GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY
OCTOBER 6

By an act of Congress, October 6 has again been officially proclaimed as German-American Day. In hope to clear up some misunderstandings in past years, German-American Day is not intended to celebrate German-American friendship. It is a day to honor the contributions of German immigrants to the development of the United States. In this context the word German is used in cultural, not political sense, and it includes those immigrants who came from German-speaking Switzerland, Austria, Alsace (France), Germans from Eastern Europe, and German Jews.

In April, 1986, during the Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies in Cincinnati, then IGHS President Ruth Reichmann introduced a resolution to establish October 6 as German-American Day. The following month, the Indiana German Heritage Society likewise voted its support. The purpose of the German-American Resolution is to establish a national day of celebration on behalf of the German heritage across the country. It was on October 6, 1583, when the Krefelder Mennonites disembarked from the "Concord" in Philadelphia, constituting the first group immigration of Germans to America.

In conjunction with German-American Day, a number of local celebrations have been planned in Indianapolis.
On October 1, the annual 10k (6.2 mi.) Volkssmarch will begin and end at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan. The walk will wind through the downtown area of Indianapolis. Walkers can proceed at their own pace and generally do not travel in large groups. The walk is sponsored by the TVV and AVA and the Indy G walkers. The walk is free, but there will be a charge for those wishing to receive this year's commemorative pin. The pin, which is pictured in this newsletter, was designed by William Selm and features the Imperial German eagle on the outline of the state of Indiana, and is done in the Imperial colors of black, white, and red. For more information on the Volkssmarch contact Ron Martin at 549-5721 or 849-1974, or the Athenaeum.

On October 2, the German-American Klub will celebrate German-American Day from 2–4 p.m. at the G.A.K., 3602 S. Meridian (German Park). Activities will include performances by German dancers, demonstrations of German card games, cultural and historical booths, and traditional German cuisine. For information and reservations phone the G.A.K. at 888-6940.

The Athenaeum Turners will sponsor their traditional German-American celebration on October 8 at the Athenaeum/Deutsche Haus at 401 E. Michigan. The celebration will feature German food, cultural displays, the Athenaeum Orchestra, and other events. For information and reservations (required) phone the Athenaeum at 636-0386.

100TH CONGRESS 2nd Session

H. J. RES. 458

To designate October 6, 1988, as "German-American Day".

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 17, 1988

Mr. THOMAS A. LUKEK (for himself and Mr. HAMILTON) introduced the following joint resolution, which was referred to the Committee on Post Office and Civil Service

JOINT RESOLUTION

To designate October 6, 1988, as "German-American Day".

Whereas the bicentennial of the arrival of the first German immigrants to the United States was celebrated on October 6, 1988;

Whereas such day was proclaimed by the President to be German-American Day in honor of the contributions made by German immigrants to the life and culture of the United States;

Whereas such contributions should be recognized and celebrated every year; and

Whereas the German-American Friendship Garden, symbolic of friendly relations between West Germany and the United States, will be dedicated in the District of Columbia in 1988: Now, therefore, be it

1. Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives
2. of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
3. That October 6, 1988, is designated as "German-American Day". The President is requested to issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.
December 3
SANKT NIKOLAUS
PARTY

Although it is only August, there will not be another newsletter prior to the annual arrival of Sankt Nikolaus at the Athenaeum on December 3. This year Sankt Nikolaus and his companion Knecht Ruprecht will arrive at the Athenaeum around 3 p.m. to reward the good children and punish those who have not been good over the past year.

The visit will be followed by a traditional German Christmas dinner served by the Athenaeum around 5:30, with the Athenaeum orchestra also performing during the meal. The singing of traditional German Christmas carols is also being planned.

Reservations for the party are required and should be made about one week in advance by calling the Athenaeum at 636-0396.

In the German-speaking countries, and Holland and Belgium as well, December 6 is the most distinctive children's festival of the year. St. Nikolaus Eve is a time of festive stir; it is a time of whispers and giggles, and of heavy steps on the stairs. The shops are full of many-shaped biscuits, gilt gingerbreads, sometimes representing the saint, of sugar images, toys and other little gifts.

In many regions, the festivities originally attributed to the gift-giving St. Nikolaus have been transferred to Christmas, yet in Austria, Switzerland and the Low Countries, December 6 remains a day of joy for children.

When evening comes, St. Nikolaus, a reverend grey-haired figure with flowing beard, bishop; raiment, gold embroidered cope, mitre and pastoral staff, will knock on doors and ask about the behavior of the children. The custom of examining the children, where they will deliver a verse, sing, or otherwise show their skills, is still widespread in German speaking countries.

PUDDIN' AND FUN

"Where was the puddin' and fun?"
pouted Queen Victoria to her consort, Prince Albert upon their return from a dinner. [Victoria was a Hanoverian and can hence claim German ancestry.]

The Indiana German Heritage Society has made sure that a new 1988-1989 winter program will have substance and "puddin' and fun." The regular meeting night will be the third Wednesday of the months where there is no special IGHS activity (September, November, January, and April). All the programs will be held at The Athenaeum (Das Deutsche Haus), 401 E. Michigan, Indianapolis. The programs have been set and are as follows:

September 21--GENEALOGY: New Treasures in the Indiana State Library; Mary Snider, Librarian, Genealogy Division of the Indiana State Library.

November 16--INDIANA'S INTERNATIONAL FUTURE: Caterina Gregor, President of Corporation for Indiana's International Future.

January 18--COLOGNE (KOLN): SISTER CITY; John Krauss, Deputy Mayor of Indianapolis.

April 19--AMISH QUILTS: SOCIAL EXPRESSION; Kathleen McLary, Curator, Indiana State Museum.

Each program will start with a social hour at 6 p.m. A buffet dinner will be available, but reservations are necessary. The program will start at 7:30. Reservations must be made by calling (317) 839-5244 by the Monday before the meeting date. All meetings are open to the general public.

This year has been planned to blend our interests in things German with our Hoosier Heritage. Please come and enjoy being with others of the same interest.

If you have ideas for other programs, please share them with our program chairperson, Lee McDougal at (317) 839-5244.
IGHS Session at IHS Annual Meeting

Once again the Indiana German Heritage Society will have a special session at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Historical Society. The meeting will take place on Saturday, November 5 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Indianapolis. This year's IGHS session topics will include talks on the role of the Turners in the Civil War by M. Eugene Miller of the University of Louisville, the Donau-Schwebe (the Danube Swabian immigrants who came America) by Rebecca Rodgers of IUPUI, and Ethnic Settlements of Indianapolis by James Divita of Marian College. The IGHS session will be held in the morning from 9-11:30, although the entire meeting will run through the day. Separate costs are charged for the general meeting registration and the luncheon. Reservations for the luncheon are required and can be made by phoning the Indiana Historical Society at (317) 232-1882.

Indianapolis Cultural Ties Strengthened

The 42-member Christ Church Cathedral Choir of Men and Boys visited Cologne (Koln) Cathedral on August 3 to sing at an evening Mass. Cologne, Germany, and Indianapolis are expected to sign a formal sister-city agreement later this fall, according to Mayor William H. Hudnut, III.

"The Choir's performance is one of a number of benefits from our blossoming sister-city relationship with Cologne. Although formal documents cementing the city-to-city friendship will not be signed until later in the fall, we in Indianapolis are already at work negotiating other arts exchanges with our Sister City in Germany," Hudnut said.

The Cologne Cathedral is widely recognized as the most photographed church in the world. From foundation to completion, the Cathedral took over 600 years to build.

Cologne, Germany, has "twinned" (or signed sister-city agreements) with 15 cities world-wide. Indianapolis will soon become the first United States city to twin with Cologne.

Editorial Change

With this issue, the editorial torch has been passed from Robert Frederick to Paul Brockman. Bob has edited the IGHS Newsletter for the past three years with assistance from Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann and a host of others. Under Frederick's leadership, the newsletter has grown in size, quality, and distribution. It will take some time for the new team to achieve the same degree of professionalism attained by the previous editor and his assistants. We ask your indulgence until that time. We are indebted to Bob and the Reichmanns for their hard work and time in making this newsletter what it is today. The new editor will attempt to have a number of regular columns, such as Genealogical Queries and Hoosier German Tales, in addition to reporting IGHS activities and significant events within the Indiana German Community. Since we are now based in Indianapolis, we may miss some state-wide events. If readers are aware of such events, please write to Paul Brockman at the Indiana Historical Society, 315 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202.

W. German Ambassador at Jasper

Recently appointed West German ambassador to the United States, Dr. Jurgen Ruhfus served as the grand marshal for Jasper's Strassenfest Parade on August 7.

The Dubois County Herald reported that Ruhfus and his wife, Karin, arrived in Jasper on August 6 to attend the Strassenfest activities.

The paper also quoted the ambassador as saying that, "Such an event here in Jasper to cultivate German and American tradition is a very good way to strengthen the bonds of friendship."

The visit was one of the ambassador's first trips to an American town outside Washington, D.C., and he stated that he enjoyed seeing the reminders of his homeland.

The Herald also reported Ruhfus views his job as one to "try and strengthen relations between the two countries."
Citizens of West Germany will have an opportunity to see how some of their ancestors fared in a new land as the Indiana Historical Society exhibition, "Oldenburg, Village of Spires: A Photographic Essay," will be traveling through that country from September until early 1989.

Consisting of approximately 40 photographs of the over 150-year-old village from the Society's Hoelker-Munchel Collection and present-day color photos courtesy of Louis J. Poederer, the exhibit has been arranged to be on display in West Berlin, Oldenburg, Damme, and Bremerhaven. More cities may show the exhibit later.

Society Ethnic History Project Coordinator and IGHS member, Paul Brockman, organized the exhibit, and its display in Germany was arranged by Prof. Dr. Antonius Holtmann, a sociology professor at the University of Oldenburg who conduct research on German immigration to the Midwest, and who has made several visits to Indianapolis as well as addressing the IGHS on these visits. Both Holtmann and Brockman will address audiences at the Amerika Haus in Berlin on October 6 for German-American Day and at the University of Oldenburg on October 18 in conjunction with the exhibit's display. Exhibit labels were translated into German by IGHS board member and Indiana University Professor Eberhard Reichmann.
Genealogical Queries*

Seeking data for a history on about 30 families who immigrated to Indiana from Northern German village of Cammen/Kamen located in district of Schaumberg-Lippe, near Buckeburg, during the 1800s. Principal dates were periods 1850-1865 and 1880-1890, with concentration in 1865. Surnames include ROESNER, SCHAKEL, HEGERHORST, BORCHERING, etc. Some of these families settled in Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. Robert Buddenbohn, 2601 Evergreen Ave., Baltimore, MD 21214.

Searching for parents and other family members related to Samuel FORNEY (Penn.-Dutch), my great-grandfather. In 1850 census, he was living in Cass County, IN in household of Joseph Ellis. In 1853 Samuel Forney married Miriam N. Mendenhall, Peru, IN. They had son, Clarence P. Forney. Samuel died June, 1857; his will signed Samuel FORNTA. Would like to correspond with anyone researching Forney and related families.

Doris D. Hansen, 6581 Chetwood Way, Sacramento, CA 95831

My ancestors, the BRUNEMER, may have come to America with a family named DRESLER, to Pennsylvania, and on to Indiana, and possibly intermarried. My great-grandfather, Anthony BRUNEMER, fought at the Battle of Tippecanoe. A son or grandson, Jacob BRUNEMER, married Elizabeth BURKHART in Indiana. They had four sons, John, Roy, Bill (William), and Jacob, Jr. who was born 21 Feb. 1853 in Johnson Co. IN, six months after his father's death. Jacob (Jr.) moved to Kansas and married, later moved back to Indiana, to Smith's Valley south of Indianapolis, where their youngest daughter was born. The family moved again to Kansas where Jacob died. Seeking any information about this family.

Jackie Nalley, 6317 E. 149 St., Grandview, MO 64030

*Genealogical queries are welcome from ICBS members. Address queries to Editor, Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter, 315 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Hoosier German Tales

Eberhard Reichmann, with the help of an Indiana Heritage Research Grant, is literally combing the state for HOOSIER GERMAN TALES, funny and sad, small and tall, serious and mad... you name it. Anybody who knows of such stories about and/or by Hoosier Germans, please get in touch with him as he follows the model of the Brothers Grimm collecting little gems of times gone by. The collection of both oral and written sources will go to the printer in late 1989. Do not wait to the last minute to get your stories in. Do it now! Address TALES, R5 Box 175, Nashville, IN 47448; Tel. (812) 988-2886. The stories in this issue deal with Father Joseph Ferneding, a Catholic priest who ministered to numerous communities in Southern Indiana and Southeastern Ohio, and who was responsible for the establishment of the strong Catholic community of Oldenburg.

See Page 7
FATHER FERNEDING AND HIS HORSE

One time Father Ferneding's horse got caught in the quick sand near the Wabash River. Father, seeing that he could not save the horse, unfastened the saddle, and throwing it to safety he jumped to solid land. (A good saddle was a missionary's only comfort since he spent most of his day and night on it.) When he arrived at the nearest inn, which was a great distance from the scene of his escape from death, weary from carrying the saddle, he met a Methodist minister whom he knew. The minister, after hearing the priest's story about his horse, asked him if gave the horse the last rites of the Catholic Church. Father Ferneding replied, "No, I left him die like a Methodist."

THE GHOST'S KNUCKLES

There was a group of people at New Alsace who objected strongly to the coming of a Catholic priest. Hoping to frighten Father Ferneding away they tried various ways of discouraging him, many of which involved nocturnal outings. One time when Ferneding was away, some of the locals dressed as ghosts and walked about an old nearby burial place making strange noises. Finding no satisfaction in their prank, one bolder member of the party came to an open window of the log cabin with the priest's sister, Catharina was trying her best to be calm. In a fright she released the window, and it came down with a bang on the man's knuckles and broke them.

NIGHT VISITORS

In a related story to the above, upon being aroused by a knocking one night, Father Ferneding picked up his lantern, went to the door, and upon opening it he was commanded by the intruders to raise the lantern to his head and lower it to his feet. The priest bravely complied, whereupon he heard one of them say, "He has no horns or cloven feet." Then the couple asked the the priest to marry them.

Proverbs/ Sprichwoerter

Often heard in the home and the school, Sprichwoerter were firmly lodged in the memory of German-speaking immigrants. And as these nuggets of truth had been passed on from generation to generation in the old country, it was natural for parents to pass them on to their children born in the new world.

With this issue, we are starting a little series on the German Sprichwort. If you recall any, send them to the editor.

We are only going to print the German in this issue. It is up to the reader to figure them out. The English translations or equivalents will be printed in the next issue.
1. "Nach dem Essen sollst du ruh'n oder tausend Schritte tun."
2. "Ein voller Bauch studiert nicht gern."
3. "Wein auf Bier, das rat ich dir, Bier auf Wein, das lässt sein."
4. "Gegen den Tod ist kein Kraut gewachsen."

A number of proverbs, weather wisdoms and folk remedies will be part of the chapter on "Customs, Traditions and Tales" in the anthology on "The Hoosier German Heritage," edited by Eberhard Reichmann and Elfrieda Lang who are aiming for a 1989 publication date.

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Calendar of Events


Oct. 2    German-American Day Celebration, German-American Klub, 888-6540.

Oct. 8    German-American Day Celebration, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

Nov. 5    Indiana Historical Society Annual Meeting, Airport Holiday Inn, Indianapolis, 232-1882.

Nov. 16   ICHS Meeting--INDIANA'S INTERNATIONAL FUTURES, Athenaeum, 636-0396.


Jan. 18   ICHS Meeting--COLOGNE: SISTER CITY, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

Feb. 4    Carnival/Fasching, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

March 11  ICHS Annual Meeting, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

April 19  ICHS Meeting--AMISH QUILTS: SOCIAL EXPRESSION, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

April 27-29 Society for German-American Studies 13th Annual Symposium, Bismarck Hotel, Chicago, (312) 583-4950 ext. 5220; Deadline: November 1; hotel reservations, (800) 643-1590.