



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Lincoln Chapter

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Issue VI

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Newsletter - Hugh Dobler

Publicity - Dale Dinges - John Stuert

Scheduled Coming Events:

July 11, 1995 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)

7:00 P.M.

Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus

July 15, 1995 PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File-Lincoln User's Group)

7:00 P.M.

Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

July 17, 1995 AHSGR Board Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Conference Room -AHSGR Headquarters Bldg.

July 23-30, 1995 AHSGR Convention

Madisson Plaza Hotel

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Editor's Notes:

All the figures are not in for the Kraut and Brei Dinner, but it is estimated that a profit of \$1300.00 will be put in the bank!

The Garage and Bake Sale also did well. Even though this was held in the Spring instead of the Fall, our chapter collected \$580.99

Unfortunately my wife and I couldn't attend the indoor Picnic. I understand that because of our absence, Ed Schwartzkopf and his wife were able to rack up three Bingo prizes!

Don't forget to register for the Calgary Convention! If you haven't sent in your registration, please do so now!

Calgary is a wonderful town to visit. If you've never been there, you are really missing a treat, not only because of the friendly people but also the clean atmosphere you'll experience here!

This is summer vacation time for many folks, and there are many individuals and groups coming to headquarters for a tour of the facilities. Headquarters the staff must take time from their work to conduct tours. This is something everyone, who are retired or even semi retired can do. Why not come down to Headquarters and see if you can help? There is also a great need for people to come and help with filing. They could use several people at different times to assist in filing, making copies, running errands etc. You'd be surprised at the number of jobs that would open for you, if you were to come and take a look around.!

Within the next few days you will be getting the *Summer Newsletter* from AHSGR Headquarters. The following is taken from this *Newsletter*.

Congratulations to Jake Sinner!

WANTED A RIDE TO CONVENTION AT CALGARY
WILL PAY MY SHARE
HAROLD BAUER 429 "E" ST. LINCOLN, NE. 435-5117

American Historical Society of Germans from Russia **NEWSLETTER**

Number 79

Summer 1995 631 D Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1199

Jake Sinner--

The AHSGR Board of Directors and the AHSGR International Board of Trustees, during a joint board meeting held in Monterey, California, on March 25, 1995, made the following motion: That the Headquarters Building located at 631 D Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, be named the **JAKE SINNER HEADQUARTERS BUILDING**, in recognition of the efforts and time given by Jake to the Society and Foundation for a number of years. This motion passed unanimously.

October 7, 1995, a banquet for Board members and invited guests will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel, Lincoln, Nebraska, to honor Jake for his many years of faithful and dedicated service to AHSGR. On October 8, 1995, at 2:00 P.M., a plaque will be unveiled at the Heritage Center and an open house will be held forever marking this moment in time.

Jacob "Jake" Sinner was born on October 11, 1920, in Lincoln, Nebraska. His mother, Anna Margaret Krumm, from Orloff, and his father August, from Kukkus and Stahl, were married in Russia before they emigrated to the United States in 1913.

Jake attended school in Lincoln, after which he became a printer. On July 12, 1941, he married Dorothy Hill, the daughter of Lucas and Anna Elizabeth Hill, who had come to the United States in 1910 from Norka. Dorothy and Jake will celebrate their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary this year. They have been blessed with a son and a daughter and three grand children.

During World War II Jake served in the United States Army from 1941 to 1946, stationed in Texas and Germany. As a member of the Army Reserve, he was called back to active duty in 1950 and served in both Korea and Okinawa. His family joined him on Okinawa in 1954.

After Jake was released from the Army, he and his brother-in-law Conrad Gabelhaus formed the Cornhusker Heating and Air-conditioning Company, from which Jake retired in 1991. He is the past president of Homebuilders of Lincoln, the Heating Association, and has served on the Board of Directors of Wyuka Cemetery. Jake currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Cedars Home for Children and is Treasurer of the AHSGR Foundation Board of Trustees.

Jake received the AHSGR Distinguished Service Award (which honors those who have made exceptional contributions of their time and service to AHSGR) at the 1993 Denver Convention. He and his wife, Dorothy, are charter life members of AHSGR.

Jake attends and is active in the Faith United Church of Christ, where he was baptized, confirmed, and married. He also serves as their Treasurer.

Jake is a member and past president of the Lincoln Chapter of AHSGR. He was instrumental in the construction of the Headquarters Building and the Heritage Center buildings, serving as the building supervisor.

Jake spends countless hours at Headquarters where he volunteers for anything and everything. He is always there when needed.

Jake and Dorothy donated the funds for the publication of teacher Peter Sinner's *Germans in the Land of the Volga* and have specified that all profits should go to the benefit of the Foundation Endowment Fund. Congratulations, Jake!

**UNSERE LEUTE
GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)**

*June 30 LeRoy Stubbs
July 2 Jeanne Niederhaus
July 11 Ann Meier
July 17 John Lebsock
July 19 Benjamin Deines
July 22 Marty Kaufman
July 25 Mary (Hardt) Schneider*

*July 1 June Kuper
July 8 Esther Heckman
July 13 Jolene McInnis
July 18 Ruth Nuss
July 21 Albert Hehn
July 24 Virginia Dietrich
July 25 Katherine Wilcox*

DER JARSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

Congratulations To:

*Lois and Phil Sorensen
Dorothy and Jake Sinner
Jeanne and Harry Niederhaus
Virginia and James Amen
Dorothy and Henry Gruenemeyer
June and Alfred Kuper
Jan and Gerald Harris*

*July 1, 1957
July 12, 1941
July 14, 1944
July 16, 1941
July 16,
July 26, 1946
July 30,*

Don't forget to send in your names for inclusion of the birthdays and anniversary section each month
Send your requests to: Hugh Dobler, 3747 Woods Ave. Lincoln, NE. 68510

**COLLECTING RESEARCH MATERIAL FROM THE
ARCHIVES IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION
(Reprint from CSGA Newsletter, June 1994)**

The committee for Archival Affairs granted filming permission in 1991 and western filming equipment was shipped in to Russia from the Genealogical Society of Utah. They also gave training in 1992 on how best to operate the equipment.

To the surprise of the Society, the Russian volumes were not two or more inches thick, but two or more FEET thick. Annual parish returns for a particular region were often bound together no matter how many folios existed for that region. Cameras needed to be adjusted to deal with a constantly diminishing focal length as filming was accomplished on a multi-foot volume. Contracts were signed and filming initiated for the republics of Belarus, Estonia, and Armenia. In Eastern Europe projects have been established for Albania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, and Slovakia. New cameras have also been placed in Poland and Hungary.

There are over 200 archives with genealogical sources in the area of the Soviet Union alone. While it may be assumed in the West that all church records were destroyed, nothing is further from the truth. In fact, under Russian Archival law, all records became the property of the State and were accordingly gathered into archives. Of course, many were not, but a sizable number have been. Church records in the Russian Archives are not centralized in one single collection but are scattered in various records. Most archivists do not know how many church books exist in their collection. Because parish register transcripts were bound for an entire region, cataloging and access will be complicated.

Church books were also kept in the same accession groups in which they were received by the archives. So researchers must spend as much or more time finding the church book as they spend in researching it. Church records are not the best source for Russian genealogy. For Russian nobility and royalty there were special records. Nobility records were compiled by governmental offices. Other lists were kept between 1719-1858 to support a national poll tax which covered 95 % of the population. They were divided by social class with six or seven census lists for the same locality in the same year.

Even though archives are not staffed to do research for clients, they do limited searching and in these times of self-finance many are doing research. In Minsk in 1992 they required a \$50 retainer and charged \$2-3 per hour (Central Historical Archive, 26 Kozlova St., 220038, Minsk, Belarus)

Information can be requested from the Archives of Russia by writing to AROS through the :

National Archive Volunteer Assoc.
PO Box 236
Glen Echo, MD 20812

As of 1992 the fee for AROS service was a \$50 non-refundable request fee and a \$6 per hour research fee, minimum requirement of \$120 for the first 20 hours. Records in Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Romania, and Ukraine were discussed in detail. we can conclude that a brighter future is in store for Russian genealogy.

Kind words can be short and easy to speak,
but their echoes are truly endless". Mother Teresa

WAYS TO FIND A MAIDEN NAME
(Reprint from CSGA Newsletter, June 1994)

Ladies death certificates within the last 100 years.

All children's death certificates if they lived into the 20th century.

Copy of her obituary (if father or any brothers survived her).

Marriage certificate - if husband's name is known or the county is known.

Printed church records or printed marriage records found in books or journals.

Unpublished church records or marriage records that were filmed by the Latter Day Saints and those located in other counties or countries.

IGI --Microfiche index found in LDS (Mormon) libraries.

Divorce papers - if great grandparents seem to have disappeared, perhaps they were divorced.

Newspaper indexes - especially useful for counties where courthouses have burned.

County histories -biographies of husband and children.

Widows Military Pension - Revolutionary War, Civil War, War of 1812, and other wars where a pension was received.

Locate a family genealogy of the male parent's line.

Periodical Literature

STUDENT WANTED FOR \$1000 SCHOLARSHIP

An annual scholarship grant of \$1000 has been established by AHSGR through the generosity of Roy Spomer, Central California Chapter, to develop a "Germans from Russia Who's Who" to be published on prominent people of our ancestry.

Interested? Do you know of someone who is?

Contact: AHSGR 631 D St. Lincoln, NE. 68502

EXPECT THE BEST.....

What's exciting about life is that every morning offers a brand new day with unlimited possibilities. Yesterday's mistakes and regrets belong to yesterday. Today is a clean slate, a chance to start over, to do or become anything you want, a chance to go for it! So, jump into life with both feet! Go forward, head held high, expecting the best... you may be surprised at how often that's exactly what you will get!!!

**Continuing our thumb nail sketch of personnel at:
The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia**

CHRISTINE CLAYTON

Christine was born December 7, 1961 to Paul and Waltraud Oberkalkofen in Heggen, Germany, a small community in the northwestern part of Germany. A few years later, the parents moved to another town, Gronau, which is further west and near the Dutch border. At Gronau, she received her elementary and secondary education.

Her family continues to live in Germany. In addition to her parents, Christine has a sister, who is an elementary school teacher, and a brother, who is a computer expert.

After her graduation from secondary school, which in Germany is called "the Gymnasium" she went on to the University of Muenster; majoring in German and English.

In the mid 80's she received a German Academic Exchange scholarship from the German government, which enabled her to attend graduate school at Northwestern University, at Evanston, Illinois.

After attending Northwestern, she returned to the University of Muenster finishing her Staatsexamen (Master's level degree).

Christine met her future husband, Douglas Clayton, while attending Northwestern University, where he was a graduate student. Christine and Douglas were married in Germany in 1987, where they continued to live until 1988; Christine receiving her Masters and Douglas writing his dissertation..

Finishing school, Christine immigrated to the United States. She has lived here for the past seven years. The first five years, she worked for a major medical German company in the Chicago area translating German to English , and English to German.

Christine and her husband moved to Lincoln when Douglas joined the University of Nebraska Press as the Humanities Editor.

Today, Christine does free lance translating and is the editor of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia , Journal and Newsletter.

Prior to becoming editor, she worked at Headquarter's office as the Production Editor for several months.

She has been the editor since January 1994.

Her duties as editor are:

Reach the membership of Germans from Russia and their families

Publish articles of interest to people of German from Russia background.

Receive submissions from various sources; sending these to the Editorial Board, who oversee the quality of the material.

She is responsible for 4 Journals and 4 Newsletters each year

Both she and her husband enjoy the outdoors. They enjoy bicycling, hiking ,back packing and camping. Last year they went on a camping trip to "Isle Royale", a National Park located on an island in Lake Superior . Previous trips have taken them to Ontario, Quebec, Canada; and the New England area.

"There is no thrill in easy sailing when the skies are clear and blue;
there's no joy in merely doing things which any one can do.
But there is some satisfaction that is mighty sweet to take,
when you reach a destination that you thought you'd never make".

Spirella

**1995 AHSGR CONVENTION
JULY 23 - JULY 30 1995
RADISSON PLAZA HOTEL
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA**



American Historical Society
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