



Dear Aunt Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II

~ Letters Provided By Kathy Yonker

World War Two ended with Germany's surrender on May 7, 1945. V-E day was declared on May 8, 1945. On that day, British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery described Germany as follows:

Displaced persons were roaming about the country, often looting as they went. Transportation and communications services had ceased to function. Agriculture and industry were largely at a standstill. Food was scarce and there was a serious risk of famine and disease during the coming months. And to crown it all there was no central government in between, and the machinery whereby a central government could function no longer existed.

ASHHS member Kathy Lu Yonker's great grandmother Augusta nee Thede (Jan 7, 1882 – Jan 6, 1964) received several letters from family members living in Schleswig-Holstein in the horrid aftermath of World War Two.

ASHHS thanks Kathy for providing these letters and allowing us to read and understand the difficult life in the aftermath of World War Two.

They are presented here with minimal edits of the translation.



Aunt Augusta nee Thede

Dear Aunt Augusta

Last week I was visiting with (someone) and there I read your loving letter. It made us feel very happy/pleased that you dearest ones are thinking of us.

That encourages me to write this letter. I am the eldest daughter of F.L, my dad was the el-

dest (something) of Uncle H. Dad is 75 years old my parents live by (somewhere) close by, anyway my one and only brother Hubert is an engineer. I live with my husband and our daughter in a city close to (where the parents live). Our daughter is 18 years old, my brother has two children 8 and 6 years old. My husband was injured also my brother was injured in the war, both came home again. We all wished there had been no war—but nothing we could have done. Lots of misery the war caused, we suffered tremendously, it is hard to believe how much war can inflict.

~ Continued on Page 12

Elected Officers

President

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

First Vice President

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

Second Vice President

Recording Secretary

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

Corresponding Secretary

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

Treasurer

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

Immediate Past President

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

Standing Committee

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

Special Committee

Endowment Fund: Dean Rohweder
German Membership: Wolfgang Remppe
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.

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



Features in the 2020 March/April Issue

Featured in this Issue

Page 1: Dear Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II, Letter 1

Page 5: Friendship Conference: A Short History of Bredstedt

Page 7: Quad City Ukuleles Entertain ASHHS

Page 8: Runes Are Not Dead

Page 9: Probstei Hobo Symbols

Page 10: Crosses of Distinction, Chapter Six

Page 12: Dear Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II, Letter 1 continued

Page 13: Dear Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II, Letter 2

Page 14: Dear Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II, Letter 3

Crosses of Distinction

Crosses of Distinction is an original and ongoing historical fiction story about the Franco-Prussian War and the families it affected and how their lives will ultimately all collide throughout history.

– Kylie Schaffer is a Senior Airman in today's US Air Force currently serving with the 494th Fighter Squadron from RAF Lakenheath in England. Her third great grandfather served in and won the Iron Cross during the Franco-Prussian War for reasons unknown. She and her team is headed to an old Cold War base in Ukraine to recover a broken F-15E Strike Eagle.

– After witnessing his twin brother Hansi jump ship and return to Hamburg (where he joined a Prussian dragoon squad), Harimann is sailing towards England and eventually America.

– Theodore the son of Ailbe's neighbors Koenraad and Mili Schaffer was just conscripted into the Prussian Army.

– Tikva with her daughter Adamina travel with their Aunt Angelika towards Hamburg after fleeing Romania. Tikva and Adamina seek a better life in Germany with their aunt.

Website Announcement

In the coming year, many changes will be made to the ASHHS website at ASHHS.ORG. Please stay tuned here or visit our website to see those changes. If you have any recommendations for the website, please email me at danielwholst@gmail.com

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

From the President

By Michael Kearney



Moin moin!

Hello fellow members and dear friends. As we move into this new decade, we are looking at ways to ensure our society is well positioned for the future. We value each and every member of ASHHS, and we hope that all current members continue their memberships.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership, we hope that you do. If you have any questions about your membership, please don't hesitate to contact us.

We also ask that we all find new ways to reach our younger kin and show them the many benefits of ASHHS. We do this because we believe in our society and how it can benefit our community at large.

As such we are always looking for new ideas to make ASHHS and our cultural heritage relevant in this fast-moving society.

Yours truly

President

Michael Kearney



ASHHS Annual Endowment Fund Report

By Dean Rohweder

Yearend 2019 ASHHS Endowment Fund Report

The market value of the ASHHS Endowment Fund on December 31, 2019 was \$84,221.66, an increase of \$10,318.65 (14%) during the year.

No gifts were received during the year. The increase resulted from interest, dividends and stock appreciation that was partially offset by CF-GRB expenses and a distribution to ASHHS to cover three grants:

(1) In 2019 a grant of \$275 that was approved in 2018 was made to fund additional pictures for the 48ers memorial at City Cemetery.

(2) A grant of \$1,500 for seed money for the 2019 Low German Conference which was subsequently returned to the Endowment account when the conference was very successful.

(3) A grant in the amount \$1,057.88 was made to purchase a new computer for use by the Genealogy group. Currently the Endowment Fund Committee has \$2,521 available for grants in 2020.

The Community Foundation (which invests the fund) has not provided the guidelines for the 2020 distribution but it should be in the vicinity of \$2,000 bringing the total funds available to around \$4,500.

Dean Rohweder, Chairman

ASHHS Endowment Fund Committee

Calendar

ASHHS Quarterly Meeting

May 17, 2020

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) quarterly meeting will be held at 1:30 pm, on Sunday, May 17, 2020, at the Walcott American Legion, 121 W. Bryant St., Walcott, Iowa

The program is undetermined at this time, but mark your calendar and we will have more information in the MAY-JUNE Newsletter.

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.

New Email Address

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

Friendship Conference: A Short History of Bredstedt

September 11-13, 2020 in Bredstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

By Hans-Werner Hamann



Mayor Christian Schmidt greatly looks forward to welcoming many guests from the USA and ASHHS as they attend our 2020 conference in Bredstedt. On behalf of that welcome, I would like to share some information about

Bredstedt in preparation for your visit.

The first mention of Bredstedt can be traced back to 1231 where it was recorded as Bredhaestath within the Earth Book census. King Valdemar II (also spelled Waldemar) commissioned a census to track royal income and properties under the Kingdom of Denmark. The census (or Earth Book) contains a collection of manuscripts that recorded for the first time many locations throughout Denmark, northern Germany, and other locations. Historians consider it the most important record of locations and culture during the Middle Ages. Those original manuscripts currently reside in the Danish National Archives in Copenhagen.

Originally Bredstedt resided just off the coast of the North Sea. But it was close enough to have its own small port. However, the North Sea receded after the building of a dike so that, today, Bredstedt resides five Kilometers from the coast.



In 1477, Bredstedt was raised to the status of “pre-urban law,” or “Flecken” in German. King Frederic granted Bredstedt permission to hold a free market twice a year. Eventually that grew into a weekly

market day, which was carried out from 1633 by the permission of King Christian IV.

Trade enabled Bredstedt to grow much larger, but not without some setbacks. Fire destroyed thirty-five houses along Norderstrasse from April 9 – 10, 1699. Major fire then revisited Bredstedt burning twenty houses on September 22, 1737. Then again, flames destroyed almost one hundred houses along Osterstrasses on the night of March 26 – 27, 1858. The city also experienced war damage as bombs destroyed several houses at the end of World War II.



Bredstedt has a wonderful market square which is dominated by the construction of the *Apotheke* or pharmacy. The *Apotheke* house was built in 1611 for the *Hardesvogt*. (A *Hardesvogt* was a speaker and administrator for several jurisdictions.) The façade was often changed over time, but its basic features were retained. A chapel was built in 1462. It became a full church called St. Nikolai Church in 1510. Its impressive architecture is late Gothic brick built with field stones.

From 1867 to 1975, Bredstedt was the seat of the district court in the successor of the *Harde*. In 1887 the station on the Marschbahn from Hamburg to the island of Sylt was built. On October 8, 1900 Bredstedt was granted city rights.

Bredstedt was independent until April 1, 2008. Now Bredstedt has joined with the municipalities of *Amt Bredstedt-Land* and *Amt Stollberg* to create the *Amt Middle North Friesland* with its administrative seat in Bredstedt.

Friendship Conference: A Short History of Bredstedt

September 11-13, 2020 in Bredstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

~ Continued from Previous Page



Bredstedt has two Evangelical Lutheran parishes. The parish of Saint Nikolai is the largest with approximately 3,800 parishioners. The evangelical Danish parish uses a church room in the Danish school in Bredstedt. The Catholic Marienkapelle, in which a service is held every Saturday at Clementstrasse belongs to the Catholic parish in Husum.

islands and Halligen.

More information at www.nordfriiskinstituut.de

Today Bredstedt is a beautiful small town in North Frisia, north of Husum and has approximately 5,500 inhabitants inside an area of 9.75 square kilometers.

Please visit our city's website at www.bredstedt.de

Do You Plan on Attending the Friendship Conference in September?

If you plan on attending the Friendship Conference in Germany, please let us know. We are working on the possibility of attaining a group travel rate. And if you are interested and have the time to a longer trip, we are arranging some excursions outside the dates of the conference.

Please contact ASHHS at our email address: ashhswalcott@gmail.com.

Or you can contact me directly at danielwholst@gmail.com if you are interested.

More details of the conference and trip will hopefully be provided next issue due around the beginning of May.

Quad City Ukulele Club Entertains ASHHS

ASHHS met at the Walcott American Legion for our quarterly meeting on February 16, 2020.

Business was light. Mike Kearney introduced himself for the first time as president of ASHHS, and Dean Rohweder gave his annual Endowment Fund report (page 4).

Discussion of the 2020 Friendship Conference in Schleswig-Holstein occupied some time after the meeting. We discussed additional sightseeing tours and group travel (page 6).

We were all greatly entertained by the Quad City Ukulele Club. Even one couple danced during their final song. Way to go Lee and Mary Ann.

The Club entertained with music and song and even a wonderful kazoo feature. From songs such as "Roll Out The Barrel" to "Johnny Be Good," the club's nonstop, fun and flighty (in the best way), entertainment was a joy to behold.



~ 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.

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

You will find the application on the back cover.



R N T M H F R M T F T M M F M

That is correct: Runes are not dead. Before the Anglo-Saxons settled Britain (as certain scholars believe), they used what is now called the futhorc. Futhorc is the name of the collection of ancient runes that most likely originated in North Frisia; it is called the Anglo-Saxon or Anglo-Frisia runes. Its name “futhorc” comes from the sound values of its first six runes, much like how we call our keyboard layout “QWERTY.” The first six runes in figure 1 spell out futhorc. Note: Some rune symbols vary in definition.

ƿ	᚛	ᚦ	ᚱ	ᚷ	ᚨ	ᚫ	ᚹ	ᚱ	ᚹ
feoh	ur	ᚦorn	os	rad	cen	giefu	wynn	hægl	
'riches'	'bison'	'thorn'	a god	'riding'	'torch'	'gift'	'joy'	'ball'	
F	U	TH	O	R	C	G	W	H	
ᚼ	ᚲ	ᚫ	ᚷ	ᚨ	ᚫ	ᚹ	ᚱ	ᚹ	
nied	is	gear	eoh	peorth	colhx	sigel	tiw	beorc	eah
'need'	'ice'	'year'	'yew'	'chessman?'	'reed'	'sun'	a god	'birch'	'horse'
N	I	GH	Z	P	X	S	T	B	E
ᚱ	ᚷ	ᚫ	ᚷ	ᚨ	ᚫ	ᚹ	ᚱ	ᚹ	ᚲ
mann	lagu	ing	oeðl	dæg	ac	æsc	yr	ear	?
'man'	'water'	a god	'homeland'	'day'	'oak'	'ash'	'yew bow'	'earth'	?
M	L	NG	D	?	A	Æ	Y	EA	K

Figure 1. One interpretation of the Anglo-Frisia Runes

But while editing "A Short History of Bredstedt," I discovered something quite interesting about this runic language of our historic ancestors. It is not dead.

Early computer games, most notably the *Ultima* series of role-playing games, used this exact runic language as the language within the game. Onwards from *Ultima*, computer games have incorporated these runic characters and have even created their own rune systems of both language and play.

The game *Ultima IV* was a seminal game in the entire history of computer games. It remains one of the most admired and beloved games for its central usage of morality and story. At that time, games could be easily pirated by transferring the disc from one user to another. To reduce pirating, most games of that era included items called "feelies." These items contain information vital to not only playing the game but also



Figure 2. Ultima IV Map

winning it. One of the feelies from *Ultima IV* was a cloth map of the world (figure 2). You can see its use of Anglo-Frisia runes.

Why use runic characters? I believe they add a sense of mystery, antiquity, and authenticity to the created playable world. Often in older games they helped the player play with both sight and imagination to surrealistically visualize a world beyond what primitive computer graphics could offer.

Some may claim cultural appropriation. I call it a celebration. So, let’s celebrate that our history lives. Let’s celebrate that our culture had bred itself into new cultures that continues to engage with new generations and evolve into tomorrow.

Another evolution of runes comes from Probstei, Schleswig-Holstein. ASHHS Endowment Fund Manager Dean Rohweder provided me some newspaper clippings that recorded the symbols used by hobos in Probstei to mark their belongings.

Dean's distant relative Klaus Lage told him that by these symbols, tools and equipment are recognizable and distinguishable by indication and mark. They were also used as house marks.

Throughout history, hobos have used symbols to identify directions, information, and dangers.

~ Next page shows those symbols from Probstei. Notice their similarities to the Anglo-Frisia Runes.

Probstei Hobo Symbols

~ Provided by Dean Rohweder

Kirchspiel=Schönberg Hufners		
Baur Vogt Peter Wieß Hufner	mein	" M "
Eggert Laage Hufner	mein	" X "
Clauß Wieß Hufner	mein	" 2 "
Peter Wieß Hufner	mein	" A "
Aßmuß Gotsch Hufner	mein	" 夫 "
Jochim Wieß Hufner	mein	" A "
Paul Stoltenb= Hufner	mein	" ↓ "
Clauß Puck Hufner	mein	" 山 "
Johan Robstorff, ½ Hufner	--	" R "
Hinrich Laag, ½ Hufner	--	" 4 "
Jacob Heyer, ½ Hufner	--	" R "
Adam Steffen ½ Hufner	--	" 4 "
Christian Dram ½ Hufner	--	" 2 "
Adam Schneckl= ½ Hufner	--	" A "

Crumbecker		
Baur Vogt Jochim Gotsch	mein	" 十 "
Peter Stoltenb= Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Steffen Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Marx Stoltenb= Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Jochim Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hanß Lamp ½ Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Peter Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Wieß ½ Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Höhndörffer		
BV Clauß Stoltenberg Hufner	--	" 人 "
Clauß Suberkrüp Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Arpe Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Jürgen Pueck Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Jochim Kühl Hufner	mein	" 人 "

Crocawer		
Baur Vogt Hinrich Wieß	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Fing Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Peter Schnecklot Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Eler Fing Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Jochim Rußer Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Pueck Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Peter Fing Hufner	mein	" 人 "

There are at least two symbols in this pile of clippings that exactly match a rune from the previous page. Can you find them?

Stackendorff		
Baur Vogt Clauß Vöge Hufner	--	" 人 "
Paul Steht Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Carsten Speht Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Peter Vöge Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Aßmuß Lamp Hufner	mein	" X "
Hanß Raht Hufner	mein	" X "
Clauß Ladhoff Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Gottsch Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Aßmuß Schneckl= Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hanß Vöge Kirchengeschworner	mein	" 人 "
Hanß Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "

Göderstörffer		
Baur Vogt Hans Wieß	mein	" X "
Jochim Steffen Hufner	mein	" X X "
Clauß Kuhl Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Steffen Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Pueck Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Vief Berger		
Baur Vogt Hanß Kuhl	mein	" X "
Hinrich Schneckl= ½ Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Marten Schneckl= ½ Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Tieß Arp Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Schneckl= Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Wieß Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hanß Schnecklot Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Jochim Gotsch Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Gorriß Laadhoff Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Clauß Heyer Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Hinrich Arp Hufner	mein	" 人 "
Baars Becker		

Crosses of Distinction

~ By Daniel W. Holst

Chapter Six

“Forging Arms”

~ 17 May 1870, 1400 hours, Hamburg, Germany

Regiment Commander Erich looked over his men. He thought back to his battles in the war against Austria, the brothers he lost, and the hegemony he helped attain for Bismarck. Dwelling upon the loss of blood to build borders always caused his left arm to throb where it once was ripped by a bullet. He gently rubbed the scar. He knew the suffering the men would ultimately face. Some will die. They knew it too. He saw it in their eyes. They looked so young. But now wasn't that time. Now is the time to build weapons from men, to turn blood into a burning passion for war. Erich put these thoughts aside, remembered his orders, and addressed the men.

“Men. I was there. I fought through that Austrian mud tainted with Prussian blood. We were outnumbered. We knew Frederick and his army would soon arrive, but we were pinned, and we were scared. It is okay to be scared. For courage is grown from not only fear but also love. Love for your brothers and captains, love of Prussia and the burgeoning fatherland. But most importantly love towards our Chancellor, the indomitable Otto von Bismarck. Today you will learn the *Zündnadelgewehr*, this marvel of Prussian engineering. Four years ago, it saved my life and the lives of thousands against Austria.

We fought the Battle of Königgrätz. Austrian artillery impeded our advance. but the vastly larger Austrian army had one fatal flaw. Their soldiers were armed with the slow Lorenz rifle. Yet our *Zündnadelgewehr* can fire up to ten times faster, and while they had to stand to reload, we could reload while staying prone. Then we just picked them off. We won the day and the war. The *Zündnadelgewehr* saved my life. It will save yours. It will save the fatherland. We will teach you this.” Erich turned to the man on his left. “Korporal.”

The korporal snapped to attention and ordered the squad the same.

Theodor stood straight holding his needle gun by his side. He held his head high and looked directly at Erich. Then he joined his voice to the single voice of his brothers-in-arms. “*Der Soldat soll das Vaterland gegen äussere Feinde verteidigen, und die Ordnung*

im Innern beschützen!”

Theodor walked with his squad to the firing range. He felt a push and then stumbled forward. He turned around and glared at Thomas. “Hey, don't push.”

“Theodor, look. Up there,” said Thomas.

Theodor glanced up the slope and spotted a tall officer with captain accoutrements. Most noticeable was his bright blue uniform with a glaring yellow collar and matching cuffs. “What the hell, why is a Bavarian captain here?”

“I guess we'll soon find out. He is watching us quite carefully.”

“Well, we better shoot well. Good shooting brother.”

“Good shooting.”

Erich stood next to the Bavarian officer.

“Thoughts, Captain?”

The Captain stood stoic. He watched Theodor's squad fire their guns making fine hits against the targets. He watched other squads practicing combat drills. They dove and rolled across the mud to find protection behind rocks and trees. Others practiced thrusting and slicing their bayonets into straw dummies that swung on ropes. He also saw other squads sitting in tents learning the educational arts of war². Of this, his chest swelled proud. Throwing dumb soldiers at an army doesn't win wars. He knew that only soldiers who fought with tactics and strategy, those who outthought their enemies could win wars.

“You are doing well Commander”, said the Captain

Theodor and his squad finished their firing practice. Erich led them up the slope to meet the Captain.

“Men, my name is Captain Celsus Girl³. Your military prowess—”

Theodor couldn't help himself and snorted out “*Mädchen*.”

1 Recruits were indoctrinated with this. Translated: “The soldier must defend the fatherland against external enemies and also uphold domestic order.”

2 “Once conscripted, Prussians took more target practice than their peers in other armies, and practiced small-unit fighting in camp and in tutorials, where veterans described the pace and confusion of combat to green recruits” (Wawro).

3 Captain Celsus Girl was an actual historical figure. He was attached to the Prussian Army and “marvelled at the education of his Prussian colleagues” (Wawro).

Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

The other squad members laughed, and Captain Girl rushed into the squad, grabbed Theodor by uniform and threw him down and kicked him in the stomach. “Do you think I’m a girl, boy! So, you know the English meaning of my name; you are educated. But can you use it to fight. You don’t respect me. I doubt you respect your men?” He watched as Theodor stood up clutching his stomach.

Captain Girl walked around Theodor looking at the squad as he spoke. “Men, does this dog think he is better than you?” Then he stared directly at Theodor, “Boy, do you think you’re better than your squad mates? Show me how you will lead these men.”

Theodor spit some blood from his mouth and drew himself straight into attention. He looked at Captain Girl and spoke with pride and confidence. His squad immediately followed his lead. “*Der Soldat soll das Vaterland gegen äussere Feinde verteidigen, und die Ordnung im Innern beschützen.*”

Captain Girl walked back to Erich, and with his back to the squad he whispered in Erich’s ear, “very good Captain,” and again with a slight smile looking over the entire camp, “yes, very good.”

That evening after a long day of training, Theodore and his squad were in a tent eating a late and quiet dinner. The sun had gone down, and the tent was shrouded in darkness. Mud caked their uniforms. Owls hooted from the forest, and a couple of fireflies flew inside the tent. Theodor thought it was a little early for light-y bugs, but it was a hot and humid spring. Yet it was an eerie light. Theodor kept quiet, thankful his food stayed down after that kick to his gut.

Thomas spoke and asked, “Hey Theodor, why didn’t you fight him? Do you think he wanted you to fight him?”

“No, I don’t. He talked of respect and education. Respect earned from fighting is nothing compared to respect from leadership. But I’m no leader. Besides, he would have beaten me. I just want to live and return home.” He belched and thought to himself, *hopefully without any more gut kicks*. “Please just leave me alone right now.”

“Theodor, we will follow you. You led us today by outthinking Captain Girl,” said Thomas. The other squad members grunted in agreement.

“But you have to do us one favor, Theodor.”

“Yeah, what’s that.”

“Don’t ever make fun of anybody’s name again.”

Theodore couldn’t help it. He laughed and responded, “next time kick me first.”

His men laughed.

~ 18 May 1870, 0500, Southeast Coast of England

Harimann couldn't sleep. Each of the 400 miles between Hamburg and Dover, England burned in agony without his twin Hansi. Finally, and tired of tossing and turning, he walked onto the deck and saw the White Cliffs of Dover. He had heard about them and seen drawings in books, but to see them in person took his breath away. The sun embedded within a burning lattice of deep red clouds rose behind him. The east facing cliffs absorbed that flaming visage. It turned them into an otherworldly barrier of fire against the end of the world. Oddly, this fortified his own courage, for its massive bulwark acted like an imposing outstretched hand that commanded, halt. He suddenly remembered scripture: *So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.*

He knew now what he must do. He must go back. Like Adam and Eve, he will disobey his father’s command. He will not live in peace but fight in war. But how. He knew the ship would dock for supplies in Dover. He looked at the port. There were few ships. Most were fishing or coastal vessels. But there was a schooner. He looked closely at it. His heart sank when he saw it flying the blue, white, and red French flag. But his courage was not lost. The ship was positioned for an eastward sail, and the winds blew favorably towards France. This is what he would do. Then another scripture popped into his head. *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.*

Harimann looked toward the east, towards France. The sun broke through the clouds and shone brightly in his eyes. He spoke to himself. “I will fight. I will return home.”

- Historical details, as noted, from the book *The Franco-Prussian War: The German Conquest of France in 1870–1871* by Geoffrey Wawro. Published in 2003 by Cambridge University Press.

Dear Aunt Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II

~ Continued from Page 1

Our house was not damaged and a lot of people have nothing some due to the Russians taking the country away. We are all hungry, a lot around us are starving. Especially we do so miss eating FAT! The last eight years has affected our health so we feel very weak, meaning it will be hard for us over the coming winter months, especially as the last two years winter was very severe. Then we needed more firewood and food. So not looking forward to winter as it is expected to be awful.

Makes us feel better to know you are thinking about us in Germany. (someone) will have the courage to write to you. With the ration card we obtained 150 gram (5 oz) of butter which should last for four weeks, otherwise no other Fat to be obtained. Two cups full of skimmed milk for one week, also two slices of bread which we made out of porridge about two pounds to cover four weeks. You can not imagine what our City looks like, we cook in rainwater because the plumbing system does not work.

We feel very bad (embarrassed) to ask for help from you. I have much worry about the parents, my old small (little) Dad weighs about one hundred pounds, at this time of life one would expect a quite comfortable life and Dad had a pension so without a War they would have had a good life.

You have to stand in line for ages to obtain anything. Our little daughter was 10 at the start of the war now eight years later and she is 18 ... what a life?

Dear loving Aunt Augusta, if you have any shoes or clothes from your children for us, we have a brilliant friend who can sew and remodel anything.

Dear Aunty hopefully you understand and will not hold it against us for begging in this way. We will enjoy a lovely letter to hear how you and your children are doing. How are your sons and daughter. In our family book are photos of the children that have been sent from America.

I am now 44 years old, Is not your daughter the same age?

Dear Aunt Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II

Dear Aunt Augusta,

I just wrote a few letters & thought I should write you as well. You may be surprised that the bank asked me to write you. Your inheritance from father is still open; he died in 1918. It was 7,600 Deutschmarks but due to inflation there is only a balance of 600. The banker does not know what to do, perhaps you want to write to the bank. It really hurts us that Hermann stopped writing us. We did not want this war, I would rather have kept my husband with me those 5 years and now we have to give up our 3 boys. In the Fall we heard that her husband died towards the end of the war. She has 5 kids, the son is 11, then comes 4 girls the youngest age is 4. She got nothing when Willie died because he wasn't for Hitler so there was no assistance of any kinds.

We receive mail from Grete's husband, he is a prisoner in France. Grete has no children. We haven't heard from our Hans in over 3 years. Don't know if he's still alive. He's in Russia where there is much starvation. You can imagine what heartaches we must endure. I've been bedridden since Christmas with terrible cold and add our situation which makes one not want to live any longer. You were sick last year too; Hermann was not that old either & then your son ... you've been through much too but hopefully you can enjoy your children & grandchildren. Yes we are all getting old. We worked so hard and saved so we could enjoy our old age but things keep getting worse & worse.

We have such a large house which is now full of refugees. We only occupy kitchen, one bedroom & living room for ourselves. We have 10 refugees from East Prussia. Otherwise we are ok. We have more than enough money. We're having a strenuous winter & most people do not have food to eat nor anything to burn to keep warm. The war has brought such misery around the world all because of crazy Hitler. But no one can inquire about anything we would disappear immediately.

I will close with best wishes for you all. Heartfelt greetings from Thies & Adele.

Dear Aunt Augusta: The Aftermath of World War II

Dear Sister-in-law Augusta,

Adele sent me the letter she received from you.

We were all happy to hear about you after such a long time & I'm sure you were glad to hear from your brother Hermann. I want to write you a few lines.

Healthwise we are doing well. From our 5 children, 4 sons & 1 daughter, the youngest did not return home from a flight, the disaster happened in 1942. The rest of the boys are home, 2 with their families. Our daughter & second oldest son are not married & living at home with us. Hans lost his left eye in the end. We're glad that the Russians didn't capture him or we would still be waiting for him.

Our city was bombed & destroyed. Many refugees landed here from the east which makes things quite crowded. In the large cities needs are much greater. Many people must freeze in the winter. Life is best for farmers.

From sister Adele we received care packages. We had practically no clothing and shelter but we did receive letters & a few packages which made us very happy. Our daughter writes in English with Loise Anne so she can translate well for us.

I heard from Zena that you had a stroke. I wish that you are well now, it is good you are with your children for support.

Heartfelt greetings from you Sister-in-Law & Brother-in-Law

Teresa, John & kids.

Our address is

John ?

Gluecksstadt, Schleswig-Holstein

Great Gift Ideas

Books

Low German: Platt in America
*by Stuart Gorman
 and Joachim Reppmann*
 Adventurous history of the Low German
 language. Dedicated by Hollywood star
 Eric Braeden... \$13.50

Schleswig in Iowa
by Larry Grill
 A German-American story of a small
 segment of German immigration that took
 place between the 1850s and 1950s. A hu-
 man story of unique perspective.
 \$19.00

**The German-Americans:
 An Ethnic Experience**
*by Willi Paul Adams and translated by
 LaVern J. Rippley & Everhard Reichmann*
 \$8.00

**The Frisians In
 Schleswig-Holstein**
by Thomas Steensen
Edited by the Frisian Council \$7.50

**Platt Düütsch Low German
 A Brief History of The People
 and Language**
by Robert Lee Stockmann
 Cross Reference Book. \$24.00

Introduction To Platt
by William D. Storjohann
 Includes booklet and cassette . . . \$13.00

The Last Furlough
 Letters of Paul Claudius 1943-44 \$15.00

**From Hitler V
 American** 
 Story of Her \$16.00

**German Forty-Eighters
 In Davenport**
by Hildegard Binder Johnson
 In 1900, Davenport was called the most
 German city in all the Midwest, the center
 for all German activities in the state
 \$13.00

Building A Bridge
*by Joachim Reppmann, Erhard Bottcher,
 and Virginia Degen*
 The heartwarming story of how after One
 Hundred Years, the town of Holstein,
 Iowa, rediscovered its Germanic Roots.
 \$18.00

Pumpkin Soup and Shrapnel
By Gunda Stassen Davis
 Her experiences growing up
 under Hitler Communist
 East German in free West
 Berlin. \$18.00

**Max and Moritz
 Chip The Monkey**
*by Wilhelm Busch;
 translated by Dr. Richard Trost*
Two stories in one book!
 The first tale is of two boys in seven
 pranks, the second is story for children.
 Features many character drawings with
 the story. \$15.50

English Plattdüütsch Wortebok
by Robert Lee Stockmann
Translations from English to Platt düütsch
 \$15.00

**Schleswig-Holstein Counties and
 Independent Cities**
Compiled by Merl E. Arp
 History and information booklet. \$13.50

ASHHS Newsletters
 Index to 1989 through 2011 \$15.00
 ASHHS Newsletter Index Supplement
 2006 through 2011 \$9.50

 Back Issues of ASHHS Newsletters
 \$2.00 per issue
 1 year of ASHHS Newsletters (6)
 \$10.00

**German Heritage Recipes
 Cookbook Volume I**
 A collection of five hundred traditional
 recipes brought from Schleswig-Holstein
 by our great-grandmothers, grandmothers
 and mothers. \$16.50

**German Heritage Recipes
 Cookbook Volume II**
 340 pages of new Schleswig-Holstein
 Recipes and other helpful hints. \$16.50

**Save By Buying Both!
 Cookbook Volume I And II**
 (cookbooks by ASHHS) \$31.00

**Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg,
 Bremen Map**
 Scale is 1:200,000 / Includes index of
 over 7,000 villages. \$16.00

Map of Germany
 A large durable laminated folded map
 shows many small villages. \$13.50

Order Form All prices include shipping and handling (U.S.A. mail only). Foreign mailing subject to the postal charges.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Send Check or Money Order To:
 ASHHS Purchasing Dept.,
 P.O.Box 506, Walcott, IA 52773-0506

QTY	ITEMS (include size)	PRICE
SubTotal		
<i>Iowa Residents add 7% Sales Tax</i>		
TOTAL		

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: ashhswalcott@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