



Lincoln Chapter The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIV, ISSUE 2

March/April 2006

About Those Volunteers...

If you have been to the AHSGR Heritage Center on a Friday morning, you may have seen several ladies gluing obituaries onto cards and one lady filing these cards in some gray boxes. These ladies have been doing this since 2001. In March of that year, Bob and Marge Benson of Sacramento, California, brought a scanner to Lincoln and with the help of many Lincoln volunteers, they scanned over 176,000 obituary cards from the master file at the Heritage Center. That took a full week, during which the Bensons and the volunteers worked from 8:00 a.m. until as late as 11:00 p.m. This initial digitization of obituaries became the basis of SOAR (Save Our Ancestral Records), and these records can now be accessed on the AHSGR Web site.

AHSGR members from each chapter clip obituaries from their local newspapers and send them to Lincoln. Barbara Schmidt and Susan Stoehr have typed many header cards during the past five years.

After the obituaries have been mounted on the header cards, Frieda Dobler files the

new cards in a temporary file. These cards are then sent to California, where they are scanned, and later become a part of SOAR.

Nancy Borrell has also typed header cards and has helped with indexing for SOAR. Elsa Amen, Gladys Herstein, Marion Mueller, Norma Somerheiser, Ruth White and Theresa Zitterkopf, have also helped. The SOAR team of the AHSGR Board and all who use the obituary files appreciate their work.

One volunteer you never see though, is Ron Meininger. Ron's health does not permit him to volunteer at the Heritage Center as he used to, so he has been typing obituary header cards at home and mounting the obituaries. The cards are then ready to be filed when they are received at the Center. We estimate he has typed several thousand cards. Ron is accurate and his work is always neatly done.

Ron is a vital part of our team. The ladies could not possibly keep up with the volume of obituaries we are now receiving, without his help. His dedication to this project enables us to continue making new informa-

tion available to researchers on a regular basis.

Many thanks Ron, for all the good work you do for all of us in AHSGR.

(Submitted by Norma Somerheiser)

THE OUTHOUSE

Once there was a little boy that lived in the Bulldog Ring. They had to use an outhouse, and the little boy hated it because it was hot in the summer and cold in the winter and stank all the time. The outhouse was sitting on the bank of Salt Creek and the boy determined that one day, he would push that outhouse into the creek.

One day after a spring rain, the creek was swollen so the little boy decided today was the day to push the outhouse into the creek. So he got a large stick and started pushing. Finally, the outhouse toppled into the creek and floated away.

That night his dad told him they were going to the woodshed after supper. Knowing that meant a spanking, the little boy asked why. The dad replied, "Someone pushed the outhouse into the creek today. It was you, wasn't it, son?"

The boy answered yes. Then he thought a moment and said, "Dad, I read in school today that George Washington chopped down a cherry tree and didn't get into trouble because he told the truth."

The dad replied, "Well, son, George Washington's father wasn't in the cherry tree."

From the Chapter Historian...

Where were you in 1993? "Jurassic Park" was the #1 movie, "Cheers" was ending its 13-year run on TV, and Larry Schenkel was elected President of the Lincoln Chapter. (Has he *really* been around this long?)

In 1993, 75 volunteers came down to AHSGR and gave 5,150 hours of their time to a variety of projects and chores. John Schneider put in 555 hours opening the building each morning, shoveling snow and doing odd jobs and repairs. Henry Grasmick spent 300 hours taking care of the yard and gardens. Hugh Dobler did microfilming for 535 hours (that's 66 8-hour days). And, those quilting ladies! Their time spent sewing totaled 1900 hours! Typing, filing, mailings, and tours. The to-do list seemed to go on and on.

Last year, I joined the volunteer ranks. I was one of the 27 people who came to mow and paint, shelve books, make copies and give tours. We loaded and unloaded the truck bound for Oklahoma. We made soup and broda, and baked cakes. We spent 700 hours doing it, and had some good laughs along the way. But, it's not *all* fun and doughnuts! (Well, it really *is*.) We still have long to-do lists. It's the list of volunteers that keeps getting shorter. We need to see new faces! Spring is just around the corner, and the convention is coming in August. If you have a few extra hours on you hands, please think about volunteering your time at AHSGR. It's a great way to stay connected to your German Russian roots. *(Submitted by Leslie Bill, Chapter Historian)*





CALENDER OF EVENTS – 2006

LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

March 24, 2006	... Soup Supper	..... 5:00–7:00 PM	..... WSI Hall	..... 631 "D" St.
April 11, 2006	... Coffee Club	..... 9:00AM	..... Stauffer's	..... 48th & Hwy 2
April 17, 2006	... Board Meeting	..... 7:30PM		..... 631 "D" St.
April 23, 2006	... General Membership Meeting	..... 2:00 PM	..... Chapel	..... 631 "D" St.
	Program-Preview of Int'l Convention....Coffee & <i>Dina Kuchen</i> (German coffeecake) following.			
April 27-29, 2006	... Garage Sale	..... 9AM-4PM Thurs. & Fri	..... 9AM-12 noon Sat.	..... 2221 Devonshire Drive
May 8, 2006	... Coffee Club	..... 9:00AM	..... Stauffer's	..... 48th & Hwy 2
May 15, 2006	... Board Meeting	..... 7:30 PM		..... 631 "D" St.
June 13, 2006	... Coffee Club	..... 9:00AM	..... Stauffer's	..... 48th & Hwy 2
June 19, 2006	... Board Meeting	..... 7:30PM		..... 631 "D" St.
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, 200	... Annual Membership Meeting	..... 1:00 PM		..... (Location TBA)
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Board & Officers)			

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

March

Jone White
Dale Dinges
Louise Schleich
Carol Sommers
Dorothy J. Pearce
Rebecca J. Hanson
Kenneth A. Hardt
Peter J. Kolb

March (continued)

John Weber
Cheryl Kahler
Myron Pudwill
Bertha Reifschneider
Ed O'Neill
Virginia Amen
Randy Tichota

April

Jane Nickolaus
Jacob Dering
Amy Frohn
Sylvia Hanner
Lefty Grenemeier
Bill Leonhardt
Clara Wertz
Judy Sader

And a special Happy Birthday to Katherine Pabst

DER JAHRESTABL/ HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

March

Lenny & Jan Schneider
Bill & Elsa Amen

April

None have been sent to me.

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRUNG/OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Stanley D. Loos (Mesa, AZ formerly Lincoln)
Doris Arlene (Dorn) Kallos, widow of Gregory. Died in Seattle.
Once lived in the house that sat where AHSGR sits now.
Ruben W. Griess (wife was Viola Rauscher) Sutton, NE
Alexander Albrandt, Jr.
Richard W. Sitzman, Widower of Frances
James Victor Weber (wife Mary) (mother Lilian)
Jacob Kolb (wife Joan)
Betty J (Reitz) Bundy, widow of Arthur
Mary K. (Frank) Kahler, widow of Alexander

WOHLSEIN / GET WELL

Ruth White
Diane White

“Work Week” AHSGR Campus

Sponsored by the International Board of Directors

When: June 5 through 10, 2006

Where: AHSGR Campus, 631 D Street Lincoln, Nebraska

Why: Major and Minor Repair and Maintenance of all Buildings and Grounds of the AHSGR Campus needs your expertise in some areas while others are just a matter of some TLC (Tender Loving Care). You are invited to be a part of this important exercise. Stay as long as your time permits.

What To Bring: Bring the skills and tools of your trade or in general items such as saws, hammers, paint, brushes, etc.

How To Get Started: The Office Manager, Diane White will have a list of items in need of repair. A select team will be available to help you get started on a particular project that meets your expertise or desire.

Why Now: The 2006 Annual Convention is being held in Lincoln, Nebraska in August. Many of the convention attendees will come to tour the Headquarters site and the Museum, many for the first time. We want all to feel at home when visiting the AHSGR Campus and to feel impressed with what they will experience.

Please Note: The Lincoln Chapter of AHSGR, over a good number of years, has donated many hours of time, labor and money in the repair and maintenance of the ASGHR Campus. For this we are ever so grateful. Now it is our turn to show respect for the heritage which we claim as our own.

Communication: Please let Diane White, Office Manager know as soon as possible if you are able help out during the “Work Week” so the Organizing Team is able to plan the week for all that participate. The phone number is for AHSGR and Diane White is 402-474-3363, ext. 14.

Some of the projects that are on the ‘To-Do’ list are:

Chapel door, painting of Chapel, Blacksmith shop and cow shed
Blacksmith shed doors, roof leak on General Store, tile floor of Chapel,
Repaint parking lines and handicap signs, repair seams in gutters wash
windows and blinds.

**If you are interested in entering AHSGR's Storytelling Contest, here is what we're looking for. . . .
A good, interesting, unpublished story that pertains to the history, culture, folklore, language, or
life experiences of the Germans from Russia.**

Examples: • Memories of village life in the Old Country (festivals, foodways, visits by Gypsies)

- Stories about immigration to the New World (the great voyage, Ellis Island, early hardships)
- "Believe it or not" stories, ghost stories, humorous stories, inspiring stories, etc.

AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST RULES:

- 1) Each entry must be typewritten, double-spaced, and in clear, dark print. Entries must be on 8 1/2 by 11 white paper. While a story can be only one or two pages long, no story can be longer than five typewritten pages, in standard 12 point type. Contestants may submit as many stories as they wish, but each entry must be separate and accompanied by a completed entry form. The entry form may be photocopied. Be sure to send FIVE COPIES OF EACH STORY and A COMPUTER DISK COPY IN RTF FORMAT (IF POSSIBLE), ANY PICTURES THAT WILL ENHANCE THE STORY, A SHORT BIO AND PICTURE OF YOURSELF, AND A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED POSTCARD, SO THAT WE CAN NOTIFY YOU OF RECEIPT.
- 2) The name of the author/submitter, should NOT appear on the story itself. Complete the form on reverse page and attach to your entry with a paper clip. Upon receipt, each story will be assigned a reference number (to assure fair and impartial judging).
- 3) Entrants who are 14 years old or younger must indicate their current age and their full birthdate (month/day/year). These individuals will be entered in the "Youth Division." Entrants 15 years old or older will be judged in the "Adult Division."
- 4) The title of the story (IN CAPS) should appear on the first page of each entry.
- 5) Each story must deal with some aspect of the Germans from Russia. To help put your story in context, you might want to begin with something like – *"This story is based on an actual incident that took place about 1890, in the Volga village of Straub. The story was often told by my grandfather who was born in Straub in 1875 and who immigrated to the United States in 1907."*
- 6) If submitting a story in dialect German or Standard German, a full translation (in English) must be included. Both versions must still be within the 5 page limit.
- 7) Each entry must represent the story of the entrant. Contestants must verify this and the copyright agreements on the front page with their signature.
- 8) Submitted copies of the story will not be returned. Future rights to the story will be as defined by the selected and signed copyright agreement on the front page.
- 9) All stories will be evaluated by a sub-committee of AHSGR members. Entries will be evaluated using a score sheet and the final results will be announced at the upcoming AHSGR Convention. Three prize winners and one or more "Honorable Mention" winners are possible in both the Adult and the Youth Divisions.
- 10) **All entries must be received by May 1, 2006. Entries received after that date cannot be considered.**



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

631 D STREET • LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68502-1199 • TELEPHONE 402/474-3363, FAX 402/474-7229, WEBSITE www.ahsgr.org

INTERNATIONAL

Adult Division

First Place Award - \$100.00

Second Place Award - \$75.00

Third Place Award - \$50.00

(Ties are possible for each of the Above awards)

"Honorable Mentions" also possible

Youth Division (14 years old or younger)

First Place Award - \$50.00

Second Place Award - \$30.00

Third Place Award - \$20.00

(An AHSGR Youth Membership will be included with each of the above awards)

"Honorable Mentions" also possible

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2006 AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

This completed form must accompany your story!

I hereby give my permission to allow the inclusion of the following story of mine in the Storytelling Contest of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia:

Check one only: I certify that I currently control all the copyrights to the story.

I hereby grant and assign all copyright in the story to AHSGR (the Society) for its exclusive use. I understand that in return, the Society grants to me the right to reprint the story in any book or publication of which I am the author or editor. This right is subject to my giving proper credit in the book or publication to the original publication; the credit will include the original copyright notice as it appeared.

My signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of my Story: _____

I am currently an AHSGR member: Yes No

I plan to be at the AHSGR Convention in Lincoln, Nebraska, in August 2006: Yes No

FULL NAME: (please print clearly) _____

ADDRESS: (Street & Apt. Number) _____

CITY & STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER _____

AGE (if 14 years old or younger) _____ BIRTHDATE (if 14 years old or younger) _____

E-MAIL Address: _____

Please send this completed entry form, along with 5 copies of your story, a copy on a computer disk (if possible), any pictures that enhance the story, a short bio, a picture of yourself, and a stamped postcard with your full name and address to:

**Dr. Timothy J. Kloberdanz
310 North 28th Avenue
Fargo, North Dakota 58102-1941**

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MAY 1, 2006

The mission of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is to discover, collect, preserve, and disseminate information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

Aprons...

(I don't think our kids know what an apron is)

The principal use of Grandma's apron was to protect the dress underneath, but along with that, it served as a potholder for removing hot pans from the oven.

It was wonderful for drying children's tears, and on occasion was even used for cleaning out dirty ears. From the chicken coop, the apron was used for carrying eggs, fussy chicks, and sometimes half-hatched eggs to be finished in the warming oven.

When company came, those aprons were ideal hiding places for shy kids. And when the weather was cold, grandma wrapped it around her arms. Those big old aprons wiped many a perspiring brow bent over the hot wood stove. Chips and kindling wood

were brought into the kitchen in that apron.

From the garden, it carried all sorts of vegetables. After the peas had been shelled, it carried out the hulls. In the fall, the apron was used to bring in apples that had fallen from the trees.

When unexpected company drove up the road, it was surprising how much furniture that old apron could dust in a matter of seconds. When dinner was ready, Grandma walked out on the porch, waved her apron, and the men knew it was time to come in from the fields to dinner.

It will be a long time before someone invents something that will replace that "old-time apron" that served so many purposes.

Remembering Mary Wunder

AHSGR and the Lincoln Chapter have lost a dear friend, Mary Wunder.

Mary was on the Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors when I first got on that board and she voiced her opinion during meetings. She wasn't there just to sit; she was there to help make things go.

I learned early that Mary's nickname was *Die Butzen*. At the first dinner I helped with, I learned why. *Die Butzen*, literally translated, means "the wiper." And Mary did that. She couldn't stand just sitting and talking, she had to be doing something, so she *butzed!* She *butzed* the tables, the silverware, the pots, etc., etc.

Mary also had a reputation of telling one how things should be done. She had me scared half to death as we neared the day to make noodles at Zion Church. This was the first activity I had organized as president of

the Board. I just knew Mary was going to give me what for because I'd messed something up.

By the time everything was set up, there wasn't room for Bud Dietrich, Mary and me to set up our noodle machine so the three of us took our operation to the kitchen area and Mary took me under her wing.

Mary kneaded the dough and Bud and I rolled it out, then hung it to dry. Mary could tell I was dumber than a post when it came to noodle making. But did she light into me? Nope! I never had a more gentle or patient teacher.

So where did the reputation come from? Mary didn't suffer fools and she let them know that.

Good-bye, Mary. We are all better for having known you, and you will be missed. *(From Larry Schenkel)*

Music, Music, Music

The date of the 2006 AHSGR Convention is fast approaching and we're working on finding different kinds of musical groups for your listening pleasure.

We also have Tom Bassett, who is an antique appraiser, scheduled to be there Friday night. It should be a fun night so plan to bring one of your treasures for Tom to look at. I'll have more on that and the musical performances in the next newsletter.

I can tell you that I have talked with

Katherine Pabst and, depending on her health, she'd like to get the German Singers together to sing at the Convention. Stay healthy, Katherine!

Do any of you know a hammer dulcimer player? Do any of you know a balalaika player? Wouldn't it be fun to have them playing at the convention?

If you have any suggestions or input, call me and let me know:

Larry Schenkel, 438-3814

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS

The obituary folks could use some help typing obituary header cards. There are two large boxes of obituaries that need to be prepared for scanning and the ladies are asking for your help.

*"When you come to a fork in the road, take it." -
Yogi Berra*



Lordy, Lordy, the merchandisers are at it again.

Okay, get into those attics, basements, cellars and garages! Go through those books, jewelry, VCR tapes, toys, linens, electronics and closets. Then call your friendly newsletter editor (438-3814). If you don't have a way to get your donation to us, my Norma and I will come pick them up. If your items are too big for our van, we will get someone with a bigger vehicle.

If you have items you wish to donate, it would help if you could put a price on them. It isn't strictly necessary, as we price anything not priced, but it would save us time.

We arrange things so attractively and price them so well, we had one customer buy three items they had donated!

Remember, no item is too big or too small!

One person's "junk" is another person's treasure.

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



LARRY D SCHENKEL
 9439 BENZIGER DR
 LINCOLN NE 68526-9219

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Larry & Norma Schenkel
 9439 Benziger Drive
 Lincoln, NE 68526

Remember...

Grandma used to set her hot baked apples pies on the windowsill to cool.

Her granddaughters set theirs on the windowsill to thaw.

"Is sloppiness in speech caused by ignorance or apathy? I don't know and I don't care." - (William Safire)

**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	GRENEMEIER, 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	