



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE 5

September/October, 2007

From Your Chapter President

It's hard to believe but summer is ending and fall is fast approaching. We are beginning a new school year and Cornhusker football season starts September 1st.

Even though 2007 is two-thirds gone, there are many events left on the Chapter calendar. As your president, I would like to encourage all Lincoln Chapter members to attend as many of these events as possible.

I would especially remind members to try to attend the General membership meeting and free picnic supper at

Antelope Park Shelter at 4:00PM on Sunday, September 16th.

This free picnic supper is for all Lincoln Chapter members to thank you for your hard work throughout the year. It would be nice to see all of you there.

Also remember to mark your calendars for:

Broda Dinner—November 2nd from 5PM to 7PM, WSI Hall at 1430 N. 10th Street.

Christmas Festival—December 1st from 11:30AM to 3:00PM, at AHSGR

Headquarters.

You may contact any of our Board members for more details concerning these two events and watch your next newsletter for more information. Once again, we will need your help for both these events so, please volunteer if you can.

I thank you all for your support and look forward to the rest of this year as your president. □

Paul Loos

General Membership Meeting

The Lincoln Chapter held a General Membership Meeting on July 22, 2007, at AHSGR Headquarters. Several topics were discussed which included the Convention that was held in Hays, Kansas and the Distinguished Service Award that was given, posthumously, to Ed Schwartzkopf.

The Calendar of Events was reviewed and everyone was reminded of the next General Membership Meeting and picnic supper to be held September 16th at 4PM at the Antelope Park Shelter.

It was also noted, that the Octoberfest, which was to be held on October 6th, has been cancelled.

The President, Paul Loos, also reminded us that the 2010 Convention will be held in Lincoln and plans and preparation will begin soon.

A very informative and educational program was presented by Sidonia Babcock, RN, BA, MA entitled "Stroke and Stroke Prevention". Sid is the Outpatient Surgery and Recovery Room Manager at BryanLGH West.

We were told of the warning signs of a stroke, which may include a sudden severe headache, confusion, trouble speaking, seeing, and walking, dizziness and loss of balance, numbness or weakness of the face, arm, or leg, but, she said, not all the warning signs occur in every stroke.

Sid gave us some interesting facts about strokes too. For instance, did you know that the risk of a stroke doubles after age 55? That two-thirds of all strokes happen to those age 65 and over? That people with hypertension have the highest risk of having a stroke? That one out of 3 adults have hypertension? That 2 out of 3 people with diabetes will die from a stroke or cardiac problems? And, lastly, did you know that those who have had a stroke have a 10% chance of reoccurrence within the first year after?

There were many questions and much discussion by those present. Thank you very much, Sid, for a great program. □

Convention Stories Next Pages

This little ditty was written on our return by Lela Miller:

*Many came by automobile,
And more came by plane.
We came by Greyhound Bus
Because we couldn't go by train.
So if we are the least bit smart,
No way would we do it again!!!*

The following stories are just a couple of the reasons for attending the Conventions. So next year, when you're trying to decide if you should go to the Convention in Casper, Wyoming, stop and think about these stories. You, too, might find someone you don't even know who has a name and some history you're looking for; and, no, maybe you won't be traveling by bus, but it could be "an adventure" none the less. Enjoy...



It Pays to go to the AHSGR Convention!

By Jene Harder Goldhammer, Oregon Chapter

After searching for years, and writing many letters without any leads, I hit the jackpot by chance.

My friend, Mollie Rimerman, and I always go to the AHSGR Conventions. We spend hours doing research and going to lectures trying to further our Family History. This year was a little different, we decided to meet up with another "cuz", Gretchen White, and go early and help set up the Genealogy Room. Because of that we arrived on the Thursday night before the convention.

Our plan was to spend some time with Nancy Borrell (another "cuz" and member) who was also going to teach us how to cook a few German dishes from our ancestry. We had so much fun; we ate and ate, and ate more! On Sunday, Nancy asked if we would like to go to the old Friedens Lutheran Church where the Germans from the South Bottoms attended church. Of course we said yes, we would love to do that.

As we entered the church, Nancy was introducing us to all her friends. Then she said, "Oh, and Jene, you may want to meet Stella Kaufman, didn't you say that was a name you were searching for?"

"Yes, for the last ten years." Hello, Stella, my name is Jene Harder Goldhammer. I have been looking for a George Kaufmann who had a sister named Mary/Marie Herder in Portland, Oregon." Stella was quick to respond that her father-in-law was George Kaufman and he did have a sister that used to visit from out west somewhere."

To make a long story short, this was the beginning of a treasure to me. I found a whole family of eight children. I met Sandy and Delores at the church that day, also.

Stella gave me the phone number of a daughter, Jeanette Rieke, which really opened the door for me. Jeanette invited me to lunch and then to her home where I was able to take pictures of pictures that she had and she told me so much information.

One story that is very interesting was as follows: I have a picture of a soldier in a Russian uniform. I only knew of my grandmother having one brother because it was written in her obituary. The picture was published in the Norka newsletter about seven or eight years ago.

It was not George after all. The picture was of another older brother probably the one that made it possible for George to leave when he did. The brother came home from the war and insisted George, who was to turn 18 years old, pack a bag, get to Saratov and get on the ship that is leaving for the Baltic. Go to Brazil, anywhere just get out of here now. Otherwise you will be sent to the front lines and sure death.

Without getting to say good-bye, George packed his bag, his brother gave him all the money he had and he was off. When getting on board the ship, he found he had to have a sponsor, lucky for him there was a man in Lincoln, Nebraska named Amend that was willing to sponsor him.

I wouldn't have ever found this family had I not gone to the church on that day in Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks to AHSGR Convention. □

[Submitted by Nancy Borrell]

Here's yet another story from the Oregon Chapter, also submitted by Nancy Borrell:

Where There is a Will, There is a Way!

or

Some People WILL do ANYTHING for Attention!

It was Sunday night, June 10, 2007, when three hardy GRs from the Oregon Chapter, Lela Miller, Jene Goldhammer, and Molly Ann Rimerman met at the Greyhound Bus Station in Portland in great anticipation of the adventure ahead of them. They were going to the 38th Annual International Convention of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia in Hays,

Kansas. Thirty-six hours on an air-conditioned bus did not seem to be all that long at this point of their "great adventure".

Laden with pillow, blanket and plenty of snacks for the journey they finally headed out at 12:30 a.m., fifty minutes late, down the Columbia River scenic highway. (Never fear those Greyhound drivers know how to make time! Why do you think they

are "Greyhound"? Just close your eyes and leave the driving to them!)

After settling in as best they could, a very long night of squirming and squiggling in their seats trying to find a comfortable position in order to catch a few Z's, became the name of the game. Dawn brought them to Ontario, the last stop in Oregon.

[continued on page 3]

Are We Having Fun Yet?

Finally a kind soul on the left stopped her car and allowed the

There were many good sessions to attend, the Story Telling Contest being one of the most popular with the winning stories this year bringing some tears to one's eyes. The Welcome Night was a smashing event with some local entertainment, history and a wonderful buffet, which featured German brats, sauerkraut,

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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
GRENAMEIER, 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



Calendar of Events

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 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	
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)		[10th & Charleston Sts]	



HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL / HAPPY BIRTHDAY

I goofed when it came to Derald Drbal's birthday and it was a pretty special one, too.

Derald turned 80 in July! Happy Birthday, again, Derald.

Bernice Booth celebrated her 90th birthday in August. Bernice lives in Las Vegas now, but has remained a Lincoln Chapter member as well as a member of the Las Vegas Chapter. Happy Birthday, Bernice.

September Birthdays

Tom Bill
Nancy Borrell
Lucille Hedges
Jerry McInnes
Nancy Richards
Judy Runion
Barbara Schmidt
Sharon Spellman
Doris Taylor

October Birthdays

Jane Alt	Paul Loos
Greg Bouwens	Nancy Meinzer
Helen Burbach	Patricia Olson
Jacob Dietrich	Delores Schwartz
Frieda Dobler	Norma Somerheiser
Lillian Giebelhaus	Jake Sinner
Jewel Hardt	
Scotty Kaufman	
Lois Leonhardt	

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

September

Annie and Bob Settell

October

Leslie and Tom Bill
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Meininger

Derald and Mary Drbal celebrated their 60th anniversary last month! Sorry I missed mentioning it.

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

*Philomena K. Lebsack
Kenneth Hardt
Ruth M. Shafer*

*Marie Schafer
Naomi Ellen Bauer
John Helzer*

*Pauline Heidenreich
George D. Traudt
Ruth Gettman*

I want to take this opportunity to say good-bye to a friend, Jack Sexton.

Many of you knew Jack, as he came to many of our functions with Ann Reitz.

I had a number of conversations with Jack and found we enjoyed talking together.

Jack wasn't a GR (in fact, he had some unpleasant memories from his youth, concerning GRs) but he was always available for his special friend, Ann Reitz, until he couldn't drive anymore. Jack, I will miss you.

Of Note...

The Lincoln Quilters and the Lincoln Chapter have received a letter of thanks and appreciation from the University of Nebraska Foundation for the generous contribution given to them in support of the International Quilt Study Center Building Fund.

The construction of the building is on schedule and the museum is expected to open in early 2008.

Check out www.quiltstudy.org if you are interested in more information about the museum and a link to the live webcam on the building site.

□

HUMOR FOR LEXOPHILES (LOVERS OF WORDS):

- The roundest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles, U.C.L.A
- The butcher backed up into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his work.
- A dentist and a manicurist fought tooth and nail.
- A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
- A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.



A LITTLE SOMETHING ONLY SENIORS WILL UNDERSTAND

I felt like my body had gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and starting exercising. I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over!

(Remember, you don't stop laughing because you grow old, you grow old because you stop laughing.)

And lastly—The Senility Prayer: Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

*Opportunity has a sly habit of slipping in the back door,
and often comes disguised as misfortune, or temporary defeat.
Perhaps this is why so many people fail to recognize opportunity.
~Napoleon Hill~*



MEMORIES OF A CHILDHOOD IN SUTTON, NE

Growing up in Sutton, Nebraska, well known as a community populated mostly with Germans from Russia, was as normal as could be. It was just another small farming town in Nebraska. I was unaware of our rich heritage until years later.

The farmers complained that it was too hot, too cold, too wet, too dry for the crops. Teachers were well respected by all, especially the students, for they could, and sometimes did, make life pretty miserable for troublemakers.

Everyone kept busy. Women did the family laundry, hanging wet clothes on the line to dry regardless of the weather. They all were great cooks, preparing various German favorites along with meatloaf and hot dishes. And they always knew where their kids were. Men toiled in their fields or businesses, mindful of the prices they paid and charged for goods and services. My dad, the local doctor, charged \$2.00 for an office visit and \$3.00 for a house call, day or night, weekends included, whether they lived in Sutton, in the country, or in one of the surrounding towns. Many of the babies were born at home. When patients didn't have the money to pay, they would give him

eggs, a chicken, garden produce, or simply say, "Doc, put it on my bill." The closest hospital was Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings, 28 miles down Highway 6.

As kids, we had a great life. Everyone had lots of relatives living nearby, and got together with them

1922 they were the State Class A champions!

Religious life was important in our little town of 1,250. There were a number of churches and each was well attended. Children attended Sunday school beginning at age 4 or 5. In junior high we were allowed to

visit our best friends' youth groups. In high school we sang in our church choirs. To break the monotony, my friends, Verlene, Mary and I would attend each other's choir practices. It was always fun, especially at Emmanuel Reformed Church, where Verlene was a member. They alternated English and German services. The German hymnals contributed to much laughter because Mary and I didn't know that language, but we sang anyway. My church was the Federated Church, a combination of Methodist and Congregational. Verlene and Mary liked to visit my church because their boyfriends were members.

I have so many wonderful memories

of Sutton—kuchen, dill pickles, kraut, sausage—that are always a part of me. When I hear the cicadas on the hot summer evenings or swat a big mosquito, it's just like being back home. □

[Contributed by
Tory Nuss O'Neal]

My dad, the local doctor, charged \$2.00 for an office visit and \$3.00 for a house call, day or night, weekends included, whether they lived in Sutton, in the country, or in one of the surrounding towns. Many of the babies were born at home. When patients didn't have the money to pay, they would give him eggs, a chicken, garden produce, or simply say, "Doc, put it on my bill." The closest hospital was Mary Lanning Hospital in Hastings, 28 miles down Highway 6.

frequently. We did our best in school in order to make our parents proud. We did our chores. After school, most honed their athletic skills playing softball or basketball. This paid off for the boys when they reached high school. Sutton's football and basketball teams were always tough. In

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

IMPORTANT REMINDER

The next General Membership gathering will be a meeting with a FREE PICNIC DINNER, Sunday. September 16th, at 4 PM at the Antelope Park Shelter House.

Drive in at the "A" Street entrance, bear left, pass the Veteran's Garden, then you will see the sign on the building, "Antelope Park Shelter House." A parking lot is adjacent. This is free to the membership so COME AND ENJOY!!!!

