



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

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 4

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, 2004

"Coffee, Sweet Rolls, & Dill Pickles? Unbelievable!"

That was Lynne Kaufman-Smith's attitude when she heard of her father's ("Scotty") Saturday morning meetings.

Scotty is one of a group of people that get together every Saturday morning for coffee and rolls at the Heritage Center.

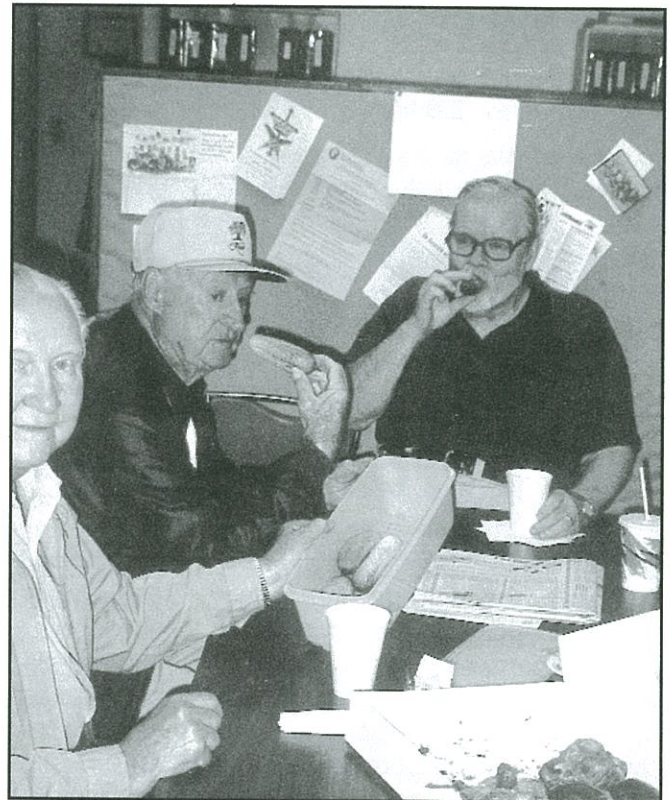
During the cucumber growing months "Bud" Dietrich makes crock dill pickles and brings down a batch every Saturday so we can have them with our coffee and rolls.

Lynne, as well as several others, have heard of this strange practice and did not believe it, until she came to Lincoln and saw it for herself. To be able to prove it to all the "doubting Thomases" out there, she took pictures of this weird ritual. "A picture is worth a thousand tellings," quoth the Bard. (Well, somebody said it.) Included is a picture so you can see the truth.

Last Saturday, Bud Witherby from Kansas City visited. He was welcomed with a pickle and a bismarck. He spent

the whole morning with us, not quite believing what he had gotten into, but vowing he would be back.

You know, any of you can come down on Saturday mornings. So far, the regulars who show up often are: Jim Hempel, Bud Dietrich, Phil Dinges, Jake Sinner, Henry Heckman, Ed Klein, Bill Amen, Paul Loos, Lefty Grenemeier, Scotty and me. From time to time Gwen Meister comes down to listen and write, but we haven't been able to convince her that coffee, rolls, and dill pickles are the secret to total contentment and long life. Oh, well!



Bud Dietrich, Scotty Kaufman, Larry Schenkel enjoying Bud's dill pickles.

A Reminder – International Foundation

AHSGR NEWS FLASH!!

Turn Trash into Cash!

Don't throw away your used inkjet or laser cartridges. They're worth money to AHSGR. To obtain envelopes, simply call 1-800-368-5881 or they can be picked up at Headquarters. When calling, identify yourself as being with AHSGR.

E-Bay Garage Sale

Invite thousands to view your past treasures that you're willing to donate to AHSGR. These could include antiques, collectibles, pottery, glassware, sports cards, household items, etc.

Contact: George Miller
Phone: 630-357-2572
E-mail: miller 227@aol.com

**Mark your calendars for November 12 – Broda dinner!
See last page for details.**

New Membership Contest

The theme is **"505 New Members by Convention 2005."**

There are a number of different "rewards" to be given for enrolling a new member but I won't include all of that now. You will get it in the mailing that will be sent out.

If you have been working on someone to join, and they decide to, call me or the Heritage Center, to get a form to be filled out so you receive credit. Our own Henry "call me Sonny" Sader,

has already asked me to send out a form. Way to go, Sonny.

Speaking of Sonny, he is either to be given credit for, or named as, "Cooker of the Sloppy Joe mix" served at the Second Annual North Bottoms Reunion. I hate to say it, but I thought it was pretty good.

The reunion was a great success. I saw friends I haven't seen since Confirmation class. It was a really great, warm feeling to make contact

after all those years.

A huge thank you to the committee who worked on it. Roger Schwindt, Andy Kaltenberger, Sonny Sader, Tome Kruse, Bob Schwartz.

I am already looking forward to next year. (By the way, why aren't more of you members of AHSGR?)



Mary Froescheiser Celebrates # 90!

Mary's son and daughter, Judy Runion, hosted their Mom's 90th birthday party at Tabitha Village on August 8th. The party was attended by many friends and both of Mary's sisters, Kay and Rose, were able to fly in from Texas to surprise their sister.

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren abounded.

Needless to say, Mary was very happy to see so many people who had come to tell her she had touched their lives.

Happy Birthday, Mary.



Mary Froescheiser surrounded by her sisters.

Meeting Someone from the Past

A while back, at one of our functions, I was telling about finding my baptism book and there were four names of my sponsors. I remember saying I didn't know any of the four, and then began naming them. When I got to Rose Roh, Judy Runion said, "Hey, I have an aunt by that name that lives in Texas." Judy wrote to her aunt and, sure enough, she is the one on my baptism record.

I met my godmother, for the second time, on August 8th (which was my mother's birth date) at Mary Froescheiser's 90th birthday party. Rose (also my mother's name) had come up from Texas for her sister's birthday and we had a chance to have a nice visit. I found out that Rose's sister, Lydia, (who was Mom's age and had been one of her good friends) was supposed to be there that day but for some reason couldn't make it. So Rose was asked to stand in, which, of course, she did. I have to admit I don't really remember, all that well, the first time I met my godmother. You see, I was only a few days old.

As a second surprise, I got to meet Mary and Rose's other sister, Kay. And guess what? She is my sister, Phyllis' godmother. All this and birthday cake, too. A most satisfying day.

ORGANIZING THE LINCOLN CHAPTER

Delores Schwartz got the following for me, and after I've read it several times, I decided to share it with all of you. It's worth reading, and maybe it will put a fire under you to try to get uninformed members involved, get your children involved (Diane White has her three children at every function and they help with the work, too) and getting new members.

Delores Schwartz has had her grandchildren down at the Heritage Center and their work was applied to their school requirements. Barb Schmidt has had her nephew helping mow.

Hmmmm, I managed to get on my soap box again, didn't I?

Read about, and enjoy, the founding of the first chapter of AHSGR, The Lincoln Chapter.

SO YOU PLAN TO ORGANIZE AN AHSGR CHAPTER ... HOW WE DID IT IN LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

In our files there is a memo from David J. Miller, National President of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia. It is dated February 6, 1969, and it lists the names of the members in Lincoln, Nebraska, as of that date – 3 individual members and one family membership. A letter of the same date suggests that Mrs. Delores K. Schwartz and Ruth M. Amen plan an organization meeting in Lincoln. The suggestion became a charge when the two of us and Delores' mother, Mrs. Katherine Gibelhouse, attended a meeting in Denver on March 2. The International Board asked us to organize a Chapter in Lincoln.

Our own enthusiasm was great. The program in Denver and the opportunity to visit with others who were interested in their heritage indicated to us that there must be many more Lincolinites who would want to share in the excitement of learning more about the history and achievements of Germans from Russia.

How should we begin? This was the question which Delores, her mother, and I discussed on March 12. We decided to invite several friends and relatives to a "talk it over" session and to acquaint them with the goals and purposes of AHSGR. On May 15, there were 7 of us at a meeting held at the American Forward Association. Our 4 recruits listened and questioned and thought this organization was long overdue. They wanted to join and they would help spread the word. Again

each person present agreed to invite several others to help us get a Chapter started and on June 13 we met again. There were several new faces, but we were still 7. Patiently we again described AHSGR, its goals and hopes and with enthusiasm running high, we decided to work individually during the summer months lining up recruits to bring to a meeting on September 12. Others who had joined in the meantime were also invited. When 10 showed up we took the giant step. We, Edward Schwartzkopf, Mrs. Magdalene Lebsack Novak, Mrs. Marie Willis, Miss Clara Wertz, Mrs. Marie Collins, Ralph Gibelhaus, Roger L. Welsch, Miss Frances D. Amen, Mrs. Delores K. Schwartz, and Miss Ruth M. Amen, would be the Committee. Boldly we set Sunday afternoon, November 18, 1969, as the date for a "come one, come all" meeting.

We had 3 more planning sessions on October 2 and 22 and November 5 to suggest names of people to invite, to plan the program, and to just plain keep our planning group excited about the project we had undertaken. Then we kept our fingers crossed. By this time we had about 22 national members in Lincoln and we hoped at least all of these would appear.

How do you estimate the turn-out for your first meeting? We had sent out about 80 flyers to Lincoln people and told them to bring their friends. We also mailed notices to every AHSGR member in Nebraska in case any of them would be in Lincoln at that time.

We placed flyers in stores and on Church bulletin boards. We decided to plan on 60 to 70 and told ourselves that we should not be discouraged if at least 35 appeared. The Committee arrived an hour ahead of the meeting time and soon there were others. As people came, they signed a register and received name tags. Imagine our delight! When Ed Schwartzkopf, our Master of Ceremonies, said "Guten Tag" to the group, there were 126 assembled in the Community Room of the National Bank of Commerce.

Our program? It was very simple. We "played it by ear" for the most part. We had an invocation by Paul J. Amen and heard special greetings from our Mayor, Sam Schwartzkopf, one of our own people. We told them about the organization. Each person present introduced himself and as they told which colony in Russia they or their parents came from we tallied the reports. Some told interesting stories about their early days in this country. The oldest person present was 92, the youngest under 10. Rev. Benjamin Rieger told about the dulcimer and how he builds them. There was much interest in the maps showing the German-Russian colonies and were were sold out much too soon. We told the group about Dr. Karl Stumpp's book, The German-Russian, which has been translated by Dr. Joseph S. Height. Led by Mrs. Victor Maul, we sang some old favorites in German – Jesu Geh Voran, Oh Du Fröhliche, Gott Ist Die

(continued on page 4)



Organizing...

(continued from page 3)

Liebe, Stille Nacht, and So Nim Den Meine Hände.

We allowed lots of time for visiting, renewing friendships, getting reacquainted with kinfolk, and looking at exhibits of memorabilia brought by those who came. Coffee and cookies furnished by the bank were served. All of us were aglow. One person wrote, "I came away feeling filled with pride and enthusiasm." "Did they want to meet again?," we asked. The answer was a resounding "yes." And 44 new members paid their dues that afternoon.

Encouraged by this beginning, our committee has moved forward. From the meeting roster and the national membership list we made a card file in three sections - Lincoln members, out-state Nebraska members and prospective members. We now have a better mailing list to which we keep adding.

Our second meeting, held in the same location on March 8, 1970, attracted 176. Mr. and Mrs. David J. Miller and Mrs. Gerda Walker came from Colorado. The Millers showed their pictures taken in Russia. There were 23 out-of-towners including the Herman Aments from Sioux City, Iowa. We enrolled 21 new members. A dinner meeting for the committee members, our Colorado visitors, Senator and Mrs. Ted Wenzlaff, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Herzog, and others who had helped

with our meetings the night before gave us the opportunity to discuss many things related to the organization and its future.

A welcome problem now confronted us. We had outgrown our meeting place. When the Welfare Society invited us to use their facilities for a meeting, we accepted gladly. Our May 24, 1970 meeting flyer announced that we would feature German-Russian food "prepared by the best cooks this side

approach had been to get them to join the national organization first by offering interesting programs, involving lots of people and by giving all a sense of participation. We are ready to enroll new AHSGR members at every meeting. Each program is planned so they leave asking when we will meet again. By this time that canary yellow flyer in the mail means a good time ahead.

Excitement over the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia continues to ride high in Lincoln. 14 of us attended the Greeley convention where the announcement was made that we had been granted the first Chapter Charter on June 4, 1970. What we gleaned from that convention we tried to pass on to our other members at a Chapter dinner on October 8, 1970, with 212 present. The authentic "Broda" menu was prepared and served by members of the Chapter Board and their wives. Directors added to the original committee were Conrad Gabelhaus, G. Scotty Kaufman, and Jake Sinner. Mrs. Gabelhaus, Mrs. Sinner, Mrs. Schwartz, and Mrs. Marie Gannon were chief cooks.

Excitement over the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia continues to ride high in Lincoln. 14 of us attended the Greeley convention where the announcement was made that we had been granted the first Chapter Charter on June 4, 1970. What we gleaned from that convention we tried to pass on to our other members at a Chapter dinner on October 8, 1970, with 212 present. The authentic "Broda" menu was prepared and served by members of the Chapter Board and their wives. Directors added to the original committee were Conrad Gabelhaus, G. Scotty Kaufman, and Jake Sinner. Mrs. Gabelhaus, Mrs. Sinner, Mrs. Schwartz, and Mrs. Marie Gannon were chief cooks.

of heaven." There were grebel, runza, coffee cake, rye bred, homemade sausage and lots of coffee. Our oldest members provided the program. Mr. John Strauch and Mr. Henry J. Amen told about their early days in Lincoln and Mr. Gottfried Schumacher played several selections on the dulcimer. We always sing. This time we were led by Henry Hohnstein. The First International Convention to be held in Greeley, Colorado, in June was promoted. Most important of all, the group unanimously agreed that they wanted a permanent organization in Lincoln. Our

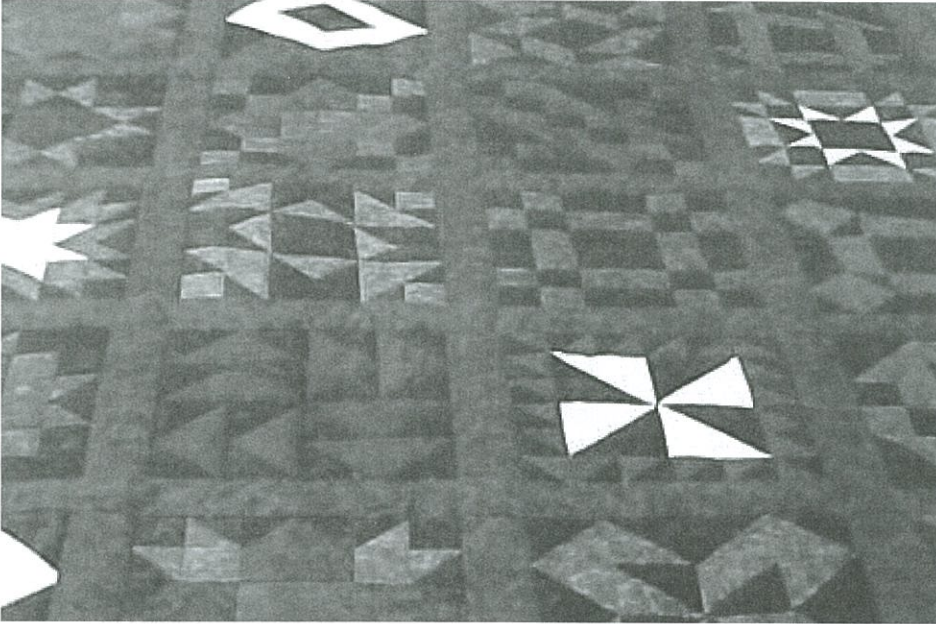
the Chapter Board and their wives. Directors added to the original committee were Conrad Gabelhaus, G. Scotty Kaufman, and Jake Sinner. Mrs. Gabelhaus, Mrs. Sinner, Mrs. Schwartz, and Mrs. Marie Gannon were chief cooks.

It was a distinct honor when the convention accepted our invitation to host the Second International Convention which is to be held June 17-20, 1971, here in Lincoln. We hope all of you will plan to enjoy it with us.

Ruth M. Amen, President
Lincoln, Nebraska Chapter

Quilt Raffle

Another beautiful quilt will be raffled at the upcoming Broda dinner. Raffle tickets will be mailed to Lincoln Chapter members. They may also be purchased from Lincoln Chapter board members or at the Heritage Center, where the quilt is on display.



HELPING AHSGR

Are there other ways to help AHSGR? Most of us, when a family member, a loved one, or a friend dies, send flowers. In a few days, those flowers are gone, and the memory fades.

Let me tell you what my family has been doing. Rather than buying flowers, we have been buying bricks to be placed with the Immigrant Statues. When visitors read them, they see the names of Schreiber, Schenkel, Luft, Foltz, Maul, etc. and the memory then stays alive, not wilted and tossed away like flowers. The visitors will realize those names are not only not forgotten, but someone loved them enough to honor them with a long-lasting remembrance.

The cost of a brick is \$50. Perhaps a bit more than a bouquet, but not much.

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	GRENEMEIER, Henry	1121 No. 79th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505
475-8221	HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th St.	Lincoln, NE 68528
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	2111 Kingswood Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
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	Lincoln, NE 68542
		(Mail to: PO Box 23095)	Lincoln, NE 68516)

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.

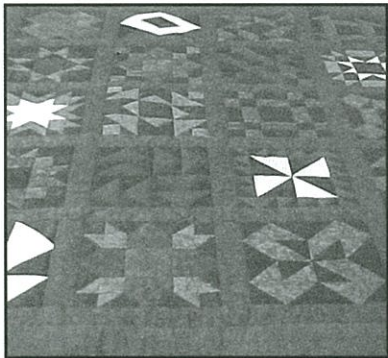
2004 Officers

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

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
631 D Street
Lincoln, NE 68502-1199



BRODA TICKET ORDER FORM

\$8.00 for adults \$4.00 for children under 12
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2004
5 to 7P.M.

WSI Hall, 1430 N. 10th Street, Lincoln, NE

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number of tickets: _____

Please include check and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:

**Judy Runion
2848 Katelyn Cr.
Lincoln, NE 68516**

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me, Larry Schenkel, 438-3814. You may, also, purchase tickets from any of the Lincoln Chapter Board members, whose names are printed on page 5 of the newsletter. If you have a party of 8, you may reserve a table.