



## Thirty Years of ASHHS and Friendship

### On behalf of the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society

We thank you all for the wonderful thirtieth birthday celebration and friendship conference. It was an honor to meet our current friends and to make new friends. We especially thank those who came from Germany to celebrate with us and those who traveled from afar. It truly was our pleasure to be your host during the conference. We wish to thank Dr. Charles Kuehl who gave us incredible insight into the entrepreneurship of German immigrants and to Dr. Yogi Reppmann along with Tony Conn from the Keokuk Rotary who presented the wonderful works of the Rotary Club through their Peace Pipe Proposal. We thank the gracious welcome and catered food provided by the Cambria Hotel and the outstanding food and service served by the Hickory Garden Restaurant for our Sunday Lunch. Thank you to the *Hein Family and Friends* for great music and song.

We enjoyed the social gathering offered Friday night at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport, Iowa. During which we remembered how our society was formed and the many anecdotes offered by Glen Sievers, Char Blevins, and many others to include our own Vice President Michael Kearney. For a follow-up to one of those stories, please see page 8 of this newsletter.

Special thanks to Mary Burchett and all the committee members who made this conference both possible and a success. None of this would have been possible without you.

However, we truly give our utmost thanks and our heartfelt gratitude to you. We cannot over emphasize how much each member means to us. The conference was for you, and you made it a success.

From our board members:

### Franz Neff

Hello, 2019 Friendship conference visitors. We had a great time especially Saturday, the topics worked out nice and were interesting; the boat ride was relaxing and just a good fit.

Friday night was good to see and hear from the founding members and Glenn Sievers who was the person who initiated much of it 30 years ago!

Thank you very much to our dear friends from the board who helped making the event a success.

~ Continued next page

### Poppins. Poppins, In Germany?

Discover on page 6



## Elected Officers

### President

Franz Neff  
563-340-7480  
fmneff@speedconnect.com

### First Vice President

Michael Kearney  
563-242-0414  
MikeJKearney@yahoo.com

### Second Vice President

### Recording Secretary

Marcella Siegel  
563-284-6617  
marciejsiegel@gmail.com

### Corresponding Secretary

Janice Danz  
563-381-5206  
vjdanza@aol.com

### Treasurer

Carmella Mehrens  
563-391-8937  
cmehrens48@hotmail.com

### Immediate Past President

Jack Schinckel  
563-285-2322  
jgschinckel@netins.net

## Standing Committee

**Genealogy:** Karen Puck  
**Budget/Finance:** Lois Kundel  
**By-Laws/Parliamentarian:** Lee Muller  
**Librarian:** Janice Dawson  
**Historian:**  
**Membership:** Janice Dawson  
**Newsletter Editor:** Daniel W. Holst  
**Public Relations/Publicity:**  
Mary Ann Muller  
**Purchasing and Sales:** Janice Dawson  
**Programs:** Sheryl Puderbaugh

## Special Committee

**Endowment Fund:** Dean Rohweder  
**German Membership:** Wolfgang Rempe  
**Parade:** Franz Neff  
**Protocol:** Janice Danz  
**Refreshments:**  
Magda Brodersen and Mary Ann Muller  
**Registrar:** Janice Dawson  
**Translators:** Erna Cielecki, Franz Neff  
**Nominations:**

Layout and editorial contributions by:  
**Fortifying Your Written Word**  
www.danielwholst.com



*ASHHS Headquarters*

The **ASHHS Goal** is preserving and promoting the heritage of Schleswig-Holstein in the USA. We encourage cultural exchange, family research, study of the languages and dialects of Schleswig-Holstein, conferences and other programs pursuant to the above objectives.

The **ASHHS Newsletter** is published bimonthly for its members. Contributions are welcomed. Submitted material remains the property of the submitter until publication. Please cite sources and give others credit where due. Observation of copyright privileges is required. Responsibility for accuracy of printed information lies with the submitter, not with ASHHS, the ASHHS Newsletter, or the Newsletter committee. Corrections will be published if given in writing. The Newsletter committee reserves the right to edit material for space, form, spelling, and grammar.

### Deadlines for Submissions

Dec 15 for Jan/Feb Issue  
Feb 15 for Mar/Apr Issue  
Apr 15 for May/June Issue  
Jun 15 for Jul/Aug Issue  
Aug 15 for Sep/Oct Issue  
Oct 15 for Nov/Dec Issue

The **ASHHS Newsletter** reserves copyright to authors of signed articles. Permission to reprint a signed article published in the ASHHS newsletter should be obtained from the author and acknowledged in print. Unsigned material may be reproduced without permission, provided ASHHS is notified in advance, ASHHS is given credit and the ASHHS volume and issue number are cited.

## ASHHS

121 W. Bryant Street  
P.O. Box 506  
Walcott, Iowa 52773-0506  
ashhs.org  
ashhswalcott@gmail.com  
563-349-1983

**ASHHS Policy** on Publicizing Events and Activities of other Societies and Organizations: As a matter of mutual interest and courtesy, this Newsletter may publish articles and notices about German-American events and activities which are not sponsored or organized by ASHHS or its board of directors. The publishing of such material in the Newsletter shall not in any way imply any ASHHS responsibility for the content, results, success or failure of such activities and events.

**The ASHHS Genealogical Research Policy:** ASHHS provides research assistance for its members only. Members who desire this assistance should contact the genealogy director by regular mail or e-mail. The ASHHS genealogy director maintains and utilizes access to a variety of available genealogical resources to assist in all research activities. The genealogy staff will strive to locate information and assist members in their searches. However, if the desired information cannot be located, the genealogy director may provide the member with a list of alternative research sources. Members are expected to pay for any expenses (such as photocopies, printing and postage) associated with a search. The ASHHS genealogy staff will provide 3 hours free research to members, after which there is a minimal fee if further research is desired. The e-mail address of Karen Puck, the ASHHS genealogy director, is [kpuck2015@gmail.com](mailto:kpuck2015@gmail.com).

This newsletter is printed by  
Images In Ink  
821 5th Street  
Durant, Iowa 52747  
ISSN 1045-09960



# Thank You!

## Mary Burchett

I volunteered to help Franz plan the conference and soon found the committee totaled 2—Franz and I! Our first job was to find a spot to have the conference. After checking out a couple other places we were told about a new hotel being built and to open in July. We booked it, knowing that we liked the location and everything we were told about it. About a month before the date of the conference we had a walk thru of the new Cambria with our committee which now totaled five. We all felt it was the perfect spot and soon everything fell into place. Our committee was small, but efficient. Everyone worked to make it a successful conference—and it turned out to be one. Thanks to the committee (plus some volunteers). It was the best one I have ever been on!

## Marcie Siegel

The best part of the conference was seeing the people I've met before and making new friendships. I am enjoying seeing the mug that reminds me of the good times I've had since becoming a member of ASHHS 20 years ago. The food was delicious and plentiful. I was on the committee to help plan it and found that a pleasant experience as well. Now I am looking forward to next year in Bredstedt when someone else is planning it and I get to be a guest.

## Lee and Mary Ann Mueller

Lee and I just attended the Friday night meeting, but we sure had a good time seeing some of the friends we have met over the years as members of ASHHS. We enjoyed the stories and history of ASHHS discussed. We think the Konference committee did a wonderful job.

## Daniel W. Holst

This was my first conference and I really enjoyed it. I had a lot of fun serving the beer and wine Friday night. Also, it was exciting listening to Glen Sievers who spoke of the founding of ASHHS thirty years ago. His stories came to life as several others joined in and added their own stories to his.

***See a listing of the items  
ASHHS has for sale on  
the inside of the back cover***

---

**Thanksgiving Scherenschnitte Workshops**  
**Pop-Up Vendor: Jerry's Market**  
**The Berlin Wall: Reassessing Its Impact 30 Years After Its Fall**  
**The German 'Melusine': A Medieval Bestseller**  
**The Making and Preservation of Stained Glass Windows**  
**Weihnachtsmarkt Holiday Craft Fair**

These and many other events are occurring around the area in November and December. For full list, please visit the German American Heritage center website at <http://gahc.org/event/>

**Please keep your membership current.**

Don't miss out on the stories  
and events coming in 2020.

We also want to hear and print your stories of travel, heritage, and life history.

Send submissions to [danielwholst@gmail.com](mailto:danielwholst@gmail.com)

## From the President

By Franz Neff



Moin moin!

2019 is coming to a close. It has been a remarkable year that culminated in our 30th Birthday and Friendship conference. Now we wish everyone a joyful holiday season. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas to each of you. We hope to see most of you at our next quarterly meeting on November 17, 2019 at the Walcott American Legion.

Next year we look forward to many exciting events. Hans-Werner Hamann and others are working hard on next year's conference to be held in Germany. The January/February newsletter will contain certain details of that conference with more information to follow.

Finally, thank you to everyone who helped make the conference a success and thank you to everyone who attended. You are appreciated.

Yours truly  
President  
Franz Neff



## Member's Corner

A huge thank you with my appreciation for a wonderful Friendship Conference last weekend!

I don't have the e-mail addresses for all who worked so hard to make the conference a success, so I hope this message is shared with all. I enjoyed the presentations, entertainment, food, and friendly people; my brothers, sister, and brother-in-law had a good time, as well.

The gift bag contained very special items; a wonderful bonus. I am already looking forward to attending next year's conference in Germany. Others in my family may join me. I look forward to seeing many of you there, too.

Sincerely,  
Jan Sampson, Minnesota

*Happy Thanksgiving  
and  
Merry Christmas*

## Calendar

ASHHS ANNUAL MEETING  
November 17, 2019

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) annual meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Sunday, November 17, 2019 at the Walcott American Legion, 121 W. Bryant St., Walcott, Iowa.

The program will be Don Ockelmann and the Zither Ensemble group from GAHC playing music of North Germany, Bavarian, and Christmas. Come and enjoy the fun.

Light refreshments will be provided. The program is free and open to the public. The American Legion Hall is handicap accessible. For more information, call Mary Ann Muller 563-284-6640, or e-mail [leemarmul@aol.com](mailto:leemarmul@aol.com).

## New Email Address

The ASHHS office now has a new email address. please make note of it.  
It is: [ashhswalcott@gmail.com](mailto:ashhswalcott@gmail.com)

# Conference Tour in Words and Pictures

Friday night began the conference at the German American Heritage Center in Davenport. After a social gathering with wine and German beer. Members enjoyed a hearty cold buffett. Afterwards, we were enthralled to hear from founding member Glen Sievers talking about the beginning of ASHHS. Char Blevins and others joined in as we enjoyed their guided tour along memory lane.



Franz introduced our first speaker, Dr. Charles Kuehl. Dr. Kuehl (right) spoke of the five million German immigrants to America over the course of circa 250 years up until World War One. Those immigrants brought with them an exceptional work ethic and entrepreneurship that manifested itself across all industries. Of particular emphasis was Aldolphus Busch who relevelutionized brewing techniques, distribution, and marketing.



Dr. Yogi Reppmann (right) and Tony Conn (left) spoke next about the Peace Pipe Project. This project began from the discovery of Rotary Club letters about the peace pipe that Chief Keokuk smoked on ceremonial occasions to celebrate peace. Now the peace pipe is used to foster peace around the world. As Yogi emphasized, "we all find in rotary a common meeting ground in spite of differences in race, religion, and tongue." (English Mission Hospital, Jerusalem, Palestine, 1931.)



~ Conference Tour continues on page 10

# The Probstei Straw Sculpture Competition

By Hans-Werner Hamann

Every year, a straw figure contest takes place in Probstei. This is a competition among the villages and cities in Probstei. In 2019, nineteen places voluntarily participated (figure 1). For the participants, it is always interesting to come up with a theme for the characters. Over the years, the

straw figurine competition has become a tourism magnet making Probstei known near and far. Almost twenty voting cards came from abroad, 423 voting cards came from the Probstei area, about 750 from the rest of Schleswig-Holstein, and about 500 from the rest of Germany.

From outside the Probstei, tourists come by bus and many stay here for a few days. Other communities are a bit jealous of the Probstei and annoyed that they did not have that idea.

This year the third place in the ranking went to the city of Prasdorf with “Max & Moritz”. With much skill and work the Prasdorfer designed a scene from the book by Wilhelm Busch. Here you can see what the two bad boys did to widow Bolte, they steal the roasted chickens through the chimney from the stove (figure 2).

Second place went to the community of Stakendorf, which designed a Viking ship and built it on the banks of the village pond. Almost everything is made of straw, even the sail, only the mast and the boat plate is made of wood (figure 3).

Thousands of tourists stream into the places with the straw figures. Many of them bicycle from village to village, some older people have joined together in groups and come by taxi to marvel at the figures and take pictures.



Figure 3 — Second Place

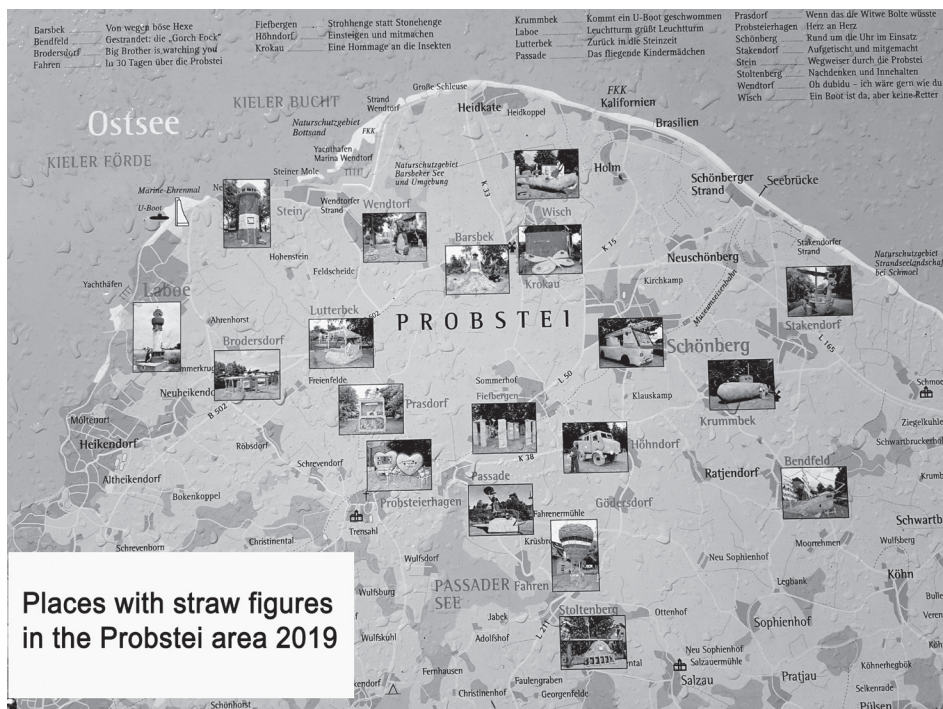


Figure 1

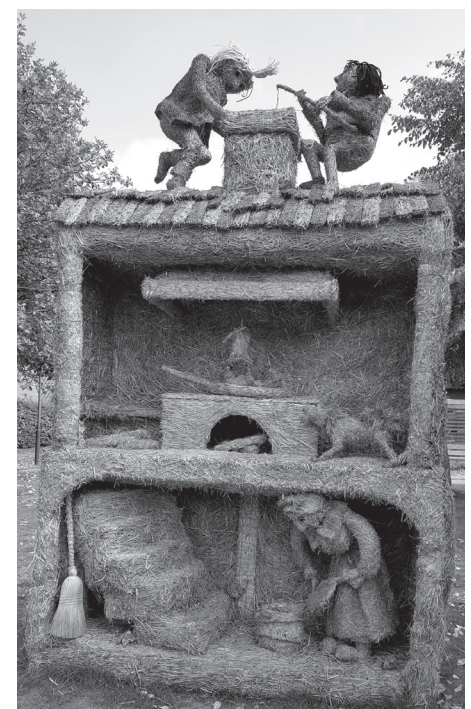


Figure 2 — Third Place

# The Probstei Straw Sculpture Competition

~ Continued from previous page



Figure 4 — First Place

First place went to the village of Bendfeld. It is not the first time that the small community Bendfeld with only 212 inhabitants won this competition, and the other communities would like to know the recipe for success of the people of Bendfeld. Mayor Ingo Lage says, “we just dare and try something!” They designed the sail training ship “Gorch Fock” of the German Navy which this year was often in the headlines of the news and the newspapers because of its high repair costs (Figure 4).

One of the Bendfelder’s recipes for success is that they always tell a story to each of their characters and thus put the straw figures in the right light.

Many other characters followed in the nineteen entries this year. However, showing them all would certainly take up too much space, but I would not want to deprive you of two more. This is the village of Pas-sade with “Mary Poppins” (cover page) and the straw figure of the city of Probsteierhagen with “Hearts of love” (figure 5).

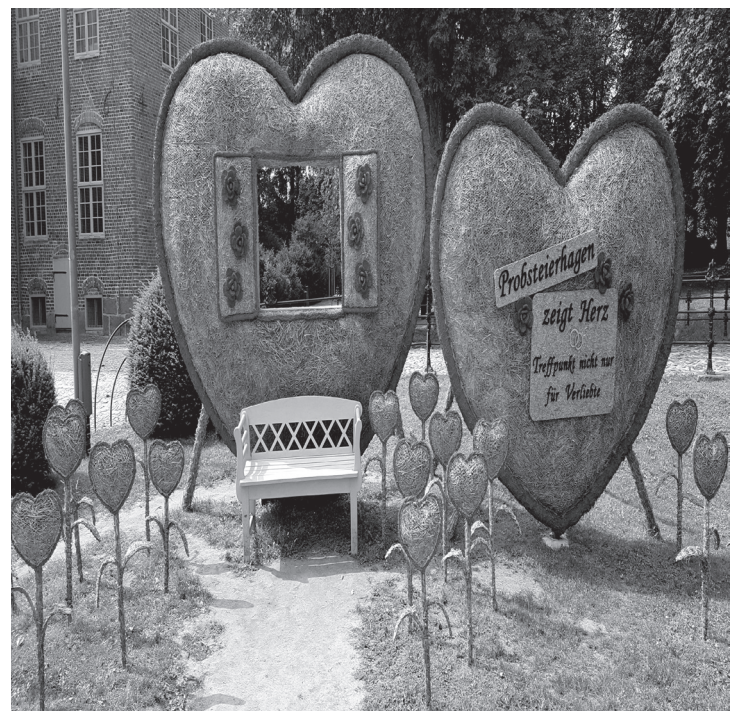


Figure 5 — Hearts of Love

# The Day the Steamboats Danced

By Daniel W. Holst

As conference attendees enjoyed some food, wine, and German beer, Glen Sievers along with Char Blevins and others regaled us with certain stories and anecdotes from the founding of the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society thirty years ago. Among the stories and history, the story of the first railway bridge across the Mississippi was told, but much of the story remained untold that evening. So, in my best imitation and to paraphrase Paul Harvey that you may know the rest of the story.

Jefferson Davis, the future Confederate President, served as Secretary of War under President Franklin Pierce and approved the construction of the bridge. However, he believed that the transcontinental railroad would be built across the South to Los Angeles. Upon discovering that the cross-country railroad was being built across the north, he immediately ordered the construction halted. Unfortunately for him and the South, his orders were ignored. He took his case to the courts, but the courts ruled against him, and the bridge was eventually completed April 22, 1856.

But before that another major Civil War character began this story. A young Lieutenant named Robert E. Lee led the team that conducted the first topographical survey of the area. Project engineers then used that survey to deem the land ideal for a bridge.

Isn't history remarkable?

Much tension existed between the American North and the American South. For many reasons the late Antebellum and the pre-Civil

War period caused much distrust and contention between the North and the South. One such point of contention was the infamous and the most poorly decided US Supreme Court case in US history. It concerned the freedom of the slave Dred Scott and it was making its way through the lower courts until that fateful Supreme Court decision in early 1857. Another was the bridge. These and others placed America upon a precipice, and its foundations were crumbling.

It wasn't just the fight between the northern and southern railway corridors, it was a fight between the steamboats and the railroad. Roald D. Tweet, Professor Emeritus of English at Augustana College, wrote in his book, *The Quad Cities: An American Mosaic*, that many believed that the bridge was built for the sole purpose to impede riverboat traffic and thus favor the railroad. Two weeks after the bridge opened, the steamer *Effie Afton* made its famous, or

was it infamous, voyage.

Traveling upstream from St. Louis, the *Effie Afton* began its traverse through the draw in the late evening hours. Partly through the draw, the steamer lurched to the right and collided with a span causing great damage to the boat and the bridge. But the collision knocked over a stove in the ship and ignited a fire. The fire quickly spread from the ship to the bridge, and both were extremely damaged.

The steamboats filed a lawsuit to have the bridge removed. The railroad company hired an Illinois lawyer named Abraham Lincoln who defended the railway in court. The case went all the way to the US Supreme Court. This incident now involved all three major historical figures from that period.

~ Photos of the original bridge courtesy of Putnam Museum; Rock Island District, US Corps of Engineers; and the Davenport Public Library.





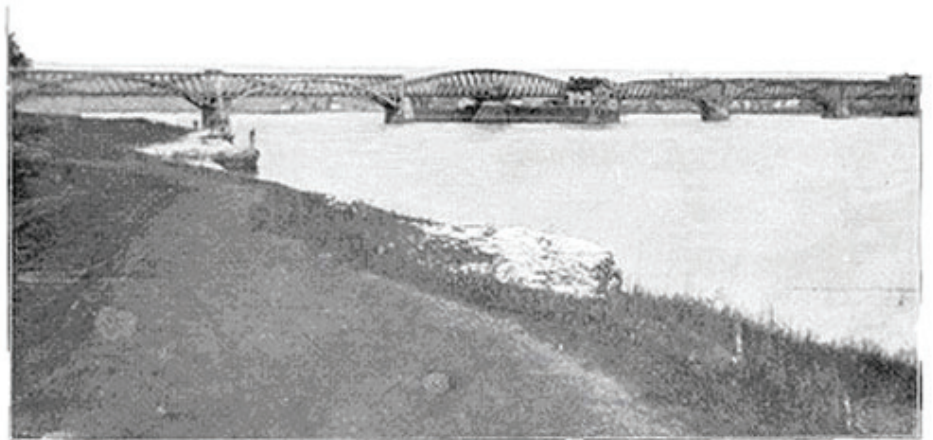
# The Day the Steamboats Danced

~ Continued from previous page

It is rumored that the *Effie Afton* crashed into the bridge on purpose. Once the other steamboats heard about what happened, they all blew their whistles and rang their bells with joy. Oddly enough for the next sixteen years, steamboats kept regularly (on purpose?) bouncing off the piers. And even more oddly, the *Davenport Democrat* (the predecessor to the *Quad City Times* newspaper) reported on December 25, 1940 about an ice blockage that stopped barge traffic under the third iteration of the bridge in late 1890s. Once the steamboats were able to clear the ice blockage, they searched for the what impeded the ice and found the wreckage of the *Effie Afton*.

History is remarkable.

~ My thanks to *Wikipedia*, [riveraction.org](http://riveraction.org), [davenportlibrary.com](http://davenportlibrary.com), and *The National Archives* for details and photos of this story.



FIRST BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSISSIPPI AS REBUILT AFTER DAMAGE BY FIRE, ICE AND COLLISION.



## ~ Help Wanted ~

*Do you enjoy genealogy, ancestry and research?*

ASHHS is looking for a volunteer to assist Karen Puck with genealogy.

The volunteer must be computer and internet savvy and have experience with genealogy and ancestry.

Volunteer must be local to Eastern Iowa.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at [danielwholst@gmail.com](mailto:danielwholst@gmail.com).

***An ASHHS Membership  
Makes a Great Gift!***

You will find the application on the back cover.



# Conference Tour in Words and Pictures



Saturday afternoon, many attendees enjoyed a brisk but very enjoyable river tour along the Mighty Mississippi. ASHHS Vice President Michael Kearney posed under the billowing American Flag with the construction of the new I-74 bridge in the background. Many sites were seen such as the gold coast homes on the Iowa side.



The attendees received an incredible and rare honor to witness the construction of the I-74 bridge from a viewpoint and proximity that the public is not allowed. The boat navigated around the construction so everyone could see the new arches slowly rising from the beneath the waters. One can imagine them as the tentacles of some giant kracken rising from the seas to engulf a passing ship. Thankfully, the ship and every attendee aboard returned safely to port.



Saturday night *Hein Family and Friends* entertained us with wonderful music. They opened their set with "Rocky Top" and played many familiar songs to include Johnny Cash's famous "A Boy Named Sue." Their son (on the right) has been playing the fiddle since childhood and is quite good and well known around the fiddle community. He gave us some masterful performances.

# Conference Tour in Words and Pictures

As mentioned on Saturday, what is *Hein Family and Friends* without a friend? So ASHHS president Franz Neff joined in for a few songs. He flawlessly played his signature accordion. It's always a joy to have Franz play his accordion because he does it so well and live accordion performances are rare.



Saturday night, the conference room was full of happy and satisfied conference attendees. We all enjoyed a wonderful meal served buffet style. Chicken, roast, and fish along with plentiful side dishes warmed our souls and opened up conversation among our many friends and the new friends we all made. Seen here from left to right: Bob Burchett, Mary Burchett, Jean Schinckel, ASHHS past president Jack Schinckel and Dr. Kuehl. Mary was essential in making the conference a success.



Happy Birthday to our American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society. This beautiful cake was dutifully cut into different sized pieces to allow everyone to enjoy this delight per their preference. I have to confess that I took a larger piece full of icing.

Yummy.



# Crosses of Distinction

By Daniel W. Holst

## *The story thus far:*

Senior Airman Kylie Schaffer and her friend Noah have arrived in Poland with their Air Force unit to fly missions into Ukraine against Russian aggression. Kylie has learned that her third great-grandfather served in the Franco-Prussian War and earned the Iron Cross.

Ailbe Stuhr doesn't want his teenage sons to serve in the imminent war with France, so he seeks to send them to America. According to his friend Koenraad, war is coming soon.

Tikva and her daughter Adamina have arrived in Munich, and they are dealing with their own personal demons after having lost Dawud, Tikva's husband and father to Adamina. Tikva sees Adamina laughing with Fester, the hotel clerk, and she is angered that Adamina is disrespecting her father.

---

## Chapter 4: "Conscriptions"

*~ 11 May 1870, 0930, Munich, Bavaria*

Adamina heard her name and turned around. She saw the anger in her mom's face exploding in the hand that struck her left cheek. Adamina dropped to her knees with a loud cry and then a whimper.

"How could you." Tikva yelled. "Your father died a few days ago, and now, you are cavorting with this, this...cretin." Her eyes snapped over to Fester who stood behind the counter in shock with his eyes fixed on Adamina.

"I don't think he's a cretin. He looks pretty handsome to me," said a voice coming from behind Tikva.

Tikva turned around and her sister Angelika came walking towards her. "Angelika, you're here?"

"Yes, and I'm quite distressed to hear about Dawud," she said as she placed her arm around Tikva's back. "But I'm even more distressed at this." Angelika passed by Tikva and bent down to help Adamina stand up."

Adamina cried. Her face was red, but her left cheek bled crimson where her mom's fingernail had scrapped her cheek.

"It's okay darling." Angelika looked over at Fester. "Could you please get me some water, a towel, and a bandage?" Fester nodded and immediately departed.

A few moments passed before Fester brought the items and returned to his duties. Adamina sat at a table between her aunt and her mom. She had stopped crying and her aunt was gently stroking a damp cloth along her cheek.

Tikva looked shocked at what she had done. "I'm so sorry, Adamina."

Adamina leaned over to her mom who embraced her tightly.

"I'm sorry. Adamina, I'm so sorry."

Fester felt terrible, again. It's like he can't do anything right around this girl. He hoped she was okay.

He explained to the hotel manager what happened and was told that it wasn't his fault. His job was to engage with the guests. He continued his work, and every now and then, he believed that Adamina stole a glance of him, that is, whenever he stole a glance of her. After a while he had some water brought to them.

Tikva looked down at herself. "All the rage. The rage of being forced out of Romania, of losing Dawud, being in this strange land." She looked over at Adamina. Her tears flowed again and Tikva gently stroked her hair behind her ears. "I'm so sorry."

Angelika had her arm around Adamina but looked kindly towards Tikva. "Dear, you lost the best husband one could ever have. Rage is normal, but it doesn't excuse what you did."

"I know. I know." Tikva cried, hoping to believe her sister's kind words. Tikva hugged her daughter and kissed her cheek.

"Mom, I do understand. I understand the rage and anger. Please see what I wrote in my journal."

Tikva and Angelika read the journal's most recent entries. They both looked at Adamina with horror at seeing how a young girl could realize such truth. They all sat there in silence together. None of them knew what to say, for nothing needed saying. They just sat together, like a family.

After a short while Angelika spoke. "Don't worry you two. We'll soon be on the train going back to Hamburg tomorrow. You're safe here in Germany. No more conflict. No more war or heartbreak." Even as she believed this, Angelika sensed the unease of lying.

*~ 12 May 1870, 1400, Returning to Segeberg*

Theodor guided his horse drawn wagon north along the road back home to Wahlstedt. Over the next hill was the border to his home district of Segeberg and he

# Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

couldn't wait to return home and see his family's joy at all the trade goods he acquired. He enjoyed his time in Hamburg and the bartering where he successfully acquired almost half again more of what he initially planned. It was a good day for traders. Ships had arrived in the port from all over Europe and the Americas. Nestled among the grains, seeds, and dry goods were clothes hand-stitched from London, farm implements from America, and a porcelain doll from Venice for his sister who was expecting a baby.

Theodor navigated his wagon across the final switchback up the hill. The grass grew strong with wildflowers in full bloom along the ditches and across the fields. A few houses spattered the countryside with men and women out tending the fields and animals. Birds fluttered and sang. He was happy with a wonderful feeling. There was plenty of sunshine on this beautiful day. He crested the hill and began the trip down the gentle slope, no sharp switchbacks down to the border, just a long gentle slope. However, down on the flat lands along the border stood a regiment of Prussian soldiers. Perhaps they were on drills. He was proud of the Prussian military and its stance against Denmark and Austria. They must be on some maneuvers or drills.

Once Theodor reached Segeberg, a tall officer wearing a Prussian uniform of a blue shirt and gray pants under a spiked *pickelhaube* met him with his *Zündnadelgewehr*, a breechloading needle gun, in one hand. Its muzzle and bayonet pointing straight up. The officer called out with kind authority, "halt. What is your name, son?"

"Theodor. Theodor Schaffer."

"Korporal, check the list for Theodor Schaffer."

The korporal stood next to the officer with folds of paper. His disinterested look bothered Theodor. The folds of paper were well worn, and the korporal knew exactly what page he needed. "Sir, we need to verify his parent's names."

"Mr. Schaffer, who are your parents?"

This was beginning to bother Theodor. He was aware of the rumors of war with France and twitched nervously in his seat. He thought of making a run for it, but he knew that with a full wagon he could never outrun the Prussian military. He hoped it was just a check to ensure he was Theodor Schaffer and not some French imposter bent on something nefarious.

But it could also be something else, and that worried Theodor immensely. The horses sensed his discomfort; he heard a few neighs and saw some stutter steps with their tails clamped down.

The officer grasped his rifle now with both hands slightly angling it towards Theodor. "Mr. Schaffer."

"Sorry sir, my parent's names are Koenraad and Mili Schaffer from Wahlstedt."

The officer looked over at the korporal. But kept the gun at ready.

"Yes, sir that is correct."

"Private Schaffer. Under the authority of Otto von Bismarck, you have been conscripted into the Prussian Army. Please dismount and join the recruits"

The worse had happened. Theodor didn't know what to do. If he ran, he would now be shot. As concerned as he was about his own life, it was his family that consumed his worries. "Sir, I am a trader and these goods must be delivered to my family." Theodor's nervous voice didn't seem to mean much to the officer, but still he hoped, for something.

The flap on the closest tent opened and out came the regiment commander for the Segeberg district. Theodor knew him. His name was Erich. He was originally from Wahlstedt, a friend of his father, and a former comrade of their neighbor Ailbe.

"I'm sorry Theodor, I cannot waive your conscription. But I can assign two Korporals to join you so that you can deliver your goods to your father. Afterwards, they will escort you to the Wahlstedt regiment." Erich looked over at the officer. "Captain, do you have any objections to my orders?"

"No sir."

"Then do it."

~ 13 May 1870, 1700, Wahlstedt, Segeberg.

Ailbe was covered in dirt. He spent the entire day working the farm with his twin boys. They have had a few days to absorb their immigration to America, but they were still furious. Ailbe understood their desire to fight for their homeland. After all, he once fought for Schleswig-Holstein, and he still suffers.

He walked in the door. "Get out of here, you dirt monster. I'm fixing dinner," yelled his wife Emmeline.

~ Continued next page

# Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

He stopped mid-step and backed up in reverse. "Yes, Ma'am," he said with a huge smile. Shutting the door after backing out, he saw Harimann and Hansi walking towards him, equally dirty. He warned them, "you better get cleaned up first. Your mother doesn't tolerate dirt."

Hansi replied, "then shouldn't we be able to fight for our land? If not, isn't that tolerating the French?"

Ailbe sighed. This has been nonstop the last six days. He understood their frustration, but he was getting tired of it. He had sent a telegram down to Hamburg to get schedules of ships departing for America and hoped to receive the reply soon. The sooner they left, the safer they would be. But for now, he just tolerated their intolerance. "Just get cleaned up, boys."

Sitting around the table, Ailbe, Emmeline, Hansi,

Harimann, and Elsie ate their dinner. Afterwards, the boys helped their mother clean up then asked if they could go outside.

Elsie asked, "I want to go outside too?"

Thankful to be alone with his wife, Ailbe said, "all of you go outside and play."

"But don't get dirty." Their mother warned with a smile. She waited for them to all leave then picked up a paper and handed it to Ailbe. "Your reply arrived."

Ailbe looked it over. "There is a ship leaving next week for America. We need to get them on it."

Emmeline nodded but then looked at the door. Someone was fiercely knocking. She opened it and her neighbor and friend Mili stood outside. Her face wet with tears. "My boy, they took my boy. He is gone."

*To be continued. Kylie and Noah will return next chapter.*

---

## Volkstrauertag: The People's Day of Mourning

This November people from around the world will possibly observe some form of remembrance for the veteran. America celebrates that day on November 11, 2019, and Germany will observe it on Sunday, November 17, 2019. To honor this year's observance and in solidarity with Germany's day of silence, here are two ironic war poems.

### To Germany

by Charles Hamilton Sorley

You are blind like us. Your hurt no man designed,  
And no man claimed the conquest of your land.  
But gropers both through fields of thought confined  
We stumble and we do not understand.  
You only saw your future bigly planned,  
And we, the tapering paths of our own mind,  
And in each other's dearest ways we stand,  
And hiss and hate. And the blind fights the blind.

When it is peace, then we may view again  
With new-won eyes each other's truer form  
And wonder. Grown more loving-kind and warm  
We'll grasp firm hands and laugh at the old pain,  
When it is peace. But until peace, the storm,  
The darkness and the thunder and the rain.

### Warning to Nazis

by Bertolt Brecht

General, your tank is a strong machine. . .  
General, your plane is a strong machine. . .  
General, man is a useful machine;  
He can fly and he can kill.  
But he has one drawback;  
he can think.





# American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society Membership Application

Please make checks payable to ASHHS and mail to: ASHHS, P.O. Box 506, Walcott, IA, 52773-0506

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City/Town State Zip

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail a membership to the above address. This gift membership is from: \_\_\_\_\_

Annually \_\_\_ Five Year \_\_\_ Lifetime \_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_ Gift \_\_\_

Prices effective December 31, 2009.

	Annually	Five Year	Lifetime
Individual	\$24.00	\$115.00	\$650.00
Joint	\$28.00	\$130.00	\$1,000.00
Foreign	\$35.00	\$160.00	\$1,300.00 Newsletter to be mailed outside the U.S.A.

Our membership year is from January 1 through December 31.

New members joining late in the year will have a paid membership through the following year.

**Contact Us:** E-mail address: ashhswaltcott@gmail.com • Telephone No.: 563-349-1983 • Website: www.ashhs.org

The ASHHS Office and Library is located at, 121 W. Bryant Street, Walcott, Iowa

(2nd floor of the Walcott American Legion Building)

*ASHHS is the foremost and only German Heritage Society dedicated exclusively to  
Promoting and Preserving the Heritage of SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN!*

**American/Schleswig-Holstein  
Heritage Society**

P. O. Box 506

Walcott, IA 52773-0506 U.S.A.

*Address Service Requested*

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DURANT, IA  
PERMIT NO. 9