"Summer of 1889 on East Jefferson St.; St. Mary's Church is in the distance." The Fort Wayne Story, page 89. Photo courtesy of the Ft. Wayne and Allen County Public Library.

MAY 14: FORT WAYNE

With a visit to Fort Wayne on May 14, we will take once again our Board/Membership 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 will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Allen County Historical Museum in Fort Wayne for a visit and program. Michael Hawfield, director of the Museum, will introduce us to the "Old City Hall" Historical Museum and the Fort Wayne Germans. Eldon Zahm, National President of the American Turners, will speak about the ideals and principles, still adhered to today, to which the Turner forefathers "fourteen decades or 7 score years ago" dedicated themselves. The program will be followed by a tour of the Historical Museum and other German sites of interest.

If you are able to arrive early, you may want to visit Historic Fort Wayne (107 S. Clinton Street.) It opens at 9 a.m. At the "Old Fort", with its log barracks and Indian encampment, you can meet settlers and soldiers and witness a reenactment of military life of 1812. There are many charming eating places in the center of town to have lunch before the Historical Museum program.

ST. MARY'S AND ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Like the Lutheran Church of St. Paul's nearby, the great Gothic towers of St. Mary's Catholic Church, at Jefferson and Lafayette, stand a proud monument to the German immigrants of Fort Wayne. The three-spired church in red brick and stone trim is an imposing building. In 1848, 30 German families purchased several lots at this location and the first German Catholic church—a brick structure—was completed within the year. By 1859, a new and much larger church was dedicated. In 1886, a steam boiler explosion leveled it, however, by 1887, the old church was completely rebuilt.

In 1880, the Rev. John Oechtering from Risenbeck, Germany, became pastor at St. Mary's. Although one of the first of the old German pastors to use English regularly in his sermons, Father Oechtering was an outspoken defender of German heritage and language. During his pastorate, St. Mary's Girls Academy was erected and in 1903, St. Mary's school was built. To this day the church ministers to those in need, in much the same way it did nearly 140 years ago.

(continued next page)
St. Paul's Church at 1126 Barr Street is the oldest of the Fort Wayne Lutheran churches and a monument to Fort Wayne's rich Lutheran heritage. In 1836, Henry Rudisell, miller and entrepreneur, together with fellow Lutherans of German descent, petitioned the eastern Lutheran Missionary Commission to send a pastor. In July of that year, the Rev. Jesse Hoover took up lodging with the Rudisells and began his missionary work in Fort Wayne and at Friedheim in nearby Adams County. He paid with his life for the difficulties of missionary work, but before his death he established St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Friederich Wynenken followed him as pastor and in 1839 construction was begun on the congregation's first church at the site of the present building. In 1845, Wyneken was called to a pastorate in Baltimore and later succeeded Rev. Walther as president of the Missouri Synod. Dr. William Sihler took his place in Fort Wayne. A new church building was begun in 1847, an elegantly simple church with an 80-foot steeple and stained glass windows brought from Luther's homeland in Saxony. At the dedication, the church was officially named "St. Paul's." The Missouri Synod was formed in this building in 1846. The same year, because of St. Paul's connection, the Concordia Theological Seminary was transplanted from Bavaria to Fort Wayne. Sihler's work with the Missouri Synod, his insistence on German being the everyday language of both pulpit and classroom and the development of the schools that in later years would become the foundation for the nation's largest United Lutheran school district were hallmarks of his pastorate. The Rev. Henry Sauer erected the third St. Paul's Church, a soaring Gothic structure, large enough to seat 1,500 worshippers. In 1903, a fire left only the blackened hulk of the walls and lower tower. Determined to restore the church to its original state, the congregation raised $55,000 and in 1905, the new building was dedicated.

The story of the Allen County Historical Museum, which now completely occupies the former "City Hall," reflects that heritage. "Old City Hall," was vacated in 1971 as city officials moved into new quarters. In a great fund-raising effort $1,000,000 was raised for renovation and it created the second largest museum of its kind in Indiana. The "Old City Hall" Museum houses tens of thousands of artifacts, displayed in temporary exhibitions and permanent galleries.

To reach the Historical Museum, take I-69 to the Fort Wayne US24 East exit and follow it downtown. It becomes Jefferson Street. Drive past Clinton and Barr Streets and turn North (left) onto Lafayette and West (again left) into Berry Street. The "Old City Hall" Historical Museum is on 302 E. Berry. There is ample parking next to the museum in the parking lot.

The former City Hall was envisioned by Mayor Charles F. Muhler but completed during the administration of Mayor Charles Zollinger, in 1893. It received enthusiastic praise from the press and most city fathers. One reporter called it "the most elegant appearing and most economically constructed city hall in Indiana or anywhere else." By some it was called the "Hapsburg Horror," a mild gibes at the mayor's ancestry, which alluded also to the sizable tax levy imposed to build it; $60,000 was a royal sum for those times (remember, the Royal House of Hapsburg ruled Austria in that era).

Lincoln Tower, home of the Lincoln National Bank and Trust Co., stands proudly opposite the Allen County Courthouse at the end of Court Street on 116 E. Berry St. When it opened in 1930, it was the tallest building in Indiana. Founded by Theodore Wentz and Samuel Foster in 1906, it was at first called the German-American Bank. By the time America entered World War I, anti-German feelings were such that the bank changed its name to Lincoln National Bank. In 1929, the year of the stock market crash, the dynamic and powerful Charles Buesching became its president. Having risen in the bank from his first position as a teenage messenger, he served as president for 29 years. It was Buesching who was responsible for the construction of Lincoln Tower.

"We strive to preserve the heritage our German ancestors left us through the collection of valuable historical documents, through presentations such as this, and through the many activities of Germanfest in mid-June. We also work to help people understand the reasons Fort Wayne is the way it is, conservative, industrial, religious and entrepreneurial. These are the traits our hard-working German immigrant ancestors brought with them and gave to their adopted community."
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Fourth Annual Meeting of the Indiana German Heritage Society

March 12, 1988

Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum

8:30 a.m. Registration and Coffee

9:00 a.m. GENERAL OPENING SESSION. Welcome and Introductions:
Ruth M. Reichmann, President, Indiana German Heritage Society; Sabine Jessner, President, Swiss-American Historical Society.


10:00-12:00 p.m. "Individualized Study of Local History in the Classroom," Arthur Schwenk and students, Columbus North High School.

"Studying the Family Tree in the Classroom," Darlene Dycus and students, Evansville Central High School.


"Singing a Song," Marilyn Nathan and students, Holy Family School, Jasper.

Eberhard Reichmann and students, I.U. Bloomington:


"Hoosier Germans in Knox County," Sheryl Schaefer.


Noon Luncheon at the Rathskeller. Reservations required (not included in the registration).
Session II: EMMIGRATION, IMMIGRATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING.
Moderator: Ruth M. Reichmann

1:00-2:30 p.m.  "Cincinnati: Gateway to Indiana," Robert Rau, Church Genealogist, Cincinnati.

"The White Creek Settlement and Its Roots," Richard Askren, Indiana University, Carol Kastner, IGHS Research.


Panel Discussion: "Roots in Germany: Visiting the Descendants." Moderator: David S. Dreyer, Descendant and Researcher. Panel: Arthur Schwenk and 1987 Trip Participants to Venne; Robert Rau (Eastern Germany); Claude Eckert (Pfaffenweiler).

2:30-3:00 p.m.  Coffee Break

Session III: GERMAN AND ITS DIALECTS IN FAMILY AND COMMUNITY.
Moderator: Joe Salmons, Purdue University.

3:00-4:30 p.m.  "Why Grandma Said What She Said: German Dialects in Germany," an illustrated presentation, Frank Banta, Indiana University.

"Origins and Use of Two Anabaptist Dialects," Gregory Humpa, Purdue University.


Panel discussion with Hoosier German dialect speakers: Claude and Martina Eckert, Eileen Schaber, Mary Jo Meuser (Dubois County) and others. Moderator: Walter H. Bartz, Foreign Language Consultant, Indiana Department of Education.

4:30-5:30 p.m.  General Session: Business Meeting, Reports and election of Board of Directors.

6:00 p.m.  Dinner and St. Benno Fest at the Athenaeum
Fort Wayne, in the nineteenth century, had a large population of German-born immigrants. Among these was Christian G. Strunz (1831-1916) who arrived in Fort Wayne in 1860. He operated a grocery store one-half block west of his house. Strunz commissioned noted Fort Wayne architects John Wing and Marshall Mahurin to design this Italianate house. The design was cited in *Inland Architect* in April, 1885. This house was built in 1886-1887 by contractor Henry Meyer. At a later date, the classical porch and German Renaissance pediment were added. This pressed scrolled pediment is purely decorative since the original roof was hipped rather than gabled. The house is now being restored. Its last owner, Helen Spohnauer, was the granddaughter of Strunz. The brick residence was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 and moved from its original site in 1980 with the help of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

**Materials in this newsletter are based on articles, written by Michael Hawfield, Director of the Allen County Historical Museum, for the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. We are most grateful to him for making them available to us.**

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**JUNE 11: GERMAN DAY IN FRANKLIN COUNTY**

We are invited to participate in the Sesquicentennial celebration of the historic canal town of Metamora in Franklin County, and also visit one of the most unique churches in the area at Peppertown.

At 11:00 a.m. we will meet in Peppertown for a visit and program at St. Nicholas German Lutheran Church. The original St. Nicholas Church, built in 1850, was a log structure, but was replaced by the present red brick church in 1875 and has been in use since then. Robert Rau, of Cincinnati, will speak about the German churches in Southeastern Indiana and Southwestern Ohio and we are promised music for our enjoyment. Those interested in cemeteries can visit the Old Public Cemetery and the Church Cemetery just west of the Church on Beacon Road. After the program we will proceed to nearby Metamora.

At 1:00 p.m. Eberhard Reichmann of Indiana University will present "Hosier German Traditions, Tales and Folk Remedies." A German Band will be on hand to provide entertainment. The Gazebo is located across the canal from the 1845 Grist Mill.

Metamora will be celebrating "German Day" and merchants and inhabitants of the picturesque historical canal town will be dressed in the native garb of Northern Germans. All shops will be open and many restaurants.

Peppertown is located west of Brookville on S.R. 229, 10 miles north of Batesville, off I-74 and 10 miles from Metamora off U.S. 52. For further information, contact Helen Moore, Sumner Program Chair, P.O. Box 206, Rushville, Indiana 46173 or phone (317) 932-2297.

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**STRUNZ-SPONHAUER HOUSE, 1017 West Berry Street, Fort Wayne. Photo-credit: John Sorenson, Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette.**
March 12  Fourth Annual Meeting at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaum in Indianapolis.
8:30 a.m. Registration opens.
6:00 p.m. St. Benno Fest.
For reservations call (317) 636-0390.

March 13  3 p.m. "The Indiana Germans," Eberhard Reichmann, at Steuben Hall, 2357 Rohs Street, Cincinnati.
Don Tolzmann (216) 475-2411.

April 10"Over-the-Rhine Planning and Historic Perspectives," Zane L. Miller, Prof. of History, at Steuben Hall, 2357 Rohs Street, Cincinnati.
Don Tolzmann (216) 475-2411.

April 28-30 Society for German-American Studies Annual Symposium, Millersville University, Millersville, PA.
Eberhard Reichmann (812) 988-2866.

May 14  1 p.m. Allen County Historical Museum in Fort Wayne, 302 E. Berry St. See newsletter for specifics.
Ruth Reichmann (812) 988-2866.

May 29  3 p.m. "Emigration from Lower Saxony," Antonius Holtmann, Oldenburg University, at Third Protestant Memorial Church, 2519 Ohio Avenue, Cincinnati.
Don Tolzmann (216) 475-2411.

June 11  1:00 p.m. Peppertown St. Nicholas German Lutheran Church.
1:00 p.m. at Metamora, Gazebo, "R Cologne Traditions, Tales and Folk Remedies," Eberhard Reichmann. See newsletter for specifics.
Helen Moore (317) 932-2297.

July 9  10:00 a.m. Walk through "Over-the-Rhine" neighborhood. Meet at corner of Walnut Street and Central Parkway, Cincinnati. Helen Moore (317) 932-2297.

August 13  1 p.m. Auburn-Cord-Duesenberg Museum, Auburn, IN. Helen Moore (317) 932-2297.

Indianas German Heritage Society

Newsletter Return Address
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Bloomington, IN 47401

Advance Registration

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, MARCH 12
Das Deutsche Haus-Athenaum
401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis

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ST. BENNO FEST