



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMAN FROM RUSSIA LINCOLN CHAPTER

VOLUME IV

SEPTEMBER 1996

ISSUE IX

CHAPTER OFFICERS

President - John Stuert

1st Vice President - Dale Dinges

2nd Vice President - Samuel Sinner

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Treasurer - Lois Sorensen

Corresponding Secretary - Delores Schwartz

Historian - Delores Schwartz

Program Chairman - Dale Dinges

Membership Chairman - Samuel Sinner

Genealogy Chairman - Shirley Robertson

Newsletter Editor - Hugh Dobler

September 10, 1996 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)

Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus

7:00 p.m.

September 15, 1996 AHSGR MEMBERSHIP MEETING

St. John's Reformed Church, 26th and "D" St.

1:00 P.M. Pot Luck Dinner (Bring your own utensils Drinks will be furnished).

Samuel Sinner speaking on the "Volga Relief Society"

September 16, 1996 AHSGR Board Meeting

AHSGR Headquarters Building

7:00 p.m.

September 21, 1996 PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File-Lincoln Users Group)

Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

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.

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GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)

September 2 Jack J. Leikam

September 19 John George

September 3 Betty J. Pauley

September 20 John Schneider

September 4 Lucille Hedges

September 21 Esther Rohn

September 6 Jerry McInnis

September 23 Richard Miller

September 10 Margaret Trippel

September 24 Pauline Seward

September 14 Dee Dee Zimmerman

September 25 Robert Bauer

September 29 Shirley Robertson

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UNSER LEUTE

DER JAHRSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

September 3, 1952	Annie and Robert Settell	44 years
September 9, 1977	Virginia and Alex (Bud) Dietrich	19 years
September 22, 1958	Delores and Donald Schwartz	38 years
September 30, 1927	Hilde and Alex Schwabauer	69 years

Editor's Notes:

In the section listed for programs to come, we listed the Membership Meeting to be held on September 15. This is a pot luck dinner, served at 1:00 P.M. It should be a great meeting as Samuel Sinner will present a video which he recently received from London, England on the "Volga Relief Society". This society was a very prominent in USA history right after World War I. This was when so many Germans from Russia were being starved, due to the Russian Communists overthrow of the government, causing much hardship. This should be a very touching film and talk about those years.

Be sure and send in your reservations for the Annual Broda Dinner. This year the Broda Dinner will be held later than usual due to conflicts with the WSI Hall. It won't affect the quality of our dinner though, I assure you!!

A letter from Kathy Schultz, AHSGR executive Director:

FROM SOCIETY PRESIDENT DONNETTE SONNENFELD, FOUNDATION PRESIDENT J. PAUL HILE, AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KATHY SCHULTZ.

The 1996 Minneapolis Convention is over and Headquarters is still in the process of answering correspondence received while we were gone. Thanks to John Schneider who checked the Headquarters Building each day, and to the Lincoln Quilters who answered the phone while they were quilting.

Along with the hot weather the rumor mill is in high swing. Society President Sonnenfeld, Foundation President Hile and I want to clear up some of the misconceptions and misinformation which seems to be in full circulation throughout the Lincoln Chapter.

1. The Society Board of Directors and the Foundation Board of Trustees Finance Committees have approved a lawn mowing/trimming/bagging expense of \$75.00 per mow. The Society, Foundation, and the Amen House funds each pay of \$25.00 per mow. Bids were taken and the lawn company used by Jake Sinner gave AHSGR the best deal.

2. Headquarters is closed from noon to 1:00 PM, Monday through Friday and has been for about a year. This gives the staff the opportunity to have their lunch break uninterrupted, return any phone calls, catch up on correspondence, etc., before tours and researchers return. Did you know the State of Nebraska Labor Department requires employers to give their employers an uninterrupted lunch break? If the employer does not adhere to this law, the employer has to pay the employee time and a half as this would be deemed overtime.

3. A concern was raised at the Joint Board Meeting of the Society and Foundation at the Minneapolis Convention, that all the Headquarter's staff ever wear is jeans and sweatshirts. Yes, some of the staff do wear jeans when the work situation calls for it, but they are always clean and neat. Packing boxes, processing mailings, moving shelving, archival research, etc., is not a situation where one could, or should be expected to wear their best clothes. When the Headquarters' Staff are aware of a special tour, or will not be required to carry out tasks calling for jeans, they wear clothes appropriate for a business office. President Sonnenfeld and President Hile have given permission for the Headquarter's Staff to continue to wear jeans when needed.

4. The All Faiths Chapel is not rented out. The church is owned and operated by the Foundation which exempts it from all taxes, including property taxes. Several years ago a problem existed where a small church in Lincoln could not find a place to hold a prayer meeting. They contacted Headquarters and used the church for a "donation". These church members used several hundred candles which resulted in small burns and wax damage on artifacts. After this incident the Foundation Board decided not to rent the chapel.

- a. Accepting rent risks the chapel back on the income tax and Lancaster County tax rolls.
- b. No restroom facilities in the chapel. If rented this would be a violation of American Disability Act.
- c. Staff would be required to open and close the chapel resulting in overtime costs.
- d. Accepting "donation" instead of rent is not a legal way around the rent issue.
- e. If the church is available for rent, it would be available to anyone not just members. Refusal to rent to a certain group or individual (if circumstances warranted) could result in a discrimination charge and subsequent lawsuit.

Did you know?

- In return for these services, Headquarters enjoys the many benefits the Lincoln Chapter volunteers provides. Some volunteers give tours, microfilm, file genealogy cards, enter data on the computer, maintenance work, assemble mailings, etc. Not a Society or Foundation Board meeting goes by where the Lincoln Chapter volunteers are not thanked for their many hours of volunteering. If you were present at the Minneapolis Convention, you would have heard the Lincoln Chapter thanked many times for their assistance at Headquarters by President Sonnenfeld, President Axt, Jake Sinner, J. Paul Hile, Clarence Kissler and myself. **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!**

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 "ONE OF LIFES' GREATEST RULES--
 YOU CAN'T HOLD A TORCH TO LIGHT ANOTHER'S PATH
 WITHOUT BRIGHTENING YOUR OWN"

W.W.II HAD AN INFLUENCE ON COUPLE'S EVERY MOVE

When Victor Weber went to the US Army to serve in World War II, he left behind his sweetheart, Lillian Schwindt. While he was gone, she wrote to him every day and he sent her V-mail when he could, from stops across Africa and Europe as he traveled with the 1981st Tank Battalion.

Like many who were separated at that time, Victor and Lillian didn't know what the future held for them. But Lillian knew that "Victor was the one" and that if he returned safely from the war, they would be together.

Victor came home late in 1945 and re-established the garbage route that his father had run while he was away. He had sent home his \$21 Army paycheck each month and had saved enough to get his business going again.

When he asked Lillian to get married, she was ready, "I had a full hope chest" she said of the cedar chest that stored towels, lace and other things a bride would need in her first home.

She also remembered something Victor had sent her from Europe. While holed up with his battalion in a small German airport overnight, Victor found two parachutes. "Silk was at a premium", he said. So he mailed them to Lillian.

After they decided to get married, a local seamstress designed Lillian's wedding dress around the silk panels they had painstakingly ripped apart. The seams were restitched with cotton lace. The dress has tiny, covered buttons and a long train that Lillian held up at the reception.

The wedding, like everything else in the United States at the time, was influenced by post-war mandates. Sugar was rationed, so relatives put in their war coupons to buy enough for the wedding cake. Beef also required coupons, so instead of the traditional roast beef wedding supper, they settled for sandwiches. Lillian's wedding shoes made from precious leather, were purchased with a war coupon for \$4.95, she remembered.

The reception and dance lasted until the early morning. But there was no honeymoon, Victor recalled, "I went to work Monday morning".

Their first house rented for \$15 and had three rooms. Before long, they purchased their own home-a one-bedroom house they added on to and fixed up over the years. They still own that piece of property and rent it out, Victor said.

Family has played a big part in the Weber's lives over the last 50 years. Their three children and their families, Victor's and Lillian's brothers and sisters and most of their original wedding party were able to attend their recent golden anniversary celebration.

Sitting on the Weber's cake was a 50th topper that had been on Lillian's parents anniversary cake. "We come from a family of couples that stay together a long time", she said, listing other family members celebrating anniversaries.

They don't think there are any secret formulas for marriage longevity. Victor believes it has to do with respect for each other. Lillian agreed: "It takes a lot of hard work -and you do it together".

"WHOEVER WANTS TO REACH A DISTANT GOAL MUST TAKE MANY SMALL STEPS"

HELMUT SCHMIDT

**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. 10 TH
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.

Enclosed with this letter are 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**



SEPTEMBER 15, 1996

POT LUCK DINNER

1:00 P.M.

ST. JOHN'S REFORMED CHURCH

22ND AND "D" ST.

SPEAKER : SAMUEL SINNER

A VIDEO AND TALK ABOUT THE

"VOLGA RELIEF SOCIETY"

American Historical Society
of Germans From Russia
631 D Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502-1199

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