Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XI, ISSUE 1 FEBRUARY 2003

Larry's Notes

by Larry Schenkel

The last quarter of 2002 was a busy one for AHSGR and the Lincoln Chapter. During that time, the International Boards of the International and Foundation were here for their fall meeting. We had an Octoberfest, an invasion of giggling Girl Scouts, and a celebration of German-Russian Christmas.

Headquarters decided not to participate in the Haymarket Octoberfest but to have our own at the Heritage Center like we did in the past. The Lincoln Chapter was asked to help by volunteering to "man" the outbuildings, etc., bake goodies for a bake sale, and prepare and sell the ever-popular, vein clogging, Volga Boatman sandwiches. Needless to say, as always, the volunteers were there, ready and eager to help. The bake sale tables were loaded with a variety of goodies and piled so high you couldn't see the people selling them. (Well...maybe not quite that high.) There were a lot of people that came to see our Heritage Center, and the young people had a lot of fun playing games of Bannock and enjoying other activities provided by the staff. I think the staff had as much fun working as the people who attended.

"Atta boys," kudos, pats on the back, and "well done" to the staff of AHSGR. They really went out of their way to make the Octoberfest work and be a success. Hopefully, this year will be better and even more successful.

There was a new activity at the Heritage Center this year that involved the Girl Scouts, as I said earlier. This activity was conceived, planned, and carried to completion by Sonya Dollins-Colton. I know she spent much of her own time putting this together and deserves a great big, "Atta Girl!" With dedicated employees like Sonya, AHSGR can only benefit.

At our November Lincoln chapter board meeting, Sonya attended and asked for both financial help and volunteers to help with an open house. She explained what the staff wanted to do, and after her explanation, the board voted unanimously to help.

The Board paid for special flyers and the postage to send them to the Lincoln area members, inviting them to attend and learn more about "A German-Russian Christmas."

Again, we had a good turnout of people who were treated to free cookies, coffee, and hot cider. The Heritage Center and the Lincoln Chapter provided these treats.

Molly (dressed as Mrs. Claus) Grenemeier held sway, as always, in the summer kitchen. She always seemed to find a candy treat for her visitors and told them a bit about AHSGR. After she would finish, Molly always tried to get people to join AHSGR.

As a special treat, Kathy Svoboda brought her children's choir from Friedens Church. Kathy is working with the choir, trying to get them to learn and perform some of the hymns in German. They performed in the Chapel, and although I wasn't there, "sounded like the voice of angels" according to one person I overheard talking about them. Kathy is to be commended for trying to get young people to learn and appreciate their heritage.

The festivities were somewhat darkened by a visit from the scary *Belznickel* who had switches for everyone. The day was saved, however, by the appearance of the kind *Christkindl* who had candies for everyone. These two figures were traditional Christmas Eve visitors on the Volga River.

All in all, a "German-Russian Christmas" was a huge success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff and by the best volunteers in the world. ❐

Girl Scout Activity at AHSGR Headquarters

by Sonya Dollins-Colton

On October 5, 2002, the new German-Russian American Badge was introduced and earned by local Girl Scouts in Lincoln and the surrounding area. Fifty girls signed up and attended the event. Kathy McKillip, Girl Scout representative, said that most new badges only attract the attention of about ten girls, but the German-Russian American Badge created a lot of interest because many of the girls have German-Russian heritage.

Activities included a tour of the site museum, learning the Girl Scout promise, days of the week and months in German, learning about social customs, creating Matroska dolls, and noodle making, just to name a few. Another good note given by Kathy McKillip is the girls wanted to participate in every station. At the end of the day, girls, parents, and leaders were asking when they could come back.

The Girl Scout German-Russian Heritage Day was a very successful activity, and the Journal Star newspaper article was great coverage and publicity for AHSGR.

I would like to thank everyone who collected materials for the activity: Norma Somerheiser, Mary Froscheiser, Helen Schwartz, Edna Becker, Judy Runion, and Dave Bruno for giving their time on October 5, and museum studies student volunteers. Thank you. ❐

Folklore Committee Update

The Folklore Committee's progress report on "Passing Down the Memories – Second Chapter."

In June, 2000, we published a collection of stories about growing up in the North and South Bottoms of Lincoln. It was very well received, but we felt our story was not complete.

Our churches provided not only religious education, spiritual guidance and support, but many lifelong friendships.

April 21, 2002, at our Chapter's general membership meeting, we shared memories of our churches in the North and South Bottoms. In addition, some of you have submitted recollections of your church, and the Folklore Committee has done some personal interviews.

We are nearing completion of this chapter on our churches. This week, we will have a full run and begin proofreading. We plan to have the finished manuscript ready to present to the Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors, within the next three weeks. The Board is responsible for printing and distributing the finished product.

Jane Nickolaus is our editor and is doing a great job.

Molly Grenemeier, with her bilingual skills, has been a tremendous help with personal interviews, and contacting people for information.

Larry Schenkel has offered advice and support and consented to narrate this book, so our visually impaired folks can enjoy it, too.

Putting together even a small publication such as this is a lot of work, but it has truly been a labor of love. Many thanks to each of you who have shared your memories. You have made it possible.

Machs Gut! from your Folklore Committee: Jane Nickolaus, Editor; Molly Grenemeier; Larry Schenkel, Norma Somerheiser. ❐

A Call for Help!

by Sonya Dollins-Colton

The AHSGR Headquarters Site Museum needs help offering tours starting April 1. From April to October 31, the museum offers daily tours at 2:00 p.m. for visitors and school groups. We need a strong core of volunteers to help us continue offering this service to the public.

Other volunteer opportunities in great need include people for going out to the churches, civic organizations, and schools to give presentations. You can use AHSGR's slide show if you wish. Finally, we need facilitators to oversee hands-on programs given at schools such as the Immigration Activity.

If you have a few hours a week or a day a week you can help, please contact Sonya Dollins-Colton, Educational Outreach Coordinator, at headquarters, 474-3363, ext. 22, or via e-mail sonyadc@ahsgr.org. ❐

2003 Board Member Directory
Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR

489-2583	Borrell, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
476-3600	Burbach, Donald	3600 Hartley Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
488-1421	Butherus, Leroy	1500 Buckingham	Lincoln, NE 68506
488-5154	Dinges, Dale	1609 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506
486-1673	Grenemeier, Henry	1121 No. 79th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505
475-8221	Hedges, Lucille	100 NW 126th St.	Lincoln, NE 68528
489-5976	Herstein, Gladys	520 Teakwood Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510
477-3978	Loos, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521
489-5462	Reitz, Ann	4121 So. 30th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-3853	Runion, Judy	2848 Katelyn Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68516
423-4212	Sader, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430
438-3814	Schenkel, Larry	2111 Kingswood Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
435-3636	Schwartz, Delores	1000 Butler	Lincoln, NE 68521
423-8209	Schwartzkopf, Ed	3910 So. 27th St., #8	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-0602	Sinner, Jake	1733 Marlene Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68512
423-4345	White, Ruth	3300 Serenity Cr., #7	Lincoln, NE 68542
		(Mail to: P.O. Box 23095, Lincoln, NE 68516)	

2003 OFFICERS

President...Larry Schenkel
1st VP...Leroy Butherus
2nd VP...Delores Schwartz
Treasurer...Nancy Borrell
Recording Secretary...Paul Loos
Corresponding Secretary...Ann Reitz
Historian...Gladys Herstein

Coffee Club

We have been trying to get a group to meet together on the second Tuesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. We have gotten together four times so far.

Won't you join us on March 11, at 9:00 a.m. at the Williamsburg HyVee on South 40th? Enjoy an hour of more of fellowship and storytelling. ❐

Calendar of Events – 2003
Lincoln Chapter
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

January 12, 2003----Annual Membership Meeting.....1:00 PM.....St. Paul's UCC –13th & "F" Sts.
(Potluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers)

January 20, 2003----Potluck Dinner/Board Meeting.....6:00 PM.....631 "D" St.
(Incoming/Outgoing Board Members & Spouses)

February 17, 2003---Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

March 14, 2003------Soup Supper.....5-7:00 PM.....WSI Hall

March 17, 2003------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

April 21, 2003--------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

April 27, 2003--------General Membership Meeting.....2:00 PM.....Chapel---631 "D" St.

May 19, 2003---------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

May 23, 2003----------Kraut & Brei Dinner.....5-7:00 PM.....WSI Hall

June------No Board Meeting—ASHGR Convention June 15-22.2003.....Spokane, WA

July 21, 2003----------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

August----------Garage Sale.....dates to be coordinated with Frieden's Sale.....

August 18, 2003-------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

September 15, 2003---Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

September 21, 2003---General Membership Meeting.....1:00 PM.....Freiden's Lutheran
(Potluck Dinner, fellowship, and games) 6th & "D" Sts.

October 20, 2003-------Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

November 7, 2003-----Broda Dinner.....6:30 PM.....WSI Hall

November 17, 2003----Board Meeting.....7:00 PM.....631 "D" St.

December, 2003--------Board Member's Christmas Dinner-----Date, time and location TBA

January 11, 2004--------Annual Membership Meeting.....1:00 PM.....Immanuel Fellowship Hall
(Potluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers) 10th & Charleston Sts.

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 69

Ruth V Mosby
3431 S 75th St
Lincoln, NE 68506

SOUP SUPPER

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2003 – 5:00-7:00 P.M.
WSI HALL

ADULTS $5.00 EACH
CHILDREN (12 & UNDER) $3.50 EACH

THREE KINDS OF SOUP, INCLUDING CHICKEN NOODLE, VEGETABLE BEEF, AND CHILI

TAKE HOME WILL BE AVAILABLE.

TO ORDER BY MAIL, DETACH THE ORDER FORM AND SEND IT, WITH A SELF-ADDRESSED, STAMPED ENVELOPE TO NANCY BORRELL, 2221 DEVONSHIRE DR., LINCOLN, NE 68506, 489-2583.

ORDERS NEED TO BE IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TICKETS CAN ALSO BE PURCHASED FROM LINCOLN CHAPTER BOARD DIRECTORS. SEE LIST INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER.

(Tear off this reservation slip and mail with payment)

SOUP SUPPER, FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2003 AT WSI
$5 ADULTS; $3.50 CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER

NUMBER OF TICKETS: ADULT_____ CHILDREN_____

RESERVATION FOR A TABLE OF 8: NAME_____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED_____ RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE BY MARCH 4, 2003