President’s Message

2017 has come and gone in a flash. After successfully leading the Indiana German Heritage Society for four years, Brian Griesemer had indicated that he wanted to step down as President. Together with other well deserving new and continuing members on the board I was elected to succeed Brian as President of IGHS. I accepted this challenge.

The annual meeting of the Indiana German Heritage Society together with the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati at the Mecklenburg Gardens in Cincinnati started the year with a focus on “German Americans and the Guns of 1917”. The topics presented alongside the Annual Meeting included:

"The Jahn Monument in Cincinnati: A World War I Target of the Anti-German Hysteria," presented by Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann President, German-American Citizens League & Curator, German Heritage Museum, and Dr. Richard E. Schade, Professor emeritus, University of Cincinnati.

"The Anti-German Hysteria of World War I in Northern Kentucky," presented by Dr. Paul A. Tenkotte, Professor, History & Geography, Director, Center for Public History, Northern Kentucky University.

“The Athenaeum-Deutsches Haus Story in the Context of the German-American Story” presented by William Selm, Public Historian, Associate Faculty IUPUI.

"The German-American in WWI in Graphic De-

Wyneken House Then & Now

Looking back 13 years to when the Wyneken House was first moved to its permanent location, the site was overgrown with brush and trees, as was most of Northeast Indiana when Pastor Wyneken first immigrated to America in 1838.

When the land was cleared to excavate and build the basement, thanks mostly to the Emerald Ash Borer, all the trees on the site died. Two mild winters in a row allowed us to use a bulldozer to remove tree stumps and recontour the ground for better drainage and landscaping. After diligently working to get grass established, everyone raves about the view from the rear of the House.

The winter of 2016/2017 also saw the installation of the gas furnace in the basement, and storm windows on all the windows to increase the weather tightness of the house, and to protect the original windows from deterioration.

When Karl Buuck, Pastor Wyneken’s father-in-law, built the house for the Wyneken family in 1858, it was an exceptional home for its time, at a time when many in the area were still living in log homes. One interesting feature was that the Wyneken House was situated on a brick basement, or more properly a cellar. In an effort to replicate that look, we have faced the inside and outside of the new basement with hand-made, Civil War era brick.

A new kitchen has been constructed in the basement, with all the modern conveniences you would expect. This is helpful when we host meetings or tour groups, and it allows us to use the house as an interpretive center.

Wyneken House in 2005 & Today
Dear Friends and Loyal Supporters:

If you have not renewed your membership for 2018, it is now time to do so. If you are uncertain of your membership status, check your newsletter label, send an e-mail to ighsmembership@gmail.com, or call Kent Robinson at 317-299-5760. You may renew online at http://www.ighs.org/renew.html or use the renewal form in this newsletter.

If you have not yet renewed by the date of our Annual Meeting (March 16 and 17), we will assume that you are no longer interested in receiving our newsletter and we will take you off our mailing list.

As a not-for-profit membership organization, we rely on membership fees, donations, and occasional grants to provide the essential support for the activities and programs of the organization, as well as, for our quarterly Newsletter, which focuses mainly on Indiana German-American history and heritage, but brings also items of general interest.

The Membership Committee

It is Time to Renew your Membership!

Thank You for Supporting the IGHS Scholarship Funds

The Marie Schoch Endowment Fund was established for the benefit of "qualified persons wishing to gain and distribute knowledge with respect to the cultural, historic and linguistic contributions of the German American community." German language study at secondary or university level may be included.

The Daniel Nützel, scholarship was established by IGHS, IUPUI Max Kade Center, and the Athenaeum Foundation in memory of Dr. Daniel Nützel, former German professor and Director of the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center, to honor his contributions to the German Program at IUPUI and the German-American community of Indiana. The scholarship supports undergraduate or graduate students with the pursuit of a part-time professional internship at a German-American organization or institution for the duration of one semester or over the summer.

The donations are tax-exempt. Checks may be sent to the Indiana German Heritage Society, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. Please include a note stating that the contribution is intended for the Marie Schoch Endowment Fund or the Daniel Nuetzel Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Thank you for Supporting IGHS!

Renew your IGHS Membership Now!

Or Run the Risk of Missing Out on the story of Your Heritage in Indiana

http://www.ighs.org/membership.html

Indiana German Heritage Society Newsletter
34th ANNUAL
Indiana German Heritage Society
MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

F.C.D. Wyneken and the Lutherans in
Northeast Indiana

March 16 & 17, 2018

Presented in cooperation with the
Indiana German Heritage Society and the Friends of Wyneken.

Friday March 16th

5-6 p.m. Concordia Theological Seminary. Annual membership meeting

6-7:30 p.m. Dinner.

7:30-8:30 p.m. After dinner program: Dr. Cameron MacKenzie, chairman of the department of Historical Theology and Forrest E. and Frances H. Ellis Chair in German Reformation Studies at Concordia Theological Seminary will discuss “F.C.D. Wyneken and a Lutheran Seminary in Fort Wayne.”

The Concordia Theological Seminary is located at 6600 North Clinton Street. Turn right out of the Guest House parking lot and proceed through five traffic lights to Clinton Street, then turn left. The entrance to the Seminary is about ¼ mile on your right, hidden in the trees. Seminary parking instructions and directions to Luther Hall will be available at the Hotel.

Saturday March 17th

7:30 a.m. Bus leaves Don Hall’s Guest House. Guests will need to check out prior to departure, unless you are staying Saturday night.

8:00 a.m. Visit the Wyneken House for full catered breakfast and Wyneken House tour.

10:15 a.m. Proceed north to Country Heritage Winery, for a tour and/or tasting and purchases.

12:00 noon Head to the historic St. James restaurant in Avilla, Indiana for lunch. Lunch choices are broasted chicken or cod, with all the trimmings. (Alcoholic beverages and tip are extra).

1:30 p.m. Tour the historic 1844 Immanuel Lutheran Church, a congregation organized by Rev. Wyneken in Avilla for a tour and history lesson.

2:45 p.m. Proceed to the Zion Lutheran Church in Corruna, an 1851 congregation organized again by Rev. Wyneken. This is the original clapboard sided church, where we will have a tour with history, and snacks following.

4:30 p.m. The bus heads back to Don Hall’s Guest House, arriving approximately 5:00 p.m.
34th ANNUAL
Indiana German Heritage Society
MEETING AND SYMPOSIUM

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REGISTRATION

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Address: _____________________________________________________________

City/State/Zip: ________________________________________________________

Email/Phone: _________________________________________________________

Please make the check payable to “Indiana German Heritage Society” and mail to:
IGHS Annual Meeting, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis, IN 46204.

For information, contact: Giles R. Hoyt, IUPUI Max Kade Center, 317-253-9509, or ghoyt@iupui.edu.

Lodging: A block of rooms has been reserved at Don Halls Guest House, 1313 West Washington Center, Road, Fort Wayne. Cost is $112.86 per room, tax included. Call Holley at 1-260-489-2524, and tell them you are with IGHS.

Make your reservations before March 1st.

Directions: Going north on I-69, take Exit 311B. Continue north one block to Washington Center Road, turn right and the Guest House will be about ¼ mile on your right.
IGHS Newsletter Deadlines

In order to make the next newsletter, please submit your stories and pictures by:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #1 (Winter)</td>
<td>December 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issue #2 (Spring)</td>
<td>February 1</td>
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<td>Issue #3 (Summer)</td>
<td>May 10</td>
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<td>Issue #4 (Fall)</td>
<td>August 10</td>
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Once again IGHS supported the essay contests both at high school and university level.

We participated in several festivals throughout the year including the International Festival organized by the Nationalities Council of Indiana, the Historic Irvington Halloween Festival organized by the Irvington Community Council, the Germanfest organized by the Athenaeum Foundation and the St. Nikolaus Fest also organized by the Athenaeum Foundation.

On October 6th, 2017, the annual German American Day, the efforts of a project long time in the making by Steven Schmidt finally culminated when we had erected a historic marker commemorating the demise of the once very rich German Newspaper landscape in Indiana. The marker is located for everyone to see near the bus terminal downtown Indianapolis.

At the beginning of December, we held the 5th Annual St. Nikolaus Lauf. Under the able leadership of Brian Griesemer, together with the help of Fun Races we held with record attendance a 5K/5 Mile Run Walk benefiting among others the Riley Children’s Hospital. A special thank you goes to our sponsors for this event: Elements Financial, the Rathskeller, IUPUI Max Kade German American Center, Athletic Annex, Claus’ German Sausage and Meats, Dick’s Sporting Goods, the Athenaeum Foundation, Barefoot, Nestle Waters and Meijer.

Mayor Brainard of Carmel personally invited me in my function as President of IGHS to participate in the Grand Opening of the first ever Carmel Christkindlmarkt. [www.carmelchristkindlmarkt.com](http://www.carmelchristkindlmarkt.com) Sven Schumacher, Honorary Consul of Germany; Andreas Goetze the new deputy Consul of Germany and his son, the mayor himself and Martin Baier, President of the International Center joined in as well.

Ron Flick, Kent Robinson, Bill Selm and Jim Kienle took on a special project to remember the original name of the Athenaecum. Back on February 22nd, 1918 amidst the anti-German hysteria during World War I Das Deutsche Haus was renamed the Athenaeum. On the 100th anniversary of this day we unveiled a replica of the original name of this National Historic Landmark: Das Deutsche Haus. Which was

(Continued from page 1)
Pastor Wyneken and the family would be amazed, by the installation of the duct work along with a heat pump and air conditioning. At this point it would be appropriate to say the exterior of the House is 99+% complete. The basement is probably 90% complete.

The first and second floors of the House are a different story. The plaster and lath were removed from the outside walls to facilitate insulation, and after some consultation, it was decided to remove most of the deteriorated plaster and lath from the inside walls as well. This leads some to look and say, boy there’s a lot of work to do, but that’s not how we see it. Yes, replacing the flooring was a “given,” and replacing the plaster just added yet another expensive project, but rather than seeing the glass as half empty, those of us involved from the beginning would see the glass as probably 85% full!

On our wish list for the future is the installation of a sprinkler system, and a monitored fire/burglar alarm system. They would be mostly unnoticeable, prudence dictates this added protection, since a total loss of the Wyneken House by fire, or other disasters, would simply mean its gone forever.

In 2004, the Friends of Wyneken was organized to save the Wyneken House. In the ensuing years, a plundered, abandoned, derelict house, home to all manner of God’s wild creatures, has been saved from certain destruction and largely restored to its original glory, and then some. A unique historic German-American icon has been saved and once again made usable to teach new generations about our special history and heritage.

As this is being written, the brick work is almost finished, with our brick mason putting the finishing touches on the fireplace in the reconstructed kitchen and the outside chimney. We can’t wait to build that first fire in the fireplace! We are also in the process of updating the Wyneken House sign in the front yard, where the mason will be building two brick columns for the sign.

From the beginning, all the work that has been done and remains to be done is dependent on donations, fund raising, and grants. Two of the biggest milestones achieved this past year were the incorporation of the Friends of Wyneken and the awarding of the non-profit 501(c) 3 status from the IRS and the State. In conjunction with this new official status, the Friends of Wyneken are excited to announce that the Indiana German Heritage Society (IGHS) has decided to transfer ownership to the newly incorporated Friends of Wyneken Inc. We will continue our work inspired by the trust IGHS has put in us.
the promises of this new democratic republic. Many Germans gravitated to this new promised land, with its religious freedoms, limitless and cheap land, no military conscription, and with its seemingly unlimited natural resources. You were limited only by your willingness to work hard.

Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken was born in 1810, as one of nine children, to a Lutheran pastor in Verden, Hannover. Despite the death of his father when he was only five years old, Friedrich was well educated, fluent in English, and by all accounts was living comfortably by the time he was ordained as a Lutheran minister. But his soul was stirred. It was common knowledge that many Germans were migrating to the United States, and particularly the newly available areas of northeast Indiana, where there were virtually no Lutheran pastors to minister to the new arrivals. Wyneken “felt compelled” to go and serve the German Lutheran’s in this area, so at the age of 28, Friedrich C. D. Wyneken sailed to America.

A few years before Wyneken arrived in America, another German Lutheran by the name of Henry Rudisill had arrived and made his way to Fort Wayne, seeing a business opportunity. It’s said that when Rudisill arrived, Fort Wayne was about 500 people, mostly French and Indian. Rudisill posted notices in Baltimore, urging newly arrived Germans to come to northeast Indiana to settle. When Wyneken arrived in Baltimore in 1838, he made contact with some missionary groups to help finance his travel to Indiana.

One story from Wyneken’s first days in Baltimore came from his attempt to find a Lutheran church. When asking around, a man told him to go with him to his Lutheran church, which Wyneken did. The story, considered to be true, goes on to say that as the church service progressed, the congregants became more agitated, dancing around and waving their arms, while singing strange songs. When finally over, the leader asked Wyneken what he thought, whereupon he uttered his famous words, “Whether it was of God or of the devil I don’t know, but it certainly wasn’t Lutheran!”

After securing some money, Wyneken set out for Indiana. He traveled by train, horseback and canal, traversing parts of Ohio where he found Lutherans who hadn’t seen a pastor in years. They begged him to stay and be their pastor, but after ministering to them, he said he had to go.

By the time Wyneken arrived in the Fort Wayne area there were two fledgling German Lutheran congregations in the area, St. Paul in Fort Wayne, and
Zion, Friedheim, a day’s ride to the south of Fort Wayne. The congregations had been formed for about two years and were ministered to by a Pastor Hoover. But Hoover had died earlier that year, at the age of 29, shortly before Wyneken arrived. Upon his arrival in Adams County, he asked where he might find any Lutherans in the area. He was directed to a house of Karl Buuck. Buuck is considered to be the first settler in the area, having arrived years before Wyneken. After deciding that Wyneken was legitimate and not one of the charlatans known to roam around, Karl took Wyneken under his wings and helped provide for him.

The members of St. Paul, and Zion, Friedheim, begged Wyneken to become their pastor. Wyneken agreed, but on one condition, that he be permitted to do what he came to do, and that was travel the wilderness areas looking for neglected German Lutherans that needed ministered too. They agreed, and thus was born the saga of the Lutheran Circuit Rider.

Wyneken followed his calling by horseback, and on foot if necessary, in any weather and any time of year, traveling into Ohio, northern Indiana and southern Michigan, even as far as central Indiana, looking for the scattered German Lutherans who may not have seen a pastor for years. Serving them where he found them, he performed weddings, baptisms, funerals, and church services. Where possible, he would gather together enough to start a new congregation. He started over 20 new Lutheran congregations during his travels. History is ripe with stories of Wyneken the Pastor and Wyneken the man. He was known to give anything he had to someone he thought needed it more than he did, literally including the shirt off his back. During his circuit riding times, he would exist on whatever others were willing to give him to eat, or as a place to sleep, and was thankful for whatever it was, always being mindful to take care of his horse before himself.

Perhaps the best-known story has to do with his famous pants. Karl Buuck had built Wyneken a small log cabin near Friedheim, that he could call home when he was in the area and not on the trail somewhere. It didn’t even have a window, and he had to open the door for light, but he considered it some of his happiest times. Samuel Rugg founded the village of Decatur a short distance away in 1836. It wasn’t a difficult trip from Friedheim to Decatur, and one day during his circuit riding years, Wyneken called upon a Decatur business
man by the name of Holthouse. Holthouse was cutting some yellow material called English Leather. Wyneken’s clothes showed considerable wear and tear from his riding through the forests and briars and Holthouse felt sorry for him. He offered Wyneken some of the material for a pair of pants. Wyneken thanked him but declined, saying he had no money for the material. The merchant said he was giving it to him as a gift, but again Wyneken declined, saying if he took a gift from him he would owe him and then he couldn’t preach to Holthouse about his well-known drinking. Holthouse laughed and told Wyneken to take the cloth and preach to him all he wanted. So Wyneken gratefully accepted the gift and had a pair of pants made from the material. He loved them, and called them “imperishable”, and during his travels they became his signature and he was known as the Preacher In the yellow pants.

Some of his congregation’s members were embarrassed that they couldn’t afford to buy their Pastor a decent suit. They felt that they couldn’t be beholdng to a drunkard, so they collected a wagon load of corn and dumped it on Holthouse’s doorstep as payment. At great sacrifice, the congregation collected enough money to have a suit made and gave the money to Wyneken to have it made. However, on the way to Decatur, he ran into a widow, who told him about her sick children and her need for money for their medicine, so true to form, he gave her his suit money. Now his congregation members were out of a wagon load of corn, and suit money, and Wyneken still had the yellow pants.

Once again, at great personal sacrifice, the congregation collected money a second time. This time took it to Decatur and gave it to a tailor. Later, when Wyneken was in Decatur, the tailor called him over and asked him for a favor. The tailor was making a suit for a man about Wyneken’s size, and asked if he could try it on to see if it fit. Wyneken obliged and put on the suit. At that point the tailor told Wyneken that the suit was actually his, having been paid by his congregants. And the yellow pants were never seen again.

Wyneken managed to make his rounds and tend his flocks in spite of suffering from asthma, hypochondria, depression, arthritis, and throat problems. In August of 1841, Wyneken married one of Karl Buuck’s daughters, Sophie, some 13 years his junior. Shortly after, they both boarded ship headed for Germany. Wyneken wanted to see some German doctors about his throat problems, and to try find more missionaries for America, as well as financial

(Continued on page 10)
support for his missions. He also took this time to meet with many of the old German Lutheran fathers, and by all accounts, when Friedrich and Sophie and their new daughter Louise, returned to America in 1843, he was even more doctrinally conservative than before he left. This did not sit well with some of his members.

Pastor Wyneken and Sophie ultimately had 13 children, 11 of which survived to adulthood. These children were indeed fruitful and multiplied, and there are many, many, decedents today, and numerous have served in the ministry. Pastor Wyneken taught early students himself in his home and was instrumental in laying the foundations for what would become the Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne in 1846. After returning from Germany, he resumed pastoring the local congregations, and in 1847 he was involved in the founding of what would become the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the convention which was held in Chicago, a five days journey from Fort Wayne. Pastor Wyneken gave up his circuit riding, and accepted calls to pastor congregations in Cleveland, Baltimore, and St. Louis over the years.

In 1850, Wyneken was elected as the second President of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and served until 1864. Although not widely noted today, many, including the current President of the Missouri Synod will state that Lutheranism in the United States today would probably not be what it is were it not for the work of Wyneken. In 1850 however, the drums were beginning to sound leading up to the Civil War and he decided that St. Louis may not be the best place to be, a decision was made to move the headquarters in 1858. This is where the Wyneken House comes into the story.

Wyneken’s father-in-law was wealthy by this time, and he offered to build a new home for Wyneken and Sophie in their beloved Adams County. But this was not just any house. At a time when many were still living in log homes, the house that Karl Buuck built for the Wyneken family could easily pass for many rural Indiana farm homes today. Unusual for the period, the house was titled in Sophie’s name. We believe this is because of Wyneken’s well known habit of giving his things away. This way Buuck would know that his daughter and grandchildren would always have their home.

No expense appears to have been spared on the house. It was framed as a barn would be, with large hand-hewn timbers forming the main frame, mortise and tenon construction, making it entirely self-supporting. The flooring throughout was 1 ¼ “thick oak, tongue and groove. The walls were lath and plaster, and all the woodwork through was faux grained. Many large windows brought in to provide as much natural light as possible. There was also an unusual large attached kitchen and clapboard siding.

But the layout of the House itself is what speaks to its being especially designed and built for Pastor Wyneken and his ministry work. The front entry door is to the side, and it opens into an air lock space with a second door then opening into the side hallway. To the left are the stairs going up to the second floor. On the right is a large living room, with double doors leading to an equally large dining room. One door from the dining room went out the back of the house, while a second door from the living room opened into the hallway and across it into the kitchen.

Up the stairs, is a hallway running along one side of the house and two equally large bedrooms. At the end of the hallway upstairs was Wyneken’s small study. It’s generally accepted that Wyneken taught some students in this study, and the purpose for the unusual layout was so Wyneken’s students could enter the House, up the stairs, and go to his study without bothering the rest of the family. The house has a large attic, and it is believed that some students spent the night in the attic.

We believe Wyneken probably lived there through the end of his Synod Presidency, and then accepted a pastoral call. By 1876, Pastor Wyneken wasn’t doing well, and all his ailments were taking their toll. His oldest daughter Louise, was by now living in San Francisco. Pastor Wyneken traveled to California by train, to stay with Sophie, fully intending to recover and return to resume a pastoral and eventually retire, he said, in his beloved Adams County. But God had other plans and called his servant home to his eternal rest on May 4th, 1876, nine days shy of his 66th birthday. By all accounts, it was probably as the result of a heart attack.

Following Wyneken’s death, Sophie sold the house. The House had a succession of owners over the following decades; the last occupants were probably sometime in the 1950’s. Over the decades, the Wyneken House suffered many indignities — windows and doors not being tended, animals made it their home, including turkey buzzards roosting in the attic. The ownership of the House itself changed hands perhaps three times, although only the House was sold, not the land on

(Continued on page 11)
which it sat. The landowners several times demanded that the House be moved off the property or they would destroy it. Additionally, at some point, the entire front porch was removed right off the House, the thick oak flooring was cut out of most of the House, and the large oak floor joists were cut out of most of the House, oh, and doors were taken too. The Indiana German Heritage Society was approached in 1998 to see if there was anything they could do. Indiana Landmarks had taken an interest in the Wyneneken House, and other noted historians and historic groups were beginning to take notice of this historic house.

As interest in saving the Wyneneken House built, the Friends of Wyneneken was formed in 2004. As the threats to destroy the Wyneneken House cropped up again, a mad scramble was made to raise money to save the house. A house mover was contracted and it was moved a mile across farm fields to get to a suitable road. When the house got bogged down in the field, two tractors and the movers truck were brought in to get it moving again. On the move again, the house had to pass under some high voltage power lines. The remnants of the metal ridge cap came too close to the power lines causing three loud bangs, scaring the driver and causing smoke to come out of the attic windows. We had tripped major circuit breakers and cut power to half of Decatur. They sent us a bill. Without further drama, we made it to the temporary site on the Winchester Road, where a few years later, the landowner ultimately donated the almost three acres to FOW giving the house a permanent home.

We began working with an architect and making plans. The original plan was to restore the first and second floors to as near 1858 as we could, while the basement would have all the necessary modern amenities. The donated land had a nice drop off down to a lower level which gave an opportunity for a walk out basement with a beautiful view. Site preparation was done, the basement construction finished, and finally in 2010 the big day arrived when the House was moved on to the foundation. Once in place, the roof was fixed, windows, doors and the front porch rebuilt, new stairs were constructed. The original kitchen was reconstructed, and the siding was replaced and painted.

As of today, we’ve had electricity for about three years, a well for two, and wiring is a work in progress, with mostly donated materials and labor. The basement is probably 85% or more finished.

The handicap accessible bathroom is finished, and a complete new kitchen is finished in the basement. A gas furnace was installed a year ago, so we didn’t have to worry about pipes freezing, and this summer we had a heat pump installed as a primary heating source, plus giving us air conditioning.

One of the biggest projects over the past year has been to replicate that of the brick foundation. Years ago, we had acquired Civil War era handmade bricks. No two of these bricks are the same, so a lot of hand picking and choosing was necessary, plus the irregularity made it a challenge. It took the mason over a year to do all the face brick on the outside of the basement, as well as on three walls on the inside of the basement. We also had him build two brick columns out front for mounting our new Wyneken House sign. The last to be finished was the fireplace in the reconstructed kitchen, and the chimney outside.

They say that you can’t appreciate the Wyneneken House without first appreciating Pastor Wyneneken himself. One measure of a man’s life is how he is mourned in death. Wyneneken was admired and respected in a way that we find hard to understand today. Following his death, a funeral service was held for Wyneneken in San Francisco, then his body was brought to St. Louis for another funeral, then to Fort Wayne for a third funeral, and finally to Cleveland for a fourth funeral, where he served his last pastorate. He was buried in Cleveland, with Sophie following 15 years later. An additional memorial service was held for Pastor Wyneneken in Baltimore.

The work that’s been described above has taken years, and lots and lots of money, but we are not done yet. Continuous fund raising, pursuing grant opportunities, and donations, many, many donations, some small, and some large, has gotten us to where we are today. But perhaps nothing more significant transpired just now than the passing of the title of the property from the care and keeping by the IGHS to the FOW, and we’re pleased to say that we are now independently incorporated in the state of Indiana and have our own IRS non-profit status.

Help us work to fulfill the promise that the Wyneneken House holds for today, and many future generations.

Ken Selking, President
A Chance Encounter with Friedrich Wyneken
by Hermann Zagel
Translated from German by Roger Franke

The German theologian Friedrich Wyneken arrived in Fort Wayne, Indiana, in the fall of 1838. His mission was to seek out the many scattered German Lutheran immigrants who had settled in northern Indiana, southern Michigan, and northwestern Ohio and organize them into congregations. Through his activity as a circuit rider, he successfully founded many churches, both locally and regionally. He served as president of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod from 1850 - 1864 and lived part of that time in a farmhouse in the Friedheim settlement in Adams County between Fort Wayne and Decatur. Wyneken’s influence on church doctrine and church life during his lifetime was enormous.

The German-American writer Hermann Zagel was a contemporary of Wyneken, but in the early 1870s Wyneken was nearing the end of his career and his life (he died in 1876) while Zagel was a young boy of about 12 years of age. From 1860 - 1883 Hermann’s father Andrew was pastor of the Dreieinigkeitskirche on Piqua Road (today Trinity Suburban Lutheran Church on Decatur Road at the south edge of Fort Wayne).

Hermann, born in 1859 near Columbus, Indiana, grew up in the log parsonage at Trinity and became in adulthood a Lutheran school teacher and later also a writer. Most, if not all, of his writings were in the German language. Hermann died in 1936 in Peoria, Illinois.

During his lifetime Hermann authored six books, one of which was entitled Aus Frühlingstagen (From the Days of Spring), subtitled Erinnerungen aus dem fröhlichen Bubenleben (Recollections from a Happy Boyhood), published in 1923. Among the adventures of his youth is an interesting observation of an encounter with the great FCD Wyneken, made one late afternoon as the approximately 12-year-old boy was driving the cows home from pasture along Piqua Road. Below are his words with translation to follow:


“Barefoot and with my pant legs rolled up to above the knees and my trusty everyday bell-shaped hat, riddled with holes, on top of my head, I swished the mighty whip in my hand through the air and cracked it so that it echoed back from the woods. In this manner I entertained myself as I waded once again in the dust behind the cows, driving them at that moment out of some sort of clearing towards home. All of a sudden behind me, coming from the city, a large spring wagon came rolling along with all three seats heavily occupied. The passengers consisted of both sexes, dressed in their Sunday best. That was a rarity. What might that be? I stepped to the side in order to permit the carriage to roll on past and held my hand in a shielding fashion above my eyes to protect them from the blinding sun going down. I raised my sun-tanned face and looked -- directly into the smiling faces of the venerable and respected [Missouri] Synod President Wyneken, former missionary on Piqua Road, and his family. They were traveling to Adams County to visit the area of their former home. I knew him well, the tall man with the long beard. After all, a picture of him hung above my bed at home. The Wynekens had no idea who the little cow chaser standing
there next to the carriage on the road was and likely didn’t consider him of much importance. But they probably laughed at my back-woody appearance. I was ashamed.”

In April of 2007 I e-mailed the above observation by Hermann Zagel to a descendant of FCD Wyneken, who maintains an extensive website devoted to the genealogy of the Wyneken family. Following, in part, is Mathew Wyneken’s reply.

“What an intriguing picture for me. It’s like peering through the window of a time machine. In the 1870s the other family members in the buggy would probably have consisted of the younger children and, of course, FCD’s wife Sophie. My gg-grandfather, one of the older siblings, probably would not have been there since he had a congregation in Arkansas at that time. Still from my research I’m quite familiar with the younger siblings and their fates so it’s a special treat to run across them in this context. Thanks for sharing that.”

**Friedrich Wyneken Arrives in Baltimore in 1838**

In response to the spiritual plight of German immigrants in America, the theologian Friedrich Wyneken set sail from Bremen in late spring of 1838 with the intention of gathering the scattered German-Lutheran immigrants in places like Indiana into congregational units. He had read that in many cases these settlers had no access to pastors or school teachers, that they had never heard a real Lutheran sermon, that they had no opportunities to participate in holy communion, and that their children were going uneducated and unbaptized.

Worse yet, he read, that these immigrants were falling prey to the Methodists and other fanatical Christian sects who considered them good bait for proselytizing. (Note: Though a serious concern at that time, today’s Lutherans would hardly any longer consider Methodists and other protestants, or Roman Catholics, for that matter, to be members of fanatical sects.)

In July of 1838, the 28-year-old Wyneken, stepped ashore at Baltimore, Maryland. In one of his first experiences in the streets of Baltimore while seeking out Lutherans, he encountered several people who said that they were about to conduct a "Lutheran" church service and that Wyneken would be most welcome to join them.

The following anecdote, not entirely devoid of humor, is one version of what had happened at that "Lutheran" church service. It is taken from volume 38 of the series Erzählungen für die Jugend (Tales for Youth) entitled "Friedrich Conrad Dietrich Wyneken," published by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, undated.

After searching a while [in the streets of Baltimore], he [Wyneken] came across some people who said that they were "Lutheran." They led him to a place where they were holding a church service. But to Wyneken everything seemed strange and peculiar. He was asked to preach a sermon and fulfilled this request. Then Brother Numsen asked him to lead a prayer group. Wyneken assented to this. He had them sing a hymn, he read a text and spoke a prayer. During the prayer the people began to moan and groan. Soon was heard coming from this corner and that in loud horrid tones "Amen, Amen." And then there was more singing like Wyneken had never heard before. The people became merry and the noise grew louder and louder. Finally, the prayer period came to an end. Numsen stepped over to the highly astonished stranger and asked in an ingratiating manner, “Well, Brother Wyneken, how did you like it?” Wyneken replied shortly and to the point, "Whether it was from God or from the Devil, I can't say, but one thing is certain. In no case is it Lutheran."

What had happened was that Wyneken had become involved in a disagreement with some devout Methodists onto whom he had stumbled -- onto the so-called Otterbeins. And they had passed themselves off as Lutherans in order "to convert," if possible, a Lutheran preacher.

Roger Franke

An IGHS membership makes a great gift for Family and Friends!

[http://www.ighs.org/membership.html](http://www.ighs.org/membership.html)
42nd Annual Society for German-American Studies (SGAS) Symposium

April 19–Saturday, April 21, 2018
Indiana Historical Society,
450 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

World War I and Its Repercussions for German America
A Centennial Assessment

This symposium is co-hosted by the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center

**Friday April 20**
8:00 – 8:45 Registration
9:00 – 9:30 Opening Plenary Address presented by Steven Rowan, the President of SGAS entitled "Clara von Gerstner learns about the South: a noble lady tours America in the 1830s"
9:30 – 11:00 Concurrent Sessions
11:00 – 12:30 Concurrent Sessions
12:30 – 2:00 SGAS Business Luncheon in the IHS Gibson Boardroom - Sponsored by the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center
2:00 – 3:30 Concurrent Sessions
3:30 – 5:00 Concurrent Sessions
Dinner on your own

**Saturday April 21**
9:00 – 10:30 Concurrent Sessions
10:30 – 12:00 Concurrent Sessions
Lunch on your own
1:30 – 3:30 Optional Tour of Important Indianapolis German American Sites. (Meet in the Residence Inn by Marriott parking lot)
5:30 – 6:30 Reception (with cash bar) - Sponsored by the IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center
6:30 – 9:30 Banquet and Awards

**Tour of Important Indianapolis German American Sites**

Before the First World War Indianapolis had a vibrant, active German-American community. Germans were the largest ethnic group in the city and the German language could be heard in the homes, clubs, stores, factories, churches, schools, and in the streets. The Germans of Indianapolis were comfortable hyphenated citizens, fully participating in the life of the city, and still maintaining their identity. The Katastrophe of the World War put an end to the proud, public German culture, but much physical evidence remains in the form of the buildings that the Germans built to reside, make a living, worship, recreate, and express German culture

The optional bus and walking tour will be led by William Selm, a 5th-generation German-American native of Indiana who served as the last historian of the Indianapolis Historic Preservation Commission. He is a co-founder of the Indiana German Heritage Society and the Athenaeum Foundation. He authored the NHL nomination for the Athenaeum and co-authored the NHL nomination for the Soldiers & Sailors Monument. His recent works include a *Wegweiser* and *Vonnegut’s Walking Tour of Indianapolis*. Selm is an adjunct faculty member of IUPUI and is a Max Kade Fellow. See the SGAS registration form (Page 16) to sign up for this important tour.
Name: _______________________________ (First) _______________________________ (Last)
Affiliation: ________________________________________________________________
Email: ______________________________________

REGISTRATION (Onsite or late is $70)
Full Conference Fee _______ $ 65
Friday OR Saturday only (Circle Day) _______ $ 35
Student (with verification) _______ $ 15
FRIDAY Luncheon / Business Meeting _______ $ 14
(Sandwich, chips, dessert, and bottle of water)
Please Indicate Sandwich Choice:
_____ Shaved Turkey
_____ Roasted Ham
_____ Egg Salad
SATURDAY Evening Banquet: Priced according to Entree
Entree Choice:
1. Vegetarian Greek Pasta + Beverage _______ $ 17
2. Schnitzel (2 sides, salad OR soup) + Beverage _______ $ 26
3. Lemon Pepper Shrimp (wild rice, 2 sides, salad OR soup) + Beverage _______ $ 29
SATURDAY Excursion (1:30 – 3:30) _______ $ 15

MEMBERSHIP* (if not currently active) _______ $ __________

Total Enclosed $ _______.00

European Membership Levels differ. Payable in EURO online www.sgas.org OR contact Katja Hartmann munsalvaesche@t-online.de

Please make check or money order payable to “SGAS” and mail to:

Karyl Rommelfanger
4824 Morgan Dr.
Manitowoc, WI 54220-1026
Indianapolis Männerchor, 1854-2018

It is with a very heavy heart that I inform you that the Männerchor is disbanding at the end of this concert season, ending 164 years of continuous existence. Simply put, we have been unable to attract and retain new singers, and with the deaths this past year of several key singers, we simply can no longer perform in the manner in which the Männerchor has been known. This is augmented by our financial position: as you probably know, we have been a fully independent group since the early 1970s with no financial backer. We have continued the past several years only because of our operating fund, which is now generally depleted, and financially we are unable to continue past this year.

You certainly know my commitment to the choir, given I have been with the choir since 1980, and served as its president for many, many years. I was continuing my family's involvement with the choir, which started with my great-great grandfather, Henry Laut, who joined the Männerchor back in the 1800s, as well as my father who has been a member since 1968. I hoped that one day one of my sons would sing with the Männerchor, but that is not meant to be.

We have outlived our heritage. As the city has grown, it has truly become impossible for us to convince men to drive from the outlying suburbs to come to the Athenaeum for practice. Despite the fact that 1 out of 11 men sang in some choir before they were 21, they just are not joining organizations like ours (reference Robert Putnam's 1995 book *Bowling Alone* and you'll read more on this subject). There are so many more alternatives available for entertainment than there were 50 years ago that our audiences are literally dying off, and our only audiences have primarily been our families. We are now at 5th and 6th generation descendants of immigrants, who no longer cling to the values and ideals of our German past. This has become very clear to me in the past year, as I am the only singer left in the Männerchor with any understanding of the German language (and even then, given it's been over 40 years since I studied German, it's sketchy at best).

So, as Luther might have said, what does this mean? First, we are insuring our legacy continues in some way. Our piano is going to the Liederkranz; our music collection to an association of men's glee clubs; our risers to the University of Indianapolis. We are still seeking a home for those archives we have not currently in place at the Max Kade center. I let Cassie Stockamp and Bill Selm know that it is our intent to divide any funds we might have at the end of the year, between the Athenaeum Foundation and the IGHS, to help both those organizations continue promoting German heritage.

Second, our final public concert will be on Saturday, April 14th, when we join with the Murat Chanters and other groups for the Murat Spring Sing, which is a shadowed memory of the Triad. Our final public performance will be singing the National Anthem at Victory Field, on May 30th. It has been a long run for us, and we are thankful for all you've done for us over the years. Is it sad? Absolutely. But we want to go out standing tall, on our own terms, rather than limping into oblivion which is the alternative we faced.

So gehe dieses Welt,
Wednesday, March 14: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: "You Have Ten Minutes: Genocide of Germans in 1940’s Yugoslavia."

Katherine Hilden is a survivor of the genocide of ethnic Germans whose ancestors had settled in the Balkans in the 18th and 19th centuries. In November 1944 the Yugoslav government under Tito suddenly declared these ethnic Germans to be non-citizens, meaning they had no right to life or property. Those who were not gunned down outright were marched into concentration camps.

Hilden has presented this topic most recently in Vienna, Austria. She has also visited Zagreb, Croatia, where she has met with historians who deny this genocide against the Germans. She will discuss the definition of genocide and place this event in the context of 20th century genocides worldwide.

Wednesday, April 11: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: "The American Comic Strip and its German Origins" presented by IGHS board member Ron Flick. He will explain the nineteenth century German roots of the modern American comic strip. The presentation will highlight contributions by several first-generation German-American newspaper illustrators who created the genre that affectionately became known as the “Sunday Funnies”. From the Katzenjammer Kids to Charlie Brown and the Peanuts gang,

Ron Flick is an architect and amateur historian from Jasper, Indiana, who now makes his home in historic Irvington. His interests include the research, documentation, and preservation of the history and German traditions of his hometown as well as reading comic strips and watching cartoons since his youth.

Wednesday, May 9: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: The German language newspapers in Indiana presented by Mariam Aziz, President of the IUPUI German Club and Steven J. Schmidt, retired librarian from IUPUI and the Indiana State Library.

Wednesday, June 13: Board Meeting, Stammtisch and Program: Geoffrey Lapin will talk about the Musical Schellschmidt family and its contribution to the culture of Indianapolis.

As always, the programs are held at the Athenaeum, 401 E. Michigan St., Indianapolis. They are in English--free of charge and open to the public. Optional dinner and conversation at 6:30 p.m. with the program at 7:30 p.m. Dinner costs $15.00 per person (tax, ice tea, gratuity and parking included). Vegetarian option available. Complimentary parking: Athenaeum Parking Lot (east side of building). For questions contact Ron Flick at rflick1881@att.net or 812-309-2141.

Other Programs

Friday, March 16 & Saturday, March 17: IGHS Annual Meeting and Symposium. See page 1 of this newsletter. Registration information and specifics will be in the next newsletter.

Friday, March 30, 10 a.m.: German Good Friday Service at Zion Evangelical United Church of Christ, 603 North New Jersey Street, Indianapolis. The service is in German with easy to follow English translation. Info: 317-639-5411 or zioneucc.org. Admission is free.

Saturday, April 7: The Spring meeting of the Indiana Chapter, Palatines to America will be held at the Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis. Info Pal-Am website at http://www.palam.org.
Untold Stories—The Holocaust Boxcar
By Friedhelm Caspari and Dr. Joachim Reppmann

The horrors of National Socialism in Germany and of the Hitler regime cannot be separated from the political and societal developments that preceded them. The events that took place between the wars and during the Nazi dictatorship have been analyzed, illuminated, and described many times. The literature on the structure of the Nazi system and on its leading figure, the "populist" Adolf Hitler, has thus been published extensively and in many languages. For the first time, however, there is now available a highly compact "Fact Book" that illuminates the most important aspects of the developments in Germany in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for American readers.

This compendium is an outgrowth of a multimedia exhibition at the Fagen Fighters World War II Museum in Granite Falls, MN. The centerpiece of that exhibit is a German boxcar from Georgenthal in Thuringia. The boxcar was used to deport Jews to the Buchenwald concentration camp and thus stands as a symbol of the Holocaust. In its present location, it serves as a "lesson in history" and should be understood by the public as such. Text of Untold Stories—The Holocaust Boxcar would be highly appropriate as reading material in American high school and college programs, where it would offer an important and instructive commentary on this cataclysmic period in German history.

Today, this topic is more relevant than ever, considering the lack of understanding, hatred, and intolerance among populist movements and agitators that has developed in connection with the recent waves of refugees worldwide. "Anyone who does not remember what inhumanity is, is likely to be infected by it again. It is absolutely necessary that you know what happened at that time, and why it happened." This is the appeal was made by the Auschwitz-survivor Esther Bejarano as an appeal to all current and future generations of all nations, so they are aware of the historical events that brought about the deaths of millions of victims.

Many Jewish communities in the United States have already expressed their interest in this new publication of the Stoltenberg Institute which will without doubt contribute to improved German-American understanding. In a letter to Joachim Reppmann, the elder statesman Henry A. Kissinger gave his wholehearted support to the project, as has the director of the international Leo Baeck Institute of New York City, Carol Kahn Strauss.

Books can be ordered at: www.LuLu.de (Color cover / B&W inside - $10.00 + Shipping. Glossy, color edition - $28.00 + Shipping).

Editor’s Note: Ethnic genocide survivor, Katherine Hilden, will speak at the IGHS Stammtisch on March 14th about the genocide of ethnic Germans in Yugoslavia during this same period. She will discuss the definition of genocide and place this event in the context of 20th century genocides worldwide. For details, see the STAMMTISCH AND PROGRAMS ON PAGE 18.
Indiana German Heritage Society
Membership Form

Name: ___________________________________________________________

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Please enter / renew my membership:

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Second person for family membership

Name: ___________________________________________________________

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- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Teaching Materials
- [ ] Traditions & Folklore

Knowledge of German Language:

- [ ] None
- [ ] Some
- [ ] Fluent

Knowledge of Old German Script (Sütterlin):

- [ ] None
- [ ] Some
- [ ] Good

I am willing to help with activities (Circle one):

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

I wish to make an additional tax-deductible donation of $ ________.

- [ ] This is a gift membership. Name of person providing gift membership:

Please make checks payable to: Indiana German Heritage Society. Send your membership form and payment to Indiana German Heritage Society, Membership Chair, 401 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

To join or renew online, go to IGHS.org!
Join Us in Fort Wayne!
for the
IGHS 2018 Symposium
March 16 & 17, 2018

F.C.D. Wyneken and the Lutherans in Northeast Indiana

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