

# In Memoriam

FREDERICK BAUERNSCHMIDT. In reviewing the names of native sons of Maryland of German extraction who have left an indelible mark by reason of their individuality, the name of Frederick Bauernschmidt deserves a prominent place.

Mr. Bauernschmidt was born on January 10, 1864, the son of George Bauernschmidt and Margaretha Wiessner Bauernschmidt. Both the Bauernschmidt and Wiessner families were even at that time engaged in the brewing business. George Bauernschmidt, the father, was born in Germany and upon his arrival in this country had engaged in the brewing business first as a brewmaster and later in the brewing of beer on his own account.

George Bauernschmidt's plant, at first a small one, was located on the Belair Road, in the vicinity of Schuetzen Park, not far from the brewery which Mrs. Bauernschmidt's brothers, J. Fred. and Henry Wiessner, conducted.

Mr. and Mrs. Bauernschmidt had seven children: four sons, John, Frederick, George and William, one of whom, George, died in early manhood. All of the sons, upon reaching maturity, took places in their father's business.

Miss Sarah Bauernschmidt, one of Mr. and Mrs. Bauernschmidt's three daughters, is at present, the sole survivor of the family; the other two daughters, Miss Emilie Bauernschmidt (who subsequently married Harry Wehr) and Miss Elizabeth Bauernschmidt, both are dead.

With thrift and industry George Bauernschmidt succeeded in his business and as it grew his sons played active parts in their father's organization. When the George Bauernschmidt Brew-

ing Company was formed, the father was President; the one son, John, was Vice-President, and Frederick was Treasurer. In this capacity he managed the financial interests of the brewing company.

In 1898 when the Maryland Brewing Company was formed, the George Bauernschmidt Brewing Company occupied such a conspicuous position in the industry that the Maryland company found it necessary to acquire this plant. George Bauernschmidt, the father, welcomed the opportunity to dispose of his plant and retire. Frederick, however, then only thirty-four years of age, was too young and vigorous to acquiesce in this plan and he and his brother William dissented, with the result that the father bought out the interests of all of his children in the brewing company in order that he might carry out his plan to dispose of his business and retire from active participation therein.

This was perhaps the turning point in the career of Frederick Bauernschmidt. With a comparatively small capital, represented by the interest which he had in his father's business, he undertook to start into business in competition with the powerful and wealthy "trust" which had purchased and consolidated all of the breweries in the City of Baltimore. He chose as a site an old Inn near the Belair Market, which had a large wagon yard for the convenience of the farmers who brought their produce to the market, and which due to changing conditions was no longer a profitable venture.

With great care and using the knowledge of the business which his long experience with his father had given him, Frederick Bauernschmidt undertook the construction of a modern brewery after the panic of 1897, when the business conditions of the country were still very

unsettled. He borrowed considerable sums in order to complete the plant and in 1899 began in a small way the operation of his American Brewery, which he proudly insisted was "independent of all trusts."

The years that followed were perhaps the most difficult of his career, but slowly he was laying the foundations for a large, well-managed business. He addressed himself to the payment of his obligations and thereafter to the extension of his plant

His business grew to such proportions that in 1918 an English syndicate is reported to have offered him three millions of dollars for his business.

The adoption of the Prohibition Amendment reduced and made practically worthless the large investment which he had in his business. At the time of the adoption of the Amendment, he was brewing 350,000 barrels of beer per annum—an output equal to the combined produce of all of the other breweries in the city. The wrecking of his business was a terrible blow to the owner, who was thereby faced with an enforced retirement, although only fifty-five years of age.

On January 30, 1895, Mr. Bauernschmidt had married Miss Agnes A. Wehr, the daughter of August A. Wehr, who had originally been engaged in the manufacture of brick and who later also had become identified with one of the larger breweries in Baltimore. They had no children, so that upon Mr. Bauernschmidt's retirement from the business, it was quite natural that he should direct his attention to the ultimate disposition of his large fortune.

In this connection it is interesting to know that by his will, made on July 5th, 1921, shortly after his retirement from business, he had set up a legacy of \$500,000.00 for various charities in Baltimore, in addition to a trust fund of \$1,000,000.00 which was to be payable after the death of his wife. It therefore appears that his thoughts had turned toward philanthropy immediately upon his retirement from business and he gave much thought to the prac-

tical details of his charities to such an uncommon extent that he became the pioneer in the practical application of his theories and ideas to the task which confronted him.

It was quite natural that a man who was making a large fortune would have to devote himself exclusively to his business. This fact of necessity would limit his social activities and his friends would likely be his business associates and those with whom he was thrown in contact in the management thereof. Mr. Bauernschmidt was no exception to this general rule. He was by nature reserved and uncommunicative but he was observant and cautious in the management of his own affairs and sought advice whenever he deemed it necessary. There can be no doubt that he talked with his physicians, particularly with Dr. J. M. T. Finney, who was at that time, as now, the Senior Surgeon and Chief of the Staff of the Union Memorial Hospital, in connection with the needs for hospitalization in Baltimore.

The hospital had erected its new building on Thirty-third Street, not far removed from Mr. Bauernschmidt's home, and had completed its arrangements for the erection of the Johnson Hospital for Children.

Mr. Bauernschmidt determined to undertake the erection and equipment of a building on the Guilford Avenue front of the hospital property which is now known as the Frederick Bauernschmidt Memorial Building of the Hospital. In this undertaking Mr. Bauernschmidt's characteristics were emphasized. He shrank from publicity and his self-effacement was carried to the extreme that he would take no part in the planning of the hospital, feeling that the doctors were the best judges of the needs in the new building. He also turned over the details of the erection and the financing of the structure to those in whom he had confidence. He even declined to be present at the exercises incident to the opening of the new hospital and the tablets commemorating his gift were erected at the suggestion of members of the Staff. He was generous

to the point of being lavish in equipping the hospital throughout.

Mr. Bauernschmidt was about sixty-five years of age when he determined to put into effect immediately some of the plans which he had theretofore hoped to carry out by his will after his death. It seems remarkable that his conceptions of the ways in which these charities were to be administered were so sound that after an experience of nearly ten years they have proven to be extremely efficient in operation. He had long since been persuaded that the very well-to-do and the very poor received the best hospital treatment. His ideal was to assist those of the great middle class of his fellow-citizens who were unable to meet the cost of hospitalization when overtaken by illness.

He constantly kept clearly before him that his objective was not to assist either the hospital or the doctor, but the patient, and his plans were shaped to this end.

After a full consideration he finally established a trust fund of one million dollars in securities, the income of which he directed should be devoted to those who through unfortunate circumstances were unable to pay the cost of their hospitalization in full. In his letter dated March 12, 1925, to his Trustees, he indicates the goal toward which he is striving and gives practical directions, born of his long and successful business career, in the operation of the Fund.

He approached the problem with the view that the hospital would be doing its part in dispensing charity in the reduction of its rates; the physician, in modifying his charge; and the Trust Fund would come to the relief of the patient to the extent that he was not able to pay.

Mr. Bauernschmidt was catholic in his charities in that the Fund was not confined to the Union Memorial Hospital, of which the building he had erected was a part, but embraced most of the larger hospitals in the city. The list includes those operated under Jewish, Catholic and Protestant auspices and

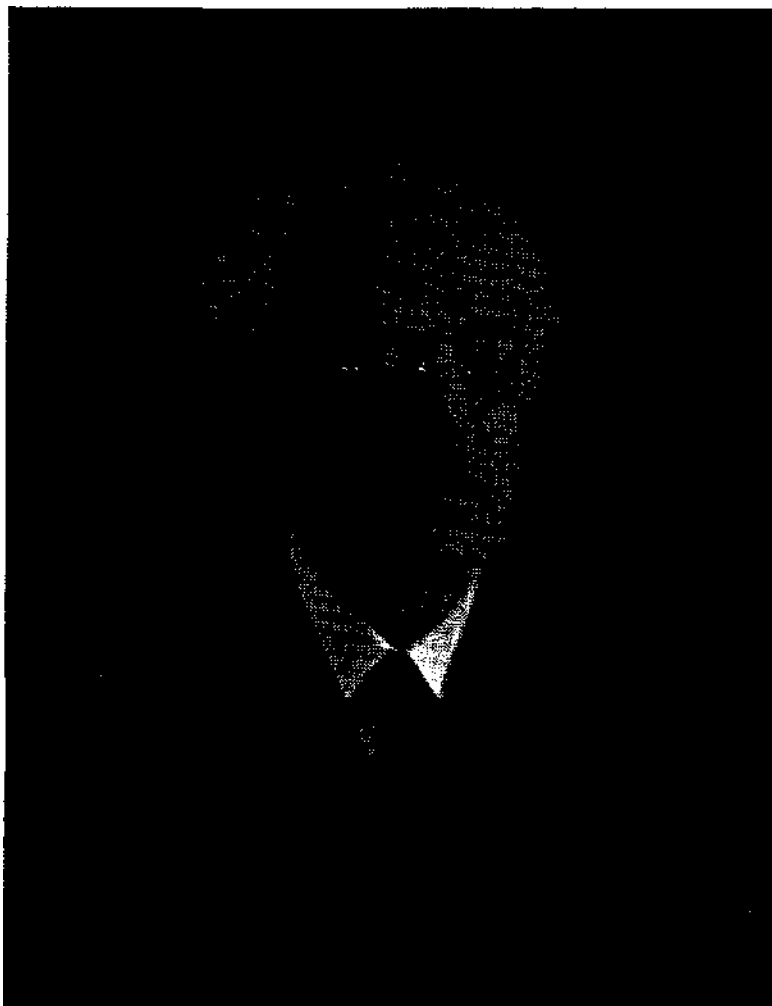
covers hospitals located in every section of the city. Under the law existing at the time of the execution of the deed of trust, the trust was limited to twenty years, but the donor expressed the wish that the trust funds might be kept intact by the several hospitals so that the income thereof might be devoted to the care of deserving patients.

Mr. Bauernschmidt had the satisfaction of seeing this plan put into effect during his lifetime when he could still criticize its operation and enjoy the satisfaction of the great good that it accomplished. For four years after the creation of the trust, he took a personal interest in its operations. The plan was so successful that he was induced to convey all of his holdings of real estate, excepting only his home in Baltimore and a country place on the Middle River to trustees to manage for the benefit of the Hospital for Consumptives at Eudowood and the Home for Incurables. In the case of the last-named institution, he directed that the proceeds of the sales of the real estate should be applied to the erection of a Home for Incurables for Men, the facilities of the institution having theretofore been exclusively for women. The value of his real estate holdings was at one time estimated to be more than a million dollars, but the shrinkage in real estate values has probably reduced it to less than half of this sum.

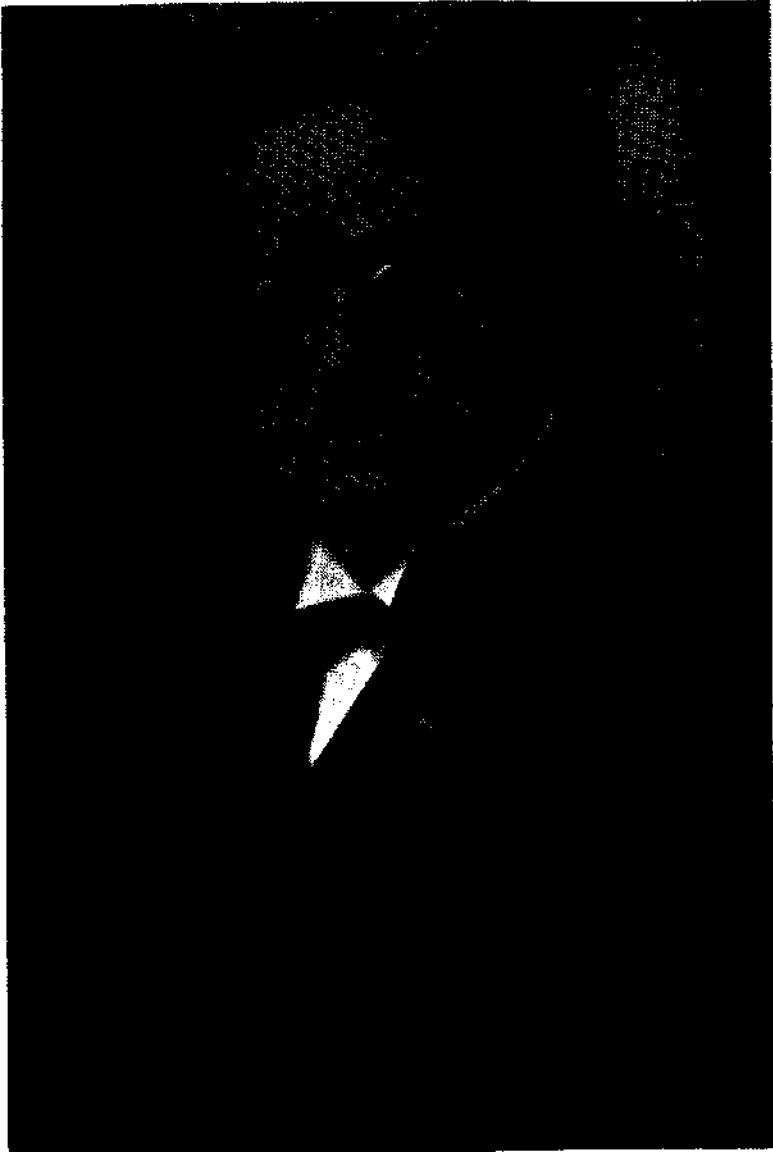
Upon his death the terms of his will were made public and by the terms thereof he gave one million dollars additional to the various hospitals in Baltimore, payable upon the death of his wife, and \$500,000.00 to various other charities, payable in the settlement of his estate. He gave \$50,000.00 each to the General German Aged People's Home and to the General German Orphan Association, and equal sums for the Maryland School for the Blind and the Maryland School for the Deaf. An examination of the will discloses that there are not less than thirty separate eleemosynary institutions receiving substantial legacies. He naturally showed a preference by giving larger amounts to



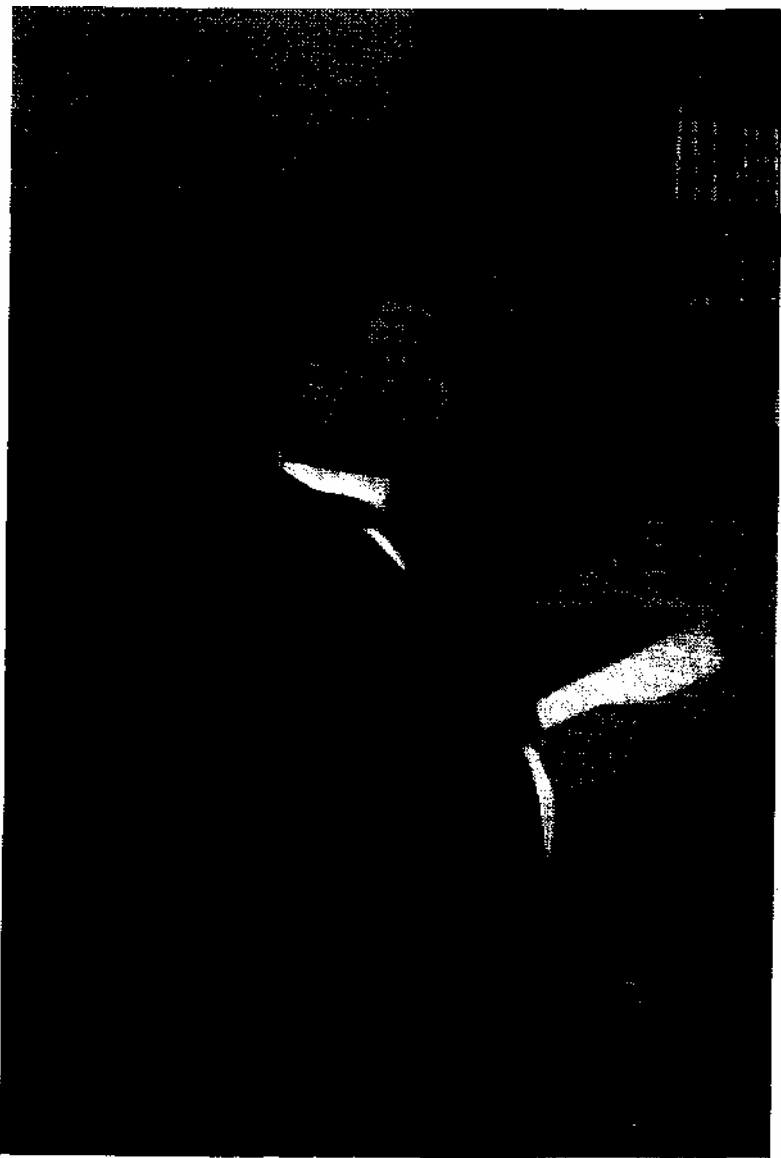
FREDERICK BAUERNSCHMIDT



HENRY G. HILKEN



THOMAS FOLEY HISKY



ANDREW H. METTEE

the institutions managed by German-Americans, as these were uppermost in his mind next to his plans for hospitalization. The amounts which he gave during his lifetime to various charities quietly and unostentatiously will probably never be known. As has been so well said on his death: "He preferred to do good by stealth, shunning as far as possible the open expression of the public gratitude, that his benevolence well deserved."

The record of Mr. Bauernschmidt's gifts surely entitles this native-born Baltimorean of German extraction to a leading place among the philanthropists of his native city and the plans which he proposed in dispensing his charities will long be remembered because of their departure from the pre-existing standards, the ideals with which they were conceived, the sound business principles upon which he founded their operation, and the success which attended the execution of his plans.

As was so well said in the editorial appearing in the Baltimore *Evening Sun* on his death,

"Any man who has given away nearly \$3,000,000 must be regarded as a notable personage, but it was not merely the great size of his benefactions that made Frederick Bauernschmidt remarkable. The way in which he gave was as distinctive as the size of his donations.

"He did more than merely give. He made a study of the situation as well. And because he was not merely an accumulating machine, but a man with imagination and sympathy he was able to understand the problems that harass men less fortunate than he was and to apply his strength at a point where it would help enormously.

"He had small respect for that sort of charity that confines itself to scattering alms among the beggars. He believed that a little assistance given a hard-working man pursued by bad luck does more good in the world than much larger amounts spent in supporting the

worthless. Thus, when he made his donations to the hospitals, he arranged it so that the benefit should accrue, not to paupers, but to self-respecting people accustomed to pay their own bills but not in position to pay the heavy bills that hospital treatment runs up. He furnished free treatment to nobody; but he made it possible for people with little money to pay with their little for the best of treatment for their loved ones.

"And he did his good work with a quiet simplicity that added good taste to its other fine qualities. To say that he was a valuable citizen is an absurd understatement; he set up a standard of good citizenship which future generations will find it hard to meet and which is not likely to be surpassed soon, if ever."

FREDERICK J. SINGLEY.



WILLIAM BAUERNSCHMIDT. Born in Baltimore, Maryland, December 14th, 1874, the son of George and Margaretta Bauernschmidt; he died December 23, 1938.

He was educated in the public schools and at Deichmann's private school. He entered the brewing business, owned by his father, and later became associated in business with his brother, the late Frederick Bauernschmidt. After giving up the brewing business he became owner of the New York Paper Company.

On January 29th, 1896, he was married to Marie Oehl von Hattersheim, at Old Zion Church by the late Rev. Julius Hofmann. Of a retiring nature, Mr. Bauernschmidt took no part in public affairs but his was the silent, reserve force which gave aid, counsel and encouragement to the efforts of his wife, Mrs. Marie Bauernschmidt, in her fight for honesty and better administration in the affairs of City and State.

With pride, he supported her civic work—a work, done almost single-handed, in succession to the beginnings made by the Reform League and Muni-



cial League of earlier days. The while politicians swore, feared, and heeded her, he approved and joyed in her activity and results.

Mr. Bauernschmidt gave unstintingly of his means toward the support of all worth while projects in the city.



HERMAN BECKER came to Baltimore in 1895 or 1896 and died here on January 12, 1937. His coming was to illustrate one of the major medical works of Dr. Howard A. Kelly. Afterwards he did much of this class of work for Dr. Thomas S. Cullen and other well-known surgeons. He had been ill and at the Hopkins Hospital for some three years.



VICTOR G. BLOEDE. Born in Germany, died in Baltimore on March 27, 1937. He came to America as an infant one year old. His father, who was a jurist and physician fled from Germany in consequence of the Revolution. Mr. Bloede was active in civic affairs in Catonsville, as also in the Eudowood Sanitarium for Consumptives, having endowed the Marie Bloede Memorial Hospital there.



DR. CHARLES EMIL BRACK, one of the city's leading obstetricians, died on April 4, 1935, at the age of 69. He was born in Baltimore and attended the Friends School and the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Brack's father was the late Emil Brack, a well-known figure in Baltimore's "Old Town." The elder Brack, a pharmacist of the old school, for many years conducted his apothecary at the corner of Ensor and Forrest Streets.

In addition to his very wide practice as obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Brack found time to lecture and instruct in clinical obstetrics at the University of Maryland. He was also senior obstetrician at Mercy Hospital and a member of the board of governors of that

institution. A great number of the city's obstetricians were trained by him.

Dr. Brack served as treasurer of both the Baltimore City Medical Society and the Chirurgical Faculty. He was also a member of the American Medical Association and the American College of Surgeons.



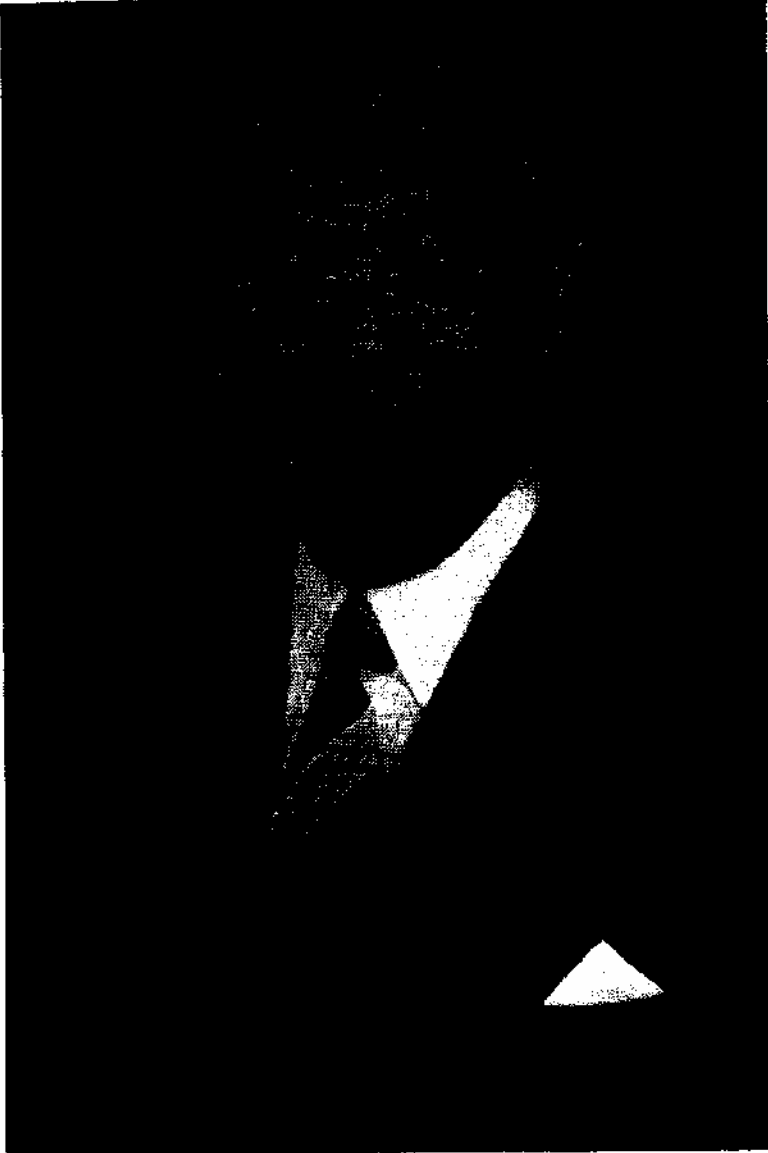
GEORGE A. BUCHHEISTER was born in Bremen, Germany, on September 15th, 1872. His father, Gustav Adolph Buchheister, was a tobacco broker in Bremen, well known and highly esteemed by the tobacco interests of his home town, Bremen.

After leaving school in Bremen, young George Buchheister entered the tobacco import firm of Papendieck & Co. of Bremen, where he served his apprenticeship of three years, during which period he became thoroughly familiar with various kinds and grades of tobacco handled in his home town.

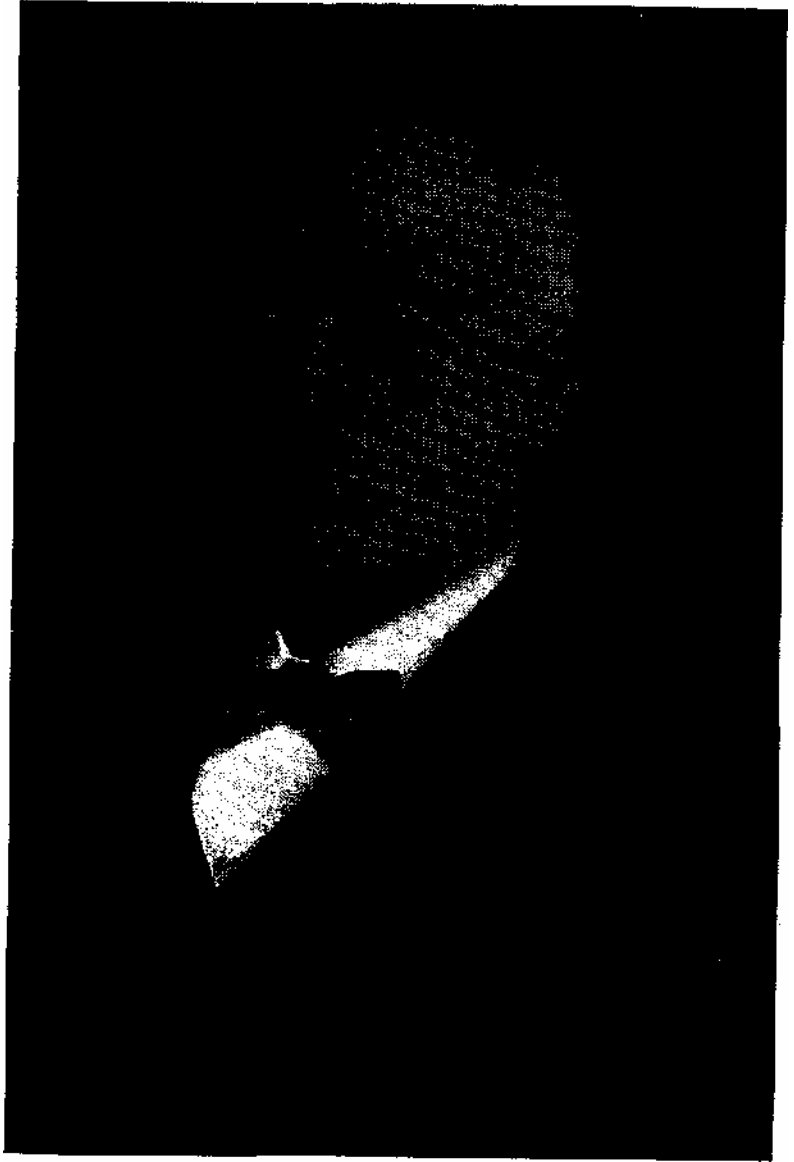
Having ended his apprenticeship, he left for Hanover and there served his military year with the 74th Regiment of Infantry and being a good soldier was promoted to the rank of petty officer before the end of the military term.

Having an uncle in America, who held a good position with the Standard Oil Co. in New York City, he was easily persuaded to cross the Atlantic and seek his fortune in the United States. Hence in 1892, in the spring, when in his twentieth year, he embarked for America on one of the steamers of the North German Lloyd and landed in Hoboken, N. J., where he made his home, having obtained a position as bookkeeper and office man with a German firm in New York City.

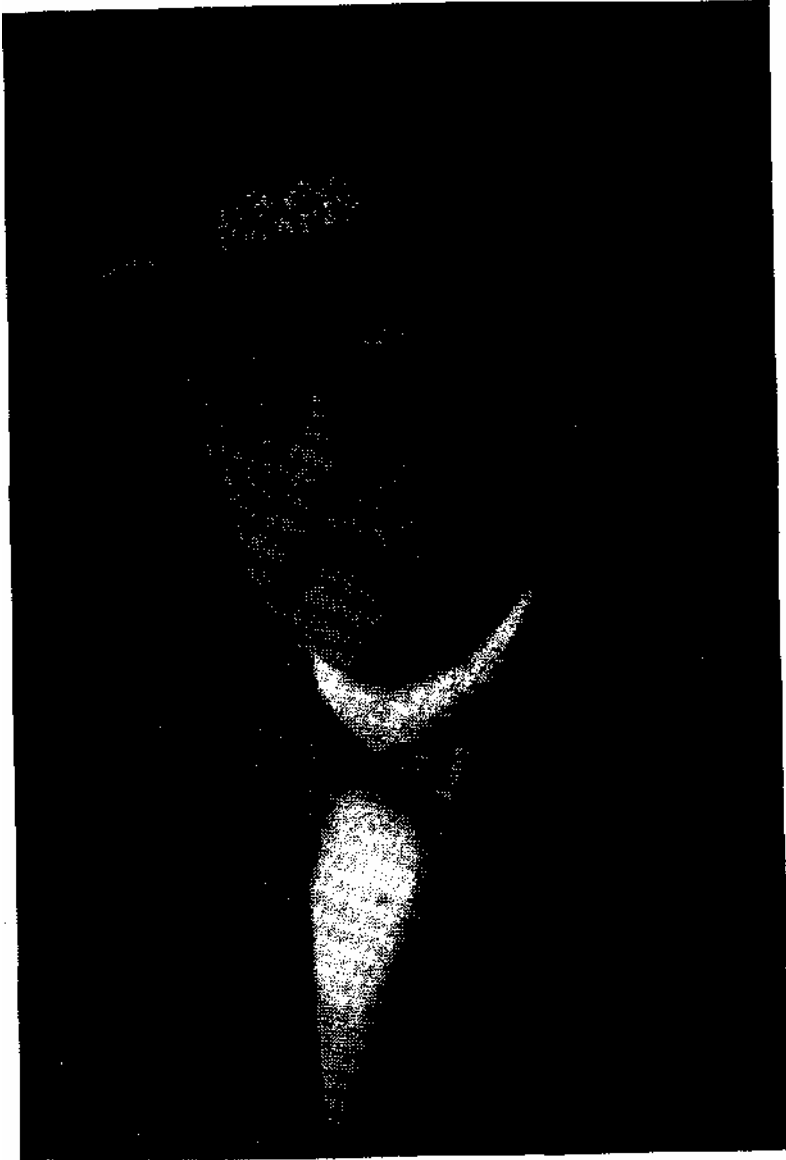
However, having been well trained in the tobacco trade, he was anxious to get back into this line of business and when he heard from his father in Bremen that Mr. Henry Lauts, a tobacco merchant of Baltimore, Md., was looking for a buyer to assist him in his purchases for American and European firms, he promptly applied for the position and was subsequently accepted.



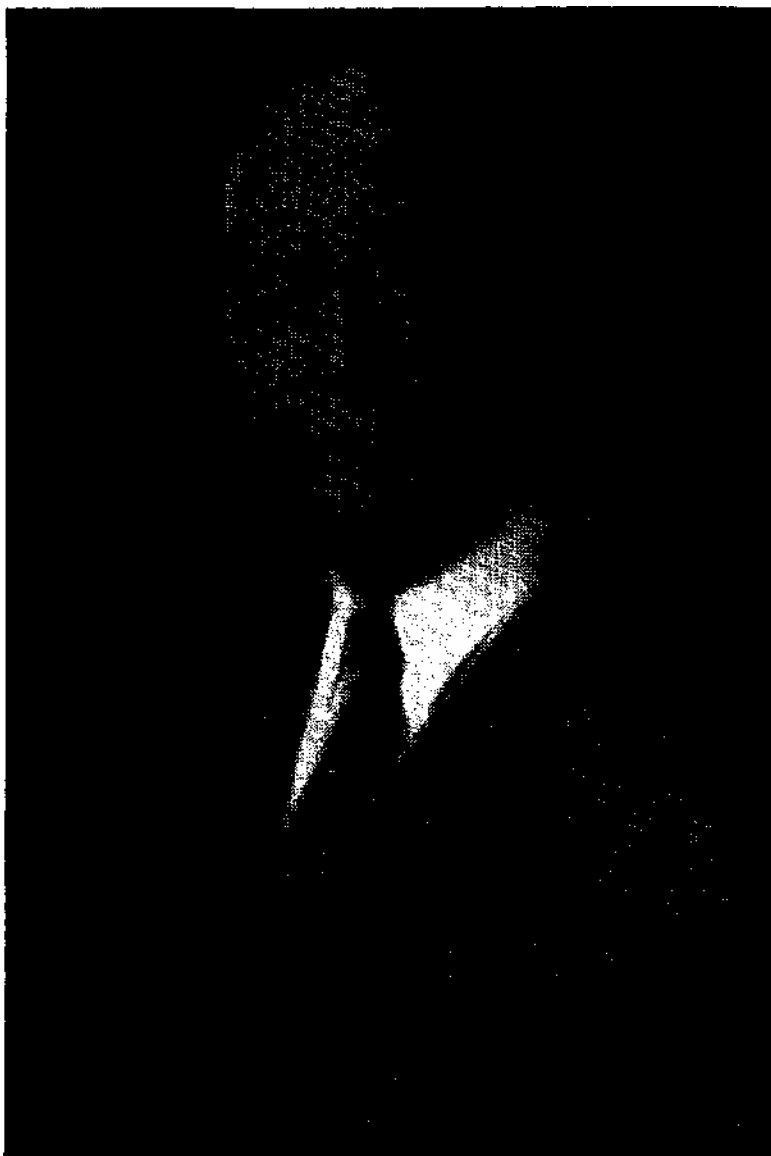
WILLIAM HENRY MEESE



RICHARD ORTMANN



GEORGE PRECHTEL



CONRAD C. RABBE

In the autumn of 1892 we find young Buchheister employed with the tobacco firm of Henry Lauts & Co. with which he remained for over 41 years until his death on February 3rd, 1934.

In 1897 he was married to Miss Mary Koch, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Koch of Baltimore, by whom he had six children, four boys and two girls, all surviving him. The family lived in Baltimore for a number of years, but during the World War bought a tobacco farm in Prince George's County, Maryland, where they spent many happy years, surrounded by friendly neighbors.

Outside of business, Mr. Buchheister was always very closely identified with all affairs of any importance, carried on from time to time by the various German-American Societies of our city. For many years he was a director of the Germania Club, and in his earlier years he was active as the secretary of this organization. Furthermore, he was Director of the German Orphan Asylum and the "Greisenheim" and took great interest in these and other beneficial societies. A man of jovial disposition and noble impulses, he was ever ready to assist any worthy cause, which presented itself and was, therefore, looked up to by his fellow men and particularly by the German element of Baltimore, with which he came in contact so frequently.

His untimely end, which resulted from falling down a steep stairway, came as a great shock to a host of friends. His mortal remains are interred in Prince George's County, near his farm, which had become so dear to him.

CARL W. PRIOR.



HERMANN COLLITZ. On May 13, 1935, Professor Hermann Collitz, whom his colleagues at the Johns Hopkins University and elsewhere called the "Nestor of American philologists," passed away. His obituary in *Modern Language Notes* states that he was "one of the most distinguished students in linguistics we have had in America."

Born in Germany, in the town of

Bleckede, Hanover, on February 4, 1855, he, at an early age, showed talent for scholarship. Going to the University of Göttingen he specialized in such classical philological branches as Sanskrit and Iranian. At the same time he worked in the Slavic and Germanic languages. In 1878, while at the University of Berlin, he made the acquaintance of Maurice Bloomfield, who was years later, to be associated with him at the Johns Hopkins University.

Hermann Collitz came to America in 1886, accepting a call to Bryn Mawr College. He had already won an international reputation in the field of comparative philology. Although he devoted himself assiduously to the subject of Germanics at Bryn Mawr, he did not neglect his researches and labors in the broader fields which had originally engaged his attention.

Profound and erudite were the subjects of his many writings and of his original contributions to the science and art of linguistics. Some of his papers and treatises were his work on Greek Dialectic Inscriptions; his *Das Schwache Praeteritum*, or Weak Preterite, which monumental study included its *Vorgeschichte*, or pre-history, with a treatment of the Latin Perfect and the Greek Passive. There were his studies in vowels and palatals, and his research work in the field of German vocalism. In comparative linguistics he dealt with such subjects as the phonology and morphology of the Indo-European languages. He was also an authority on Indo-European mythology.

In 1907 Professor Collitz was called to the Johns Hopkins University to fill the newly created chair in Germanics. These were the days when the Hopkins was winning a reputation for scholarship which was world-wide.

Not only was he respected for his scholarship but he was also liked for his charming, naïve, quaint humor among the students at the Hopkins as also in the Historical Society of which he was an interested member.

At the age of 72, after 41 years of active college and university teaching,

Professor Collitz was made Professor Emeritus of German Philology. A portrait of this pioneer in comparative linguistics in America was presented in his honor and placed in Gilman Hall.

As Emeritus Professor Collitz continued to write and study and contribute in his field until 1934, but a few months before his demise. Besides being co-editor of numerous philological journals, he had the honor of being the first president of the Linguistic Society of America, and he was an ex-president of the Modern Language Association of America. To his Ph.D. degree from the University of Göttingen, the University of Chicago added an honorary doctorate in 1916. On his seventy-fifth birthday, February 4, 1930, he was similarly honored by the University of Magdeburg.

To Dr. Klara Collitz, his wife and helpmate, and a sympathetic influence in much of his work, goes the honor and credit for arranging the publication of "Studies in Honor of Hermann Collitz."



MRS. IDA SCHULZ DOHME—Died on December 16, 1937, after a long illness, at the age of 96 years and eleven months. She was the widow of the late Charles E. Dohme, a former member of this Society, and mother of Dr. Alfred R. Dohme. She was a woman of many charities.



J. GUSTAV HELMICH. Born in Brake, Oldenburg, Germany, died at the age of 73 years in Baltimore, on March 20, 1936. He came to America at the age of 22 years. As a portrait painter he was well patronized by the elite circles of Baltimore and Washington.



DR. JOHN CONRAD HEMMETER. Born in Baltimore in 1863, died here February 25, 1931. In 1884 he graduated from the University of Maryland. He acquired his Ph.D. degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1890. His early schooling and as an undergraduate was at the Royal Gymnasium, Wiesbaden,

Germany. At the University of Maryland, Dr. Hemmeter, as Professor of Physiology, lectured on clinical medicine.

His medical writings and contributions were many; particularly on diseases of the digestive organs, the stomach and the intestines. The last book appeared in 1927; it is a medical history entitled: "Master Minds in Medicine."

Not only was he a physician of international reputation, but he also possessed a deep love for the arts, both as a connoisseur and as a creative personality. Further, he was an ardent lover of music, and composed scores for orchestra, voice and piano.

At various times he served as president of the American Castro-Enterological Association; the American Section of the International Association for the History of Medicine; and the American Therapeutic Society. The Hemmeter medical library was given to the University of Maryland by his widow, Mrs. Helene Hemmeter.



HENRY G. HILKEN—died Saturday, March 20th, 1937, in his 90th year. He was born near the Free and Hanseatic City of Bremen, July 16, 1847. There he received his education and worked in an export and import house. In 1867 he reached Baltimore, being 47 days on a Baltimore Clipper, the "Carl." After a year of other work he entered the employment of A. Schumacher & Company, tobacco exporting firm and shipping agents, later continuing the firm as its head. For many years this firm was the local agent of the North German Lloyd S. S. Company. This firm was agent for the German submarine which, running the blockade of the Allied fleets, arrived in Baltimore on the 10th of July, 1916, under command of Captain Paul Koenig. Mr. Hilken was consul of the German Empire from 1925 to 1933.

Mr. Hilken was active in many civic and communal enterprises. A director in many banks and financial institutions;

a member and a founder of the Germania Club; president emeritus of the German Aged People's Home; a vice-president of the German Society and of this Society; as also a member of the General German Orphan Home, the Maryland Club and other organizations. Having bought up the valuable collection of old Bibles from the estate of Pastor Julius Hofmann, he presented this to the Johns Hopkins University.

On the occasion of Mr. Hilken's 81st birthday he was honored with the presentation to him of a set of testimonials of appreciation of Baltimore Trade Bodies, from the Governor of the State, and others. Mayor William F. Broening spoke for the City of Baltimore.



THOMAS FOLEY HISKY. The Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland sustained a real loss in the death of its President, Thomas Foley Hisky, on September 7th, 1936.

Mr. Hisky was a lineal descendant of Joseph Hisky, who immigrated to America from Vienna in the early part of the Nineteenth Century and established his home in Baltimore. Here he was a pioneer in the manufacture of pianos; his example was followed by others and the city eventually became well known for the instruments which were made here.

Mr. Hisky took a pride in his Austrian and German ancestry and it was natural, therefore, that he should find his intimates among those of German extraction. He chose the law for his profession and entered the office of Hinkley & Morris in 1883 as a student of law. His entire career at the Bar, extending over a period of fifty years, was spent with this firm, first as an associate and later as a partner.

Upon admission to the Bar in 1886 he soon won a place of distinction; he was vigorous in expression, was an ardent advocate and espoused the causes of his clients with zeal. His high sense of integrity, his frankness in his dealings with his brethren at the Bar, as

well as his clients, were outstanding characteristics. While casual acquaintances regarded him as austere, to his intimates he was known as the most tender-hearted of men and easily touched by the appeals and the distresses of the poor and unfortunate. A devout Catholic, he took active part in the charities of the Church, in the interest of which he gave generously of his time and talents. He was a close friend and one of the legal advisers of the late Cardinal Gibbons.

In his later years his rugged manner had softened, and his sympathy and understanding made him responsive to the needs of the unfortunate. These qualities caused his selection as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the German Society of Maryland, a position which he held for many years and to which he devoted himself unsparingly. He had a wide circle of friends in all walks of life, not limited to his professional associates and business acquaintances, but also among those with whom his many-sided charities brought him in contact.

He was active in the affairs of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland from its inception and justly proud of the part which the early Teutonic settlers had played in the establishment of this State. He was widely read and was at his best in the company of his intimates. It was natural, therefore, that his sudden death, after a very short illness, came as a great shock to his many friends.

FREDERICK J. SINGLEY.



HENRY WILLIAM HOFFERBERT was born September 17, 1866, in Lindenbergl, im Odenwald, Thuringia, Germany, and died in Baltimore, November 13, 1936. Coming to this country at the age of 16 years he learned the trade of custom tailoring, later branching out for himself. Taking up the manufacture of ice cream he extended the business (the Horn Ice Cream Company) to such proportions that after a number of years it



was sold to a national concern in 1925. In his youth he was active in the Germania Turnverein, of which his cousin, also named Henry W. Hofferbert, was for many years president. At the time of his death he was president of the Pearl Street Perpetual Savings and Building Association and active in many German organizations and charities.



THEODORE FREDERICK KRUG— a vice-president of this Society, died on New Year's Evening, January 1st, 1938, after a short illness. He was born in Baltimore on December 24, 1854. His parents were Gustav A. and Fredericka Engel Krug. His father was a member of the firm of Merker & Krug, workers in ornamental iron. He entered this business early, later becoming a partner therein. When his father died he took over the business. Mr. Krug was a director of the Maryland Institute, was also actively interested in financial institutions and in Masonic and other fraternal orders.



JOHN P. LAUBER was president of the Central Fire Insurance Company (before the war the German Fire Insurance Company), at the time of his death which occurred on January 8, 1930. He was born in Baltimore on January 10, 1870. Mr. Lauber was also connected with that "sister institution" of the insurance company, known as the National Central Bank. Elected a director of the bank in 1905, he was chosen vice-president in 1915, and in 1926 he became chairman of its board of directors. He was also a director of the Eutaw Savings Bank and was long the secretary of the Equitable Building and Savings Association. Mr. Lauber served on Governor Ritchie's Committee on Governmental Efficiency and Economy.



GEBHARD LEIMBACH. Born October 3, 1846, in ----- Germany, died August 3, 1935; was with the B. & O. R. R. for more than fifty years as General Emigrant Agent. He also served

in the same capacity for the North German Lloyd. He was a veteran of the Civil War, having been in the Navy, serving on the U. S. ships Mystic and Minnesota. He was active as a member of the Republican party. He was a director of the American Bank and later the Equitable Trust Company; he was also president of the J. D. Lucas Printing Company.



WILLIAM HENRY MEESE, born in Michigan City, Indiana, in 1883, died in Baltimore after a brief illness on March 26, 1939. Born of German parents, he worked his way through the University of Michigan. His first work was with the Western Electric Company at \$10.00 a week. Six years later he was sent to London, England, as chief inspector of the International Western Electric Company.

During the World War he directed the installation of telephone systems throughout Scandinavia, Belgium, France and Switzerland. His work in these countries gave him, in addition to his command of German, a working knowledge of French, Flemish and Dutch, and Norwegian and Danish.

In December, 1928, Mr. Meese became a vice-president of the Western Electric Company and soon after he was appointed manager of the Point Breeze branch. At one time he was in charge of thirty-eight thousand employees.

His executive abilities were such as to cause him to be drafted in many civic movements. As president of the Community Fund in 1932, he was happy in raising the sum of \$2,000,000. He served as chairman of the Committee on Industrial Rehabilitation for the Fifth Federal Reserve District; he was a member of the Educational Committee of the Y. M. C. A., the Municipal Committee of Governmental Efficiency and Economy, besides many other bodies. He was actively interested in the General German Orphan Home at Catonsville. From 1933 to 1935 he served as president of the Baltimore Association of Commerce. Many were his other activities. He was a man of strong

character, yet withal genial and companionable. Proud of his German blood, he always insisted that his name be given its German pronunciation.



CARL F. MEISLAHN, born at Achim near Bremen, August 27, 1847, died in Baltimore, September 5, 1935. As a youth he served his apprenticeship in the workshop of his father, who was a maker of fine furniture. As a journeyman he wandered through the German lands and spent several years in France; in 1865 he went to London, and in 1870 came to Baltimore. These Wanderjahre gave him a competence and thorough knowledge of his craft which enabled him to begin business in Baltimore in 1886, as a master in the designing and making of high-class furniture. For many years he was a member of the Harmonie Singing Society, and took keen interest in all local German and civic activities.



ANDREW HARTMAN METTEE. Secretary of the Society for the History of the Germans in Maryland from 1918 until his death on September 30, 1933, was born in Baltimore City on November 27, 1871, his father being Mezick Corner Mettee and his mother Helen Elizabeth Gardner. He attended school here, graduating from the Baltimore City College in 1889. From the University of Maryland Law School he received the degree of LL.B. in May, 1892. For a number of years he engaged in the active practice of the law the while also serving as assistant librarian of the Bar Library. In 1899 he was elected to the post of librarian and also acted as secretary to the Library Company of the Baltimore Bar, both of which positions he held at the time of his death, having served at the Bar Library exactly forty-three years.

A scholarly contribution, involving much reading and cataloguing is his "Subject Index" of books in the Bar Library. A work of importance to every user of the library.

Becoming interested in the genealogy of his family, he traced his forbears back to a Mettee in the ancient city of Quedlinburg, Germany, where members of the family are yet prominent whom he visited and with whom he corresponded.

At the time of his death he was engaged in the task of indexing and endeavoring to trace and fix the arrival of early German immigrants to our state. This was a task involving much patient search of church and other records. Unfortunately this remained uncompleted.

Active in all library work, he was a charter member and one-time president of the American Association of Law Libraries; ex-president of the Maryland Library Association and ex-president of the Alumni Association of the University of Maryland School of Law. He was also a past master of Monumental Lodge, No. 96, A. F. & A. M. His funeral services were conducted according to the simple rites of the Society of Friends, of which he was a member.

He left surviving him his widow, Mrs. Irene Gifford Mettee, and a daughter.



DR. CHARLES H. A. MEYER. Born in Bremen October 25th, 1860, died in Baltimore January 1, 1939. His father was John D. Meyer, for many years agent of the German Society of Maryland. Young Meyer came to Baltimore with his grandfather, Captain Carl Fechter, master of the sailing ship "Shakespeare"; he was then sixteen years old. As a boy he found employment with a druggist, studied pharmacy and for years conducted a drug store of his own at the northeast corner of Gay and Dallas Streets. During this time he studied medicine and took up the practice of a physician, which he successfully continued to his death. His hobby was animals, he having pets of many kinds. As a pigeon fancier he often was called upon to act as a judge at shows and exhibitions.

FERDINAND A. J. MEYER was born April 14, 1848, in the little village of Zwischenahn in the Grand-Duchy of Oldenburg, the son of B. H. Meyer and his wife Friederike, née Kuehl. In Zwischenahn, the home of his parents, their graves, the church bells, the chandelier and the interior restoration of the seven-centuries-old house of worship tell the story of his filial affection for the place of his birth and youth.

When about twenty years old he immigrated to America and made Baltimore his home. Here he entered upon a successful career as a business man. He found employment with the house of Goldsborough, Pitts & Co. Eventually, he became the head of the firm, then known as Meyer, Pitts & Co. He remained in active connection with his business to the end of his life. He died at the age of eighty-five years on November 27, 1933, at the Union Memorial Hospital. His earthly form was laid to rest in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Meyer was tall and erect in his bearing, almost soldierly; of quiet demeanor, courteous and attentive to all, quick to perceive intent and point of the many who sought something or other from him. A keen kenner of men with a knowledge born of the gathered experience of years, many of which were spent as a traveller in his line through the South Atlantic Seaboard, with days of sojourn in towns, large and small, and the various folks met in business and hotels along the way.

Mr. Meyer's estate aggregated nearly three million dollars. To the German Orphan Home he gave \$100,000; to Zion Church and to the German Aged Home he gave each \$50,000; to the German Society of Maryland \$20,000, and to our Historical Society \$10,000.

Though he had through his long life generously taken care of his relatives in Germany, and had again richly provided for them after his death, they challenged his intent by a threat of contest of his testamentary capacity, so forcing a compromise, by which all organizations not mentioned in a prior will, or receiving a larger bequest under his last will, were constrained to give

up to them a considerable percentage of their bequest.

Always charitable in an unostentatious way and manner, his Last Will and Testament revealed him as a man of widest charitable interests. Agencies and institutions for the care of the sick the poor, the orphaned, the aged, the crippled, as well as others devoted to cultural spheres, became beneficiaries of his generosity, and neither creed nor race were barriers to his truly humanitarian inclinations.

For years Mr. Meyer took an active interest in the work of the German Orphan Home at Catonsville, giving a cottage and also providing other evidences of his good will. He was a Director of the German Society of Maryland and other charitable organizations.

Mr. R. Walter Graham, Comptroller of the City of Baltimore, the friend and business associate of Ferdinand Meyer for fifty years, gave a memorial window to Zion Church, of which Mr. Meyer was a member for some forty years, as a tribute to a man whose presence was an inspiration and whose memory remains a blessing to untold numbers.



MICHAEL MEYER—Born in the village of Schoenbichel, near Freysing, Upper Bavaria, January 4, 1878. Died in Baltimore, August 17, 1938. Came to America in 1895. He studied for the priesthood but gave this up to enter business. Later he was employed on the staff of the *Baltimore Correspondent*. He delighted in and wrote much poetry.



JOHN C. MUTH was the senior member of the wholesale drug firm of Muth Brothers & Company (founded by his father, John P. Muth). He died March 4, 1937, at the age of 71. He was a graduate of Calvert Hall and of Rock Hill College. Mr. John C. Muth was a charter member of the Knights of Columbus, and for many years a director of St. Mary's Industrial School. He had also held the office of president of the Baltimore Drug Exchange.

RICHARD ORTMANN was born on May 24, 1844, at Gusterhain, Herborn, in Hessen-Nassau. He was the son of Wilhelm Ortmann, who, as teacher, trained his son for the same profession. Richard studied at the Teachers' Seminary in Usingen from 1860 to 1863, after which he held various teaching positions, chief among which was that at the female college at Dillenburg. A change in the control of the Nassau schools, which passed into Prussian hands in 1866, caused him to resign rather than subscribe to an administration with the policies of which he could not agree.

At the urging of an intimate boyhood friend, Emil Dapprich, who was at that time teaching at Scheibs Schule in Baltimore, Richard came to America, arriving on September 16, 1869, in New York. Shortly thereafter he was appointed by Pastor Scheib to teach chemistry and history at the Zionschule in Baltimore.

Upon the death of Pastor Scheib Mr. Ortmann and August Schmidt became joint directors of the school until, through the establishment of German schools in the public schools of Baltimore, the school was finally closed. Mr. Schmidt returned to Germany, continuing there his teaching activities, and Mr. Ortmann, who had for some years been acting as music critic for the *German Correspondent*, became Editor of this daily on July 2, 1901, succeeding Eduard F. Leyh.

On July 18, 1883, Mr. Ortmann married Elisabeth Krüger, who was, at the time and for many years later, one of the leading church and concert sopranos of Baltimore. There were two sons, Edward William Ortmann, born December 17, 1885, and Otto Rudolph Ortmann, born January 25, 1889. The older son, after making an enviable record at the Johns Hopkins University, died of typhoid fever on September 6, 1907.

The death of Edward materially changed the father's philosophy of life and was followed by the beginning of

a physical decline, and a desire to withdraw from public life. A diabetic condition developed and although he continued his editorial duties until three weeks before his death, which occurred at five o'clock on the morning of May 30, 1912, he plainly showed the effects of his illness for several years previous.

Mr. Ortmann was honorary member of the Turnverein "Vorwärts," the "Harmonie," "Germania Männerchor," and "Arion;" member of the "Funken," "Liederkrantz," and "Liedertafel."

The death of Richard Ortmann took from life a man of unimpeachable honesty and fairness. He lived throughout his life according to a strict code of ideals, and a sense of duty to the finer things of life that is seldom encountered. Coupled with this was a conscientiousness of highest degree. He was a stern disciplinarian, yet the kindest of men, a fact reflected in the high esteem and deep fondness with which his pupils regarded him. In all his writings he was careful to present a sane perspective, avoiding all sensationalism. These editorials attracted wide attention through their literary style as well as through their serious content.

For a number of years he continued to write musical criticisms. In this field a keen ear, early musical training in voice, violoncello, piano and organ, and a keen critical insight were valuable qualifications—and his criticism won the admiration of soloists and orchestral conductors, among the latter, Arthur Nikisch, director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

A life devoted to the stern and exhausting activities of teaching failed to diminish a keen sense of humor and a genial friendliness. His love of nature dated back to his early boyhood in the Westerwald, where among the peasants he learned to know the beauties of field and forest. While living in Baltimore he satisfied this lasting fondness by spending a few weeks each summer vacationing in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Maryland.

KATHARINE PFAFF was the youngest child of George Pfaff and Maria Katharina Pfaff, née Noll, and was born in Baltimore on March 1st, 1865. Her parents were both born in Germany, the father at Hesse-Cassel and the mother at Hesse-Darmstadt (Kreis Beadenkopf). The father was a cooper by trade; both he and Mrs. Pfaff were originally members of Trinity Lutheran Church where they were married. Mr. Pfaff shortly thereafter engaged in the grocery business with which he was identified until the time of his death.

For nearly half a century the family were residents of Waverly where they were well known for their kind and unostentatious charities.

There were four children surviving their father and mother: Miss Henrietta Pfaff, who still resides in the family home on the Old York Road; Henry C. Pfaff, who for many years was well known in the cigar and tobacco business; George Pfaff, who was associated with his brother, and Katharine Pfaff.

None of the members of this family ever married and the two brothers and two sisters lived together until the death of George Pfaff, followed subsequently by the death of the brother, Henry C. Pfaff. Miss Katharine Pfaff, who was named after her mother, died at her home on September 15, 1935.

As children, they were members of the Lutheran Church on Calvert Street between Lexington and Saratoga Streets; when they moved to Waverly, the two sisters were identified with St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church for many years. At the time of Miss Pfaff's death, she had become a member of Epiphany Protestant Episcopal Church which was located near their home.

After Miss Pfaff's death, her will disclosed the wide scope of her charities. Twenty-seven hospitals, churches, orphan asylums and charitable institutions were bequeathed a total of \$77,500. The many individual gifts which she made from time to time; the large num-

ber of the needy who were constantly in receipt of gifts from her will never be known; suffice it to say that no one who applied to her for aid was ever turned away, and in her death the needy, the ill and the afflicted lost a true friend.

FREDERICK J. SINGLEY.



WILLIAM ALBERT POTTHAST, who died on August 2, 1935, was born October 25, 1862, in the village of Borgholz, Westphalia, Germany. His father, Franz Potthast, a cabinetmaker, was descended from a long line of schooled furniture craftsmen.

After serving his apprenticeship with his father, young Potthast went to Berlin where he was employed as a journeyman cabinetmaker with a prominent firm, largely patronized by the nobility. He not only gained valuable experience from his daily work but he also devoted his evenings to the study of furniture designing under the guidance of masters of the craft. The creations of the great English designers such as Hepplewhite, Sheraton, and Chippendale won his admiration; and his long and prominent business career here in America was noted for his fine reproductions of, and adaptations from, the styles of these masters.

After his military service he came to America, settling in Baltimore in the year 1892. Before many months had elapsed, he founded the firm of Potthast Brothers. The business maintained a steady growth and soon enjoyed a deserved reputation. His brother Vincent had been associated with him from the outset; a few years later Theodore and John Potthast joined the firm.

Mr. Potthast was interested in all matters concerning his fellow racials and German-American organizations. He served as a director of St. Joseph's Hospital, as a director of St. Anthony's Orphan Asylum, and as treasurer of the Schley Unit of the Steuben Society. He was a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, of the German Society, and of the German Aged People's Home.

GEORGE PRECHTEL. Born in Bavaria, May 5, 1843, died in Baltimore, May 18, 1931. Of Mr. Prechtel's career we know little, but hope to be able at some future time to give a fuller account. As it is, he served in the Civil War on the Union side; later continuing in the service out West. For a time he lived with his sister, near Manchester, in Carroll County; here he taught school for many years. While on a trip to Germany, his sister died. In a fire, which destroyed his house, he was severely burned, and his manuscripts and papers were destroyed. Upon recovery he came to Baltimore City to live. He was keenly interested in the work of the Historical Society and at the time of his death was its president; also he was the treasurer of the J. F. Wiessner Orphans' Home. He was prominent in the Grand Army of the Republic up to the time of his death.

He was small of stature, of a kind and friendly disposition, simple and unpretentious.



CONRAD C. RABBE, for many years an active and leading spirit among the German element in Baltimore and a well and favorably known figure in banking circles, died at his home in Catonsville on February 2, 1939, after a lengthy illness.

Mr. Rabbe was born in Baltimore on July 26, 1868, the son of Herman and Regina Rabbe, who had come to Baltimore from Germany. He was educated at an English-German public school and in later years took a commercial course at a business college.

His father dying when Conrad was a young boy, he was called upon to help his mother as a breadwinner.

He began work as a clerk with the Hopkins Place Savings Bank, subsequently serving in various official capacities with the Federal Savings Bank, the St. James Savings Bank and the German Bank, then taking up the position of treasurer of the Broadway Savings Bank, which though old-established, had been going back for years. Under his energetic

management he placed the bank upon a sound basis; he later served as its president.

When the bank holiday in 1933 was proclaimed, immediately following Roosevelt's inauguration as President, the Broadway Savings Bank, as one of the smaller mutual savings banks of Baltimore, was kept closed by the State Bank Commissioner, until all of the larger savings banks had reopened. However, before being permitted to resume, the Commissioner required Mr. Rabbe to borrow \$250,000 from the RFC, for use in an emergency. The confidence of the depositors in their bank and its officials was such that not a penny of this sum was needed. The same authority further insisted that the bank's assets should be segregated into fluid and frozen assets, and withdrawals restricted accordingly, to the end that a depositor withdrawing any part of his account would stand to lose a pro-rata part of the withheld funds. To this Mr. Rabbe positively refused to assent. His judgment was right, for, several years after, when the bank was liquidated, it paid every depositor dollar for dollar, with interest, plus a final dividend. This achievement was outstanding in banking circles in those hectic days, and brought forth commendatory editorial comment in the press.

Upon completion of the bank's liquidating, Mr. Rabbe joined the staff of the Equitable Trust Company as a Vice-President.

During his life Mr. Rabbe served on many boards and committees; he could always be relied upon to conscientiously perform the duties thereof. One of the positions wherein he was ever active was that of a director of the General German Orphan Home. For nearly forty years and until his last illness he was active in its management.

Among some of the many offices filled and work done by him were—as a director and member of its executive committee of the German Society of Maryland; and respectively as treasurer of the Germania Club, the Julius Hofmann Memorial Fund, this Historical Society,

and of the Independent Citizens' Union, in its early days, when it was a powerful influence and factor in the life of our city. His connections and affiliations in trade, social and welfare organizations were many. He was active in civic affairs and shortly after moving to his home in Catonsville he promoted the organization of the Catonsville Improvement Association, which still flourishes.

He was devoted to music and early joined the old Baltimore Liederkrantz—in its day one of Baltimore's leading singing societies. At all musical events of note, he was to be seen, together with his consort, the former Louise M. Raiber, also of a family of musical enthusiasts and a singer often appearing as soloist; the daughters also being musical, the family frequently gave delightful evenings of musical entertainment to their many friends at their hospitable home.

Mr. Rabbe was a man of medium height and weight; of a mercurial disposition (ergo: Er hatte kein Sitzfleisch) and, ever alert, seldom sitting still through a dinner. He delighted in arranging a program or banquet, and as host supervised all arrangements from kitchen to the festal table.

His pleasure was in travelling and he not only toured our country, but a few years ago had the supreme satisfaction of journeying to the land of his forefathers and visiting the scenes of their being.



AUGUST ROEDER was born in Armstadt, Thuringia, September 30, 1843. Died in Baltimore March 6, 1939. Graduating from the normal school he took up the trade of a barber and surgery. As a journeyman he travelled throughout the European countries. In 1867 he emigrated and after staying a year in New York came to Baltimore. Here, together with his brother, Fritz Roeder, he engaged in the restaurant business. Theirs was a well-known and well-patronized resort; the meeting place of the German merchants of those days

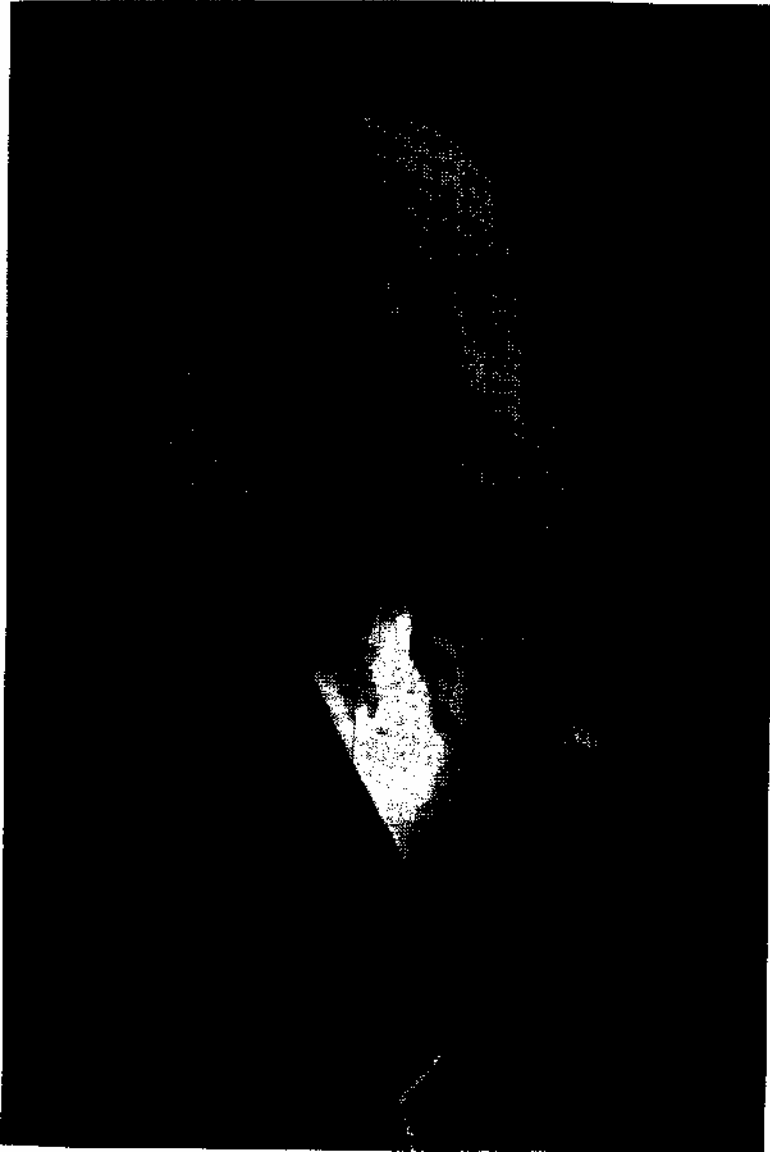
who were many; it was situated on the south side of Lombard Street, near Charles.

Rich and interesting were his stories of the "Gross-Kaufmann," of the eighties, who frequented the restaurant of the Roeders. Though his quips and jests at their expense, were many and merry, and oft robust, there was never a tinge of malice therein. Had we but been able to get him to put down his reminiscences it would have left us with a lively picture of the "Prominenten" off parade, of the last two decades of the past century.

August Roeder was a character possessing a unique and original personality. Tall of stature, broad of shoulders, having a long, flowing beard, and possessing smiling and appraising eyes. In appearance, in his prime, he might have doubled for Frederick VII, late German emperor. Of a presence unforgettable to those who met him; genial in his manner, in his utterances wise and witty, and of sociable disposition, he easily made friends and held them.

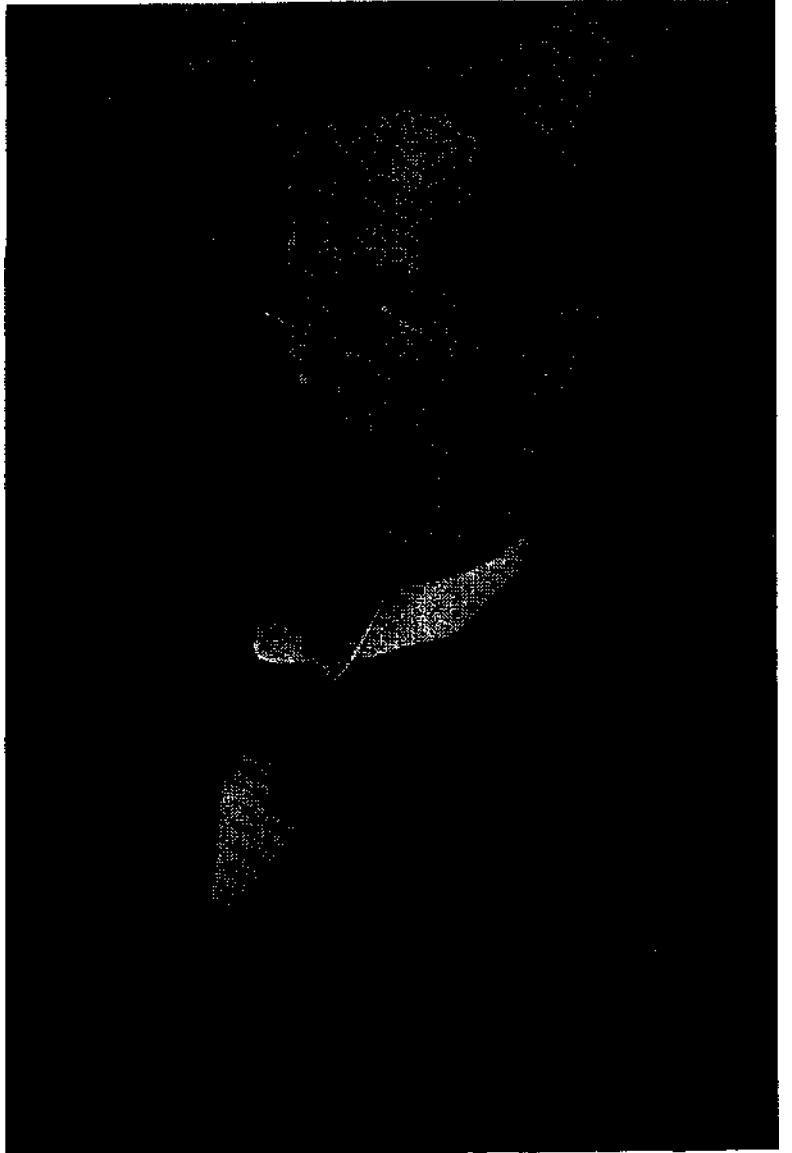
Though he had many interests, none were directed to the accumulation of worldly goods. A great lover of music—he sang for near sixty-five years with the Harmonie Singing Society. As a card player he attended many tournaments of "skat" players and often returned with prizes. No movement affecting the German-Americans but found in him a warm and helpful supporter. His pleasures were simple and many. He had a huge capacity for enjoying them to the full. He loved flowers and spent much time in his garden, he grew grapes and pressed them into good wine; he delighted in verse and many a piece he penned—never a friend's birthday passed, but he would send poetic greetings forming an acrostic of the person's name. He had large collections of butterflies.

Unfortunately, the last years of his life were spent in darkness, his sight having failed, also his health and strength of body gave way—so death came as a welcome relief.

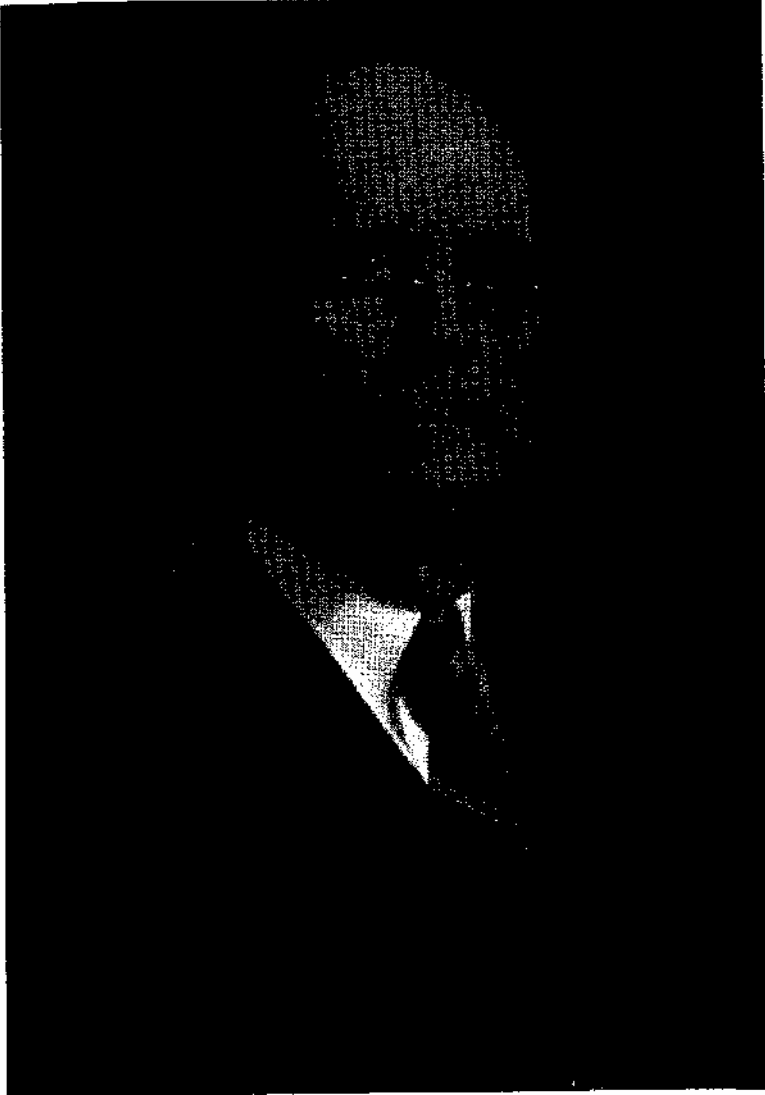


AUGUST ROEDER

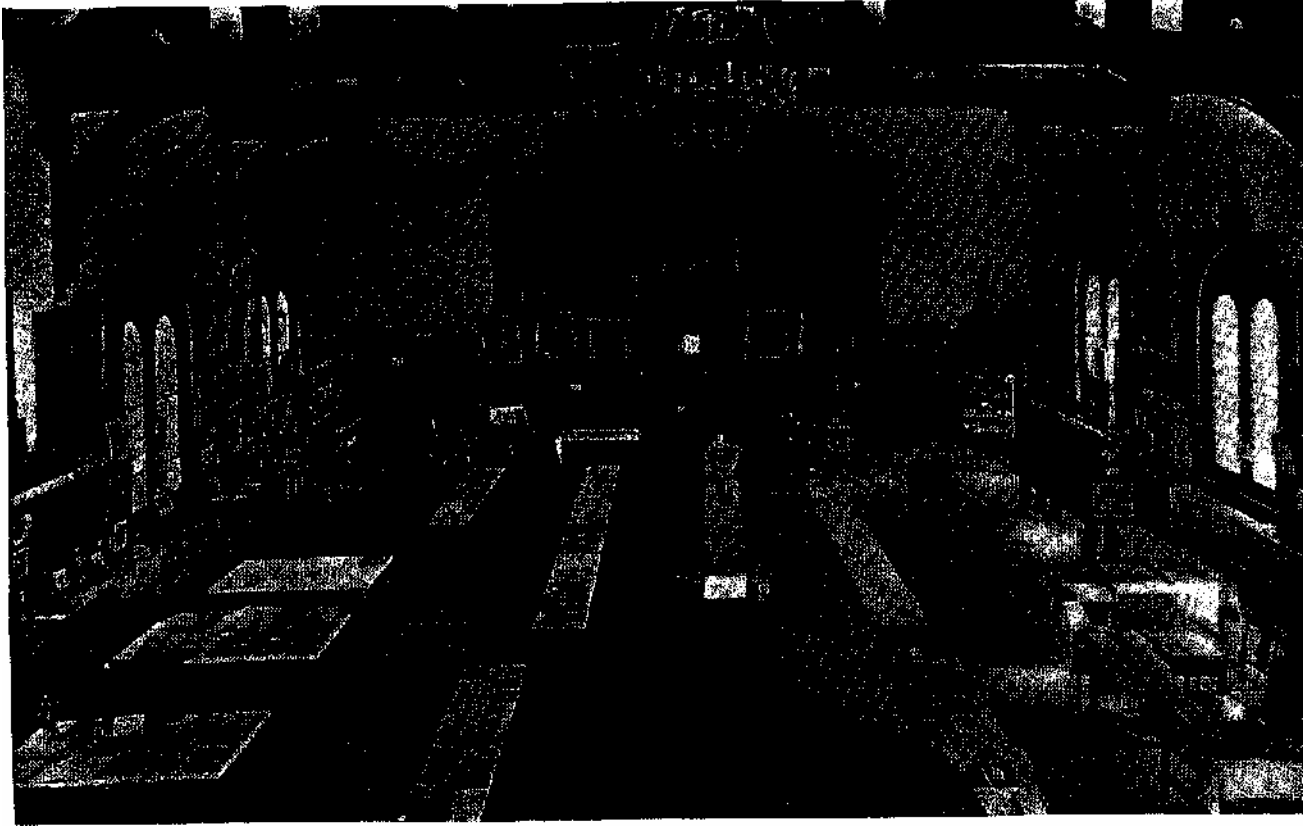




AUGUST F. TRAPPE



HENRY G. VON HEINE



HISTORICAL EXHIBIT – ADLER-SAAL, ZION CHURCH

DR. JOHN RUHRÄH, born at Chilli-cothe, Ohio, September 26, 1872, died in Baltimore, March 10, 1935. His parents were Daniel Conrad and Marie Finckenaer Ruhräh. The name was presumed to have originated from some ancestor (AHN) coming from the Ruhr regions. His father was a native of Bremen. Dr. Ruhräh had studied in Baltimore and practiced here for over forty years. His reputation was of international eminence in his specialty of pediatrics. He was a man of learning and culture, interested along many lines. At the time of his death he was a member of the Baltimore School Board. He was a past president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.



ALWIN J. RUPERTI, born in Baltimore, September 6, 1872; died on October 30, 1936. He had been but a short time a member of our Society. He gave great promise of becoming one of its most interested members, for he had a keen fondness for history, particularly for that branch which deals with the records and deeds of the Germans in Maryland.

Mr. Rupert's father, who founded his bookbinding business in 1872, was a well-known German bookbinder, enjoying a merited reputation. The Rupert's executed important commissions for Congress, the Pratt Library, and a number of universities. In the field of scientific subjects, particularly in that of medicine, the house of Rupert produced much excellent work.

Mr. Rupert's hobby was the collection of early Baltimore imprints of books and pamphlets.



THEODORE A. STEINMUELLER was born in Baltimore and died on September 13, 1935. He was a son of Stephan Steinmüller, in his day one of Baltimore's well known teachers of vocal music. Theodore A. Steinmüller was president of the firm of Lucas Brothers. Some years previously he was severely injured in an automobile accident. He was a

member of the Rotary Club, as also of many German organizations, including the Historical Society. He was considerate and courteous, quiet and modest in demeanor and a genial companion.



AUGUST FREDERICK TRAPPE. Born in Stockhausen, Thuringia, September 6, 1857, died in Baltimore, November 26, 1935. He left home at the age of fourteen to learn printing and typesetting at the Leipzig University Press. Having served his apprenticeship he travelled as a journeyman. In time he reached Schleswig-Holstein; here, in company with his future brother-in-law, J. Peter Pruess, he founded the "Brahmstädter Nachrichten," which recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, as also the "Ahrensboeker Nachrichten," which is also in existence. Later he became editor of a paper published at the Mission's Anstalt in Bredstedt. His experiences were many, always interesting, but seldom profitable to himself. Together with his brothers-in-law, John F. Pruess and J. Peter Pruess, he landed in Baltimore in the month of May, 1882. Bound for the West, they got as far as Cumberland, when their funds were so low that it was decided the brothers should go on and that Trappe should foot it after. They were bound for Michigan. Trappe started off along the highways and got as far as Granite, Maryland, when, footsore and weary, he gave out and was taken in by a German farmer and given rest and nourishment until he received \$10.00 each from two friends. Deeming this more money than he needed, he returned the one \$10.00 and started off, finding only too late that the retention of the other \$10.00 would have saved him much hardship.

In October of the same year his wife, with their two children, came to America. Farm life in the Western wilderness not appealing to her, they returned East and came to Baltimore in 1883; here he secured work as a typesetter on the Baltimore Wecker; then to the Baltimore Correspondent as a typesetter, later taking up reporting.

In 1891, Trappe and John M. Pruess

began a German weekly, the Cumberland "Freie Presse," in Cumberland, Maryland, which continued until the World War. The life as editor of a weekly paper in a small town proving too tame for the energetic Trappe, he, in 1892, returned to his former position on the Correspondent in Baltimore, covering for many years the proceedings of the Baltimore City Council, the Legislature in Annapolis and politics in general, J. F. Pruess continuing the Cumberland venture alone.

During the War, Mr. Trappe, an ardent supporter of the German cause, wrote many letters to the forums of the English language press, controverting the oft unjust and absurd accusations made against the Germans.

For over forty years he acted as the Maryland correspondent of the New Yorker Staatszeitung.

On the permanent organization of the Independent Citizen's Union of Maryland, he became its secretary and through his labor and sane counsel contributed much to start that organization on its early prominent course as a community factor of great worth in civic and political affairs.

In 1905, Trappe, together with John Gfeller and Max Weissenborn, formed the German Publishing Company, and he was the editor and chief collaborator in the issuing of a 320-page publication entitled "Das Neue Baltimore," which is a valuable repository of information concerning the German-Americans from 1729 to 1905. In addition to historical and statistical information, therein is given many short sketches of the lives and careers of his contemporary fellow-countrymen. This venture netted him a loss.

From 1906 to 1912 he efficiently served as secretary to the Bureau of Immigration; as such he travelled often through the western section of the United States; through his efforts many farmers were induced to settle in Maryland.

August F. Trappe possessed a nobility of character and a heart kindly to the

point of self-abnegation. He was ever ready to serve his fellow men. He never wrote an unkind word and stayed many an item which, though considered news, might blast a reputation or injure man or woman. His friends were many, enemies he had none.



HENRY G. VON HEINE died on August 12, 1936, at the age of 78, following by less than a twelvemonth his wife Emma, whose demise occurred on July 20, 1935. Mr. Von Heine, born in Baltimore, attended the Scheib school. He entered the coal business which he made his career. For 54 years he was president of H. G. Von Heine, Inc., and was during all this time one of the most active members of the Baltimore Coal Exchange. He was active in Masonic circles, and a prominent member of Zion Church.

Of a genial and kindly disposition, he was a member of many German social organizations and delighted in active participation in all affairs affecting German-American life of our city. For years he was secretary of the Unkel Braesig Vereen; he was a director of the General German Orphan Home, whose interest he zealously promoted and guarded, and which, in his will he generously remembered. This interest in the parentless children has been continued by his surviving daughter, Mrs. James P. Wilcox, who but recently donated a swimming pool to the Orphan Home at Catonsville. Further, he was a director of the Aged People's Home and of the German Society. His communal activities were many and diverse.



GEORGE LOUIS WAGNER, oldest son of George William and Dorothea Marie Wagner, was born in Baltimore, June 29, 1856. The father was a baker with a place of business on Gay Street, which was conducted as such for nigh unto sixty years. The younger Wagner was educated at Scheib School. As a boy he was employed in the office of the German Correspondent. Later he

went into the business of Francis Schleimes, importers of woolens. In 1882 he married Miss Emma Engel. Leaving Schleunes he established his own business under the style of G. L. Wagner & Company. From his earliest youth he was connected with Zion Church, for more than thirty years as its treasurer. He was also the Superintendent of Zion Sunday School. For many years he was a director of and member of the Executive Committee of the German Society.



MAX F. W. WEISSENBORN. Born in Berlin, Germany, died in Baltimore,

February 10, 1937, at the age of seventy-nine years. He came to Baltimore in 1882 and shortly after was employed on the *Baltimore Journal* as a reporter, going over to the *German Correspondent* in 1902. In 1909 he was appointed a tax assessor in the City Hall, which position he held, even after reaching the age of retirement. He was careful, exact and conscientious in all his work, well liked and helpful; active as a director of the Greisenheim, and a trustee of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church. He also was secretary of the German Publishing Company, which produced "*Das Neue Baltimore*." His life was made up of hard work and much sorrow.