



# American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society

Newsletter

Volume 33, Issue 1

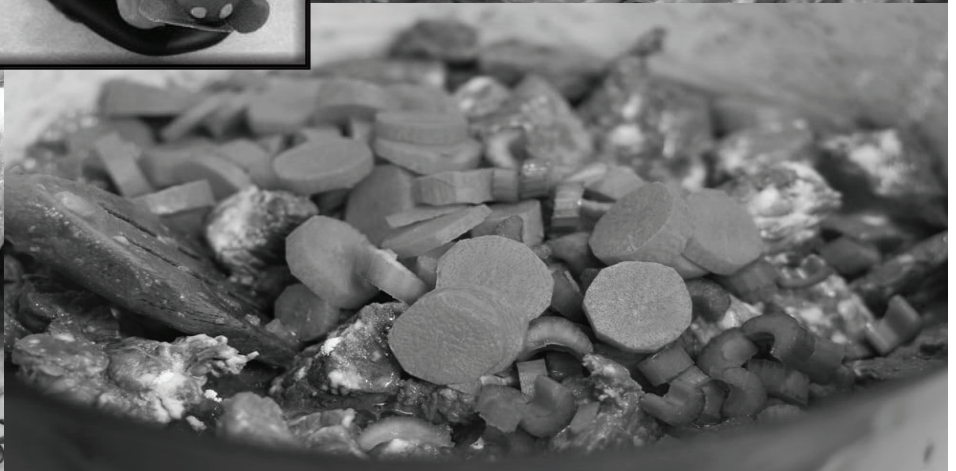
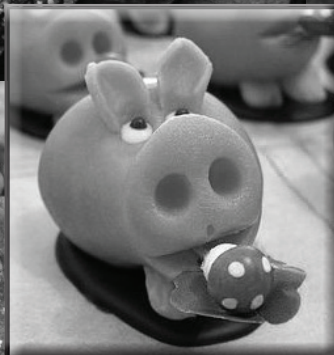
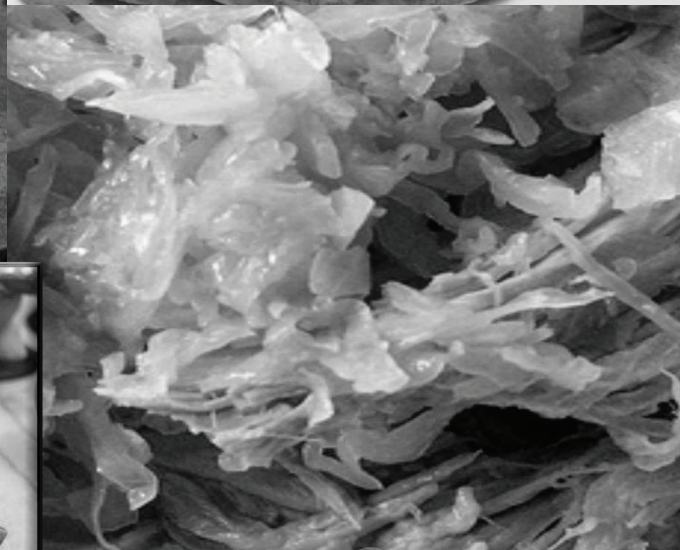
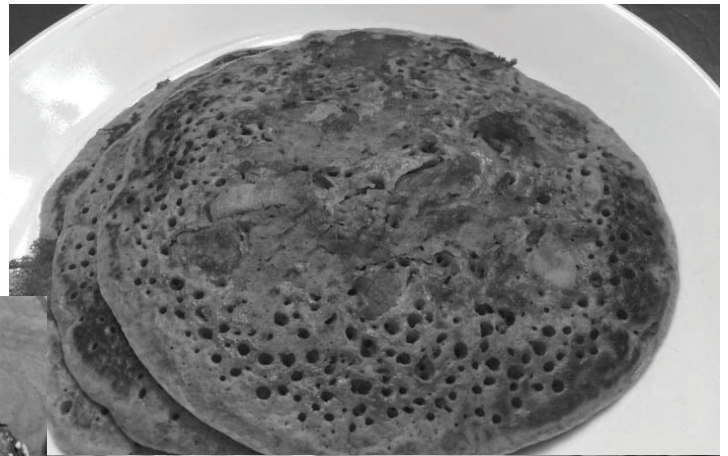
January/February 2021

## A Virtual German New Year's Feast

*Happy New Year ASHHS!*

We hope everyone has had a wonderful New Year's, and that someday we can gather to enjoy these delicacies and bring Good Luck for each and every one of us in 2021.

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*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

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**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).

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# Features in the 2020 July/August Issue

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## *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.

- Adamina and her friend Adelaide have decided to try to become nurses during the Franco-Prussian war.
- 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.
- Harimann has arrived in France and is helping to ferry a mysterious cargo of rubber rings eastward on his way back to Germany and war. He has no idea what has happened to his twin brother Hansi.
- Theodore, the son of Ailbe's neighbors Koenraad and Mili Schaffer, has discovered his leadership qualities after being conscripted in the Prussian Army.

## 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](mailto:danielwholst@gmail.com)

**Please keep your membership current.**

Don't miss out on the stories  
and events coming in 2021 and beyond.

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 Michael Kearney



Moin!

Thank goodness the US, Great Britain, and others have started vaccinating people for the Covid-19 virus. Germany has not yet started, although they probably will soon when the other European Union countries do. (Currently, the EU is expected to approve the vaccine and begin vaccinations on December 23.)

Things are so preliminary now that no one is predicting when "herd immunity" will be established. This is important because when a firm date for herd immunity can be established in each country, we can begin thinking and planning for the postponed conference along with our quarterly meetings.

I hope our members have come through this year without Covid-19 and that all will have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Yours truly  
President



## What do you want to see for 2021?

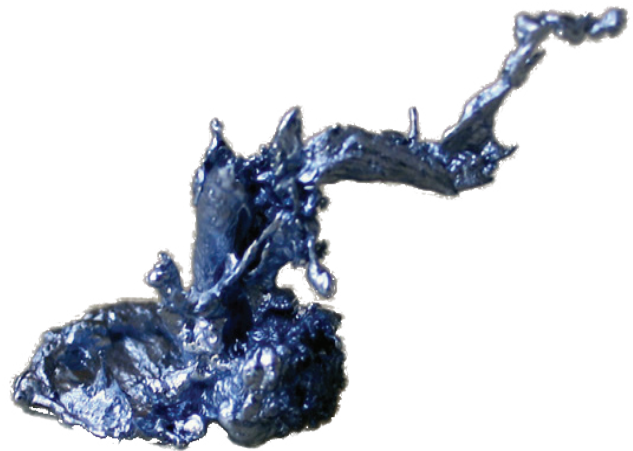
When the Ancient Greek tradition of molybdomancy, or lead divination, became the tradition of *Bleigiessen*, Germans discovered how to decide their own fate.

Symbolically, the melting of lead signifies the shedding of a previous year's burden to reshape it into a new year's blessing. While we can't control the shape when the molten lead solidifies within water, we choose the shape we see, often by viewing its shadow against a lighted wall.

We have all sacrificed for 2020. COVID-19 has changed everything we once hoped for this year. Yet hope always remains. So take some wax or tin (Not lead, it is toxic) and melt it then pour it into some water. Take the abstract shape and examine its shape as a shadow against a wall. You get to choose what you see. Then look up the shape online to one of the hundreds of shapes it could be. Make that your New Year blessing.

So tell us...

What do you want to see for 2021?



## ASHHS Calendar

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, no events are currently scheduled or planned.

Please stay tuned as we hope to reestablish our normal scheduled events and annual conference in 2021.

Have a blessed and Happy New Year!

We want to see everyone safe and sound this year.

## 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)

# Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ (A Little German Girl's Dream Story) By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

A Little German Girl's Dream Story

June 8 – 24, 2010

My name is Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black (#1214, tenth generation, Gottsch Family). I am a third generation German-American, born and attended public schools in Davenport, Iowa. Alvin Carl and Gladys Peeters Wellendorf are my parents. Until less than a year ago, I knew very little about my ancestors beyond those that immigrated to the United States (Iowa) in the mid-1800s. Then by chance and luck, my husband, Tom, found one of my great-grandfathers, Claus Horst (#149, sixth generation), listed in Bill Gottsch's family history. Contacting Bill and exchanging information with him led us to discover a wealth of family details and revealed the intriguing homeland where they, my ancestors, had lived.

In June of this year [2010], we were anticipating celebrating our golden wedding anniversary when Tom asked me if I would I like to celebrate our anniversary with a driving tour through Schleswig-Holstein (Probstei and Dithmarschen). My *traum geschichte* began. All eight of my great-grandparents were either born or had their roots in Schleswig-Holstein (Probstei and Dithmarschen).

## Traum Geschichte

On Tuesday, June 8th, we departed from our home in Liberty Hill, Texas to Austin, then to Newark, New Jersey. In Newark, we caught an overnight flight to Hamburg, Germany, arriving early the next morning. After renting our car, we began the first step of our adventure. We drove about 100 kilometers south of Hamburg to the small village of Wellendorf (~260 people). Although we know of no direct family connection to Wellendorf, it is a place I wanted very much to visit.

We found the village to be a delightful place, and there we met Birgit Meyer, and she invited us to sit with her in her garden. She revealed that the village had recently (2006) celebrated its 1000th anniversary. Hopefully, Birgit will be able to put us in touch with someone that can relate the village history to us. The picture is me standing by the Wellendorf Village stone (Picture 1).



Picture 1

After the all-night flight and our drive today, we were ready to get a good night's sleep and recuperate. We drove to Lübeck, Germany. We had selected the Hotel Excelsior in Lübeck from the internet. It was raining when we arrived at the Excelsior, but this small family run hotel was a very pleasant surprise. We were able to park directly by the front door, and as we were checking in, the manager (and chef) told us the hotel restaurant was closed at night, but they were cooking up some regional food for a few friends and guests. They asked us to join them. Everyone was served the same dinner including a delicious mushroom soup, a pork medallion entrée with fresh vegetables and strawberry (*erdbeere*) shortcake. Tom told me he was afraid to ask for the check, and he asked our waitress could she put the meal on our hotel bill. The Excelsior is about two blocks from Lübeck's Old Town. After a very comfortable night's sleep, we were introduced to our first traditional German breakfast, which was very filling and satisfying. We spent the day just walking around the Old Town and seeing historic sites. That night we had a wonderful German meal at Schiffergesellschaft, a very old restaurant originally founded as a club for ship captains and officers in 1535. When we checked out of the hotel after our two-night stay, Tom was pleasantly surprised; the bill for dinner for two was only 26 euros (\$32). Yes, Hotel Excelsior, in our opinion, is one of the best-kept secrets in Germany. Lübeck was located in West Germany during the Cold War, but was very close to the East German border. A drive into what was formerly East Germany, to experience the differences, was suggested to us. On our day



# Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

of departure, we drove east of Lübeck to Dassow. In general, the lack of maintenance to the buildings during the Cold War was obvious. But our most depressing thoughts were of the people living there during the Cold War, so close to freedom, but “entrapped” with friends and relatives only a few kilometers away, loved ones whom they could not visit. Note: The “Probstei Guide” pictured is Jurgen Laudi and his wife, Anita (Picture 2). Jurgen’s many stories brought Probstei alive and very real.



Picture 2

Before we continue with the trip narrative, I want to introduce you to several people that made this *traum geschichte* a reality.

First, Bill Gottsch, the Gottsch family historian and the editor of the newsletter where this was first printed through his website. The family CD pictures and many personal e-mail descriptions, details and photos, painted a beautiful and intriguing view of Probstei. He related details of his visit to Probstei and enthusiastically encouraged us to visit there.

Bill and Suzanne have very good friends living in Schönkirchen near the Probstei. His friend has done much genealogy work from old records of Probstei.

Churches for Bill Gottsch’s family history. Bill introduced us to him and his wife via e-mail and asked them to show us around and help us understand the way of life in Probstei when my ancestors lived there in the earlier centuries.

Before we made our trip, we posted several family genealogy questions on both Schleswig-Holstein Rootsweb and AGGSH Genealogy Workgroup message boards and were able to establish contact with several German residents.

Sabine Wieben, she and her husband and daughters live in Tangstedt, which is west of Hamburg. Sabine located sources for a lot of local (Schleswig-Holstein) information, points of interest and directed us how to access them before the trip. Erika Fredricks also made contact with us through email. Erika and I are actually ninth cousins sharing an 8th Great-grandfather, Claus Sinjen, born before 1600 in Prasdorf. Erika has given me a wealth of family history information.

Kurt and Annita Arp also contacted us via e-mail. Kurt and Annita now live in Odense, Denmark, but Kurt has roots in Probstei. Kurt and I share several common distant relatives, but I have not established



Erika Fredricks, Annita and Kurt Arp

a common direct ancestor. We met Horst Perry for the first time in Probsteierhagen. Erika and Bill’s friend arranged for Horst to give us a personal tour and lecture of the Probsteierhagen Church. Other delightful people that we became acquainted with are Kurt and Lena Wellendorf Freier and their daughter

# Ein Kleines Deutsches Mädchen Traum Geschichte

~ By Gladys Edna "Gay" Wellendorf Black

Caren Hartmann and her husband Arnold. Kurt and Annita Arp arranged for us to visit Kurt, Lena and Caren with them. Lena and I share the maiden name, Wellendorf. Lena and I were not able to establish a common ancestor, but we had two delightful visits in her and Kurt's home. We will recount in our daily activities our associations and contact with each of these individuals. Again, we are indebted to each of them for their part in making this a *traum geschichte*.

Hi, it is Friday afternoon, June 11th. Leaving Dasow, we had a very pleasant drive north and arrived in Schönberg (Probstei) about mid-afternoon. We stayed at the Ruser Hotel for nine nights, departing on Sunday, June 20th. Jack Schinckel, associated with the American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society in Walcott Iowa, has made several visits to Probstei and recommended this hotel. The Ruser is a family owned hotel, and they know everybody and were very helpful with local information. We recommend the hotel to any of you making a visit to Probstei. Friday, on our arrival, we called our Probstei guide and his wife and they came to the hotel to meet us. We enjoyed a delightful and informative stroll around Schönberg, had a delicious meal at Ruser's and made plans for a tour of many of the villages of Probstei the following day.

On Saturday morning our Probstei guide picked us up for our tour. He explained that he wanted to drive us through the villages in Probstei and also

some of the adjoining villages outside the Probstei. He wanted us to understand that the way of life in the Probstei villages had been different from life in those villages on the large estates. He was able to bring to us so much of the history of the area, the churches, the buildings and their construction and the way of life for the people. Today, we visited the Probstei villages of Fiefbergen, Passade, Probsteierhagen, Prasdorf, Barsbek, Wisch, Stakendorf, Bendfeld, and Krummbek. We had a seafood lunch at an outdoor restaurant on the beach at Schönberger Strand. Outside of Probstei, we visited the village and church at Giekau. Giekau had been located on one of the large private estates and was populated by serfs from the estate. Our Probstei guide explained to us how the serfs were bound to the estate, lived in poverty, and were treated poorly by the estate owners. Traveling through the area, he pointed out several ancient burial mounds dating back more than 4000 years. He related that several dozens of these mounds have been identified in the area. After a very long, but fulfilling day he dropped us off at the hotel for a night of recovery.

*To be continued next issue...*

## ~ 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.

# Expanding the Hanseatic League

~ By Hans-Werner Hamann



## Brygge, Norway

Following the rebuilding of Lübeck in 1159 by Henry the Lion, the population centers of the North and Baltic Sea regions grew quickly. These people saw an improved climate, new agricultural systems such as the three-field system, and periods of extended peace with the Vikings and the Hungarians. Of course, with peace and growing economies came competing political seats and piracy.

All these merchants saw increased demand for their trade goods, and trade goods need safe harbors, steady prices, and safe shipping routes on both land and sea. So, the Hanseatic League was formed. Not that they called themselves such, it was a union of merchants, guilds, and later stalls that formed themselves into a commercial and defensive confederation. They organized themselves within large merchant houses that became known as Kontors but also Stahlhofs

*Hanse* in Old High German meant band or troop and in Middle Low German it meant a society of merchants or guild.

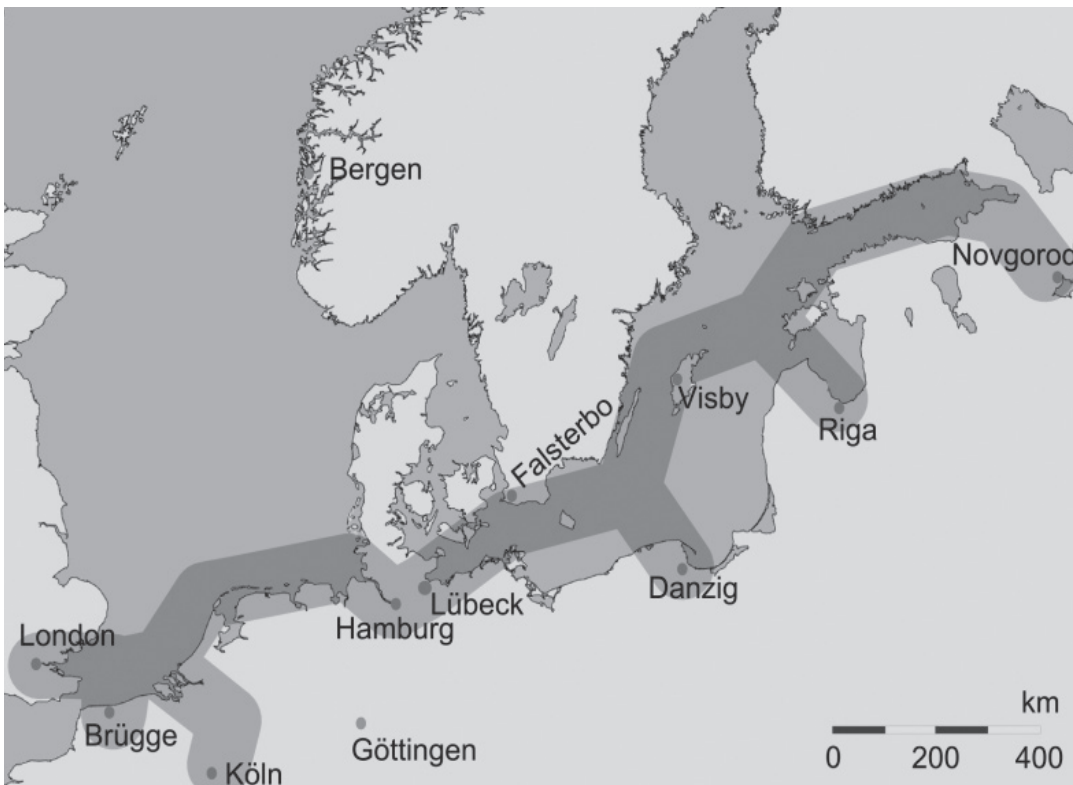
The core of the league was formed from seventy-two cities that later encompassed 130 other associated cities. The first mention of the name “*mercatores de hansa Alemanie*” dates back to 1182.

Later four offices and numerous other branches were opened, which were called factories. How did the offices come about? Trade between Lübeck and Sweden has existed since the city of Lübeck was founded, because in 1173 you can already find inter-governmental agreements. The trade (especially in iron and copper) only took place in summer, but German merchants often sat out the winter in Sweden, the so-called winter seater.

Norwegian cities had been trading for a long

time, but it was not until the beginning of the 13th century that Bergen became a trading center. Above all, grain was exchanged for stockfish. The Hanseatic office in Bergen was the smallest of the four offices, it was the only one that was continuously attached to Lübeck.

A connection to Novgorod was established in summer via the Baltic Sea. During the winter, the merchants stayed on Gotland Island. At the end of the 12th century, Low German merchants had already traveled to Pleskau on sleds from the mouth

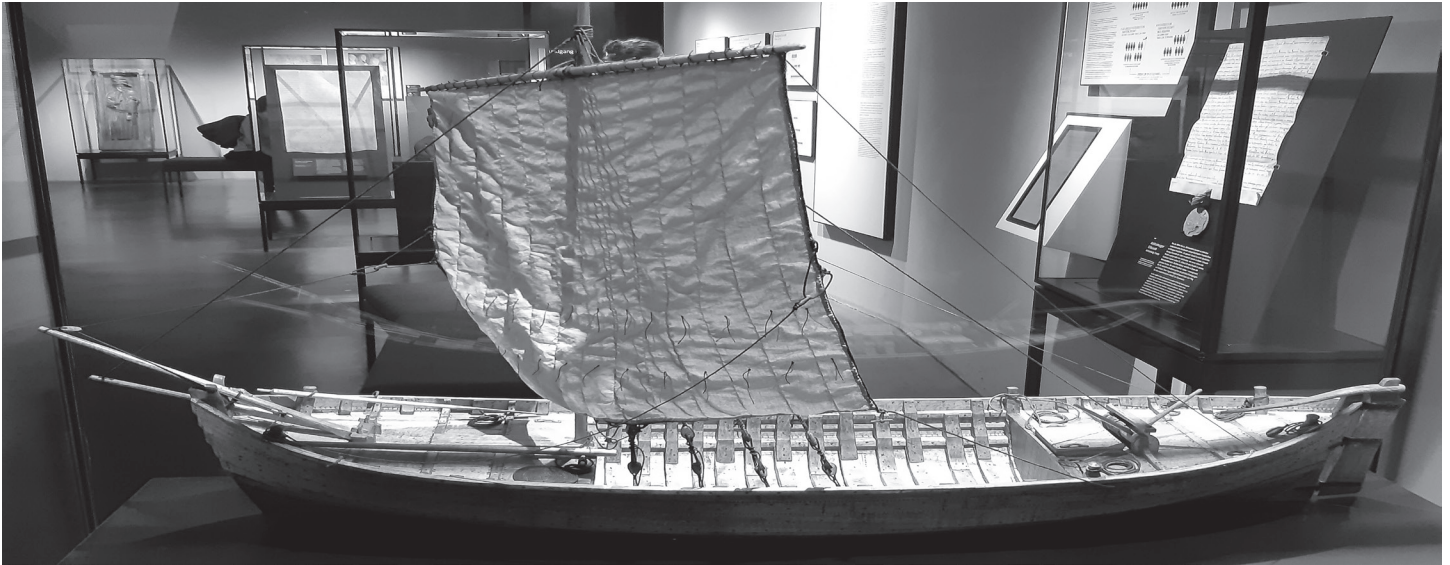


*The reach of the Hanseatic League*



# Expanding the Hanseatic League

~ Continued from previous page



*Model of ship at Hanse Museum Lübeck*

of the Dunes. The trade route to Novgorod was probably developed from here, the importance of which is confirmed as early as 1191 by the first trade agreement with the Principality of Volschow with German merchants.

After the trading area over the Baltic Sea was covered, the North Sea area had to be integrated into the Hanseatic League. The proximity of the Rhineland and the incomparable role that Bruges played in the history of the Hanseatic League also explained the activity of Flemish merchants in Cologne and Bremen and Hamburg to Saxony via the Elbe River. As such, Bruges became the most important trading and financial center in Europe.

Trade with Norway brought trade from England. The London Stalhof is directly connected to the Cologne guild hall for the exchange of wine, cloth, and grain.

The large trading branches of the Hanseatic League abroad were called Kontors. They formed the cornerstone of the Hanseatic trade. These were the Stalhof in London, the Peterhof in Novgorod, the Kontor in Bruges and the German Bridge in Bergen. There were larger numbers of smaller trading bases; they were called factories.

Interestingly enough, the word Kontor originally comes from the French “comptoir” and means something like pay table. In Low German the word became “Compter” and is still used today as “Account” in German as Konto. It is where we get the English word comptroller.

We once again find the foundations of our modern and global world within the history of Schleswig-Holstein.



*Lübeck as Hanseatic city*

# Crosses of Distinction

~ By Daniel W. Holst

## Chapter Eleven "The Request"

A hand emerged from beneath the blanket. Dark stains coalesced of dirt, blood, and gunpowder bled out from the fingers across the hands. Each finger strained to uncurl, to straighten and reach for help, but whether through fever, injury, or exhaustion, they remained curled, not unlike at the onset of rigor mortis.

The hand again tried to reach outwards. This time gathering strength from a few quick but short breaths. It reached outwards and fully shed the blanket revealing an arm wrapped in bandages. It reached for the nearest person. It found someone's waist.

Adamina turned and saw the hand resting upon her waist. She looked at it and gently cradled it in her hands. She then knelt down next to the man and placed his hand back under the covers. She took a damp cloth and wiped away the sweat from the man's face. But all she could see was his eyes. His gaze mesmerized her with its utter forlornity. She couldn't turn away. She met his gaze and stayed there.

He looked deeply at her and after a few breaths slowly muttered, "*Lalla, mademoiselle.*"

She placed her own hands on the blanket over his hand. "Yes, I'm here."

He looked at her again, this time a tear prefaced the next utterance. "*Yammasse.*"

She understood tears, but the language was unknown. She responded with a gentle smile and then in one motion dabbed away his tears and cradled his head with the moist cloth. Adamina stayed right there hoping the man would fall asleep. Her mom had done this many times to her. She remembered that last day with her mom.

*"Mom, I want to be a nurse."*

*"Good, sweetheart."*

*"I'm going to leave with the Prussian Army today and learn nursing."*

*Tikva dropped everything she was using to make supper. A pot clanged onto the floor. She turned around and faced her daughter directly. Her face was red in shock. "No. We came here for safety. I'm not letting you go. You can't leave."*

*This was the moment that Adamina had ex-*

*pected. She had prepared for this but found her courage faltering. She rubbed her clammy hands on her clothes and took in several deep breaths to regain some calm. "Mom, I stood paralyzed in fear while that mob killed Dad. How can I stand silent now? Should I be a coward just because its war? If I can help, shouldn't I help." She looked at her mom through flowing tears. But kept her composure. "Dad always encouraged me to get involved, to help. Do you want me to betray him, to become like those who let him die?"*

*She saw her mom stand tall even though they stood identical. Her mom cried and through it her scowl was washed away in favor of a slight smile. Slight, but still a smile. She felt her mom's arms reach forward and draw in Adamina. As her mom opened her mouth, Adamina felt terrified. Terrified not that she would refuse her request but because she would let her go.*

*"Mom, I'm scared."*

*"Dawud taught us both well. Me, to raise a strong, determined daughter. You, to be strong and determined. To not let fear hold you back, to love others. Take his sacrifice for you and be him. Take my love and help others. Now, are you sure?"*

*"Yes, Eema."*

"Don't help him," said a voice behind her. "Take him out and dump him in a ditch. Let him die there."

Adamina stood, turned around, and looked at the elder doctor, "Sir?"

"He is a *Schwarzen*, dark French Berbers. They shoot the wounded, maim our boys they capture, and deface our dead. They are animals."

A lieutenant walked up behind the doctor. Adamina saw from his uniform and insignia that he was a dragoon. He first looked at the doctor. "I've heard that Captain Girl has reorganized loose soldiers into squads to hunt and exterminate the *Schwarzen*."

"Good. Put this one down first." The doctor grabbed Adamina's arm and pulled her away. "Go back and help our boys." He gritted his teeth in firm anger and spoke directly at Adamina, "Now."

The lieutenant stepped between the doctor and Adamina. "Come young *fräulein*, I'll take you over to some of my boys."



# Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

“But what about that, that other man?”

“Don’t worry about him. He is dying, but he will die peacefully, like a man. I promise you that.”

“Thank you.”

After they had walked outside and were between the hospital tents, he abruptly stopped and looked around to make sure they were out of anyone’s ear-shot. He looked carefully at Adamina. “I need a favor, but I need a promise first.”

Adamina just stood there inquisitively.

“I need you to save lives.”

“Isn’t that—”

“What you do, yes. But this is different. Before I explain, you must promise you’ll help me.”

“If it means to save lives, then yes.”

“It does.”

“Okay.”

“One of my boys is a young dragoon named Hansi. I need you to save his life by keeping him here, find some reason to keep him from fighting. Keep him sick if you can.”

“Why me? Why him?”

“I can’t ask a regular nurse or doctor because it would violate their oath both to the sick and to Germany, but you have sworn to neither. You must do this. Hansi is a great Dragoon, but he is wild, reckless, a risk taker that inspires my troops to follow his lead. He charged into a full enemy regiment in violation of orders. He killed several, but five others followed him, and they all died. If we had all followed our orders, we would have all lived. But he fights with an arrogant air of indestructible narcissism. My superiors just want results, dead Frenchmen, so they won’t help. They told me to handle it, so I am.”

“But what can I do?”

“Let me introduce him, come along.” He walked towards the tent, but Adamina had barely moved. He pleaded, “Please, *fräulein*.”

She walked up to him. “My name is Adamina, but I must ask, lieutenant, those...those *Schwarzen*, do they really do those terrible things?”

“Yes, Adamina. They are dangerous. They fight without honor.”

“Does Hansi fight without honor?”

It wasn’t a question the lieutenant expected. He was shocked that it came from such an innocent, but

obviously highly intelligent and very observant young lady. He thought for a moment before answering.

“Yes, but in a different way. He fights under a demon, one that desires his death.”

“Let me go in first. I’ll find you afterwards.”

The lieutenant quickly grinned at Adamina then turned his palm upwards and stretched out his arm towards the correct tent. He waited a few moments before entering the tent.

The lieutenant walked into the hospital tent. Every time he walked in, he felt inconsequential. Nurses and their aides attended the injured. Some were administering medicine. Others were changing bandages and wrappings. A few pushed some small tubs of soap and water and were cleaning their patients. The lieutenant wasn’t looking forward to this, but it was something he had to do. His soldiers needed to hear from him, to know they were still needed.

He saw Adamina using some rags to clean the patients. He ignored her for now. But walked over to a group of his dragoons that also included Hansi. He trusted that Adamina would make it over to his area.

“Look at you, boys. You are nothing but lazy Frenchmen, napping under a tree after lunch? Only babies cry at such small injuries.” He looked at one with a gunshot. “Did you fall off a tree, little boy. That’s barely a scratch.”

He saw that Adamina was moving in his direction.

“I suppose you all want your mothers. Do you want to be swaddled and fed.” He just shook his head in disgust. “Look at you my young dragoon.” He held his hand on that dragoon’s shoulder and glanced at Adamina and gave her a slight nod. “You think that spear impaled you. It was just a little poke. I expect all of you to get back in your saddles soon. Those you left behind can barely ride much less fight. Are you babies or are you men. For Prussia, For Germany. We need to fight. We will win.”

# Effects of Climate Change on Schleswig-Holstein

~ By Hans-Werner Hamann

Schleswig-Holstein cares deeply for its environment and reducing the effects of climate change for today and tomorrow. Those who live upon the North and Baltic Sea coasts have seen the greatest effects of climate change.

Compared to the beginning of the 20th century, temperatures in northern Germany have seen an annual mean increase of about 0.4 degrees Celsius. However, southern Germany has witnessed an annual mean increase of 1.2 degrees Celsius, three times that of the north. It is expected that the annual mean temperature in Schleswig-Holstein will rise by two to four degrees Celsius by the year 2100, just a couple of generations. In addition to strategies for reducing and avoiding greenhouse gas emissions, this also calls for adaptation measures to confront climate change.

Climate changes influence nature, the environment, and human spheres of activity. If you look about the period of the last thirty years, the effects of climate change have already become visible in Germany.

Due to the loss of mass in the glaciers and the thawing of the polar ice, the sea level has risen. We notice that Spring begins earlier in Schleswig-Holstein every year. With the expected changes in temperature and precipitation, further climatic consequences are already noticeable on the coasts and lead to short-term flooding on the coasts and rivers.

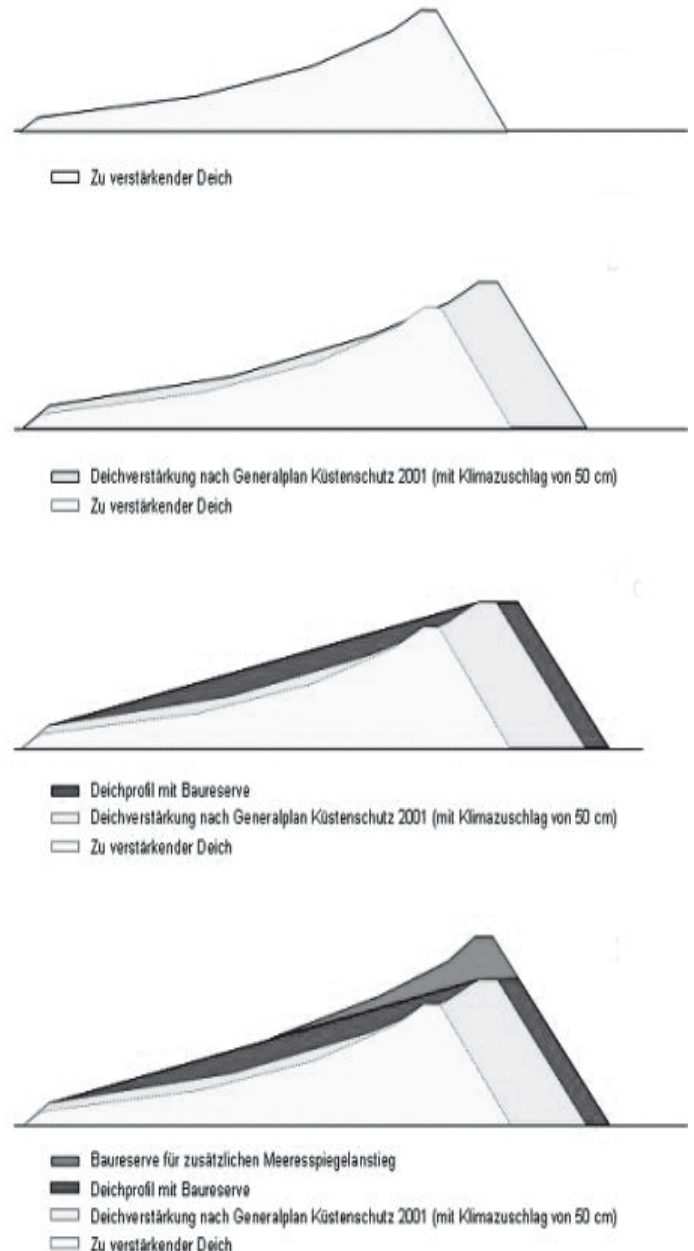
The rising sea level already requires a strong increase in all dikes along the seacoasts, especially on the North Sea. But the dikes also must be raised along the banks of rivers otherwise large parts of the west coast of Schleswig-Holstein could be flooded. The people there live partly below sea level.

In the first step (see adjacent figure), the dike must be raised by approximately 20 centimeters and also reinforced in order to then be able to increase it by a further 50 centimeters for the future which results in a total of one meter over the entire length of the dike.

Climate change will have consequences for many areas of life. Climate change is no longer just around the corner in Schleswig-Holstein. He is already standing in the woods and fields and putting on his slippers! Hot days and long dry periods increase the risk of forest fires or impair human health, not only here, but also at many places in the world. In the event of droughts, especially on lighter soils, climate fluctua-

tions could affect agriculture and short-term supplies for the inhabitants.

But there are also positive consequences of climate change, which we do not want to conceal. Higher and more reliable temperatures combined with changes in rainfall during summer could strengthen



*Schematic representation of dike expansion*

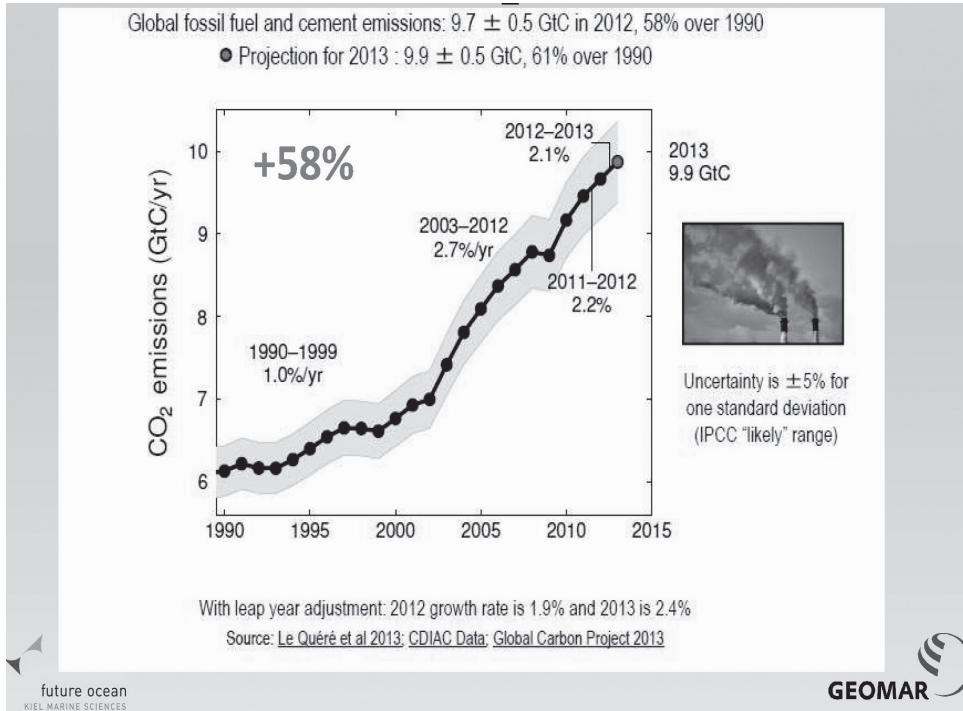
tourism in the northern coastal countries of Germany.

According to the report, the climate in Schleswig-Holstein has become warmer, by 1.3 degrees Celsius since 1881. The frost days are fewer and summer days



# Effects of Climate Change on Schleswig-Holstein

~ Continued from previous page

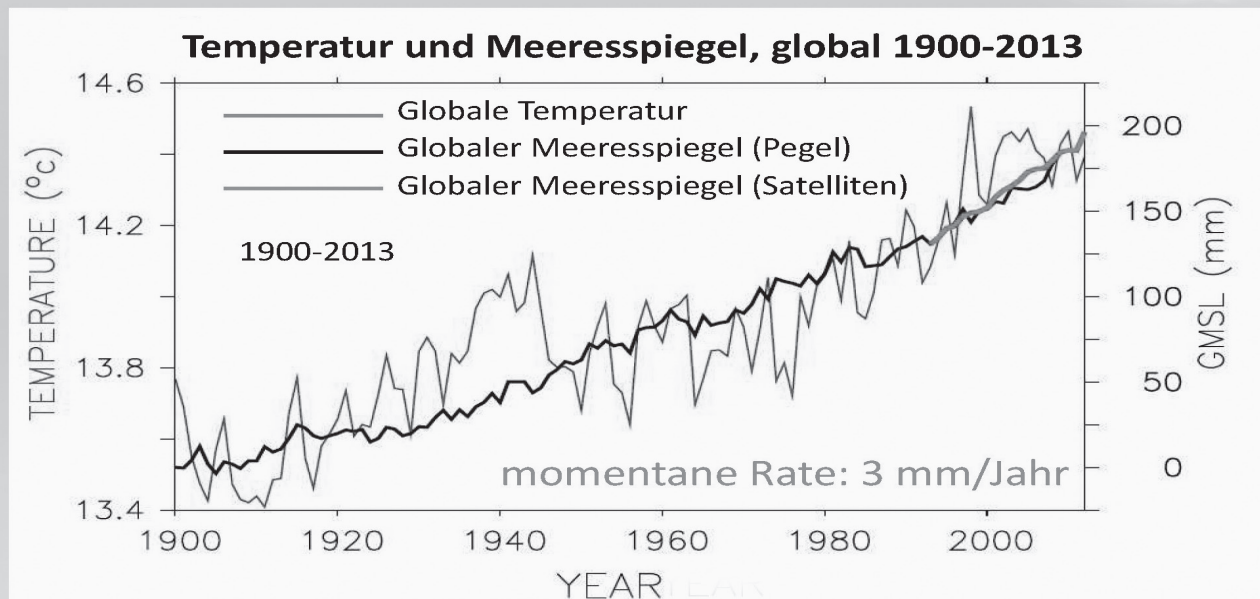


have increased. The number of summer days on average increased from 15 days in the period 1961 to 1990 to 20 days in the period 1981 to 2010.

At the same time, it got wetter in Schleswig-Holstein. In the years 1961 to 1990 the mean annual precipitation was 789 millimeters. In the period from 1981 to 2010 it was 823 millimeters, or 34 millimeters more. One millimeter corresponds to a rainfall of one liter per square meter.

Schleswig-Holstein loves our land, seas, and waterways. We want to ensure the vast beauty given to us remains available for the love of our children, their children, and the world.

## Temperature and sea level rise since 1880



## Sea level about 20cm rise since 1900

# Book Review: *Alfred & Agnes*

~ By Janice Danz

*Alfred & Agnes: The Story of my Immigrant Parents* by Frieda Fritz Stiehl is the story of her immigrant parents. It was enthusiastically recommended to me by relatives. Their story reads like a novel. It has its share of fulfillment and disappointment, opportunities and dead ends.

Alfred and Agnes' story is a very realistic tale of immigration to the US. Alfred was a southern German born in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Agnes was a northern German born in Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony). Her village is not far from Schleswig-Holstein. She spoke Plattduitsch (PlattDeutsch).

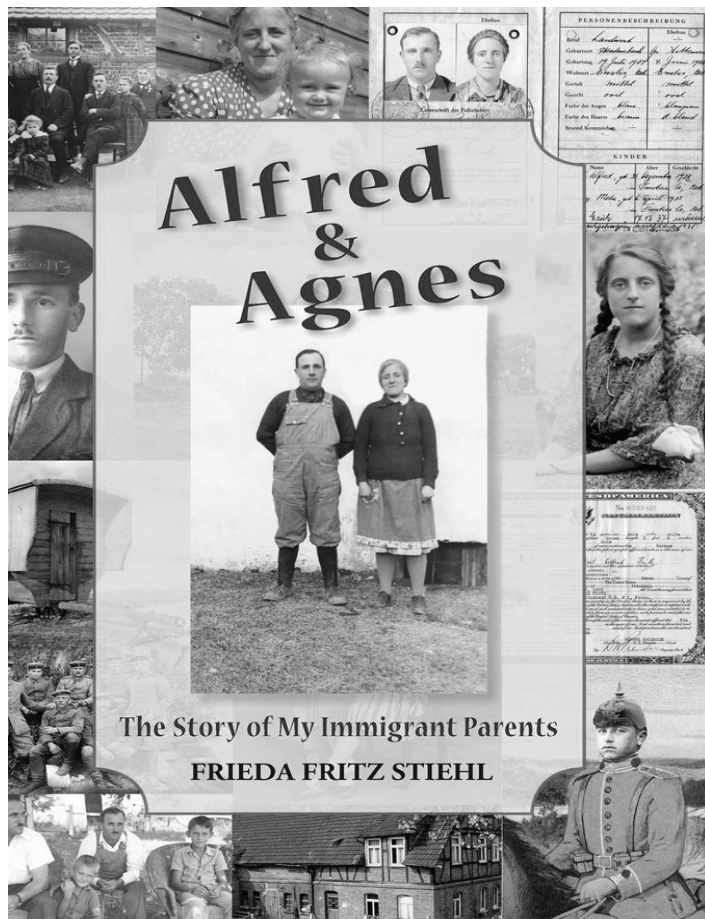
Alfred and Agnes did not come to the USA as a couple. They met in Nebraska after immigrating separately. After they married, they farmed as tenant farmers in South Nebraska. During their life together they would farm not only in Nebraska, but also in New Jersey, and finally settling on their own farm in Pennsylvania, after having returned to Germany for a couple of years.

Along with opportunities, there were challenges in the US. Exhausting work was their constant companion. Success was often accompanied with disappointment. Alfred was a driven and stubborn man, which led to conflicts with family and eventually some of his children. Agnes was a patient and long suffering farm wife and mother.

I enjoyed this book because the writer is brave enough to tell truthfully her family story—warts and all. There is a big cast of characters here, because like most immigrants, Alfred and Agnes had friends and relatives who had immigrated before them and some who followed them to the US. Their stories are also told.

Ms. Stiehl lived and studied in Germany for many years. Her knowledge of German culture and history enabled her to describe the conditions in Germany that led to her parents' immigration to the United States.

Like most genealogists, she visited many aging relatives both in the United States and Germany. Their memories were, of course, invaluable and very informative. She sought out local civil and church records to learn about births, deaths, contracts, divorces, etc. Her thorough research included cemetery visits and even telephone books. *Alfred & Agnes* also has a wealth of pictures—family, friends, homes, and farmsteads—in both Germany and the United States.



May I suggest if you decide to read *Alfred and Agnes* to start a list of names of the individuals. There are many and they come and go from the main story. *Alfred & Agnes* is available at the Blue Grass library. I purchased my copy through an online retailer.



# Great Gift Ideas

## Books

- Low German: Platt in America**  
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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 • Website: www.ashhs.org

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