the Arthur E. Flegel Genealogical Center

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WHEREAS, one of the goals of AHSGR is to discover and collect GENEALOGIES RELATING TO THE Germans from Russia; also to provide for the preservation of the genealogies so they may always be accessible to members, students and historians;

WHEREAS, most of the first genealogies were searched out and provided by Arthur E. Flegel, who also collected obituaries of such an extraordinary magnitude, wrote many articles on the Germans from Russia for Clues and the Journal, and was the driving force in the establishment of several chapter and the preservation of our heritage;

BE IT RESOLVED that the AHSGR area at headquarters where these materials are housed henceforth be known as the ARTHUR E. FLEGEL GENEALOGICAL CENTER.

Within the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia, the name Art Flegel is synonymous with genealogy. He had the foresight to establish a genealogical collection which became the envy of many other ethnically-oriented groups.

Very early in the history of AHSGR, Art had the idea of developing and maintaining obituary files as a way of sharing information on our Germans from Russia families. This collection was first used at the 1977 International Convention in San Francisco. Art developed a system of clipping obituaries from various sources, including the German language church papers, and pasting them on 5X8 cards, fully cross referenced and filed alphabetically. This procedure established, he developed the form for a family group sheet coordinated with a pedigree which was carefully coded to show family relationships. All are referenced to the individual’s research number published annually in Clues which became AHSGR’s annual genealogical issue.

Realizing the value of this collection, and guarding against possible loss, Art and Cleo Flegel undertook the financial responsibility of maintaining a full set of files at their home in Menlo Park, coordinating it with a set kept in Lincoln. This necessitated twice remodeling the Flegel home to keep up with the expanding files.

The Flegels generously made these files available to local researchers as well as many who travelled from afar.

Based on his friendship with Dr. Karl Stumpp, Art became aware of the extensive list of names and localities Stumpp had collected in his years of work with the German Army and in various German archives. Art took on the task of gathering funds which made possible the first publication of The Emigration from Germany to Russia in the Years 1763 op 1862. Art also worked with Dr. Stumpp to publish maps which were made available along with the research volume.