



Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center



Newsletter

Volume 26 Number 2

Spring 2010

IGHS President's Letter

Have you been wondering where to find Utopia? You just might find it in Historic New Harmony, site of our 26th Annual Meeting and Symposium. I invite all IGHS members to be there for food and fellowship, presentations on Indiana's German heritage, and guided tours of the town's historic sites.

Our meeting coincides with the Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, and IGHS members are welcome to participate in all SGAS-sponsored activities. The joint symposia will kick off at 9:00 AM on Friday, April 23, with a keynote address by noted New Harmony historian Donald E. Pitzer. There will be presentations all day on Friday, culminating with the IGHS Membership Meeting at 5:30 PM and a banquet at 6:30 PM in the beautifully restored Rapp-Owen Granary.

Saturday begins with a special session on "Historic German-American Preservation" sponsored by the IGHS and moderated by Giles Hoyt. Other IGHS members will share their knowledge of Indiana's German heritage throughout the day, and there will be scheduled tours of historic New Harmony. Be sure to walk the historic Labyrinth! More schedule details and the registration form can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

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MAKE IT A WEEKEND IN NEW HARMONY!

The IGHS 2010 Annual Meeting and Symposium will be held April 22-25 jointly with the Society of German-American Studies in Historic New Harmony, IN. Our Annual Meeting and dinner will take place Friday, April 23 in the restored Harmonist Granary, a massive sandstone, brick and wood structure, built by German immigrants.

New Harmony is the site of two of America's great utopian communities. The first, Harmonie on the Wabash (1814-1824), was founded by the Harmony Society, a group of Separatists from the German Lutheran Church. In 1814, led by their charismatic leader Johann Georg Rapp, they left their first American home, Harmonie, P A. Indiana's lower Wabash Valley on the western frontier gave them the opportunity to acquire a much larger tract of land. In 1825, the Harmonists moved back to Pennsylvania and built the town of Economy near Pittsburgh. Robert

Owen, Welsh-born industrialist and social philosopher, bought their Indiana town and the surrounding lands for his communitarian experiment.

The town is a vacationer's dream and a researcher's paradise, with 12 early 19th century buildings and 20 building from mid-19th century, a museum,

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*26th Annual Meeting
& Symposium*

*Indiana German Heritage
Society*



April 23-24, 2010

***New Harmony Inn
and Conference Center,
New Harmony, Indiana***

Letter - Continued from page 1.

New Harmony occupies a beautiful corner of Indiana, and late April should be a glorious time to be there. This is a great opportunity for our members in the southern part of the state—who may find it difficult to get to events in Indianapolis—to join us for our signature event. I hope to see you there.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Greg Redding

Weekend - Continued from page 1.

library, gallery and a theater. The New Harmony Inn with its Conference Center, a unique assemblage of contemporary buildings within the context of the historic community, offers the comforts of city-living in a rural setting. Visitors from all over the world come to experience New Harmony's legacy of creative endeavor which has spanned almost 200 years. They discover a distinctive small town, where the simple wooden structures of the Harmonists, blend with modern architectural masterpieces on quiet tree-lined streets.

The restored Harmonist Granary represents a rare rural architectural structure from the 1800s and is the largest granary of its type built by German craftsmen in the United States. Over the years, the Granary had many uses. It served as a laboratory for the first state geologist, David Dale Owens from 1843 to 1859. He installed large windows and high ceilings on the second level. In 1878 the top two stories and the interior were destroyed by fire. In 1948 the Granary was purchased by Kenneth Dale Owen, geologist by profession and a descendant of David Dale Owens's brother Richard. In 1997/99 through the initiative of Jane Blaffer Owen and Kenneth D. Owen, with the generous support of numerous donors the massive structure was restored. This "modern" structure currently serves many purposes, and has been called a world class facility.

For more information on Historic New Harmony go to <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade/> and then German-American Sites

IGHS RENEWAL NOTICE

Dear Loyal Friends and Supporters:

It is time to renew. The membership year runs concurrent with the calendar year. Check the newsletter label for your expiration date. Please use the online renewal forms at <http://www.ighs.org>. If we do not need to send you a notice, it saves IGHS money and time. Also report any change of address or e-mail so we can update our records. If you already renewed, thank you.

Your membership helps the Society to achieve its mission of collecting, preserving, interpreting and sharing Indiana's German-American history and heritage. As a not-for-profit membership organization, membership fees, donations and occasional grants provide the essential support for our activities and programs, our Newsletter.

Members receive discounts on our publications and discounts on other publications, including *German Life* magazine - a form to subscribe at the reduced rate can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Information on IGHS, including a membership form and publications list can be found at <http://www.ighs.org>. IGHS is connected to the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center. See <http://www.ulib.iupui.edu/kade> for links - If you click on German sites, and then on Indiana you will find some interesting items about the early Germans and German-Americans.

The Membership Committee:

Louise Lamkin, Ruth Reichmann, Lore Harle


<p align="center">Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter</p>
<p>The Indiana German Heritage Society was founded in 1984 as a statewide historical and educational membership organization aimed at preserving and celebrating Indiana's German Heritage. The Society is headed by a volunteer board of directors, it is a non-profit organization and qualifies for tax-deductible donations.</p>
<p>The IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center provides support to maintain an interdisciplinary research center for German-American Studies. Its mission is to support this field through research into German-American history and heritage with primary emphasis on Indianapolis and the Hoosier State, and through teaching and service.</p>
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The Hoosier German-American of the Year Award is bestowed annually upon the Hoosier German-American who has made significant contributions and showed commitment and leadership in the preservation and promotion of Indiana's German heritage.

Nominator Information:

IGHS Member Name: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Nominee Information:

Name: _____

Your Relationship to the Nominee: _____

Please list reasons why you believe this person should be chosen to receive this prestigious award:

Please send us your nomination with the requested information along with your name, address, telephone number, and email address to the following address:

Indiana German Heritage Society
Chairperson, Awards Committee
401 E. Michigan Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204
Or Email your nomination to:
GRIESEMER_BRIAN_PATRICK@lilly.com



KEY DATES AND TIMES for the IGHS SYMPOSIUM



FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Official start of SGAS Symposium:

- 9:00 AM: Keynote address by Dr. Donald Pitzer
- 10:00 AM to 5:30 PM: Presentations on German-American topics throughout the day

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS BY IGHS MEMBERS

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: **Somewhere in Southern Indiana: Poetry of Norbert Krapf**

- J. Gregory Redding, Wabash College. *Spirit of Place, Language of Place: Norbert Krapf's Genius loci*
- Norbert Krapf, Indiana Poet Laureate. *Poetry and Memoir Reading: Selections from The Ripest Moments, Bloodroot, and Sweet Sister Moon*

Official start of IGHS-sponsored activities:

- 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM: IGHS Annual Membership Meeting
- 6:30-8:30 PM: IGHS/SGAS Banquet and awards presentations

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM: Presentations on German-American topics throughout the day

FEATURED PRESENTATIONS BY IGHS MEMBERS

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM: **Historic German-American Preservation**

- Emilie Eggemeier. *From Germany to America: A Comparative Study of German Vernacular Architecture in Small Midwestern Towns (Mayestown IL and Hermann MO)*
- William L. Selm. *The Lorenz Schmidt House in Indianapolis*
- Michael A. Peake. *Preserving the Indiana 32nd "German" Infantry Monument*

10:30 AM – 12:00 PM: **Religion and Cultural Maintenance**

- Heiko Mühr, Indiana University. *Hoosier Faiths, Hoosier Communities: Ethnicity and Religion in Dubois County Oral History Interviews*

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: **Linguistic Communities**

- Daniel Nuetzel, IUPUI. *An Atypical Case of Language Death: Haysville East Franconian*
- Guided walking tours of Historic New Harmony scheduled throughout the day

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

- No official conference events. Recommended itineraries available for guests who wish to visit nearby German-American heritage sites.

SISTER CITY NEWS

Indianapolis-Cologne

2009 proved to be quite exciting for our Sister City relationship with Cologne, beginning with the Karneval at the Athenaeum. One wonderful way to celebrate our close relationship with Germany was a trip to Cologne by Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard. The Mayor and his delegation met with the newly elected Mayor of Cologne, Mr. Jürgen Roters, and economic development, trade fair and energy company representatives. In September a group of students and faculty from the Indiana University School of Social Work participated in a conference on volunteerism in Cologne, and Dr. Michael Urselmann from the University of Applied Science in Cologne and his wife visited with researchers at the IU Center of Philanthropy.

We also co-sponsored a number of events promoting the German-American Friendship, including the thought-provoking exhibit at the Indiana War Memorial honoring the 60th Anniversary of the Berlin Airlift and a number of "Freedom Without Walls" events celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the "Fall of the Berlin Wall". Sister City Committee member David Grider is working on a firefighter exchange for next summer between Indianapolis and Cologne.

We will welcome Mr. Uwe Siemons, a fire fighter from our sister city on a cultural exchange between the Cologne Fire Brigade and the Indianapolis Fire Department. Mr. Siemons will arrive on June 9, 2010 in our city and will return to Cologne on July 7, 2010. During his stay, we are looking for host families that would like to invite Mr. Siemons to their homes. Mr. Siemons' stay in Indianapolis has been split into four one week stays with families in the Indianapolis area.

We are looking for your assistance with the following home stay dates: June 16 to June 23; June 23 to June 30; and July 1 through July 7, 2010

Please contact David Grider [dgrider@sbcglobal.net] or Sven Schumacher sschumacher@lutheranfamily.org if you are interested in providing a free home stay for Mr. Siemons.

Finally, in October there will be a trip to Indianapolis' Sister City Cologne and tour of former East Germany. For info Indianapolis Cologne Sister City Committee and Grueninger Tours see http://www.ambasadair.com/view_trip_detail.cfm?id=6527

Sven Schumacher



INAUGURAL SANKT NIKOLAUS 5K RACE A SUCCESS

On December 5, 2009 the Indiana German Heritage Society and the Athenaeum Foundation sponsored the inaugural Sankt Nikolaus 5K race that began and ended at the Athenaeum/Das Deutsche Haus. The inaugural 5K race went through the historic Lockerbie and Woodruff Place neighborhoods and had over 250 participants.

The proceeds from the event totaling \$1,500 was donated to Indianapolis' Lutherwood Child and Family Services, which provides residential treatment for abused and/or neglected children.

Many thanks go to our primary sponsors: Keramida, Inc.; a Global Environmental, Health, Safety, and Sustainability consulting firm, the Sallie and John D. Gould Jr., Family Fund and the German Embassy located in Washington, D.C. for their

promotion of the Freedom Without Walls program. In addition, we would like to thank the many volunteers that included; but, not limited to the Wabash College, Butler University, and Roncalli High School German Klubs, and Lutherwood Child and Family Services. Special thanks go out to IGHS members Greg Redding, Fred Yaniga, Jim Gould, Dan Nützel, Claudia Grossman, Mitch Vogel, Keith Osburn, and Boyd Obermeyer.

We are looking forward to a larger participation in 2010 based upon the enthusiastic community support. The 2nd annual Sankt Nikolaus Lauf is scheduled for December 4, 2010 and will again begin at the Athenaeum/Das Deutsche Haus.

For 2010 sponsorship inquiries and race details please visit <http://www.stniklauf.com> or contact Brian Griesemer at brian.griesemer@stniklauf.com.

OLDENBURG REPLACES FAMED ONION DOME STEEPLE

The Oldenburg Preservation Association in conjunction with Oldenburg Holy Family Parish resurrected one of the town's most unique Germanic landmarks, the Onion Dome church steeple.



The Onion Dome (Zwiebelturm) originally graced Oldenburg's historic skyline and helped earn the town its nickname as the "*Village of Spires*." For over a hundred years the steeple had adorned the top of the historic "Old Stone

Church," home to Oldenburg's Franciscan Friars, until it fell into disrepair and was removed in 1949.

Several years ago a group of town volunteers embarked on a mission to return a replica of the original Onion Dome steeple to the Oldenburg skyline. Monies for the replacement of the Onion Dome came from "Return the Dome" fund raising events, parishioner donations, and outside benefactors of Oldenburg. The largest portion of project funding has come from the efforts of the town's volunteers who host the "Oldenburg Freudenfest" (the town's annual German festival).

Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Indianapolis Historian (and IGHS member) Bill Selm offered advice on how to construct a new respectful reproduction of the original.

Campbellsville Industries of Kentucky was hired to fabricate the new dome which was installed on the tower on Wednesday, February 3rd. Father David Koback blessed the steeple before a giant crane hoisted it atop the Old Stone Church, completing a long awaited dream of many Oldenburg supporters.

Project organizer Jeff Paul stated, "After 61 years the dome is returning back to the Oldenburg skyline. This is an accomplishment that many people contributed to and everyone in town can be proud of!" A formal dedication ceremony to commemorate the Onion Dome as a symbol of Oldenburg's German heritage and Catholic faith is being planned for sometime later this year.

Oldenburg, Indiana is located in Southeastern Indiana, off of Interstate 74 and S.R. 229. Founded in 1837 it is called the "Village of Spires" because of its churches and religious educational institutions. The town proudly preserves its religious, cultural, and architectural heritage. The old stone and brick structures, clapboard houses, tin facades, German street signs, attest to the Old World influence. The town was founded in 1837 and 1851 became an important center for German Franciscan Catholic education.

HONORING RURAL PRESERVATION



On Farmer's Day (August 19) at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis, the Sisters of St. Francis in Oldenburg received the 2009

John Arnold Rural Preservation Award from Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and the Indiana Farm Bureau. The award recognizes farmers who combine progressive agricultural practices with respect for the historic structures of the rural landscape.

The religiously-based ethic of the Sisters of St. Francis makes them outstanding preservationists of the many historic structures at the 300-acre Michaela Farm, owned by the Catholic order since 1854. Historic structures are central to the operation of the farm, originally purchased to provide sustenance to the order's Motherhouse and boarding school.

A 1909 L-shaped brick bank barn anchors farming operations. Once home to 200 dairy cows, today the landmark provides storage for hay and straw, room for processing and storing food from the garden. In winter, the barn houses a herd of beefalo. In the past couple of years, the Sisters adhered to preservation standards in a major renovation of the barn. They celebrated the landmark's 100th birthday by raising money for forward-looking investments in solar and alternative energy sources for the farm.

The nuns also maintain two brick farmhouses, one built in 1848 and another in 1865, as residential and office space. A c.1865 brick pump station houses volunteer farm hands and visitors. A 1906 reservoir provides water for irrigation and animals. The Sisters also maintain historic outbuildings,

including a livestock barn, chicken house, corn cribs, and machine sheds.

For more information The Sisters of St. Francis welcome visitors by appointment to see how they combine conservation, preservation, education and spirituality in their operation of Michaela Farm. They also welcome volunteers to perform farm work. To volunteer or arrange a visit, contact Sister Carolyn Hoff, the business manager (812.933.0661, <mailto:michaelafarm@seidata.com>). To learn more about the farm and its mission, visit <http://oldenburgfranciscans.org/farm.html>.

SAVED SO FAR - BOARD VOTES TO PROTECT HISTORIC GERMAN CHURCH: AN UPDATE

On February 3, the Metropolitan Development Commission has approved an emergency motion to protect St. John United Church of Christ, historically known as Deutsche Evangelische-St Johannes Kirche, located at the northeast corner of Washington Street and German Church Road.



The congregation had been working on plans to build a new church on Carroll Road and struck a deal to sell the old one to a developer who planned to demolish the building. But in October the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana applied to the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission seeking an emergency historic designation to save it. The Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission supported the request,

and sent it along to the MDC. There still is a risk the church could be torn down if members of the congregation are successful in a legal challenge.

In part inspired by the church controversy State Senator Patricia Miller, Indianapolis, introduced SB 177 to punish IHPC and strip the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission of much of its authority to regulate changes to structures in historic districts. The legislation, which had passed on a party-line vote in the Senate, would have added new "hardship" language to the statutes and allowed property owners to appeal IHPC decisions to the Metropolitan Development Commission or City-County Council.

Responding to an uproar from historic preservationists and neighborhood groups, Senator Miller agreed to put her bill on hold and agreed to appoint a summer committee to study potential changes to state codes governing historic preservation. The codes now require property owners to go to court if they can't find common ground with IHPC, a city division comprised of a nine-member board and a professional design and zoning review staff.

Neighborhood groups say the system is working to add value to historic areas, and point out the commission has denied only about 1 percent of cases since it was formed in 1967. They argue that giving property owners an appeal option would gut IHPC's authority to regulate historic districts by requiring property owners to work with commission staff on restoration efforts. Neighborhoods are only designated as historic after approval from more than 70 percent of an area's residents.

Miller said she just wants "fairness and a level playing field." She's talked with residents who think the applications for making changes to historic homes are too long, filing costs are too expensive

and it takes too long to get approval. She said the legislation was inspired by a handful of incidents including the experience of the congregation of St. John United Church of Christ. "I'm not anti-historic neighborhood or historic property by any stretch of the imagination,"

Miller said. "I just want fairness for individuals." Miller said the study committee, which should begin work in July, will take a broader look at historic codes in Marion County, taking into account testimony from historic groups and residents. She also wants to explore a mandatory disclosure to buyers of historic properties.

Marsh Davis, president of the Historic Landmarks Foundation, said he hopes the committee fosters a thoughtful dialogue on the value and vibrancy of historic neighborhoods. "The good news is we have an opportunity right now to not have to rush something through a short session, and really look at the issues," Davis said. "It's apparent from the questions that have come out there's a tremendous misunderstanding of how the IHPC operates. The fact we can now let the issue cool a bit and allow ample time for testimony on all sides will be very helpful to the process."

Our thanks go to IGHS board member Bill Selm who has represented us at the hearings, has followed the controversy, and kept us apprised of developments.

NCA SELECTS PERMANENT LOCATION FOR BLOEDNER MONUMENT

The National Cemetery Administration has selected the Frazier International History Museum in Louisville, Ky., as the new home of the Bloedner Monument, the nation's oldest Civil War memorial. It is dedicated to thirteen German immigrants of the 1st German, 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry, who

paid the ultimate price of their devotion to their adopted homeland.

VA historians, in collaboration with the Kentucky Heritage Council and Heritage Preservation Inc., selected the Frazier International Museum from three interested facilities in the state based on Civil War exhibit plans, controlled environment and security, financial stability, annual visitation and proximity to Cave Hill National Cemetery.

The Bloedner Monument was removed from Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville in December 2008 and relocated to a University of Louisville facility. While at the temporary facility, it was professionally treated by Conservation Solutions Inc. to arrest further damage.

A new version of the Bloedner Monument will be placed at Cave Hill National Cemetery in 2010. The base and die monument will echo the original with similar profile and dimensions. It will be made of Indiana limestone, the same material as the 1867 base of the original.

The inscription on the front of the monument will be the same German text as the original, including the ornamental relief of an eagle flanked by cannon and flags. The back of the monument will be inscribed with an English translation. The interpretive sign located nearby will be revised to explain the significance of the original memorial and indicate where it can be viewed.

Thanks to Michael Peake for this update. For the complete story see the last newsletter, Winter 2010, No. 1.

MAIBAUM DEDICATION

Sunday October 4th, a ceremony was held at the German-American Klub, Louisville, KY, to dedicate their new Maibaum. It stands once again

proudly overlooking the Clubhouse. The old one was worn out thanks to help from Mother Nature.

The new 36 ft. steel pole has crossbars every 3 feet, each dedicated to a city in a different region of Germany, specifically Munich, Bremen, Mainz (their sister city), Dresden, Berlin and Heidelberg. Atop the pole are the crossed flags of the USA and Germany, the German-American Klub shield and the logos of the Ladies Auxiliary and Germanic Heritage Auxiliary. At the bottom is the obligatory beer wagon.



President Jim Boeckmann officiated and speakers included Honorary Consul Mark Blackwell, Mainz Committee Co-Chairman Michael Boel, GACL Special Envoy Chuck Dietz and District Sangerbund President Paul Bockstege. Gerhard Erler provided musical entertainment and a great dinner was enjoyed by the over 160 contributors and supporters of the Maibaum project. The project was paid for by donations of members, Sister Cities of Louisville, and the Friendship Circle in Mainz.

A maypole is the pride of every town and village in Bavaria and is erected for May Day (May 1). The tradition dates back to the 16th or 17th century and became quite popular again in the 18th century. It symbolizes the independence, wealth, and strength of a town. In Indiana you can find a Maypole in Jasper near the City Hall, which was erected in honor of Jasper's sister city Pfaffenweiler.

If you would like to see this pole sometime, the German-American Klub is located at 1840 Lincoln Avenue in Louisville. (Lincoln Avenue runs parallel to the Watterson Expressway on the north side, just east of Poplar Level Road.)

AUF DEUTSCH!

AN DEN MAI *Overbeck/Mozart*

Komm lieber Mai
und mache die Bäume
wieder grün und lass
uns an dem Bache
die kleinen Veilchen blühen.

Wie möchten wir so gerne
ein Blümchen wiedersehen!
Ach lieber Mai wie gerne
einmal spazieren gehen.

FRÜHLINGS ANKUNFT *Volkswaise*

Alle Vögel sind schon da,
alle Vögel alle!
Welch ein Singen, Musizieren,
Pfeifen, Zwitschern, Tirilieren.
Frühling will nun einmarschieren,
kommt mit Sang und Schalle.

Wie sie alle lustig sind,
flink und froh sich regen!
Amsel, Drossel, Fink und Star,
Und die ganze Vogelschar
Wünscht dir ein frohes Jahr,
Lauter Heil und Segen.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY **ESSAY CONTEST** by Olivia Gutschell

What is heritage? According to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, heritage means "something transmitted by or acquired from a predecessor" this could be anything from a tradition to a gold ring. It varies among cultures and among families. But to me my

German heritage tells me who I am, and who I can become.

Two summers ago, as well as this summer, I ventured to Germany with a group of classmates. Of course, I knew that I was of German descent. Isn't everyone in Jasper? I also knew that I had distant relatives in Germany. I had a few goals for the trips: to speak better German, to establish friendships, and to visit my family. Naturally, my German was instantly improved just from being in an environment where German is spoken constantly. Goal one, accomplished. Goal two and three, however, came with more difficulty.

I was fortunate enough to get paired with four host sisters that I got along splendidly. But we had to work to get to know each other. Sometimes I would have to go out of my way to strike up a conversation that would engage both of us. It was not always comfortable, but it was worth it. I am currently in contact with all these girls, their friends, and two others that I have stayed with. Two of my "sisters", as we call each other, live in our sister city, Pfaffenweiler. Being in Pfaffenweiler and getting to know local teenagers through these two girls made me realize how much has not changed across cultures through time. I, as an American, could easily camouflage myself as a German teenager in Pfaffenweiler. Yes, there may be slight variations, but the German youth of Pfaffenweiler is much like the American youth of Jasper. We play video games, play music, go to sporting events, and hang out with friends. Also laughter is universal.

These two Pfaffenweiler girls helped me realize that we are not so different. Maybe more importantly, they (along with my dad) arranged for me to meet my distant cousins. I am related to several people in Pfaffenweiler, including the former mayor Fritz Gutschell. Although we are only distantly related, I was also at ease with my relatives. We had dinner together, and took day trips to the black Forest and

France. Fritz and his wife, Brigitte, took me to see my great-great-grandfather Andreas' stone water trough. This water trough is literally in somebody's backyard in Pfaffenweiler. It was surreal to see a piece of my history sitting in a foreign country in someone else's yard. My German relatives taught me that family, like friends, is the same across cultures.

My heritage starts with Andreas Gutsell's voyage across the Atlantic to start a better life in America. But it does not end with me. I intend to study my history more in depth and continue to build my relationships with my wonderful German "sisters." Then I too will have a heritage to pass on to generations.

Olivia Gutsell is one of four winners of the Jasper 2009 German-American Day Essay Contest and was awarded a \$250 scholarship from The German-American Bank. She is the daughter of Jim and Louise Gutsell and attends Jasper High School.

HOW I FOUND MY GERMAN RELATIVES

By Boyd Obermeyer

It all began at the 2008 annual meeting of the Indiana German Heritage Society. The last item on the agenda was a panel discussion of what was going on around the state by other organizations. Gaby Botts told of the sister school affiliation that exists between Goshen High School and the Max Planck Gymnasium in Bielefeld, Germany. I knew that my maternal great-grandparents had emigrated from Broenningshausen; a small village near Bielefeld, so I thought this might be a way for me to contact someone living in the area. Gaby gave me the name of the principal of Max Planck Gymnasium, Ms Gisela von Alven. I sent her a letter asking if she knew of anyone in the area who

might be doing genealogy research for Americans hoping to connect with their German relatives.

Shortly after school started in September in Germany, I received an email from two high school girls saying Ms von Alven had read my letter in her history class and they had volunteered to help me find my relatives. They went to the Stadtarchiv und Landesgeschichtliche Bibliothek Bielefeld and explained why they were conducting the search to the chief archivist, Dr. Jochen Rath. They were able to find the emigration document describing my great-grandparent's departure from Germany in 1854. I knew when they left, so this confirmed information that had been passed down through the family. Dr. Rath suggested to the girls that the story should appear in the local newspapers to see if someone would respond as the document mentioned where my great-grandfather had lived. The story, with photos of the girls, appeared in two newspapers, Westfalen-Blatt and Neue Westfalische.

The very next day a man called to say that his last name was Schlichting (the surname in question) and had lived in the house described in the newspaper article. The girls met with Friedrich Wilhelm Schlichting (he shares the same name as my great-grandfather) and confirmed that he is indeed my relative. Although he doesn't know English and I don't know much German we have been able to communicate through his grown daughter. I have been told the house is to be demolished in the spring of 2010 to make way for a highway so if I am to see the house I must make my trip soon.



The students' names are Natalie Nonnengiesser and Adriane Gonzalez, and are both seventeen years old.

This was not an activity for which they would receive school credit so it was truly an act of altruism. We exchanged many emails during this adventure and their enthusiasm was always evident. I hope I will be able to make the trip next year so I can meet and thank the girls in person before they graduate and perhaps leave the area.

This wonderful series of gracious acts suggests we should always be alert for any unexpected connection that might help with our genealogy research.

A VISIT TO THE BERLIN AIRLIFT MEMORIAL

by Louise Theilig Lamkin

During October 2009, my husband, Jerry Lamkin and I were on Holiday in Berlin. One of our primary destinations was Tempelhof Airport, the location of the famous "Berlin Airlift." As Jerry and I got off of the U-Bahn we saw the billboard welcoming us to Tempelhof.

After World War II, the Allied powers divided the defeated Germany into four occupation zones. The United States, the Soviet Union, Great Britain and France each occupied a part of Western Germany. The capital city, Berlin, was also administered jointly by the Allied powers even though it was situated in the middle of the Soviet zone.

On June 24, 1948, in an attempt to drive the Western Allies out of the city and its occupation zone, the Soviet Union began a blockade of the land and waterways to Berlin. In response the Allies took to the skies and supplied the more than 2.2 million people in the Western sectors with about 13,000 tons of goods daily. From June 24, 1948 until May 12, 1949 the Airlift brought help in a never-ending "conveyor belt" of airplanes, landing through storms, sleet and snow.

We had just seen the 60th anniversary exhibit about the Berlin Airlift and we had read about it. Our grandchildren were intrigued by the story of the "Candy Bomber." We wanted to go to the memorial to pay our respects for the four Hoosiers who had died during this effort. Jerry has been a member of the American Legion for 43 years.

As we approached the magnificent Luftbrücke Denkmal we were filled with pride about the role of the United States in aiding the families of our former enemies. The monument was to signify the outstanding effort by the British, the French, and the Americans, combined with the perseverance of the citizens of Berlin.

In almost 300,000 flights, only 22 accidents happened, with the tragic deaths of 41 Britons, 6 Germans, and 31 Americans, including our four from Indiana. As we approached the base of the monument-with the names of these 78, who gave their lives for this humanitarian endeavor, it became very personal. Four of our Indiana families had made the supreme sacrifice to feed, clothe and care for the needs of our former enemies!

We had taken with us an Indiana Flag, and the booklet "The Berlin Airlift, a Legacy of



Friendship" published for "Friends Always" exhibit by the University Library of Columbus and the Indiana German Heritage Society. I felt the tears in my eyes as I placed a flag and copy of the booklet at the names of four of our Indiana heroes who died in the effort:

- T/Sgt Herbert Heining, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- 1st Lt. Robert Weaver, Fort Wayne, Indiana
- Sgt. Bernard Watkins, Lafayette, Indiana.
- AD3 Harry Crites Jr., Lafayette, Indiana.

As we left the memorial we encountered a local woman who directed us to a shop with memorabilia of the Berlin Airlift. Then she spoke with emotion of what the American assistance meant to her and her family. She did not want to see the Tempelhof Airport closed and the land used for other commercial purposes. Leaving the hallowed ground we felt honored to represent the people of Indiana; the families of these heroes. It was a privilege to be on this soil where this great humanitarian event took place.

THE VARUSSCHLACHT AND BEER

By Nick Selm



One night, while in college, I stared into the amber abyss of a pint glass perched on a narrow bar in front of me. Somewhere, in the soothing swirls of fermented starches, a question began to formulate in my head. I was certainly not the first to enjoy the

beverage known as beer, nor the first to feel its affects, but the warm German blood in my veins seemed to react in a special way to the alcohol molecules. This ancient beverage meant much more to me as a German (-American) than just a social lubricant or a celebratory libation. Why was beer so important to (and symbolic of) Germanic culture and why did it taste so good to me?

The answer lies partially in a battle that happened 2000 years ago in a boggy forest in Lower Saxony. It was a battle that marked a turning point for the Roman Empire as well as for alcohol aficionados around the world. The battle is known as *Varusschlacht*. While the true site of the battle has only recently been discovered (in 1987 by retired

British Army Major Tony Clunn), the battle has remained a point of pride in the collective conscience of Germanic people (the writings of Roman historian Tacitus and from the Roman artifacts found in the general area by farmers over the centuries) since it's bloody conclusion two millennia ago, last September.

The battle itself was immediately important because it launched a seven-year war between the (once unstoppable) Roman Empire and the wild Germanic tribes of the area named rightfully Germania. Prior to their disastrous encounter with the Cherusci and their crafty leader, Hermann (or Arminius to all you Romans out there), the Romans had subdued the Gauls of Iberia, France and Britain, the Phoenicians of North Africa and the freshly-holied Holy Land, the mighty Greeks of, you guessed it; Greece, not to mention dozens of other smaller tribes and civilizations around the Mediterranean world. For the first time in its history, someone stopped Rome from getting what it wanted.

Two summers ago, I had the opportunity to make a pilgrimage to the actual battle sight, near Osnabruck in Lower Saxony. After taking a taxi to the site from the train station at Bram she, I paid my admission fee and wandered the sacred site. A series of metal plaques in the ground allowed me to re-trace the Roman disaster march to the reconstructed Cherusci defenses. The museum at the site was small, but impressive, containing various Roman artifacts found in the area. After absorbing the energy of the site, I made my way to the restaurant attached to the museum and leisurely sipped a half-dozen beers to commemorate Hermann's massive victory; one that drew the lines between beer and wine cultures along the Rhine. Still today, it is the former Roman territories that are best known for their wines and Germanic lands that have produced the best beers.

As we advance into the 2001st year of Hermann's victory, I highly recommend planning a pilgrimage of your own to the site if time and money permit. If a trip to the *Vaterland* isn't in the cards, then perhaps a trip to New Ulm, MN or Hermann, MO would be a nice compromise. Both towns have statues of Hermann himself (modeled after the original *denkmal* in the Teutoburg Forest) to commemorate the victory. So, the next time you sit back and enjoy a "cold one", remember Hermann and his monumental victory and hoist your *krug* in the air in his honor because if it weren't for him, we'd all just be sipping wine...



Indiana's State Food -

What Is it?



**a Tenderloin
or
a Schnitzel?**

Das Schmeckt!

THE HOOSIER-GERMAN HERITAGE COOKBOOK

As the IGHS is constantly pointing out, Indiana was settled for the most part by Germans. Our State's history has many links going directly back to the Fatherland from centuries past and more recently. Nowhere is this link more evident than in the foods that are popular around the state. Take for example, the unofficial state food, the Indiana pork tenderloin. After all, what is fried tenderloin but a local version of the German Schnitzel?

Do you remember the taste of your mother's Apfel Pfannekuchen, or perhaps the careful way your Opa crafted Blutwurst for your family? If so, please tell us about it.

Send us your recipes so that the IGHS can capture the stories of the foods that have made the journey from the German-speaking lands to Indiana, and the transition from *Deutsch* to *Hoosier*.

More importantly send us the stories of your families as they relate to these foods. We plan to collect these recipes together and publish them in the *Hoosier-German Heritage Cookbook* some time in 2011.

Send your stories and recipes to:

Steven J. Schmidt,
IGHS / ULC
4555 Central, LC1603
Columbus, IN 47203

or email them to:
schmidt@iupuc.edu.

INDIANA GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CALENDAR

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 14: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *The Wonderful World of German Breads and Pastries*. Jeanette Footman and Alice Matsuo will take you to Germany, land of breads and pastries. After a brief introduction into the history and a slide show, there will be a sampling.

Berlin-born Jeanette, known to many IGHS members, since she is active and serves on the board, and Alice, German-trained Artisan bread baker, met in October 2008 @ Perk Up Cafe. This perfect union resulted in them becoming friends and business partners and starting Brotgarten, specializing in German Artisan breads and pastries.

Since August 2009 they have become co-owners in Perk Up, a coffee shop in Broad Ripple at 6536 Cornell Ave, Indpls. (Tel.251-0033) where all coffee beans are roasted in-house and where breads & pastries are freshly baked and sold.

Wednesday, May 12: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *Maifest & Weinprobe*. Ruth Reichmann will give a presentation on Bavarian May Day customs and Giles Hoyt will conduct a German Weinprobe (wine tasting) concluding with a grand finale of a traditional *Maibowle* (May Punch).

Cost for the Weinprobe is \$12. The Stammtisch begins with optional dinner at 6:30 pm and program begins thereafter at 7:30 pm.

Wednesday, June 9: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: *Indiana State Parks: the Romantic Vision of Richard Lieber*. Glory-June Greiff will give a presentation on Richard Lieber and his role in the state parks and on the national level. Lieber is the founder of the Indiana Park System and of what is now the State Department of Natural Resources. Just recently WTIU Bloomington produced and is running *Indiana State Parks: Treasurers in Your Own Back Yard* which deals in depth with the role of Lieber.

Greiff is a public historian based in Indianapolis. She recently published *People, Parks, and Perceptions: A History and Appreciation of Indiana State Parks*. In the early 1990s she served as statewide director of Indiana's Save Outdoor Sculpture! (SOS!) survey. She is the author of *Remembrance, Faith and Fancy: Outdoor Public Sculpture in Indiana*.

As always, the programs are held at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. They are in English--free of charge and open to the public. Optional dinner with conversation at 6:30 p.m. with program at 7:30 p.m. For questions contact Claudia Grossmann at the Max Kade Center 317-274-2330, cgrossma@iupui.edu.

OTHER PROGRAMS

Sunday, April 11, 3 p.m., Clowes Memorial Hall Butler Wind Ensemble Concert. Free of charge In honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day, the wind ensemble presents a concert of *Entartete Musik*, the so-called "decadent music," banned by the Nazis. In a huge exposition of propaganda, the Nazis vilified any music written by Jews, Blacks, Slavs and anything that smacked of jazz or jazz influences.

Under the brutal regime of the Third Reich, composers of Jewish heritage had to flee for their lives, and in some cases died at the hands of the Nazis. The concert will include A Little Threepenny Music by Kurt Weill; the Concerto for String Quartet and Wind Ensemble by Ervin Schulhoff; La Creation du Monde by Darius Milhaud; Intrada by Berthold Goldschmidt; and the Symphony in B^b by Paul Hindemith.

Monday, April 12, 7 p.m.: *Poetry Reading by Indiana Poet Laureate Norbert Krapf*. Krapf, a native of Jasper, IN, a German-Catholic community, will read his poems dealing with his search for German roots that led him to a confrontation with the Holocaust. After finding the ancestral sites in Franconia (northern Bavaria) where both sides of his family lived until the 1840s, he discovered that a Jewish woman named Klara Krapf, whose family lived near one of his ancestral villages, had been murdered in Theresienstadt.

After the reading, Krapf will entertain questions from the audience and hopes to encourage dialogue between audience members on the difficult topic of the Holocaust and the process of communication and healing.

Saturday, April 24: *Spring Concert and Dance* at the Indianapolis Sanger Chor, 1824 West 15th Street. Info: 317.637.2467 or 317.639.1248

Saturday, May 1, 6-11:30 p.m.: The Athenaeum Turners present the *St. Benno Fest at the Athenaeum*. St. Benno and Herr Bock will be present for the Grand March. Entertainment by the Athenaeum German Band, Danse Norden, Grand March, Polka Contest, and dancing with the Alpine Express. Food is a la carte by Rathskeller. There will be prizes, a raffle, beer tasting, and more. Admission is \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door. For information and reservations contact Buddy McCart at 317.846.8613 or dmccart@indy.rr.com

May 4, 6-8 p.m. *Food for Thought*: At selected restaurants Organized by the Indiana Historical Society.

Festivals Around the State

Thursday, April 29 and **Sat. May 1**, 4 pm.-midnight, **Friday, May 2**, 11 a.m. to midnight: *The Terre Haute Strassenfest* in downtown Terre Haute, at 9th & Cherry Streets. There will be bands, food, drink and fun. Free admission. For more info, visit: www.terrehauteoberlanderclub.org

Sunday, June 6 – Sunday, June 13: Come to Headwaters Park in downtown Fort Wayne for a weeklong celebration of Essen, Trinken und Gemutlichkeit. The *Fort Wayne Germanfest* is a joint venture of The Fort Wayne Sport Club, The Fort Wayne Turners, The Fort Wayne Mannerchor & Damenchor, and The German Heritage Society. For information see www.GermanFest.org



For IGHS Members Only

GERMANY ■ AUSTRIA ■ SWITZERLAND
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German Life is a unique, bi-monthly magazine, in English, dedicated to German arts, travel, cuisine and German Americana. It provides readers with modern and historical perspectives on German-speaking Europe. Each issue of *German Life* is comprised of beautiful full-color pictures and well researched features that you cannot find elsewhere. There is NO deadline – Subscribe any time of the year.

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The Indiana German Heritage Society

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Knowledge of German Script: None Some Good

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