

(1908.)

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY

OF THE

Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland.

Baltimore, February 18, 1908.

To the President and Members of

"The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland"

Gentlemen:

I have the honor herewith to submit the Twenty-Second Annual Report covering the Society's activities for the year ending January 21, 1908.

MEETINGS.

There were nine (9) monthly meetings held during the past year, the full number provided for by the By-Laws.

The attendance has been encouraging, thereby giving proof that the interest of the members in the aims and purposes of the society is being fully maintained.

Apart from the gratifying attendance, the meetings, with scarcely an exception, have been highly instructive and entertaining, many original papers having been read and discussed, foremost among which were a series of readings by the chairman of the Executive Committee, Louis P. Hennighausen, Esq., from the manuscript of his forthcoming book "The History of the German Society of Maryland."

The resumption of the publication of Annual Reports (now in print) marks the return of the society to its former sphere of activities in its chosen field of historic research.

OFFICERS.

The officers of the society have, both by precept and example, been most faithful in the discharge of their respective duties, and their untiring efforts in behalf of the society's interests and the promotion of its welfare merits the approval and generous support of its members.

MEMBERSHIP.

Numerically the present membership calls for more than a passing notice, as at no time in the society's history has it been as low in numbers, and that, too, seemingly, from no other cause than a passing indifference to the duties incumbent upon all who are able to aid in developing the large and exceptionally interesting fields in the special domain of historic research in which this society has heretofore achieved such notable renown.

Per last report of one year ago there were thirty-six (36) active and six (6) corresponding members on the roster, of this number four (4) active and one (1) corresponding member died during the year; this loss, however, was partly offset by the gain of three (3) active and one (1) corresponding member, thus leaving at the close of this the Twenty-second (22) year an active membership of thirty-five (35), and a corresponding membership of six (6), a net loss of one as compared with the report of one year ago.

The loss by death during the year is summarized in the following necrology:

† **Mr. George A. Von Lingen**, Imperial German Consul at Baltimore, and one of the oldest members of this society, died June 26, 1907. Mr. Von Lingen, for many years the head of the universally well known and old established shipping firm of A. Schumacher & Co., had also been prominently identified with the financial and commercial affairs of Baltimore, where his name and that of the firm over which he presided, had

become synonymous with the era of progressive development marking the close of the Nineteenth and the opening of the Twentieth century.

† **Mr. Henry Lauts**, one of the most prominent merchants of the city of Baltimore, and one of the oldest members of this society, died December 29, 1907.

The sudden and untimely death of Mr. Lauts was a shock to the community, especially to German-American circles, who, have sustained a loss that can only be effaced by the healing hand of Time.

Apart from his prominence in the commercial life of Baltimore, he was always to the fore in every movement looking to the uplifting and advancement of the social, moral and material interests of all to whom he was bound by the ties of consanguinity and race.

Dame Nature had generously cast him no less mentally and morally than physically in an heroic mold.

His broad humanitarian conceptions and lofty ideals were never circumscribed, but like the glorious orb of day, shed their beneficent influence broadcast over all.

Ever true to his convictions, born of his high resolves and nobility of character in fostering and protecting the cause and welfare of his fellow German-Americans, his life course stands pre-eminent as a memorial on Time's highway of the people of which he was so highly esteemed and honored a representative.

This chaplet is dedicated in grateful recognition and remembrance of him, who, as President of the Germania Club, never wearied in his attentions by extending every possible courtesy, together with the many and inestimable privileges enjoyed for so many years by this society.

† **Mr. J. Fred. Requardt**, a member of the Baltimore Bar, and prominent in German-American circles, and for many years a member of this society, died December 15, 1907.

† **Mr. Edward L. Felgner**, retired tobacco manufacturer, and for many years a prominent factor in the commercial affairs of Baltimore, and one of the oldest members of this society, died January 5, 1908.

† **Mr. Wilhelm Rapp**, Journalist, and editor of the Illinois Staatszeitung, Chicago, and a corresponding member of this society, died March 1, 1907.

Mr. Rapp had the honorable distinction of having been one of the foremost and oldest journalists of the German-American press in the United States, having at one time been editor of the Baltimore Wecker, one of the pioneer papers that vigorously opposed slavery in ante-bellum days.

The portend of these figures and facts admit neither argument, evasion or delay, as they simply portray existing conditions, that, if courageously met, would be readily overcome, as nothing can well be said further that more fittingly covers the situation and its requirements than the following paragraph in my last year's report:

"The significant object lesson contained in this mortality list, admonishes more forcibly than words the importance of bringing to the front the young and virile members, if the notable achievements and enviable standing of the society's past and present is to be maintained in the future."

LIBRARY.

The library, as the result of long and diligent effort, is now in as perfect a condition as circumstances permit.

Whilst in point of numbers the library may not bear comparison with those of some of our sister societies, yet in their high standard of excellence and value as historic tomes and works of general reference, it can safely be classified with the best.

As a whole, the library is a reflex of the care and discriminating judgment displayed in its selection by those entrusted with this important duty, the praiseworthy honors, without prejudice, being worthily divided.

Prominent among the noteworthy books acquired and cataloged during the year were the "Mumma Family Bible," Nürnberg, 1770, bequeathed to the society by the late Mr. David T. Mumma; The Records of the Virginia Company 2 Volumes, from the Ms. in the Congressional Library; Volume II, Illinois Historical Collections, Virginia series No. 1,

Cahokia Records 1778—1790; and the highly important historical publications of the New York State Library.

The re-cataloging of the library was completed last fall, together with an entire re-newal of the card-system, thereby bringing the record of the books and publications contained in the library up to the 31st of December, 1907.

The new catalog, now ready, will be issued as soon as the society's sixteenth Report, now in print, is ready.

Two-hundred and eighty (280) pamphlets German-American Turner Lyric, Prof M. D. Learned, and published by this society, were tendered to and accepted by the Vorwärts Turn-Verein.

The importance of increasing the active membership commensurate with the splendid work being prosecuted by this society, should appeal to every member.

Nowhere is there a more promising field for historic research than that presented by the record of the early Germans in the Colonial period of our State, and nowhere is there a larger or more thoroughly qualified element able and willing to engage in this highly interesting work, if only reasonable efforts are put forth to bring it within the sphere of the society's activities.

J. LEONARD HOFFMAN,

Secretary.