



Lincoln Chapter  
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia  
**NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 5

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, 2004



## Christmas Festival 2004 Saturday, December 4

Make plans to be at the Heritage Center, 631 "D" Street, on Saturday, December 4, 2004 from 12 noon to 3 PM for the annual Christmas Festival. Friedens Girls' German Choir under the direction of Kathy Svoboda will be singing Christmas Carols in the chapel from 1:00 to 1:30PM. The Choir, which is made up of girls in their early teens, will be singing in German and all are invited to sing along with them. There will be copies of the carols, in German, available for the sing-along.

Again this year, the Smith Family Band will be here for your listening and singing pleasure from 1:30 to 2:30PM.

We will be offering free refreshments that will include cookies, coffee, and hot spiced cider. (If you have a favorite Christmas cookie that you'd like to share, please feel free to bring some.) For the hungrier guests, there will be Volga Boatmen sandwiches with chips and soda for \$5.00, and for those who prefer, we will have hot dogs with chips and soda for \$3.00.

The AHSGR Gift Shop and Bookstore will be open so you can do some Christmas shopping.

All of the buildings on the campus will be decorated and staffed so you can look around and enjoy our Heritage Center, however, research opportunities **will not** be available during this time.

I have been led to believe that Mrs. Claus will be in her summer kitchen again this year to explain some of the heritage associated with AHSGR. However, because of his busy schedule, we are not sure if Santa will be able to make it, but we are still holding out hope. We have been told by a very reliable source, that the *Kristkindje* and the *Belznickel* will be making their appearance, too.

All in all, I think you, your children, and/or grandchildren will have a good time at the Christmas Festival, so please join us for an afternoon of singing and fellowship.

Board of Directors, Lincoln Chapter, AHSGR

## From Your Chapter President

As you may, or may not, know, I have been elected to the Society Board of Directors this year and Norma Somerheiser has been appointed to a one-year term to the Foundation Board Directors.

We just had the fall board meetings at the Heritage Center from the 4th through the 6th of November. The next meetings will be the spring meetings,

which will be held in March, in Greeley, Colorado.

I have told you this before, but I am going to repeat it, the Society and Foundation board members **do not** receive any kind of financial support. **All** expenses are borne by the individual directors. We know that going in, so I am not asking for sympathy.

We, also, cannot represent you if we

don't know what you want, or what your concerns are. Therefore, you need to contact us and let us know so we can present them for future meetings.

I can tell you that the Foundation and the Society are in good shape financially. When I have the final financial statement and the budget for next year, I will share that with you.



## Heritage Center News

Have you ever wondered what the SOAR Project is? Many have asked, so here it is:

### The SOAR Project

The Saving Our Ancestral Resources (SOAR) is a Society funded project to:

1) Digitize and record on CD-ROM or other media, AHSGR records for preservation against damage or destruction by acts of man or nature, and 2) Extract the data from those records into a database for researchers use in documenting our heritage.

Using a scanner purchased by donations from the California District Council (CDC) and using lessons learned by the Northern Colorado Chapter (NCC) scrapbook project, the entire collection of obituary cards and Family

Group cards in AHSGR HQ in Lincoln (178,000) and the similar collection in the Central California Chapter library in Fresno (128,000) have been scanned and digitally preserved. These two collections comprise the obit collection project headed by Arthur Flegel. In addition, the Esther Krause obit collection in the Windsor/Severence Library (24,000), all AHSGR Workpapers, Journals, and Clues, 30 issues of an Argentine publication similar to our Journal, the Ralph Ruff collection of births, deaths, and marriages in Alt Eft Parish (25,000), The Glukstahl Colonies Research Association (GCRA) selected records (36,000) are also saved and preserved, as are the records of the Denver Metro Chapter (41,000).

## Who's New at the Heritage Center?

Yulia Tsymbal (Julia) has started working part time at the Heritage Center. She comes to us from Moscow where she attended the Linguistic University of Moscow. Yulia is fluent in Russian, German and English and writes in those languages, as well.

She is married and her husband is a professor at the University of Nebraska. They have two daughters. The elder one attends a college in London, UK, the younger one attends Southwest High School.

Yulia wants to teach and is hoping to start with substitute teaching in the Lincoln school system. I hope the Lincoln school system moves as slow as they usually do so we have Yulia around for a long time.



## The Broda Dinner Success and Thanks

The Broda dinner is over, and the drawing for the quilt raffle is done. Karen Trautwein was the winner of the beautiful quilt, but she wasn't the only winner. Everyone that came to the dinner were winners as well, because of the delicious food and fellowship. Many people expressed their pleasure and enjoyment.

We have found, over the years, that it's sometimes hard to calculate how much food to prepare when we are still getting phone calls for reservations

### Thursday

John Novak  
Bud & Virginia Dietrich  
Phil & Irene Dinges  
Don Burbach  
Ed & Gladys Herstein  
Norma Somerheiser  
Jim Hempel  
Pam Wurst  
Nancy Borrell  
Larry & Norma Schenkel

### Friday

Roger & \*Judy Runion  
Judy Lawson  
Roger & Pam Wurst  
Susan Stoehr  
\*Nancy Borrell  
Paul Loos  
Phil Sorenson  
Diane White  
Dale Dinges  
Nancy Richards  
\*Ann Reitz  
Ray Richards  
Annie Settell  
\*Larry & Norma Schenkel

Frieda Dobler  
Virginia Dietrich  
Barbara Schmidt  
Barbara Hellerich  
Ed & Gladys Herstein  
Ruth White

### Cooks

\*Bud Dietrich  
\*Donnie Burbach  
\*Bruce Trautwein  
\*Jim Hempel  
Roger Petersen  
Phil Dinges

server for a larger helping as they go through the line. We served 201 dinners and, thankfully, we were able to serve everyone. "THANK YOU" to all.

Also, as usual, I want to include the names of the volunteers who made the whole thing possible:

Those names with stars (\*) were there all day, from 9AM until 8PM. It was a

the day before the dinner. And this year we had fifty-one people buy tickets at the door!! As we have always done, we allow people to come back for more or they sometimes ask the

long day, but a very rewarding one.

If you were a volunteer and I left your name off the list, I am truly sorry and will make amends, if you let me know.

## In Memorium

Once again, I have not done a good job of congratulating people on birthdays and anniversaries, and paying last respects to those whom we have lost.

It is always hard to lose any of our people, but sometimes, it's harder than others. That was true when my friend, Eddy Loos went, and is similarly true with the passing of Molly Grenemeier.

Molly lived and breathed AHS&G. She was at every function, often dressed in ancestral clothing that had come with the family from Russia. Or she was assuming the role of Mrs. Claus in the summer kitchen during our Christmas Festivals.

I never heard Molly say an unkind word about, or to, anyone. Not that she couldn't take you to task, as she did with me, when she thought I wasn't being respectful of those who had done so much to build AHS&G. But it was done as a teacher, telling why the respect was earned, not as a "do as I say" lecture.

We will all miss you, Molly.

With love and affection,  
Larry Schenkel

*Jeanette Alles  
Erwin Bauer  
William Oswald  
Wesley Lehl  
Henry Blitz  
Jacob Yakel  
Sam Schwartzkopf  
John Schessler  
Marie Scheidt  
Ted Bernhart  
Wayne Knauth  
Arthur Vogel  
Dan Fischer  
Henry Keller, Jr.  
Walter Loos  
Patty George  
Minnie Kahm  
Betty Gesch  
James Allan Brill  
Lorraine Jennings  
Alex Fink  
Richard (Brother) Loos  
Molly Grenemeier*

## Can You Help?

1 Howard Davis is looking for information about his grandparents. His grandfather's name is John Kahler (it is spelled several other ways—Kaler, Kohler, Kayler).

He married Elizabeth Soder in Beatrice on January 2, 1888 and had all their children there before moving to Lincoln in 1896.

He was working for the railroad in Nebraska when they moved to Eaton, Colorado around 1901.

If you have any information to help Howard, I know he would be very grateful.

His email address is:

[h.davis22@verizon.net](mailto:h.davis22@verizon.net)

2 Jerry Amen is looking for information about his grandfather's years in Lincoln in the early 1920s. His grandfather's name is Harvey Amen. Jerry thinks Magdaline Lebsack Novak wrote a history of her mother (Mary Amen Lebsack, wife of Adolph, Jr.) and Jerry's great-grandmother's sister.

Jerry is the president of the Northern Illinois Chapter and would appreciate anything you could send him.

Mr. Jerry J. Amen  
847 Home Ave.  
Oak Park, IL 60304

3 Is there a Brehm in your family? Joyce King of Denver (and a Lincoln Chapter member) requests any help you can give her on any Brehm things or names. Her grandfather John (NMN)? Or Wilhelm? He went to the Lutheran Church at 14th & New Hampshire and was confirmed at Salem Church. (?) He was born in 1905 and moved to Colorado in 1920. Other names she has are Elizabeth and Magdalena. (??)

Send any information you might have to: [jkingjen@netstate.net](mailto:jkingjen@netstate.net)

Or you can write to her at:

Joyce King  
3063 So. Xanthia  
Denver, CO 80231



## Happy Birthday

80th Birthday  
Evelyn Luft (AKA Aunt Evelyn, to me)

80th Birthday  
Ann Reitz

84th Birthday  
Bud Dietrich

90th Birthday  
Mary Froescheiser

91st Birthday  
Francis Amen

??st Birthday  
Susan Stoehr

## Happy Anniversary

50th Anniversary  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Amen



# Christmas

**C**hristmas (Christ's Mass), in the Christian calendar, feast of the nativity of Jesus, celebrated in Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches on Dec. 25. In liturgical importance it ranks after Easter, Pentecost, and Epiphany (Jan. 6).

The observance probably does not date earlier than A.D. 200 and did not become widespread until the Fourth Century. The date was undoubtedly chosen for its nearness to Epiphany, which, in the East, originally included a commemoration of the nativity. The date of Christmas coincides closely with the winter solstice in the Northern hemisphere, a time of rejoicing among many ancient cultures. Christmas, as the great popular festival of Western Europe, dates from the Middle Ages. In England after the Reformation the observance became a point of contention between Anglicans and other Protestants, and the celebration of Christmas was suppressed in Scotland and in much of New England until the 19th Century.

In the mid-19th century, Christmas began to acquire its associations with an increasingly secularized holiday of gift-giving and good cheer, a view that was popularized in works such as Clement Clarke Moore's poem, "A Visit From St. Nicholas" (1823), and Charles Dickens' story, "A Christmas Carol" (1843). Christmas cards first appeared c. 1846. The current concept of a jolly Santa Claus was first made popular in New York in the 19th Century (see Nicholas, Saint).

The Yule Log (Yule, from O.E.,=Christmas), the boar's head, the goose (in America the turkey), decoration with holly, hawthorn, wreaths, mistletoe, and the singing to carols by waifs (Christmas serenaders) are all typically English (see carol). Gifts at Christmas are also English; elsewhere

they are given at other times, e.g., at Epiphany in Spain. The Christmas tree was a tradition from the Middle Ages in Germany. The crib (Creche) with the scene at Bethlehem was popularized by Franciscans.



## Advent

Advent (Lat.,=coming), season of the Christian ecclesiastical year preceding Christmas, lasting in the West from the Sunday nearest Nov. 30 (St. Andrew's Day) until Christmas Eve. In the Roman Catholic Church it is traditionally considered a season of penitence and fasting, to prepare for the holy day, and its liturgical color is purple. However, the Roman observance has always contained an element of joyful anticipation of Christmas, a feeling that prevails during this season in Western churches today. Originally Advent was seen as a time of preparation for the feast of Christ's nativity. But during the Middle Ages this meaning was extended to include preparation for Christ's second coming, as well as Christ's present coming through grace.

## Twelfth Night

Twelfth Night, January 5, the vigil of eve of Epiphany, so called because it is the 12th night from Christmas, counting Christmas as the first. In England, Twelfth Night has been a great festival marking the end of the Christmas season, and popular masquerading parties are typical entertainment.

## Epiphany

Epiphany (Gr.,=showing), a prime Christian feast, celebrated January 6, called also Twelfth Day, or Little Christmas. Its eve is Twelfth Night. It commemorates three events—the baptism of Jesus (Mark 1), the visit of the Wise Men to Bethlehem (Matt. 2), and the miracle at Cana (John 2). In his baptism Jesus' sonship to God was manifested to the world; in the visit of the Wise Men he was manifested as king to the Gentiles; and at the marriage feast at Cana his power to perform miracles (a divine prerogative) was shown. In popular celebration the feast is far more ancient than Christmas. Technically it is more important than Christmas, ranking after Easter and Pentecost. It is a day of gifts in many countries. In the Eastern Church the waters are blessed on this day. The word epiphany means a manifestation, usually of divine power. Thus the actual appearance of God (as in the burning bush) or a moment of divine revelation may be called an epiphany.

—Adapted from the History Channel.com

## Something To Think About

Are you looking for a gift for your grandchild? How about a Student Membership?

Would the young people in your family (14+ years of age) be interested in some programs that would help them learn about their ancestry? These programs could be held in the summer or on Saturdays. We could have lessons on such things as, how to make noodles, butter balls, green bean soup, runzas, etc., German language lessons or other activities that would appeal to them and help them to learn about their German-Russian heritage. If we could do this, and these young people thought it was "cool," can you imagine them talking to their friends with a GR background? Excitement about an idea can become contagious, especially when it comes from one of your peers!

You would be giving your grandchildren a gift of heritage. Their heritage. Is that important? I think so.

Would they be members of the Lincoln Chapter? Yes, and without cost. Won't you use the membership application today? Thank you.



## 2005 Board of Director Elections

Please plan to attend the January 8, 2005 meeting. This will be the election of Chapter Board members and officers for the coming year.

The nomination committee is now accepting names to put in nomination.

Are you willing to serve?

The meeting will be at St. Paul's UCC, 13th and "F" Streets. We will have a pot luck dinner at 1:00PM, followed by the election.

## Appointments to the Chapter Board

Jim Hempel and Pam Wurst have recently been appointed to the Chapter board for one-year terms.

Jim has done the mowing at the Heritage Center this year as well as doing a host of other volunteer jobs. He and Phil Dinges just replaced the porch posts on the general store and have a long list of other projects that need to be done. If you would like to help, contact Jim or Phil.

Pam Wurst (nee Zitterkopf) works for the Society part time and will be a welcome addition to the Chapter board. (See the Newsletter, Volume XII, Issue 3, June/July 2004.)

## Spellbound

*I have a spelling checker,  
It came with my PC.  
It plainly marks  
four my revue  
Mistakes I cannot see.  
I've run this poem  
threw it,  
I'm sure your please  
too no,  
Its letter perfect  
in it's weigh,  
My checker tolled  
me sew.*

### 2004 Board Member Directory Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR

489-2583	BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
476-3600	BURBACH, Donald	3600 Hartley Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
483-1421	BUTHERUS, Leroy	1500 Buckingham Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
488-5154	DINGES, Dale	1609 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506
486-1673	GRENAMEIER, Henry	1121 No. 79th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505
475-8221	HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th St.	Lincoln, NE 68528
420-9580	HEMPEL, Jim	4811 So. 55th Ct.	Lincoln, NE 68516
489-5976	HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68510
477-3978	LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521
489-5462	REITZ, Ann	4121 So. 30th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-3853	RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68516
423-4212	SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430
438-3814	SCHENKEL, Larry	9439 Benziger Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68526
435-3636	SCHWARTZ, Delores	1000 Butler	Lincoln, NE 68521
423-8209	SCHWARTZKOPF, Ed	3910 So. 27th St. #8	Lincoln, NE 68502
423-0602	SINNER, Jake	1733 Marlene Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68512
423-4345	WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Circle #7 (Mail to: PO Box 23095)	Lincoln, NE 68542 Lincoln, NE 68516)
489-2634	WURST, Pam	7508 Nemaha	Lincoln, NE 68506

Officers are elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. However, if you are interested in serving for a shorter period of time, you could ask about a one-year appointment, to determine if it would be something you would enjoy doing.

### 2004 Officers

President...Larry Schenkel  
1st VP...Leroy Butherus  
2nd VP...Delores Schwartz  
Treasurer...Judy Runion

Recording Secretary...Paul Loos  
Corresponding Secretary...Ann Reitz  
Historian...Gladys Herstein

68506-2322 15



## 2003 Norka Database

Judy Curtis, the Norka Database Coordinator, has donated a copy of the 2003 Norka CD to the AHSGR Library and Archives. This CD is for research purposes only, and can only be used in the AHSGR library and the research room at convention. It can not be interlibrary loaned or purchased.

The CD consist of 3 parts: (1) the Norka database (census records, Pleve charts, and extended family information); (2) pictures of Norka, people places and things; (3) articles and stories of interest to Norka descendants. Judy encourages those who find errors or omissions to contact her and if they wish to add further information. Each year the Norka CD will be updated in time for the annual convention.

The following list is a directory of the surnames found in the Norka Database. The surnames are in the order in which the surname files were merged into the database:

Schwarz	Glanz
Yost	Brehm
Krieger	Sinner
Giebelhaus	Weitzel
Burbach	Lehl
Alt	Pfenning
Kohler	Pauly
Schmoll	Muller
Truber	Wacker
Nolde	Schreiber
Traudt	Bauer
Repp	Schneider
Reuscher	Gerlach
Sauer	Schafer
Schnell	Sterkel

### Contents of the Norka 2003 CD

- 5 Surname Folders (pictures + description of each picture)
- 100 years of Immigration
- Common German Given Names
- Engels Archive-History
- Germany-Hesse History
- GR Baptismal Naming Customs
- GR Christmas-1890
- GR Immigration Generalities
- GR Golden Wheat of Kansas
- Norka Church-picture
- Norka Database containing 15,319 individuals (4,429 marriages)
- Norka Handout-2003 Yakima convention
- Norka to Hastings
- Norka village-picture
- Portland-GR History
- The Long Journey from Germany to Russia
- Volga Colonies-history
- Ysenburg/Archives/Budgien