

SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE  
GERMANS IN MARYLAND



*Twenty-fourth Report*

1939

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

# AN INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF THE GERMANS IN MARYLAND

Dear Sir:

What we are today, we owe to our forebears of yester-year and the long years before. This thought is expressed somewhat generally in the patriotic song:

*Was ich bin und was ich habe,  
Dank ich dir mein Vaterland!*

This, we can truly say, without derogation of the esteem and love we bear our land; the land wherein we live, where we have risen to competence and wherein we occupy a place of equality according to our merit and ability.

Poor indeed is the man who denies his race and its inheritance. Like the mule he has neither pride of past nor hope of future. Honest men hold him in unspeakable contempt; he moves among them ill at ease and out of place. He lacks caste, is a pariah—a thing unclean.

Pride of ancestry, pride in the work and the quality of those of one's blood and one's race, is commendable in men wherever found.

It is this feeling of pride that holds men together, that causes them to cherish and record the deeds, the valor and the achievements of their race, their kind and their kin.

This essentially human attribute of sharing in the glory and the past greatness of one's own people led to the formation of the Society For the History of the Germans in Maryland.

This was in the year 1886; among the founders were Louis P. Hennighausen, Edward F. Leyh, Charles F. Raddatz, Dr. John G. Morriss, Pastor Frederick Ph. Hennighausen, Pastor Henry Scheib, Carl Weber, Jr., Edward Niemann, Dr. Louis P. Steiner, Henry Becker, Dr. Charles L. Bombaugh, Christian Ax, William Knabe, George William Gail, Henry G. Hilken, Ernest Hoen and Basil Sollers.

The Society's purposes are to collect and preserve material for the history of the influence of the German element in the growth and development of the

American Nation with particular reference to the State of Maryland.

In pursuance hereof the Society has, from time to time, published essays and monographs; among such—

Jonathan Hager, *Founder of Hagerstown*

Augustine Hermann of Bohemia Manor

The Redemptioners

Early German Immigration in Maryland

German-American Families in Maryland

The Germans in Baltimore

German-American Turner Lyric

The German Element in Maryland

The German Element in Virginia

The great war enforced a period of passivity upon the work of the Society. Many of its older members passed away. Today its membership numbers half a hundred, these are animated with an earnest desire to continue and enlarge its work.

Believing that you too may be interested in seeking out and perpetuating the knowledge of the part that those of German blood have meritoriously played in the making of Maryland, we take the liberty of inviting your co-operation by becoming a member.

The dues are merely five dollars a year and such entitle you to all publications which may be issued by the Society, and also includes attendance upon the annual dinner — a congenial meeting of the members.

Trusting that we may have the pleasure of a favorable response to our invitation to become a member, we are

very respectfully,

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
334 St. Paul Street,  
Baltimore, Md.



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## *An Die Vorfahren*



Vorfahren ihr!  
Verklärt, im Glanz der Sonne steht  
Die Heimat, die im Wolkenschatten  
Ihr liesset.

Von ihrer Vollkraft lebt das Erdrund,  
Und ihre Söhne führt  
Uralt Germanenlos  
Zum fernsten Strand.

Vorfahren, seid gesegnet  
Uns, die wir ernten  
Die frühe Aussaat  
Der unverdrossen schweigenden Mühsal!  
Ihr wandeltet Wald und Wüste,  
Bezwangt den Fels und den Strom,  
Die Höhen, die Tiefen erschloss euch  
Kühnhoffende Tatkraft.

Doch freundlich des Lebens Ernste  
Das heitre Spiel der Kunst gesellend,  
Vereintet Anmut ihr der Würde.  
Und sonnenvollen Auges  
Und liederfrohen Herzens  
In herrlichem Beruf den Völkern  
brachtet ihr  
Der Arbeit Weihe und der Ruhe.  
Und neu erstand,  
Von eurer Art verschont, die Erde.

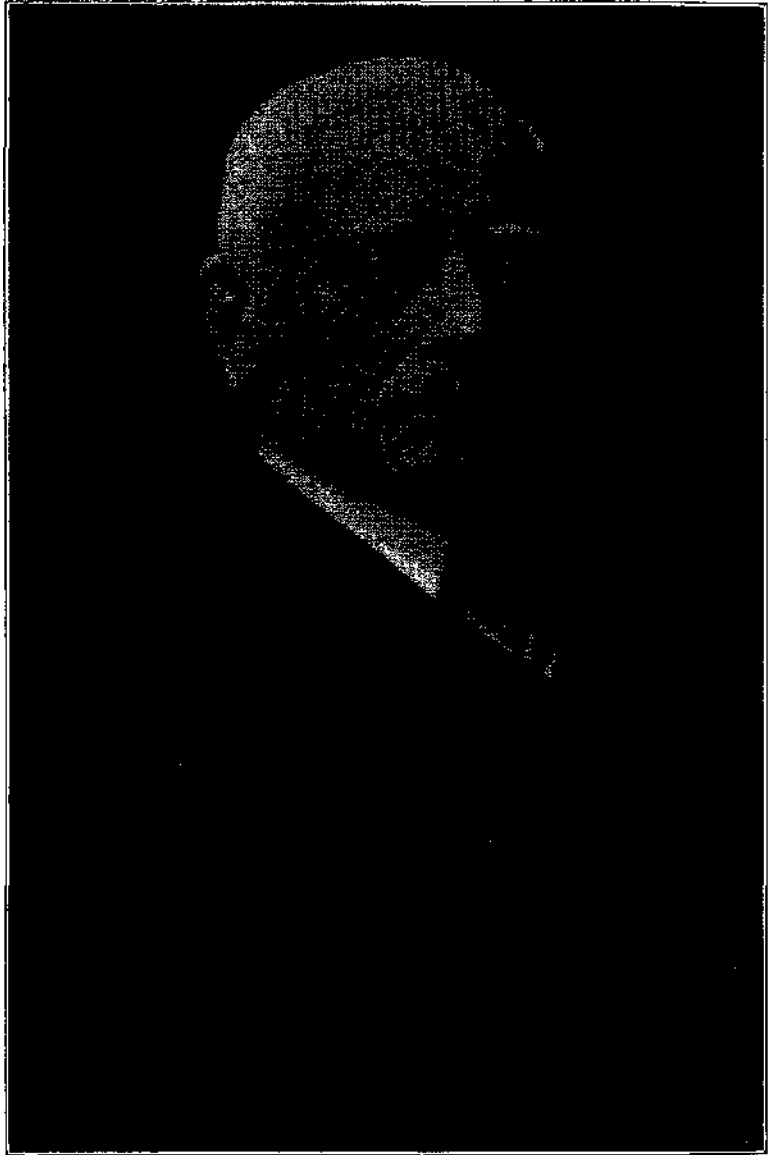
Doch über allem süß  
Klang euch der Freiheit Ruf:  
Die blutend ihr warbet,  
Die kämpfend ihr starbet,  
Vorfahren, euch preist der Gesang!

—*J. Hofmann.*



*"In Appreciation of a life-long  
Friendship and in Honor of the  
Memory of Ferdinand Meyer, a  
faithful member of Zion Church,  
a generous benefactor of charity,  
this window was given by  
R. Walter Graham, 1938."*

*The window was designed and executed by*  
THE FOERTSCH-LETTAU ART GLASS STUDIOS OF BALTIMORE



FERDINAND A. J. MEYER

Dedicated to the Memory  
of  
Ferdinand Meyer  
whose  
generous bequest to the  
Society for the History of the Germans  
in Maryland  
has made this book possible