



THE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Lincoln Chapter

Volume IV

March 1996

Issue III

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Newsletter Editor - Hugh Dobler

Scheduled Coming Events

March 12, 1996 LLCGS (Lincoln Lancaster County Genealogical Society)

7:00 P.M.

Dick Administration Building (Lower Level) Union College Campus

March 15, 1996 PAF-LUG (Personal Ancestral File-Lincoln Users Group)

7:00 P.M.

Family Service Center 3100 Old Cheney Road

March 18, 1996 AHSGR Board Meeting

7:00 P.M.

AHSGR Headquarters Building

March 29, 1996 Vegetable Beef and Chicken Noodle Soup Dinner

4:30 to 7:00 P.M.

WSI Hall 1430 N. 19th St.

UNSER LEUTE

GEBURTSTAG (HAPPY BIRTHDAY)

March 3 Pauline Heidenreich
March 11 Dale Dinges
March 12 Marie Scheidt
March 15 Leata Schwindt
March 21 Kenneth Hardt
March 29 Alex Miller
March 31 Louise Schleich

March 10 Alex Strasheim
March 12 Virginia Amen
March 13 Minnie Groth
March 17 Dorothy Pearce
March 21 Mary K. Grasmick
March 30 Shirley Michel
March 31 Carol Sommers

DER JAHRSTAG (HAPPY ANNIVERSARY)

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

March 12, 1943 Helen and Hermann Reifschneider
March 19, 1948 Betty and Wayne Pauley
March 19, 1988 Ardith and John Stuert
March 25, 1944 Ferne and Weston P. Pickett, Jr.
March 31, 1940 Mary and Edward Wunder

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

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*"The great thing in this world is not so much where
we stand as in what direction we are moving"*

Oliver Wendell Holmes

Editor's Note:

In searching for material for the Newsletter, we read an article in one of the periodicals about the Germans from Russia in one of the former provinces of the USSR which we thought interesting.

This past week, a former member of AHSGR lost her husband to a massive heart attack on Sunday morning. Although he was not a member, mainly due to his activities in the sports field, we felt a close kinship with his wife and her sisters, who were members. Russ White's eulogy is published elsewhere in this letter.

Included in this letter, is a cut out for activities the local chapter will have for the balance of the year, which you might like to save.

President's Message: John R. Stuertz

Do not let the memory of your disappointments frighten you,

Those disappointments happened yesterday.

Those mistakes, blunders, foolishness, - the things that shame you and fill you with remorse - they were all a part of a day that is gone.

Today is a new day.

God has given you a new twenty four hours.

The best way to atone for those fears which now disturb you

is to fill today with a new and better effort,

put your trust in God anew, and set your feet again on a stronger path.

If God is ready to forgive you, surely you have a right to reproach yourself.

Accept his judgment of your worth and begin at once to deserve the help he offers **May God Bless**

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Norman Dudek, publisher of the Kolb Newsletter had the following news report on E-Mail and with his permission, are publishing the following article which appeared in the Moscow Tribune, Tuesday, August 23, 1995

Kazakhstan's Germans Moving "Home"

Almaty (DPA) - Like adopted children whose often cruel stepmother has breathed her last but left them in limbo, ethnic Germans in the ex-Soviet republics of Kazakhstan are now seeking out the mother land they've never known. "There has been a mass exodus," said Alexander Dederer, Chairman of the *Union of Kazakhstan's Germans*. Speaking with German precision but in Russian, his preferred tongue, he noted that 121,517 Germans left in 1994, "and the flight is continuing".

In 1989, two years before the USSR demise, some 960,000 Germans lived in the vast Central Asian republic of 17 million inhabitants, making up the biggest ethnic group after the Moslem Kazakhs, the Russians and the Ukrainians. Now just 526,000 are left, - thousands with suitcases all but packed.

Many German colonists were exiled to the Kazakh steppes from their home in Russia after Stalin accused them-along with Crimean Tartars and Caucasian peoples - of collaborating with the invading Nazis during World War II. The first large wave had immigrated from towns along the Volga River and the southern Ukraine in the 1880's.

The dire state of the country's remaining newspaper, the weekly "*Deutsch Allegemeine Zeitung*" in the capital Almaty, tells the sad story. Its editor-in-chief, Konstantin Ehrlich, said circulation had fallen to less than 3,000 from 16,000 in 1988, and that 42 employees had emigrated. He has but one German editorial staffer.

"We're losing the few things we have been able to preserve", said Ehrlich, who also heads the German autonomy movement *Wiedergeburt (Rebirth)* in the Almaty region. "The number of German schools is dwindling. Teachers are leaving. There aren't any books because there's no money. He said the difficult economic situation was driving most people away, while others had become discouraged at Moscow's failure to live up to earlier promises to restore the Republic of Volga Germans, dissolved in 1941.

The Kazakh government has received wide praise for the even-handed policies that have kept peace among the country's colorful mix of Central Asians, Slavs and Germans. A recent survey by the independent *Research Centre of the Russian Minorities in the Near Aboard* showed Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev with the top approval rating of all leaders in the ex-Soviet republics. But in a land where Kazakh, long dominated by Russia, is now the official language and the new draft constitution calls Kazakhstan a unitary state, Europeans complain of growing discrimination at the local level. As Ehrlich puts it, "It isn't necessarily the brightest who get the best positions".

"I can't say we've had any problems with the Kazakhs, but I'm afraid of the future - not for myself, but for my children," says Irma Borobikova, an ethnic German who has applied to emigrate to Germany with her family. Borobikova, who is married to a Russian, said half of the inhabitants of her home village near the northeastern city of Semipalatinsk had been German. Nearly all of them are gone now.

The German government, straining to absorb the flow, has sought to entice the emigrants to remain or resettle in German regions of western Siberia while assuring that Germany's "door remains open". This year it gave 8 million marks in aid to Kazakhstan's Germans for medicine and farm equipment as well as the German theatre and Deutsches Haus, bought and renovated by Bonn in 1994 at a cost of 1 million marks and offering help ranging from language lessons to small-business loans.

Ehrlich, surrounded by yellowing stacks of his dying newspaper and bemoaning the departure of nine of the 12 ethnic German writers living in the country just four years ago, was less sanguine. "When the old ladies who can't get by on their pensions come to me for help, the only advice I can offer is to leave", he said. "The most talented people have already gone".

PUT THIS ON YOUR REFRIGERATOR FOR FUTURE USE!

MARCH 29, SOUP SUPPER

4:30 TO 7:00 P.M. WSI HALL

APRIL 21, GENERAL MEETING

2 P.M. 632 "C" ST. AHSGR CHAPEL

"GENOCIDE OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA" by SAMUEL SINER

MAY 10, ANNUAL KRAUT AND BREI DINNER

4:30 TO 7:00 P.M. WSI HALL

MAY 17--18 GARAGE/BAKE SALE

ALL DAY 601 "D" ST.

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, CALL MARY WUNDER OR ANY OTHER BOARD MEMBER FOR A FREE PICK UP.

JUNE 2 CHAPTER INDOOR PICNIC

1 P.M. EBENZER CHURCH

POT LUCK DINNER AND BINGO

JUNE 10-16 AHSGR CONVENTION MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

SEPTEMBER 15, MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1 P.M. ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH 26TH AND "D"

POT LUCK DINNER

NOVEMBER 22 ANNUAL BRODA DINNER

6:00 P.M. WSI HALL

"NEW GENEALOGY FROM RUSSIA" by RICK RYE, HEADQUARTERS

TRANSLATOR

DECEMBER 4, CHAPTER CHRISTMAS SINGFEST

2 P.M.

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

901 CHARLESTON.

When a bus load of people entered a large restaurant, the leader of the group approached the manager. "Sir, I'm Mr. Phillips of the Kingview Mental hospital. These nice folks are mental patients in our half way house program. They're all cured, but they do have one small problem; they will want to pay you in bottle caps. So if you'll so kind as to humor them in this way, I'll take care of the bill when they are through" The manager wanting to be a good citizen, collected the bottle caps. the leader returned and with gratitude said, "Thank you so very much, I'll pay the bill now. Do you have change for a hubcap?"

Two men were watching the six o'clock news story about a man on the ledge of a 20 story building. They made a five dollar bet about whether or not the man would jump off the ledge. When the news station returned from commercials, it showed the man again and HE DID jump off to his death. A bet is a bet and the money was passed. The winner of the bet finished his drink and left the bar. On the way to the parking lot, he had guilty feelings and returned to find his friend. He explained he couldn't take the money because he had already seen the jumper story on the five o'clock news. The loser of the bet replied, "So did I, but I didn't think he'd be stupid enough to do it again !"

**THE LINCOLN CHAPTER OF THE
AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF GERMANS FROM RUSSIA
ANNUAL SOUP SUPPER**

**\$3.50 PER PERSON
(CHILDREN UNDER 12 \$2.25)**

**MARCH 29, 1996
4:30 TO 7:00 P.M.**

**WSI HALL
1430 N. 10TH
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA**

VEGETABLE BEEF SOUP

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

RYE BREAD

DESSERT

DRINK

**RESERVATION FORM
PLEASE FILL OUT AND RETURN WITH A STAMPED,
SELF ADDRESSED ENVELOPE TO :
LOIS SORENSEN
1505 S. 58TH
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68506**

**PLEASE RESERVE _____ SOUP SUPPER TICKETS
AT \$3.50 EACH
(CHILDREN \$2.25 EACH)
FOR THE SOUP SUPPER AT:
WSI HALL 1430 N. 10TH ST.
ON MARCH 29, 1996**

TRACK LOSES KEY ELEMENT: RUSS WHITE By Ken Hambleton

Reprinted from the *Lincoln Journal Star* Dated Tuesday February 13, 1996

Track meets include a couple dozen required items.

A track. A shot put ring. A high jump pit. Timers. Competitors. Russ White.

White raked mud from the shot put rings. Lined fields, printed results, clocked races, officiated in disputes, judged corners, presented awards processed entries, and did every other task imaginable in a track meet. He finally reached the pinnacle of the sport when he was invited to the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta as a head official for the shot put competition.

It was a special invitation because eye surgery forced White to turn down a chance to officiate at the 1994 Olympics in Los Angeles. Eye surgery kept him from reaching his dream then.

On Sunday (February 10, 1996), White died. He is survived by his wife Ruth and sons Bob and Richard, and other family members and thousands of track competitors in and around Lincoln, Nebraska and the country.

"He dreamed of officiating in the Olympics and was so happy when he was selected this time around.", said Mark Kostek, who coaches at Nebraska University and worked with White for 16 years. "It was a great source of pride for him. But you know he would have kept doing all the other meets as a matter of fact. That was Russ White".

White, who recently retired after 45 years with Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph, was involved in the National Junior Olympics, the State Junior Olympics, Nebraska Meets and Lincoln Public Schools meets.

He helped coach weight programs that produced 16 national championships for the South Lincoln Track Club and was involved in running the track events at every Summer Cornhusker State Games meet. He was past president of the Nebraska track officials, helped certify officials for USA Track, and was considered an expert on rules.

On Friday night, at the Frank Sevigne Invitational at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, meet director Kostek sent White home. Kostek said, "White hadn't been feeling good". Kostek wouldn't confirm that he has sent two of his larger weight men to make sure he would get into bed.

"He was there weighing shot puts", said Father Pat O'Bryne, who ran hundreds of track with White. "There was nothing more boring than weighing shot puts". But he did it as a matter of course. If you asked him to make sure we had blanks for the starter pistols, had numbers for the kids and take a watch at the finish line, he was there. He was first at any meet and always last to leave".

Jerry McGinn, who coached the SLTC to the National Championships, said White became a student of the weights and learned from the best. He passed that knowledge along to help others. He helped coach former national contenders, Marty Kobza, Rick Meyer, Dan Gushard and Dave Clare.

White's son Rick competed in the javelin. White's son, Bob, the track and field coach at Lincoln High, relied on his father to help teach and run weight events. Ruth White also taught, traveled with her husband and became a track official of note, too.

"The family loved track and nobody loved it more than Russ", Kostek said. "I know it was because he loved the competition and I'm positive it was because of the kids competing".

News of White's death reached the State Games officials Sunday on the final day of the inaugural Cornhusker Winter State Games. Tom Ash, Executive Director of the Cornhusker State Games, said he was shocked and saddened.

"It's really a blow to us all who knew and loved Russ", he said. "He really embodied the spirit of the State Games".

Funeral service are planned for 10 a.m. Wednesday (February 14) at Sheridan Lutheran Church.



DON'T FORGET TO SEND FOR YOUR TICKETS TO THE

AHSGR SOUP SUPPER

WSI HALL 1430 NORTH 10TH

MARCH 29, 1996

4:30 TO 7:00 P.M.

TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FROM ANY BOARD MEMBER

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

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