

THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

DIE DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT VON MARYLAND

VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

FEBRUARY, 2000

VOLUME 1, Issue 26

THE PRIDE IS BACK!

Wow! It's hard to believe that 10 years have passed since Germany was unified. A new-found pride is emerging among American descendants of German-speaking ancestry.

We believe the German Society of Maryland is making a difference in improving the image of German culture and language. Your officers and board members are working together to help instill pride of ancestry in our members and others descended from immigrants from German-speaking areas by publicizing the accomplishments of our ancestors.

Your society is working to bring back to the public schools the study of the German language, which has been in serious decline for the last 20 years. Did you know that in Baltimore County, there are only 4 high schools teaching German and two of them are phasing it out? Did you know that German is not taught in any middle schools in Baltimore or Carroll counties? The reason German is not popular in high school is because it is not introduced to the students in the lower levels.

At Western Maryland College, Dr. Mohamed Esa and the students in his German classes are introducing rudimentary German to elementary school students. Our Society is supporting that project. We hope the students will want to continue to study German as they progress into junior and senior high school. Hope is not lost. Both Carroll and Baltimore County school officials tell us that offering language courses will depend on the number of students requesting it. The WMC project will encourage students to do so.

JOHN K. AYMOLD, JR., President

"To Our Members - an Appeal"

Thus reads a message from German Society President Karl A. M. Scholtz to our members in the 1925 annual report. That appeal, part of which reads as follows, still applies today:

"As the years speed on time becomes tradition. That work began in 1783 by our people out of dire need for the protection of their kith and kin is now carried on by us as a matter of pride. In this spirit we identify ourselves with the past and give life and continuity to the acts of our pioneer forbears....but our membership is waning. For this there is little excuse, considering the large percentage of men and women in Maryland of German lineage.

For every one of these it should be as it is with us - a matter of honor to be a member of the German Society.... Many there are, if but the work of the German Society be brought to their attention, would as willing as we support it.

You no doubt have among your friends such. May we ask that you invite them to share with us in perpetuating the work that was so well begun and has been so long continued."

Today there are more than 900 members of the Society. In 1994 we set a goal of attaining 1000 members by the end of the year 2000. We can meet that goal only if our members take an active role in recruiting new members. And so, I ask now as did President Scholtz 75 years ago, that you invite your friends to join our Society. An application form is on the back page of this newsletter.

DANDRIDGE BROOKE,
Chairman, Membership Committee

"The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve and promote the German heritage, language and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs; and to develop the unity and continuity of the German American community in the State of Maryland."

VEREINSKALENDAR - 2000

February

- 26 Karneval Ball at the Adlersaal*
- 28 Radio Klub annual meeting & social
- Zion German course for travelers

March

- 24 Sprachfest at Towson University - MOGS
- 26 Radio Klub spring dance

April

- 7 German Society Annual Meeting

May

- 2 Society for History of Germans banquet

August

- 18-20 Bürgerverein German Festival

September

- 9 Defender's Day at Fort McHenry

October

- 7-8 Maryland Oktoberfest - Baltimore
- 14-15 German Fest - Thurmont, MD
(Call Vicki Grinder 301-271-4301)
- 21-22 Oktoberfest at Schifferstadt (301-663-3885)

*The Karneval Ball on Feb. 26 is sponsored by the Zion Forum for German Culture. Members of the German Society are welcome. 8 PM to midnight. Formal dress or costumes, dancing to music of the Edelweiss Band. Twinkling candles and sparkling champagne in an elegant tradition. Catered by the Old World Delicatessen. \$25. Call Zion Church for reservations. The Adlersaal is a fitting location for the event. It is an architectural jewel that reminds one of Germany of yesteryear with heraldic windows, stenciled walls and polished floors. The German Society held its annual awards banquet there in November.

Tune in to the Sunday German Radio hours
Edelweiss: Radio 730 AM Sunday 9 am
Radio Klub: Radio 730 AM Sat. 3 pm; Sun. at 2 pm
and 8 pm

Check the web site of the member organizations of the Bürgerverein von Maryland: www.md-germans.org

ANNUAL MEETING: Plan to attend.

President Aymold plans to break his speed record of completing the business meeting in 54 minutes. Friday, April 7. Dinner of German food begins at 6:30. Meeting starts at 8 pm. No charge for food and drink. Call the office to volunteer to bring a dessert. Meet and socialize with your fellow members. Hear about our accomplishments and plans for the future. Watch your mail for a flier in mid-March announcing details.

MARYLAND SECRETARY OF STATE GRANTS REGISTRATION EXEMPTION

The Charitable Organizations Division of the Office of the Secretary of State has issued an opinion letter exempting The German Society of Maryland from registering under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act, Title 6 of the Business Regulations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

Acting on behalf of John T. Willis, Maryland's Secretary of State, Amy Marshal rendered the opinion, dated December 9, 1999, to Ronald E. Antlitz, CPA, our Society's Treasurer and a Director of the Society.

GERMAN LANGUAGE COURSE FOR TRAVELERS BEGINS IN FEB. AT ZION

Planning a spring or summer visit to Germany, Austria or Switzerland? Sign up for a six-week course in conversational German for travelers, held at the Zion Church, City Hall Plaza, beginning in February. For the dates, times, costs and other details, call Eva Kelleher, the dean of the Zion Language School at 410-377-9508, or at the church, 410-727-3939. The traveler's course is in addition to the many other courses offered by the school for students of all ages.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH LUTHERANS REUNITE FOR WORSHIP SERVICE

On January 23, in an historic ceremony the First English Lutheran Church worshipped with the congregation of Zion Lutheran Church of Baltimore from which it separated 175 years ago. Some members of Zion who wanted to conduct service in English broke away to form First English in 1825. Zion remained German-speaking, but now conducts both a German and English Sunday service. First English Partor David Burggraf walked into Zion wearing clerical dress of the early 1800's: a black morning coat, knickers, black shirt with wide laped collar and a black cravat. He was met by Austrian-born Rev. Eric Gritsch, an interim Pastor at Zion. Zion congregants said that they were very happy to help First English Lutheran to celebrate its 175th anniversary. After the 1825 split, the English Lutherans formed a seminary at Gettysburg. The German-speaking seminary was in Philadelphia. Zion Church was founded in 1763 by German immigrants. Many members of Zion were among the founders of the German Society of Maryland.

CONGRATULATIONS ...to MERLE ARP upon his election as national 3rd vice president of DANK (Deutch Amerikanischer National Kongress). Merle is an active member of our Society and is the president of the Washington, DC chapter of DANK.

SOCIETY SPONSORS STUDY IN GERMANY BY ARUNDEL STUDENTS

The Board of Directors of our Society approved a \$3,700 grant to North Arundel High School in Anne Arundel County to send 16 students to Germany for a three week exchange program. All of the students are in the German classes of Maureen Helinski, a member of our Society. The students will stay with German families while they attend a German school, and in the fall, students with whom they stayed will visit Maryland and live with the Arundel families.

All of the students have worked to pay part of their airfare and expenses. The German Society was asked to assist, since not all of the students could raise the full fare on their own. Mrs. Helinski addressed the Board on Jan. 19 and explained that the exchange program infects the students with enthusiasm for the study of the German language which they pass on to others in the school and that this generates enthusiasm for school's German language program.

This year the Society is concentrating on encouraging the study of German by youth in Maryland, from elementary school through the university levels. The Board believes that making young people familiar with the language is the best system for preserving the heritage which we have received from German-speaking countries.

GRASSL TO SPEAK ON CONTRIBUTIONS OF GERMANS IN MD

Gary Grassl, president of The German American Heritage Society of Greater Washington and a member of our Society, will be the speaker at the annual banquet of The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland, set for May 2 at the Preston Room in downtown Baltimore. Mr. Grassl served as a writer-editor of *The Wall Street Journal* for many years. He is the author of several articles on German-American studies. Tickets for the event are \$35. Send your check payable to that Society to its president, Hon. Gerard W. Wittstadt, 8224 Carrbridge Circle, Towson, MD 21204.

SCHMEISSNER TO MODERATE SYMPOSIUM IN BREMERHAVEN

Professor Volker Schmeissner, a member of our Society, is the moderator of a symposium on German-American Exchange Programs, to be held June 11-18 in Bremerhaven, Germany. The conference is held in connection with the annual meeting of the Society for German American Studies, which this year for the first time will be held in Germany, at the invitation of the Federal Republic. Bremerhaven, the port of embarkation to many American ports, is the site of the German-American Emigration Museum, where records of emigrants from Germany to America and elsewhere are maintained. The program plan includes 19 seminars, all relating to immigrants to America from Germany. Dr. Schmeissner is encouraging members of our Society to make the trip to Bremerhaven and attend the symposium.

Prof. Schmeissner teaches college German studies in northern Virginia. He formerly taught in the German language courses offered by the Kickers Klub and the Zion Church school. He is a Board member of the United German American Committee (UGAC). He frequently attends our Society's functions and regularly appears at local German-American activities.

BIXLER CHAIRS NATIONAL "GERMAN IMMIGRANT" PROJECT

Dennis Bixler, a member of our Society, is chairman of a project to enhance an exhibit entitled "*German Immigrants in Rural America*", a success story of the Germans who settled in communities throughout the United States. The Exhibit is a cooperative venture with the German Embassy, the Library of Congress, the National Agricultural Library, The Agricultural Art & Science Foundation and the University of Maryland. The exhibit will also include some panels prepared by the German Society of Maryland.

The Exhibit was begun in 1995 and first displayed at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany. Since then it has traveled to 25 American cities and has been seen by more than 1,000,000 people. A part of the exhibit was displayed by our Society as our contribution to the 1998 Maryland German Festival in Baltimore. The traveling exhibit has bookings through-out 2002. In 2000 a bilingual version will begin a tour in Germany.

A grant has been requested from the MD Dept. of Business and Economic Development, Division of Tourism, Film & the Arts, to complete the Maryland portion of the exhibit and a projected TV special, which is now in development.

HAUSSNER'S ART - \$12 MILLION

The paintings and sculptures from Haussner's Restaurant sold for \$12,000,000 at Sotheby's auction house, one painting bringing \$1.1 million. Other art, collectibles and souvenirs will be sold on Dec. 18 and on Jan. 15-16 at Opfer's auction house, Timonium. The first item to be auctioned will be the famous ball of string, assembled over 75 years, which tied the bundles of restaurant napkins, now 337.5 miles in length and weighing 825 pounds.

CHANGES AT GERMAN-FOUNDED SCHMIDT BAKING COMPANY

The control of the bakery founded by German immigrants Peter and Elizabeth Schmidt in 1888 has passed from the Schmidt family to the H & S Bakery, Inc., owned by Greek-American John Paterakis who bought a majority interest from a branch of the Schmidt family. Another branch of the Schmidt family headed by Peter Smith retains a minority interest. Mr. Smith, president of the firm for many years, was invited by Mr. Paterakis to return to manage the firm. H&S and Schmidt are the two largest local baking firms. Schmidt's annual sales exceed \$100 million. The Schmidt Baking Company is the subject of a panel in a series of the German Society's exhibits of German-American contributions to the Maryland economy.

NATIONAL TRAIL OF WAR OF 1812 PROPOSED BY CONGRESS

A Star Spangled Banner Historic Trail linking more than 30 landmarks of the War of 1812 may become the country's 13th national historic trail. Congress approved \$200,000 in this year's budget and it is awaiting President Clinton's signature. The study could take up to 18 months. The German Society has been a co-sponsor, along with the Society of the War of 1812, of an annual "Defender's Day" cavalcade which stops at various local historic sites of significance in the War of 1812. One of the Society's founders, General John Stricker, led local troops in the defense of Baltimore, defeating the British as they landed in Baltimore County. Stricker is known as "The Hero of the Battle of North Point", which resulted in the British boarding their ships and going back to England, thus ending the war. Twenty members of the German Society of Maryland fought in that battle. Our Society will join others in pushing for the creation of the proposed National Historic Trail.

JUDGE MARTIN KIRCHER, 69

District Court Judge Martin A. Kircher, Sr., dean of the Baltimore bench, died January 4 of cancer, survived by his wife, the former Sara Stumpf, two sons, a daughter and six grandchildren. After 4 years in the air force, he attended evening law school. Judge Kircher served in the MD legislature where he introduced the State's hand-gun law which is still in effect. He was a member of the bench since 1973. While tolerant of first offenders and non-violent criminals, he was tough on crimes involving guns and had a "hanging judge" reputation. His sentences were sometimes novel. When two local professional athletes were convicted of urinating on a police car, he sentenced them to a few days of car washing and cleaning the winter salt and grime from police cars. Judge Kircher was proud of his German ancestry.

THOMAS GOEDEKE, EDUCATOR, 81

Dr. M. Thomas Goedeke, former superintendent of schools of Howard County and former president of the Board of Zion Church, died Jan. 3, 2000. During his tenure he opened 28 new schools in that county, increasing the number of schools from 21 to 49 and converting it from a rural to a suburban system. Born in Baltimore, he was an Eagle Scout and a graduate of City College. He was awarded a Bachelor's degree from the University of MD, a master's from The Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate from George Washington University. He began his career as a 5th-6th grade teacher at the public school at Hollins and Schroeder St. in Baltimore. In retirement he served on the boards of Blue Cross-Blue Shield, the Lutheran Seminary, the YMCA and Mt. St. Joseph's High School. Dr. Goedeke was a large man, 6'5" with a booming voice. He is survived by two sons and three granddaughters. Dr. Goedeke occasionally attended functions of our Society.

DANK ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The German American National Congress (DANK) elected Jerry Michaud as its president at the annual meeting held in Springfield, Illinois. Outgoing president, Ernst Ott, was elevated to Honorary National President. He will continue as editor of DANK's monthly German American Journal. Merle Arp of Silver Spring, MD was elected 2nd VP. The German Society of Maryland is an Associate Member of DANK, whose national headquarters are in Chicago.

A VERY GOOD QUESTION FROM 75 YEARS AGO - SAME ANSWER NOW

The following is reprinted from The German Society's "Report for 1925-1926":

"The question is sometimes asked: "Why are the proceedings of the German Society not conducted in German? The answer is simple and readily understandable. The older generation that so long and faithfully served the Society is meeting time's relentless obligation and silently passing away. The work must continue and we are fortunate in having among our members and directors men whose fathers and grandfathers before them gave of their time and money in aid of the work of the Society.

These men today are helping to carry the burden, are proud of their racial origin, and though they understand German, find it much easier to express themselves in the common language of the country."

HANS SCHULER DESIGNED THE JULIUS HOFMANN MEDAL

Our newsletter of July, 1999 reported the death of Hans Schuler, a prominent Baltimore sculptor and son of the nationally known sculptor, also Hans Schuler, a former director of the Maryland Institute College of Art. The elder Schuler designed the bronze medal with the head of Julius Hofmann which (together with a book prize) was awarded to the best student of German in high schools and colleges in Maryland. The Julius Hofmann Memorial Fund was established in 1930 to honor and preserve the memory of Pastor Hofmann who died in 1928 after serving for 40 years as the beloved pastor of Zion Church. Pastor Hofmann was "a commanding personality known and recognized by all in Baltimore as the spiritual and cultural representative of the large element of the city's population who were German by birth or descent."

Until 1985 the Memorial Fund was administered by a series of trustees. Dr. Carrie Mae Zintl, the last surviving trustee and a member of our Society, requested our Society to take over the administration of the fund. Upon our agreement to do so, Dr. Zintl turned over to the Society the sum of \$8,000, the then corpus of the fund, and the die for striking the Hofmann medals. The die is in our possession and we anticipate using it to produce medals which will again be presented to the top German language students in Maryland high schools and colleges.

EDWARD BANKA - a special member

A member of our Society who came to America from Germany under the most unusual of circumstances is Edward Banka. Ed was drafted into the German army, sent to North Africa under General Rommel and, at age 18, was captured by the Americans and put in a Prisoner of War camp in the United States. He was born and grew up in a tiny village south of Frankfurt. The U.S. Army identified him as a POW with outstanding leadership ability, was free of Nazi political indoctrination and could speak English. The army offered him a deal: join the U.S. Army, fight the Japanese, and after the war, become an American citizen. Ed took the offer. The army made him change his name (it was too German-sounding), gave him a book of names and told him to pick one. Edward Banka sounded nice, so that became his future identity. He quickly rose to the rank of sergeant, but the American troops resented taking orders in a German accent. The army had set up a school in Wisconsin for the sole purpose of eradicating German accents. In 8 months Ed spoke English like a midwesterner and went on to lead a squad fighting the Japanese.

After WWII, Ed received his US citizenship and became a career soldier, rising to the rank of Master Sergeant. He learned that his parents and all of his relatives had died in the war. When Ed reached retirement age, he took up residence in the Old Soldiers' Home, in Washington, D.C. where he still lives today. Not long ago Ed was working at our Society's stand at the German Festival in Carroll Park, wearing his African Korps hat, when a US veteran approached him to comment on it. The veteran had also served in Africa. Upon learning that Ed had served "on the wrong side", the veteran became indignant, until Ed told his story. Ed remains a loyal member of our Society.

SUBSCRIBE TO GERMAN LIFE

Get a year's subscription to *German Life* magazine at a discount through our Society's member in the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland. Make out you check for \$16.75, payable to "Bürgerverein" and mail to Bob Shepherd at P. B. BOX 22367, Baltimore, MD 21203. This is a discount off the regular \$19.95 price. It is a bimonthly magazine culture, history and travel of interest to German-Americans. The February/March issue includes articles on Cologne's Karnival, the German Hutterite Colony in South Dakota, the tiny German-speaking monarch of Liechtenstein and many tidbits of German American history. The magazine was founded by our 1999 honoree, Lisa Fitzpatrick, who was selected because of her efforts to preserve our German heritage.

OTTMAR MERGENTHALER - THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF

Ottmar Mergenthaler has been called the second Gutenberg. Johann Gutenberg invented printing and Mergenthaler revolutionized it. Before Mergenthaler invented the Linotype, no newspaper in the world had more than eight pages.

Ottmar Mergenthaler was born on May 11, 1854 in Hachtel, in Baden-Wurtemberg's Tauber Valley, near the great industrial city of Stuttgart, as son of a poor village school teacher. Soon after Ottmar's birth the family moved to Ensingen on the Enz river. His family wanted him to become a teacher. But he was handy with tools. He wanted to work with machinery. In fact, the clock in the church bell's tower had not worked for five years. Nobody was able to fix it. When one evening the bells rang, the whole town knew that the schoolmaster's son had done it.

Ottmar's ambition to make mathematical instruments was not possible, so he became an apprentice in the shop of a relative named Hahl. In 1872, Ottmar finished his apprenticeship, but jobs were hard to find. After the Franco-German War many soldiers flooded the job market. So, at eighteen, he decided to immigrate to America.

August Hahl, a son of his employer, operated a shop in Washington D.C., making electrical instruments. Hahl offered Ottmar a job and lent him money for passage. Mergenthaler arrived in Baltimore at Locust Point on the steamer "Berlin". 500 passengers crossed the ocean with him in "steerage". He carried one wooden suitcase.

In the Hahl shop he helped manufacture electric clocks, bells, heliographs, wind velocity registers and raingauges for the newly established U.S. Signal Service. Because Mergenthaler was particularly adept in precision work, he also helped inventors to improve their models, and Washington was crowded with inventors. As the young German spent much time with them, so his own inventive talent developed. He worked six days a week with tools and ideas. On Sundays he would walk with friends to the Great Falls on the Potomac.

In 1873, Mr. Hahl moved the shop to Baltimore, to 13 Mercer Street, 3 doors down from the print shop of Charles Schneidereith, a prominent member of The German Society. Mergenthaler became a member of Baltimore's Liederkrantz Society, a German Turnverein and The German Society of Maryland.

Word of his talent soon spread. In 1876, a stranger, Charles Moore, entered the shop, of which Mergenthaler had become co-owner. Moore invented a typewriter for newspapers, designed to eliminate type-setting by hand, but it did not work. He wanted Mergenthaler to construct a better model. Ottmar thought he could eliminate the flaws of Mr. Moore's machine, so he accepted the job.

By 1878, Mergenthaler finished a model which made clear letter impressions. but there were all sorts of complications, so he temporarily dropped the project.

In 1881, Mergenthaler married Emma Lachenmayer. They had four children, Fritz L., Eugene G., Herman and Pauline. In 1883, he started his own business on Bank Lane. He tried again to work on the "type machine". The machine was known as the "Mergenthaler of 1883", the first model to bear his name. One more model was built with metal matrices into which molten metal was poured to form a line of type. The newest model was exhibited in January, 1884, in the Bank Lane shop before a dozen or so excited spectators. Fifteen seconds after he tapped the keyboard a finished line of type dropped out of his magic machine. But the model was not yet ready for the market and he opened a new shop at 201 Camden St. to continue the work.

In the 1886 model Mergenthaler introduced the "circulating matrix" device, which used matrices over and over again - a "literally inexhaustible fountain of new type". This machine was also called "the blower machine" and was the first one used commercially. On a morning in July of 1886 a demonstration was held in the composing room of the New York Tribune. Many newspaper officials were present. They looked at each other in amazement. When the Tribune publisher, Whitelaw Reid, picked up the first piece of metal he said, "Ottmar you've done it - a line of type". The machine has been described as the most potent machine of its age - Ottmar Mergenthaler's Linotype.

A syndicate of newspaper executives formed a company out of which evolved the Mergenthaler Linotype Company with headquarters in Brooklyn, New York. Hundreds of orders came in for the "miracle machine". The Camden Street shop had to be enlarged and a building on Preston Street was rented.

During this time of development, Baltimore was the manufacturing center for Linotypes and also the

MD's MOST FAMOUS MEMBER -- by Christel van der Berg

proving ground. The first book printing company to install the machine was the Friedenwald Company (now The Lord Baltimore Press). In 1888 he opened a new factory in Baltimore. The last model he developed in 1890 was his most famous one. If Mergenthaler realized that the Linotype would change the 19th century's way of life, he did not live to see it. By then he was in poor health, with tuberculosis. First he went to the clean air of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Then he went to Saranac Lake, New York. Unable to stand the cold winter, he moved to Arizona in 1896; then to New Mexico where his family joined him. There he worked on his autobiography, but his house burned down and his manuscript was destroyed by fire. He moved back to Baltimore - 159 Lanvale Street.

The inventor died on Saturday, October 28, 1899 at the age of 45 and was buried without much ceremony in Loudon Park Cemetery in west Baltimore. Before he died, he had received three awards: a medal from Cooper Union Institute of New York, the John Scott Medal from the City of Philadelphia, and the Elliott Cresson Gold Medal from the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia.

The modest inventor was honored in many ways after his death. The Zion Church in Baltimore, where he was a member, has a memorial window. Commemorating the centennial of his birth in 1954, Germany issued a ten-pfennig stamp. Also in 1954 at his German birthplace, Hachtel, the New Town Hall and The Mergenthaler Museum were dedicated. His only surviving son, Herman of Rye, was the guest of honor. A college building and high school in Baltimore have been named in his honor.

Baltimore, the inventor's adopted and beloved city, has done more than any other community to honor him. Through the bequest of his son, Eugene, a laboratory for biology was dedicated by the Johns Hopkins University in February 1942, called the Mergenthaler Hall. In 1954 a new school building known as the Mergenthaler Vocational-Technical High School was dedicated. Mergenthaler's son Herman and his daughter Pauline from Baltimore attended this ceremony. The school is still in operation as the 20th century comes to a close.

Today the Mergenthaler Linotype is used for composition in more than 800 languages and dialects. It has been aptly called "one of the most democratic inventions of the age". The value of the Linotype has

been incalculable. Up to the time of the invention, there were few newspapers, few books and few public libraries. Advertising hardly existed. The Linotype changed all of that. It made possible hundred-page newspapers, millions of books and magazines and the multi-billion dollar advertising business. Only in the 1990's has the computer begun replacing the Linotype.

In the lobby of the Mergenthaler School in Baltimore is this inscription to the man who never gave up: "He sparked a chain reaction that created hundreds of industries and millions of jobs. More important, he made possible the mass education and dissemination of information that in a single generation advanced our level of literacy by a full century."

GEORGE ARMISTEAD, A GERMAN-AMERICAN, COMMANDED FORT McHENRY IN THE 1814 SIEGE

Under "the rockets' red glare, bombs bursting in air", the soldiers who fought off the British attack on Fort McHenry in September, 1814, were commanded by George Armistead, then a Lieutenant Colonel. If today you will climb to the top of Federal Hill, you will see a statue of General George Armistead, facing the city across the Baltimore Inner Harbor. Armistead was born in 1780 in New Market, Va. where his grandfather had immigrated from Hessen Darmstadt. The family name, Armstadt, was anglicized to Armistead. Five of George's brothers served in the war of 1812, three in the regular army and two in the militia. His brother, Walter Keith Armistead, was a distinguished engineer who became a brigadier general of the United States Army. His brother Robert's daughter later married John Tyler, a President of the United States. The Baltimore area commemorates him by several geographical locations: a section of the city, Armistead Gardens; Fort Armistead Park; Fort Armistead Road, Armistead way and Armistead Road.

HESS SHOES, OLD GERMAN MD BUSINESS, FADES INTO HISTORY

A shoe business, founded in Baltimore 127 years ago by a German family, will close its doors. The firm began in Baltimore as a manufacturer of shoes and moved into the retail business. By 1992 it had 32 stores in Maryland and Virginia. In 1978 the company was sold to Germany's Görtz Beteiligungsgesellschaft MBH, but a Hess headed the company until recently.

LAST OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

1999 marked the close of the "scholarship" program to college students of German ancestry, based on need. \$15,000 in grants were spread among the following MD schools: St. Mary's College; Johns Hopkins Univ.; Loyola College; Univ. of MD, College Park; Towson Univ.; Frostburg State Univ. and Salisbury State Univ. Educational funds are now directed to specific programs in the fields of German language and culture.

CAROLINE CENTER FOR WOMEN HAS BAVARIAN ORIGINS

The Caroline Center, a vocation school set up by the School Sisters of Notre Dame to get inner-city women off welfare roles and into the working world, is located in a renovated building which formerly was a novitiate for young School Sisters, on a site owned by the sisters since the mid 1800's. It is physically connected to The Institute of Notre Dame, a girls' high school in east Baltimore. That school was established by Mother Caroline Friess and five other nuns who came to Maryland from Bavaria. The American venture by the six original Bavarian nuns expanded into what is now eight provinces consisting of nearly 3,000 sisters, 600 of which are in the Baltimore Province.

The Caroline Center, named for Caroline Friess, opened in 1996 and now has over 300 graduates. The staff consists of 22 persons, of which 9 are School Sisters. The center concentrates on unemployed women and tutors them in basic math and communication skills and introduces them to computers. The first phase works on attitude changes, raising self-esteem and goal setting. "It takes more than a skill for a woman to get and keep a job," said Sister Patricia McLaughlin, the executive director of the center. "Employers have high expectations."

GERMAN PLACE NAMES IN MD

One would expect that Maryland, having a 24% German-American population, would have large number of German place-names. In reviewing the index to "Maryland A to Z, A Topographical Dictionary", we were only able to find a small number of German towns: Berlin; Germantown; Hagerstown; Koontz (now called Midland); Lutherville; Myerstown; Myersville; New Bremen; New Germany; Old Germantown; Zollingers Town (now Sabrillasville). Some place names were: Amelung House; DeKalb's Pottery; Hammerman Area (Park), and Knapps Narrows. There must be many more towns and places with German names, If you find any, let us know.

GENERAL ROBERT SCHENCK, CIVIL WAR COMMANDER IN MARYLAND

Maryland, Delaware and W. Va. were the military "Middle Department" during the Civil War and were commanded by German-American Gen. Robert Schenck whose headquarters were in Baltimore. Since Baltimore was a hot-bed of confederate sympathizers, Schenck had his hands full in dealing with spies and blockade runners. With central and western Maryland under martial law, Schenck may have been the most powerful man in the state during the war. In December, 1862 he warned Baltimore that he would not tolerate "any sympathy with treason" or "any acts of disloyalty." Marylanders quickly came to view him as strict and severe. Fort McHenry was a major prison for "political prisoners" as well as for military POW's. Schenck sometimes personally interrogated persons charged as spies and blockade runners. Before the war, Schenck was an Ohio politician.

GERMAN SOCIETY IN CITY COUNCIL

The archives of the German Society list three of our members on the Baltimore City council in 1797: Adam Fonerden, Baltzer Schaeffer and Peter Frick.

MAKE SURE YOUR DESCENDANTS GET THEIR FAIR SHARE

If your grandparents immigrated here from Germany, chances are you or your children have more than one heritage. Perhaps your father is German and your mother Irish, your spouse Italian, and your children married into a mixture of English, Hungarian, and Luxembourg ancestry.

The blood of many nations lay claim to our descendants. They are fortunate to have many rich heritages. Children tend to show special favor toward one or more of their ancestral countries. We hope that German will be among the ones they like best.

We should pass our German heritage on to our descendants. This implies that we ourselves are familiar with it. We get familiar by preserving family traditions, attending ethnic events, and even traveling to the homeland. Belonging to an organization such as the German Society of MD helps. The best thing we can do is to find a way to help them learn to read and speak some German. Make sure they get their fair share of their German heritage.

GERMAN MATHEMATICIAN DEvised OUR PRESENT DAY CALENDAR

Christopher Clavius (1537-1612) revised the Julian calendar and gave us the Gregorian calendar which we use today. Clavius, born in Bamberg (in Bavaria) on March 25, 1537 was commissioned by Pope Gregory XIII to investigate and fix the calendar which was established by Julius Caesar in 45 B.C. The Julian calendar lost an entire day every 125 years and by the 16th century, 10 days had already been lost. Unchecked, March would shift to the dead of winter and August would occur in springtime. Clavius was a priest and a professor of mathematics in the Jesuit college in Rome. He calculated that a year runs an inconvenient 365 days 5 hours and 49 minutes. Clavius took Caesar's 365 1/4 day year, which used a leap year, but he compensated for the 11 minute annual error by inventing the leap-century rule, canceling leap year in those centuries not divisible by 4. So, 1700, 1800 and 1900 were not leap years, but 2000 is.

Clavius is nearly unknown. He had the bad luck to be born between the eras of Copernicus and Galileo. Galileo adjudged Clavius to be "worthy of immortal fame"; but because Clavius espoused the Ptolemaic geo-centric theory, he did not attain that fame. In 1582, Gregory XIII promulgated Clavius' calendar by dropping 10 days from that year. Billions of people throughout the world now unknowingly pay homage to the German mathematician by using his calendar.

CITIZENSHIP LAW CHANGES FOR BABIES BORN IN GERMANY

Starting January 1, 2000, babies born in Germany receive citizenship, regardless of parentage. This will benefit children of the 7.2 million Turks who arrived as guest workers. They will grow up as Germans, but at age 23 must elect to remain German or take their parents' Turkish citizenship. The law also makes the language requirement stricter and closes a loophole on dual citizenship.

GERMAN-SPEAKING WORLD MARKS 250TH BIRTHDAY OF GOETHE

German speakers throughout the world marked the 250th birthday of Johann Wolfgang Goethe on August 28, 1999. Goethe rivals Shakespeare as a poet and playwright, but Goethe's accomplishments went well beyond the strictly literary. He was also a philosopher, a student of human nature, lawyer, scientist (who discovered a previously unknown skull bone), artist, journalist, landowner, director of a theater, university and art school and a regional German official.

According to a playful guess of one psychologist, Dr. Catherine Cox, Goethe had an IQ of 210, ranking him above, for example, Voltaire, Newton, Galileo, Da Vinci, Descartes, Kant, Luther, Mozart, Franklin and Rembrandt. Every German town has a Goethe Strasse. To Germans he is the very symbol of culture. The worldwide German cultural society calls itself simple "The Goethe Institute."

KANSAS ACTION EVOKES MEMORY OF MENCKEN AT SCOPES TRIAL

In August, 1999 the Kansas Board of Education barred reference to Darwin's theory of evolution from science classes. This evoked memories of the 1925 Tennessee trial of science teacher John Scopes who was found guilty of teaching evolution in violation of state law. H. L. Mencken, the German-American writer for the Baltimore Evening Sun, sat in on the trial, which was prosecuted by three-time presidential candidate Williams Jennings Bryan and the noted defense lawyer, Clarence Darrow. Mencken, clearly sympathetic to the defendant, lambasted Bryan in his columns: "The fellow is full of such bitter implacable hatreds that they radiate from him like heat from a stove. He hates the learning that he cannot grasp. He hates those who sneer at him. He hates, in general, all who stand apart from his pathetic commonness." Anti-evolutionism was the politically correct stance of 1925 Tennessee.

GERMAN STATE TAXES DROVE STEINWAY PIANOS TO AMERICA

Henry E. Steinway (1797-1871), who wanted to sell pianos "at the lowest price consistent with quality", gave up his piano business and moved to the US from Seesen, Germany to avoid the 50% tariff charged on goods traded between German states. He and his sons spent three years working for an American piano company to learn how American companies operated. They then set out on their own and took out 117 patents on their products. Heinrich (Henry) Steinway was born in the woods of northern Germany and was illiterate all his life. He relied on his three fiercely loyal sons who together with the father created the company.

Today the Steinway & Sons is the world's No. 1 piano maker. Its grand pianos are used by 95% of the world's concert soloists. Each grand piano takes a year to build, is crafted by more than 300 tradesmen and fetches between \$30,000 and \$100,000.

JEWISH MUSEUM OF MARYLAND: A COMMITMENT TO ENSURE FUTURE

The Jewish Heritage center, on Lloyd Street in East Baltimore, recently underwent a 2.3 million dollar expansion, with a special exhibit entitled "Bridges to Zion: The People of Maryland and the Land of Israel." It abuts the Lloyd Street synagogue built in 1845 by the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation and is the center of the original east Baltimore German-Jewish neighborhood. The addition is touted as an architectural masterpiece, and was based on a study of European precedents for synagog design. A feature of the museum is the board room of mahogany panels from the Hendler ice cream company at nearby 1100 E. Baltimore Street. The museum has a staff of 12, an annual budget of \$600,000 and an endowment of \$5.5 million. At the dedication of the museum's new addition, Barbara L. Himmelrich, chairman of the museum's parent organization, said: "For our Jewish community, this event reaffirms our commitment to ensuring the future by preserving the past."

The early Jewish immigrants to Maryland were nearly all Germans. For the first 150 years of the existence of the German Society, many German Jews were members and held offices in the Society.

THE AMANA COLONIES

If you have an Amana refrigerator or cooking range, are you aware of its German-American origin? A religious movement was founded in Germany in 1714 which has evolved into today's Amana Community. To avoid persecution in Germany, the community of 800 decided to find a new home in America. They first settled near Buffalo, NY but later purchased land in the new state called Iowa, the site of the present day Amana Colonies. They built seven villages, each an hour's ox-cart ride from the other, each with houses, shops, mills, factories, bakeries, churches and schools. Each village was laid out in classic old-world style resembling the German "Dorf". A communal lifestyle lasted until 1932 when the group voted to separate their religious and economic interests.

The seven villages, which preserve their German heritage, are now a National Historic Landmark with 475 historic sites and buildings, including five museums, visited by 1.5 million tourists each year. More than 500 hotel, motel and bed-and-breakfast rooms are available. The Amana brand of household appliances originate from these colonies. For complete information about the colonies, call toll-free 1-800-245-5465. (The story of Amana was the subject of the Society's exhibit at the 1998 German Festival.)

BEER AND THE GERMAN ATTITUDES

The Germans didn't invent beer, but they perfected it. Some comments made about beer over the centuries:

"He was a wise man who invented beer:" Plato.

"Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy:" Benjamin Franklin.

"You can't be a real country unless you have a beer and an airline. It helps if you have some kind of football team, or some nuclear weapons, but at the very least you need a beer:" Frank Zappa.

"Give me a woman who loves beer and I will conquer the world:" Kaiser Wilhelm.

"A woman drove me to drink, and I didn't even have the decency to thank her:" W. C. Fields.

GERMANY'S UNEMPLOYMENT

A national average of 10% unemployment, and 20% in some of the eastern states, has been plaguing the German economy for several years. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder has not been able to keep his election campaign promises to cut unemployment. By contrast, Maryland's latest unemployment average is only 3.4%, with Howard County's only 1%.

THEY TOSSED AWAY A PERFECTLY GOOD GERMAN NAME

Doris von Kappelhoff	Doris Day
Edward Albert Heimberger	Eddie Albert
Elisabeth Edith Enke	Edie Adams
John Freund	John Forsythe
Ethel Zimmerman	Ethel Merman
Donna Belle Mullenger	Donna Reed
Mary Kaumeyer	Dorothy Lamour
Henry John Deutschendorf	John Denver
Hugh Krampke	Hugh O'Brien
Frederick Austerlitz	Fred Astaire
Alexandria Zuck	Sandra Dee
Hedwig Eva Marie Kiesler	Hedy Lamarr

HEDY LAMARR, "MOST BEAUTIFUL" DIES IN FLORIDA AT AGE 86 IN JAN.

She was introduced to American audiences as "the most beautiful woman in the world" and lived up to that booking in 25 movies. Born **Hedwig Eva Marie Kiesler** in Vienna on Nov. 9, 1913, she was discovered as a teen-ager by impresario Max Reinhardt. She left her German-speaking homeland and signed her first American contract with MGM in 1937. In her first movie, *Algiers*, she played opposite Charles Boyer and created her sultry, sexy persona.

HELP NAME THE TOP 50 MARYLAND GERMANIC-AMERICANS

Our Society is conducting a survey to select the 50 persons of German-speaking ancestry who resided in Maryland at any time from the founding of Maryland (1634) through 2000. We want to publicize their accomplishments which have benefitted our state or nation. We are relying on our members and friends to nominate the candidates in the fields of endeavor listed below. Some nominees already proposed are:

1. ART

Reinhart (sculptor)
Hans Schuler (sculptor)
Edward Marshall Boehm (sculptor)

2. BUSINESS

Hutzler Bros.
Paul Schafer
John Hager (founder, Hagerstown)

3. CRAFTSMANSHIP

Gideon Stieff

4. EDUCATION

Joseph Sellinger, S. J.
Dr. Robert Heyssel

5. INDUSTRY

Arunah S. Abell (founder, Sun papers)

6. LAW

Judge Ferdinand Sybert
Stein family

7. LITERATURE

H. L. Mencken

8. MEDICINE

Charles Frederick Wiesenthal

9. MILITARY

General John Stricker
Baron de Kalb
Gen. George Armistead

10. POLITICS

Theodore R. McKeldin
William Donald Schafer

11. RELIGION

Julius Hofmann
John Neumann
Caroline Friess
John Gottlieb Morris

12. SCIENCE

Ottmar Mergenthaler (inventor)

13. SPORTS

Babe Ruth
Cal Ripkin

14. OTHER

We emphasize "German-speaking ancestry" rather than German. Our Society was founded by German-speaking peoples, including Austrians, Swiss and "Germans". Of course, there was no "Germany" as such in 1783. One of our most famous members, Gen. John Stricker, is listed in our archives as a "Switzer" (Switzerland). We will spend a few months collecting nominations and then publish the list. A committee, which will include members of our Society as well as members of other Maryland German organizations, will then review the nominations and finalize the list. The goal is to publish a booklet before the end of the year. The booklet will contain a description of each person included in the top 50, their German-speaking roots and a summary of their achievements and contributions. Please help this effort by sending in your ideas. You can nominate one person or 50 people. The form shown below may be used, or you can make up your own format. Please do so quickly, and don't put it off. The sooner we get your input, the sooner the project can proceed.

NAME OF NOMINEE:

WHEN DID HE/SHE LIVE IN MD?

DESCRIBE GERMANIC ANCESTRY OR COUNTRY OF ORIGIN, IF KNOWN:

PROVIDE INFORMATION OF HIS/HER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

YOUR NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE

THE BALTIMORE SUN selected Abel Wolman as the #1 Marylander of the century, with H. L. Mencken in 2nd place. Television's ESPN named basketball star Michael Jordan as the #1 athlete of the century, with MD-born George Herman (Babe) Ruth, of German ancestry, in 2nd place. We disagree. For us, our Babe will always be #1.

Founded 1783
Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly
of Maryland, Chapter 100, Feb. 3, 1818



The German Society of Maryland

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Johb T. Hoffman
James E. Ripley
Chris Shriver
Geroge Shriver, IV

FEBRUARY HISTORY MONTH

All over America, the entire month of February is called "Black History Month". Public school systems set aside large blocks of time to tell the students of the achievements of those who came from Africa. TV, newspapers, radio and magazines lend their support. The result: many children of European ancestry know more about Africa than of their own heritage. When the history of Germany is mentioned in the schols and in the media, it is usually in derogatory tomes.

Those Americans whose ancestors immigrated from German-speaking places, need to know how their forbears helped make this country great. It is for this reason that in our *Vereinsnachrichten* we try to pass along a few bits of history...small glimpses from the past to help our readers take pride in their heritage. If you have a piece of history to contribute, please sent it in. (Thanks to Leon T. Benner and to Christel van der Berg for articles in this issue.)

MAIL TO:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ Zipcode: _____

Spouse (Optional): _____ Phone: _____

Referred by: _____

"I hereby apply to be a member of the German Society of Maryland".

Annual dues \$15. Spouse may be included at no extra cost.
Make check payable to "The German Society of MD" P.O.
Box 22585, Baltimore MD 21203-4585

This newsletter is published by The German Society of Maryland, an organization founded in 1783 and incorporated in 1817 by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland. It is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation pursuant to the provisions of §501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Society is a member of Der Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, D.A.N.K. (German American National Congress) The United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. and other civic groups which promote German-American culture and heritage. Please submit items of interest to Theodore J. Potthast, Jr., Editor, at 1819 Leadburn Road, Towson, MD 21204-1830 or fax 410-832-2903.