



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

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January/February 2016

Happy New Year!!

The January-February newsletter is always hard to write because not much is going on and it's usually too cold to want to get out and about.

I wonder what happened to that young man named Larry, who would get up and go out no matter the temperature, go stomping around in the great outdoors looking for a pheasant or two and/or a cottontail rabbit. Where did he go?

Oh, he's still here but his blood is a bit thinner, so he stays inside and thinks about days gone by. He reflects on the many things he has done in the company of his wife and his many dear,

dear friends, and the chill is driven from him and warmth seeps into his heart.

And then there was one...

With the passing of Phil Dinges, only one man, Scotty Kaufman, remains of the group of men who worked diligently on and at the Heritage Center.

When you visit the Heritage Center, take note of the row of cups that hang above the cupboards in the kitchenette area. Those are the names of that group of men.

I was fortunate enough to get to know and work with these men, as they nurtured our Society into one of the

largest libraries of Germans from Russia that is available for ancestral research.

If you're not into research, there are other things to see at the Heritage Center. Stop in, get acquainted with the staff, and learn about the men and women who started the Society and worked hard to make it what it is today. I'm sure you'll find it is time well spent.

I hope you all had a very, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Again, referring back to my younger days, I can remember the New Year's Eve celebrations and on New Year's Day, wished I hadn't celebrated quite as much! ☐

Trunk or Treat 2015

by Jay Jacox



Once again the Lincoln Chapter entertained children and interacted with adults as we provided games at the annual Norwood Park Elementary School Trunk or Treat festival on Halloween evening.

Trunk or Treat provides a safe, fun atmosphere for families to enjoy the

holiday as our Chapter partnered with the Norwood Park PTO, Northeast Sertoma Club and a UNL sorority to run the event.

Paul Loos and Don Weber manned the "Haunted Hoops" mini-basketball shooting game while Corinne Jacox and Judy Runion ran the bean bag toss

game. That left Jay Jacox to make sure that every child, no matter how many baskets they made or how many bean bags they tossed on target, received a piece of candy for their efforts.

What a night of fun for all involved.

Library speaker talks German Immigration

by Amanda Woita

The following article is from the Seward County Independent, dated September 30, 2015 and was sent to us by Amy Frohn. The article was written by Amanda Woita and her permission was given for us to use it.

Seward Memorial Library hosted a speaker to discuss the mass of German immigrants to Nebraska during its early days of statehood.

John Schleicher, a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, spoke on Sept. 13, after members of the community were encouraged to read "The Good American," for All Seward Reads Together. The story follows multiple generations of a German immigrant family.

Schleicher, along with a majority of the members in the audience, is a descendent of German immigrants.

His family is one of the Volga Germans, better known as the Germans from Russia. His grandmother was 11 when their family got on the boat to come to America in 1878.

"I kind of learned my history at my grandma's knee," Schleicher said.

Before 1862, Nebraska had not been settled, according to Schleicher. He said the area was inhabited mostly by French and English fur traders and trappers.

But 1862 brought multiple congressional acts that helped Nebraska develop, including the Homestead Act, the Pacific Railroad Act, the Morrill Act and the creation of the Department of Agriculture, Schleicher said.

These acts also brought immigrants to the Midwest. "We just exploded," Schleicher said.

Back in Europe, Schleicher said the area we now know as Germany was actually a lot of small countries, and the area was constantly at war and had issues with taxes, land shortages and famine.

"What would make it so bad at home to make you want to leave?" Schleicher said. "I would be scared to do that."

Schleicher said a vast majority of immigrants to Nebraska were German. In a 1900 census, there

were more than 65,000 residents of German decent. The next highest nationality was the Swedes, coming in at more than 24,000 residents.

Although these immigrants were now American, Schleicher said the analogy of the United States as a melting pot isn't quite accurate. He described it as a tossed salad.

"Some of us hold on to some elements of our heritage," Schleicher said.

He said there were German language newspapers, church services in German up until the 1960s, and many second- or third- generation immigrants were still fluent in their old language.

Schleicher showed a map of the U.S. that color-coded each county by which heritage was most prominent. One county was gold for Native Americans. The rest were blue—the color designated for Germany.

"Unsere Leute," Schleicher said in German. "Our people." □

November Broda a Success

by Jay Jacox

A good sized crowd showed up at the annual broda dinner on November 6 at the WSI Hall in the North Bottoms. Paul Loos was once again the "master chef" as he prepared a feast of roast beef, potatoes and car-

rots, and green beans. Of course there was also rye bread and the choice of pumpkin or apple pie.

A contingent of fourth and fifth grade students from Norwood Park Elementary expressed interested in giving back to our chapter. In the past we have helped Norwood Park at their fun night, "Read Across America", Trunk or Treat Halloween event, and even put on a one-day educational summer camp for their students.

They had planned to return the favor by helping us



clear tables, get water, and the like at the broda. Unfortunately, problems with the van they were to travel in that day ended the effort. Although saddened by not being able to make the trip, the students and their sponsor asked to help at another of our events.

We appreciate the effort and will undoubtedly take them up on the offer in the future. □

Holiday Open House

by Jay Jacox



Many people gathered for the annual open house on December 6 at the International Headquarters and Museum. The afternoon was full of conversation, refreshments and treats, singing of holiday songs, and tours of the outside buildings.

Corinne Jacox played tunes on the organ while Barb Schmidt led visitors in singing of songs. It was a fine close to the wonderful year of 2015.

In all, the Lincoln Chapter was involved in 18 activities over the course of the year. Some of those were participating in local community events, promoting youth education, two dinners, a garage sale, three trips to sporting events, educational speakers, and even a trip to Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City to set up a booth at their Heritage Day.

We are, without a doubt, one of the most active local AHSGR chapters on the continent.



CoSA—Council of State Archivists

The following link has cleared up some research resource questions some people have been having as well as the possibility of avoiding ancestry.com fees for some State archives as described in www.statearchivists.org/genealogy/index.htm

Interesting Research Site

Another website that can be especially useful for those researching their ancestors who were believed to have lived in Prussia (Preussen), Pomerania (Pommern), or Silesia (Schlesien) is: www.many-roads.com/2015/02/16/researching-lost-eastern-german-provinces/ CoSA—Council of State Archivists



The Recipe Corner

This recipe came from "The Ellis Island Immigrant Cookbook" by Tom Bernardin which Larry's daughter, Patty, gave to us. The recipe was submitted by Floramae Burke Elliff of Glen Carbon, Illinois. Her maternal grandmother came through Ellis Island about 1893 or early 1894. She never cooked from a recipe but when urged she told her version of "how to make" their family favorite "Rolled Steak."

2 lbs. round steak
6 bay leaves
Onions

Two pounds round steak, pounded until thin and shaped into a large disk or "round". On this ring of meat place 2 large onions, cut into slices about 1/2 inch thick and separated into rings. Over this place 6 bay leaves for flavoring. Roll meat around onions and bay leaves for a jelly roll. Tie with string, and brown in small amount of hot fat in a large cast-iron dutch oven. When browned on all sides, turn heat down, add about 1 cup water, cover tightly and simmer until meat is tender...about 1 hour. Remove meat from pot and keep warm on a warmed platter. If necessary add more water to pot...not too much as it will weaken the gravy. With roux of flour and water, thicken gravy, darken with gravyaid if desired and pour a small amount over the rolled meat. Serve remaining gravy as side dish with hot homemade noodles...or mashed potatoes.

Winter in the North Bottoms

by Becky Schenaman

The ice storm we had late in November made me think of the winters of my youth. As a child of the '50s, it seemed to me we had a lot more snow.

I remember walking to school in deep snow and girls did not wear pants or jeans at that time. Our usual winter clothing for school was a dress with an under shirt and a slip and, of course, panties.

Our outerwear was a coat, gloves, a scarf or those little hats that were white angora wool that just covered the top of your head and your ears and tied at the neck. If the snow was knee deep, we put on jeans under our dress to help keep our legs dry and warm as we trudged through the snow. When we got to school, the cloakroom in our classroom was lined up with snow covered coats and accessories. The pant legs of our jeans were frozen stiff.

Those big old school buildings were heated with steam radiators lining the space under those tall windows. That was the best place to have your desk as it was warm in the winter and the windows provided air in the spring and summer. Also those windows provided the best place to sit and day-dream if you were a little bored.

When the school bell rang at 3:15 you would hurry and get dressed to go home.

Going home was so much better. We would throw ourselves into the deep snow and spread our arms and legs apart and make snow angels. Of course we would also taste the snow

flakes, if it was still snowing. After we had covered ourselves in snow we hurried home.

At home the house was warm and we would grab a dining room chair and we would each take off our wet clothes and hang them to dry over a heat register. We had a big old house with several registers. Then we would run upstairs and put on our flannel pajamas along with warm socks. Then down to the kitchen for a snack. Hopefully there were oatmeal cookies.

You could smell a good supper either baking in the oven or a pot of soup on the stove. Our Mother was an excellent cook. After dinner we would listen to the radio or play cards or board games or "cootie."

Before you knew it off to bed you went. Our bedtime was 8 p.m. Then it was morning, and if we were lucky the snow had stopped and people had shoveled their walks and we could get to school easier.

There were no school buses to take us; we had no car, and my Dad did not drive until I was in junior high. We either walked or took city buses or a taxi cab. We never thought a thing of it. So now when I see lines of cars in front of the schools to drop off children or pick them up, I think, "What would those children do if they had the life style we were raised in?"

We were strong little "Rooshins" and it was the best of times. If it could only be that simple again.

Stay warm. Mocks Goot ☐

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Broda Dinner Volunteers

Hats off to the following volunteers who helped make the Broda dinner a success. Without them we would not be able to have the activities the members enjoy. Thank you.

Barbara Schmidt, Ruby Weber, John Weber, Don Weber, Donna Day, Becky Schenaman, Jay Jacox, Corinne Jacox, Roger Wurst, Pam Wurst, Paul Loos, Rick Rekert, Ed Barthule, Judy Lawson, Sharon Buckner, Robert Wagner, Marilyn Wagner, Suzanne Stoehr, David Loos, Tim Hardt, Barb Hellerich, Karen Johnson, Linda Heckert, Kay Wood, and Jane Harrison.

Emigration to the Volga

The following is from the book "The Manifesto of the Empress" by Viktor Aut and was printed in the July/August 2015 Oregon Chapter Newsletter.

Today, as we continue to live our lives in relative peace and prosperity, let us not forget the unimaginable hardships and courage our pioneer ancestors endured to secure a better life for their families and generations to come. Their life in Germany had been hard. Their journey to Russia was long and arduous. Many perished along the way. Many per-

ished until the villages became more self-sustaining and organized. Times of prosperity were balanced by poor harvests and poor weather. Large families were balanced by problems of stillbirths and deadly recurring epidemics. Many were sent away to Russian labor camps, never to return. Families were uprooted and scattered to distant parts of the empire. The

lucky ones were able to leave, some at risk of life or imprisonment, many arriving in the Americans, with little English skills, but with the determination of hard work to succeed, bringing their families and starting life with the fresh breath of freedom and opportunity. We salute you, German pioneers.

And this time the Stars won . . .

by Jay Jacox

The Lincoln Chapter set off on another road trip this fall. In what capped off an "outdoor weather" season full of baseball, a garage sale, a youth camp, outdoor festivals, and a county fair appearance the Lincoln Chapter once again visited the Lincoln Stars hockey team at the Ice Box on October 9.



Last time we visited, the Stars came up on the short end of the score. This time the Stars came away with a, 5-2, victory over the

Dubuque Fighting Saints in what very well could be a preview of the league's championship series. At press time the Stars still lead the western confer-

ence while the Fighting Saints are in second place in the eastern.

Our group sat in the comfortable North Zone section with our chapter name being announced over the public address system and photos of our group being put up on the Stars' Facebook page.

Once again, the Stars welcomed us with open arms, made us feel at home, and put on quite a show. Thank you to Micki Buhmann at the Lincoln Stars for making our outing special.

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WE CURRENTLY HAVE ROOM FOR FIVE ADDITIONAL BOARD MEMBERS. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO BE A PART OF THE BOARD, PLEASE LET ANY OF THE ABOVE-NAMED MEMBERS KNOW. THANK YOU.

American Historical Society
of Germans From Russia

Keep Our Heritage Alive!

WE NEED YOU...
to reach our goal of 3,000 members
by the 2016 convention

RECRUIT new members - \$ awards to individuals and
chapters recruiting the greatest numbers*

INVITE potential members to Chapter activities

SHARE your heritage story with others

GIFT a membership to children and grandchildren so
they get a taste of AHSGR

SEND us names and addresses of potential members

*1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners for individuals recruiting three or more members and
chapters recruiting six or more members.

**2016 Calendar of Events will be in your
next issue of the newsletter,
and you can always view it on our web site.**

Two important dates have been confirmed:

Soup Supper

Friday, April 29, 2016

WSI Hall

Broda Dinner

Friday, November 4, 2016

WSI Hall

**Mark your calendars now for these two
fun evenings!**

**As always, volunteers are
needed and appreciated!**

**Contact any Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
Board member for more information
about volunteering.**

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“An idea not coupled with action
will never get any bigger than the
brain cell it occupied.”

—Arnold H. Glasgow

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG

“Happy Anniversary”

January

Sid and Ken Babcock

February

[none we are aware of]

Unsere Leute Erinnerung

“Our People in Memory”

Kent M Kisling
Martha E Schleicher
Lydia Matthews

Rueben P Giebelhaus
Everett Leroy Niederhaus

Your Help is Needed

If you are aware of the death of someone who is a
German from Russia, please give
Judy Lawson, the Chapter Corresponding Secretary,
a call: 402-420-9580.

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL

“Happy Birthday”

January

Ed Barthule
Mary Frost
Clarence Gunn
Bob Riddle
Barbara Schmidt

February

Jack Frost
Kurt Hergenrader

