

Second Annual Report

OF THE

SECRETARY

OF THE

Society for the History  Germans in Maryland,

AND

LIST OF MEMBERS.

N reviewing the history of the Society for the past year, we cannot boast, it is true, of any great progress toward the object set before us. We have, nevertheless, reason to believe, that our efforts in the cause, have not been without some result for good. Our first annual report, containing the synopses of several valuable articles on historical subjects read before this Society, seems to have given general satisfaction. And judging from the considerate attention given to our meetings and their proceedings by the daily Press, we may feel encouraged to believe that a greater interest in the share our German ancestors bore in the cultivation, the liberation and the general development of our country has been awakened not only in our own immediate circle, but in many parts of the United States, and even beyond the borders of our land.

The Society owes thanks to our worthy Chairman for the fidelity with which he has discharged the duties of his office, and also for an interesting list of travels in, and descriptions of North America published by German visitors, as well as by German settlers as early as the year 1673, down to the present time.

Rev. B. Sadtler entertained the Society in the June meeting by the relation of personal reminiscences concerning German citizens and German society-life in the earlier part of the present century.

Mr. Ed. F. Leyh contributed a full share toward the entertainment of the meetings by a series of instructive and in many cases humorous explanations concerning the origin, the meaning and the changing of a number of German family names.

The most important paper of a historical character that came before the Society was that compiled from original as well as other sources by Louis P. Hennighausen, Esq., treating of the origin, the character and the final abolishment of the so-called "Redemptioners" System.

As it has been resolved that this valuable paper shall be printed and published together with the annual report, any further comments upon it here would be superfluous.

You will pardon your Secretary for somewhat anticipating the probable action of the Society to-night, by adding to the above, the paper which has been announced for this meeting, and which will no doubt be found of sufficient value and interest to be added to the above ordered publication.

Up to the end of the last year the Society had been made the recipient of thirteen books and papers of historical value by donation.

To these were added during the closing year:

1. Almanacs, dating from 1822—55, by Dr. L. H. Steiner.
2. History of Gen'l G. Washington, by Rev. M. L. Weems, translated and published in the German language in 1838.
3. A number of German Ecclesiastical Reports of earlier dates. Both of these publications were donated by Mr. Basil Sollers.
4. "Kurzer Katechismus-Unterricht, etc.," printed by Benj. Franklin in 1742, by Mr. Theo. Staeblein.
5. Report of the 100th Anniversary of the "Otterbein" Church by Rev. Wm. Mittendorf.
6. History of the Revolutionary War, in 4 vols., published by the French historian F. Soules, donated by Mr. Wm. G. Gail.
7. Copy of the 100th Anniversary of the Incorporation of the German Society of Pennsylvania.

8. 27th Annual Report of the German Hospital in Philadelphia, both by Rev. Dr. B. Sadtler.
9. Copies of the "German Pioneer" by Consul Gen'l F. Raine.
10. Copy of "The Freiheit," international organ of the Anarchists using the German language, by Rev. F. Ph. Hennigshausen.
11. Some fifty volumes of diversified character, donated by a number of German booksellers through Mr. Alfred Voerster of Leipzig.
12. Map of Baltimore and its surroundings,
13. Official map of Texas, both by Prof. C. F. Raddatz.

The Society added but one book to its library by purchase, viz.: "Hallische Nachrichten." The proprietors of the two daily German papers of Baltimore, viz.: "The German Correspondent" and "The Baltimore Journal" have kindly furnished this Society with a copy of their issues without any further charge, than that of the carriers. These papers are being filed and preserved for future use in our library.

On the 20th of March, 1887, the Society met with a loss as heavy as it was sad in the death of one of its founders and most active members, Mr. Christian Ax.

His departure from this earth, where he had ever been zealous in doing good, was announced in proper terms in the April meeting, and the Society gave expression of its high esteem of the deceased and its regret for his death by constituting the May meeting a "Christian Ax" Memorial meeting.

Not only the members of the Society, but in answer to a general invitation, many personal friends of the deceased were present at this meeting. A number of eulogistic addresses testifying to the excellent character of the deceased were made by members of the Society, and suitable resolutions were offered and unanimously adopted. As the proceedings of this meeting have been ordered to be published and are about to be distributed by the committee named for that purpose, it is not necessary to refer to them in this report at greater length.

The Society at the close of the first year numbered 71 active and five corresponding members. 16 active and one corresponding member were added during the present year, making a total of 87 active members. One member died, five withdrew and the names of two were dropped from the list, leaving at the end of the second year an active membership of 79; corresponding members—six.

Respectfully submitted,

F. PH. HENNIGHAUSEN, Sec'y.

Baltimore, Md., February 14th, 1888.