



# THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA LINCOLN CHAPTER

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VOLUME IV

OCTOBER 1996

ISSUE X

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## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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2nd Vice President - Samuel Sinner

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Corresponding Secretary - Delores Schwartz

Historian - Delores Schwartz

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Genealogy Chairman - Shirley Robertson

Newsletter Editor - Hugh Dobler

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### **October 8, 1996 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)**

Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus

7:00 p.m.

### **October 19, 1996 PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File-Lincoln Users Group)**

Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

7:00 p.m.

### **October 21, 1996 AHSGR Board Meeting**

AHSGR Headquarters Building

7:00 p.m.

### **November 22, 1996 Broda Dinner**

WSI Hall 1340 North 10th Street

See reservation form within this letter.

6:00 P.M.

### **Editor's Notes:**

Sometimes when we do the birthdays and anniversaries we do make some glaring errors, such as this past month. Even though our records were correct, we listed Hilde and Alex Schwabauer as having been married for 69 years. I had their wedding date as the year 1927, when it should have been 1939. Hilde called the editor and just said, "I'm very sure I was not married when I was 13!" Even though the couple has attained a very laudable time of 57 years together, we regret making this error. We apologize, Hilde and Alex.

Then if this wasn't enough, while at the Volga Relief Society's program on September 15th, Delores Schwartz said this was their 40th year! I had them married 38 years. Sorry Don and Delores. From here on out I'll have my wife check my dates, and keep me on track!

The program for September 15, with Samuel Sinner giving us some facts about the food scarcity in Russia and the reasons why, during their revolution was very enlightening. We hope Sam will be able to give us some of those facts for our Newsletter so in the near future we will be able to enlighten more members about the million or more deaths that occurred during the Lenin and Stalin regimes.

November 7, at 7 P.M. a memorial service will be held at the East Senate Room in the State Capitol. Look for the flier in this Newsletter. We think you find this a memorial evening!

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## UNSER LEUTE

### DER JAHRSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

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#### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

October 12, 1965 Frieda and Hugh Dobler	31 years
October 15, 1964 Ruth and LeRoy Stubbs	32 years
October 17, 1948 Violet and Albert Hahn	48 years

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### GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)

October 1 Violet Hahn	October 14 Gottlieb(Scotty) Kaufman
October 1 Norma Somerheiser	October 15 Lillian Loos
October 2 Barb Dittenbir	October 15 Katherine Oakley
October 4 Frieda Dobler	October 15 Edward Wunder
October 5 John Stuetz	October 15 Lillian Gabelhaus
October 5 Ruth Amen	October 19 Frances Amen
October 6 Helen Burbach	October 20 Alex Dietrich
October 6 Jewel Hardt	October 20 Donald Schwartz
October 6 Linda Lansing	October 21 William Zitterkopf
October 6 David Loos	October 22 Henry Grasmick
October 6 Paul Loos	October 23 Alex Miller
October 7 Berniece Dittenbir	October 29 Anna Baker
October 8 James Robertson	October 30 Dan Dittenbir
October 10 Gib Meier	October 30 Norma Jean Stauffer
October 11 Leah Rebensdorf	October 31 Esther Weber
October 11 Jake Sinner	

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The term of the editor of this Newsletter on the local AHSGR Board is coming to an end this coming December. I will not be renewing my term as a local Board member, and therefore I will not be in a position to do this Newsletter after the December issue. If you or any one you know would like to have the satisfaction of becoming the editor, please contact John Stuetz 421-1396 or if you have a fax, you can contact him at 421-7416.

We have enjoyed being the editor, and resign with mixed feelings. It has been great to be able to issue this Newsletter for the past 3 years, but now it is time for someone younger than myself to spend time editing this Newsletter.

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A very special program will be presented at First Plymouth Church on September 29th. This program features the Berlin Chamber Choir under the direction of Christian Grobe. The letter, on the following page is self explanatory in regard to obtaining tickets The letter came directly from the Abendmusik; Lincoln Fine Art Series



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

Contact: Sue Buss  
Abendmusik: Lincoln Fine Arts Series  
Phone: (402) 476-9933; Fax: (402) 476-8402

### Berlin Chamber Choir to Open Abendmusik's 24th Season

The Chamber Choir of the Berlin Academy of Music, under the direction of Christian Grube, will perform as the first featured group on the 1996/97 Abendmusik: Lincoln Fine Arts Series on Sunday, September 29 at 7:30 p.m. at First-Plymouth Church, 20th and D Streets, in Lincoln.

The Chamber Choir is known as a "connoisseur" ensemble in the circles of professional musicians in Berlin and has been praised for its rendition of motets, madrigals, masses, romantic choral works, as well as of oratorios and orchestrated modern compositions. Concert tours have taken the Chamber Choir to Denmark, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Poland and the United States, as well as through West Germany.

Included among the works to be performed Sunday evening are Benjamin Britten's "*Deus in Admutorium*"; J.S. Bach's "*Singet dem Herrn*"; Hugo Wolf's "*Six Geistliche Lieder*"; Max Reger's "*Strafe Mich Nicht in Deinem Zorn*"; and a Mass by Philippus de Monte.

Tickets are available from the Abendmusik: Lincoln office at First-Plymouth Church, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. or by calling 476-9933. Single ticket prices are Adults: \$15.00; Senior Citizens (60 and over): \$11.00; and Students (grade school through college): \$8.00. Special rates are available for groups of ten or more. Season tickets for all eight of Abendmusik's main series events are also available for Adults: \$79.75; Seniors: \$68.75; and Students: \$40.00. For additional information, please call the Abendmusik office.



**The Lincoln Chapter of  
THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA  
WILL BE SERVING THE TRADITIONAL  
"BRODA DINNER"  
NOVEMBER 22, 1996**

**6:00 P.M.**

**AT THE WSI HALL 1430 N. 10th  
TICKETS ARE \$7.50 AND \$3.50 FOR CHILDREN  
UNDER 12**

**DUE TO LIMITED SEATING MAY WE SUGGEST RESERVATIONS BE MADE.  
FILL OUT RESERVATION FORM AND SEND CHECK WITH SELF  
ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE .**

In addition to the dinner we will have Richard Rye from Headquarters for our speaker. AHSGR has received many pages of documents from the 100 villages along the Volga River, and now we are in the process of getting many more pages from the Black Sea area. His talk centers around these documents.

Last month with the letter were raffle tickets for a beautiful hand quilted, hand pieced Queen size quilt. You do not need to be present to win, but this quilt is worth the chance to win it. Return your ticket stubs with your reservation. Also there are other prizes to be given that night.

**PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH A  
SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE TO:  
LINCOLN AHSGR CHAPTER  
% LOIS SORENSEN  
1605 S. 58th St. LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68506**

Please send us \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the ANNUAL BRODA DINNER  
on October 22, 1996 at the WSI HALL 1430 N. 10th  
at \$7.50 each (children \$3.50) each



**ANNOUCING THE FIRST ANNUAL  
STATE CAPITOL  
MEMORIAL SERVICE  
TO  
GERMAN RUSSIAN VICTIMS OF SOVIET MASS MURDER AND GENOCIDE  
NOVEMBER 7, 1996 7 P.M.  
IN THE EAST CHAMBER OF THE  
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL BUILDING**

Be sure to attend the first memorial service in America to publicly remember and honor our over million relatives who were murdered in Russia. Please plan on joining us for this historic event. Catholic and Protestant clergy will be attending to memorialize our people who fell victim to government oppression in Russia.

In memory of the relatives and fellow German Russians murdered from 1916 to 1956 during:

**World War I Deportations**

**The Bolshevik Revolution**

**Lenin's Red Terror**

**Deliberate mass starvation of 1920-1924**

**The Collectivization Drive of Stalin**

**Deliberate mass starvation of 1933**

**The Stalinist Purges**

**World War II Deportations**

**The Worker's Army, Gulag Soviet Concentration Camp System**

These victims must not be forgotten. The pain caused by the murder of our relatives is still with us today. Vast numbers of our ethical group in North America lost their parents, grandparents, siblings, children and other relatives and friends to Soviet Genocide. It is time to memorialize them with honor, publicly.

**PARTIAL LIST OF CZARIST AND SOVIET GERMANS MURDERED FROM 1915-1946**

<b>1915 Deportation of Volyhnian Germans under Czar Nicholas</b>	<b>50,000</b>
<b>1929-1924 Enforced Starvation of Soviet Germans</b>	<b>300,000</b>
<b>1932-1933 Enforced Starvation of Soviet Germans</b>	<b>350,000</b>
<b>1940-1946 Deportation of Soviet Germans</b>	<b><u>300,000</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000.000</b>

(This event is sponsored by the *International German Russian Victims of Genocide Memorial Committee* and the *Lincoln Nebraska Chapter of AHSGR*)



## John (Jeff) George

The home of Katherine Elizabeth (Muenster) and John George George in Lincoln, Nebraska, became an exceedingly happy place on September 18, 1918 when John (Jeff) George became the first son, and second child to come into their home. (John George George later changed his name to George George to avoid confusion with another person living in Lincoln with that same name).

Both of John George's parents were born at Beideck, Russia. His father, John George George was born November 3, 1895, and his mother Katherine Elizabeth Muenster on September 2, 1890. Both came to the United States in 1913. John George's parents were married on April 8, 1915 at the First German Church which at that time was located on First and "J" St.

They were sponsored by George George's uncle Lucas Phillip George. Lucas George's wife Katharine was an aunt to George George's wife Katharine. (An interesting story Jeff related about his great aunt and uncle, was they worked for a wealthy family in Saratov. Lucas Phillip George was the coach driver and one of the requirements for this job was that he had to grow a heavy beard. It made him look like a wild Cossack, but behind that beard lurked a rather handsome fellow. She was the chief cook and before a meal could be served she had to taste all the food in the presence of the diners to make sure no one was poisoned.)

John attended elementary grades at Longfellow School, on First Street between "J" and "K" St. This school no longer exists. He then attended Everett Junior High and graduated from Lincoln High School. John also attended the University, but they were night classes in oil painting.

John graduated from high school in January 1936 and in 1937 was hired by Mr. B. C. Burden, to make illustrations for the Telephone Engineer's Handbook being published by the Automatic Electric Company, in Chicago, a manufacturer of telephone equipment, for independent phone companies. During Mr. Burden's search for an illustrator someone told him he knew some one who could draw horses quite well. John said, The most difficult part of drawing a horse was the bottom part of the legs, the uniquely articulated joints, hooves and the fetlocks. The reason Frederick Remington and Charles Russell were such realistic painters of the Western scene was, "They knew horses".

Mr. Burden was also the author of a correspondence course in Radio and Electrical Engineering. Again John provided the illustrations.

Mr. Burden founded Burden Sales Company/ Surplus Center after World War II. The firm did a lot of local and national advertising which job became the province of John George. The job entailed writing, drawings, photographs and even printing the company



catalogs, brochures, etc., until the job got too big and had to be sent out to local printing companies. The job also included the responsibility of making up and placing local newspaper ads and national publications such as *Popular Science*, and *Popular Mechanics*, and even some publications in Mexico. John said, "We had to have translations made to the Spanish language".

John's father purchased his first violin and he played in both Everett Jr. High and Lincoln High School Orchestras. In the 1960's John became interested in the Classical Guitar; his wife presenting him with his first guitar. John was a founding member of the Lincoln Guitar Society which remained intact for over six years. The Society disbanded because a number of key members either left or were transferred out of Lincoln. John edited and wrote articles for "*The Rosette*", the Society's bi-monthly magazine.

This publication was responsible for giving the Society the ability to attract nationally known Classical Guitarists to Lincoln such as Christopher Parkening, flamenco guitarist Carlos Montoya, Jeffrey Van, Gene Bartoncini, The Romeros and others.

The Lincoln Guitar Society had booked the concert auditorium at Wesleyan University on a number of occasions for concerts and became friends with the Chancellor. The Chancellor was a close friend of Sol Hurok, the famous agent and promoter for concerts and appearances of famous musical and other personalities. Mr. Hurok was agent for and a close friend of Andre Segovia, the world renowned Spanish Classical Guitarist. Through the efforts of the Chancellor they were able to book Mr. Segovia for a concert at the Wesleyan Auditorium as there was a space of a few days between a concert at Denver and Chicago. Since those days were between these cities Mr. Segovia agreed to a concert. This would have been a big feather in the Society's hat, but in the interim Segovia was injured while in London, England in a taxi cab accident forcing him to cancel his USA engagements, much to the Society's regret.

John and Dorothy visited Dorothy's sister, at Albuquerque, New Mexico, several times a year and during this time John became acquainted with Hector Garcia, Professor of Guitar at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. Hector, a native of Havana, Cuba, fled to the United States to escape Castro's regime. He took part in the "Bay Of Pigs" invasion; was captured and sent to Castro's prison. The inmates were not allowed to have musical instruments, but with Garcia's help they fashioned instruments; guitars, ukuleles, fiddles etc. with cigar boxes and bottles filled with various amounts of water to produce different notes. Eventually the "Bay Of Pigs" prisoners were released and sent back to the United States through the efforts of President Kennedy.

The Ed Sullivan Show learned of this odd musical group and invited them to appear on TV with instruments like those used while they were in prison. To duplicate the bottle instrument Garcia told Sullivan they needed a lot of bottles as they would break off the necks to make the right tones. Ed sent them several cases of bottles - still few of beer. They of course drank the beer. After making a couple of requests for more bottles Ed was



curious as to why it took so many bottles. Hector slyly told him it was difficult to break the necks just right so a lot of mistakes were being made. Hector later told John, "What Ed was not aware of was that we weren't having trouble with the bottles, we were just drinking a lot of free beer".

John is the second of four children, all still living. All spouses are still living with the exception of Marie Knecht's husband Elton.

John was with the Signal Corps in the Army. He was inducted in March 1942, and was discharged in October 1945. He served in the 8th Signal Company, of the 8th Infantry Division. Before the invasion of Europe he was stationed in Omagh, North Ireland. From the beaches of France the outfit made their way across Europe and after a link up with the Russians at the Elbe River, he was in Schwerin, Germany, after the German Armies surrendered. Stateside service included camps and maneuvers in Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, the desert north of Yuma, Arizona. News of the Japanese surrender came while John and Dorothy were at movie in Lincoln while John was on a 30 day R and R. John retired in 1983. Today he volunteers at AHSGR, making up maps of the German villages along the Volga River in Russia. Maps are made on 24" by 36" sheets of transparent flex mylar to enable copies be made through the big copy machines. This method also makes it easy to correct the master by overlaying it with another mylar sheet and trace the original and put in corrections. Jo Ann Kuhr, AHSGR Research Coordinator, gathers the necessary information to enable the maps to be made.

John has served on the local AHSGR Board, but due to hearing problems has declined to run for another term.

John, since retirement, fills his days doing some photographic work and oil painting. Seeing some of his work, he is much more than an amateur in all he does.

John George and Dorothy Carter were married on August 20, 1949, at the First German Church located on First and "F". They have no children. Three dogs; a Border Collie and two Chihuahuas.



*"I'm really adjusting to retirement very well...how about you, Alice?"*





NOVEMBER 22, 1996

**BRODA DINNER**  
**1430 N. 10th**  
**WSI HALL**

**SPEAKER : RICK RYE**

**DON'T FORGET TO CONTRIBUTE**  
**BY SENDING IN YOUR**  
**RAFFLE TICKETS FOR**  
**THE BEAUTIFUL HAND SEWN QUILT**