FREDERICK KEMPE TO SPEAK IN INDIANAPOLIS IN NOVEMBER

KEMPE TO SPEAK AT INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Frederick Kempe, editor and associate publisher of The Wall Street Journal Europe will be in Indianapolis for a week-long program: "Germany--Toward a Civil Society" in connection with the GERMANY IN US project. He will deliver the IUPUI Dean's International Lecture (Nov. 3: America's Stepchild: The Unique German Relationship with the United States) and give two presentations at the IHS Annual Meeting (November 3: Family Stories: The Burden of German Heritage" and November 4: "Good and Bad Germans: My Family Story on the World Stage"). The latter session is open to both members of the Historical Society and the Indiana German Heritage Society. His presentations are based on his book: FATHER/LAND: A Personal Search for the New Germany.

David Ignatius, columnist of The Washington Post, and author of A Firing Offense, said about this book: "From a skilled American reporter's search for his German ancestry emerges a rich and rewarding portrait of a nation moving toward a promising future even as it remains tied to an inescapable past." And, on the German side, Volker Rühle, former defense minister of Germany stated: "No foreign correspondent knows Germany as well as Frederick Kempe. He understands us sometimes better than we understand ourselves. His book is a refreshing, human look at where Germany is going, and it shows deep understanding for where it has been."

As an American of German descent Kempe has written an engrossing account of the new Germany of the 1990s while delving into his own family history. It is a book so good that it is hard to put down. It raises and attempts to answer that often-asked question: How can a nation with such brilliant philosophers and thinkers, great poets and composers, one of the world's most civilized societies, acquiesce to such atrocities; why did the Germans go along with Hitler and the Nazis to such a bitter end?

For decades as a foreign correspondent, first for Newsweek, and then for The Wall Street Journal, Kempe covered Germany off and on for more than twenty years. He felt more
comfortable writing about the rise of Solidarity in Poland, the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the war in Afghanistan, the American invasion of Panama, and the collapse of Soviet communism, than the Germany from which he was only one generation removed. Germany was his father's land and his father's identity, not his. But then a reunified Germany emerged as Europe's dominant force, and it became very important to know: Was the nation ready? Could it escape the ghosts of the past? Through that significant reunification event, as well as the NATO dispatch of German soldiers to Bosnia and Germany's support for the Euro, Kempe tries to answer questions of Germany's normality, and how Germans live with the burden of their past.

Researching the German past, Kempe discovered that the ghosts were not limited to others, that the contradictory threads of the good and the evil wove through his own family as well. His middle name is Schumann, his mother's maiden name, but also that of a famous ancestor. The composer Robert Schumann was a "good" German. Having denied his German roots for a large part of life, Kempe began to seek out the family members and documents that would throw some light on his own German past. His journey began with a trunk of old papers that Kempe inherited from his father. As he read his late father's scrapbooks from the 1930s, pro-Nazi pamphlets and clippings, he uncovered and had to face one of his own relative's complicity in Germany's dark legacy.

The two threads are brilliantly interwoven in this book. The postwar investigatory files, the East German Stasi assembled against Kempe's great-uncle, depict an SA leader with a gruesome record of murder, crimes against humanity, and applying torture and violence to gain confessions. The attitude toward Nazism of another uncle, a Stalingrad survivor, and that of his own father, a German Mormon, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1927, are less easy to explain. As he interweaves his family history with that of the German nation, his personal search becomes a window not only into the German past but also into Germany's future.

There are the author's travels through the re-united Germany (and Bosnia) of the late 90's and his experiences and interchanges with Germans from all parts of society. Kempe traveled across the country, talking to casual acquaintances and friends, he had made working as a foreign correspondent. He interviews "normal Germans," students, teachers, pensioners, emigrés, soldiers, professionals, Holocaust survivors, cutting edge diplomats, rural pastors, and members of the radical fringe. He listens to the accounts of young German soldiers serving outside the country's borders for the first time as peace-keepers in Bosnia.

Kempe explores how and to what degree Germans are different today than they were before their historic reunification and how the past continues to haunt that country. He deals with the questions of Germany's role in the new Europe, as an economic powerhouse in the global economy, and as a bulwark of democracy.

The result is Father/Land, a brilliant piece of contemporary history, written in clear, engaging prose, and with judicious and sensible arguments. This book shatters many of the stereotypes Americans have about Germans, how they are, or should be, today.

Frederick Kempe is the editor and associate publisher of The Wall Street Journal Europe and the founding editor of Central European Economic Review. A well-known American commentator in Germany, Kempe is also the author of Divorcing the Dictator: America's Bungled Affair with Noriega and Siberian Odyssey: A voyage in the Russian Soul. He lives in Brussels.

"GERMANY--TOWARD A CIVIL SOCIETY" GERMANY IN US PROGRAM IN INDIANAPOLIS

Learning about Germany's civil society and its relation to us is the object of several events in a week-long program, held in the first week of November (Nov. 2-5). It treats the movement of Germany's development during the last fifty years toward a unified, democratic country, a "civil society".

"Art in the Face of Nazi Tyranny: Resistance, Death and a Living Legacy" is the title of an exhibit of the paintings of Mietje Bonjtes van Beck of Fischberhude, whose family was persecuted by the Nazis. It will open on November 2, 4:30 p.m. with a Reception for the artist, at the IUPUI Conference Center, 850 West Michigan St. in Indianapolis. Parking is at the Garage of the Conference Center on North Street, next to the University Place Hotel.

It will be followed with several lectures by Frederick Kempe, author of Father/Land. Kempe writes about his search for family roots, which takes him through the history of both the Nazi and the post-war period.

On Friday, November 3, 3:00 p.m. at the IUPUI Dean's International Lecture, Frederick Kempe will talk on the topic "America's Stepchild: The Unique German Relationship with the United States" in the the IUPUI Hotel and Conference Center.

The 10 foot GERMANY IN US multimedia display with images related to German Americana, education, partner cities and commerce can be seen at the occasion of Frederick Kempe's International Dean's Lecture and post-lecture reception, sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council International Affairs & Programs and the IUPUI Office of International Affairs.

November 3, 6 p.m., Frederick Kempe will give the Indiana Historical Society Annual Meeting keynote address for members of the Society: "Family Stories: The Burden of German Heritage." IHS is located on the corner of West and Ohio Streets in Indianapolis.

November 4, 10:30 a.m. also at the IHS Annual Meeting, Frederick Kempe will open with: "Good and Bad Germans: My Family Story on the World Stage," followed by a panel discussion. This session is sponsored by the Indiana German Heritage Society and the Indiana Historical Society Annual Meeting. Phone 317-232-1882 for registration information for either or both talks. Those, otherwise not attending the annual meeting, should contact Giles R. Hoyt, Tel: 317-278-1265; E-mail: ghoyt@iupui.edu.

The GERMANY IN US Exhibit and the Exhibit "Landmarks of German History" will be shown at IHS during the Annual Meeting.

"GERMANY--TOWARD A CIVIL SOCIETY" is part of the Indiana Humanities Council sponsored GERMANY IN US program. GERMANY IN US, funded by the Lilly Endowment, seeks to educate broadly about Indiana's connections with Europe, historically and for the future. The GERMANY IN US project is led by Dr. Ann Swedeen, Director of the International Division of the Indiana Humanities Council. Prof. Giles R. Hoyt is the Consulting Scholar for the project. The project's centerpiece is an exhibit with computer kiosks that connect to the project's web site.

Calendar and Events

CALENDAR

Sunday, September 24, 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Annual German-American Day Service at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 416 E. North St., Indypls. (Louise Lamkin, 317 257-0493).

Wednesday, October 4, 2 p.m. Dr. Annette Hofmann, "The Role

Thursday, October 5, 7:15 p.m. Dr. Annette Hofmann, "The American Turners Today: Roots in the Past - Hope for the Future" in the Max Kade Room of the Athenaeum, Indpls. 6 p.m. Optional dinner with Dr. Hofmann in the Veterans' Room of the Rathskeller (Buddy McCart at 317 846-8613).

Friday, October 6: German-American Day Celebration at the Schnitzelbank in Jasper, (Darren Patterson 812 482-7484).

Friday, October 6, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. German-American Day Program in the Indianapolis City Market (Buddy McCart 317 846-8613).

Friday, October 6 Eve: Oktoberfest at the Athenaeum in Indianapolis. Three bands in Biergarten and Kellersaal (317 630-4569).

October 11, 7:30 p.m. Sven Schuhmacher, Chair of the Indianapolis-Cologne Sister Cities Committee will give an update on activities and show two videos. Max Kade Seminar Room, Athenaeum, Indpls. 6 p.m. Stammtisch with the speaker in the Rathskeller. October 19-21: International Festival at the Indiana State Fairgrounds - South Pavilion in Indianapolis, 38th Street and Fall Creek Parkway, Indianapolis. (Ernestine Dillon at 317 861-5831 or Ruth Reichmann 812 988-2866).

Saturday, 21 October, 9:30 p.m., Pal-Am Indiana Chapter Meeting at German American Klub, 8602 S. Meridian, Indpls. (Sharon Kennedy 317 271-6505).

November 2-5: "GERMANY--TOWARD A CIVIL SOCIETY" GERMANY IN US PROGRAM in Indianapolis (Giles R. Hoyt, 317 278-1265).


November 2, 4:30 p.m. Opening of the Exhibit and Reception for the Artist Mietje Bontjes van Beek of Fischerhude (Giles R. Hoyt, 317 278-1265).

November 3, 3:00 pm IUPUI Dean's International Lecture, Frederick Kempe, "America's Stepchild: The Unique German Relationship with the United States" in the Hotel and IUPUI Conference Center, Indpls, followed by reception. (Giles R. Hoyt, 317 278-1265).


November 4, 10:30 a.m. at Indiana Historical Society: "Good and Bad Germans: My Family Story on the World Stage," Frederick Kempe, followed by a panel discussion. (IHS 317-232-1882).

November 8, 7:30 p.m. "The Civil War Sacrifices of Joseph Hotz" Presentation by Paul Brockman. Max Kade Seminar Room, Athenaeum, Indpls. 6 p.m. Stammtisch with the speaker in the Rathskeller.

GERMAN-AMERICAN DAY EVENTS
On Friday, October 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., there will be a German-American Day celebration in the Indianapolis City Market, with proclamations by the Governor and the Mayor, and with music provided by "Die Doppel Adler Musikanten," and a folk dance demonstration by "Die Fledern,uschen" of the German-American Klub. Members of German-American organizations will be there with information and handouts.

Friday evening, October 6, everyone is invited to Oktoberfest at the Deutsche Haus/Athenaeum in Indianapolis. There will be three bands, entertainment, food, and dancing outside in the Biergarten and
inside in the Kellersaal (for information and reservations call 317 630-4569).

Wednesday, October 4 at 2 p.m. Dr. Annette Hofmann will speak on "The Role of the Female Turners in the American Turner Movement" at the Damenverein Dessert-Coffee, Kellersaal at the Athenaeum. Registration deadline Oct. 2 (call Phyllis June at 317 271-6173 or Buddy McCart at 317 846-8613)

Thursday, October 5 at 7:15 p.m. there will be lecture by Dr. Annette Hofmann "The American Turners Today: Roots in the Past - Hope for the Future" in the Max Kade Room of the Athenaeum.
At 6 p.m. there is an optional dinner with Dr. Hofmann in the Veterans' Room of the Rathskeller.

Dr. Hofmann, a German sport historian who recently completed her doctoral thesis on the American Turners, is teaching at the Physical Education Department of the University of Muenster, Germany. She will give an overview of the American Turner movement today. Her main focus is the structure of today's Turner societies, their programs and the ethnic background of their members. In this context the transformation process of the originally German Turners to American Turners is elaborated.

Individual German settlers are documented already in Jamestown, Virginia (1608), the "birthplace" of America. However, it was on October 6, 1683, when a group of Mennonites from Krefeld disembarked from the "Concord" (the German Mayflower) in Philadelphia, constituting the first group immigration of Germans to America. Over 7 million would follow them over the next 300 years making German-Americans the largest ethnic group in the United States. In the 1990 Census 1 out of 4 Americans reported German ancestry.

In 1983, for the German-American Tricentennial of this first group immigration, President Reagan proclaimed October 6 as "German-American Day," honoring the contributions of German immigrants and their descendants to the life and culture of the United States. Every year since then the President has issued a proclamation and called on Americans to observe the Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

**INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 19-21, 2000**

We invite you to visit the GERMANY IN US exhibit and try your hand at the computer centerpiece of the Humanities Council. Come to the IGHS booth to see the special exhibit: 50 YEARS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY:

**LANDMARKS OF GERMAN HISTORY** (see article elsewhere). We will also have plenty of handouts, interesting books and lots of information.

The Festival will be held at the Indiana State Fairgrounds - South Pavilion in Indianapolis, 38th Street and Fall Creek Parkway, Indianapolis. Festival hours are: Thursday, Oct. 19 from 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; Friday, Oct. 20 and Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Set-up is on Wednesday, October 18, 6-11 p.m. and Thursday from 6 a.m.

Discount tickets are available from the Indiana German Heritage Society. Adult tickets are $3.50 ($6.00 at the door), Children (7-12) are $2.50. ($4.00 at the door); children under age 7 are free.

We need volunteers to help with our booths. Everyone working for at least a 3-hour shift will be able to enter with a pass. Call Carol Schmitz at 317 or Ruth Reichmann at 812 988-2866.

**50 YEARS OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY LANDMARKS OF GERMAN HISTORY - AN EXHIBIT**

Four years after the end of WW II in Europe, but again during another war--the Cold War that split Germany asunder--two Germanies began their respective statehoods, democratic in the
West, socialist in the East. This exhibit depicts in 12 poster-size collages key historic events and the historic places in which they took place.

Based on the constitution of the democratic Revolution of 1848/49 (Paulskirche in Frankfurt) and the 1919 constitution of the Weimar Republic (1919-1933), the Basic Law [Grundgesetz] of the Federal Republic was intended to serve as an interim constitution until reunification could be achieved. The demise of the East German state through a remarkable bloodless revolution led to this long-awaited event on 3 October 1990, at which time the Basic Law became the Constitution [Verfassung] for the whole country.

Bonn-Berlin: Bonn served for over half a century as provisional capital. It was from here that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer initiated the rebirth of postwar Germany. With the move in 1999, Berlin has become the seat of the German government for the fourth time. Once an island in the East Bloc, it is now the center of a New Germany.

Potsdam: On July 17, 1945 the three principal Allied powers - the United States, United Kingdom and Soviet Union - met here. They laid the foundations of Germany's Post-World War II political and economic future.

Weimar: Germany’s revolution of November 1918 brought to an end the rule of the dynasties. On January 19, 1919, a constitutional convention met in Weimar. But the Weimar Republic (1919-1933) was crushed by the Nazi regime.

Koblenz: In a 1948 conference of the ten governors in the American, British and French Zones, preparations were made enabling the constitutive session of a Parliamentary Council to come up with a new Constitution [Verfassung], "The Basic Law" [Grundgesetz].

Herrenchemisee: At their meeting in Koblenz, the governors of the western states commissioned an expert panel with the drafting of a constitution. The constitutional convention met from August 10-23, 1948 on Herrenchemisee.

Leipzig: A demonstration on October 9, 1989 attracted 70,000 persons. This triggered events in other cities. On November 9, East Germany opened its borders.

Karlsruhe: In 1951, the Federal Supreme Court and Federal Constitutional Court embarked upon their work from their seat in Karlsruhe.

Frankfurt moved from a pile of rubble to become the home of the "Euro." The European Central Bank is housed here, presiding over the EMS (European Monetary System) and its currency, the Euro.

Hanover: World War II had left the city in ruins. Today Hanover is a venue for the world's commercial interchanges and host of the World Expo 2000.

Helgoland: "In 1841, the poet August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben came to the island, then in British hands. There he wrote the "Song of the Germans" with the melody by Franz Joseph Haydn. It became the national anthem in 1919. From 1933-1945 its first stanza was sung alongside the Nazi hymn. In 1952 President Theodor Heuss and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer agreed that the third stanza had an admirable text for a country seeking "Unity, Rule of the Law, and Freedom."

The fifty years of the FRG mark not only the longest period of peace for Germany but also an era of extraordinary achievements: The integration of more than 12 million refugees from former German territories, settlements in Eastern Europe, and from the repressive system of the East German Democratic Republic; the rebuilding of a largely destroyed country with loving attention to its precious cultural and architectural heritage; the "economic miracle" guided by the concept of a free market economy with a strong social component; a peace-loving political course leading to reconciliation and friendship with its neighbors, and transcending national interests in favor of European unity.

Postwar Germany has had the good fortune of excellent political and economic leadership: Konrad
Adenauer, Theodor Heuss, Ludwig Erhard, Willy Brandt, Helmut Schmidt, Richard Weizsäcker, and Helmut Kohl. The friendship with the USA has been a key component ever since the days of the Marshall Plan that helped start postwar economic recovery.

Published by the Press and Information Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, the exhibit is donated by the German Information Center, New York. It is a part of GERMANY IN US, a statewide program that explores Indiana's ties with Germany, sponsored by the Indiana Humanities Council (IHC) International Affairs & Programs, and made possible through the support of Lilly Endowment, Inc.

The exhibit will be shown in various places around the state. It is available, free of charge, from the Max Kade German-American Center.

For information contact Giles Hoyt at 317 278-1265, E-mail ghoyt@iupui.edu, or Ruth Reichmann at 812-988-2866, E-mail reichman@indiana.edu.

KURT VONNEGUT HONOURED

Visitors to the Vonnegut Room at the Rathskeller Restaurant of the Athenaeum in Indianapolis will soon be greeted by a bronze bust of Kurt Vonnegut. In a dedication ceremony, Sculptor Mary Weide presented the bust to Shortridge High School Class of 1940, at its 60th reunion. The class then dedicated the bronze sculpture to the Athenaeum Foundation.

On June 17, renowned author Kurt Vonnegut returned to Indianapolis to be honored by his classmates and by the Athenaeum, in whose history the Vonnegut family has been so intimately involved. Vonnegut was born in Indianapolis in 1922, the son and grandson of Indianapolis architects. Kurt's grandfather, Bernard Vonnegut, was the architect who designed "Das Deutsche Haus," since then renamed the "Athenaeum," and his cousin Richard C. Vonnegut is a valued member of the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Following graduation from Shortridge (he is a member of the Class of 1940), Vonnegut earned a Master's Degree in Anthropology from the University of Chicago. He went on to distinguished service during World War II, and his experiences as POW are vividly recounted in his novel Slaughterhouse-Five. It became a best-seller that was made into a film and an opera.

The program notes on a Vonnegut lecture (March 1, 1995) at Indiana University in Bloomington describe him aptly: "Over six feet tall, rumpled and shaggy ... fourth generation German-American with a dropping moustache, a brow chevroned like a sergeant major's sleeves, and the eyes of a sacrificial altar-bound virgin caught in midshrug." In his presentation, which mixed the very serious with the humorous, he spoke about his family, his grand-father Bernard Vonnegut, architect and builder of great German buildings in Indianapolis, including the Athenaeum, about the war and about Dresden.

About his experiences in Dresden he recounted: "I was a battalion scout and was easily captured. The most interesting thing I saw during the war, I suppose was the destruction of Dresden, the largest single massacre in European history. I was a prisoner of war in a meat locker under a slaughterhouse when the worst of the firestorm was going on. After that I worked as a miner of corpses, breaking into the cellars where over a hundred thousand Hansels and Gretels were baked like Gingerbread men."

Chosen by the Indiana Historical Society in 1999 as one of the original "Legends of Indiana," he is a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, and recipient of their Literary Award in 1970. His works include novels, plays, short stories, and nonfiction. Among his many highly acclaimed novels are Player Piano, Cat's Cradle and Breakfast of Champions.

Ruth Reichmann
ON GUTENBERG'S 600TH BIRTHDAY

This year Mainz is celebrating the 600th birthday of its most famous son, Johannes Gutenberg. He was born around 1400, the son of the Patrician Friele zum Gensfleisch, and died there in 1468. Gutenberg took his mother's last name.

He revolutionized communication by inventing printing from movable type and a screw-and-lever press. He also developed a type of ink that would work with this metal type, very different from existing wood block and lithographic stone image inks. Printing before Gutenberg's time had been limited to the reproduction of pictures, playing cards and similar items, where designs were cut into the printing block. Books were copied by hand by monks or professional copyists.

Gutenberg's printing press made pamphlets and books available in quantities. This became a key element in the acceleration of Western civilization and a major factor in the Reformation movements to cleanse the Christian church from corrupt practices. The Gutenberg press made it possible for the Bible translation of Martin Luther (1483-1546) to reach the "Volk," the people.

Gutenberg started to experiment with printing around 1436 while in Strassburg. 1448 he was back in Mainz and in 1449 he borrowed money from Johann Fust (or Faust) to finance his project. Fust later became his partner.

To produce the large number of individual pieces of type that were needed for composition of the Bible, Gutenberg introduced the principle of replica-casting. Individual single letters were engraved in relief, and then punched into slabs of matrices (molds) from which replica type characters could be cast from molten metal. To print the famous 42-line Bible (41 lines of type per column per page) was a momentous task, with each page consisting of app. 2,500 individual pieces of type, each piece of type having one letter on it, and all of the pieces having to be assembled by hand to form words, sentences, and paragraphs into a flat printing surface.

Gutenberg may have greatly underestimated the amount of metal and labor required in casting the vast amount of type needed to print the Bible. When the giant task was accomplished, he was virtually bankrupt. Fust wanted his money back and Gutenberg lost his print shop - the first in the world. At that time there were six presses in operation, printing the pages for the Bible. Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer took over and reaped the benefits of the invention as they printed on Gutenberg's presses. Had it not been for the Elector of Mainz, who took Gutenberg to his court, one of the great inventors of mankind would have died in poverty.

German-American "disciples" of Gutenberg include the Germantowner Wilhelm Rittenhaus, the founder of America's first paper mill (1690). The German part of Pennsylvania grew quickly into a publishing center. Before the Revolution the Pennsylvania Germans ran more presses and published more books than all of New England.

Francis Daniel Pastorius, the leader of Germantown immigrants wrote the first schoolbook, and in 1743 Christopher Saur of Germantown printed the first Bible in the New World - in German. Before 1776, Pennsylvania had eight English-language newspapers and ten in German.

Ottmar Mergenthaler, born 1854 in Hachtel, Wurttemberg, has been called a second Gutenberg, for he also revolutionized the art of printing. In 1872 Mergenthaler had immigrated to America and first made watches and scientific instruments. In 1878 he built a typewriter for newspapers, which was designed to eliminate type-setting by hand. The "New York Tribune" was the first to try the "Mergenthaler Linotypesetting Machine" in 1886. It captured the attention of the world, and after labor and time saved in the production of the newspaper were astounding.

Prior to Mergenthaler's invention of the linotype, no newspaper in the world had more than eight pages. This pioneer of printing died in Baltimore at age 45.
PRESIDENT CLINTON RECEIVES CHARLEMAGNE PRIZE

The "Karlspreis" (Charlemagne Prize) was awarded to President Clinton in Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle), Germany, for his contributions to peace and integration in Europe and for having furthered the close transatlantic partnership of the last five decades.

The "Karlspreis" was established by the City of Aachen to recognize "the most meritorious contribution serving European unification and the European community, serving humanity and world peace." The award ceremony serves as an occasion for putting forward new ideas and perspectives on European integration.

Since the first year of the Prize (1950), recipients included Jean Monnet, Konrad Adenauer, Winston Churchill, Francois Mitterrand, Helmut Kohl, Vaclav Havel, King Juan Carlos of Spain, and Tony Blair. President Clinton was the first American president to receive the Prize and the third American after George Marshall and Henry Kissinger.

The Prize comes with a modest cash award of DM 5,000 and a medal engraved with Aachen's old town seal (dating from the 12th century, depicting an enthroned Charlemagne) and inscribed on the reverse with a dedication to the recipient. President Clinton donated the money to the high school student exchange program between the sister cities of Aachen and Arlington, VA.

KARL DER GROSSE AND AACHEN

Karl der Grosse (742-814 A.D.), a ruler with a truly European vision, is also known as Carolus Magnus, Carlo Magno, Charlemagne. The empire he inherited in 768 was the result of long endeavors by the Franconian kings to expand their domain over the adjacent Germanic tribes and over Gaul. With his crowning ceremony in Rome (800 A.D.) Karl and his Germanic Franken (Franks) became the heirs of the "Imperium Romanum." with the emperor as protector of Roman Christianity. Karl made the counties (from "count"= "Graf") the administrative units of his "Reich." Center of his political and cultural activities was the royal court that first moved through the Reich's regions from "palatum to palatum" (Ger. "Pfalz," Eng. "Palatinate", from which developed Ger. "Palast," Eng. "palace"). After 800 A.D. Karl resided primarily in his "Königspalast" at Aachen, where he built the "Pfalzkapelle" (chapel) and royal hall. Even though his transnational empire was subsequently subdivided by his heirs, leading to the German and the French nations, the magic of Karl and his favorite "Pfalz" remained. From 936 to 1531 the Kaisers of the "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation" were crowned in Aachen.

The city, now well over a quarter million in size, suffered severely during World War II: 43% of its homes were destroyed, but its historic cathedral remained intact, including Karl's chapel. In 1944 Aachen was the first German city taken by the U.S. Army. Its citizens issued the following proclamation in 1949: 'Having suffered dreadful experiences, our citizens are ready to urge European unity [and] have agreed upon establishing an International Prize of the City of Aachen.' The "Karlspreis" was born.

For more information: http://www.aachen.de/Aachenprofile/Geschichte/Karldergrosse/karl.html

Eberhard Reichmann

1ST GERMAN CIVIL WAR MONUMENT TO BE PRESERVED

Preservation efforts are beginning to pick up speed in Kentucky, to save the deteriorating 1st German, 32nd Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry Monument at Cave Hill National Cemetery in Louisville, Kentucky. Created by F Company Private August Bloedner to commemorate his comrades killed in action at Rowlett's Station, Kentucky in December 1861, the memorial was placed at Munfordville in mid-January 1862. In compliance to directives to recover all Union dead for reburial in National Cemeteries, fourteen sets of remains along with the monument were removed to Cave Hill in June 1867, where the stone,
designed to be laid flat, was mounted upright on a memorial base.

One preservation option suggests that two granite replicas be made, one to replace the existing stone at Louisville and the other to be placed at the original site of interment, Fort Willich at Munfordville, Kentucky. The Bloedner memorial would be transported to Munfordville and placed inside the newly Hart County Historical Society Museum. A historic marker or interpretation panel is also proposed for the Cave Hill burial site to provide a translation of the German inscriptions.

The Hazen Brigade Monument at Stones River National Battlefield in Tennessee has popularly been accepted as the first Civil War memorial in the country, having been placed there soon after the end of that battle in January 1863. Kentucky may now claim that distinction for the 32nd Indiana Monument. Since the Indiana German memorial is no longer at its original site, Stones River Park Ranger Jim Lewis says that the National Park Service will continue to interpret the Hazen Monument as the oldest, intact monument in the country. Mr. Lewis also stated that an earlier monument was erected after the First Battle of Manassas in Virginia but, unfortunately, did not survive.

The manager of the Kentucky Military History Museum at Frankfort, Mr. John M. Trowbridge, researching at Cincinnati, Ohio learned that August Bloedner was born around 1825 in Altenburg, Saxony, Germany. It is unclear when he arrived in the United States but he settled in the Cincinnati area where he married Henrietta Behnke on March 3, 1856. Bloedner worked as a carpenter until his enlistment in the 32nd Indiana in August 1861. After his return to Cincinnati, he worked as a marble/stone cutter until his death from heart disease on November 14, 1872. Mr. Trowbridge is currently trying to locate the Cincinnati area grave of Bloedner. He is also researching Bloedner's German history prior to immigrating to America and would appreciate any assistance in uncovering this information as well as the location of the grave.

Louisville author and researcher Mr. Joseph Reinhart recently discovered and translated an article in the German-language newspaper Taglicher Louisville Anzeiger of May 31, 1871 that describes the Cave Hill Monument, provides the known inscription on the stone and verifies that August Bloedner of Cincinnati was the sculptor. In addition, Mr. Reinhart's translation gave information on those men killed that had not been included in other translations. The names of all but one of the dead, along with their dates and places of birth have been given.

Another inscription on the stone never before deciphered states that the men were removed from Fort Willich, Munfordville, Kentucky and reburied at Cave Hill on June 6, 1867.

Several individuals and organizations are focusing their attention to preserving this important symbol of American heritage. Most funds to preserve the 32nd Indiana Monument will ultimately come from the private sector. The Kentucky Civil War Sites Association will accept donations for that purpose.

Points of contact are: Manager John M. Trowbridge The Kentucky Military History Museum e-mail: john.trowbridge@mail.state.ky.us phone: (502) 564-3265 Donations may be sent to: Kentucky Civil War Sites Association Att'n: Tom Fugate, Civil War Sites Manager, P.O. Box 1042 Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1042

Michael A. Peake Michael A. Peake's Baptism of Fire. Rowlett's Station, constituting the first volume of Indiana's German Sons: From Rowlett's Station to the Lone Star. A History of the 1st German, 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment can be ordered from: NCSA Literatur, 430 Kelp Grove Rd., Nashville, IN 47448. $6.00 (includes shipping).
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. To increase Society support, you may wish to designate a higher category. All contributions are tax deductible

ANNUAL DUES

Student $5______  (School) ______________________________

Individual $12 _____

Family $20 _____

Organization $25_______

Patron $50 ________

Corporate $100 ______

Sponsor $500 _____

Benefactor $1,000 _____

New Member ______  Renewal ____________

Name: _____________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________

City, State, Zip _____________________________________________

Business Phone: _____-_______________  Home Phone: _____-___________

E-Mail ______________________________

Send payment with this statement to: Membership Secretary IGHS, 401 E. Michigan St. Indianapolis, IN 46204
Featured in this Issue

From left to right—Eb Reichmann on Karl der Grosse (p. 9); Gutenberg turns 600 (p. 8); Kurt Vonnegut honored at Athenaeum (p. 7)