



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 1

January/February 2012

From Your Editor...

by Larry Schenkel

Well — here I am again. Just like the proverbial penny. What? You didn't miss me? Oh, well...I missed all of you. I guess I should let you know what's been happening.

I had to have femoral artery bypass surgery and the consequences of not having it done right away were too harsh to wait. So, on November 22, 2010, I had surgery at St. Elizabeth's. A week later I was transferred to Madonna Rehab Hospital where I had intensive physical therapy. Once I reached a lesser level of care and no longer needed the hospital setting, I was transferred to Tabitha where I received more physical therapy and was learning to walk again. After a couple setbacks, my legs had lost strength and I was not making any further progress as an inpatient so on April 16, I was discharged home where I received home health services and was able to start going to Madonna for outpatient physical and aqua therapy. I still

do not have enough strength in my legs to be able to stand but have an exercise program to do at home and am able to go to Madonna Pro-Active to work on some of the machines there.

The level of care I received at Madonna was nothing, if not, excellent. I was allowed to have the monthly poker game which five of my friends and I have been having for 30 some years. We even had a small group in for a New Year's Eve party in one of the meeting rooms.

And the caregivers at Tabitha were also excellent. They allowed me to have my men friends in for coffee and rolls, as is the usual occurrence every Wednesday morning at home. And one Saturday morning, the group who meet at Headquarters, came up for coffee and rolls, too.

The point I'm making is that the people who make these places work cannot be lauded enough. From the bottom of my little GR heart, Danke Schoen! ■



*Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
from your
newsletter editor
and his staff.*

Answers to My Prayers

I have asked in many newsletters for help from you, the members. The help I have asked for the most is a story or an article to put in the newsletters. Well, dear readers, I have two stories for you. I hope you enjoy them. I did.

Remembering the North Bottoms and GR Traditions by Joyce Riddle

I remember growing up in the North Bottoms of Lincoln. There was a close

camaraderie between the families of Germans that emigrated from Russia. Neighbors were very close, not only geographically, but also in friendship.

The houses were relatively small considering the size of most families. Most mothers were stay-at-home moms so closeness was the norm of the ladies via church activities and quilting "bees" which were held in different houses.

Weddings were the highlight of social events. About three or four weeks before the wedding took place; a

shower was given for the bride and was generally held at the "Welfare Hall" on North 10th Street. Bridal showers included between 100 to 150 guests, with sandwiches and dessert being served.

The weddings took place at one of the five Protestant churches in the North Bottoms and the receptions were always held at the "Welfare Hall." Most wedding receptions served roast beef dinners, with beer on tap, and

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Remembering the North Bottoms...

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were generally attended by between 300 and 500 people. Dinners were prepared by the mothers and served by young ladies who were friends of the family. Polka Bands provided the music and the receptions generally lasted 'til two or three in the morning. If you wanted to dance with the bride and groom, you had to pin money on their clothes [hence the term "pin money"]. This was a fun tradition and helped the newlyweds start on their life together.

The close friendships created in this neighborhood lasted a lifetime for most people, whether they moved away or remained in the area. Some bonds remain even to the second and third generations.

(Editor's note)

I remember the Hock girls, Amy and Joyce, and their mother, Lena. They lived next door to my grandmother, Christina Schreiber-Schenkel-Kreick, who lived on the corner of 8th and Vine. I also remember watching Grandma and a host of ladies making quilts.

Thank you, Joyce, for stirring old memories.

What I Did on My Summer Vacation by "Die Butzen" aka: Norma Somerheiser

This summer I volunteered as a docent at AHSGR Heritage Center. I went there once or twice a week and led visitors through the campus museum buildings. I did this so our staff would have fewer interruptions in their work day.

It was a learning experience for me, and I met many interesting and friendly people from all parts of the United States, and even a few from other countries.

There was a couple from western Washington who reminded me as we were leaving the summer kitchen, to be sure to "make the door shut." (Mach die Tier zu.)

On the Friday before the Washington/Nebraska football game, a father and his son from Bridgeport, Nebraska, came in dressed in their best Big Red shirts. The father wanted his son to see how his people lived when they first arrived in this country. The father made frequent comments about items he remembered; the cream separator, sausage stuffers, and the wash tubs used for Saturday night baths. When they left he thanked me for the memories their visit rekindled.

The Monday after the game, a lady and her husband arrived wearing their T shirts with big "W's" on the front and their Washington caps. When we were in the summer kitchen, I described the kitchen in the basement of my grandparent's home, which included a "fruit room." The man recalled memories of his grandmother's "fruit room." It was in the basement too. He said he was fascinated by the many colored cans of vegetables and fruits on the shelves there and if he was good he was allowed to choose the vegetable and fruit the family would eat at dinner that evening. His grandmother was Native American.

I asked these folks if they were enjoying their time in Lincoln. They said they went to as many Washington games as possible each year, and they had never been treated as well as they were being treated here. Lincoln people were friendly and helpful before, during, and after the game.

Twice I met people from New York. One lady from New York City knew about the Nebraskans living in New York who have Runzas and Valentino's pizza flown in from Lincoln.

Another couple from New York had not had a permanent address for the past ten years. They travel the country visiting places of interest and saw the Germans from Russia Museum sign on 9th or 10th Street and came to see what it was about. Neither of them had GR ancestry.

One couple from Colorado noticed

that the exhibit on working beets had a picture of the blocking and thinning process but had only beet knives in the exhibit. They said they would send me a short-handled beet hoe, and a few days later it arrived in the mail and is now at the Museum. It will be a welcome addition to our agriculture exhibits.

Many remembered growing up on farms. One item few forget is the cream separator, particularly cleaning it. One lady said if you did not get each of the disks perfectly clean, the next batch of milk would sour and her father would know who caused it.

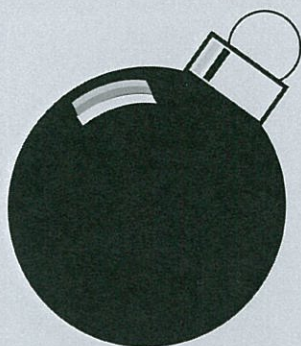
Most of our visitors come because they have GR ancestors, a family member is or was a member of AHSGR, they were told about AHSGR by somebody, or they saw the signs on the streets and wondered what it was about.

Many say they had always wanted to see the museum but this was the first time they had time to come here. We often hear this from Lincoln people who are first-time visitors.

I learned a lot from our visitors and I encourage you, if you are not already doing so, to volunteer at the Heritage Center and lead tours. You don't have to be an expert on German or Russian history. Instruction is provided and many times the visitors will teach you.

Some of the comments you will always hear: "We did not expect to see this much here," "This is great," "This is wonderful," and "This is amazing." If they have GR ancestors, they express their gratitude that there is a place where our heritage is preserved and our story is still being told.

You will hear their stories, see smiles, and sometimes tears as the memories come, and you will be very proud of what the members of this society have done and are still doing to tell our story. ■



Recipe for a Merry Christmas

Take a handful of Christmas spirit, put it with family and friends.
In a house full of warmth and joy, blend three cups of laughter
'til it puts a smile on your face.

Pour it into open arms, bake with friendly faces.

Add some high spirit until the lights are all aglow.

You can tell it's done when your cheeks turn rosy red.

Let cool until Santa drops down your chimney.

Add a sprinkle of fluffy white snow.

Cut and serve with love, and taste a wonderful Christmas.

Froehliche Weihnachten
Gluekliches Neujahr

2012 (First Half) Calendar Lincoln Chapter AHSGR

January 8	Annual Membership & Business Meeting Fellowship Hall (Potluck Ethnic Dinner & Election of Officers.)	1:00PM	Immanuel Church
January 9	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
January 16	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
February 14	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
February 20	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
March 8-10	International Board of Directors Meeting		
March 13	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
March 19	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
	Soup Supper	5pm-7pm—WSI Hall	1430 No. 10 St.
April 10	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
April 16	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
May 6	General Membership Meeting	2:00pm	6th & D Streets
May 8	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
	Nebraska Jubilee—		
May	Garage Sale, 2221 Devonshire Dr., Lincoln (Nancy Borrell's house)		
May 21	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets
June 12	Coffee Club	9:00am—Stauffer's	48th & Hwy 2
June 11-17	AHSGR International Convention	Portland,OR	
June 18	Board Meeting	7:00pm	6th & D Streets

What...You're Not a Member?

If you're not a member we would like to ask you to join and attend some of the meetings and other activities that the Chapter has every year.

This is an excellent opportunity to meet people who have the same heritage. You might also find someone who is researching an off-shoot of your family and can help you fill in some blanks in your genealogy. A lot of conversation goes on as connections are made with old friends of your family.

Don't write us off as just another "group." Come to one of our four yearly membership meetings to see if it's

something for you. These meetings are usually potluck so the "wurst" that can happen is eating too much really good food. If one of the quarterly meetings doesn't sound good, try one of the activities we have. (The garage sale is a lot of fun.) Come to the Broda dinner. Again, plenty of good food.

If you are interested in joining the Lincoln Chapter, please fill out the form on the back and send it to Dale Dinges, 1609 S. Cotner Blvd, Lincoln, NE 68506 along with your check for \$10 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR. ■

It's That Time of Year Again

This is just a gentle reminder to all of you who are members of the Lincoln Chapter. It's once again time to pay your dues! Membership is from January through December and is only \$10. Please fill out the Membership Dues form and send it, along with your check payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR, to:

Dale Dinges
1609 S. Cotner Blvd.
Lincoln, NE 68506 ■

Wishes for the New Year

In our German villages in Russia—it was customary to go visiting from house to house to wish the occupants "Good Luck". This custom was called "wuncshing". Adults would enjoy a drink and food while the children would say a special verse and then receive a treat or gratuity. This would be repeated from house to house. They even visited neighboring Russian homes.

A Special New Year's Wish for 2012

*"Ich wunsche euch glick zun neue jahr
Gesundheit, fried and einigkeit, Ein gutes leben
Und di ewigeselichkeir, amen."*

Translation:

"I (we) wish you luck in the New Year, health, peace, harmony and a good life, and everlasting bliss, Amen." ■

*"Health is not the
absence of illness but a
state of physical,
emotional, and spiritual
well-being."*

Sir Edmund Hillary

I saw this quote in the waiting room of Madonna's physical therapy gym. It struck me as very profound and I want to share it with all of you. (FYI: Sir Edmund Hillary was the first man to climb Mount Everest.)

General Membership Meeting and Election of Officers

January 8, 2012 1:00pm Immanuel
Fellowship Hall
10th & Charleston Streets
Potluck dinner of German ethnic foods.

Mark Your Calendars!!

Coffee Club

Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy. 2
Tuesday, January 10, 9:00 am
Tuesday, February 14,

Regular Chapter meetings

Monday, January 16
Monday, February 20



This appeared in the Calgary Chapter's Newsletter...

Goodwill

by Adena Bauer

"It is time for the newsletter to let you know about the upcoming events and present and upcoming birthdays and anniversaries. We also send out sympathy cards to members who have had a death in the family. If you know of someone who is ill or has passed away, please let me know so we can send a card. It is nice to be remembered by our group. [We have even received "thank you" cards from some of the families.]"

If you have never seen your name in the newsletter acknowledging your anniversary or birthday, it is because you have not provided us with the dates. Or it could be because you have not volunteered to help with any of the Chapter functions. Why not? It makes you feel good! Honest.

If you would like to be included on our list, just call me at 402-438-3814 or email me at lschenkel@neb.rr.com and I will be sure to add your name. ■

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG

"Happy Anniversary"

January

Kathy and Randy Tichota

February

Victor and Shirley Michel

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL *"Happy Birthday"*

January

Bill Svoboda
Duane Olson
Ruth Schafer
Mary Frost
Robert Heitbrink
Pam Wurst
Ray Richards
Robert Riddle
Jack Schleiger
Edward Barthule

February

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

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR Board Members Needed

Shown at right is a list of the current Chapter Board members. As you can see, there will be two vacancies in January; John Weber and Norman Helzer. If you are interested in running for either of these vacancies, please contact Nancy Borrell or any of the other officers so your name can be included on the ballot for the election on January 8.

Term running January 2009-January 2012
John Weber

Term running January 2010-January 2013
Judy Runion, Ruth White

Term running January 2011-January 2014
Nancy Borrell, Dale Dinges, Gail Ginrich (resigned 4/18/11), Norman Helzer (resigned eff. 1/1/2012), Gladys Herstein, Jay Jacox, Paul Loos, Don Weber, Pam Wurst ■

2011 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	nborrell1940@aol.com	489-2583
BUCKNER, Sharon	4821 S. 55th Ct.		466-4786
DINGES, Dale	1609 S. Cotner Blvd.	ddinges@neb.rr.com	488-5154
HELZER, Norman	6731 A St.	rubym4nph@neb.rr.com	
HERSTEIN, Gladys	520 Teakwood Drive	gherstein@windstream.net	489-5976
JACOX, Jay	1000 N. 81st Street	jay@tjsportslincoln.com	327-8962
LAWSON, Judy	4811 S. 55th Ct.	heyjudene@aol.com	420-9580
LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	loospaul@hotmail.com	477-3978
RUNION, Judy	2848 Katelyn Circle	rjr1330@yahoo.com	423-3853
WEBER, Don	6201 Normal Blvd.		489-4898
WEBER, John	6201 Normal Blvd.	Lincoln, NE 68516	488-2313
WHITE, Ruth	3300 Serenity Circle #7	rwhigood@windstream.net	423-4345
	(Mail to: PO Box 23095, Lincoln, NE 68516)		
WURST, Pam	7508 Nemaha St.,	volgariver@windstream.net	489-2634

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.

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR



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



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CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes, once again it's time to pay your Lincoln Chapter Membership dues. The cost is only \$10.00 for a year, which helps pay for the printing and postage for this newsletter.

Lincoln Chapter Membership Application

Name _____ German Russian Heritage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail _____ Date of Birth _____

Spouse _____ German Russian Heritage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Ancestral Village _____ Ancestral Names _____

Make your check for \$10.00 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:
Dale Dinges, Membership Chairman, 1609 S. Cotner Blvd., Lincoln, NE 68506