



LODI CALIFORNIA CHAPTER AHSGR

OUR MEETING WILL BE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH AT THE FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH, 267 N. MILLS AVE, LODI @ 2PM

Letter from Lodi Chapter AHSGR President Hugh Litfin

Greetings to all, and I hope you are all enjoying the New Year. As a Chapter, last year we experienced a most challenging and sad year with the passing of several members, including two of our board members. We still have a VACANCY on our board, but at the same time, it is a very blessed and exciting year.

Here are some of the highlights that made our year a blessed year. We had great presentations given by me, Brother Bruce Schweigerdt, and Wayne Garman, as well as a concert by the Heimatchor of Stockton and a most flavorful Oktober Schmeckfest, and these were only our regular general meetings. Then, there were two new amazing events that we participated in for the first time. As you recall, we were the hosts for the *San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum's* member dinner in October, in which we fed nearly 80 persons and received a gratitude check for over \$ 1,000.00, which was an amazing event and our year finished off with us participating in the *Festival of Trees* at Mickey Grove for the first time. This event was on the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd of December (which is why we canceled our December meeting), and we were well received. So much so that we have been asked to do the same for 2024. The event was seen by approximately 3,672 visitors, many of whom saw and heard about our chapter for the very first time. We not only sponsored and decorated a tree titled "Old World Germans From Russia Tree," which was decorated with traditional old-world ornaments, but we were also allowed to display heirlooms and artifacts from the Neudorf region. The display case was one of only a few offered, and our display generated a lot of talk and wonder. I was there all day on Saturday and Sunday and spoke with many visitors who knew little about German immigration to Lodi. It was an amazing event. I want to thank Joyce and Darba Schlepp, who provided the decorations and helped decorate the tree, Stephen Olmsted, who helped me put the display together, and Lilli (Flato) Henricksen for displaying her miniature spinning wheel.

We have also been working to change over the signature card on our account and should be able to write our checks by the end of this week. I appreciate your patience for those who have had to wait for your membership renewal checks to clear. Hopefully, with your patience and prayers, our board will be running smoothly soon!

Speaking of checks...., YES, it's that time of year to **RENEW** your memberships. Please remember to do so and either mail it or bring it to the meeting this February 25th!

Now, on to this year's schedule. Our speaker for February will be our own **Pam Atherstone**, who will be presenting on "*The Importance of Genealogy and How to Start Your Family Tree*".

Our April 28th meeting will be an informational overview of our joint website with the Sacramento Chapter and the newly established relationship between the Lodi Chapter AHSGR and the San Joaquin County Historical Society with a special guest speaker.

The two meetings, June 23rd and August 25th, are open for our members who want to present their family's history and stories. Please let me know if you are interested, and we will make you part of our program. We would like to have 2 to 3 members for each of the meetings, with your presentations each lasting between 20 and 30 minutes (give or take). This is a great opportunity for you to share your heritage with us. I look forward to hearing your many stories.

See the Calendar of events and make sure you mark the dates. In closing, my hope and prayer for our Chapter is that we have a fully seated Board very soon, operate efficiently, grow our membership, and continue to educate and relate our heritage for years to come.

God bless, and I look forward to seeing every one of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Before I continue with this year's events, I need to address something very important that I hope some of you may take an interest in or know of someone who may. We still have a **VACANCY** on our board and that is for **SECRETARY**. Our new Treasurer, Stephen Olmsted, myself, and Richard Henricksen have been doing double duty, but it would be such a relief if we could seat a **SECRETARY** as soon as possible. The duties are few, but it would greatly help the rest of us. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact me and let me know! 209-610-1155

God bless, and I look forward to seeing every one of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Hugh Litfin – Lodi Chapter AHSGR President hughlitfin@gmail.com or 209-610-1155
Ancestral Names: Lippert, Kammerer, Schlepp, Shauer
Ancestral Villages: Neudorf, Glückstahl, Tiraspol, Cherson



President Hugh Litfin



New Member Shiloh Pfeifer



Heirlooms and Artifacts from Neudorf Region (Litfin & Flato Families)



Some of the Handmade Ornaments



Stories of Pauline Litfin

OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Hugh Litfin (President)
Edward Litfin (1st Vice President)
Stephen Olmsted (Treasurer)
VACANCY (Secretary)
Bruce Schweigerdt (Chaplain)
Pam Atherstone (Genealogy)
Marline Strand (Historian)
Eunice Friedrich (Time Vault Custodian)
Darba Schlepp (Cookbooks & Sales)
Peggy Sims (Hospitality)
Richard Henricksen (Sr. Newsletter Editor/Membership)
Shiloh Pfeifer (Newsletter Editor/Web Site Manager)

MEETING DATES: General Meetings are Every 4th Sunday (Even Months) at 2PM

February 25 th	Pam Atherstone: Genealogy
April 28 th	AHSGR & SJCHS
June 23 rd	Member Stories
August 25 th	Member Stories
October 27 th	Oktober Schmeckfest
December	TBA

BOARD MEETINGS: Third Wednesday (Odd Months) at 3PM at FBC Room 1

January 17th
March 20th
May 15th
July 17th
September 18th
November 20th

SPECIAL EVENTS: 2024

October (Date TBA)	German American Heritage Month at SJCHS Mickey Grove
December 6-8	Festival of Trees at Mickey Grove

GENEALOGY AND YOU —5 New Year's Resolutions Every Genealogist Should Set

New Year's always seems like a good time to make resolutions for doing better in our personal or business lives, or for accomplishing goals in the year ahead. But how many resolutions should we make? How many are we going to realistically keep?

Enthusiasm for change runs high at the beginning of the new year. We are full of renewed energy. It's a new year with the opportunity for new beginnings, and it is easy to become caught up in the fervor. But February and March often bring different emotions, and our enthusiasm for the work that lies ahead can wane or drop off completely.

We genealogists often get carried away with our resolutions. There are so many ancestors to find and so many sources to cite! We need to find great-grandma's maiden name. We need to organize our files. We desperately want to find the names of 2nd great-grandpa's parents. And where or who did 3rd great-grandpa marry? The list of wants is endless.

Rather than getting caught up in a frenzy of good intentions, I prefer to look at what I accomplished the previous year and think about what still needs to be done and what I might do better. Then I prioritize because if there's one thing I've learned, it's that I can't do it all. I'd rather set fewer goals, goals that are achievable, than have dozens of goals and not meet any of them.

Here are my five suggestions for your New Year's Genealogy Resolutions:

1. Review Previous Resolutions—Look at last year's genealogy resolutions. Evaluate them honestly. How did you do? If you didn't accomplish some, decide if any are important enough to try again. You may want to revise resolutions to make them more achievable. If you missed meeting most of your resolutions, it may be time for seriously rethinking of how many you made or what your goals were.

2. Try Again—It is okay to set the same resolution if you didn't achieve it the year before. Don't be too hard on yourself if you miss a few. They may need a little fine-tuning.

3. Set Realistic and Achievable Resolutions—Achievable goals are those that you have a reasonable expectation of meeting in the time frame of one year. Setting a realistic goal means you have more chance of success. For example, I have been searching for my great-grandfather Frederick Jahnle's siblings in Russia for over 15 years. An unrealistic goal would be to say I plan to find that information in 2024. It's too open-ended a goal and basically wishful thinking. While we should challenge ourselves in life, we need to balance that with logic. A realistic goal would be to look over what sources I have consulted in the past 15 years and then make my goal more source-specific. So, my resolution might be to find out if there are church records available for a specific location that I have not yet searched and then consult them.

4. Prioritize Your Resolutions—What do you most want to find out about that elusive ancestor? In my case, it is where Frederick's youngest brother, Wilhelm, lived in 1900. Sure, I want to find out when and where, or if, he married, her name, when and where their first child was born, and exactly where and when he died. Genealogy research is like building a tower of blocks. I need to start with the base and then add the rest. It would be foolish to start searching for his marriage or death record in every village in Bessarabia when I don't have a more precise location. My other questions will fall into place naturally once I have narrowed the location of my searches.

5. How Many Resolutions Are Too Many?—I never make more than five resolutions, and I try to keep them to three. I suggest you try to estimate how long it might take you to achieve each goal so you don't

take on too many. If you set too many resolutions, they may seem overwhelming later in the year. I have seen wonderful New Year's Resolution lists from genealogists with resolutions similar to these:

- Visit an older relative
- Backup your data weekly
- Organize, scan, and share your photos with relatives
- Review your sources and documents.
- Write your own memories
- Listen to a webinar or a podcast
- Publish a family memory book
- Take a DNA test
- Join your local genealogy society

Those are all great resolutions. But can any of us realistically work on or complete all of them? Life gets in the way of the best of intentions. I would almost certainly choose only a few of the most important to me personally. That doesn't mean I'm not going to back up my data or listen to a webinar at some point in the New Year, for example, but I want to be realistic about what I can achieve in the coming year. And I want to leave time to continue my genealogy research!

Whatever resolutions you decide on, and no matter how few or how many you decide may suit you, do it. Have fun, keep your goals in mind, and enjoy whatever the New Year brings your way.

Yours in Genealogy,
Pam Atherstone

Recipes

BORSCHT SOUP from Ozzie Pidde

2 lbs. cross ribs of beef or soup meat	1 c. string beans
Water	3 celery stalks
2 medium carrots	1 medium turnip
1 can tomatoes	1 small head red cabbage
1 large onion	1 potato, medium, sliced
6 beets	1 bay leaf
1 clove garlic	salt and pepper to taste

Cook the meat in a pan filled $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water for about 45 minutes; skim the top. Prepare vegetables; dice beets first and rinse to get most of the color out. Cut all other vegetables and add to meat. Season to taste. Cook 1 hour together, covered.

FATHAMENS or FAUSE WACHT KEUCHLA from Peggy Sims

1 c. sweet cream	1 Tbsp. sugar
1 c. milk	1 tsp. salt
2 eggs	4 c. flour
4 level tsp. baking powder	

Mix all the ingredients together. Roll out thin and cut into 3" x 3" squares. Cut 3 slits into each square and twist. Fry in hot lard.

*FROM OUR HISTORIAN
MARLENE STRAND*

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS:

When in sorrow, call John 14
When men fail you, call Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful, call John 15
When you have sinned, call Psalm 51
When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34
When you are in danger, call Psalm 91
When God seems far away, call Psalm 139
When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11
When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23
When you grow bitter and critical, call I Corinthians 13
For Paul's secret to happiness, call Colossians 3:12-17
For idea of Christianity, call II Corinthians 5:15-19
When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31
When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 22:25-30
When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90
When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121
Your prayers grow narrow and selfish, call Psalm 67
For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55
When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1
How to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12
When you think of investments/returns, call Mark 10
If you are depressed, call Psalm 27
If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37
If you're losing confidence in people, call I Corinthians 13
If people seem unkind, call John 15
If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126
If you find the world growing small and yourself great, Call Psalm 19
NOTE: emergency numbers may be dialed direct,
No Operator assistance is necessary.

*FROM THE SEATTLE ANSWER
NEWSLETTER*

Letters to Genealogy Libraries

"Do you have anything on the Looney Family, because I am a Looney?"

"Will you please send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?"

"My Grandfather died at the age of three."

"Enclosed please find my Grandmother. I have worked on her for over 50 years without success. Now see what you can do."

"Could you please tell me on which row in the library my ancestors are located on?"

"The wife of Amos Smith could not be found. Someone suggested that she might have been stillborn. What do you think?"

"I am sorry we have not got complete families. The trouble is extracting the children from the minister."

"I am mailing to you my aunt, uncle, and three of their children."

"I am forwarding my marriage certificate and three children, one of which is a mistake as you can see."

"Do you keep a record of branded cattle? I'm trying to find my grandfather."

"I've been looking for Grandpa for over 20 years. Do you have him in your library?"

"I've been told that for \$10 you can trace my ancestry all the way to the year one."

"Send me my genealogy back to Noah, and when will the Flood records be on-line?"

"Please run down the Wheelers and I will send \$3 more dollars."

"We are sending you five children in a separate envelope."

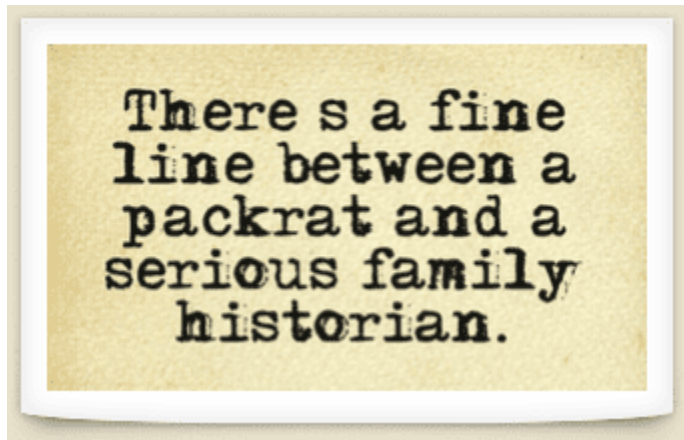
"Do I have any living relatives, dead relatives, or ancestors in my family?"

"Please send me everything on the Smith family. I want to include it on my Web site."

"Further research will be needed to eliminate one of the parents."

"Dear whoever you are: I would like to know the person who married John Felshaw and Frances Croft. Please send me the person soon."

More genealogy humor



Moment of Truth for a genealogist: discovering you are your own cousin.

And it's that time of the year



American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Lodi California Chapter

2024 Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Spouse's Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Ancestral Village(s) _____

Surnames You are Researching _____

Are you a life member? Yes ___ No ___ Are you a member of another chapter?
If so, what chapter? _____

Please check amount being paid:

\$10 ___ Lodi Chapter only

\$70 ___ Lodi Chapter & National Membership (email copy of AHSGR journal) (\$10 + \$60)

\$105 ___ Lodi Chapter & National Membership (mailed hard copy of AHSGR journal)
(\$10 Lodi + \$95 National)

- Dues should be paid to the Lodi chapter and will be forwarded to AHSGR Headquarters in Lincoln, NE.
- Dues are payable before December 31, and become delinquent on December 31.
- Note: There is no prorating so new members will be required to renew at the end of each year. This helps keep costs low.

Send this form and a check payable to the Lodi Chapter of AHSGR to:

AHSGR (Hugh Litfin)
P.O. Box 1585
Lodi, CA 95241