

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE GERMANS
IN MARYLAND.

BALTIMORE, MD.
1887.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY
OF THE
"Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland,"
AND
LIST OF MEMBERS.

On the evening of January 5th, 1886, in answer to an invitation issued by Messrs. Louis P. Hennighausen, Edward F. Leyh, Charles F. Raddatz and Dr. W. S. Landsberg, a number of gentlemen met at the rooms of the "Maryland Historical Society," to consider the desirability and feasibility of organizing a society for the purpose of collecting and preserving the material for the history of the influence and part of the Germans in the growth and development of the American Nation, especially in the State of Maryland.

There were present at this meeting about fourteen gentlemen.

The meeting organized by electing Dr. J. G. Morris temporary Chairman, and Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen temporary Secretary.

After the object of the meeting had been set forth by a number of stirring speeches, all testifying to the need and importance of such a society, a committee for permanent organization, consisting of Messrs. Christian Ax, Louis P. Hennighausen, Edward F. Leyh, Charles F. Raddatz and Rev. H. Scheib, was appointed.

On January 19th this committee submitted a draft of Constitution, which was at once adopted and ordered to be printed.

Regular nominations for permanent officers were also made during this meeting.

A regular organization was perfected on February 16th by twenty-three gentlemen subscribing their names to the Constitution, and the subsequent election of the following officers:

President.—Rev. J. G. Morris, D. D., LL. D.

Vice-Presidents.—Louis P. Hennighausen, Esq.; Mr. Charles Weber, Jr.

Treasurer.—Mr. Edward Niemann.

*Executive Committee.**—Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, Chairman; Messrs. H. Becker, Charles F. Raddatz, Edward Leyh and Dr. Charles C. Bombaugh.

The Executive Committee, according to Constitution, elected at their first meeting Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen as the regular Secretary of the Society.

At this meeting the Society was honored by a visit and address of the Hon. Anton Eickhoff, author of "In der neuen Heimath."

A committee from the Historical Society of Maryland, consisting of Messrs. H. Stockbridge and E. Story, also appeared on this occasion and in most cordial terms expressed their pleasure at the organization of this Society, pledging their most fraternal co-operation in the furtherance of its object.

This spirit of fraternity, so auspiciously inaugurated on the part of the Historical Society of Maryland, has since matured into a very cordial relation and co-operation of the two societies, the same spirit of genuine interest and generosity being manifested on the part of the Maryland Historical Society toward its younger sister until the present day.

Owing to this spirit of friendliness, satisfactory arrangements have been made enabling this Society to continue its meetings at the comfortable rooms of the Historical Society of Maryland.

The newly-born Society at this its *first* meeting adopted, and directed the Secretary to forward to the Legislature of Maryland (then in session), a memorial in behalf of the erection of certain statues of illustrious citizens from each State of the Union in the National Statuary Gallery at Washington, D. C., according to an Act of the United States Congress.

It was also resolved at this meeting, after a prolonged and exhaustive debate, that whilst the German and English languages should be entitled to equal rights in all other matters,

*Includes also all the officers of the Society.

the *minutes* of this Society should be kept in the English language.

The first "corresponding members"—viz.: Hon. Anton Eickhoff, of Washington, D. C.; Mr. H. J. Rattermann, of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mr. W. Rapp, of Chicago, Illinois—were elected. To these were added, during the year, Revs. W. Louis Schneider, of Washington, D. C., and F. W. E. Peschau, of Wilmington, N. C.

Twenty-three new members were added at the next monthly meeting; a seal of very appropriate design, submitted by Prof. Charles F. Raddatz, was adopted, and a number of books and historical documents received as donations. Col. Frederick Raine, United States Consul-General at Berlin, conveyed his congratulations through Mr. Edward F. Leyh, whilst Mr. Basil Sollers became the pioneer of original contributors of the Society by reading and presenting an essay on Jonathan Hagar, the founder of Hagerstown, Md.

From this very interesting paper it appears that, induced by the liberal terms offered to new settlers by Lord Baltimore, and the reported richness of the land, Jonathan Hagar came over with others from Germany some years previous to 1739. Settling in what is now Washington County, he obtained on December 16th, 1739, a patent for 200 acres, which he called "Hagar's Choice." In 1740 he married Elisabeth Kerschner. In 1753 he obtained a patent for 1780 acres of land, which he named "Hagar's Delight." In 1765 he possessed a tract of 2488 acres. In 1762 Jonathan Hagar laid out a town, on land belonging to him, which he named "Elizabeth" Town, after his wife. This town consisted, in 1770, already of more than one hundred comfortable buildings. In 1771 Jonathan Hagar was elected a delegate to the General Assembly of the Province, the first German who entered into politics in Maryland. Being, however, after a close contest, declared ineligible on account of being only a naturalized subject, Mr. Hagar was not permitted to hold his seat. The House of Delegates, however, so speedily (within eight days) changed or improved the obnoxious law, that Mr. Hagar, being during the same time

re-elected, was enabled to take his seat before the close of the term.

Mr. Hagar was elected a second time in 1773, and again met with objections of a legal character, which were as speedily removed as those on the former occasion, and served with distinction to the end of the session.

November 6th, 1775, Mr. Hagar was accidentally killed, in his sixty-first year, at a sawmill near Hagar's mill, by a large piece of timber rolling upon and crushing him. The timber was being sawed for the German Reformed Church, which Mr. Hagar was very active in building. Mr. Hagar also conveyed three lots in Elizabethtown for the erection of an Evangelical Lutheran Church. His strong religious conviction is also typified by his entry in his family Bible at the death of his wife: "We lived together until the 16th of April, 1765. Then it pleased the Lord to call her, after severe suffering, out of this world. What God does is well done," etc.

Contrary to the founder's will, the town which he had named after his wife, through popular inclination eventually was called by his own name — viz.: Hager's-town — which was finally, by an act of Legislature in 1813, made its legal name.

Through the kindness of Mr. B. Sollers this valuable document has, by request, become the property of the Society.

The next original paper read before the Society was a description of the "Ziegler-Boss Homestead," on S. Bond street, by Mrs. Albert Leakin-Sioussat. This property, bought by John Ziegler in 1778, at his death became the common property of his daughter Sarah and her lawful husband, Adam Boss. The latter had emigrated to America with his parents in 1764, at the age of seven years. He volunteered as the substitute of his father, and as such served in the ranks of the American Army during the Revolutionary War, being present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. His seventh son, George, who was then (at the time of the above meeting) still living in the old homestead, now more than ninety years old, was one of the defenders of Baltimore City in 1814. A number of interesting relics belonging to Mr. Boss were shown,

among them copies of a German newspaper published in Baltimore as early as 1799. Mr. Boss subsequently related to the Secretary of the Society that in his early childhood he had attended a *German* parochial school in this city. He has, since the above was read, gone to his long rest.

The third original paper before the Society was by Charles J. Wiener, Esq., on Augustine Hermann, in the November meeting. Augustine Hermann, born of Protestant parents, in Prague, in Bohemia, about the year 1623, having received a careful education, and after having passed with his parents through severe afflictions on account of political and religious persecutions, emigrated to New Amsterdam (New York) about the year 1643. Already in 1649 he occupied a prominent political position. In 1650, as the records of the old Dutch church corner of Fulton and William streets prove, he was married to Miss Jannekin Verlett, the sister of a rich merchant, and also a relative of the Governor of New Amsterdam, Peter Stuyvesant. Notwithstanding his relationship to the latter, he was imprisoned by his order on the charge of treason, having with others sent a protest against the Governor's tyrannical methods to the authorities of the United Netherlands. The difficulties, however, were settled satisfactorily to both parties. After his release Mr. Hermann purchased Staten Island, together with some lands in New Jersey, from the Indians, and established a trading-post at the mouth of the Schuylkill River. During an absence from home, the Indians invaded and totally destroyed his Staten Island settlement. In the fall of 1659 he was delegated by the Governor of New Amsterdam to the Governor of the State of Maryland concerning certain border troubles. Having attended to this matter, but with little success, he visited Jamestown, in Virginia, and learning of certain boundary troubles between Virginia and Maryland, he wrote to Lord Baltimore, who was then residing in England, during the summer of 1660, proposing to make an exact map of the proprietary possessions, if His Lordship would be pleased to give him a certain tract of land as an inheritance to his posterity,

and the privilege of a manor. He thus succeeded in becoming the owner of some 5000 acres of land, to which he subsequently added another large tract by purchase from the Indians.

Thus, as early as 1661—scarcely 27 years after the first settlement of Maryland—Augustine Hermann settled in the colony with his people. His land was patented to him in 1663 under the name "Bohemia Manor." This tract lies in Cecil County, on the Elk River, and contains nearly 20,000 acres. The Legislature of Maryland, by the first act of the kind passed by any of the Colonies, formally naturalized Hermann and his family as citizens of the Province in 1664. In 1670 he published his map of Maryland. It was sent to England and there engraved by the famous engraver, William Faithorne. It is said that the King pronounced it the best map he had ever seen. Two copies of the original edition are still in existence, one in the Greenville Royal Library of England, and the other in the State Archives of Richmond, Va.

Hermann was evidently a man of wealth and lived "in style." He became the personal friend and trusted follower of Lord Baltimore; he was with him during his conference with William Penn concerning the boundary line of Maryland and Pennsylvania, The names Port Herman, Saint Augustine, Great and Little Bohemian Rivers, in Kent and Cecil Counties, still, and will continue to, testify the influence which this man exercised.

The writer was unable to give date or place of Mr. Hermann's death. One of his sons remained in New York; another son left Maryland for the Barbadoes; whilst a third son, Caspar, in 1689, was one of the signers of a petition for the restoration of Lord Baltimore's government, and was known in other important transactions. Three daughters of Mr. Hermann were honorably connected in marriage, one in Boston, one in Philadelphia, and one in New York, who in 1670 moved to Maryland, and was naturalized by an Act of the Legislature. Her descendants are still among the most honored citizens of the State.

This interesting paper also became the property of the Society by the courtesy of its author.

A number of impromptu but interesting addresses were delivered by different members at the several meetings through the year. Notable among these was that of the Rev. F. W. E. Peschau, one of the corresponding members, who honored the Society with his presence at the June meeting, and among other items related some very important historical facts of German settlers in North and South Carolina and Tennessee. It was a German who, more than one hundred years ago, after many hardships, furnished the first map of the two former States, whilst in the latter State they became conspicuous for their fighting qualities in the wars with the Indians.

The report of the Secretary's visit to a German religious colony in Franklin County, Pa., founded by a Mr. Schneeberger in 1750, proved an interesting item in the October meeting.

A number of other interesting subjects that were reported and discussed in these meetings have, of necessity, to be passed over in silence in this report.

In August the Society participated in the unveiling exercises of the De Kalb statue, which took place on the 16th of that month, at Annapolis.

The Secretary, at the request of the Society, endeavored to secure and preserve for future use a list of the early German immigrants who had landed in the harbor of Baltimore; but discovering that all lists prior to the year 1846 had, through some unknown cause, disappeared, the Society hence concluded that the matter had thus lost importance and should not be further prosecuted.

Whilst the regular monthly meetings at first took place on the third Tuesday of the month, they were, by a change of Constitution in October, fixed on the second Tuesday of the month. During the months of July, August and September the meetings were omitted.

The donations of valuable books and interesting documents to the Society by members and friends were:

I. Book of Record, containing printed Constitution, donated by Mr. Christian Ax.

2. History of York County, Pa., donated by Mr. W. L. Small, of York, Pa.
 3. An old passport, donated by Dr. L. H. Steiner.
 4. Copies of *German Correspondents* from 1842-43, by Louis P. Hennighausen, Esq.
 5. A volume of original poems, by Mr. H. A. Rattermann.
 6. Programme of the unveiling ceremonies of the De Kalb statue.
 7. Facsimile of first newspaper printed in America, by Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen.
 8. Essay on Jonathan Hagar, by Mr. Basil Sollers.
 9. Essay on Augustine Hermann, by Ch. J. Wiener, Esq.
 10. German Almanac of 1797, printed in Germantown, by Mr. Basil Sollers.
 11. Official Programme of Sesqui-Centennial Celebration of Baltimore City, by Mr. Edward F. Leyh.
 12. Issue of *German Correspondent* containing a full report of above celebration, by Rev. F. Ph. Hennighausen.
 13. Official Programme of the 50th Anniversary of the Baltimore Liederkrantz, by Louis P. Hennighausen, Esq.
- The Society, besides subscribing to the *German-American Magazine*, published by Mr. H. A. Rattermann, of Cincinnati, Ohio, purchased during the year for the use of its members the following books:
1. "The German Soldier in the Wars of the United States," by J. G. Rosengarten.
 2. "In der neuen Heimath," by Hon. A. Eickhoff.
 3. "Das deutsche Element in America," by G. Koerner.
 4. "Die Deutschen im Staate Neu York," by F. Kapp.
 5. "Bilder aus der Geschichte Pennsylvaniens," by O. Seidensticker.
 6. "Zeisberger's Diary." 2 Vols.
 7. "Die alte Zeit," by H. L. Fischer.
 8. "Kurzweil und Zeitvertreib," by H. L. Fischer.
 9. "Harbaugh's Harfe," by Harbaugh.

The membership of the Society during the year increased to seventy-two, one of whom, Dr. W. S. Landsberg, one of the founders and most interested friends of the Society, died in April; whilst one member resigned in the last meeting, leaving at the close of the year a membership of seventy.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS.

President REV. JOHN G. MORRIS, D. D., LL. D.

Vice-Presidents, L. P. HENNIGHAUSEN, Esq., and CHAS. WEBER, Jr.

Secretary, REV. FRED. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN, D. D.

Treasurer, ED. NIEMANN.

Executive Committee

(All the Officers included):

DR. LEWIS H. STEINER, *Chairman*.

MR. EDWARD F. LEYH,	PROF. CHAS. F. RADDATZ,
MR. HENRY BECKER,	DR. CHAS. C. BOMBAUGH.

Rev. H. Scheib,	Wm. Knabe,
Christian Ax,	Ernst Knabe,
J. A. Heldmann, M. D.,	John H. Smith, M. D.,
John C. Hemmeter, M. D.,	Ernst Hoen,
Jacob Plack,	H. A. Schroeder,
N. G. Numsen,	Philip Aug. Albrecht,
Wm. N. Numsen,	George Savage, Esq.,
G. W. Lehman, Ph. D.,	Chas. J. Wiener, Esq.,
Prof. E. Deichmann,	Wm. F. Frick,
Dr. Julius Goebel,	Herman Schoecke,
Valentine Scheer,	John Uhrig,
Col. Henry C. Tieck,	Emil Schmidtborn,
Basil Sollers,	Major R. T. Allison,

Hon. Harry Welles Rusk,	Col. F. Raine,
Edg. H. Gans, Esq.,	Rev. L. Vogtmann,
George J. Bechtel,	Chas. Bein,
Eberhard Hayen,	Col. J. Thomas Scharf,
Dr. Wm. S. Landsberg,	C. Bohn Slingluff, Esq.,
Edward Wischmeyer,	Christopher Lipps,
Ernst Schmeisser,	Werner Rieve,
Ferdinand Reinhard, M. D.,	Samuel D. Schmucker, Esq.,
August Vogeler,	Frederick Pohlmeier,
Geo. Wm. Sattler,	Justus H. Danzeglock,
Henry Lantz,	Geo. Bunnecke,
Herman von Kapff,	Geo. Bauernschmidt,
Lewis Dohme,	Fred. C. Kniese,
H. G. Hilken,	Chas. G. Blumhardt,
Dr. Emil Bessels,	Geo. A. von Lingen,
Wm. E. Eckhardt,	Chas. Ruhstrat,
Gustav Gieske,	F. Matthieu, M. D.,
George Wm. Gail,	Wm. E. Schloegel.

FRED. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN,
Secretary.

BALTIMORE, MD., *February*, 1887.