



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

April 16, 2021

Issue 8

BRANCH 4, CLEVELAND

By Joan Miller-Malue

"The beautiful spring comes and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also." It is time for us to revive our fraternal monthly meetings. We will meet on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

We were sad to learn of the deaths of several of our 60 year members during the pandemic. Marie Binder, age 99 and Sara Downie age 94 were members since 1952; Marie Seiler, age 89 was a member since 1957. We have many joyful memories of these ladies. Our sympathies are extended to their families.

We received word from Germany that Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert passed away on Easter morning. Rainer Lehni, Chairman of the Verband in Germany, referred to him as the "Father" of our Saxon community. He helped establish the worldwide Federation of Transylvanian Saxons which brought together a working relationship between Austria, Germany, Canada, United States and Transylvania to promote our Transylvanian Saxon heritage within our countries by sharing in a cultural exchange program and the Jugendlagers. He died at the age of 90 after a lifetime of dedicated service to his Saxon community. We extend our sincere sympathies to his wife, Ingeborg.

We are grateful to our members who have supported our club throughout this past year. It was so nice seeing some members at fish fry and Taco Tuesday and are thankful for those who did take-out orders. We hope to see more members enjoying a meal at the Club in upcoming weeks. We want to thank our manager and staff for their hard work to deal with handling the restrictions and striving to maintain the Sachsenheim.



Update Your Personal Records and Family Protection

Address changes?

Have you notified the ATS Home Office of your new address? Have your adult children changed their addresses?

Beneficiary changes?

Was there a marriage, divorce, death, etc., in your family which would require you to make a change of beneficiary on your Life Insurance or Annuity Contracts? Take care of it right away! Senior citizens tend to neglect this, so remind them!

Did the stork visit you recently?

Did a new son or daughter arrive recently? Congratulations! Don't forget to make him/her an ATS member by purchasing a Life Insurance or Annuity plan so the he/she can benefit from our fraternal programs.

Do you need more life insurance?

Do you have enough life insurance protection for yourself and your family? Chances are you should have better coverage! Call your Local ATS Deputy.

How about an ATS Annuity or IRA Plan?

Are you saving for your retirement needs? ATS Annuity Plans offer you a safe way to increase and protect your savings while providing tax sheltered growth. Call your Local ATS Deputy and strengthen your financial future.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Denise Aeling Crawford

ATS Nat'l President



Transylvanian Saxons around the world are mourning the death of Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert who passed away on April 4, 2021 (Easter Sunday) peacefully in his sleep. He was 90 years old. He helped shape the Landsmannschaft of Transylvanian Saxons in Germany with his six decades of dedication. The Federation of Transylvanian Saxons was formed in 1983 as a worldwide representation of the interests of all Transylvanian Saxons. The Federation consists of the Saxons in Germany, Austria, Transylvania, Canada and the United States. Dr. Bonfert helped organize this Federation and was the first President of the Federation and remained the Chairman until 1992. For his 90th birthday last year, he was awarded the title "Honorary President" of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons. Dr. Bonfert was a veterinarian, receiving his doctorate in 1959. He worked as a vet specialist for food hygiene and then became the Deputy Head of Veterinary Services for the Ministry of Health. He also held a teaching position, as well as being active on many committees in his field. We keep his wife, Ingeborg, and the rest of his family in our thoughts and prayers. Dr. Bonfert was a great man and will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in Peace, Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert.

The ATS has received word that the Sachsentreffen to be held in Hermannstadt that was originally scheduled for August, 2021, and postponed to August, 2022, is again postponed until 2024. Mark your long-range calendar for this event. The ATS will schedule a tour of Transylvania to coincide with the festival. The last Sachsentreffen was held in 2017. There are still some videos on the internet from the last one that you might enjoy watching.

Spring has arrived and with it the warmer weather that we've waited all winter for. More and more people

Continued on Page 2

TIMELY - DO NOT DELAY
MAILED WEDNESDAY, APRIL 14, 2021

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!**



Restore Our Earth
Earth Day, April 22

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

are getting vaccinated. Hopefully, those Branches who haven’t been meeting will start up their monthly meetings soon. We’re all anxious to get back to a somewhat normal life again!

Attention Branch Presidents and Treasurers: Make sure that your Branch files your Form 990 or 990-N Postcard by May 15th. All Branches are required to file every year with the IRS in order to maintain your tax-exempt status. Please send a copy of your filing to the ATS for our files. As a reminder, the ATS and all of its Branches are a 501 (c) 8 tax-exempt organization.

Did you know that an oxymoron is a paradox? A paradox is a figure of speech in which a statement appears to contradict itself. A compressed paradox comprised of just a few words is called an oxymoron. The phrase by Pearl Bailey “Some of the biggest failures I ever had were successes” is an example of a paradox. Others include “Save money by spending it”, “This is the beginning of the end”, “I can resist anything but temptation”, and “Deep down, you’re really shallow”. Examples of oxymorons include: act naturally, bitter-sweet, farewell reception, jumbo shrimp, random order, small crowd, clearly misunderstood, freezer burn, ill health, steel wool, and student teacher. I’m not sure what type of phrase the following is, but I’ve always wondered: Why do you drive on a parkway and park in a driveway?

Until next time....

**Bist du ein Sachs,
und sagt’s mit Stolz?**



No surprise: Pizza
shops do well

Heavy regulations on dining have decimated the restaurant industry in the past year, but one player is growing.

Pizza, the cheesy comfort food, is not only budget-friendly, but its delivery systems were in place before the forced shutdown.

Pizza is the bright light in the restaurant sector, with revenues up at major pizza chains Domino’s and Papa John’s, according to the New York Times. Even frozen pizza is up more than a fifth, according to NielsenIQ.

According to the New York Times, Domino’s attributes much of its success to its investments in delivery service and its digital platform.

The news isn’t so good for the rest of the sector, especially for local restaurants. At least 110,000 restaurants have closed permanently, according to Forbes.

In California, the state prohibited indoor and outdoor dining until Jan. 25 of this year. New York City has restricted restaurant capacity to 25 percent, with dine-in service restricted to outdoor tables -- even during winter.

According to Forbes, 90 percent of restaurant owners say state restrictions are the biggest threat to their business since they opened, and more than half say that permanent closure is a possibility.

The restaurant industry is a major American employer, with more than 13.5 million employees in 2019. According to Restaurant Dive, the restaurant industry ended 2020 with 2.5 million fewer jobs than pre-pandemic levels.

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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, APRIL 21, 2021	FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2021
WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2021	FRIDAY, MAY 14, 2021
WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021	FRIDAY, MAY 28, 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

ATTENTION: Members Cleveland East Branch 33
2021-2022 Application for
Scholarship/Reimbursement College Expenses

I had mentioned in my previous article that at our March Branch meeting, members talked about memories of Saxon Acres. The idea started with our president Margie Ziegler, asking my father, Fred Krestel, to present some information on the Acres at the end of our meeting. In turn, he recruited his wife Ingeborg, and Bruce Schneider to share info as well. After all, an important part of Branch 33's meetings is sharing Fraternal Fellowship; it was a good way to share memories. Now I've been asked by our Volksblatt Editor, Hanz Hermann, to share the history we discovered and stories remembered.

In the Branch 33 Fiftieth Anniversary booklet, we found an article written by our distinguished brother, the Reverend John Foisel; so the following paragraphs are attributed to him. "At the beginning of the (20th) Century (many) Transylvanian Saxons from Cleveland Ohio lived on the lower Eastside of the big city in the area bound by St. Clair and Paine Aves, and E. 20th and E. 60th Streets. Here were the boarding houses where the newcomers were received; here were their meeting places and saloons and the halls where they met, got acquainted and assisted each other in finding jobs and housing; here they, sang, danced and played at local theaters. (Here Branch 33 came into being). Branch 33 was about 30 years old when American born members began to assume responsibilities as officers...and a new progressive spirit moved into the organization. It showed itself in the quest for a new 'Saxon Club.' Many of the members had moved away from the old neighborhood; many of them far away into the eastern suburbs. Some of the young officers became impatient and declared 'We must find a new place, five or 10 or more miles to the East, more suitable as a center of interest for young and old, where we and our families would like to go.' (In 1949) A committee headed by John Roth and Ed Schneider (yes, our past National President) was to go out, find, investigate, and report on suitable locations. ... many proposals were turned down; but finally at the August meeting of 1950 the officers were authorized to go ahead with the purchase of 30 acres of land situated in Highland Heights

Village on White Road. Many members had gone out to see the place. This time everybody was well pleased. Fine level Meadow land, in the back of it were 15 acres of tall timber woodland, with a creek running through; what possibilities! With joy and enthusiasm, the members went to work— cut the tall grass, dig out the brambles and poison ivy, trim and prune the tall trees, make room for a children's playground and a baseball field. A new road was built, a well was drilled, and plans were made for a new building (a Clubhouse with fireplace, kitchen and restrooms). ... The grand opening day was held on June 15, 1952. The (opening) program was in the hands of a young Ed Schneider, now president of Branch 33, who had done so much toward the realization of this beautiful dream. The picnic grounds received the official name of Saxon Acres (and anyone who has ever been there has to remember the wrought-iron Saxon Acres sign over the driveway entrance!). So, for an investment of \$30,000 and several thousand hours of labor given by many good brothers of Branch 33 (and here I would interject, their Sisters of Branch 34 as well), We had become the proud owners of a beautiful piece of land secluded from the noise, smoke and dust of the city; yet not too far into the country and easily accessible. Here annually on the last Sunday in June, "Saxon Day" is observed when all our Cleveland organizations and many outside guests (and other ATS Groups) come together to pay tribute to the spirit of our Saxon brotherhood. Many appear in colorful costumes of the old homeland and join in the songs of our fathers amid thoughts of relatives and friends so far away. Here our Eastside organizations, our church, our singers, and family groups have their picnics and outings with games and dances for the young and soothing undisturbed relaxation for the elderly."

The history of Saxon Acres from 1961 onward is recorded in Branch 33's 100th Anniversary souvenir program; and this information was written by Laura Davidson Cotton, William Davidson, Cheryl Blaha-Householder, Bruce Schneider and Mike Schneider in 2009. "During the summer months, meetings were occasionally held at Saxon Acres. Though

Branch 33 members who are newly entering or continuing college (undergraduate studies only) are invited to apply for a Freshman (\$1,000) or Sophomore/Junior/Senior (\$500) scholarship for the 2020-2021 academic year. IT IS THE MEMBER'S RESPONSIBILITY to call or write to REQUEST an application. **DEADLINE IS May 30, 2021.**

Here are the eligibility requirements, i.e. the RULES.

1. At least one parent or guardian or grandparent of the applicant must be a member in good standing of ATS Branch 33 for the past two (2) years.
2. Scholarship applicants must be a member in good standing of ATS Branch 33 for the past two (2) years, having transferred from Junior/Juvenile status to Active/Adult i.e. local dues paying status.
3. Freshman: High School accumulative GPA minimum 2.0
4. Upperclassman: College accumulative GPA minimum 2.5

Branch 33 members attending college for undergraduate studies can request an application by mailing in the form below or via e-mail to Karyn Schmidt at mbks26@gmail.com. Questions call Karyn at (216) 382-7397

Application Request for Branch 33
College Scholarship/Reimbursement

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____
Zip: _____
Phone: () _____
College/University: _____
Year: circle one Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior
Parent/Guardian/Grandparent
Name: _____

DEADLINE IS May 30, 2021:

Mail to: Karyn Schmidt
4979 Anderson Road, Lyndhurst OH 44124

the main order of business continued to center on membership growth, sales of insurance, and (fraternal) benefits, another large part of Branch business centered on the management and improvement of Saxon Acres. (Over the years,) The facility was aptly managed and maintained by Brothers Dan Gartner, John Stamp, Fritz Salmon, Andy Thal, Joe Frantz, and George Roth. A tremendous amount of help and maintenance was given by brother Andy Friedsmann, generously providing major equipment and materials. Along with general maintenance and repairs, major improvements included roofing over the paved picnic pavilion close to the clubhouse and the addition of a covered barbecue pit/grill. The property was used for many fraternal events including Branch picnics, the annual Pork Chop Fry, Liedertafel rehearsal sessions, Saxon Day picnics, St. John church picnics, member family picnics and card game gatherings. Several times it was used to



Happy Eastern European Month
in Ohio

TELL AN EASTERN EUROPEAN STORY
LEARN OR SING AN EASTERN EUROPEAN SONG
MAKE SOME STUFFED CABBAGE
EAT PIROHY
TOAST TO THE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF
EASTERN EUROPEANS
OR
JUST ENJOY THINKING OF ALL THE VALUED
CONTRIBUTIONS EASTERN EUROPEANS
HAVE MADE IN OHIO

host various Saxon bands, singing groups or youth groups visiting from Europe. It was also rented out to non-Saxon organizations."

So now, many have asked what became of Saxon Acres— the Property was sold. Why? "... from 1979 to 1989... The most difficult office to fill was that of Saxon Acres Director. The minutes of many meetings reflect that much of the groups' efforts

revolved around issues relating to the property. In 1979 the Branch was very lucky to have George Roth fill the position of Director; it was a time-consuming position and by 1989 Mr. Roth was hoping to find a replacement. In 1982 the Branch decided to find three people to split the job. Thankfully John Geiger agreed to help Mr. Roth but

Continued on Page 4

FRATERNAL CALENDAR

NATIONAL EVENTS

July 9-11, 2021
North American Saxon Heimattag CANCELED

LOCAL EVENTS

July 18, 2021
Chicago Br. 9 Picnic Lynn Woods, Morton Grove IL
July 24, 2021
Cleveland East Br. 33 Captains Baseball Game
July 25, 2021
Youngstown Br. 30 Saxon Day
August 8, 2021
Cleveland East Br. 33 Annual Picnic Penitentiary Glen

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

Your passwords
and your mother

Two things you should do regularly: Call your mom and reset your passwords.
And if you use Slack, you'll probably want to take care of the latter before the former.
For some reason, Slack's mobile Android application was storing usernames and passwords for some users in plain text instead of them being encrypted -- a major security breach. If your phone was hacked, cybercriminals could easily read your login info.
Slack discovered the problem in January and soon blocked usage from Android devices until Android users changed their passwords. Users are also encouraged to clear any Slack data from their devices, which can be done by going to the app, tapping on Storage, and then selecting Clear Data or Storage.

My doctor says I have a multiple personality, but we don't agree with that.

BRANCH 33 / SAXON ACRES CONT'D FROM PAGE 3

despite numerous efforts to fill the third position, it remained unfilled until 1983 when George Stamp helped for two years. He was assisted in 1988 by Dolf Litschel, and in 1989 by Robert Graul and William Maurer. Mr. Geiger remained until 1989 when the property was sold. Saxon Acres was called a mixed blessing for the Branch. It was a place of much joy for the members and many memories were made. The upkeep on the property was time-consuming and expensive, and vandalism became a problem. For a period of time, caretakers were hired to help with the numerous tasks required during the summer months. Members were also asked to donate their time and this started to become more of a burden for the older members who were willing to help. Therefore in 1986 when Julius Paris Developers offered to buy 14 acres of property, they sold the land that was 320 feet south of the building to the southern boundary. In 1989 the National Golf Operation offered to buy or lease the remaining land which the Branch sold, and then invested the money. After Saxon Acres was sold, the picnic grounds were only available three Thursdays (and one Sunday) during the summer. 1993 was the last year that our Saxon day picnic was held on the Saxon Acres property."

Many Good memories of Saxon Acres were shared during our meeting. Bruce Schneider mentioned that he drove out to the acreage a couple years ago and the clubhouse was still there, surrounded by the golf course. The most senior member at the meeting, Bette Schmidt, was asked about her memory... "Work!" she said; "cooking, then cleaning!" Ray Montsch from Delaware said that he and his father built the horseshoe pitching court, building a split rail fence around the court from trees on the back of the property. Many remember the sports, the soccer field and baseball diamond. Remember annual soccer games Eastside versus Westside at the Saxon Day picnics? — Hanz Hermann mentioned to me that one of his finest memories was a goal he kicked at one of those games. Maria Phillips talked about the kids' games at picnics, then President Margie mentioned the Shoe Scramble, others the Candy Toss; I remember "Fishing" for a prize behind the blanket hung between two trees. All the kids will remember the playground, and the creek where we could hunt for salamanders and crayfish. I remember picking wild blackberries growing on the edges of the property and eating them on a warm August day. There was the grandstand where the dance groups and bands performed. There was the Maypole with the prize of a bottle of wine and an envelope with a cash at the top, and I remember George Adam usually winning. Maria Thellmann shared a story that she remembers: Dave Schuller, a very studious young man, was at the picnic on a beautiful summer day reading a quite thick book. His Grandma Roth told him "put that book away!", but he didn't. So, she slammed it shut for him! "A loud heavy thud!" (Well, he needed to study, he became our ATS physician.) Many members went to Saxon Acres on Sundays after church and enjoyed the picnic grounds - The Hums, the Foisels, the Zieglers to name a few. The Thellmanns went with the Adams to practice baseball with their boys. Everyone remembers Andy Friedsmann frying pork chops at the grill. These are just a few memories; I'm sure many of you could share so much more. Good Times. GEMUETLICHKEIT!

I am going to end this trip down memory lane with a poem that we found in the 50th anniversary booklet: "Our lyric Alice Gramp writes: "Kennst du das schoene Fleckchen Land, das draussen tief in Gruenen liegt; das weltversteckt, am Waldesrand sich unterm blauen Himmel wiegt? Als Saxon Acres ist's bekannt. Dort findest du suesse Rast und Ruh. Dort an dem freundlich stillen Ort; merk dir's: Willkommen bist auch du!!"

ASK YOUR DEPUTY HOW A CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ATS CAN HELP YOU TO SAVE!



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.

Deadline for submission is June 30th.

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

Honorary chairman Wolfgang Bonfert has died at the age of 90

Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert, honorary chairman of the Union of Transylvanian Saxons in Germany and honorary president of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons, died on April 4th at the age of 90 in Saarbrücken. As an outstanding personality, he shaped the Association of Transylvanian Saxons for six decades; as federal chairman (1983-1989) he established structures and institutions that are essential components of the community today.

In a letter of condolence to the family, Federal Chairman Rainer Lehni pays tribute to Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert's unforgettable services to the community of Transylvanian Saxons: "Federal chairman and honorary chairman of our Landsmannschaft, representative of the federal board for youth issues, first president of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons and its first honorary president are just a few stations in his cultural

career. Wolfgang Bonfert has set standards for future generations everywhere. The establishment of the Transylvanian-Saxon Youth in Germany, the establishment of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons, the conclusion of the partnership with the district town of Dinkelsbühl was a landmark during his tenure as federal chairman. The Union of the Transylvanian Saxons would not be what it is today without its beneficial work."

Wolfgang Alfred Bonfert was born on August 6, 1930 in Bucharest. After childhood years in the Romanian capital, in Kronstadt and Hermannstadt, he came to northern Germany with his family in 1940. He joined the Landsmannschaft of the Transylvanian Saxons in 1959, in 1962 he was elected deputy chairman of the Saarland regional group, and from 1966 to 1970 he was regional chairman. As deputy federal chairman he was active from 1970 to 1980, then as federal youth commissioner in the federal executive committee and from April 1983 to November 1989 as federal chairman.

Structures of the association built and modernized

Wolfgang Bonfert built, modernized and expanded association structures that continue to exist today and are bearing fruit. During his tenure as federal chairman, the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons was founded in 1983 and he was chairman until 1992. In 1985 the Transylvanian-Saxon Youth in Germany (SJD) was brought into being, in the same year the partnership with the city of Dinkelsbühl was established, in 1986 the Social Work of the Transylvanian Saxons was established as a registered association, and in the same year the Landsmannschaft took on the position of a full-time employee of Cultural consultants.

Bonfert has received several awards for his formative role in the association's work: in 1967 with the Landsmannschaft's golden coat of arms of honor, in



Honorary Chairman Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert at the federal board meeting of the Union of Transylvanian Saxons on March 6, 2010 in Munich. Photo: Siegbert Bruss

1989 with the Federal Cross of Merit "am Bande," in 1998 with the Transylvanian-Saxon Youth Prize, in 1999 with the election of Honorary Chairman of the Landsmannschaft, in 2009 with the Federation Star of Honor and in 2020 with the appointment as honorary president of the Federation of Transylvanian Saxons. His wife Ingeborg, who was loyal to him and who was interested in the work of the association, accompanied him to the Landsmannschaft appointments, and was awarded the Landsmannschaft's golden badge of honor in November 1989.

From veterinarian to ministerial councilor

Bonfert was also extremely successful at work. He completed his studies in veterinary medicine at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich in 1958 with the state examination and completed it with the doctorate to Dr. med. vet. (1959). The veterinarian was taken over as a state official (veterinary council) in 1965, worked as a specialist veterinarian for food hygiene from 1973, before moving to the Ministry of Health in Saarbrücken in 1978 as deputy head of veterinary affairs. From 1984 until his retirement on January 1, 1993, Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert as Ministerialrat and Head of Veterinary Services in Saarland in the Ministry of Health. From 1975 to 1989 he also held a teaching position in his field of food hygiene at the University of Saarbrücken. As part of the membership in the Saarland Veterinary Association, he was active on a voluntary



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.

Norita T. Morrison

Age 94

Died: December 2, 2020
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Nancy Schooley

Age 102

Died: March 27, 2021
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

John Miess

Age 90

Died: April 1, 2021
Branch 1, Cleveland, OH

Charles R. Hunter, Sr.

Age 76

Died: April 1, 2021
Branch 30, Youngstown, OH

Blow a bigger bubble gum bubble

Who can forget the simple childhood pleasure of softening up a few pieces of gum until they're just right, then slowly puffing air into the bubble until it blocks your vision?

In case you're wondering, the record for largest bubble gum bubble ever blown has stood for 17 years. Chad Fell of the United States blew a bubble gum bubble with a 20-inch diameter back in 2004, crediting three pieces of Dubble Bubble gum as the secret of his success. Fell has a place of honor in The Guinness Book of World Records for his accomplishment. That was the unassisted record, meaning Fell didn't use his hands.

In July 1994, Susan Montgomery Williams of Fresno, Calif., blew a bubble gum bubble with a diameter of 23 inches to claim the top spot in the category of Largest Bubble Gum Bubble Blown (Assisted).

So how can you improve your skills at home? A few



tips:

- Chew a few pieces of gum until the flavor is gone, really softening it up. Some online suggestions recommend sugar-free gum, which they say is stronger.
- Flatten it out a little, like when using Silly Putty. Some do this on the roof of their mouth, some do gymnastics in their mouth to spin the gum around and shape it.
- Stick your tongue into the gum to poke a little hole and start the bubble.
- Gently blow air into the bubble with soft, even puffs. Breathe in through your nose for more air.
- Keep going! It takes a ton of practice to wow your friends and family with your bubble gum bubble skills. But it's worth it.

**Wo Friede und Eintracht regiert,
da ist das ganze Haus gezeitert.**

basis in many committees, most recently as chairman of the social committee until July 2010. Wolfgang Bonfert was a member and often also on the board of directors in 22 professional, cultural and social associations.

As a sprightly pensioner, he had a large circle of friends, wrote down memories, read, traveled and worked intensively on what he had built up until shortly before his death: in the Landsmannschaft or in the veterinary chamber. In an interview with the *Siebenbürgische Zeitung* he said: "I have always been an optimist. Life is varied, exciting and beautiful." Wolfgang Bonfert passed this inner wealth on to his fellow human beings throughout his life.

Dr. Wolfgang Bonfert passed away peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021, at the age of 90 in Saarbrücken. In view of the pandemic and the associated restrictions on contact, the funeral will take place in close family circles. A public memorial service is planned for a later date. A detailed obituary for Wolfgang Bonfert will be published in the next issue of the *Siebenbürgische Zeitung*.

Siegbert Bruss

SBZ Online 7. April 2021

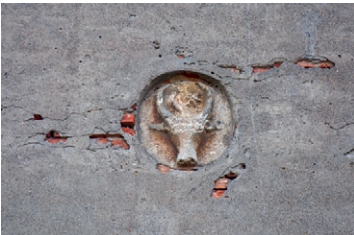


The church in Boian was erected around the year 1400, but it is difficult to determine which parts of the initial construction have been preserved to this day. Nevertheless, it is known that around 1500 the religious edifice was fortified, a defence level being built above the chancel. The fortification wall was designed to include a parapet walk, partly built on two levels and strengthened by a gate tower. The latter also served as a bell tower having its entrance protected by a portcullis (sliding wooden lattice reinforced with iron). Another detail that is worth mentioning is the decoration of the cornice with angled bricks, a method often used for the Orthodox churches in Moldavia and Muntenia regions.

Furthermore, on both gate tower and northern entrance of the church one can find the coat of arms of the Moldavian prince Stephan the Great, to whose fief Boian briefly belonged.

Place and surroundings

It is utterly uncommon to find the symbol of the ureox at the entrance to an Evangelic church. And yet, in Boian, on the Northern portal of the fortified church, one can see the symbol of Moldavia carved in the shape of the relief of two ureox heads. Unlike most of the Saxon villages, this place was not part of the Royal Land (a self-administered Saxon territory), but it was part of The County of Cetatea de Baltă (Moorland Fortress). The colonists on the Royal Land were loyal only to the Hungarian king and used to enjoy a special status and privileges, while the inhabitants of the coun-



ties, Hungarian administrative areas, were all serfs under the authority of the feudal lord. In 1498, Matei Corvin, king of Hungary, offered The County of the Moorland Fortress as a gift to the Moldavian prince Stephan the Great. The prince supported the completion of the massive fortification around the sacred church, fact that is suggested by the presence of his coat of arms on the wall – the ureox head.



Fortified Churches Foundation
www.kirchenburgen.org

BRANCH 10, COLUMBUS
By Donald Blum

LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER

One of the members of our Saxon Club Facebook Group, Rick Fleischer, got me interested in Martin Luther by posting the topic of ‘Luther, a new free online course’ by Dallas Theological Seminary. Also, I used a reference of Martin Luther from ‘Encyclopedia of World Biography’, in summarizing some points of Martin Luther’s life. Additionally, I thought it would be interesting to share the story of Martin Luther as his teachings and doctrines would shape religious history for Germans, Saxons and the entire world. This will be a series of stories and this is **PART 1**.

Martin Luther’s parents and early life:

Martin’s parents were Hans and Margarette Luther. Okay, I guess we have to stop here for a second. Martin Luther’s real name was Martin Luder. He changed his name to become academically acceptable.

Hans Luther was a hard working man who came from poor upbringing. His background was in farming. Hans thought he could improve himself by becoming a miner, specifically a copper miner. Hans would work very hard and eventually became a businessman owning a few small mining operations.

Margarette Luther came from a small well-to-do family.

Both parents were hard working individuals and wanted the best for their children. They raised a normally large family for those times. Hans and Maragette would have 9 children. While Martin had 8 siblings, only one brother and 3 sisters would live to see adulthood.

Martin would live almost his entire life outside of college



Martin Luther

and going to Rome in his birth town of Eisleben, Germany. It was said that Martin could travel from his birth house to the house in which he died in just minutes. It is ironic that someone that had such a dramatic affect on the entire world would be someone whose life centered on such a small geographic area.

As a student, Martin’s favorite subject was music. He loved to play the Lute (small stringed guitar).

Martin’s personality could be described as a cactus; prickly and dangerous on the outside and sweet on the inside.

Hans and Margarette had grand plans for Martin. They would want him educated to become a lawyer and elevate himself to middle class status. This would begin by Martin’s Latin School for 7 years. He would then go onto to the University of Erfurt for law training. Martin’s life would be dramatically changed by a few events. Martin had a close friend die after a dangerous accident. Then Martin would experience his own personal life experience that would put him on a new path in life. Martin was walking through an area and found himself caught in a tremendous lighting and thunderstorm. The storm was so violent that Martin was thrown to the ground. Martin was so terrified that he cried out to St. Anne (Saint and

mother to Mary, mother of Jesus). Martin vowed to St. Anne that if she would save him that he would become a monk and devote his life to religion.

This life changing experience ends **PART 1**, the Life of Martin Luther. Watch for **PART 2** in upcoming Volksblatt article.

CELEBRATIONS

We want to wish Dorothea Hesch and Don Blum Happy Birthdays on April 22. We hope they have wonderful birthday celebrations. Alles Gute zum Geburtstag!

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 (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 members include people from all over the US, Canada and Europe. We encourage you to spread the word about our group. Willkommen!

HUMOR

When you ask a child a question you may not get the answer you expect or want to hear:

A teacher asks a student a question, thinking she will give a lesson on not talking in class.

TEACHER: Harold, what do you call a person who keeps on talking when people are no longer interested?

HAROLD: A teacher.

We all know that teachers are the foundation for learning by students and should be greatly appreciated.

Make family reunions memorable

Have you noticed that at family reunions, close families often sit together and talk to each other. At reunions with three or more generations attending, some people have no idea who most of those at the reunion are or how they are related to them. Here are a few ideas on how to get people mingling and talking to each other.

- Color-coded T-shirts or name tags. Imprinted shirts that designate you as part of “Joe’s clan” or “Mark’s kid” are nice, but cost money. Nametags that are color coded for various branches

of the family can serve the purpose.

- Photo projects. Encourage people to bring historic photos of family members, churches, cemeteries and old family homes. The photos should have a name and date on the front and the owner’s name on the back.

The photos should be arranged on cork boards for all to see. Family photo albums can be placed on a table.

- Story hour. Designate a time for people to share stories from family history. Mention on the invitation or at the sign-in table that

there will be a time to share stories.

- Quiz project, prize. Print out a quiz about family members in history. Ask things like great-grandmother Jones’ first name, where aunts and uncles were married, which aunt had twins, and in what state Uncle Joe was born? Set a time limit and give a prize for the most right answers.

- Take a tour. If the reunion is in a town that is important to family history, arrange a tour of homes, churches, and courthouses where people bought marriage licenses, or the park.

ATS BRANCH DIRECTORY

Cleveland, OH Br. 1
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim
7001 Denison Ave
Cleveland OH 44102
(216) 651-0888
PRES: Robert M. Hanek
22677Peachtree Ln
Rocky River OH 44116
(216) 385-9932
rhanek8@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Robert Cunningham III
9005 Memphis Villas
Brooklyn OH 44144
(216) 398-7520
rbcunningham@roadrunner.com
ATS SEC'Y. R.Cunningham
LOCAL DUES to R. Cunningham

Erie, PA Br. 2
Mtg. 3rd Sunday, 2:30 p.m.
Siebenbürger Hall
2114 French St. Erie PA
(814) 452-4712
PRES. Thomas J. Manning
3909 Schaper Ave #203
Erie PA 16508
(814) 864-6072
ettmann1@neo.rr.com
SEC'Y. Liz Manning
3909 Schaper Ave #203
Erie PA 16508
(814) 864-6072
ettmann1@neo.rr.com
ATS SEC'Y Liz Manning
Same address as above
LOCAL DUES to Liz Manning
3909 Schaper Ave #203
Erie PA 16508
(814) 864-6072

Alliance, OH Br. 3
Mtg. 3rd. Wed.- 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRESIDENT John H. Aeling
15590 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva, 44657
(330) 862-3706
JDA11852@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Matt Aeling
909 E Broad St
Louisville OH 44641
(330) 205-2586
maeling1@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y. Denise Aeling Crawford
5934 Stumph Rd # 416
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267
dcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
SICK NOTICES & LOCAL DUES to
John Aeling
Address shown as President

Cleveland, OH Br. 4
Mtg. 3rd. Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Sachsenheim 7001 Denison Ave.
(216) 651-0888
PRES. Monica M. Weber
(440) 356-5936
SEC'Y. Joan A. Miller-Malue
17105 Hilliard Rd.
Lakewood OH 44107
(216) 233-8631
miller-malue@cox.net
ATS SEC'Y Donna Jankow
7663 Ragall Pkwy
Middleburg Hts OH 44130
(440) 826-0773
SICK NOTICES to
Joan A. Miller-Malue
Address as above
LOCAL DUES to
Donna Jankow Address as above

Lorain, OH Br. 5
Mtg. 3rd Monday of month 7:00 p.m.
American Slovak Club
2915 Broadway, Lorain
PRES. Monica Gilles
3520 Beavercrest Dr. #107
Lorain OH 44053
(440) 309-7894
gillemo76@hotmail.com
SEC'Y. Brian Gilles
244 Ashwood Dr.
Avon Lake OH 44012
(440) 315-5214
bgilles74@yahoo.com
ATS SEC'Y. Ginger Romes
1507 West 39th St
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 989-8424
dgromes@roadrunner.com

Lorain Br. 5 cont'd
SICK NOTICES to Jane Mowery
3600 Jaeger Dr Unit 3101
Lorain OH 44053 (440) 246-3004
janie.e.mowery@gmail.com
LOCAL DUES to Michael W. Johnson
41868 Earlene Ct, Elyria OH 44035
(440) 324-2534 mikjo79@gmail.com

Farrell, PA Br. 7
Mtg. 3rd Tuesday 5:30 p.m.
Farrell Lions Den
810 Lions Club Lane Farrell PA
(724) 981-7130
PRES. Karen Zaborowski
1714 Shady Dr Farrell PA 16121
(724) 346-0373
SEC'Y. Betty Holmes
409 Patt Dr. Farrell PA 16121
(724) 981-7130
ATS SEC'Y. Bonnie Gregorich
55 Oak Tree Ct
West Middlesex PA 16159
(724) 528-0309
SICK NOTICES to Karen Zaborowski
LOCAL DUES to Kathy Schuller
PO Box 834 Andover OH 44003
(440) 293-6973

Alliance, OH Br. 8
Mgt. 3rd Wed. 6:30 p.m.
American Legion Post 166
141 W Main St Alliance OH
PRES. Helen E. Aeling
15354 Georgetown St. NE
Minerva 44657
(330) 862-2563 HHA658@aol.com
SEC'Y. Lesley Reed
611 N. Market St Minerva OH 44657
(330) 868-3816
ATS SEC'Y. Denise Crawford
5934 Stumph Rd Apt 416
Parma OH 44130
(330) 257-0267 dcrawfordcpa@outlook.com
LOCAL DUES to: Lesley Reed
Same address as above

Chicago, IL Br. 9
Mtg. 1st Mon. 8:00 p.m.
DANK Haus
4740 N. Western (2nd floor) Chicago
PRES. Diethild Thut
923 E Slayton Dr
Palatine IL 60074
(847) 414-2660
dedethut11@yahoo.com
SEC'Y. Elfi Sanderson
1425 London Lane
Glenview IL 60025
(847) 998-0939
elfisanderson@gmail.com
ATS SEC'Y: Claudia Schmidt
8550 Niles Center Rd Skokie IL 60077
(847) 899-8663
brasov95@hotmail.com
LOCAL DUES AND SICK NOTICES TO:
Claudia Schmidt
Address as shown above

Columbus, OH Br. 10
Mtg. 3rd Mon. 1:00 p.m. all months
Hickory House,
550 Officecenter Place Gahanna OH
PRES. Mike Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir
Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 834-2277 rothpmr@aol.com
SEC'Y. Marlene Mueller
310 Jericho Rd Apt 224
Pickerington OH 43147-1459
(614) 834-1060
ATS SEC'Y. P. Michael Roth
8063 Ivory Gull Cir Pickerington OH 43147
(614) 216-0008
LOCAL DUES and Sick Notices to
Don Blum
6436 Lakeview Cir
Canal Winchester OH 43110
(614) 837-1915
donalddbлум@prodigy.net

Canton, OH Br. 14
Mtg. 2nd Sunday
Location varies
PRES. Thomas J. Rowinsky
1656 Dunkeith Dr NW, Canton, 44708
(330) 478-9333
ATS SECRETARY: Helen Aeling
15354 Georgetown St NE
Minerva OH 44657
(330) 862-2563 HH658@aol.com
SICK NOTICES to
Thomas Rowinsky
Address as shown above

USE ONLY THIS FORM FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS AND CANCELLATIONS

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

- ☐ CHANGE
☐ CANCELLATION
☐ NEW to receive paper

☐ HOME OFFICE RECORDS & VOLKSBLATT ☐ VOLKSBLATT ONLY
Date: _____ Signature of Person Making Change _____

Mail to: Alliance of Transylvanian Saxons, 5393 Pearl Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44129-1597

CHANGE OF ADDRESS FORM

Branch No. _____ Certificate No. _____

SS# _____ Date of Birth _____

Name _____

Old Street Address was _____

City/State/Zip _____

New Street _____

City/State/Zip _____

THIS CHANGE IS FOR:



your relatives and friends to
join the crowd at ATS.



So you bought insurance for your cell phone....



But no Life Insurance to protect your Family???

If you are like some people, you probably have insurance for many of your precious assets, such as your car, your home, your jewelry, your pet, and maybe even your cell phone. But do you have life insurance?

Findings from the 2020 Insurance Barometer Study show the following trends:

- Only 54% of adult consumers have life insurance.
- 80% of those who have life insurance say paying funeral and final expenses is their primary goal.
- 40% of insureds wish they had purchased their policies at a younger age.
- Consumers overestimate the cost of coverage, which means they are less likely to purchase it.
- 44% of those surveyed state that they would feel a financial impact within six months if the primary wage earner were to pass away. 28% state the impact would be felt within one month.
- The study shows that 67% of the non-insured state “other financial priorities” as their reason for not having life insurance.

So are you one of those 67%? Do your “other financial priorities” include insurance for your cell phone? Do you prioritize those other short-term expenditures because you don’t understand how affordable life insurance can be? What will happen to your young children if you pass away without enough life insurance for your final expenses and funeral? When you have done the proper life insurance planning, you can rest easy knowing that you have provided financial security for your loved ones.

Contact your Local Branch Deputy or the ATS Home Office to see how affordable a life insurance plan for you and your family can be.

- **Single Payment Life**—Only one premium pays this plan for life
- **Seven Payment Life**—Payments are made for only seven years
- **Twenty Payment Life**—Can complete premium payments during one’s best earning years
- **Life Paid up at Age 65**—Premium payments are completed by retirement age
- **Whole Life**—Provides the maximum amount of permanent life insurance with cash value at the lowest rates

