



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXII, ISSUE 5

September/October, 2013

A Bit from Larry...

It's really too bad we didn't have more of our members at the summer General Membership meeting in June.

We were treated to a tour of both the North and South Bottoms in air-conditioned vans that the Chapter Board rented. (There was even one with a lift for me! We had a lot of room and were very comfortable.)

Ed Zimmer, a noted Lincoln historian, was our tour guide. He was able to use two-way radios and/or a hand-held loud speaker to communicate with everyone.

Ed has many little known facts about the history of the South Bottoms but due to all the questions, etc. we had to hurry a bit through the North Bottoms part of the tour. All in all, it was a good tour and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Joyce Riddle remembered reading an article in the April 3, 2011 *Lincoln Journal* which was written by Jim McKee, another noted Lincoln historian. His article was about the Supreme Court overturning the Nebraska Supreme Court in a case on teaching German language in the classroom.

The Nebraska Supreme Court held that "Teaching German to children of

immigrants was unfavorable to National security." This in turn was heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1933, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Thank you, Joyce, for sending me this article.

Becky Schenaman's story about pickles reminded me of my old friend, Bud Dietrich. Bud was a "pickle packing" whiz.

I have his recipe and thought I would include it in this newsletter, so I called Virginia (Bud's widow) and asked her if that would be okay. She said it would be so here it is:

Bud's Award-Winning Dill Pickles

Brine—18 cups water
2 cups distilled vinegar
 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup pickling salt

Put 1 fresh head of dill and 1 button of garlic in the bottom of a jar. Fill jar with cucumbers; add a little more leafy dill on top. Fill jar with hot brine and adjust lid—screw tight, then back up $\frac{1}{4}$ turn. Put in steamer (have water boiling) approximately 7-8 minutes. Remove from steamer, screw lid tight.

Bud used to bring his crock pickles to the Saturday morning coffee's at Headquarters. He'd put them in his crocks on Wednesday and they'd be ready by Saturday. We'd sit there eating sweet rolls and pickles and drinking coffee. Then if some work needed doing around the buildings, the guys would tend to that too.

Bud was pretty set in his ways and told me to use Heinz white vinegar. Being a good little "Rooshen," I did as ordered and never had a batch turn bad.

Some good things about crock pickles:

- You heat your brine not your kitchen.
- You can use big chunky pieces of dill.
- You don't have to can, so no lid problems
- You can use some of the bigger pickles you get.
- Everybody thinks you really worked hard.

Fall Membership Meeting

The fall general membership picnic is planned for September 22 at 4pm
at the Antelope Park Shelter house

The chicken dinner will be catered by Lee's

There will be a short meeting including
an update on the plans
for next year's convention.

Each One, Reach One

The 10th Annual Membership Campaign for July 13, 2013 through May 15, 2014 was launched during the convention in Ft. Collins, CO with the theme "Each One—Reach One." Some indisputable facts from that campaign:

- 79% of new members join because "someone asked them"!
- New members are critical to the growth and success of AHSGR
- Every member counts.
- Talk to your family and friends.
- Tell your community about AHSGR.
- Buy a Gift Membership for someone.

There are just fewer than 3000 members in AHSGR. If EACH ONE of us strives to REACH ONE new AHSGR member, we help to ensure the future of AHSGR.

What are you doing to encourage new and younger persons to join?

Cash awards are available to members and chapters who recruit the most new members. Membership data forms are available through Headquarters or online.

www.ahsgr.org/membership.htm



A Little Humor

There's a story told in Ellis County, Kansas, about a German Russian coming to the U.S. (This story was originally told in German, which tended to be funnier than the English translation.)

In the villages in Russia, there was someone designated to haul the manure out and pile it up. Now "mist" is German for manure, so the person who did the job was called "Der Mister." Now there was a "Mister" who came to America. He got to Ellis

Island and was standing in the line ready to be inspected by the immigration official when he heard a voice from the official say, "Hey mister, come over here!" Puzzled, the immigrant turned to his wife and said, "I just got off the ship all the way from Russia. How does he know who I am?"

[Taken from the Nebraska Panhandle Chapter Newsletter]

Practice Your German

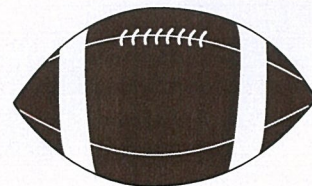
(From the Nebraska Panhandle Chapter Newsletter)

Every one of us needs to practice our German now and then, so here's an old verse from the Fatherland to say when one scrapes a knee or has an "owee."

Haale, haale, Sege's is nix dra gelege
Haale, haale, Gansdreck
Bis marge fruh is alles weg.
(Heal, heal, bless it"
It's nothing but a scratch.
Heal, heal, goose-speck
Tomorrow morning it'll be gone.)

A table prayer:

Segne, Vater, was wir essen
Lass uns Deiner nicht vergessen
Lieber Gott fuer Speis' und Trank
Und alle Guete sei Dir Dank. Amen
(Father bless what we eat
Let us not forget you,
Dear God for food and drink
For all goodness we give you thanks.
Amen)



2013 Calendar of Events

CO	September 10	...Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	...Stauffer's	48th & Hwy. 2
	September 16	...Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	...631 D Street	
	September 22	...General Membership Meeting & Picnic	4:00 p.m.	...Antelope Park Shelter	
	October 8	...Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	...Stauffer's	48th & Hwy. 2
	October 21	...Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	...631 D Street	
	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)			

Different Lives...

by Norma Somerheiser

I have been working with Karen Soeken of Ellicott City, Maryland, preparing obituaries from the German publication, "Volk auf dem Weg", for entry onto SOAR. Karen types headers on copies of these obituaries, sends them to me, and I extract pertinent information and type it on paper. I attach this paper to the obituary and send it to the team of people in Colorado who scan it so it becomes a part of our AHSGR online records.

These are obituaries of German people who had been deported to forced labor camps in Siberia or Kazakhstan, in 1941. They survived and were homeless after the camps were closed. Many settled in those regions, but longed to be in their villages in Russia, which no longer existed.

German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer negotiated a deal with Joseph Stalin. Russian prisoners the Germans held since WWII could be exchanged for German people who survived the deportation and were living in Russia, some still in Siberia and some in

Kazakhstan. Beginning in 1977, many of our German people took this opportunity to immigrate to Germany. Many of the older folks said they wanted to go home to "die free."

I have often wondered how my life

would have been if I had been born in Walter, Russia in 1934, instead of in Lincoln, Nebraska. I am not a translator, but I can get most of the important facts from these obituaries. Here are excerpts from three of them:

One man, born in 1926 in Reinhard, ASSR (the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the Volga Germans), was taken in 1941, with his parents, two sisters, and a brother, to a camp in Kazakhstan. His father was taken to a work project, where he died within six months of mistreatment and malnutrition. His mother found a small house for herself and the children, but she died in a few months because she gave her children most of the food she could get.

One man, born in 1926 in Reinhard, ASSR [the Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic of the Volga Germans], was taken in 1941, with his parents, two sisters, and a brother, to a camp in Kazakhstan. His father was taken to a work project, where he died within six months of mistreatment and malnutrition. His mother found a small house for herself and the children, but she died in a few months because she gave her children most of the food she could get.

A Russian lady found the deceased mother in the house and took the children to an orphanage. Nobody would adopt them because they were German. The two sisters died in the orphanage and the brother is no longer mentioned in the article.

This young man became involved in the movement to restore the ASSR to the German people. Though married, he cir-

2013 BOARD MEMBER DIRECTORY – LINCOLN CHAPTER – AHSGR

OFFICERS:

LOOS, Paul	400 Fletcher	loospaul@hotmail.com	402-477-3978	President
JACOX, Jay	1000 N. 81st Street	jay@tjsportslincoln.com	402-327-8962	
BORRELL, Nancy	2221 Devonshire Dr.	nborrell1940@aol.com	402-489-2583	Treasurer
WAGNER, Bob	PO Box 22702	rmwagner41@yahoo.com	402-477-4005	
JOHNSON, Karen	5804 Princess Margaret Cr.	karenmarie725@yahoo.com	402-904-4818	
LAWSON, Judy	4811 S. 55th Ct.	heyjudene@aol.com	402-420-9580	

DIRECTORS:

BARTHULE, Ed	610 C Street	402-435-0472
BUCKNER, Sharon	4821 S. 55th Ct.	402-466-4786
WEBER, Don	6201 Normal Blvd.	402-489-4898
WEBER, John	6201 Normal Blvd.	402-488-2313

Lincoln, NE 68516



Convention Report from Nancy Borrell

The Convention that was held in Fort Collins, CO in July was really a good one. A huge number were in attendance and we were privileged to hear many excellent speakers and presenters.

A new Board of Directors was elected and the following officers were installed:

- President—Bob Wagner of Lincoln, NE
- Vice President—Mike Meisinger of Overland Park, Kansas

- Past President—Jerry Siebert of Marago, California
- Secretary—Nancy Borrell of Lincoln, NE
- Treasurer—Nick Bretz of Arvada, Colorado

A big thank you goes to Jerry Siebert for the past eight years under his leadership.

A large library belonging to Art Flegel is in the process of being packed and shipped to AHSGR Headquarters. It will be a great addition to our existing library.

Different Lives... (continued from page 3)

culated petitions pertaining to this, went to Moscow with a delegation, and his efforts in this cause were rewarded with a sentence of two years in a labor camp in Archangel, Russia.

Upon his release from this camp he decided it was no longer possible to have a good life in Russia, and he immigrated to Germany with his family as soon as possible. He quickly learned to speak proper German and found work.

He dedicated the rest of his life to helping other immigrants adapt to life in Germany.

Another lady died three years ago. She was 103 years of age. One of her daughters wrote a beautiful poem about her mother and the traumatic events in her life.

Born in 1907, she experienced the forced collectivization of her family's farm, famines, Stalin's terrorizing of the German people, to World Wars, and deportation to the forced labor camps, escape from one, and finally the immigration to freedom in Germany.

Through it all, she held her own family together.

The daughter's poem is about her mother's hands. It is a tribute to this woman who though young and alone

was self-reliant, and became the master of every situation she encountered in a world gone horribly wrong at times.

Another young woman died in 2009 when struck by a car while crossing a street in Germany.

festival events for both children and adults.

She befriended many new arrivals from Russia and helped them settle in their new country. They knew they could always go to her for help.

At the time of her tragic death, she

was anticipating the birth of her first grandchild, and it was born just a few weeks after her death.

These are just a few of hundreds of stories of courage and perseverance of our people.

Through AHSGR we each have an opportunity to learn about and preserve the lives and times of our people. There are always projects for volunteers at

Headquarters, in chapters throughout the organization, and work can be done on your computer at home. Consider taking on a project. It is rewarding work.

A Russian lady found the deceased mother in the house and took the children to an orphanage. Nobody would adopt them because they were German. The two sisters died in the orphanage and the brother is no longer mentioned in the article.

Born in Kazakhstan, her family moved to Uzbekistan. As a young girl, she was trained as a seamstress. She married there, and immigrated with her husband and two children to Germany in 1988.

There her husband became a leader in the organization of people from their home "dorf" in Russia. She was an enthusiastic supporter of his work in this organization, and often used her skills to make costumes for

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



Pickles

Can you believe it is August already? This has been a year where my garden just does not want to produce cucumbers. Yesterday my niece, Heather and her daughter Aly, came to visit. She brought me eight cucumbers from her garden. These were the first cucumbers I had to make a small crock of pickles.

Growing up here in the North Bottoms, I loved to go down in my aunt Marie Reich's basement and take a dill pickle out of her big crock. I just loved the sour, salty homemade pickles. Of course as a child, I always took a big one not knowing the smaller ones are really the best.

I always knew that when I grew up I was going to make pickles of my own.

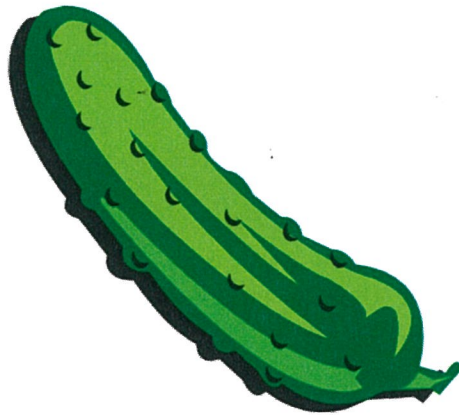
Neither of my grandmothers made their own pickles and my mother canned peaches, pears and occasionally, sweet pickles. So the times I got to enjoy a big sour pickle were rare and treasured.

After my husband, Richard Schenaman, and I bought our home at 817 Y Street in the North Bottoms, the first spring we dug a small garden behind the house. We always planted 3 tomato plants and a package of pickling cucumbers,

Now the challenge was finding a pickle recipe.

I asked my older neighbor ladies how they made theirs. They never really gave me an exact recipe, so I just decided to try them on my own.

I didn't have a crock so my mom



gave me some canning jars and I tried canning them.

They turned out really good I thought.

So after the second year of making them I decided to enter them in the Nebraska State Fair canning contest.

Being young and stupid I didn't realize this was the domain of very experienced canners who made sure each pickle was exactly the same size and the dill was neatly packed in pretty

Mason jars.

Me, I used assorted sizes of cucumbers and lots of dill. But even so, on my first try at pickles for the fair I took first place! I won a purple ribbon and a check for 50 cents!

My neighbor lady, who made wonderful pickles (she baked hers in the oven) and they were very good I thought, could not believe a young inexperienced canner could win.

But I found my home-making niche, I was not a bread baker but I could make good pickles! I was thrilled when I finally bought a small 2 gallon crock.

That has been my favorite summer pleasure, making a few crocks of pickles.

Even being a widow I still enjoy making them.

But it looks like this year my garden says cucumbers are going to be non-bearing. That is the pleasure of a garden; it can be over producing or produce very little.

So I have next year to look forward to. And there are always refrigerated pickles at the store. Not as good as homemade but still good.

Becky Schenaman

817 Y Street

Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

402 477-1627

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL "Happy Birthday"

September

Nancy Borrell
Donna Day
Judy Runion
Doris Taylor
Jerry McInnes
Tom Bill

October

Paul Loos
Patricia Olson
Delores Schwartz
Norma Somerheiser

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG "Happy Anniversary"

September

Annie and Bob Settell

October

Leslie and Tom Bill

(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 Erinnerng "Our People in Memory"

Gloria Carstens
Esther Sothan

Manny Luft
Stanley Kaltenberger

Lincoln Chapter AHSGR
Larry and Norma Schenkel, Editors
9439 Benziger Drive
Lincoln, NE 68526
402-438-3814



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Convention 2014

Work is continuing in preparation for the 2014 Convention which will be held in Lincoln July 6-12 at the Cornhusker Hotel. Many volunteers are needed to put on a convention and we ask that every member step-up in some way to help us make this happen. Please call a Chapter Board member and get involved.

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.