FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2020
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020	FRIDAY, JANUARY 1, 2021

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

CHURCHES



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

BRANCH 5, LORAIN

By Michael Johnson

After enjoying a pre meeting meal of Saxon sausage cooked up by sister Jeanne Petty along with sides and dessert by sisters Janie Mowery and Ginger Romes, we began the business of the month of October in only our fifth meeting of the year. With the number of members at meetings being within what is considered for small group gatherings, we are trying to normalize our times together for business and branch activities to help stay unified. So far, there has been no one testing positive in the group as we are obliged to each other to wear a face covering and maintain the six feet distancing guidelines.

I'm sad to report that we have lost our oldest member. Brother Albert Lachman passed away on October 22, 2020. He was 97. Our condolences to the family of this kind and friendly gentleman, that many of us had the pleasure of knowing.

That was the news from last month's meeting which was not published in the last issue. At the time of this writing, the surge of Coronavirus cases has increased daily across our state. On Sunday evening, November 15th, the officers had to make the deci-

sion, because of the spike, to cancel Monday, November 16th's meeting, as well as any possible make up meeting in December. Business that would have been conducted such as elections and other end of year business will be conducted at the next future prospective date of January 18, 2021. Donations and gifts that are given out at Christmas annually will still be completed by the treasurer to our members over the age of 90, The Mary Lou Tucker Foundation, The Saxon Relief Fund, Schloss Horneck, and the Saxon Orphan Fund. Unsure of how much worse this pandemic could get, it was also decided to cancel plans for the Christmas dinner that was to be held on December 5, 2020. At this time there is no member reported to have the virus, or receiving any sick benefits for any illness.

Happy Birthday to members who celebrated birthdays in the month of November; sisters Elaine Johnson, Juliana Piller, Robin Johnson, brothers Mark Jones, Robert Tomusko, and junior members Reese Bond, and Cole Sergent. Hope your day was special! May you all be giving thanks today!

BRANCH 9, CHICAGO

By Rose-Marie Hauer

Thanksgiving should have a special meaning to all of us. Who would have thought that Covid 19 would change our lifestyles in some form or fashion, and the holiday plans would all be so different? I want to wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Branch 9 extends deepest sympathy to the family of Brother John Schuller. John Schuller was born on August 18, 1934 and passed away on October 25, 2020. Visitation was held on October 30, 2020 at Drake & Son Funeral Home. A graveside service was held on October 30, 2020 at 12:00 pm at Rosehill Cemetery.

Branch 9 also wishes to acknowledge Erica Hauer and Allison Reif who were first place winners in the ATS "Why my Cultural Heritage is Important to Me?" Both ladies wrote beautiful articles and they appeared in the Volksblatt recently.

As for now...stay safe and healthy.

BRANCH 33, CLEVELAND EAST

By Arline Krestel-Suts

Well hello everyone. Hope and pray everyone is doing well. As I read the Volksblatt, I noticed some branches having in-person meetings, others are not. Branch 33 is meeting virtually via Zoom. And I have to say it has worked very well! So nice to actually SEE members again. We hope as the weeks go by, more members will join our Zoom meetings. Please look for the invitation on your email. If we don't have your email, please let any officer know. My email is Asuts@windstream.net. Send me an email and I will be sure our Zoom-master Maria Phillips sends you an invite. We are meeting on our usual second Wednesday of the month.

Branch 33 pretty much canceled all of our events due to the pandemic, but we're really hoping for a spring membership banquet. The West Side Sachsenheim is having a "Meet Santa" event on Saturday, December 12 and have invited all junior members of Branch 33. Santa will be outside in the parking lot and you are invited to drive-through visit but you must make a reservation time; call Patty Cunningham at 216-398-7520. Hey kids, Santa certainly does want to know what you want for Christmas and you will receive an early special gift picked out just for you.

Last month we did make charitable donations to the USO, the City Mission, the Salvation Army, Collinwood hunger center, and Lake Metro Parks. We have given out several scholarships this year to Mary O'Neil, Cassie Jordan, Jack Krew, Mandy Jordan, Payton Schneider, Madeline Nagy, and Austin Schneider.

So hard this year with schools being online or hybrid, but we are glad to support you as much as we can.

We send out a special hi to Joan Blaha and Ron K; to Florence Davidson and Mike Thellmann; and to the Webers and Mahtars; we hope you are staying strong.

New business at our November meeting included election of officers for year 2021. Elected as our President, Margarete Ziegler; Vice President, Maria Phillips; Treasurer, Jeff Krestel; Secretary, Arline Suts; ATS Secretary, Karyn Schmidt; Financial Secretary, Michael Bretz; Membership Chairperson, Cindy Schneider. Elected for two year Trustee are Austin Bonnett and Barb Hum, and for one year Nick Ziegler and Wayne Suts. You will notice long time President Ema Litschel and Vice President Bette Schmidt have retired. My goodness - such dedicated and hard-working officers! Our Branch is certainly a better organization having had both as officers. It was a pleasure working with them; they did so much for our Branch. I am sure they will continue to be active members, but in a different role. We truly do thank you for your service Ema and Bette. The new officers will be installed at the January meeting.

December 9, Wednesday, our next meeting will actually be a Christmas cocktail party via Zoom. No business, just for fun. Bring your beer, wine, bourbon, cup of tea/coffee that you might have spiked, whatever you like! By computer or "smart" device, we just want to sit and talk and reminisce and share some time together as best as we can in this novel time. So please join us! It will be informal and fun to just chat and catch up with what's been happening, on a personal level! Heaven knows we could all use, and deserve, a good drink!! (Or more...).

So look for your Zoom invitation in your email, and again let me know what your email is so we can send you the invite.

In the meantime this is going to be quieter Thanksgiving, much pared down, few family, no guests. I and my family wish all of you a happy Thanksgiving; and yes, we do still have a lot to be thankful for.



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.

Frieda S. Middleton

Age 90

Died: November 12, 2020
Branch 4, Cleveland OH



The case for masks:

Hospital finds decline in Covid with mask

A Boston hospital system has found that required masking has dramatically reduced Covid-19 infections among its 75,000 workers.

The 12-hospital system in Massachusetts, like many types of businesses, could not require social distancing of its employees. But the strict requirement for masking did show results, according to a study published in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

In March, before the masking requirement, Mass General Brigham found that positive tests for Covid-19 doubled every 3.6 days. The positivity rate rose from 0 percent to 21.3 percent during March.

On April 11, the hospital required all employees and patients to wear masks. From April 11 to 30, positive cases among employees decreased from 14.6 percent to 11.4 percent.

Meanwhile, in the state, new Covid cases rose. On March 1, Massachusetts had one case. On April 30, it had 1,940 cases. Yet, as cases rose in the state, they decreased among hospital workers, suggesting the decline in Covid cases took place at the hospital system before declines were seen in the state, according to conclusions reported in JAMA.

However, masking wasn't the only mitigation step the hospital required. It also restricted elective procedures and enforced social distancing where possible.

WE HAVE A RICH AND COLORFUL

HISTORY AND HERITAGE!

DO YOUR PART TO KEEP IT ALIVE!

BECOME A PROUD

AND ACTIVE MEMBER!

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

December 11, 2020
Cleveland Br 1 Sausage Sale
December 12, 2020
Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Social Distance
Children's Christmas Party

BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Robert Hanek

As I write this article, the world is experiencing a huge surge in the Covid-19 virus. We will continue to take orders for Branch 1's Wurstmarkt/Sausage sale on December 11th. If we are forced for health and/or government mandates to shut down, we will re-schedule the sale at a later date. Let's keep our fingers crossed and our masks on! Thank-you to our manager Grumpy and his staff on another successful, safe and delicious Schnitzelfest this past weekend. I think I saw Dorothy and Toto fly by our kitchen window that Sunday. What a wild one!

Congratulations also to the 250 Club winners for 2020. It's still not too late to join the 250 Club this year. With weekly drawings and the year end dinner and entertainment, it's a steal for the price! If you're interested, contact Robert Cunningham @ (216)-398-7520 to sign up. May everyone have a Happy Thanksgiving and be grateful for what we have. Finally, on behalf of Branch 1, I wish to express our deepest sympathies to the Karsti family on Peter's passing. Always cheerful and an excellent musician, he brightened every room he walked into. We shall miss him.

ATS Masks for Sale



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



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.

YOUNGSTOWN SAXON RETIREES By Ro Dundon

Since my last report I became one year older. That makes me older and more decrepit. So much so I couldn't go to the meeting—orders from the parent. We have met at The Falcon Grille and did so on Thursday the 12th. The group was small because of the situation at hand. I'm told they had a very good time. They were able to talk with and listen to everyone and so got all the recent news. Because of the Covid-19 situation the next meeting could be decided. When things settle down a date, time and place will be set and everybody will be notified. I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. Since we shouldn't have outside guests I guess we will have to concentrate on the turkey and pumpkin pie (my favorite.). We know there are no calories in the pie. In the event we are not able to meet in December—A VERY MERRY, HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. Until we meet again—as usual it's. RO



BRANCH 30, YOUNGSTOWN By Rosemarie Kascher

We invite you to the Youngstown Saxon Club that is now open three days a week: Sundays from 9:30 a.m. till 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. till 9:00 p.m. and on Fridays from 4:30 p.m. till 9:00 p.m, with special events Wednesdays and Fridays. There will be a limited menu for each of these days. The next officers meeting will be December 10th at 7:00 p.m. and the next general meeting will be December 13 at 2:00 p.m. The slate of officers for 2021 is as follows:
President Ernest Roth
1st Vice President Michael Teutsch, Jr.
2nd Vice President Denny Furman
Recording Secretary Dominic Lucarilli
Corresponding Secretary Rosemarie Kascher
Financial Secretary Val Thomas
Asst. Financial Secretary Pam Albrecht

Treasurer Michael Bachinger
Asst. Treasurer Kiki Eberth
Librarian Candy Crum
Sgt. at Arms Tom Albrecht
Trustees: Rosemary Zamar, Bo Rutkowski, Roger Fotiuk, Brandon Fotiuk, Bobby Taylor, Kevin Miller, Tammy Hahn (floating Trustee)
Please remember that \$35.00 per person is due for membership for next year. Please forward them to the Financial Secretary, Val Thomas via the office. We wish to thank the nominating committee of Barry Garhammer, Helen Fotiuk and Chrissy Fotiuk and at the same time wish all the officers the very best wishes for the coming year. Please stay safe, keep distances and wear your masks for your own safety and the safety of others.





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)**

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!

<u>Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries</u>		CD "Glück Auf" by Eintracht Männerchor	\$ 5.00
by Rev. John Foisel	\$15.00	Saxon Apron - "I ♥ Saxon Cooking"	\$15.00
<u>Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy</u>		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
<u>Ant People</u> 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
<u>Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?</u> \$24.95			
by Gerhard Maroscher			





HOLIDAY ORDER FORM

NAME _____


ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____ PHONE _____

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



Credit card number _____ (\$25 minimum)
Expiration ____/____ Security Code _____ Billing Zip Code _____





BRANCH 32, ELLWOOD CITY
By Docia Jacobs

Hello from Branch 32, Ellwood City

We finally held our October and November meetings. And we were able to hold our annual Halloween Trunk or Treat. Everyone (children and adults) followed the Covid19 guidelines (wearing masks and social distancing).

All enjoyed the event which also included costume judging and each child received a large pumpkin to take home. Fun was had by all.

Thank yous to Branches 32 and 45 for providing decorated trunks and treats.

Also due to the pandemic, the December Dinner and Children's Party are cancelled. However, we are planning a "Christmas in July."

The slate for 2021- 22 was made and the voting will be held at the January meeting.

We are hoping for a better year. And we wish all of you Health and Safety!



Give thanks for the rocks this Thanksgiving

This is a year when we might feel as if we are standing in sinking sand.

We hardly need to chronicle the many and varied hardships of 2020. We can leave this to the memes--it has been a great year for those.



Most of us can be thankful for our responses to the numerous challenges of 2020. We can't go to the gym, but there are fitness apps. Maybe we couldn't go to the office, but many could telecommute. The people who struggled most, we helped through donations and charity. Those who succumbed to the scourge of the pandemic, we have mourned and tried to give comfort to the families.

We've done what we always do: Struggle, adapt and keep moving. For that effort alone, we have reason to be thankful.

Thanksgiving isn't a holiday when we give gifts, it's one where we think of the gifts received. Friendship, family, work--these are some of the rocks that have lifted us from the sinking sand. Let's be thankful for the rocks.

FACEBOOK PAGE

Our Facebook page continues to draw interest from Saxons in many places. We are now at 102 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 (donaldblum@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.

HISTORY OF TRANSYLVANIA-HOLY LEAGUE

Our story of the Holy League and Michael the Brave continues in **Part 7 of the Series.**

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.

We will find out if Michael's unified Romanian state is broken and if it is the final blow to the original Holy League of principalities of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia.

Michael (Mihai) had barely escaped across the Mures with his diminished troops of 7,000 men.

Michael had settled into the town of Guruslau. It was a normal day in Guruslau(Goroszio). The villagers were going about their business of buying and selling their meats, supplies and other wares. The church bells were ringing and people hustling and bustling in the streets. The calm was interrupted by artillery fire.

Meanwhile, Michael had

sent orders to the nobles to assemble men for his army. Michael had received information that Jan Zamoyski, the chancellor of the Polish/Lithuanian common wealth, had assembled an army to attack Moldavia. He marched into Moldavia with 17,000 troops. He brought with him, the dethroned brothers Simion and Ieremia Moliva, with the intention of overthrowing Michael's rule in Moldavia and Walachia. Many Moldavian nobles and peasants that were unhappy with the rule of Michael joined them. Their march was quick as they met little resistance from the Moldavia towns that had no fortifications to resist. Zamoyski's expelled Michael's officials in Iasi. Ieremia Moliva was installed as the commander of Moldavia in the northern part. Zamoyski continued his march through Southern Moldavia. The nobles joined his forces or they would have been stripped of their land and political power. Zamoyski entered Walachia and occupied Buzau, Moldavia. Michael decided to march against Zamoyski but had only been able to muster a force of 10,000 troops. Without any artillery and facing outnumbered forces of 2 to 1, Michael was defeated at the Battle of Bucov. Zamoyski continued to attack the retreating Michael. Zamoyski marched and took the town of Bucharest. Simion Moliva was put on the throne of Walachia and ordered to pay a tribute to Zamoyski.

Michael spent the next month in Western Wallachia in an attempt to regain the throne of Wallachia. Michael and a lesser-assembled army crossed the river into Eastern Wallachia. At the Battle of Curtea de Arges, Michael was again defeated. This loss prevented him from taking an important strategic position. He lost many of his important commanders and prevented him from obtaining a position that allows three mountain passes into Transylvania. The most important nobles abandoned him and his troops scattered. Michael realizes he has no chance of retaking Wallachia on his own; he retreats and undertakes a treacherous travel to Vienna. He arrives in Vienna only to find that Emperor Rudolph will not even see him. Rudolph faces a quandary because his General Basta was meeting significant resistance

in Transylvania. Rudolph now has to way his options. After a few weeks waiting in Vienna, the Transylvanian government revolts and forces Basta into exile. The Transylvanian nobleman decided to reinstate, Sigismund Bathory, who had given up his throne to his cousin. Sigismund turned his back on Rudolph and aligned himself with the Polish/Lithuanian Zamoyski. Michael followers were promptly persecuted across Transylvania. Starina Novak, one of Michael's outstanding commanders was captured, burned on a stake alive for two hours and then impaled on a stake while still alive. Rudolph reacts by giving Michael a large sum of money to build an army. Michael and Basta are told to put aside their differences. Quickly, Michael raises 10,000 troops and he joined by Basta that provides another 10,000 troops. Their combined troops march into Transylvania. Sigismund marches to meet them with 40,000 strong troops. Sigismund troops consisting of Hungarian nobleman, Moldavian, Cossack and Polish troops.

This brings us back to the town of Guruslau where the two armies meet to do battle. Michael and Basta army consisted of 20,000 troops of Wallachian, Habsburg, Cossack and Serbian infantry and cavalry. The troops of Sigismund far outmatch in numbers, with 40,000 infantry and cavalry. The two sides exchange artillery fire with no significant advantage. Sigismund then signals a cavalry attack along the entire front line. As Michael had done in the past, he used the terrain to gain a military advantage. Sigismund had failed to notice there was a grassy incline in the battlefield. Michael realizes the significance and as the battle intensifies, Michael orders the troops to take up position at the top of grassy slope. Michael's troops use the advantage to repel the siege of the cavalry. Eventually, the sheer numbers of Sigismund's army and the joining infantry cause significant losses to Michael's army. The armies are in a fierce standoff battle until the superior numbers of Sigismund's army tend to grind down Michael's army. Michael realizes that unless something changes his army will suffer defeat. In an effort to change the tide, Michael takes charge of his cavalry and out flank Sigismund on his left flank. As the cavalry leads a charge, Michael or-

Alles gute zum Namenstag!

Oskar	1. Dezember
Aurelia	2. Dezember
Franziskus	3. Dezember
Barbara	4. Dezember
Arnold	5. Dezember
Nikolaus	6. Dezember
Eugenie, Lothar	7. Dezember
Maria, Asta	8. Dezember
Gudrun, Joachim	9. Dezember
Natalie, Judith	10. Dezember
Balduin, Waldemar	11. Dezember
Ode, Ottilie	12. Dezember
Lucie	13. Dezember
Balduin, Lothar	14. Dezember
Valerius	15. Dezember
Adelheid	16. Dezember
Eugenie	17. Dezember
Liebhard, Achim	18. Dezember
Abraham	19. Dezember
Irm(en)traud	20. Dezember
Thomas	21. Dezember
Beate	22. Dezember
Dagobert	23. Dezember
Adam, Eva	24. Dezember
Stefan	26. Dezember
Ingo	27. Dezember
Augustin, Eitel	28. Dezember
Dankwart, Jonathan	29. Dezember
David	30. Dezember
Gottlob, Silvester	31. Dezember



ders his artillery to resume the cavalry's position and fire at will. Sigismund counters by ordering his artillery to fire and sending his infantry to confront Michael's advancing cavalry. Michael's quick advance catches the opposing troops spread out and overwhelms Sigismund's reserve infantry. Michael's cavalry trample the opposing infantry and gain substantial advantage. Sigismund's artillery troops see they are going to be overwhelmed and join the infantry in retreat. This leaves Michael's troops to attack from the rear. The surrounded Transylvanian troops began running for their lives. Having lost 10,000 men and the loss of all his artillery

Sigismund orders a complete retreat. Having won the battle Michael marches ahead to Cluj (Klausenburg.) He plants a flag in honor of his captain, Starina Novak who had been burned alive and then impaled.

Under orders of Rudolph, Michael was to continue on into Wallachia to retake the throne. This would be easier because loyalists had already overthrown Simion Moliva in Wallachia. However Michael wanted to separate himself from Basta and occupy Alba Iulia(Karlsburg), Transylvania as his princely seat. This was directly against the wishes of Emperor Rudolph.

Continued on Page 7

Aries 3/21 - 4/19: Events require patience and compromise this month. Stay steady. By month's end, you'll have answers.

Taurus 4/20 - 5/20: If you've saved that special gift for last, try not to overspend. Something thoughtful regardless of price will be welcome.

Gemini 5/21 - 6/20: Delays are in the stars by the Cold Moon on the 29th. Work-arounds might well succeed.

Cancer 6/21 - 7/22: Try some old movies for your holiday celebration this year. Stars say nostalgia perks up the party.

Leo 7/23 - 8/22: Mid-month is the usual scramble. Stars predict setback in things hoped for.

Virgo 8/23 - 9/22: Exaggerations cause anxiety for you and others. Acting differently brings breakthrough.

Libra 9/23 - 10/21: Consider carefully your wants and needs this month. Pursue what you need.

Scorpio 10/22 - 11/21: The crescent moon on the 19th puts focus on results. Diplomacy helps.

Sagittarius 11/22 - 12/21: Get in touch with your generous side as you move toward holidays. Spiritual breakthroughs are possible.

Capricorn 12/22 - 1/19: What is a gain and what is a loss? Some gains seem a loss as you look deeper.

Aquarius 1/20 - 2/18: Friends on social media seem prone to dramatization this month. Don't engage. Stay real.

Pisces 2/19 - 3/20: Gather people around you, or share in a gathering with a joyful heart. Many happy returns await.

BRANCH 26, MERRILLVILLE
By Helen Brooks

On Sunday, November 8, 2020 Saxon Lodge Branch 26 met at Innsbrook Country Club. There was an hour of socializing. We then had a brief business meeting. All officers and committee chairs gave their reports. It was voted on and approved that the officers would get a raise.

New officers were introduced:

- President Jeff Szostek
- Vice President Daniel Schuffert
- Recording Secretary Jaimee Connor
- Treasurer Linda Smith
- Financial Secretary Zita Palyok
- Branch Deputy Randall Floyd
- Trustee 1 Jimm Smith
- Trustee 2 Brigitte Floyd
- Trustee 3 Judy Andrews
- Trustee 4 Pete Guip
- Sick Committee William Schuffert
- Social Chair Jana Szostek

Twosickslipswerepresented as follows: Christa Guip and Michele Schuffert.

It was voted and approved to donate to the Saxon Orphan Fund, Saxon Relief Fund, as well as the local Food Pantry.

Meeting was then adjourned and dinner was served.

President Randall Floyd

conducted the memorial service for Sam Palyok. His wife Zita, daughter and grandchildren were presented with a plant in his honor.

Our next meeting will be on December 6, 2020. It will be our Christmas Party, once again at Innsbrook.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Stay well.

Till we meet again.

To everything there is a season

To everything on Earth there is a season
A time for every purpose under the sun.
From the beginning of life's journey to the finish
We run the race until our day is done.

There is a time for weeping and a time for laughter
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
Every favor, every blessing is a gift from God
It happens not by chance.

For our God in never failing mercy
Watches over us day to dawning day.
In His hands He holds life's changing seasons
As time continues without delay.



Presidential turkey pardons include one masked varmint

In 1926, a thoughtful voter from Mississippi sent President Calvin Coolidge a treat for the White House Thanksgiving main dish: A live raccoon.

Although the sender claimed the meat was 'toothsome,' Coolidge refused to eat it and instead named the varmint Rebecca. The First Lady let the little bandit play in the bathtub with a bar of soap and fed it corn muffins.

Of course, sending live animals for the White House Thanksgiving dinner had been something of a tradition since the days of the Ulysses S. Grant administration in 1869. But people mostly sent turkeys.

It's not that no one ate raccoons. They absolutely did. Native Americans and enslaved African-Americans trapped and ate raccoons as a dietary staple. Entire farming regions from the Appalachians to the western frontier fed on abundant raccoons--critters that ate the crops and caused destruction.

In the South, the tradition of raccoon as an entree led to the breeding of coonhounds who could sniff out, find and chase their prey up a tree to be shot, a challenging pastime leading to a hearty dinner.

By the 1900s, raccoon preparation was in the pages of The Joy of Cooking.

Still, raccoon had the reputation of being 'slave food' or 'poor man's food' and quickly fell out of favor in urban areas.

Nonetheless, in rural areas to this day, raccoon shows up on the menu. In Delafield, Wisconsin and Gillet, Arkansas, raccoon dinners raise money for charity. They also test the local mettle for budding politicians. In 2014, GOP Rep. Rick Crawford told Roll Call, "They literally serve raccoon. And you're supposed to eat some. That's the tradition." Toothsome!

It was unacceptable to Michael to rule over the potentially powerful kingdom of Transylvania. Rudolph put in motion a plot against Michael's life. On the morning of August 9th, 1601, Basta sent his men to Michael's camp. When Michael tried to defend himself he was struck down and his head was cut off. His body was left to lie in the fields for some time. His followers managed to bring his head back to Wallachia. His head was brought back to Targosviste(Tergowisch), Wallachia and placed in Dealu Monastery, where it remains today.

Michael's defeat was more of a political defeat than a military defeat. He tried to impose his Wallachia power over the principalities of Transylvania and Moldavia. This was against the ruling nobility and the neighboring political powers. This caused significant resistance and would eventually lead to his downfall. Michael used his military superiority to gain control and rule the three principalities. This caused considerable problems with the neighboring monarchies of the Hapsburgs, the Ottomans and the Polish/Lithuanians. In the end, it was better for the Austrian and Polish monarchies to maintain the individual principalities of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia, as opposed to a strong monarchy that would upset the surrounding monarchy powers. Additionally, it was practical to maintain Wallachia and Moldavia as buffers again the Ottoman Empire. The brief unification of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia would go on to form what would become the national identity of Romania. This ends the power of what once were the Holy League of Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia. A unification of the principalities and their power that serves as a prelude to Romania.

I enjoyed the very interesting history of the Holy League and the history of how the powerful monarchies in the area ruled over the individual principalities and feared the unification of what would eventually become Romania.

This concludes the series.

The stories and information were provided from a YouTube documentary on the Holy League and Michael the Brave.

HUMOR

Husband and wife conversation:

"You told me you'd spend your whole life trying to make me happy."

Husband reply, "I didn't expect to live this long."

CONCLUSION

There is a verse in the Bible that is appropriate for the year that we hope will end on a better note:

To every thing there is a season,
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:
A time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, a time to reap that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
A time to gain that which is to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away;
A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time of love, and a time of hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.

We should focus on

A time to heal,
A time to build up,
A time to laugh,
A time to dance,
A time to embrace (virtually),
A time of love,
A time of peace.

Enjoy the people you love and cherish the time together.

It matters not
where you were born,
or where you live,
but what's in your HEART.
Be Proud to be
Transylvanian Saxon!



When you count your blessings this Thanksgiving, count being a member of the ATS Family as one of those blessings. Being a member of our Fraternal Benefit Society entitles you to an exclusive and valuable combination of financial values, social activities and fraternal fellowship.

ATS Life Insurance Plans provide you and your family guaranteed protection at low premium rates. ATS Annuity plans provide you with a safe way to save for your retirement. Our Life and Annuity plans can fit the individual needs of everyone in your family.

The Extra benefits provide you and your family a lifetime of caring concern through our non-contractual fraternal benefits like scholarships, orphan benefits, the Volksblatt, and fraternal fellowship.

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|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Cultural Activities | Scholarship Awards | Fraternal Benefits | Saxon News Volksblatt | Orphan Benefits |
| Youth Activities | Life Insurance Program | Retirement Savings Program | Local Branch Activities | |



The ATS welcomes new members to join and share in our cultural and social events, as well as benefit from our insurance and annuity plans. Please invite your relatives and friends to join our Fraternal family and reap the benefits of belonging to an organization that cares about its members.

