



AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Lincoln Chapter Number 1

Sark...
bing on
Rich Rye

Lincoln Chapter Newsletter - Issue IX December, 1994

Chapter Officers

Larry Schenkel - President	Jake Sinner - 1st Vice President	Harry Kolb - 2nd Vice President
Ann Reitz - Secretary		Norma Somerheiser - Treasurer
Gladys Herstein - Corresponding Secretary	Historian - Helen Schwartz	Program Chairman - Jake Sinner,
Harry Kolb	Membership Chairman - Ruth Amen; Jake Sinner	
	Genealogy - Shirley Robertson; Jerry Harris	
Newsletter - Hugh Dobler		Publicity - Wilbur Amen

December 13, 1994 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)
7:00 P.M. - Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus
December 17, 1994 - PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File- Lincoln User's Group)
7:00 P.M. - Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road
(Please note change of date)
January 8, 1995-- Chapter Meeting and Elections
1:00 P.M. Fellowship Hall Immanuel Church of Christ 10th and Charleston
This is a Pot Luck Dinner .Bring your own Table Service
Coffee and Iced Tea will be furnished January 9, LLCGS
(Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)
7:00 P.M. Dick Administration Building Union College Campus
January 16, 1995 Old and New Board Members Meeting
6:30 P.M.--- 631 "D" St. - Pot Luck Dinner
January 21 - PAF (Personal Ancestral File - Lincoln User's Group)
7:00 P.M. Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

Editor's Notes:

As you will notice, the heading says this is the 9th letter of the year. That's true, since we did not start until March with this newsletter. Lord willing, you will be able to correspond your letters and your numbers should correspond with the month.

It is always with sadness when we have a death in our midst. This past week, one of the truly stalwart men of AHSGR passed away., G. Scott Schleicher. We will miss his eternal good humor and his puns on life. Even though he knew several years ago, that his time was soon, yet the Lord kept him around for several years after his first serious illness We will miss you Scotty!

We do want to acknowledge a couple of people who also helped on the Broda Dinner, the first week in November. These names were not given to me, and as we, had a conflict on that particular evening so we did not attend.

Our apologies to these people who were inadvertently omitted: Lillian Loos & Esther & Bob Rohn.

From the Executive Director:

Another year is almost to an end and AHSGR has again been successful, despite the Society and Foundation's financial situation. I am confident that under the direction of the Society Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Trustees the financial picture will improve. The Finance Committees of both Boards are in the process of implementing policies and procedures which will define the financial structure of both entities. An active Grants Committee is in place and is currently applying for much needed grants.

One asset AHSGR can always count on is its volunteers. The Lincoln Chapter has always been

the leader in volunteering for Headquarters. Obviously, with Headquarters in Lincoln, the Lincoln Chapter has always assumed the responsibility for saving the Society and the Foundation money by volunteering their time. Your continued support of Headquarters is valuable to the organization and is a credit to the Germans from Russia heritage.

Special thanks to the volunteer mailing crew. They have the fastest hands in the Midwest and complete every mailing (5600) pieces) in under two hours.

It is always particularly quiet at Headquarters when the Lincoln Quilters are between projects. These gals are always busy and quite often provide the staff with homemade goodies. The Lincoln Quilters have contributed \$325.00 this year to the Society, which has been earmarked for the computer and general operating funds. A new vacuum cleaner was purchased earlier this year from their contributions. Thanks, Quilters!

Thanks to Frances Amen, Anna Baker, Harold Bauer, "Bud" Dietrich, Phil and Irene Dinges, Hugh and Frieda Dobler, Hank and Lydia Grasmick, "Lefty" Grenemeier, Ed and Gladys Herstein, Al and Ruth Kruse, Jerry McInnis, Larry Schenkel, John Schneider, Jake Sinner and his maintenance/ mowing/ snow removal crew, Norma Somerheiser, Lillian Weber, and Ed and Mary Wunder for always being there when we need them.

The staff and I would like to wish each of you a Happy Holiday Season!

Kathy Schultz , Executive Director

From the President's Pen:

I'm not sure how it happened, but another year has sped by faster than the one before! When I look back at my childhood in the North Bottoms, I seem to remember the summers lasting as long as a whole year does now! Perhaps my memory is playing tricks on me!

As usual, I find myself saying thank you to all the wonderful people it has been my privilege to serve this past year. I don't know how I would have made it through without the Jerry Harris, Dale Dinges, Norma Somerheiser, and so many more who made my job so much easier.

To the entire Board of Directors, a heartfelt thank you for everything.

To my buddy, friend and pal, Essie. Don't give up on me . I've got a lot to learn from you .

To my friend Hank Grasmick, whose wise counsel helped me so much at different times. Get well soon! I need you around!

Thanks, Lefty, for getting me involved!

Ed and Ruth thanks for getting us through our Silver Anniversary Convention!

I can't begin to list all of the people who worked so many long hard hours to make the Convention a success, but the people you all have elected to the Board of Directors served you proudly working at the Convention.

I also need to thank the entire staff at Headquarters for the many long hours and hardwork they contributed in making our Convention a success.

To Rev. Wenz, thank you for presiding at our Sunday service at the Convention, and for helping make our Christmas Sing on December 4, a success. Reverend Wenz read the Christmas Story in German and Lucille Hedges, read it in English.

And as always, the German Singers , led by Katherine Pabst, who performed at the Christmas Sing, as well as at the Convention!. They preserve the heritage so beautifully!

To the pastors and the boards of all of our churches, thank you for sharing your churches with us for our Chapter functions during the year. Religion and our people are synonymous in our heritage!

As you may or not know, we will be electing several new people to our local Board of Directors, this coming month. We could use some names. Have you thought about being involved? If you are interested in serving your chapter, call me at 489-3213 or Mary Wunder at 489-8734. Our next meeting for new officers will be held at Immanuel Fellowship Hall - 10th and Charleston. on January 8.

Remember it is a pot luck get together. Bring your favorite dish, and your tableware. Coffee and Iced Tea will be provided.

As long as I am on Chapter business, a special thank you to those of you who started working 26 years ago to preserve our heritage. We, who are becoming involved now, have proud traditions to carry

Hugh, thank you for doing this job! Having worked on newsletters in other organizations I know how much work this is. I also know how much time it takes! To all of the thousands of hours you volunteers have given to the Heritage Center, how could I not remember all of you! God bless and keep you safe and healthy in the approaching New Year!

I know I have barely touched the tip of the iceberg saying thanks and naming names, but there isn't enough time or room. Just because I haven't mentioned your name, don't think I have forgotten you! I thank my lucky stars for the time I have spent with all of you!

May God keep you and hold you in the palm of his hand in this most holy and joyous season!

Froeliche Weihnachten!

Larry Schenkel, President, Lincoln Chapter

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UNSERE LEUTE

GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)

December 14 - Edward Deines
December 15 - Alex Schwabauer
December 23 Rose Mandeville
December 23 Donald Wunder
December 31 - Clara Deines
December 31 - Darlene Bauer
January 3 - Mary Schwartz
January 8 - Dorothy George -

January 8 - Edward Klein
January 9 -Alma Kehling
January 10 -Mary Jacobs
January 13 -Hugh Dobler
January 14 Tony Chonuskie
January 17 -Frieda Geis
January 19 -Mary Ann Hahn
January 25 Frieda Johnson

DER JARSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

A Special 64th Anniversary to:

December 27 to Esther and Melvin Rohleder!

A very Special 68th Anniversary to:

December 31st to Clara and Edward Deines!

It has been 45 years since these two tied the knot:

January 1, Wayne and Lillian Giebelhaus

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In Memoriam

G. Scott Schleicher

Scotty, as he was known to everyone, died December 6, 1994 at the age of 81 years.

Scotty was a man who loved people, which was evident in his daily life. Faithfully, three times a week, he would go to one of the nursing homes here in the city to visit a friend, or a relative. No matter, that he might not know them, he'd make it a point to visit with them as well.

He had a host of friends within the city which really became apparent at his funeral service. The church was overflowing, from sanctuary to balcony. A deeply religious person, he could and would be able to give you a quotation from the Bible whenever it was necessary.

One of his loves was to go to the WSI Hall on Wednesday morning and read from the scripture. In addition to the scripture lesson, he always had collected a poem that he had gotten from someone, that he shared with all members of WSI.

Scotty worked for one company all of his life. He started working for Hill and Neiden Scrap Iron and Metal when he was a young man. 56 years later he retired ; as General Manager of the firm.

Another of his loves was horses. He owned several until just a couple of years ago when they moved to a smaller acreage. He was past president of the Lancaster Sheriff's Mounted Posse which title he cherished.

He was a member of the German Singers, an organization which was started by the Germans from Russia that resided in Lincoln. Very seldom was he absent, and only when he was so ill, that he could not be there. He was also a member of the AHSGR Society, and helped the organization in many ways to preserve his heritage.

Scotty will be missed. He touched many people throughout his life!

Don't forget to send in your names for inclusion of the birthdays and anniversary's each month!

Name _____ Birth Date _____
Spouse _____ Birth Date _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip Code _____

Name _____
Your Wedding Anniversary _____
Special Occasions such as:

A Wedding Anniversary (such as a 25th or 30th) Or a "Remembrance To A Loved One"

Send your requests to: Hugh Dobler 3747 Woods Ave. Lincoln, Ne. 68510

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**Continuing the thumbnail sketches of the personnel at:
The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

Rick Rye

Rick was born January 17, 1945 in Compton, California to Ed and Irene (Morris) Rye.

His father was working in the ship yards at that time, building Liberty Ships. In 1945 the family moved back to western Nebraska, where his parents had been living prior to going to California. Both of his folks were from the sandhills of Nebraska. His father was of Polish-American extraction and born in Brewster, Nebraska, and mother from early English from Fullerton.

Rick was raised in the Scotts Bluff area, in the small community of Morrill. He graduated from Morrill High School in 1963, joining the United States Army. The Army said he would learn Russian, and he did! he has been working with that ever since, in one capacity or another.

In 1963 Rick went through the language school at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. At that time they had three programs; 9, 12 and 18 months. If you were good enough in the 12 month course, you got to go on through the 18 months. Rick went through that. Rick said, "Those last few months we spoke virtually no English, which gives you a very intensive 8 hours a day, 7 days a week (even though classes were only 5 days) in everything from history, music, chemistry, to machine tool building. It was comparatively easy for me and I enjoyed it. Language courses today are not nearly as intensive as they were because it became terribly expensive, with such a low re-enlistment rate".

He lived in Germany from 1965 to 1967, so he picked up a good amount of German even though it was a Berlin dialect, which he says sometimes gets a bit stuffy.

By studying Russian, he also became interested in other Slavic languages, such as Polish, Bulgarian, Serbian, Croatian, Czech, and the old forms of Russian (they all fit together). On his own, he also studied religion, and so he studied Greek.

Rick went to Chadron State College from 1968 to 1973, getting a degree in English with a minor in Music and Journalism.

He and his wife, Allison, have been married for 25 years. They met while Rick was in college and were married there.

They have two children, Loren, who is 20, and is a Junior at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Timothy is 18, graduated from high school this past year and is now enrolled at the University of Nebraska- Lincoln.

Allison is office manager of the Purchasing Department of the Lincoln Public Schools. She is a musician, an organist, now goes into computer and accounting.

After he finished college, he taught school for three years at St. Agnes Academy in Alliance, Nebraska. From Alliance he went to Rushville, for one year; teaching English . He says, "I then came to Lincoln where I worked at the University of Nebraska in Instructional Television, in Marketing and Television Programming ".

Later he went to work for eight years for Isco, as Export Sales manager, but because of health problems he had to resign from this position. It was after that he came to work for the *American Historical Society of Germans from Russia* as Editor and part time translator.

Later he moved from part time to full time as translator and genealogical researcher.

Rick spent a lot of time in military and government service with the Air Force Reserves and the Army. He relates that, "I've been lucky in that I have been to Russia several times. Between 1980 and 1986, I have been in Russia eleven times averaging from 3 weeks to 6 weeks at a time. I have been able to travel around Russia, India, South Africa, South America, but have never been to Asia

.I've done a lot of technical translations, also legal translating, for various court or police entities, immigration and for the Society here. I have a lot of fun with it because I really enjoy this work . I was in various capacities with the military, as a translator and observer, attaché, systems operator, or whatever was necessary during that period of the cold war .Just as the Russians worked over here under diplomatic channels, so we worked in diplomatic channels there in Russia. I suppose you could say it was sort of an exchange program . We observed military activity, such as any thing that had to do with new equipment. Basically we were listening and observing as to what equipment was used, looking at the factories etc., in all kinds of weather, from 48 degrees below 0 to 100 degrees above. We went to a lot of fairs; various exhibitions for scientific products, industrial products, pharmaceutical products, anything that might be considered of importance".

Rick have worked for the Society for five years, since 1989. He considers it really rewarding work, not drudgery at all. The material is always different, and there is so much exciting material coming out of Russia today. It is very challenging!

The 1770's census is a different census from that of the 1798. The later is distinctively different than the former.

The 3000 pages of 1798 census, which was received at the time of the Convention this year, consists of 99 Volga villages. One village was purchased by Art Flegel, so that is not yet available to the Society, and the Kirghiz tribes also destroyed two of the villages. The main reason for the 1798 census was because previous censuses were inaccurate and led to problems with taxation. Some of the earliest documents that we have are inaccurate, because of disputes over who owed what debts. Younger men tended to lie, as they were trying to avoid the draft in Germany, and women sometimes distorted their ages. Men said they were older, because after they were 60 years of age, they were exempt of taxes. in research they are finding that the earlier documents were also poorly kept, and bookkeepers also were being creative.

It is apparent that there was money due that was not being paid. So in 1798 the Government took a complete census. Probably this was the most accurate census taken up through that time.

These records do not list where the family came from in Germany, but it does list the head of the household name, the spouse , maiden name as well, and their children, whether they were able to work or not, and all ages. If they were not able to work, the reason is also given, such as being epileptic, blind or crippled. Another section is devoted to money owed. Another section tells who left the colony and why, so that we are able to track these individuals

"IT'S YOUR ATTITUDE AND NOT YOUR APTITUDE
THAT DETERMINES YOUR ALTITUDE"

ZIG ZIGLAR

A MOST HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
TO ALL OF YOU FROM ALL OF US!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!



American Historical Society
of Germans From Russia
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