



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VI, ISSUE 1

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 1998

Germanfest Features Statue Dedication

On October 4, 1998, the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia will be having a Germanfest. At this time, the society will be dedicating a seven-foot limestone statue by Kansas sculptor Pete Felten. This sculpture will be a new addition to the entrance to the Jake Sinner International Headquarters building, and will feature a German-Russian immigrant family. A replica of this same statue stands in Victoria, Kansas.

A local architect and AHSGR member, Randy Stramel, Architectural Alliance/Ltd., has donated his time and talents for the completion of this project. Additional expenses regarding this project included the removal of a fountain, as well as landscaping, sidewalk improvements, and lighting.

In addition to the statue, family name bricks will be placed at this site around the statue, as a tribute to family members. AHSGR members and chapters, as well as numerous organizations, business and community members have purchased bricks, leaving a lasting legacy for parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, and other family members. The brick purchase is tax-deductible, and the funds generated from the sale of these bricks has gone to the completion of the landscaping and placement of the statue.

US Bank, Lincoln, Nebraska, generously donated \$6,000 toward the cost of the statue. Numerous Lincoln businesses have donated several items to be raffled, including gift certificates for restaurants, car washes, furniture items, Beanie Babies, clothing, and movie passes.

The event will begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Many activities are planned for the day, including activities for children, a raffle



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Leona Pfeifer

and bake sale. Food vendors and live music will also be on site.

For additional information or questions about this event or AHSGR, contact Jan Traci Roth at 402-474-3363. E-mail: ahsgr@aol.com

This year commemorates the 30th anniversary of AHSGR, a historical research non-profit organization with 5,000 members and 57 chapters

Motion by AHSGR Board of Directors, June 16, 1998

That the Board of Directors clarify its action taken at Scottsdale, Arizona, on or about February 7, 1998, naming the Heritage Center. That the Heritage Center name remain unchanged from that name adopted in Denver by the membership in 1993.

That the buildings and property donated by the Amen family to AHSGR located on or in the vicinity of

throughout the United States and Canada. The International Headquarters Building is located at 631 D Street. Research hours are Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Saturdays 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Visit our website at <http://www.ahsgr.org>. Tours are available.

631 D Street, Lincoln, Nebraska, be named "Amen Family Historical Buildings" and be so designated by appropriate signs or devices.

That the signage at the AHSGR Heritage Research Center clearly reflect the name of the center and all other signs and devices be clearly subordinate to that signage.

Motion adopted - 18 yes; 2 no

Stirring Tribute Highlights 1998 Convention

For those who did not attend the 1998 convention, you missed one of the most stirring memorial tributes I have ever been a part of.

Many of you may not be familiar with the name Henry John Deutchendorf, Jr. His ancestors were Germans from Russia who settled in Kansas and Oklahoma. The survivors of Henry, Jr., including his mother, were at the memorial service as were his uncle Abe and cousin Jerry, and his uncle Dave and aunt Arva.

As was fitting, the memorial was a fitting one, for Henry, Jr., had a stage name. It was John Denver.

When his cousin, Jerry, played the piano and sang some of the songs John Denver had written, if you closed your eyes, it was nearly impossible to tell the difference between the two voices.

There was also a report given on the status of the Alzheimer's research and they have found a genetic mutation in the DNA chain. This mutation is found in two of the Volga villages.

If you want more information, call: Dr. Thomas Bird, MD, or Ellen Nemens, RN, at 800-745-4511.

You might be interested in knowing that the Lincoln Chapter is hosting the year 2000 Convention. We will try to get an Alzheimer's update as a major part of the convention.

We are going to need a lot of volunteer help for the convention. I will be calling a lot of you begging. If you want to help, it is not too early to volunteer. We will need to raise funds for the convention, and that is where everyone can help.

The Lincoln Quilters have already done a quilt to be raffled this year. We ask you to please sell the enclosed tickets and send the money to Ann Reitz. We will have the drawing at the Broda dinner in November.

We are also trying something different. The tickets will be in packets of six. Sell them as a packet for five dollars. If you sell them one at a time, use the sixth one for yourself, free, as a thank you for selling the tickets. If you need more tickets, call Ann Reitz, John Stuertz, or myself, Larry Schenkel. You

can also pick up extra tickets at headquarters. If you can't sell the tickets you have, mail them back to Ann Reitz, myself, or John Stuertz. If you can't mail them, call me and I will pick them up. (Ann Reitz, 4121 South 30th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502, 489-5462; John Stuertz, 2612 Lafayette Avenue, Lincoln, NE 68502, 421-1396; Larry Schenkel, 2538 So. 53rd Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, 489-3213)

Please sell as many tickets as you can

so we can have a successful convention.

Speaking of convention – what would you like to see at Convention 2000? We really have to start planning now and the more input we get from the membership, the better we can plan. Don't forget, volunteering doesn't get you out of paying registration fees. More about that and the upcoming convention in future newsletters.

–Larry Schenkel

Reserve your place at the table!

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR Broda Dinner

Friday, November 13, 1998

WSI Hall – 6:00 p.m.

- The first 200 people (members and invited guests) will be able to enjoy a sit-down dinner, served "family-style."
- Drawings for special prizes throughout the evening. Prizes are still being accepted for this fun evening. If you would like to donate a prize, please call Dale Dinges, 488-5154. (Must be present to win all door prizes but quilt.)
- One lucky person will take home the beautiful quilt. (Need not be present to win.)
- Tickets are available from any board member or please fill out and return this form with a check made out to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR, and a self-addressed, stamped envelopes to Ann Reitz, 4121 South 30th Street, Lincoln, NE 68502.

Please reserve _____ adult tickets at \$7.50 each and
_____ children tickets at \$3.50 each

Giebelhaus Family Reunion

The Jacob and Anna K. (Schwindt) Giebelhaus family held a reunion on August 1 and 2 in Lincoln.

On Saturday morning, August 1, many toured the AHSGR International Headquarters and surroundings. The afternoon followed with a golf tournament held at Pioneers Golf Course.

One hundred eighteen children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren attended a

dinner held at the Welfare Society on Sunday, August 2. Not only was much visiting and picture-taking done, but golf gifts were given and a history of Germans from Russia. Plus, our own family genealogy and family group charts were of great interest to all.

The family decided another reunion would be held in two years.

—Delores Schwartz



Congratulations and Happy Birthday once again, Hal!



Harold "Hal" Bauer celebrates his 90th Birthday in the AHSGR Fellowship Hall. Ruth Amen is on the left. (Photo contributed by Lucille Hedges)

Christmas Sing

Sunday, December 13, 1998

2:00 p.m.

Friedens Lutheran Church

6th and D Streets

Lincoln, Nebraska

Refreshments will be served!

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

President John Stuertz
First Vice President . . . Larry Schenkel
Second Vice President . . Dale Dinges
Treasurer Ann Reitz
Recording Secretary . Gladys Herstein
Corres. Secretary . . Delores Schwartz
Historian Delores Schwartz
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Ed Schwartzkopf, Sam Sinner,
Jake Sinner, Norma Somerheiser,
Lois Sorensen, Lillian Weber,
Ruth White, Mary Wunder

1998 Lincoln Chapter AHSGR Garage Sale a BIG SUCCESS!

THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED ITEMS AND THEIR VALUABLE TIME FOR THIS EVENT!

