

German-American Studies

NEWSLETTER

SGAS.ORG

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Last month I was an invited participant in an Iowa City symposium titled "German Iowa and the Global Midwest," where I was exposed to a broad range of new, interdisciplinary work on German Americans over a three-day program. This conference is part of a larger project with a number of innovative aspects that deserves attention and emulation in other states and their universities. The three leaders heading the project reflect its cooperation across disciplines between H. Glenn Penny and Elizabeth Heineman of the University of Iowa History Department and Glenn Ehrstine of the Department of German. Their teaching and research in this area integrated not only graduate students but also undergraduates, a couple of whom gave papers. The presentations went beyond the usual fare of the achievements of Germans and their wartime victimization to explore, for example, the complicated interactions of "German and Jewish," as the title of one paper put it. But perhaps the most innovative aspect of the symposium was the inclusion of the fine arts at two places on the program. The University of Iowa Chamber Orchestra and its Männerchor reconstructed the program of the 1898 Davenport Sängerkunst, and the next evening, members of the School of Music re-created a concert presented in May 1945 by a group of German POWs from Camp Algona, Iowa. This interdisciplinary collaboration continues: November saw the presentation of a historical drama titled "Here I'm Hank," a play based on a real immigrant, Heinrich Ketelsen, who like so many Germans came to Iowa from Schleswig-Holstein.

The conference also served to highlight an exhibition of the same name which runs from September through next January at the Old Capitol Museum in Iowa City, before it sets out as a traveling exhibition to various communities across the state through August 2017. The exhibit presented a nice combination of old artifacts and some of the latest interactive digital techniques, for example a county-level map of the German presence in Iowa, showing every town with a German newspaper. Clicking on the town pulled up more detail on the local paper or papers, their dates of existence, and archival holdings of their print run.

The Global Iowa project, not only the exhibit but also various associated workshops for teachers and public historians, went beyond the German experience to explore parallels and contrasts with the contemporary immigrant situation, including pro- and anti-immigrant sentiment, earlier manifestations of bilingualism and multiculturalism, and questions of belonging and exclusion in times of international and domestic conflict—important issues

that are often obscured when ethnic history does not venture beyond its celebratory aspects.

The Iowa conference opened on October 6, a date that was anything but coincidental: German-American Day, celebrating the arrival of the first organized group of German immigrants in Philadelphia in 1683. But it took 200 years before this became the preferred date for celebrating German ethnicity. An impressive new book by Heike Bungert, *Festkultur and Gedächtnis: Die Konstruktion einer deutschamerikanischen Ethnizität, 1848-1914* (Schöningh: Paderborn, 2016), explores these developments. Before 1883, like German-Americans generally, German festive culture was badly fragmented. The 100th birthday of Friedrich Schiller, the "Freiheitsdichter," on November 10, 1859, provided an early rallying point. San Antonio Germans chose that date to lay the cornerstone of their German English School; Chicago celebrated it with a production of his "William Tell"; communities as large as New York and as small as Yorktown, Texas joined in the commemoration. The Franco-Prussian war aroused widespread sympathy and numerous celebrations in 1870 and 1871, though on widely scattered dates. The German-American Bicentennial in 1883 was celebrated in more than a dozen major cities across the nation, most enthusiastically of course in Philadelphia. As president of both the German Society of Pennsylvania and the National German-American Alliance, Charles Hexamer promoted the celebration of "German Day," as it was then called, throughout the United States, but his work came to an abrupt halt as a result of World War I. Even this did not suppress such ethnic celebration entirely; in conjunction with the Texas Centennial Exhibition in Dallas a National Sängerkunst was held on October 4-6, 1936. But its prewar prominence would not return until the German-American Tricentennial in 1983, commemorated in numerous ways on both sides of the Atlantic. It was honored with a Presidential proclamation, and four years later in 1987 with a Congressional resolution, and has flourished as German-American Day ever since. One factor reinforcing the October 6 celebration date is that it is often combined with Oktoberfest. If there is one issue on which German-Americans approach unanimity, it's beer!

Prost!

Walter D. Kamphoefner



SGAS President

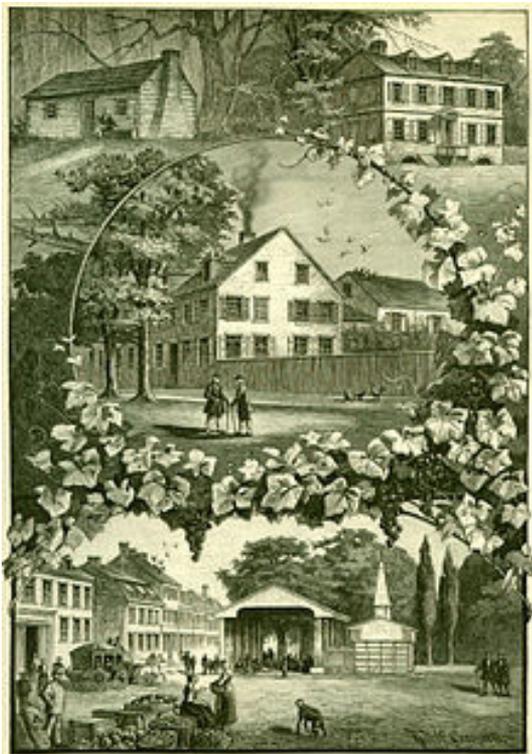
Philadelphia

Stephen Rowan

In the late 1830s a German wife in her twenties was making a journey through what was then the United States with her new husband, a railroad engineer from Prague working for the Czar. This was Clara von Gerstner, née von Epplen-Härtenstein, the daughter of an agent for the princes of Thurn-und-Taxis, and she had crossed the north Atlantic from Bristol in the Great Western, the largest operating steamship, in generally foul weather in the early winter. As soon as the newly-wedded couple landed in New York, they headed west to look at the Erie Canal and eventually see Niagara Falls in the dead of winter. After doing that duty, she headed to Boston (which she loved), passed through New York on her way to the "second city" of America of those days, Philadelphia. She was predisposed to feel positive about the former center of American trade and banking, the former seat of the Second Bank of the United States, and the former capital of the federal government.

She wrote, "Philadelphia is the second city of the United States in population, alone first so far as beauty and regularity goes. It spreads itself over a broad surface between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers and is, although Harrisburg has become the seat of government, the chief city of the state of Pennsylvania."

"The streets, all broad and utterly straight, have sidewalks on both sides, at whose outer edge is planted a Chestnut tree that pass very well with the lovely buildings built of red brick. I have never seen as much marble used as here; the lower parts of houses, the steps, portals and windowframes are of this blinding white stone on each house; the exchange, the banks, the Mint and many other public buildings are from cornerstone to roof are built entirely of white marble, so that you can have a concept of the splendor and beauty of this city. The grand shops are in the prettiest street of the town, Chesnut Street, where in the midday-hour, as in New York on Broadway, the elegant world goes walking: such an utter cleanliness as here is seldom seen, I can even say is never found in a large city.



Old Germantown, showing the Pastorius family residences on the upper left (ca. 1683) and upper right (ca. 1715), the house and printing business of the Caus family (ca. 1735), and the market place at the bottom (ca. 1820).

Source: Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germantown,_Philadelphia

"A great treasure of Philadelphia are the three lovely places in the middle of the city: Franklin, Washington and Independence Squares. The most grandiose and lovely, provided with a fine showering fountain, is Franklin Square; the fresh green of the grass, the ancient oaks and the many weeping willows in the midst of the city, forms a pleasing contrast to the new rows of houses built of brick. Washington Square in Walnut Street follows this in beauty; here they have the intent to place a monument to the unforgettable general, Washington. Independence Square lies on Chesnut Street near the State House, where the Declaration of Independence was first read out.

"I had heard so much about the beautiful city of marble, Philadelphia, and my joy to find myself there was thus indescribably great."

Clara von Gerstner would always be on the lookout for German compatriots, since although Austrian in background and married to a German-Bohemian, she lived in Frankfurt am Main. Germans had been present at the very creation of the colony of Pennsylvania, since William Penn had solicited several pious groups to join his experimental colony "of brotherly love" at a meeting very close to the Römerplatz in Frankfurt. Germans had been a major element in the original settlement of Pennsylvania, and as Philadelphia flourished, a major adjoining community, called Germantown, grew to a major participant in the city's story. It was here that the first motions were made to abolish slavery.

The seal of Germantown is the symbol of the Society for German-American Studies. On the Saturday afternoon of the Symposium, an

41st Annual Symposium, April 20-22, 2017

"The Protestant Reformation at 500: Its Legacy from Pennsylvania across German America."

excursion will go to Germantown not only to pay our respects to a long German heritage, but also to celebrate the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's launching of the Protestant Reformation.

In Philadelphia itself, the German Society of Pennsylvania was established in 1764, and its unique library, begun in 1817, will be the site of the 41st Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, where all sessions will be held on the Friday and Saturday of the conference. During that time the facilities of the Library can be used for research, for a small additional fee. Like all great historic libraries, there is no way of predicting what can be found in such a collection.

Lodging for the conference will be at the Wyndham Historic District Hotel, where there will be a reception on the night of Thursday 20 April and a dinner on the evening of Saturday 22 April.

Our conference rate is \$144.00 (plus \$23.18 tax) per night for up to 4 people. The toll-free telephone number for booking is 1-877-999-3223. Use the group rate code 20046843GS. Detailed registration information and program information will be available on the SGAS.ORG website and in the Spring newsletter.



The Horner Memorial Library, founded in 1817, houses more than 70,000 volumes and documents, three-quarters of them in German. They have been fully catalogued with the support of the Max Kade Foundation and the German Historical Institute, among others. The treasures in the Horner's collections include William Penn's translated pamphlet, *Eine Nachricht wegen der Landschafft Pennsilvania in America* (1783), which set the Germantown migration in motion, letters of Pastor Muehlenberg, and last but not least, a 1743 German Bible published by Christopher Saur, the first in any European language printed in America, along with two later Saur editions. The library also features an original 1888 reading room that was restored by the Society in the 1990s.

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:German_Society,_Library.jpg

Travel Grants and Complimentary Memberships for Graduate Students

At the Fall Meeting of the SGAS Executive Committee in Indianapolis it was approved that up to 20 complimentary memberships for graduate students will be made available in 2017. Students may be nominated by the general membership. Student membership fees will be covered by the Student Membership Fund, established by Mary and Bill Seeger and contributions by other life members of SGAS. Please send your nomination to SGAS president, Walter Kamphoefner.

Two travel grants of \$500.00 each will be available on a competitive basis to graduate students whose paper proposals have been accepted for presentation at the SGAS Annual Symposium. The grants will be used toward travel and accommodations in connection with the symposium. By accepting a grant, recipients commit themselves to submitting a revised version of their paper by September 1 of the conference year for consideration as an article for the Yearbook for German American Studies. The travel grants are made available through the Arndt Publication Fund. Graduate students should identify themselves as such when submitting a paper proposal and indicate that they wish to be considered for a travel grant. Please submit proposals to VP Steven Rowan <srowan@umsl.edu> and copy to Bill Keel <wkeel@ku.edu>, editor of the SGAS Yearbook and chair of the Arndt Publication Committee.

Mark Louden Awarded Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Prize

Claudia Grossmann

The German Academic Exchange Service/ Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) recognizes Prof. Mark Louden of the University of Madison, Wisconsin, as the 2016 recipient of the prestigious Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Prize. This award is bestowed annually to a senior scholar from outside of Germany who contributes to international cooperation and understanding related to German studies. The prize is a very high honor and includes a four-week research trip to Germany as well as a financial award of 10,000 Euro. Louden accepted the award on September 27, 2016, at the University of Bayreuth during the Deutscher Germanistentag, the annual symposium for German scholars.

Louden, an internationally known linguist who is himself fluent in Pennsylvania Dutch, has been working for years to demonstrate the global importance of the German language. "I am interested in the diversity of languages around the world like Pennsylvania Dutch that are historically related to German but not connected to today's Germany. That makes German a global language, but in a way somewhat different from say, English or French," said Professor Louden. He teaches several courses related to this subject, in addition to courses on the Amish, and he also serves as the director of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies. Outside of academia, he functions as translator and mediator within the Amish communities. Louden considers Pennsylvania Dutch more like a separate language in its own right, rather than a mere dialect version of standard German.

Professor Louden intends to spend one month next summer at the German Language Atlas Research Center at the University of Marburg to collaborate with German colleagues on the early history of Pennsylvania Dutch as well as conduct further research on Yiddish, both of which are made possible through the DAAD Grimm award.



Joybrato Mukherjee, Vice President of DAAD, presents the Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Prize to Mark Louden

Source: www.daad.de (Thomas Engels)

2017 International Germanic Genealogy Conference

CONNECTIONS – International. Cultural. Personal

July 28-30, 2017 Minneapolis, MN

The inaugural international conference of the German-American Genealogical Partnership is a unique opportunity for researchers to make personal connections, choose from 70 presentations over three full days, and explore genealogy exhibitions and vendor booths. Participants may use study rooms equipped with computers and receive personal assistance in German script, language, and research. There will be five distinguished international speakers from Germany and Austria and six speaker lunches. Several societies plan to hold their annual meetings during conference downtime.

Registration opens January 1, with an early-bird discounted rate until April 1. Conference venue and lodging is at the Minneapolis Marriott Northwest Hotel in Brooklyn Park.

Conference website: <http://www.GGSMN.org> (click on "GABP Conference")



Transnational German Studies Network

Alison Efford, Marquette University, Josh Brown, University of Wisconsin Eau Claire, and Benjamin Bryce of the University of Northern British Columbia have been working on a relaunch of the H-Transnational German Studies network. They are seeking your input and help. H-TGS is designed for students and scholars, including independent scholars. The network is a site for scholarly interaction, reviews, and networking across disciplinary lines.

H-TGS provides a moderated interdisciplinary network for the discussion of topics relevant to the study of German migration and diaspora and intercultural transfer between German and non-German societies from the seventeenth century to the present. Its scope is intentionally broader than that of its predecessor, H-GAGCS (German-American and German-Canadian Studies), and the new editors are particularly interested in covering regions outside of North America. One of our objectives is to encourage consideration of the interconnections between German emigration and other German activities abroad, including imperialism and colonialism.

The new editors come from different disciplinary backgrounds and have different research interests.

Josh Brown is an associate professor of German at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He is co-editor of *Pennsylvania Germans: An Interpretive Encyclopedia* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017). His primary research interests are: heritage languages and the interactions of language and identity from sociolinguistic and linguistic anthropologic perspectives.

Benjamin Bryce is an assistant professor of history at the University of Northern British Columbia. His first book, *Citizenship and Belonging: Germans, Argentines, and the Meaning of Ethnicity in Buenos Aires, 1880-1930*, is currently under review. Focusing on education, religion, and social welfare, it charts German-speaking Argentines' competing visions of Germanness and Argentine belonging. He is also the co-editor of *Making Citizens in Argentina* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017) and *Entangling Migration History: Borderlands and Transnationalism in the United States and Canada* (University Press of Florida, 2015).

Alison Clark Efford is an associate professor of history at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Her first book, *German Immigrants, Race, and Citizenship in the Civil War Era* (2013) focused on the period following the US Civil War, and she continues to publish and present on nineteenth-century German Americans.

The editors welcome suggestions, announcements, and contributions. To subscribe please refer to <https://networks.h-net.org/h-tgs>.

GHI Fellowships at the Horner Library

Together with the German Society of Pennsylvania, the German Historical Institute will sponsor two to four fellowships of up to four weeks for research at the Joseph Horner Memorial Library in Philadelphia between June 1 and July 15, 2017.

The fellowship will be awarded to Ph.D. and M.A. students and advanced scholars without restrictions in research fields or geographical provenance. The "GHI Fellowship at the Horner Library" will provide a travel subsidy and an allowance of \$1,000 to \$3,500 depending on the length of the stay and the qualifications of the fellows. Opportunities to research at other special collections in Philadelphia may be available.

The Joseph Horner Memorial Library houses 70,000 volumes and is the largest German American collection outside of a university. The collection offers rich materials from the 17th to the 20th centuries to historians of German American immigration culture, especially in Pennsylvania, as well as historians of German fictional and non-fictional literature, including travel and popular literature. See the reference guide on the GHI web site and the catalog at the German Society of Pennsylvania.

Applications (in English or German) should be made electronically to the GHI (c/o Bryan Hart). They should include a project description of no more than 2,000 words, curriculum vitae, copies of academic degrees, and one letter of reference. Application deadline is February 15, 2017.

hart@ghi-dc.org

German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Competition

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies and the Spletzer Family Foundation at the University of Winnipeg announce the German-Canadian Studies Fellowship Competition for 2017.

German-Canadian History Research Scholarship (Ph.D.): for students at the University of Manitoba only

German-Canadian History Research Scholarship (M.A.): for students in the Joint Masters Program at the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba only.

The following research scholarships are open to any qualified applicant:

- **German-Canadian Studies Research Scholarship (Ph.D.):**
\$10,000 (biennial, renewable once)
- **German-Canadian Studies Research Scholarship (M.A.):**
\$8,000 (annual, non-renewable)
- **German-Canadian Studies Research Grant:**
\$2,500 (annual, non-renewable)

In addition, there is a dissertation prize, a prize for a Master's thesis, and an undergraduate essay prize.

Application Deadline is 15 April 2017. For more information, visit <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/german-canadian/fellowships.html>

The Chair in German-Canadian Studies was established in 1989 with a grant from the Secretary of State's Program for Canadian Ethnic Studies as well as with private philanthropic donations. It is affiliated with the History Department at the University of Winnipeg. The Chair is held by Dr. Alexander Freund, professor of History. Dr. Freund has published widely on oral history and migration history. The Chair promotes teaching and research in German-Canadian Studies, including the history and culture of Canadians of German origins. German-Canadians constitute one of Canada's largest ethnic groups.

MAX KADE INSTITUTE INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

People of Faith, Voices of Tradition:

Germanic Heritage Languages among Christians and Jews

Antje Petty

From March 30 to April 1, 2017, the Max Kade Institute at the University of Wisconsin–Madison will hold an international conference entitled People of Faith, Voices of Tradition: Germanic Heritage Languages among Christians and Jews. The event is free and open to the public and will take place at the UW–Madison’s University Club and Pyle Center.

Of the approximately 7,000 languages spoken around the world today, more than half are likely to no longer be spoken actively by the turn of the next century. In almost every case, these languages are spoken by groups of people, often indigenous, who are minorities in the larger societies in which they live. There are, however, a small group of minority languages that are not endangered and which in fact are enjoying robust vitality. In North America there are four such languages, which are spoken in conservative Christian and Jewish religious communities: Pennsylvania Dutch (Amish and Old Order Mennonites); Mennonite Low German (Old Colony Mennonites); Hutterite German (Hutterites); and Yiddish (Haredi Jews). The growth of these groups is exponential due to the twin factors of high birth rates and low attrition, thereby ensuring the sociolinguistic health of the languages they speak.

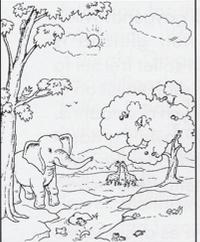
This symposium will bring together an international group of researchers specializing in these languages with Amish, Mennonite, Hutterite, and Haredi community members to explore sociolinguistic aspects of the social-spiritual identities of these faith groups.

- On Thursday evening, March 30, the symposium will open with a panel discussion of community members moderated by MKI Director Mark Loudon, followed by a reception. (University Club)
- Friday morning and afternoon and Saturday morning will feature 45-minute presentations by the invited speakers. (Pyle Center)
- On Friday evening, we will have a reading of literary works in the four languages that evoke the themes of the symposium. English translations will be projected onto a screen for the benefit of the attendees. (Pyle Center)

More information, including a detailed conference program, will be posted on the Max Kade Institute website (mki.wisc.edu) as soon as it becomes available. Please feel free to contact Antje Petty (apetty@wisc.edu) if you have questions.

Genesis 1

1. DA SHTEAHT FUNN DI EAHT



Vay lang zrikk hott's kenn eaht katt, kenn leit, kenn helling. Es voah alles yusht dunkel gvest.

Fa shteahra mitt hott Gott da himmel un di eaht gmacht.

No hott Eah ksawt, "Loss es licht sei." Yusht vi sell voah's licht gvest. Gott hott's licht dawk kaysa, un's dunkel



nacht. Dess voah no da eahsht dawk es selayva voah.



Da neksht dawk hott eah di volka gmacht. Eah hott aw di luft gmacht so es ma shnaufa kann.



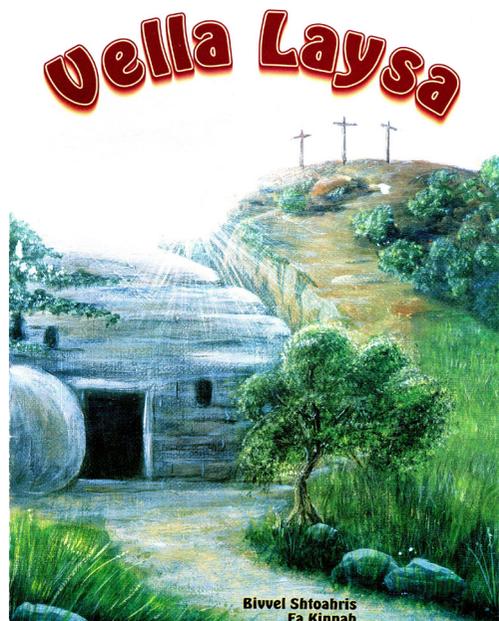
Uf da dritt dawk hott eah's vassah un's land fadayld. Eah hott da say un di hivwla gmacht sellah dawk.



Eah hott no ksawt, "Loss di baym un's graws shteahra vaxa." Un si henn no kshteah vaxa.



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MAX KADE GERMAN-AMERICAN CENTER

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

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