



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE 11

March-April 2016

From Larry...

Do you visit the Chapter website? If you haven't looked at it lately, you should. There's a story there about Norma Klein and the Shim-Sham dancers. This amazing woman and a few friends were the impetus to a unique bunch of ladies. Norma didn't stop dancing until she was 84. Amazing, amazing!!

If you get a chance to tune into the May program of *Live and Learn*, you will see the Shim-Sham women perform. *Live and Learn* can be found on 5CITY-TV. You can see the story in the Winter 2016, Volume 12, Issue 1 of Living Well magazine.

Having seen the Shim-Sham dancers perform several times, I can guarantee you will enjoy it.

How has this winter of 2015-2016 been for you? Read the following poem and you will know how I feel about winter in Nebraska and what I have done.

Winter in Nebraska

It's winter in Nebraska
And the gentle breezes blow,
70 miles per hour at 52 below!
Oh, how I love Nebraska
When the snow's up to my butt;
You take a breath of winter air
And your nose is frozen shut.
Yes, the weather here is wonderful,
You may think I'm a fool.
I could never leave Nebraska,
Cause I'm frozen to the stool. ☐



GRs in the Community: Fourteen-ten

by Jay Jacox

Fourteen ten. The year Columbus sailed the ocean blue? Nope.

A secret agent friend of James Bond, 007? Probably not. The score of a Nebraska football game? Could be. But in this instance 1410 relates to the outstanding commitment the Lincoln Chapter has to children of Lincoln. As you recall, this past holiday season our chapter held a fund drive to help feed Lincoln's hungry children through the Food Bank's backpack program. It was with the generous contri-

butions of our membership that we raised enough to provide one-thousand, four-hundred ten meals to those children who are less fortunate than we are. The commitment to our community and to others runs deep in our German-Russian heritage. Thank you and congratulations to everyone who could give back and helped make life just a little brighter for others. Perhaps the Lincoln chapter will make this an annual event. ☐

Garage Sale Approaching

by Jay Jacox

It's not too early to be thinking about the annual Chapter garage sale. This year's event will be on June 3rd and 4th at 1000 North 81st Street and once again will be in conjunction with the Meadowlane Area Residents Association' neighborhood sale.

Proceeds from our sale are used to help defray the expenses of the

Chapter's events throughout the year. Help is always appreciated at this social event. Help as much as you would like.

If anyone has anything they would like to donate to the cause, please Contact Jay or Corinne at 402-327-8962. ☐

Dog Day Afternoon/Evening

by Jay Jacox

Save the date... The AHSGR Lincoln Chapter has set the date for our annual outing to see the Lincoln Saltdogs baseball club at Haymarket Park.

This year's event will be on Saturday, June 18. Game time is at 6:35 p.m. against the Gary Southshore Railcats from Gary, Indiana. The 'Dogs have

never lost a game when the Lincoln Chapter has been in attendance. Let's keep the streak going. More information and a registration form will be included in the May/June newsletter. ☐

Soup Choices Reflect Our Personality Types

Soup, Glorious Soup

(from the December 2015/January 2016 issue of the NE Panhandle Chapter Newsletter)

You not only are what you eat, you also are what you slurp, at least according to Brian Wansink, who has done a study that links soup choices to personality types.

The University of Illinois marketing professor has come up with “lifestyle and personality clusters” based on soup preferences, which were published last month in the *Journal of Database Marketing*.

“The foods we eat do say a lot about who we are as people,” Wansink asserted in an interview. “Because

soup is one of America’s favorite comfort foods, we thought it would be interesting to examine personality types based on strongly expressed soup preferences.” The UI professor, who runs the campus Food & Brand Lab, defines comfort foods as “soothing and satisfying foods” that provide a source of emotional balance during times of stress and turmoil.

Adults over 18 years old (602 Women and 401 men) were surveyed by telephone to assess their opinions of 12 common soup products. From

these varieties, the four most popular soups—chicken noodle, tomato, minestrone and vegetable—were cross-tabulated with personality and lifestyle traits to create the following “soup personality types.”

If you have a hankering for chicken noodle soup, you scored high on the church-going scale, are fond of pets, are more likely to be stubborn and less likely to be outdoorsy.

If minestrone filled your mug, you were more likely to be physically fit, nutritionally conscious, family spirited, unlikely to own a pet and also on a restricted diet.

A vegetable soup aficionado was a homebody at heart, less likely to be a world traveler, less likely to be spontaneous and more likely to read family and home magazines. Tomato soup lovers, by contrast, could stomach more adventure, were more likely to be social and also tended to enjoy books and pets.

Wansink said many aspects of soup consumption seemed to mirror childhood memories and remembered comforts. Two-thirds of those surveyed agreed that soup made them feel better about themselves, and more than half said chicken noodle soup made them feel better when sick, just as mom would have wanted it.

While Americans rank ice cream, hot chocolate, and cookies as their favorite “sweet” comfort foods, soup is popular because “of an over-reliance on convenience and speed and the disappearance of the traditional meal occasion,” according to Wansink.

What’s more, soup is the comfort food that consumers “feel least guilty eating” in times of stress or unhappiness. Half of the respondents described themselves as “stressed out” when they eat comfort foods. Americans increasingly seem to seek comfort foods that seem to meet the “mom” taste standard of “being good for you.” □



The Recipe Corner

4 cups flour

2 tsp. baking powder

1 cup sugar

1 cup walnuts (ground)

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

4½ Tbsp. rum or imitation rum extract

2½ sticks butter or margarine (room temp)

1 cup powder sugar

On a board or countertop, lay the flour and sprinkle with baking powder, sugar, and walnuts. Make a well and drop in the eggs, vanilla and three tablespoons of rum or rum extract. Cut the butter or margarine into slices and lay over the top. Knead the ingredients into a smooth dough. Set it in the refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Roll out the dough to approximately 1/8-inch thickness and cut with a heart shaped cookie cutter. Place on a greased cookie sheet and bake in a preheated oven at 375° for 10 to 12 minutes or until golden brown.

Mix powdered sugar with 1½ tablespoons of rum into a glaze and spread over the baked cookies. Makes approximately 110 cookies.

The Germans From Russia

by Dorothy Weyer Creigh

The following article was in the March-April 2015 issue of the NE Panhandle Chapter newsletter. It was from an article by Dorothy Weyer Creigh. It is a short, concise report of The Germans From Russia

(The Miller and Paine Department Store in Lincoln, Nebraska celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1980. As part of that celebration they published a Centennial series of articles highlighting the key things, events, and people in and around the Lincoln area. The following, Number 10 in that series, was written by Dorothy Weyer Creigh from Hastings, Nebraska, an award-winning historian.)

By the thousands they came into Nebraska between 1870 and 1920, these families of foreigners who called themselves German, although they came from Russia and were four or five generations separated from Germany. "Rooshans" their new neighbors derisively called them, not knowing that most of them spoke not a word of Russian and had always held themselves apart from the Russian populace. Although the 1920 census figures showed that more than fifteen thousand of them living in Nebraska were Russian born, only a handful considered themselves Russians. All the rest were Germans from Russia.

Their confused status began in the 1760s when Catherine the Great sought out Germans to settle certain parts of Russia to till the land and act as buffers against the barbarians. She offered them free land, exemption from taxes and conscription, and the chance to retain their schools, churches, language and cultural patterns. For the next hundred years, they considered themselves Germans who happened to live in Russia. But in 1862, Czar Alexander II revoked those privileges. Since the Great Plains were opening up for settlement, the Germans in the Volga, Ukraine, and other parts of Russia looked to Nebraska, Kansas, the Dakotas, and with encouragement of the railroad immigration societies, they moved again, whole colonies of them, across the ocean to America.

Some settled in Lincoln, either in an area in the southwest part of town called the "Rooshan Bottoms" or just north of the University campus, the "North Bottoms." Some settled in Sutton and Hastings, along the Burlington railroad; the Mennonites settled in Jensen, near Beatrice, or in Henderson. Most of the Germans from Russia who settled in Nebraska were Protestants, and they settled in colonies, those from the villages of Frank or Kolb, for instance, living in the same Nebraska village, even living next-door to the neighbors they had had before. Their German was a hundred years or more removed from the language the immigrants from Germany spoke, as strange to them as Shakespearean English was to Americans.

Unskilled laborers, speaking a strange language, with large families to support, the new townsmen went to work as manual laborers on the railroad section gangs, in brickyards, as draymen. Their womenfolk worked in factories making cigars or candy or harness equipment, or toiled as domestics cleaning houses and doing laundry for others. Their children did what off-jobs they could, and scavenged coal that had fallen from the railroad coal cars (rather than lignite, a particular kind of coal, they called it lug-nite for they carried it home in gunnysacks after dark). Families raised chickens, tended gardens, and somehow managed to get groceries for the schnitz-suppe (fruit soup), grebble (doughnuts), blina (potato pancakes) and other ethnic dishes that supplied their wants. Much of their social life centered around the church.

In the spring, their greeting to each other was "Hast du ein Kontract?" as they prepared to go into the beet fields in western Nebraska or eastern Colorado. In early May, the families boarded special trains in Lincoln, Sutton

or Hastings, with enough clothing, bedding, and basic household equipment to last them until November. When they got off the train in Minatare, or Melbeta or Scottsbluff, they went directly into the unfurnished shanties that served as their homes. For the next six months whole families worked together, under contract to the grower, blocking, thinning, chopping and harvesting sugar beets under the hot summer sun.

The money they earned during the summer months they applied to their bills at the mom-and-pop grocery stores back in Lincoln or Hastings, and used to buy clothing and other simple needs. They worked hard, all members of the family, and they were frugal; in time, they bought the land, much of it the sugar beet field they once bent over to weed by hand.

Their children have university educations. Sam Schwartzkopf served as mayor of Lincoln, and Edward Schwartzkopf was a Regent of the University of Nebraska. Paul Amen was director of Banking and Finance for the state of Nebraska, having previously served as president of the Nebraska Bank of Commerce. When George Sauer, a former all-American football player at Nebraska, was head coach at the Naval Academy at the same time Paul Amen was on the coaching staff at Army, the traditional Army-Navy game took on a new aura as the Germans from Russia from Lincoln faced each other on the football field. Johnny Hopp from Hastings was a big league baseball player with the St. Louis Cardinals and the New York Yankees. Ruth Amen, former college and university teacher was the driving force behind the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, whose members have their museum and headquarters in the South Russian Bottoms of Lincoln. □

From the North Bottoms...

by Becky Schenaman

Can you believe Easter is almost here?

Last year at Easter my sister Donna and I were in Manhattan, Kansas. We were there, staying at a Comfort Inn, while my Bichon dog, Shorty, who had broken his back in three places, underwent major surgery at the Vet Hospital at Kansas State University. He could not walk on his hind legs. This really was major surgery. There was no one in Lincoln or surrounding cities that could do this surgery.

It took Shorty three months of rest and learning to walk again. It was the first time I ever put him in a doggie crate. He did not like that. Also, I had to coax him to eat and he had to learn how to walk without putting weight on his hind legs. Let me tell you it was a learning experience for both of us. But with Easter it will be one year and he just has a limp on his left hind leg. So it was an Easter blessing.

Growing up, Easter always meant a new dress and a new pair of shoes. Donna always got a blue dress and I got a pink one. All four of us kids got new shoes twice a year, at Easter and when school started, so you made those shoes last.

I always wanted a pair of black patent leather shoes. They were not practical so I only remember getting

one pair. Usually we got saddle shoes the brown and white ones.

We always went to The Big Shoe Store across the street from Gold's. They had a machine there you could stand on and it would X-Ray your feet. Of course, we all would stand on it. Now they are not allowed because of the radiation in the machines.

We kids each had a paper Maché rabbit that had a basket on his back and that is where the Easter Bunny put our candy. My Mother would put our favorite candy in them and hid them behind furniture in the front room.

Our candy of choice was M&M's, Hershey bars, jelly beans, spearmint gum, Juicy Fruit gum and a chocolate bunny. None of us thought to take our rabbits when the folks sold the house.

We went to church on Easter. Then we went to our grampa and grandma Bridegam's for Easter dinner, which was always a five-course meal which started with salad, then noodle soup, then turkey, roast beef, and sometimes even a goose, of course, there were all the trimmings along with horn rolls and cake for dessert.

One Easter the Stuart Theater was showing Elvis Presley in "Love Me Tender." Our Uncle Al took his two children and us to town and dropped us off to see the movie. There was a huge Elvis Presley on top of the marquee that was really neat.

When we got back to grandma's we went into the backyard and there were our Easter baskets hanging from branches of the fruit trees. So Easter was like Christmas, just without toys.

I wish you all a blessed Easter.
Mocks Goot



REMINDER: Sunday, March 12th – Remember when you go to bed Saturday night, set your clocks one hour ahead. ☐

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These are random thoughts as I age...

- Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.
- I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks.
- I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights."
- My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.
- If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.
- Of course I talk to myself. Sometimes I need expert advice.
- At my age "getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

(from the NE Panhandle Chapter Newsletter)

Happy
Easter!



Growing up GR: Historic Building . . .

by Jay Jacox

Picture provided courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society

As 2015 gives way to a new year, we say goodbye to a historic building on the corner of a very important block in Lincoln's history. The past always gives way to progress. A new hotel complex will be built on the southwest corner of 9th and "O" Streets and older buildings will be torn down. For the past 23 years the building at 901 "O" Street was known as Knickerbockers Bar and Grill. It has been



called many other things in its past, but to me it will always be remembered as The Gold Dust. The building itself has been standing since at least 1878. It has housed many businesses in its time, but the importance of the building to my family didn't come into being until after prohibition was repealed in 1933. Shortly thereafter, my grandfather opened the Gold Dust, serving light food and beer to hungry and thirsty Lincoln patrons. He spent his workdays there, then at the end of the day, traversed eight blocks down ninth street to his home in the South Bottoms. One day, everything changed

when a patron was injured in his establishment. The patron fell, cut her head and sued him. The case went through the court system, finally landing at the Nebraska Supreme Court. The case hinged on one crucial piece of evidence. In today's world just about any time a person steps into an establishment, the proprietor is responsible for that patron's safety, within reason. Such was not necessarily the case in 1935. Under Nebraska law one had to be "invited in" to an establishment for the proprietor to be liable. Being "invited in" usually meant the patron spent money in the shop and the owner

made a profit off of them. The woman in question came in to the Gold Dust to use the pay phone and then asked to use the restroom. It was coming out of the restroom that she fell and was injured. At the time Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph gave the proprietor one penny for every nickel phone call made on their pay phones. The Nebraska Supreme Court ruled since my grandfather had made one cent on the woman for the phone call he was liable for her injuries. He ultimately lost the case and The Gold Dust.

None of this was ever spoken of after the incident.

Neither I or my mother and aunt or any of their cousins recall hearing anything about grandpa and the Gold Dust. Anyone else that could have told the story is already gone. I think the family just wanted to forget the whole thing. It's a testament to what one can find by exploring your family's history through research. Now, whenever I think of that kind, gentle man my grandfather was I also think of Knickerbockers, or as I like to think of it, The Gold Dust. The building may soon disappear but not the history that goes with it. □

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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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2016

LINCOLN CHAPTER AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

March 2, 2016	Reading Across American		Norwood Park School— 4710 72nd St
March 8, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
March 21, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
April 12, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
April 18, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
April 24, 2016	General Membership Meeting (Refreshments Following)	2:00 p.m.	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall 10th & Charleston St. 631 D St.
April 27-29, 2016	International Board of Directors' Meeting		WSI Hall, 1430 N. 10th St
April 29, 2016	Soup Supper	5-7 p.m.	Norwood Park School— 4710 72nd St
May 6, 2016	Fun Nigh		Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
May 10, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	631 D St
May 16, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	1000 No 81st St
June 3-4, 2016	Garage Sale	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
June 14, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Haymarket Park
June 18, 2016	Saltdogs Baseball	6:45p.m.	631 D St
June 20, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall 10th & Charleston St.
June 26, 2016	General Membership Meeting (Refreshments Following)	2:00 p.m.	Concord, California
July 14-16, 2016	International Convention		Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
July 12, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	631 D St
July 18, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
August 9, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	631 D St
August 15, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
September 13, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Antelope Park Shelter
September 18, 2016	General Membership Meeting & Picnic	4:00 p.m.	631 D St
September 19, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
October 11, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	631 D St
October 17, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	Norwood Park School— 4710 72nd St
October 31, 2016	Trunk or Treat		WSI Hall, 1430 N. 10th St
November 4, 2016	Broda Dinner	5:00-7:00 p.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
November 8, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	631 D St.
November 21, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St.
December 4, 2016	Christmas Open House	1:00-4:00 p.m.	Fireworks Restaurant
December 12, 2016	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
December 13, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	
January 8, 2017	Annual Membership & Business Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)	1:00 p.m.	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall 10th & Charleston St.

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
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FROHLICH JUHRESTAG *"Happy Anniversary"*

March

Bill and Sandra Gettman

April

Jim and Carol Sommers

Unsere Leute Erinnerung *"Our People in Memory"*

Marcella M Frocheiser

Jonathan Charles Wacker

Mildred Klein Heaton

Judith Rae Schulz

Patricia K Mumford

Robert A. Brehm

Arthur Rothe

Ruth Dallas

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"

March

Shannon Fennell

John Weber

Ronald Bridegam

Cristen Bridegam

April

Jay Jacox

Norman Helzer

Mary Joyce Schoening

