



THE AMBASSADOR

DER BOTSCHAFTER

A Publication of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
Chartered as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc.

Spring 2021 / Page 1

150 Years of Germany — How the Empire Shaped the Modern Nation State

As executive director of GAHF, I am often asked to provide an overview of Germany's history. This is an understandable question considering that some 50 million Americans today claim German descent. However, it's not an easy task, as Germany's history is complex, and often begins with the question of how one defines the nation. The boundaries of the present-day Federal Republic do not include many historically German regions, and the majority of German-speaking immigrants arrived well before its founding. But how far back should we go?

As an avid history lover, I have often resorted to the year 1871. On Jan. 18, 1871 William I, King of Prussia, accepted to be proclaimed Emperor of Germany in the Palace of Versailles's Hall of Mirrors, once the residence of the French kings. The Franco-Prussian War was still being fought, and Paris was besieged by German troops. The proclamation was a display of pomp and circumstance worthy of the historic occasion, but it was also designed as a deliberate snub of the French enemy, still the most powerful military force on the continent, but now defeated by a German alliance. Thus began the German Empire, which unified 26 German states, including four kingdoms, six grand duchies, five duchies, seven principalities, three free Hanseatic cities, and one imperial territory, and which lasted until the end of World War I when the monarchy became a republic. Ironically, the artist Anton von Werner, who memorialized the proclamation of Imperial Germany with his famous painting featuring William I in an elevated position and Prince Otto von Bismarck, the master strategist and longest-serving chancellor, almost in the center, along with countless sovereigns, aristocrats, and high-ranking military officers in their colorful uniforms, sympathized with more liberal ideas. He smuggled a message into his painting: In the foreground, wearing a white uniform, is a simple guardsman, Louis Stellmacher, representing the people who were subjects of this empire, and yet had no voice in its creation.



The Proclamation of the German Empire in 1871 at the Palace of Versailles by Anton von Werner

The idea of German unification was not new—it had been around for decades—and a predecessor, the German Confederation, which included Austria, had been created by an act of the Congress of Vienna in 1815. The rivalry between the Kingdom of Prussia and the Austrian Empire led to a number of problems, and eventually the dissolution of the Confederation and the exclusion of Austria in 1866. Bismarck had always envisioned the Prussian Royal House of Hohenzollern as the leader of the German states and King William I as *primus inter pares*, or first among equals. In 1867, he founded the North German Federation that comprised the 22 states north of the Main River. A skillful negotiator, a master of Realpolitik, but also a clever manipulator, Bismarck not only fought three deliberate wars (the Second Schleswig War in 1864, the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, which established Prussian hegemony, and the Franco-Prussian War of 1870/71) to forcefully pave the way for German unification,

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OUR MISSION

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® is dedicated to preserve, educate and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be a leading voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy matters in the USA.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® was established in 1977 and chartered the following year as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. as an independent, tax-exempt, educational not-for-profit organization.

We are committed to:

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German-Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German-American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations

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**The Ambassador
(Edition Spring 2021)**

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Photos: © GAHF

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Message from the Outgoing President

Dear Members and Friends,

GAHF's 44th Annual Meeting and Election of Directors was held virtually, by video and teleconferencing, this past December 12, 2020. Nine directors were elected — five incumbents and four newcomers — and we thus welcomed a new Board of Directors and a new slate of GAHF Officers.

Since I would not seek a fifth term as President this year, it was an honor to nominate our First Vice President, Don Thureau, for the position and to see him elected as our new President. Dr. Daniel Villanueva, one of our new directors, was elected First Vice President. Guntwin Galleisky, Hardy von Auenmueller and Robin Estey were re-elected to continue as Second Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, respectively — a great team combining individual talents, dedication, experience and new ideas.

Congratulations and best wishes to all directors and officers!

Serving four terms as President of GAHF has been a distinct honor, a great privilege, and an even greater responsibility. I would like to thank all current and former members of the Board of Directors who have served over the years, our dedicated staff and interns, our many volunteers and particularly our individual members and sponsors, member clubs, and government, corporate and institutional sponsors, all without whose support our Foundation could not operate.

I thank you, all, for your participation in our Foundation and Museum. It is due to your trust and involvement that our Foundation has been able to thrive and provide so many important benefits not only to our own members, but also to the larger German-American community. We continue to expand our relations and collaborations with German and German-American organizations well beyond our home base while supporting our individual members and member clubs in other parts of the country as a critical part of what we do as a heritage foundation.

As we advance into 2021 and beyond, I am confident GAHF will continue to meet the challenges and opportunities the future will bring to further its mission to serve as a beacon of information and a catalyst in the discussion of issues and ideas of interest and concern to German-Americans.

Thank you for being part of the GAHF family, and thank you, all, for continuing to place your trust and support on our board and staff to lead and represent our organization.

With sincere appreciation and warm regards,
 John M. Manoyan, Ph.D., President Emeritus

Message from the President



Dear Members and Friends of the German-American Community,

Welcome to another issue of The Ambassador Newsletter. Although 2020 has often been described as an *annus horribilis*, an expression brought to prominence by Queen Elizabeth II to describe royal family problems, it has also been used to characterize the effects that the coronavirus pandemic has wrought upon the world – in both deaths and an economic fallout, shutting down many businesses, and creating a huge unemployment crisis.

The scenario described above has affected German-American organizations throughout the U.S., with many clubs who have either been closed since March 2020, or severely limited in their offerings. A few have offered virtual programs, and special socially-distanced events. Fortunately, GAHF had started to offer virtual programs in 2019 to bring our museum in Washington, D.C. closer to all members and friends, here and abroad, so we were ready to provide virtual exhibits, such as the tour of Fritz Faiss paintings in September 2019. Incidentally, there are still a few Fritz Faiss paintings available for purchase, as you can discern from the following website, <https://gahmusa.org/fritz-faiss-original-art-work-for-sale/>.

In August 2020, we had a virtual Zoom discussion on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment with a special emphasis on German-American suffragettes and the perception and impact of women's suffrage in our ethnic community. On October 6th, we celebrated German-American Day virtually. This included greetings from the German ambassador to the United States, Dr. Emily Haber, and former California Governor, Jerry Brown, along with voices from the German-American community. We then presented a virtual concert by The American Virtuosi Trio to celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary on December 16th. This was also broadcast via Facebook Livestream.

Of course, that wasn't all. In 2020, with financial support from the German Embassy, we announced a map-based website directory that brings together German-American social clubs and organizations, historic settlements, businesses and restaurants, as well as schools, museums and educational institutions that show how German-American culture continues to thrive today.

Please visit, <https://germanrootsusa.org/>, to find this website.

Towards the end of the year, we announced the recent arrival of a book written by Lynne Breen and published by GAHF, ***How German Ingenuity Inspired America***. Truly a wonderful historical reference book loaded with photographs showing the contributions of Germans and German-Americans who impacted our lives in the U.S.A.

Our museum may have been closed in 2020, but our minds were very active, and so we hope you will continue to support GAHF with both your hearts and pocketbooks, for a continuation of quality programs. Thank you in advance for your most generous support!

Very cordially yours,
Don Thureau, President

Message from the Executive Director



Dear Members and Friends,

By the time you receive this issue of our newsletter, spring will only be a few weeks away. It's the season of new beginnings, of the re-awakening of nature, and by extension life, after the cold, dark months of winter. This year that promise holds even more meaning as we approach the one-year mark of COVID-19 keeping us in its grasp. I am cautiously optimistic that we will be able to re-open our museum, and hold regular, in-person events again later this year.

In the meantime, our work has not stopped, and you have probably already heard about our book ***How German Ingenuity Inspired America: More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom***, which is now available for sale through our website and our Facebook shop. On President's Day, Feb. 15, Lynne Breen, the author of this anthology of German influences, took us on a virtual road trip through the United States, from Massachusetts to Washington, DC, tracing the contributions and footsteps of Germans and German-Americans. The event included a special guest appearance by Clifton Truman Daniel, the grandson of President Harry Truman, whose endorsement can be found on the back cover. While President Truman was known for his staunch opposition to Nazi Germany during World War II, the Truman family tree includes a few German links through his grandfather Solomon Young, or Jung, and the Goodnights, originally Gutknecht, who traced their roots to Germany. If you missed the live book presentation, you can find a recording on our Website at www.gahmusa.org.

2020 was a year of virtual events for us, and all of them can still be accessed online through our YouTube channel or by visiting: <https://gahmusa.org/gahf-video-collection/>. Beginning with our exhibit and panel discussion on the anniversary of women's voting rights and the role of German-American women in August, an exhibit featuring the history of the gramophone record, our Halloween tribute "Spooks and Spirits" for fans of ghostly lore, and ending with another highlight: Our Beethoven concert on Dec. 16 in honor of the great master's 250th birthday. A collaboration between GAHF, the German Embassy in Washington, DC and The American Virtuosi, this wonderful event has already been viewed thousands of times since its premiere on Facebook, but the compositions of this musical genius are suitable for every season, and I encourage you to browse our collection of videos.

We are also continuing with our online German-language classes, and the new format means that you no longer have to reside in the metropolitan Washington, DC area to participate. Internet access and a laptop or tablet with a camera are all it takes to participate. If you have always wanted to learn German, or know somebody who does, please email me at sipple@gahmusa.org or phone me at 202-467-5000 to find out more. Class size will be limited to eight students to ensure that everybody gets personalized instruction and attention. This class is an advanced beginner class, and requires some familiarity with the language.

As always, thank you for your support and loyalty during the past and this coming year. Bis bald und alles Gute!

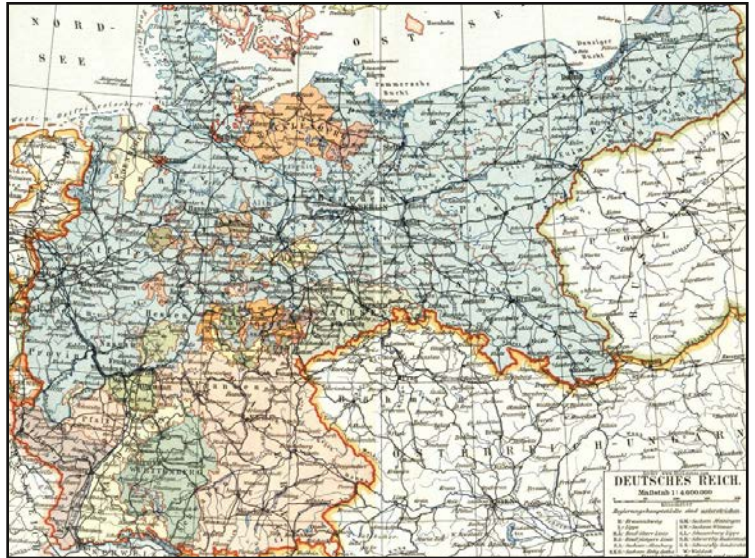
Yours sincerely,
Katja Sipple, Executive Director

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he eventually managed to convince the four southern Germany states to join the Federation by taking advantage of the patriotic fervor created by the Franco-Prussian War.

While the top-down implementation of this first German nation state was probably not the desired path for many educated nationalists and progressive forces who had participated in the 1848 Revolution, it was nonetheless a milestone, and 1871 brought Germany not one, but two constitutions: The Constitution of the German Confederation on Jan. 1, followed by the German Constitution, which was adopted by the parliament, or Reichstag, on April 14 and went into effect on May 4, 1871.

It would be too simplistic to view Imperial Germany through the narrow lens of militarism and nationalism alone. Whilst it is correct that Bismarck's credo of "blood and iron" helped forge the Empire, the time from 1871 to 1914 was a period of tremendous economic, technological, and cultural growth, accompanied by the establishment of social welfare programs, decades of peace, and unprecedented prosperity. German universities were seen as centers of learning, academic societies flourished, and from 1901 to 1914 every third Nobel Prize in the natural sciences and medicine was awarded to a German.



The Constitution, with the Emperor at the top, was inspired by the Frankfurt Assembly of 1848, and gave a measure of representation and rights to the people. Apart from granting national citizenship to all residents of the Empire, it established civil procedures and rights, and gave men over the age of 25 the right to vote in national elections. Women were still excluded from political participation, although the constitution did not explicitly state this, but women's rights made some strides when women not only gained access to higher secondary education and universities, but also campaigned for lower prices for consumer goods and social improvements. Speaking of social reforms, it was once again Chancellor Bismarck who, showing his pragmatic side, on June 15, 1883, implemented mandatory health insurance for industrial workers, added accident insurance in 1884, and eventually government pension funds. His motivation was to keep the working population appeased, but his willingness to compromise and adopt the policies of the social democrats created a stronger, better, and more democratic society.

The birth of a nation is quite often not a peaceful process, the United States itself was born out of an act of rebellion followed by a war of independence, and the same is true for other countries. Germany's great European neighbors, France and the United Kingdom, had completed the process of national unification a century or two earlier, but while they flourished, the fallout and trauma from the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) did not just hold Germany back, it actually caused a regression. While Germans benefited culturally and politically from Enlightenment and Rationalism, it was delayed, and thus Germans were unable to develop a strong liberal tradition like their English counterparts.

The German Empire was a product of its time, marked by authoritarianism, imperialism and militarism, but it also inspired great progress and held the roots for democracy, the Weimar Republic, and the modern Federal Republic of Germany. History and its lessons should never be forgotten, because to do so, often leads to repeating mistakes of the past.

– Katja Sipple

History of German-American Day in Philadelphia / Our German Ingenuity Book

Over the past decade, I have joyfully attended several **German-American Day** celebrations at the German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, DC. As a Board member of our organization, I also have had the privilege, on two separate occasions, of reading presidential proclamations that affirmed this special day, including the one issued last fall by President Donald Trump – during our virtual celebration of the event as a result of the general coronavirus restrictions.

(<https://gahmusa.org/video-of-german-american-day-2020/>)

The origin of German-American Day dates back to the **1983 Tricentennial Anniversary** celebration of the first permanent German settlement on our continent on October 6, 1683, when thirteen Menonite families from Krefeld, Germany, founded Germantown, Pennsylvania, now part of Philadelphia. The 1983 Tricentennial ceremony, held in Philadelphia, was attended by the German Federal President Karl Carstens and US Vice President George H. W. Bush. The event marked a turning point in German-American cultural relations – and spurred the growing desire to celebrate annually the many contributions and achievements by German-Americans.

Four years later, Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana introduced Senate Joint Resolution 108, signed by President Ronald Reagan, which proclaimed **October 6, 1987 as German-American Day**. Since that time, every US President has issued – upon our petition on behalf of three major G-A organizations, including GAHF – a **Presidential Proclamation** designating October 6 as German-American Day. It is a day in which we recognize the many societal achievements and cultural contributions of Americans of German descent in all aspects of life, including the arts, scholarship, religion, commerce and industry, science and engineering, government, sports, and entertainment.



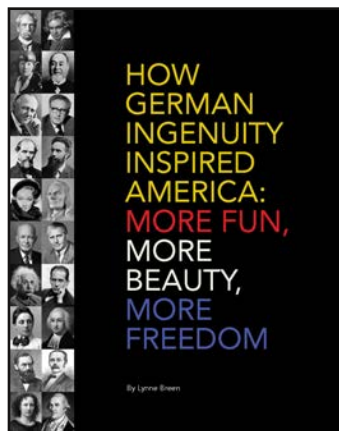
The **German-American Friendship Garden**, located between the Washington Monument to the south and the White House to the north, was also established by Senate Joint Resolution 108. The official groundbreaking ceremony in the fall of 1988 was attended by, among others, Senator H. John Heinz III of Pennsylvania and former GAHF President Helmut Krueger, who served our organization throughout the 1980's. In 2014, the Garden was restored and rededicated by German Ambassador Dr. Peter Ammon.

As a resident of Philadelphia, I always enjoyed walking past the historic buildings of this venerable city – particularly now that other types of social engagement are prohibited due to the pandemic. From our condo, I can see a replica of the Slate House, in which **William Penn** resided, a statue of him, and the old Customs House. The history of Penn's life is presented chronologically on the wall of our building, named The Moravian in memory of Count Nikolaus von Zinzendorf, who came to America 1741 to establish the Moravian Church in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Salem, North Carolina.

Across the street from us is the **City Tavern**, Philadelphia's oldest restaurant, where our nation's Founding Fathers, such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and John Adams gathered and lodged. One block west is **Carpenter Hall**, our country's oldest craft guild, which hosted the first National Congress in 1774. And two blocks farther north is **Independence Hall**, where the **Declaration of Independence** was signed on July 4, 1776. A German-language newspaper, the *Pennsylvanische Staatsbote*, was the first to break the news to the public with a broadside (see image on the right). At that time, Philadelphia with 22,000 people was the largest city in North America, its streets brimming with German business activities.



When the US House of Representatives was formed in 1789, **Frederick A. Muhlenberg** served as its first Speaker. At that time he also was President of The German Society of Pennsylvania, which had been founded during colonial times, twenty five years earlier. And so was his brother **Peter Muhlenberg**, who served as representative from Pennsylvania in the first US Congress, and later as a Senator. Their father **Henry Melchior Muhlenberg** immigrated to Philadelphia in 1742 to help organize many Lutheran church communities along the Eastern Seaboard; he also founded the first permanent Lutheran synod in America.



In our recently published book ***How German Ingenuity Inspired America – More Fun, More Beauty, More Freedom***, you can read how Germans and German-Americans enriched our culture and society over the past four centuries. This beautiful coffee table book features the contributions of close to 1,000 individuals, including Marlene Dietrich, Amelia Earhart, Albert Einstein, Henry Kissinger, Carl Schurz, Levi Strauss and Wernher von Braun – with more than 300 illustrations and photos. Author **Lynne Breen** takes you on a journey, explaining the German origins of many customs that brighten our days, and inventions that make our lives easier and more comfortable.

During our virtual presentation of the book on President's Day, February 15th, 2021, you may have met Lynne Breen, Clifton Truman Daniel, grandson of President Harry Truman, and Katja Sipple, our Executive Director. Regrettably, not all questions could be answered during the scheduled time slot. Therefore, Lynne has expressed her willingness to participate in "live" presentations – in Washington, DC, Philadelphia, or any other city within reasonable driving distance from her residence in Lansing, Michigan – once limitations required by the pandemic are lifted.

As stated in an earlier issue of *The Ambassador*, we have reason to believe this comprehensive reference book on the many contributions made by Germans and German-Americans must be made accessible to the general public and as educational material for high schools, colleges and universities. The book is priced at \$39.99 plus \$7.00 for shipping/handling. For orders of 20 or more copies, we are waiving the \$7.00 s/h fee, and on quantities of more than 100 copies, we are granting a 10% discount.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

Year Without a Summer

It was a summer like no summer we had ever seen. The sun-filled days, as in every summer before, held the promise of watching a ball game from high up in a stadium, building a sand castle just far enough away from approaching waves, and trying to hold onto a pink fluff of cotton candy while ascending in a roller coaster. At night, it was the anticipation of listening to a concert under the stars and taking turns telling ghost stories around a campfire.

Sadly, we could not engage in any of these activities in the summer of 2020: COVID-19 had arrived early in the year and wasted no time in telling us what we could and could not do.

2020, however, was not the first “year without a summer.” In April 1815, Mount Tambora, in far away Indonesia, literally exploded, becoming the largest volcanic eruption in recorded history. By the following year, 1816, the enormous amount of ash cascading into the stratosphere had become a dusky shield between sun and Earth.

The effects of this nearly sunless sky were greatest in Western Europe and eastern sections of the United States and Canada, where sharply falling temperatures played havoc with farmers’ crops. In Germany, torrential rains accompanied the unusual cold: The Rhine and Neckar Rivers climbed nine-and-a-half feet above their normal levels, causing whole villages around Mannheim to disappear under water. The Rems River flooded more than a dozen times, destroying the hay and grain crops.

Unstoppable rain prevented farmers in Hamburg from harvesting their fields; crops in Saxony and Upper Franconia were ruined as well. Baden saw its worst harvest in 400 years, and farmlands around Frankfurt and Württemberg had no choice but to surrender to the flooded rivers.

Across the Atlantic, the summer of 1816 began in New England on May 12, when a frigid wind from the North delivered a blanket of snow to the fields and pastures. Two days later, the severe cold damaged crops as far south as Virginia, and west into Tennessee.

Extraordinary snowfalls continued along the Eastern Seaboard, but, unlike in Germany, there was no rain. Throughout the summer, drought-like conditions persisted from Maine to well below the Mason-Dixon Line. Keene, New Hampshire endured a twelve-week spell without rain, while an absence of rainfall in western Virginia stretched from early July into August.

The resultant crop failures—the highest ever recorded in North America—prompted thousands of farmers to migrate west, a mass exodus that helped to settle America’s heartland.



At about the same time—and for the same reason—thousands of German immigrants left their familiar surroundings for America’s Midwest. The number entering the U.S. between 1816 and 1818 is estimated to be as high as 20,000. Surely, this figure is the silver lining to the dark cloud that hovered over Earth in the summer of 1816.

The “Year Without a Summer” is said to have influenced German artist Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) in his painting of the somber *Two Men by the Sea* (1817).

– Lynne Breen

IN MEMORIAM

Ulrich A. Both

October 26, 1929 - January 19, 2021

Ulrich Both was born in 1929 in East Prussia, a German province that was annexed by Russia after WWII. At the age of 11, Ulrich moved with his mother and two siblings, Helmut and Lenchen, to Hamburg, where he soon started his apprenticeship as a tool & die maker for the German Railroad. This training led to work for various German manufacturing companies during and after the War.

In 1952 he visited his uncle, Robert Both, a German baker in Philadelphia who had emigrated to the US before the Great Depression. Ulrich decided to stay, and with his uncle's sponsorship he became a naturalized American citizen. He took his first job with a tool maker, Progressive Manufacturing and then with Atlantic Manufacturing in Philadelphia. While attending local German clubs and dances, he soon met his bride-to-be, Ella Suttman.

When the Korean War broke out, he was drafted. They married, before starting his active duty, where his machining knowledge was used once again. Upon his discharge, two years later, he returned to Philadelphia and re-joined Atlantic Manufacturing, where he quickly rose up the company ladder. In 1961, he founded his own company, Turbo Machine, in partnership with Hans Trustorff, who became a life-long friend.

The same year, he moved with his family to Cheltenham, PA, where he designed and built a modern house. The following year, he bought Hans Trustorff's share of the company and started his own business, U.A.B. Manufacturing Inc., a precision machine parts factory, located in Philadelphia. In 1973, he moved his business to Southampton, PA. There he became co-founder of UAB peripheral technology, a manufacturer of magnetic tape drives, and founder of Valco Industrial Corporation, a manufacturer of coolant inducers used for high speed drilling applications in manufacturing. He served as president until his retirement, and sale of the business in 1998.

They resided in Cheltenham, until moving to Doylestown PA in 1990, where he rehabbed a historic Bucks county hostel on a 17 acre parcel into an award winning estate. Ulrich spent his free time during the summers at his favorite beach, Ocean City, NJ, from 1973 to 2010, where they had acquired a vacation home.

He was always proud of his German roots and heritage, and was a life-long active member of various German-American organizations, with his favorite being the centuries old German Society of PA in Philadelphia, where he was a major benefactor for the capital funding of an elevator for access to the library, and the establishment of the endowment fund, as the first benefactor. He also was a major benefactor for the charter and establishment of the German-American Heritage Museum in Washington DC. Ulrich was an active member of Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, and later at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Philadelphia.

As president of the German-American organization "Tricentennial Bikers" he was involved in building a bicycle for twelve, which was the featured attraction in the annual Steuben Day Parade, and many other parades in Philadelphia and New York City.

Ulrich was also a member of The Freemasons. He always was one to help others in need, was pragmatic, and took a great interest in philosophy and history. He had an outgoing personality and was extremely sociable, with a great sense of humor, and was considered a great dancer. He also had a very quick wit and a knack for making people laugh. His comedic delivery was always dry and his smile was something you could never forget. He lived a life of passion and purpose for his work, his businesses and the homes he built, including his friends, and most of all, his wife and family.

– Hardy von Auenmueller

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To donate go online: <https://gahmusa.org/donate/>

Book your Virtual Presentation!

Are you or your club interested in scheduling a virtual presentation and tour of the German-American Heritage Museum, its history and mission? Whilst COVID-19 has forced many of us to shut our doors and hunker down, technology can help us overcome the distance and bring our museum to you. It's interactive, educational, and entertaining. All that's needed is a camera-equipped computer or tablet and access to the Internet. We can even take care of the scheduling, and are happy to accommodate groups of different sizes. A donation is not required, but very much appreciated.



Please reach out to Katja Sipple at sipple@gahmusa.org if you are interested, have some suggestions, or want to book a session.

2021 MEMBERSHIP DUES

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The very first comprehensive online directory for all things and places German-American is now live at www.germanroots.org. The directory features several categories, including social clubs and organizations, historic landmarks and sites, businesses and restaurants, as well as schools, museums, and educational institutions that showcase how German-American culture, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit continue to thrive today. German-speaking immigrants have fundamentally shaped the country and culture we know today, and this influence is not restricted to popular foods like hamburgers, hot dogs, and pretzels, but also includes Christmas and Easter traditions, architectural wonders, technical and scientific inventions, and even the way we dress. That quintessential piece of American clothing, blue jeans, was invented by businessman Levi Strauss who hailed from Buttenheim in Bavaria. There is much to be proud of, and it goes well beyond beer and bratwurst.

Create your listing today at www.germanroots.org to promote your organization, its events and programs, and network with like-minded people throughout the country. A site like this is never static, and we look forward to partnering with you! Please help us spread the word, and don't hesitate to contact me, Katja Sipple (sipple@gahmusa.org) if you have any questions.



The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization, chartered in 1978 as the United German-American Committee of the USA, Inc. Its mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and their valuable contributions to the development of the United States of America.