

German Immigration

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- WE WILL LOOK AT THE BROAD SWEEP OF THE HISTORY OF GERMAN IMMIGRATION TO MARYLAND, STARTING IN THE 1600s.
- THE FIRST ENGLISH COLONISTS SETTLED IN THE COLONY OF MARYLAND IN 1630s. FOR THE NEXT CENTURY, INDIVIDUAL GERMANS CAME TO LIVE IN MARYLAND, BUT NO GROUPS OR COMMUNITIES. IN PENNSYLVANIA, GERMAN GROUPS BEGAN TO SETTLE AS EARLY AS IN THE 1680s.
- DURING MARYLAND'S FIRST CENTURY, SETTLEMENT TOOK PLACE IN THE TIDEWATER REGIONS, BOTH ON THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SHORES, WITH TOBACCO AS A MAJOR CROP. MARYLAND WAS ALSO A PROPRIETARY COLONY, OWNED BY THE CALVERT FAMILY. IN THE 1730s, CHARLES CALVERT, LORD BALTIMORE, SOUGHT TO EXPAND MARYLAND'S SETTLEMENT TO THE WEST. IN 1732, HE OFFERED PENNSYLVANIA GERMANS 200 ACRES OF LAND IN WHAT BECAME FREDERICK COUNTY FOR A NOMINAL RENT AFTER 3 YEARS [*Dieter Cunz, The Maryland Germans, 58-61*]. OTHER GERMAN SETTLERS IMMIGRATED DIRECTLY TO THE FREDERICK REGION, AND ESTABLISHED A MAJOR GERMAN PRESENCE THERE. THE SOIL WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO TOBACCO GROWING, AND FARMERS PLANTED WHEAT, CORN, APPLE AND PEACH ORCHARDS
- WE SHOULD NOTE THAT AT THIS TIME, GERMANY WAS A PATCHWORK OF STATES, WHICH WERE PRIMARILY CATHOLIC OR LUTHERAN. THOSE WHO CAME TO AMERICA IN THE 1700s WERE LARGELY LUTHERAN OR PROTESTANT DISSENTERS, WHO CAME TO WORSHIP FREELY. A MAJORITY CAME FROM SWITZERLAND AND SOUTHWESTERN GERMANY, THE REGIONS OF BADEN, WUERTTEMBERG, AND THE PALATINATE.



Schifferstadt

- **SCHIFFERSTADT** – JOSEF AND CATHERINE BRUNER LANDED IN PHILADELPHIA IN 1729, AND IN 1736 BOUGHT 300 ACRES OF LAND FROM DANIEL DULANEY, A LAND SPECULATOR. THE HOUSE WAS BUILT BY THEIR SON IN 1758. IT HAD TWO-FOOT WALLS, 4 FIREPLACES, AND FLUES LEADING TO ONE CHIMNEY, CALLED A WISHBONE CHIMNEY.
- THE GERMAN PRESENCE EXTENDED BEYOND FREDERICK. THE 2000 CENSUS SHOWS THAT THOSE OF GERMAN DESCENT WERE THE LARGEST ETHNIC GROUP IN THE NORTHERN COUNTIES ALONG THE PENNSYLVANIA BORDER, STRETCHING FROM CECIL COUNTY TO GARRETT COUNTY. AS OF 1776, 29 GERMAN-LANGUAGE CHURCHES WERE SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE NORTHERN PART OF MARYLAND [*Cunz, 131*], AND GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS MADE UP 20% OF MARYLAND'S POPULATION. [*Kevin Phillips, The Cousins' War, 203*]



Turning to Baltimore

- BALTIMORE WAS JUST A QUIET VILLAGE UP TO THE 1750s. THE ILLUSTRATION OF 1752 SHOWS 25 HOUSES IN THE INNER HARBOR, WITH 200 INHABITANTS. THE SOIL AROUND BALTIMORE WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO GROWING TOBACCO, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE REGION HAD LITTLE TRADE OR COMMERCE UP TO 1750s.
- AT THAT POINT, A MARKET FOR WHEAT WAS DEVELOPING IN THE WEST INDIES. THE SOIL IN THE BALTIMORE REGION WAS CONDUCIVE TO CULTIVATING WHEAT, AND BALTIMORE EMBARKED ON A BOOM WHICH LASTED A CENTURY. BY 1810 BALTIMORE HAD BECOME AMERICA'S THIRD LARGEST CITY, A POSITION IT HELD UP UNTIL 1860. IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY, GERMANS BEGAN TO MOVE TO THE GROWING CITY; THEY CAME FROM WESTERN MARYLAND, FROM PENNSYLVANIA, OR DIRECTLY FROM GERMANY AND WERE LARGELY CRAFTSMEN OR MERCHANTS. THEY ESTABLISHED THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN 1755 AND CONSTRUCTED THIS BUILDING IN 1807.

ZION CHURCH

ZION CHURCH THE CHURCH HAS BEEN IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION AND IS THE ONLY CHURCH TODAY IN BALTIMORE WHICH OFFERS RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN GERMAN, AS WELL AS IN ENGLISH. *Credit: Brigitte V. Fessenden*

BETWEEN 1700 AND 1820, AROUND 160,00 SWISS AND GERMANS CROSSED THE OCEAN TO AMERICA. MOST CAME AS FAMILIES, AND THE LARGEST NUMBER LANDED IN PHILADELPHIA AND SETTLED IN PENNSYLVANIA. ABOUT HALF CAME AS INDENTURED SERVANTS ALSO CALLED REDEMPTIONERS. THEY REACHED AN AGREEMENT WITH THEIR SHIP'S CAPTAIN TO EXCHANGE THEIR LABOR FOR FOUR YEARS FOR THEIR PASSAGE. WHEN LANDING IN AMERICA THE CAPTAIN WOULD SELL THEIR LABOR TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. THIS PRACTICE WAS WIDESPREAD AMONG FARMERS IN PENNSYLVANIA, MARYLAND, AND VIRGINIA. IT DIED OUT AROUND 1820 WHEN THE EMPLOYERS SOUGHT A MORE FLEXIBLE WORK FORCE.



- BEFORE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION BEGINNING IN 1776, GERMANS PLAYED A PASSIVE ROLE IN MARYLAND POLITICS. THEY LACKED FLUENCY IN ENGLISH, MAKING IT HARD TO PARTICIPATE. ALSO, IT WAS DIFFICULT, BUT NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR THEM TO BECOME BRITISH CITIZENS, IN ORDER TO HOLD OFFICE. ONCE WE HAD A CONSTITUTION, CONGRESS IN 1790 DECREED THAT “free white persons,” WERE CITIZENS. AFTER 1790, WE FIND MORE GERMAN NAMES IN ELECTED OFFICES, ESPECIALLY AS THE IMMIGRANT CHILDREN LEARNED TO COMMUNICATE FLUENTLY.
- WHEN THE US DECLARED ITS INDEPENDENCE, MARYLAND GERMANS WERE CONFRONTED WITH THE QUESTION AS TO WHETHER TO SUPPORT THE NEW GOVERNMENT OR THE BRITISH. THE GERMAN PACIFIST “PEACE CHURCHES,” MENNONITES, DUNKERS, AND MORAVIANS, DID NOT WISH TO TAKE A SIDE. FEW MARYLAND GERMANS BECAME TORIES, AND IT SEEMS THAT A MAJORITY BACKED INDEPENDENCE. 70% OF BALTIMORE CITY GERMANS TOOK AN OATH IN 1778 IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW NATION. [*Report, Vol 25, 1942, pp. 31-33*]
- THERE WAS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF GERMANS, HOWEVER, WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE AMERICANS. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT PAID VARIOUS GERMAN PRINCES FOR SOLDIERS; 30,000 WENT SENT TO AMERICA TO SUPPRESS THE REBELLION, MAKING UP A QUARTER OF THE BRITISH FORCES. TWO THIRDS CAME FROM THE HESSIAN PRINCIPALITIES; HENCE THE NAME “HESSIANS.”
- CONGRESS OFFERED HESSIANS 50 ACRES OF LAND IF THEY DESERTED, AND 5,000 REMAINED IN THE US. 17,000 RETURNED TO EUROPE AT THE END OF THE WAR. THE REST WERE BATTLEFIELD CASUALTIES OR DIED OF SICKNESS.

- DURING THE PERIOD 1790-1830, THE NUMBER OF GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WAS SMALL COMPARED TO THE GREAT WAVE OF IMMIGRANTS THAT CAME AFTER 1830, BUT THERE WAS ONE DEVELOPMENT WHICH LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR IMMIGRATION GROWTH. IN THE 1790s, BALTIMORE MERCHANTS ESTABLISHED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GERMAN PORT OF BREMEN, EXPORTING TOBACCO AND COTTON IN EXCHANGE FOR LINEN AND GLASSWARE. A STRONG TRADING RELATIONSHIP HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED.
- IN THE 1820s, GERMAN IMM REMAINED QUITE LOW; FEWER THAN 1000 IMMIGRANTS LANDED IN THE US ANNUALLY. BUT GERMAN IMMIGRATION EXPANDS GREATLY IN THE 1830s, 6,000 ARRIVING IN BALTIMORE EACH YEAR, WHICH REMAINED AT THAT LEVEL UNTIL 1860. IN ADDITION, 80% OF THE IMMIGRANTS TO BALTIMORE DURING 1833-76 WERE GERMAN, AND THAT PERCENTAGE REMAINED CONSTANT UNTIL THE 1890S. THE REST OF THE IMMIGRANTS WERE PRIMARILY IRISH. AFTER NEW YORK, BALTIMORE WAS THE LARGEST PORT OF ENTRY FOR GERMANS IN THE UNITED STATES UP UNTIL WORLD WAR I.
- NOT ALL GERMANS WHO LANDED IN BALTIMORE SETTLED THERE OR IN MARYLAND. A SURVEY OF PASSENGERS OF 7300 GERMAN IMMIGRANTS DURING 1846-1871, REVEALS THAT 27% GAVE THEIR FINAL DESTINATION AS BALTIMORE, WITH VARIOUS MID-WESTERN DESTINATIONS FOR THE REST. [*Website, Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild, ISTG*]
- IN THE 1830S, IMMIGRANTS TRAVELED WEST BY ROADS AND RIVERS, BUT THE B&O RAILROAD BEGAN TO PROVIDE MORE RAPID AND CONVENIENT PASSAGE. IT EXTENDED TO CUMBERLAND IN 1842, AND WHEELING, VIRGINIA IN 1853. (later West Virginia)

Who came and why?

- WHO CAME AND WHY DID THEY COME? THEY WERE LARGELY FARMERS AND RURAL CRAFTSMEN. A SURVEY OF 46 SHIPS DURING 1846-71 SHOWS THAT 50% WERE FARMERS, 35% CRAFTSMEN, 10% UNSKILLED (workmen, laborers or servants), 5% UPPER MIDDLE CLASS, MERCHANTS AND PROFESSIONALS. [ISTG] THE MOTIVATION FOR FARMERS WAS THE RESULT OF RURAL OVERPOPULATION. WESTERN GERMANY WAS DOMINATED BY SMALL LANDHOLDINGS, CALLED “*zwerkwirtschaft*,” or dwarf economy. FARMERS BELIEVED THAT DIVIDING THE LAND AMONG SEVERAL CHILDREN WOULD UNDERCUT THE VIABILITY OF THEIR FARMS. THE OLDEST SON WOULD GET THE FARM, YOUNGER CHILDREN WOULD HAVE TO FEND FOR THEMSELVES.
- CRAFTSMEN FROM RURAL AREAS FELT SEVERE COMPETITION AS GERMANY INDUSTRIALIZED IN THE 1840S, THE VILLAGE ECONOMIES BECAME EMMESHED IN A LARGER MARKET, AS RIVER TRAFFIC IMPROVED, RAILROADS CRISSCROSSED THE COUNTRY, AND INTERNAL TARIFFS DISAPPEARED AS THE GERMAN STATES BECAME PART OF A LARGER CUSTOMS UNION, THE *Zollverein*. THEY SAW AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE AHEAD AND DECIDED THAT THEY MIGHT BENEFIT FROM MORE OPPORTUNITIES IN A RAPID GROWING AMERICA.

Movement Patterns

- GERMAN EMIGRATION FOLLOWED A WEST TO EAST PATTERN, AT FIRST FROM WESTERN GERMANY, AND THEN AFTER 1870 FROM EASTERN GERMANY, WHICH WAS AGRICULTURALLY DOMINATED BY LARGE ESTATES. THOSE WHO EMIGRATED WERE LARGELY LABORERS.
- THOSE WHO WERE CRAFTSMEN WOULD TEND TO SETTLE IN BALTIMORE OR OTHER CITIES; THE FARMERS WOULD OFTEN MOVE TO THE MIDWEST, ESPECIALLY, TO WHAT WAS CALLED THE GERMAN TRIANGLE, ANCHORED BY CINCINNATI, SAINT LOUIS, AND MILWAUKEE.
- SOME MEN EMIGRATED TO AVOID BEING DRAFTED. SOME GERMAN STATES REQUIRED YOUNG MEN TO GET PERMISSION TO EMIGRATE, WHICH WAS GIVEN ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS; SOME MEN JUST LEFT WITHOUT PERMISSION.
- THERE WAS AN UNSUCCESSFUL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION IN GERMANY IN 1848; SOME 10,000 REVOLUTIONARIES FLED TO AMERICA IN THE AFTERMATH.

Saint Alphonsus

- IN TERMS OF RELIGION, WE HAVE NOTED THAT 18TH CENTURY GERMAN IMMIGRANTS WERE OVERWHELMINGLY PROTESTANT. 19TH CENTURY GERMAN EMIGRATION MIRRORED THE GERMAN POPULATION AS WHOLE AT THAT TIME, 1/3 CATHOLIC, 2/3 PROTESTANT. AS THE GERMAN CATHOLIC POPULATION GREW, THEY BUILT A LARGE CHURCH IN 1845, **SAINT ALPHONSUS**, which was sold to a Lithuanian congregation in 1917. *Credit: Brigitte V. Fessenden.*



- WHILE THE STATE OF MARYLAND PERMITTED SLAVERY, GERMANS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS GENERALLY ESCHEWED SLAVE OWNERSHIP. THE MAJORITY OF THE ENSLAVED WERE LOCATED IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND AND THE EASTERN SHORE, WHERE GERMANS DID NOT SETTLE. AS WE HAVE SHOWN, GERMANS CAME FROM THE MIDDLE RANGES OF SOCIETY AND SIMPLY COULD NOT AFFORD SLAVE OWNERSHIP. NATION-WIDE, GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AS A WHOLE TENDED TO SETTLE IN THE FREE NORTHERN STATES. THOSE WHO SETTLED IN THE SOUTH WERE LESS LIKELY TO OWN SLAVES THAN THE ANGLO POPULATION. THIS WAS ALSO THE CASE IN COLONIAL TIMES. (*Brend Brunner, Nach Amerika, pp. 109-113*)
- IF I CAN VENTURE ANOTHER EXPLANATION, I WOULD SUGGEST THAT GERMANS DEFINED THEMSELVES BY THEIR WORK AND THEIR CRAFT, AND WERE LESS INCLINED TO FORCE OTHERS TO DO THEIR WORK FOR THEM. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THEM TO FOLLOW THEIR VOCATION.
- SOMEWHAT RELATED TO THIS POINT IS THAT THERE WAS THE STEREOTYPE OF GERMAN WOMEN BEING HARD WORKING AND DUTY BOUND TO MAINTAIN THE HOUSE AS "*haeuslich, fleissig, pflicht bewusst.*" GERMAN WRITERS (MALES) WARNED GERMAN WOMEN TO AVOID BECOME "Americanized" AND NEGLECTING THEIR DUTIES IN THE HOUSEHOLD, MARRIAGE, AND FAMILY AND LETTING SERVANTS AND SLAVES DO THE WORK. (*Brunner, 104-107*)

- IN THE 1850S AND 1860S MARYLAND GERMANS HAD TO CONFRONT THE ISSUE OF SLAVERY AND EVENTUALLY THE CIVIL WAR. WHILE GERMANS WERE LESS LIKELY TO OWN SLAVES, THERE WAS NO CONSENSUS ON THE EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF ITS ABOLITION. WHILE WE HAVE NOTED THAT MOST IMMIGRANTS CAME FROM THE MIDDLE RANKS OF RURAL SOCIETY, WE HAVE A SMALL NUMBER (5%) OF THE EDUCATED AND AFFLUENT. THEY INCLUDED MANY 1848 REVOLUTIONARIES WHO FLED TO AMERICA AND TOOK PUBLIC STANDS TO SUPPORT THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY AND OTHER PROGRESSIVE IDEAS FOR THE TIME PERIOD. IN BALTIMORE IN 1851, CARL HEINRICH SCHNAUFFER STARTED HIS PAPER, *Der Wecker*, WHICH WAS CONTINUED BY HIS WIDOW AFTER 1854 AND HIS BROTHER WILHELM SCHNAUFFER. *Der Wecker* FAVORED ABOLITION AND BLASTED THE REACTIONARY REGIMES IN EUROPE AS WELL AS THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. [Cunz, 259-61, 355-56]
- A MORE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD NEWSPAPER WAS *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, FOUNDED BY FRIEDRICH RAINE IN 1841, BECOMING A DAILY PAPER IN 1848. IT LASTED LONGER THAN ANY OTHER BALTIMORE GERMAN NEWSPAPER, UNTIL 1918, AND STARTED UP AGAIN IN THE 1920S. IT REPORTED ON NEWS OF THE GERMAN IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY AND LOCAL GERMAN CLUBS. [Cunz, 253-59]
- ON THE MORE CONSERVATIVE SIDE, IN 1860 JOSEPH AND CHRISTOPHER KREUTZER STARTED THE *Katholische Volkszeitung* (Catholic People's Paper), WHICH FIRST SOLD MAINLY IN MARYLAND, BUT EVENTUALLY REACHED A NATIONAL OR EVEN INTERNATIONAL AUDIENCE. THEY DEFENDED SLAVERY AND OPPOSED LINCOLN'S POLICIES SO VIGOROUSLY THAT JOSEPH WAS IMPRISONED BY UNION SOLDIERS FOR A FEW DAYS IN 1863. AFTERWARDS THEY DEFENDED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE RULING PRINCES IN EUROPE. [Cunz, 356-62]

- THE DECADES OF THE 1850S AND 1860S WERE ONE OF THE MOST TURBULENT IN OUR COUNTRY'S HISTORY. THE EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF THE EXPANSION OF SLAVERY INTO THE WESTERN TERRITORIES BROUGHT ABOUT A MAJOR REALIGNMENT OF THE END OF THE CURRENT TWO PARTY SYSTEM, THE DEMOCRATS AND THE WHIGS. THE WHIG PARTY DISSOLVED AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY EMERGED IN THE NORTHERN STATES, ADVOCATING FREE SOIL, THAT IS, NO EXTENSION OF SLAVERY INTO THE WESTERN TERRITORIES. FORMER WHIGS IN MARYLAND AND OTHER SOUTHERN STATES PERCEIVED THIS POLICY AS ANTI-SOUTHERN, AND INSTEAD CREATED THE AMERICAN PARTY, OPENLY ANTI-IMMIGRANT AND ANTI-CATHOLIC, ADVOCATING A 21 YEAR PERIOD FOR NATURALIZATION (AS OPPOSED TO CURRENT PERIOD OF 5 YEARS). SOME 3 MILLION IMMIGRANTS HAD COME TO THE US DURING 1845-54, INCLUDING IMPOVERISHED IRISH, FLEEING THE POTATO FAMINE, BUT ALSO MANY GERMANS. THIS LARGE INFLUX CAUSED CONCERN AMONG ANGLO AMERICANS. EVENTUALLY THE ISSUES OF THE CIVIL WAR OVERSHADOWED THE NATIVIST SENTIMENTS.
- AS IT TURNS OUT, THE AMERICAN PARTY WON SOME ELECTIONS IN BALTIMORE AND IN MARYLAND DURING 1855-59; GERMANS SUPPORTED THEIR OPPONENTS, THE DEMOCRAT PARTY. IN EARLY 1861, 11 SOUTHERN STATES SECEDED, AND AFTER THE ATTACK ON FORT SUMTER, THE CIVIL WAR WAS UNDERWAY. MARYLAND WAS A BORDER STATE DEEPLY DIVIDED; THERE WERE TWO CORE AREAS OF SOUTHERN SUPPORT: FIRST, THE 6 COUNTIES OF SOUTHERN MARYLAND, ST MARY'S, CHARLES, CALVERT, PRINCE GEORGES, MONTGOMERY, AND ANNE ARUNDEL, WITH ITS TOBACCO FARMS AND PLANTATIONS, AND LARGE ENSLAVED POPULATION, AND SECONDLY, BALTIMORE'S SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ELITE.

- WHEN A MASSACHUSETTS REGIMENT HAD TO PROCEED ALONG PRATT STREET IN THEIR WAY TO CAMDEN STATION TO TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON ON APRIL 19, 1861, SOUTHERN SYMPATHIZERS RIOTED WITH THE RESULT OF 16 FATALITIES. EVENTUALLY, UNION TROOPS OCCUPIED THE CITY AND THE REST OF THE STATE. MARYLANDERS WHO SUPPORTED THE CONFEDERACY MADE THEIR WAY TO VIRGINIA AND JOINED CONFEDERATE UNITS. FOR THE MOST PART, GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS FELT LITTLE CONNECTION WITH THE SECESSIONISTS, AS THEY DID NOT BELONG TO EITHER OF THE CORE SOUTHERN SUPPORTERS.
- IT TURNS OUT THAT SURVEYS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR THAT MARYLAND GERMANS JOINED THE UNION ARMY IN NUMBERS SLIGHTLY LARGER THAN THEIR PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION, WHILE THE NUMBERS OF GERMANS IN CONFEDERATE RANKS WAS “extremely small” *[Cunz, 308-10]*. MOREOVER, IN THE PRESENTIAL ELECTION OF 1864, MORE THAN 80% VOTED FOR LINCOLN IN THE BALTIMORE WARDS WHERE THERE WERE THE MOST GERMANS.
- AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, THERE WERE IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE LOGISTICS OF IMMIGRATION. WE SHOULD NOTE FIRST THAT BEFORE MASS IMMIGRATION STARTED IN THE 1830S DECADE, BALTIMORE HAD ALREADY ESTABLISHED A STRONG COMMERCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH BREMEN IN THE 1790S. BY 1830, THEY DISCOVERED THAT TRANSPORTING IMMIGRANTS WAS LUCRATIVE, WHILE THE TRADITIONAL EXPORTS OR LINEN AND GLASSWARE STAGNATED.



The voyage took 6 to 8 weeks with an average of 140 passengers; they stayed in the mezzanine, between the deck and cargo hold, in crowded and unhygienic conditions. *Credit: Historisches Museum Bremerhaven.*

THE LARGEST NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS TO BALTIMORE CAME FROM BREMEN DURING 1830 - 1914. BY THE 1860s, TRANSATLANTIC TRAVEL BY STEAM BECAME VIABLE. THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD COMPANY, FOUNDED IN BREMEN IN 1857, DECIDED TO INVEST SOLELY IN STEAMSHIPS, WHICH AT FIRST TOOK 17 DAYS TO CROSS THE OCEAN, BUT EVENTUALLY CUT THE TIME TO A WEEK BY 1900. THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD ENTERED INTO A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAILROAD; THE B&O BUILT AN IMMIGRATION PIER IN LOCUST POINT, WHERE IT ALREADY HAD RAILROAD TRACKS, AND THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD AGREED TO SEND ONE IMMIGRANT SHIP PER MONTH, WHICH COULD BE INCREASED. THE B&O AGREED TO PROVIDE THROUGH TRAINS TO TAKE IMMIGRANTS WHO WISHED TO TRAVEL TO THE MIDWEST, WHICH WAS THE MAJORITY OF IMMIGRANTS. BY THE 1870S, THE SPEED AND CONVENIENCE OF STEAMSHIPS OVERTOOK SAILING SHIPS, WHICH WERE PHASED OUT.

Mezzanine

B&O Slide

Credit: Smithsonian Institution

THE B&O AND NORTH GERMAN LLOYD OFFERED TRAVEL PACKAGES, AN IMMIGRANT COULD START OUT IN VIENNA FOR BREMEN, THEN CROSS TO OCEAN TO BALTIMORE, AND THEN TO CHICAGO, THE LAST LEG TAKING JUST OVER 24 HOURS. UP UNTIL THE 1890s, GERMANS REMAINED THE LARGEST GROUP OF IMMIGRANTS (80% - most of the rest were Irish) LANDING IN BALTIMORE THE TWO MEN BEHIND THIS ARRANGEMENT INCLUDED JOHN WORK GARRETT, PRESIDENT OF THE B&O, AND ALBERT SCHUMACHER, SON OF A CITY COUNCILLOR OF BREMEN, WHO IMMIGRATED TO BALTIMORE IN 1826 AND REPRESENTED BREMEN'S TRADING HOUSES, INCLUDING THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD.





1880 departure scene of passengers with their belongings in the process of boarding the North German Lloyd steamship "Strassburg" in Bremerhaven.

German EMIGRANTS – boarding the ship "Strassburg" in 1880 – [*credits: Historisches Museum Bremerhaven.*](#)

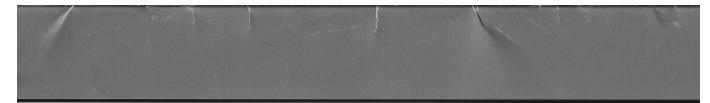


1860-1890

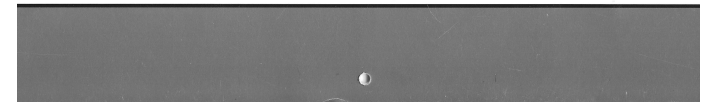
- DURING 1860-90, GERMAN IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN WERE A MAJOR PRESENCE IN BALTIMORE, MAKING UP 25% OF THE CITY'S POPULATION.
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ENGLISH-GERMAN SCHOOLS, ETC...

- IN 1874, THE BALTIMORE CITY SCHOOL BOARD ESTABLISHED ENGLISH-GERMAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, FIRST THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE. 7000 CHILDREN ENROLLED BY 1900, ALONG WITH 3200 CHILDREN IN GERMAN CATHOLIC PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS. [Cunz, 334-37, Report, Vol 25, 1942, pp. 13-17] PHILADELPHIA AND CITIES IN OHIO ESTABLISHED SIMILAR ENGLISH-GERMAN SCHOOLS. THE HIGH SCHOOLS WERE ENGLISH ONLY, BUT GERMAN COURSES WERE OFFERED. A REPORT IN 1894 REVEALED THAT THERE WERE 32 GERMAN-LANGUAGE CHURCHES IN BALTIMORE, ALONG WITH 99 CLUBS; AT LEAST 15 WERE MUSIC CLUBS, 15 WERE CHARITABLE OR PHILANTHROPIC. THERE WERE 5 TURNVEREIN, WHICH WERE GYMNASTICS CLUBS. [Report, Volume 8, 1894, pp. 12-19]



Locust Poi
(Courtesy 1)



BALTIMORE CHURCHES & NEIGHBORHOODS

- THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND WAS CHARTERED IN 1818, AND ITS MAIN GOAL WAS TO LOBBY FOR BETTER CONDITIONS FOR REDEMPTIONERS. AFTER THAT, ITS FOCUS WAS ON CARING FOR IMMIGRANTS IN NEED. DURING 1833-1876, THE STATE OF MARYLAND CHARGED A HEAD TAX OF 60 CENTS PER GERMAN IMMIGRANT, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE GERMAN SOCIETY. THE GERMAN SOCIETY ALSO SET AN “INTELLIGENCE BUREAU” IN 1845, WHICH SERVED AS AN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY FOR IMMIGRANTS, IN THE CITY, THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND IN PENNSYLVANIA. IT PLACED 3500 IMMIGRANTS IN JOBS IN ITS FIRST YEAR.

[Cunz, 203]

- **BALTIMORE IN 1914** – SHOWS MANY OF THE GERMAN CHURCHES (IN RED DOTS) SPREAD OUT THROUGH THE CITY. THE GREEN DOTS REPRESENT IRISH CATHOLIC CHURCHES, AND THE BLUE DOTS ARE SYNAGOGUES, LOCATED IN EAST BALTIMORE AND EUTAW PLACE. THE SHADED AREA OF HIGHLANDTOWN, CANTON, AND FELS POINT WAS CALLED “POLONIA;” “LITTLE LITHUANIA” WAS IN WEST BALTIMORE, WHERE THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND HOSPITAL AND PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS ARE LOCATED. YOU CAN ALSO SEE LITTLE ITALY.

CHANGING DEMOGRAPHICS & ASSIMILATION

- GERMANS BECAME INVOLVED IN POLITICS, AND A BIG ISSUE WAS THE PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL IN THE YEARS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR. GERMANS AND MOST IMMIGRANTS OPPOSED IT. THEY ALSO OPPOSED BLUE LAWS, WHICH CLOSED TRAVERNS AND BEER GARDENS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS ON SUNDAY.
- AFTER 1890, GERMAN IMMIGRATION BEGAN TO DECLINE. GERMANY WAS INDUSTRIALIZING RAPIDLY AND THOSE WHO MIGHT HAVE EMIGRATED BEFORE NOW MOVED TO THE MINES AND FACTORY TOWNS. GERMAN IMMIGRATION AFTER 1900 HAD FALLEN TO ONE QUARTER OF WHAT IT WAS IN THE 1880s.
- THUS THE COMPOSITION OF THE IMMIGRANTS CHANGED; THE NORTH GERMAN LLOYD SHIPS REMAINED FULL OF PASSENGERS, NOW FROM EASTERN EUROPE, AS WE HAVE SEEN, THEY FORMED DISTINCT NEIGHBORHOODS.
- WITH FEWER GERMANS IMMIGRATING, THE EXISTING GERMAN POPULATION BEGAN TO ASSIMILATE; ENROLMENT DROPPED IN THE GERMAN-ENGLISH SCHOOLS, HALF OF THE GERMAN NEWSPAPERS CEASED PUBLICATION BY 1914, WHICH MIRRORED A NATIONAL TREND.

DESTROY
THIS MAD BRUTE



WWI PROPOGANDA

WWI PUT GERMANS IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION – THEY SYMPATHIZED WITH GERMANY AND ADVOCATED STAYING OUT OF THE WAR. ONCE THE US DECLARED WAR IN 1917, THE PUBLIC TURNED AGAINST GERMAN-AMERICANS.

WWI PROPAGANDA POSTER DEPICTS EUROPE IN RUINS; THE MONSTER IS INVADING AMERICA; HIS HAT SAYS MILITARISM, AND THE CLUB SAYS KULTUR.

IMPACT OF WWI ON IMMIGRATION

- GERMAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION WAS REDUCED OR ELIMINATED IN SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. NAMES WERE CHANGED; GERMAN STREET TO REDWOOD STREET, AND IN OTHER CITIES AS WELL. SAUERKRAUT BECAME LIBERTY CABBAGE, GERMAN MEASLES BECAME LIBERTY MEASLES. ONE THIRD OF THE METROPOLITAN OPERA REPERTORY HAD BEEN IN GERMAN. THEY WERE SUSPENDED FOR THE WAR AND THEN RESUMED.
- AFTER THE WAR, THE HARASSMENT STOPPED, BUT GERMANS WERE RELUCTANT TO ADVERTISE THEIR HERITAGE. NEVERTHELESS, SHELLEY ARNOLD NOTED THAT IN THE 1920S, 22 OF THE GERMAN LANGUAGE CHURCHES CONTINUED THE USE OF GERMAN ENTIRELY OR IN PART. GERMAN WAS ALSO TAUGHT AS A FOREIGN LANGUAGE IN A THIRD OF THE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN BALTIMORE. THE ENGLISH-GERMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS HAD BEEN PHASED OUT BY 1917.
- IN THE 1920S, PUBLIC OPINION TURNED AGAINST IMMIGRATION, ESPECIALLY FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND ITALY. CONGRESS REDUCED EUROPEAN IMMIGRATION TO ONE SIXTH OF WHAT IT HAD BEEN BEFORE 1914. EACH COUNTRY RECEIVED A QUOTA, AND THE ANNUAL GERMAN QUOTA CAME TO 27,000. ABOUT 100,000 GERMAN JEWS ESCAPED NAZI GERMANY IN THE 1930S, BUT QUOTA SYSTEM PREVENTED SAVING OTHERS WHO WANTED TO COME.

3,000 OF THESE REFUGEES CAME TO BALTIMORE. ONE OF THEM WAS GUSTAV BRUNN, A SPICE-MAKER ORIGINALLY FROM FRANKFURT ARRIVED IN BALTIMORE IN 1938. ACCORDING TO A FAMILY LEGEND, HE GOT A JOB AT MCCORMICK, BUT WAS FIRED AFTER THREE DAYS BECAUSE HE WAS A JEW AND THERE WAS A LANGUAGE BARRIER. HE THEN ESTABLISHED:

OLD BAY COMPANY - WHICH WAS EVENTUALLY BOUGHT BY MCCORMICK.



- THE IMMIGRATION QUOTA SYSTEM WAS ABOLISHED IN 1965, BUT RELATIVELY FEW IMMIGRANTS FROM GERMANY AND EUROPE HAS IMMIGRATED TO THE US; INSTEAD, OUR COUNTRY HAS GROWN WITH A LARGE NUMBER OF HISPANICS AND ASIANS.
- SHELLEY ARNOLD AND OTHERS HAVE RAISED THE QUESTION AS TO WHY GERMANS HAVE BECOME INVISIBLE AND HAVE SO ASSIMILATED INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY. GERMANS WERE THE LARGEST IMMIGRANT GROUP DURING THE GREAT WAVE OF IMMIGRATION OF 1830-1924, WITH 6.8 MILLION, COMPARED WITH ITALIANS AND IRISH TIED FOR SECOND WITH 4.5 MILLION EACH. CLEARLY, THE FACT THAT THE US FOUGHT AGAINST GERMANY IN TWO WORLD WARS INDUCED GERMAN-AMERICANS TO HIDE THEIR GERMANNESS. THE HARASSMENT WAS GREATEST DURING THE FIRST WORLD WAR; IN THE SECOND, POPULAR HATRED WAS DIRECTED AGAINST JAPANESE, BUT STILL GERMANS TENDED TO LIE LOW.
- THERE ARE OTHER REASONS AS WELL: MOST IMMIGRANT GROUPS ARRIVED HERE IN RELATIVELY SHORT TIME PERIODS AND CAME FROM THE SAME BACKGROUND AND RELIGIONS. THE IRISH PEAKED DURING 1845-54 AND CAME FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE. ITALIANS, POLES, AND OTHER EASTERN EUROPEANS CAME MAINLY DURING 1880-1924. ALL WERE CATHOLIC. JEWS CAME IN TWO WAVES, FROM GERMANY DURING 1830-1860 AND FROM EASTERN EUROPE DURING 1880-1924. MANY OF THESE NATIONALITIES SUFFERED OPPRESSIVE RULE OR DETERIORATING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. THEY ALSO TENDED TO LIVE TOGETHER IN THEIR OWN URBAN NEIGHBORHOODS. THEY DEVELOPED A CERTAIN SOLIDARITY. GERMANS, ON THE OTHER HAND, WERE DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRELY COUNTRY, EXCEPT FOR THE SOUTH.
- IN CLOSING, GERMAN IMMIGRATION WAS SPREAD OUT OVER TIME; THEY CAME HERE THROUGHOUT THE 1700S, AND THEN IN LARGE NUMBERS DURING 1830-1893. THEIR RELIGIOUS WERE DIVERSE, LUTHERAN, REFORMED, CATHOLIC, AND VARIOUS SECTS. THEY ALSO CAME FROM DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS. WITH THAT SAID, THEY HAD LESS NATIONAL SOLIDARITY, WHICH MADE IT EASIER FOR THE ASSIMILATION PROCESS TO TAKE PLACE.