



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

June 26, 2020

Issue 13



Essay Contest for All Ages

Why my Cultural Heritage is Important to me

Rules:

1. All ATS members are eligible.
2. There are three Age Groups for judging:
Ages 12 & under
Ages 13—19
Ages 20 & Up
3. Essay length not to exceed 200 words
4. Essay must be submitted to ATS Home Office by August 30, 2020
5. Submissions must include name, address, age and Local Branch Number.

Awards:

Prizes will be awarded to top three winners in each age group:
1st Place \$100
2nd Place \$50
3rd Place \$25

We will publish essays in the Volksblatt and display them at the 2021 Heimattag.

Deadline for essays August 30, 2020.

Essay to be sent to the ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland OH. 44129.



BRANCH 1, CLEVELAND By Robert Hanek

On behalf of all the Branch 1 membership, I would like to congratulate the ATS National President, Joan Miller-Malue, on her retirement. Her many years of dedication and hard work have been truly appreciated. Her love and pride of our Saxon culture benefited all of us. THANK-YOU!

Congratulations also to our new president, Denise Crawford and our new ATS officers.

When the world changed this spring, all our lives were effected. In Ohio we are grateful to have a governor with the foresight and common sense to sacrifice financial stability for our health and safety. Precautions and common sense will get us through this pandemic more than anything else.

I am also pleased to announce Branch 1 is tentatively going forward with our annual Oktoberfest on August 15th at our Sachsenheim club. So if you're healthy and able we hope to see you there! (At a safe distance of course.)



KEEP
CALM
AND
STAY SAFE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Joan Miller-Malue
ATS Nat'l President



On Saturday, June 13, the ATS Board of Directors had its quarterly meeting via conference call. We reviewed the 1st quarter financial reports and Management & Discussion Report that are filed with the State Insurance Department. As of March 31, 2020, assets were \$94,363,816 and surplus was \$12,428,455. A review was made on the Independent auditor's report for 2019. The auditors did not find any deficiencies in internal control and reported that all financial statements, admitted assets, liabilities and surplus as of December 2019 and 2018 and the results of its operations and cash flows were fairly reported and prepared in conformity with accounting practices permitted by the Ohio Insurance Department.

We had a very interesting and energizing meeting. We discussed the importance of our Transylvanian Saxon heritage, like our DNA, which determines who we are, giving us both identity and the values that guide our lives in a changing world. We decided on two projects to highlight our cultural heritage. First, we are having an Essay Contest on "What my Cultural Heritage means to me" that will run during the summer months. This contest is for all ages and there will be monetary prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place winners in the three age groups. We are anxious to print the essays in the Volksblatt and will also display them at the 2021 North American Heimattag. Second, we are asking for members to submit their personal stories on their lives in Transylvania and their journey to the United States. We hope to collect enough stories that we can publish a book that will depict our Transylvanian Saxon heritage that can be valuable information for future generations. We ask that our younger members assist their parents and grandparents in writing their personal stories.

We know the burden many college graduates have to pay off their student loans. So, we decided to help in a some way by establishing a "Student Loan Debt Program" that will be implemented this coming Fall. The rules will be published in the Volksblatt. This year we will award \$500 to twenty ATS members that are currently paying off a student loan. The ATS Board of Directors think this is a worthy benefit to our ATS membership.

I have to say, I truly have missed the human interaction that we're missing out on with the need to distance ourselves, but I'm happy that we're able to still communicate. It sure will be nice when we're able to get back to some form of "traditional" communication. As places are re-opening, we must have patience and good judgment as we venture out and remember social distancing, wearing a mask and other preventive measures when going out in public. But as we are cautious, we can also start to enjoy time out from the stay-at-home restrictions.

The New Castle Eintracht picnic grounds have

Continued on Page 2

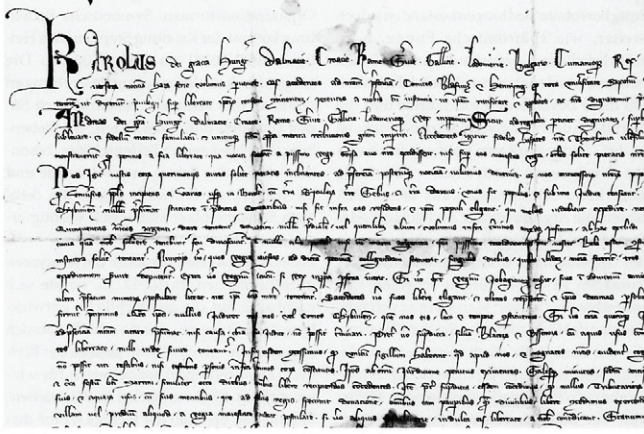
TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

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

been opened which provides a lot of space for members to enjoy. They will be having polka music on the grounds on Saturday, June 27 from 6 – 9. That can lighten your spirit while being outdoors enjoying some great uplifting music.

This has been a very difficult time for our members who have lost a loved one during this pandemic when families and friends cannot come together to personally give support and condolences. I just want our grieving family members to know that your fraternal family wishes they could be with you to express their condolences but want you to know that you are in our prayers.

So, after 49 years of working at the ATS Home Office and 45 years on the ATS Board of Directors, I will be retiring as of June 30th. It has been an honor and privilege to have had a life career with a fraternal society that I loved since I was a child. How fortunate I have been to make friends in the various Local Branches, Canada and Europe. As I write my last President’s Message, I wish you all



Bestätigung des "Goldenen Freibriefs" Andreas II. von 1224 durch König Karl I. (1317)
1317 facsimile of the Goldene Freibrief

good health and a good life. Let’s work to keep our Fraternal Family strong for future generations.

Transylvanian Saxon Trivia: For my last Saxon trivia, I want to give a short history of the Transylvanian Saxons. The original role of the Saxon settlers was to cultivate and defend the south-eastern border of the Hungarian Kingdom in addition to protect against the semi nomadic Tartars and Cumans that regularly raided Transylvania between 1241-42. In 1124 King Andrew granted the Saxons complete self-governance under their own leader, the Sachsen Graf (the Saxon Count), since the Saxon settlers proved to be hardworking

and trustworthy. Compared to other ethnic groups, the Saxons were treated with a lot of respect and benefits. The Goldene Freibrief (Golden Charter), secured the Saxons with freedom and self-administration with the Sachsen Graf only being subject to the King. This allowed them enough freedom to develop and maintain their own culture, and customs in return of having certain military obligations. The Goldene Freibrief allowed the Saxons to elect their clergymen and judges; their merchants were exempt from tolls and dues within the kingdom, in addition the Saxons were able to own their own land and property. The freedom became one of the Saxon greatest strengths, and allowed them to keep their own religion and language. During the Protestant Reformation, the Transylvanian Saxons converted to Lutheranism. Their Church was an integral part of their daily lives.

The settlers brought with them various skills such as the ability to develop the region’s economy due to their knowledge in agriculture, wine making and mining. Transylvania was made up of rich fertile lands and pastures along with valuable natural resources such as salts, precious minerals and red metals. Its ideal geographical location, allowed for trade routes at the west-east and north-south junctions, resulting in the establishment of Saxon towns and villages. The Transylvanian Saxon villages were set up along with their German schools and Lutheran fortified churches resulting in a cultural autonomy. The rapid expansion of cities populated by the Saxons led to Transylvania being known as Siebenbürgen, referring to seven of the fortified towns: Bistritz, Hermannstadt, Klausenburg, Kronstadt, Mediasch, Mühlbach and Schässburg.

Ich wünsche allen einen schönen Tag!

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

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

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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

PLEASE NOTE: FAX SERVICE IS
NO LONGER AVAILABLE

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, JULY 1, 2020	FRIDAY, JULY, 10, 2020
WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020	FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020	FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 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



**Oma's Black Forest Dessert
for Kids to Make**

It uses soda crackers, instant chocolate pudding, and Cool Whip. Top it off with Cherry Pie Filling. **Delicious!** An easy recipe for kids to make. You line out the crackers, mix the pudding and put it all together.

- Make sure you get the soda crackers with the unsalted tops! These are the secret to the flaky pastry. With the standing time, the crackers transform into "pastry".
- To get the thick chocolate layer as shown in the picture, use **two packages** of instant pudding. Normally, though, you just need one package.

It needs to stand at least 6 hours, so you need to plan for this extra time. That's for the crackers to turn into pastry.

Ingredients

- 1 package Soda Crackers (unsalted tops)
- 1 package instant chocolate pudding mix
- 2 cups milk (to make pudding)
- 1 large tub Cool Whip (1 litre, or 12 ounces, or 4 cups)
- 1 can cherry pie filling

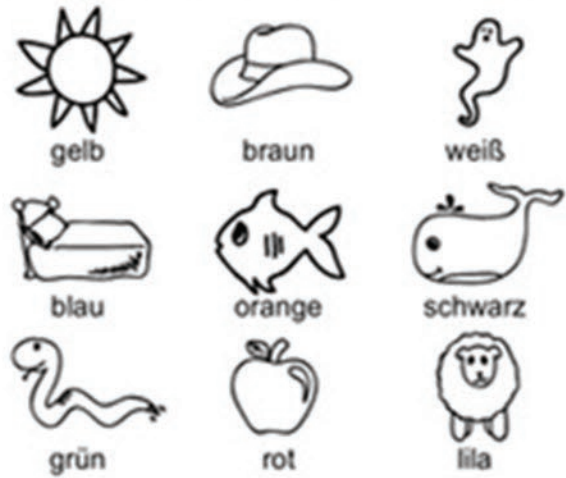
Instructions

- Line bottom of 9" X 13" baking dish with soda crackers.
 - Prepare pudding mix according to package instructions. Gently pour ½ over crackers and spread.
 - Gently spread ½ carton of Cool Whip over pudding
 - Cover Cool Whip layer with a layer of soda crackers.
 - Gently pour remaining pudding over crackers. Cover with remaining Cool Whip.
 - Cover with Saran Wrap and refrigerate at least 6 hours, preferably overnight.
- Serve, topping each piece with some cherry pie filling.

Coloring in German

	weiß (vighss)		rot (roht)		grün (gruun)
	gelb (gelp)		orange (oh-RAHNGSH)		blau (blou)
	lila (Lee-lah)		schwarz (shvahrts)		braun (brown)

Color each object below with the corresponding color beneath it.



4th of July Word Search

F O U R T H A U N I T E D S O
R R E F I R E W O R K S Y B D
E I E P A R A D E R W H I R A
E B E V A S F L A T G A T I T
N B L E O L U L I B E R E T H
A S D E C L A R A T I O N A I
T A U C D J U L Y G J U E I R
I M E M R E O T O A N M A N T
O I F A M A M R I G H T S T E
N C R C A E R A D O S O T H E
W J E R I G R E D A N S A I N
H U E A L I B E R T Y R T L I
I N D E P E N D E N C E E R B
T D O M E T A C P A T R S T Y
E A M E R I C A N B L U E W I



AMERICA
BLUE
BRITAIN
DECLARATION
FIREWORKS
FLAG
FOURTH

FREEDOM
INDEPENDENCE
JULY
LIBERTY
NATION
PARADE
RED

REVOLUTION
RIGHTS
STATES
SUMMER
THIRTEEN
UNITED
WHITE



4th Of July Maze

Start at the top and make your way to the American Flag



FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

July 10 - 12, 2020
North American Saxon Heimattag **CANCELLED**
Salem, Ohio

July 11, 2020
TSBA Bowlers Convention
Host Cleveland West Bowlers

July 25, 2020
ATS Family Day **CANCELLED**
Waldameer Park Erie, PA

October 10 - 11, 2020
ATS Open Bowling Tournament
Host Youngstown Saxon Bowlers

LOCAL EVENTS

August 15, 2020
Cleveland Br 1 Oktoberfest

August 16, 2020
Lorain Br 5 Picnic Lakeview Park

September 20, 2020
Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Membership Banquet

October 17, 2020
Cleveland Saxon Dance Group Traubenfest

October 30, 2020
Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Children's Halloween Party

November 6, 2020
Chicago Br. 9 Siebenbürger Sachsen Stiftungsfest

November 8, 2020
Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Veterans Day Dinner

November 21, 2020
Cleveland Br 1 Sausage Sale

December 12, 2020
Cleveland Brs 1 and 4 Children's Christmas Party

BRANCH 5, LORAIN By Michael Johnson

Following protocol for gathering in small groups within the reliable restart for Ohio, Branch 5 members met for our first meeting in 4 months. Donning masks and sitting six feet apart we were able to conduct an audit of the books for 2019 and update financial records and business happenings while we were away since our last meeting in February. Except for a couple members having age related illnesses or surgeries, there have been no reports of any member being diagnosed positive for the coronavirus. This is good news and we hope that everyone continues to stay safe and healthy.

On behalf of our members I would like to thank Joan Miller-Malue for her dedication and leadership the past four years in her role as National ATS President. I'll miss her editorial column in each issue of the *Volksblatt*, complete with the additional feature of Transylvanian Saxon Trivia. Congratulations to Denise Crawford on her election to take on

this position and continue to lead with knowledge and a lifetime of experience in this organization as well. May we all work to help her advance the goals in preserving the heritage of the ATS.

With much of the calendar both nationally and locally being cancelled due to the pandemic, we will not be meeting in July or August. We will resume meetings again at 7 p.m. September 21st, 2020, at the American Slovak Club just as before. Keep in mind that we at this point are still planning to have our Branch 5 picnic at Lakeview Park on August 16, 2020.

Many members will be celebrating their birthday in July and we'd like to say Happy Birthday to Sisters Dana Brown, Denise Weiler, Brothers Kyle Cassidy, Scott Kranstuber, and junior members Kaden Wyndham, Addison Long, Kailey Hochevar, Lauryn Davis, and Rachel Gibson!

Make the best of your summer and until next time stay safe and healthy!



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.

For your 4th of July feast: A blueberry trifle

It's that time of year when berries explode with color. The reds, the blues, and the blacks attract us, but there's far more to berries than meets the eye.

They're loaded with compounds that keep your body and brain working right and staying young. So impressed were researchers at The Ohio State University that they recommend everyone eat berries every day.

When it comes to total antioxidant power, four of the top 10 fruits and vegetables are blueberries (ranked number one), strawberries, raspberries, and blackberries.

They are rich sources of quercetin, a potent antioxidant.

Another thing that makes berries so special is a compound called ellagic acid, which is believed to prevent cellular changes that can lead to cancer. All berries have some of it, but strawberries and blackberries have the most.

All berries are also rich in vitamin C, one of the best antioxidants. It is particularly important in preventing cataracts. A half-cup of strawberries has 42 milligrams of C. And berries contain large amounts of insoluble fiber, which keeps bowels moving.

Want to feed your brain? Researchers at Tufts University found that compounds in blueberries have actually improved the



memories of aging lab animals. Fortunately, blueberries are not only good for you but delicious.

Here is a recipe for a pretty blueberry trifle that will look fantastic on your 4th of July table:

Blueberry Trifle Recipe

Ingredients

- 1 Angel Food cake
- 1 bag frozen blueberries, thawed and drained OR 1-2 pints fresh berries
- 1 box dry instant vanilla pudding (3.4 oz)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 8-oz. block cream cheese
- 12 oz. Cool Whip

Directions

Break angel food cake into large chunks. Put 1/2 of cake on bottom of trifle bowl. Sprinkle 1/2 of blueberries on top of cake. Beat cream cheese until smooth, then add dry pudding mix and condensed milk. Beat until creamy. Stir in about 2/3 of the Cool Whip, reserving the rest for later. Gently spread 1/2 of mixture over cake and blueberries in bowl. Layer again as before, keeping a few blueberries aside for garnish. Top with remaining Cool Whip and garnish with leftover blueberries. Keep refrigerated until ready to serve.

ARE YOU PROUD TO
BE A SAXON?

CHURCHES



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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. Paul Stork
Pastor
10:00 Worship Service



63rd TSBA Convention Date Change

63rd TSBA Convention
Cleveland West
Sachsenheim
7001 Denison
Cleveland OH 44102
July 11, 2020
Time: 10 a.m.
Cost: Lunch \$10

Reminder:
Each Branch is
encouraged
to send 3 delegates

RSVP: CJ Schmitz
(440) 799-1940
by July 3, 2020

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS

By Donald Blum

History Transylvania Transition As A Region

The history of Transylvania dates back thousands of years. Findings of the Tartaria Tablets could date back as far as 5500 BC, and could be the earliest known writings the world. While this is interesting history, it doesn't necessarily deal with our Saxon history.

We are going to explore the Transylvania history that is more important to our Saxon heritage. During the late 9th century, western Transylvania was reached by the Hungarian conquerors and later it became part of the Kingdom of Hungary, formed in 1000.

We know that more than 800 years ago Germans colonized Transylvania on the invitation by the King Geza II of Hungary (1141-1162). He invited both Germans and Flemish as guests – known as 'Hospites Teutonici et Flandrenses' – within the arc of the Carpathians. The Germans mainly settled in Siebenbürgen (Siebenbürger Sachsen) and later in Banat (hence: Banater Schwaben). The original role of the German settlers was to cultivate and defend the South-eastern border of the Hungarian Kingdom in addition to protect against the semi nomadic Tartars and Cumans that regularly raided Transylvania between 1241/1242. There are varying historical theories what exactly brought them to emigrate to Transylvania, but the underlying reason was to escape extreme poverty in their homeland Germany. In return German settlers were given free property, attracted by tax incentives along with the guarantee of cultural freedom.

This is all history of which we may be very familiar. Over the years, Transylvania was influenced by wars, attacks, changes in ruling countries, independent state status, vassal state status and many other factors. We are going to discuss how Saxons and Transylvania were impacted by these events.

The Second Bulgarian Empire ruled over the Transylvania area (950). After

the collapse of the Second Bulgarian Empire, Hungary and Vlachs gained independence. King Geza II of Hungary brought the Saxons into the area to cultivate the area of the arc of the Carpathian Mountains. Additionally, Saxons were brought into Transylvania to serve as a buffer for Hungary against invading nations. Saxons would be the first line of defense, if you will, the sacrificial lamb. Mongols came in and took over the region. It was after the retreat of the Mongols that Transylvania was created. There were three states that were formed; Transylvania, Moldavia and Wallachia. Transylvania became a semi-independent kingdom of Hungary, along with Moldavia. Because of the remote location in relation to Hungary, Transylvania was given more autonomy.

In a subsequent war (1330), Wallachia defeated Hungary and became a fully independent state. This status would last less than 100 years. Wallachia eventually aligned itself with Hungary, in wars with the Turkish Ottoman Empire. In 1417, after repeated campaigns, Wallachia was forced to become a vassal of Ottoman and was a feudal system, subordinate to the Ottoman Empire but maintained an independent rule status. During this time, Wallachia found itself fighting internally against itself and on an annual basis with the Ottoman Empire when they were required to pay their annual tribute to the Ottoman Empire.

Battles against the Turks were conducted by Vlad III Tabish (Vlad the Impaler), known throughout Europe for the devastating defeats he dealt the Ottoman Empire, but also for the cruel and unusual treatment.

Moldavia had a contemporary to Vlad, called Stephen the Great (1457-1504). He reached an unbelievable height of power because he was a great military commander. Stephen the Great would be credited with winning 48 of 50 battles in which he was involved. Also, he was known for defeating larger Polish, Ottoman and Hungarian armies. After his death, the region would endure substantial changes. After the Battle of Mohács in 1526, it belonged to the Eastern Hungarian Kingdom, from which the Principality of Transylvania emerged.

What are American values?

Today, we have many debates over the values of Americans. We disagree on some, but some ring true to most:

Human dignity: Every human being is entitled to what our founders called life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The rule of law and equal justice: The powerful person will not be allowed to escape the law. The accused person must have the right to face accusers, state his case, and be judged by fellow citizens. No one person or group of persons should be exempt from facing justice or winning justice. The mob does not determine guilt, innocence, or punishment, but only by due process of law can a person be found guilty or innocent.

Respect for women: The empowerment of women is visible everywhere, from business to academia. In every walk of life, women should ever have the same rights as men.

Private property: This fundamental belief reaches into every aspect of our lives. We can start a business by hanging out the shingle. Our home is our own. Our property is sacred. And tucked into this notion of private property is ultimately the idea of ownership of your ideas and work.

Free speech: Free speech is one of the most radical ideas in history. The common man can criticize government; the powerful man can do the same. Each should be able to do so equally and without restrictions.

Religious tolerance: For centuries, the king's religion was yours. Period. But free people today recognize freedom of conscience and religion, to believe or not as they will.



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.

Walter B. Bagnoni
Age 96
Died: May 31, 2020
Branch 2, Erie PA

Marianne Vogt
Age 92
Died: June 7, 2020
Branch 18, Salem OH

Troy J. Thomae
Age 55
Died: June 11, 2020
Branch 30, Youngstown OH

Gertrude M. Spack
Age 89
Died: June 14, 2020
Branch 18, Salem OH

John Bachinger
Age 86
Died: June 16, 2020
Branch 30, Youngstown OH



Accountant

The ATS has an opening in the Home Office for an energetic, detail oriented, sociable person. Skills required include accounting, proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel, and general office duties. A background in insurance is helpful, but not required. Competitive salary and benefits.

Send cover letter and resume to: Office@ATSaxons.com or mail to: ATS Home Office, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, OH 44129 by June 30, 2020.

Don't have a retirement plan?

Call the ATS today!

Continued on Page 6

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

During most of the 16th and 17th centuries, the principality was a vassal state of the Ottoman Empire; however, the principality had dual subservience (Ottoman and Habsburg). Moldavia, Wallachia, Transylvania and Hungary fell under Ottoman Empire. All of the states were granted autonomy in exchange for paying tributes of gold and supplying men to fill the ranks of the Ottoman army.

There was a brief period where Michael the Brave won battles and helped to create large independent states. These states were unified on both sides of the Carpathian Mountains. This independence was short-lived as he was assonated and the Ottoman Empire again and gained control of these territories. During that time Transylvania became referred to as East Hungary. Under Hungary control (1570-1711), Transylvania became a vassal state subordinate to Hungary. In 1690, the Habsburg Monarchy gained possession of Transylvania through the Hungarian crown. After 1711 Habsburg control of Transylvania was consolidated, and Transylvanian princes were replaced with Habsburg imperial governors. After the Austro-Hungarian Compromise of 1867, the separate status of Transylvania ceased; it was incorporated into the Kingdom of Hungary (Transleithania) as part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

Early in the 19th century, Russians and Ottoman fought wars over the control of these regions. For a brief period, Russia gained control over Wallachia and Moldavia.

There were states of rebellions against the Russians, Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empire that were trying to gain or keep control of these regions. The goal of the rebellions was to unite Romanian-speaking people. Wallachia and Moldavia united to become principalities of Romania and gained their independence. After the Romanian War of Independence, and with aid from Russia, they gained independence from the Ottoman Empire. The Romanian Kingdom (1881-1914) was formed under King Carol I. In WWI, Romania declared neutrality, as they were squeezed between the 3 great powers of the Austrian Empire, Russian Empire and

the Ottoman Empire. Romania wanted to remain neutral. Also, Romania did not want to relinquish large portions of its territory. When Romania came under the threat of the USSR, Romania joined the Allied cause. In 1916, Romania joined the war. By the end of the war, Romania had suffered 500,000 casualties. Romania was motivated to join the war to reunite the 3 million Romanians that lived in Transylvania. Treaties following the war and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire resulted in the creation of Greater Romania (1918-1940). Transylvania became again united with Romania.

After the war (1947-1989), the Socialist Republic of Romania was created. In 1940 Northern Transylvania reverted to Hungary as a result of the Second Vienna Award, but it was reclaimed by Romania after the end of World War II.

The communist party forced King Carol I to abrogate the throne and abolish the monarchy. For 24 years Nicolae Ceaușescu ruled Romania. Romania became close to Russia and was ruled with corruption and cronyism. This continued until the Romanian Revolution in 1989. After the revolution (1991) a new constitution was created, socialism was abandoned and a free market economy was established. It took many years of recovery.

In 2004, Romania joined the European Union. Today under the guidance of President Klaus Johannis, Romania is again a thriving and successful country. While there are few Saxons left in the region, many fled during the first and second world wars, it is interesting to note that President Klaus Johannis is of Transylvanian heritage.

In recent times there have been pro-reunification efforts with Moldavia but is still part of USSR.

CELEBRATIONS

Sara Alzner-Brown will have celebrated her birthday by the June 26th issue. She celebrated her birthday on June 22nd. We apologize for the late notice and wish her a Happy Birthday and wonderful celebration. Evelyn Roth will be celebrating her birthday on July 15th and Regina Kellner will celebrate her birthday on July 20th. Please join us all in wishing Evelyn and Regina Happy Birthdays

and a fun time celebrating. **MONTHLY MEETING** We will attempt to have a July meeting based on the ability of Hickory House to adhere to the rules for meetings established by the Covid-19 regulations. You will be further advised regarding the status of the meeting during our weekly phone visits.

HICKORY HOUSE
550 Officenter Place
Gahanna, Ohio 43230
Monday, July 20, 2020
Time: 12:00 noon - We mentioned trying to get the meetings finished in a timely manner, if possible we would like to have you arrive a little early in order to get the meals ordered early. Thanks for your cooperation.

Remember to bring a canned good item or other food item that will not need to be preserved to our next meeting.

FACEBOOK PAGE
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 (donalddbloom@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. We encourage you to spread the word about our group.

CONCLUSION
We were fortunate to be able to have a board meeting on June 15th at the Hickory House. We all sat at our individual tables and reviewed various business matters.



Alles gute zum Namenstag!

Theoderich	1. Juli
Theobald	1. Juli
Altraud	2. Juli
Kornelius	3. Juli
Herta	4. Juli
Charlotte	5. Juli
Jesaías	6. Juli
Esther	7. Juli
Thassilo	7. Juli
Elwira	8. Juli
Kilian	8. Juli
Luise	9. Juli
Amalia	10. Juli
Alice, Hanno	11. Juli
Heinke	12. Juli
Heinrich	12. Juli
Margarethe	13. Juli
Marlies	13. Juli
Karoline	14. Juli
Hedda	15. Juli
Jakob(us)	15. Juli
Carmen	16. Juli
Walter	16. Juli
Artur	17. Juli
Rosina	18. Juli
Marianne	19. Juli
Elias	20. Juli
Pauline	21. Juli
Maria	22. Juli
Ulrich	23. Juli
Christine, Christa	24. Juli
Krista	24. Juli
Anna	26. Juli
Anneliese	26. Juli
Berthold, Ruth	27. Juli
Siegbert	28. Juli
Martha	29. Juli
Ruth, Beatrix	30. Juli
Ernestine	31. Juli



Three words: The test of liberty or tyranny

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Since 1776 when those words were written in the Declaration of Independence, the world has seen kings and tyrants who, fooling men with their sweet-sounding philosophies, tried to steal their rights and liberty, and many times succeeded.

Yet, in this famous sentence, Thomas Jefferson gives us three words that are the test for tyranny:

Self-evident

Jefferson said some ideas are obvious, so obvious that Americans don’t need a lawyer to explain them or a politician to debate them. The first obvious truth he

sets down is this: All people are created equal. All are endowed with the same rights.

Endowed

The Creator gives rights to men and women as a gift -- an endowment -- what the dictionary calls a ‘fund for permanent support.’ No man gives these rights to people, for these rights are already theirs. No king can decide which people get to exercise these rights because each person has been given the free gift of these permanent rights, not one more than another.

Unalienable

These obvious rights, given as a permanent gift from God, cannot be taken away by any person, and neither can a man surrender his right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.



Choruses

CLEVELAND, SECTION 1
EINTRACHT SAXONIA
SACHSENCOR
Rehearsal:
Tuesdays 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT
Horst Hebrank
26148 Kennedy Ridge Rd
No Olmsted OH 44070
(440) 734-2584
SECRETARY
Christa Herbert
4703 West Ridgewood Dr.
Parma, OH 44134
440-888-6094

NEW CASTLE, SECTION 6
EINTRACHT MÄNNERCHOR
Rehearsal:
Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

PRESIDENT
Jonathan Baisch
3336 Plank Rd
New Castle PA 16105
(724) 519-0519
newcastleintracht@gmail.com

SECRETARY
Samuel Audia
635 Moffatt Rd
New Castle PA 16101
(724) 651- 3354
eintrachtmaennerchor@gmail.com

ERIE
SIEBENBUERGER SINGERS
Meet Monday at
Siebenbuenger Club

PRESIDENT
Tim Clint
5805 West Road
McKean, PA 16426
(814)572-6639
Email: tjclint@verizon.net



Cultural Groups

CLEVELAND SAXON
DANCE GROUP
Rehearsal: Fridays
6:30 p.m Children
7:30 pm Adults
Westside Sachsenheim
PRESIDENT
Stephanie Miller
23500 Wingedfoot Dr
Westlake OH 44145
(216) 647-3229
Samiller55@sbcglobal.net

SECRETARY
Bryan Sizemore
4510 W 145th St
Cleveland OH 44135
(216) 314-3828
Bsize650420@gmail.com

YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON CULTURE GROUP
Meets: 2nd Sunday of Month
Youngstown Saxon Club
PRESIDENT
Erna Weber
525 Quarry Ln
Warren OH 44483
(330) 509-9421
Saxnerna@aol.com

SECRETARY
Kevin McCarty
1901 Oakwood
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 883-7162
mccartks@gmail.com

TRANSYLVANIAN SAXON BOWLING LEAGUE



PRESIDENT
Glenn Spack
943 Stewart Rd.
Salem, OH 44460
(330) 332-8174
sspack2@neo.rr.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Tom Simon
538 S Schenley Ave
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 720-7988
ts112063@gmail.com

SECRETARY-TREASURER
Jenny Miller King
25321 Conover Dr.
Bay Village, OH 44140
(216) 551-1728
jmill411@yahoo.com

STATISTICAL SEC'Y.
(Men & Women)
Carl J. Schmitz
26652 Redwood Dr.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138
(440) 799-1940
cjsaintrite@aol.com

TRUSTEES AUDITORS
Rich Baker
232 Reiber Road
Hermitage PA 16148
(724) 854-0149
Karen Kinser
13626 Beech St. NE
Alliance, OH 44601
(330) 581-5049
Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr Apt 107
Lorain, OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillmo76@hotmail.com



Are your
children,
grandchildren,
nieces and nephews
members of the ATS?
Let them benefit from
our fraternal program
and be a part of
our history!



BOOKS

The Saxon Cook Book - Third Edition
Over 400 Saxon/American Recipes \$12.00 per copy (postpaid)

Fleeing to the Friendly Enemy by Barbara Ohler Weber
A true story of the author's experiences during World War II and her immigration to America in the 1950's.
\$14.00 per copy (postpaid)

Flucht aus Siebenbürgen by Monika Görig/Maria Schneider
Memoirs of Maria Schneider written in German describing her family's hardships when they had to flee from their home in 1944 and start a new life in Austria.
\$20 per copy (postpaid)

Saxons Through Seventeen Centuries, author Rev. John Foisel
A paperback which provides a romantic account of the customs and phases of intellectual development of the Transylvanian people. Not intended to be a history of Transylvania, rather a story of our people based upon seventeen centuries of history.
\$15 per copy (postpaid)

Why Can't Somebody Just Die Around Here?, author Gerhard Maroscher.
Tells the story of how his family was impacted by World War II. His mother fled Transylvania with two young sons and his father reluctantly served in three Axis armies and was a prisoner of war by the Russians. Family immigrated to the USA to live the American dream.
\$24.95 per copy (postpaid)

All books unless noted have English Text.

Proceeds from book sales go to the Saxon Orphan Fund Program.

Order From:
The Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons
5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129
Make Checks/Money Orders payable to
ATS ORPHAN FUND
ATS Member, please indicate Branch number.

SAXON SENIORS

YOUNGSTOWN
SAXON RETIREES
Meets 2nd Thursday 11:30 a.m.
Youngstown Saxon Club
(March - December)

PRESIDENT
Diana Kommel
666 N. Schenley
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 799-1738
SECRETARY
Rosemary Dundon
7637 E Parkside Dr
Youngstown OH 44512
(330) 726-6851

SALEM SAXON RETIREES
Meets 1st Wednesday
of the month
Noon at 1980 NewGarden Rd

PRESIDENT
Lois Whitacre
15425 Lisbon St.
Minerva, OH 44657
(330) 813-0400
SECRETARY
Dianne Kuttler
4282 McCann Rd
Salem OH 44460
(330) 428-1723

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____ SS# _____

All information in the form to the right and below must be correctly typed, or legibly written.

- ☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:

- ☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT
☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY

Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____



Brief History on the Founding of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons



The history of the Transylvanian Saxons can be traced back more than 870 years when Saxons colonized Transylvania on the invitation by King Geza II of Hungary. The Saxons that settled in Transylvania have no relationship with the Anglo-Saxons, nor the Germans found in the present German state of Saxony. They were a combination of German settlers from multiple regions along the river Mosel in Germany. Consequences of World War I resulted in Transylvania becoming part of the country Romania. Due to political oppression and unbearable economic conditions in Transylvania, the Transylvanian Saxons were forced to consider moving to other lands. The mass immigration of the Saxons to America actually began in the late 1880's and occurred primarily in three separate periods: First period began in 1896 and ended in 1914 due to the outbreak of World War I. These immigrants settled primarily in Ohio and Pennsylvania. Here they hung in neighborhood groups, fighting homesickness, and the strangeness of their new country by visiting together, speaking their Saxon language and singing their beloved songs of their homeland. Some of them returned to Transylvania and told of the opportunities of work in the United States. As a result hundreds of Saxon immigrants arrived in Salem, Alliance, Youngstown, New Castle, Sharon and Cleveland. Some came to earn money to pay off the heavy mortgages on their homes and farms in Transylvania and intended to go back home again. But some of them liked the new country and had their families come over to join them. All these first Saxon immigrants lived the sorry life of the boarding-house world. Their only entertainment was coming together to get acquainted, speak of their far away families, sing a few songs and drink a few beers.

When sickness, accident or death overtook one of them they gladly helped each other by assessing themselves with voluntary contributions. This practice led to the founding of the mutual aid societies of the Transylvanian Saxons in America. In 1891 the Saxons in Salem, Ohio formed the first "Siebenbürger" organization, a Sick Benefit Society, S.S. Kranken-Unterstützungs-Verein. Today it is known to us as First Transylvanian Saxon Society of the United States Branch 19 of the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons Salem, Ohio.

During the following years other clubs were organized for mutual assistance among the Saxons in Alliance, Cleveland, Sharon, New Castle, Youngstown, Erie. As soon as there were a sufficient number of countrymen in a town, not only the mutual societies but singing societies were organized. This provided companionship and entertainment for the hard-working men who did not have their families with them.

It became evident to the Saxon leaders of these various groups that it would be beneficial to have all the individual groups join together in one central national organization. On July 2, 1902 delegates from four societies (two societies from Cleveland, Sharon-Farrell and Erie) met in Erie, Pennsylvania and formed the Siebenbürger Bund. At the Bund's first national convention held in August, 1902, the name of the new society was changed to the Central-Verband der Siebenbürger Sachsen. At the 62nd Convention held in 1965, the name was changed to the English translation, the Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons. Its purpose was to provide financial, cultural and social benefits to its members and their families.

Local Branches were established in Salem, Erie, Cleveland, Alliance, Farrell, Lorain, Youngstown, Martins Ferry, Pittsburgh, Youngstown, Chicago, Homestead, Canton, Philadelphia, Niles, Columbus, Gary, Monaca, Watertown, Detroit, Ellwood City, St. Louis, Cincinnati, New York. After renting small halls for a few years, many of the Local Branches purchased their own Sachsenheim. The Sachsenheim provided not only a meeting place, dance hall, theater, music room for all members, but they were also used as Kindergartens, schools for language and religious instruction for the young and church services were held there wherever they could obtain a Saxon or German pastor.

The second period of immigration began in 1918 when Transylvania became part of Romania. Thousands of Transylvanian Saxons came to the United States during the decade from 1920 to 1930. Their official fatherland, Hungary, had been divided into pieces by the Treaty of Versailles. Transylvania became part of Romania. The new administrations laid many hardships upon the Saxons by a very unjust Land Reform where they lost part of their property, higher taxes and tariffs on agricultural products. To many it was time to leave their beloved homeland in hopes for a better way life.

Due to the ramifications of World War II, the third period of immigration began in 1948 and reached its peak in 1955. Once again this influx of Saxons gave impulse to greater activities within our Saxon communities. Many of our Branches saw their membership increase substantially. They became very active in their local branches, local cultural groups and local Saxon churches.

Our society has grown from \$150 to total assets of over \$94 million. Our Alliance is made up of two major thrusts —our life and annuity program and our fraternal fellowship activities. The combination gives us the opportunity to offer a wide variety of benefits to our members which are not available in other types of clubs nor in commercial insurance companies. Our Orphan Program provides financial assistance to children if one parent or both parents are deceased. Annually our Scholarship Program awards around forty scholarships to ATS members. Our Saxon News Volksblatt is published bi-weekly and mailed to all members, providing Saxon news, announcements of activities on the local, national and international level. Our fraternal activities include national events such as the Saxon Heimtag celebrations, annual bowling, the TSBA (bowlers traveling association), ATS family day outings, summer camp, coloring contests, International Youth Rallies, and cultural exchange programs plus other various events. In addition, our local branches have a great variety of activities including monthly meetings, dances, banquets, picnics, children's parties and a variety of other events. Salem and Youngstown Clubs have a Retirees Clubs.

We are thankful that we still have several cultural groups active: the Cleveland Adult and Children's Saxon Dance Group, Youngstown Saxon Culture Group, Cleveland Eintracht-Saxonia Sachsenchor, New Castle Eintracht Männerchor and Kinder Chor and Erie Siebenbürger Singers. It is very important that our membership support these cultural groups that help preserve our Saxon culture and traditions!

So here we are now 118 years later, taking pride in our work to maintain our organization, showing our pride in our Transylvanian Saxon ancestry and loving to share our Transylvanian Saxon culture with all our members and throughout our communities. Our history shows the dedicated efforts of our Saxon people to build a corporation that has prevailed throughout the 1929 Depression, two World Wars and numerous recessions. We can be proud of work ethic on the national and local levels. Let's keep working to build on the foundation set by our forefathers and invite all you know to become a member of this great society!