



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 6

November/December, 2013

Thoughts from your Editor and Editoress (huh?)

Oh, well, if that word didn't exist before now...that's what "poetic license" is all about, right?

Becky Schenaman's article brought back many of the same type of memories.

My Aunt Mary and her family lived on 6th Street between "D" and "F" Streets. I don't remember the address but since the house is still there, I'll check it out the next time we're in the South Bottoms. And the good old "F" Street Park! It was called that then and most of the folks who lived in the Bottoms most likely still call it "F" Street Park, I know I do.

If you were unable to attend the September General Membership meeting, you missed a great meal which was catered by Lee's Restaurant. This meal is paid for by the Chapter as a thank you for all of the volunteering you do. Everyone got more than enough to eat and there was enough left over for "take home" if you wanted. The Chapter Board furnished the desserts and they were delicious!!

Part of the afternoon was spent playing several games of bingo with

cash prizes of \$5, which was also provided by the Chapter. Erwin Ulmer was the first winner of the day and that was followed by a dozen more winners.

The business part of the meeting dealt with the need for volunteers for the Heritage Center and the 2014 Convention. Those who were not aware learned that Diane White is no longer Office Manager and therefore, there is an immediate need for volunteers to help as new staff is being hired.

Kudos to Bob Wagner (new president of the AHSGR Foundation Board of Directors), Nancy Borrell, Judy Runion, Norma Somerheiser, and many others who jumped in to help fill the void left by Diane and others.

Volunteer sign-up sheets were made available listing the various positions where volunteers are needed. They include: office assistant, receptionist, editorial and publications assistant, translations, research assistant, tours, mailings, library assistant, and minor maintenance and repairs.

If you have any preference or experience in any of these areas, we would certainly like to hear from you. Experience really isn't necessary as you will be trained.

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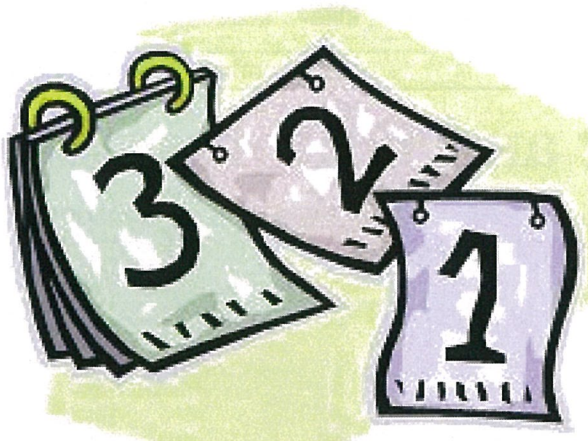


MISSION STATEMENT

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is an international organization dedicated to the discovery, collection, preservation, and the dissemination of information related to the history, cultural heritage, and genealogy of Germanic settlers in the Russian Empire and their descendants. The International foundation of American Historical Society of Germans from Russia is responsible for exercising financial stewardship to generate, manage, and allocate resources which advance the mission and assist in securing the future of AHSGR.

Timeline for Germans from Russia

(Taken from the AHSGR Intermountain Chapter newsletter)



Important Dates in the History of German Russians

The following list dates from Catherine the Great's birth in 1729 through 1804.

April 21, 1729...

Sophia Augusta Frederica of Anhalt-Zerbst was born in Germany. She later ruled Russia under the name Catherine II. (Catherine the Great)

1756-1763...

Seven Years' War. An important factor in bringing Germans to Lower Volga to establish colonies.

June 28, 1762...

Catherine II ascends the throne of Russia.

December 4, 1762...

First Manifesto issued by Catherine II, inviting foreigners to come to Russia. It brought few results.

July 22, 1763...

Catherine II issued second manifesto. It spelled out the conditions under which they could immigrate and granted special right and privileges. Large numbers of German peasants accepted the invitation.

1764-1767...

Founding of German colonies along the Lower Volga River.

1771-1774...

Kirghiz Raids and Pugachev's rebellion, called the Pugachevshchina, ravished the Volga colonies.

1786...

Mennonites from West Prussia

began immigrating to Russia due to 1772 Partition of Poland, which threatened their military service exemption as conscientious objectors. Settlements were established primarily in the Taurida region of South Russia.

1793...

Second Partition of Poland grants area of Volhynia to Russia. Polish landowners invite German peasants to lease land for cultivation.

November 6, 1796...

Death of Catherine II at age sixty-seven.

1796-1801...

Reign of Czar Paul I, son of Catherine II.

1801-1825...

Reign of Tsar Alexander I, the well-beloved, grandson of Catherine II.

February 20, 1804...

Alexander I modifies and reissues manifesto of Catherine II, inviting foreigners to settle in New Russia.

Convention Report from Paul Loos

I would like to take this time to report on the progress and plans for the 45th annual International Convention of AHSGR.

The convention, which will be hosted by the Lincoln Chapter, will be held at the Cornhusker Hotel from July 6 through July 13, 2014.

Theme of the convention is "Keeping Our Legacy Alive."

The Lincoln Chapter Convention Planning Committee has been working hard to assure next year's convention will be a great success. Our hope is for it to be an educational and entertaining week.

Tours:

- Schleich Red Wing Pottery Museum in Lincoln
- Lauritzen Botanical Gardens in Omaha
 - Tour to Sutton, NE
 - The Smith Collection Museum of American Speed in Lincoln

Entertainment:

- Friday night Dutch Hop with The River Boys Polka Band

Some events that have been decided upon so far are highlighted in the box.

Details on speakers, entertainment and other events will follow in future newsletters.

Since the Lincoln Chapter is the host chapter, we will need a lot of volunteers to help make it a success. Please consider being an important part of this Convention. I'm looking forward to meeting and talking to every one of you in the future. Thank you for your continued support.

Your Chapter President,
Paul Loos



Merry Christmas!

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were so afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you: you shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Thoughts...(continued from page 1)

What, you don't think you have time to give a day to volunteer? Well then how about a couple hours once a week or half a day? They'll work with you. Just call the Heritage Center (402-474-3363), give your name and phone number and when you can be there. It's as simple as that.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a list of the Heritage Center staff and the AHSGR support staff, their phone numbers and email addresses.

Christmas is coming! Christmas is coming! As we're working on this newsletter, Halloween isn't here yet. The point is: are we getting a little too materialistic? Stores are already

geared up and ads are on the television. Maybe we need to stop and rethink our priorities.

We've included the Christmas story in this newsletter as a reminder of why we really celebrate Christmas. And so we would like to wish our GR friends and family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May you enjoy health and happiness during this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.

Chapter Website

If you haven't seen the Chapter website, ahsgrlincolnchapter.org, you are truly missing something. Corrine Jacox

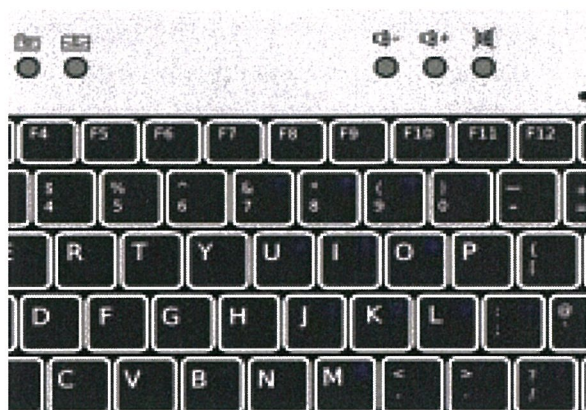
is doing an excellent job of posting current information as well as pictures.

January 12, 2013

Be sure to mark your calendars for this important date. We will be having a potluck dinner, business meeting, & election of officers. Please consider making yourself available as a candidate for one of the offices. We need you.

2013 Calendar of Events

November 1	.....Broda Dinner	.....5:00-7:00 p.m.	...WSI Hall	.....1430 N. 10th Street
November 12	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00 a.m.	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy. 2
November 18	.....Board Meeting	.....7:00 p.m.	.....631 D Street	
December 10	.....Coffee Club	.....9:00 a.m.	.....Stauffer's	.....48th & Hwy. 2
December 16	.....Board Members' Christmas Dinner			.....Dino's Eastside Grill
January 12, 2014	..Annual Membership & Business Meeting	.1:00 p.m.	.....Immanuel Church	.10th & Charleston
	(Fellowship Hall, Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)			



Spellbound

I have a spelling checker
It came with my PC.
It plainly marks four my revue
Mistakes I cannot sea.
I've run this poem threw it,
I'm sure your please too no,
Its letter perfect in it's weigh,
My checker tolled me sew.

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Lincoln, NE 68516

THE 2014 ANNUAL AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

Adult Division

First Place Award - \$100.00

Second Place Award - \$75.00

Third Place Award - \$50.00

(Awards for ties will be prorated)

"Honorable Mentions" are also possible

Youth Division (14 years old or younger)

First Place Award - \$50.00

Second Place Award - \$30.00

Third Place Award - \$20.00

(An AHSGR Youth Membership will be included with each of the above awards)

"Honorable Mentions" are also possible.

ENTRY FORM FOR THE 2014 AHSGR STORYTELLING CONTEST

This completed form must accompany your story!

I hereby give my permission to allow the inclusion of the following personal story of mine in the Storytelling Contest of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia:

___ I certify that this story has not previously been published in any form, or in any publication.

___ I certify that I currently control all the copyrights to the story.

___ I hereby grant AHSGR the rights to publish my Story and Photos for AHSGR use.

My signature: _____ Date: _____

Title of my Story: _____

I am currently an AHSGR member: ___ Yes ___ No

I plan to be at the AHSGR Convention in Lincoln, NE in July 2014: ___ Yes ___ No

FULL NAME: (please PRINT clearly): _____

ADDRESS: (Street & Apt. Number): _____

CITY & STATE: _____

ZIP CODE: _____ AREA CODE & PHONE NUMBER: _____

AGE (if 14 years old or younger): ___ BIRTHDATE (if 14 years old or younger): _____

E-MAIL Address (please PRINT clearly): _____

Please send this completed entry form, along with 5 printed copies of your story, a copy on a CD or Flash Drive (if possible), any pictures that enhance the story, a short biography and a picture of yourself, to:

Charlotte Ochs Lindsay
2343 S. Nash Street
Arlington, VA 22202
USA

DEADLINE: ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 1, 2014

Entries received after that date cannot be considered

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) If submitting by mail, each entry must follow the following rules or it will be disqualified:

- Five typewritten copies of your story, double-spaced, and in clear, dark print on 8½ x 11 inch white paper with one (1) inch margins in standard 12 point font/type. Include any pictures that enhance your story, a short biography, picture of yourself, and mail to:

Charlotte Ochs Lindsay
2343 S. Nash Street
Arlington, VA 22202
USA

- You may choose to submit your entry electronically in Word Perfect, MS-Word, or as a RTF document. Your story should be double-spaced, on 8½ x 11 inch white paper with one (1) inch margins in standard 12 point font/type. Attach any photos that would enhance your story. **Do not submit PDF documents.** Also attach a biography and photo of yourself. Send to Charlotte Lindsay at <nashstreet@comcast.net>
- 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.
- If sending by mail, send five (5) printed copies of each story.

- Photos should be 300 dpi and unedited, and **MUST** be submitted as an electronic JPEG file.
- If original photos are not available in JPEG format it is the **AUTHOR'S** responsibility to have the photos scanned into a JPEG file, and assure that good quality photos can be reproduced/printed from the JPEG file.
- Do not send **physical** originals of photos, as they will not be returned.

- **Receipt of your entry will be acknowledged via email.**

2) The name of the author/submitter should **NOT** appear on the story itself. If submitting by mail, 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 birthdate (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 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, photographs and other material 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, 2014

Memories of the North Bottoms

I cannot believe it is almost Thanksgiving. Growing up our family tradition was to have Thanksgiving and Christmas with my Dad's family. These were my grandparents, Henry and Katherine Bridegam. They lived in the South Bottoms at 1011 South 6th, right across the street from Cooper Park. We always called it "F" Street Park.

When we arrived at their home Grandpa Bridegam would greet us at the door. He always had on a white shirt and a tie and dress pants. His greeting to us was "Hi Ya, Hi Ya." We kids enjoyed that.

Dad had one sister, she was our Aunt Minnie. Her husband was Uncle Al, our cousins were Caroline and Roger. They lived on a farm near Wilbur.

They were always the last to arrive.

When they did, Grandma, our mom Hilda, and Aunt Minnie would finish getting the meal prepared and put on the dining room table.

It was a feast consisting of the following courses; first was a green

salad, then noodle soup, then the main course of either a turkey or a goose, also a beef roast which were always done to perfection. Along with the meats were mashed potatoes, dressing, sweet potatoes, corn, gravies, and the best hot rolls and rye bread, coffee for the adults and each of us kids had our own bottle of Dad's Root Beer served in a crystal glass.

Before the food was served Grandpa poured everyone a small glass of his homemade wine, either plum or cherry. It was very sweet and to this day if I have a glass of wine, it must be sweet like Mogen David. That is as close to Grandpa's wine as I can remember, (but not as good).

There was always a blessing of the food in German and, if you can imagine, there was still dessert to come! This was your choice of pies or a maraschino and black walnut cake that Aunt Minnie made. This was my favorite, as were her horn dinner rolls. Melt-in-your-mouth delicious!

We kids would run over to the park and play after we ate. When it was

time to go home Uncle Al would load up our family into his green Buick and drive us home as Dad did not drive a car until we kids were in Junior High. We walked or took a taxi or bus.

As you can tell meals at the family table were feasts.

When I was in senior high, I was invited to the Marine Corp Ball. I did not have a formal and had to borrow my cousin's. She was a tiny size 7 and I really needed a size 9. When we had Thanksgiving dinner, I literally only ate spoonfuls and prayed to get into that gown the next day. But I made it and had a wonderful night at the ball with my handsome Marine.

I loved having family in both the North and South Bottoms. Their German traditions and foods were both different and I loved them both.

Those were wonderful memories.

Thanks to Becky Schenaman, who still lives in the North Bottoms of Lincoln.

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL *"Happy Birthday"*

November

Sid Babcock
Leslie Bill
Susan Doberstein
Sandra Gettman
Gail Gingrich
Jay Jacox
Becky Schenaman
Norma Schenkel
Donald Taylor
Robert Wagner
Ruth White
Rodger Wurst

December

Kirk Hansen
Judy Lawson
Scott Nelson
Teri Nelson
Robert Riddle
Henry Schmidt
Erwin Ulmer
Marilyn Wagner



FROHLICH JUHRESTAG *"Happy Anniversary"*

November

Richard & Rosalie Geier

December

Robert & Susan Doberstein
Pam and Rodger Wurst

(If your name has not been mentioned in the birthday or anniversary acknowledgments, please let us know. We don't want to leave you out.)

Unsere Leute Erinnyng *"Our People in Memory"*

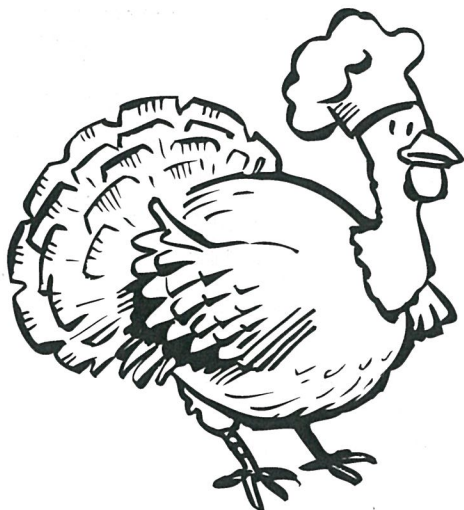
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Sharron J. Lutzi
Sylvia Mae Down

Donna J. Loos
Leonard Dinges

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Freedom
FOREVER



Jay & Corinne Jacox
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6850582069



CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP DUES

Yes, once again it's time to pay your Lincoln Chapter Membership dues. The cost is only \$12 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 _____ Anniversary Month _____

Spouse _____ German Russian Heritage? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Ancestral Village _____ Ancestral Names _____

Make your check for \$12 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:
Nancy Borrell, Membership Chair, 2221 Devonshire, Lincoln, NE 68506