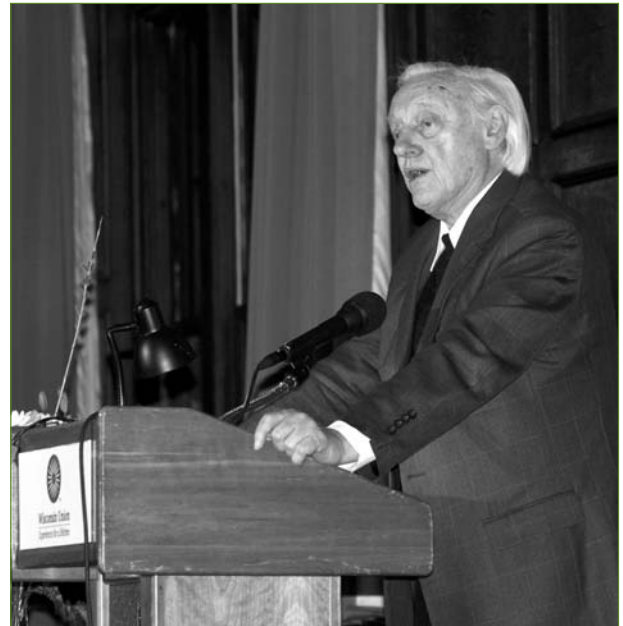


MKI Celebrates 25 Years with Banquet and Conference

Kevin M. Kurdylo



German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth and MKI Director Cora Lee Kluge.



Professor Jost Hermand speaking at the banquet.

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The capstone events marking the 25th anniversary of the Max Kade Institute were a banquet held on April 1, and a conference—the theme of which was an exploration of the breadth and diversity of German-American studies—held on April 2–3. At the banquet, Professor Jolanda Taylor (Department of German) presented a brief overview of the MKI's substantial achievements and contributions through the years. Dean Gilles Bosquet (International Studies) introduced Ambassador Dr.

Klaus Scharioth of the Federal Republic of Germany, who spoke on the topic of “Why the German-American Relationship Matters.” Scharioth began by identifying and discussing bonds that unite our two nations and have given them a deep and lasting relationship: the gratitude felt by Germans for the personal, political, and economic kindnesses shown to their country after the Second World War—kindnesses which laid the groundwork for the reunification of Germany as well as the estab-

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Greetings, Friends and Readers!

We have been busy since we were last in touch. The MKI celebrated its 25th anniversary early in April with a banquet and a two-day conference, and by all reports, it was a total success. The banquet, which was attended by 110 persons, featured greetings by Dean Gary Sandefur (UW College of Letters and Science), a historical account of the contributions of the MKI over its quarter-century by Professor Jolanda V. Taylor (UW German Department), a special address by our distinguished guest Ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth of the Federal Republic of Germany, and the conference keynote address by Emeritus Professor Jost Hermand (UW German Department). The food and drink were good, and the program was even better. The conference included presentations by a number of recognized scholars who approach German-American studies from a variety of angles: history, sociology, immigration policy, art, literature, and more. Please see the report that begins on the cover of this Newsletter issue.

In the spring semester, the Wisconsin Alumni Association together with the Division of Continuing Studies presented an MKI online course entitled "The German-American Experience," which attracted 51 students from all over the world. In addition, my own UW classroom course, "The German Immigration Experience," which I have now taught in four consecutive spring semesters, remains one of the larger courses



Construction behind the Keystone House.



The University Club, future home of MKI.

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within the German Department.

On the linguistics side of the MKI, an article written by Joe Salmons and Miranda Wilkerson entitled “Good old immigrants of yesteryear’ who didn’t learn English: Germans in Wisconsin” (*American Speech* 83.3: 259–283) has attracted a lot of attention because of comparisons suggested between nineteenth-century immigrants who—according to urban legend—learned English immediately, and today’s immigrants who do not. Joe was interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR) and quoted by a number of newspapers.

In May the MKI Friends annual meeting and banquet took us to Beaver Dam, in Dodge County, where we enjoyed a good tour, a good meeting, and pleasant conversation over dinner with our Friends. Our thanks go to Greg Smith for taking on the leadership role in planning this event. Please see the report that begins on page 7 of this issue. Inspired by the tour, we are also including a report I have prepared about Dodge County and its German immigrants, which begins on page 10.

Meanwhile, it is hard to ignore the fact that life has become more difficult in the Max Kade Institute’s Keystone House, even while we focus on our accomplishments and success. Construction proceeds at an alarming rate on the new office building of the UW School of Medicine and Public Health, which has risen out of the earth to its entire seven-story size, and very close to our windows. The photograph on page 2 does not show its full height, as it was made a number of weeks ago. This building seems to be everywhere: we can view it out of both our front and


our back windows. Cranes do heavy lifting right over the MKI; the dust is pervasive; and our sunshine is now permanently blocked. To be sure, it now seems certain that MKI will move to the University Club in 2011. The CSUMC operation as well as the MKI Sound Lab will already move there by the end of July; and this should give the MKI a little more room. However, it will also mean more workplaces—and thus more disjuncture—for Kevin Kurdylo and Hope Hague, who will have to toggle back and forth between the east end and the west end of campus.

As we look back to take stock and assess what we have accomplished over our first twenty-five years, we feel that there has been a lot of progress—due in large measure to the support of our Friends. We thank you most warmly and look forward to working together with you to meet the challenges that lie ahead. In the meantime: may you enjoy hard work, good success, and happiness with the assignments that come your way. Have a good summer!

—Cora Lee

Results of Board Elections

The Friends of the Max Kade Institute unanimously elected three new members to the Board of Directors at the 2009 Annual Meeting: Sandra Casterline of Oconomowoc (see Profile on page 13), Gary Gisselman of Wausau, and James Kleinschmidt of Fitchburg were elected to their first terms. In addition, Peter Monkmeyer was elected to serve a second term. The 2009–2010 Board of Directors elected the following officers: Karyl Rommelfanger, President; Charles James, Vice President; Gary Gisselman, Secretary; and Peter Arvedson, Treasurer. Peter Monkmeyer will be the Assistant to the Treasurer.

The staff of the MKI would like to thank those Board members who are leaving—Don Zamzow of Wausau, Greg Smith of Beaver Dam, and Ed Langer of Hales Corners—for all their work and commitment. 

Board of Directors, Friends of the Max Kade Institute

Peter Arvedson *Treasurer, Elm Grove*

Hans Werner Bernet *Monroe*

Sandra Casterline *Oconomowoc*

Gary Gisselman *Secretary, Wausau*

Elizabeth Greene *Madison*

Charles James *Vice President, Madison*

James Kleinschmidt *Fitchburg*

Cora Lee Kluge *ex officio, Madison*

Tom Lidtke *West Bend*

Fran Luebke *Brookfield*

Peter Monkmeyer *Assistant to the Treasurer, Madison*

Antje Petty *ex officio, Madison*

Karyl Rommelfanger *President, Manitowoc*



MKI banquet in Tripp Commons at the Memorial Union.

Continued from page 1

lishment of the European Union; the pride felt by Americans of German descent for their contributions and those of their immigrant ancestors to the American success story; the values of human rights and democratic principles held by both countries; and the strong economic ties between America and Germany. Scharioth argued eloquently for the need to maintain and strengthen our close relationship so that together we may meet the trials all nations face. Germany and America must act in harmony if we hope to be successful in dealing with such imminent challenges as climate change, nuclear proliferation, worldwide health issues, and global financial crises. Scharioth feels strongly about his message, and insists that only mutual actions will be effective in meeting global challenges.

Finally, Professor Emeritus Jost Hermand (Department of German), one of the speakers at the symposium celebrating the founding of the

Max Kade Institute in 1983, delivered the keynote address for our 2009 conference, “Forced Out of Hitler’s Reich: Five Eminent Madisonians.” He described how when he first came to Madison in the late 1950s, he met Germans teaching at the University of Wisconsin–Madison who had been forced to leave Hitler’s Reich for political or racial reasons. The five were all well-educated and refined; they exhibited cultivated manners and a certain cultural arrogance. They saw themselves as refugees, and they viewed America as a place of exile, carrying within their hearts a vision of the “good old Germany of the Weimar Republic.” Seeking to maintain their cultural identity, they often compared their American surroundings and situations unfavorably to what had once existed in Europe; they were among the ranks of the “Bei-unskis,” for their habit of saying, “Bei uns [in Europe] we did it this way.”

The five refugees whose lives and

personalities portrayed by Hermand were: Rudolf Kolisch, a violinist from Vienna who dwelt within a world of avant-garde modernism; Werner Vortriede, a highly cultured Germanist who led a modest, almost monastic life at the University Club and eventually returned to Munich in order to regain his “Land of Culture”; Felix Pollack, a librarian and poet who breathed language and literature, and for whom literary accolades in the U.S. meant nothing compared to being published in Germany; Hans Gerth, a distinguished sociologist who had studied with Max Weber and Karl Mannheim and who was interested in politics and social theories, but also clung to “high culture”; and finally George L. Mosse, an eminent historian of modern Europe, who was one of the most effective and popular lecturers at UW–Madison. Mosse’s Jewish father had been the publisher of the liberal *Berliner Tageblatt*, until the Nazis forced him and his family to emigrate. Though



Louis Pitschmann speaking at the conference.

successful, Mosse never felt at home in America; he was, as he himself said, “neither an American nor a Jew, but a true German.”

With his presentation of this group—Kolisch, Vortriede, Pollack, Gerth, and Mosse—Hermand focused on five distinguished refugees from Hitler’s Reich who brought exceptional intellectual contributions from Germany to the University of Wisconsin in the middle and latter years of the twentieth century. This more recent immigration of ideas represents a different kind of German-American connection that continues to bind together and strengthen both Germany and the United States.

The two-day conference that followed the banquet highlighted a variety of approaches to German-American studies and the richness of information that such investigations can yield. The ideas, stories, and challenges were so diverse that

any attempt to do them justice within the confines of our Newsletter will fall short, and so we present only barest outlines.

The Thursday morning session included three presentations under the general rubric of “America and Her Immigrants: Ethnicity, Policy, Ideas.” Walter Kamphoefner (Texas A&M University) led off with a wide-ranging examination of what it means to be a German American, and he concluded by exhorting researchers to go beyond personal source materials by putting them into the larger context of the American situation. Daniel Tichenor (University of Oregon) put the spotlight on the U.S. immigration experience, past and present, pointing out that the same arguments that were used against nineteenth-century German immigrants are applied today to those who speak Spanish. He gave a breakdown of American immigration philosophies that varied according to whether more or fewer immigrants should be allowed into the country, as well as the degree to which immigrants should be granted rights. Helmut Keil (University of Leipzig) spoke on the political philosopher Francis Lieber, who was a slave owner during the years he lived in South Carolina. Using Lieber’s

letters and diaries, Keil explored his efforts to justify his actions, despite his belief that slavery is wrong.

The Thursday afternoon session was structured around the topic “German-American Language and Literature.” Daniel Nützel (University of Regensburg) showed how two German dialects in America are taking different paths to language death: the East Franconian dialect of Haysville, Indiana, and the northern Bavarian dialect of New Ulm, Minnesota. Both dialects will become extinct, but the Haysville language will die structurally intact, while in New Ulm the dialect has gradually eroded. The final presenter of the day was Lorie Vanchena (University of Kansas), who spoke on the disappearance of German-American literature, as well as new interest in it and efforts to revive and preserve it. Main challenges concern its accessibility: the works are difficult to locate, and, in addition, they will need to be translated into English if they are to take their place among other texts of American literature.

The second day began with a session focused on “Creating the American Myth.” Hugh Ridley (University College Dublin) illuminated the oft-overlooked work of German-



An attentive audience at the conference.



Gary Sandefur, Dean of the UW College of Letters and Science, speaking at the banquet.

American writer Charles Sealsfield, *Die Prärie am Jacinto* (*The Prairie on San Jacinto River*). Set in Texas just before that state entered into a war to become part of the United States, Sealsfield's work is both good literature and uniquely American, and its archetypal frontier reveals socio-political truths about our nation. Steven Hoelscher (University of Texas at Austin) focused on the successful annual outdoor performances of Friedrich Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* in New Glarus, Wisconsin. Advertised during World War II as a play connected to American revolutionary history, the performance was celebrated as an affirmation of democratic spirit even when anti-German sentiment was running high.

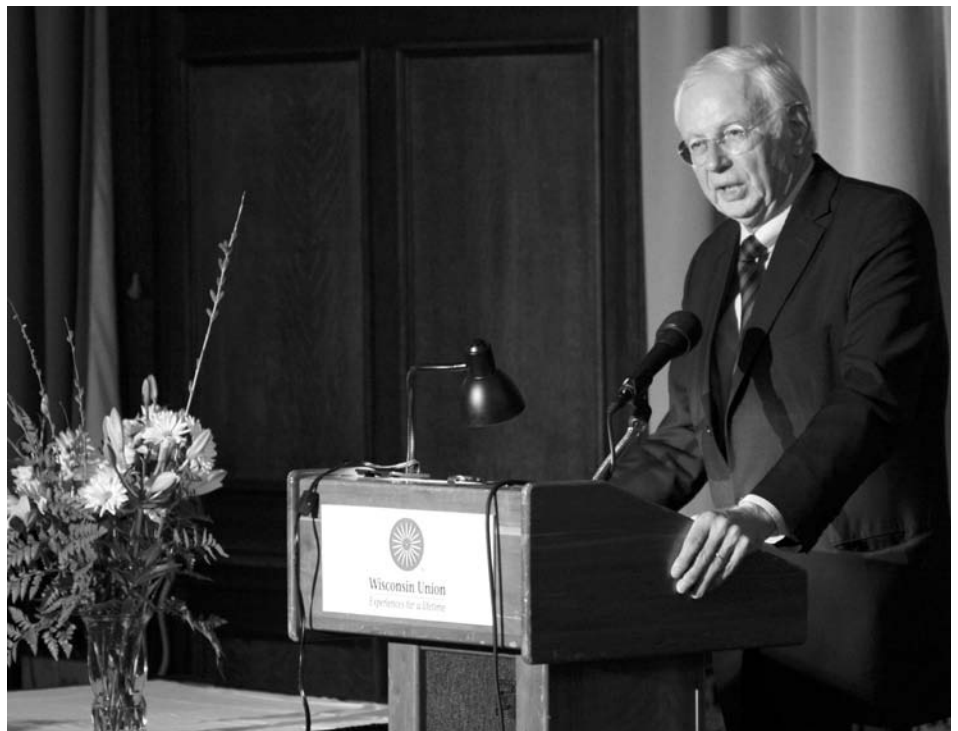
The final session in the two-day conference was titled "Learning From Each Other." First to speak was Uwe Lübken (Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich), who showed the connections between America and

Germany during periods of terrible flooding. Lübken discussed how millions in America have on occasion donated money to help flood victims in Germany and vice versa, and also how flood control strategies were shared between the two countries. The final presentation was by Louis Pitschmann (University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa), who sketched out opportunities for collaboration in a digital age that could both advance German-American research and help raise awareness of the field among other academic disciplines.

Audience participation was high, with many spirited discussions taking place during the question-and-answer portions of the presentations. Conference speakers were impressed with the number of people attending—always between thirty and fifty—and with the mixture of schol-

ars and laypeople. We believe our conference was a success, but realize that much work still awaits both our institute and our field of study. We look forward to another twenty-five years and to continued collaboration with our Friends. 🇺🇸

Dr. Klaus Scharioth, German Ambassador to the United States, giving a special address at the banquet.



2009 MKI Friends Annual Meeting and Tour of German-American Architecture in Dodge County, Wisconsin

Kevin M. Kurdyla

Pleasant spring weather made the day perfect for the MKI Friends as they took a bus tour of German-American architecture in Dodge County on May 2nd. Arranged by Friends Board member Greg Smith, and led by master timber framer Lyle Lidholm, the tour viewed several half-timber constructions (in German: *Fachwerk*), including one of the last surviving housebarns in America, a barn with an overhanging forebay, and a combination half-timber and log building.

Our first stop was at the Langholff housebarn near Watertown. Believed to have been built around 1850 by Frederick Kliese, the angular patterns of the building's half-timbered framing and contrasting nogging have been left exposed. Nogging refers to the materials used to fill between parts of the framework; originally mud and straw were used, but these have since been replaced with cream brick. Although a common form of construction in Europe, the housebarn was not often built in North America. Considered especially suitable for regions with harsh winters, a

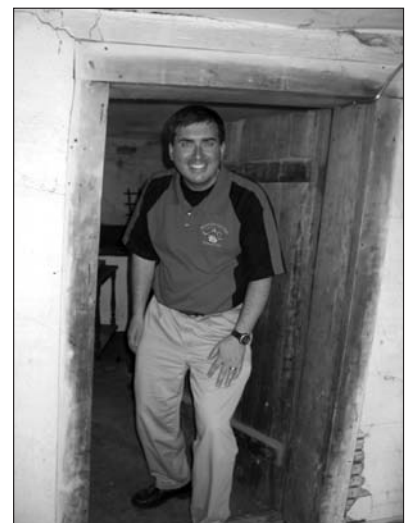
housebarn is typically rectangular in shape and shelters both humans and farm animals beneath one roof. This arrangement allows for ease in tending the livestock and uses the heat generated by the animals to warm the human occupants. Another interesting aspect of the Langholff housebarn is its black kitchen (*schwarze Küche*), a central, vaulted brick room that is basically a walk-in hearth. Cooking would be done within this room, and the upper reaches of the chimney could be used for smoking and curing meats. Since it was built at the center of the living quarters, heat from the black kitchen would radiate to the other rooms in the house. The idea of a black kitchen was brought to North America by Manitoba's German-Russian Mennonites and by Wisconsin's Pomeranian Germans.

As we disembarked from the bus, we were met by Elaine Langholff, who graciously allowed the Friends

to enter the housebarn and explore a bit, as the photos show. It was interesting to walk inside of history, and to feel the textures of the old wood. An intriguing connection to MKI is that Elaine Langholff's father, Ortwin Ruehlow, was interviewed by Jürgen Eichhoff in 1968. The recorded interview is part of the MKI's North American German Dialect Collection, and a copy of it was presented to Elaine by Mark Loudon a few years ago.

Other buildings that we saw during the tour include the Schoenicke barn (built about 1855 by Gottlieb Schoenicke), located northeast of Watertown; a combination half-timber and log construction on County MM, near Lebanon; an old forebay on Bannon and County EM, near Lebanon; a half-timber with an added story,

Far left: Entering the Langholff housebarn. Middle: Fran Luebke in the housebarn's black kitchen. Below: Greg Smith in the housebarn.



*Below: Close-up of Fachwerk at the Langholff housebarn.
Right: Jim Steakley and Christian Kluge.*



*Right: Carol and Bill Lamm.
Below: The Schoenicke barn.*



Below: Tom and Alec Smith display their collection of miniature toys from Germany.

Below: Fran Luebke, Joan Grampp, Greg Smith, and other MKI Friends at Feil's.



Photos courtesy of Charles James, Ruth Olson, and Jim Steakley.



A house that is part half-timbered and part log.

near Lebanon; a half-timber with an addition; and a half-timber that has been covered with siding. We also heard about several half-timber buildings that have been torn down in recent years.

On the bus as we returned to Beaver Dam, Edward Raether, president of the Lebanon Historical Society, welcomed the group and talked about the Town of Lebanon, informing us that it has the oldest continuous township band in the state of Wisconsin. As we rolled into Beaver Dam, we stopped at Swan Park and learned about its history from Kathy Barnett. The site of the park had long been revered by Native Americans


for its natural spring. In 1879, Dr. G.E. Swan rediscovered the spring and, certain that the alkaline mineral waters would have restorative benefits for people's health, he purchased the land and built cottages and a health spa.

We then went to the Beaver Dam Public Library for a short meeting. (The results of the Board elections are reported on page 3.) After the meeting the Friends visited the Beaver Dam Historical Society to examine the history of the largest town in Dodge County (though Juneau is the County Seat). Just a few of the myriad gems that we saw: an exhibit about the city's beloved favorite son,

actor Fred MacMurray, who, although born in Illinois, grew up in Beaver Dam from the age of five; artifacts from various businesses run by German Americans; and an impressive display of Kinder Surprise toys collected in Germany by Tom and Alec Smith, sons of Greg Smith.

Then it was off to Feil's Supper Club in Randolph for a good meal, great company, and a rousing chorus of *Ein Prosit!* begun by Don Zamzow. It was another successful gathering of the MKI Friends, and we are grateful to all who helped plan the event, with special thanks to Greg Smith and his family. Next year's MKI Friends Annual Meeting and Dinner will take place in May in Milwaukee, so be on the lookout for an announcement with the details!

For additional information on German-American architecture in Dodge County (and other counties in Wisconsin), please see:

- American Memories Website: memory.loc.gov
- Christopher S. Witmer: "The German Timber-Framed Threshing Barns of Lebanon Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin." Dissertation, UW-Madison, 1983. 

Dodge County Historical Society Museum.



Peter Monkmeyer and Kevin Kurdylo get the bill.



Spotlight on Dodge County, Wisconsin

Cora Lee Kluge

The Friends of the MKI recently had an opportunity to visit Dodge County, Wisconsin, and we present this report as a survey of what all the area has to offer. It is well worth an extended stay to explore its geological and geographical features, its history, and its scenic beauty. It also became an early—and enduring—settlement area for German immigrants, whose presence is visible still today.

Dodge County was important to Native Americans, both thousands of years ago and in recent times, as was originally shown by the well-known Wisconsin scientist Increase A. Lapham, who described their settlements and burial and effigy mounds in his work entitled *The Antiquities of Wisconsin* (1855). The area is full of fascinating geological features that contribute to its natural beauty: the drumlin hills and the Horicon Marsh, both the results of the last Wisconsin ice age; the Kettle Moraine, which stretches north to south, just east of Dodge County; and Fox Lake, Beaver Dam Lake, and others. There are also rivers and streams, of which the Rock River, which flows through Theresa, Mayville, Horicon, Hustisford, and Watertown, is the largest.

When the Wisconsin Territory was organized in 1836, Dodge County was created and named for Territorial Governor Henry Dodge. The county seat was generally known as Dodge Centre, but it was later renamed

Juneau, after Dodge County's prominent citizen Paul Juneau, son of Solomon and Josette Juneau (a founding father of the city of Milwaukee and his French-Menominee wife), who died in a gunshot accident in 1858. Solomon Juneau also founded the small community of Theresa, which he considered to be his vacation and retirement home.

Dodge County has always been considered a rich agricultural area, but almost from the beginning other endeavors were also important. In the 1840s, iron ore was discovered at Iron Ridge, and an iron ore works was established at Mayville, which continued to function until richer Lake Superior iron ore deposits put it out of business. By the 1870s, numerous sawmills and gristmills could be found throughout the county, as well as many small beer breweries: in Farmersville, Leroy, Mayville, Theresa, Huilsburg, Horicon, Lomira, Neosho, and more. (See Michael D. Benter, *Roll Out the Barrels: Brewers of Eastern Dodge County, Wisconsin, 1850–1961* [2004]). Swiss-American cheesemaker John Jossi invented brick cheese in Wisconsin, and his first brick cheese factory was in Watertown. Though there is no longer a cheese factory at nearly every crossroad, Dodge County still has two cheesemakers: the Specialty Cheese Company in Lowell, which offers a wide variety of cheeses; and Widmer's Cheese Cellars of Theresa, where brick cheese is still pressed

with real bricks—tours by appointment!

Our interest has become increasingly focused on Dodge County because of its potential as a laboratory for studying German immigration, the German immigrants, and signs of their culture. Professor Lester W. J. ("Smoky") Seifert, our long-time colleague at the MKI, was born on a farm near Juneau and grew up speaking three languages: his family's Oderbrüchisch dialect, high German, and English. Much of his research concerned American German dialects such as Pennsylvania Dutch, the subject of his doctoral dissertation, but also German dialects in Wisconsin. UW dissertations completed under his supervision include Dale J. Donnelly's on "The Low German Dialect of Sauk County, Wisconsin: Phonology and Morphology" (1969) and Mary Anderson Seeger's on "English Influences on the Language of the *Dodge County Pioneer* of Mayville, Wisconsin" (1970). In addition, Seifert, Jürgen Eichhoff, Joe Salmons, Mark Loudon, and their students have done dialect recordings in Dodge County that are now held in the MKI's North American German Dialect Archive, and Salmons's student Felecia Lucht completed a dissertation on "Language Variation in a German-American Community: A Diachronic Study of the Spectrum of Language Use in Lebanon, Wisconsin" (2007). This is still very much a German area: nearly 60 percent of the population of Lebanon claimed German heritage in the 2000 census. Linguists are eager to learn about German dialects in Wisconsin and their history before they dwindle and disappear forever. To some extent,

the linguistic laboratories of Wisconsin provide insight into German dialects not available anywhere else in the world. A number of years ago, after visiting the Oderbruch (along the northern border between Germany and Poland), the area that was his ancestral home, Seifert returned to Madison to announce that the best Oderbrüchisch in the world was spoken in Dodge County, Wisconsin.

Dodge County's architecture, agriculture, and settlement patterns have also received scholarly attention. Christopher S. Witmer's doctoral dissertation on "The German Timber-Framed Threshing Barns of Lebanon Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin" (1983) was followed by Horst W. Lobe's M. A. thesis entitled "The Evolution of Rural Timber Frame Construction in Northern Germany and Its Influence on the Vernacular Architecture of Dodge County, Wisconsin" (1984); both were completed in the Department of Landscape Architecture at the UW-Madison, under the supervision of Professor William Tishler. A beautiful example of half-timbered architecture is the Schulz Farm, built in Dodge County in 1856, which has been moved to and restored at Old World Wisconsin in Eagle. Beyond this, there is Kevin Neuberger's chapter entitled "*Farm, so heißt in Amerika ein Gut: Land and Agriculture in a Westerwald Settlement in Wisconsin*," published in *Wisconsin German Land and Life* (2006), which investigates settlement patterns of immigrants from the Westerwald area in Germany who came to the Reeseville area in Dodge County in the middle of the nineteenth century. In connection with my own work, I have pursued




the story of a family that migrated from Württemberg to a farm near Theresa in the 1850s and from there to Kansas in the years just before the beginning of the Civil War.

When the so-called Old Lutherans emigrated to America around 1840 in protest of the Prussian Kaiser's unification of various Protestant churches, a large number of them settled in Dodge and Jefferson Counties. Their need to train clergymen led to the establishment of some of the earliest educational institutions in the state: the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, founded in Watertown in 1863, dedicated a building in 1865 that included space for the Luther Preparatory School, Northwestern College, and the Wisconsin Synod seminary classes. Luther Prep, the oldest Lutheran high school in the United States, is still in operation; and Northwestern College closed in 1995, after 130 years of operation, having merged with Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minnesota. The Seminary is now located in Mequon, on the outskirts of Milwaukee.

We salute Dodge County for its rich historical past and its important place in Wisconsin's present. Its citizens have long pursued efforts

to preserve the area's records—by writing church histories, establishing historical and genealogical interest groups, and more. The MKI owns a pamphlet published for centennial celebrations of Immanuel's Congregation of Lebanon (1944), and the Wisconsin Historical Society owns one published for centennial celebrations of the Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of Theresa (1947). In addition, a small pamphlet entitled *A Bibliography on the History of Dodge County*, compiled by William J. Schreck and Jane Smith (1972), based on the collections of the Wisconsin Historical Society, is still useful. And scattered through Dodge County are a number of museums, historical societies, libraries, and resource centers, where platbooks, maps, and censuses, as well as birth, marriage, death, and military records are held. Dodge County is a good place to investigate the German immigration experience.

As always, we urge you to consider giving historical documents, family papers, and other materials to the MKI library and archives. If you would like to keep the originals, we can make scanned copies for our collections. 

Carl Gerhard, Mayville's German-American Poet

Cora Lee Kluge

A little book of poetry entitled *Blumen am Wege* by Carl Gerhard came to my attention as I was focusing on Dodge County for this Newsletter issue. MKI owns the second edition of the work, which appeared in 1922 as a "Pionier Print" (product of the Mayville, Wisconsin German-language newspaper *Dodge County Pionier*). As far as I can discover, neither the first nor the second edition is listed in any library catalogs; standard resources also do not contain the author's name.

A bit of literary detective work reveals that the author's full name was Carl Gerhard Grashorn. Born in 1851 in Husum, a small village near Oldenburg, Germany, he was the son of Louise Ruedebusch and her husband Heinrich Grashorn; Louise had become Heinrich's second wife in 1849, when he was 33 years old, and she was not yet 20. Heinrich died in 1858, the father of seven children (two by his first wife and five by his second); and in 1874 his widow, together with all of her own five children, moved to Mayville, Wisconsin. Louise was one of ten children, of whom at least six eventually resided in Mayville. Her younger brother Carl Johann Diedrich Ruedebusch (1832–1915), for example, was living there as early as 1854; and records show that the youngest in the family, August Ruedebusch (1844–1933), emigrated to Mayville in 1860. The Ruedebusch and Grashorn families were an

interesting group. Louise's children include Carl Gerhard Grashorn (1851–1925), our poet, and Pauline Grashorn (1857–1936), whose granddaughter Marni Nixon (b. 1930) has achieved fame as a singer in our time. One of Carl Johann Diedrich's sons was Emil Ruedebusch (1861–1940), known as a prophet of free love and author of works such as *Freie Menschen in der Liebe und Ehe* (1895) and *The Old and the New Ideal: A Solution of That Part of the Social Question Which Pertains to Love, Marriage, and Sexual Intercourse* (1896). He was also the son-in-law of German immigrant Jacob Sternberger, whose life-long correspondence is held in the MKI archives and includes letters by Emil Ruedebusch.


Though not a collection of great poems, Carl Gerhard's *Blumen am Wege* helps us understand the attitudes of German Americans in this period. There are the usual poems of longing for the lost homeland, such as "Father's House," "On the Hunte [a river]," "My Home Village!," "Husum," and "Autumn on the Heath"—several of which were written in connection with the poet's visit in 1881 to his European home. In the poem entitled "Amerika!" the new country is seen as a paradise of opportunity for poor immigrants who work hard, but nevertheless as a land of businessmen where people think mainly of themselves and their profit. There are poems of the seasons, including "Easter Morning

in Mayville" and "Summer Morning in Wisconsin"; poems to the poet's newborn children, "To My Son" and "To My Little Daughter"; and poems written in response to events such as the Franco-Prussian War, including "1870–71" and "On the Mosel." The translation of all these titles is mine. In a poem dated 1916, Gerhard expresses both his dislike of the war in Europe and his hope for peace: "Who caused this war,/ Who made the beginning?/ Was it Serbs, the British, Germans,/ Did a devil think it up?/ May moderation be the solution,/ May people extend the hand of peace to one another,/ All are tired of the battle,/ Also here in the neutral country!" Again: my translation. And in a later poem entitled "Peace song!," one of only seven in English in the collection, he celebrates the war's end but laments its cost in human terms:

But who pays the crippled heroes?
Who can estimate the cost,
Of all sufferings, untold sorrows,
Of the thousands of lives lost?

Nevertheless, it is clear from the same poem that his sympathies are completely with the Allies.

War is hell, but freedom of nations
Was at stake in this great strife,
Victorious peace! We held our station
Not vain the sacrifice of life!

Our "Carl Gerhard" remained in Wisconsin. In 1886 he married Frieda Washburn (b. 1867), and they became the parents of at least seven children, all born in Mayville. He died in Horicon in 1925. 

Sandra Casterline

Antje Petty



At the annual meeting three new members were elected to the Friends Board of Directors (see page 3). We will introduce all of them in our Newsletter, beginning in this issue with Sandra Casterline.

Sandy grew up in the state of Oregon in a family of German and Swiss heritage. All her grandparents spoke German, and Sandy enjoyed hearing the language at family gatherings. Eventually she herself studied German in high school and college. Sandy holds a B.S. degree in Medical Technology from Oregon Health and Science University, a B.A. in German from Linfield College in Oregon, and a M.A. in German Language and Literature from

Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Today Sandy lives in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, where she has been a free-lance tutor and translator for many years. She has also been a part-time German teacher at Milwaukee Area Technical College, Heritage Christian Schools in Milwaukee, and—most recently—the Volkshochschule (evening classes) at German Fest.

Her many community activities include teaching at the Goethe House Milwaukee's Kinderkamp, serving as President of the Lower Nashotah Lake Association in Summit, volunteering at the White Stone Community Church and the County Christian School in Nashotah, and hosting the monthly Stammtisch at

Weissgerber's Gasthaus in Waukesha. Anybody in the Milwaukee area interested in practicing his or her German is invited to join the Stammtisch on the fourth Monday of every month from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

As a teacher of German, Sandy is especially interested in promoting German language and culture. She looks forward to working with the Friends on programs that will educate people about the contributions of German Americans and Swiss Americans to American society and the role of the German language in American history. Welcome on Board, Sandy! 🍷

Summer Travel in 1912, German-American Style

Antje Petty

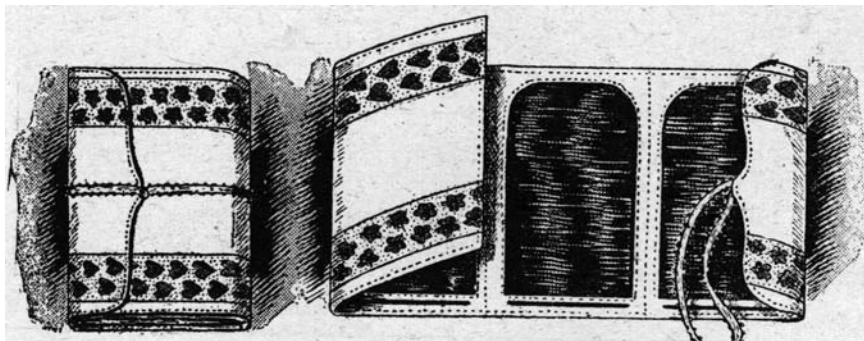
Summer is around the corner, and we have dreams of vacation and travel. A steady stream of ads and commercials for vacation destinations near and far lure us with almost unlimited travel opportunities. Should we go on a cross-country road-trip, take a Caribbean cruise, or stay home and explore our own region? Looking back a hundred years, we might be surprised to learn that traveling was as popular then as it is today, and the tourism industry was flourishing.

This was reflected in the German-American press. In national magazines, such as *Die Hausfrau* or local dailies, such as the *Milwaukee Herald*, travel reports from all corners of the

Carrying case for books



Photo sheath



world were featured prominently; travel agents promoted hotels and cruises; department stores advertised clothes, luggage, special silverware, and all sorts of items that might be needed on a trip; and advice was offered to the traveler.

Take, for example, the June 1912 issue of *Die Hausfrau*, where several companies promote cruises around the world. With the Hamburg-America Line, for instance, you can travel “around the world on the palace-like cruise ship *Cleveland*,” a 110-day trip starting at \$650, including “all necessary expenses on board and on land, train travel, hotels, excursions, carriages, guides, gratuities, etc.” Shorter “vacation tours” will take you to Jamaica for just \$75 or the Panama Canal for \$115. And if you happen to be in Europe already, you can hop on a two-week cruise to “the land of the midnight sun—Norway, the North Cape, and Spitzbergen” for just \$62.50.

However, a good vacation starts with good planning, and in a special feature entitled *Kleine Annehmlichkeiten für Sommerreisende: Über den Komfort auf der Reise und die Kunst*

Advertisement for cruises

HAMBURG
Größte Schiffsahrt:
Neb. 400
Schiffe

AMERICAN
Gesellschaft der Welt
1,210,000
Tonnen

Um die Welt
auf dem palastartigen
Touristen-Dampfer
CLEVELAND
17,000 Tonnen
Von New York am 9. Nov. 1912
Von San Francisco am 27. Feb. 1913
110 Tage \$650 und aufwärts
Einschließlich aller notwendigen Unterkosten an Bord und auf dem Lande, Eisenbahn, Hotel, Land-Excursionen, Ausflügen, Führer, Trinkgeld usw. Man schreibe nach schon überreichte Broschüre mit aller näheren Auskunft

Das Land der Mitternacht Sonne
Norwegen, Nord Kap, Spitzbergen
8 Touren von Hamburg
Während Juni, Juli und August
Auf die Dauer von 14 bis 16 Tagen. Kosten \$62.50 und Aufwärts. Mit den großen Touristen-Dampfern **Victoria Luise, Meteor und Kronprinzessin Cecilie**

Ferien-Touren
Juni bis Oktober
Wöchentliche Abfahrten
Jamaica Rundreise **\$75**
Panama Kanal Rundreise **\$115**
Mit den beliebtesten „Prinz“-Dampfern unseres Atlas-Dienstes
Man schreibe um Broschüre über irgend eine Tour

Hamburg-American Line
150 W. Randolph St., Chicago
ober lokale Agenten

des Kofferpackens [“Small amenities for summer travelers: concerning comfortable travel and the art of packing a suitcase”], *Die Hausfrau* delivers advice.

“The travel season puts so many demands on our pocketbooks, that sometimes when we are gathering our travel supplies, we are tempted to forgo very useful items, because

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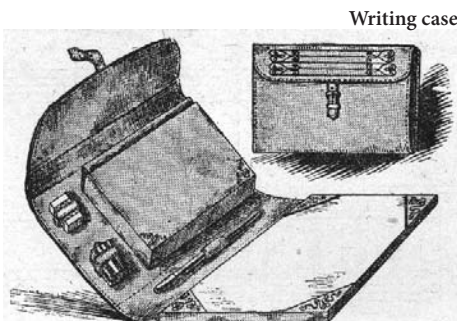
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we think we do not have the money for them. However, these items are often absolutely necessary. In fact, when we travel they often prove to be much more practical than many an ‘indispensable’ garment that was taken along.”

What does the author deem to be indispensable? To start with “the pretty photo sheath [*das hübsche Photographie-Etui*], which we would not want to do without during a prolonged stay. Nothing can make a room in an inn so homey as the

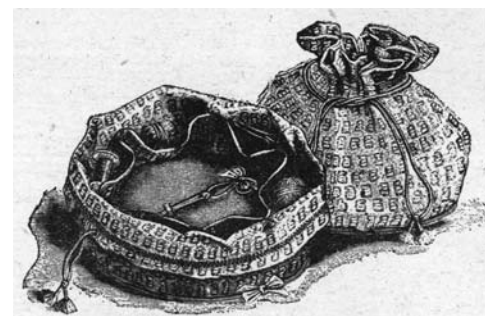


Writing case

pictures of our loved ones at home.”

Detailed instructions on how to make the sheath follow. The same goes for a *Beutel zur Aufnahme von Nähutensilien und kleinen Handarbeiten* [bag for a sewing kit and needle work]. Furthermore, “in order to arrange our hotel room to be a cozy place, a suitcase cover [*Kofferhülle*] is very useful. A suitcase covered with a beautiful blanket will create a home-like atmosphere in any hotel.” For 10 cents the reader can purchase a cross-stitch pattern for just such a blanket. For longer trips, one should bring a pillow and fit it with a strap “so it can be taken on walks.”

“A writing-case [*Schreibmappe*] is another indispensable item on a trip. Here we show a practical and useful case which can also serve as a writing pad, if no desk is available.” Again, the reader can make this case herself



Sewing kit

out of cardboard, cover it with linen, and decorate it with cross-stitch. However, “if there is not enough time for cross-stitch decoration, a beautifully patterned cretonne can be used as a cover.”

Handmade garment-bags should also be taken along, since “many lodgings lack proper storage to protect your clothes,” and a *Buchhülle* [book jacket or carrying case] made of “thick cotton and lined with satin” is absolutely essential if you want to bring along your favorite novel.

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Summer Travel in 1912

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Last but not least, the *Die Hausfrau* finishes with some comments on how to pack your luggage properly.

“It remains true that thoughtless packing and all the annoying suitcase mess can ruin any vacation fun. However, proper packing alone is by no means enough. While packing, one must already think of unpacking. If you put a blouse on top and the matching skirt at the bottom, you will match the two again only after turning the whole suitcase upside down. Result: more work, aggravation, and—despite all care prior to

departure—crumpled clothes. Therefore: what belongs together should stay together! . . . And furthermore: everything belonging together should be wrapped in a piece of cloth that will separate this part of the wardrobe from the one underneath. . . .

This way, one can reach a dress at the bottom without even touching the ones above. . . . Whoever travels with more than one suitcase, of course, will have to be even more careful in putting all corresponding items into the same suitcase, in order to avoid having to take apart all the

luggage at every stop on the way.”

With these tips from our German-American ancestors, we are definitely better equipped to pack for our summer holidays. *Gute Reise!* 