

Max Kade Institute

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MAX KADE INSTITUTE. VOL. 7 NO 4 . WINTER 1998-99

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MKI establishes Audio Library

Sometimes it seems that circumstances just conspire to make the right things happen. That's what has led to the creation of a very valuable new Max Kade Institute resource, a collection of recordings of German dialects spoken in North America.

Last year, we were alerted to the possibility of getting a large set of recordings of German-American dialects, made by Professor Wolfgang W. Moelleken over his many years of fieldwork across North America. We discussed it with Professor Moelleken, who kindly agreed to donate his collection hundreds of cassette and reel-to-reel tapes along with hundreds of notebooks, plus maps and other materials. Moelleken's materials are, by themselves, enough to create an important database for researchers, including tapes from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and eastern Canada. It includes interviews in western Virginia and West Virginia communities where Pennsylvania German was spoken for centuries, but has since died out. It also contains the only recordings we know of from Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities in several Wisconsin communities, in Clark, Taylor, Green, Rock, Monroe and Eau Claire counties.

Only hours after we had gotten nine boxes of materials from him, the family of the late Smoky Seifert came by with a mountain of Smoky's German-American dialect materials, including his original field notes from his work in Pennsylvania. More surprisingly, we found several piles of "SoundScriber" recordings, small records, made with German speakers from all around Wisconsin and beyond. We have well over 100 additional recordings already made by Jürgen Eichhoff roughly 30 years ago, a set especially rich in recordings of Pomeranian speakers from Washington and Ozaukee Counties, but containing recordings from other areas and even outside of Wisconsin.

Our students working in the field (currently in Marathon, Lincoln and Sheboygan Counties) will be adding copies of their contemporary Wisconsin German dialect tapes. In short, we suddenly have a massive and unique collection of German-American dialect recordings. Many of these dialects are no longer spoken or spoken by only very few people of very advanced age, so that these recordings could not be done today.

What now? First off, we are in the process of establishing an audio library at the MKI of German-American audio recordings, cataloguing and filing these tapes. Only when that is done will we have a complete overview of exactly what is in these piles of old tapes, cassettes, records and notebooks. Beyond that, we will need to find funds to digitize these tapes, since tape deteriorates quickly and transfer to computer is our best hope for preserving these materials in the longer term.

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Entire MKI library holdings are now on the WEB

For the first time, the Institute's entire library catalog is accessible on the WEB. While part of the Institute's collection has previously been available through the UW-libraries electronic catalog, MADCAT, our more specialized collection of books published in German in the United States, as well as papers, book chapters with abstracts, and other materials on the subject of German-Americana that are not part of the online catalog of the Library of Congress (OCLC), will also be available to anyone in the world with Internet access.

MKI librarian Annie Reinhardt has created an extremely user-friendly database modeled after the one she created for the International Crane Foundation. Utilizing *ProCite* library software, complete bibliographic data can be obtained. As funding becomes available, many of these materials will eventually be cataloged in OCLC as well.

While the catalog information is available, the Institute does not have an inter-library loan policy. For the many hard-to-find books that are part of the MKI collection, that problem could be solved once the books many of which are too brittle to be handled widely are transferred to microfilm or some other stable medium.

The Institute's special collection is growing at a time when scholarly interest in regional and immigrant history is also growing. By collecting and preserving these materials and making their existence more widely known now, we hope our library will also become increasingly valuable to researchers.

Directory of Wisconsin Ethnic Organizations now on the WEB

by Mary Devitt

"The work carried out by the Sesquicentennial Ethnic Heritage Committee and its outcome has in my opinion been a significant first step in recognizing and valuing the contributions of all ethnic groups in Wisconsin. . . . For many of the members, the Directory is not the end but the beginning of a long term commitment to address constructively race and cultural relations in Wisconsin as we approach the new millennium."

— Armando Bras, Committee Chairman

As the Wisconsin Sesquicentennial celebration winds down, what will be remembered? Will it have a lasting impact? How can it help prepare the people of Wisconsin for a new millennium? These are some of the questions asked by the

Ethnic Heritage Committee of the Sesquicentennial Commission when it began its work two years ago. The mission statement of the Ethnic Heritage Committee states: "[it should] ... promote the search for common bonds that allow us to celebrate our diversity, heal our differences, and create new visions to take Wisconsin into the future." Toward these goals, the Ethnic Heritage Committee has created an on-line, searchable database which profiles Wisconsin's many ethnic organizations. The primary purpose of the *Directory* is to provide a comprehensive resource that brings together information for and about all ethnic organizations statewide.

Early in the deliberations of the Ethnic Heritage Committee, it was clear that there wasn't a way to contact the wide array of organizations around the state representing Wisconsin's many ethnic groups, but the need for one was widely felt. Indeed, the absence of such a resource was the single largest impediment to the Committee's early efforts to initiate a statewide conference which would examine ethnic settlement throughout Wisconsin historically and put it into a broader context. Not only was the necessary information lacking on a statewide level, in some cases even county officials were unaware of many ethnic organizations at the local level. Furthermore, several ethnic organizations also expressed their desire to have access to such a directory and have information about their organization available to others. Agreeing that it was a necessary first step, the Committee changed its focus to creating a directory.

Building on these early efforts of the Committee which were coordinated through the Institute for World Affairs at UW-Milwaukee, the Max Kade Institute took up the task of preparing the directory. Committee members compiled various lists of ethnic organizations. Questionnaires were sent to known organizations with the request to make copies and pass them on to additional organizations. UW-Madison graduate student Joshua Hagen, who collected the data, stated, "It's been exciting and sometimes surprising to see the number and variety of ethnic groups and organizations which are active in the state. The feedback from organization members has been overwhelmingly positive."

Max Kade Institute librarian, Annie Reinhardt, formatted the data into a searchable directory and uploaded it to the World Wide Web, also providing links to other sites throughout the state, including governmental and educational sites, homepages of ethnic groups; and links to related directories, such as the minority business directory. Changes and additions to the database can be made as needed, allowing the directory to be kept current and grow as additional organizations are added.

It is the Committee's hope that the *Directory* will serve a number of needs:

- allow easier and more immediate cooperation and collaboration within particular ethnic groups, whether locally, regionally or statewide;
- facilitate cooperation and collaboration among organizations from different ethnic groups, to gain an understanding both of the State's diversity and to move towards finding common ground;
- assist civic leaders, educators and members of the media in contacting particular ethnic organizations;
- encourage individual contact to ethnic organizations.

The Ethnic Heritage Committee should continue to play a role in the evolution of the *Directory*, in identifying additional organizations to be included in it, in promoting its existence, and in reviewing the type of information to be contained in future updates of the *Directory*. The Committee can also play an important role in identifying potential sources of funding to maintain the electronic *Directory*. **[The *Directory* has been discontinued. -- Ed., 2015]**

Welcome to our new Program Assistant

If you called recently the Institute, you might have been surprised to hear an unfamiliar voice. Most likely it was Kerstin Kuentzel's. In addition to handling incoming genealogical inquiries and translation, she has recently become the Institute's new program assistant.

On a part time basis, she will

- be responsible for the layout and production of the Friends' Newsletter,
- serve as a receptionist, and
- assist with administrative duties.

While her work days may vary from semester to semester, she will be at the MKI 20+ hours a week. Kerstin is glad that these hours allow her to continue to provide genealogical assistance by appointment.

German Classes for Children

The UW Department of Liberal Studies and the Arts is offering the following German language outreach courses for children and adults in the winter/spring semester.

- ☐ German *Samstagsschule* (grades K-8), 10 Saturdays 9-12 am, beginning January 23.
- ☐ An intensive and enjoyable program for children at the beginner and intermediate levels.
 - German Beginning 2, 10 Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, beginning January 21.
 - German Intermediate, 10 Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm, beginning January 21.
 - Intensive Beginning (for travelers and others), 5 weeks, Monday and Thursday, 7-8:30 beginning April 5.
- ☐ In addition, a reading knowledge course and individual directed reading are being offered.

For more complete information regarding locations, instructors and fees, call 262-2075.

To receive the Winter/Spring Continuing Education catalogue, call 262-1156.

Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Family History Conference:

A report by Kerstin Kuentzel

On October 23-24, 1998, the Family History Conference took place at Monona Terrace in Madison as part of the Sesquicentennial Celebration. Before the doors even opened, most of the 750 tickets had been sold. According to the conference syllabus, its program was designed to "help [...] trace the origins of families that came to Wisconsin as well as to trace families *in* Wisconsin." Forty different lectures held by extremely qualified speakers tried to meet the needs of genealogical research beginners as well as of those of intermediate level by providing them with research techniques, Wisconsin record sources and repositories, and information about places of origin. Not only descendants of Europeans and East Europeans got their money's worth, but also Native and African Americans. In addition to the lectures themselves, there was a well-attended exhibit hall where some of the most important genealogical societies (including the Max Kade Institute) were represented as well as a number of bookstores.

Due to the generosity of the *Friends of the Max Kade Institute*, I was able to attend some of the lectures as well. As a means of saying "Thank you," I would like to share some of the information I obtained there with those of you who didn't have the opportunity to be there or who attended other lectures given at the same time.

I was absolutely fascinated by the vividness of two of Helen F. M. Leary's presentations: *Spotlight on the Ancestors: Letting Them Be Themselves* and *Their Time Lines and Family Patterns*. During both lectures, she stressed several times that researchers always have to keep in mind that their ancestors were human beings, not just names on a record. These ancestors interacted with other people just the way we do, and their lives followed an orderly pattern from birth to death just like ours, only bound by the restrictions of their time. As thorough researchers, we have to analyze each stage of our ancestor's life, always asking ourselves whether or not this or that was really possible, whether or not a certain pattern makes sense. One can often discover overlapping information by analyzing and comparing collected data from different records and from different persons who *had* to be in contact with one another during a certain event.

For example, at the time of conception, a child's father must have lived at least in the same county as the child's mother, or at birth, at least the child's mother had to be present. Each life pattern is unique; each timeline has its own characteristics and is affected by a variety of circumstances, such as religious background, social status, historical events, etc. Leary demonstrated how to create timelines for each census category, and how to find out more about an ancestor by simply counting back to birth and forward to death. She never tired of emphasizing that it is extremely crucial to keep detailed source lists for *everything* in order to find at a later date where our information originated.

In her lecture *Look again! What did you miss?* Patricia Law Hatcher pointed this out as well. She tried to make us aware of the most common errors researchers commit, such as looking for an answer when we should look for a clue instead. Her advice in short: "Use common sense, look at all the pieces of the puzzle and look at them from different perspectives".

The Records of Old Settlers' Organizations presented by Paula Stuart Warren provided knowledge about valuable sources for finding an ancestor's place of origin and much more. Old settlers' organizations were often found in frontier areas. Some of them were highly structured, with a constitution and by-laws, while others were completely unstructured. Their records can often be found on microfilm in libraries listed under different names such as *Pioneers of, Old Timers Picnic, Association of Pioneers of, Old Settlers Club*, etc. Old newspapers and county histories are good sources of information about settlers' organizations in a particular geographical area of interest. Manuscript collections like the one in the State Historical Society of Wisconsin are according to Warren "gold mines" for discovering records of these organizations. For lack of space, I will only mention *NUCMC* (=National Union Catalogue of Manuscript Collections), a manuscript cataloguing program that is available online: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/coll/nucmc>.

Speaking of computers: Jennifer and Blaine Schmidt's lecture *Computers and genealogy: From A-Z* provided the listener among other things with a large number of online information, the most important of which I would like to pass on to you. Those of you who don't have Internet access at home should remember that most libraries have computers set up for their clientele that you can use anytime you want.

If you are looking for a hard-to-find out-of-print-book, check out the following Web site: <http://www.abebooks.com>

Cyndi's List contains 40 000 genealogy related addresses, and you can access it through: <http://www.cyndislist.com>

Online news groups and mailing lists to which you can subscribe are excellent tools for posting queries publicly (news groups) or privately (mailing lists): http://www.rootsweb.com/~jfuller/gen_mail.html

The *Rootsweb* contains half a million surnames and access to this website is free: <http://www.rootsweb.com>

The following website offers information about libraries, archives, courts, access to cemetery data and about the possibility of posting free queries. Please keep in mind that volunteers created and maintain this website. If you think you have information that could help others with their research, your contribution to this site would be highly appreciated. You access it at: <http://www.usgenweb.com>

In conclusion, the speakers pointed out that if possible we should utilize as a secondary source of information the genealogy related CD ROMs and software packages that come almost daily onto the market.

In *The Most Priceless Heritage: Your Family Health History*, James W. Warren elaborated the crucial importance of genetic history in your doctor's effort to diagnose your condition or disease correctly. According to Warren, we owe it to ourselves as well as to future generations to research our ancestors' health histories as thoroughly as possible and to pass these important records on to our children. The right way to do this is to start with ourselves and our current condition(s) and continue working back generation by generation through our ancestors' histories. I will mention here only two essential online sources for this kind of research. One is *Cyndi's List* (see address above), the other one is the site of the *National Genealogical Society*: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

It is my hope that this report has given you new ideas about worthwhile sources you can pursue and about what you should be doing differently in your research method. If you have the feeling you missed something by not attending this year's event, be consoled, there is always a next time. The next conference will be in February, 2000. See you then!

Upcoming MKI Events:

- ☐ February 3, 1999 at MKI: "German-American Immigrants and the Abolition of Slavery" by Prof. Hartmut Keil, German Historical Institute
- ☐ March 27, 1999 at 10:00 am: Mini-Conference on German Dialects in the Midwest
Speakers will include:
 - Steve Geiger (UW) Hessian Dialect in Sheboygan County
 - Phil Webber (Central College, Iowa) East Frisian in Iowa
 - Joe Salmons (UW) How and why German speakers switched to English in Wisconsin
- ☐ April 28, 1999 at 7:00 pm: "Ach Ya!" James P. Leary on Wisconsin's German American Music

Platt Diiütsch: Low German A Brief History of the People and Language

by Robert Lee Stockman
Reviewed by Michael C. Lind

This book offers an introduction to the Low German dialects and targets the casual reader as well as the linguist. Though not intended as a technical book, it provides anyone interested in the Low German language(s) with enough linguistic background to significantly add to the understanding of the history of the language and its present situation, especially throughout the United States.

The preface and introduction provide an overview of the work as a whole, its goals, and a brief summary of the concept "Platt Diiütsch." Also addressed is the problem of Low German dialects being primarily a *spoken* language, with written forms perhaps less comprehensible from dialect to dialect.

Chapter Two is a history of the Indo-European peoples and languages. It addresses early European history from the appearance of early man to the emergence of the Indo-Europeans, with descriptions of their homeland and discussion of the Indo-European language and its daughter languages and their similarities. It introduces the non-linguist to the first and second consonant shifts in the Germanic languages, and examples of how each shift did or did not affect each daughter language. To make the relationship clear, the author provides a list of several English words and their Indo-European, Gothic, Old High German, and Standard Modern German counterparts. It should be pointed out to the casual reader, however, that some cognates are left out in favor of the modern English meaning where the word has undergone a semantic shift. For example, the Standard Modern German counterpart for the Gothic 'haitan' is given as 'rufen' despite the fact that Modern German still has the etymologically related 'heißen'. Similarly, 'gardi' is given as the Gothic for English 'house' and Modern German 'Haus.' While the Gothic form 'hûs' does exist, it exists only in compounds. However, English and German do have 'garden' and 'Garten' which are directly related to 'gardi' though the meaning has shifted.

Chapter Three is the first of the book's two glossaries: English to Platt Diiütsch. (The Platt Diiütsch to English glossary appears later in Chapter Five). For the sake of consistency the author was left with the unenviable task of selecting one dialect to use as the representative for Low German. The largest problem that can result from this is addressed in

Chapter Four: orthography. Since most of these Low German dialects are primarily spoken languages, finding or establishing a consistent writing system is obviously difficult. The beginning of this chapter covers some of these problems and much of the discussion to date on solving them. The remainder is a grammatical analysis of Low German. The last section of the book is a discussion of the various historic and modern Germanic dialects.

This volume does a great service in providing readers without linguistic training an introduction to the study of the Low German dialects as well as some linguistic background. This allows anyone with an interest in Platt Döütsch access to a significant body of work on the subject. An unfortunate number of typographical errors appear in the glossary as well as sparse errors throughout the rest of the text, though these are easily remedied in future editions of the book. Hopefully this book will also serve to increase popular interest in Low German dialects and their preservation as well as scholarly study. As the author points out in his summary, many of these dialects may be nearing extinction, especially in the United States.

The book can be ordered from Platt Döütsch Press, 10748 100th Street, Alto, Mich. 49302.

[Landskroner Emigration to the American Midwest Part II](#) [by Edward E. Langer](#)

Click on title to view the article.

Welcome to our new Friends:

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Nancy Westmas

We wish to welcome those of you who joined the Friends of the Max Kade Institute in 1998 and we want to thank all of you for your continuing support.

Max Kade Institute

FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE MAX KADE INSTITUTE. VOL. 7 NO 3 . FALL 1998

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Defining Tensions: A Fresh Look at Germans in Wisconsin

In the past century and a half, German immigrants to Wisconsin have gone from being seen as an alien group, sometimes a threat to Anglo-American values, to becoming a major part of Wisconsin's dominant culture, and things German have become even stereotypical of Wisconsin's image. The conference "Defining Tensions" provides a forum for almost two dozen scholars to examine this remarkable transformation.

In addition to featured talks on the German roots of Wisconsin's Free Thinkers (Eckhart Pilick, editor, *Freie Religion*) and on the broader significance of Wisconsin German-American history (John Holzhueter, State Historical Society), sessions will be dedicated to a variety of social and political issues. Almost one-third of the presenters are coming from Germany, including Heike Bungert, historian from the University of Cologne, who will speak on the importance of German-American festivals in Milwaukee from 1870-1920. Anke Ortlepp, also from Cologne, will look at the social, cultural and political importance of Milwaukee's women's organizations. Other papers deal with more troubling times and issues, including one by Harry Anderson (Milwaukee Co. Historical Society) on a Milwaukee Nazi propagandist and another by Brent Peterson challenging notions of ethnicity among German-Americans.

There will also be sessions on German-language authors who lived and wrote in Wisconsin (with a paper on noted feminist Mathilde Franziske Anneke) and the long, rich life of the German language in the state. One of those, by Garry Davis of UW-Milwaukee, is on the use of German today in Milwaukee German-American clubs and organizations, while another, by Mike Lind of UW-Madison, will discuss the survival of a Pomeranian dialect, still heard today in communities in Marathon and Lincoln Counties.

[Conference Program](#)

MKI Fall Lectures

Crossing New Boundaries: "Concepts of Regionalism"

By Steven R. Geiger

The Max Kade Institute is cooperating in a research initiative, developed at the University of Cologne, with a number of German and American scholars looking at the importance of "region" in Europe and North America. Below you can read descriptions of the two projects students and staff at the MKI are currently working on.

Language & Region: Immigrant Language and Community Structure in the American Midwest, by Steven Geiger, Michael Lind and Joseph Salmons

A major issue in contemporary European social and political thought is "subsidiarity", a policy fostering regionalization in various spheres. In the second half of the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, the United States saw dramatic restructuring in the opposite direction, namely toward increasingly centralized structures, not only in government but in other economic and social spheres. This process had drastic consequences for the immigrant-language communities of the American Midwest. A classic study of American community structure (Warren 1978) treats this as a shift from horizontal (local) social organization to vertical (regional or national) ones. We argue that Warren's framework provides insight into the eventual decline and loss of immigrant languages as regional culture increasingly came under the control of national-level institutions. Today, some question whether a "new regionalism" will have concrete effects. Historically, we argue that the loss of old regional culture had massive impact on immigrant communities.

Despite the long and rich tradition of research in dialects and the more recent work in sociolinguistics, the relationship between language and region has been surprisingly neglected. In recent times, theoretical linguistic geography has been closely associated with sociolinguistics, where many scholars have explored how linguistic innovations spread across physical and social space. Earlier approaches correlate patterns of language change and broad social classes, while Network Theory more recently brings insight into how change moves at the most local level, from one individual to another. We aim to contribute a different piece of the puzzle: The role of regional social structures in language change. In the Midwest, a large, interconnected set of German-American communities maintained German and then shifted to English in closely parallel ways. The notion of "region" plays a set of roles throughout this historical process, from the regional identities imported by each group from Europe to nascent regional identity as *Midwestern* German-Americans.

Massive immigration of German speakers to Wisconsin from before 1848 until the late 19th c. led to the creation of German-speaking islands across the state. In the decades after statehood, Wisconsin had over 250,000 German-born residents (comprising over 15% of the population), with American-born German speakers pushing the total to an estimated 500,000 around 1900. Often several generations in such communities spoke German in the home and beyond. Now, those groups have largely adopted English, so that aside from Old Order Amish and recent immigrants few speak German regularly: Over 60,000 reported German as their home language in the 1990 US Census. In the last century, a range of social institutions religious, educational, social, political conducted business in German; today almost all have switched to English. Previous analyses see this shift in terms of failed radication or extirpation, attributing the shift throughout the United States to factors connected overwhelmingly to the particular ethnic group or language. Such accounts often appeal to anti-German sentiment before and during the First World War era (anti-foreign language laws, etc.), a lack of cultural and political unity among German-Americans, and the range of dialects (instead of a relatively uniform standard language). Such accounts are at best incomplete, however, and fail to reveal the roots of the shift. Indeed, such stories are poorly situated in broader social, historical or linguistic theories.

Our project breaks with these traditional accounts to suggest that the shift was driven by changes sweeping American society in the late 19th century, changes almost entirely external to and independent of German-speaking communities.

This relies on Warren's seminal theory of community structure, which proposes a 'Great Change' in American community structure, from the late 19th to the middle of the 20th century. He defines this change as one in which connections among various local institutions ('horizontal ties') give way to ties between a given institution and its regional, state or national counterpart ('vertical ties'). For example, before the Great Change, local schools were more closely connected to local religious, political and other institutions; after the Change, they were more closely connected to a state board of education. This systematic verticalization of power and authority weakened local ties almost everywhere in American society, including in most minority language communities, thereby unraveling a social fabric indispensable for language maintenance. The change Warren posits for these communities exemplifies a kind of social setting which typically leads to linguistic change. These forces drove the loss of local institutional support for German in Wisconsin and the switch to English as a spoken language.

We argue that 'verticalization' ultimately results in a shift to English. Another side of this same process is a renegotiation of ethnicity. Immigrant historians have moved beyond earlier simple notions of assimilation or acculturation to think in terms of "ethnic persistence and transformation" (Conzen 1990) in ways that help us understand how German-Americans saw themselves before and during the shift. Conzen's view has been paraphrased this way: "the endurance and strength of the ethnic subsociety rose in proportion to its ability directly and indirectly to create its own effective institutions." Such institutions were firmly planted in Wisconsin during the mid-19th century and supported German, but then began to lose their distinctive character. As Conzen has argued generally, these institutions are not simply washed away in a flood of Anglo-American culture, but contribute to the dominant culture on many fronts and persist in significant ways. Indeed, German-Americans have become a major part of Wisconsin's dominant culture. Our analysis, then, appears consistent with recent work in immigrant history. We will, in the course of the project, explore connections to models from other fields, like Paasi's notion of the "institutionalization of regions" (1986 and more recent works).

While the MKI team will focus on the broad Wisconsin and Midwestern picture of historical language maintenance and shift among German-Americans as a whole, Geiger and Lind will undertake case studies of two communities with different relationships to regional identity from both European and American perspectives. Geiger is working with German speakers in Sheboygan Co., speakers of a dialect relatively close to Standard German. Lind, as discussed in earlier issues of the Newsletter, is working with a Pomeranian-speaking community in central Wisconsin. While that part of the state has a diverse population (Native American and Hmong, as well as various European immigrant groups), the Pomeranians are by far the largest German-speaking group. In addition to a well-developed sense of regional identity brought from Europe, this group speaks a dialect extremely far removed from Modern Standard German.

This project will provide a new model for how and when and why minority language communities abandon their languages for a majority tongue. This kind of reverse subsidiarity builds most directly on Warren's verticalization, but ties in closely with other disciplines and a variety of other topics, like Midwestern regionalism and the reinvention of ethnicity among German-Americans. The overall project aims for a balance of broad theoretical focus and Midwestern-small regional empirical orientation.

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An examination of the works of Friedrich Glauser, Meinrad Inglin, Meinrad Lienert and Robert Walser, by K. Julia Karolle

Each time they speak or write, Swiss Germans locate themselves in a social and linguistic space vis-à-vis international

Standard German, Swiss multilingualism and their own local dialects. The act of locating oneself is more complicated for Swiss German authors, for while Swiss Germans habitually speak dialect and feel most comfortable in that code, their high literature is in Standard German, the official written language.

Several Swiss German authors of the 1920s and 30s, unwilling to write exclusively in either High German or Swiss German, responded by creating their own regional literary language out of dialectal and standard German. The Swiss authors Friedrich Glauser, Meinrad Inglin, Meinrad Lienert and Robert Walser positioned themselves along a broad spectrum of strategies of linguistic resistance and assimilation, in which they respond to Swiss nationalism and German imperialism. By examining language choice within these works, I analyze how these Swiss German authors were unwriting and rewriting their ethnic, regional and national identities within the polylingual Swiss state and in relation to Germany .

To offer two examples, Robert Walser shifted from dialect to standard language over time, indicating his changing view of cultural and regional identification, while Friedrich Glauser constantly positioned Swiss-German and High German against each other, problematizing register (the continuum between standard language and dialect), standardization and authority. In general, all of the authors developed and expressed concepts of region and regionalism by writing themselves as inhabitants of a specific area, as cosmopolitans, or even as translators of one culture into another .

Swiss scholarship inevitably deals with the struggle between New High German and the Swiss-German dialect, but there is little research on the literary aspects of this linguistic and sociolinguistic problem. My research shows how each of the authors mentioned here has found different ways of marking his works as distinctly Swiss. Those individual solutions, in the context of the dialect debate, offer new insight into Swiss national and regional linguistic identity .

Remembering Frank Gross

By Mary Devitt

A beloved Friend of the Max Kade Institute, Dr. Frank R. Gross, passed away last year on July 16. This October 20th, on what would have been his 93rd birthday, we want to remember him and his contributions to the Max Kade Institute.

Born in Württemberg, Germany in 1905, he went on to receive his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at the University of Darmstadt. While there, he developed a keen interest in the sport of soaring, and designed and built the *Darmstadt I*, a single-seat wooden glider, and later, the *Darmstadt II*, both which were prize-winning designs and which set records throughout Europe.

In 1929, he emigrated to America, and began building gliders for an American market. He ended up in Akron, Ohio, where he built the *Akron Condor*, the nation's first high-powered sail plane, which set the American distance record of 15.75 miles. His lifelong dedication to the craft left an indelible mark on the development of soaring.

Frank returned to Germany in 1930 to marry his college sweetheart, Herta Kamerer. The ominous situation in Germany at that time motivated them to return to the U.S.-- even at the height of the Great Depression -- and back to Akron, where they raised four children. Herta wrote diligently to their families back in Germany, chronicling life in a new country, experiences of their growing family and of Frank's growing business successes. It was because of those letters that we made his acquaintance. He visited the Institute in 1993 with his son, Mark Gross, to inquire about having Herta's letters translated for his children and grandchildren. Patricia Reaves, a staff member of the MKI, took on the translations, which she would send back to Frank Gross to edit, so concerned was he that Herta's true voice be heard.

Throughout these years, Frank Gross sent contributions to the Max Kade Institute, in memory of Herta, and wrote that he would like to donate the letters themselves, if they would be of interest. Indeed they were, in part because these letters document twenty years of an immigrant family's experience, from 1930 until Herta's death in 1950.

Throughout his life, Frank Gross took the initiative to give back to others in the areas that were important to him, such as funding programs to train young pilots and a scholarship fund for children of employees of the Frank R. Gross Company, and on his death, to the Max Kade Institute, a bequest of \$50,000 for the long-range future of the Institute.

With gratitude, we wish to acknowledge the generosity of Frank Gross. His memory lives on.

German Playgroup started

Monika Vohmann has begun a German playgroup for infants, toddlers, preschool children and their parents. The purpose of the group is to foster early language skills and provide an interactive German-speaking environment for parents and their children interested in learning about German language and culture. The Friends of the MKI will provide materials such as German books and games, as well as coffee and juice. While the parents include native and non-native speakers of German, the only requirement for "German School" is that strictly German be spoken. German cultural events and/or more structured lessons in language and culture could be arranged in the future, if interest warrants. The play days are currently scheduled for Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon, subject to change according to the needs of the participants. Meetings will be held at the Max Kade Institute, located at 901 University Bay Drive in Madison. Anyone who wishes to join in order to be immersed in German language and culture is welcome. Contact the Max Kade Institute at 608-262-7546 for more information.

Breaking news! New Electronic List for German- American and German-Canadian Studies

The Chair of German-Canadian Studies (University of Winnipeg) and the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies (University of Wisconsin-Madison) are pleased to announce the creation of a new electronic list for scholarly discussion of German-American and German- Canadian Studies.

The list, which will be part of H-Net, provides a moderated forum for electronic discussion of topics across an array of academic disciplines relevant to German-speaking immigrants in North America from the 17th c. to the present. Such subjects include history, geography, ethnic and immigrant studies, linguistics, literary and cultural studies. Topics up for discussion will include the invention/transformation of ethnicity and national identities among German-Americans and German-Canadians, patterns of maintenance and change in language and culture, and related issues. Contributions on German immigration and immigrants to any part of the western hemisphere are welcome. At the same time, the list will stress the value of comparative and cross-border ethnic studies, especially with a regional orientation (e.g. the Northern Great Plains or Upper Midwest) which straddle international borders. Details will be available soon on the MKI's web page. If you have further questions, please contact the list owners, Angelika Sauer (sauer@UWinnipeg.ca) or Joe Salmons (jsalmons@facstaff.wisc. edu).

Landskroner Emigration to the American Midwest

by Edward G. Langer

Beginning in the early 1850s, many families left their ancestral villages in the provinces of Bohemia and Moravia in the Austrian Empire to start new lives. Some moved to the German-speaking cities and towns of the Austrian Empire or the German principalities. Others traveled to distant countries such as the Russian Empire, South Africa or America. This is the story of some of these emigrants from the district of Landskron, Bohemia who decided to make new lives for themselves in the Midwestern United States, in particular in the state of Wisconsin.

The Old World

The district of Landskron (Czech: Lanskroun) is named after the town of Landskron. The town and district of Landskron are about 80 miles south of present day Wrocław (Breslau) and about 115 miles north of the then-capital of the Austrian Empire, Vienna.

The district consisted of the town of Landskron and forty-two bordering villages.¹ In the 1850s, the town of Landskron had about 5,000 inhabitants and was connected by rail to the rest of the Austrian Empire. Second in importance to the town of Landskron was ermná (Böhmisch Rothwasser), a Czech village of about 3,000 inhabitants. Historically, ermná had market rights not granted to the other villages. ermná's lower half was mostly Catholic and its upper half mostly Protestant. (In 1936, it was split into two villages - Dolní ermná and Horní ermná). The other forty-one villages in the district varied in size from a few hundred people to about 1,500 inhabitants. Roads connected the villages to the town of Landskron. Three-quarters of these villages were predominantly German, and the majority of both ethnic groups were of the Roman Catholic faith.

The inhabitants of these villages, both Czech and German, were divided into three broad social groups - the "large farmers" (German: Bauer, Czech: sedláci), the "small farmers" (Feldgärtner or zahradni i) and the day laborers (Tagelöhner or podruzi). The "large farmers" generally had farms over ten hectares (a hectare is 2.471 acres). They usually owned horses, cows and numerous smaller farm animals. These farmers were engaging in commercial farming and were able to ship produce to market in nearby towns. The "small farmers" had only a few hectares. They usually had a few cows and a number of smaller farm animals. The day laborers worked for small or large farmers as field laborers, stable hands and kitchen and house servants. In addition, some worked as weavers, carpenters, coopers or blacksmiths. Some of the day laborers, called "cottagers" (Häusler or chalupni i), owned a small house with enough land for a small garden and a few small farm animals such as goats. Most of the area's population consisted of day laborers scratching out a marginal existence.

Typical of the Landskroner village of the era was Ober Johnsdorf (Horní T es ovec), located just north of the town of Landskron. Ober Johnsdorf contained about 1,000 inhabitants in the 1850s, most of them German-speaking but with a significant Czech-speaking minority. The neighboring villages to the north, ermná and Nepomuky (Nepomuk), were predominantly Czech. The other nearby villages, Jokelsdorf (Jakubovice), Michelsdorf (Ostrov), and Nieder Johnsdorf (Dolní T es ovec), were predominantly German. Ober Johnsdorf was comprised of 1,108 hectares, or about four and one-quarter sections of land, or 2,738 acres. The average landholding in Ober Johnsdorf was about seven and a half hectares, with over half the farms smaller than five hectares. Only a dozen farms had more than 20 hectares. Since the town of Landskron was three miles distant, excess grain from Ober Johnsdorf was likely transported by horse or ox-cart for shipment by rail to the cities of the Austrian Empire. Apart from farming, Ober Johnsdorf in the early 1850s had no church and only a basic school. For church services and any advanced schooling, Ober Johnsdorf's villagers traveled to Landskron-town. Given the limited educational opportunities available at the time, many of Ober Johnsdorf's inhabitants had only primitive reading and writing skills.

In sharp contrast to farming in America, Landskron-district farmsteads were not separate from its villages. Farm buildings were located on both sides of a road, and farm fields stretched straight back from the buildings until they bordered another village's farms. Farms might also end at the woods or at an untillable hill. Generally, farmers in Ober Johnsdorf cultivated contiguous fields, unlike the practice in other areas of Europe. It could, however, be a considerable distance from the farm buildings to each farm's property limits. Also, farmland that was wooded or low provided natural barriers separating tillable parcels within the farm.

Ober Johnsdorf's farm buildings also had a distinctive configuration. Generally, the living quarters were physically connected to the farm buildings. More elaborate farmsteads were set up in a U-shape or square with a courtyard in the middle. The latter square form probably developed to provide some protection against thieves and foreign soldiers, and it also allowed the farmer to secure his animals and harvested crops from animals.

1848 - Year of Revolution

Until 1848, the people of the district of Landskron were still subject to feudal restrictions limiting their ability to move and requiring them to provide certain services to the local ruling class. As was typical of the time, a Landskroner's social position was determined more by birth than by personal accomplishments. In 1848, revolutions rocked much of Europe. When the Revolution of 1848 began in the Austrian Empire, the landless peasants hoped there would be a land reform that would give them land. Unfortunately for them, the land reforms that followed the Revolution only vested full title to land to the farmers who already had a limited title to land. These farmers received title free of feudal restrictions, which was a great benefit to them. The key benefit to the landless of the Revolution was receiving the right to emigrate from the Empire. Within a few years, they started to avail themselves of this right.

Early Emigration - 1851-1857

By the mid-1800s, improved food and sanitary conditions had caused such a population explosion that only limited opportunities remained for young people, and people were crammed into small one-room houses. It is estimated that in Horní ermná there were twenty-six houses holding ten or more occupants, and four Silar families with a total of twenty-one people lived in one house in Nepomuky. There was little virgin land in the area, and subdividing the existing farms would have made them unprofitable. There was little local industry to provide work for the excess farm population. This lack of opportunity was a main reason why many individuals and families who had roots in this area stretching back hundreds of years decided to emigrate.

Another reason was to escape the effects of imperial wars. The Austrian Empire was involved in frequent wars, resulting in increasing taxes and the drafting of young men sent to fight in distant locations.

By the 1850s, numerous sources encouraged European peoples to emigrate to America. "How-to-emigrate" books extolled America's virtues, especially the freedom and cheap land available in America.² Rail and shipping interests made emigration sound very attractive in an attempt to increase their business. American states, such as Wisconsin, sent agents to European ports to encourage emigrants to settle in their states. The following table shows the numbers of people who legally emigrated from Bohemia from 1850 through 1868³:

Emigration from Bohemia began slowly as word spread that it was legal to emigrate. (It has been suggested that the official statistics should be doubled to account for illegal emigration and recordkeeping defects). Once word spread that emigration was possible, there was an early rush to emigrate, peaking in 1854. The departure of these emigrants undoubtedly improved the economic chances of those who remained behind, causing emigration to taper off. It dipped sharply in 1859 for two reasons: news of America's economic crisis, the Panic of 1857, had filtered back by then and diminished America's economic appeal, and the Austrian Empire's war with Italy in 1859 curtailed emigration opportunities. Emigration slowed in the early 1860s due to the impact of the American Civil War, but peaked again in 1867, following the Austrian Empire's humiliating loss in the Austro-Prussian War.

The first sizeable emigration from the district of Landskron occurred in 1851 and consisted of Czech Protestant day laborers primarily from the villages of ermná and Nepomuky. These emigrants had little to lose by emigrating, given their low social status in Landskron-district -- they were poor, Czech speakers in an empire with a German ruling class, and Protestants in a country where the ruling class was ardently Catholic. When these poor Czech Protestants of the Landskron district began to explore the possibility of leaving the District of Landskron, the Austrian Government encouraged them to move to the Banat region of Hungary in search of a better life. It was in the Austrian government's best interest to move these people to an underdeveloped part of the Austrian Empire where their efforts might add to the national wealth and keep them available for military service. However, after the prospective emigrants received correspondence from Joseph Bergman, a Protestant minister, extolling life in Texas, they decided to emigrate there. On November 6, 1851, about seventy-four Czechs started on their trip to America. The fact that over one-fifth of the total legal emigration in 1851 was from Landskron suggests how bad conditions were in Northeast Bohemia. The emigrants traveled by train from Ústí nad Orlicí (Wildenschwert) to Hamburg. They sailed from Hamburg to Liverpool, Great Britain and then transferred to the sailing vessel *Maria* for the long trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. In New Orleans, they transferred to a third ship to travel to Galveston, Texas. Then they took a fourth schooner to Houston. After traveling for three to four months, fewer than half of the emigrants reached their final destination, the Cat Spring area in Austin County, Texas. The others had died along the way, of illness caused by poor food, limited water supplies and poor living conditions on the long journey. The surviving emigrants sent a number of letters home relating their ordeal,

and one emigrant recommended traveling by ship directly to Galveston even though it would be more expensive. When a second group of about eighty-five Czech Protestants left their homes for Texas on about October 9, 1853, they followed that advice and boarded the *Suwa* from Bremerhaven, which took them directly to Galveston.⁴ In later years, many other Czech Protestants from the district of Landskron emigrated to Texas. They were joined by some Czech and German Catholics from the district of Landskron. Some of the Czech Catholics who settled in Pierce County, Wisconsin, first traveled to Texas before settling in Wisconsin. There is however, no cluster of Landskroner emigrants in Texas of any size, as is the case in Wisconsin. These Texas emigrants assimilated into preexisting German or Czech communities.

When the first poor German Catholics applied for passports in 1852, they said they were going to Texas. For unknown reasons, they changed their minds and went to Wisconsin instead. Since they left so soon after the Czech Protestants, it is clear that the tragic journey of the *Maria* was not a likely basis for their altered plans. There are three possible reasons why these people chose Wisconsin as their final destination. First, they may have learned about the climatic difference between Texas and Wisconsin and decided that the Wisconsin climate was more favorable. Writers in the 1850s wrote glowingly of life in Wisconsin, emphasizing the good farmland available and a climate similar to central Europe's. Second, they may have learned that Wisconsin granted liberal voting rights to emigrants. One of the first things many emigrants did after arrival in the United States was to apply for citizenship, which suggests the right to vote was important to them. Finally, just as the Protestants went to Texas at the behest of a Protestant minister, the Catholics may have gone to Wisconsin at the urging of their Catholic priests. In the early 1850s, John Martin Henni, a German-speaking Swiss, was the Bishop in Milwaukee. It is likely that some of the Catholic clergy in the Landskron area had learned of the presence of a German-speaking bishop in Milwaukee though the fundraising activities of the Leopoldine Society, a Viennese missionary society. A Landskroner priest would logically encourage his flock to go to a state where there was a German-speaking Bishop to see to their spiritual interests.

The primary destination of the German Catholic emigrants was the Watertown, Wisconsin area. In the early 1850s, Watertown, with about 5,000 inhabitants, was one of the largest cities in Wisconsin. The area's abundant rich, rolling farmland, some of which had been partially cleared by earlier settlers, would have appealed to Landskroners wanting to farm their own land in America. With statehood in 1848, southern Wisconsin was no longer considered part of the western frontier. Railroads were starting to connect the major towns in the state, and farmers were able to sell their surplus product on the market.

Watertown was also a center of German immigration. As such, the Landskron emigrants would have found in the Watertown area German-speaking immigrants from the Austrian Empire, Bavaria, Prussia and other German-speaking lands, in addition to those Landskron-district families that had emigrated in earlier years. Watertown had a German Catholic parish (Saint Henry's) founded in 1853, a German newspaper, the *Anzeiger*, and a brewery.

The first group of German Catholic emigrants left Landskron in the spring of 1852. This group sailed from Bremen in April, 1852 for Quebec City in Canada. They arrived in the United States at Buffalo, New York in July of 1852 and then in southern Wisconsin by mid-July. Although there are no ship manifests for this group, other sources indicate this group included at least the following: the John Doubrawa family from the village of Rathsdorf (Skuhrov), the Anton Fiebiger family from the village of Jokelsdorf (Jakubovice), the Joseph Pfeifer and Franz Langer families from the village of Michelsdorf (Ostrov), the Franz Veit family from Knappendorf (Knapovec), and Adolph Bartosch with his wife Amalia and her children from a prior marriage to John Gregor. (Franz Langer's grandson was William Langer, Governor and U.S. Senator from North Dakota).

John Doubrawa and Joseph Pfeifer both bought land on July 14, 1852 near present-day Waterloo, Wisconsin, just west of Watertown. They also applied for citizenship that day, as did Adolph Bartosch and Franz Veit. From this humble beginning sprang the Island community outside of Waterloo, Wisconsin.⁵

The second group of Landskroner emigrants to southern Wisconsin arrived later in 1852. The records of the *Jason*, which arrived in New York on December 7, 1852, from Bremen, show about sixty people from the Landskron district on board: the Johann Blaschka and Johann Klecker families of Hertersdorf (Horní Houčev), the Ignatz Yelg, Wenzel Blaschka and Johann Blaschka families of Tschernowier (ernovír), the Joseph Veit family and Anton Wawrauscheck, Philip Zimprich and Ludwig Zimprich of Knappendorf (Knapovec), the Anton Fiebiger family of Jokelsdorf

(Jakubovice), the Johann Fischer family of Riebzig (Rybník), the Joseph Zimprich family of Rathsdorf (Skuhrov) and the Wenzel Fuchs family of Hilbetten (Hylváty). Also on board were the following persons, whose place of origin may be the district of Landskron: the Wenzel Blaska and Anton Kobliz families, Barbara Detterer and Franz Meidner. The *Jason* added significantly to the nucleus of the Landskroner community on the Island.

On January 10, 1853, the *Johanna* arrived in New York from Bremen with seven families of thirty-two people from the Landskron district: the John Huebel, Johann Langer and John Stangler families of Rudelsdorf (Rudoltice), the Franz Pirkel, Franz Haubenschild and Johann Haubenschild families of Triebitz (Tebovice), and the Josef Rössler family of Michelsdorf (Ostrov). Also on board was the Franz Gilg family of Nikl (Mikule) in the neighboring county of Zwittau (Svitavy). A number of these families joined the *Jason* group near Waterloo, Wisconsin.

The number of Landskroner emigrants on these vessels was undoubtedly more than 100 people. Thus, approximately one-quarter of the total legal emigration from Bohemia in 1852 was from Landskron.

On June 17, 1853, the *Oldenburg* arrived in New York from Bremen, with 103 passengers from Bohemia whose stated destination was Wisconsin. The emigrants from the district of Landskron were the following: the Johann Meitner and Johann Schöberle families, Vincenz Klecker and Franz Schöberle of Ober Johnsdorf (Horní Tesovec), the Franz Hampel, Josef Jirschele and Josef Arnold families of Rathsdorf (Skuhrov), the Franz Langer, Ignatz Huebl, and Bernhard Leschinger families of Rudelsdorf (Rudoltice), the Franz Fischer, Johann Plotz and Engelbert Habermann families of Riebzig (Rybník), the Johann Smetana and Johann Kuckera families of Tschernowier (Ternov), the Franz Foltin family of Königsberg (Královec), and the Anton Kristl family of Michelsdorf (Ostrov). Two other families were from neighboring districts: the Wenzel Scholla family of Pívrat (Pšicov) and the Joseph Pospischel family of Litomysl (Leitomyšl). The other families from Bohemia were the Nicholas Dank, Johann Czernin, Johann Strilesky, and Arnold Patsch families. The Johann Meitner, Johann Schöberle, Franz Hampel and Franz Langer families, along with Vincenz Klecker and Franz Schöberle, provided the nucleus of the Landskroner community of Watertown. A number of these other families joined the Waterloo community.

Ship records indicate that emigration to America was not a solitary affair by a single individual or a single family. Rather, emigrants tended to travel with others from their home district to America where they often found fellow countrymen awaiting them.

Emigration between 1857 and 1865

In 1857, a financial crisis, the Panic of 1857, gripped America. The panic severely disrupted the nation's economy. Nearly every railroad project in Wisconsin came to a halt. The city of Watertown, which had issued railroad bonds, was involved in litigation involving these bonds until 1889 when the United States Supreme Court issued an opinion in the city's favor.⁶ Watertown, which grew quickly from its founding in the late 1830s to become Wisconsin's second largest city, virtually stopped growing, reducing its need for emigrant labor. Following the overall pattern of emigration from Bohemia, emigration from Landskron slipped to a relatively low level during this period.

The onset of the American Civil War in 1861 further discouraged emigration. Although the war improved the economy of the North and thus emigrants' job prospects, individuals contemplating emigration from Landskron presumably thought twice before coming to America.

Emigration after 1865

The catalyst for the second big push of emigrants from Landskron was a war that broke out in June, 1866 between the Austrian Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia over whether a unified Germany was to be created, what lands would be included in the new nation and which country would be the leading force of the new German nation.⁷ The Italians were a key ally of the Prussians, forcing the Austrians to fight on two fronts. Prussian General Moltke, who had learned crucial lessons on the use of telegraph and railroads from the American Civil War, was able to quickly move hundreds of thousands of Prussian troops into Bohemia. At the same time, hundreds of thousands of Austrian troops marched into Bohemia to meet them. Part of the Austrian army was quartered in the Landskron area, and other parts of the Austrian army marched through the area. At one point, 120,000 troops were in the Landskron area.

On July 3, 1866, the Imperial Austrian army and the Prussian army met northwest of Hradec Králové (Königgrätz), about 40 miles from Landskron. (The Battle of Königgrätz is also referred to as the Battle of Sadowa). The Prussian army was better equipped than the Austrian army, and its breech-loading "needle-guns" enabled them to fire from the prone position at the standing Austrian infantry, which used muzzle-loaders. The Prussian victory was sudden and complete.

After the Austrian loss, some Austrian troops retreated through the Landskron area, followed closely by Prussian troops. A skirmish occurred near the villages of Rudelsdorf (Rudoltice) and Thomigsdorf (Děmčín). The encroaching armies destroyed crops and confiscated the villagers' food as well. The Prussians occupied Landskron, and 10 to 20 soldiers took up residence in Landskroner homes. Grain was confiscated by the Prussian army and some Landskroner farmers were even forced to haul their grain some distance to feed the Prussian troops and animals.

The war had a direct impact on who emigrated from Landskron. Previously, most of the emigrants were poor German Catholics and poor Czech Protestants. After the war, German Catholics with sizeable farms also began to emigrate. It is likely that these relatively rich German Catholics decided that they had enough of life in Europe after their farms were occupied by Prussian soldiers and their grain confiscated.⁸ These later emigrants heard firsthand accounts of the virtues of life in America from fellow emigrating villagers, and probably realized that emigration really was not such a gamble. In addition to initiating emigration by some of the richer German Catholics, the war also sparked the onset of emigration by poor Czech Catholics. It is not known why the poor Czech Catholics did not emigrate en masse until after this war. Further research needs to be conducted to determine the relative living conditions of the poor Czech Catholics versus the poor Czech Protestants. Were living conditions better for the poor Czech Catholics than for the poor Czech Protestants? Did the departure of the poor Czech Protestants result in more opportunities for the poor Czech Catholics such that the poor Czech Catholics did not feel the need to emigrate until the war and the subsequent occupation by Prussians troops?

Notes:

¹ I refer to a town's name in the language spoken by the majority of its inhabitants in the 19th century. The name in parentheses is the name in the non-majority language, be it Czech or German.

² For example, see Freeman, Samuel, *The Emigrant's Hand Book, and Guide to Wisconsin*. Milwaukee: Sentinel and Gazette Power Press Plant, 1851.

³ Capek, Thomas. *The Czechs (Bohemians) in America: A Study of Their National, Cultural, Political, Social, Economic and Religious Life*. Boston and New York: AMS Press, 1969, reprint of 1920.

⁴ For more information on early emigration of Czech Protestants to Texas, see the works of František Šilar, such as "The First Nepomuky and Čermná Emigrants to Texas," written in 1966 and translated by Calvin C. Chervenka, 1967.

⁵ Because the land they bought was a pocket of dry land in the middle of a marshy area, the area was commonly referred to as the "Island".

⁶ See *Amy v. City of Watertown*, 130 U.S. 301 (1889), and *Amy v. City of Watertown*, 130 U.S. 320 (1889).

⁷ In the mid-1850s, the territory that makes up present-day Germany consisted of numerous small principalities, dukedoms, free cities and other small states.

⁸ For example, the *Chronik* of the village of Ober Johnsdorf reflects that Johann Langer of farm number 133 had grain confiscated by the Prussians on June 21, 1866 and July 8, 1866. The next spring he sold his farm and emigrated to Watertown.

Fall German classes at MKI

This fall, Dr. Rosemarie K. Lester, retired German professor and native Berliner is offering an intermediate level German conversation class at the MKI. The class will include some reading and writing and a great deal of speaking practice and vocabulary building. Of course, there's also grammatical review as needed and a little *Deutsch mit Musik*. Most of the classroom materials are provided and for the extra ambitious, challenging outside reading is available.

A Saturday in German(y)

This all-day seminar is designed to provide individuals who are proficient in German a chance to speak it in a congenial atmosphere while being immersed in German culture, . through slides, language games, conversation exercises, roleplaying, and discussion of topics chosen by participants.
Prerequisite: four semesters of German

<div data-bbox="256 69 906 180">The class meets on Thursdays from 7:30 to 9 pm, for eight weeks, starting October 8, at the Max Kade Institute, 901 University Bay Drive.</div>	<div data-bbox="927 69 1362 180">or equivalent experience.</div>	
<hr data-bbox="40 281 1583 285"/>		