



Lincoln Chapter

The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXIV, ISSUE 6

November/December 2015

This and That and Then Some...

Well, here we are getting the last newsletter of 2015 ready for print. Where has this year gone? I know we older folks always say that but lately I've been hearing younger people say it too. Maybe we all need to "stop and smell the roses".

One thing you'll see in this edition is a Thanksgiving proclamation by President Washington. It taught me and humbled me at the same time. The politicians of that time couldn't seem to agree either.

Several of our Chapter members have been busy out in the community and in doing so more people have been

made aware of our organization's existence. Thanks to them for spreading the word.

As we move into the Christmas season may we all pause and reflect on this holy time.

Merry Christmas from the Schenkels. ☐

Life in the North Bottoms

by Becky Schenaman, North Bottoms

This weekend I was talking with my seven-year-old niece. She was wondering what she was going to be dressed as for Halloween?

This got me thinking about Halloween when I was a child. Remember those masks we wore? They were made of that stiff gauze material. You know the ones that got moisture inside and had that odd smell when they got a little wet.

Well, my go-to costume was a black-cat suit that had a tail attached and a black-cat face mask. Along with that I carried a metal cat toy that was round with a black cat face on it and it had a push-up metal stick that when you pushed it up it would make sparks reflect in the face of the cat. I absolutely loved it. I could take it into my closet at home and play with it in the dark. It kept me entertained for some time.

As I grew up I forgot about my toy and then when my folks sold the house I forgot to take it or the costume out of the closet. So it was lost. I spent the next 40 years searching antique stores for that toy.

Two years ago my sisters and I were out at the Aardvark Antique Mall and low and behold there one sat on a shelf with other old Halloween items. I

was thrilled!! I looked at the price and needless to say I was in sticker shock. But I reasoned it out by saying to myself "Where are you ever going to find another? How long have you been



looking?"

"Money is only a tool" was the famous saying my old wise neighbor, Bill Bauer, taught me to say when I really wanted something foolish.

I bought it. The eyes do not flash, it has seen better days, but it is exactly like my old cat. And it holds a special place in my china cabinet; I take it out and decorate with it on Halloween.

I love to decorate for both Halloween and Christmas and so I am

always on the hunt for old decorations. But nothing can compare to the memories of running the neighborhood with my brother and sisters. We carried a big brown grocery sack each. And we had such fun. We loved getting popcorn balls and anything chocolate.

We hated getting loose cookies because when someone threw an apple in the bag those cookies would shatter all over everything and what a mess they made, especially when we poured out our haul onto the kitchen table. There we sorted what we liked and left the stuff we did not want for our Dad. We were so nice! We would leave him one of our treasured popcorn balls as he liked them also.

Oh, those were fun times. Halloween was really fun back in the day. I wish children today could run on dark sidewalks, kicking bunches of autumn leaves as you ran, going to all the neighbors with their porch lights shining like beacons in the dark night, keeping all the ghosts and goblins safe. The air was brisk and it smelled of burning leaves. Children seldom had a parent with them. We were all noisy, cold, and happy with anticipation to see friends and getting that next candy bar. Trick or Treats to you all. ☐

Lincoln Chapter Expands its Horizons

by Jay Jacox

The word is getting out and the Lincoln Chapter has become the beneficiary. Citing their knowledge of our Chapter participating at the Lincoln Children's Museum, Lancaster County Fair and Havelock Fall Festival, Arbor Lodge in Nebraska City invited us to participate in their own special event.

On October 4, Arbor Lodge hosted their first annual Heritage Day in the famous mansion and on the grounds of J. Sterling Morton.

Nancy Borrell, Corinne and Jay Jacox, Paul Loos, Judy Runion, and Barb Schmidt took to the road for a pleasant hour-long drive to show folks

outside of Lancaster County just what the AHSGR Lincoln Chapter is all about.

For a couple of hours Nancy, Judy and Barb ran our quilting booth inside the mansion while Paul, Corinne and Jay occupied a space on the lawn teaching folks the game of bunnock.

We Germans from Russia were joined by a Scandinavian group, Czechs, Norwegians, and even Scots, one of whom played a bagpipe while strolling around the grounds. There were also weavers and leather workers in attendance and the Arbor Lodge staff was dressed in period 1800's attire.

What fun we had interacting with folks and explaining our culture.

While we were packing up for the trip home, the folks at Arbor Lodge presented us with fresh apples from their orchard.



That made the "road trip" that much sweeter—and the apples were, of course, delicious. ☐

GRs in the Community

by Jay Jacox

In September the Lincoln Chapter was invited to participate in the annual Havelock Fall Festival in



Havelock Park in northeast Lincoln.

Many services organizations from around the community participated at this fun family event as well as performances by the Norwood Park Elementary chorus and the Dawes Middle School band.

For two hours Sharon Bucker and Judy Lawson ran the ever-popular quilting booth where youth can make and keep their own designs while Paul Loos and Corinne and Jay Jacox taught the game of bunnock to youth



and adults alike.

Many folks inquired about the game and about the local chapter in general. It was a nice day and a very nice crowd.

Thank you to the Havelock Neighborhood Association for inviting us. ☐

Fall General Meeting Recap

by Jay Jacox



ety of delicious desserts were provided by the Chapter Board.

The entertainment for the evening was provided, "carnival style". Attendees tried their hands at tabletop activities of basketball shooting, spin the wheel, drop the disk, tabletop bunnock, bean bag toss, three-in-a-row ball toss, and duck pond games. Participants could win tickets for each task they successfully completed. Players then put their tickets into containers for each prize they were interested in winning. Winners were drawn randomly from the jar associated with each prize.

The prize winners were:
Carry All Bag - Hunter Staack

2016 Lincoln Chapter Membership - Karen Johnson
Pair of Lincoln Stars Hockey Tickets - Gerry Schuster
AHSGR Museum History and Tour DVD - Marilyn Wagner and Barb Schmidt
Metal Photo Frame - Bob Wagner
The German Russians book by Jim Griess - Susan Stohr
Heinrich & Magdalena's Fabulous Adventure DVD - Marilyn Wagner
Prairie Crosses, Prairie Voices DVD - Sharon Buckner
AHSGR Playing Cards - John Weber
Bottle of Wine from local vineyard - Bob Wagner, Nancy Borrell and Pam Wurst
Thank you goes to International Headquarters, Paul Loos, and Corinne Jacox for donating some of the prizes. A great evening was had by all. ☐



Happy Thanksgiving!

A good crowd gathered for our annual fall general meeting on September 20 in the indoor shelter at Antelope Park.

After a short procedural meeting led by President Paul Loos, local chapter members were acknowledged for the awards they had been presented by AHSGR.

Norma Somerheiser recounted receiving her 2015 Distinguished Service Award at the recently concluded International convention in Billings, MT. Editors Norma and Larry Schenkel received recognition as one of only four local chapters nationwide to garner 2015 Outstanding Chapter Newsletter accolades.

Dinner was catered by Lee's Restaurant with the fare consisting of Lee's Famous Fried Chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and dinner rolls. A vari-

Autumn Leaves

The leaves had a wonderful frolic.
They danced to the wind's loud song.
They whirled, and they floated, and scampered.
They circled and flew along.

The moon saw the little leaves dancing.
Each looked like a small brown bird.
The man in the moon smiled and listened.
And this is the song he heard.

The North Wind is calling, is calling,
And we must whirl round and round,
And then when our dancing is ended,
We'll make a warm quilt for the ground.
(Anonymous)

The Lure of the Railroads

by Sherry Pawelko

Railroads seem to have a certain allure for many people. They conjure up images of Bing Crosby and Danny Kay singing to Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen about snow in Vermont while riding the rails in the movie "White Christmas". In school, we learned fun songs about railroad folk heroes Casey Jones and John Henry while in chorus classes. And who can forget the old favorite "I've Been Working on the Railroad All the Live Long Day"?

But to the Germans from Russia the importance of the railroads was much more. It was the railroads that helped promote the immigration of Germans from Russia by promising the sale of cheap land to immigrants. They also housed German Russian families when they first came to Lincoln. But perhaps most important was the railroads' employment of these immigrant men. The Burlington Railroad had an Immigrant House that helped the "new to America" families with support and housing until they were able to get onto their feet, and could gain their own housing.

Many families in Lincoln's North and

South Bottoms were supported by the steady work and good wages men earned working for the Burlington and Missouri railroad (later called the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy or C, B, & Q railroad now entitled the BNSF or Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad. Some worked for the Union Pacific as well. But the vast majority of Lincoln men were Burlington employees.

Train tracks ran through and around the German Russian neighborhoods and the sound of the locomotive was music to the ears of folks in the North and South Bottoms. Many worked in the Havelock shops as well.

It was the railroads that provided the resources to keep the German Russian children fed, housed, and dressed. People were proud to be railroaders and for many years this was the career choice for fathers to sons to grandsons. Entire families were comprised of Burlington men.

The American Historical Society of Germans from Russia (AHSGR) is now hosting an exhibit called "Railroads a Link to Our Past." There are many photos and artifacts highlighting the

importance of the railroad in the life of German Russian families. Included is a baggage cart, dishes from railroad dining cars, lanterns, railroad implements, tools, signs, and much more.

Come see this interesting exhibit at the AHSGR International Headquarters 631 D Street here in Lincoln. Museum hours are Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sundays 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. This is one you won't want to miss! ☐

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Chapter Membership Renewal

Membership renewal for 2016 will be a little different than in past years.

If you are a current member of the Lincoln Chapter, you will be receiving a letter in early December with your renewal form. Also, in order to offset the rising cost of printing and mailing the chapter newsletter, membership dues beginning in 2016 will be \$15.00.

Thanks for your support.

Paul Loos, President of the Lincoln Chapter



Proclamation of Thanksgiving

by President George Washington, 1789

Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor; and Whereas both Houses of Congress have, by their joint committee, requested me to "recommend to the people of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer, to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many and signal favors of Almighty God, especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness."

Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the 26th day of November next, to be devoted by the people of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the beneficent author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we

may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country previous to their becoming a nation; for the signal and manifold mercies and the favorable interpositions of His providence in the course and conclusion of the late war; for the great degree of tranquility, union, and plenty which we have since enjoyed; for the peaceable and rational manner in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national one now lately instituted for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed, and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and, in general, for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us.

And also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and

supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech Him to pardon our national and other transgressions; to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually; to render our National Government a blessing to all the people by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed; to protect and guide all sovereigns and nations (especially such as have shown kindness to us), and to bless them with good governments, peace, and concord; to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the increase of science among them and us; and, generally to grant unto all mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as He alone knows to be best. □

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2015 Calendar of Events

October 31, 2015	Trunk or Treat	6:00 pm	Norwood Park School, 4710 N. 72 St.
November 6, 2015	Broda Dinner	5:00 pm to 7:00 pm	WSI Hall, 430 N. 10th St.
November 10, 2015	Coffee Club	9:00 am	Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2
November 16, 2015	Board Meeting	7:00 pm	631 "D" St.
December 8, 2015	Coffee Club	9:00 am	Stauffer's Cafe, 48th & Hwy 2
TBA	Board Members' Christmas Dinner		
January 10, 2016	Annual Membership & Business Meeting	1:00 pm	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall
	(Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)		10th & Charleston Sts.

The Christmas Message

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 around about them: and they were sore 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 Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye 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, good will towards men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. LUKE 2:8-16 [KJV]

That First Christmas Eve

by Eddie Loos

Across the desert sands they came,
With one thing on their mind,
To follow a star to Bethlehem,
The Christ child they must find.

Worn and weary from heat and dust
These men were wise and able.
They followed this light for many a night
In search for this King at the stable.

So on to the city of David they went,
In this town known as Bethlehem.
They found this child called Jesus,
In a stable beyond the inn.

With no need to search more,
And no need to tarry,
They fell on their knees,
With Joseph and Mary.

A barn filled with straw,
And the manger with hay,
They worshiped the Christ child,
On that first Christmas Day.

So their journey had ended,
And some gifts they did bring,
With their praises to God,
And the gifts to the King.

So even today we must always hold fast
To the meaning of Christmas, the one that
long passed,
And I think it appropriate, that gifts may be
given
With one thought in mind, that it all comes
from Heaven.

So I say let's be joyful but never lose sight,
That Christmas began in a stable one
night.
Now we all must thank God for what he
has done.
He gave us salvation when he gave us his
son.

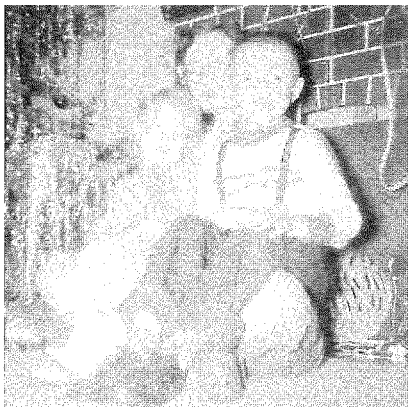


The Recipe Corner

(from the InterMountain Chapter Newsletter –
from the “Sei Unser Gast” cookbook)

1 lb. butter
2 c. dark corn syrup
2 c. dark molasses
1 lb. brown sugar
4 eggs
1 Tbsp. baking soda
1 Tbsp. salt
4 Tbsp. ground cinnamon
1 ½ Tbsp. ground cloves
1 ½ Tbsp. ground cardamom
3 ½ Tbsp. ground anise seed
1 Tbsp. ground allspice
13 c. flour

Boil butter, syrup, molasses, and sugar together only until mixed. Let cool. Stir in remaining ingredients. Chill overnight. Roll out—not too thin—or drop by spoonsful onto a cookie sheet and flatten with a glass. Bake at 400 degrees F. Be careful not to let the cookies get too brown. The older these cookies get, the better they taste.



A Christmas Poem

by Dorothy Lutz Larson
1929-2007

(Pictured above: Dorothy Lutz
Larson with her children, Kristen
and Jeff many Christmases ago.)

On every Christmas Eve night
My heart just seems to take flight
Back to the scenes of my childhood
The ones on Christmas Eve night.

I'd always be so excited dressed
In my new Christmas clothes
The dress I remember, Joanne made
me,
Pink taffeta with burgundy bows.

Trudging down to Friedens Church
Clutching my teacher's gift
Not very much I'll grant you
Usually a dime handkerchief.

We'd gather in groups in the base-
ment
To practice our pieces and songs
And Frieda, Ikie's sister
Helped guide the program along.

It seemed like ages and ages
Waiting my turn in the pew
At last, my turn—I'm so nervous
I make a mistake or two.

While Pastor Kooker directed
Helen the carols would play
Everyone sang, voices unfurled,
O'du Fröhliche and Joy To The
World.

Then home at last to our presents
Under that beautiful tree
It stretched way up to the ceiling
Trimmed by Emma so lovingly.

The ornaments are part of the family
I knew each one intimately
A horn you could blow, banjoes to
strum
And that Santa especially.

I could hardly wait to give Mom her
gift,
A wondrously child-crafted thing,
Like a painted jar for her flowers,
Carefully tied with red string.

Our house would be filled with the
family
Shouting “Merry Christmas” with
glee,
Too soon every one has to pack up
and leave
Too soon slips away Christmas Eve.

So when you gather on Christmas
Eve
I'll be there, oh yes, I'll be there,
Talking and laughing, I'll take a part,
Make room for me...I'll be there
But, only in my heart.

Merry Christmas, Mom
Dorothy, December 1971



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FROHLICH JUHRESTAG *"Happy Anniversary"*

November

Richard and Rosalie Geier

December

Don and Mary Joyce Schoening

Unsere Leute Erinnerng *"Our People in Memory"*

Gloria Bowers
Hazel Patricia Roth
Sherry M Burback
Maryanne M Teten
Harold Schwabauer

Ann Hockenbary
Harlan Wiederspan
Ruth O Caywood
Cara Anne Nickolaus

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: 402-420-9580.

HERZLICHEN GLUCKWUNSCH ZUM GEBURSTAGL *"Happy Birthday"*

November

Sidonia Babcock
Sandra Broman
Linda O'Neill
Becky Schenaman
Norma Schenkel
Jim Sommers
Bob Wagner
Susan Stoehr

December

Tom Bill
Judy Lawson
Joyce Riddle
Cecelia Sherman
Marilyn Wagner
Jay Jacox

