



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE 3

May/June 2009

Soup Supper a Success (despite being held on Friday the 13th)

Well, another soup supper has come and gone and it is time to say thank you to a whole lot of people who made it a great success.

A group of people gathered at the WSI Hall in the early morning of March 13th to peel vegetables, cut meat, wrap silverware, decorate and set-up the tables. The cooks made many gallons of broth for the chicken noodle/butterball soup and the vegetable soup. Helen Schwartz worked her magic on the roue for the green bean soup and it was some of the best we've ever served and that includes the soup at the "Schmeckfest" in Freeman, SD.

The chili was again made and donated by Henry Sader and it was up to his usual fine standard.

My Norma and I donated the meat and part of the vegetables for the vegetable beef soup again this year. Erwin Ulmer donated 50 lbs. of potatoes for the vegetable beef and green bean

clean up! OY! The pots, pans, and roasters all need to be scoured, the spills wiped up, and on and on. And let's not forget the Treasurer's job of keeping track of the ticket sales, take-out

sales, and left-over sales and any expenses that were incurred.

In the end there is not only the satisfaction of a delicious meal but also the monetary results. We will

Paul Loos	Bruce Trautwein	Roger Trautwein
Phil Dinges	Susan Stoehr	Barb Schmidt
Don Weber	John & Ruby Weber	Sid Babcock
Judy Lawson	Leslie Bill	Dale Dinges
Dodie Rotherham	Nancy Borrell	Delores Schwartz
Helen Schwartz	Norma Somerheiser	Diane White
Will Richards	Ray Richards	Nancy Richards
Jessica Burk (Nancy's friend)	Barb Hellerick	Larry & Norma Schenkel
Nancy Bouwens		

soups and a lot of meat for the chicken noodle soup. Nancy Borrell and the butterball makers donated the butterballs.

Paul Loos and Bruce and Roger Trautwein again handled the cooking.

It takes a lot of workers to get things ready and it takes a lot to get the meal served. And then comes the

be hosting the Convention in 2010 so this successful event will help with the expenses then.

In the box is a list of the volunteers who worked to make the soup supper a success.

As always, when I try to get everyone's name on the list, I run the danger of missing or forgetting someone. If I have, forgive me and please let me know by calling me at 438-3814. We'll correct the mistake in the next newsletter.

If you see any of these wonderful volunteers, give them a hearty thank you and a pat on the back. They deserve it.

Oh, by the way, Dodie Rotherham lives in California and is on the International Board of Directors. She was here attending the fall meeting of the board and left her meeting so she could come help. Dodie was raised in the North Bottoms. Her maiden name was Reich.

This and That

I recently received a letter from D. B. Schwartzkopf who lives in Hutchinson, KS. He receives our newsletter and while reading it, recognized many of the names he read as friends he had made when he attended conventions.

D. B. was stationed at the Lincoln Army Air Force base during WWII and remembers going on a detail to fill warehouses with ice from the lakes. The ice was then used to keep fruits

and vegetables cool during transportation in rail cars. He also recalled North Bottoms boys seeing South Bottom girls, and vice-versa, and the problems that developed.

He said he had recently been in touch with a sixth cousin in Tomsk, Russia.

Thanks for the letter, D.B. It's good to know that you are enjoying the newsletters.

Nebraska Jubilee 2009



Nancy Borrell, Nebraska Jubilee Chair

The first annual Germans from Russia Jubilee 2009 was a big success. A heartfelt "Congratulations and "Thank you" to Nancy Borrell and all those who helped her put this event together. If you were unable to attend, you missed one of the best programs we have ever had.

The Jubilee was held at Friedens Lutheran Church across "D" Street, northwest of the AHSGR campus. Registration began at 9:00 am and refreshments were served, followed by a welcome from the Lincoln Chapter president, Ruth White.

Diane White, Office Manager, welcomed everyone and told a little bit about the Heritage Center and the day-to-day happenings there.

The AHSGR Research Librarian, Pam Wurst, gave a presentation about visiting gravesites and showed some of the supplies she takes with her on these visits. The supplies ranged from a cushion to kneel on, to a paintbrush to wipe dust off gravestones.

At 11:00 am we were shown the video "Immigrant Women." If you haven't seen this presentation, you need to get a copy from the AHSGR bookstore.

Following the video, we were served a delicious catered lunch and then had time to chat before the afternoon of the program started.

At about 1:00 pm, David Morse began his presentation about German music and instruments used in our music, and could he ever make music! He played the autoharp, accordion, hammer dulcimer and several others. There wasn't a foot that wasn't tapping or a face without a smile, and some people sang along with the music. He even played a couple requests. The time allotted for his presentation went by way too fast.

The Nebraska Humanities Council was David's sponsor. We hope to get them to sponsor him for a performance during the Convention here in Lincoln in 2010.

Gwen Meister, Director of Nebraska Folklife Network, then gave a presentation. She is a very respected folklorist and has presented with Tim Kloberdanz in Lincoln and at GRHS conventions in the Dakotas. She has been a presenter at past conventions and will be at the 2010 convention.

Gwen has created "traveling trunks"



Nebraska Jubilee Attendees in front of Friedens Lutheran Church

for many ethnic groups including AHSGR. These trunks are available for teachers to use and have everything a teacher would need including lesson plans.

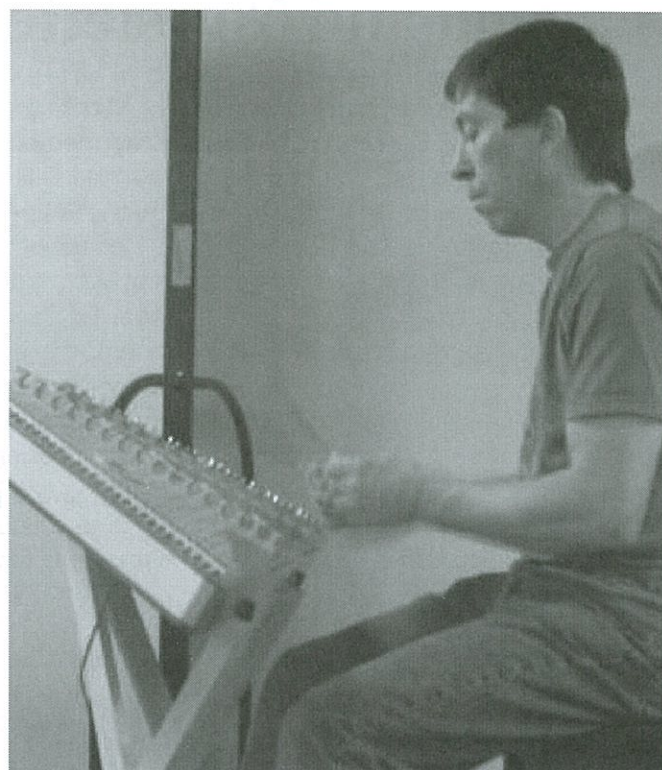
Following the presentations, two drawings were held. The first was for a homemade quilted throw that Judy Runion had made and donated. The winner was Judy Griess of Omaha. Elaine Robinson of Sutton won the second drawing for a floral arrangement.

At 3:00 pm the group toured the AHSGR campus after which they had the option of going to Ruby Tuesdays for dinner and more fellowship, or starting for home.

Among those attending, there were four people from Omaha, five from Sutton, one from Glenwood, IA, two from Manhattan, KS,



Nebraska Jubilee registration table



David Morse making music for the attendees

one from Hastings, and thirty-five from Lincoln and surrounding areas.

Believe me, these 48 attendees were well satisfied with the programs that had been put together and presented to them. I sincerely hope Nancy is planning the "second annual."

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	631 D Street	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

President	none	Treasurer	Sidonia Babcock
1st Vice President	Ruth White	Corresponding Secretary ..	Gladys Herstein
2nd Vice President	Nancy Borrell	Historian	Judy Runion
Recording Secretary	Leslie Bill	Membership Chairman	Dale Dinges

Journal and Newsletter Mailing

A group of volunteers gathered at the Heritage Center on March 31st to help get the Journal and Newsletter ready to be mailed. This is a big undertaking and I hope you take time to read and enjoy both of these publications.

The volunteers who helped that day were:

Bill & Elsa Amen	Ed Barthuli
Nancy Borrell	Virginia Dietrich
Judy Runion	Larry Schenkel
Barb Schmidt	Annie Settell
Norma Somerheiser	Don Weber
Ruby & John Weber	

Working right alongside us were the members of the staff: Diane White, Gail Gingrich, Pam Wurst, Kathy Shepard, and Ray Richards.

As usual, we had a good time visiting with old friends and new ones, too. Ed Barthuli is one of our newest members and I enjoyed the chance to get to know him. And let's not forget the coffee and those rolls with all that frosting! Henry Sader loves frosting and I believe there was even enough to satisfy him. Better join us next time, Henry.

Honor Flight to Washington, DC



A long-time member of the Lincoln Chapter, Phil Dinges, was one of the WWII veterans who went on the Honor Flight to Washington, DC on April 26, 2009. His sons, Paul and Dale, met him in DC and accompanied him on the tour.

Paul and Dale stayed in DC the next day so that they could assist other veterans who were taking the tour.

Phil said going on the Honor Flight was one of the most memorable things he has ever done. He said he was very glad he had the opportunity to go.

The Lincoln Quilters



I haven't written about the quilters for some time and I like to keep you all informed about this dedicated group of volunteers. Why do I call them dedicated? Well, you see, some of them are not even members of AHSGR and yet they give hundreds of hours of their time to help sew quilts, which will be raffled off to raise money for AHSGR. That's dedication!

In alphabetical order, the quilters are:

Linda Ashleford
Nancy Borrell
Judy Runion
Barb Schmidt

Karen Schmidt
Helen Schwartz
Gerry Shuster
Donna Thompson

At the present time, they are working on an Amish style quilt which will be raffled at the AHSGR International Convention in Lincoln in 2010.

The quilters meet to work on the quilts every Monday morning. They gather in the lower lever of the Heritage Center at 631 "D" Street. If you're interested in quilting, I'm sure these fine ladies would greet you warmly.

The problems of the world cannot possibly be solved by skeptics or cynics whose horizons are limited by the obvious realities. We need men who can dream of things that never were.
John F. Kennedy

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May

Victoria O'Neal
William Gettman
Wayne Giebelhaus
LaVerne Hietbrink
Steve Kahler
Theresa Zitterkopf
Ronald Meininger

June

J. Richard Spellman
Philip J. Schenkel
Kenneth A. Babcock
Marilyn Dering
Delores Kaufman
Elizabeth Hayes
Henry Sader

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

None in May

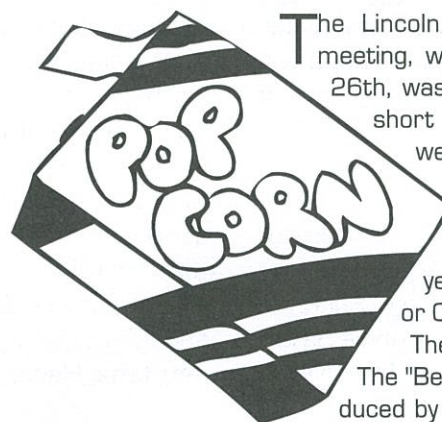
June

Larry & Norma Schenkel
John & Ruby Weber
Scotty & Marti Kaufman
Henry & Judy Sader
Myron & Sue Pudwell
Donald & Doris Taylor
Bob & Marilyn Wagner

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Marcella P. (Spahn) Barnes
Geneva K. Brt
Natala "Talla" (Leader) Wertz
George E. Schmidt

A Sunday Afternoon at the Movies



The Lincoln Chapter membership meeting, which was held on April 26th, was well attended. After a short business meeting, we were treated to popcorn and pop while we watched two videos. It was reminiscent of years ago at the Capital or Colonial Theaters.

The first video we saw was The "Beet Tenders Destiny" produced by our Panhandle Chapter and narrated by Gladys Wyatt. It is an

excellent documentary on growing sugar beets. It follows the backbreaking work our families did from spring planting to harvest, while under contract with a beet grower in western Nebraska.

The second video we viewed was "A Light in the Darkness." It is definitely a "must see."

When Joseph Stalin ordered all Germans living in the Volga region in Russia to be deported (or transported) to forced labor camps in Siberia in 1941, it was the start of years of suffering for our people. They were exposed to extreme cold and the work was hard, cutting timber, fishing in icy waters, and always with inadequate food, clothing and living conditions. Thousands died.

One of the worst events was when the families were separated and never saw each other again.

When the camps were finally disbanded in the late 1950's or early '60's, those able to make their way back to the sites of their former villages often found the entire town had been destroyed.

The people interviewed in this video spoke German and two spoke Russian, as best as I could tell. All of the people told how they relied on prayer and their belief that God would carry them through these horrible times. All show a triumph of the human spirit.

(Submitted by Norma Somerheiser)

Now, you need to look at the mission statement of AHSGR.

Our Mission Statement

An international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage and genealogy of Germanic Settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants.

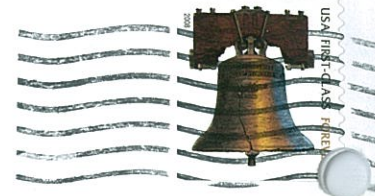
So, you see, even if your friends or family members aren't interested in genealogy, they can still help AHSGR preserve the story of our people (their people) by making a donation to AHSGR. Take your friends and family members down to visit the Heritage Center to see what has already been done.

Charter Members

I want to thank Delores Schwartz for getting me material on the beginnings of our organization. I plan to have several items in the next newsletter concerning the beginning and a list of Lincoln Chapter charter members.

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

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



Leslie & Tom Bill
1138 Glenhaven Place
Lincoln, NE 68503

655683500 0010



2009 Calendar Lincoln Chapter American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

June 9, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
June 14-21, 2009	Internaitonal Convention		Medicine Hat, Canada	
June 15, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
June 28, 2009	Gen'l Membership Meeting	2:00PM (Refreshments following)		631 "D" St.
July 14, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
July 20, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
August 11, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
August 17, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
September 8, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
September 20, 2009	Gen'l Membership Meeting	2:00PM (Refreshments following)		631 "D" St.
September 21, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00 PM		631 "D" Street
October 13, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
October 19, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
November 6, 2009	Broda Dinner	5:00-7:00PM	WSI Hall	1430 N 10th St.
November 10, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
November 16, 2009	Board Meeting	7:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 5, 2009	Christmas Festival	11:30AM-3:00PM		631 "D" St.
December 8, 2009	Coffee Club	9:00AM	Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
December, 2009	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		(Date, time and location TBA)	
January 10, 2010	Annual Membership Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)	1:00PM	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall (10th & Charleston Sts)	