



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

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A Tribute to the German Singers

Submitted by Eddie and Lillian Loos

It is now apparent that our German traditions are fading away. No longer is German spoken, read, or preached in our churches. They have completely bypassed our younger generation. It is almost tragic that we did not teach the German language to our children and, for that, I am ashamed.

But, back in 1984, one of our own German people, Katherine Pabst, had the desire to continue one of our German traditions – singing the German songs our ancestors sang. Katherine sent out letters of invitation to the various German churches to see

if there was enough interest in organizing a German choir. Many responded to the invitation and joined the group. They met once a month at Ebenezer Church. Soon they were asked to perform at birthdays, anniversaries, funerals, nursing homes, churches, schools, and other events.

Katherine, the founder, is also the director and pianist of the group. She knew all the old German songs – some of which never had the notes, only the words. But, because of her God-given talent and her memory, they were able to learn them and sing them. The

singers not only blessed those to whom they sang to, but also received a blessing.

Due to the health problems of Katherine, the Singers may have given their last performance at the Christmas Sing at Friedens Lutheran Church. This is one of the last of the German traditions to leave the scene and will be painful because it will affect a lot of people. We want to thank God for Katherine and the German Singers for their ministry and salute them for a job well done! May God bless each one of them.

To Katherine and the German Singers

by Eddie Loos

Gather around everybody,
There's a story to tell.
Of our choir director,
Who has done her job well.

To write a good poem,
With reason and style,
you must choose the right words,
To make it worthwhile.

Who is this director?
The people might ask,
And again we must say,
It's our own Katherine Pabst.

Her God-given talent,
Is great to behold.
And brings much joy,
To the young and the old.

By example she teaches us,
Patience and love.
And this can only come,
From the good Lord above.

She keeps this great group,
On key and intact.
That's why the people keep asking,
When can you come back?

When I hear them singing,
The hymn "Grosser Gott"
I keep time with the music,
By tapping my foot.

This group has been singing,
For fourteen long years,
They bring us much joy,
And at times they bring tears.

When I hear the choir singing,
Those old German songs,
My mind often goes back,
To when I was young.

To God go the praises,
They sing as they can,
As we hold fast to our heritage,
As long as we can.

This poem must end,
As you see I'm no writer.
But what Katherine has accomplished,
Makes the world a lot brighter.

So Katherine we do love you,
And this is our desire.
To thank God for having you organize
The "GERMAN SINGERS" choir.

Broda Dinner Thanks

A big thank you to the following people who helped with the Broda dinner or donated items for our raffle:

Phil and Irene Dinges
Dale and Heidi Dinges
John, Ardith and John Jr. Stuertz
Vic and Lillian Weber
Hermann and Helen Reifschneider
Lucille Hedges and her son, Daniel
Ed and Gladys Herstein
Phil and Lois Sorenson
Harold Bauer
Don Burbach
Sidonia and Ken Babcock
Lefty and Molly Grenemeier
Bud and Virginia Dietrich
Helen Schwartz
Mark Froesheiser
Ruth White
Delores Schwartz
Norma Somerheiser
John Schneider

Sonny Sader
John Schleicher
Ann Reitz
Phil Schenkel

My wife, Norma (How she puts up with me, I'll never know) Schenkel

My Bro, Phil (Call me Jim) Schenkel
Phil and Bernice Weber who came in from Dorchester to help.

I have said it before, and I'll say it again: We have the greatest bunch of volunteers in the world! If I have missed anyone, I apologize. Please call me, 489-3213, and I will atone in the next newsletter.

Kathy Svoboda won the quilt in our raffle. There were approximately another 25 items given as raffle prizes. In addition, the Lincoln chapter bought 16 turkeys for the raffle, also.

I received several calls in response to my letter in the last newsletter. Thank

you for your input. I assure you, I will discuss your input at our board meeting.

The letter also led to Phil and Bernice Weber calling me from Dorchester to volunteer to help with the Broda. I think they wondered what they had gotten themselves into at first (our Broda crew can get a big goofy) but they were having fun, too, by the time we were done.

Thanksgiving is over; Christmas is rushing in; January, and elections to the board, are just around the corner. Please, if you know someone who would be a good board member, or you would like to volunteer your name, call me, 489-3213.

To close, may you and yours have the most blessed Christmas and a healthy, happy, prosperous New Year.

—Larry Schenkel

Open House and Statue Dedication

Thanks to John Schneider for submitting his snapshots



GENEALOGY RESEARCH SERVICES AND CHARGES
RESEARCH REQUEST FORM
www.ahsgr.org/research.htm

The established goals of AHSGR are to discover, collect, and disseminate historical information relating to the culture of the Germans from Russia. Inasmuch as the information in our genealogy files and archives is not available to researchers too far away to be able to visit headquarters and research on their own, the Research Team will research the files for them.

Research fees are charged to cover the expenses incurred by Headquarters in performing research for members and non-members. The Board of Directors set the following fees for members and non-members in June 1998:

Research Time: \$25.00 per hour for members / \$62.50 per hour for non-members.

Photocopies: \$0.50 per copier cycle for members / \$1.25 per copier cycle for non-members.

Genealogy Database Printouts / Copies from Microfilm and Microfiche: \$1.00 per page for members / \$2.50 per page for non-members.

Pleve / RAGAS Charts (see separate listing): \$15.00 each for members / \$37.50 each for non-members.

GEDCOM Files (see separate GEDCOM Request Form, <www.ahsgr.org/gedrqst.htm>): \$2.00 plus \$0.10 per individual for members / \$5.00 plus \$0.25 per individual for non-members.

Please bear in mind that the staff may be able to check a number of records in one hour. If you think your request may be time consuming and you wish to limit the research to a specific dollar figure, please indicate the amount you are willing to spend for the research. Number in order of preference the records you want checked in the limited amount of time. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY IN ADVANCE!** You will be billed for the charges. Any charges of \$25.00 or more will require advance payment before materials will be sent to the requestor. **PLEASE LIMIT YOUR RESEARCH REQUEST TO ONE SURNAME AT A TIME.** It is helpful if you send family group charts on all the ancestors' families for which you request information (you may send them with your research request). Non-Members may purchase genealogy forms from Headquarters for \$0.25 each or print these forms from our web site, <www.ahsgr.org/ahsgrfrm.html>. This form also appears at <www.ahsgr.org/research.htm>. Please be aware that the Research Team includes two people only and that during times of peak activity delays may occur in performing research. Please be patient and be assured that the Research Team will send you the information you have requested as soon as possible.

Please indicate, in order of preference, which of the following items you would like the Research Team to research for you:

_____ **OBITUARY FILES.** (If the obituary is originally printed in German an English translation can be provided for a charge of \$5.00 for members and \$12.50 for non-members. Please indicate if you would like to have German obituaries translated by checking the space below. All other translations are referred to our translating department. The fee for translations is \$25.00 per hour and are available to members only.) _____ Yes, translate German obituaries.

_____ **FAMILY GROUP CARDS, COMPUTERIZED DATABASE, AND GENEALOGY FORMS.** To request a GEDCOM file, obtain a GEDCOM Request Form from Headquarters or from our web site, <www.ahsgr.org/gedrqst.htm>.

_____ **AVAILABLE CEMETERY LISTS** for a given surname (in areas where your family lived/died. Please provide this information in your request.)

_____ **AVAILABLE U.S. AND CANADIAN CHURCH RECORDS** (in areas where your family lived/died. Please provide this information in your request.)

_____ **BESSARABIAN CHURCH RECORDS** at headquarters (microfilmed by LDS church).

_____ **PASSENGER SHIP LIST INDEX** (index of passenger ship lists published by AHSGR, GRHS and other organizations.)

_____ **GALVESTON, TEXAS PASSENGER LISTS** (an hourly rate for the search plus \$5.00 for printout from the microfilm if information is found). The earliest date for these records is 1895.

_____ **NATURALIZATION INDICES** for: Naturalization Records of Immigrants from Russia in Colorado; Lancaster County, NE (1872-1929); Lancaster County, NE Declarations of Intent; Declaration of Intent and Naturalization records located at Ellis County, OK; Naturalization records for Clakamas County, Multnomah County, and Washington County, OR; Lipscomb County, TX Naturalization records (only 29 individuals); Lipscomb County, TX Declarations of Intent (only 50 individuals); Naturalization Records for Whitman County, WA (1860-1942).

_____ **1913-1915 CENSUS OF GERMAN RUSSIANS IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA.** compiled by Hattie Plum Williams.

_____ **FAMILY HISTORIES** and/or other resources in AHSGR's Library.

_____ **DR. JOHANNES HOPF'S INVENTORY OF GERMAN EMIGRANTS FROM POLAND TO RUSSIA BETWEEN 1813 AND 1866.** An index of the names found on this inventory appears in *Clues* 1997. Please consult this index before requesting research of this source.

_____ **PASSPORTS TO RUSSIA.** 55 passports issued in Frankfurt a. Main for German immigrants to Taurida, South Russia. An index of the names found on these passports appears in *Clues* 1996, Part 2. Please consult this index before requesting research of this source.

_____ **1798 VOLGA CENSUS INDEX DATABASE.** This index will list which census lists for the Volga villages contain information on particular surnames.

_____ **1834 CENSUS** for Volga villages: Basel, Orlovskaya, Paulskaya, Pobochnya, Straub, Yagodnaya Polyana, Zürich, and Zug. Entries for specific surnames available with translations for \$25.00 per surname. Be sure to indicate surname below.

_____ **ANCESTRAL VILLAGE INDEX** for list of members, past and present, who have submitted genealogy forms indicating specific villages and the surnames linking to each village.

_____ **VILLAGE FILE INVENTORY** for a list of miscellaneous resources for various villages and areas. Be sure to specify village below.

_____ **STUMPP MAP INDEX** for information on which map indicates your village of interest.

_____ **MEYERS ORTS- UND VERKEHRLEXICON** on microfiche for information on locations in the German Reich, 1912.

_____ **POLISH GAZETTEER** on microfiche for information on locations in Poland, 1880-1902.

_____ **SELECT PLEVE/RAGAS CHARTS.** For information on which charts are available, contact Headquarters or see the listing on our web site, <www.ahsgr.org/ahsgrsur.html>. If you wish to purchase a chart, please pay in advance and indicate the surname here: _____

Your Name and Address: _____

Surname you wish to have researched: _____

Village you wish to have researched: _____

