



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 4

July/August 2006

Work Week

(See story on page 2)





Work Week

(continued from page 1)

The workweek has come and gone and, while a lot of work was done, there is still a lot to be done.

A BIG "Thank You" goes to the following International Board of Directors members who came to Lincoln to help:

- Jerry Siebert, Moraga, CA; President, Board of Directors of AHSGR
- Jim Fabricius, Zephyrhills, FL; Facilities Committee Chair
- Patsy Fabricius, Zephyrhills, FL; Vice Pres., Board of Trustees; Int'l Foundation AHSGR
- Patti Sellenrick, Sheridan, WY; Historical Research Committee Chair
- Dennis Zitterkopf, Wichita, KS; SOAR Management Comm. & Technology; Review Comm. Chair

The following volunteered from the Lincoln Chapter:

- Nancy Borrell
- Norma Somerheiser, member of the

Board of Int'l Foundation AHSGR

- Susan Stoehr
 - Barb Schmidt
 - Judy Runion
 - Leslie Bill
 - Phil Dinges
 - Bill & Elsa Amen
 - John & Ruby Weber
 - Bud & Virginia Dietrich
 - Larry Schenkel, member of the Int'l Board of Directors
 - Norma Schenkel
- Non-member volunteer:
- Roger Trautwein

A lot of scraping was done and the undercoat of paint was applied. The doors on the blacksmith shop were rebuilt, the chapel doors are being refinished, the storage shed has been assembled, the interior of the buildings were given a good cleaning, windows cleaned, etc. etc.

Unfortunately, not everything got done, so if you find yourself with some spare time, grab your tools and come

down to the Heritage Center. You will probably find John Weber, Phil Dinges, and/or Bill Amen working on something and they would welcome your help.

Oh, yes! Don't think your help is needed only on the outside. The convention is coming up and there is always something that needs doing. Just ask Diane or any one of the staff members and they will be glad to find a project for you to help with.

The installation of the new elevator is almost complete. When finished we will have convenient access to the second floor. There are many artifacts on the second floor that need to be arranged for display before the convention. This is another volunteer opportunity.

Volunteering is not only a great way to help your organization, but you might meet some new, fun and interesting people and make some new, fun and interesting friends.

2006 Board Member Directory Lincoln Chapter – AHSGR

488-3746	AMEN, Bill	4737 South 52nd Street	Lincoln, NE 68516
792-2175	BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372
486-0596	BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506
489-2583	BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68506
435-3052	BOUWENS, Nancy	541 West Beal	Lincoln, NE 68521
476-3600	BURBACH, Donald	3600 Hartley Cr.	Lincoln, NE 68521
488-5154	DINGES, Dale	1609 So. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506
486-1673	GRENAMEIER, Henry	7200 Van Dorn, #128	Lincoln, NE 68516
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
423-4212	SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430
438-3814	SCHENKEL, Larry	9439 Benziger Dr.	Lincoln, NE 68526
476-8976	SOMERHEISER, Norma	2675 South 11th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502
488-2313	WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516
423-4345	WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Cr #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.

2006 Officers

President	Paul Loos	Treasurer	Norma Somerheiser
1st Vice President	Sidonia Babcock	Corresponding Secretary	Lucille Hedges
2nd Vice President	Dale Dinges	Historian	Leslie Bill
Recording Secretary	Nancy Bouwens		

THE HUT

By Don Burbach

The hut was a two-room structure built deep within the high banks on the far side of the “Crabbing Pond,” so named because it was loaded with crayfish, or crawdads. The Crabbing Pond was quite dirty and oily, and the long walk to the far side was made longer by the pond’s swampy shore. Our young minds devised an ingenious plan: build a plank bridge! This not only got us across the pond in the least amount of time and through the least amount of muck, it also ensured our privacy; we could remove any section of the bridge, thus making it less likely that anyone would follow us.

The hut itself was made out of scrap lumber. The structure was braced so strongly that Budge Saurter, the farmer who farmed the land, plowed right over the top with his horses and never even

knew we were right under him. The hut had all the conveniences of home, including a stove that allowed us to use the hut throughout the winter. We got housewares and such from the Goodwill. In those days, just after the Great Depression, money was scarce. But we could still go to the Goodwill store and pick up whatever the Goodwill tossed out. The prices were so low that even we could afford them with our pennies, nickels and dimes.

The hut was more than a pastime for us, more than a mere meeting place. It was a sanctuary from the adult world, a place where we could share our discontent with those who did not understand the angst of being a young boy. It took our minds off the fact that we did not have any toys, other than the toys we made ourselves, because our families did not have any money. It provided us with a distraction from the call of the street, a place where young boys grew up too fast—and

sometimes did not grow up at all.

Yes, we had guns. And rifles, and perhaps a thing or two that could be called a weapon by today’s standards. But we did not use them against each other, and we would never have thought about taking them to school. We used them to kill rabbits, which we would cook and eat in the hut. Oftentimes this was accompanied by field corn and perhaps some cucumbers and tomatoes and potatoes that we happened to “find” lying about. These were often the best meals any of us had had in a while.

Some people will understand the attraction of the hut and get a kick out of such a young boy’s adventures. Some will not and will think we were a bit goofy. My memories of the hut just make me wonder: Are we better off with all we have today, or were we better off in those days, when we had little more than an oily pond, a makeshift hut and each other?

IN MEMORIAM

AHSGR has recently lost two of its oldest and finest members.

Frances Amen

One of the first volunteers I got to know, when I started going to the Heritage Center as a volunteer, was one of the sweetest human beings I have ever known. Her name was Frances Amen. She would be sitting at the desk in the foyer, ready to greet any visitor, with real pleasure in her voice, as she told them about AHSGR.

As Frances aged and her health failed, she couldn’t come down as much but she would be there on the days she did feel good.

Frances will be missed, not only by her immediate family, but by her AHSGR family as well.

Frances was a charter member of AHSGR and of the Lincoln Chapter. She was a life member who donated much time, energy, and money to her beloved AHSGR.

Ed Schwartzkopf

Good-bye, Cuz.

Cuz, was sort of a joke between Ed Schwartzkopf and me. (I didn’t call him, “Cuz” when he would thump me for doing something stupid at Lincoln High.)

Somewhere, in our families, one of my Grandfather Schenkel’s sisters married a Schwartzkopf. Ed didn’t know the genealogy, but his sister, Jean, did. (Jean passed away shortly before Ed.)

Ed was in on the very beginning of AHSGR. He, and others in Lincoln, would load up and go to Greeley, CO to help bring a fledgling dream to reality.

After the national organization of AHSGR was formed, Ed, and the same group of people, began traveling around the state to the areas with large Germans from Russia populations, starting up local chapters to help support the international organization.

Ed worked countless hours at the State Fair, along with those same incredible people, making and selling Volga Boatman sandwiches. Thousands of dollars were raised and donated to the building fund of the International Headquarters.

Ed not only gave of his time; he gave

his money, too. I remember that at one convention Ed pledged to pay the fifth installment (\$100) for anyone who came forward and signed up for a life membership. At that time the life membership fee was \$500. That “little” token cost Ed over \$6000 as over 60 people took advantage of his generous offer.

I don’t know how long Ed served on the International Board of Trustees or on the National Board of Directors, but he always seemed to be on one or the other of those boards.

When I was first elected to the Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors, Ed was the president. He had been on the Board since it was chartered. I became president after Ed’s term expired, not because we had a hot campaign, but more by default. Ed had been president for three years and, as is stated in the Lincoln Chapter by-laws, he could not be re-elected. Sort of “three strikes and you’re out.”

I could not have asked for more gracious footsteps to follow. Ed was always there to keep me from messing up.

Cuz, I’m going to miss your kind guidance.

CONVENTION NOTES

The first thing is to let you know that I have resigned as the chair of the Lincoln Chapter Convention Committee. I felt I was not contributing the needed leadership. However, I am staying on the committee to help in whatever way I can.

They say that the best way to make you look really good is to surround yourself with intelligent people. I think I did that and those people will carry on as if I had never been there. And you all need to give them the same help you have always given me!

As you may know, the theme of this year's convention is, "Keeping the Dream Alive." Let me offer you a short lesson on the "Dream."

TREK—(definition) "a long arduous journey usually including hardship, danger, and/or hard conditions."

Our ancestors made two such "treks," one to leave Germany to venture into Russia and the other when they left Russia to travel thousands of miles to a land they knew little about. Some traveled through Europe to seaports; some

traveled through Siberia, or Manchuria, or China.

What was their dream?

To make sure their heritage was remembered.

AHSGR does that!

To make sure the pride in their ancestry was never lost.

AHSGR does that!

To keep their values, i.e. work ethic, family, and religion.

AHSGR records that and helps preserve it for future generations.

Some wonderful speakers and presenters are scheduled to be at the convention who will be able help you better understand your ancestry and help you learn how to research your genealogy. There will be many sources to use and people to help you use them at the convention.

There will be "Open House" at the Heritage Center during the convention where you will see heritage, pride and values. You will also hear it when you lis-

ten to the speakers and to our volunteers who will be the greeters during the "open house."

I am really looking forward to, and excited about, meeting and hearing the presentation by Dr. Jacob Eichhorn from Midland, MI. He will be presenting "The Immigration of 1759-1766 of German Colonists to Denmark and then to Russia."

The reason I'm excited is because he has a lot of information about the Schenkel family and their trek to Doenhof. All you "Doenhofer's," you don't want to miss this!

There are many more exciting opportunities waiting for you at the convention, from using SOAR on-line to finding ancestors graves at the cemetery.

Aside from all the serious work, you will be meeting old friends and making new ones.

Hope to see all of you at the 2006 Convention!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

When someone passes away and you want to give money to a memorial fund, you can give it to AHSGR?

While this has the benefit of being used as a tax deduction (we are an Internal Revenue 504-3C organization) you can also earmark the donation for a specific area, i.e. SOARS project, the Foundation, etc., or just let AHSGR use it in the general fund.

A good example of this is the money donated in memory of Jim Hempel.

We had restricted funds in the budget of a little over \$1000 for landscaping. After getting three bids on what needed to be done, we were way short.

We remembered that Jim's memorial money had been set aside for an appropriate project and that \$600 was waiting to be used. I presented the landscaping plans to the Int'l Board of Directors, it was moved and seconded that we use

the memorial money, and a pledge was made to cover the difference that was left after the merger of funds.

Why use this money for landscaping? If you were ever down at the Heritage Center when Jim was alive, you know that he was there many times during the week, mowing, trimming, cleaning gutters, hanging pictures and quilt displays, and any other job that needed doing, as well as his own genealogy. So, as you can see, the landscaping project was a perfect place for his memorial. Now, we need a marker of some kind to dedicate the landscaping to him.

Please pass this on to your friends. It would be appreciated. And, believe me, any money donated in someone's name, or just donated to help with the good work of AHSGR, will receive recognition and sincere gratitude.

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Margaret Ann (Amend) Ballew
Jacob Loos Jr.
Frances D. Amen
Jean (Schwartzkopf) Hughes
Lorraine Fischer
Carol E. (Sinner) Hadley
Ed Schwartzkopf

FRIENDS OF AHSGR

In April the Lincoln Chapter Board voted to revise our by-laws. Specifically, Article III, Section 1. The motion carried and the revised by-laws were sent to every dues paying member of the Lincoln Chapter. Having followed Article VIII, Amendment of By-Laws, Sections 1 and 2, our by-laws are now revised.

In the past, members of the Lincoln Chapter had to be members of the International organization as well. This is no longer true. To be a member of the Lincoln Chapter, you have to pay dues only to the Chapter. You will get the Chapter newsletter and other mailings as they are sent, may attend all of the general meetings, vote for the Board of Directors, run for the Board of Directors

and hold office on the Board.

This membership, known as Friends of AHSGR, **does not** include any privileges or benefits afforded to members of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

What would the benefits be for current members?

- We would have more people to help with activities (soup supper, Broda dinner, etc.)
- We would have more people to help sell quilt tickets, Broda dinner tickets, etc.
- We would have a larger volunteer pool to draw from.
- We would be able to renew old

acquaintances and friends.

- We would have the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

Why do this?

The answer is simple, Article II of our by-laws, which states the purpose of the organization, which is to tell the story of our forefathers, the achievements of our people and their religious faith. The more members we have in our chapter, the more money we can, hopefully, raise to help our parent organization, AHSGR. And it is our hope, when new members see what AHSGR has done and hopes to do, they may join, or may make contributions even if they don't join.

Make plans for your AHSGR Convention

August 14-20, 2006

Registration: \$70/members; \$100 non-members; under 18 free

Day Pass available: \$25/members; \$35 non-members

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July
Virginia Tomek
Jeanne Niederhaus
Oleta Ernst
Ruth Kolb
Jolene McInnis
Virginia Dietrich
Gladys Herstein
Esther Heckman
Marti Kaufman
Kathy Tichota

August
Kathleen Schreiber-Svoboda
Larry Schenkel
Mary Froescheiser
Ed Herstein
Bernice Booth
Heidi Dinges

DER JAHRESTABL/ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July
Jake & Dorothy Sinner
Steven & Cheryl Kahler

August
Dale & Heidi Dinges



CELEBRATE!

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

CALENDER OF EVENTS – 2006 LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

July 11, 2006	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00 AM	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy 2
July 17, 2006	.....Board Meeting	.....7:30PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
July 23, 2006	.....General Membership Meeting	.....	.....(Time and location TBA)	.....
August 8, 2006	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00AM	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy 2
August 14-20, 2006	.....AHSGR Convention	.....	.....Embassy Suites	.....Lincoln, NE
August 21, 2006	.....Board Meeting	.....7:30PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
September 17, 2006	.....General Membership Meeting	.....	.....(Time and location TBA)	.....
September 18, 2006	.....Board Meeting	.....	.....	.....631 "D" St.
October 7, 2006	.....Octoberfest	.....11:00AM–3:00PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
October 10, 2006	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00 AM	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & HWY 2
October 16, 2006	.....Board Meeting	.....7:30PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
November 3, 2006	.....Broda Dinner	.....5:00–7:00PM	.....WSI Hall	.....1430 N. 10th St.
November 14, 2006	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00AM	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy 2
November 20, 2006	.....Board Meeting	.....7:30 PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
December 2, 2006	.....Christmas Festival	.....11:30-3:00PM	.....	.....631 "D" St.
December 12, 2006	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00 AM	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy 2
December 2006	.....Board Member's Christmas Dinner	.....	.....(Date, time and location TBA)	.....
January 7, 2007	.....Annual Membership Meeting	.....1:00 PM	.....(Location TBA)	.....

(Potluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers)