Karl and Mina Klemm at their butcher stand in the City Market in 1918. Their business, which was founded in 1919, continues as Klemm's Sausage and Meat Company, 315 E. South Street. This and many other illustrations are contained in the Probst/Reichmann book, THE GERMANS IN INDIANAPOLIS, 1840-1918. For more details, see article and order form on the next two pages.

Photo courtesy of Gerhard Klemm
GERMANS IN INDPLS. (CONT'D)

Publications are the products of years of work: research, writing, fundraising, editing and production. Publications are the enduring, tangible products of an organization’s purpose and striving. The Indiana German Heritage Society proudly announces the release of its latest publication, The Germans in Indianapolis 1840-1918. The 200+ page paperback book is lavishly illustrated with portraits, historical advertisements, cartoons, and photographs of buildings and city streetscapes. The book is the first extensive published work describing the city’s largest non-Anglo ethnic group from its arrival to the First World War.

The Germans In Indianapolis was originally written in 1951 by George Theodore Probst as his history master’s thesis at Indiana University. The book was “rediscovered” by I.U. Germanic Studies Prof. Eberhard Reichmann, a leading authority on the Indiana Germans. Reichmann contacted Probst at his home in New Braunfels, Texas, and expressed his interest in publishing the thesis. In reaction to the event Probst said:

“One of my lifelong dreams has come true. I am grateful to Dr. Reichmann for his rediscovery of my thesis and for his personal engagement and financial sacrifices in preparing this revised and illustrated edition.”

Reichmann, a native of Stuttgart, has been active in the field of Indiana German Studies since his service on the States’ German Immigration Tricentennial Commission in 1983 and the founding of the Indiana German Heritage Society the next year. Dr. Elfrieda Lang, the “Dean” of Indiana German Studies, prepared the volume’s index permitting easy reference. Other IGS members assisted in the publication by providing illustrations, information and funding. The thesis originally covered the years 1840-1914. Reichmann extended the coverage to 1918 recounting the nightmare events and the trauma of the Great War.

Reichmann describes the book as “ample demonstrating for the city of Indianapolis that the German-Americans developed not only a flourishing culture of their own, but that they also helped shape American mainstream culture through a genuine give-and-take.”

During the 1840s and 1850s, Indianapolis attracted large numbers of German-speaking immigrants: laborers, craftsmen, merchants, and intellectuals. They exercised a decided influence on the city’s growth and development socially, economically, culturally, and politically. As in such other midwestern urban centers as Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, and Milwaukee, German immigrants and their descendants built a complete social and cultural infrastructure for maintaining the German way of life in their new environment. They started their German-language newspapers, singing and sports societies; they built their churches and clubhouses; they had their own fire insurance companies and building and loan associations as well as organized bands, orchestras, and theater groups. Hard work and elaborate feasts, celebrations, and concerts commanded general public attention and helped make life in the capital city quite attractive. It is estimated that half of the baker and butcher shops, and many wholesale establishments were owned and operated by the Germans. And, of course, Germans were leaders in the brewery and furniture industries. They provided leadership in music, theater, physical and vocational education. A significant number of historical landmarks, including the Athenaeum, St. Mary Church, Indiana State House, and the Scottish Rite Cathedral bear the signature of German architects and builders. Early advocates of human rights, they fought prohibition as well. But maintaining many of their ethnic ways did not lead to ghetto formation; they participated fully in many civic and community affairs.

The book highlights the diversity within the German community of Indianapolis, not so much the regional and language differences as demonstrated in Cincinnati, but rather the philosophical differences of the immigrants and the institutions founded to express the differing philosophies. The best example of this diversity is the division between the liberal Freidenker (free thinkers) and the more conservative, churched Germans including Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Jews, Evangelicals, and Reformed. The liberals, including the vonneguts, Liebers, and Schnulls, were supporters of the Turnvereins (gymnastic societies) and musical and theatrical groups. Church building also involved the establishment of parochial schools and religious societies of nearly all the denominations. Both churched and Freidenker Germans were interested in preserving German language and culture and in fighting nativism and prohibition in their adopted city. In a letter to Reichmann,
Indianapolis-born writer, Kurt Vonnegut expressed his gratitude for the "...unselfish piece of scholarship!" Many of Vonnegut's works make reference to his family and the Indianapolis German community.

Copies may be purchased by mail using the enclosed form, or in Indianapolis at the following locations: Athenaeum Rathskeller Restaurant, 401 East Michigan Street, Indiana State Museum Giftshop, Indianapolis City Center, Klemm's German Sausage and Meat Market, and the Heidelberg Haus.

EAST GERMAN FREEDOM CELEBRATED

Indianapolis' German-American community and the Indiana German Heritage Society joined with other parts of the world in celebrating the recent relaxing of Communist control in East Germany by holding a Freedom festival on November 18. About 30 people braved the cold and marched from Obleisk Square to the Athenaeum to show their support for democratic reform in East Germany. A crowd of approximately 100 joined the celebration at the Athenaeum with music, dancing, speeches and general reveling. Participants in the celebration came from as far away as Terre Haute and LaPorte. Supporters included representatives from the city's German organizations, the German American Klub, the Maennerchor, and the Liederkranz, as well as other nationalities such as the Estonians and the Poles.

KARNEVAL--FEBRUARY 24

With the approach of Lent, it is time again to observe the German tradition of Karneval or Fasching. The third annual IGHS/Athenaeum Turners sponsored event will take place on Saturday, February 24, at the Athenaeum/Deutsches Haus, 401 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis.

The grand carnival party will follow the Rhineland traditions of Indianapolis' sister city, Cologne, the German equivalent of New Orleans during Mardi Gras in the United States. Among these traditions are the Elfer Rath (Council of Eleven) presided over by a Präsident or Chief Fool, Buttenroden (barrel speeches) or satiric speeches given from inside wine barrels, and the Dreigestirn (Triad of Stars) consisting of a peasant, a virgin, and the Karneval Prince.

Included in the celebration will be dinner and dancing; and processions of masked revelers reflecting the great German Karneval-Fasching tradition. Costumes by those attending are highly recommended. A number of additional surprises also are being planned.

The tradition of the German Karneval and Masked Ball in Indianapolis dates from the middle of the last century when German organizations such as the Maennerchor held grand festivals to rival anything done in the Midwest. To be a part of this year's Karneval, call the Athenaeum at (317) 636-0396 for reservations, which should be made about three days in advance. Get out your costume and enjoy a fascinating part of Indiana's German heritage.

ORDER FORM for THE GERMANS IN INDIANAPOLIS 1840-1918

Please send _____ copies @$17.25 each for a total of ________

Indiana Residents add 5% Sales Tax ________

Shipping $1.75 ________

Total ________

Make checks payable to: NCSA Literatur
R. 5, Box 175, Nashville, IN 47448
IGHS/SGAS COMBINE MEETINGS

The programs for the combined annual meetings of the Indiana German Heritage and the Society for German American Studies are nearly complete. The meetings will be held at the Airport Hilton in Indianapolis and not the Athenaeum as previously reported. The IGHS program will be on Saturday, April 28, from 8:30 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. The overall SGAS meeting which will last from Thursday, April 26 through Sunday, April 29. Prices for the meetings have not been set, but there will be a special price for those IGHS members only wishing to attend the IGHS sessions. The spring newsletter will contain the complete program for both meetings. The scheduled IGHS speakers and the titles of their papers are:

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY:
Donald Davidson, historian, U.S. Auto Club, "Carl Fischer, Hoosier Automotive Impresario;"
Patrick J. Furlong, History Dept., IU South Bend, "The Studebaker Brothers as Entrepreneurs;"
Donald F. Durnbaugh, Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College, "Stutz and Studebaker: The Evolution of Dunker Entrepreneurs."

MUSIC:
Claude K. Sluder, School of Music, Indiana University, "The Repertoire of Part-Books for Gertrude Rapp’s Quartet, c. 1826;"
Suzanne Snyder, School of Music, University of Iowa, "The Indianapolis Sangerfeste of 1867 and 1903;"
Kenneth Duncan, Indianapolis Maennerchor, "The History of the Indianapolis Maennerchor."

LOCAL STUDIES:
Antonius Holtmann, University of Oldenburg, Germany, "Osnabrack Pioneers in Indiana Around 1839-1846: Reasons for Emigration;"
Giles Hoyt, German Dept., IUPUI, "Indianapolis-Germanapolis: The German Contribution to the Making of a Mid-western City;"
William L. Selm, Historian, Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission, "German-American Landmarks of Indiana."

The SGAS program will feature scholars from the United States and West Germany speaking on a variety of subjects including: Women, Education, Customs and Traditions, Dialects, Arts, Literature, Freethinkers, Conflict, World War I Experience, and individual studies and biographies.

Entertainment and tours also have been scheduled. On Thursday evening Eberhard Reichmann and Bob Steffe will present Father Basil Stories and Hoosier German Tales at the Hilton. Friday evening’s program will be a banquet dinner at the Athenaeum with entertainment by Ed Staubach and the Athenaeum Orchestra, The Little Turners and the Fledermauschen Dance Group from the German American Club. Saturday’s luncheon program will include a performance by Marilyn Nathan and the Little Jasper Germans. On Saturday evening there will be a dinner and program at the Hilton with performances by the Maennerchor and Liederkranz along with Norbert Krampf reading from his poetry. There will be tours of Indianapolis with Bill Selm at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, and a Sunday excursion to Oldenburg leaving at 10:30 a.m. with lunch at Koch’s Brauhaus, and returning to Indianapolis around 4:00 p.m.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

In the attempt to expand the IGHS Newsletter, a more far reaching publication, we are seeking information from all local German heritage and related organizations in Indiana regarding their activities and festivals. Since we are based in Indianapolis, it is often difficult to keep in touch with the German related activities in all parts of the state. In this endeavor, we desperately seek your assistance. Send all information to Editor, Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter, 315 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202.
WHITE CREEK CELEBRATES 150TH

St. John's Lutheran Church, White Creek in Columbus, Indiana will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the congregation's founding in 1990. Many events are being planned throughout the year.

In late March, Professor Doctor Antonius Holtmann from Oldenburg University will be bringing between 20-30 people on a tour from the Lower Saxony region of West Germany. They will be following the route the early immigrants took before they settled in the White Creek area and surrounding communities in Indiana. Professor Holtmann and his group are planning to attend the church's morning worship service on April 1. To welcome them to the region where many of their ancestors immigrated, the anniversary committee will be sponsoring a pitch-in meal in their honor. This also will serve as an opportunity for the visitors to mingle with the members of the congregation.

In late spring, two or three special evening services will be held for confirmation roll-calls. All past and present members who were confirmed in the church over the past 75 years will be invited. This will be an opportunity to join with former classmates and renew their confirmation vows.

The church was formally organized in late fall, 1840; therefore, October has been designated as the official month of commemoration. On October 14, Dr. August Mennieke, First Vice-President of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will be the guest speaker during the morning worship service. A meal will be served at noon, followed by a pageant. This pageant will be performed by members of the congregation. They will be telling the story of the perils the immigrants encountered during their journey to White Creek as well as events which occurred after settlement.

A second special service will be conducted on October 28. A former pastor has been invited to be the guest speaker for the morning worship. Part of the service will be delivered in German. Professor Holtmann will be bringing another group from Venne, West Germany to participate in the celebration. Holtmann also will be speaking that afternoon on his research on the White Creek congregation.

For more information, contact Jack Dumm, 16040 S. 300W., Columbus, IN 47201.

STAMMTISCH'S SET FOR JAN-APRIL

Stammtisch programs have been set through March. All events will take place in the Deutsches Haus-Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St. For optional dinner at 6:00 PM, please call 636-0396 for reservations.

January 10, 1990 (Wednesday) 7:30 PM
Claude McNal, Director, American Cabaret Theatre, Indianapolis, "Theatre of Bertold Brecht and the Music of Kurt Weill"

February 14, 1990 (Wednesday) 7:30 PM
Dr. Henry Wellman, Indiana University School of Medicine, "Wine Growing, Wine Making, and Wine Drinking in Germany"

March 14, 1990 (Wednesday) 7:30 PM
Gregory Humpa, Foreign Language Department, Purdue University, West Lafayette, "The Amish Dialect in the USA"

April 11, 1990 (Wednesday) 7:30 PM
To be announced

RESEARCH GRANTS AVAILABLE

Small grants of up to $2500 are available in 1990 for research projects on state and local history. Recipient organizations must supply matching funds (either in kind or cash). The Indiana Heritage Grant program is a joint effort sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana Humanities Council. Deadlines for the program are:

January 15, 1990--prospectus
March 19, 1990--application
June 1, 1990--project begins
June 30, 1991--final report due

For detail and application forms, contact:
Indiana Heritage Research Grants
1500 N. Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
(317) 638-1500
In 1990-1991, 52 Americans, aged 18-24, will be awarded a scholarship to spend one year studying and working in West Germany as participants in the seventh Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals. This work/study exchange program beginning in July, 1990, and ending in July, 1991, will include a two-month intensive language course, four months of study at a German professional, technical or trade school and a six-month internship in a German business or industry; most participants will also stay with a German host family for all or part of the year.

The program began in 1983 as part of President Reagan Youth Exchange Initiative in conjunction with the 300th anniversary of German immigration to the United States. Financially supported by the U.S. Congress and the West German Bundestag, it is designed to strengthen the ties between the younger generations in the United States and West Germany.

Interested applicants must be American citizens, aged 18-24, with clear career goals and work experience in their fields. Special emphasis is being placed on vocational, business, and technical fields. German language ability is not required, but strongly recommended. The deadline for application is January 15, 1990.

Application packets can be obtained by calling or writing to:

Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program
CDS International, Inc.
Midwest Regional Office
One American Square
Box 82040, Suite 1610
Indianapolis, IN 46282
(317) 637-1277

The goals of the Congress-Bundestag Exchange Program can only be achieved through a reciprocal exchange of people and ideas. Thus, 30 young craftspersons and professionals will participate in a comparable program in the U.S. from August 1990-July 1991. They will be attending colleges and universities throughout the U.S., undertaking six-month internships, and staying with American families.

College and families interested in hosting a young German (aged 18-21) and interested employers may contact CDS International, Inc. at the above address.

On October 30, Professor Doctor Michael Daxner, President of the University of Oldenburg, visited Indianapolis to sign agreements of friendship and cooperation with the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. The agreements involved mutual cooperation in the areas of research and scholarship between the research center for Immigrants from Lower Saxony in the United States at the University of Oldenburg and the two Indianapolis institutions.

The visit was highlighted by Daxner’s evening lecture on the problems of German memorial holidays/years and coming to grips with the National Socialist past. Daxner stated that: “The 1980s superficially repeat tendencies that were common after 1945, when many Germans wanted to get rid of the past rather than to acquire a democratic future. But at a closer look the analogy is only weak. My assumption is that West-Germany is ready to rewrite her recent history... The 1980s are the decade when the process of rewriting history has become a mainstream activity. My general hypothesis for this process is that the Nazi period is treated as to become an ordinary part of an integrated continuous German history.”
GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

Searching for immigrants from Cammer (Lower Saxony) near Minden who settled in USA. Some were founders of St. John United Church of Christ in Indianapolis. Names included are Backwimer, Brinkmann, Koch, Kruse, Luebkering, Meier, Metzing, Rodenbeck, and Wessling.

Erhard Saecker, Auf dem Brinke 10, D 3062 Buecheburg-Cammer West Germany

Interested in receiving any information on the Miglern family who left Virginia and settled in Indiana around Centerville, Wayne County in the 1850s. They were sons of a German immigrant.

Beverly Repass Hoch, CGRS, 1720 Randolph Road, SE., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

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

STUDY ON JASPER DIALECTS COMPLETED

Peter Freseouf, a doctoral student in German at Indiana University, Bloomington, completed his dissertation dealing with two of the German dialects spoken in the Dubois County area of south central Indiana. The dissertation, which was completed in December, 1989, is titled "Religion and Dialect: Catholic and Lutheran Dialects in the German of Dubois County, Indiana. In his study, Freseouf maintains that the historical religious differences in the German-American community in Dubois County are reflected in the different German dialects still spoken in this community. The German-American Catholics of Jasper and Ferdinand in Dubois County and St. Meinrad in Spencer County are the descendants of German settlers who came from several parts of Germany. Their German dialect resembles the German that can still be heard today over large areas of southern Germany. The Lutherans in the Haysville area, on the other hand, trace their origin in Germany to a small area in northern Bavaria. The Bavarian dialect they have preserved to this day is still quite similar to the dialect spoken around the town of Pegnitz in Germany. The two religious groups maintained distinct dialects because they traditionally did not intermarry and each group had its own separate church and educational facilities.

A copy of the dissertation has been deposited in the Library of Indiana University in Bloomington and in the Dubois County Public Library in Jasper. Professors Eberhard Reichmann of Indiana University and Joe Salmons of Purdue University served on the dissertation committee overseeing the project. The study was conducted at the suggestion of Ruth Reichmann of IUPUI and the German-American Center, Indianapolis.

HAMBURG EMIGRATION RECORDS AVAILABLE

If your ancestors came from eastern Germany, Poland, or Russia, there is a good chance that they left for America from the port of Hamburg. If they did so between 1850 and 1914, you may wish to contact the Historic Migration Office in Hamburg.

The office keeps lists of passengers who left Hamburg by ship for overseas, directly or from other European ports, from the period from 1850 to August 1, 1914, with the exception of January to June, 1853.

The lists contain data on family names, given names, sex, age, place of birth and former place of residence, with province, occupation, port of destination, name of ship and departure date. The lists do not include those who went on to Bremen or Bremerhaven. The lists in these ports were almost all destroyed during World War II.

If the emigration year is known, a fee of DM 75 (around $40) is charged to search for one name or a family. The fee covers a copy of the ship's list, the sealed certificate on cardboard, a translation or transcription of the brochure "Hamburg als Auswandererstadt" in German and English and the mailing costs. The same amount has to be paid for each additional year to be researched. There is no refund if the search is unsuccessful.

For further information, contact the Historic Emigration Office, Museum für Hamburgische Geschichte, Helstenwall 24, 2000 Hamburg 36, West Germany.
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Jan. 9 IGHS Board of Directors, Athenaeum, 12:00 p.m.


Feb. 13 IGHS Board of Directors, Athenaeum, 12:00 p.m.

Feb. 14 Stammtisch—"Wine Growing, Wine Making, and Wine Drinking in Germany," Dr. Henry Wellman, Indiana Univ. School of Medicine, Indianapolis, Athenaeum, 7:30 p.m., 636-0396.

Feb. 24 Karneval/Fasching, Athenaeum, 636-0396.

March 13 IGHS Board of Directors, Athenaeum, 12:00 p.m.

March 14 Stammtisch—"The Amish Dialect in the USA," Gregory Humpa, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, Athenaeum, 7:30 p.m., 636-0396.

April 10 IGHS Board of Directors, Athenaeum, 12:00 p.m.

April 11 Stammtisch—TBA Athenaeum, 7:30 p.m., 636-0396.

April 26-29 IGHS/SGAS Annual Meetings, Airport Hilton, Indianapolis, IGHS Annual Meeting, April 28 only.

Indiana German Heritage Society

Newsletter Return Address
401 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The Indiana German Heritage Society
Newsletter is published quarterly by
the Indiana German Heritage Society,
Inc. Written contribution, suggestions
and information for publication are
welcome. Your name, address and phone
number should be included with all
correspondence. Send to Editor,
Indiana German Heritage Society
Newsletter, 315 W. Ohio Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46202.

Paul Brockman, Editor