

NEWSLETTER

Indiana German Heritage Society^{Inc}



Volume 4, Issue 1

Winter 1988



SIGNING OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT.
October 2, 1987. Photographs courtesy of Carol Kastner.

MARCH 12 ANNUAL MEETING

A full program is planned for the Fourth Annual Meeting, March 12. Keynote speaker will be architect Erdmann Schmocker from Berne, Switzerland. He will discuss the three Berns: "Bern, Berne, New Berne: in Switzerland and in America." In the session, THE TEACHER, THE STUDENT, AND THE COMMUNITY teachers and students of all levels will demonstrate family and community projects. The session will describe research and field work, oral history and other activities which enliven the Social Studies and Language classroom and benefit the community.

A delicious German luncheon at the Rathskeller prepared by our Austrian Chef, Werner Graf, will be followed by a session on EMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING. Robert Rau will present "Cincinnati: Gateway to Indiana." Richard Askren, Carol Kastner and Bill Selm, will describe the movement of German immigrants into Indiana, the Protestants who were responsible for "The White Creek Settlement and Its Roots" and the Catholics who settled in Oldenburg. Persons involved in cultural exchanges last year will talk about their experiences in "Roots in Germany: Visiting the Descendants". The last session GERMAN AND ITS DIALECTS IN THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY will discuss German dialects in

DAS DEUTSCHE HAUS-ATHENAEUM

Germany (Frank Banta) and in Indiana (Peter Freeouf and others). Numerous speakers of some Indiana German dialects and teachers from bilingual communities will talk about their dialects and why they are important.

In the evening we are invited to the Athenaeum Turners' Annual St. Benno Fest. Bring a friend! Program and registration form will be mailed in February.

BOARD ELECTIONS

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 names of everyone nominated will be presented to the membership. Anyone interested in serving on the board is requested to send a brief resume to the Nominating Committee. The Committee: Rosalind McCart, Bill Selm, Hal Kunz will recommend a slate. Board members will be selected according to their qualifications and interests as they relate to the functioning and wellbeing of the Society. Every board member is expected to serve on a standing committee and to attend board meetings. There will be nominations from the floor!



GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY CEREMONY AT THE WHITE HOUSE ROSE GARDEN. Photographs courtesy of Carol Kastner.



CALL FOR STUDENT PROJECTS AND EXHIBITS

For the 1988 Annual Meeting, we are planning a session on THE TEACHER, THE STUDENT, AND THE COMMUNITY. Teachers and students of all grade levels are urged to share their involvement in Indiana German Heritage Studies. Participants in this session will focus on these questions:

1. How does the teacher bring Indiana German heritage into the classroom?
2. What types of projects are undertaken by students?
3. How are the results shared with the community?

We are especially interested in students reporting on their projects. There will also be a student exhibit area.

Teachers and students wishing to participate in this session should send a brief description of their project and/or exhibit materials to:

Professor Eberhard Reichmann, German Studies, Ballantine Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN 47405. Deadline: February 18.

EMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

In the first afternoon session of the Annual Meeting, Robert Rau will describe Cincinnati as the "Gateway to Indiana". After arrival in the New World, thousands of German emigrants of the mid-19th century came first to Cincinnati, worked there for a time, saved some money, then purchased land in Indiana.

Richard Askren and Carol Kastner will speak about the progress in their research involving the White Creek community study. In "The White Creek Settlement And Its Roots" they will explain how St. John's Lutheran Church spawned other churches as the settlers at the White Creek initiated new congregations and communities. In the Protestant churches, much control over affairs lay with the parishioners who called the pastor to shepherd the flock.

(continued)

Bill Selm will show us Oldenburg as a Catholic community. In Catholic pioneer communities, missionaries such as Fr. Ferneding, Fr. Rudolph (Oldenburg) and Fr. Kudek (Dubois County) played the leading role.

In the last part of this session, "Roots in Germany: Visiting the Descendants," persons involved in cultural and educational exchanges will share their experiences. They will illustrate how these exchanges provide not only a good time, but contribute to good will and understanding, and can also be a significant part of German-American research.

GERMAN AND ITS DIALECTS IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Tens of thousands of native-born Hoosiers, scattered around the state, still speak German today. Many urban first-generation immigrants live in northwest Indiana. Rural Dubois County probably has over 2,000 German speakers. Thousands of Old Order Amish and Mennonites--concentrated in northeast Indiana and Daviess County--are bilingual. Into the 1910's, many knew a dialect, spoken in the home and on the street, and standard High German that was learned in school, used in church and read in German-language publications. In 1886, Indiana had 231 German schools which enrolled over 30,000 students.

The Session on German and Its Dialects in Family and Community will deal with the often confusing relationship of dialects to high German. Many consider all dialects "bad German"; and with "low German"--the dialect spoken in the northern lowlands of Germany--"low" also takes on the meaning of "bad." In an illustrated presentation, Frank Banta (Professor of German at I.U., Bloomington) will clarify the relationship of dialects to High German.

Joe Salmons (Professor of German, Purdue University) will introduce us to the Hoosier German dialects which differ radically from one another. They are spoken now most actively by persons over 50. Peter Freeouf (Ph.D. candidate, I.U., Bloomington) will discuss the different dialects of Dubois County (where a word can take several forms). There, "to speak," can be expressed with sprechen, babble, schwätze, küren, blaure, etc. Greg Humpa (Purdue University) will consider another kind of German, more likely to survive here, the Pennsylvania German of the Amish and Mennonites, practically a language unto itself. JCS



MARION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETING

The next meeting of the Marion County Historical Society will treat the subject of ethnic neighborhoods in Marion County, including the Germans. The meeting takes place on Saturday, January 23. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Rooftop Lounge, Union Bldg. at IUPUI.

FASCHING-KARNEVAL-CARNIVAL-MARDI GRAS

On Friday, February 12, we will celebrate Carnival at Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum with food, dancing and costumes. Why not dress up and join us! Call (317) 636-0396 for reservations.

The Carnival season is known by many names throughout Europe. In Germany alone we find four: Fasching, Fastnacht, Fasnacht, Fasnet--plus Karneval. It begins on New Year's Day or immediately following Twelfth Night, the Festival of the Three Kings (or Magi, Epiphany) on January 6, and ends with Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent. Celebration parties, dances and balls are accompanied by "Kappen" (caps) and masking. In each city a Prinz Karneval, referred to as "His Crazy Highness", is elected to head with his princess a court of fools and lead the frolics. On Shrove Tuesday the crazy couple will move with their retinue into the Rathaus (City Hall) to govern until midnight when the merrymaking and foolishness comes to a sudden halt.

New Karneval songs pop up every year. Big pageants with costumed marchers and masked dancers and floats are especially colorful in the cities of Cologne and Mainz in the Rheinland where it is almost a civic duty to join the fun on Shrove Tuesday. This is the day before Ash Wednesday, so called because it was the day on which "shrift" or confession was made in preparation for the great fast. The Germans know it as "Fastendienstag." It is celebrated in Catholic countries as the last day of the carnival season with feasting and merrymaking. In England, only the eating of pancakes survived as a social custom, the day having been called at one time "Pancake Tuesday." The French name for Shrove Tuesday is Mardi gras, "Fat Tuesday," an allusion to the fat ox which is ceremoniously paraded through the streets.

In the US the tradition is only regionally observed. In Philadelphia a Mummers Parade is held on New Year's Day. The word Mummer is derived from the German word Mumme and means masquerader. Participants compete for prizes as they strut up Philadelphia's Broad Street in huge and gaudy costumes of sequins and feathers. New Orleans has its Mardi Gras, the closest equivalent to Karneval.

In Europe, the tradition dates back to the Middle Ages. It combines a number of old fertility rites and customs like the driving out of winter. In the midst of winter doldrums Fasching generates for the young and the young-at-heart ten times the fun of Oktober-fests.

RMR



Around The State



Signing of the German-American Day Proclamation by Indianapolis Mayor William Hudnut. IGHS board members Walter Noot, William Selm and Senior Vice-President Halbert Kunz are witnessing the signing. Photograph courtesy Office of the Mayor.



Mrs. Maria Smith with model of a German castle. Courtesy of Rushville Republican.

In observance of German-American Day on October 6, Mrs. Maria Smith, a native of Germany, visited the first and fifth grade classes at Mays Elementary School. She presented information about German tradition and heritage. 1st grade students of Mrs. John Kaiser colored maps of German-speaking countries and learned German words and phrases.

TOPS AND BOTTOMS

In the 1980 Census, Dubois tops all other Indiana counties' percentage of the population claiming "German Only" and "Some German" ancestry. According to David Dreyer, author of A History of Immigration to the Batesville Vicinity (1987), the top and the bottom five counties with (I) German Only, (II) Some German, and (III) Combined Total are:

	I	II	III
1. Dubois	61.7	12.9	74.6
2. Ripley	33.4	18.5	51.9
3. LaGrange	33.5	18.0	51.5
4. Franklin	33.1	17.8	50.9
5. Adams	28.7	22.2	50.9
88. Sullivan	7.5	14.4	21.7
89. Orange	8.3	13.2	21.5
90. Lawrence	8.0	12.9	20.9
91. Lake	6.2	13.6	19.8
92. Scott	7.1	10.8	17.9

David Dreyer's complete statistics on the Hoosier Germans as reflected in the 1980 Census will appear in the Hoosier German Heritage, the comprehensive anthology currently being prepared by Eberhard Reichmann and Elfrieda Lang.
EbR



German-American Day is Tuesday

JASPER — The National German-American Day will be celebrated on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at Northwood Good Samaritan Health Care Center in Jasper.

Mayor Jerome Alles and Robert Verkamp, president of the local German Club, will co-sign a proclamation at 10 a.m.

The German class of Jasper High School will contribute to the program.

The Rev. Dr. George R. Muenich will give a spiritual message in German during daily devotions at 10:30 a.m. Alene Chanley will be organist. A balloon lift-off will take place immediately after the service.

A complete German menu will be served to the residents for the noon meal. The menu will consist of Bohemian pork chops with sauerkraut, kartoffel, apfel struedel, heim gemacht brot und zur trinken.

At 2 p.m. the residents will have the opportunity to listen to the documentation of "Indiana, Our 19th State" by Dr. Sabine Jordan.

German hospitality and tradition will continue with a "kaffee klatsch" at 2:30 p.m. with refreshments appropriate for the occasion.

"Deutscher Verein" from the local German Club, Jasper High School and out-of-town guests are expected to visit with residents throughout the day.

The purpose of the German-American Day resolution is to establish a national day of celebration on behalf of the German heritage across the country.

The dedication of the German-American Tricentennial Garden in Washington, D.C., provides an opportunity to join the nation in the celebration of its German heritage.

Hoosier Heritage statistics report that "In 1850 more than half the foreign born population of Indiana was German. German-American institutions had a large impact in Fort Wayne, Indianapolis and Evansville and also on some rural areas such as Dubois County where the German language was more often heard than English."

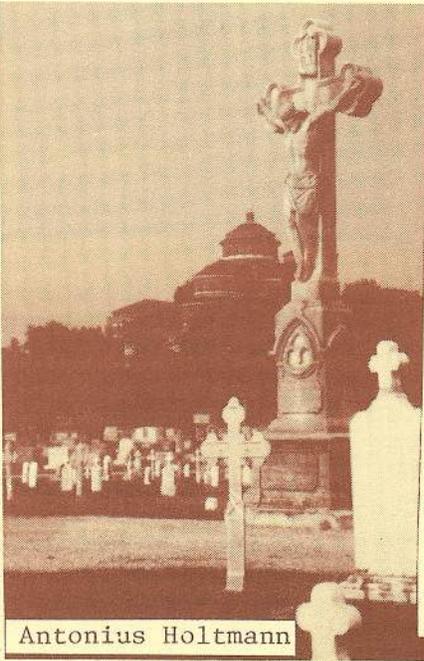
Since the celebration of German immigration to the U.S. in 1983, German Heritage interests in the Hoosier state have increased through the endeavors of many including Dr. and Mrs. Eberhard Reichmann of Indiana University.

Dr. Reichmann is currently completing a book, "Our German Hoosiers," for release this fall. The book will include information on churches, places and persons from Dubois County.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY

Representative of the many celebrations in the Hoosier State are these from Jasper and Ferdinand.

Photographs courtesy of the Jasper Herald and the Ferdinand News.



Antonius Holtmann



GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY IN FERDINAND — Town Board president Larry Hamilton [seated] signed a proclamation on Sept. 28th declaring Oct. 6 as German-American Day in Ferdinand. Standing from left are board member Alberta Ebert, Historical Society members Joan Quante and Phyllis Johanneman, and board member Jim Treat. This day is to be observed each year in the future on behalf of the German heritage in Ferdinand. "It is the expressed hope of the Ferdinand Historical Society and the Ferdinand Town Board that this will spur interest nationally for a German-American Day," said Hamilton.

Forest Park German-American Day



GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY AT FOREST PARK — Front row [left to right]: Debbie Kerstiens, Donna Kunkler, Janelle Jamniczky, Kristi Reutman, Stacey Burger. Back row: Larry Tenbarge, Michelle Fromme, Angie Meyer, Jay Fischer, Beth Hoppenjans, Rich Ward, Mark Dilger, Tina Shaw.



GERMAN STUDENTS TO HOLD STATE CONGRESS

On February 27, the Indiana Association of Students of German will hold their annual state congress on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. Approximately 350 high school and college students of German, representing student German Clubs from over the state, will attend workshops on such diverse topics as German folk dances, soccer, and, of course, the German heritage of Indiana. There are also contests for German language skills including essay writing and spelling. A "brain game" between teams from various schools will test the students' knowledge of life and culture in the German speaking world. The IASG has its "headquarters" at Columbus North High School under faculty advisor Judy Eaton. The IUPUI German Club, whose president is Robin Geisinger and faculty advisor is Dr. Claudia Grossmann, will host the event. In the evening, a Fasching dance takes place at the Deutsches Haus-Athenaeum where students (and faculty) must appear in costume or pay a fine. GRH



Claude Eckert, Chairman of the Jasper-Pfaffenweiler Sister Cities Committee presents Governor's Recognition of the Sister City Relationship to Mayor Jerome Alles. At left is Councilman Dr. Edward Ploetner. Photo courtesy The Herald.

GRADUATE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Again this summer, Professors Giles R. Hoyt and Eberhard Reichmann (IU-Indianapolis and IU-Bloomington,) will hold a two-week institute on the German cultural heritage of Indiana. The format will be different from that of 1986. Classes will be held in various parts of the state where the German heritage is strongest and resource material most plentiful, e.g., New Harmony, Goshen, Oldenburg and St. Meinrad, Indianapolis and Bloomington. A joint offering of the IU campuses at Indianapolis and Bloomington, the institute will enroll graduate students of German, Folklore, History or Education. For information, contact Prof. Hoyt at Indiana University-Indianapolis (IUPUI), Dept. of German, Indianapolis IN 46202 (317-274-2330).

BUSINESS STUDENT EXCHANGES

Two exchanges to Germany will be available this year for advanced students interested in international business. Through the Department of German at Indiana University-Indianapolis, five students from the Indiana University system will be selected to participate in an internship in Baden-Wuerttemberg, Germany. All expenses, including travel, are provided through grants and donations from participating firms. A semester-long internship program in Pforzheim is also available through the IU School of Business. IGHS assisted last year in providing homestays and programs for the German participants of the Baden-Wuerttemberg exchange. The Society benefits greatly through our contact with these young people who are always amazed at the depth of the German heritage in Indiana. GRH

JASPER HONORED BY GOVERNOR ORR

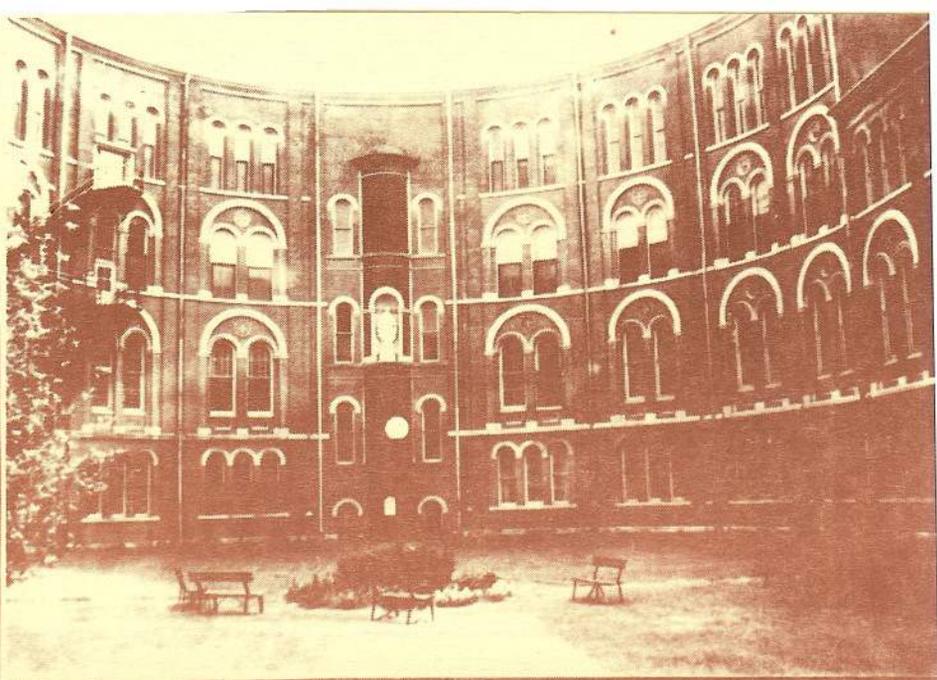
During a reception held October 22 at the Lincoln Hotel Ballroom, Jasper was honored by Governor Robert D. Orr for its excellent sister cities programs with Pfaffenweiler, Germany. On hand to receive the award were Claude Eckert, Chair of the Sister City Committee, his wife, Martina; representing the mayor were Councilmen Vernon A. Reising and Dr. Edward Ploetner. Claude Eckert presented the award to the Jasper City Council and Mayor Jerome Alles during their regular meeting on November 10.

Orr's proclamation recognizes "those efforts which further the cause of international friendship and understanding between countries" and cites Jasper for its "exemplary efforts in international cooperation and understanding through citizen involvement and community participation." This town affiliation is based on historical ties. Among the settlers of Jasper were immigrants from Pfaffenweiler. The telephone directories of both towns show dozens of identical names. The common roots and heritage are creating a very special bond between both towns. RMR

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

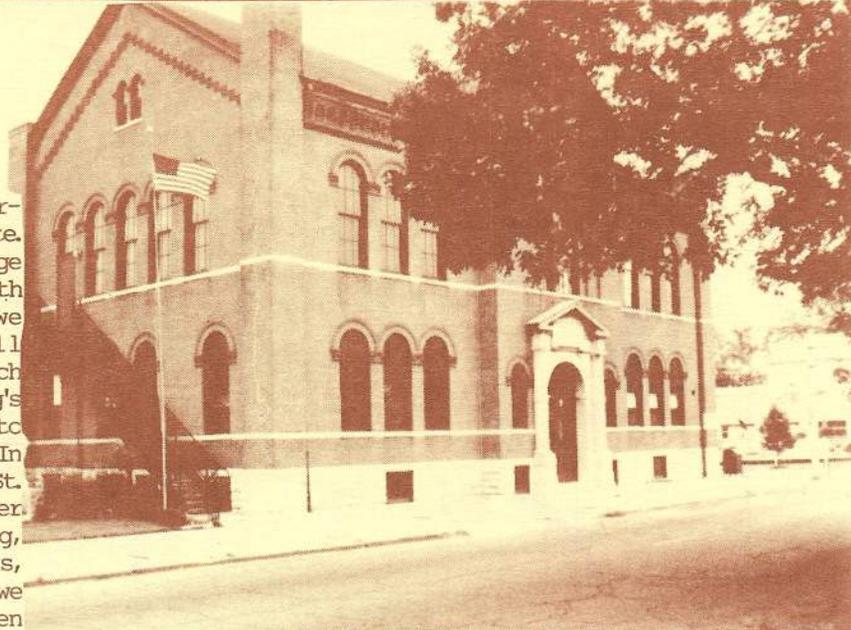
There is good news for all who donated to the German-American Friendship Garden. Ruth E. Denk, Committee Chair, announced that sufficient money has been raised, work has begun and a June dedication is anticipated.

The Garden will honor 300 years of German-American contributions to this country and the friendship between Germany and the U.S.A. It is located in the Mall near the Washington Monument, within walking distance of the White House and the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials.



SUMMER EXCURSIONS

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. Last year we celebrated Richard Lieber at the Whip-Poor-Will Lodge in Nashville, visited Sacred Heart Church in Indianapolis, participated in Oldenburg's Sesquicentennial and helped Huntersville to celebrate their Sesquicentennial in July. In August we visited the Eugene V. Debs Home, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and the Oberlander Club in Terre Haute. We are currently planning, with the help of dedicated friends and members, another exciting program for 1988. In May, we will be in Fort Wayne and on June 11, Helen Moore is planning a Peppertown-Metamora-Brookville program. If you would like to host one of our summer excursions, write to us or call Hal Kunz at (317) 251-0026.



TERRE HAUTE VISIT. Clockwise top left, St. Mary-of-the-Woods: Church of the Immaculate Conception, Courtyard, and Dining Hall. St. Benedict's German School and Church. Photographs courtesy of Giles Hoyt.

MEMBERSHIP & renewal 1988



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.

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$1000.00

New Member Renewal

Please make checks payable to the Indiana German Heritage Society.

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 _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Business Phone _____ Home Phone _____

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

Our German partner, Antonius Holtmann of the Center for Emigration Research, Oldenburg, Germany, is currently preparing, for publication in German, The zur Oeveste Letters. Over 100 letters were written by members of the Family Kessens zur Oeveste, originally from Rieste, to their families in Germany. These letters span a period of 100 years, from 1834 through 1935, and touch not only personal lives, but provide interesting commentaries on historic events. The volume will also include the zur Oeveste family tree.

During their stay in Northern Germany last summer, Art Schwenk's Roots Tour visited the ancestral home of Johann Heinrich Zur Oeveste in Rieste and were warmly received. The farm has been in the same family since 1250!

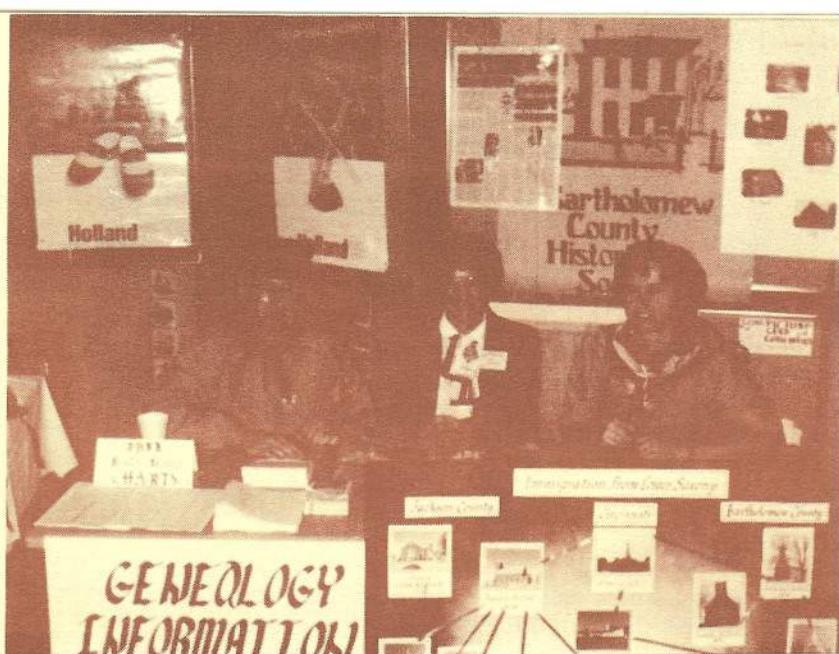
COMMUNITY STUDY AT WHITE CREEK

The local discovery at the Bartholomew County Historical Society of twenty letters written by Johann Heinrich Zur Oeveste, who eventually settled on White Creek in southern Bartholomew County, was the beginning of a significant research project on German immigration to America. The letters led to many other immigrants/emigrants who came from Oldenburg and Hannover. In anticipation of the Sesqui-centennial Celebration in 1990, St. John's Church and the White Creek Settlement are a major focus of the study. It will examine the history of the families and their descendants, both in Germany and in the U.S., from the time of the emigration to the present. This study merges the Zur Oeveste letters with the life of the congregation and its history within the larger context of the Lutheran Church. Protestant church records document German--and "Low German"--congregational life; they are important for church history in Indiana, as well as in Germany.

Oldenburg, Indiana, is named after the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. Many Hoosier ancestral records show Oldenburg or Hannover as the place of origin. This usually does not refer to the two German cities of Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), but to the former Grand Duchy of Oldenburg and the former Kingdom of Hannover. If you have ancestors who came from these two areas, or if you are interested in working with us, please, contact Ruth Reichmann at (812) 988-2866 or Carol Kastner at (317) 881-5055.

GENEALOGY

Searching your German Ancestors? Try the German Genealogical Society of America (GGSA). It is the first national society exclusively devoted to helping Americans of German descent to research their ancestry in the German-speaking and formerly German-speaking areas of Europe. For a fee (\$8 per surname for members and \$10 per surname for non-members) GGSA will search its indexes and other resources. Results of this initial search are prepared into a "Research Report" with an analysis of findings.



COLUMBUS ETHNIC EXPO. From left to right Arthur Schwenk, Carol Kastner and Olga Otte. Photograph courtesy of Carol Kastner.

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To obtain a research request form, include a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to GGSA, P.O. Box 291818, Los Angeles, CA 90029. Do not send any money with requests.

Genealogy Software: A computer program for genealogy databases and reports is "Family Ties." It is so good it is approved by the Mormons who are probably the world's most dedicated genealogists. It runs only on IBM and compatibles and is available through Public Brand Software (dial 1-800-IBM-DISK). This is a public domain program and available for cost.

German-American Catalogue. 1,050 books, manuscripts, broadsides and ephemera are listed in the KEYSTONE NINE UNMENGER BUECHER Catalogue, publ. by the Family Album, R. 1, Glen Rock, PA 17327. If you mention IGHS when ordering your copy, all you pay is \$2.50 to cover p&h.

Achtung: Descendants of Hessian Soldiers! The Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association is "dedicated to researching those German auxiliary troops (generally called Hessian) who remained in America after the Revolutionary War ... and were the progenitors of many thousands of Americans living today"--as our Senator Richard Lugar. The archives of this association are maintained at the Lancaster County Historical Society. Membership \$15.00. Address: Box 99, Pennsauken, NJ 08110.

German Queries is a new service, published occasionally, to help with German ancestors. Any number of queries may be submitted. Each issue has at least 25 pp. plus index and some reviews. Issues 1 and 2 are available at \$5.00 each post paid. Address: Bette Butcher Topp, 1304 W. Cliffwood Court, Spokane, WA 99218-2917.

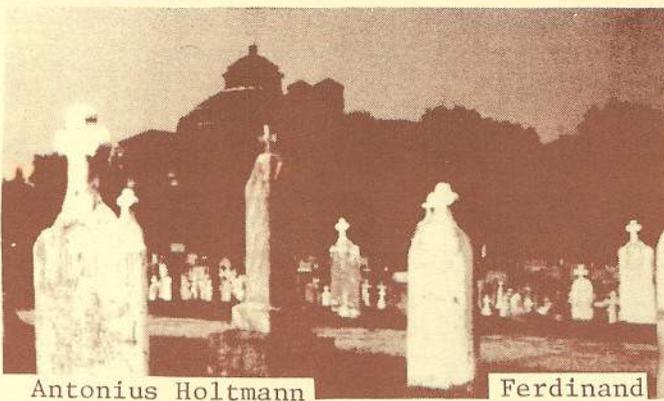
valuable is his autobiographical work entitled Zwischen Donau und Rhein (1912), which describes his youth in the old country, and is written in a humorous style with numerous anecdotes.

A journal, Der Deutsche Kulturtraeger, referred to Keller as a pioneer of German culture in America because of his active involvement in social, cultural, and civic affairs. The article, published in 1913, indicated he considered it one of his basic tasks and purposes in life to further the German heritage, and this he did by taking on a leadership role in the two decades before the Great War.

As early as the 1880s, Keller became secretary of the Turnverein in Indianapolis, and then its president. In 1898, he and others organized the Verband deutscher Vereine von Indianapolis, of which he later became president also. In 1901, when the National German-American Alliance was formed in Philadelphia, the Verband joined, whereupon Keller became First Vice-President of the National Alliance, a position he held until 1917.

The German-American Alliance was an excellent nationwide organization which represented German-Americans in social, cultural and civic affairs and consisted in state branches, which in turn consisted of the many organizations and societies to be found in states across the U.S. In 1903, the German-American Alliance of Indiana was formed, a confederation of 123 Indiana German societies. WA Fritsch describes the Indiana Alliance in his German Settlers and German Settlements in Indiana (1915), and writes of Keller and the Alliance: "Since its organization it has been ably presided over by Joseph Keller of Indianapolis, who with the other officers, have spared no effort to make the alliance a success." He indicated that the Alliance provided good German entertainments, good lectures, and promoted the German theater, singing, etc. Each of its state conventions closed with the celebration of German Day, of course.

More information on the Indiana Alliance can be found in Max Heinrici's Das Buch der Deutschen in Amerika (1909), which contains an article by Fritsch on Indiana's Alliance. The group had various committees, such as a Komitee fuer Deutsche Sprache und Turnen. It also had a Komitee fuer persoendlich Freiheit, a Committee for Personal Freedom--personal freedom was a code work which mean opposition to legislated prohibition. In state elections the Indiana Alliance vigorously and successfully defeated those candidates in favor of prohibition. In 1913-14 the question of national prohibition was being discussed. Under Keller's leadership, the National Alliance established a Committee for Organization and Publication, which expended \$12,000 in 1913 in the campaign against prohibition across the U.S. In 1914, the Indiana Alliance sent 100,000 signatures to Washington against national prohibition.



Antonius Holtmann

Ferdinand

JOSEPH H. KELLER: INDIANA GERMAN AUTHOR
AND SPOKESMAN

The name of Joseph H. Keller was widely known not only in Indiana, but throughout German-America because of his various publications, and his leadership in German-American affairs before the Great War. He was what historians refer to as an "ethnic leader," and served for many years as the recognized and titular spokesman for the Indiana Germans. Further research into the life of Keller will shed light not only on his long career, but will provide greater information on pre-World War I Indiana German history. The following is presented as a preliminary contribution to a biography of Keller.

Born in Aulfinden, Baden in 1859, Keller was raised in a Catholic institution after the death of his mother and then attended the Gymnasium in Donaueschingen. Here he came to know the 48er Franz Joseph Rasina, who later gave Keller letters of recommendation to well known German-American 48ers when the latter came to America. During his studies, he became well versed in the works of Tacitus, Livius, Sallust and Virgil, Xenophon and Homer, and also made the acquaintance of author Victor von Scheffel. In 1879, he fulfilled his military obligations by entrance into the army and then in 1881, applied for a position with the Grossherzoglich Badischen Ministerium. As no position was available and his two brothers had already emigrated to the U.S., Keller and his young bride decided to emigrate in July, 1882. Three days after they landed in New York, they arrived in Indianapolis.

At first, the young man attained a hard labor position in the shipping and receiving department of a large firm, and then applied for a position as a department store salesman. In response to a question about his experience, he stated, "None whatever, I possess nothing but a good schoolbag, but I am willing to learn." Whereupon he was hired for \$3.00 per week. At the same time his wife earned extra by taking on sewing projects, while Keller offered evening language instruction in German, English, Latin, French, and Greek.

Fortunately, Keller found time to publish at least four volumes, mostly of an historical or autobiographical nature, including the Festschrift zur Feier des goldenen Jubilaeums des Indianapolis Maennerchors (1904). Especially

(continued)

The extent of Keller's influence is worthy of future study. An example is the role he played in the 1916 presidential election. In July, he sent Julius Morsch, President of the Minnesota Alliance, to Montana to campaign against prohibition, canvassed for Hughes and denounced Wilson. This was part of an overall strategy to organize the German vote for 1916, a critical year. All of these activities need further investigation to discover the dimensions of this Indiana German spokesman.

Then came the great tragedy of World War I, and at this time, which Carl Wittke has called "the darkest hour" in German-American history, we lose all trace and record of Keller. Hopefully, further investigation will uncover what became of him and how he made it through this difficult period. Perhaps even his papers can be found. His last public statement that can be located came in May, 1917, in a joint declaration from himself and a Wisconsin German Alliance officer. Speaking to a later time and generation the statement reads: "When times have become more settled and men have freed themselves from their hysteria, then we can calmly proceed with the great work once more."

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

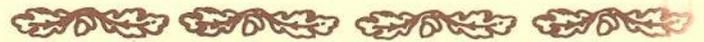


HAPPY 200TH ANNIVERSARY, CINCINNATI!

White Americans were streaming into the Northwest Territory despite fierce Indian resistance. Opportunities for land development were rife. By winter 1788, would-be settlers were floating down the Ohio aboard cumbersome flatboats in search of the perfect site. Benjamin Stites headed the first group, and they went ashore east of today's downtown, near Lunken Airport.

In the beginning settlers and soldiers were concerned with basic survival, holding at bay the elements and the Indians. But in 1819, Cincinnati was incorporated as a city. River trade grew by leaps and bounds when the first steamboat chugged down the Ohio. By 1835 hogs--and their slaughter, processing and by-products--led Cincinnati from commerce to industry. Thousands of immigrants were drawn by the burgeoning economy. In the '30s and 40's came the Germans, with their mechanical skills and their penchant for forming self-help societies, militias, social and singing organizations, and savings and loan institutions. They founded America's first Turnverein "to develop a refined humanity through physical exercise and intellectual pursuits."

From "Cincinnati's Beginnings and the Men Who Shaped Her," by Catherine Cooper.



STEELE IN MUNICH

It was the summer of 1870, when twenty three, that T.C. Steele first expressed his desire and need to study in Germany. An entry in his journal stated:

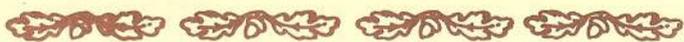
It is now a settled plan of mine to visit Europe at the earliest possible period and spend two years in study there. I am aware that difficulties are in my way that are great, but others possessing no more talent than I have conquered them.

He had to wait 10 years and three children longer. In 1879, Herman Lieber, a wealthy patron of the arts, drew up a plan of subscription to finance a trip to Germany for Steele to study for the two years. The document, signed by 13 people each contributing \$100 to be repaid in paintings upon Steele's return, stated the following:

Believing that T.C. Steele of this city possesses unusual talent as an artist, when the limited advantages he has enjoyed are considered, and that he only requires the benefit of study in European schools to develop into one of the first artists of this country, and thus become an honor to Indianapolis ...

On Saturday, July 24, 1880, the S.S. Belgenland left New York harbor bound for Antwerp. For the State of Indiana, this was a remarkable cultural event. Among the passengers were five Indiana artists headed for study at the Royal Academy of Art in Munich. T.C. Steele, James Otis Adams, Samuel Richards, August Metzner, and Carrie Wolff all decided after careful consideration, that studying abroad was essential to furthering their careers. They were mature individuals who had established solid reputations within the artistic limitations of middle America in the 19th century. They had no prospect of advanced training at home.

The catalyst for the European exodus was provided by two teachers, John Love and James F. Gookins at the Indiana School of Art, Indianapolis. Evening conversations at the school, where Steele had nearby studio space, centered on Europe. Love had studied in Paris and Gookins in Munich. Interest in Munich prevailed for several reasons. First was the current success of recently returned Munich-trained artists Walter Shirlaw, Frank Duvenek, and William Merritt Chase, all Midwesterners. Additionally, the entrance requirements for the Paris Ecole des Beaux-Arts precluded students with as little formal training as was possessed by the Hoosier artists, the Royal Academy of Munich welcomed foreign students and the fees and tuition were minimal as was the cost of living. The Steele family, with three children, budgeted their stay in Germany at \$50 a month.



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The influential voice of the Indianapolis German community played a role in determining the artists choice, for they were more familiar with the German language than the French.

Upon arrival in Antwerp, Mary Elizabeth Steele recalled her impressions:

Our sensations in those first hours were delightful, everything reminded us that we were in that land of Art, the Mecca of our dreams, and we felt like a band of happy children when, after a few hours of landing, we were on our way to the museum.

One must remember at this time there were no art museums in the Midwest and masters were studied from reproductive engravings.

The band of artists steamed on and in another nine days arrived in Munich. They found accommodations and had forty-five days to explore the countryside before the Academy convened in mid-October.



T.C. Steele, ca. 1870-carte de visite
by A.F. Wise. Steele Collection, courtesy
of Indiana Historical Society.

Upon opening, 39 Americans were among the several hundred enrolled students. Steele, on the strength of the paintings he brought from home, was allowed to skip "Drawings from the Antique" class into the more advanced life-drawing class. From information contained in Steele letters, it is possible to reconstruct a typical day at the Academy. Required classes were held between 7 a.m. and noon. The afternoons were devoted to drawing from nature and copying the rich collection of the old masters at the galleries of the Alte Pinakothek Museum. Lectures were given on perspective, architecture, and art history, much of which was lost on the Americans not yet fluent in German. But the anatomy lectures, dissections, and live-model examinations were of great value. Six to eight hours each day was spent drawing from the paid Academy model, and Steele wrote that two of those hours the students drew from the nude model. Steele wrote:

We draw from life from 6 to 8 hours every day with charcoal, pencil, crayon, pen and ink, anything we may fancy, but generally charcoal. In the teaching they follow Albrecht Dürer and Holbein where close and accurate contour is what they desire more than light and shade or tone, for these things they say belong to painting. It is surprising in drawing the head, how close they make the scholar study the eye, the nose, the mouth, to its utmost detail. Not that all detail is to be painted, but because the artist must know all detail be able to seize the characteristic ones in painting broadly.

The realistic rendering of such portrait study was a Munich trademark that had been established in the previous decade. Old models sat most frequently for the study of heads. The close observation and characterization were good practice for portraiture that would sustain, in theory, most of the students once they returned home. Yet the choice of models was not always appreciated. One critic stated, "I never saw beastlier or uglier models."

After a year, Steele's work was deemed good enough to advance to the technical painting school of Ludwig Loefftz, the most prestigious master at the academy. Loefftz' perfection was legendary. He demanded that his students restrict their palettes to carefully modulated browns, ochres and grays - a difficult thing for most of the American artists to rein in their tendencies towards harsh local color. Nonetheless, Loefftz criticisms were heeded and his praise cherished.

In the summer months the Steele family moved to the village of Schleissheim, 6 miles from Munich. Frank Currier, considered by the American artists to be the dean of landscape painters in Germany, conducted an informal landscape painting school which annually attracted 15-20 students and Steele was determined to be one of them. Steele's wife wrote her recollections of the village of Schleissheim:

It was a dreamful August day when we first saw Schleissheim ... The artists were in raptures over the color and picturesqueness of everything, and were continually finding motifs that drew from them exclamations of joy ... Out in the park, where Nature and Art combine to make one of the most winsome spots on earth, were found Mr. Currier and Mr. Wenban, making charcoal studies of the mossy old Castanea trees, which line the walks ... Many artists spent their summers there, while a few lived year round ... During the day these artists would be scattered up and down the village streets; ... but at night, if you should have happened into the Hohenrieder Inn, you would have found them sitting around a table sipping beer, and discussing the days work.

Steele decided to stay on during the winter and commute the 6 miles to Munich each morning by train. That fall, Steele's cousin, Will Richards, wrote up a new batch of subscriptions that would enable him to remain in Germany another two years. Steele wrote to his cousin:

I can hardly write to you how important it is that I should stay this full time. When I return to Indianapolis I want to be thoroughly and well grounded in my art, not for my own sake only but that I may be able to give to the people of Indianapolis in exchange for their money something of real artistic value ... That I shall be able to accomplish in this time what is expected of me I have no doubt. I was never more confident of success than at present. My improvement this summer (after studying with Currier) has been so marked that it has decidedly increased my confidence and has been remarked on by the students with whom I have been associated ... I think we are upon the dawn of a grand day of art in our country. We have the subjects, the motives, and the material prosperity to support it, and there are hundreds of young men now being thoroughly educated in art, whose influence when they return will be a power.



Mary Elizabeth Lakin Steele--carte de visite by D. R. Clark. Steele Collection, courtesy of Indiana Historical Society.

In the late spring of 1882, the Steeles were forced to find new quarters since their place in Schleissheim was being converted into a government hospital. They moved into a wing of an abandoned monastery in the village of Mittenheim and Steele continued to commute to school, spending another year studying with professor Loefftz.

In 1883, Steele sent home a collection of his paintings to Herman Lieber who then mounted an exhibition for him, inviting his subscribers for a first viewing of his works. In this manner Steele financed his last year in Germany and his passage back to the States. Steele wrote in a letter to Lieber that when he returned home it was his intention to do as

much landscape work as portraiture. "I have a great feeling for it and find the outdoor work adds very much to my health and strength."

At the close of each academic year in July, a competition was held to choose the best of the students work. In 1884, Steele was awarded one of the first prize silver medals for his oil painting of the "Boatman," which was further honored by the rare offer from the Academy to purchase the work for the Academy's permanent collection. According to Steele's wife there was but one other American who ever received from the Academy so high an honor. Although hard pressed for money, Steele refused the purchase offer for he felt obligated to return home to Indiana with his best works.

Anticipating their return to America, Steele and William Forsyth, an Indiana native who entered the Academy in 1883, sent back their best works to exhibit in Indianapolis at the English Hall just off the circle, under the aegis of the Art Association of Indianapolis (which later evolved into the Indianapolis Museum of Art). The exhibition was entitled, "Ye Hoosier Colony in Munchen."

After being awarded the silver medal, Steele was given an advantageous studio in the Academy building and allowed to work independently as part of the prescribed curriculum. The professors were still called in for critiques.

By mid-May, 1885, Steele's Munich Idyll was over and he returned to Indiana. When Steele returned from Munich, he was triumphantly received. His success abroad secured an accomplished position among Indiana painters. Steele, Adams and Forsyth shared the distinction accorded to European-trained artists and continued to dominate the Indiana Art scene for the rest of their careers. Yet the impact of their Munich years is difficult to trace in their art for the paintings that they produced after their return bear little resemblance to their Munich work. After the briefest of interims, they rejected the dark, somber Munich-style palette for a lighter impressionistic one and landscapes soon replaced the figurative painting taught in Munich. As art critic Hamlin Garland said, in reference to the exhibit of the Hoosier group of painters in 1894,

These artists have helped the people of Indiana to see the beauty in their own quiet landscape. They have not only found interesting things to paint in things near at hand; they have made those chosen scenes interesting to others. Therein lies their significance.

As another critic stated, "They are of the few who are doing the right thing. They are painting their own fields as they see them, with a real affection."

Nancy Krueger

T. C. Steele State Historic Site is part of the Indiana State Museum System. Visiting hours 7 days a week, M-Sat 9-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m.

CARNIVAL AT THE ATHENAEUM



Friday, February 12th



FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING ALSO ST. BENNO FEST

Saturday, March 12th

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Our nation is composed of no one race, faith, or cultural heritage. It is a grouping of some thirty peoples possessing varying religious concepts, philosophies, and historical backgrounds. They are linked together by their confidence in our democratic institutions as expressed in the Declaration of Independence and guaranteed by the Constitution for themselves and for their children.

Our way of living together in America is a strong but delicate fabric. It is made up of many threads. It has been woven over many centuries by the patience and sacrifice of countless liberty-loving men and women. It serves as a cloak for the protection of poor and rich, of black and white, of Jew and gentile, of foreign- and native-born.

Let us not tear it asunder. For no man knows, once it is destroyed, where or when man will find its protective warmth again.

-Wendell L. Willkie, One World, 1943.

