IT'S GOOD TO BE GERMAN IN OCTOBER

IGHS PLANS CROWN HILL TOUR

As part of German-American week, the Indiana German Heritage Society will sponsor a tour of Crown Hill Cemetery at 700 W. 38th St., Indianapolis, on Saturday, 2 October.

The tour will begin at 1:30 p.m. and last for approximately 1.5 to 2 hours depending upon the wishes of the group. Wayne Sanford, a historian who works at the cemetery, will direct the tour. Price for the tour is $2 per person (we need a minimum of 15 persons for the tour). Those wishing to take part in the tour should meet at the 34th St. gate which is off of Boulevard Place. Please be on time!

The length of the tour will be about 1.25 miles and will highlight gravesites of many famous early Germans who helped establish Indianapolis. Also, the tour will pass many of the beautiful mausoleums with stained glass windows (now worth in excess of $1 million). Structures such as the Waiting Station, Gate House, and Gothic Chapel have been restored and can be seen.

There are more than 100 different species of trees that have been identified and marked. The Fall foliage will be good at this time too. Many birds and small animals live on the grounds.

The tour will end with a climb to the "Crown" to view the grave of Hoosier poet, James Whitcomb Riley. The crown (hill) is the highest point in Indianapolis and is quite picturesque.

If you would like to take part in this experience, please complete the enclosed registration form and send it to Sharon Kennedy, 367 Nottinghill Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234. Reservations should be received by 27 September 1993. For more information, phone 317-271-6505.

OCTOBER 3---DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

on Sunday, 3 October, at 3 p.m., Susan Stern will give a timely talk entitled "United Germany Turns Three." Her presentation will be followed by a reception. Ms. Stern, a British citizen and free lance writer, is the editor of "Meet United Germany" and "Ten Went West: East German Students Between Three Worlds." She is currently in the Midwest for a lecture tour. On Monday, 4 October, she will be at Butler University for a luncheon meeting, lecture, and discussion.

The program is co-sponsored by the Max Kade German-American Center and the Indiana Association of Teachers of German. The 3 October program will be held at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum in the Max Kade Meeting Room, first floor of the main building. The Athenaeum is located at the corner of New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Michigan Streets. Michigan is one-way going west. There is ample parking right around the building in various parking lots and on the street. For information, contact the German-American Center at 317-464-9004 or the IUPUI German Department at 317-274-0062.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY IN INDIANAPOLIS

Indianapolis will again be the site of a celebration honoring the arrival of the first German settlers in America at Philadelphia in 1683. The festivities will take place downtown at the City Market Plaza from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As in the past there will be reading of proclamations by city and state officials, music, dancing, food, and displays. For more information regarding this IGHS sponsored event, contact Bill Selin at 317-630-4569.
INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, INDIANAPOLIS

The International Festival in Indianapolis will be held from Thursday, 14 October, through Sunday, 17 October. This year's festival theme is "Customs and Traditions of the World" and promises to be a great weekend of international entertainment and celebration of heritage. Culture booths and food booths will fill the pavilion representing the various ethnic groups and diverse cultural heritage of Indianapolis. Many performing groups will entertain the festival-goers. IGHS will have handouts on Hoosier German heritage and Germany as well as publications for sale. The 4-day event will be held in the West Pavilion at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, 38th St. and Fall Creek Parkway, Indianapolis.

IGHS is selling advance tickets for $3 which are available at the German-American Center, 401 East Michigan St., Indianapolis, 317-464-9004. Adult tickets are $5 at the door! Any IGHS member willing to work a minimum of 3 hours at our booth will receive a free ticket. Please contact Ruth Reichmann at the German-American Center immediately. Festival hours are Thursday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Parking is free.

COLUMBUS ETHNIC EXPO, 9 OCTOBER

IGHS will have a display and table with handouts at the Ethnic Expo in Columbus, Indiana on Saturday, 9 October. Beginning at 10 a.m., there will be cultural exhibits, international bazaar, and a vast array of exotic foods. Look us up! If you can help staff the table, call Ruth Reichmann at 317-464-9004 or 812-588-2666.

GERMAN SESSION AT IHS MEETING

The Indiana German Heritage Society will again present a session at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana Historical Society, Saturday, 6 November, at the Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center on the IUPUI campus. The IGHS session, titled "Indiana German American Contributions to the Arts and Entertainment," will be from 2:30-4:00 p.m. and will feature a poetry reading by Norbert Krapt, originally from Jasper, now residing in New York City, and a presentation about "The Passage," the Hoosier-German Group of Painters by Martin Krause from the Indianapolis Museum of Art. For registration information, contact the Indiana Historical Society at 317-232-1882.

GERMAN THANKSGIVING FESTIVALS

The Annual Harvest Dance, held 20 November, at the German-American Klub is an example of the Erntefest, a traditional German festival theme. The American "Thanksgiving" is a national holiday and harkens back to the celebration of the first settlers. It is celebrated in home and church and is a family and community occasion celebrated with a great meal. The German Erntedankfest is a special day in the church calendar, German Harvest Festivals (Erntefests) are local thanksgiving celebrations for a bountiful harvest of their particular fruits and grains and are great community affairs. These festival vary from region to region—also by name—depending on the type of harvest ranging from grapes to grain. In the wine growing areas, the Winger Fest is celebrated with cider, new and old wine, food, and dancing when the last grapes have been harvested. In the Alpine regions, the grain is brought in the barns on large wagon, pulled by decorated oxen. On top of the wagons are sheaves of grain, bound in the form of a figure, animal or human. The last sheaves are left on the fields for the next harvest and for animals to glean. Good reasons to celebrate in the (rainproof) festival tents, with music and dancing, food and drink and merry making.

For more information regarding the 20 November GAK Harvestfest, contact the Klub at 317-889-6940. by Ruth Reichmann

ST. NIKOLAUS TAG AT ATHENAEUM

5 December is St. Nikolaus Day at the Deutsche Haus-Athenaeum. In the German tradition, the Children's Tree at the Athenaeum is decorated for the party with wooden ornaments made by children and based on the Christmas symbols: red apples, angels and stars, St. Nikolaus and Ruprecht, snowmen, lebkuchen (gingerbread) and cookies, advent wreaths, rocking horses, as well as the flags of Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and the city of Cologne (Indianapolis' sister city).

According to tradition, children will place their shoes on a window sill, in front of the door, or hang them by the fireplace on the evening of 5 December. During the night, they believe, Nikolaus will come and place small presents into them. In many families, the Saint (a friend or relative who dresses up) appears in person. In former times children were afraid that not only would they not receive treats if they were not good, but that there would be switches or a lump of coal in there place.

by Ruth Reichmann

STAMMTISCH

Join us for our gathering at "Stammtisch" in the Rathskeller Restaurant of the Athenaeum on the second Wednesday evening of the month. A "Stammtisch" requires talk (auf deutsch!), good food and drink. If you would like to practice your German, join us for dinner at 6 p.m.
The Christmas tree is a part of the twelfth-night tradition. In the German-speaking countries it is put up on Christmas eve and taken down on 6 January. The decorated tree will not be seen by the children before Christmas eve. A Christmas tree could be found in German living rooms as far back as the 16th century, possibly even earlier. At that time it was decorated with fine cookies; in the 17th century candles and shining decorations were added. In the meantime, the Christmas tree has become known world-wide.

In England, from the 11th to the 17th centuries, Christmas had become increasingly the great festival of the year with observance from Christmas eve to the Twelfth Day (6 January). In the holly-decked great halls of the feudal lords, wassailing, feasting, singing and games, dancing and masquerading, mummers presenting pantomimes, and masques were all part of the festivities. The Christmas feast, was brought ceremoniously into the hall, headed by the chief cook carrying in the boar's head, followed by servants bearing an incredible number of dishes. But the wild license of these celebrations, with no semblance of the inner vision and meaning of Christmas, fell into disfavor with the Puritans. In England, the observance of Christmas was forlorned by act of Parliament in 1644. Because of the Puritan influence, the festive aspects of Christmas, including the tree, were not accepted in New England until about 1875. While the Scots adhered to the Puritan view, England gradually found Christmas again.

Robert Meyers, author of Celebrations: The Complete Book of American Holidays, credits Queen Victoria with popularizing the German tradition in the English-speaking countries. She had Prince Albert bring a decorated tree from Germany to England for the royal children. As befitted royalty, decorations for the tree included dozens of candles, plus elegant trays, baskets and eggshell filled with candies, gingerbread and sweetmeats. All were hung from the branches with bright ribbons. Two of the most popular publications of the times—The Illustrated London News in 1848 and Godey's Lady's Book in 1860—illustrated the English royalty trees and fancy decorations. The fad caught on among the readers in the English-speaking countries. Thus, the custom spread quickly. Today, all over the world, it is hard to imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree.

by Ruth Reichmann

THE WHITE ROSE

In August, "The Theatre on the Square" in Indianapolis presented "The White Rose," a play by Lillian Garret-Groag, about a group of young Germans who offered resistance to the Nazi regime during World War II. We express our appreciation to Director Steve Traynor and his cast for a fine performance.

Continued on Next Page
Not many Germans offered resistance to the Nazi regime, but there were more of them than was known at the time. The "White Rose," a group of young Germans, was the most important resistance group among the young during the war. Hans Scholl, Alexander Schmorell, Christopher Probst, and Willi Graf came back from the Russian front to study medicine at the University of Munich. In 1942 they were joined by Sophie Scholl, Professor Kurt Huber, and others. They did not believe in the use of force. Their weapons were slogans such as "Down With Hitler" or "Freedom" written on house walls and leaflets attempting to spread the truth in the police state of the Nazi regime. Like many other before them, they paid for their courage with their lives.

We are currently attempting to bring the exhibit "The White Rose" to the Athenaeum for a showing later in the year in conjunction with several programs at the Max Kade German-American Center.

GERMAN-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP GARDEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The "Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial" celebrated "The Friendship Garden" in 1983, described "The Friendship Garden" in a colorful brochure, which it published, as follows: "The lasting German-American contributions to our nation, and the continuing friendship between the United States and the Federal Republic will be enduringly symbolized in a Friendship Garden to be dedicated, in the Mall area, is one of our nation's most treasured sites, and is within walking distance of the Washington Monument and the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials."

All German-Americans may rightfully take pride in the fact that the German-American Friendship Garden has fully integrated its beauty into the magnificence of our National Mall.

The German-American Friendship Garden is located along Constitution Avenue, between the White House and the Jefferson Monument, on the immediate grounds of the Washington Monument. The Garden’s benches and fountains welcome the visitor to tarry, rest and drink in the spectacle of America's finest vistas.

All German-Americans are welcome to share the concern of the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. that the German-American Friendship Garden be appropriately maintained.

The German-American Friendship Garden has served annually as national focal point for the celebration of GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY, celebrated each year on 5 October, in commemoration of the first German settlement in America. On 6 October 1683 thirteen Mennonite families from Krefeld, on the Rhine River, landed at the port of Philadelphia aboard the Concord and founded Germantown, Pennsylvania.

FROM OLD GERMAN-AMERICAN SONGBOOKS...

During the 19th century, several translations of the national anthem made their way into German-American songbooks and hymnals. Our first example is the first stanza as translated by E.A. Zuentz and used by the Turners in their "Liederbuch des Nordamerikanischen Turnerbundes" (Milwaukee: Freidenker Publ. Co., 1910). See how much you can make out by comparing it with the original.

* Das Sternenbanner *
  Sprich, schaut du im Daemern
  das Morgenlichts klar,
  was so stolz wir begruesst
  in des Abendrots Gluten!

  Die Sterne, so glaenzend
  in Kampfes Gefahr,
  die Streifen, die herrlich vom
  Wall niederflutren.

  Selbst durchs Dunkel der Nacht
  war ihr Gruss uns gebracht,
  wenn Raketen geblitzt
  und die Bomben gekracht.

  O sprich, ob die Flagge
  mit Sternen beset,
  ueberm Land der Freien
  und Braven noch weht?

The second version comes from J.H. Spielmann's "Psalmenlust fuer die christliche Jugend," publ. by the "Allgemeine Ev.-Luth. Synode von Ohio u.a. St. (Columbus, Ohio, 1890). The translator is not mentioned.

* Das Banner mit Sternen beset *

  O sagt, losen ihr sehn
  in des Morgenrot Strahl
  was so stolz wir im scheidenden
  Abendrot gruessten:

  Die Sterne, die Streifen,
  die, wehend vom Wall,
  im toedlichen Kampf
  uns den Anblick versuesten?

  Hoch fliegen die Fahnen
  in herrlicher Pracht,
  beim Leuchten der Bomben
  durch dunkle Nacht.

  Chor:

  O sagt, ob das Banner
  mit Sternen beset,
  ueberm Land der Freien
  und Braven noch weht.

A comparison of the two German versions shows that translations, especially of rhymed poetry, can vary greatly, while still bringing across the message of the original.

The inclusion of the nation anthem in songbooks and hymnals (sometimes in both languages) is yet another proof that ethnic language/culture maintenance and loyalty to America were (and are) absolutely compatible.

by Eberhard Reichmann
"It All Sounds Familiar"
[Reprinted from 1 July 1993 Indianapolis News]
By David Mannweiler

"William Selm turned the corner onto Lockerbie Street and 18 others made the turn with him.

Why, someone asked him, is the cobblestone in the middle of the street higher than the cobblestone next to the curbs?

I think that was the question. The guy asked it in German.

"From here," Selm said, poking the tip of his furled blue-and-white umbrella next to the curb, "to here," poking the stones four feet away, "is real. The middle is the invention of the DOT (Department of Transportation)."

I think that was the answer. Selm answered in German, but then repeated it to me in English.

"That kind of cobblestone never existed. It's concrete and rocks. The DOT invented it. The first surface on Lockerbie Street was dirt and the first pavement was asphalt. The DOT decided to put in fake cobblestone to make Lockerbie Street look old," explained Selm, executive director of the Athenaeum Foundation.

That I never knew, which prove darn near everybody can learn something on a 90-minute tour of things German in Indianapolis.

Selm met the German tourists at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. Good place to begin if you want to link German and Indianapolis.

Speaking in German, Selm compared the city's Mile Square to the Ringstrasse in Vienna. They all nodded.

He spoke of Bruno Schmitz, the German architect who won the international competition to design a war monument for the Circle and Schmitz's designs for Kaiser Wilhelm I monuments in Dusseldorf, Berlin, Hamburg, Koblenz and Dresden.

They nodded. Schmitz they had heard of.

Selrn spoke of Rudolph Schwarz, who came from Berlin to supervise the cuttings of the massive stone sculpture groups for the monument. They apparently had never heard of him, but they looked around at the statues and nodded approval.

'We do this kind of thing the last four year,' said Wolfgang Grams, an executive of the Research Center of Lower Saxons in the USA at the University of Oldenburg in Germany.

The center organizes tours to places in the United States where emigrants from Lower Saxony ended up.

'We go places tourists usually don't go,' Grams said. 'Like the White Creek community in southern Bartholomew County. Most of these people know where their immigrant relatives lived, but some on this trip have discovered relatives in old church records.'

This group is following the immigration of Johann Heinrich zur Oeverest, who landed in Baltimore, lived in Cincinnati and founded a Lutheran church in White Creek. The center has 30 of the letters he wrote home from Indiana.

The group had lunch, of course, in the Rathskeller restaurant of Selm's Athenaeum.

Those who had the bratwurst said it was very good."

SGAS-25 YEARS OLD

IGHS was well represented by Gerhard Auer, Giles Hoyt, Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann, and Christiane Seiler at the Society for German-American Studies Annual Symposium, held 22-25 April in Austin, Texas. Also present were our collaborators from the Universität Oldenburg Research Center Lower Saxons in the USA, Prof. Antonius Holtmann and his daughter, Heike Holtmann (who just received her M.A. with a concentration on German-American Studies at the J. F. Kennedy Institut of the Freie Universität Berlin), and Dr. Wolfgang Grams. SGAS—the national and international organization for the study of German American—celebrated its 25th anniversary with an excellent symposium, many good papers, and lots of sitting and talking into the wee hours of the night. We also enjoyed meeting with our counterparts from the 1,000 member German-Texan heritage society, the sponsors of the conference. They received a beautiful historical building for their state headquarters, the former German Free School of 1857. What a break! An exciting trip was arranged for us to New Braunfels, a German-American community with very fine museum sites documenting their heritage, and a great Hummel Museum, too!

Next year's SGAS meeting will be at Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania, 14-17 April, with a focus on "Gateway to the New World: German Migration to and from Pennsylvania, 1683-1993," "The Pennsylvania German: History and Culture," and "German-American Studies: New Projects, New Insights."

Deadline for submission of papers is 15 October 1993. But you do not have to read a paper to attend. If you are heading east that time, attending the conference will be worth your while. For more information, contact Ruth Reichmann at the German-American Center.

By Ruth Reichmann
I would like to be included in the tour of Crown Hill Cemetery on Saturday, October 2, 1993. Price is $2.00/person.

Name: ________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________

City: __________________ State: ___________ Zip: _______

Telephone: ___________________ Amount Enclosed: __________________

Those wishing to be a part of the tour should meet at the 34th street gate which is off of Boulevard Place. Please be on time!

Please return this form to Sharon Kennedy, 367 Nottinghill Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234. Reservations should be received by September 27, 1993.

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Palatines to America
OHIO CHAPTER FALL CONFERENCE
Cincinnati, Ohio
Saturday October 9, 1993

Co-Sponsors
Indiana Chapter of Palatines to America
Indiana German Heritage Society
Kentuckiana Germanic Heritage Society

Host
"German Interest Group of the Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society" (OGS)

Llanfair Retirement Community
1701 Llanfair Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio
(Six miles south of I-275 on State Route # 127 (Hamilton Road))

Speakers: Pastor Frederick S. Weiser
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann
J. William Klapper

Agenda

8:00 - 9:00  Registration, Coffee, Donuts, Books
9:05 - 10:15 Churches of the Reformation: Part I Europe (Weiser)
10:15 - 10:30 Coffee Break - Books
10:30 - 11:45 Churches of the Reformation: Part II America (Weiser)

Walk to Lunch

12:00 - 1:00  Lunch at the Gasthof Vienna
Return from Lunch

1:15 - 1:30  Publishing: German history & heritage - (Tolzmann)
1:30 - 2:30  German immigration & settlement in the Ohio Valley (Tolzmann)
2:30 - 2:45  Soft Drinks, Juices, Book Dealers
2:45 - 3:45  German immigration to Kentucky (Klapper)

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☐ German Interest Group, Hamilton Co. O.G.S

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For additional information or return of registration please include SASE
October 3  Day of German Unity Program At Athenaeum, Indpls., 3 p.m.--see article in Newsletter

October 6  GERMAN AMERICAN DAY--Celebrations at Indpls. City Market and elsewhere

October 9  Columbus Ethnic Expo--see article in Newsletter

October 9  Pal-Am Ohio Chpt. Fall Conference--see insert in Newsletter

October 13  IGHS Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Athenaeum

October 13  Stammtisch, 6 p.m., Athenaeum

October 14  International Festival

October 17  Indpls.--see article in Newsletter

November 5  Indiana Historical Society Annual Meeting, Lincoln Conf. Center, Indpls.--see article in Newsletter

November 10  IGHS Board of Directors, 1 p.m., Athenaeum

November 10  Stammtisch, 6 p.m., Athenaeum

November 20  Harvest Dance, German-American Klub, Indpls.

December 5  St. Nikolaus Fest, Athenaeum--see article in Newsletter

December 6  Traditional St. Nikolaus Tag

December 8  IGHS Board of Directors, 1 p.m., Athenaeum

December 8  Stammtisch, 6 p.m., Athenaeum

December 25  FROHE WEIHNACHTEN!

January 12  IGHS Board of Directors, 1 p.m. Athenaeum

January 12  Stammtisch, 6 p.m., Athenaeum

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Indianiana 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