MAX KADE INSTITUTE
FRIENDS NEWSLETTER
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The Early Years of German-American Watertown, Wisconsin

Ed Langer

The offices of the Watertown *Weltbürger.*

On May 5, the Friends of the Max Kade Institute will hold their annual meeting in Watertown, Wisconsin, and explore the history of the city's early German-speaking residents, the so-called Forty-Eighters. For more information see page 3.

The year 1848 was a pivotal year both in the history of Wisconsin and also in Europe. Wisconsin became a state, and revolutions rocked France, Italy, Denmark, Imperial Austria, and the German nations as citizens strove to create democratic institutions and achieve personal liberty. While the insurgents in France succeeded in toppling the Bourbon monarchy, the revolutions in the German-speaking states were generally unsuccessful. As a result, in the following years, thousands of emigrants left German lands for America, including some of the leaders of the uprisings who were forced to flee persecution and imprisonment, but also many other—often highly educated—people who were disillusioned with the political, social, and economic situation in their homelands and now hoped to fulfill

Continued on page 8

INSIDE

- Upcoming Events
- The Mississippi River as Immigration Route
- The Historic New Orleans Collection
- From Our Family History Collection
- Book Review: *The Germans of Charleston, Richmond and New Orleans, 1850–1870*
- Friends Profile: John Pustejovsky

Greetings, Friends and Readers!

First of all, I would like to announce that Mark Louden, the former Director of the MKI (2002–2006) has agreed to join me once again as Co-Director of the Max Kade Institute. Particularly in view of big challenges that lie ahead, I am delighted to have him back on board. From now on, the Directors' Corners will be signed by both of us.

The challenges have to do with the fact that times are changing. The widely reported cuts recently announced in the state support for all parts of the UW System—first $250 million in the current biennial budget and then an additional $65.8 million announced last October—have led to fewer resources for all parts of the University and a mandated tightening of our belts. An added difficulty, of course, is that outside funding for all kinds of projects has become increasingly difficult to secure, as reductions are in effect everywhere. The MKI is not untouched. Still, we have recently felt energized, if not euphoric, because of our success in raising funds for the MKI Library Project—thanks to grants and gifts from Friends and supporters—and it seems very hard just at this point to face the necessity of making adjustments in our staffing, our programming, and our services.

At the moment we are scrambling, trying hard to understand the implications, the possibilities, and the best course of action. Partnering with other units on the UW campus may be part of the answer, as well as some shared appointments. The UW administration is helping us to work things out, and we will keep you posted.

The recent months have been busy: (1) Antje and Kevin have been working with the Pope Farm Conservancy in Middleton, a park with interpretive trails that highlight the physical and cultural geography of the region. They helped with the research and development of educational signs that tell the story of early immigrants from Mecklenburg-Schwerin who settled here; (2) in October I gave a presentation entitled "Foremothers: Genealogy and Gender" at the Dane County Area Genealogical Society; (3) in December Jerry Apps gave a well attended lecture entitled "Stories from Wisconsin: German Beer and Prohibition"; (4) and in January Antje represented the UW (and also the MKI), in New Orleans, giving the Founders Day lecture for the Bayou Badgers chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association. Her work on the New Orleans area has also led to one of the featured articles in this Newsletter issue.

We would like to bring to your attention our upcoming events and activities, some of which are announced on page 3. These include two lectures in March and the Friends annual meeting and dinner in Watertown in May. Remember to check the News and Events section of our MKI Web site from time to time, where we post information about other happenings. Please do join us when you can: we would be delighted to see you again, either at one of our public events or at the Keystone House.

Meanwhile, we wish you all the best. Work hard, be successful, and stay in touch!
—Cora Lee

Upcoming MKI Events

Join us for the Friends' Annual Meeting in Watertown, Wisconsin

This year's annual meeting will be held on May 5th in Watertown, WI. We will begin our event at 2pm with a tour of the Octagon House and America's first kindergarten, opened in 1856 by Margarethe Meyer Schurz. Afterwards, we will walk (or drive) to Lindberg's restaurant, where the annual meeting will be held at 4pm, followed by social time at 5pm and dinner at 5:30, featuring a choice of three delicious German-style entrees. We will conclude the evening with a talk by Jeffrey Wallman, Assistant Professor of Marketing at the University of New Orleans. Professor Wallman is the son of Charles Wallman, author of *The German-Speaking 48ers: Builders of Watertown, Wisconsin*, a publication of the Max Kade Institute. He will base his presentation on his father's research and share with us stories and anecdotes. (For information about the book, see page 9.) You will find further details, directions, and registration information in an invitation soon to be mailed to Friends members, or on the MKI Web site: <mki.wisc.edu>.

Bring a friend – make a Friend! Dinner purchase includes 2012 membership in the Friends for *new* members.

Lectures

March 21, Wednesday, 7pm, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street, Madison
The American Civil War and the German Empire in the Red and Black Atlantic
Presenter: Andrew Zimmerman, Professor of History and International Affairs, George Washington University
Generously supported by the University of Wisconsin–Madison Lectures Committee

April 26, Thursday, 7pm, Union South, 1308 W. Dayton Street, Madison
The German Diaspora before World War I: Destinations and Discourse
Presenter: Stefan Manz, Assistant Professor of German, Aston University, Birmingham, UK

Genealogy Workshops

March 3, Saturday, 9am–noon and 1pm–4pm, Memorial Library, room 231
Genealogical Resources for German-American Ancestry, Online and Off
Instructor: Lori Bessler
Please note that both workshops on March 3rd are full!

March 18, Sunday, 1–4pm, Memorial Library, room 231
Tracing Your Jewish Roots from German-Speaking Europe
Instructor: Fran Loeb Luebke

March 24, Saturday, 8am–noon, University Club, room 212
Reading Old German Script
Instructor: Karyl Rommelfanger

For more information including registration details see the MKI Web site <mki.wisc.edu>
or contact Antje Petty at 608-262-7546 or apetty@wisc.edu.

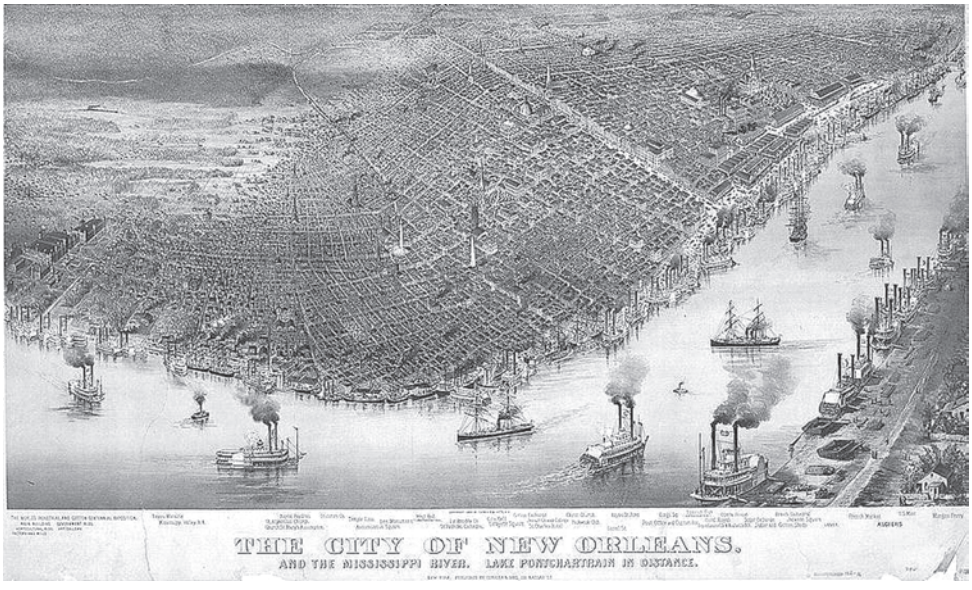
New Orleans, the Mississippi River, and German Migration to the Midwest

Antje Petty

Researching census data of communities in Wisconsin, I was struck by one entry in the 1850 U.S. census of the Town of Middleton: "Jane Bulleck [spelling?], 11 years old, born on the Mississippi River." From the information recorded about her family, one can follow the family's migration from Pennsylvania through Kentucky to Wisconsin: a reminder that, especially before the 1850s, migration to the Midwest—including that of many Germans—took place on the continent's major waterways. There were three main routes that German immigrants took to reach Wisconsin before trains became the chief mode of transportation: (1) the "Great Lakes route," which was especially popular after the completion of the Erie Canal in 1825—immigrants arrived in an Eastern port city, such as New York, went up the Hudson River and through the Great Lakes to Milwaukee or another Lake Michigan port; (2) the "wilderness route" from the East Coast (often Baltimore)—immigrants went overland to Pennsylvania, down the Ohio River, and up the Mississippi; and (3) the "Mississippi River route—immigrants made the transatlantic crossing directly to New Orleans and went up the Mississippi River on steamboats.

With so many immigrants in the later nineteenth century coming through East Coast cities, it is easy to forget that New Orleans, too, was an important port of arrival for people from German-speaking Europe. In fact, one of the earliest German settlements in America was in New Orleans. In 1720, the French Crown, trying to establish a physical presence in its vast territory of Louisiana, contracted with businessman John Law and his Company of the West (later Company of the Indies) to promote European settlement in the area. Law immediately began to look for investors as well as recruit individuals who could emigrate to the colony. Thousands of destitute peasants from the Rhineland, Alsace, and Switzerland answered his call and traveled to the French Atlantic Coast. Only 1,300 were eventually sent across the Atlantic, and about a third of them died on route from starvation, accidents, or disease. In addition, those who made it to Louisiana discovered that no provisions had been made for them, and they suffered months of misery and more fatalities. In 1722, when Governor Bienville finally allotted the colonists land parcels on the banks of the Mississippi west of New Orleans, the group numbered only 69 men, 79 women, and 99 children. The area, known as the *Côte des Allemands,* now located in St. Charles and St. John the Baptist parishes, became a chief provider of produce for the growing city of New Orleans. In later generations, the land became part of the sugar plantation economy, and the German settler families assimilated into the dominant French culture, speaking French and changing their names to French-sounding ones.

The heyday of German immigraton in New Orleans, however, came a full century later. In 1812, the first steamboat went up the Mississippi River, initiating an era of mass migration through the city. 1853



New Orleans, 1885. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

From Traugott Bromme's 1846 *Rathgeber für Auswanderungslustige* (Advice Book for Those Desiring to Emigrate).

was the peak year with ca. 36,000 Germans from Europe arriving in New Orleans, of whom 17,000 continued on to St. Louis, 6,000 to Ohio, and 1,500 to Texas, while some 3,800 remained in the city. Over time, a vibrant German community similar to those in big Midwestern cities emerged in New Orleans, with German churches and businesses, singing societies and theaters, Turner Clubs and newspapers.

Many immigrants were lured to the states along the Mississippi by letters sent home to friends and family by those who had already made the journey. In some cases, these letters were published in magazines and special book editions. The most influential work was Gottfried Duden's 1829 *Bericht über eine Reise nach den westlichen Staaten Nordamerika's* (Report of a Journey to the Western States of North America), in which the author describes in detail his journey down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi, comments on areas suitable for settlement along the way, and finishes with a glowing portrayal of the Missouri Valley and the land he bought there. In the following decades, over 30,000 Germans, often called "Duden's followers," settled the lower Missouri Valley.

Other guide books, such as Traugott Bromme's 1846 *Rathgeber für Auswanderungslustige* (Advice Book for Those Desiring to Emigrate) also strongly recommend Missouri and other states upriver as fitting for German settlers. Louisiana itself, however, does not fare so well. Warning of an unbearable climate, unhygienic living conditions in swampy areas, and the risk of deadly diseases—such as yellow fever, which in 1853 killed almost 8,000 people in New Orleans alone, many of them immigrants—the guidebook continues: "As long as the other states of the Mississippi valley can accommodate immigrants, no German should settle with his family in Louisiana. . . . The price of farm land does not correspond to the quality of the soil. . . . The predominant plantation economy requires huge investments in capital and leaves no room for a farmer who wants to plough his own land. . . . Craftsmen in particular . . . might be tempted by the luxuries of New Orleans and might want to stay in a place where they can earn twice as much as anywhere else. But these people, too, are advised to leave the city before the arrival of the unhealthy summer months."

One account of travel on the Mississippi route is that written by Oswald Ragatz, who was born in 1883, in Tamins, Switzerland, and emigrated with his parents and eight siblings in 1842.[1] Oswald's father, Bartholomew Ragatz, an architect, builder, and mill owner, "was a man of means and standing in his community" who had decided to emigrate not for his own gain, but to secure a prosperous future for his nine children. In a typical example of chain migration, the oldest son,

Christian, was sent out first in 1841 "in order that he might find a suitable location for our new home. . . . Months passed before we heard from him, . . . but at last a long letter came to our intense joy and the excitement of the whole village. Christian wrote that he had made the trip safely, that he was in Galena in the state of Illinois, an area not unlike parts of Switzerland, and that we should follow as soon as possible. And so we made our preparations. Father bought a guide book."[2] The family sold all its property, purchased huge quantities of supplies and provisions, and in March journeyed first overland for four weeks from Tamins to Paris and then aboard a barge down the Seine river to Le Havre. Nine days later, the family boarded a sailing ship and—after a harrowing 61-day journey—finally arrived in New Orleans. Here a very new world awaited them.

"We remained in the city for several days, waiting for a steamer to take us upstream, and found accommodations at an inn. There were all kinds of strange things for us to see and taste. Although it was only early June, they already had ripe sweet corn and luscious melons. Both were served to us. We, of course, ultimately came to consider them delicacies, but they were strange to us then and turned our stomachs for we were accustomed to feeding maize and gourds to swine. We wondered what kind of land we had come to, but comforted ourselves with the recollection that New Orleans was in reality a French City and everyone knows that Frenchmen consider snails and frogs' legs tid-bits. . . .

"We also made the acquaintance of mosquitoes here. There were clouds of them and what a blood-hungry lot they were! We spent a miserable first night. . . . The natives did not seem to mind them. . . . After that we slept under netting which father secured. We also saw a sight I shall never forget—the slave market, where men and women, some in chains, were being sold like cattle. Buyers looked them over from head to foot, not hesitating to strip the young female blacks and paw them over. When a dealer approached us and sought to sell us a servant we, who were from free little Switzerland, turned away in disgust, father using the strongest language I ever heard come from his lips and mother weeping."

Unfamiliar with hot summers, the Ragatzes suffered from the stifling heat, and were relieved when the steamer arrived to take them up the Mississippi. When they brought their belongings to the ship the night before their departure, however, they nearly lost everything in a robbery attempt. Imagine their shock, when the next day they recognized the would-be robbers among the steamer's crew. The trip upriver on the overcrowded steamboat was an unpleasant experience, and everybody was glad when they reached St. Louis several days later. But crime and disease were not the only dangers lurking on the river boats:

"Thus far, all of us who had crossed the Atlantic had stayed together. Here [in St. Louis] however the party split. The brewers [a German family that was going to open a brewery in St. Louis] were going to settle down in that city. Others were taking up land nearby. The Franzmann family—father, mother, and 9 children, like

A tale of immigrants on the Mississippi by W. O. von Horn (pseudonym for Friedrich Wilhelm Philipp Oertel), ca. 1860.

us—set out to go up the Missouri on another steamer.[3] We saw them off with firm vows to stay in close touch with each other. Only a few hours later, the boiler exploded and killed them all, and many others as well, as they slept around it to keep off the chill of the night. Truly, tragedy stalks abroad in a new land. The many tales of violence and disaster which we heard on the way up from New Orleans made our hearts quail—memory longingly took us back over thousands of miles of land and sea to our beloved and peaceful mountain-valley home. But returning at this late date was impossible."

Soon, however, young Oswald took in more pleasant sights. "We sailed up the Mississippi from St. Louis to Galena, Illinois. What an

Continued on page 13

German-American Holdings in The Historic New Orleans Collection

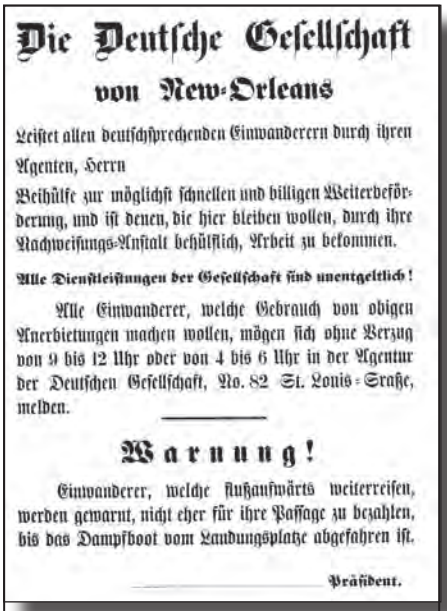
Daniel Hammer

The holdings of The Historic New Orleans Collection document the history of Louisiana from its earliest colonial days to the present. Beginning with a 16th-century map that hypothesizes the existence of a great river emptying into the Gulf of Mexico, and continuing to the records of attempts by the New Orleans community to plan its way to recovery from Hurricane Katrina, our collections strive to tell the most complete story possible of the city and the Gulf South. One of the stories our collections tells is that of German cultural communities in Louisiana, from the earliest German-speaking settlers who came to the region in 1720 as indentured servants of John Law's Company of the Indies, to the 19th-century German element of New Orleans, and the 20th- and 21st- century descendant heritage groups. In fact, our archival holdings relating to the Germans of New Orleans comprise the most significant collection of German-Americana in the region, and rival, in some respects, the existing documentation of historic German-American communities in cities that are better known for their German heritage. Among our important German holdings are the Deutsches Haus Collection (2008.0113), a voluminous collection of minutes, reports, correspondence, and other ephemera produced by various German social and benevolent organizations dating back to 1847. The largest groups of materials in the Deutsches Haus collection relate to the German Society of New Orleans, the city's major immigrant-aid society (1847–1933), German singing societies of the fourth quarter of the 19th century and the early 20th century, and the Deutsches Haus organization itself (founded in 1927 by the German Society, the New Orleans Turnverein, and two German singing societies). Other important archival holdings are two collections containing the papers of J. Hanno Deiler, a social and musical leader of the community from the time of his arrival in New Orleans in 1872 until his untimely death in 1909 (MSS 395, J. Hanno Deiler Papers; and 97-5-L, Dr. Karl J. R. Arndt Collection of J. Hanno Deiler Papers and Deutsche Gesellschaft Records).

J. Hanno Deiler, The Historic New Orleans Collection, acc. no. 1984.119, gift of the St. Joseph Abbey.

For more information on The Historic New Orleans Collection's holdings of German Americana, please visit our Web site <http://www.hnoc.org/> to use our online catalog and view our German Research Pathfinder.

Daniel Hammer is Head of Reader Services at The Historic New Orleans Collection.



Die Deutsche Gesellschaft
von New-Orleans

Leistet allen deutschsprechenden Einwanderern durch ihren Agenten, Herrn

Beihülfe zur möglichst schnellen und billigen Weiterbeförderung, und ist denen, die hier bleiben wollen, durch ihre Nachweisungs-Anstalt behülflich, Arbeit zu bekommen.

Alle Dienstleistungen der Gesellschaft sind unentgeltlich!

Alle Einwanderer, welche Gebrauch von obigen Anerbietungen machen wollen, mögen sich ohne Verzug von 9 bis 12 Uhr oder von 4 bis 6 Uhr in der Agentur der Deutschen Gesellschaft, No. 82 St. Louis-Straße, melden.

Warnung!

Einwanderer, welche flußaufwärts weiterreisen, werden gewarnt, nicht eher für ihre Passage zu bezahlen, bis das Dampfboot vom Landungsplatze abgefahren ist.

Präsident.

Deutsche Gesellschaft broadside, acc. no. 2008.0113, Deutsches Haus Collection at The Historic New Orleans Collection.

***Translation*: The German Society through its Agent, Mr. _____ tenders its services, free of charge, to all immigrants speaking the German language. The Society will endeavor to procure cheap and safe passage to those bound for the Interior; and, by means of its Intelligence Office, employment to such as choose to remain in the city.**
Immigrants desirous of availing themselves of the services of the Society, are invited to call without delay at its office, No. 82 St. Louis Street, from 9 to 12 or from 4 to 6 o'clock.
Warning! Immigrants going up the river are cautioned not to pay their passage before the Steamboat has left the wharf.

Continued from page 1

their ideals in America. Though probably not more than a couple of thousand were actually persecuted, it is estimated that a total of approximately 70,000 were motivated to emigrate by the political climate and eventually settled in America, where they were referred to as "the Forty-Eighters."

A number of these Forty-Eighters settled in Watertown, Wisconsin, a town on the Rock River midway between Milwaukee and Madison, which had been founded in 1837. Like elsewhere in Wisconsin, its early population was primarily made up of Yankees and Irish people, but after 1848, it became a center of German immigration. By the early 1850s, Watertown had about 4,000 inhabitants and was the second largest community in Wisconsin.

Accomplished in many different areas, the Forty-Eighters in Watertown had a profound impact on the culture, society, and economy of their new home. There were business leaders such as William Wiggenhorn, who purchased the partially completed Buena Vista House and made it one of the most successful hotels in the area, or Henry Mulberger, one of the founders of the Jefferson County Bank. Forty-Eighters published a number of German-language newspapers, the most important of which was the *Weltbürger,* founded in 1857 by Emil Rothe, which survived until 1932. Rothe—like many other Forty-Eighters—had bought rural property and tried his hand at farming. Indeed, many Forty-Eighters were called "Latin farmers," because they knew Latin but nothing about agriculture. Their attempts to make a living off the land often failed, and they eventually pursued other careers.

Theodore Bernhard and teachers at the Bernhard School.

Emil Rothe

Forty-Eighters were active in the establishment of a vibrant music scene in Watertown that included singing societies and instrumental groups. Several of them were led by the organist and music teacher Emil Gaebler. Other Forty-Eighters established schools that were modeled on the German education system, where not only the three "Rs" were taught, but also science, music, and philosophy. Theodore Bernhard, for example, who later became the Superintendent of the Watertown School System and also served in the Wisconsin State Assembly, founded the "Bernhard School." In 1856 Margarethe Meyer Schurz, wife of Carl Schurz, founded a kindergarten in Watertown that is considered to be the first kindergarten in America. Modeled after the methods of early childhood education conceived by the German pedagogue Friedrich Fröbel, Mrs. Schurz's kindergarten was first opened as a preschool for her own and her neighbors' children, where she used Fröbel's hands-on methods and age-appropriate toys. The original kindergarten building is now maintained on the grounds of the Octagon House Museum in

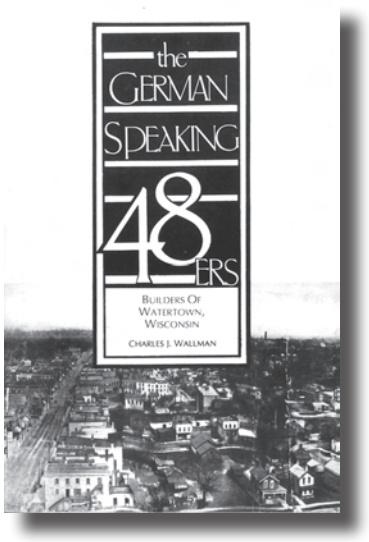
Carl and Margarethe Schurz

Watertown, and will be part of the tour at the Friends of MKI's annual meeting.

Other Watertown Forty-Eighters became well-known judges (for example Henry Colonius), physicians (Dr. Clemens T. Eger, Dr. Carl R. Feld, and Dr. Christian Fischer), or state legislators (Hermann H. Winter, Emil Rothe, and Franz G. L. Struve). Struve also served as Consul General of the United States in Quebec, Canada. The most prominent of them all, however, was Carl Schurz (1829–1906), who had participated in the revolutions in Germany as a journalist and an officer of the revolutionary forces in Baden and the Palatine and is famous for having helped fellow revolutionary Professor Gottfried Kinkel escape from imprisonment in the Spandau Citadel in Berlin. Together with his wife Margarethe, his parents, and his sisters, he settled in Watertown in 1855, soon throwing himself into the activities of the young Republican Party. He ran for Lieutenant Governor on the Republican ticket in 1857 and, although the Republican gubernatorial candidate won the election, was narrowly defeated, perhaps because of anti-immigrant sentiment in parts of the Wisconsin population. Schurz became an early supporter of Abraham Lincoln, campaigned for him especially among German Americans, and has been credited with bringing the "German vote" to Lincoln in the 1860 election. Carl Schurz and his family stayed in Watertown only a few years; he later served as Minister to Spain (1861), Major General in the American Civil War, United States Senator from Missouri (1869–1875), and Secretary of the Interior (1877–1881). He ended his distinguished career as editor of the *New York Evening Post*.

In Watertown, as in many other towns in the United States, the "failed" revolutionaries turned their place of exile into a home and became a positive force in the community. It is interesting to speculate how the history of the German lands might have developed if these talented individuals had not been compelled to leave. In any case, Europe's loss was America's gain.

Ed Langer is a long-time Friend of the MKI, past president of the Friends Board of Directors, and a proud Swiss American. He lives in Hales Corners, Wisconsin.



The German-Speaking 48ers: Builders of Watertown, Wisconsin. By Charles J. Wallman. 110 pp., ill. Paperback $12.95.

The author examines the Forty-Eighters who fled German-speaking countries in the aftermath of the failed revolution of 1848 and influenced the building of Watertown, Wisconsin—at one time the second largest city in the state. Utilizing source materials in English and in German, Charles Wallman skillfully unravels the threads that tie the Forty-Eighters and their descendants to the history of Watertown. He chronicles not only the Forty-Eighters who later became prominent in the larger German-American community of the United States—such as Carl Schurz, who became a U.S. senator and advisor to presidents Lincoln and Hayes, and his wife Margarethe Schurz, who founded the kindergarten movement in the U.S.—but also those who stayed in Watertown and helped make their new home a thriving site of cultural and intellectual activity in the nineteenth century.

And So the Twain Shall Meet: Two Family Histories Become One

Kevin Kurdylo

Two new donations to the Family History collection of the MKI Library not only reveal the stories of a descendant of nineteenth-century German-speaking immigrants and an immigrant from twentieth-century, post-war Germany, they also connect the two—in marriage!

Roland Peter Richards, Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin–Extension, has titled his autobiography *Out of the Back Forty*. Born in 1921, Roland was the fourteenth child of John Ambrose Richart and his wife Anna Daniels. The family lived on a sixty-acre farm in the Township of Charlestown, Calumet County, Wisconsin. Roland has been able to trace much of his family's background, and offers anecdotes of life in rural Wisconsin with a German-American flavor, but he also writes, "How I wish my ancestors had left a better account of their lives, however humble they might have been. Too much is lost between generations since the decline of the oral history tradition, and future generations are the poorer when valuable knowledge is consigned to oblivion."

The Richarts family came to America from the Alsace-Lorraine region, settling in Morges, Carroll County, Ohio. Roland's grandfather, John or Johann Richart II, was born in Morges, and in 1854 he married Magdalena Zangler and bought a 40-acre farm in Ashford Township of Fond du Lac County, at a cost of $250. John II had fifteen children, one of whom was John Ambrose Richart, Roland's father.

Roland's maternal ancestors, the Franzens and the Daniels, were easier to trace. The Franzens came from Ulmen in the Rheinland Pfalz. Jacob Franzen married Anna Marie Dries in Ulmen in 1847; they emigrated in 1852 and bought a farm in the Charlesburg area of Calumet County, Wisconsin, the same year. Their daughter Elizabeth married Michael Daniels, who had come from Reimerath, Germany, and their first child, Anna, married John Ambrose Richart; these were Roland's parents.

Roland's stories provide a wealth of information about life on a Wisconsin farm and in a rural community during the early 1900s, and especially during the Great Depression. Here are a few gems from this treasure trove:

The Richard's family doctor was Henry C. Krohn of New Holstein, a descendant of German-speaking immigrants. When Dr. Krohn would pass the kitchen stove on his way to visiting sick children in the living room, he would pause, lift up the cover of a kettle on the stove, sniff, and make a remark such as, "Ah, sauerkraut, that'll make him well!"

Roland recalls that Saturday afternoons were when his mother baked breads and cakes: five or more loaves of white, whole wheat, and/or rye bread, four to five coffee cakes, and various buns and *Schnecken*, or snail rolls. Once, after being admonished to stop stealing bites of the baked goods, Roland asked his mother "how she made the coffee cake with the sour cream topping and in her frustration with me said, 'I spit on it!' hoping to deter my pilfering. It did not! But thereafter this coffee cake became known as *Spuckkuchen*!"

When he began his education at the one-room Lime Kiln School in the fall of 1927, Roland had some trouble making friends, as he "had a larger German than English vocabulary, [but the other kids] spoke no German." For his third year of school, Roland attended St. Martin's Catholic School. Although the school officially changed its language of instruction from German to English in 1927, Roland reports that most people there continued to speak what he refers to as "'Milwaukee,' i.e., if you spoke in one language and didn't know a word, you freely substituted the word from the other language."

At Kiel High School, Roland took a German course, thinking that "with my German vocabulary it would be a breeze. But I had never before tangled with the German grammar!" It was a challenge, but he did become fluent enough in the language to propose to a German girl. Despite his grammatical struggles, his ability to speak the language paid off in the long run, giving him "great joy and experiences I would have hated to miss."

Continued on page 12

In the Land of Masters and Slaves: German Americans in the South During the Civil War Period

Cora Lee Kluge

The Germans of Charleston, Richmond and New Orleans During the Civil War Period, 1850–1870: A Study and Research Compendium. By Andrea Mehrländer. Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter, 2011. xiv, 442 pp., ill.

This work is a major contribution to the study of the ethnic German minority in three cities of the American South during the years before, during, and after the Civil War, and it will be a standard source for students of the period for years to come. Mehrländer chose to focus on Charleston, Richmond, and New Orleans because they were port cities and the largest cities of the Confederacy, they played important roles in the C.S.A., and they contained—as of 1860—the three largest urban communities of German immigrants. Her 302-page text is followed by 40 pages of bibliography and sources, four appendices, lists of tables and illustrations, and a useful index. Scholars and general readers alike will both appreciate Mehrländer's thoroughness and also be inspired to investigate further.

The volume is divided into sections: an overview of German immigration and settlement in the South between 1820 and 1860; the circumstances of the German immigrant communities in Charleston, Richmond, and New Orleans; the effects there of the Know-Nothing movement of the 1850s; the German communities' antebellum militias; their military involvement during the war; their fate in the war years; and the Reconstruction Period. Mehrländer's extensive source material includes military service records, the Confederate Business File (showing the Confederate government's ties with German companies), credit bureau reports, city directories, German-language newspapers, consular correspondence, and personal correspondence. The result is a detailed picture of the political, social, and socio-economic situation of these communities in the 20-year period involved.

Mehrländer succeeds in discrediting a number of long-held beliefs about the ethnic German minority in the South of the Civil War era. These include the notions that the Germans were not a significant or influential group; that German immigrants who came to the South after 1850 were unable to compete profitably with the cheaper slave labor; that ethnic Germans in the South for the most part held anti-slavery sentiments; or that most of the ethnic Germans in the Confederate military were descendants of immigrants who had come to the U.S. in earlier years. In the case of Richmond, for example, she shows that the size of the ethnic German community grew by 114 percent during the 1850s, and that during this period the Richmond Germans also invested increasingly in slaves. Interestingly, the situation was vastly different from one place to another: in Charleston the size of the German ethnic minority remained almost stagnant during the 1850s, and the percentage of ethnic Germans who were slaveholders decreased from 18 percent to 9 percent in the same period.

Mehrländer convincingly documents the anger and frustration of many members of the German ethnic communities in the South, who deeply resented the post-Civil War military occupation and Reconstruction. They protested policies that extended rights to former slaves while they themselves—regardless of what stance they had taken toward the question of slavery—were treated as lesser citizens. An excellent example is the resolution passed by the ethnic German minority in Richmond in June of 1868, which states: "We . . . reject with indignation as an insult to be placed on equal political and social footing with the negroes just extracted from the mire of slavery. We consider it as sacrificing the nation to force the white population of the South under the rule of a half-civilized and inferior race" (274). Members of southern minority groups were not the only ones who urged a more cautious move toward granting suffrage and other rights to former slaves, of course, but feelings were especially raw among them.

One could quibble with Mehrländer's decision to include among the ethnic Germans some families "who had lived in America for genera-

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 10

Roland served in the military, and then used the GI Bill to attend the University of Wisconsin's College of Agriculture. After graduation in 1950, he taught farmers in the extension program, including one of German-American heritage named Bob Luening, who later—along with Roland—became a professor in the University of Wisconsin–Extension.

In 1959, Roland and Bob traveled in Europe, both to enjoy the sights and to allow Roland to research the progress made since 1948 by the German equivalent to Wisconsin's University Extension education system. In Trier, Roland spoke with an innkeeper who suggested that his family must have come from Ulmen, near Koblenz, on the basis of a few dialect words his relatives had used.

At this point we turn to the biography of Imma Charlotte Lonny Richards, neé Doebler. Lonny, as she prefers to be known, was born in 1926 on an estate in Gutsdorf, in the district of Dramburg, Pomerania (now in Poland), the oldest in a family of six daughters and one son. The family later moved to Stettin-Altdamm, where her father purchased a building materials and heating business. Her story provides vivid descriptions of life in German Pomerania, including under National Socialism, during the war, and later, in the GDR.

She tells of the many terrors and cruelties inflicted upon German citizens in the eastern regions as the Russians advanced: of bombs raining upon Stettin, fires erupting throughout the city, and refugees with horse-drawn sleds streaming westwards. Her family joined the mass of humanity fleeing from the Russians, but they did not reach the West, instead remaining in an area that became part of the Soviet zone.

Here, Lonny's father was assigned to run agricultural operations in the village of Lueningsdorf, where he was instrumental in helping neighbors survive. Lonny's work also involved great physical labor, at least until 1947, when she began training to be a nurse in the city of Stralslund, on the Baltic Sea. Later she became qualified to teach in a nursing school in Rostock. Nevertheless, she continued to dream of escaping to West Germany, vowing never to marry or raise a family under the communistic regime. In East Germany "people had no incentive because nothing belonged to them anymore. They worked slowly and had no concerns about quality, not just in industry, but also in agriculture . . . . The people lived as if in prison. Like under Hitler, there were spies everywhere."

In 1955, mail service between East and West Germany was established, and Lonny's family located relatives living in Bavaria and Göttingen. This same year first her sister Ilse and then she herself escaped to the West. She was able to work as a nurse in Göttingen, and later was chosen to establish a nursing school in Salzgitter-Lebenstedt. By 1959, half her family lived in East and half in West Germany. In August of this year, while meeting others in West Berlin to plan the escape of remaining family members, Lonny went out one evening to celebrate her cousin Peter's engagement.

Images from inside the Resi during the earlier part of the 20th century.

Peter, Lonny, and five other girls went to a dance hall called the "Resi," short for Residenz-Casino. It was a unique venue, with booths arranged in a U around the dance area, each with a telephone and with lighted numbers above so that one could communicate (flirt) with others. Urged by their guidebook to experience the Resi, Bob and Roland were there the same night; Roland called Lonny's table and first danced with her sister Barbara, while Lonny was on the floor with someone else. When Lonny returned to the table, there stood Rollie, and he immediately was smitten. He asked her to dance, grateful that he possessed enough skill with the German language to engage her in conversation. Lonny, though charmed, was wary of this suave American, thinking he must have a girlfriend or even a wife and family

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 6

experience in the golden days of carefree youth—to watch the virgin forests, the grassy prairie lands, the occasional settler's home, and straggling villages on either bank slowly drifting by! Mere fancy can never paint this land of dreams come true, and we boys soon forgot our disappointment at the lack of redskins peeping menacingly from behind trees in the reality of twenty-pound catfish caught from aboard our steamer."

The Ragatzes arrived in Galena on the 4th of July only to discover that brother Christian had moved on to the Wisconsin wilderness to help build a new town, which is now Sauk City. After a few more days of travel by wagon and on foot, the family caught up with the older brother, becoming one of the earliest European pioneer families in Sauk County, Wisconsin. Like so many other immigrants, Bartholomew Ragatz wrote back home to Switzerland about his experiences. His letters were widely distributed and printed in local publications, leading many more people from Canton Graubünden to settle in Sauk County, Wisconsin.

Immigration through New Orleans fell sharply in the mid-1850s as more and more railroad lines were built, directly connecting the Eastern port cities with the Midwestern States. In 1856, the first railroad bridge across the Mississippi was completed between Rock Island, Illinois, and Davenport, Iowa, opening up overland routes to the west of the big river. After the Civil War, New Orleans essentially ceased to be a destination for immigrants, and the major European shipping lines eventually stopped offering passenger traffic to the city. After 1874 there were no more passenger ships from Hamburg, and after 1882 passenger transportation from Bremen stopped, too. For nearly four decades in the early nineteenth century, however, New Orleans was one of the most important gateways to the central part of the country, from Louisiana to Minnesota and along the tributaries of the mighty Mississippi River.

NOTES

[1]Oswald Ragatz's recollections, translated by his great-grandson Lowell Joseph Ragatz, were published as "Memoirs of a Sauk Swiss" in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, vol. 19, no. 2, 1935.

[2]This was Traugott Bromme's 1840 edition of *Neuestes vollständiges Hand- und Reisebuch für Auswanderer aller Klassen und jeden Standes nach den Vereinigten Staaten von Nord-America* (New and Complete Pocket- and Travel Book for Emigrants of All Social Classes and Professions to the United States of North America).

[3]This was the steamship *Edna*, whose boiler exploded on July 3, 1842, at the mouth of the Missouri, killing at least 55 passengers, most of them German immigrants.

Continued from page 12

back at home! This suspicion was soon laid to rest, future dates were arranged, and Rollie—overcome with *Liebeskrankheit*, or lovesickness—asked Lonny to marry him. She agreed, on the condition that he wait until four remaining family members had escaped to West Germany. In the meantime Rollie returned home, often sending roses and telephoning from the United States, and in June of 1960, he sent her a ticket for passage to New York on the German luxury liner *Bremen*.

It is often said that "the rest was history," though perhaps in this case it is better to say that this was the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of Roland and Lonny. Lonny traveled from New York to Chicago where she and Rollie were reunited. Roland continued to advance in his field and became a Professor at the University of Wisconsin–Extension, and Lonny studied and quickly received certification to continue her nursing career in Wisconsin. Lonny writes that Roland's large family "all received me with great love and open hearts. They were proud that somebody from Germany had again come into their family." Lonny and Roland had one daughter, Jean. When Jean was to be wed, "we borrowed a German wedding tradition, the *Polterabend*, breaking porcelain dishes on the driveway while the prospective bride and groom try to sweep up the pieces. This is to insure a happy marriage and helps the couple learn to work together. It is accompanied with music, singing,

Continued on page 15

John Pustejovsky: New Member on the MKI's Board of Directors

Antje Petty

We are delighted to welcome John Pustejovsky to the Friends' Board of Directors, where he is finishing Peter Arvedson's term.

John is Professor of German and Chair of the Foreign Languages Department at Marquette University in Milwaukee. Having grown up in Houston, Texas, in a family of Moravian background (his parents spoke Czech), John became interested in the German language in high school, thanks to the superb instruction he received from a gifted and dedicated teacher. Planning to become a priest, John enrolled in Marquette University and took more German courses. In one of these classes, he met his future wife, ultimately changing his plans for the priesthood, but not his German career. Graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin followed, where John earned his Ph.D. in 18th-century German literature and became friends with a fellow student who would later become MKI Director: Joe Salmons.

After joining Marquette University in 1982 as a faculty member, John immersed himself in the culture and diversity of Milwaukee. He grew increasingly interested in the role of language in communication as well as regional varieties of American English, spearheading Marquette University's collaboration with the Max Kade Institute on the "Language Matters for Wisconsin" project. At the same time, John is fascinated by the German history of Milwaukee, immigrant history in general, and the differences or commonalities among ethnic groups and settlement areas across the country. John's interest in cross-cultural subjects extends into his teaching at Marquette. For example, he coordinated a new campus-wide "Global Discussion Series" that is designed to allow students and faculty from all departments to share their views, experience, and research questions around a specific topic and explore it in greater depth. The first event in the series was held in February, asking "What's Next for Europe? Open Questions for European Studies."

John is a member of the Board of Directors of the Goethe House Wisconsin and a past president of the Wisconsin chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German. He looks forward to learning more about the German-American experience in Wisconsin, and hopes to teach a class on the topic some day. We wholeheartedly welcome John to the Board!

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Continued from page 11

tions . . . and in part no longer spoke German, but because of old traditions still retained important positions within the German community" (9), a large and loosely-defined group that may distort her statistics. Or when she states that up to 1860, Germans favored those states in the South with fewer slaves, their first and second choices being Louisiana and Texas (17), one could justifiably ask whether their preference was based solely or even primarily on the smaller numbers of slaves there, as she seems to suggest. But such concerns are minor: this volume is a significant study of the German ethnic minority communities in the Confederate South, which we welcome to our libraries as a major addition to scholarship on the topic of German Americans in the Civil War Era.

Continued from page 13

jokes, and of course beer and food." And on Sunday, August 5, 1990—thirty-one years, to the date, after her parents met in Berlin—Jean was married, too.

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