



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 4

July/August, 2007

Convention 2007 Report

As Norma and I were preparing to go to the convention in Hays, Kansas, we had some mixed feelings and many questions.

The big question was how a town of approximately 22,000 was going to produce a convention.

We need not have worried. All of the communities around Hays pitched in to help in many ways. The merchants in Hays helped to an "nth" degree. The Hays Daily News produced and distributed a collector's edition for the convention. This special edition had sixteen pages of the history of Germans from Russia.

I can tell you, we did not have that much support for the Lincoln convention last year.

Hays truly had one of the best conventions my Norma and I have attended. That is not to say there weren't any problems. There were. But what we experienced was everyone doing all they could, as quickly as they could, to overcome and solve those problems, and in a friendly, cheerful, manner. I have never met friendlier people. Even the weather cooperated, for the most part.

One afternoon, after my meetings were over, we drove to Ellis and Victoria to see the beautiful historic churches in these two towns. While driving around these towns, we were surprised and pleased to see signs welcoming AHSGR to their communities.

We were entertained at the Hays convention with so much great music! On Tuesday evening a dinner was held for the Board members and the volunteers. We were fortunate to be able to sit at a table and get acquainted with four couples from the Hays area. The

entertainment that evening was Galen Schmidtberger with his clarinet and accordion. He sang a song called, "Hail, Victoria!" written about the town. He sang with such obvious fervor and pride, many of us were singing along on the chorus. He was great!

On Wednesday, at the Welcome Night festivities, we were entertained by a number of different people, including "Buffalo Bill Cody" and Bob Wilhelm, the director of the Fort Hays Museum. Buffalo Bill was portrayed by Kirk Shapland. Again there was music, music, music which included the Joe Dolezal Polka Band for dancing. Galen Schmidtberger took part here, too.

On Friday night were again treated to still more music, presented by local talent. This talent included the St. Fidelis Church Choir from Victoria, Kansas—"Cathedral of the Plains." And be darned if Galen Schmidtberger wasn't there, also! He is quite an entertainer.

The banquet on Saturday evening, was a huge success and was followed by—you guessed it—hochzeit music by the Wes Windholz Band. A great way to end a great convention!

Leonard Schoenberger and Leona Pfiefer were convention co-chairs and deserve heartfelt congratulations and thank you, as do all of the committee members.

Next year, it's on to Casper, Wyoming for the 2008 convention. Patty Sellenrick has put in many, many hours and many, many miles to ensure that this historic convention happens. Why historic? Because AHSGR and GRHS are having a joint convention!! It will be held from July 28 through August 3, 2008.

Make plans NOW to BE THERE.

Congrats!

Ed Schwartzkopf was nominated for, and awarded, the International Society's Distinguished Service Award, posthumously. If you ever get an opportunity to read what it takes to be nominated, and you knew Ed at all, it looks like they were writing it for Ed. I considered it an honor to write the nomination for Ed. I just wish I had done it two years earlier when I first thought of it.

Diana Bell, of Fresno, California, was also presented with the Distinguished Service Award. Those of you who have been active in AHSGR and gone to past conventions, know Diana and all she has done for AHSGR. I am happy that two awards could be given, rather than trying to choose between the two nominees. It would have been very difficult.

Arthur "Art" E. Flegel was nominated for, and received, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor Award. Again, if you have been active in AHSGR and attended conventions, Art and Cleo Flegel are not strangers. They live and breathe, AHSGR!

Congratulations, Art! A more worthy recipient couldn't have been found!



Membership

I think the following graph shows why we are concerned about getting new members into AHSGR.

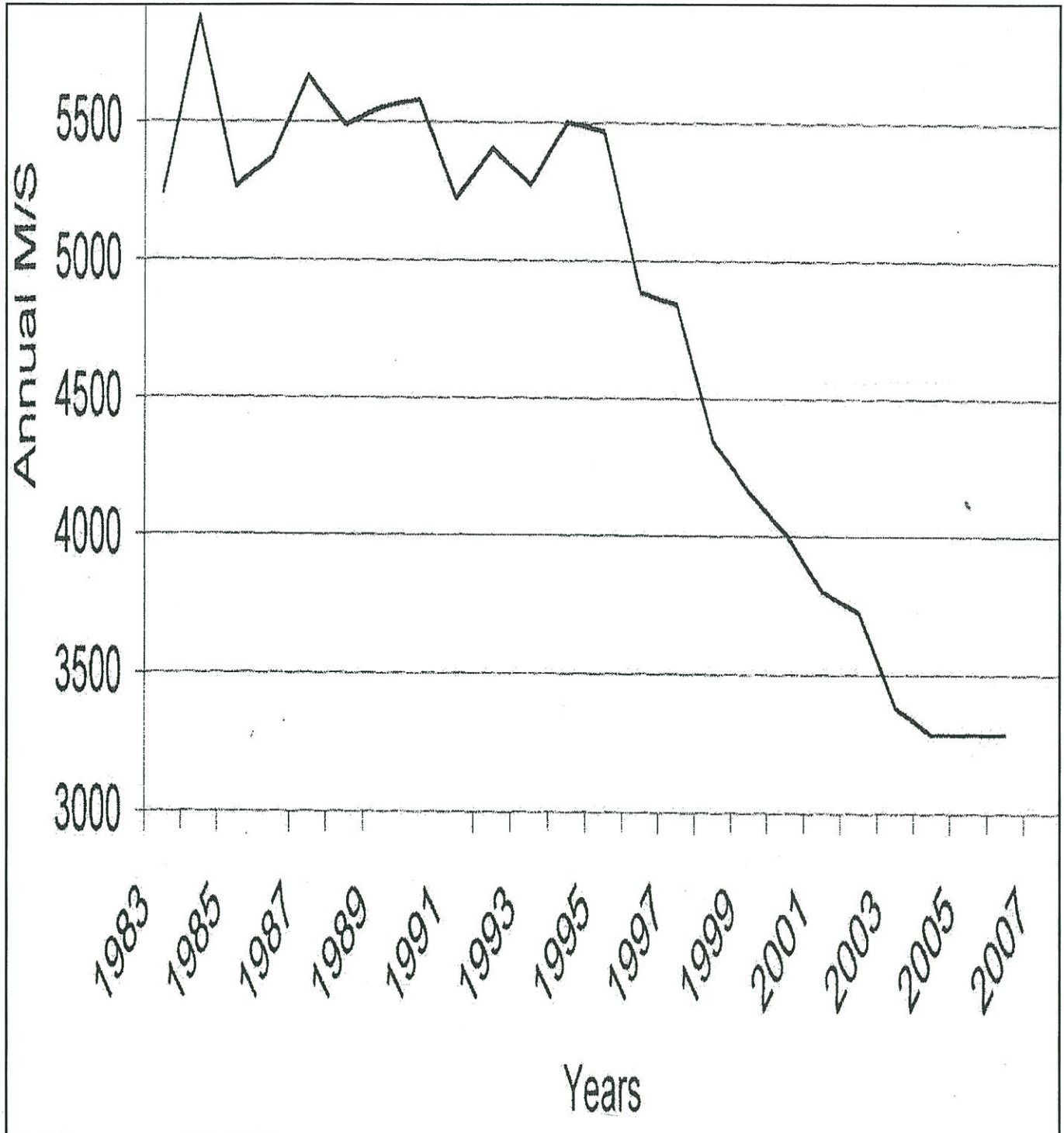
Fortunately, the past several years have shown a flattening of the drop in membership and, hopefully, we can start an upward curve. BUT—that is not going

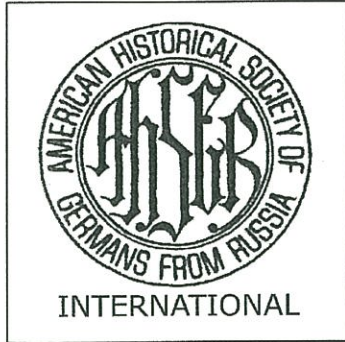
to happen without your help. If each one of you could reach out and get one new member, imagine what we could do. Or, on the other side of that coin, if we don't reach out and get new members and the downward trend were to continue over the next ten to twenty years, imagine

what we can't do.

In an effort to get members to try harder, AHSGR has continued its membership campaign. It will have cash prizes for both members and chapters.

The following flyer will explain how the contest will work.





*4th Annual AHSGR Membership
Campaign starts at the
Hays, Kansas Convention!*

New members are critical to the continued success of AHSGR!

You can make a difference - talk to family and friends!

Buy a gift membership!

UP, UP AND AWAY!

This campaign is designed to reward AHSGR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit new members for AHSGR or purchase gift memberships. The campaign begins June 16, 2007 and ends on July 15, 2008. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2008 Casper Convention to be held July 28 – August 3. Additional prizes for AHSGR Chapters have been added this year. Pick up an application at convention or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org>

- \$100 to the AHSGR member AND \$200 to the AHSGR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members.
- \$75 to the AHSGR member AND \$150 to the AHSGR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members.
- \$50 to the AHSGR member AND \$100 to the AHSGR Chapter who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members.
- *In addition*, all new members who join during the campaign (either recruited by an AHSGR member or not) will have their name placed “in the hat” for a drawing. Three (3) \$25 cash prizes will be awarded.

As the old adage says in ten, two letter words:

If IT IS TO BE IT IS UP TO ME.

**WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL MOVE OUR MEMBERSHIP
“UP, UP AND AWAY” TO ASSURE THE FUTURE OF AHSGR!**



2007 Board Member Directory Lincoln Chapter - AHSGR

AMEN, Bill	4737 South 52nd Street	Lincoln NE 68516	488-3746
BABCOCK, Sidonia	403 Stagecoach Avenue	Hickman, NE 68372	792-2175
BILL, Leslie	3338 Glenhaven Place	Lincoln, NE 68506	486-0596
BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Drive	Lincoln, NE 68506	489-2583
BOUWENS, Nancy	1121 N. 79th Street	Lincoln, NE 68521	435-3052
DINGES, Dale	1609 S. Cotner Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68506	488-5154
GRENEMEIER, Henry	7200 Van Dorn, #128	Lincoln, NE 68516	486-1673
HEDGES, Lucille	214 NW 126th Street	Lincoln, NE 68528	475-8221
HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Drive	Lincoln, NE 68510	489-5976
LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521	477-3978
REITZ, Ann	4121 S. 30th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502	489-5462
RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Circle	Lincoln, NE 68516	423-3853
SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430	423-4212
SOMERHEISER, Norma	2675 S. 11th Street	Lincoln, NE 68502	476-8976
WEBER, John	4940 Sinclair Court	Lincoln, NE 68516	488-2313
WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Circle #7	Lincoln, NE 68542	423-4345

(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.

2007 OFFICERS

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

Special Memorial

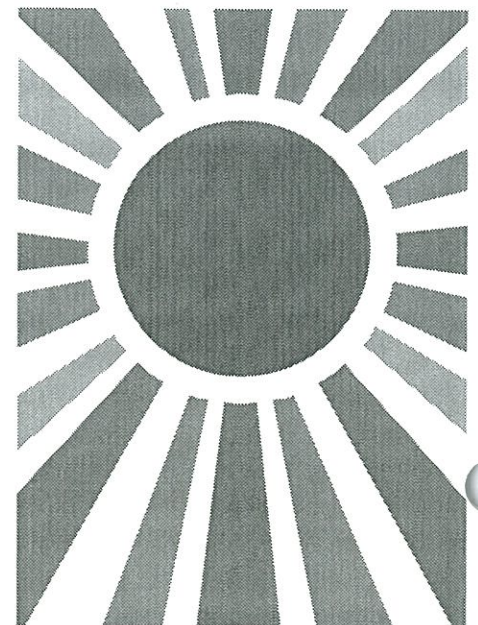
As I said in last month's newsletter, this part is getting harder. Again, each loss we suffer of "Unsere Lente" (our people) is a loved one who will be missed. But the loss of my friend, Bud, is a very personal loss to me.

Over the years that I have been involved in the Lincoln Chapter and AHSGR, I have begun calling two men, "Dad." One is Phil Dinges and the other was Bud. These were my go-to guys, whenever I had a problem or there was a problem that needed attention at AHSGR. All I had to do

was call and one, or both, would be there for me.

I don't know how many dinners, Octoberfests, or Christmas Festivals we had but Bud was always there to help, along with his great right-hand, Virginia.

This is getting too hard. Let me end this by simply saying, I love you, Dad, and I am going to miss you for a long, long time.





HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL / HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July

Jeanne Niederhaus
Oleta Ernst
Ruth Kolb
Jolene McInnes
Virginia Dietrich
Gladys Herstein
Esther Heckman
Marti Kaufman

Kathy Tichota
Mary Ann Gooding
Derald Drbal
Sheryl Heidenreich
Kathy Hill

August

Kathleen Schreiber-Svoboda
Larry Schenkel
Mary Froscheiser
Ed Herstein
Bernice Booth
Heidi Dinges
Lillian Bauer
Robert Settell

A card was sent to Lila Burbach on her 80th birthday.

If you know of one of our people having a special birthday or anniversary,
please call me, (438-3814) so I can get it into the newsletter.

If you know of someone who has passed, please get that information to Lucille Hedges.

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

July

Jake & Dorothy Sinner
Steven & Cheryl Kahler
Harry & Jean Niederhaus

August

Dale & Heidi Dinges
Kathy & Ronald Hill
J. "Scott" & Teri Nelson

GUTE BESSERUN Get Well

Henry "Lefty" Grenemeier
Irene Giebelhaus

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Alex "Bud" Dietrich
John Dietrich
Robert Geier
Richard Oxenhardt

The Lincoln Quilters



For the past 33 years, ladies of our Lincoln Chapter and their friends have met to quilt at the Heritage Center. Margaret Rob, mother of Mary Froscheiser and grandmother of Judy Runion, made the first quilt and through the years these ladies have made many beautiful quilts.

Every year these ladies make a special quilt for the Lincoln Chapter. A raffle is held, and this quilt is awarded to the lucky winner at our annual "Broda" dinner in November. The raffle this year raised \$693. Usually this money is donated to AHSGR for general use of the Society, but this year the Lincoln Chapter Board of Directors sought to honor these ladies in a special way. After consulting the quilters, the Board made a donation of \$307 and this, along with the \$693 raised from the quilt raffle, was donated to the University of Nebraska Foundation for the International Quilt Study Center and Museum, now under construction at 33rd and Holdrege Streets. The new museum

is scheduled to open in late March, 2008.

On May 7, 2007, Greg Jensen of the University Foundation came to the Heritage Cent to meet the quilters and received the gift.

Mr. Jensen spent over an hour with the quilters and told them that 117 architectural firms and individuals from all over the world expressed interest in doing the building design. The design that was submitted by Robert A. M. Stern, was selected.

The new International Quilt Study Center will be the only museum in the world fully dedicated to quilts. It will house over 2,500 pieces covering six centuries, including 1,400 quilts in the Robert and Ardis James Collection, which is presently housed in the Department of Clothing and Textiles building on the East Campus of UNL. Mr. Jensen said that historic American quilts, contemporary quilts, and "quilts from all over the planet," will be right here in Lincoln.

Mr. Jensen said that one guild in France, when they learned of the

construction of the new quilt center, wrote that they are saving their money so they can all come to Lincoln, Nebraska, to see this unique facility and it's priceless collection.

This donation of \$1,000, in honor of our Lincoln Chapter quilters, will be recognized on the "Wall of Honor" where names of donor quilting guilds are listed on gold plaques.

Why did we give this money to the University of Nebraska Foundation for this project? The Lincoln Chapter board felt it was a fine way to honor the ladies who have made quilting a tradition in our Lincoln Chapter. They have raised thousands of dollars for our Society with their quilts. It will let all who visit the International Quilt Study Center in the future know that our Lincoln Chapter quilters have contributed much to the art of quilting.



Calendar of Events

July 16, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM	631 "D" St.
July 22, 2007	General Membership Meeting	2:00PM-Chapel (Refreshments following)	631 "D" St.
August 14, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
August 20, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM	631 "D" St.
September 11, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
September 16, 2007	General Membership Meeting & Picnic	4:00PM	Antelope Park Shelter
September 17, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM	631 "D" St.
October 6, 2007	Octoberfest	11:00AM-3:00PM	631 "D" St.
October 9, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
October 15, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM	631 "D" St.
November 2, 2007	Broda Dinner	5:00-7:00PM	WSI Hall 1430 N 10th St.
November 13, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
November 19, 2007	Board Meeting	7:00PM	631 "D" St.
December 1, 2007	Christmas Festival	11:30AM-3:00PM	631 "D" St.
December 11, 2007	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's 48th & Hwy 2
December __, 2007	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		(Date, time and location TBA)
January 13, 2008	Annual Membership Meeting	1:00PM	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall (10th & Charleston Sts)
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)		

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

On Sunday, July 22, 2007, there will be a General Membership Meeting which will be held in the Chapel on the campus of AHSGR. The meeting starts at 2:00PM and refreshments will follow. See you all there.

On Sunday, September 16, 2007, there will be a General Membership Meeting and a FREE picnic supper at 4:00PM at the Antelope Park Shelter. The free picnic is the Chapter's way of saying "Thank You" to all who have volunteered their time and talents during the past year.

Lastly, don't forget that there are a group who get together the second Tuesday of every month at 9:00AM at Stauffer's at 48th & Highway 2 to have breakfast and visit. Come join us!

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR



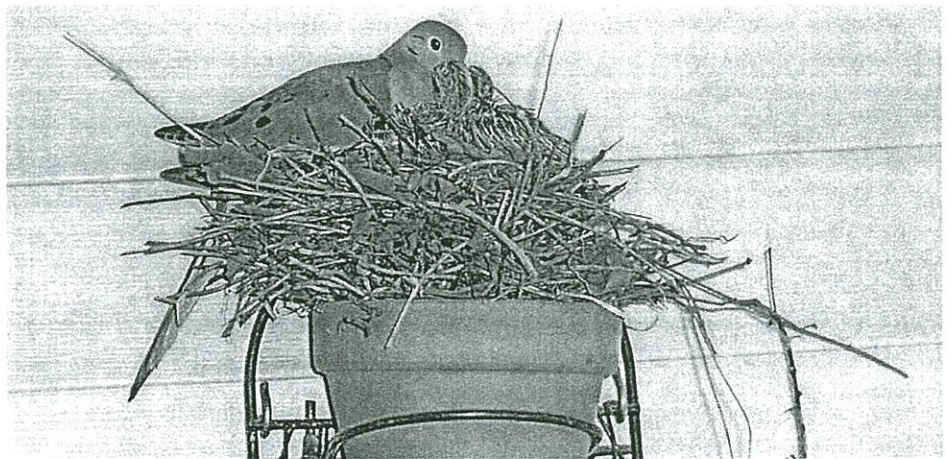
Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526

Our Annual Garage Sale

Submitted by Norma Somerheiser

The Lincoln Chapter's annual garage sale was held May 18th and 19th. Nancy Borrell once again let us use her garage and volunteers worked four days setting up the sale. A very eclectic array of merchandise was again donated and the sale raised \$533.85 for our chapter.

Along with the usual camaraderie we enjoy at our sales, we were pleased to be a part of a very special event. A mourning dove had build her nest on the top of a flower pot which was hanging on the wall of the deck of Nancy's house, and it was fully visible from the interior of the garage. All who worked on the sale and most of our customers were able to observe the proud parents feeding their newly hatched offspring. Doves are very calm, docile birds, and these parents showed no unease at the comings and goings of



our customers on the deck near them or in the adjacent garage. This is the first "baby shower" we have ever had at one of garage sales.

Unfortunately the sale ended before the fledglings first flight from the nest.

Many thanks to Nancy Borrell for graciously allowing us to hold the

sale at her house. Also, we want to thank all who donated items to sell and the many volunteers who worked to make it a success. Along with many small donated, items, we received several nice pieces of furniture. All helped to make it another successful sale.