

The German Heritage of Southern Illinois and Missouri

By Don Heinrich Tolzmann

Introduction

St. Louis is the ideal location to talk about the German heritage of southern Illinois and Missouri. This city is unique not only in the region, but in the entire country, as it formed one of the corners in the famed "German Triangle" along with the cities of Cincinnati and Milwaukee. Together they became the three major urban centers of German immigration, settlement and heritage in the United States.

There are many towns, cities and regions known for their German heritage, but the German Triangle cities are unique in the annals of German-American history. The mere name St. Louis brings to mind such varied names and institutions as Carl Schurz, the Missouri Synod and Anheuser-Busch, each of them symbolizing their own unique German influence on the area, politically, religiously, socially and economically.

Much of my work has revolved around German immigration, settlement and influences in the Ohio River Valley, focusing especially on Cincinnati, one of the three German Triangle cities, but my interest is definitely not confined to the Ohio Valley region, but extends throughout the German Triangle and beyond.

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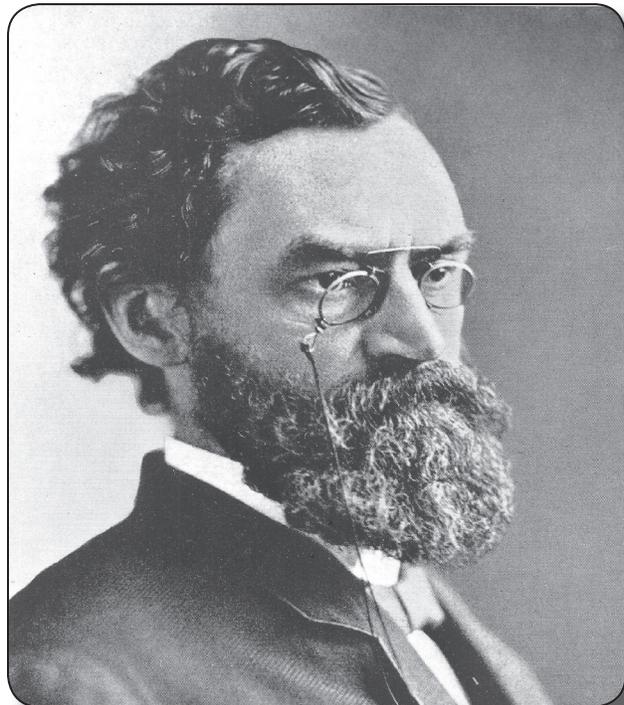
Some time ago, I decided to extend my gaze northwards from Cincinnati to another corner city of the German Triangle, Milwaukee, and bring out a work on the German heritage of Wisconsin. (2) My work on the Upper Midwest, however, has not concentrated on Wisconsin, but rather Minnesota. Here my central focus has been on the city of New Ulm, founded by German Turners from Cincinnati in the 1850s.(3)

It was only a natural progression for me to eventually look westwards from Cincinnati to another corner of the German Triangle. In dealing with the two German Triangle cities my interest has been not only in the cities as destinations for German immigration, but also as distribution centers for the regions surrounding them.

The next step, of course, was to take a look at the region centered on the city of St. Louis, the third city in the Triangle. In the following survey I would like to, first, discuss the works I have published that reflect my interest in the German heritage of Southern Illinois and Missouri and show how they complement and supplement one another, and, second, then proceed on this basis to bring the German heritage landscape of the region into focus, so as to sketch its general countours.

Southern Illinois and Missouri

My work in the area began with editing a work focusing on St. Louis. This was Ernst Kargau's *St. Louis in früheren Jahren: Ein Gedenkbuch für das deutsche Element*, which had been translated from German in the 1940s by William Bek, but had never been published. I decided to edit it for publication, as it too

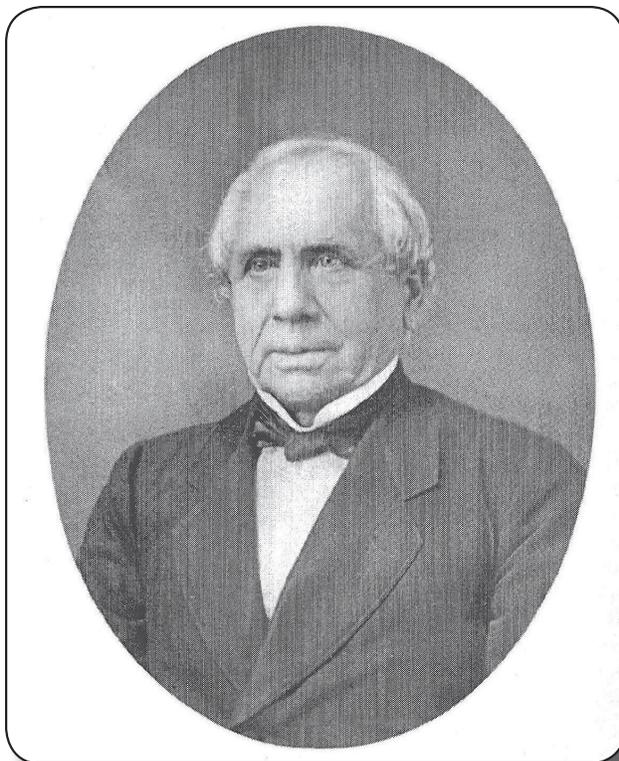


Carl Schurz (1829-1906), a 48er, served as U.S. Senator from Missouri.

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illuminates the St. Louis Germans at the time the German edition was originally published in 1893. It appeared as *The German Element in St. Louis* and it provides an in-depth portrait of the German St. Louis by Kargau, who had edited German newspapers in Hermann and St. Louis and had compiled a work that is rich in detail, providing almost a street by street coverage of the city of St. Louis, focusing in particular on all things German.(4) With more than 3,500 names in its index, it now takes on not only historical, but genealogical value as well. Altogether this is a basic reference source on the St. Louis Germans and could even be described as a St. Louis German city directory.

Having completed work on bringing out an edition of Kargau's work on St. Louis, I decided to explore the surrounding region and this resulted in my editing two related volumes: *Illinois' German Heritage* and *Missouri's German Heritage*.(5) Both can be viewed as companion pieces, as they not only complement and supplement one another, but also provide a historical framework to Kargau's work on St. Louis with a history of the German element in the region, thus providing for a trilogy on the region.



Gustav Koerner (1809-96), a 30er, served as Lt.-Governor of Illinois and was a confidant of Lincoln.

These Illinois and Missouri volumes include translations of chapters on Illinois and Missouri from a 19th century German-American history by Gustav Koerner, a resident of the area about whom more will be said later on. His work was entitled: *Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten*, or in translation: *The German Element in the United States*.(6)

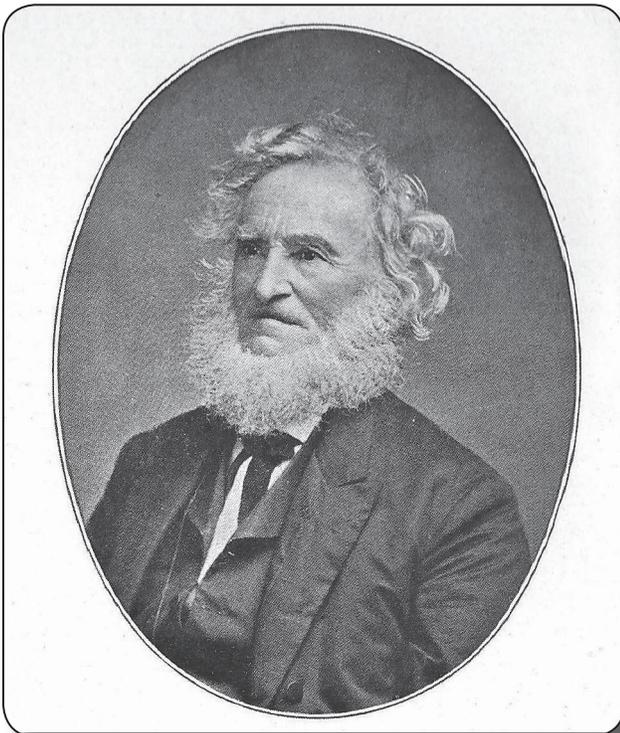
Koerner's history provides a state by state history of the German element in the UNITED STATES, focusing on the time period up to 1848, but often going well beyond that date up to the time of the publication of his work. These are not general overviews, but rather in-depth explorations of the German element of both states with emphasis on biographical detail, written by someone who often knew who and what he was talking about firsthand. This is especially true in the case of his chapters on Illinois and Missouri, as he was a resident of the area. These two volumes on Illinois and Missouri also feature a selection of articles on individuals who played an important role in the history of the German element in both states. For both volumes I have completed a final concluding chapter in which I trace, outline and discuss the history of the German element of both states from the mid-19th century to the present time.(7)

Originally, I had not planned on doing a volume on Missouri, but it became readily apparent while I was working on the Illinois volume that I had to follow up with a work on Missouri, as the interrelatedness of the two was so obvious. A good example of this was that when a branch of the National German-American Alliance was formed before World War I, it was called the German-American Alliance of Southern Illinois and Missouri. Another item that struck me with regard to Illinois was how little research had been done on the German element of that state. For example, in a bibliography of Illinois history consisting of approximately five thousand items, I found a total of less than fifty items that dealt with the Illinois Germans, although those of German descent number one-third of the state's population today, making it the largest single ethnic element.(8) Hopefully, these two volumes will provide a basic point of departure for further research and study of the German element of both states.

My more recent work on the region has focused on Missouri and can be found in a volume of mine entitled *German-Americana*:

Selected Essays.(9) This includes articles on the city of Hermann, Missouri; Friedrich Muench; and Dr. C.F.W. Walther, a founding father of the Missouri Synod. As a follow up on my interest in the Missouri Synod, an article of mine recently appeared in the *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly* dealing with Walther.(10) Additionally, a series of articles dealing with the Giessen Immigration Society has appeared in the journal *Der Maibaum*, published by the Friends of the Deutschheim State Historic Site in Hermann, Missouri.(11) And, most recently, I completed an article on Friedrich Muench that includes translations of personal reflections of him by Gert Goebel, editor of the *Volksblatt*, the German-language newspaper published in Hermann, Missouri.(12)

Mention might also be made of my ongoing work on translating Koerner's German-American history and that a volume entitled *The German Element in the Northeast: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and New England* recently appeared consisting of translations of his chapters dealing with those states.(13) This volume is relevant to Missouri German history, as the chapters on Pennsylvania contain much discussion of the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, which founded Hermann, Missouri, as well as



Friedrich Muench (1799-1881), a 30er, promoted German immigration to Missouri.

discussions regarding the establishment of German colonies in the American West.

A recent work of mine uncovered another tangential thread relating to Missouri. This is a work on the Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War.(14) One of the interesting items it revealed is that the 7th Missouri Infantry, a Turner regiment, had a German company from Cincinnati within its ranks, a topic that I would like to follow up on further. This also relates to a long-standing interest in the Civil War, which found fruition in a project I engaged in with my St. Louis colleague Steven Rowan. Together with two other colleagues, we brought out a translated edition of Wilhelm Kaufmann's 1911 history *Die Deutschen im amerikanischen Bürgerkriege*, which appeared as *Germans in the American Civil War*.(15)

This survey of my work on the German heritage of Missouri and Illinois serves a twofold purpose. First, it describes works that have hopefully contributed to telling the story of German immigration, settlement, and influences in the region. Taken together, they provide a basic point of departure for anyone seeking information on the topic, be it historical, genealogical, or whatever. Second, it also provides an overview of the sources on which the following commentary is based. This consists of an exploration of the general contours of the German-American historical landscape of Missouri and Illinois by means of focusing on persons, places, and themes that struck me as noteworthy, as well as important for an understanding of the German heritage

German Heritage Landscape

German immigration to what is now the United States began in 1608, when the first Germans in America arrived at Jamestown, Virginia, the 400th anniversary of which was recently celebrated. On the date now celebrated as German-American Day, the 6th of October, the first all-German settlement was established at Germantown, Pennsylvania. Since these early beginnings in the 17th century approximately eight million German-speaking immigrants made the decision to come to America. German immigrants poured into various port cities in the New World, but especially New York, Philadelphia, and New Orleans.

In settling the country, Germans especially preferred river and waterways, which meant the Ohio and Mississippi River valleys and their

numerous tributaries. Such waterways offered the best means of transportation and commerce in addition to rich farmland. And, it is not surprising that the German Triangle cities are located along the Ohio River, the Mississippi River and Lake Michigan.

The well-known American historian Frederick Jackson Turner maintained that the defining factor in American history was the frontier and the movement west by pioneers and settlers. The westward movement brought Germans across the country, resulting in what became known as "the German Belt," referring to states stretching from Pennsylvania in the East all the way to the Pacific coast. Turner also stressed the importance of regional sections in terms of settlement history and referred to the significance, for example, of the East, the South, and the Midwest.

Riverways, the frontier and region are all important factors to take in mind with regard to the settlement history of America. Applied to St. Louis, they are especially relevant. Taken together, southern Illinois and Missouri clearly form a German settlement region and one with a major urban center at its core. Southern Illinois and Missouri were also clearly on the western frontier in early 19th century America, with two rivers coming together on their borders, the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. All of these factors contributed to making it almost a foregone conclusion that southern Illinois and Missouri would attract German settlers. Several other factors also steered them to the region, but these underlying geographical factors should be kept in mind as the sub-text to the story.

The single most often cited factor in attracting German immigrants to the region is the book published by Gottfried Duden in 1829, which consisted of his glowing report of his stay in Missouri from 1824 to 1827.(16) In the wake of the publication of this work, the attention of a countless number of people was directed to the region and as a result, many made the decision to immigrate and settle the area.

Duden's work stood in the long line of accounts about America that reached all the way back to the report Christopher Columbus wrote about his discovery of the New World and which was published in the *Nuremberg Chronicle*. Such works were referred to as "Amerika-Literatur," or: "literature about America." The image they portrayed has been studied to ascertain the German image of

America that they conveyed. On the whole, such works were altogether quite positive and contrasted sharply with some of the negative social, economic, and political conditions in Europe. Together they contributed to forming the basis for what have been called the push and pull factors in the history of the German immigration, with conditions in the homeland being called push factors that contributed to the decision to immigrate and those attracting immigrants being referred to as pull factors.

Each and every one of the eight million German-speaking immigrants had his or her own reasons for making the decision to come to America. However, a brief and concise rationale for immigration and moreover one that is relevant to the region of southern Illinois and Missouri can be found in a German immigrant guidebook by August Rauschenbusch, *Einige Anweisungen für Auswanderer nach den westlichen Staaten von Nordamerika und Reisebilder*, or in translation: *Some Directions for German Immigrants to the Western States of North America with Travel Sketches*. This appeared in 1848 in Elberfeld, the same city where Duden's report was published. It also appeared in the year of the 1848 Revolution and no doubt exerted a degree of influence on those interested in immigrating to America, in particular to the states in the west.(17)

Rauschenbusch came to America in the 1840s, becoming one of the pioneers of the German Baptist church in the United States. His mission field included work in the Mississippi River valley and St. Louis. In a chapter in his book entitled "The Life of German Settlers in the Interior of Missouri," he writes as follows:

The number of Germans in America increases from year to year and now approaches a total of some four millions. The simple reason for this great number is that in the western states of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa there are still gigantic stretches of good land that are uncultivated. This land belongs to the Congress or the UNITED STATES Government, which sells forty acres for upwards to fifty dollars...Anyone with one hundred dollars, can acquire eighty acres of land, which makes for a great acquisition on which there is more than enough land for crops, meadows and woodland.(18)

He also notes the following with regard to German settlers:

One meets many of them here who own 80 to 160 acres, a piece of land therefore that is larger than many a German estate. Additionally, they have horses, cows and pigs, the latter often in such great numbers that they don't even know how many they have. How can it be other than that they love their new homeland, as in the old country they would only probably have one or two cows on a piece of leased land. While they would be oppressed with worries there, they breathe freely here and feel themselves to be free.(19)

Here in brief are some of the basic reasons that caused so many to immigrate. The two major points of attraction were: land, and plenty of it, was available and, secondly, there was freedom, and it was here in abundance. Both contrasted sharply with not being readily available in the old country. Nothing more needed to be said than what Rauschenbusch had to say in this regard. One could have the same amount of land as an estate and moreover live in a country where there was freedom.

As to settlement in southern Illinois and Missouri, the frontier had already long since moved west by the time Duden got there in the 1820s. But he had a famous predecessor and one who most likely contributed to him going to Missouri: Daniel Boone. In his book, Duden provides a hint as to the importance of Boone. In his 16th letter, dated 10 December 1825, he writes of his visit with Boone's son, Nathan, making mention of the fact that he had read about Boone eight years earlier.(20) That would have been in 1817, the same year as the political demonstration known as the Wartburg-Fest.

At this time, many gathered to protest against the oppressive measures of Prince Metternich, a Rheinlander serving as the autocratic Austrian foreign minister, who exerted such great influence in the Germanic realm until the outbreak of the 1848 Revolution. The political oppression that followed the Wartburg-Fest led to increased interest in America, as well as the beginnings of politically motivated immigration. Among the early immigrants who came after the Wartburg-Fest was Karl Follen, who had been one of its chief organizers and also was the brother of Paul Follenius and a friend of Friedrich Muench, both of whom

play such an important role in the German immigration to the area.

Here the importance of *Amerika-Literatur* should be kept in mind, especially as regards Boone. The first stories about Boone began appearing in the German press in 1785, which was the year that his autobiography appeared, with a German translation of the entire work coming out in 1790. Duden no doubt read this, or the many articles about him in the German press. This would not be surprising, as by the 1800s he had already become a legendary figure not only in America, but also in Europe. The editors of the English-language edition of Duden's report indicate that Duden read widely about America and Duden himself mentioned that he had read about Boone. His arrival in St. Louis begs the question as to why he came there in the first place and why not, for example, to Cincinnati or Milwaukee or a variety of other places in the West. The magnetic force on Duden's compass, drawing him to Missouri, no doubt was the great trailblazer Daniel Boone. What better place to go to than where he had gone to?

Here I might note that I have had to look into the German interest in Boone, as when speaking in Kentucky I am often asked if Boone was German. The basis for such notions was that Boone was born in a German-speaking area of Pennsylvania, Berks County, and apparently understood the Pennsylvania German dialect. Moreover, there was a Pennsylvania German family that spelled its name in the same way, pronouncing it, however, the German way, as if spelled "Bohne." Additionally, we know that Pennsylvania Germans played a prominent role in the settlement of Kentucky and that they accompanied Boone there and that one of his best friends was Michael Steiner.(21)

Boone might have been the most famous early resident in the region, but many of course had already settled there, including Germans on both sides of the Mississippi River. Here the name of Duden emerges repeatedly as a motivational factor for Germans coming to the area. The first actual German heritage center to develop in the region was in the city of Belleville in St. Clair County in southern Illinois. In this regard Gustav Koerner writes of two German immigrants, the Hilgard brothers, who came there in 1832 that: "Their goal was to become independent farmers in the manner idealized by Gottfried Duden..." And of their great-uncle Friedrich Engelmann, who came

in 1833, Koerner notes: "There is no question that the favorable reports of Duden and others, which at that time were circulating throughout Germany, exerted the decisive influence on him, especially due to his idealistic orientation." (22)

In ensuing years, St. Clair County developed into a veritable German cultural Mecca due to the German immigration and settlement there, especially because of the so-called Latin farmers, who were said to be more skilled at reading a classical text than plowing a field. Carl Schurz wrote of them in his memoirs:

Some of the notable men of the early '30s, the Engelmanns, Hilgards, Tittmanns, Bunsen, Follenius, Koerners, and Muenchs, settled in and around Belleville in Illinois, near the Mississippi, opposite St. Louis, or not far from St. Louis, on the Missouri, there to raise their corn and wine. Those who, although university men, devoted themselves to agriculture, were called among the Germans, half sportively, the "Latin Farmers." One of them, Gustav Koerner, who practices law in Belleville, rose to eminence as a judge, as lieutenant governor of Illinois, and as a minister of the United States to Spain. Another, Friedrich Muench, the finest type of the "Latin Farmer," lived to a venerable old age in Gasconade County, Missouri, and remained active almost to the day of his death, as a writer for newspapers and periodicals, under the name of "Far West." These men regarded St. Louis as their metropolis and in a large sense belonged to the "Germandom" of that city.(23)

Schurz here not only comments on the importance of St. Clair County, Illinois, but also on the German immigration and settlement across the Mississippi River in the so-called Missouri Rhineland, as well as the centrality of St. Louis as the metropolitan center for the entire region. He also identifies two of the most important German-Americans in the region: Gustav Koerner on the Illinois side and Friedrich Muench on the Missouri side.

Koerner, a refugee of the failed 1832 Revolution in Germany, settled in Belleville, where he became the spokesman of the German element not only of Southern Illinois, but also of the entire state, winning election at Lt. Governor and becoming the confidant of

Lincoln. In addition to practicing law, Koerner wrote for the German-American press and fortunately found time to write a corrective commentary to Duden's work, pointing out the problems and difficulties involved with immigration and settlement. However, his most important work was a German-American history that he published in 1880 in Cincinnati. This contained chapters on Illinois and Missouri, which can be found in translation in the works mentioned earlier.

The other person mentioned by Schurz was Friedrich Muench who had founded the Giessen Immigration Society with Paul Follenius, which resulted in the immigration of two groups of 250 persons in 1834, many of whom settled in Missouri. The Giessen Immigration Society was one of several that brought German immigrants to the region and, according to Koerner, was the best organized. With regard to the influence of Duden on the society Koerner wrote: "Duden and other sources had been eagerly studied." He also wrote: "Duden's Report, and especially his various presentations, had made such a deep impression, that Muench decided to settle in Montgomery, now Warren County, in the neighborhood of Duden's former place." (24)

Of Paul Follenius, he wrote: "He bought a well-situated farm in Warren County not far from Duden's former place, and so at least had the advantage of having many cultured and interesting German families located nearby." Of the Kayser brothers, he writes that they were influenced to immigrate "by reading Duden's work and it was only natural that they turned to the region that was Duden's special object of admiration." (25) In short, Koerner's detailed history of the area clearly shows the impact of Duden's work on immigration to the area.

Especially important was the impact Duden had on the formation of the Giessen Immigration Society. It came into being as a result of a small book published by Muench and Follenius in 1833 in two editions with the title: *Aufforderung und Erklärung in Betreff einer Auswanderung im Grossen aus Teutschland in die Nordamerikanischen Freistaaten*, or in translation: *Invitation and Explanation Regarding a Great Emigration from Germany to the North American Free States.*(26) Altogether several thousand copies must have appeared, as an estimated one thousand people were interviewed as prospective members, with five hundred finally being selected to make the immigration journey to America. This book

and the large number of people involved in the undertaking further increased interest in German immigration in general and the Giessen plan in particular and could be seen as a direct spinoff of Duden's work.

A further spinoff of this was the extensive publication activity of Friedrich Muench. Of particular importance was the work he wrote in German on Missouri entitled *Der Staat Missouri...*, or in translation: *The State of Missouri*.⁽²⁷⁾ This was written for and aimed at prospective immigrants in Germany and appeared in three editions in 1859, 1866, and 1875. These editions together with the earlier 1833 work no doubt exerted a long-term residual impact on the growth and development of German immigration to Missouri. In addition to Duden's glowing report there now was a practical handbook written by Muench, as well as the writings of Koerner, which taken together not only provided a corrective perspective to Duden, but also concrete practical advice, especially in the case of Muench's writings.

Even those in Germany who did not join in with immigration societies, such as the Giessen society, had probably heard of them, or read some of these writings, so that the multifarious influences emanating from them cannot be underestimated. Although the number of people who actually belonged to such societies must have been relatively small in relation to those who did not, their influence was therefore considerable due to the news and publicity surrounding them. Those who did not belong to such groups usually came with friends and family in the process that has been called chain migration. They would write friends and family in the old country, causing more of them to come to where they had settled. Although this was not a formally organized immigration society, it might be viewed as an informally planned immigration organized around friends and family.

The formation of immigration societies was not by any means confined to Europe, the topic became a major topic for discussion among German-Americans in the 1830s, especially at the first national convention of German-American leaders held at Pittsburgh in 1837. Here the topic of establishing a German colony in the west was discussed at length and one of the outcomes of this meeting was the formation of the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, which went on, as mentioned earlier, to establish Hermann, Missouri.

Of the various immigration societies one of the most important was the Saxon Lutheran immigration of 1838, which resulted in the formation of the Missouri Synod. Originally led by a dynamic leader, the German-Bohemian minister Martin Stephan, it was actually Dr. C.F.W. Walther who stepped forth to guide and direct the successful establishment of the settlement of the Saxon Lutherans in Missouri, with the result that more of the so-called Old Lutherans came to the area. His writings, especially in the journal *Der Lutheraner*, were widely read and influential in steering German Lutherans to Missouri.⁽²⁸⁾

At the same time, organized and unorganized groups and individuals were immigrating to the region on both sides of the Mississippi; the same phenomenon was taking place with non-Germans as well, an indication that many were attracted to the region. For example, in 1831, Joseph Smith directed Mormons to Jackson County, Missouri, which he proclaimed as the new Zion, representing the case of a charismatic religious leader directing a migration. Aside from this kind of an organized migration, there were many non-Germans moving west on the frontier, such as the James family from Logan County, Kentucky, which settled in Clay County in the 1840s, where Jesse James was born.⁽²⁹⁾ Germans, in short, were also part of a general westward movement that brought settlers into the region as well, a topic that might make for some interesting comparative studies.

For German immigration and settlement, the beginnings are important as they planted the seeds for the future, bringing about an ongoing immigration continuum to the region of southern Illinois and Missouri, which resulted in catapulting St. Louis into the status of becoming one of the cities in the German Triangle. Later and more vociferous voices in the history of the German immigration would arrive, such as the often flamboyant Forty-Eighters. They refined and defined the public face of the German element, but for the most part built on already existing foundations that had been laid by earlier waves of German immigrants.

Friedrich Muench divided the German immigrations of the 19th century into three chronological periods: Before 1848, after 1848, and finally after the Civil War.⁽³⁰⁾ Those that came before 1848 were, according to this chronology, attracted by the work of Duden and other works about America. Although

some participated in the 1832 Revolution, most had not and saw immigration as an option preferable to that of revolution. They settled western states, with the Latin Farmers often moving into rural areas and regions and establishing farms. They brought friends and family, with some coming as members of immigrant societies.

After 1848, the Forty-Eighters arrived as refugees of the failed 1848 Revolution. Often coming alone, they were urban-oriented and headed to cities, although a few, such as Hecker did opt to become a farmer, as did many of those who came before 1848. Politically they were much more aggressive and articulate, eventually coming to function as spokespersons of the German element, especially by means of their active involvement in politics and via the leadership role they played in the German-American press. Muench referred to these two groups as the Grays and the Greens, with the Forty-Eighters viewed as the Greens and their predecessors as the Grays. Although there was some friction between the two, they in time coalesced together by the time of the Civil War, finding common ground on a variety of issues. Those coming after the Civil War, were from the working classes and came primarily for economic reasons, but had the benefit of education in Germany and had relatively good fortune in finding work in the burgeoning economy of the United States.

All in all, Muench's chronological categorization of the German immigration seemingly rings true and has stood the test of time. The German heritage today essentially goes back to these 19th century definitional beginnings and understanding them helps to not only re-connect with them, but also better understand German-American heritage today.

As to the 20th century, reference must be made to the wrongs and injustices suffered by German-Americans during the world wars. The case of Robert P. Prager of Marysville, Illinois during World War I symbolizes the anti-German hysteria and sentiment of the time. Prager, a coal miner, was accused of making pro-German remarks, arrested and then was captured by a mob and lynched in Collinsville, Illinois. Due to his membership in a lodge in St. Louis he was buried in the St. Matthew's Cemetery in St. Louis. The inscription on his gravestone simply reads: "Robert S. Prager, born Feb. 28, 1888 at Dresden, Saxony-Died Apr. 5, 1918 in Collinsville, Ill. The Victim of a Mob." No

evidence was ever produced of any disloyalty on his part. At his request a flag was draped on his coffin.(31)

Two days after he was lynched, Governor Gardner of Missouri stated that anyone "who has enjoyed the privilege of our Government and still has the slightest pro-Germanic feeling should be stood up against a stone wall and shot at sunrise."(32) Additionally, there was no immediate condemnation of this crime by the Wilson Administration. After a brief court trial in Collinsville, those charged with lynching Prager were acquitted. Today, there is no historical marker anywhere in Collinsville regarding this tragic event, the only such marker being his gravestone in St. Louis.

In a German Day address in Chicago in 1933, George Seibel summarized the World War I experience. He spoke of "great suffering during the bitter war years" when German-Americans across the UNITED STATES were "interned, beaten, ruined in business because they were German. German books were burned, and 'patriotic' women avowed never to buy German goods again. We were called barbarians and Huns; we were the 'scum of humanity' because we were Germans. The world had gone mad with war hysteria."(33)

In spite of mistreatment on the home front, German-Americans served in great number in both world wars, also weathering the storms of Prohibition and the Great Depression. In retrospect one can well imagine how insane something like Prohibition must have seemed to German-Americans in the 1920s, coming especially as it did after the hard times of World War I, a war that aimed to "make the world safe for democracy." Imagine what German festivals must have been like in the 1920s without any "liquid bread."

Conclusion

Perhaps one of the finest eulogies of German-American contributions came from Rep. Richard Bartholdt of Missouri during World War I. In his last speech in Congress, he noted that German-Americans had played an honorable role in American history and that they had:

...fought for American independence, opposed slavery, and loyally gave their bodies and lives that the Union might live; they were almost a unit for sound money, and are imbued with the true American spirit

of freedom to such an extent that they love liberty better than whatever good might come from its restriction. As a rule, they modestly refrained from seeking political preferment, but filled America's life with song and innocent social pleasures. They are peaceful and law-abiding citizens, who by industry and thrift have made the best of the opportunities which the country of their choice generously offered them, and thus they have contributed their honest share to the growth, the development and the grandeur of the Republic." (34)

Another eulogy of the German heritage can be found on a monument in St. Louis, the Naked Truth Monument, which honors several of the German Forty-Eighters. It bears an inscription in their honor that is worth noting. It simply states: "they brought with them the precious treasures of Germany's culture, and placed them, a blessing for all coming generations, in Columbia's keeping." This not only defines the German cultural heritage brought to America on the waves of the German immigration, but also assigns the American-born with the task of preserving it. This reminds me of several lines from Goethe's *Faust*.

That which thy fathers have bequeathed to thee,
Earn it anew if thou wouldst possess it.

This translation is from the well-known cookbook *The Joy of Cooking* by the St. Louis German author Irma S. Rombauer. (35) These lines strike me as the best recipe for all those interested in the preservation of the German heritage in the German Triangle city of St. Louis and the surrounding region on both sides of the Mississippi, as well as elsewhere. An integral part of that recipe is writing and recording the history of German immigration, settlement and influences in the region.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to Lisa McLaughlin of the Special Interest Group of St. Louis for inviting me to speak in St. Louis, as this provided me with the opportunity of pulling together the preceding presentation on German immigration, settlement and influences in Southern Illinois and Missouri. Also, thanks to members of the Group, as well as those of the German-American Heritage Society of St. Louis who provided me with a number of references and

leads that should prove useful for the author's ongoing research on the topics discussed here.

Notes

1. Regarding German heritage in the Ohio Valley, see: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, ed., *Das Ohoital – The Ohio Valley: The German Dimension*. (New York: Peter Lang, 1993) and also Gustav Koerner, *The German Element in the Ohio Valley: Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana*. Translated and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Co., Inc., 2010).
2. See: J.H.A. Lacher, *Wisconsin's German Element: J.H.A. Lacher's Introductory History*. Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Co., Inc., 1999).
3. See for example: J.H. Strasser, *New Ulm, Minnesota: J.H. Strasser's History & Chronology*. Translated and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Pub. Co., 2003).
4. Ernst E. Kargau, *The German Element of St. Louis: A Translation from German of Ernst D. Kargau's St. Louis in Former Years: A Commemorative History of the German Element*. Translated by William G. Bek and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Co., Inc., 2000).
5. See: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Pub. Co., 2005) and: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, ed., *Missouri's German Heritage*. 2nd ed. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Pub. Co., 2006).
6. Gustav Koerner, *Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, 1818-1848*. (Cincinnati, Ohio: A.E. Wilde, 1880).
7. See: Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*, pp. 129-60, and Tolzmann, ed., *Missouri's German Heritage*, pp. 109-34. Note that both volumes contain bibliographical guides to primary and secondary sources in English and German.
8. See: Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*, p. 1.
9. See the author's *German-American: Selected Essays*. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Pub. Co., 2009).
10. See: "Dr. C.F.W. Walther and Emilie Walther: The Recollections of Margarete Lenk (1911)," *Concordia Historical Institute*

- Quarterly*. 82:3(2009): 170-83.
11. Thus far, the first two parts of the author's series has appeared as: "A New Germany in America: The Invitation and Explanation (1833) by Paul Follenius and Friedrich Muench," *Der Maibaum*. 38:1(2010): 4-5, 14-15 and 38:2(2010): 4-5, 14-15.
 12. This article is scheduled for publication in a forthcoming issue of *The Report: A Journal of German-American History*.
 13. Gustav Koerner, *The German Element in the Northeast: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and New England*. Translated and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Baltimore, Maryland: Clearfield Co., Inc., 2010).
 14. Gustav Tafel, *The Cincinnati Germans in the Civil War*. Translated and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Pub. Co., 2010).
 15. Wilhelm Kaufmann, *Germans in the American Civil War*. Translated by Steven Rowan and edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann with Werner D. Mueller and Robert E. Ward. (Carlisle, Pa.: John Kallmann, Publishers, 1999).
 16. Duden's report was published in Elberfeld in 1829 and is available in translation as: Gottfried Duden, *Report on a Journey to the Western States of North America and a Stay along the Missouri (During the Years of 1824, '25, '26, and 1827)*. Edited by James W. Goodrich et al. (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri and University of Missouri Press, 1980). For biographical information on Duden, see: Dorris Keeven Franke, "Gottfried Duden: The Man Behind the Book," in: Tolzmann, ed., *Missouri's German Heritage*, pp. 85-95.
 17. August Rauschenbusch, *Einige Anweisungen für Auswanderer nach den westlichen Staaten von Nordamerika und Reisende*. (Elberfeld: Verlag von Julius Bädiker, 1848). This work makes for a good candidate for translation and editing, as it provides detailed information for prospective immigrants and travelers in the western states of the United States.
 18. *Ibid*, p. 59.
 19. *Ibid*, pp. 64-65.
 20. Duden, *Report*, pp. 78-79.
 21. See my discussion of Boone in the Appendix of: M.D. Learned, *Abraham Lincoln's Ancestry: German or English? M.D. Learned's Investigatory History, with an Appendix on Daniel Boone*. Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1993).
 22. Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*, pp. 6 and 9.
 23. Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*, p. 30.
 24. Tolzmann, ed., *Missouri's German Heritage*, p. 7.
 25. *Ibid*, pp. 12 and 18.
 26. Regarding this publication, see footnote no. 11.
 27. For a discussion of Muench's works, see: Tolzmann, *German-Americana: Selected Essays*, pp.113-23.
 28. See the author's essay on "Luther in Missouri: Recollections of Dr. C.F.W. Walther," in: Tolzmann, *German-Americana: Selected Essays*, pp. 125-32. Also, see my recent article: "The Role of the German Language in the Missouri Synod: A 75th Anniversary Perspective," *Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly*. 83:2(2010): 119-26.
 29. For further information on James, see: Thaddeus Thorndike, *Lives and Exploits of the Daring Frank and Jesse James*. Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1992).
 30. See: Albert B. Faust, *The German Element in the United States* (New York: Steuben Society of America, 1927), I: 588-89.
 31. Regarding Prager, see: Tolzmann, *Missouri's German Heritage*, pp. 122-23.
 32. *Ibid*, p. 123.
 33. Tolzmann, ed., *Illinois' German Heritage*, p. 146.
 34. Tolzmann, ed., *Missouri's German Heritage*, p. 121.
 35. This can be found in any edition of Rombauer's well-known cookbook.