

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

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VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

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OCT. 5 GERMAN AMERICAN DAY IN D.C.

Our Society will join AGAS and other German organizations to celebrate German American Day at the Friendship Garden on the Washington Mall at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 6. The event is organized by AGAS, the German American Society of Greater Washington and will be attended by representatives of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. It will proceed with the reading of proclamations commemorating the friendship between the United States and Germany, issued by the Governors of Maryland and Virginia, the Mayor of Washington and the President of the United States. The garden was initiated by President Ronald Reagan and is prominently located on the Mall near the White House. The German Society will provide a bus to transport our members to the event. The bus ride is free to the first 25 who apply to our office. The bus will leave the Timonium Park and Ride at 8 am, with a stop in the Catonsville area. Sign up by calling our office. Gerhard Meinzer, a member of our board of directors and the President of AGAS is chairman of the event. Our Society will be prominently placed at the ceremony behind our banner. Dr. James Schaub and Thomas Werner, past and present President, will say a few words. After the ceremony the attendees will adjourn for a German lunch (at your own expense) at the Old World Restaurant, a famous German eatery in northwest Washington.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 112th German Festival is now over and was well attended, more than the prior year. I want to thank all who helped staff the Society's culture booth. Mary Upman worked hard to line up the volunteers; Paul Otto picked up, erected and tore down our display and Dan Brooke worked multiple shifts to support any where a volunteer was working alone. Bärbel Otto arranged to print a new supply of applications and 200 were distributed during the festival. It was a very good and successful event for us.

Looking forward, it is not too early to plan the Society's role in honoring the memory of General John Stricker, the "Hero of the Battle of North Point" on the 200th anniversary of the 1814 engagement. General Stricker served as an incorporator and as vice president of our Society, which reinforces our duty to see that he receives the recognition he so deeply deserves.

Because the bombardment of Fort McHenry inspired our national Anthem, it receives the overwhelming majority of attention, but the Battle of Baltimore also had a land battle which had equal, if not greater importance in defeating the invading forces and killing their commanding general.

I will encourage our Board of Directors to work hard on this 200th anniversary project.

Thomas A. Werner, President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Sat. Nov. 3, our Annual Banquet

KALENDER

- Sept 16 Banquet: The Society for History of the Germans in MD
- Sept. 30 Ecumenical Service
- Oct. 6 German American Day at the Mall
- Oct. 24-25 Sour beef at Zion Church
- Nov. 3 Annual Awards Banquet
- Nov. 24-25 Christkindlmarkt at Zion Church

Visit the German Society's website:
www.germansociety-md.com

Articles from many past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site. "Pioneers in Service", the history of our Society, can be found on our web site.

For more local German-American events, check the web site of the Deutsch-amerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: www.md-germans.org

You are invited to add articles about your German ancestors to the website conducted by our director, Shelley Arnold; (germanmarylanders.org) and to register to visit and participate in the website "Der Wecker", founded by our member, Walt Mathers.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY BANQUET

A representative of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, will be the speaker at the banquet of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, to be held on Tuesday, September 18 at the Adlersaal at Zion Church. The subject: the relations between Germany and the United States between 1980 and the present. Our members are invited to the event. Tickets are #35 per person. Call our office for information.

THE GREAT GERMAN PICNIC

More than 360 people attended the German picnic sponsored by the Buergerverein at Kurtz's Beach on June 24. A gentle breeze from the Chesapeake Bay brought comfort to a warm Sunday afternoon. Food was excellent, the music lively, the children active,

the beer flowing and plentiful and the air was filled with a spirit of Gemütlichkeit. Many thanks to all those who helped make it a great event: Ted Potthast, Walt Mathers and Leslie Trageser served as co-chairs of the picnic. Bob Mathers, as master of ceremonies, presented door prizes donated by radio station WTTG and other donor friends of our Society.

24TH ANNUAL ECUMENICAL SERVICE: MICHAELMAS SEPT 30

It's been 24 years since the Berlin Wall fell and Don Tillman, then president of our Society and Judge Gerard Wittstadt, then president of the Society for the History of the German in Maryland met with Siegfried Otto, then pastor of Zion Church to discuss how our community ought to celebrate the event. It was two weeks before Thanksgiving and the three of them decided to hold an Ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving that the German speaking nations finally enjoyed freedom of religion and the ability to govern themselves, free of totalitarianism and atheistic communism. We have celebrated this event, now for the 24th time, with few changes. Because Thanksgiving is a family event and we were competing with so many other activities, we moved the timing so that it would occur on the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Michael, patron of Germany. Our Society contributes to the music and food for the event and all of our members are urged to attend. Sept. 30, 5 p.m., Zion Church. Please come.

WANTED: FRIDGE, MICROWAVE

Do you have a refrigerator or a microwave oven which you could donate for use in our Society's office in Mt. Vernon Place? Such a gift would constitute a tax-deductible charitable gift. Please contact Brigitte Fessenden at 443-542-2263.

G-A DAY AT McDANIEL COLLEGE

Each year nearly 1,000 MD German language high school students come to McDaniel College in Westminster for German American Day. It is a program of workshops initiated by Prof. Dr. Mohamed Esa, one of our directors. The date: Oct. 16, 2012. It includes lunch and a special T-shirt which is designed in an art contest among the students. A young German rock band will perform. This year's theme celebrates the 200th anniversary of the publication of Grimm Brothers Fairy Tales: "*Deutsch ist märchenhaft.*"

MORE ON VERNON H. WIESAND

Our past president who died in May at age 92 lived in Ocean City for many years after his retirement, The following is an excerpt from his obituary in the Maryland Coastal Dispatch, an Ocean City newspaper:

"Vernon was a good husband and father, his integrity was only exceeded by his kindness toward his fellow man. He achieved much in life despite having contracted polio at a very young age. Vernon had a high degree of acceptance throughout his life and instilled that quality in others; was a great role model and a power of example.

He had a talent for bringing people together for a common cause and achieving goals; hence his leadership positions in many organizations."

Our Society was the beneficiary of Vernon's talent in bringing people together: he assembled the team which greatly expanded The German Society and brought it into modern times.

One of our members noted that Vernon was proud that he graduated from Baltimore City College.

"GERMAN CATHEDRAL" RESTORED

Saint Alphonsus Church on Park Avenue and Saratoga Streets in Baltimore was known as "The German Cathedral". It was built in the 1840's by an order of Redemptorist priests from Germany to serve Baltimore's German Catholic population. It did so until about 1915 when the church was turned over to the Lithuanian Catholics. The church has been renovated at a cost of \$3,179,988 over the past 12 years during which Monsignor Arthur Bastress has served as Pastor. Father Bastress is proud of the support he has received from his parishioners and the community. The work was done under rules he laid out at the beginning: (1) no professional fund raising; (2) no borrowing of monies; and (3) when money is exhausted, work stops. All good German principles! (Fr. Bastress is of German ancestry and is a member of our Society.) The major expenses of the renovation were \$820,360 for stabilization of the steeple; \$575,541 for new roofs; \$914,790 window restoration (7 phases). Air conditioning, the last item, will be done when the final sum of \$54,281 is collected. Fr. Bastress has written to his many benefactors asking each to contribute \$20 to raise that sum. A visit to St. Alphonsus will provide a glimpse into the glory of Germany of the 1840's; the sanctuary reveals the devotion and attitudes of those times. The pews from 1845 accommodated the hoops of the dresses worn at the time.

At 85 Father Bastress is the most senior active pastor in the archdiocese of Baltimore. He is also

an accomplished pianist who can still perform with vigor.

THE 2012 GERMAN FESTIVAL

The 112th Maryland German Festival is now in the history book and those who attended proclaimed it a resounding success. Beautiful weather brought out the crowds: they kept coming all day Saturday and Sunday on the last weekend of July. Even though it was held in the air-conditioned Exhibition Hall at the Timonium Fair Grounds, beer sales outpaced the prior year's by half again. The German Society's stand had a steady flow of visitors, most of whom stopped to tell us about their German ancestors, some asking our volunteers to show on our map the places whence came their great-grandfathers. It's too early to tell whether we picked up many new members, but the crowds left with applications and newsletters under their arms. Many thanks to all those who staffed our Society's table and our exhibit, with our special gratitude going to Dan Brooke who supervised our display from open to close on both days. Dan did his best to encourage new members: he's chairman of our membership committee. He's the longest-serving member in our Society's history, having joined at age 28 and will be eligible for a 60-year pin on his 88th birthday later this year.

The next day the Baltimore Sun praised the festival in an article by reported Chris Kaltenbach in which he described the crowds who showed up wearing their Lederhosen and Dirndls.

EARLY LUTHERVILLE

Before present-day Lutherville in Baltimore County got its name, it was called Monroe, Maryland. A week before he was assassinated, Abraham Lincoln visited a friend there, Mr. Monroe, who lived in a mansion which is still in existence. The mansion where Lincoln visited is now used as a law office on what is now Railroad Avenue in Lutherville, just south of Seminary Avenue by the light rail tracks. In the late 1800's a Lutheran minister named John Morris (a German who anglicized his name from Johann Moritz) who was also a real estate developer bought a large tract of land along the Northern Central railroad track and established the village which he called Lutherville, as a vacation spot for those who would buy second homes to leave the heat of the city in the summertime. Not long later, Lincoln's body would be traveling by rail through Baltimore to connect with rail lines to Illinois. (Information about Monroe, MD courtesy of Dandridge Brooke)

DR. ERIC GRITSCH - 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

Our long-time member, The Rev. Dr. Eric W. Gritsch will celebrate the 50th anniversary of his ordination on Sunday, October 14, 2012. A bilingual service will be held at Zion Church at 11:15 a.m. Preacher: Bishop Emeritus Theodore Schneider. The German Society extends its sincere congratulations.

MUHLENBERG EXHIBIT

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, born in Einbeck, Germany in 1711, was a minister who was called by the Lutherans of Pennsylvania in 1742. He was a pastor in PA and NY, but more importantly served as bona fide bishop to hundreds of settlements in colonial America. He is recognized as the most influential German in 18th century America; he essentially established the Lutheran church in North America. His work took him to New Jersey, Maryland, South Carolina and Georgia. His diaries and correspondence encompassed 15,000 pages. The Muhlenberg name was important to young America; Peter Muhlenberg, a friend of George Washington, became a General in his army. A traveling exhibit of 20 panels describing Muhlenberg's activities will appear at Zion Church from October 22 through November 11.

HESSEN CREW RECEPTION

Our Society was represented by past presidents Brigitte Fessenden, The Rev. Siegfried Otto and Ted Potthast at an ecumenical service at Zion Church, also attended by several of our directors and many members. The preacher at the service was the chaplain of the Hessen, who addressed the congregation in English. He explained that he was ordained 28 days before the ceremony. A luncheon was held afterward in the Adlersaal, attended by the Captain and 23 male and female sailors from the crew. The Hessen is a missile frigate with highly sophisticated equipment which serves as part of a NATO group protecting the United States from missile attacks. The ship was in the Baltimore Harbor as part of a flotilla which commemorated the role of American seamen in the War of 1812. The Deutsch-amerikanische Buergerverein von Maryland held a banquet for the officers and crew of the ship at a Baltimore hotel earlier in the week.

DEFENDERS' DAY CELEBRATION

For many years our Society joined with the Society of the War of 1812 on a "cavalcade", traveling the city of Baltimore and laying wreaths at the sites honoring the participation of our ancestors in that war. The German Society had the honor of placing the wreath on the grave of General John Stryker in Westminster Cemetery. For an unknown reason, we stopped doing this, although the 1812 Society has done so for its entire history. Defenders Day is usually on the 2nd Saturday of September, and this year it fell on Sept. 8. Although we did not participate, plans are under way to make sure that we start the custom again next year. The 1812 Society always has a bus, with the excess following in private cars. Perhaps next year the German Society can recruit enough members to justify hiring our own bus.

DIANE GEPPI AIKENS RACE

A race to raise funds for a scholarship honoring Diane, a former German Society member who died at age 40 after a long battle with brain cancer will be held at Loyola University on Sept. 22. She was the mother of 4 school age children and the coach of the university's women's lacrosse team and the asst. athletic director. Her life of service resulted in a book about her accomplishments. The university wishes to preserve her memory, as a role model to the student body.

U-DEUTSCHLAND CENTENARY

An international convention of a society of submariners meets this month in Kiev, Ukraine and it will consider holding its annual meeting in Baltimore to commemorate the July 1916 expedition of the submarine Deutschland to America. Germany and Great Britain were at war and the USA was neutral. The U-Deutschland was a "merchant" submarine which eluded the British navy and sailed up the Chesapeake to a warm reception in Baltimore, a city which at the time favored Germany in the war. Receptions were held at local hotels for its Kapitän, Paul Koenig, attended by Baltimore's Mayor and Maryland's Governor. Members of our Society made donations of gold for the German war effort. We will be hearing more of the event in upcoming years. Souvenirs of the visit are extant, including an iron cross in our Society's possession, with a brass insert featuring the U-boat and its captain. Many stories have been passed down to our members.

de KALB MEMORIAL CEREMONY

Major General Johann de Kalb led the Maryland Line in the Battle of Camden, N.C. on August 16, 1780. He was a native of Bavaria who gained military experience in the French army and was recruited to aid America in the Revolutionary War. George Washington appointed him a major general. He was mortally wounded by gunshot and bayonets; he was attended on the battlefield by Cornwallis' personal physician. He died three days later. A statue of de Kalb, holding his saber high aloft, stands on the west lawn of the Maryland State House, placed there by the U. S. Congress in 1876.

THE COMMEMORATION

On August 16, 2012 a group organized by two members of our Society, Walter and Valerie Mathers, assembled to commemorate the battle and place a wreath at the statue of de Kalb. The event was sponsored by the Veterans Corps, 5th Maryland Infantry and by the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. Judge Gerard Wm. Wittstadt, a descendant of de Kalb's brother and our Society's counselor, was the principal speaker. Our Society was represented at the event by president Tom Werner and past presidents, The Rev. Siegfried Otto and Ted Potthast. The honor guard was furnished by the Veterans Corps, led by its president, Major General I. John Vacarino and its Executive Officer, Robert Witsch. Mr. Witsch described the 1876 dedication of the statue, attended by a crowd of 10,000, including 600 Masons who came from Baltimore (de Kalb was a Mason). The event was briefly delayed because the boat carrying the Marine Corps Band from Baltimore was late arriving in the Annapolis harbor.

MARYLAND'S OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Elaine Bachmann, the state official in charge of monuments in the environs of the State House, welcomed the participants and pointed out that the de Kalb stature is the only federal monument on state property in the USA. It is better maintained than other monuments in Annapolis because its upkeep is assured by congressional funding. Ms. Bachmann also accepted a print of de Kalb leading the Marylanders in the Battle of Camden which was donated by the artist, Pamela Patrick White of Kentucky. Ms. Bachmann has placed the print as well as the banner attached to the wreath above the fireplace in her office in the State House.

In his address, Mr. Witsch pointed out that the congressional resolution directing the statue of de Kalb was passed in 1783 (the year our Society was founded) and finally erected 103 years later.

RUCK NAMED 2013 HONOREE

Each year our Society honors a person or organization of German heritage which has made significant contributions to our community, state or nation. The Society has selected the Ruck family which has operated a funeral home for several generations and had served the community throughout as leaders in charitable and civic projects. The award will be presented at our annual banquet on Nov. 3 and Michael Ruck will accept it on behalf of the family. When the Ruck ancestors came here from Germany they were able to anglicize their name without changing the spelling, merely the pronunciation: from Ruck (rhymes with brook) to Ruck (rhymes with duck).

THE MENCKEN CORNER

As we approach the national elections and Maryland's referenda in November, perhaps we should contemplate the words of our deceased member, H. L. Mencken, written a few months short of 100 years ago: "I argue that the average American legislator is not only an ass, but also an oblique, sinister, depraved and knavish fellow, and to that thesis I pledge my life, my millions and my so-called honor." HLM, "The Free Lance", Evening Sun (Baltimore), January 13, 1913, p.6. Cited in the current issue of the Mencken Society's newsletter.)

Apologies to our fellow German Society members in the legislature.

ZION FORUM FOR GERMAN CULTURE - UPCOMING EVENTS

Under the leadership of The Rev. Dr. Eric Gritsch, Zion Church's "forum for German culture" sponsors many ethnic events for the German community of Maryland. In addition to the events well known to our Society members such as the Michaelmas Ecumenical Service, the Sour Beef Event, and the Christkindlmarkt, others are the Gartenfest, Thurs., Sept. 6, 11 am - 1 pm; German wine tasting Event, Sat. Sept 22, 7-9 pm; Lutherfest, Sun. Nov. 11, 7-9 pm;

DEUTSCHE SPRACHSCHULE

Since 1929 Zion Church has sponsored a German Language School for all ages on Saturdays. Register for the Schuljahr 2012-2013 on Saturday, Sept 8 from 10 to 12. Classes begin Sept. 15. Tuition is reasonable. Call 410-727-3939. The principal is Eva Kelleher, the president of our Women's Auxiliary.

MEMORIES OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON HITLER

For most people there are memories which are forever enshrined in their minds, as i.e. the assassination of Pres. John F. Kennedy on Nov. 23, 1963, or the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in NYC, or in my own, and probably many others' memory of the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler in the so-called Wolfsschanze/Wolf's Lair headquarters near Rastenburg, East Prussia on July 20, 1944.

At that very time I served as a Luftwaffe/Air Force soldier at a pilot school in East Prussia, some 100 miles away from Hitler's headquarters. At 6:00 pm alarm bells rang out through the pilot school through loudspeakers ordering all soldiers to immediately report at the central command. In short sentences the commanding officer informed the soldiers of the attempted assassination without, as much as I can remember, making a declaration of loyalty to the Fuehrer. All soldiers were ordered to be on the ready to defend Hitler's headquarters. What was revealing was that not a single comrade of mine voiced his thoughts about the attempted assassination. As it turned out, we did not have to travel to Hitler's headquarters. By midnight July 20 through July 21 it became clear that the coup d'etat to overthrow the Hitler government had collapsed.

This attempt on Hitler's life on July 20, 1944, though the most significant, had not been the only one. In November, 1939, during the regular gathering of Hitler's loyal followers in the Munich beer hall an individual of the working class, Mr. Eisner, had placed an explosive device in a pillar adjacent to the speaker's platform where Hitler had been scheduled to deliver his radio national speech. The bomb exploded shortly after Hitler left, killing several of the Fuehrer's loyal followers. Another noteworthy attempt took place in March, 1943 when Hitler had been visiting an important site on the Eastern front the Soviet Union. This time a bomb was concealed in a bottle of cognac given to the pilot of Hitler's plane, to be delivered to friends of Hitler in Berlin on his return trip. The bomb failed to explode and Hitler returned safely to Berlin.

The significance of the July 20th plot was that it had been carefully prepared under the leadership of Count Klaus Schenck von Stauffenberg who held an important position at Army Headquarters in Berlin. The plan was to kill Hitler, then to take over the government and party offices in Berlin and in the occupied countries. The Wehrmacht/Armed Forces was to become the supreme authority. A caretaker

government was to be installed as soon as possible. Concentration camps were to be opened, inmates be freed. The code name for the action was "Walküre", named after a well-known Wagner opera.

The plan depended upon the killing of Hitler. As it turned out he was only slightly wounded, while others in his environment were killed or severely wounded. Hitler remained in control. Stauffenberg and his close supporters were executed by firing squad in the early hours of July 21st in the courtyard of the so-called Bendler Block/Army Headquarters in Berlin. Stauffenberg's last words were "Long live our sacred Germany." He and his co-conspirators realized that the chances of success were only 50/50. Yet as Col. Heinz von Esckow, one of Stauffenberg's close collaborators had stated, the coup had to be attempted regardless of success or failure. to show to the world that there were Germans who dared to take the decisive step to liberate Germany and the other nations from the horrendous tyranny of Hitler and the Nazi regime. Nothing else mattered.

Today the memory of these brave Germans is honored. Representative units of the German Armed Forces are regularly sworn in in the courtyard of the Bendlerlock, now called the Stauffenbergstrasse. Many military barracks carry the name of these courageous patriots/resisters against the Nazi regime. Possibly the world we live in today, and as it developed after 1945 might have a totally different tone.

Dr. Armn Mruck,
Professor of History emeritus Towson University
Vice president and lifetime director,
German Society of MD

NATURALIZED AMERICANS

Many German Americans who became American citizens through the naturalization process (applying for legal admission as a resident alien, taking a stringent test in American history and civics and in the English language) may or may not agree with the following election-campaign statement"

"President Obama said many undocumented immigrants are American in every single way but one: on paper."

Baltimore Sun, June 16.

There may be one other way the Germans differed from the current crop of undocumented immigrants: they did not break any law to enter the USA.

OUR SOCIETY HELPED WIN THE WAR OF 1812

The British were on a roll: its army marched with impunity along our coast, attacking Washington and burning the White House and the Capitol. The city which built the famous Baltimore Clippers which captured so much British shipping was a thorn in Britain's side and was its next target. When their navy attacked Fort McHenry and 8,000 troops were carried in ships to land at North Point, the British officers were planning to eat their dinners in Baltimore that fatal day. They did not count on the tenacity and bravery of the Baltimore citizenry, led by German Americans. Two generals of German ancestry held them off and sent them packing: General Armistead (originally Arnstadt) commanded Fort McHenry and General John Stricker fought a delaying action at North Point while fortifications were set up to defend the city on the east, at Patterson Park.

Among the supervisors of the building of fortifications to repel the British were the following Germans: Philip Cromiller, Ludwig Hering, Frederick Leypold, Henry Shroeder, Peter Gold and George Decker. In the ward committees were Balthasar Schaefer, Christian Keller and Jacob Milleraz. Other members were Peter and Daniel Diffenderfer and William Braun.

OUR SOCIETY: BALTIMORE'S BACKBONE IN WAR OF 1812

Anticipating an attack on Baltimore, the mayor appointed a Committee of Vigilance and Safety, consisting of 30 citizens. The mayor served as chairman. 9 of the 30 were members of The German Society of Maryland: Henry Stauffer, Simon Etting, William Lorden, Adam Fonerden, Frederick Schaefer, George Woelper, Herman Alrichs, George Warner and John Dobler. German Americans, then and now, have never shirked their duty to our city and state.

BALTIMORE CITY COUNCIL - 1807

The president of the City Council in 1797 was a German: Peter Frick. In 1806, 10 of the 16 members of the Council were Germans: George Decker, Henry Stauffer, Jacob Small, Wilhelm Lorman, George P. Kuhbord (Keepport), Balzar Schaffer, Johann Schirm, Johan Miller, Ludwig Hering and Fredrich Schaffer. From 1807 to 1814, 8 of the 16 Council members

were German: Peter Hoffman, Adam Fonerden, Peter Diffenderfer, Johann Snyder, John Mackenheimer, Samuel Frey, Christopher Raborg, William Warner and George Woelper. Dozens of other Germans were prominent in the affairs of the city, with such names as Frick, Dobler, Littig, Schryock, Sauerwein, Keilholz, Winter, Knott, Fauth, Emich, Thomson, Hofmann, Schroeder, Waesch, Brantz, Weishampel, Fusselbach, Waesch, Hering, Schwatka, Uhler, Dukehart, Krebs and Karthaus.

JULIUS HOFMANN: PASTOR, SCHOLAR, HISTORIAN

In 1914 a member of our Society, Julius Hofmann, wrote an article to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the War of 1812 entitled "Germans in Maryland: 1812 - 1814". The material above is taken from his booklet. It was published by The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, which has given permission to our Society to reprint it as part of our own commemoration of the role of German Americans in the defense of Maryland in the War of 1812. Julius Hofmann was pastor of Zion Church for many years before his death in 1929. He was prominent in civic affairs and he especially promoted the study of the German language in the schools. Our Society commissioned a medal in his honor which was given to the student in each city high school who received the highest grades in German; even today, the medal is awarded to a student of German selected by the AATG for the state of Maryland.

REPRINTING OF THE HOFMANN ARTICLE

We plan to make it available to all of our members and to distribute copies of it to the members of the Maryland legislature and to various elementary, high schools and universities in Maryland. Our Society has played a significant role in the civic affairs of our state and of the City of Baltimore in our 229 years of our existence. Our activities were once well known in the days when the German language was prominent in the public schools and when the history of our state was universally taught. Now however, it is up to us to publicize the achievements of German Americans in Maryland, since otherwise our history will be lost forever. Since German Americans played prominent roles in the defense of our state against the British invasions of 1814, it is appropriate that we make certain that our forebears receive proper credit for their actions of heroism and patriotism, and that we devote some of our resources for this purpose.