



## Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIII, ISSUE 6

November/December, 2014

## From Larry...

Hello, dear friends. As I'm writing this, I'm sitting here wondering where September has gone and where is October going so fast. This all must mean that it's time for the November-December newsletter, which is one of my favorite things to do every two months. It might not sound like it to hear me talking, but it really is.

The garage sale has come and gone and was quite successful. I want to thank our volunteers, without whom we would not have gotten it off the ground.

Those volunteers were:

Sharon Buckner            Susan Stoehr  
Judy Lawson     John and Ruby Weber  
Karen Johnson        Nancy Borrell  
Jay and Corrine Jacox     Donna Day  
Barb Schmidt

I am sure I have missed someone, and I apologize. "My bad" for not making a list of those who were there when Norma and I took our items over for the sale.

Also, a big "thank you" to Jay and Corrine Jacox for the use of their garage for the sale. I have heard that the plans for next year are to have it earlier in the year. We will keep you informed.

If you were unable to come to the general membership meeting and picnic, you missed a fun time. There were approximately 40 attendees and from where I sat, it looked like they had a good time. Everybody pitched in putting up tables, getting out chairs, and setting up the food tables. There was a crew cooking hamburgers, wrapping them and getting them to the hungry group inside.

Sherry Pawelko, office manager, thanked the convention volunteers and

gave a brief rundown of the success of the convention.

After finishing the meal, Jay and Corrine set up the "GR Jeopardy" game. Alex Trebek (aka: Jay) read the answers and Vanna (aka: Corrine) ran the game board. Paul was score keeper. Each table chose someone to be their spokesperson. At times the com-



Please! Also tell them about the Coffee Club at Stauffer's. That's a great way to get acquainted.

Commercial Time!!!! You may be wondering why we have three business cards in the newsletter. These three businesses made very generous donations for the convention expenses. Thanks to Henry Sader for doing this for the Lincoln Chapter. Should you need

petition became a little heated (after all we are GR's, right?) but we all enjoyed ourselves. Hopefully we can play this game again at another membership meeting. Again thanks go to Jay and Corrine who spent considerable time thinking up categories and researching our history to make up the Jeopardy board.

Membership—between June 1 and August 27, 2014 we had 61 new members join AHSGR. Of those 61, seven were from Lincoln. Can we get a volunteer to perhaps call these new members, welcome them to AHSGR, and ask them to join and become active in the Lincoln Chapter?

AHSGR	FAMOUS GRs	NORTH BOTTOMS	SOUTH BOTTOMS	POTPOURRI
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500
1000	1000	1000	1000	1000

the types of services they offer, remember these businesses and give them a call. ☐



# Another Beautiful Quilt

The AHSGR Lincoln Quilters have put together another beautiful full size quilt to be raffled at this

year's Broda dinner on November 7th. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5. If you'd like to purchase tickets, let

me know. (Larry: 402-438-3814) Tickets can also be purchased at the dinner. ☐

## **BRODA DINNER**

**Friday, November 7, 2014**  
**Serving from 5:00pm to 7:00pm**

**WSI Hall**  
**1431 North 10th Street**

**Adults - \$12.00**  
**Children 12 yrs. and under - \$6.00**

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# Growing up GR: Heroes

by Jay Jacox

At this time of year when we honor our veterans, I think of a man who I never met but made the ultimate sacrifice to keep our country free. That man is my great uncle Jacob "Jake" Bauer of Lincoln, and one of the "sons" of Bauer and Sons Grocery at 402 "F" Street.

When the United States declared war on Germany during World War I (or what many of that generation always referred to as "The Great War"), Uncle Jake left his family and home to fight for his country.

During the same time, the world was about to be involved in another great fight not involving military weapons, but a virus - influenza. Influenza didn't care what your politics were, how old you were, or what your ethnic background was. It attacked everyone.

Beginning in January of 1918, the worldwide epidemic would claim around five percent of the planet's population, making it one of the worst natural disasters mankind has ever known. It is widely documented almost 100 years later that the most violent strain of the epidemic broke out simultaneously in three separate parts of the world; Freetown, Sierra Leone; Boston, Massachusetts; and Brest, France.



Jacob "Jake" Bauer

Sierra Leone; Boston, Massachusetts; and Brest, France.

Uncle Jake shipped off for war and right into the teeth of impending doom. His medical unit disembarked and was stationed at Brest, France. For eight weeks he took care of the wounded, sick, and dying there until he too, was stricken.

Uncle Jake's "official" cause of death was pneumonia but almost every belligerent country routinely falsified the causes of death on soldiers' records to try and quell the influenza panic at home. Uncle Jake almost undoubtedly died of influenza - a very gruesome and quick two-day ordeal where the patient literally suffocates to death. Two years later Uncle Jake was disinterred from France and brought home to rest at Wyuka Cemetery.

What I realize is that Uncle Jake didn't go overseas to give his life for Germany or for Russia. What I learned from his story is that although our ancestors may have come from that area long ago, when we step ashore here, we're not German, not Russian (or any other nationality, either), we're all American. □

## HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL

*"Happy Birthday"*

### November

Sidonia Babcock  
Sandra Broman  
Susan Doberstein  
Rosalie Geier  
Sandra Gettman  
Jay Jacox  
Becky Schenaman  
Norma Schenkel  
Jim Sommers  
Donald Taylor  
Bob Wagner  
Ruth White

### December

Leslie Bill  
Joy Citta  
Judy Lawson  
Joyce Riddle  
Cecelia Sherman  
Marilyn Wagner

## FROHLICH JUHRESTAG

*"Happy Anniversary"*

### November

Richard and Rosalie Geier

### December

Robert and Susan Doberstein  
Don and Mary Joyce Schoening

## Unsere Leute Erinnerungg

*"Our People in Memory"*

Norma Ruth Ochsner  
Margaret E Staberg  
Ruth Irene Gabelhaus

### Your Help is Needed

If you are aware of the death of someone who is a German from Russia, please give Judy Lawson, the Chapter Corresponding Secretary, a call. She would like to honor them by putting their name in the Newsletter. Judy's phone number is: 402-420-9580.

# Life in the North Bottoms

submitted by Becky Schenaman, North Bottoms, Lincoln, Nebraska

I had the gas company down this week and had the pilot lit on my space furnace for the winter.

My home in the North Bottoms was built in 1895. It was originally a horse barn. It does not have a basement so I cannot have duct work for a real furnace or central air conditioning. I love this home; it is just like it was when our German Russian ancestors arrived here.

Twelve years ago, I had a 12x12 log home built in my side yard beside the garage. I have so many people stop and want to know what I use it for. People who have traveled in Germany tell me it is very common there to have a small house built beside the original house. So I guess that was the German heritage in me coming out

when I thought to have it built.

Right now my yard looks really nice. The grass is really green from all the rain and the roses are in full bloom. I am one of those people who mow their lawns at least twice a week sometimes three if it needs it.

I had two German men who owned houses across the street from me. One was Bill Bauer; the other was George Neiderhouse. They both kept impeccable yards. They liked me because I was just like them. As George used to say: "I was a very sensible girl."

When I would shovel my long driveway Bill would come over after he had shoveled his walks and he always brought his shovel to lean on and talk to me as I shoveled mine, but he never

once lifted his shovel to help me!

He would just praise me for the good job I did. I sure miss all of my German neighbors.

Our North Bottoms neighborhood was a beautiful place then. With fall fast approaching it makes me think of how we would rake our leaves and I was the only one that George would let bring my leaves to his compost pile. He was composting and living green before it was fashionable. He still burned wood and coal into the 1980's when he died.

Our German people were wonderful neighbors and friends. I still take great pride in my home, neighborhood, and heritage.

Mocks Goot. ☐

## NORTH POLE RESTRUCTURE

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole.

Streamlining is due to the North Pole's loss of dominance of the season's gift distribution business. Home shopping channels and mail-order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share. He could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture.

The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model electric sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer, who summered at the Harvard Business School, is anticipated. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has received unfavorable press. I am pleased to inform you that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something at the North Pole. As a further restructuring, today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Changes are to take place in the "Twelve Days of Christmas" subsidiary. Some numbers appear to be excessive. ☐

## Thank you to these companies:



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INTERNATIONAL

## *11th AH\$GR Membership Campaign* *July 12, 2014 - May 15, 2015*

### **EACH ONE - REACH ONE**

*The Membership Campaign rewards AH\$GR members and chapters who recruit new members for AH\$GR or purchase gift memberships for new members\*. Cash prizes will be awarded at the 2015 Convention. Membership Data Forms are available through 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 largest number of new members*

*\$75 to the AH\$GR member AND \$150 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest number of new members*

*\$50 to the AH\$GR member AND \$100 to the AH\$GR Chapter who recruits the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest number of new members*

*A \$25 cash prize to 3 new members selected at random.*

**New Members are Critical to the Growth and Success of AHSGR**

**Every Member Counts - Talk to your Family & Friends - Tell your community about AHSGR - Buy a Gift Membership for someone**

***79% of New Members Join Because Someone Asked Them!***

**If *EACH ONE* of us strives to *REACH ONE* new member every year, we assure an AHSGR future for all generations to come**

\* 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Reward Winners must have recruited the following number of new members for AHSGR: AHSGR members, 3 or greater; and Chapters, 6 or greater.

# Lincoln Chapter Goes to the Dogs

by Jay Jacox

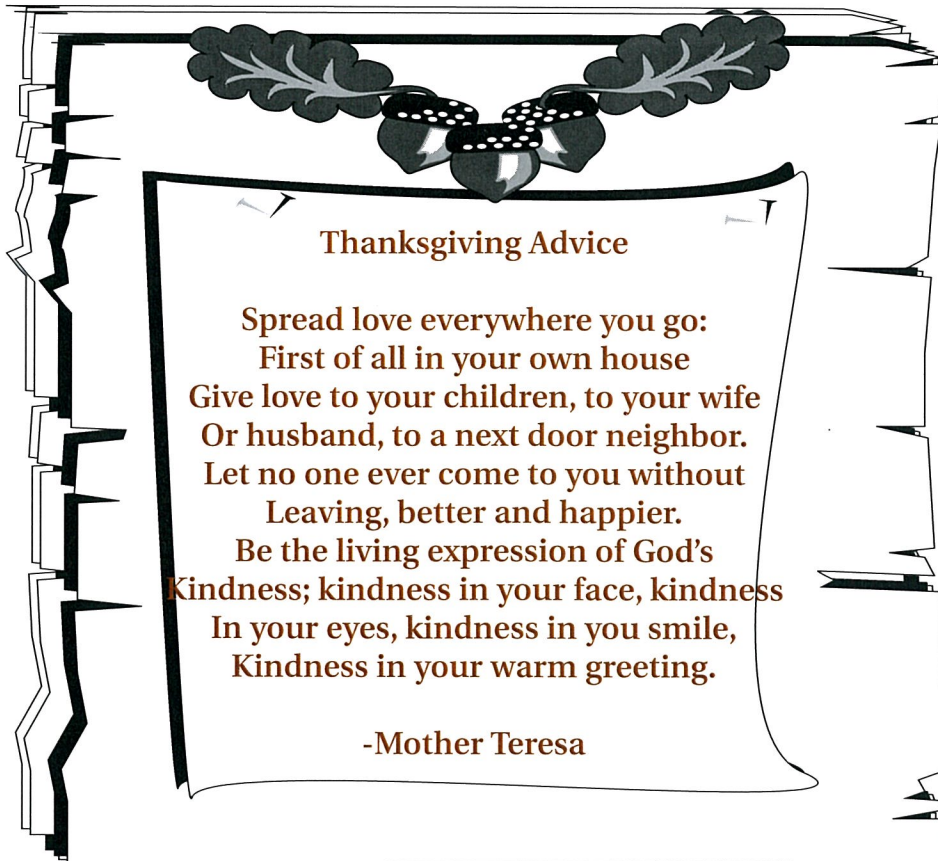
This past August the AHSGR Lincoln Chapter went to the dogs ...literally. Twenty-five local members spent a Sunday afternoon out at Haymarket Park to take in a game and cheer on the Lincoln Saltdogs to a 1-0 baseball triumph over the St. Paul Saints. The victory helped Lincoln win their first division championship since 2009. Wouldn't it be nice to think that perhaps the AHSGR Lincoln Chapter had a little something to do with that? Don Weber threw out the ceremonial first pitch of the game. John and Ruby Weber's daughter, Julie Samuelson, secured an air-conditioned skybox suite for us. Thanks go out to International Headquarters for donating an AHSGR Museum History and Tour DVD as a door prize. Paul Loos won that prize while Bob Riddle and Cecelia Sherman each won the other two door prizes, AHSGR caps. The Lincoln Chapter's name was displayed on the scoreboard and our group was announced by the public address



Don Weber throwing out the first pitch.

announcer. All in all, it was a great day for everyone. Your local chapter is looking to put together other fun outings

like this in the future. ☐



## 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.

# Twelve Days of Christmas



From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not permitted to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning: the surface meaning plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality that the children could remember.

Who knew the partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ? Two turtle

doves were the Old and New Testaments. Three French hens stood for Faith, Hope, and Love. The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament. The Six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation. Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit, Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy. The eight maids

a-milking were the eight beatitudes. Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self Control. The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments. The eleven pipers piping were the eleven faithful disciples. The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed. □

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WEBER, John	6201 Normal Blvd.		402-488-2313



# Silent Night

[Taken from the Sacramento Valley Chapter Newsletter December 2013]

On Christmas Eve, 1818, the organ of St. Nicholas Church, Oberndorf, Austria, was in need of repair. Oberndorf was snowbound, and there was no repairman for miles around. Yet there must be some form of special music for the Christmas service. Franz Gruber, church organist, laid the matter before his friend Joseph Mohr, vicar of the church, suggesting that a new song might be helpful in the emergency. At this suggestion Mohr wrote the lovely verses of "Stille Nacht" ("Silent Night").

Gruber immediately composed the music for it and presented the new song at the Christmas Midnight Mass. It was sung in a three-part arrangement to the accompaniment of a guitar.

When the organ repairman arrived from Tyrol, a few days later, Gruber

showed him the new song. He was pleased with it and took it to a family in the Austrian Tyrol, who made extended concert tours and were famous for their singing of folk songs. Through this family, the song became known in Germany even before it was published.

In 1840, at Leipzig, it was printed as a "Tyrolean" Christmas song. In its travels about Germany, the song had lost the names of its composers. It was thought to be a folk song, and as such, no one suspected that the authorship could be determined. At one time the name of Michael Hayden (brother of the famous Franz Joseph) was

associated with the song as its composer. It has since

been learned that he made a four-part arrangement of it.

It is only recently that the true story of "Silent Night" has become generally known. The first inquiry into the origin of the song was made in 1854 by musicians of the royal court in Berlin. Later investigations by Ludvig Erk and H. E. Zimmerman have thrown much light on the subject. Zimmerman in "The Homiletic Review" tells us that "the same inspiration which moved the priest seized the

## *Stille Nacht*

*("Silent Night" in German)*

*Joseph Mohr, 1818 Franz Gruber, 1818*

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Alles schlaft; einsam wacht  
Nur das traute hochheilige Paar.  
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!  
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh!"  
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Hirten erst kundgemacht  
Durch der Engel Halleluja,  
Tont es laut von fern und nah:  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Christ, der Retter ist da!  
Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,  
Gottes Sohn, o wie lacht  
Lieg' aus deinem gottlichen Mund,  
Da uns schlägt die rettende Stund'  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!  
Christ, in deiner Geburt!*

## *Silent Night*

*(English)*

*Literal English prose translation by Hyde Flippo*

*Silent night, holy night  
All is sleeping, alone watches  
Only the close, most holy couple.  
Blessed boy in curly hair,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!  
Sleep in heavenly peace!*

*Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds just informed  
By the angels' hallelujah,  
It rings out far and wide:  
Christ the Savior is here!  
Christ the Savior is here!*

*Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, oh how laughs  
Love out of your divine mouth,  
Because now the hour of salvation strikes for  
us.*

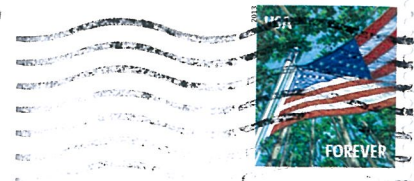
*Christ, in Thy birth!  
Christ, in Thy birth!*

organist." One might think that some divine inspiration alone could make it possible to compose the words and music of such an immortal song in but a few hours. From the little hamlet of Oberndorf in Austria, the song has found its way into every hamlet of the Christian World. Zimmerman says that it found its way across the ocean to America through a group of Tyrolean singers.

Wherever this exquisite carol is sung, it awakens precious memories of childhood, of lighted Christmas trees in darkened churches and homes. The very simplicity of the song and the tranquil beauty of its music seem to breathe the atmosphere of the humble manger-birth. It has sung its way into the hearts of mankind, being now one of the universal favorites, and has been translated into no less than ninety different languages and dialects. □



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## 2014 Calendar of Events

November 7	.... Broda Dinner	..... 5:00-7:00 p.m.	... WSI Hall	..... 1430 N. 10th St.
November 11	... Coffee Club	..... 9:00 a.m.	..... Stauffer's	... 48th & Hwy. 2
November 17	... Board Meeting	..... 7:00 p.m.	..... 631 D Street	
December 9	... Coffee Club	..... 9:00 a.m.	..... Stauffer's	... 48th & Hwy. 2
December 15	... Board Members' Christmas Dinner	.....	..... location to be determined	
Jan. 11, 2015	... Annual Membership & Business Meeting	..... 1:00 p.m.	... Immanuel Church	
	(Fellowship Hall, Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)			10th & Charleston

## 2015 DUES ARE DUE

Membership dues time is here again. They have not changed, just \$12 for the year. "Such a bargain." A member's resolution for the year is to get a friend to come to one of our meetings. If it is something that appeals to them, we might get some new members. Remember the membership drive motto for the International Board is "Each one, Reach one."

### Lincoln Chapter Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_ German Russian Heritage?  Yes  No

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Anniversary Month \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ German Russian Heritage?  Yes  No

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Ancestral Village \_\_\_\_\_ Ancestral Names \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check for \$12 payable to Lincoln Chapter AHSGR and mail to:

Donna Day, Membership Chair: 325 N. 25th Street, Lincoln, NE 68503