



German-American News

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

October is German-American Heritage Month. This year marks its 21st anniversary. Proclamations have been issued in the past by the governors of Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana and it has also been recognized by the Ohio Historical Society and other organizations as well.

German-American Heritage Month takes place in October since German-American Day is October 6th and is the date on which in 1683 the first permanent German settlement in America was established at Germantown, Pennsylvania. The purpose of the German-American Heritage Month is to focus on and celebrate that event, as well as German contributions to the making of America.

In 1987, President Reagan declared the 6th of October as German-American Day as a result of a national campaign led by yours truly and with the full support of the GACL and other German-American organizations across the country. Feeling that one day was not enough to celebrate German heritage, the GACL in 1989 organized the first German-American Heritage Month in the U.S. with a series of lectures, exhibits, festivities, and programs.

Since that time, other places across the country have followed suit and established German-American Weeks or Months. For example, this year, the City of New York celebrates German-American Month for the first time. We hope that other cities and states will join in celebrating the Month as well. This truly is a Cincinnati German contribution to the German-American heritage.

This year, programs will also be sponsored by Northern Kentucky University, the Kenton County Kentucky Library, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, and the Hamilton Genealogical Society.

Kenny Burck, President of the Hamilton County Genealogical Society, serves as Chair of the GACL German-American Heritage Month Committee, and has put together a great series of programs. Several events take place at the German Heritage Museum. For the calendar of events, visit: www.gacl.org

Celebrate this year's German-American Heritage Month by supporting and attending the programs sponsored by the GACL!

Alles Gute,
Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann
GACL President

FROM THE EDITOR:

Well, here we are at the last issue for another year! Hard to believe that the holidays are coming so quickly.

With the New Year I am again requesting your calendar of events for the newsletter. Please send them by e-mail to mpoole@cinci.rr.com or snail mail to me at 2456 Cedarville Road, Goshen, Ohio 45122.

Thanks so much for your help.
Marge Poole

TEN YEARS GERMAN HERITAGE MUSEUM

Ten years ago, on September 23, 2000 the German Heritage Museum in West Fork Park, Green Township, opened its doors for the first time to a crowd of about 200 people. The German-American Citizens League, founded in 1895, finally had a home of its own and a depository of numerous items from German immigrants in the Tri-State area. Re-erecting this two-story German-style log house from about 1840 was much more difficult than building a new house from scratch. The offer of this log house came from the Feist Family in Delhi when their land was being sold to a developer. They approached several German-American Societies but had no takers. Thanks to the generosity of Green Township Trustees Bob Seitz, Tony Upton and Tracy Winkler, a wonderful location was found in West Fork Park. We are also grateful to Green Township for funding the basement, foundation and landscaping. Once the plans by noted architect Bruce Goetzmann were completed and approved, building began under the supervision of Elmer Grossheim, Esq and the GACL Board of Trustees in February 1998. Even though it's an old log house, it has modern conveniences such as central heat and air conditioning plus a modern bathroom with running hot and cold water. Originally there was an open back porch but in order to obtain additional display space, the porch and the space below were completely enclosed in 2008 by retired Master Carpenter Gottfried Schlembach and a handful of helpers.

Over the past ten years we had many local, national and international visitors including school groups, scout groups etc.; they are all amazed by this unique "Jewel of Green Township". We are open every Sunday afternoon from 1 - 5

pm from May to October, except for certain German Festival days. On opening day in May and on St. Nikolaus Day in December we have entertainment by singers from Fairview-Clifton German School and folks dancers from the Verein der Donauschwaben Kleine Kindergruppe. In addition there are woodcarvers on the second floor and we offer refreshments. Maintaining "this old house" requires regular caulking, chinking, staining and other tasks such as evicting raccoons and filling woodpecker holes. In order to raise money for the building of the Museum, donors could sponsor a log, window or a door. The idea of a "Heritage Walk", proposed by Michael and Nancy Pelzel, consists of small and large engraved bricks on a plaque, in front of the Museum, that people could buy. Mike and Nancy sold a record number of bricks in a short time and we are grateful for their dedication. Even though we have a website and quarterly newsletter we need more publicity; too many people never heard of us and this has to change. One way to join and help with the expenses is to become a "Friend of the Museum". Details are found on our website: www.gacl.org.

Manfred Schnetzer



GACL History News - Major David Ziegler

During German-American Heritage Month in 1983, the GACL dedicated a plaque at Memorial Hall in honor of Major David Ziegler (1748-1811), the first Mayor of Cincinnati. Major Ziegler fought in the American Revolution and was with Baron von Steuben and General Washington at Valley Forge. At Memorial Hall, there is also a plaque of all those buried in Hamilton County who served in the American Revolution. The GACL plaque at Memorial Hall is the only historical marker in Cincinnati honoring Cincinnati's first mayor, and the GACL takes great pride in having dedicated this plaque in recognition of Major Ziegler's contributions to the U.S. and the City of Cincinnati. It is only one example of how the GACL seeks honor and recognition for the outstanding German-Americans of the region.

2010 Covington Oktoberfest



Bremen Street in Over-the-Rhine

Bremen Street in the Over-the-Rhine district was one of several German street names that were changed by means of a special ordinance of the Cincinnati City Council during the Anti-German Hysteria of World War One. As a result of a request from the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati to the City of Cincinnati in 1995, historical markers were placed on the streets that were changed as a reminder of the wrongs and injustices of that time. A copy of the historical marker for German Street, which was changed to English Street during World War One, is on display at the German Heritage Museum, as is a list of all the street names that were changed.

German-American History:

Books Recommended by the Education Committee of the Steuben Society of America
 The Steuben Society is a patriotic charitable organization of American citizens of German descent whose mission it is to educate the public about the positive role our ethnic group has played in building America. The Education Committee, therefore, recommends the following books for libraries, societies, friends and colleagues. For information on price, shipping and handling, call the publishers or dealers listed below.

- Gary Grassl, *The First Germans in America* – To order call: 703-751-3611.
 - Shirley Riemer, *The German Research Companion* – To order call: 513-576-9369
 - Don Heinrich Tolzmann, *German-Americana: Selected Essays* – To order call: 513-576-9369
- For further information about the Steuben Society of America and its annual Erich Kurz Award for Outstanding Achievement in German-American Studies, visit its website:
www.steubensociety.org.

German Heritage Historical Marker



This historical marker is located at Sawyer Point along the Ohio River. It was dedicated in 2001 by the Ohio Bicentennial Commission, the Longaberger Company, and the

Ohio Historical Society in cooperation with the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati.

Pictures by Ron Einhaus. Thanks to all who helped this year in our efforts to get the German spirit into the fest!



Author of numerous works speaks on German immigration, heritage

By **BRANDON DRAKE**
Staff writer

Don Heinrich Tolzmann shared information about German immigration in Ohio and across the United States during a presentation at St. Joseph-Salem Heritage Society on Friday night.

Focusing on immigration movements from the 17th century through post-World War II, Tolzmann, an author and editor of numerous books on German-American history and culture, said the population of German ancestors is the largest ethnic group in the United States.

"We know this because the U.S. Census is taken every 10 years and we know the four largest groups are German,

Irish, English and African American," he said. "The German population ... makes up about one-fourth of the population in the country. I always point that out because those four groups make up (a majority) of the population of the United States."

"The size of the German immigration was huge in the 19th century, roughly around 25 percent, sometimes as much as 35 percent," he added. "Then again, in the 1950s, it went up to almost 25 percent of the immigration (that came into the country)."

Germans decided to come to this country for numerous "push factors," Tolzmann said, including revolutions, civil

unrest in the German states and wars throughout the 19th century.

But the largest factor he said was the disunity between German states at that time.

"Germany was not united until 1870, and if you look back to the 17th century, you'll see it was devastated by a 30-year war," Tolzmann said. "It really devastated the country in a way that's almost hard to imagine today. Probably about one-third of the population perished at the time."

For those who did decide to come to America from Germany, they had to acquire a passport, which provided a lot of information about the passport holder. Tolzmann said these documents are more informative than a picture passport because of the detail description it gives, including the shape of a person's forehead, color of eyebrows, shape of nose, tattoos and if they had teeth.

Tolzmann added these documents are valuable because of the information they provide.

Those seeking to leave, though, needed to request permission to immigrate from the local authorities, he said. For example, Tolzmann said if a person was a citizen of Prussia and wanted to immigrate and of the military age, "chances are you would not be allowed to."

"It wasn't automatic that you would get permission to leave," he said.

During earlier immigration, those coming to America were responsible for bringing their own food for a 30-90 day boat trip, which Tolzmann said depended on weather and wind conditions. He added immigrants also were subject to illness on the ship because of rats and lice.

"When a disease would break out, it would run through the

Germans largest U.S. ethnic group

(Continued from page 1)

whole ship," Tolzmann said.

Once arriving in America, immigrants would get to New York or other port cities and move westward. Tolzmann said the freedoms offered by the United States that were not available in the old country was another "pulling factor" in attracting people in making the move.

"The German-Americans concentrated in a certain region in the United States, which came to be known as the German Belt," Tolzmann said. "With Pennsylvania in the East, ... Germans moved basically straight west from this area. They avoided New England because the English were settled there. Also, they avoided the southern states because of the existence of slavery."

Tolzmann said Germans immigrated together in groups with people they were familiar with. Through this "chain migration," they would settle and write to friends and family in their hometown and bring more people to the same place, which he referred to as "chain-link communication."

"As a rule, they always had a point of contact," he said.

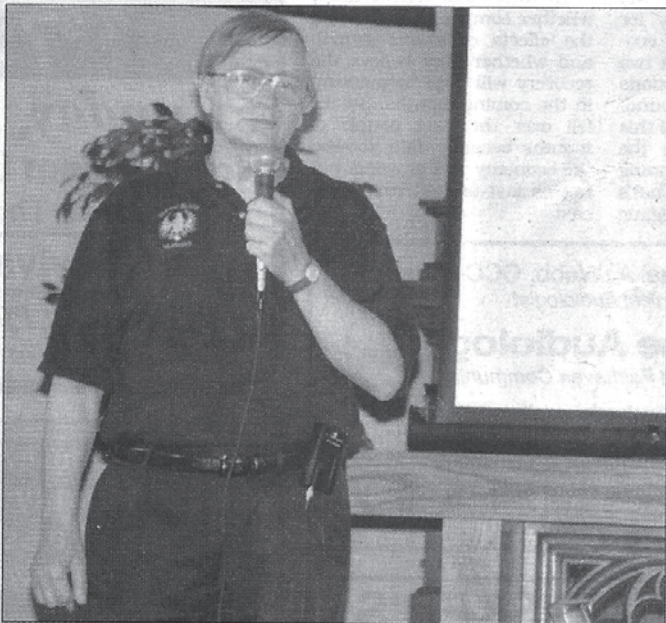
As for Ohio, the first important settlement came from Pennsylvania, Tolzmann said.

"Pennsylvania Germans were the first large group of Germans to come into Ohio," he said.

Two of the early settlements in Ohio were Schoenbrunn and Gnadenhutzen.

"Germans usually move along riverways, rivers or the Great Lakes," Tolzmann said. "They always settled around lakes and rivers and streams because it offers rich farm land, travel routes, trade routes (and) commercial routes. ... A major artery of course was the Ohio River and Mississippi River."

Following Tolzmann's talk, door prizes were given out and refreshments were served.



Daily Chief-Union/Brandon Drake

Immigration talk

Don Heinrich Tolzmann stands in the front of St. Joseph-Salem Heritage Society as he wraps up his speech on German immigration on Friday night.

(Continued on page 2)

German Church Services

Old St. Mary's Church
123 East 13th St.

Sundays 11:00 a.m. - (513) 721-2988

Christ Lutheran Church
3301 Compton Road
(513) 385-8342

December 24th - 5:30 pm

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
Taylor at Center, Bellevue, Kentucky
(859) 581-7129
December 19 - 4:30 pm



German Heritage Museum

West Fork Park
4790 West Fork Road - Cincinnati, OH 45247
Ph. 513-598-5732

Open every Sunday from the Sunday after Mother's Day to the end of October.

Sponsored by the
German-American Citizens League
For information: See our website
www.gacl.org or visit us on Facebook.

From: Daily Chief Union
(Upper Sandusky, Ohio)
July 10, 2010

OCTOBER

(German-American Heritage Month)

- October 1, 2, 3 OKTOBERFEST
Sponsored by Donauschwaben
For more information call (513) 385-2098
- October 1 German-American Day
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- October 3 Family Fall Festival
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- October 9 Weisswurstessen at Mecklenburg's
Sponsored by Haendelmaier Mustard Club
For more information see mustardclub.org
- October 10 Kirchweihmesse at Old St. Mary's Church
Sponsored by Donauschwaben
For more information call (513) 385-2098
- October 11 Stammtisch at Hofbraeuhaus 6 PM
Sponsored by the
German-American Citizens League
- October 16 Kirchweihanz – Hank Haller Band
Sponsored by Donauschwaben
For more information call (513) 385-2098
- October 23 Fall Volksmarch
Sponsored by The Germania Society
For more information see:
germaniasociety.com
- October 24 Trachten Mass at Old St. Mary's
Sponsored by the
German-American Citizens League
For more information see www.gacl.org
- October 27 Keg Tapping at Hofbraeuhaus
Society tapping keg to be announced
For more information see www.gacl.org

NOVEMBER

- November 6 Wine Fest
Sponsored by: Kolping Society
For more information phone:
(513) 851-7951
- November 6 Pitch Tournament
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- November 8 Stammtisch at Hofbraeuhaus 6 PM
Sponsored by the
German-American Citizens League

- November 13 Weisswurstessen at Mecklenburg's
Sponsored by Haendelmaier Mustard Club
For more information see mustardclub.org
- November 13 Karneval Opening Ball
Sponsored by The Germania Society
For more information see:
germaniasociety.com
- November 13 Weinlesetanz – Die Freudemacher
Sponsored by Donauschwaben
For more information call (513) 385-2098
- Nov. 19, 20, 21 Christkindlmarkt
Sponsored by The Germania Society
For more information see:
germaniasociety.com
- November 20 Thanksgiving Dinner
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- November 24 Keg Tapping at Hofbraeuhaus
Society tapping keg to be announced
For more information see www.gacl.org
- November 28 Weihnachtskonzert
Sponsored by: Kolping Society
For more information phone:
(513) 851-7951

DECEMBER

- December 5 ST. NIKOLAUS DAY CELEBRATION
German Heritage Museum
Sponsored by The German-American
Citizens League
For more information see www.gacl.org
- December 5 General Meeting
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- December 11 Weisswurstessen at Mecklenburg's
Sponsored by Haendelmaier Mustard Club
For more information see mustardclub.org
- December 11 Christmas Dance
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- December 13 Stammtisch at Hofbraeuhaus 6 PM
Sponsored by the
German-American Citizens League
- December 19 Family Christmas Party
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151

- December 29 Keg Tapping at Hofbraeuhaus
Society tapping keg to be announced
For more information see www.gacl.org
- December 31 New Year's Eve Party
The Liberty Home Association
For more information call
Richard 513-893-2151
- December 31 New Year's Eve Dance
Sponsored by The Germania Society
For more information see:
germaniasociety.com
- December 31 New Year's Eve Dance
Sponsored by: Kolping Society
For more information phone:
(513) 851-7951
- December 31 Silvesterabend – Alpen Echos
Sponsored by Donauschwaben
For more information call (513) 385-2098

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www.gacl.org

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on WAIF 88.3 FM - Request Line: (513) 749-1444
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