

## Germans at Old World Wisconsin

Catherine Dallas



Traditional German beer brewing demonstration at Old World Wisconsin

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Just as St. Patrick's Day brings out the Irish in everyone, Wisconsinites overwhelmingly embrace the *Gemütlichkeit* that surrounds a host of German celebrations. Let's face it, we couldn't tell the story of Wisconsin without telling the story of German immigrants. People from 30-plus German states and city-states, speaking different dialects, and practicing distinctly different traditions immigrated to Wisconsin in the 19th century. By 1900, almost a third of all Wisconsinites had been born in a German state. They brought with them a diverse repertoire of food and

drink, religious and political viewpoints, and strong cultural identities that still dominate the Badger State in a way we now lump together as "German." The state's German immigrants are represented here at Old World Wisconsin (OWW) on three different Wisconsin farmsteads settled in the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s. The farmsteads are composites—made up of original buildings from thirteen different German immigrant families all brought together here to preserve the structures themselves and to immerse our guests in their rich nineteenth-

*Continued on page 8*

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## Greetings, Friends and Readers!

Since neither Punxsutawney Phil nor our own Jimmy the Groundhog, a fellow resident of mine from Sun Prairie, saw his shadow this past February 2, we're hopeful spring will indeed come early this year. In the meantime, MKI has been abuzz with activity.

As I mentioned in our last newsletter, we are excited to be hosting the Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies here in Madison, April 11–13, 2019. The program features more than fifty diverse presentations, with colleagues joining us from across the country and from Germany, Austria, and Brazil. A special highlight is a public lecture on Friday evening by Professor Jürgen Overhoff, from the University of Münster, on the topic “Benjamin Franklin and the Germans: A Transatlantic Encounter in the Age of Enlightenment.” Since this is the annual meeting of a professional organization, there is a fee to attend, but students and MKI Friends will receive special discounts. All important information about the symposium is accessible here: <https://sgas.org/symposium/>.

Just a few weeks ago we received the welcome news that MKI has been awarded a Major Grant from the Wisconsin Humanities Council for a new outreach project titled *Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience*. The tangible product of this project will be a series of fourteen high-quality retractable banner-posters that highlight the experiences of Wisconsin's German-speaking population and their descendants

in the context of local history and culture, past and present. The posters will address a number of topics, including immigration history, education, religion, language, community life, and many more. *Neighbors Past and Present* will travel to communities across the state, where the posters will be displayed in conjunction with various programming events featuring MKI staff and local partners. During the grant period, we are planning to bring the exhibit to Beloit, Eau Claire, Kiel, Marathon County, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Spring Valley, but one exciting aspect of the project is that it will continue for years after the grant has ended, with an aim to eventually reach most of Wisconsin's seventy-two counties.

Antje Petty, Kevin Kurdylo, and I are

currently producing the material for the posters and working with a local graphic designer. If all goes as planned, the posters will be ready to display at the SGAS Annual Symposium next month!

In addition to the symposium, we hope to see many of you at the MKI Friends Annual Meeting, which will take place on Sunday, May 5, at Old World Wisconsin. We are excited that our banquet speaker will be long-time MKI Friend and past Board Member, Prof. Johannes Strohschänk, from UW–Eau Claire.

Warm greetings to all our Friends, and heartfelt thanks for your ongoing support!

— Mark

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

Kevin Kurdylo

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[mki@library.wisc.edu](mailto:mki@library.wisc.edu)

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**Friends of the Max Kade Institute Annual Meeting**  
**Sunday, May 5, 2019**  
**Old World Wisconsin**  
**W372 S9727 HWY 67, Eagle, WI**

We look forward to holding the 2019 annual meeting of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute at Old World Wisconsin, in Eagle, WI. Founded in 1976, Old World Wisconsin is an open air museum with more than 60 historic structures brought from around the state, including three German immigrant farms from the 1860s, 1870s, and 1880s. We will enjoy a private, guided tram tour of all the grounds, followed by a walking tour of the German sites. Afterward we will move to the Clausing Barn for our annual meeting and a German-style buffet dinner. The Clausing Barn is an octagonal two-story structure that was built by German barn builder Ernst Clausing in 1897 in Mequon, Ozaukee County. Tying our day together will be a lecture by Johannes Strohschänk, Professor of German at UW-Eau Claire, on “Old Wine in New Bottles, or Is *Heimat* Portable?”

- 1:00 - 1:30** **Gathering for private tram tour after entering the grounds**, next to the Ramsey Barn (entrance)  
\* Admission to the OWW grounds is required. SEE BELOW for details and options
- 1:30 - 3:30** Private tram tour of OWW and walking tour of the German sites
- 3:30 - 4:00** Walk or ride the tram to Clausing Barn
- 4:00 - 5:00** Friends of MKI Business Meeting
- 5:00 - 5:30** Socializing / Cash Bar
- 5:30 - 6:30** Dinner
- 6:30 - 7:30** Presentation by Johannes Strohschänk

**Details, including registration information, a map of OWW, and directions, can be found at [mkifriends.org](http://mkifriends.org)**

**PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY APRIL 15**

*See page 16 for registration form, or register online at [mkifriends.org/annual-meetings/](http://mkifriends.org/annual-meetings/)*

**Cost of program and dinner: \$28**

**In addition, admission to Old World Wisconsin is required** and allows you to stay on the grounds all day.

**Special MKI rate for admission: \$16**

Admission is free for members of the Wisconsin Historical Society. If you are not a WHS member, consider joining the WHS, and get free admission for yourself and a guest to this and all other WHS sites! Go to [wisconsinhistory.org](http://wisconsinhistory.org).

**Bring a friend — Make a Friend!**

Dinner purchase includes Friends of the MKI membership for the year 2019 for *new* Friends.

If you have questions, contact Antje Petty at the Max Kade Institute (608-262-7546) [apetty@wisc.edu](mailto:apetty@wisc.edu)

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## Sebastian Walter: Pioneer of the Enameling Trade in America and Benefactor of His Hometown

*Helmut Schmahl, translated by Alex Halloway*

Standing before the town hall in Ober-Flörsheim, a municipality south of Alzey in the Rhine-land-Palatinate district of Germany, is an elaborate war memorial. It is adorned with a larger-than-life metal figure of a warrior and is dedicated to the veterans of the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1871. A plaque attached to the pedestal reveals the monument was donated “out of love and gratitude” by Sebastian Walter from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, an emigrant from Ober-Flörsheim who had prospered as a manufacturer in the United States.

Sebastian Walter was born in Ober-Flörsheim on March 29, 1848, the son of a day laborer. He completed an apprenticeship as a tinsmith in Alzey, and in 1866, at the age of 17, he emigrated to live with relatives in Milwaukee. He first worked in a hardware store and lived with his aunt. In 1874 he married Henrietta Harzbecker, the daughter of a bricklayer who had emigrated from Saxony. After working as a tinsmith for a while, Walter joined the Kieckhefer Brothers Company as a foreman, and he soon rose to the position of Superintendent and partner. Kieckhefer Brothers began in 1880 making tinware and sheet iron, and by 1886 had expanded to a 200-employee operation, producing items such as stamped tinware, enameled metal dishes, frying pans, and drainage pipes. By 1892, their buildings were five stories and occupied an entire block from Ninth to Tenth



Sebastian Walter, ca. 1900

Streets, turning out product valued at \$300,000.

The Kieckhefer Brothers and Sebastian Walter introduced several innovations in the production of enamel dishware, which soon prevailed nationwide. In 1890, Walter patented an invention, the jacketed can, which provided a protective cover for oil cans made up of sheet metal, wood, and several straps.

Kieckhefer’s production facility expanded into a complex with about 430,000 square feet of working space, and which now employed 950 people. A bridge over the tracks of the rail line connected the enamel and electroplating department with the rest of the factory. In 1895, the

annual turnover was half a million dollars and the business capital was one million dollars. Markets for enamel products such as lunch boxes, steam boilers, cookware, tea and coffee pots, ladles, and measuring cups were primarily in the American West, whose population was growing faster than average. The firm had branches in the Pacific coast cities of San Francisco and Portland as well as Denver. Also, 100 miles south of Milwaukee in Chicago they maintained a six-story distribution facility for the local market.

In 1899, the Kieckhefer Brothers Company joined the National Enameling & Stamping Company, a consortium that at the time was the



largest sheet metal processing business in the world. Sebastian Walter, then superintendent of production, sold his share of the company for a million dollars, and retired from business life, although he did begin to purchase properties in Milwaukee, which in 1890 already had 200,000 residents. Walter, whose five children had died in infancy or early in life, now focused his attentions on civic life and his old homeland.

Sebastian Walter's distinct civic mindedness, reputation, and influence as a successful business man resulted in his holding several public offices in Milwaukee. He belonged to the Republican Party and was at times considered to be their candidate for mayor. Walter was a member of the schoolboard in 1892, and in 1902 became an alderman for the twenty-third ward, a district on the south side of Milwaukee. He occupied this position for ten years, at times serving as the Republican minority leader in the Common Council. He also worked

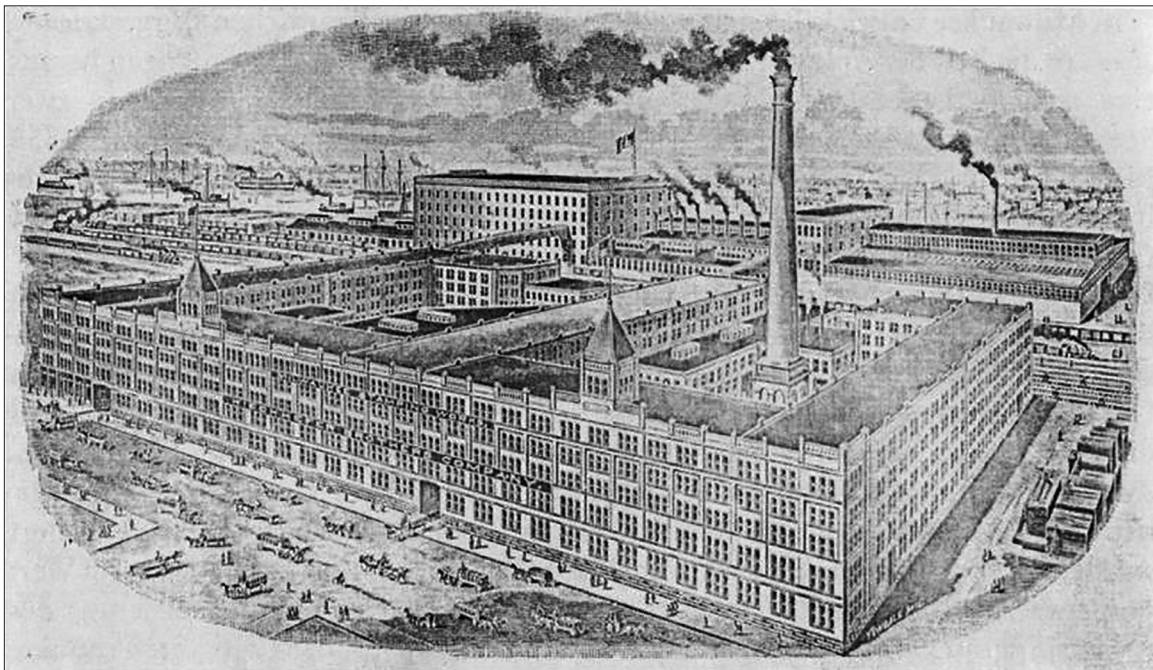


Examples of enamelware that would have been made by Kieckhefer Brothers Company

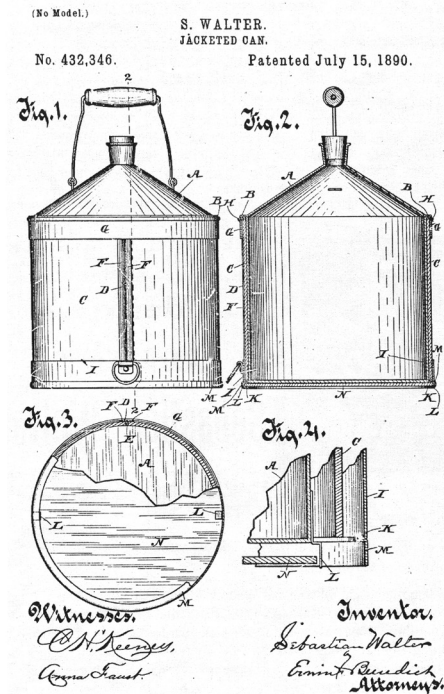
with several charitable organizations.

Sebastian Walter was one of the few Ober-Flörsheimer emigrants who maintained ties with his homeland. He and his siblings provided financial support to their parents, and he visited

his birthplace six times, proving to be a major philanthropist for the village. On June 30, 1901, he unveiled the memorial honoring the veterans of the Franco-Prussian War. Nine years later he created a social founda-



The Kieckhefer Brothers Company, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, ca. 1896



Sebastian Walter's 1890 patent for a jacketed oil can

tion, the Sebastian Walter Endowment, bequeathing to Ober-Flörsheim a capital investment of 10,000 marks, the interest of which was distributed annually by the local government. The endowment supported health services for the village, purchased schoolbooks for needy children, maintained the war memorial and the gravesites of Walter's parents, and dedicated 30 marks to annually pro-

vide pretzels to children on Walter's birthday.

On his last visit to his old hometown, Sebastian Walter was surprised by the outbreak of the First World War. After his return he gave an interview with the German-American newspaper, *Germania Herald*, under the title, "Germany Will Remain Victors. That is Sebastian Walter's Firm Opinion." Like the vast majority of German Americans in Milwaukee, he stood behind Germany at the start of the war and criticized the American press because in his opinion their reporting was one-sided and pro-British. The entry of the US into the war on April 6, 1917, was a traumatic event for the majority of ethnic Germans in Milwaukee. The Wisconsin legislature still spoke out against the war with Germany one week later, but at the onset of overt anti-German sentiment, the country's German Americans preferred to show their loyalty toward the United States. Sebastian Walter also adapted to the new situation, donating a flag pole for Mitchell Park at the considerable sum of 7,000 dollars.


German cultural life in Milwaukee came to a standstill; the German



The War Memorial in Ober-Flörsheim, Germany

Club was renamed the Wisconsin Club, and the Pabst Theater suspended all German plays. German lessons in elementary schools were greatly restricted, and in June 1919 they were discontinued. At the end of the war, only 400 students in the city of over 400,000 residents learned the language of their ancestors. Likewise, the circulation of German-language newspapers decreased. The First World War accelerated a decline that had begun a long time prior.

Sebastian Walter died of a stroke on the evening of August 22, 1922, in his



**REPUBLICAN NOMINEE  
FOR  
Alderman  
23rd Ward,  
Sebastian Walter.**

Last Registration March 25th, 9 A. M. to 8 P. M.  
Election Day Tuesday, April 1st, 1902  
Polls Open, from 6 A. M. to 7 P. M.

Promotional card for Sebastian Walter's run as Republican candidate for Milwaukee Alderman, 1902



Aus Liebe u. Dankbarkeit gestiftet, dem hiesigen Kriegerverein zur Ehre,  
der Heimatgemeinde Oberflörsheim zum Andenken  
von Sebastian Walter, Milwaukee.  
Wis. Amerika.

Plaque at base of memorial in Ober-Flörsheim to honor those who served in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1871, paid for by Sebastian Walter of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

house on National Avenue at the age of 74. All the daily newspapers in Milwaukee dedicated a detailed obituary to him on their front pages. The socialist newspaper, the *Milwaukee Leader*, wrote that one of Walter's favorite activities was to help people affected by poverty and hardship.

Walter, who had come to America as a penniless tinsmith, was buried on August 26, 1992, in Forest

Home Cemetery. His wife, Henrietta, survived him by twenty years and died on October 10, 1942; she is buried at her husband's side. Walter's home built in 1892 no longer stands, but the grave of the married couple, with its thirteen-foot-high memorial, still exists. Walter's Ober-Flörsheim endowment was wiped out after the First World War due to inflation, but the successful emigrant and honorary

citizen is still commemorated.

The square in front of town hall was named after him before the First World War. And today, the memorial donated by him no longer stands as much for a long passed "glorious campaign" and its fatal long-term consequences, but in memory of the fact that—once upon a time—hundreds of penniless villagers set forth to the New World and at least one of them brought back considerable wealth. 🗿

#### NOTE

Ober-Flörsheim celebrated its 1,250th anniversary in November of 2018; the festivities included a historical reenactment of Sebastian Walter's 1901 visit to Ober-Flörsheim.

*Helmut Schmahl was born in Alzey, Germany, and teaches history at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz as well as the Gymnasium am Römerkastell in Alzey. In 2002 he was a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. German emigration to America is one of his primary areas of historical interest and expertise. He is a life member of the Friends of the MKI and of the Wisconsin Historical Society.*

*We thank Alex Holloway, who translated this work from the original German while a student at Marquette University. Alex is now studying at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

#### TRANSLATED FROM

Schmahl, Helmut. "Sebastian Walter (1848–1922): Pionier des Emailierhandwerks in Amerika und Wohltäter der Heimatgemeinde," in: *Aufbruch nach Amerika 1709–2009*, Kaiserslautern 2009, pp. 112–115.



The Walter memorial at Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee

Continued from page 1

century Wisconsin stories. Each farm reveals something unique about German life in the State.

The 1860s German farmstead tells the story of “new” immigrants—folks that have only been in Wisconsin for a few years and still are holding pretty closely to the way they lived in the Old World. One of the stories shared here is of the Charles and Auguste Schulz family in their first years in Wisconsin. The Schulzes left Pomerania in far northeastern Prussia, where their Old Lutheran faith was discouraged, in order to live among other similar-minded Pomeranians in the Town of Herman, Dodge County. Somewhat unusual for “new” immigrants, though, the Schulzes had the resources and motivation to recreate a piece of Pomerania in their adopted home. That meant having a house built in the old *Fachwerk* (timber frame) manner



The 1860s farmstead of the Schulz family, now at Old World Wisconsin

with a central multipurpose *schwarze Küche* (black kitchen). This house is one of just four known to have been constructed in this style in the state. When you approach this 1860s

farmhouse, you will pass through the front kitchen garden filled with heirloom plants like those brought as seed and rootstock to Wisconsin. Thatched roofs top the animal barn and a threshing barn arranged in the traditional German *Vierkanthof* (enclosed farm yard). Surrounding fields of rye and wheat and a pasture of grazing oxen complete this traditional Pomeranian-style farm where very few Americanized changes have been made. “Pet and sniff” those heirloom plants, enter the house, try your hand at traditional craft work, and imagine yourself a new arrival in a foreign land.

Follow the fence line around the bend to the 1870s German Immigrant Farm and you’ll be introduced to the story of Mathias and Caroline Schottler, a young couple creating a life that merges old German traditions with American influences. Like a multitude of other Catholics from



Inside the 1860s bakehouse



the central and southern German states, Mathias' parents left Hesse-Darmstadt with their teenage sons to escape a crushing economic situation. Searching for a new life and economic independence, the Schottlers arrived in the Town of Germantown, Washington County, where they bought land and built a farm. As each of their three boys came of age, they sold off parcels to them. In 1868, Mathias bought land from his father with a house already standing on it—the house you'll see here at OWW. It was built by the Turk family, earlier German immigrants. Mathias met and married Caroline Schmitt, a new immigrant also from Hesse-Darmstadt. You can see in the separate buildings—dwelling, bake house, smokehouse, horse/hay barn, pig barn, and granary—a real shift to an American way of living. Like most immigrant women, Caroline's life straddled the old world and the new.

She put traditional meals on her family's table every day, but learned from non-German neighbors and participated in the local economy by selling her freshly made butter. When the irresistible aromas of fresh *Brot* (bread) and *Kuchen* (cake) pull you into the bake house, roll up your sleeves and help knead dough for rye bread, and chop, mix, or stir to help prepare traditional German recipes. If you stop in on a sampling day, you might even get a taste. Visit on our butchering weekend in the fall, and you will see up close where all of the wonderful *Speck* (bacon), *Wurst* (sausage), and *Schweinefleisch* (pork)—as well as the *Schweineschmalz* (lard) that we cook with—come from!

A short walk down a wooded path (or a quick tram ride) will lead you to the 1880s German Immigrant Farm where you'll find a family who has lived for twenty years in Wisconsin and has truly become German Amer-

ican. Friedrich and Sophia Koepsell, Pomeranians, were seeking land ownership and work when they came to Wisconsin. They followed Friedrich's brother Karl to the thriving Pomeranian community of Kirchhayn, Town of Jackson, Washington County. There Friedrich worked building houses in the traditional style for the local immigrant community. He built the house that is featured at this farm for his own family. Though the house is in traditional German style, signs of Americanization abound. You can see American influence in the modern stoves, factory-made furniture, straight garden rows with vegetables adopted from different food cultures, wood shingled roofs, front yard lawn, front and back porches, modern farming equipment, and a barn given over to dairying. Come prepared to experience life on a rural German-American farm, checking on heritage breed animals and playing like kids did after their chores were done. Look for lingering clues to traditional German identity.

The story of German immigrants in Wisconsin could not be complete without beer! Visit on May 11, June 1, 15, 29, July 13, 27, August 10, 24, September 7, 21, and October 5 for traditional German brewing demonstrations and sampling near the German Immigrant Farms. 🍷

*Catherine Dallas is the Curator and Exhibit Developer at Old World Wisconsin.*



German plowing techniques exhibited at Old World Wisconsin

## “Scattered, Scarce, and Nearly Forgotten”: Recordings from Ferdinand Ingold’s *Helvetia* Label

*Alpine Dreaming: The Helvetia Records Story, 1920-1924.*

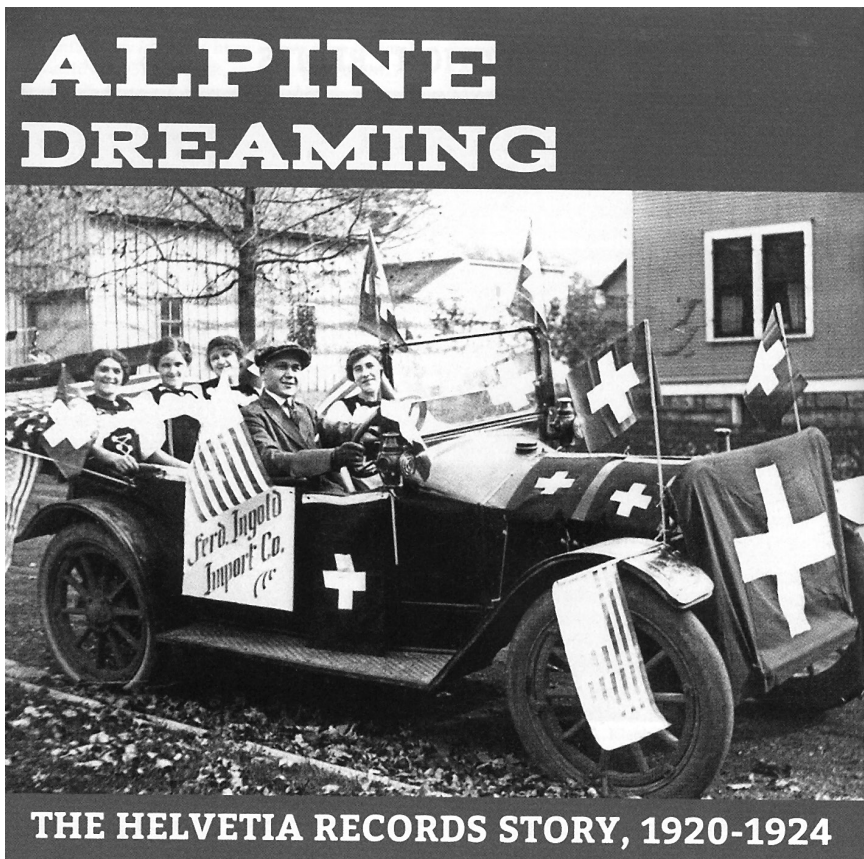
2 CD Set with 60-page booklet  
Archeophone Records, 2018.

Produced in cooperation with the Mills Music Library and the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

In August 2018, Archeophone Records released a 2 CD Set of 36 digitized and remastered Swiss-American music recordings that had first appeared between 1920 and 1924 on the Helvetia label. The Swiss, German, and Tyrolean tunes and songs feature virtuoso instrumental combos, vocal quartets, and especially yodelers from Swiss communities in New Jersey, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The project has been the work of folklorist and UW–Madison Professor Emeritus James P. Leary, who also wrote the accompanying, richly illustrated 60-page booklet, which offers extensive background on the label, performers, and each audio track. Lyrics are listed in the original Swiss German as well as in English translation. The following summary has been adapted from the booklet:

Helvetia Records, America’s first Swiss label, was launched in 1920 by Ferdinand Ingold, an immigrant artist and merchant from Monroe, a city of less than 5,000 in southwestern Wisconsin.

Ingold was born in 1860 in northeastern Switzerland’s German-speaking canton of Thurgau. At this time,



Ferdinand Ingold drives in the 1915 Monroe (Wisconsin) Cheese Days celebration

the economy of his home village of Bischofszell was based on embroidery factories and power loom weaving. After his marriage in 1883, Ingold and his wife Maria Anna Müller resided in Bern and had five children before departing for America in 1892.

The Ingolds followed pioneering Swiss Germans to Green County, Wisconsin, where the city of New Glarus had been founded in the 1840s by immigrants from Canton Glarus, and where newcomers from Canton Bern now settled in Monroe. Many of them worked as cheesemakers, but Ferdinand Ingold went into

business and opened a store. By the 1880s, twenty-six percent of the residents of Green County were Swiss-born, which now described itself as America’s “Little Switzerland.” Yodels resounded from hillsides and house parties, accordions and zithers flourished, and typically boisterous public dancing at local festivals prompted responses like this 1853 journal entry from an appreciative Irish neighbor: “round and round the couples would glide while, at certain intervals in the music, the men would stamp their feet and emit wild whoops.”

Monroe’s singing Swiss included cheesemakers as well as promoters



like Ingold. In 1914, inspired by Sauerkraut Days in Forreston, Illinois, Monroe's citizens launched "Cheese Days." To this day, this biennial festival promotes Green County Cheese and Swiss culture with a heavy dose of music and song.

Ingold's love for Swiss music, entrepreneurial skills, extended networks, and need to support a large family eventually inspired him to launch his own record label. Earlier he had sold Swiss music by labels such as Columbia and Victor, which were mostly European recordings. In April 1917, with access to Europe cut off by war, American labels began to record Swiss-American artists, which inspired Ingold to found Helvetia Records, invoking "Helvetia," the enduring female personification of



Born in Cleveland in 1886, Frieda Haldi was known as the "Swiss Nightingale"



An undated photo of Otto Rindlisbacher (accordion), an unknown saxophone player, and Karl Hoppe (cornet), from a studio in Rice Lake, Wisconsin. Rindlisbacher and Hoppe were promoted as "Recording exclusively for Ferd. Ingold Import Co.," recording six piano accordion/violin instrumentals on Helvetia.

Switzerland. It did not take him long to engage artists such as accordion player Otto Rindlisbacher, violinist Karl Hoppe, and yodelers Charles Schoenenberger and Louisa Schneck-enbuehl. In 1920, Ingold published his first catalog to critical acclaim. *The Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung*, for example, gushed on March 23, 1922, that the records were not only sure to bring joy to every home, but were proof that "we Swiss here in America also have excellent yodelers."

Alas, Ingold's ambitions clashed with the reality of low sales, and in April 1924, he had to declare bankruptcy. Two years later, after having suffered a stroke, Ferdinand Ingold died at the age of 65. While Ingold's dream of an extensive catalog of Swiss-American music recordings was not fulfilled, he did leave us 36 songs performed by exquisite early-twentieth-century Swiss-American

musicians, which—thanks to James P. Leary and Archeophone Records—we now can enjoy on CD. 🎵



Prize-winning yodeler Charles Schoenenberger, from a 1921 Helvetia newspaper advertisement (*Green County Herald*)

**LECTURE**

**Benjamin Franklin and the Germans: A Transatlantic Encounter in the Age of Enlightenment**

**Free and Open to the Public**

Jürgen Overhoff, Professor for History of Education at the University of Münster, Germany

**Friday, April 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm** (Reception following)

Wisconsin Historical Society Auditorium, 816 State St., Madison



Benjamin Franklin had many interesting and consequential encounters with Germans both in North America and in Europe. In Pennsylvania, where Franklin lived for a large part of his life, he was surrounded by German immigrants. While visiting European countries, he met German politicians and aristocrats, as well as ordinary German citizens. This lecture explores Franklin's different and evolving attitudes toward Germans on either side of the Atlantic, in the years between 1740 and 1787, and how they contributed to his perspective on transatlantic relations at large.

This event is co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Historical Society; the Department of German, Nordic, Slavic, and the Center for German and European Studies at UW–Madison; and the Friends of the Max Kade Institute, with funding provided by the University Lectures Knapp Fund.

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**The Society for German-American Studies (SGAS) 43rd Annual Symposium**

**“German in America: Words, Sounds, and Images”**

**Madison, April 11–13, 2019**

**Registration Required!** Register online at <https://sgas.org/symposium/>

Discount for members of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute!

The Max Kade Institute is cohosting the 43rd Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies. Join us for

- more than fifty presentations and panel discussions on a variety of topics that span the spectrum of the German-American experience, including art, music, language, literature, media and publications, history, folklore, heritage, religion, immigration, and much more;
- a tour of the German-American holdings of the Wisconsin Historical Society;
- a tour of the Max Kade Institute and exhibit on “The Wisconsin German Experience”;
- the SGAS Banquet at the University Club restaurant.

General information about the Symposium, including venues, hotel information, and directions, can be found at

<https://sgas.org/symposium/>

If you have questions, contact Antje Petty: [apetty@wisc.edu](mailto:apetty@wisc.edu)



*Unless otherwise noted, all talks take place at the Concourse Hotel, Madison*

**Friday, 12 April**

**8:00–8:30 a.m. Registration**

**8:30–9:00 a.m. Welcome**

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**9:00–10:40 a.m. First Round of Concurrent Sessions:**

**Session I.** “Influences and Reflections in German and American Art”

Tom Lidtke, West Bend, Wisconsin: “German Academic Art in America: Wisconsin Case Study and Analysis.”

Tatiane de Oliveira Elias, UFSM, Brazil: „Die Rezeption afrikanischer Kunst, ozeanischer Kunst, indischer Kunst und Native Kunst im Bauhaus“.

Jonathan Marner, Texas A&M University: “*Neue Sachlichkeit* and the American Regionalist Artist Grant Wood.”

Janice Miller, IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center: “‘Unearthly Nostalgia’ for an American Childhood: Memory and Identity in the Art of Lyonel Feininger (1871–1956).”

**Session II.** “Influences and Comparisons in Music”

Thomas Nussbaumer, Universität Mozarteum Salzburg; and James R. Dow, Iowa State University: “From the *Davidisches Psalterspiel* to the *Amana Church Hymnal* and German Folklore: Music as an Expression of Identity in the Amana Colonies, Iowa.”

Thomas Nussbaumer, Universität Mozarteum Salzburg; and James R. Dow, Iowa State University: “Vocal Music of the Old Order Amish of Kalona, Iowa.”

Monika Oebelsberger, Universität Mozarteum Salzburg: “Singing Schools in Germany/Austria and America in the Eighteenth/Nineteenth Century: A Historical Comparison.”

Barbara Lewis, University of North Dakota: “The Eclectic Musical Taste of the Nineteenth-Century Young Ladies at the Lititz Moravian Boarding School, 1800–1827.”

**Session III.** “German Language in America”

Marc Pierce, Hans C. Boas, and Margaret Blevins, University of Texas at Austin: “On the Possible Creole Status of Texas German.”

Victoria J. Jesswein, University of Texas at Austin: “*Welche Sprache ist sie* anyway? The Use of Borrowed ‘anyway/anyhow’ in Texas German.”

Courtland Ingraham, George Washington University: “The Decline of *Deutsch*: A Study on the Declining Use of German in America through the German-Speaking Community of Albany, New York.”

Joseph B. Neville, Jr., Woodbridge, Virginia: “From German to English: Wilmington, Delaware’s German Americans and Their Encounter with the English Language.”

**11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m. Second Round of Concurrent Sessions:**  
**Session IV.** “Literature I: The Nineteenth Century”

Barbara Becker-Cantarino, Ohio State University: „Bilder aus Amerika, wie sie in vieljähriger Erfahrung erschienen. *Die Auswanderer* (1852) von TALVJ“.

Steven W. Rowan, University of Missouri–St. Louis: “Baron Ludwig von Reizenstein’s Uncompleted Fiction as Historical Resource.”

Caroline Huey, University of Louisiana at Lafayette: “Mapping the Cultural Landscape in *Die Geheimnisse von New Orleans*.”

**Session V.** “German-American Communication Media”

Mark L. Loudon, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Dialogues in Early German-American Newspapers.”

William E. Petig, Stanford University: “Carl Schurz and German-American Newspapers.”

Gregory J. Hanson, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania: “*On the Air*: Radio Wit and Wisdom in the Words of Asseba and Sabina Mumbauer.”

**Session VI.** “Problems during World War II and Efforts to Maintain Relations in Its Wake”

Frank Trommler, University of Pennsylvania: “Balancing German-American Ties during the Nazi Period: The Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation.”

Ryan Smolko, Texas A&M University: “The Hated Heils of Hitler: American Communities and Their Detested Nazi Neighbors.”

Karl-Heinz Fuessl, Technische Universität Berlin: “Healing the Wounds: The American Friends Service Committee and the Establishment of Neighborhood Centers in Post-1945 Germany.”

**12:30–1:45 p.m. SGAS Luncheon and Annual Business Meeting**

**2:00 p.m.–3:15 p.m. Third Round of Concurrent Sessions: Session VII.** “Literature II: The Twentieth Century”

Gregory Divers, St. Louis University: “Felix Pollack’s *Tunnel Visions*: When the Images Fade, Words and Sounds Remain.”

Bärbel Such, Ohio University: “Behind the Gilded Curtain: Alfred Gong in New York City.”

Michael Rice, Middle Tennessee State University: “From Tinseltown to the Big Apple: The Life and Literature of Friedrich Torburg in Exile.”

**Session VIII.** “Letters of German Americans”

Aaron Fogleman, Northern Illinois University: “Immigrants Writing Home: German and Other Letters Assess Life in the Americas, 1684–1870.”

Walter Kamphoefner, Texas A&M University: “Doughboys *auf Deutsch*: U.S. Soldiers Writing Home in German from France.”

Joshua R. Brown, University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire: “Heritage Language Ego-Documents and the Wisconsin Idea: Letters that Didn’t Cross the Atlantic.”

**Session IX.** “Immigrants and Immigration”

Chester Henry Neumann, Kansas City, Missouri: “Political Challenges in Colonial America for German Immigrants.”

Thomas Lutz, Chicago, Illinois: “The Pioneer Maritime Family of Johann Lutz.”

Erika Weidemann, Texas A&M University: “Over the Sea: The Travels of Post-World War II Immigrants to North America.”

**3:30–4:45 p.m. Fourth Round of Concurrent Sessions:**

**Session X.** “Influences on America: Friedrich Schiller and Friedrich Fröbel”

Jürgen Overhoff, *Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster*: “The Early History of the U.S.A. in Schiller’s *Love and Intrigue*: Teaching a Revolutionary Lesson.”

William D. Keel, University of Kansas: “Did Friedrich Schiller Inspire the Assassination of Abraham Lincoln?”

Brigitta Malm, Covington, Louisiana: “Friedrich Fröbel and the German Kindergarten Movement *or* From Rudolstadt/Thuringia to Boston via Watertown, Wisconsin.”

**Session XI.** “Cultural Artifacts and Swindles”

Reinhard Andress, Loyola University Chicago: “The ‘Glory of Germania’: From Berlin’s Royal Porcelain Factory to the World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 to the Germania Club of Chicago and Beyond.”

Bettina Arnold, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee: “The Mystery of Accession 213: William (Wilhelm) Frankfurth in the Alps.”

Heidi Shaw, Yakima Valley College: “Modern Swindles: A Romp through Early Twentieth-Century Con Games, Frauds, and Fallacies.”

**Session XII.** “German Scholarship and Culture in the Diaspora”

David Z. Chroust, Texas A&M University: “Scholarship and Organization Elsewhere in the Global German Diaspora: The Case of Russia.”

Fernando Scherer, UNIVASF, Brazil, and Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg: „Sellars über *Wittgensteins Sprachkonzeption*”.

Kajsa Philippa Niehusen, University of California, Santa Barbara: “From Innocuous Entertainment to Propaganda: Nazi Films and German-American Audiences.”

**Friday Evening:**

7:00 (*Wisconsin Historical Society Auditorium*) Lecture by Jürgen Overhoff, *Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster*: “Benjamin Franklin and the Germans: A Transatlantic Encounter in the Age of Enlightenment.” Reception afterwards hosted by the Friends of the Max Kade Institute.

**Saturday, 13 April**

**9:00–10:15 a.m. Fifth Round of Concurrent Sessions:**

**Session XIII.** “German Heritage”

Fabian Bade, Hochschule für Musik und Theater Rostock: “The Successful Implementation of the *Schnitzelbank*-Subject in American Popular Music of the Twentieth Century.”

Jared Lee Schmidt, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “*Ist das nicht ein Schnitzelbank?* Performing Heritage through Play at Old World Wisconsin’s 1880s German Immigrant Farm.”

Keith Halverson, University of Wisconsin–Green Bay: “The Trendy Use of German.”

**Session XIV.** “German Americans’ Identity and Loyalty”

Russell P. Baldner, Spillville, Iowa: “The War Within: World War I and the Assault on German-American Identity in Iowa.”

Norman Sullivan, Marquette University: “The Greater Share of Honor: A History of U.S. Armed Forces’ Participation of German Americans from the Wisconsin Holyland.”

La Raw Maran, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign: “Glimpses of German Heritage Culture in the U.S. Upper Midwest: Community Initiatives in German Heritage Celebration Five-plus Generations On.”

**Session XV.** Panel Discussion “Making Primary Documents Accessible.”

Moderator: Mark L. Loudon, UW–Madison. Participants: Viktorija Bilić, UW–Milwaukee; Joshua R. Brown, UW–Eau Claire; Aaron Fogleman, Northern Illinois University; Atiba Pertilla, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

**10:30–11:45 a.m. Sixth Round of Concurrent Sessions:**

**Session XVI.** “German Experiences in Missouri and Texas: Making Diverse Expressions of German Culture, Language, and Identity Tangible.”



Walter Kamphoefner, Texas A&M University: "A Contrastive Look at German Immigrants in Missouri and Texas."

Marc Pierce and Hans C. Boas, University of Texas at Austin: "Using Oral History Recordings as the Basis for Research and Teaching."

Barbara Berthold, University of Texas at Arlington: "Teaching about Texas German Experiences."

**Session XVII.** "College Curriculum and New Publications"

Marcel Rotter, University of Mary Washington: "Towards a New Curriculum for Teaching German-American History at the College Level."

Miranda E. Wilkerson, Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri; and Heather Richmond, The State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri: "Mapping Germans in Illinois."

Peter Lubrecht, Berkeley College, New Jersey: "Carl Schurz, German-American Patriot."

**Session XVIII.** "Religion and Spiritualism"

Michele Ferris, University of Chicago Divinity School: "Civilize the Heathens and Condemn the Colonialists! A Religious Argument for German Exceptionalism in Antebellum Cincinnati's Denominational Newspapers."

Berit Jany, University of Colorado Boulder: "The *Bruderhof* Going Viral: German Traditions and Evangelism through Text, Image, and Sound Online."

Trevor Brandt, American-Swedish Historical Museum, Philadelphia: "Printed Pilgrimage: *Spiritual Labyrinths* in the German-American Home."

**3:00 p.m.** Tour of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

**5:00–6:00 p.m.** Visit to the Exhibit and Institute Library of the Max Kade Institute; cash bar.

**6:30 p.m.** (*University Club*) Banquet Speaker: Mark L. Loudon, University of Wisconsin–Madison, "The German Presence in Wisconsin."

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## REGISTRATION — Friends of MKI Annual Meeting, May 5, 2019

Return with payment by April 15 to Friends of MKI, 432 East Campus Mall, Madison, WI 53706

- 1) **Private tour of Old World Wisconsin and German-style dinner buffet**, including OWW's famous Pomeranian tea. Cash bar.

Number of guests x \$28: \_\_\_\_\_

- 2) A) **Prepaid admission to Old World Wisconsin / reduced Friends of MKI rate.**

(Valid all day. Mention the Friends of MKI when you enter, and your name will be checked off the prepaid list.)

Number of guests x \$16: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR B) I know that admission to OWW is required** and will take care of it myself at the gate (free admission for members of the Wisconsin Historical Society; general entrance fee is \$19)

**TOTAL:** \_\_\_\_\_

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