



NEWSLETTER

Indiana German Heritage Society^{inc}

Volume 3, Issue 1

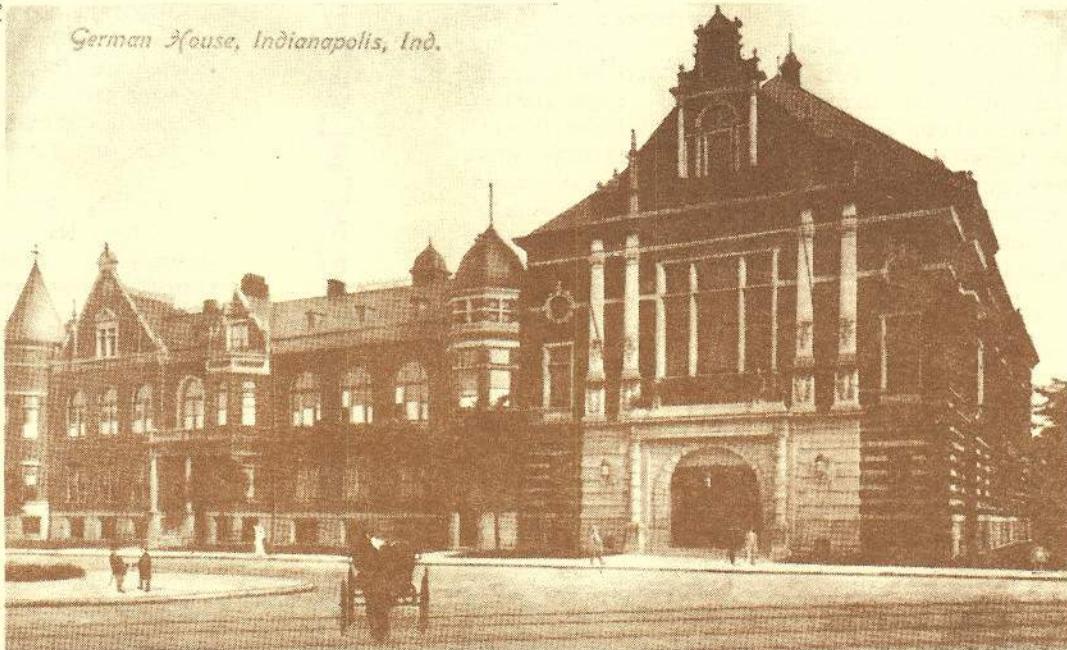
Winter 1987



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!

MARCH 7 ANNUAL MEETING
DEUTSCHE HAUS-ATHENAEUM

A full day's program is planned for our Third Annual Meeting on March 7. Concurrent sessions in genealogy, family and local history, and the teaching of German Americana will be featured. That evening we are invited to the Athenaeum Turner's annual St. Benno Fest. Bring a friend! Program and registration form will be mailed in early February.



WHITE CREEK PROJECT

The local discovery at the Bartholomew County Historical Society of twenty letters written by Johann Heinrich Zur Oeveste, a German immigrant who eventually settled in Wayne Township in southern Bartholomew County, was the beginning of a significant research project on German immigration to America that continues to unfold.

Those twenty letters are filled with exciting historical information and social commentary. They reveal many critical kinds of information, including the name of the town in Germany from which Zur Oesveste emigrated. Eberhard Reichmann, Professor of German Studies at Indiana University, contacted Antonius Holtmann, Professor at the University of Oldenburg, West Germany for assistance. Holtmann studies the social history of emigration from Germany, especially from Lower Saxony to America, and more specifically to Oldenburg's sister city, Oldenburg, Indiana. Holtmann was successful in locating the ancestors of J.H. Zur Oeveste in Rieste, where they have lived since 1250. Reichmann travelled to Rieste early this summer for additional research. (continued next page)

HOLTmann TO RETURN TO INDIANA FOR ANNUAL MEETING

Our German partner in the joint Indiana German heritage project, Prof. Antonius Holtmann, will return to Indiana in time for the Annual Meeting on March 7, accompanied by his associate, Wolfgang Grams, also of Oldenburg University, Germany. Holtmann will deliver the keynote address: "Heimat - in Germany and in America: Immigrants and their Families after 150 Years."

Both will make presentations based on their extensive field experience. In addition to "Searching for Your Ancestors in Germany," they will draw on the Zur Oeveste letters showing how one set of immigrant letters can disclose a network of emigration and immigration; why family history generates local and regional social history, and how studying one immigrant led to a major research project on the White Creek community in Bartholomew and Jackson Counties and to their roots in the Oldenburg area of Lower Saxony. (continued next page)

Interest in researching and understanding the history of emigration from Lower Saxony to the Midwest led to the founding of the Center for Emigration Research which is supported by the Ministry for Science and the Arts of Lower Saxony. Antonius Holtmann, Professor of History and Social Studies at Oldenburg University, Germany, is well known for his work in the theory and practice of teaching history and social studies. He will be in Indiana during March and April, and again in July in time for the Oldenburg Sesquicentennial Celebration July 2-4. He will attend a variety of IGHS functions and speak on the joint project in Indiana and at the Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies at the University of Kansas. Eberhard Reichmann, currently on leave of absence from Indiana University, will be working closely with Holtmann on German immigration history, oral history recording of individual experiences, regional history, transcriptions and translations of German letters and documents into English, and editing of materials. EbR

"HEIMAT" - THE IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCE

In most languages there is no precise translation for the German word "Heimat." It does not necessarily refer to birthplace or the area where one grew up. "Heimat" is where a person feels at home, identifying with the physical and human environment. The English word "home," used in a broad sense, probably comes closest to rendering the meaning of "Heimat." For the German author Peter Hartling (1979), "Heimat" consists of firsts:

The first word heard or learned. Our mother's voice. Our mother tongue. Our first perception, our first view of people, our environment; the first landscape, on the basis of which all later landscapes are judged, no matter how incomparable they may be. The first step we take in the world, the first experience with others, natural social instruction. Learning what neighborhood means, making use of nearness, imagining farness. Our first day of school. Our first friend. Our first love. Our first lie and how, for the first time, what had seemed tenable for all times tears us up and torments us. I am attempting to explain happiness, but also how we find our way in life.

What does "Heimat" mean for the immigrant and for his descendants? How does the immigrant deal with a dual affinity and a split memory. How do the descendants deal with shared traditions? In his keynote address: "Heimat - in Germany and in America: Immigrants and their Families after 150 Years," Professor Holtmann, Oldenburg University, Germany, will discuss this topic, based on his continuing research in Oldenburg, Germany and in Indiana.

Meanwhile, the family of Zur Oeveste in Rieste found and presented to Holtmann an additional eighty letters written by their adventurous ancestor Johann Heinrich and his successful nephew, who settled in Kentucky. Holtmann then came to Indiana in July to work on the Oldenburg and White Creek projects.

Public records at the Bartholomew County Court House and County Office Building revealed the original locations of the properties of Zur Oeveste and others mentioned in the letters.

Trips to the area, photographing the properties, St. John's Lutheran Church at White Creek, the focal point of the pioneer community, and the gravestones at the church cemetery, helped us understand the significance of the written and visual materials and documentation.

In July, Professors Reichmann, Holtmann, and I visited White Creek Pastor Marcus Jauss to examine church records for additions to the Zur Oeveste genealogical work Jane Murphy provided. Most significant, the original church records, believed destroyed in a fire in 1900, were found. These records and minutes of church meetings are very important in piecing together the story of the Americanization process the German immigrants experienced, not only in the White Creek area of Bartholomew and Jackson Counties, but throughout the Ohio Valley in the 19th century.

All of the letters and church records are handwritten in German script, a style of handwriting much different from today's. The letters must first be transcribed into a modern form and then translated. The initial twenty letters have been translated by Pastor Alvin Mueller of Seymour, formerly of Columbus. The newer find of eighty letters is being translated by Prof. Reichmann. He and Prof. Holtmann are working on an edition of the letters and on the emigration of Germans from Lower Saxony and their arrival in the New Land, particularly in Oldenburg and the White Creek area during the 19th century. Prof. Holtmann will return to Indiana in March.

The search goes on! All the letters found thus far have been written from America to Germany. Still to be located are letters written by the relatives in Germany to America and any other information relevant to the German Hoosier experience.

Arthur Schwenk

Anyone with any information regarding the White Creek area during the 19th century is kindly asked to contact Arthur Schwenk at (812) 546-5852. Mr. Schwenk is German teacher at Columbus North High School and Northside Middle School. He participated in the Summer Institute at I.U.P.U.I. and will speak on this subject at the Annual Meeting.

WHITE CREEK SETTLEMENT MEETING
JANUARY 17 AT ST. PAULS' LUTHERAN CHURCH

At 7:30 p.m. on January 17th, there will be an informational meeting on the White Creek settlement which extended from Bartholomew into Jackson County. Anyone interested in learning more about the story of the German immigration to the Borchers/White Creek/Waymansville area is invited to come. The meeting will be at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (Borchers) R. 4, Seymour, app. 3 miles from Waymansville and 5 miles North of Cortland.

Arthur Schwenk, who has been working with Bartholomew County land settlement, will talk to the group. Professor Eberhard Reichmann will explain the Society's cooperation with Professor Antonius Holtmann and the Institute for Emigration Research at Oldenburg University, Oldenburg, Germany. Anyone having any information and/or questions about families who settled in the Borchers/White Creek/Waymansville area is urged to attend this meeting.

To get to St. Paul's travelling south on I 65, turn off at Ogilville/Walesboro exit. Go West on 58 through Ogilville and Waymansville. Immediately outside Waymansville (about 1/4 mile after the store) turn left. Follow this blacktop road about 3 miles, the church is on the right. For further information on the meeting contact Wilmer Hoene at 522-7667.

Nominations --- !???

Anyone interested in serving on the Board is asked to send a brief resume to the Nominating Committee showing special interest and qualifications. Board members will be selected according to their qualifications and interests as they pertain to the functioning and well-being of the Society. Every board member is expected to serve on a standing committee and to attend board meetings.

7 Directors will be elected for 3-year terms. Officers are chosen by the Board of Directors at their first meeting after the election.

The Nominating Committee, Chairman Bill Selm, Eberhard Reichmann, Elfrieda Lang will recommend a slate. There will also be nominations from the floor!

Board Meetings are usually at noon on every second Tuesday of the month at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum in Indianapolis. These are open meetings and members are encouraged to attend.

Nomination resumes should be sent to:
William L. Selm, Vice President, IGHS
4025 Ruckle St., Indianapolis, IN 46205

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY GIVEN RARE JOURNALS



IGHS member, Mrs. Philip Willkie, presents IHS Library Director Robert O'Neill the 1853 German language edition of Volume I, Die Gesetze des Staates Indiana (Revised Statutes of the State of Indiana) passed at the Thirty-Sixth Session of the General Assembly. The two-volume work was printed less than one year following the 1852 English edition. IGHS Editorial Board Chair Eberhard Reichmann, on behalf of Albert Amthor of Indianapolis, conveyed to Director O'Neill the complete set of minutes (1882-1950) of the BAYERISCHE UNTERSTÜTZUNGS-VEREIN. The B.U.V. (Bavarian Beneficial Union) was a mutual health and life insurance group of German immigrants, one of approximately 50 Indy German associations. Amthor served as an officer of the B.U.V. The presentations took place at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Historical Society.

INFORMATION SOUGHT ON W. A. FRITSCH

IGHS is interested in William August Fritsch, M.D., the first Hoosier German historian, b. 1841 in Germany, and a longtime resident of Evansville. As a memorial for the State Centennial in 1916, he published German Settlers and German Settlements in Indiana (Evansville, 1915). A concise summary, it provides interesting information on Indiana events, collected in his travels for the State Board of Health. Among his other publications are: Zur Geschichte des Deutschthums in Indiana (New York, 1896); Aus Amerika, Alte und Neue Heimat (Stargard, 1905); Der Deutsch-Amerikanische National Bund (Philadelphia, ? 1911); and Deutsche Bücher im Staate Indiana (Jeffersonville, Indiana, 1900?). Please send information on Fritsch to Elfrieda Lang, 509 South Rose Avenue, Bloomington, Indiana, 47401.

Genealogy

Professor Arta Johnson, past editor, Palatine Immigrant, formerly Ohio State University, will address the genealogy session at our Third Annual Meeting. Her topics will be: "German Immigration in the 18th and 19th Centuries (including into Indiana)" and "Pronouncing German -- and Spelling what you Hear" or "Ungarbling Misspelled German." Her research, publication, teaching experience and sense of humor enhance her popularity.

QUERY--EISENHAUER/HOLZINGER.

Andrew Eisenhauer and wife, Magdalena (nee Holzinger), with 2 yr. old son Frederick, of Germany, sailed from LeHavre, arrived at New York on 21 Feb. 1863, and came directly to Huntington Co. IN. Need date and place of marriage of Andrew and Magdalena. Also searching for info about their parents, Joseph and Margaret (Muelbreken) Eisenhauer; John Holzinger and Wife Magdalena ().

Rita Brannan, R. R. #11, Box 513, Brazil, IN 47834.

Be aware and beware! There are several advertisers by mail who offer to supply information for your particular Family line for about \$30. These publications give little, if any, genealogical information, but are mainly listings of that surname from various directories and mailing lists within the United States, in many cases outdated.

Doris Leistner

DREYER'S FOCUS ON SOUTHEASTERN INDIANA

With two slide presentations at the Annual Meeting, David S. Dreyer, member of the IGHS History Committee, will tell the story of North Germans in Southeastern Indiana and their immigration from Lower Saxony (Oldenburg, Hannover) to Ripley County. He will also relate the search for letters and documents and his techniques in finding and visiting German cousins in Nord-Deutschland.

In early 1987, the Batesville Herald-Tribune will feature a series of five articles on A History of Immigration to the Batesville Vicinity. This series is an excellent example for responsible popularization of complicated historical processes and relationships; it should also be welcomed by teachers and students in the Batesville area. Fascinating reading guaranteed for young and old!

Dreyer's timing is perfect: a number of counties and churches in this area are looking forward to celebrating anniversaries--milestones for historical awareness and interest.

Eberhard Reichmann

Recently, IGHS members received a copy of the Nov./Dec. 1986 issue of Hoosier Heritage, published during the school year in conjunction with Hoosier Celebration '88 by the Indiana Department of Education and the Indiana Historical Bureau. The material on Indiana's German heritage for "Investigating Our Hoosier Inheritance" has been provided by IGHS members Ruth M. Reichmann, Eberhard Reichmann, Joe Salmons and Elfrieda Lang.

At the IGHS Annual Meeting Evelyn M. Sayers, editor of this publication, will explain "Hoosier Celebration '88" and introduce the model for investigating German heritage contained in the Nov./Dec. issue. Her presentation will be an introduction to the teaching of Hoosier Heritage in classroom and community.

For further information: Evelyn M. Sayers, Editor, Hoosier Heritage, Indiana Department of Education, 229 State House, Indianapolis, IN 46204, (317) 269-9663

Books

Indiana University Press published the first comprehensive bibliography on Indiana's religious history, Religion in Indiana: a Guide to Historical Resources, ed. by L.C. Rudolph, curator of books at IU's Lilly Library, and Judith E. Endelman, former assistant research librarian at IU.-\$22.50.

Cecilia Hendricks Wahl of Bloomington is the editor of "Letters From Honeyhill: A Woman's View of Homesteading 1914-1931." Published by Pruett Publishing Company of Boulder, CO. (\$22.95), the book is a social and family history of homesteading in Shoshone Valley, Wyoming. Written by Cecilia Hennel Hendricks, Mrs. Wahl's mother, to her family in Indiana, they describe the joys and problems of settlers. Cecilia Hendricks was an IU alumna and taught in the English Department, IU Bloomington, before her marriage. She returned to the faculty in 1931 when the Depression threatened the family holdings in Wyoming. Cecilia and John Hendricks were both descendants of German immigrants.

Richard Vonnegut, Sr., 710 E. 58th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220, has available The Biography of Jakob Schramm in a recent English translation. The German Manuscript and related family items are deposited in the Indiana Historical Society Library, Indianapolis.

A second English edition of F.C.D. Wyneken's Notruf is now available. It adds more of Wyneken's last ministry in Cleveland, OH, 1864-1875. Concordia Seminary Bookstore, 6600 N. Clinton, Fort Wayne, IN 46825.-\$3.90.

A gem of a genealogy is "The Buuck Family in America", Sesquicentennial (1836-1986). Karl Friedrich Buuck (1800-1872) was the father in law of F.C.D. Wyneken and among the founders of the Decatur "Friedheim" settlement. Orders: Gale C. Buuck, 4908 Schmucker Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46835.-\$5.00+\$1.50 postage.

Generations of school children and college students have grown up with an ideologically biased educational philosophy in regard to ethnicity. The outdated Melting-Pot theory still dominates social studies and history textbooks, and foreign language texts are equally remiss in presenting the respective ethno-linguistic strands and their role in the building of America. With 32.4 per cent of Indiana's population being of some form of German descent (slightly more than all other non-Anglo groups combined), it stands to reason that a genuine understanding of our state's history cannot be achieved without considerable attention to the ethnic factor.

The Session on Local and State History and the Teaching of Hoosier German Americana should be of particular interest to educators, because it addresses the issue of the "ethnic deficit" with workable pedagogical means. Evelyn M. Sayers (Indiana Department of Education) will speak on "Hoosier Celebration '88 and the German Heritage in Community and Classroom." Her presentation will elaborate on the teaching model published in the Nov./Dec. 1986 issue of Hoosier Heritage for which she serves as editor.



Prof. Reichmann and Summer Institute Members view old photographs at the Indiana Historical Society Library.

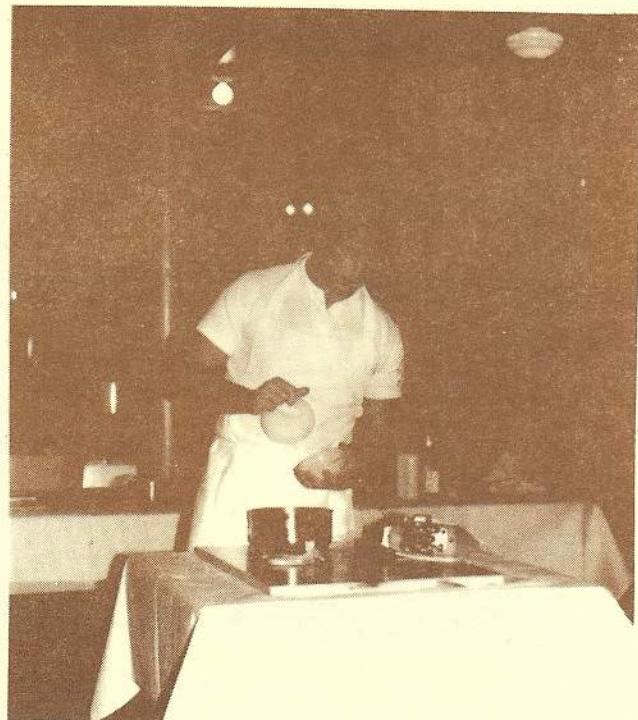
Giles Hoyt (Chairman, IUPUI German Department) will present his reflections on "The Summer Institute at Indiana University-Purdue University: A Model for Teacher Training." Four participants of this institute will demonstrate the fascination of local history: Mary Beth Stein (Folklore Department, IU), "American Politics Through German Eyes: The Elections of 1856 and 1860 as Reported in the Freie Presse von Indiana"; Arthur Schwenk (Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation), "St. John's White Creek Lutheran Church--Zur Oeveste Letters"; Darlene Dycus (Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation), "The Hoosier-German Heritage of the German-Speaking Churches of Evansville, Indiana"; Joy Zook (Tell City-Troy Township School Corporation), "Tell City Pretzels--A Unique History." (continued)

This session concludes with a panel discussion: "Ethnic Heritage Studies as a Part of Local and State History," moderated by Robert K. O'Neill (Director, Indiana Historical Society Library). Specialists in the teaching profession will respond to issues raised during the session and discuss how ethnic history can relate to educational settings in schools and colleges.

The educational initiative of IGHS will get national exposure at the Eleventh Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, April 23-25, 1987, University of Kansas. Eberhard Reichmann (German Studies, IU) has organized the first comprehensive program on "The Teaching of German Americana." Speakers and panelists for IGHS include Mary Lee Bowman (Mooresville High School), Giles Hoyt (IUPUI), Ruth M. Reichmann (President, IGHS) and Joe Salmons (Purdue). Our distinguished senior historian, Elfrieda Lang, will come along with us as critical observer.

Indiana has traditionally been neglected in the standard works on German Americana. Thanks to the energetic enthusiasm of IGHS members we are now second to none in research and breaking new ground in the teaching of our heritage.

For further information contact Eberhard Reichmann (812) 988-2866.



"Backe, backe Kuchen!" Johannes Höchemer, third generation family baker and Carl Duisberg Society exchangee from Speyer on the Rhein, demonstrated traditional German Christmas baking for a record crowd at the Indianapolis Chapter Stammtisch in November.

SOCIETY FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES PRESIDENT
AND GOSHEN COLLEGE PROF ON IHS/IGHS PANEL



IGHS Board Member and Director of Preservation Services, Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana, Charles Niehaus, moderated the IHS/IGHS panel in November. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, President of the Society for German-American Studies and Curator at the Blegen Library, presented his paper, "Hoosier Holdings of the German Americana Collection, University of Cincinnati," and Professor Ervin Beck, Goshen College, delivered a slide presentation, "Amish and Mennonite Painting on Glass."



Host family Tom and Beth Bohlsen of Greenwood (far left and far right, above) with Richard Baumann (Lake Constance), Mechanical Engineering, Purdue University, and Sabine Kunz (Frankfurt/Main), Business Administration, Butler University, at the St. Nikolausfest where the two exchange students described traditional celebration in their homes. Halbert and Ruth Kunz of Indianapolis are Sabine's host family.

BONAVENTURA HAMMER

Among the most interesting German-American authors are those who were born in America or who came here as children but nonetheless composed their works in German. One of these was Bonaventura Hammer who was born in 1842, in Dürmersheim, Baden, and came to America at the age of four. After studies in theology, he joined the Franciscan order and served as a priest in Lafayette, Indiana.

Hammer was a prolific author who published a dozen volumes of prose and poetry in the three decades before World War I. In 1886, he published two dramas: Herr und Diener and Geisterspuk und Aberglaube. In 1888, he translated Ben Hur into German and published a collection of poetry. After these initial works, Hammer continued to publish throughout the 1890s, including a play in 1892, entitled Kolumbus.

In 1911, his last volume appeared in Cincinnati in the Verlag des Sendbote, a German Catholic newspaper in the Queen City, and was entitled Aus dem Leben This contained a selection of stories which appear to be drawn from Hammer's own life experience, including one entitled "Im neuen Vaterland" which deals with life in the new fatherland. This volume, as well as his Herz Jesu Grüsse. Gedichte, published in Cincinnati in 1890, can be found in the German-Americana Collection, University of Cincinnati.

Hammer's work is significant for several reasons. First, he demonstrates the depth and richness of a particular strand of the Indiana German heritage. Second, he demonstrates the quality of German language maintenance, and has thereby set an example for latter day generations. And finally, his various plays provide the kinds of materials that should be examined for consideration for performing in a German-English bilingual presentation. Would it not be worthwhile as well as enjoyable if some Indiana German plays, or scenes thereof, could be presented and performed once again?

Don Heinrich Tolzmann



SPRING/SUMMER MEETINGS--OUR MOVEABLE FEASTS

Beginning in May, we take our Board/Member-ship Meetings to the four corners of the State. These "moveable feasts" explore our heritage around the State and provide association with members throughout Indiana. We are currently planning, with the help of dedicated friends and members, another exciting program for 1987.

Last year we visited Ferdinand in May, Goshen in June, the T.C. Steele Memorial in Brown County in July, and the Indianapolis Liederkranz in August. In this issue we begin reporting on these meetings.

MEMBERSHIP & renewal 1987



Indiana German Heritage Society^{Inc.}

My areas of interest are: (e.g. genealogy, family history, local and state history, religious history, traditions, education, cultural and educational exchanges, etc.)

APPLICATION AND RENEWAL

If you wish to join or renew your membership, please enclose your check with this statement today. Our membership year is from January 1st through December 31st. To increase society support you may wish to designate a higher category. Contributions are tax deductible on itemized returns.

Thank you for your support!

Annual Dues

Contributors of \$50 or more will be listed in the Tricentennial Edition.

Individual	\$10.00
Family	\$15.00
Organization	\$25.00
Patron	\$50.00
Corporate	\$100.00
Sponsor	\$500.00
Benefactor	\$1000.00
New Member	Renewal

Please make checks payable to the Indiana German Heritage Society.

receipt

RETAIN THIS PART FOR YOUR RECORDS

Indiana German Heritage Society, Inc. is dedicated to promote, throughout the state, interest in Indiana's German heritage and German American relations. It serves as a clearing house for research activities and information on Indiana's German heritage.

The Society looks at "German" not in terms of present political boundaries, but in terms of ethnic traditions of culture and language. Indiana's German heritage thus includes elements from all the German-speaking countries and regions of Europe: Austria, The Federal Republic of Germany, The German Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine and Southern Tyrol--and from Eastern Europe where millions of Germans lived before their expulsion after World War II.

Membership Dues
(Tax-deductible on itemized returns)

Name _____

Date paid _____

Check No. _____

Amount _____

Indiana German Heritage Society
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

I want to be active in my local and/or regional area. Please check.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gary/Hammond | <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goshen | <input type="checkbox"/> Evansville |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ft. Wayne | <input type="checkbox"/> Tell City/Jasper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette | <input type="checkbox"/> Bloomington/
Columbus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kokomo/Tipton | <input type="checkbox"/> Madison |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Muncie | <input type="checkbox"/> Jeffersonville/
New Albany |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond | <input type="checkbox"/> Vincennes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Bend | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Terre Haute | |

* If you wish to belong to the Indianapolis Chapter, please include an additional \$5.00.

Date _____

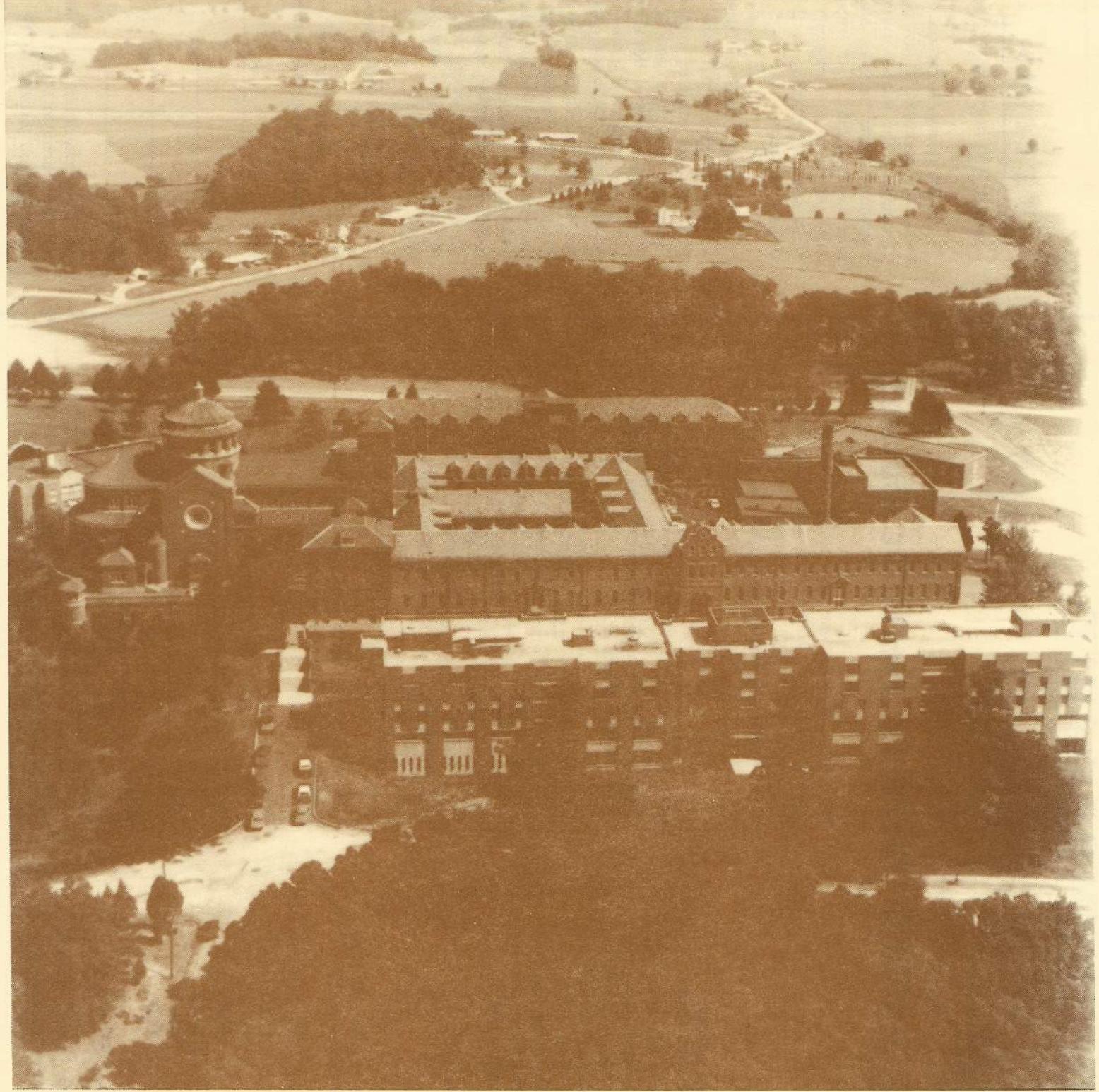
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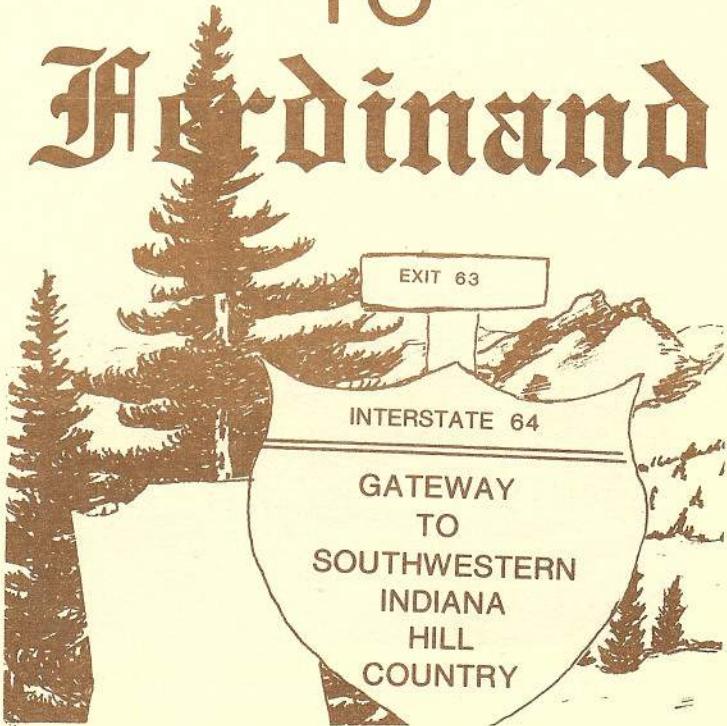
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Aerial view of CONVENT IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Ferdinand, Indiana, founded August 20, 1867. It is the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand. Construction history: Cluster of buildings circling the Convent Church, 1924; Central Quadrangle, 1886; St. Benedict Hall, Convent Residence and Library, 1936; Kordes Hall, 1962; Benet Hall, 1964. Photograph courtesy of the MARIAN HEIGHTS ACADEMY, an accredited high school for girls, located on the Convent's South Campus. Members of the Indiana German Heritage Society were guests of the Ferdinand Historical Society and the Sisters of St. Benedict, May 10th, at one of four statewide Regional meetings held last summer.

WELCOME TO *Ferdinand*



FERDINAND SISTERS AND SOCIETY HOST IGHS

On May 10, 1986, the Indiana German Heritage Society regional meeting was held at Ferdinand, Indiana. The Ferdinand Historical Society and Sisters of the Convent Immaculate Conception hosted the IGHS tour. Members and friends met at St. Ferdinand church to view the Ferdinand Historical Society exhibit and get acquainted.

Father Conrad Louis delivered an informative lecture about Father Kundek, his founding of Ferdinand and surrounding communities, changes in the structure and decoration of the church building, and related humorous stories.

Member Pat Backer reviewed accomplishments of the Ferdinand Society and projects in progress: preserving old pictures; developing Kundek corner in the public Library for the recognition of prominent Ferdinand citizens; microfilming past issues of the Ferdinand News and reissuing Ferdinand histories in celebration of its 1990 Sesquicentennial.

Following a superb lunch at the American Legion Home, Sisters Mary Kenneth Schuessle and Mary Angela Sasse conducted a tour of the Convent. Fascinating historic details were joined with extraordinary architectural vistas. The IGHS held its board-membership meeting. Many pictures were taken and the visit ended with promises to meet again at other historical places in Indiana.

Phyllis Johanneman, President
Ferdinand Historical Society

FOUNDING FATHER KUNDEK

The parish spire and "majestic dome castle that crowns the hill" above Ferdinand greeted Society members as they approached the town.

Upon assembling in the church, Father Conrad Louis described the founding of Ferdinand and its parish buildings. The establishment of town and church was due to the vision and labor of one adventurous man, Father Joseph Kundek. Kundek, born August 24, 1810, in Ivanic, Croatia, now Yugoslavia, ordained a priest August 17, 1835, served only two years as assistant to the pastor of Petrinia. He read the reports of the Leopoldine Society about missionary activities in the United States. This appeared to be a challenge for him, as he applied to the diocese of Detroit, but Bishop Simon Gabriel Brute assigned him to the diocese of Vincennes established in 1834.

The young missionary arrived in Dubois County on September 28, 1838, in charge of the area between the White and Ohio River with Evansville on the west and St. Mary of the Knobs to the east. He spoke Croatian, French, and German. Since most of his flock consisted of German speaking settlers, he was sympathetic to them. While traveling in the district on horseback, he decided to establish two resting stations in the form of Catholic towns along the bumpy and lonely road from Jasper to Troy, a distance of thirty-one miles. One of the stations, the town of Fulda, was nine miles north of Troy and the mainstation of Ferdinand was thirteen miles south of Jasper. In order to encourage Catholics to settle in his parish, he bought large tracts of land. In the region which is known as Ferdinand Township today, 1,360 acres were sold to Father Kundek.

On December 10, 1839, Father Kundek wrote the Prince-Archbishop of Vienna, the director of the Leopoldine Society. "I am about to found a new town and parish ... south of Jasper." He named the town Ferdinandstadt, in honor of Ferdinand, Emperor of Austria, a devoted member and patron of the Leopoldine Society. Moreover, he wanted to call the emperor the god-father of Ferdinand. In later reports sent to the Society, he indiscriminately referred to the town as Ferdinand, Ferdinandstadt, and St. Ferdinand.

On January 8, 1840, the town was surveyed and laid out by John Cassidy. He designated the new town under the German name Ferdinand because it was easier to pronounce. Two plans were pursued to induce settlers to come: first, Father Kundek advertised in Der Wahrheitsfreund, which had a wide circulation among Catholic Germans; second, when he visited a community where Catholic Germans resided, he would give a glowing account of his mission field.

continued next page

In his advertisement, Father Kundek stated that the church was built in the middle of the town. The first log church, thirty-two feet long and sixteen feet wide, however, may not have been built until the autumn of 1840. When settlers arrived in the spring and summer, they first had to build log cabins for their families and clear the ground for some fields. In the meantime, services were held in a private home.

In the spring of 1841, the congregation consisted of forty families and by January 6, 1842, there were fifty families and more arriving. Thereupon, Father Kundek decided to build a larger log church twenty by forty feet to accommodate 150 families. The old church would become a rectory and school, each to have one room.

On March 20, 1842, Palm Sunday, the Bishop of Vincennes dedicated the new log church. In June, he returned to confirm a class of thirty-three.

By the end of 1844, the congregation outgrew the second log church. Since Father Kundek had received \$1,940 from the Leopoldine Society in the summer of 1844, he decided that \$665 should be used for the construction of a new church, to be 60 by 109 feet and built of stone. The sandstone around Ferdinand was easily quarried and of high quality. Consequently, to reach his goal, he needed more funds and approached the Leopoldine Society for additional aid. They came to his rescue and on July 23, 1845, the cornerstone for the new church was laid.

In 1841 and 1848, Father Kundek tried to induce the Redemptorists to take over some German settlements in southern Indiana but he was unsuccessful. Being a man of great determination, he decided to appeal to the Benedictine Monastery of Einsiedeln, in Switzerland. In 1851, Bishop Maurice de St. Palais invited him to Europe and appointed him vicar-general for the Germans in the dioceses to increase his prestige. The Benedictines were interested and St. Meinrad's Abbey was founded. Thus, Kundek became the "father" of St. Meinrad's Archabbey.

In 1852, he visited Europe to stimulate interest in his missions. He had the town plat of Ferdinand artistically embossed and lithographed in Vienna and distributed 540 copies in influential Austrian circles. A copy of this document is in the Abbey Library at St. Meinrad and the Lilly Library, Indiana University.

Sister Mary Kenneth Schuessle, archivist of Convent Immaculate Conception, led a tour of the home of the Benedictine Sisters of Ferdinand, Indiana. It has become one of the largest groups of Benedictine women in the United States, founded in 1867, from St. Walburg Convent in Covington, Kentucky, by Bavarian American pioneers.

"The Romanesque church and its cloister hall are structures of beauty and unusual architecture." Beneath the dome one can get a good view of the entire sanctuary area with its
(continued)

life-sized cross and marble altar. The angels above the altar are "God's faithful servants and ... powerful protectors. The nine choirs of angels are depicted in strength and splendor on the windows that encircle the sanctuary on the lower level. The last window depicts the guardian angel of the Community. Two more angels adorn the upper level of the organ loft. The windows on the upper level of the sanctuary are filled with intricate design and many Eucharistic and Marian symbols. Taken as a whole they spell out MARIA--with one letter of Mary's name in the star at the center of each."

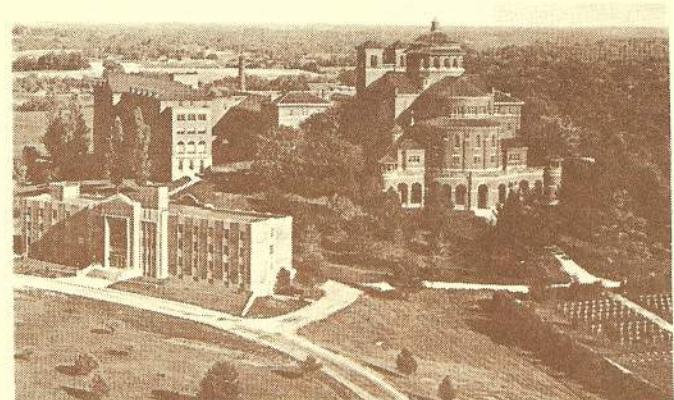


Photo by Marvin Boeglin, Chase Studio

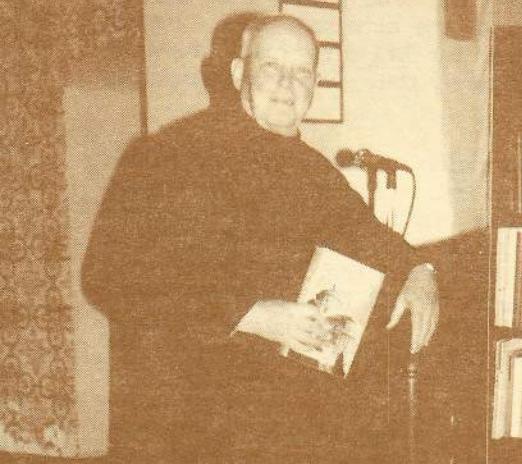
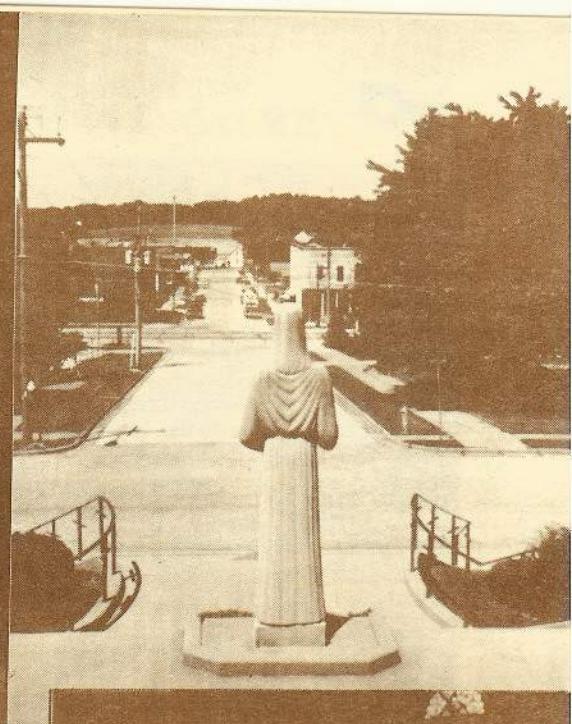
"Statues of Mary Immaculate and of Joseph, foster father of Jesus, are placed at the sides of the sanctuary on the lower level at the left and right, respectively."

The carved-wood panels between the pillars were sculpted by the firm of Anton Lange of Oberammergau. "Motifs of the passion and death of Jesus adorn these panels of oak. The lectern for readings at Mass, sedalia for ministers, and the decoration on the pews and the confessional were also carved by the Lange firm."

Victor Klutho, architect of St. Louis, drew the "ingenious design" for this "magnificent Romanesque basilica to crown the hill in Ferdinand known as Mount Thabor." His plans also incorporated "a stately stairway approach, cloister hall, and two additional small wings." Ground was broken in March, 1915, and construction began immediately, directed by John Liebe of St. Louis, a friend of Klutho. Fourteen months later, the exterior of the colossal structure was completed. Then a delay of six years suspended construction due to increased prices and shortages because of World War I. Work was resumed October 2, 1922, and on June 20, 1924, the Castle on the Hill was dedicated.

Within the walls of the castle is also a library which exhibits interesting items. Nearby is the vestment department which demonstrates the talents of Sister M. Rosella and her ability to guide the needle and scissor.

Elfrieda Lang



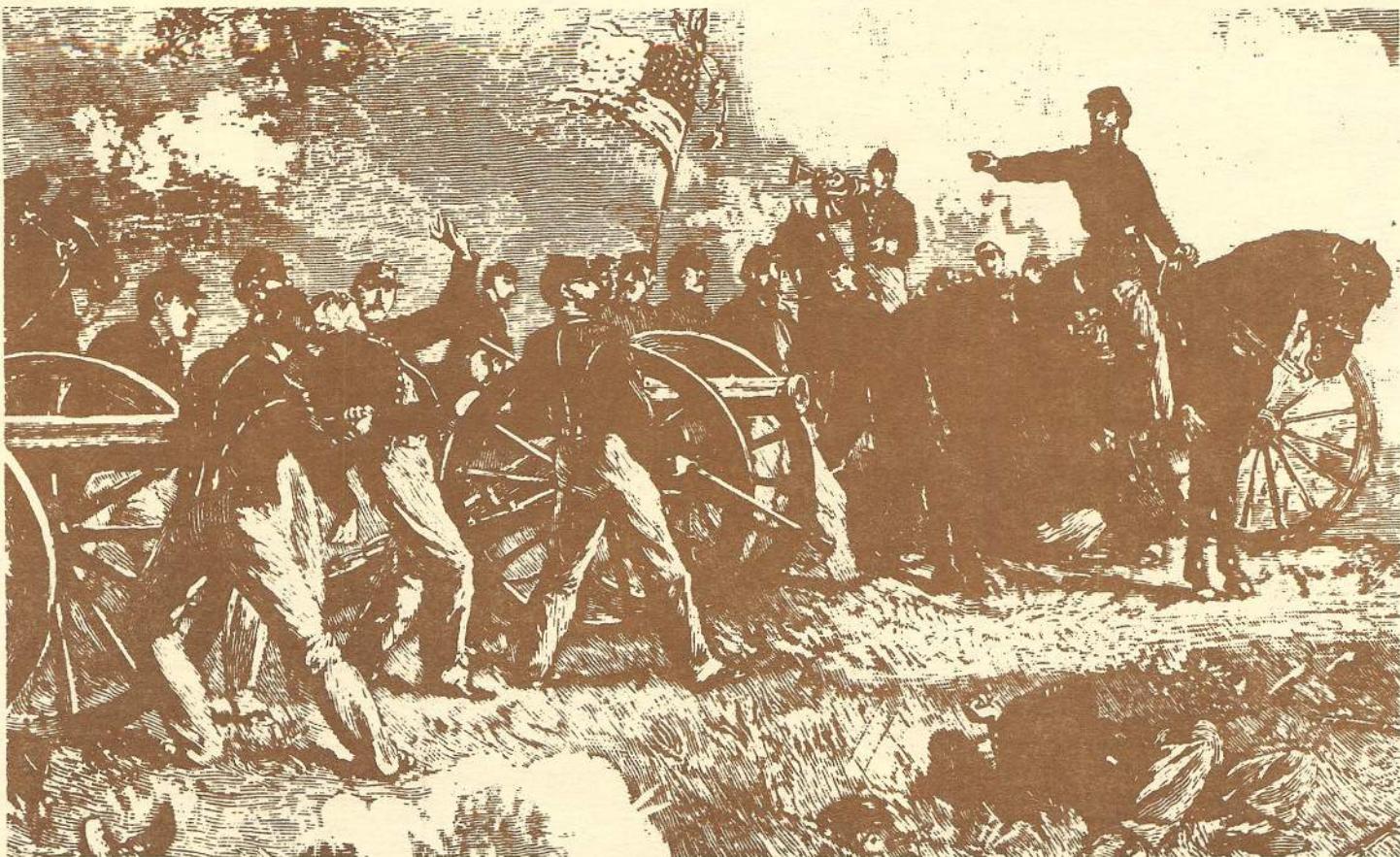
Father Conrad Louis, O.S.B.

Archivist Mary Kenneth Scheeselle, O.S.B.

Prioress Mary Walter Goebel, O.S.B.

Photos by CIC Archives, Joan Quante, Giles Hoyt and Bob Frederick

32nd INDIANA - "1st GERMAN"



Union Artillery in action. Drawing by A. R. Waud, one of the finest Civil War artists of the 19th century. Courtesy of Don Heitman, cover, Camp Chase Gazette, X 7, May 1983.

HISTORY OF THE THIRTY-SECOND INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY REGIMENT

The Thirty-second Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment, also called the First German, was composed of German immigrants and the descendants of local German settlers. The ten companies which comprised the 32nd Indiana were formed by Turner Clubs from all over the state—Indianapolis, Madison, Lafayette, Fort Wayne, Terre Haute, Aurora, Evansville, Lawrenceburg—and Cincinnati, Ohio, as well. On August 24, 1861 these volunteers were mustered at Camp Morton, Indianapolis.

August Willich, the regimental commander (b. Nov. 14, 1810) received his training at Potsdam Military School and served for nineteen years as an artillery officer in the Prussian Army. After the Revolution of 1848, he immigrated to America, where he worked as civil engineer and newspaper editor. At the request of Governor Oliver P. Morton, he assumed command of the Thirty-second Indiana. Willich drilled his regiment, in German, to a high degree. It made a favorable impression wherever it served. An innovative officer, he suggested construction of special wagons convertible to pontoon boats

by removing of wheels. To speed up troop movement and assure combat condition of troops upon arrival at the battlefield, he recommended wagon transport of troops. His superiors rejected both ideas. Yet, Willich's concern for his men's well-being earned him the nickname "Papa". When possible, he ordered bakery ovens constructed that troops would have fresh bread.

The Thirty-second gained nationwide fame for its stand against Confederate forces at Rowlett's Station, Ky. A detachment of 500 men under Lt. Col. Henry von Trebra fought off 1300 men of Terry's Texas Rangers and infantry under General Hindman. The 32nd formed the "hollow square", and drove the attackers back, losing 10 and 22 wounded, but killing thirty-three of the enemy, including Col. Terry and wounding fifty others.

The 32nd saw action at Shiloh on the second day, during which Col. Willich displayed great leadership. When his troops became unsteady under fire, he stood before them, his back to the enemy, and conducted the regiment through the manual of arms. He had the regimental band play "La Marsaillaise", regarding it as a stirring, inspirational tune, even though it was, and is, the French National Anthem. Recovering its stability, the 32nd launched a bayonet attack. Willich was promoted to brigade command. The 32nd remained in his brigade, under command of von Trebra and, later, Frank Erdelmeyer.

(continued next page)

At Stone's River, the regiment, roughly handled, was forced to retreat. Willich was captured and sent to Libby Prison, Richmond, Va. Eventually he was paroled, returned to brigade. The regiment fought resolutely at Chickamauga and, after Snodgrass Hill, under General Thomas, helped cover the retreat of Federal forces.

During the Siege of Chattanooga, the 32nd played a conspicuous part, as Willich's Brigade captured Orchard Knob. Willich ordered the assault up Missionary Ridge. The 32nd Indiana and the 6th Ohio were the first to reach the top. The 32nd participated in the Atlanta Campaign with General William Tecumseh Sherman. Before the fall of Atlanta, the 32nd was pulled back and sent via Nashville, Tn. to Indianapolis. Enroute, the 32nd was assigned to counter Confederate guerrilla forces in Kentucky. After three days fighting, the 32nd returned to Indianapolis. Willich who had been wounded at Resaca, Ga., was promoted to brevet major general and put in command of Cincinnati.

Due to the anti-German sentiment in the nation, and the army in particular, veterans of the 32nd did not re-enlist. Nor did most other all-German regiments. It rankled the German-American soldier that General Joseph Hooker had blamed German troops of the 11th Corps for his defeat at Chancellorsville. The New York Times labeled the 11th Corps "Dutch Cowards." Actually, of the Corps's 12,000 men, 7,000 were American. Of the remaining 5,000, only one-third were German, these having been the units offering the stiffest resistance to the Confederate attack made by "Stonewall" Jackson.

The three-year veterans were mustered out on Sept. 7, 1864. The remaining 200 replacements whose terms had not expired were organized into a battalion of four companies under Hans Blume. At war's end they were stationed with General Sheridan's occupation forces in central Texas. They returned to Indianapolis and were mustered out on Dec. 4, 1865.

Several Indiana regiments ended the war in Texas as part of Sheridan's 500,000-man army of observers. With French troops in Mexico, a war with France was possible.

Tactics slowly evolved during the course of the Civil War. The basic formation was a 1,000-man regiment, drawn in two ranks. Skirmishers were advanced to provide security and, if possible, push back the enemy without committing the main body of troops. Units marched into battle in columns-of-four abreast or columns of platoons. Battles were slug fests. Whichever side suffered the most gave way. The defense had the advantage and battles were rarely decisive as in Napoleonic Wars. As the war continued, more skirmishers were sent out. Log fortifications and entrenchments were used. Casualties could be severe. Yet, because of poor sanitary conditions, four times as many soldiers died of disease as were killed in battle.

The uniform remained much the same throughout the war. The typical Western Soldier wore a slouch hat or forage cap. The four-button sack coat was navy blue wool, with sky blue wool trousers. Most soldiers felt undressed without a vest. During the winter, a greatcoat was worn if it had not already been discarded. Sometimes a veteran regiment would "requisition" from a new regiment what they needed.

The armament and accouterments of the Civil War soldier were varied, but the most common weapon was the three-banded, muzzle-loaded, rifle musket with an effective range up to 600 yards. A marksman could hit a target at 1,000 yards, although most battles were fought around 200. The musket fired a one-ounce conical lead bullet which upon impact took everything with it.

The soldier carried what he needed. Beside the musket, he slung his cartridge box over his shoulder. On his belt he wore a cap box, bayonet scabbard, and canteen. In his haversack were tinplate, knife, fork, tin cup and rations. The ration could consist of salt pork, various vegetables and the ever-presenthardtack, a very solid biscuit.

Early in the war, soldiers carried a knapsack, but later, especially in the West, the trooper rolled a blanket in a rubber poncho and slung it over his shoulder. He slept in the open or in a dog tent, the equivalent of today's pup tent, open at both ends.



The "modern" 32nd Indiana is three years old. The concept of a German company originated with Bill Keitz of Lancaster, Oh. Unfortunately Bill's poor health have kept him from marching with us. We miss his leadership. While membership of the 32nd is predominantly from Central Indiana, other members are from over the nation. Peter Schneider of West Berlin is our mentor and "spiritual leader". Ours is the sole unit in the country doing a German "impression." We are the only reenactment group in the United States with a partner group in Germany. Germans in Osnabrück are also portraying the 32nd.

New members are always welcome. We use the Prussian drill manual with all commands in German. However, one need not speak German to join. All "impressions" are welcome, from riflemen to musicians. Doctor and civilian impressions are also welcome.

Those interested in the 32nd should contact:

Don Heitman, 2909 East 62nd Street
Indianapolis, IN 46220, (317) 253-292

Calendar of Events

January 13 Noon Board Meeting at Athenaeum

January 17 7:30 p.m. White Creek Settlement
Meeting at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,
Seymour. Wilmer Hoene (812) 522-7667.

January 21 7:30 p.m. Athenaeum Stammtisch: Film
"The Blue Angel." Dinner at 6:00 p.m.
For reservations call (317) 636-0390.

February 10 Noon Board Meeting at Athenaeum

February 27 "Fasching" Costume Party at the Athenaeum. Dinner at 6:00 p.m. For reservations call (317) 636-0390.

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THIRD
ANNUAL
MEETING
March 7
1987



"In the many matters which we of the West shall be obliged to consider with reference to the nation and the rest of the world . . . culture, in its ancient and honorable sense, is quite likely to make a poor fight for attention . . . There are balances as between materialism and idealism which it is desirable to maintain if the fineness and vigor of democracy and its higher inspirational values are to be further developed. Our Middle Western idealism has been expending itself in channels of social and political betterment, and it remains to be seen whether we shall be able to divert some part of its energy to the history, the literature, and the art of the past, not for cultural reasons merely but as part of our combat with provincialism and the creation of a broad and informed American spirit."

Meredith Nicholson, The Valley of Democracy. 1918

