



Lincoln Chapter
The American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXV, ISSUE IV

July-August 2016

Something's Happening Here

by Jay Jacox

Many of us more vintage members will remember the words of the 1967 Buffalo Springfield song - "There's something happening here, what it is ain't exactly clear, it's time we stop, hey, what's that sound, everyone look what's going down." In many ways those words apply to what's been happening lately in the Lincoln Chapter. There is something happening here, although what it is seems pretty clear. It is time we all take a look at what's going down.

What's been happening in the past six months is this chapter is on the move. In December and January our membership raised enough money for the Food Bank of Lincoln to provide over 1,400 meals for Lincoln's hungry

children. Since last year our local membership has grown 43 percent. Our recent soup supper experienced a 23 percent increase in customers. We had a full house for our April general meeting featuring speaker Judy Schutts.

It's pretty clear that more and more people are becoming involved in the Lincoln Chapter. We are increasingly involved in our community and becoming a name people remember. It could be heard at our recent garage sale and Norwood Park Elementary School events, "Oh, those are the Germans from Russia. Nice people. I'll have to check it out."

Take a look at what's still going down in 2016. In June we will be going to

Lincoln Saltdogs baseball again, Doane Professor Peter Reinkordt will be speaking at the summer meeting, and we will again provide a free "German-Russian Youth Heritage Camp" for an afternoon at international headquarters. Fall promises our annual autumn picnic, a Lincoln Stars hockey game, the annual broda dinner, the "Trunk or Treat" activity for kids, and we were just invited back to Arbor Lodge for their Heritage Days event. Sprinkled in with that may be other surprises as details are finalized.

The group Buffalo Springfield was eventually inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Something was going on with them and something may be happening here as well. □

From Your Editors...

Dear Friends,

It has been hard putting pencil to paper for this newsletter. I knew when I agreed to write it, it was going to be, at times, an arduous task but I had no idea. But, the time has come for us to give up editing the Chapter newsletter. Over the years, since 2003 when we started, we have found it to be a task that has been rewarding, frustrating, entertaining, and gratifying. Without the help of members who contributed articles and pictures, and without Carol Chappelle and Bud Settell at Settell's Printing, the task would have been a lot harder. (Yes, we bribed Bud and Carol with lattes but we wouldn't have had to.)

During the time we've been editing the newsletter, we have welcomed many new members and said good-bye to far too many of the older ones. I've tried to tell you about some who came to mean so much more to me than just friends. I still get a lump in my throat when I think about them.

Since our health is becoming a factor, we are planning on moving into another phase of our lives. We have a house that's too big for the two of us and 34 years of accumulated "stuff" that we plan to dispose of.

We know that one of our capable members will take the reins and carry on. We will still remain members and attend the events when we can.

Thanks to all of you and "May God Bless!"

A SUPER SOUP SUPPER

by Jay Jacox

The WSI Hall on North 10th Street was packed the evening of April 29 for our annual soup supper. The all-you-can-eat event was held on a beautiful evening as master chef Paul



Loos once again made chili, vegetable, chicken noodle, and bean soups. Of course, there was rye bread, coffee, and crackers available and a wide variety of cakes for dessert to choose from.

It seemed as though the line to get in never relented. Many workers couldn't



remember the last time so many had turned out for our soup supper. Luckily, Student Ambassadors from Norwood Park Elementary had offered to help clear tables, fetch water, and run clean silverware and trays into position for the next guests. Student Ambassadors Brooke, Samie, Jocelyn, Brayden, Connor, and their supervisors Morgan and Tarrah did an excellent job and on this big night made a big difference. The food was great as was the help and the companionship for all who were there. □

Spring Meeting Recap

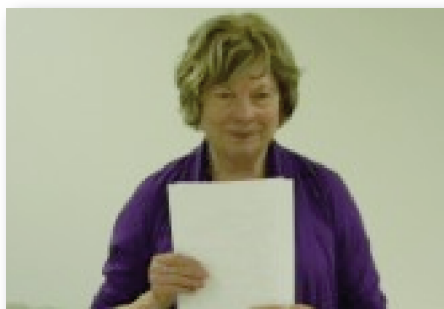
by Jay Jacox

The annual Lincoln Chapter meeting was held on April 24 at Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall. After a short meeting, Judy Schutts from Voices in Time presented a seminar on how to obtain and record your family history for present and future generations.

Despite technical difficulties that prevented her slide show presentation, a large crowd received helpful tips and ideas from Judy, such as how to preserve photos, keep stories, and organize information. After her presentation she asked thought provoking questions and there was time for give and take from the audience and to answer questions from the floor.

There were also refreshments and conversation. Thank you to Judy for a stimulating presentation.

Judy was the second in our



Speakers Series, the first being last year featuring Corinne Jacox from Creighton University whose topic was "Researching Your Family Tree Using Find A Grave." Our third installment was held at our summer meeting featuring Dr. Peter Reinkordt from Doane University. Dr. Reinkordt's topic was "Origins and History of Ancestral German-Russian Surnames and Village Names." □

Hello, My name is...

There have been rather interesting articles in other chapter newsletters regarding how surnames came about. First and middle names quite often come from family traditions; but last names can reveal where ancestors lived, what they looked like, how they acted or spoke, how they earned a living, or who their parents were.

Last names are a modern invention. During the time when everyone lived in the countryside or in villages with very small populations, parents gave their children unique names made up just for them and that worked fine. But as villages grew larger and as the years went on, people started to name their children after famous heroes or religious figures which caused problems in identifying individuals. Eventually, governments insisted that people adopt permanent family names because they needed those names for tax purposes and for drafting young men into armies.

Last names were decided upon in a few ways. Some people chose the one they wanted and then the government recorded it. At other times, the official picked the name. Names often came naturally such as a man that had a nickname and the first name and nickname was adopted as the last name that was passed on.

Ninety percent of the names in America today come from one of these four kinds of names: Dad's name with "son" or an "s" added to the father's name; place name identifying where a person lived; named after what a person did for a living; or a nickname based on a person's characteristics. (Information taken from AHSGR Kinderzeltung, Spring 2003, Volume III, Issue 1.) □

Summer Memories

by Becky Schenaman

Summer is here and it is twice a week lawn mowing season. I am a person who likes my grass and flowers to look perfect. The peonies have dropped their petals and the irises are drying their blooms, so it is now time for the beautiful summer flowers to explode with color.

As a girl growing up, I loved going to my gram-parents in the South Bottoms home. (Henry and Katherine Sterger Bridegam) They always had the new seed catalogs to look at. I would dream of someday having a big home and yard to plant all of those wonderful plants.

My grampa had fruit trees in his back yard; cherry, plum, apple, and pear. He made the best homemade wine from them. On holidays we kids got a very small glass of wine of whichever flavor he had open. That is where I acquired my love of only drinking a sweet wine. To this day if I

am having a glass of wine I will only drink Mogen David or Manischewitz. I do not know how anyone can drink those dry sour expensive wines. They are simply not for my taste buds. My favorite wine of grampa's was his plum wine.

I do not know if he learned to make it in Russia. He came from Kolb. He was an orphan when he came over by himself. He lived a short while with his sponsors, the Weidaman family. Then he moved into a room above Henry Amen's grocery store.

While living there he met the Schwartzkopf family and Mrs. Schwartzkopf's single sister, Katherine Sterger. They would eventually marry. They had a three-day wedding in one of the apartments above the store. I met one of Amen's sons years later and he told me as a boy he danced with the bride.

I always enjoyed that story.

My North Bottom grampa, John Dellos, from Jost Russia enjoyed growing roses and he had a yard that was full of them on the one side. On every trip to town, if he had a little extra money, he would stop at Earl May's and buy a new bush.

He had a big concrete bird bath painted robin's egg blue with a large green shiny gazing ball sitting inside the top. This sat amongst his roses. He raised chickens and the chicken waste along with fish innards and scales were his rose manure. It worked wonders as his roses were as big as his hands so I and my siblings came to our love of flowers and gardens naturally.

I better get off this computer and get the lawn mowed as it's going on 3 o'clock. And you know us "Rooshins", you get us talking and we can go on.

Mocks Goot ☐

CALENDAR OF EVENTS – 2016

LINCOLN CHAPTER AHSGR

July 14-16, 2016	International Convention		Concord, California
July 12, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
July 18, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
August 9, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
August 15, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
September 13, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
September 18, 2016	General Membership Meeting & Picnic	4:00 p.m.	Antelope Park Shelter
September 19, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
October 11, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
October 17, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St
October 31, 2016	Trunk or Treat		Norwood Park School— 4710 72nd St
November 4, 2016	Broda Dinner	5:00-7:00 p.m.	WSI Hall, 1430 N. 10th St
November 8, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
November 21, 2016	Board Meeting	7:00 p.m.	631 D St.
December 4, 2016	Christmas Open House	1:00-4:00 p.m.	631 D St.
December 12, 2016	Board Member's Christmas Dinner		Fireworks Restaurant
December 13, 2016	Coffee Club	9:00 a.m.	Stauffer's, 48th & Hwy 2
January 8, 2017	Annual Membership & Business Meeting (Potluck Dinner & Election of Officers)	1:00 p.m.	Immanuel Church Fellowship Hall 10th & Charleston St.

GRs in the Community

by Jay Jacox

The Lincoln Chapter once again gave a helping hand this past spring to our adopted elementary school of Norwood Park. A group of volunteers helped out at the school's annual fun night on May 9, where fami-



lies and children played games, enjoyed picnic food, and generally had a blast.

Delores Schwartz (herself a Norwood Park alumnus from not too long ago) was in charge of the Spin-The-Wheel game for the kids. Dick Holdren ran the "Golden Egg" game. Corinne Jacox was the mistress of ceremonies at the Ping Pong Ball Toss. Don Weber was king of the Plinko game while Jay Jacox, Austen Jacox, and Matthew Reifschneider coached participants at the football toss game.

On May 19, Delores, Dick, and Don returned for the final day of the school year at "Field Day." There they handed out watermelon to hungry children after



the kids had run relays, tossed balls, and generally had a good time. Thank you to our volunteers who, once again, made a difference in the lives of Lincoln's youth. □

Garage Sale Completed

by Jay Jacox

June 3rd and 4th were the dates of our annual garage sale. Thank you to everyone who donated items and to those who volunteered at the event. During set-up on Thursday the group had food from, fittingly, Runza. Friday we cooked brats, and Saturday Susan Stoehr brought sandwiches from Capriotti's. While exact fig-

ures were not available at press time, all funds collected go towards running the chapter's events, like building rentals, supplies for activities, and procurement of speakers for meetings.

An addition from Larry...As I have said before, we have the greatest group of volunteers anywhere and I have always tried to list their names in the newsletter. As you look at this list, you will see many names that are almost always there as well as a couple of new ones.

Thank you to all Lincoln Chapter members who have volunteered over the years and continue to volunteer; starting with the building crew, to those who help with the dinners, the people who give tours at the Heritage

Center and assist the staff in many ways, the quilters and those who go out into the community to help with many other functions our Chapter is involved in. We appreciate each and every one of you. □



Garage Sale Volunteers

Corinne Jacox

Jay Jacox

Barb Schmidt

Sharon Buckner

Karen Johnson

Nancy Borrell

Jane Harrison

Susan Stoehr

Judy Lawson

Don Weber

Kay Wood

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY
4TH OF JULY
2016



HAPPY
240TH
BIRTHDAY
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!

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

FROHLICH JUHRESTAG *"Happy Anniversary"*

July

Tommy & Shannon Fennell
Henry & Sandra Hill Schmidt

August

John & Frances Bauer
Jack & Mary Frost
J. Scott & Terri Nelson
Bob & Joyce Riddle

Unsere Leute Erinnerung *"Our People in Memory"*

Larry R. Heckert, Sr.

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"

July

Virginia Dietrich
Sheryl Heidenreich
Dick Holden
Dorothy Klein
Don Weber

August

Lillian Bauer
Robert Doberstein
Richard Geier
Ampone Hergenrader
Esther Hogrefe
Larry Schenkel
Henry Schmidt

