THE RETURN OF THE WASSERBURGERS

WASSERBURGERS LEAD SUMMER PROGRAMS

A 19 member dance group of the Trachtenverein Almrausch from Wasserburg, Bavaria, sister city of Vincennes, will visit Indiana again this summer and perform in several Indiana cities. They were here in 1992 and delighted their audiences. In their beautiful native dress of the Inn-Valley region they perform traditional dances, featuring the Schuhplattler.

August 1, 4-8 p.m. they will perform at Summerfest in the Biergarten of the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. German and American food will be provided by the Rathskeller Restaurant and there will be bar service with German beers and wines. Tickets are $3.00 for adults and $1.00 for children, age 6-12. For information contact the Athenaeum at 317 630-4569 or Mary Ellen Wehrle at 317 815-0017.

August 5-8, the Wasserburg dancers will perform at the Jasper Strassenfest and will be marching in the Sunday parade. The Strassenfest offers German bands, booths, rides, German foods, beer garden, arts & crafts, athletic contests and more. Also during Strassenfest, August 5, 7:30 p.m. Holy Family Church, in Jasper, will sponsor a musical celebration with a group from Wagshurst in the Black Forest (for information Fr. Boeglin, 812 482-3076).

August 13/14 the Wasserburger dance group will perform at the Vincennes Germanfest. It is held from 6 p.m. until midnight at Highland Park with German bands, foods and drink. (For information Ralph Ruppel at 812 882-1730).

MAX KADE GERMAN-AMERICAN CENTER WINS GRANT FOR INTERNET PROJECT

The Max Kade German-American Center was awarded an Indiana Heritage Research Grant in the amount of $2,500.00 for a "Directory of German-American Culture in Indiana on the Web." Researchers are Profs. Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann. The project is a continuation of a project begun in 1996 and will identify additional repositories of German Americana collections, sites and museums in Indiana. Already online is New Harmony with 28 sites, history and bibliography. It can be viewed at http://www-lib.iupui.edu/kade/newharmony/home.html

The information is of interest to students of Indiana German-American and Ethnic Studies, researchers and teachers. It is useful for domestic and foreign visitors for planning their trips and to anyone else interested in
German-American history and heritage.

Indiana Heritage Research Grants are a joint effort of the Indiana Historical Society, the Indiana Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

RICHMOND STUDENTS AT OLDENBURG UNIVERSITY

Prof. Eleanor L. Turk and four of her students from IU East, Richmond, will participate in a 3-week summer seminar on German-American history at the University of Oldenburg together with students of Prof. Antonius Holtmann. The seminar, taught by both professors, will be in English and examine causes and motives for emigration, the means of transportation, destinations, and acculturation. Prof. Walter Kamphoefner of Texas A&M will present the introductory lecture.

This great learning experience includes visits to the Emigration Museum in Bremerhaven and the outdoor social history museum at Cloppenburg, where the students will learn about the lives of the emigrating classes. Following the seminar, the American students and several of the German students take a four-day excursion to Berlin, with side trips to Potsdam and Wittenberg.

Prerequisite to this seminar is Prof. Turk's course H276, History of European Emigration.

Eleanor L. Turk  email—etturk@indiana.edu

GOETHE EXHIBIT

August 28 from 3 - 5 p.m. will be the opening of a Goethe exhibit and Reception at IUPUI University Library. The exhibit highlights important stations of the life and work of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749 - 1832) and introduces Germany's most famous author to a general audience, particularly college and high school students. In the field of literature, Goethe's work spans the three major literary movements of 18th and 19th century: storm and stress, classicism, and romanticism. The city of Weimar in former East Germany, where Goethe spent most of his life, attracted great poets, composers, and philosophers, such as Friedrich Schiller and Franz Liszt. Together, they made this small city in Thuringia the center of German cultural life.

For information contact Claudia Grossmann
Dept. of Foreign Languages and Cultures, IUPUI
317 274-2081, E-mail
cgrossma@iupui.edu

GERMAN-AMERICAN ELDERHOSTEL

German-American History And Heritage
September 19-24, 1999

Nearly one out of four Americans claim German ancestry with roots in the German-speaking areas of Europe. As the country's largest ethnic group, the German-Americans have co-created the American way of life. Learn about German-American history and heritage. Taste their cuisine, study topics from the German artistic heritage and the German-American experience. Visit Amish and Benedictine communities and other German-American attractions in southern Indiana. Participants will have an opportunity to study documents in Fraktur and learn to read Handschrift.

The presenters are Drs. Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann and Annemarie Springer. Dr. Springer holds a doctorate in art history from Indiana University at Bloomington, Ind. She is an art consultant who is currently writing a book on 19th century German-American church decorators.

COST: The $365 fee (double occupancy) includes workshop program and materials, meals, socials, and overnight accommodations. (Single occupancy fee is $465.)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Kordes Enrichment Center
812-367-2777 * 800-880-2777
CALENDAR

Wednesday, July 14, 4:30 p.m. IGHS Board meeting
6 p.m. Stammtisch and Program (317 861-5831)

Monday, July 19, 7 p.m. German Heritage Dancers, Athenaean (Ginni Bullard at 812 597-4932)

Sunday, August 1, 4-8 p.m. Summerfest at the Athenaean with Dance Group from Wasserburg, Bavaria (317 630-4569)

August 5-8, Wasserburg Dance Group will perform at Strassenfest in Jasper (Mary Ellen Wehrle at 317 815-0017)

Sunday, August 8 Camp Atterbury, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Betty Randall at 812 546-5328)

Wednesday, August 11, 4:30 p.m. IGHS Board meeting
6 p.m. Stammtisch and Program (317 861-5831)

August 14/15, 6 p.m. Wasserburg Dance Group at Vincennes Germanfest (Ralph Ruppel at 812 882-1730)

Monday, August 16, 7 p.m. German Heritage Dancers, Athenaean (Ginni Bullard at 812 597-4932)

Saturday, August 28, 3 - 5 p.m. Opening of Goethe exhibit and Reception at IUPUI University Library (Claudia Grossmann at 317 274-2081)

September 8, Diane Stippler on "Favorite Herbs of the Germans"

SATURDAY SUMMER FESTIVALS
at the German Park in Indianapolis
8602 South Meridian Street

July 10 * South Side Turners, Heimath & Preussen

July 17 * Saenger Chor

August 7 * Liederkranz

Festivals open at 5:00 p.m. Live music and dancing food, drinks and fun!

Oktoberfest at the German Park
September 3, 4, 5, 10, 11

For information call Gloria Webster at 317 846-8440

STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS

Stammtisch on the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., prior to the program at the Athenaean Rathskeller
Restaurant - good food and good talk! Programs are held in the Max Kade Seminar Room on the first floor of the Athenaean, 401 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis. For information call Ernestine Dillon at 317 861-5831.

July 14, Jurgen Weber, Plant Manager at Ford and Cologne native—speaking on implementing learning in the organization—ethics & morals in industry.

August 11, "Goethe, the Lyrist", Ferdinand Piedmont, Eberhard and Ruth Reichmann, Ernestine Dillon will read scenes from Faust and Goethe Poems in English Translation.

FOLK DANCERS LOOK FOR NEW MEMBERS

If you like folk dancing join the GERMAN HERITAGE DANCERS. They meet every third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Small Auditorium, First Floor of the Athenaean, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis.

Pete Bullard, President of the North-American Federation of
German Folk Dance Groups, announced that the 15th Federal German Folk Dance Festival will take place from July 27-July 30, 2000 in Braunschweig, Germany. The Federation will participate again with a contingent representing the various states. If you are interested in going, keep the date open. There is a tentative possibility to be hosted by a local group.

For information contact Ginni Bullard at 812-597-4932.


"For all of America I will not go by the Soldiers again..." is the title of IGHS member Holtmann's second book on the Hoosier German immigrant scene of the 19th century. The Civil War letters of Theodor Heinrich Brandes, an emigrant from Ochtrup, were in the possession of the late Emma Walpe of Oldenburg, IN.

"War is nothing but a humbug," wrote Brandes to his wife. Yet he had voluntarily gone to war in place of someone else. For through soldiering he wanted to achieve his American dream he had long hoped for in vain: To make a modest living for his family, in peace. With his letters and his miserable dying at Vicksburg, the day laborer Brandes points out that with the belief in the necessity of the Civil War, possibilities were buried, which would not have required the dead heroes and other countless and forgotten victims. Heinrich Brandes belongs to those millions of victims, who over the centuries perished from unspeakable atrocities, sank into oblivion, and are not listed in the annals of world history. He didn't even have a place in the historical record of his own Franklin County!

With this volume, which will eventually be translated into English, Holtmann shows again brilliant scholarship in readable form. An important contribution to the history of the common immigrant and the German-American participation in the Civil War, an aspect of American historiography that is badly in need of revision. - ($31.50 delivered; members $29.00). From: NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove Rd., Nashville, IN 47448.

The Atterbury File: The Next Generation. Researched and written by students of Custer Baker Middle School, Franklin, IN and interested adults. Don G. Weitz, ed. Franklin, IN (1999), 549pp., illustr., index; orig. The Atterbury File with Larry Taumann, co-editor. (pb. $10.50; hardcover $21.50; s/h $2.00). Distributed by Sandy G. Wilson, SFC, Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial Association, Building 509, Edinburgh, IN 46124-1096, or Custer Baker Middle School, 101 W St. Rd. 44, Franklin, IN 46131.

"In 1942, 50,000 acres of quiet farmland in central Indiana was transformed into a bustling training center for US Army personnel. As WW II continued, Italian and German POWs were confined where cattle had recently grazed. Thousands of wounded soldiers were treated in the army hospital located within the camp...

By the 1970s, students at Custer Baker Middle School in Franklin, IN became interested in the camp through science and social studies field trips. A wealth of material was accumulated. Students and their teachers undertook the project of preserving the history of this unique area. By the completion of this book, the school, the military, civic leaders, the Johnson County Historical Society, and countless citizens had been drawn together in an act of love and respect for their heritage." (Jane Hughey)
REMEMBERING THE PRISONERS OF WAR

August 8, marks the tenth anniversary of the dedication of the restored POW "Chapel in the Meadow," the only such chapel remaining in the continental United States. The American-Italian Heritage Society and the Camp Atterbury Veterans' Memorial and Museum Committee are inviting members of the Indiana German Heritage Society to the events planned for that day.

At 11:00 a.m. there will be posting of the colors, followed by a Catholic Mass and pitch-in at the "Chapel in the Meadow." Please, bring a dish. Paper plates, spoons, forks, food tents, tables and chairs will be provided. There will be music, singing, accordion playing, etc. The number of Italian-Americans attending the ceremony has grown to nearly 200, and it is hoped that members of the Indiana German Heritage Society will join those, remembering the POW's who were confined at Atterbury.

Camp Atterbury is located 35 miles south of Indianapolis. Take 31 South to 252 West, (or north from the Taylorsville exit of I65.) then south on 200 East Road. Follow POW Chapel signs. For information call Sol Petruzzi 317 849-9731, POW Mass & Picnic Chairman, Italian Heritage Society of Indiana. (http://www.italianheritage.org/index.html)

At 9:00 a.m., prior to the celebration at the Chapel, everyone is invited to a rededication of the Veteran's Memorial, an annual event since 1992, honoring those who served in some military or civilian capacity at Camp Atterbury. The speaker will be Ron Himsel of Jasper, Commander of the Indiana Rangers at Viet Nam. Representatives of all units that trained there will be present and the commemoration will include the prisoners of war. The new museum, located just behind the memorial plot may also be dedicated.

CAMP ATTERBURY MUSEUM

Although half a century has passed since the prisoners departed from Camp Atterbury, returning ex-prisoners bring with them fond memories of their humane treatment in Indiana. Their fate had been distinctly different from the vast majority of their comrades who were captured or who surrendered toward and after the end of hostilities in Europe. The state-side POWs had the good fortune to be kept in a country that did not suffer directly from the war. Time has healed the scars of war and brought the nations closer together.

Recent visits to Camp Atterbury, Indiana by former German and Italian POW's have brought about renewed interest in locating other men who spent a part of their World War II days interned at this camp near Edinburgh. Newspaper articles, pictures, and memorabilia concerning those men will soon become a part of the history of the camp to be displayed in the new Camp Atterbury Military Museum which will open in August of 1999.

Members of the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial and Museum Association are seeking artifacts and memorabilia for use in the new indoor museum being built at Camp Atterbury. The museum will feature displays pertaining to the landowners who lost their land to the camp, civilian workers, POWs (Italian and German), to Wakeman General Hospital, and to the units that have or are training at the camp: WWII--83rd, 92nd, 30th and 106th Divisions; Korean conflict-28th and 31st Divisions; and today the 38th Division. Anyone wishing to donate items to the museum should send them or call: CW3 Myles W. Clayburn, Camp Atterbury, Building 1, Edinburgh, IN 46124-1096, 812 526-1103.
CAMP ATTERBURY:
PRISONERS OF WAR

Established in 1942 and named after Hoosier Brigadier General William Wallace Atterbury, Camp Atterbury is located on Hospital Road at King Drive, Edinburgh.

The first POWs sent to Camp Atterbury arrived on April 30, 1943. They had been captured in the North African Campaign. By September of 1943 there were app. 3,000 Italians in the camp. After Italy surrendered to the Allies, the Italians were sent back to their homeland. Four days later on May 8, 1944 German prisoners started arriving. Among the new prisoners were soldiers from "Desert Fox" Rommel's "Afrika-Korps". By October of 1944 there were 8,898 Germans at the Camp. The last POW's left on June 27, 1946, and the compound closed permanently.

The prisoner compound covered 45 acres about one mile from the main camp. The prisoners' quarters were similar to those of the regular troops. They were required to observe the same military discipline, and they were provided similar recreational facilities, but all under the watchful eye of the U.S. 1537th Service Unit. The prisoners were treated well and most had it much better than had they been back home. A prisoner being discipline was usually restricted to quarters.

The prisoners were involved in work details. Inside the compound the jobs included keeping up the grounds, working in the kitchen and laundry, and farming the 220-acre farm inside the camp. Farm work was also arranged with area farmers and many of the German prisoners planted, cared for, and harvested tomatoes and other crops. Because of the manpower shortage in the U.S. during the war, their work as farm laborers was especially valuable.

A POW cemetery was located approximately one mile south of the chapel and was first used in February of 1944. In all, there were 19 prisoners buried at Camp Atterbury, 3 were Italian and 16 were German. All died of war wounds or illnesses. For several years after the prisoners left Atterbury, members of the German-American community and the Indianapolis Italian-American Club honored these prisoners by decorating their graves with wreaths and firing a twenty-one gun salute. In 1970 the bodies were moved to Camp Butler in Springfield, IL for better care.

Nothing remains of the POW compound except the "Chapel in the Meadow" built by Italian prisoners in 1943. When the Italian Catholics obtained permission from the camp commander, they built a small brick and stucco chapel using scrap materials and decorated it with religious frescoes on the walls using dyes from berries and plants.

After the war the chapel fell into disrepair. Through the efforts of many interested parties, the chapel was restored and a dedication ceremony was held in September of 1989. The commanding officer of Camp Atterbury arranged with the Indianapolis American-Italian Heritage Society an annual commemorative ceremony and in August 1990 an outdoor mass was held at the Chapel followed by a pitch-in.

Betty Randall

THE LABOR DAY BOXES

by Norbert Krapf

When we lived on East 15th Street, in Jasper, we children participated in a communal ritual that I have never seen performed elsewhere, or even heard about being practiced. Jasper was founded by Scotch-Irish Presbyterians in 1830, but before long a few German Catholic families arrived, and when the energetic and ambitious Croatian missionary Joseph Kundek followed in 1838 and went to work building his "German Catholic colony," as he called it, many of the Presbyterians sold out and moved on. Fr. Kundek's German-Catholic recruits brought with them to the new town in the hilly, densely forested wilderness their love of working with wood. Jasper's main industry is wood products, and the town prided
itself on its reputation as "The Nation's Wood Capitol," as the misspelled sign on Rieder's Hill proclaimed to all who entered the town from the north. Many of our fathers worked in saw or planing mills or factories making plywood, chairs, desks, tables, various kinds of cabinets, and frames or chassis for Kimball pianos and organs. For twenty-five years, my father worked in a chair factory before joining an insurance agency his brother Cornelius had formed.

Kundek's German Catholics may also have brought with them and adapted to the local culture and industry the custom of having school children create illuminated lanterns which they carry in a nocturnal procession celebrating St. Martin's Day on November 11. This procession culminates in a pageant, in which the children perform, in pantomime, the story of St. Martin of Tours, the aristocratic knight who, in a conversion ceremony of sympathy, cuts his cloak in two with his sword and shares it with a beggar.

Labor Day was an important holiday in Jasper, and the custom I speak of was for us children to pull our home-made Labor Day Boxes down the sidewalk on Labor Day, at dusk. Our parents would make the boxes for us, but allow us to participate in their creation enough to feel that the results were, at least in part, of our own making. The simplest method was to take a cardboard shoe box, lift off the top, cut out squares or rectangles for windows on the long sides, and paste colorful, patterned crepe-paper across them on the inside, to give the effect of stained-glass windows. In the middle of the box, you would drip some candle wax, set a small candle in it, allow it to dry in place, then cut out a large hole in the lid, which you set back on top. When you lit the candle, the red, blue, green and gold stained-glass window would glow from within, as though a Holy Spirit had come alive and was flickering for all to see.

Dissatisfied with such flimsy construction, one year our father got out his tools, selected a slab of thick leftover plywood in his basement workshop, and made us our own wooden Labor Day Boxes. We became the unofficial royalty of the working-class neighborhood. Dad set our sturdy plywood boxes on Tinker Toy axles and wheels, made a trap door with hinge on the top and a candle-holder inside, and built a long handle, which could bend and fold at a hinge in the middle, for pulling our Tabernacle on Wheels. When we pulled these custom-made deluxe models onto the concrete sidewalk for the first time, as dusk descended on the maple trees lining the streets and crickets sang their "Back To School" song, my brother Ed and I felt equipped and qualified to lead the parade of children pulling their boxes up and down the streets.

We would pull our creations onto the sidewalk from our property, turn right and proceed to the corner of 15th and Vine Street, which descended, gradually, down to where the factories began, and join the stream of children pulling their flickering boxes. Every neighborhood had its own pageant and route. Adults would be standing in all the yards, smiling, pointing, offering congratulations, sometimes applauding. All the adults knew one another's children. And as we pulled, with pride, the boxes that our mothers and fathers had made, or had helped us think we made, we would chant a sing-song litany which resounded up and down and back and forth across the streets: Labor Day, Labor Day! High High Low, High High Low! Labor Day, Labor Day!

For an hour or two one evening every year, we were the center of creation, we possessed the voices to sing the sacred song, we had a loving audience, and in that festive atmosphere we honored the hard work of our fathers in the factories that fueled the local economy.

When the singing stopped, the parade was over, and the candle-light went out, we walked back to our houses with our parents, chatting in hushed voices, and stored our Labor Day Boxes for another year. After a reward of cake and ice cream, we went to bed full, tired, happy, and prepared to dream colorful candle-lit dreams of solidarity.
with all the friends and relatives who worked so hard and knew how to share what they earned with those of us who would follow.

Wednesday, 2 September 1998

POET NORTBERT KRAPF HONORED

In April, IGHS member Norbert Krapf, our favorite poet from Jasper, Professor of English and Director of the C. W. Post Poetry Center, Long Island Univ., was awarded the 1999 Lucille Medwick Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America, at the New York Public Library, for his unpublished poem "Fire and Ice." Krapf writes: "Ironically, this poem came back from magazine editors 15-20 times, and the prize amount is more than the royalties I've received on any of my 16 books. The judge for this particular prize was African American poet Toi Derricotte."

In May one of his poems, "Dream of a Hanging Curve," was selected by "Poetry Tonight" on the Web and can be found at http://www.poetrytonight.com

Krapf's more recent books of poetry include Somewhere in Southern Indiana and Blue-Eyed Grass: Poems of Germany (Time Being Books). His native Jasper is also indebted to him for the volume of pioneer German journals and letters from Dubois County, Finding the Grain (IGHS and German-American Center, 1996). Included in this issue is a memoir of his youth, "Labor Day Boxes."

We are proud of you, Norbert. Congratulations!

A LETTER THAT TOOK 115 YEARS

Really? Yes. German reunification made it possible. When IGHS member Susan Fall Kessler, who has been living in Germany (W) for many years, was looking for relatives in Thüringen (former E-Germany) she not only found them but also discovered interesting news from America.

Her great-grandfather had come to Indianapolis with plans for a Kneipp spa - a place for the treatment of illnesses and health maintenance through the healing qualities of water and herbs, following the system developed by Sebastian Kneipp (1821-1897), a Bavarian priest of great popularity.

But let's start with 1972. While Susan was studying in Europe, she met the man of her life, and the newly-weds moved to the Frankfurt area. Both had an interest in genealogy. Susan was tracing ancestors from Scotland to Austria, but most of them were German. In 1988, while on a visit "back home in Indiana," she called on her father's cousin, Charlie Truemper. They went through old family documents and pictures. There was also a letter in old German script, written by the great-grandfather to his siblings who had stayed in Germany. But the letter had never been finished nor mailed. It reveals pride in what he had achieved in America, but also homesickness and sadness about separation from family and friends. One of the papers attested that Karl Joseph Trümpfer (KJT) was born and raised in Heiligenstadt, District of Erfurt.

Now Susan knew where this family line came from. She wrote to the Town of Heiligenstadt for information. The brief answer shortly after the great political turmoil of East Germany - suggested to look into the church records. With the help of a priest, Susan found that there were still Trümperns in town. And behold, she found striking similarities in their appearance with Charlie Truemper in Indy.

Now back to KJT. He leaves Heiligenstadt in 1872 for Berlin that had just become the capital of the newly formed German Reich (1871). There he works as decorator. In 1873 he leaves for America, because he didn't want to become a priest? - as family legend has it. At first, KJT works with a "Landsmann" in Indy. He founds his own business, the "American Tent & Awning Co." producing and leasing tents, and esp. his MARKISEN line. Soon KJT holds a number of patents, and in 1891 he acts as chief decorator at the Chicago World
Expo. And come parade times, he not only decorates Indy but rides up front on a white horse. And his daughter and son become models for Rudolph Schwartz statues at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument.

But with all his success, KJT didn't forget where he came from. Several trips to the "Old Country" and his retaining a German life-style attest to that. Old photos show him most of all in the traditional green hunter's outfit. Every year several hogs were butchered and smoked ham produced on a parcel of land outside the city. This parcel is still owned by the family. As late as 1974, rests of a classical German rock garden were to be seen there, also sword lilies, hortensias and a vinegar tree were not missing.

KJT turned to his Kneipp spa idea by first building a guest house named "Bellevue," and by calling on Pastor Kneipp at Wörishofen, the world famous spa. Unfortunately, fire consumed "Bellevue" at the beginning of the century, and the plan came to naught.

The descendants of KJT inherited his entrepreneur spirit. For two more generations the American Tent & Awning Co. stayed in the family. KJT's grandson of another family line founded a Metal Manufacturing Co. that celebrated its "40th" in 1993.

Also on the part of the family in Germany the entrepreneur spirit flourished. Susan's newly discovered relative in Thuringen had been the successful manager of a socialist "LPG" (People's Agricultural Enterprise), which is about as close as one could come to ownership under a Communist regime. His son left for West Germany immediately after the Iron Curtain had come down and founded his own company.

The letter, never really mailed by KJT, was read at a Golden Wedding Anniversary in the presence of numerous relatives and friends of the Trümper family. So it did arrive after all, even though it took 115 years to get there.

Peter and Susan Kessler
Schwalbach am Taunus,
Deutschland

SOCIETY FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN STUDIES
1999 SYMPOSIUM IN NEW ULM

In April, and with a record attendance of over 300, the Society for German-American Studies (SGAS) held its 23rd Annual Symposium in New Ulm, MN, a German heritage community founded in 1854 by the "Chicago Land Society." A group of Turners from Cincinnati joined in 1857, and later also German-Bohmians. Although early on, settlers and Native Americans coexisted peacefully, later misunderstandings caused the town to be twice attacked by the Sioux in 1862.

In all, 43 lectures were presented. Highlighted again were presentations about the Forty-Eighters and the 1848 Revolution, such as Gerhard Weiss' "Poets on the Barricades: Literary Aspects of 1848." Presentations relating to the New Ulm area included those on the artist Anton Gag, the Turner Wilhelm Pfaender, and the German-Bohemian settlement. A lecture by brewmaster and novelist Paula Weber on "German Brewing in California" included beer tasting. German-American authors read from their poetry or fiction. Book and media exhibits could be browsed between sessions.

One of the highlights was the city's dedication of the "Jacob Nix Platz", honoring an immigrant from Bingen am Rhein and a Forty-Eighter refugee, whose military skills saved the young German settlement during the first Sioux attack. Among the descendants and relatives of Captain Nix present was IGHS board member "Buddy" McCartney.

Tours included the Brown County Historical Society Museum with a special immigration exhibit, the cemetery and the hospitable Schell Brewery. The final event was a German "Waldler" Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity. At the banquet, Second Vice-President Dolores Hoyt presented
the 1999 SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award to Bradford Miller and Gary C. Grassl, past and present presidents of the German-American Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C. for their research in German-American history and their work to establish a historic marker (1997) documenting the presence of Germans at Jamestown, Va in 1608.

Participants were asked to support passage of H.Con.Res. No.89, a concurrent resolution in the U.S. Congress submitted by Mr. Minge, which would establish the Hermann Monument and the Hermann Heights Park in New Ulm as a national symbol for the contributions of Americans of German heritage. Passage of this legislation is important for preserving the monument built by the Sons of Hermann. It is the second largest copper monument in the U.S., exceeded only by the Statue of Liberty.

Next year's SGAS Symposium will highlight "Emigration to America through Bremerhaven." Coordinating organizations in Germany have already prepared the details of a wonderful program in Bremerhaven in the year 2000.

For information contact Dolores Hoyt at 317 274-0474 E-mail DHOYT@IUPUI.EDU

INDIANA HISTORY TO HAVE NEW HOME ON JULY 10

Here's your chance to be seen with the rich and famous. (And you don't have to worry about what you'd say to them.)

It's a grand opening festival and you're invited! Come experience the all new and exciting Indiana Historical Society as we celebrate the grand opening of our state-of-the-art facility, located along downtown Indianapolis' beautiful Central Canal. Join the festivities while you learn about some of the legendary names, faces, and personalities in Indiana History. Plus it's packed full of Indiana treasures, interactive exhibits, music—even a unique gift shop.

The opening will be on Saturday, July 10 from noon until 6:00 p.m.

Festival events will begin with the ribbon cutting ceremony from noon until 1 p.m.

Other activities will include a Grand Opening Water Parade on the downtown canal, musical performances, theatrical performances & reenactments (including the 32nd Indiana Regiment—German), interpreters of famous Hoosiers, and displays.

To find out more, contact the Historical Society at 317-232-1882 or 1-800-IHS-1830, or visit the web site at www.indianahistory.org.

BARBIE HITS 40

In May her adoring fans met at an International Convention to celebrate her 40th birthday. She may be 40, but you would never know it. She can be seen sporting
NEW NARA MICROFILM LOCATOR
Archivist of the United States John Carlin has announced the creation by the National Archives and Records Administration of a new microfilm publications database that genealogists, historians, and other researchers can access on their own home, office, or library computers.

NARA maintains and provides access to microforms that NARA has accessioned from others and has made itself. Included are microfilmed census records, passenger ship records, and pension files. These resources are available in NARA research rooms around the country, and may be purchased or rented. Unfortunately, access to information about the existence and location of microfilm copies has been inaccurate and not easily accessible to either the public or the NARA staff.

Therefore NARA has created a database that contains brief descriptions for approximately 3,100 numbered collections. From this database, researchers are able to search and display information by keyword in title, publication number, record group number, and/or NARA facility location. If microfilm is available for rent or purchasing, ordering instructions are available.

Information can be accessed through the NARA Archival Information Locator (NAIL) at http://www.nara.gov/nara/nail.html

Indiana German Heritage Society
Membership Application
For joining or membership renewal, please use this statement and make checks payable to the Indiana German Heritage Society.

Student $5
Individual $12
Family $20
Organization $25
Patron $50
Corporate $100
Sponsor $500
Benefactor $1,000

School __________________________ New Member _____

Name ______________________________
Address __________________________
City, State, Zip ___________________
Business Phone ________ Home Phone ________

Send payment with this statement to: Membership Secretary IGHS, 401 East Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204
19 members from the Trachtenverein Almrausch from Wasserburg, Bavaria return to Indiana this Summer. For the complete story, see the article on page 1. The entire group is pictured here prior to their 1992 Indiana trip.