



# Lincoln Chapter

## The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 2

JUNE 1999

## A Message to the Membership

by Larry Schenkel

Mark June 13th on your calendar. The Lincoln Chapter is sponsoring an Open House at the Heritage Center. It will be open from 1-5 p.m.

We dedicate this Open House to grandparents and want their grandchildren to come to the Heritage Center with their grandparents to see the legacy left to them. Their grandparents helped build the center to preserve their German-Russian heritage. We also want to honor the Charter members of the Lincoln Chapter.

A special invitation went out to those charter members we could identify. If you were a charter member, or know someone who is, and you or they did not receive a separate invitation, please contact me or Delores Schwartz.

### Volunteers

We have had our Kraut and Brei dinner and it was a success. Why? Because of the following people who volunteered to do the preparation work, the cooking, serving, and clean-up afterwards:


Sid Babcock; Harold Bauer; Don Burbach; Leroy Butherus; Bud & Virginia Dietrich; Phil, Irene & Dale Dinges; Left & Molly Grenemeier; Ed & Gladys Herstein; Al Kruse; Hermann & Helen Reifschneider; Henry & Judy Sader; John Schneider; Delores Schwartz; Norma Somerheiser; Phil & Lois Sorenson; Lillian & Vic Weber; Ruth White.

I hope I haven't left anyone off this list. If I did, call me at home and give me heck. Are these people getting anything for their membership? Yes! We peeled potatoes; washed pots & pans, scrubbed tables, told stories, enjoyed

*Dear Charter Member of the  
Lincoln Chapter and AHSGR:  
You are invited to an open house at the  
Heritage Center, 631 D Street, from 1-5 p.m.  
on Sunday, June 13, 1999.  
This open house is to "show off" the finished product of what  
you started 30 years ago.  
It is also to honor you for your dedication to the  
preservation of our German/Russian heritage.*

*Larry Schenkel, President  
Lincoln Chapter*

*RSVP 489-3213 or 435-3636*



some wonderful fellowship, and laughed and laughed and laughed. We put a little into our organization, we get a lot out of it.

Without volunteers there could be no Kraut & Brei, no Broda, and probably no Lincoln Chapter. AHSGR could never have been created without volunteers: it could not exist today without them.

Many of you reading this used to volunteer but just can't do it any more because of age and/or health problems. Many of you quit volunteering because you were made to feel unwanted or unwelcome. Hopefully, these last two problems have been resolved.

Many of you would probably help but no one has asked you personally. In the near future, I hope to have a calling committee set up to call everyone and ask a lot of questions such as: how old you are, what your interests are, do you

have spare time in the evenings on Saturdays, in the spring, winter, summer, or fall. Would you like to learn to give tours at the Heritage Center? Would you like to serve on any of the committees we have, etc.

I would also like to thank the volunteers who came to the Heritage Center to do the following: file obituaries, microfilm, work on membership, quilting, mailings, cleaning outbuildings, upkeep and repairs on Heritage Center and outbuildings, packing and mailing books, answering phones, and giving guided tours. Sometimes it's just writing numbers on maps, or folding brochures, but it is all important and it all has to be done. How many volunteer hours am I talking about?

January-15 volunteers-293½ hours  
February-25 volunteers-365 hours  
March-19 volunteers-282½ hours

(Continued)

April-21 volunteers-403 hours

These are people who come down to the Heritage Center and does not count any of the people or volunteer hours given to the Lincoln Chapter. The following is a list of committees that the Lincoln Chapter has and needs help on. Do you see something that interests you? Call me and give me your name. I guarantee I will sign you up.

- Membership Program
- Finance (Ways & Means)
- Dinners
- Garage/Bake Sale
- Newsletter
- Nominating
- Publicity
- Genealogy/Folklore
- Social
- Clean-Up
- Heritage Center

### Adam "Curly" Schwindt

Let's hear it for Adam "Curly" Schwindt. Curly was unanimously selected to receive the 1998-1999 Elk of the Year Award for BPOE #80. Curly has given countless hours of service to the Elks. Congratulations to you, Curly, and to your wife, Leta, for all of her support of you and the Elks.



Who is this good-looking serviceman?

Curly and Leta have been married for 51 years. The Elks had a special recognition dinner for Curly. I think the table decorations were probably done by Leta.

### Mmmm, Good!



This was printed in the Eastmont newsletter. Sounds like John has developed a pretty simple recipe.

John Wiederspan

### Rivvel Kuchen Coffee Cake

Use any hot roll mix, bread dough or favorite sweet roll recipe. I use Rhodes frozen bread dough. Thaw dough in refrigerator overnight.

Roll dough to fit a 9 x 13 greased and floured pan. Stretch dough to fit pan. Let rise while preparing Rivvel topping.

#### Topping

- 1/4 cubes of butter or margarine
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 1/2 cups flour

Mix ingredients with fork or fingers until it crumbles (small size crumbs). Beat two eggs well - spread over the dough and sprinkle the Rivvel Topping Crumbs. Bake at 350° for 35-40 minutes.

Variation: Kirsche Kuchen - after spreading dough with beaten egg, sprinkle one-half of the Rivvel Crumbs - using cherry pie filling, put cherries on top. Sprinkle the last half of Rivvel Crumbs on top of cherries.

This recipe was a favorite of the Wiederspan clan. Our mother was a German from Russia. My grandsons especially like the Kirsche Kuchen.

-recipe from John Wiederspan

*Rivvel means crumbs. Kuchen means coffee cake. Kirsch means cherries.*

## Board of Directors

The following list is your Board of Directors for the Lincoln Chapter. Those names with an asterisk go off of the board at the end of the year. Fortunately, some of them have agreed to run again for next year, but not all of them. Some of them have been on for more years than they care to count and are tired. Also, there are two vacancies from resignations (health and work related) that need to be filled. Can you help? Will you help? Are you willing to fill one of the resignations to see if you would like to run for the board? I can appoint volunteers to finish out open slots. Maybe this is a good way to get your feet wet. Call me.

#### OFFICERS

- President . . . . . Larry Schenkel
- 1st Vice President . . . . . Ruth White
- 2nd Vice President . . . . . Dale Dinges
- Rec. Secretary . Norma Somerheiser\*\*
- Treasurer . . . . . Ann Reitz
- Past President . . . . . John Stuert\*\*

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ruth Amen, Sidonia Babcock, Harold Bauer, LeRoy Butherus\*\*, Richard Dittenber, Henry Grenemeier, Lucille Hedges, Gladys Herstein, Sherry Pawelko, Henry Sader\*\*, John Schleicher, John Schneider\*\*, Delores Schwartz, Ed Schwartzkopf, Annie Settell, Jake Sinner, Lillian Weber, Mary Wunder

## Calendar of Events Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

- June 13 - Open House at 631 D Street. Honoring Grandparents.
- June 21 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- July 6-11 - Convention 1999, Casper, Wyoming
- August TBA - Garage Sale, 601 D Street
- August 17 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- September 19 - Chapter Picnic (Bingo & Potluck) - 1:00 p.m., St. Paul's Church, 13th and F Streets
- September 20 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- October 18 - Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m., 631 D Street
- November 12 - Broda Dinner - 6:00 p.m. - Program TBA, WSI Hall
- December TBA - Open House at 631 D Street. We will be decorating the outbuildings and Headquarters building for Christmas.

# Welcome Paul Guern, AHSGR headquarters

Paul Guern was the seventh child born to Alvin T. Guern Sr. and Mildred A. (Goldsmith) Guern, in 1962 in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Alvin was in the U.S. Armed Forces for five years at the end of WWII. He did not see action. While he was on leave, he met a lovely young woman. When he was informed she was 28 years of age, he said he was 25. He was actually 21, but feared she would refuse to see him if she knew his true age.

They were married shortly after his release from the military on April 21, 1950.

Alvin and Mildred lived in Maryland, the part of the country she was from. They both worked at the U.S. Postal Service, she for nine years in-between raising seven children, he for 22 years until a debilitating disease known as *Phlebitis* forced him into retirement at the age of 48. For his first 12 years, his family lived in Bladensburg, Maryland.

When Alvin discovered that Paul and his sister were going to be bussed to a school several miles from their home, he arranged for both to enter a private school, St. John's Elementary, through the sixth grade.

Alvin had been raised in Concord, in northeast Nebraska. In 1974, Alvin thought it might be a good idea for their two children, not yet on their own, to attend school in Nebraska. The family moved to Concord, Nebraska, where Alvin's mother was still living. Actually both Paul and his sister, Elaine, went to school at Laurel.

While at school, Paul was active in all sports, playing basketball, football and baseball.

Upon graduation from high school, he attended Wayne State College.

On August 20, 1983, Paul married his childhood sweetheart, Donna Patefield, of Laurel, Nebraska. Her parents still continue to live on a farm near Laurel.

Donna had graduated from Mary Lanning School of Nursing at

Hastings, as a registered nurse that year and now had a full-time job at Norfolk Lutheran Hospital.

In 1984, Paul graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in education, a minor in history, as well as coaching. The year he graduated, the job market was pretty slim, which left him without a permanent position. He did find work as a substitute in several northeastern towns such as Norfolk Junior High, Wayne High, Windside and Stanton High.

Paul was not finding a permanent position, so the young couple moved to Spartanburg, South Carolina, in 1986. As Donna was a registered nurse, she had no trouble finding a job. Paul also found a job right away as a security guard. Knowing this was not the right work for him, he became a car salesman, which lasted seven months.

In 1991, Paul was working as an assistant manager Eckerd's, a drug emporium, when fate intervened and Brandon, their adopted son, came along.

Paul was interested in going back to college, but with the added responsibilities of a son, he continued at Eckerd's. The part he most enjoyed was the work that had to be done in the office. Realizing at that time his interest in bookkeeping and its related work was something he would like to continue to do.

In 1993, Paul, Donna and Brandon moved back to Nebraska, as Brandon was about to enter school. Brandon was 3 going on 4, and they knew they did not want him to attend school in South Carolina. They also knew that all of Donna's family were still living in northeast Nebraska, and Paul's parents now lived in Sioux City, Iowa, which became a major inducement for them to return to Nebraska.

On returning to Nebraska, they settled in Lincoln and Paul worked for a local "rent-to-own" store. He worked there about two years.

Paul decided that now was the time for him to return to college. Paul start-

ed at UNL in accounting. While going to school, he worked for "Wise Guys Pizza" and "Burger King."

By the time the accounting classes were winding down, he has found a position with a small proprietor. In addition to this job, he also started to work with Perry Demma, a CPA in Lincoln. This is also the firm that AHSGR uses for their CPA work.

Perry had heard that AHSGR was looking for someone who could become their accountant. Knowing he himself did not have enough work to keep Paul on as a full-time employee, he recommended Paul to see Rick Rye at headquarters.

Today Paul still retains that job with the small proprietor he has been working for. He also worked for Perry Demma, usually on Saturdays and some evenings. This allows him to be home in the morning helping get Brandon ready for school. He and Donna see Brandon off and Paul and Brandon are home in the evenings as Donna works until about 8:00 p.m.

Donna is a nurse at Bryan LGH East on second floor, in the recovery room, so they always have time for Brandon every day. Their hope is to be able to adopt another child soon.

Of interest, too, is this year both Donna's parents and Paul's parents are celebrating their 49th wedding anniversaries. Paul's parents celebrated theirs this past April 21.

# Mollie Grenemeier - Style Show Participant

Can you imagine a German from Russia being the hit of a style show? Don't laugh. It happened May 7th at the Cornhusker Hotel, when Mollie Grenemeier was a model in the Heritage Gift Shop/Seniors Foundation benefit style show entitled "Memories V." Because it is the International Year of the Older Person, women of different cultures were invited to model their ethnic costumes. Korea, India, Panama, Mexico, Africa, Sweden, Vietnam, Czechoslovakia, the U.S., and Germans

from Russia, were represented.

Mollie wore a black skirt worn by her mother in Laub, Russia, in about 1895, and a camelhair shawl which was her grandmother's. It is about 108 years old. A wool "halzduch" (head scarf) once worn by Margaret Kukus, (Katherine Green's grandmother) who was a midwife in the North Bottoms, completed the outfit. This "halzduch" is believed to be about 130 years old.

The cloth for the skirt was made by the Eberlein Mill, which was owned by



*Mollie Grenemeier*

Mollie's family in Laub. Yarn for the shawl was made from the hair taken from camels Mollie's grandfather kept. He owned an apple orchard and used camels to pick the apples.

After the style show, many people came to Mollie to ask questions, and especially to touch the camelhair shawl. One man said Mollie looked like she "just stepped out of time."

We can all be proud of the way Mollie represented AHSGR and our heritage at this event.

## State Genealogy Conference



*Larry Schenkel*

Five volunteers from the Lincoln Chapter staffed the table selling books, Lord's Prayers, and one AHSGR membership.

Many people who stopped at our table had never heard of a German from Russia. It was a great opportunity to tell our story.

We were invited to be a vendor at the conference next year in Kearney, Nebraska, and we accepted.

Many thanks to Larry Schenkel for hauling all of our materials and the display items to Grand Island, and to Larry, John Schleicher, Delores Schwartz, Norma Somerheiser, and Ruth White for staffing the table.

AHSGR had a vendor's table at the State Genealogy Conference in Grand Island, April 30 and May 1.

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Schwartz  
1000 Butler Ave  
Lincoln NE 68521

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
LINCOLN, NE  
PERMIT NO. 69

Lincoln Chapter  
American Historical Society of  
Germans from Russia  
631 D Street  
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199