



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVIII, ISSUE 6

November/December, 2009

Welcome Home, Larrie Schmidt

Larrie has retired and returned to the town he loves. He has been living in Las Vegas where he started a chapter of Germans from Russia. I hope it will keep going without his leadership.

Larrie has joined the Lincoln Chapter and has already become active by helping on the Chapter's Convention Committee. His background is in advertising, human resources, publicity, and more. His knowledge and "get it done" attitude will be invaluable on that committee.

Again, welcome home, Larrie and welcome to the Lincoln Chapter of AHSGR.

While going through a pile of papers, I found several stories that Larrie sent me, about growing up in the South Bottoms. The following is

one of them:

During the 1950's in Lincoln, there was a church sponsored Basketball League for boys age 12 to 15.

But in order to play, the boys' pastors had to verify that the players regularly attended the church they represented!

Also, one of the best athletes in the South Russian Bottoms was Cliff Hardesty, an Irish-Catholic boy whose family lived on "C" Street between 3rd and 4th Streets.

If Friedens Lutheran Church in the South Bottoms was to have even a remote chance at winning the League Championship that year it had to have Cliff on the team.

Just prior to the season opener and the pastor's verification, the

entire basketball team showed up for Sunday services, with a nervous Cliff Hardesty seated in its midst at the back of the church.

Pastor Hermann Goede, a much-loved but stern overseer of the flock, launched into a sermon that morning that was so powerful in its message that Cliff Hardesty, overcome with the Holy Spirit within him, began genuflecting. Pastor Goede, normally unflappable, witnessed this aberration in his church and fell speechless.

The congregation, confused, began glancing about the pews to discern the object of their pastor's shock and bewilderment.

But Larrie Schmidt, sitting next to Cliff, had responded quickly and now held Cliff's left hand tightly in his own, out of view.

Pastor Goede soon recovered his composure, finishing his sermon with an admonition for the basketball team to come to his office.

Explanations given, the kindly pastor weighed propriety against his team's glory.

"We will never turn anyone away from this church," he pointed out. "All are welcome, even you Clifford. But in the future, please leave your hands by your side...as for the rest of you...."



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Okay, Here's the Deal...

In the last newsletter, I printed a poem entitled "Old Babushka". I gave credit to the author, Charmaine Wood, and now you'll hear the rest of the story.

Have We Learned

We honor our ancestors' memory,
Admire their homelier ways,
Their helpful, sociable lifestyle,
Their simpler, quieter days.

We enshrine them in museums,
Celebrate their times, way-back-when.
This is the essential question:
Have we learned anything from then?
by Charmaine Wood

(I got this out of the September, 2009 issue of the Panhandle Chapter's newsletter.)

"People taking one of the tours at the AHSGR convention in Medicine Hat returned with a booklet titled "Poems for the Pioneers" by Charmaine Wood, a lady from Canada they met on the tour."

They felt, as I did, that the poem "Old Babushka" struck a special chord and that it needed to be shared. I hope you liked it, and that it may have struck a special cord with some of you.

I felt a pull from several other poems and thought I would share another one.



Bits and Pieces



Chapter Picnic

The Chapter Picnic, which was held on September 20 at Antelope Park, was very successful. Approximately 40 people attended, including almost all of the quilters. The barbecued pork, baked beans and potato salad were from Famous Dave's and were delicious. Several Lincoln Chapter members provided desserts. There were several different kinds of cookies, and no one, anywhere, can make cookies like GRs. There were brownies covered with chocolate [By the way, did you know that chocolate makes your clothes shrink?] and a couple "yellow" desserts. I don't know what Judy Runion called the one she brought, but if I could have gotten away with it, I would have tucked it away and sneaked out. Those of you who did not make it missed a great meal and a lot of *gemutlichkeit*.

Paul Loos, co-chair of the 2010 Convention Committee, gave a short report of progress of plans that have been made so far. We are making progress, but...as Paul reminded everyone, we're going to need a lot of volunteers!

The Committee has been meeting once a month but changed that to twice a month from now on.

Come on, gang! Get on board and volunteer.

Familiar Names

Do these names sound familiar?

John and Ruby Weber
Bob and Sandy Gettman
Ed Barthuli
Don Weber
Phil Dinges
Frieda Dobler
Judy Lawson
Helen Schwartz
Norma Somerheiser

Barbara Schmidt
Lucille Hedges
Larry and Norma Schenkel
Virginia Dietrich

Yes, these names are in your newsletter fairly often, either for meeting at Stauffer's for breakfast or getting together on Saturdays at the Heritage Center for coffee and rolls. They are also there for volunteering to help with mailings. The above names were all at the last mailing on September 24th. Also present was Sharon Buckner who often joins for breakfast at Stauffer's.

Pam Wurst, Kathy Sheperd and Diane White were working with us too, as well as Ray Richards, Diane's oldest son. I have praised Diane's children many times in the past and nothing has changed. Ray worked like a trooper. Thanks, Ray. And to the rest of the volunteers, Danke!

There are a number of other great volunteers who weren't helping with the mailing because of prior commitments.

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)			

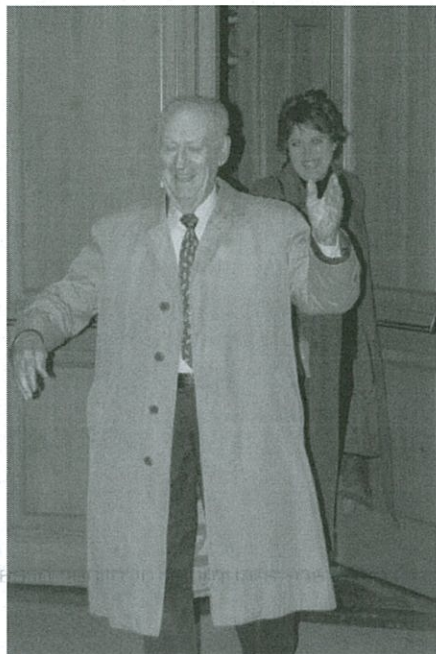
Officers are elected to the Board of Directors for a three-year term. However, if you are interested in serving for a shorter period of time, you could ask about a one-year appointment, to determine if it would be something you would enjoy doing.

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

BIRTHDAY SURPRISE

On the 16th of October, Lynn Smith had a surprise 90th birthday party for her Dad, Scotty Kaufman. Lynn lives in California and she put the party together by email and long-distance phone calls.



It was a great party with about 100 guests attending. I wish you could have seen the look on Scotty's face when he walked into the room at Wilderness Ridge and everyone began singing "Happy Birthday." It wasn't until then that he realized the crowd of people was there to cele-



brate his birthday. There were a lot of damp eyes, including Scotty's. As things settled down and everyone was visiting with Scotty and other friends a hush fell over the room as Scotty's wife, Marti, was escorted into the room. She had been picked up at Lancaster Manor and brought to the party. Again, there were many damp eyes.

We then enjoyed a wonderful buffet dinner and the music of the Bobby Layne Orchestra.

It was a great birthday party, which I'm sure Scotty will never forget.

Herzlichen Glückwunsch Zum Geburtstag, Goom. May you have many more!



2009 Calendar Lincoln Chapter American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

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	1:00PM	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall	
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)		[10th & Charleston Sts]	



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes, once again it's time to pay your Lincoln Chapter Membership dues. The cost is only \$12.00 for a year, which helps pay for the printing and postage for this newsletter.

Lincoln Chapter Membership Application

Name _____ Birthdate _____

Spouse _____ Birthdate _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____ Anniv. Date _____

Make your check for \$12.00 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:

Dale Dinges, Membership Chairman

1609 S. Cotner Blvd.

Lincoln, NE 68506

Please plan to attend the Annual Membership Meeting

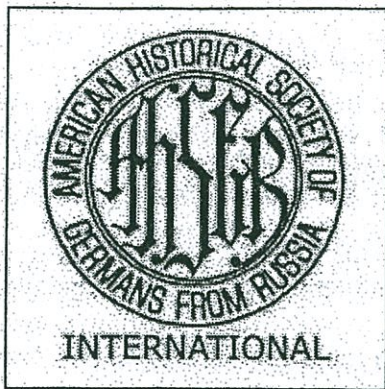
on Sunday, January 10, 2010

at 1:00 PM

Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall

10th and Charleston Streets

This will be a potluck dinner and
election of officers



6th Annual AH\$GR Membership Campaign started at the *Medicine Hat, AB Canada 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**

ABOVE AND BEYOND

This campaign is designed to reward AH\$GR members (individuals) and chapters who recruit a sufficient number of new members for AH\$GR or purchase gift memberships. The campaign began June 20, 2009 and ends May 15, 2010. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2010 Lincoln, NE Convention to be held August 1 - 8. Additional prizes for AH\$GR Chapters will continue this year. Membership Data Forms are available at Chapters or on-line at <http://www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm>

- \$100 to the AH\$GR member AND \$200 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the highest number of new members
- \$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2nd highest number of new members
- \$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3rd highest number of new members
- *In addition*, all new members who join during the campaign will have their name placed "in the hat" for a drawing. \$25 cash prizes will be awarded to lucky new members.

**WITH YOUR HELP, WE WILL MOVE OUR MEMBERSHIP
"ABOVE AND BEYOND" TO ASSURE THE FUTURE OF AHSGR**

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 follow the following format or it will be disqualified:

- Typewritten, double-spaced, and in clear, dark print on 8 1/2 x 11" white paper with one (1") margins, in standard 12 point font/type.
 - If using computer, submit in Word Perfect, MS-Word, or RTF not PDF documents.
 - No story can be longer than five (5) typewritten pages.
 - Contestants may submit as many stories as they wish, but each entry must be separate and accompanied by a separate and completed entry form.
 - Send five (5) printed copies of each story.
 - Send CD or Flash Drive (if possible) which includes: 1) your story, 2) any pictures that enhance the story (in jpg format), 3) a short biography of yourself as author, and 4) a picture of yourself.
 - Photos should be 300 dpi and unedited. If unable to send original photos in jpg, send physical copy of photo to be scanned.
 - You will be notified via e-mail upon receipt of your packet.
- 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 birth date (month/day/year). These individuals will be entered in the "Youth Division." All entrants 15 years old or older will be judged in the "Adult Division."
- 4) The title of the story should appear that enhance the story 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/by the entrant.
- 8) Submitted copies of the story will not be returned.
- 9) All stories will be evaluated by a sub-committee of 3-4 AHSGR members. Entries will be evaluated using a score sheet and the final results will be announced at the upcoming AHSGR Convention. Three prizewinners and one or more "Honorable Mention" winners are possible in both the Adult and the Youth Divisions.

All entries must be received by MARCH 1, 2010.

Entries received after that date cannot be considered.

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

November

Nancy Bouwens
Robert Wagner
Elsa Amen
Susan Stoehr
Jim Sommers
Lowell Nicholas
Richard E. Pearce
Norma Schenkel
Sidonia Babcock
Sandra Gettman
Dorothy Sinner
Ann Reitz
Rodger Wurst
Will Richards
Diane White
Linda O'Neill

December

Marilyn Wagner
Wilbur "Bill" Amen
Gerald L. Schleich
Marta Paxton
Barbara Schmidt
Larrie Schmidt
Cecelia Sherman
Ed Deines
Kirk Payne
Charles E. Jones, Jr.
Leslie Bill
Erwin Ulmer
Joyce Riddle
J. "Scott" Nelson
Teri Nelson

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

November

Doris and Donald Taylor

December

Rodger and Pam Wurst
Mary and Derald Drbal
Bruce and Connie Trautwein

UNSERE LEUTE ERINNRYNG OUR PEOPLE IN MEMORY

Irene Mae Maul
Paul J. Stoehr
Nettie Filbert
Roland "Rollie" A. Schessler
Jacob "Jake" Louis Kahler
Samuel Loos
Carolyn (Schmidt) Heuke
Marion S. Meisinger
Virginia Alina Spahn
Norma E. Kolb

The
annual
Christmas
Festival and Open
House will be held
December 5th from
11:30am until 3:00pm at
the AHSGR Heritage
Center at 631 "D" Street.
Treats will be served and
Volga Boatman sand-
wiches will be available
for sale. Mark your
calendars for this
event.



Lincoln Chapter AHSGR



Mr. Larry D. Schenkel
9439 Benziger Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68526-9219

★★ SUPPORT OUR TROOPS ★★



Mark Your Calendars

Annual Broda Dinner
November 6, 2009
WSI Hall
1430 N. 10th Street
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

See any Board or Chapter member for your tickets.

There will be a drawing for the beautiful quilt that is pictured here. It was quilted by the Lincoln Chapter Quilters. Tickets for the drawing are \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00 and are available from the Chapter Board and Chapter members.

