



MAX KADE INSTITUTE

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Volume 24 No 2 • Spring 2015

The German Language in a Time of War: Die Abendschule Speaks Out in 1915

Translation by James Doing, with introduction by Cora Lee Kluge

Die „Abendschule“, ein illustriertes Familienblatt, mit der Abteilung „Frauenkreis“, erscheint alle zwei Wochen in 40–52 Seiten starken Heften (26 Hefte im Jahrgang) zu \$2 das Jahr. Abonnenten können jederzeit eintreten. Adressveränderungen sollten zwei Wochen vor Umzug gemeldet werden; man teile die alte sowie die neue Adresse mit.

Jahrgang 62. Heft 5.

Die Abendschule.

St. Louis, Mo., Donnerstag, den 30. September 1915.

Die „Abendschule“ ist in der ganzen Welt verbreitet und kostet nach dem Ausland \$2.50 portofrei. Probenummern werden auf Verlangen gratis gesandt. Alles Geschäftliche, Bestellungen, Gelder, Manuskripte u. s. w. sind zu senden unter der Adresse: Louis Lange Publishing Co., 3600–3610 Texas Ave., St. Louis, Mo., U. S. A.



Aus der Zeit für die Zeit.

Die deutsche Sprache heute wertvoller als je.



Trene Freunde.

In unserem Lande ist die englische Sprache die Verkehrs- und Amtssprache. Das macht es für jeden Bürger notwendig, die englische Sprache gründlich zu erlernen. Er verdient nicht im vollen Sinne die Bezeichnung „guter Bürger“, wenn er die Landessprache — die Sprache des Landes, das ihm Freiheit, Schutz, Brot und Verdienst spendet, — nicht fließend sprechen, lesen und auch richtig schreiben kann. Trotz des

wahren Sachlage, von den Siegen und Erfolgen unserer Wuts- und Stammesgenossen, von ihrer gerechten Sache und deren Fortschritt erfahren, wenn wir alle auch nach kurzem Hiersein vollständig im „Schmelztiegel“ verenglischt worden wären und unsere deutsche Sprache verräterisch preisgegeben und verlernt hätten? Ja, wo wäre unser Land hing geraten, seit die Regierung alle Massenpetitionen in den Papierkorb warf, alle Massenversammlungen unbeachtet ließ, jeden guten Rat und Wink in den Wind schlug, trotz ihrer empfohlenen Friedensgebete eine immer unneutralere Haltung annahm, die massenhafte Waffenausfuhr an die Alliierten begünstigte, immer stärker und deutlicher England bevorzugte und wiederholt die Kriegsgefahr heraufbeschwor — wo wäre unser Land hing geraten, seit die englischamerikanische Sekspresse in giftiger Feindschaft gegen

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Die Abendschule, a wholesome and conservative family newspaper published in St. Louis for nearly all its long life (1853 to 1940), is known today as one of the most influential German-American periodicals, not least because of its huge press run and its widespread appeal.

When World War I began in Europe in July of 1914, Die Abendschule featured war news; and it staunchly advocated America's maintaining its declared neutrality, urging that every-

thing possible be done to prevent the country's involvement in the conflict. Nevertheless, it continued to support the United States government, even after April of 1917, when America joined the Allies to fight against Germany and the other Axis powers.

Throughout the entire period, Die Abendschule's editorials reflected the difficult position of German Americans, as well as their growing concerns over the anti-German sentiments heard in this country—the “Germano-

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Greetings, Friends and Readers!

Greetings from the University Club! As the Spring of this year draws to a close, we reflect on what we have accomplished in the last few months: teaching, doing research, and presenting our work to students, scholars, and other interested groups, both on the Madison campus and beyond. Mark gave presentations on the Pennsylvania Dutch, Wisconsin's speakers of Low German, and the Amish—and in places as far-flung as Madison, New Holstein (Wisconsin), Plymouth (Wisconsin), and Bockenheim (in the Rhenish Palatinate, Germany). Antje and Lori Bessler from the Wisconsin Historical Society held a successful day-long workshop for genealogists, addressing the question of how to investigate our German ancestors. And Cora Lee spoke on the German Americans and the First World War (in Janesville), Friedrich Kapp's article on John Brown (in St. Louis, at the symposium of the Society for German-American Studies), and Christian Essellen's comedy *Bekehrung vom Temperenzwahn* (Deliver Us from Temperance!) (in Madison).

In May, Essellen's play, which was written in 1853 for the German-American stage in Milwaukee, was performed in German by students in the UW-Madison's Department of German under the direction of German theater director Manfred Roth and professor/producer Sabine Gross of the German Department. With this presentation, nineteenth-



A scene from *Bekehrung vom Temperenzwahn*

century German-American culture, concerns, language, and literature were brought before enthusiastic audiences of modern spectators—three times in Madison, and once in Milwaukee—and thus some of what many believed was Wisconsin's long-gone past was moved to front and center stage. We are absolutely delighted to find that our field has now become part of the area's entertainment scene!

However, the absolute highlight of the semester was the annual dinner and meeting of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute, which was held in Madison on May 2. It featured a guided tour of German-American books, artifacts, and other materials that are held at the Wisconsin Historical Society, the opening in our own MKI Library of our new Carl Schurz exhibit, and dinner at the University Club, which was followed by an

after-dinner lecture on "Wisconsin's German Heritage" by Mark Loudon. More than 80 Friends were in attendance; and even the UW's Spring Revelry event, which was taking place just outside our windows, was not able to drown out our Friends' festivities.

On page 3 of this Newsletter, you will find information about the Wisconsin Workshop conference on "Outside the *Kaiserreich*: The German Diaspora in the World War I Era," which we will host on October 8–10, 2015. Please mark your calendars! The 100-year anniversary of the First World War makes this a timely event, and we have put together a very attractive program.

We wish you all the best for the summer months ahead. Enjoy the season, do good work, and stay in touch!

—Cora Lee and Mark

Outside the *Kaiserreich*: The German Diaspora in the World War I Era International Symposium, October 8–10, 2015

Free and Open to the Public, on the University of Wisconsin–Madison Campus

During the era of the “Great War,” many nations had significant numbers of first- or second-generation ethnic Germans living within their borders. Speakers of German could be found in the United States, Russia, Denmark, southern Africa, China, and Latin America. This symposium will look at the complex situations and dynamics of societies with German populations on the periphery or outside the borders of the German Empire in this period of global armed conflict.

October 8, Thursday, 5:00–8:00 pm [University Club]

5:00 Exhibit Opening and Reception

From the Archives of the Max Kade Institute: The German-American Press During the World War I Era

6:00 Keynote Address

Imperial Germany as a Country of Emigration and Immigration, Werner Sollors, Henry B. and Anne M. Cabot Research Professor of English, Harvard University

7:00 Reception

October 9, Friday morning [Pyle Center]

9:00 Words of Welcome

9:30–10:15

The German-American Experience in World War I: A Centennial Assessment, Walter Kamphoefner, Texas A&M University

10:30–11:15

Fissures in the Element: German-American Disunity and the First World War, Cora Lee Kluge, UW–Madison

11:30–12:15

Urban Language Shift and the German Language in Early 20th Century Metro Detroit
Felecia Lucht, Independent Scholar

October 9, Friday afternoon [Pyle Center]

2:00–2:45

Conflicting Loyalties in Wartime: The “Germanness” of British and American Jews during World War I, Sarah Panter, Leibniz Institute of European History, Mainz, Germany

3:00–3:45

The Impact of World War I on American Classical Music, Pamela Potter, UW–Madison

4:00–4:45

Enemy Alien Internment in the British Empire during World War I, Stefan Manz, Aston University, Birmingham, UK

October 10, Saturday morning [Pyle Center]

9:30–10:15

Rethinking “National Indifference”: German and Polish Activists in Łódź during the First World War, Winson Chu, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

10:30–11:15

Brothers in Arms but Strangers at Home: Germans in Schleswig-Holstein during and after WWI, Julie Allen, UW–Madison

11:30–12:15

The Immediacy of the Unapproachable: Writings on China by German POWs in East Asia during World War I, Weijia Li, UW–Madison

October 10, Saturday afternoon [Pyle Center]

2:00–2:45

The Martyrs of Alcatraz: A Narrative Account of Hutterite Conscientious Objectors, Duane Stolfus, Goshen College

3:00–3:45

Pennsylvaniadeutschtum: Pennsylvania Dutch Identity and the World War I Era, Mark Loudon, UW–Madison

4:00 Wrap-up Discussion

For abstracts, directions, and other information, consult the Max Kade Institute Web site (mki.wisc.edu) or contact Antje Petty: apetty@wisc.edu

This symposium is the forty-eighth Wisconsin Workshop, an annual interdisciplinary forum in German studies. It is cosponsored by the following University of Wisconsin–Madison units: Department of German, Department of History, Center for European Studies, Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies, and the Friends of the Max Kade Institute. Generous financial support is also provided by the UW Anonymous Fund, the Jay and Ruth Halls Visiting Scholars Fund, and the UW Lectures Committee.

The First Customers at the Meeme House Inn

Karyl Rommelfanger

Seldom does it happen that two rather insignificant historical events come together to frame a larger story. Such is the case, however, with the building of a log cabin by Michael and Andreas Herr in the town of Meeme, near Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and a journey south along the Green Bay Road by immigrant Karl Pflaume. Recent research has begun to uncover some of the early history of the Herr family's Meeme House, a way station for weary travelers along the Green Bay Road, which was recently purchased by the Manitowoc County Historical Society.

In 1847 brothers Michael, Andreas, and Peter Herr, along with their widowed father Karl, immigrated from Alzenau, Bavaria, to Wisconsin. Peter settled in Sheboygan County, while the others journeyed north into Manitowoc County. Andreas and Michael both purchased property along the Green Bay Road in the township of Meeme, approximately one mile south of the village of Spring Valley.

This was a time of poverty in Germany. The splitting of land parcels into ever smaller slices, poor crop years, and a sudden growth in population led to poverty and starvation among the masses. Some families decided to emigrate, sold their property and personal possessions and used the proceeds to finance their trip to America, hoping there would be enough money left over for the purchase of inexpensive land. In this same time period, Wisconsin was



The Meeme House Inn, undated

opened up for settlement and government-owned lands became available at very reasonable prices.

Another German immigrant, Karl Pflaume, came from Aschersleben, Saxon-Anhalt, in 1851. His situation was different. He was from a well-to-do family, had earned a degree in agriculture, and set out for America to earn his fortune, as it were. Pflaume purchased land in the township of Newton, on the northeast corner of South 26th Street and Silver Creek Road. He returned to Germany in 1854 to marry, came back to Manitowoc with his new bride, and became active in local politics. For a time he published his own newspaper, *Der Buschbauer*. Pflaume, however, was an intellectual whose joy of writing and reading often overtook his interest in farming, and he eventually returned

to Germany almost penniless.

The lives of the Herr brothers and Karl Pflaume appear to intersect in a narrative written by Pflaume about a trip that he and his neighbor took in 1852 to Cedarburg to buy cattle. Pflaume writes:

We traveled a road hewn into the wilderness in an almost straight line from north to south, which was called the Green Bay Road. . . . We followed the road south and found very few settlers along it, hiking long stretches before coming upon a house or two. We saw some log cabins which had been abandoned by their owners, and some, which were occupied by settlers from Ireland.

We reached a place where we thought we would stay overnight. There was an American living here, who owned an inn and was the postal agent. There was a sign over the door indicating lodging and the postal agent. . . . But we could not stay there, the man said, as he had no lanterns. We told him that was not a problem, to which he responded that he also did not have any tea or coffee. . . .

So we continued on, until, as it grew dark, we reached another house which was occupied by some Germans. However, since the house was not yet complete, and the room quite small, it took some effort to convince them to let us spend the night there. This was in March and it was too cold to sleep on the ground in the forest, and too far away from the next dwelling. So we stayed there, and were quite satisfied. . . . The man was from Bavaria. His brother, a young and hearty lad, explained that in a few weeks they would be heading to the Racine prairie to find work, just like a few others from their neighborhood. They wanted to earn some money in order to establish their own inn. . . . The innkeeper's wife came from the area around Koblenz. . . . On the next day we came upon a settlement of Welsh—people from Wales. . . .

While it is impossible to know with absolute certainty that the place described by Pflaume is the earliest

beginnings of the Meeme House, the evidence strongly suggests this is indeed the case.

Pflaume has placed himself between an Irish settlement, the area around today's Osman, and a Manitowoc County settlement of Welsh immigrants, just south of the Herr property. In addition, he indicates that he had journeyed south from an inn owned by a postmaster. This must have been the property of Henry Edson, which stood directly north of Spring Valley and was later owned by a Peter Phillips.

Pflaume implies that the brothers are of contrasting ages, which indeed they are, Michael being seven years older than his brother Andreas. They are also, of course, Bavarians. Additionally, the 1850 United States census shows the two brothers were working on the prairie lands of southeastern Wisconsin, just as they intended to do again in the summer of 1852. Lastly, Michael has recently married, and his wife is from Laubach, a community directly west of the city of Koblenz in Germany.

Without a doubt, the two broth-

ers were familiar with the early inns from their journeys along the Green Bay Road. They may have seen an opportunity to earn extra cash as they slowly began clearing the forested acreage they had purchased. And Pflaume's unexpected stay may have provided some extra impetus to their budding idea.

The early Meeme House was likely exactly as Pflaume describes—a crude “bed and breakfast” housing the family and a guest or two. With the passing of time it expanded into the large structure it is today. How quickly this happened is still being researched. What is clear, however, is that the experience Karl Pflaume and his companion had was a very pleasant one, as Pflaume writes that he and his friend stayed there again on their return trip to Manitowoc. 📖

Karyl Rommelfanger is a retired high school teacher of German from Manitowoc, Wisconsin. She has done extensive research on the history of Manitowoc and its German-speaking immigrants.

The Restauration of the Meeme House Inn

The Manitowoc County Historical Society recently purchased the old Meeme House Inn building, located on Green Bay Road. Built in 1855 by immigrants from Bavaria, the Inn was a stage coach stop where you could stay for \$1 a day, including breakfast, supper, and feed and stabling for a team of horses. The building had several small overnight rooms, a tavern on the first floor, and a large, beautiful ballroom on the second. Voting also took place inside until a new poll house was built, and town meetings were held in the ballroom until the construction of a new town hall in 1983.

The Meeme House Inn, its original livery stable, and its poll house will soon make the 15-mile journey to Pinecrest Historical Village, where a fundraising effort is under way to restore all the buildings to their ca.-1900 glory.

Eugene Field Plays a Prank on Carl Schurz

Kevin Kurdylo

Among the books from Carl Schurz's personal library on display at the Max Kade Institute are eight volumes of humorous articles, essays, and poetry written by Eugene Field. Field is remembered today mainly for his children's poetry, particularly the popular "Little Boy Blue" and "Wynken, Blynken, and Nod" (originally titled "Dutch Lullaby," in this case referring to the inhabitants of the Netherlands). Biographies of Field also often note his fondness for playing pranks. For example, in 1882, while working as a newspaper editor in Denver, Field impersonated Oscar Wilde, who was then on an extensive tour of America, dressing extravagantly and wearing a wig of golden curls while riding through the streets in an open carriage—all to the cheers of admirers.

Back in 1874, Field, a native of St. Louis, was a young journalist working for the *St. Louis Journal*. He was assigned to report on Carl Schurz's Missouri campaign for re-election to the U.S. Senate. Two stories of Field's pranks on Schurz are told.

On one occasion a party of Germans appeared and played music outside the hotel where Schurz was staying. Before Schurz could appear to acknowledge them, Field stepped out on the veranda and proceeded to address the crowd in broken English, spouting political nonsense. The initial cheering subsided into amazed silence, until Field was pushed aside by the real candidate. Apparently Mr. Schurz found it difficult to save Field from the wrath of the crowd, which

had resented his broken English more than his political heresies.

On another occasion, when the gentleman who was to introduce Mr. Schurz failed to appear, Field stepped to the front and with a strong German accent addressed the gathering as follows: "Ladies und shentlemens, h'm, h'm!" (He coughed hoarsely.) "I recret it dot I haf a fery bad coldt." (More coughing.) "I am so sorry to say it, but et is not bossible for me to make you a speedg to-night. Howeffer, it gifs me creat bleasure to introduce to you my prilliant cho-urnatistic friend Euchene Fielt, who will now attress you." He turned and waved his hand to the amazed and indignant Schurz and sat down.

It is reported that Schurz's only re-monstrance was, "Field, why will you lie so outrageously?" 



Eugene Field, 1896

Make the Max Kade Institute Library a Part of Your Family's History

Are you interested in German-American publications from a specific state? Do you feel a personal connection to a special collection in our Library? Would you like to honor a family member or immigrant ancestor and his or her contributions to the American experience? At the Max Kade Institute, we would like to recognize your contribution to our Library Campaign with the following naming opportunities.

- **Adopt a book:** choose your favorite publication in the MKI collection and have a nameplate added to the book (\$200-\$500).
- **Adopt a state in the *Published in America* (PIA) Collection:** the MKI's PIA collection is organized by state. Put your name on the shelf of your favorite state: (\$500-\$5,000).
- **Sponsor a Collection,** such as the North American German Dialect Collection, Carl Schurz Collection, or Family History Collection (\$5,000 - \$10,000).
- **Name a room** (\$10,000 - \$20,000).



Additional naming opportunities exist. Please inquire!

Max Kade Institute programs and operations have in the past been supported almost entirely through grants and donations. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to you, our Friends, for your tireless work on our behalf and your crucial financial support throughout our capital campaign. It is humbling to know that so many people appreciate what we are doing, use our resources, and in many cases see their own family's history reflected in the Institute's research.

Our move to the University Club nearly one year ago has brought all the benefits we anticipated. But there is still more work to be done. Our Library Project Campaign and our fundraising efforts need to continue.

Please help us raise the remaining matching funds for our National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, most of which goes to an endowment to support the Librarian/Archivist position.

Help us reach this year's goal of \$50,000 by July 31, 2015

Your support in securing our future is both crucial and deeply appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions, ideas, or suggestions. We look forward to seeing you at the Institute and serving you.

Cora Lee Kluge: cnollen@wisc.edu

Mark Loudon: mlloudon@wisc.edu

Antje Petty: apetty@wisc.edu

Impressions from the Friends of the Max Kade Institute's Annual Meeting in Madison

Antje Petty

On May 2, for the first time in ten years, the Friends of the Max Kade Institute held their annual meeting in Madison. On this sunny spring day, while Library Mall was bustling with a student music festival and an arts fair, the Friends visited the Wisconsin Historical Society and the University Club next door.

We began with a tour of the Historical Society, where staff members and volunteers had done a fantastic job of setting up three different rooms with a variety of German-American materials from the Society's collection. At the first station, Joseph Kapler, Curator of the Historical Society Museum, showed us paintings by the German-born artist Paul Seifert, who, in the last two decades of the nineteenth century, traveled around rural Wisconsin to paint landscapes and idyllic representations of farms.

Today Paul Seifert watercolors are highly-prized examples of Midwestern folk art. In 2014, the Historical Society Museum under Joseph Kapler's direction showed an exhibit "Wisconsin in Watercolor: The Farmscapes of Paul Seifert." Read more about the artist and the exhibit in the Winter 2013- 2014 issue of the *Friends Newsletter* (mkifriends.org).

Our next stop was the stunning Reading Room, which only a few years ago was restored to its original beauty in the Neoclassical Revival style of the 1900 building. Here Michael Edmonds, Deputy Director of Library Archives, gave us an overview of the Wisconsin Historical Society's holdings and their significance for German-American studies. German-language newspapers from Wisconsin, maps, and other documents were displayed for our Friends to examine.

The final leg of the tour took us



Photo courtesy of Charles James

James Doing and Johannes Strohschank examine a Wisconsin German-language newspaper in the Historical Society's Reading Room.

to the Museum archives, where Lee Grady, Senior Reference Archivist, shared German-Wisconsin materials from the Society's Special Collections. These included letters written by prominent eighteenth-century Milwaukee women's rights activist Mathilde Franziska Anneke, a three-dimensional embossed photograph of Milwaukee brewer Captain Frederick Pabst, a vandalized 1918 campaign poster for Milwaukee



Photo courtesy of Charles James

The Geiger-Tesch family at the annual meeting

Socialist Victor Berger's run for U.S. Senate, and as a colored German-language map printed in 1849 of "the state of Wisconsin, to the extent it had been surveyed in 1843."

Our hosts graciously invited us to come back and explore their collections not only when we work on a research project, but also when we are just curious. All of us at the Max Kade Institute and the Friends wish to extend a big "thank you" to our colleagues and neighbors at the Historical Society for preparing for us such an interesting and informative event.

The tour was followed by the annual business meeting. Looking back at all that happened since our last annual meeting, we know we had an exciting year. The biggest event, of course, was the Max Kade Institute's long-awaited move to its new location in the University Club. The move, the renovation project, and the capital campaign that preceded it, could not have happened without the tremendous support of the Friends, who have continuously assisted the Institute in a variety of ways. Friends donated to the campaign, helped out in the

Photo courtesy of Charles James



Lee Grady, showing a 1918 vandalized campaign poster from the Wisconsin Historical Society's archive

Library, volunteered at German Fest, wrote articles for the Newsletter, arranged for the Institute to come to their communities, and much more. We are especially grateful to the members of the Friends Board of Directors, particularly outgoing members Gary Gisselman and

President Jim Kleinschmidt. Thank you, Friends!

Four members were elected to the 2015–2016 Board of Directors: Hans Bernet and Pamela Tesch will be serving a second term, while Bill Thiel and Don Zamzow were elected to a first term. Please see the Friends Profiles for Bill and Don on page 12. New Officers of the Board are Fran Luebke (President), Edward Langer (Vice President), John Pustejovsky (Secretary), and Luanne von Schneidmesser (Treasurer). Hans Bernet was elected as the fifth member of the Executive Committee.

Our evening was rounded out with a dinner at the University Club restaurant and a fun and informative lecture and Powerpoint presentation by MKI Co-Director Mark Loudon on "Wisconsin's German Heritage." 

Photo courtesy of Charles James



Sunset over Library Mall and Bascom Hill

In the Right Place at the Right Time: Saving the Wisconsin–Hessen State Partnership Proclamation

Sy Kreilein

I am sure that all of us have at some time been surprised by the coincidence of events or encounters. This is the story of such an occurrence.

In 1976, the Minister President of the German State of Hessen, Albert Osswald, and Wisconsin Governor Patrick Lucey signed an official proclamation establishing a partnership between the two states. The signing ceremony celebrated the 200th anniversary of the United States as well as the 30th year of Hessen's state constitution. The goals of the Proclamation stated the following:

The State of Hessen and the State of Wisconsin agree that the Partnership should benefit the citizens of both States directly and, namely, through the promotion of an exchange of persons from the following areas:

education and science, art and culture, environmental protection, health sector (hospital administration), police and justice system, and tax administration.

In addition, the Partnership helps support the contacts of non-State institutions, above all, in the areas of private economy, tourism, broadcasting media, the fostering of tradition through Heimat Societies and historical associations, and of sport.

Fast forward to January 15, 2015, a day I met with Charles Baumbach, a lawyer and Milwaukee native, and Ken Germanson, president emeritus of the Wisconsin Labor History Society at the Headquarters of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO in Milwaukee.

Baumbach had been doing research on his grandfather, a mason who helped construct Milwaukee's City Hall. As part of his study, he had also investigated the infamous Bay View Massacre of May 5, 1886. On that day about 1,500 workers, mostly Polish immigrants wanting an eight-hour work day, marched on Rolling Mills, a foundry in Bay View, south of Milwaukee on Lake Michigan. Because of the disastrous bloody end to the Haymarket Square incident that had occurred in Chicago only a few days before, the Governor of Wisconsin, Jeremiah Rusk, called out the militia to control the strikers and protect the foundry, and gave the order to shoot if necessary. The *Milwaukee Sentinel* newspaper later noted that when the "anarchists and socialists" rushed the mill, after being warned to stop, the militia shot, killing five people, and wounding several others. Two of those killed were innocent bystanders.

Baumbach now was interested in comparing the coverage of the Bay View incident in the English-language press with that in Milwaukee's German-language newspapers and asked for my assistance with researching the German publications. The

combination of history and German was a project I, of course, could not refuse.

That is why we met at the Wisconsin AFL-CIO Headquarters that January day, hoping to find historic documents in the organization's archives. We had gone through several piles, when Ken Germanson cleared a stack, leaving one item on the desk. My heart stopped for a few seconds. There on the table was the framed, official German-language version of the Hessen-Wisconsin *Partnerschaft* document signed by Minister President Albert Osswald and Governor Patrick Lucey!

I looked at Ken and asked, "Do you know what you have here?" "I have no idea. I only know it's written in German," Germanson replied. After I explained the history of the relationship between Hessen and Wisconsin, he looked bewildered and elated at the same time. Nobody had a clue how this framed document had found its way to the basement of the Wisconsin AFL-CIO Headquarters, where it had been gathering dust for years. In fact, not knowing what the document meant, Germanson confessed that he had been going to throw the Proclamation into the dumpster. How's that for timing! Being in the right place at the right time, indeed!

Today, the *Partnerschaft* document hangs on a wall in the in Max Kade Institute Library, in the Institute's new location on the University

of Wisconsin–Madison campus, where it will not gather any dust. Meanwhile in Milwaukee, a For Sale sign was posted in front of the AFL-CIO building in March. 🏠

Sy Kreilein, Ph.D., lives in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. He is a retired teacher of German at Marquette University High School in Milwaukee and a member of the Hessen-Wisconsin Society, as well as the Goethe House Milwaukee.



Partnerschaft

zwischen dem LAND HESSEN, Bundesrepublik Deutschland, und dem STAAT WISCONSIN, Vereinigte Staaten von Amerika.

Das LAND HESSEN, vertreten durch seinen Ministerpräsidenten Albert Osswald, und der STAAT WISCONSIN, vertreten durch seinen Governor Patrick J. Lucey, kommen aus Anlaß des 200-jährigen Bestehens der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika und des 30. Jahrestages des Inkrafttretens der Hessischen Verfassung als Ausdruck ihrer freundschaftlichen Beziehungen überein, eine Partnerschaft zu begründen.

Die Partnerschaft soll den gesellschaftlichen Fortschritt fördern, die beiderseitigen Beziehungen festigen und vertiefen und den Austausch von Meinungen und Erfahrungen im staatlichen und nichtstaatlichen Bereich ermutigen.

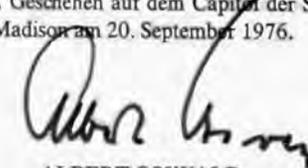
Das LAND HESSEN und der STAAT WISCONSIN stimmen darin überein, daß die Partnerschaft den Bürgern beider Staaten unmittelbar zugute kommt, und zwar durch die Förderung eines Austauschs von Personen aus folgenden Bereichen:

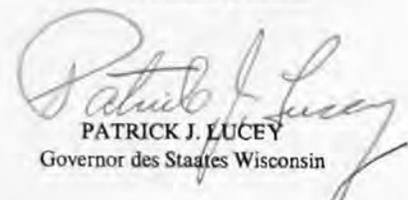
Bildung und Wissenschaft, Kunst und Kultur
Umweltschutz, Gesundheitswesen (Krankenhausverwaltung),
Polizei- und Justizwesen, Steuerverwaltung.

Die Partnerschaft soll ferner die Kontakte nichtstaatlicher Institutionen, vor allem im Bereich der privaten Wirtschaft und des Fremdenverkehrs, der Presse und des Rundfunks, der Traditionspflege durch Heimatvereine und historische Vereinigungen und des Sports fördern helfen.

Das LAND HESSEN und der STAAT WISCONSIN schließen diese Partnerschaft im Geist der Freundschaft zwischen dem deutschen und dem amerikanischen Volk.

Zu Urkund dessen haben wir unsere Unterschriften mit Siegel unter dieses Dokument gesetzt. Geschehen auf dem Capitol der Stadt Madison am 20. September 1976.


ALBERT OSSWALD
Hessischer Ministerpräsident


PATRICK J. LUCEY
Governor des Staates Wisconsin



Welcoming Bill Thiel and Don Zamzow on the Friends Board of Directors

Antje Petty

At the annual meeting on May 2, two long-time Friends were elected to the Board of Directors: Bill Thiel and Don Zamzow. Both Bill and Don have served on the Board before, and we are delighted to have them back.

Born in Milwaukee, **Bill Thiel** is a graduate of Marquette Law School. Since 1975, he has been a resident of Eau Claire, where he is a lawyer in private practice. Bill served on the Board once before, from 2000 to 2006.

In his free time, Bill enjoys reading histories and biographies and doing his own research. He has done prolific work on nineteenth-century German immigration to Wisconsin, especially on emigrants from Schleswig-Holstein. Together with Johannes Strohschänk, a Professor of German at UW-Eau Claire and a fellow Board member, Bill wrote the monograph *The Wisconsin Office of Emigration 1853-1855* (2005), published by the Max Kade Institute. Bill and Johannes continue to work on a comprehensive history of German immigration to Wisconsin for the years 1836 to 1861. Another of their projects concerns the diary of Johann O. Kröhnke, a founding member of the town of New Holstein. In addition, Bill regularly joins Johannes in teaching an honors course on German-American immigration at UW-Eau Claire.

Don Zamzow served on the Board once before, from 2003 to 2009. He and his wife Lou Ann

live in Schofield, near Wausau. Don is a founding member of the *Pommerscher Verein* Central Wisconsin, where he was a member of the Board of Directors and its President for many years. For eighteen years, Don has edited the *Verein's* newsletter, *Dat Pommersche Blatt*. Through their work with the *Pommerscher Verein*, Don and Lou Ann have been actively involved in promoting the Pomeranian language, a Northern German dialect that they grew up speaking in Northern Wisconsin. Currently they are conducting some of the “Platt Tied” sessions designed to promote usage of this German dialect.

As members of the *Pommerscher Verein*, the Zamzows have been instrumental in making numerous connections with German heritage societies around the country and the world, such as the *Landsmannschaft* organizations of Hamburg and Berlin, Germany, as well as the *Ostsee-Akademie* in the *Pommern-Zentrum*, Lübeck-Travemünde. In addition, the *Verein* maintains close associations with other Low-German Heritage societies in Iowa, Nebraska, and Michigan, as well as societies in Germany, and helps organize international seminars on the Low German language and its different dialect forms. Furthermore, Don has organized five “roots” tours to Germany and Poland for people interested in researching their ancestral villages and in finding opportunities to use the Low German



Don Zamzow

language of their childhood.

Don has extensive experience in the business world as the CEO of Government & Industry Technologies, a software development company providing Wisconsin County Health & Human Services agencies with information systems. In more recent years, Don and his son Michael established and now operate Bull Falls Brewery LLC, in Wausau, a new craft beer microbrewery whose products will soon be available throughout the state of Wisconsin.

Bill and Don will both bring unique perspectives, expertise, and enthusiasm to the Board. We look forward to working together with them! 🍷

Continued from page 1

phobia” of the times—on issues such as the use of the German language. The following commentary from September of 1915 reminds readers that the German language has been an important advocate for liberty and freedom in the United States throughout the country’s history, and it argues that “in the present crisis” their knowledge of German, by the grace of God, has given them “an accurate view.” It concludes with the often-heard declaration that the German language’s enemies must be conquered!

—Cora Lee Kluge

Die Abendschule, Year 62, Issue 5.

St. Louis, Missouri

Thursday, September 30, 1915.

Of the Times—For the Times

The German Language is More Precious Today Than Ever Before.

In our country, English is the official lingua franca. It is therefore necessary for every citizen to master the English language thoroughly. One does not fully deserve to be called a “good citizen” until he can fluently speak, read, and also write the national language—the language of the country that has bestowed upon him freedom, protection, nourishment, and profit. Despite compulsory education, the number of illiterate people in the United States is still very large. It is often assumed that most of these illiterates are immigrants who came largely from uneducated classes and culturally backward countries. However, recent findings have shown that the majority of the illiterates are native-born

Americans. These findings are based on the census of 1910, according to which there were 5,412,364 such illiterates, specifically 2,227,731 blacks and 3,184,633 whites; among the latter, 1,534,272 were of American birth and 1,650,361 of foreign birth—only about 100,000 more. It has also been shown that the number of illiterates drops more quickly among descendants of immigrants than among the second generation of native-born Americans, and quickest of all among those of German origin. We German Americans are proud to be a bilingual people!

Are we justified in our pride? There has never been a time when the value of our German mother tongue next to that of the national language has come to light so clearly and evidently, so pricelessly and invaluablely as in this great time of war! Let it sink in, dear Reader, and consider it with your eyes open to the daylight! Imagine that you were no longer able to read German. Would it not have been England’s unmistakable intent, just as soon as our German connection had been lost, to fill our heads daily with the most wretched lies and false news, as they have done all along with every monolingual English speaker in America? What would we have known of the true state of affairs, of the victories and successes of our kin, our blood brothers? What would we have known of the progress of their worthy cause, if we had been thoroughly Anglicized in the “melting pot” shortly after our arrival, if we had treacherously abandoned and forgotten our German language?

Yes, where would our country be today, after the government tossed all of the mass petitions into the waste-

basket, ignored all of the mass demonstrations, threw all good counsel and caution to the wind, adopted an evermore partisan stance despite its own advice to pray for peace, encouraged the massive arms export to the Allies, and ever more strongly and obviously favored England while constantly conjuring up the threat of war?—Where would our country be today, after the Anglo-American yellow press ranted against Germany with poisonous hostility, widely distributed all of their lies and defamations, suppressed the truth, aligned themselves with the Allies, and deliberately agitated for war?—Where would our country be today, if there were no German voices left to advocate for truth and justice?

It was the *German* language that struck the tones of freedom from sea to sea, protecting the life and property of our people, just like the old Liberty Bell of Philadelphia that is currently touring the country.*

It was the *German* language in this country,—the pen of history shall record this for all future generations!—that, just as it first brought the Declaration of Independence to paper, again came on the scene with flaming words and the sword of reason and slashed the web of lies and shrewd political machinations.

It was the *German* language that, just as her patriotic sons fought for the freedom of this country under Washington and Lincoln, did once again inspire the inferior elements to true, emphatic patriotism!

* Translator’s note: In 1915, the Liberty Bell was sent from Philadelphia to San Francisco for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, stopping frequently along the way to be admired by crowds.

And why, in this crisis, was it the German language that struck the proper tone, provided an accurate view, maintained healthy judgment, generated true patriotism, and kept a clean conscience? Why, in this age of decision, was it the German Americans who proved themselves to be the real, true patriots of the country? Yes, Readers and Friends, it was by the grace of God! Behold, our German mother tongue, like no other language in the world, possesses little charms and jewels that He has bestowed upon her. And you find these treasures in churches, schools, and Christian homes! However, *for unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required* (Luke 12:48). Just recently, even the Russian war minister circulated a letter warning that instruction in the German language is of the utmost importance, given the current hostility to all things German, and it will continue to be important in the future, as Germany will remain Russia's enemy after the war. Learning the enemy's language is an absolute necessity, he states, and failure to do so became painfully noticeable, for example, during the Russo-Japanese War; the better one knows his enemies, the sooner he may conquer them.

The German language, too, has many enemies, near and far, and you have already come to know all of them. Fate has spoken clearly: Conquer them! 

Translation of this Abendschule text by James Doing, a student in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Translation & Interpretation Graduate Certificate Program, who is fulfilling requirements with an internship at the Max Kade Institute.

**Auf allgemeines Verlangen werden
die wundervollen Kriegsbilder noch eine
Woche im Garrick verbleiben**

**Vorstellungen
11 Vorm. bis 11 Abds.
Täglich und
Sonntag**

**Wartet nicht, geht heute in's
GARRICK THEATER**

Chestnut, zwischen Broadway und Sechster

Direkt von der Schlachtfront! Der Wandelbilder-„Scoop“ des Krieges!

**An der Feuer-Linie
mit den Deutschen!**

Eintritt 25 und 50 Cents

Unter der Leitung des War Film Syndicate, Chicago

The *Abendschule* was not the only German-American paper that closely followed the war in Europe with a focus on the German point of view. The above advertisement appeared in the *St. Louis Westliche Post* on January 1, 1916. It reads:

By popular demand, the showing of the wonderful war images at the Garrick will be extended for another week.

Do not wait, come to the Garrick Theater today!

On Chestnut between Broadway and Sixth Street

Directly from the battle field! The moving-picture scoop of the War!

At the firing line with the Germans!

Tickets for 25 and 50 cents

Under the direction of the War Film Syndicate, Chicago

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- Membership covers the calendar year (January–December). Payments received after November 1 of the current year will be credited for the full succeeding year.

The Newsletter of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is published three times a year at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Submissions are invited and should be sent to:

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