

## PAST - PRESENT - FUTURE

After the lapse of a decade we again herewith present a sign of the life and activity of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland. To the papers of the day we leave the presentation of the days' happenings, alarms and sensations, the while we quietly recede into the shade of the past, thereout to pick random events and personalities and pass them in review. In doing so, we note, with some measure of inward satisfaction, that, after all, their cares and joys were much like our own.

In retrospection we find that this ever-changing world is a never-changing world. Every man lives the lives of all men, and in this likeness feels a fellow-interest and comfort. So when we present the picture of a family of some ninety years ago emigrating in troublous times to seek a new home and a new existence in a far-away new land, the happenings herein depicted in the Stein letters, it brings to our minds and consciousness the hardships endured, together with the saddened heartaches and sufferings, that, under similar conditions may have been the experience of our own immigrant parents and grandparents.

Again, in the story by Professor Zucker, we have a picture of an ardent, enthusiastic heroic young man, a poet in heart, and his soul fired with the altruistic ideals of youth, risking everything he had for the good of his Fatherland, only to be cast out and disavowed by those therein in authority. Such was Carl Heinrich Schnauffer, just one of thousands of his day, as now again of our days. 'Twas America's gain, Germany's sore loss.

The Greisenheim's vacating its old home at the corner of Baltimore and Payson Streets, caused the removal of the Society's possessions to the Pratt Library on Cathedral Street. Through the courtesy of Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler, its librarian, we have secured space in the Maryland Department for the shelving of our books, and in the basement

vaults for the storage of our supplies and the repository of our other possessions. Further, under the arrangement made, we have the privilege of holding meetings and lectures at the library when and as occasion prompts. The thanks of the Society are also due to Mr. James W. Foster, of the Maryland Department, who has courteously aided us in every way.

**GIFTS**—The Society was fortunate in receiving the rich monetary bequest from its late member, Ferdinand Meyer. Though himself of a quiet, retiring disposition, he always showed a lively interest in the Society's work, and ne'er missed a meeting when in the city. This gift lays a foundation, which, we hope, may be supplemented by other like generousities, upon which the larger aims envisaged by the Society's founders, may find achievement.

From Mr. Frederick F. Schneider, German Counsel, we received the large folio edition of the statutes and decrees of the Holy Roman Empire German Nation, covering the years 1663 to 1675.

From the estate of our late member, Henry G. Hilken, we received a large number of pictures, programs and miscellanae, pertaining to social and cultural G.-A. activities of the past. We also received from the Misses Minnie J. and Emma I. Witthaus, a collection of concert and theatrical programs of half a century ago, cherished by their mother, the late Charlotte E. Wellinghof Witthaus.

Through August Ruedy, secretary of the Swiss Historical Society of America, we received a copy of their interesting publication, as also reports and bulletins from sister historical societies.

From Dr. Heinz Kloss, pamphlet of 24 pages, entitled "Stufenjahre in der Entwicklung des Deutschthums der Vereinigten Staaten."

From Dr. Paul G. Gleis, of the Catholic University of America, a 148-page

dissertation on "Heinrich Armin Rattermann, German-American Author, Poet, and Historian, 1832-1923," by Sister Mary Edmund Spanheimer, M.A. A scholarly work of great interest.

From other sources we have received the minute books of several organizations that have passed out of existence. Among these the minutes of the latter years of the Liederkrantz Singing Society, as of the Bavarian Beneficial Union; both useful in their days and in their ways.

The Society, through its financial aid, promoted the Zion Exhibition, elsewhere herein referred to, as also the publication of the 70th Anniversary pamphlet history of the Turnverein Vorwaerts and the 150th Anniversary Souvenir of the German Society of Maryland. Its members also contributed articles to the 1938 Saengerfest Souvenir Program. In doing these things the Historical Society is but following precedent, for in 1900 it published Hermann Schuricht's two-volume History of the German Element in Virginia. Though these things may seem small yet they give evidence of what could be done with larger funds at the Society's disposal.

A matter that has for many years obsessed the writer is the publication of neatly gotten up booklets, written in plain words and appropriately illustrated, depicting incidents of the story of German-American pioneers and their activities in the fields of industry, invention, science, art, education, and in every cultural field, as well as their part in the wars from the French-Colonial to the last.

The Society, though modest in its estimate of the value of its work, is somewhat amazed at what has been accomplished through the years, as shown by the index herein published. Many of the articles and sketches printed in the course of the past half-century are highly interesting, covering a wide range of subjects, and, if here and there, now and then, someone finds something therein of appeal or use, we are content.

There is much that could be done by our Society and which it would like to

do, but therefor money is prerequisite. For example:

- \* A preservation through the new process of photographic reproduction in miniature of the German newspapers we have, the paper of which is gradually but surely disintegrating.
- \* A careful recording of happenings of today which will later form source material for the historians of German-Americanism in the future. Herewith—
- \* The employment of some competent person equally versed in English and German, to act as archivar and take charge of and ordinate our possessions, care for new acquisitions, and help in securing data and information incidental to our aims and purposes.
- \* Particularly valuable would be a source index of articles referring to matters germane to our work appearing in books and publications, magazines, newspaper articles, etc. Such now enjoy a brief notice and then are destined to oblivion.
- \* Searching out and preserving old records and papers, of churches, schools, societies, and the like, which are being discarded as being of little value.
- \* Seeking and preserving family papers, lineages, letters, pictures and other material. Such matter, elaborated, would often prove useful in meeting the enquiries of persons in quest of ancestors once resident in our community.
- \* Indexing the contents of local German newspapers, books, magazines, and like publications, of a past era. We tried to do this with an early volume of the "Deutsche Correspondent," but the work was too stupendous and our resources were not equal to the burden.
- \* Compiling a list of German immigrants, with names, date of coming, place of origin, activities and other pertinent matter. Our late secretary, Andrew Hartman Mettee, undertook such a work as far as the Germans of the early days of our State and City were concerned; unfortunately his death ended the task.
- \* Setting up some Central Headquarters where articles of craftsmanship, pictures and paintings, books, papers, and anything and everything pertaining to German-American cultural, social and family life from colonial days to our own times could be preserved and publicly displayed.
- \* Annually setting aside a sum of money sufficient to encourage students of our Universities to seek subjects for their academical dissertations in the study of the past of German-American influence and activities in our communities. Unplowed and vast is the field offered by the rich border counties of Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick and Washington, the richest and most substantial in our

State, and largely made so by the thrift and industry of men of German blood and descent.

Many, aye many, who were our compatriots and fellow-workers, have, in the decade gone, passed into the shadowy realms beyond the ken of man. Some, "Have drunk their cup a round or too before, and, one by one, crept silently to rest." Of these, a few we give space herein to their memory; others, equally meritorious, we have passed by,

for the list is long and our memory slight.

Pride of race is a creditable virtue in all, and with no intent to assume a better than thou attitude towards others, we feel justified in voicing *our* own praise when and as circumstances justify. In doing so we but enrich the heritage we hand down to our posterity.

And so, valet!

K. A. M. S.

## This is to Certify

That we, John G. Morris, Louis P. Hennighausen, Lewis H. Steiner, Charles F. Raddatz, Edward F. Leyh, Frederick Ph. Hennighausen, and George Wm. Gail, being citizens of the United States and a majority of whom are citizens of the State of Maryland, do hereby certify that we do, under and by virtue of the general laws of this State, authorizing the formation of corporations, hereby form a corporation under the name of: "The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland of Baltimore City."

2. WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said corporation so formed is a corporation for the purpose of gathering, publishing and preserving material for the History of the Germans in Maryland, that the term of the existence of the said corporation is limited to forty years, and that the said corporation is formed upon the articles, conditions and provisions herein expressed and subject in all particulars to the limitations relating to corporations, which are contained in the general laws of the State.

3. WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the operations of the said corporation are to be carried on in the State of Maryland and that the principal office of the said corporation will be located in Baltimore City.

4. WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said corporation has no capital stock.

5. WE DO FURTHER CERTIFY, that the said corporation will be managed by a board of officers and that John G. Morris, D.D., LL.D., Louis P. Hennighausen, Charles Weber, Robert M. Rother, Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, Edward F. Leyh, Charles F. Raddatz, Ernest Hoen, are the names of the nine officers who will manage the concerns of the said corporation for the first year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hands and seals this twenty-ninth day of March one thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine.

WITNESS:  
WILLIAM B. NELSON

JOHN G. MORRIS	(SEAL)
LOUIS P. HENNIGHAUSEN	(SEAL)
LEWIS H. STEINER	(SEAL)
CHARLES F. RADDATZ	(SEAL)
EDWARD F. LEYH	(SEAL)
FRED'K PH. HENNIGHAUSEN	(SEAL)
GEORGE WM. GAIL	(SEAL)