



Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter

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Families and the Holidays

A CELEBRATION OF FAMILY

by Louise (Theilig) Lamkin

We have just experienced another wonderful trip in Germany. This trip was special because it was to celebrate our 40th wedding anniversary. We have had several "special occasion" trips to Germany. We took my Mother to Germany to celebrate her 85th birthday. This was Mother's first time in eastern Germany since she had left in 1925. We took her to her birth town (Bitterfeld), her childhood home (Luckenwalde b. Berlin), and the birth home of her father (Halle/Saale). We also went to the birth area of my father's parents (Langenwetzendorf and Stossen). On another trip we celebrated Jerry's 60th birthday on the Rhein at Schlosshotel Berg Gutenfels, and for my 60th we were at Lake Constance (Bodensee) and in Switzerland.

Joining us on this journey were members of our family. Our son Bill, his wife, Andrea, and our grandson, Tyler; our daughter Jeri, her husband Rich, and our granddaughter, Alison; and Andrea's parents, Gene and Sue Hern.

My parents, Richard and Erika (Mendel) Theilig were born in Germany and came to the U.S. as teen-agers. They met in Indianapolis and were married at Zion Evangelical Church.

This trip was the dream of my husband, Jerry Lamkin. We invited family and friends to a reception in Schleswig-Holstein, near the home of my father's brother, retired Lutheran pastor, Bernhard Theilig. On Sunday morning we attended the service at the 1060-year-old church, Heiligengeistkirche in Barmstedt. "Torte und Kaffee" was served to

60 of our family members and friends. Tyler and his cousins played card games. Language differences were not a barrier to developing relationships. Little 2-year old Alison took the hands of two of her 10-year old cousins and off they went to play. Tyler and Alison's "Oma und Opa" would have been proud.

The party was not about our wedding anniversary, it was about FAMILY. We honored our heritage. Three of my grandparents died in 1918-19 due to economic conditions in Germany at that time. But they left their families of children truly bonded together. Our children and we cousins continue this bonded relationship. Some of us are 6th and 7th cousins - but we are cousins!

The "family" of my grandparents (children's ages 4 to 20) was torn

asunder by the death of their parents. Some of these children emigrated to the U.S. The ocean and world events have separated us, but this has not kept us apart. We have traveled to Germany and many have come for visits to the USA. Now our children are developing relationships with their cousins.

At the party were members of the families of both of my parents. Some had traveled from as far away as Halle/Saale, Görlitz, Braunschweig, Bremen, and Baden-Baden.

We had four generations of family together! After the reception we were invited to join Onkel Bernhard and Tante Elisabeth at their home, the former residence of the Count von Rantzau. Everyone from the party went to Rantzau to not let the evening come to an end. The younger set played Fußball. The little ones had their own game with their own rules! Soccer is an international language. The rest of us continued our conversations. Before the traditional German supper began, we all joined around the table and sang "Lobe den Herren".

During the rest of the two weeks in Germany, Jerry, Jeri, Rich, Alison and I made a tour; the childhood home town of my father (Flensburg), Lübeck, into Hessen to visit the home area of my mother's mother (Bad Orb and Schlüchtern). We visited some relatives and friends who were unable to come to the

reception. We planted flowers on the graves of some deceased members of our family. Finally, we spent several days at our favorite hotel in Assmannshausen (Karl Schön Weingut and Hotel). Our first stop had been in Köln, the Sister City of Indianapolis. Bill and his family cruised all the way into Switzerland and Italy.

Tyler, age 13, has been to Europe four times now, making his first trip at age 6. Alison, at age 2, was a very good traveler. Her first word in German to her Mother was "nein". Later she did add more words to her vocabulary!

Jeri and I have determined that the best brötchen in Germany are baked in Schlüchtern. Jerry and I think that the best red wine in Germany is from Assmannshausen.

There were to be no gifts because the party was not about our anniversary, it was about our FAMILY. Several broke the rules and gave us beautiful picture books about their hometowns. A cousin from Halle/Saale gave us a pair of dolls in traditional costume. Volkmar Schultz gave us a "Berlin Bear". We gave gifts of appreciation, framed postcards of the "Love" sculpture by Robert Indiana from the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Tyler brought gifts from the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, and Alison gave "Raggedy Ann" dolls.

Several of our cousins in

Germany and I are compiling photos, documents, and translated letters to create a history of our family. And a rich family history it is. We are not satisfied to just have a "family tree" in a frame on the wall; we are remembering (and recording about) our ancestor's lives. This is a bonding work of love.

THE HIMMELHEBERS IN GERMANY

During the past fifteen years I have traced Himmelheber ancestors back to the region near Darmstadt Germany. In fact Himmelhebers still live there today.

Armed with meanings of a few key German words and phrases, we had made our first trip to Germany in 1987. Even though letters were sent to several Himmelheber families months before our trip, only Marianne invited us to visit when we came to Darmstadt. Our first visit with her was not only delightful but also informative. She related this story that had been handed down in her family on how the Himmelheber name was created.

"During the era of the feudal system in the small village of Nieder-Klingen, a family of tall men was always asked to carry the banners and/or the 'Himmel' (heaven) in religious processions. Their nickname became 'heaven holders.' When it was necessary to take a surname after the feudal system was abolished, they

formally adopted the nickname into Himmelheber and continued to live in the area."

Wolfgang Himmelheber, a policeman in Darmstadt, told us the same story when we met him and his wife during our second visit to Germany in 1990. He also had found the birth certificate of my great-great-grandfather in the Darmstadt archives, had it translated, and presented me with a copy. With this information seven generations of the Himmelheber family tree have been identified.

In July 2000 we spent four weeks in the country of our ancestors. The first week we attended folk dance festivals in Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel. For another week we toured the state of Mecklenburg and performed American as well as German folk dances several times as the guests of the Grevesmühlen Folk Dance Group. The third week we traveled to Berlin, Dresden and Nürnberg, then on to Frankfurt and Darmstadt for the last week.

While in Darmstadt, we spent a day with Marianne and family, who now live in the village of her birth, Nieder-Klingen. She drove us to the Oetzberg Castle that serves as the administrative center of a community of seven small towns within a few miles of each other. Towns included in the community are Nieder-Klingen and Semd. In the village of Semd from which my great-great grandfather came, we found the Himmelheber gravesite. Even though Henrich (1904-1975),

who was buried there, is a more recent ancestor, I felt a solid connection with my German roots that I never had felt before.

John Himmelheber

Books for the Holidays

NEW BOOKS

Von Heuerleuten und Farmern: Emigration from the Osnabrück Region to North America in the 19th Century. By W. D. Kamphoefner, P. Marschalck & B. Nolte-Schuster. Osnabrück (1999), 120 pp.

This bilingual G/E, illustrated hardcover is on 19th-century emigration from the German Northwest with its Osnabrücker Land that provided a great number of immigrants also to Indiana.

Marschalck's chapter on "Population and Social Structure" treats the living conditions, especially of the lower strata, and depicts a cluster of causes for massive emigration. Obsolete socio-economic terms such as "Heuerleute" (poor tenant farmers), "Colonen" (farm proprietors), "Hollandgänger" (seasonal migration work in Holland) become clear in the translation.

Nolte-Schuster describes the changing interplay of the means of transportation to America, roles of agents, governmental regulations, hidden agendas of communities supporting poor or undesirable emigrants' passages, and the price tags for accommodations. A fine supplement to one's family-emigration history.

Kamphoefner's chapter on "Chain Migration, Settlement Patterns, Integration" is reminiscent of his *The Westfalians: From Germany to Missouri* (1987). While the new settlers quickly adapted to American building practices and certain new crops (excluding tobacco and sweet potatoes), for quite some time their interaction with Anglo-Americans was more economic than social.

Homogeneous settlement kept ethnic cohesion and cultural and religious traditions alive through the first three generations.

The last part is an emigrant's biography, adding a concrete family case showing the hopes, joys and sorrows of migration.

A fine balance of scholarship and readability makes it well suited also for the genealogy section of public libraries. U.S. Distributor: NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove Rd., Nashville, IN 47448 (Send \$14.80).

Germany's Regional Recipes. Foods. Festivals. Folklore. By Helga Hughes. Iowa City: Penfield Press (1999). Distributed by NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove

Rd., Nashville, IN 47448
(\$14.80).

Unlike most books on German cooking, this book's recipes are organized by the "Länder" - from Baden-Württemberg and Bayern up to Schleswig-Holstein - by the regions in which they originated or are especially popular and "done right". Helga Hughes also "cooks them up" with a bit of regional history, special festive occasions, and the folklore surrounding them. All this makes it more than just another cookbook. And it is nicely illustrated.
"Guten Appetit!"

Legends of the Rhine. Selected and edited by Joanne Asala. Iowa City: Penfield Press (2000), 128pp., illustr. - Orders: NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove Rd., Nashville, IN 47448 (\$12.80)

Ever since the days of Roman settlement on its banks and vicinity - more than 2000 years ago - the Rhine [Rhein] has been celebrated in song and dance, in poetry and prose and art. And on the Middle Rhine there are more romantic castles and castle ruins, often surrounded by steep vineyards, than anywhere in the world. Local legends are populated with noble and evil knights, bishops and priests, rich and poor, giants and dwarfs, beautiful women and fairies. And as in real life, goodness and wickedness pass in review - from Switzerland all the way to Holland.

Joanne Asala's present English-language edition of 62 selected Rheinsagen opens a treasure chest for a new generation of readers. Illustrations from the early 19th century add a touch of history and beauty.

One Hundred Tales from Sudetenland. By Karen Hobbs (trans.& ed.). New Ulm, Minn.: German-Bohemian Heritage Society (1999), 218pp. (\$14.95)

Hobbs skillfully translated stories collected by Sudeten- German folklorist and expellee Josef Rotter. They deal with local lore and illustrate the diverse experience of the Germans who lived in various parts of Bohemia, lands that in the 20th century came under the collective name Sudetenland.

The stories are an enchanting mix of the fantastic and the historical. They share a sense of place; they show how names, places, and myths can become the building blocks of local identity. They deal with greed and forbearance, faith and perseverance, and are often set amid the hardships of the Hussite and Thirty Years Wars.

MEMBER CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

Share your interest in your heritage. This Christmas give a gift that keeps on giving: Give an IGHS membership and win a new member! For a gift membership, use the form in this newsletter and send it to the membership chair.

Or consider our publications for gift giving occasions. If you pick up books at our December events, the Christkindlmarkt (December 1-3) or the Stammtisch and Program on Dec. 13, at the Athenaeum, you will save even more. At the Christkindlmarkt we'll also have books from other publishers at great discounts.

A real IGHS stocking stuffer is still our *Hoosier German Tales-- Small & Tall* (1991). The collection of stories about and by Hoosier German-Americans by Eberhard Reichmann. 278pp. (\$6.50). He will autograph your Christmas order on request.

George T. Probst/Eberhard Reichmann: *The Germans in Indianapolis. 1840-1918* (1989), 212pp., ill., index. (\$14.00)

Theodore Stempfel's 1898 Festschrift: *Fifty Years of Unrelenting German Aspirations in Indianapolis, 1848-1898.* Giles R. Hoyt et al., eds., bilingual G/E edition (1991), 158pp., ill., index. (\$10.00)

Eberhard Reichmann, ed.: *Hoosier German Tales--small & Tall.* 278pp., ill. (\$6.50)

Willi Paul Adams: *The German-Americans. An Ethnic Experience* (1993), 46pp., ill. (\$3.00)

Eberhard Reichmann et al., eds.: *Emigration and Settlement Patterns of German Communities in North America* (1995), 414pp. (\$20.00)

Norbert Krapf, ed.: *Finding the Grain. Pioneer German Journals and Letters from Dubois County,*

Indiana (1996), 330pp., ill. (\$10.00)

Witter's Deutsch-Englische Schreib- und Lese-Fibel/

German-English Primer (1881).

Reprint 1987. The easy way to learn "Old German script" and "Fraktur". 102pp., ill. (\$4.75)

"German Influence on Religion in Indiana," in: *Studies in Indiana German Americana*. Vol.2

(1995), ed. by James Divita and Giles R. Hoyt. 94pp., ill. (\$8.00)

Michael A. Peake: *Indiana's German Sons: 32nd Volunteer Infantry - Baptism of Fire: Rowlett's Station 1861* (2000), 75pp., ill. (\$4.50)

Additional discount: We pay shipping and sales tax!

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GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE AT ZION INDIANAPOLIS

On Sunday December 10 at 3 p.m. the annual German Christmas Service will be held at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 416 North St., Indianapolis. Although conducted in German, the service is easy to follow. The hymns are

to most church goers and the sermon is printed in English for participants to follow.

Calendar & Events

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m.
German Christmas Service at
Zion Church in Indianapolis
(Louise Lamkin, 317 257-0493)

Wednesday, December 13, 4:30
p.m. IGHS Board meeting at the
Athenaeum, Indianapolis
6 p.m. Stammtisch, Program 7:30
p.m. "A German Christmas and
German Christmas Traditions"
with Eberhard and Ruth
Reichmann

Wednesday, January 10, 4:30
p.m. IGHS Board at the
Athenaeum, Indianapolis. No
Stammtisch and Program

February 3-4, German American
Klub, Indianapolis: Bus Trip to
the Karneval of the Cincinnati
Karneval Gesellschaft at the
Eastgate Holiday Inn (George
Wehrle 317-815-0017.)

Saturday, February 10, Karneval
at the Athenaeum, Indianapolis,
with the Freudemacher (630-
4569 press #1)

Wednesday, February 14, 4:30
p.m. IGHS Board meeting at the
Athenaeum, Indianapolis, 6 p.m.

Stammtisch, Program 7:00 p.m.
"An Evening of Romantic
Music," part of the Masterclass
series, sponsored by IU School of
Music at IUPUI and the
Athenaeum Foundation (Mary
Ellen Burgomaster 317-685-
2919)

Wednesday, March 14, 4:30 p.m.
IGHS Board meeting at the Athe-
naeum, Indianapolis, 6 p.m.
Stammtisch, Program 7:30 p.m.
Marcus Loidolt will give slide
presentation: "Liechtenstein,
Anachronym or Prophecy?"

Saturday, March 24, St. Benno
Fest at the Athenaeum,
Indianapolis, with the with Jay
Fox Band (630-4569 press #1)

Saturday, March 30 IGHS
Annual Meeting/Conference:
"Sister Cities - International
Links" with special focus on the
relationship between Indianapolis
and Cologne at the Athenaeum,
Indianapolis.

GUTENBERG EXHIBIT IN LOUISVILLE NOVEMBER 13 TO JANUARY 6

Mainz has afforded its Sister City
Louisville a rare treat--an exhibit
of items related to Mainz's
favorite and most famous son,
Johannes Gutenberg, who
developed the printing press with
movable type. (See article in
IGHS Newsletter Vol. 16, Fall
2000) The Louisville Free Public
Library, 301 York Street, will be

original printing press, some rare unbound pages of a Gutenberg Bible, and other examples of printed materials. This is only the second time that any of the Gutenberg items have been displayed in the United States, and the first exhibit in New York was much less extensive. The Sister City connection between Mainz and Louisville was a factor in making this wonderful exhibit possible.

The exhibit will run from November 13 through January 6 at the main branch at Third and York Streets, and will be open to the public without charge during regular library hours Monday-Thursday: 9-9, Friday-Saturday: 9-5, Sunday: 1-5. On Monday evening, November 13, there will be a public opening reception with Louisville mayor, the honorable David Armstrong, and officials of the city of Mainz, Germany. The coordinator of the Gutenberg exhibit is Nancy Vinsel, manager of adult services for the Louisville Free Public Library. For more information call her at 502 574-1653 or the Main Library at 502-574-1611 during regular business hours. Website: www.lfpl.org

This is a magnificent coup for Louisville to host such a prestigious exhibit and the Kentuckiana Germanic Heritage Society, Sister Cities Mainz Committee, and the Louisville German-American Club will assist in this important event.

Vicky Ullrich

The Kentuckiana Germanic Heritage Society is a sister organization to the Indiana German Heritage Society and, besides the Louisville area, covers the Southeastern part of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS GERMAN SCHOOL

Dates for Spring 2001:
Sat., January 27 - March 31
(10 Saturdays, 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.)

Location: IUPUI Center for
Young Children,
321 N. Limestone, IUPUI
Cost: \$ 110.00 for one child
\$ 200.00 for two children
\$ 260.00 for three children

For more information contact:
Claudia Grossmann, 274-2081 or
274-2330.

KÖLNER KARNEVAL BALL IN INDIANAPOLIS

The German American community invites you to the Kölner Karnval Ball in Indianapolis (German Mardi Gras) at the Athenaeum Kellersaal, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis on Saturday February 10 at 6:00 p.m.

The evening activities include music by Die Freudmacher from Fort Wayne, great German music and dancing, and performances by the Athenaeum Pops Orchestra, the Männerchor and

the Mäcdchengarde of the German American Klub, and the dancers from the Erste Karnevals Gessellschaft of Cincinnati.

Costumes are enthusiastically welcomed, but business dress is optional.

Admission, which includes a German style buffet is tentatively set at \$22.00 if reserved by Monday, February 5 and \$25.00 at the door.

Proceeds benefit the Athenaeum Foundation. For reservations call or write the Athenaeum Foundation, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204, or phone 317-630-4569

Karneval in Indianapolis is sponsored by the Athenaeum Turners, Athenaeum Foundation, Indianapolis Männerchor, Athenaeum Pops Orchestra, and the Indianapolis/Cologne Sister Cities Committee.

IGHS MEMBERS FOLKDANCE THEIR WAY THROUGH GERMANY

Participation in the 15th Federal Folk Dance Festival (Bundes-Volkstanztreffen) and the 1st European Dance Meet (Europäisches Tanztreffen) was the official reason for Norman (Pete) and Ginnvor Bullard and John and Darleen Himmelheber of the German Heritage Dancers

to be in Germany. It was, however, only one of several reasons. The second was a 7-day tour of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern hosted by the Grevesmühlen Dance Group. And then there were individual plans such as visits to relatives.

The IGHS representatives were part of a group of 32 dancers from 11 different states. Led by President Norman Bullard, they represented the North-American Federation of German Folk Dance Groups (NAFGFDG), whose members are for the most part of German descent, wear German costumes (Trachten) and dance German folk dances. It is their desire to keep their ancestors' heritage alive.

The "Tanztreffen" held in Braunschweig and Wolfenbüttel, July 27-30, brought together several thousand dancers, numerous German folkdance groups, plus dancers from as far away as Poland, Russia, Finland, Japan and Brazil. The Americans participated in many events and demonstrated and led American folk dances. The days were filled with new dance adventures and the slogan "follow the leader" was quickly adopted and demonstrated in the Umbrella Dance. The crowning event were the Saturday evening festivities, all groups dancing together through a long list of folkdances - fortunately with review demonstrations.

Following the Festival in Braunschweig the group visited

Grevesmühlen for a week. Their hosts, Eckart and Angret Redesborg, had been the guest instructors in 1999, where the focus was on Mecklenburg and Pomeranian dances and customs, for the 6th Annual Federation Workshop held in Wisconsin (the 5th was in Indianapolis at the Athenaeum). The Germans extended to the Americans an invitation to a counter visit which was joyfully accepted.

The group arrived in Grevesmühlen on July 30, with quarters at the "Hotel bei der Malzfabrik." For many it was the first trip into the former East Germany, the land behind the "Iron Curtain." The Federation members were the largest contingent of Americans in that locality since WWII.

It began with an official reception in the Town Hall as a joint undertaking by the City, the County as well as the State Homeland Association (Heimatverein) Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The American folkdancers were introduced and gifts were exchanged. A city tour followed - and a whirlwind of activities: Daily excursions by bus to the Baltic Sea Spa in Boltenhagen, to Schönberg, Wismar, Schwerin, Lübeck and, a special highlight, to the Island of Rügen. The focus of the visit in Schönberg was the valuable collection of the Schönberger and Katzenburger Trachten in the Homeland Museum (Heimatismuseum). There were the beautiful farm houses of the

village and a visit to the Stickereihof "Uhlenhof" in Thandorf.

At the state Capital Schwerin, by invitation of State Representative Mr. Bräuning (SPD), the group was given a guided tour through the castle and the rooms of the State Government, followed by a festive meal. A boat trip on Lake Schwerin showed the American guests just how beautifully Schwerin is situated.

The American dancers were well received as they danced together with the Grevesmühlen folkdance group, sometimes for their supper. Public performances took place at the Town Hall Grevesmühlen, the Park of Boltenhagen and the Mecklenburg Folklore Museum Schwerin-Muess.

Darleen Himmelheber was especially interested in the Hanseatic architecture and the Reed-roof-houses. German history was all around them. During the many visits to Heimatmuseen (homeland museums) Federation President Norman Bullard was glad to see how many of the old costumes (Trachten) had been preserved.

At the tour's end good-byes were exchanged. Some stayed for reason No. 3 - to visit friends, relatives, or to continue touring.

Rural areas, small towns, a quiet lake, great people, left lasting impressions of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. But beyond the

historic buildings and museums that had made that visit so memorable, what will stay with them is the personal contact with the other dancers, people they met, and new dances they learned. Ginnvor Bullard hopes that through these folk dance endeavors, new friends and contacts are made for better relations and intercultural understanding.

For further details (and there are many) ask the Bullards and the Himmelhebers; be prepared to spend an hour or two.

Ginnvor Bullard is the leader of the German Heritage Dancers. They perform at many of the IGHS and Athenaeum functions. They meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis and always welcome new members. Contact Ginnvor at 812 597-4932.

BREMERHAVEN REMINISCENCES

by Ernestine Dillon

From 11-17 June, 2000 the Society for German-American Studies held its 24th Symposium in Bremerhaven - the first time outside of the country. America, however, seemed ever-present, as its flag was flown from buildings, paraded by the "Blaue Jungs" marching band, and displayed during events in historic halls. Most of all, a genuine spirit of friendship seemed to span the Atlantic as participants from both sides entered into emigration

history, intertwined with stories of people who departed Bremerhaven in pursuit of the American Dream.

In retrospect, the latter played a big role in my life. When I married my husband Frank in 1948, I was but a starry-eyed teenage bride, whose dream was taken directly from American love stories, complete with two children, and a rose-covered garden gate leading to a white cottage. Having grown up during World War II, I now believe that I was seeking a safe world. My husband was a member of the American Army of Occupation, when we were married September 16, 1948 in an army chapel on the grounds of what is now the Olympic Stadium in Munich. Immediately, I was introduced to the "Army Way" which many Americans even today place opposite of the "Right Way".

No provisions had been made to provide living quarters for the influx of thousands of so-called "war brides" in Germany, and many remained with their parents. Soldiers could not get married until about a month before they were to return to America. When the newlyweds arrived in Bremerhaven to board a troop transport ship bound for the U.S., they were housed three persons to a room in apartment buildings. Movie houses did a landslide business! Every day, shipping lists were posted. For four days our name "Dillon" appeared misspelled as "Dehlen, Dellen,

Dillion," etc. Our descendants will have a hard time finding the actual date of departure. To me that day, on or about October 20th, is still a blur.

It rained and a blustery wind was blowing as our ship cast off anchor, and a band played the traditional farewell: "Muss i denn, muss i denn zum Staedtele hinaus und du mein Schatz bleibst hier" (Do I really have to leave this little town, and you my darling will remain here?) Well, my darling was with me, that is with several hundred men in the hold of the ship, whereas the wives enjoyed the luxury of staying in cabins accommodating seven or eight women. Our ship, the General Gaffey, did not seem particularly seaworthy as we made our way across the stormy Atlantic in ten days.

Finally, America! A sigh of relief was heard as we passed Ellis Island. We had no communicable disease on board, which would have put us in quarantine for six weeks, or so we heard. We docked alongside the shore of Staten Island, where we boarded busses bound for Camp Kilmer, NJ. The women were housed in WAC's quarters, the men in barracks two miles distant. The men were told that the process of discharging could be shortened, if they signed up for the Army Reserve. Three years after the war had ended, nobody thought of a new one in the near future. My husband signed up for the inactive reserve. A mere two years later, in 1950, he found

himself in uniform again, this time involved in the "Korean Conflict".

Although Frank's family seemed to be firmly opposed to working wives, I was told to look for work immediately. The in-laws seemed to know that the "Army Way" took several months before families would see a support check. I was to work nights in a factory, so that I could take care of my one-year-old son during the day. This time I balked and opted to utilize my prior office experience and work during the day. Prior to getting married, I had worked for a branch of the American State Department in Munich, helping to process papers of American civilians who were replacing members of the military in administrative positions. Sometimes, I was asked to translate job sheets of indigenous personnel. Diligently and precisely, I translated and entered such items as three years Sunday School under the heading "Education", unaware that the vocational lessons given to German children from the country on Sunday, took on a different meaning for Americans.

In a small way, this job introduced me to the practical side of Civil Rights, American style. Many of us had been recruited via radio messages promising inexpensive lunches and more importantly, lunches without ration cards. This was for the benefit of our families, since they could use our ration cards for additional food purchases.

Spam became a favorite at the office. One day the office was moved to another location and assigned to a different lunch room.

Suddenly, we had "health food", i.e., a variety of veggies with little or no meat. The mess sergeant had found a "better" use for meat products on the "Black Market". American women saw it as an injustice and showed us, by their example, when and where to speak up. After several visits by the colonel, Spam was back!.

Today, this "having a voice" seems so trivial, but to someone who had been deprived of it for many years, it was a lesson learned for life. Only two years ago, in the role of the president of the Indiana German Heritage Society, I called my Congressman to complain about the U.S. Postal Service dragging its feet with our newsletters, and after some delay this bastion of bureaucracy did send a written apology.

What happened to the young girl's dream? Our two children, a boy and a girl, got a little sister, the imagined white cottage changed into a real white two-bedroom prefabricated house after Frank returned from Korea. We never had time to plant roses around the garden gate, and we did not yet have a car to park in front of it - which was totally un-American.

Over time the "Army Way" softened. When, in May 1970, my son Robert had three more weeks

of his tour of duty in Viet Nam, my father died in Indianapolis. Robert's commander immediately granted him compassionate leave, although normally this was not done for a grandparent's funeral.

In 1950, while Frank served in Korea, my American Dream became reality. I used the evenings after work to take courses in American Government and History to prepare for my Citizenship Examination. Companies and agencies, for which I later worked, offered college-level courses, and I received promotions. This enabled me to share my American Dream - the fulfillment of which by now I saw in EDUCATION - with my children. After they graduated from college, I felt it was time for me to pursue solid academic studies. Today I am proud of my Ph.D. from Indiana University.

Another circle also closed. In first grade, in a small country school in Bavaria, I had learned to write "old German script" which was abandoned by the Nazis in 1941, although it had been used for hundreds of years. Today, my American Ph.D. legitimizes me as an expert for "Handschrift" transcriptions and translations.

During the Symposium in Bremerhaven, I presented to Dechant Dehmel, the pastor of the town's Sacred Heart Parish, Dr. James Divita's book, *The Splendor of the South Side*, which deals with the history of

the former German National parish, Sacred Heart, in Indianapolis. Many hours had gone into transcribing and translating the records from the "old German script."

Bremerhaven in the year 2000 presented a much happier face than when I departed from there 52 years ago. No war has touched this port city since. Buildings have been torn down - not by bombs - but due to modernization. Some sites have been restored to remind us of their history and convey the spirit of emigrants, who embarked there on the first leg of their long journey to pursue the American dream.

Dr. Ernestine Dillon, President of the Indiana German Heritage Society, teaches German at Marian College in Indianapolis.

BREMERHAVEN HIGHLIGHTS

Among the app. 200 persons who attended the Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Bremerhaven were IGHS President Ernestine Dillon, Giles and Dolores Hoyt and Jasper poet Norbert Krapf.

The "Routes to the Roots" organization of Dr. Wolfgang Grams had prepared interesting side tours, including the must-see Cloppenburg Museum Village.

Anyone looking for a special tour, or help researching ancestors, can write to him at: Babenend 127, D 26127 Oldenburg, Germany. - E-mail: Rootes@tt-online.de

At the Symposium our long-time IGHS member, Professor Antonius Holtmann of Oldenburg University, received the "Outstanding Achievement Award in German-American Studies." He is well known for his work involving St. John's Church at the White Creek, Bartholomew County, and Oldenburg, IN. Well deserved!

Bremerhaven, founded in the 1820s, became the most important port in emigration history. Among the participants in the symposium were some, like Ernestine Dillon (see her story above), who had left from there. A highlight of the week was a reception and dinner in the old Columbus Train Station, the place of embarkation. Jasper native and IGHS member Norbert Krapf writes: "I came back with the ship's passenger list (1846) for my father's family and was very moved to read my immigration poems overlooking the harbor where they all left. I wrote a new emigration poem, a sort of meditative sequel to 'Forefather' that I think is one of my best poems in a while."

NORBERT KRAPF ABROAD

Krapf also wrote us about his productive summer in Germany:

"I loved reading at Humboldt and Freie Universities, and I wrote some 80 new Germany poems, my greatest outburst in 30 years of writing. Over 50 poems were in response to the superb work of a young Franconian photographer who captures the old Franconians on their farms and in their villages. We hope to do a book together: his photos and my poems in English and German... I also wrote a group of poems about Gunter Ulrich's work: his colored etchings of the bombing of Würzburg. He's the artist whose beautiful etching I used on the cover of BLUE-EYED GRASS."

A Professor of English at C. W. Post/LIU, Krapf is presently completing a novel for young adults about a girl and her immigrant grandfather, set in southern Indiana; a collection of essays about his search for origins; a childhood memoir about growing up in Dubois County; and another volume of poems set in Indiana. "Bittersweet Along the Expressway: Poems of Long Island" was released by Waterline Books on Labor Day. In many of the 79 poems, Krapf returns to his Indiana past. See his Webpage www.krapfpoetry.com

IN MEMORIAM HERMAN B WELLS (1902-2000)

This year, Hoosiers were saddened to learn of the passing of IU Chancellor Herman B Wells, who for 25 years had been at the helm of Indiana University. During his presidency (1937-1962) the Turner's Normal College at the Athenaeum became the basis for the IU School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation (1941). He was both a Turner and a member of IGHS. The following anecdote is based on Dr. Wells's oral account to Hoosier-German historian Elfrieda Lang, a founding member of IGHS.

The Best Speech of Herman B Wells (1951)

IU's most beloved president, the one and only Herman B Wells - a great-grandson of a Bauer by name of Harting from Klein Bokern near Osnabrück - can be counted among the ardent admirers of the Forty-Eighters and the Turner movement. The Turners invited him to Indianapolis to give a banquet speech. The occasion was the 100th Anniversary of the Athenaeum Turners, celebrated on George Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1951.

The culinary delights, the toasts, the freely flowing libations, the music, and all the other what-have-yous at such round-figure fests were such that the clock slipped just about toward midnight before Herman B was fi-

nally on with his banquet speech. He had prepared it carefully, notes and all, and a clean seven-page manuscript. But with his judgment unimpaired by the aforesaid hoopla, he kept the manuscript in his pocket. He simply congratulated the turned-on Turners, thanked them for their hospitality and said, "This has been a rich feast of food and drink, and a rich feast of wit, wisdom, and oratory. In fact, after all that has been said by my predecessors, there is little left to say." Roaring applause, of course.

When he sat down again, his neighbor at the table, Governor Henry Schricker - who had learned Bavarian German from his immigrant parents before he knew English - said, with a grin, "Herman, that's the best damned speech you ever made!"

Herman B didn't exactly recall at what hour of the morning they finally went home.

From: Eb. Reichmann (ed.), *Hoosier German Tales - small & Tall* (1991), 204-205.

IGHS RECEIVES AWARD

At the International Festival in Indianapolis IGHS received the First Place Award for the "Educational Value" of its culture booths. Our thanks goes to the Humanities Council for displaying the GERMANY IN US Learning Center and Southern Indiana Exhibit. We also express

our appreciation to the German Information Center, New York for the exhibits "Landmarks of German History" and "Germany Divided, Germany Reunited." They helped win us this honor.

Vickie Burcham, with the help of Carrie Schmidt staffed the Humanities Council Exhibits. Eberhard Reichmann took care of the sales booth and Ruth Reichmann the culture booths exhibits and tables which provided excellent handouts and information.

It could not have been done with the dedicated help of the following volunteers: Paul Brockman, Ginnvor Bullard, Norman Bullard, Ernestine Dillon, Frank Dillon, Rachel Feyen, Lauren Gootee, Claudia Grossmann, Linda Guckenberger, Darleen Himmelheber, John Himmelheber, Michael Hughes, Joe Kirchhoff, Clint Knies, Louise Lamkin, Buddy McCart, Lee McDougal, Ann Olson, Jeremiah Reichmann, Robert Reichmann, Rosi Rian, Carrie Schmidt, Carol Schmitz, Christine Schwoebel, Willi Schwoebel, Barbara Stewart, Bob Swan, Susanne Thomas, Rachel Williams, Charles Yeager and Tony Zappa. Our appreciation goes to them for making this such a success.

Ginnvor Bullard and the German Heritage Dancers performed 4 times and taught countless students the fine art of German folk-dancing.

All exhibits are available for display throughout the state. For

SISTER CITIES NEWS

COLUMBUS VISITS SISTER CITY LOEHNE

In June a group of 29 from the Columbus area visited Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Austria and Germany. The highlight of the trip was a four-day visit in Loehne. The bonds between Columbus and Loehne go much deeper than a pen-pal and visit-one-another occasionally type of sister city relationship. It was from Loehne that hundreds of German families left for the "promised land" in the mid-19th century. Many of them settled in Jackson and Bartholomew counties, accounting today for the presence of several Lutheran congregations in this area.

After meeting Bürgermeister Werner Hamel, the group was treated to a reception at the Aqua Magica, the state garden show for North Rhine-Westphalia. One day was spent at the Expo-2000 in Hannover. Each participant had a unique experience with their host family activities. Ten of the participants located or discovered ancestral connections ranging from meetings with distant cousins to the discovery of family farm records.

As Michael and Janet Hackman stood in a field of wheat near Venne they were thinking of

Friedrich Hackmann, Michael Hackman's great-great-grandfather. "We just couldn't help but realize that we were standing where he had plowed the ground and harvested his crops," Janet said. "It was a moment where we felt a real connection to him, like we were walking where he had walked." The Hackmans took photos of the house in which their ancestor had lived. Marvin and Richard Finke and Marcia Finke Schwenk visited the old Finke Farm in Loehne-Gohfeld. Evelyn Petering stayed with relatives in Lintorf and touched the baptismal font in a family church in which many of her ancestors had been baptized. Robert Rau stayed with an eighth cousin in a home with a thatched roof dating to the 1700s.

Natalie and Bruce Pollert stayed with a family they had hosted in Columbus six years earlier. Others made new friends. The group attended church at St. Simeon Evangelische Kirche. The bilingual service was specially prepared for the guests by Pastor Reinhard Meyer zu Siederdisen and his wife Jutta. Over half of the founders of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbus came from St. Simeon Kirche in Loehne in the mid-1800s. There was a farewell dinner in the romantic setting of a local castle. Music makers included faculty members from the local Gymnasium (high school). The night before departure was spent in the 1000-year old castle Burg Staufenberg.

This was the fourth such trip to

be organized and led by Arthur and Marcia Schwenk, German teachers at Columbus North High School and Southwestern Shelby County High School. The Sister City relationship between Loehne and Columbus has been underway since 1988 and has also included educational exchanges. Students from Columbus were in Loehne in the summer of 1999 with Art Schwenk, who chairs the sister cities committee. Lyndsey Wampler of Columbus is spending August-October in Loehne; another student will visit there in January. Frau Christina Albani, an English teacher in Loehne, hopes to send a student to Columbus yet this school year and plans to bring a group of students to Columbus in the summer of 2001. - Contact the Schwenks at 812 546-5852.

PFAFFENWEILER ROOM IN JASPER

By Matt Hilger

The City of Jasper has completed construction on an additional meeting room in the lower level of City Hall, which has been named the Pfaffenweiler Room. Mayor Bill Schmitt requested that all future Partnership Commission meetings be held there. The room is decorated with pictures received from Pfaffenweiler, the original Jasper-Pfaffenweiler Partnership Charter, a map of Pfaffenweiler and a map of the Black Forest. Eventually a glass case will hold a German mug collection donated by Ed Eckert, in addition to other items from Pfaffenweiler. Donated items are

gratefully accepted. Why not view the room at City Hall!

SISTER CITY HISTORY BOOK

by Darren Patterson

Members of the 15th Anniversary Committee created and distributed a booklet entitled "Celebrating Our Partnership: 1985-2000." It outlines the history and milestones of the very special relationship between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. With support of the Indiana Humanities Council and local businesses, 1,000 copies were printed. They made good personal gifts to the town of Pfaffenweiler and the host families during our visit there this summer. Copies are still available at the Dubois County Museum for a donation of \$5.00.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY IN JASPER

by Darren Patterson

Had you tuned your radio to WITZ on October 2nd at 7:00 a.m., you could have listened to a special program on the German-American Day Celebration. Deutscher Verein President Rafe Ackerman and Board Members Matt Hilger and Darren Patterson were the guests of Gary Lee and discussed the significance of this historic day.

A special gathering for German Club Members, guests, and the general public, was held at the Schnitzelbank Restaurant on October 6, to celebrate German American Day. Mayor William J.

Schmitt offered a proclamation to celebrate this historic event. Past President Dave Buehler was the guest speaker. The second Jasper German-American Heritage Award was presented. Also participating were 18 exchange student from the Staufen Gymnasium, the high school near Pfaffenweiler. They were in Jasper October 4-25.

German-Americans past and present have been an important factor in our city, that began over 150 years ago with the first immigrants settling in this area. After five generations we still see their influence in Jasper's every-day life: A clean, well maintained town, a hard working community with lots of "Gemütlichkeit," the pride people put into their homes, and many other traits Jasper visitors comment on.

With their activities and work, the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) and the Jasper Strassenfest Committee - the contemporary German-Americans - have influenced many projects around town. The countless hours of volunteerism has earned the community a reputation for being a true "German" community. In the tri-state area everybody can tell you about the Jasper Germans.

The old and the modern German-Americans are proud of our community and proud of our German roots. Dave Buehler, a modern German-American, just helped the City of Jasper construct a Riverwalk, an idea he

conceived while in Germany on one of his many visits. The Riverwalk has brought our people even closer together. Togetherness and a sense of community is very much part of the old German culture. Mr. Buehler has paved the way for us to experience it right here at home. Martina and Claude Eckert were responsible for building a strong partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. They have sewn the seeds of success between the two towns, which blossomed this summer with the 15th Anniversary Celebration in Pfaffenweiler. Mary Jo Meuser, former German teacher, brought today's German world in the classrooms of the Jasper High School with her teaching and the exchange program. She maintains that a young person looking for a career in Mechanics, Management, Banking, Chemistry and Biology, e.g., has a professional advantage when knowing German as a second language.

We can list many more German-Americans who in the past and the present have been shaping the life and the future our town in many ways. To honor all of them, October 6th has been set aside as German-American Day.

GERMAN STUDENTS VISITED DUBOIS

By Christi Elkins-Gabbard

Northeast Dubois High School hosted 13 students and their teacher, Petra Griesbaum, from Progymnasium Rheinbischof-

sheim, from October 14-29. They stayed with students from Northeast Dubois. While here, they presented topics on various subjects to different classes and took field trips with our students. Following their stay, they headed for a week in New York City.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please remember that membership in the Indiana German Heritage Society runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership for 2001 is due in January. Please use the form listed below to renew your membership.

Because of the rising costs of printing and programs and overall inflation, the Board of Directors voted to increase dues effective January 1. The new due structure is listed below.

Membership in IGHS is still one of the best deals going.

Society Membership

Yes! Please enter/renew my membership:

☐ Individual \$15.00 ☐ Corporate \$100.00
☐ Family \$20.00 ☐ Sponsor \$500.00
☐ Organization \$30.00 ☐ Benefactor \$1,000.00
☐ Patron \$50.00 ☐ Library Rate \$15.00
☐ Full-time Student \$5.00 (with teacher's signature)

I wish to make an additional gift to IGHS of \$ _____

I wish to donate books/materials _____

☐ Yes, I am willing to help with activities!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. Home _____ Work _____

Please, make checks payable to: Indiana German Heritage Society and send to the Membership Chair, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204



IT WAS AN ACTIVE SEPTEMBER FOR IGHS AND GERMAN AMERICANS

*Athenaeum Turner members
meet with Dr. Annette Hofmann
after her presentation on Octo-
ber 5.*



*IGHS members Ruth Reichmann and
Hal Kunz with Indiana's first lady,
Judy O'Bannon at the German-
American festivities at the City Mar-
ket, Indianapolis on October 6*

*Folkdancers perform at the Indi-
anapolis City Market for German-
American Day, October 6*



NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM
THE INDIANA
GERMAN
HERITAGE
SOCIETY

