



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE 1

January/February 2009

Happy New Year!

As I was preparing to gather information to put in this newsletter, I started reading the New Mexico Chapter Newsletter. Velma Jesser, their editor, had included a list of typical New Year's foods, as well as some good wishes. This is some of what she had written:

Some typical New Year's foods:

Eisbein mit Sauerkraut und Schwarzaugigerbsen (pork hocks with sauerkraut and black-eyed peas)
Fruchtsuppen (fruit soup)
Grebbele (sugar-coated crullers)
Karpfen (carp brings wealth)
Marinierter Hering (marinated herring, served with potatoes helps hangovers)
Saure Sulze (jellied calves' and pigs' feet)

Some New Year's Wishes:

Ich wunsche euch so viel Gluck und Segen
Wie Wasser Trepflein in dem Regen.
Ich wunsche Euch so viel gute Zei
Wie Sand am Meer liegt weit und breit.
Ich wunsche Euch noch so viele Jahre lang
Wie Sterne bei Nacht am Himmel sein.

(English translation) I wish you as many blessings

As there are drops of water in rain.
I wish you as many good days on earth
As there are grains of sand on the shore.
I wish you as many years of happiness
As there are stars in the sky at night.

Ich wunsche euch ein Roter Tisch,
Auf jedem Eck ein gebakner Fisch;
In der Mitte ein Brandwein,
Soll euer Neujahr sein.

(English translation) I wish you a red table,

In each corner a baked fish;
In the middle a bottle of brandy,
This shall be your New Year.

Ich wunsche euch ein gluckseliges Neujahr,
langes Leben, Gesundheit, Friede und Enigkeit,
nach dem Tode die ewige Gluckseligkeit.

(English translation) I wish you a happy New Year, long life, health,
peace, and unity, and after death, eternal happiness.

Election of Officers for 2009

We've held off sending this newsletter to the printer until we had the annual membership and business meeting. Also, we didn't have the Board of Directors' ballot or the Board of Directors' Officers election ballot. Today, January 11, the meeting was held and we now have the following to report.

The Chapter presently does not have a president. According to our by-laws, a person can only be elected as an officer three consecutive years. Paul Loos has finished his third year and cannot be elected as president for at least a year. No one else would accept a nomination for the position of president.

The International Board of Directors has had the same problem. A motion was made to amend the by-laws and remove the restriction of term limits solved the problem, making it possible for a three term president to be re-elected.

I made the motion to amend our Chapter by-laws to reflect the same change. It was seconded, discussed, voted on and passed. The by-law change

will be proposed to our membership. Please read it carefully, as you will be asked to vote on this proposal at the next general membership meeting April 26, 2009.

Current by-law:

"Officers shall be elected annually and serve for one (1) year or until their successor is elected and may not serve for more than three (3) consecutive terms in the same office."

The amendment to the by-laws would then read:

"Officers shall be elected annually and serve for one (1) year or more if no other



Members of Lincoln Chapter AHSGR attend the Annual Meeting held on January 11.

candidate steps forward or no candidates are presented by the election committee."

Needless to say, the office holder would have to be willing to continue in that position.

Board of Directors Election

Re-elected for three year terms were Henry Sader and John Weber. Gail Gingrich and Don Weber were both given one year appointments. All were voted on and approved.

Presidentnone
1st Vice PresidentRuth White
2nd Vice PresidentNancy Borrell
Recording SecretaryLeslie Bill
TreasurerSidonia Babcock
Corres. SecretaryGladys Herstein
HistorianJudy Runion
Membership ChairmanDale Dinges

Sid Babcock gave the treasurer's report and it looks like the Chapter is in pretty good shape. Quite a bit of the cash reserve will be needed for the convention, which will be held here in Lincoln in 2010. A final report will be printed in the next newsletter: □

2009 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY LINCOLN CHAPTER - AHSGR

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
GINGRICH, Gail	1315 S. 16th St.	Lincoln, NE 68502	474-3363 x16
HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Drive	Lincoln, NE 68510	489-5976
LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	Lincoln, NE 68521	477-3978
RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Circle	Lincoln, NE 68516	423-3853
SADER, Henry	Route 1	Roca, NE 68430	423-4212
WEBER, Don	6201 Normal Blvd., Apt. 322	Lincoln, NE 68506	489-4898
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.

2009 OFFICERS

Presidentnone	TreasurerSidonia Babcock
1st Vice PresidentRuth White	Corresponding Secretary .Gladys Herstein
2nd Vice PresidentNancy Borrell	HistorianJudy Runion
Recording SecretaryLeslie Bill	Membership ChairmanDale Dinges

Bits and Pieces

Since the last newsletter, there have been three functions that needed help from our volunteers. There were two mailings and the Broda dinner.

You will notice that some names have stars following them. Two stars indicate those people helped with all three events. One star means they helped with two events and no stars means they helped with one event.

The volunteers were:

Sid Babcock	Judy Lawson*
Dale Dinges	John & Ruby Weber*
Barb Schmidt**	Phil & Irene Dinges*
Phil Dinges	Gladys Herstein
Barb Schmidt**	Roger Trautwein*
Judy Lawson*	Susan Stoehr*
Irwin Ulmer	Bruce Trautwein
Delores Schwartz*	
Judy Runion**	
Paul Loos*	Don Weber*
Norma Somerheiser*	
Karen Trautwein	
Jerry McInnis	Phil Sorenson
Larry & Norma Schenkel	

As always, if your name isn't on the list, let me know and I will correct the error in the next newsletter.

Rat-a-tat-TAT

Do you know how to do tatting? If you do, would you be willing to teach someone? Angela Munger wants to learn how. If you can help her, her email address is: amoreang@yahoo.com.

New Book

I received an email from Brent Mai telling me that a new book about Catherine the Great has been published. The book is authored by Sigrid Werdenweber and is the first of a trilogy about the Volga Germans. It was published by the Center of Volga German Studies at Concordia University in Portland, Oregon. If you are interested and want more information the email address is: <http://cvgs.cu-portland.edu>

Board Members Christmas Dinner

The Lincoln Chapter Board was invited to Henry and Judy Sader's home for their annual Christmas Dinner. An ice storm had taken place during the day but a few hardy souls set forth on the treacherous roads to enjoy some *gemutlichkeit* with one another. Those in attendance were Diane White, Nancy Borrell, Phil Dinges, Dale and Heidi Dinges, Judy Runion, John and Ruby Weber, Sid and Ken Babcock, and Delores Schwartz.

Everyone enjoyed a great meal and one of the true meanings of Christmas, good friends getting together to break bread and share the celebration of the birth of our Lord.

Thanks once again, Henry and Judy, for opening your home for this get-together.

Nebraska Humanities Council Speaker to Appear in Lincoln

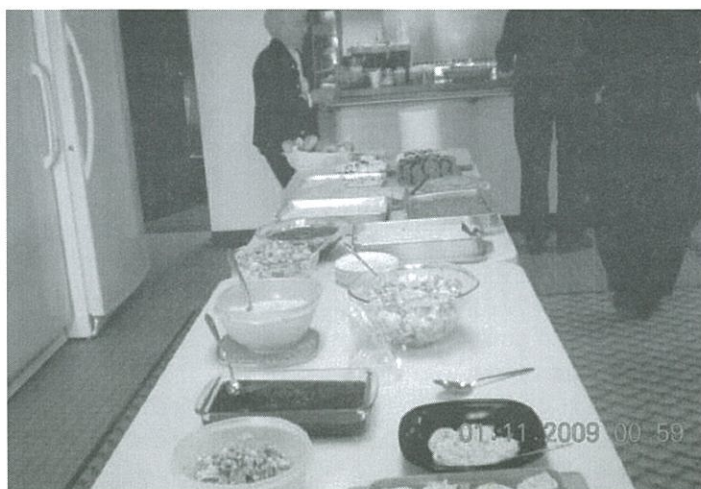
Jeff Kappeler will present a program entitled "Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest in the 19th Century," March 8, 2009 at 7:00p.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 1915 Lancaster Lane, Lincoln. (Please use south entrance.)

The presentation is made possible by the Nebraska Humanities Council and the German-American Heritage Society of Lincoln as part of the NHC Speakers Bureau.

Mr. Kappeler will tell stories of immigrants to Nebraska as he packs an actual immigrant chest and other essential baggage needed by the immigrant for the ocean voyage and the new life on the prairie.

"Ho for America! Northern European Immigrants to the Midwest in the 19th Century" is one of approximately 300 programs offered through the Nebraska Humanities Council Speakers Bureau.

Contact: Mary Radenberg, 402-435-4052, marric@inebraska.com □



Lincoln Chapter AHSGR members enjoyed fellowship and great food at the Pot Luck Dinner.



THE GAS HOUSE

An area of our people we usually forget was the Gas House and what was called the Gas House Gang. It wasn't really a gang any more than the Bulldog Ring had a lot of bulldogs. But, like any other neighborhood, they tended to congregate together while attending Park Elementary or Everett Jr. High schools. Hence, the gang.

It was called "gas house" because the gas company had quite a lot of it's operation between First and Third Streets and "O" and "M" Streets and it may have even gone to "L" Street.

First Street was the west boundary of the Gas House area until you got to "F" Street. If you went east on "F" you drove (or walked) into the South Bottoms. This might or might not have caused you a problem depending on who saw you or what you were there for.

If you turned right, or west, on "F" Street you went into a little known or thought about area that included West "F", West Second, and West "G" Streets.

If Salt Creek flooded, which it used to do quite often in the '40s and '50s, all of this area flooded. Salt Creek was the real west boundary of the Gas House.

Anchoring the area and providing the religious side of our people, was, and still is, the First German Congregational Church on the corner of First and "F" Streets.

If you want to know the history of this church, and our people, from 100 years ago to 1988, and if it is still available, you might want to get a copy of the booklet put out for First German's 100th anniversary. I was able to get one from Don and Oleta Ernst but that was 15 or 20 years ago.

Oleta was the historian of the church

at the time and is still with us. Don has passed away but I would bet his spirit is still with the church. He and Oleta loved First German and had a great pride in the church and it's accomplishments over the first 100 years.

As I looked through the booklet I found some names of people who, at the time

those names were:

Mike, Rhiny and Alex (Tiger) Schlieger
John and Eggy Wertz

Spadt, Holibaugh, Kruse, Bob, Doc
and Marv Lehl

Francis "Cut Cost" Koelzer started his business in a house in either the 100 block of "G" or "H" Street. Not sure which.

The Gerstenberger's daughter, Karen, went to Park School and grew up to be a beautiful young woman who married Roger Trautwein. This couple, I'm proud to say, is one of our best friends. Roger and Karen both help with the Lincoln Chapter's dinners, i.e. Broda, soup supper, etc. Roger usually attends our Tuesday A.M. breakfast at Stauffer's on the second Tuesday of the month, and he comes down to the Heritage Center on Saturday morning for coffee and "fat pills" - aka: sweet rolls. John Weber has called on Roger a time or two for his input on a couple maintenance problems.

Another family, who were not GR's but were prominent in the area, were the Delgado family. The mother of this family was one of the nicest ladies I ever met. The boys were, to say the least, rambunctious, but those boys were also industrious and hard working. One of their many successes is Husker Concrete.

One other thing I want to mention is the little grocery store that was on First Street. Right now, I can't for the life of me, remember what the name was. I do remember shopping there because they had the best meat in town. They were one of the few stores in the city that could get their meat from American Stores.

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also industrious and hard working.*

*One of their many successes is
Husker Concrete.*

the booklet was printed, were still living in the Gas House area

This is a list of what I found:

Gerald Hergenrader on West "G" Street

Dessie and Fern Bade on West "G" Street

Emma Dinges on West "G" Street

Elsie and Katherin Fischer on S. Second Street

Lisa Robeson, Barbara Spadt and Steven Spadt on "J" Street

George & Clara Wertz on "K" Street

Other names have come up during discussions at coffee on Saturday mornings at the Heritage Center. (By the way, you should come join us; you never know what subject we might discuss.) Some of

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

January

Bill Svoboda
Duane Olson
Ruth Schafer
Mary Frost
Robert Heitbrink
Mary Hessler
Ray Richards
Robert Riddle

February

William Paxton
Martha Schleicher
Ronald Bauer
Phil Dinges
Jack Frost
Irene Gablehaus
Ruby Weber
Lenny Schneider
Ruth Mosby
Dorothy Heidenreich
Ronald Hill
Annie Settell
Diane Butherus

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

January

Kathy & Randy Tichota

February

Ed & Gladys Herstein
Victor & Shirley Michel

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Jack Krumm
Althea M. Schessler
Cliff Wiedeman
Edith H. Rinker
Anita T. Hempel
Edward Debus
Betty Jan (Vogel) Drewel
Florence Moll Amen
Helen Smith
Alvin L. Kahler

Fred Schmidt
Irene Dinges
Elizabeth A. (Liz) Koch
Francis Marie Loos
Shirley Jean Dell
Frieda S. Gies
Marie Maser
Tobin "Toby" J. Jiskra
Dorothy Irene Bauer

Every so often one of our people passes on that was more than just a name. Irene Dinges was one of those people. Irene loved AHSGR and she was always ready to volunteer. If you go back through chapter newsletters, you will find Irene's name on every volunteer list.

Irene is listed in this issue, along with her loving husband, Phil, as volunteers for the Broda dinner. Irene had a heart attack and died at the WSI Hall. She and Phil had just come in to help get things going for the dinner that evening. What a way to go, volunteering for the organization that she loved and surrounded by the people she loved to be with.

We will all miss you, Irene. Thank you for all your years of dedication to AHSGR and goodbye until we meet again. ☐

The Gas House

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A few years' back, Ed and Dorothy Schwartzkopf donated a piece of property to the city of Lincoln with the understanding that it would be a park. If you drive down First Street, you will see a sign saying "Schwartzkopf Park." Ed was very proud of his GR heritage and he often referred to the "Gas House Gang."

I know I have not mentioned many of the names of those who lived in this area but I am not that familiar with them. If you'll remember, in the last couple newsletters, I mentioned that I would be writing about the Gas House. I was hoping to get some input, but I didn't. So if you feel this is incomplete and want to add something, please call me (438-3814) and, if I am still the editor, I will put it in a future newsletter.

Like any area in any city, there are the stories of hope from a group of immigrants who left their homes in their country and traveled 3000 miles or more to a new country. There are stories of suffering, hardships, and hunger. AHSGR has taken on the task of recording the stories of these people. Please read the following mission statement of AHSGR.

"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." ☐

AHSGR Conventions

June 15-21, 2009

Medicine Hat, Alberta Canada

Just a reminder, you will need a passport to get into Canada.

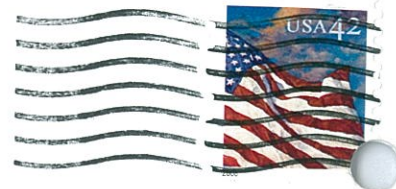
August 1-8, 2010

Embassy Suites • Lincoln, NE

2011 Date and time to be announced
Salt Lake City, Utah

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

Mr & Mrs L D Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526-9219



Calendar of Events 2009

As usual, a Calendar of Events is included in this newsletter. Please display it in a prominent location in your home so that you will be reminded of the activities of the Lincoln Chapter that are scheduled for the New Year.

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Membership Renewal

Yes, it's that time of year again! It seems to come around faster each year. Where does the time go? Many of you have probably already sent in your dues, and if you have, thank you. If you haven't, please fill out the form and send it with your check for \$12.00 made out to the Lincoln Chapter.

Name _____

Spouse _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Your birth month _____

Spouse's birth month _____

Your anniversary month _____

GR Surnames _____

GR Ancestral Village _____

Make your check for \$12.00 payable to:
Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:
Dale Dinges,
1609 S. Cotner Blvd.,
Lincoln, NE 68506