

# THE GERMAN SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Founded 1783 Incorporated by Act of the General Assembly of Maryland, Chapter 100 Feb 3, 1818

## VEREINSNACHRICHTEN

SEPTEMBER 2010 ISSUE #73

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## **GERMAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE OCTOBER 3RD**

The 22nd annual service commemorating the fall of the Berlin wall, the collapse of communism's control over the eastern part of Germany and freedom for the German nation will be held at the Zion Church on Sunday, October 3 at 5 pm.

The service will be followed by a reception in the Adlersaal with food and drink. The custom began in 1989 when our Society's president, Donald Tillman and Judge Gerard Wittstadt, president of the Society for the History of the Germans in MD met with the Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto, then pastor of Zion, to call the German community of central MD to a service of thanksgiving for the freedom of our ancestral lands.

All of our members are invited to attend and bring their families and friends. Our Society is financially assisting to provide music and share the expenses of the reception. We ask the entire German American community to join this memorial which is held close to the feast of St. Michael and All Angels.

## **DEDICATION OF GUNTHER PLAQUE - NOVEMBER 11TH**

Sgt. Henry Gunther, a highly decorated soldier, was the last American killed in World War I. He was a native of Baltimore, a fiercely loyal German American who is buried in Baltimore City's Holy Redeemer Cemetery. His gravesite has no marker to commemorate his deeds.

His father was an immigrant from Germany and Henry spoke fluent German. Our Society approached the cemetery officials and they commissioned a plaque which will be dedicated on November 11th, Veterans Day, formerly celebrated as Armistice Day. The armistice was set for Nov. 11 at 11 am. Sgt. Gunther was killed minutes before 11 am.

A monument to Sgt. Gunther was dedicated in France two years ago in the town where he was killed. Now we will commemorate him in Maryland, 91 years after his death. We urge the members of our Society, especially the veterans, to attend the dedication. We will be joined by other veterans' groups and by other German American organizations. We are still in need of volunteers to serve on the Henry Gunther Memorial Committee. Please call Ted Potthast at 410-828-8137 to volunteer to serve on the committee.

**OKTOBERFEST AT FORT MEADE SEPT. 24-26. SEE PAGE 3  
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR BOOTH AND EXHIBIT.**

**KALENDER**

- Sept 11 Mencken Day lecture at Pratt Library
- Sept 14 Historical Society banquet and lecture
- Sept 24, 25 & 26 Oktoberfest at Fort Meade
- Oct. 2-3 Oktoberfest Frederick MD Fair Grounds
- Oct 3 Ecumenical Service (German Society, Zion Church and Society for History of Germans)
- Oct. 16 Crabtoberfest Cambridge MD
- Nov. 11 Commemoration of Henry Gunther
- Nov. 13 German Society Annual Awards Banquet

Visit the German Society's website:  
[www.germansociety-md.com](http://www.germansociety-md.com)

Articles from many past newsletters are posted on our website. Dr. Maureen Helinski maintains the site. "Pioneers in Service", the history of our Society, can now be found on our web site.

For more local German-American happenings, check the web site of the Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland: [www.md-germans.org](http://www.md-germans.org)

**FOR MEMBERS ONLY - A DRIVE**

Sign up a relative or friend for membership in our Society for \$10. Our Board of Directors has approved a special membership drive: from September 1 through December 31, 2010, any current member in good standing may give a gift membership to anyone, and instead of the usual annual dues of \$25, you may give a gift membership for \$10, to cover the period from the date of sign-up through December 31, 2011. Thereafter, the new member will receive a bill for dues, the same as do all other members. The gift must be given by a member to someone not already a member.

We hope for a dramatic increase in membership; we need new members since dues are now our major source of income for the funding of our projects. There is no limit on the number of gift memberships a member may give, so we are hoping that each of our members will make at least one gift membership. (Student dues are still only \$5.00) Please read our President's message on the role members play in an organization.

**MENCKEN DAY LECTURE AT THE PRATT**

Our former member Henry Louis Mencken, the "Bard of Baltimore" has a day set aside honoring him, and this year it is September 11. On that day the Mencken Society is holding its annual lecture at the Wheeler Auditorium in the Enoch Pratt Free Library. The lecture is free and the public is invited. This year's lecture is by Jonathan Yardley, book critic of the Washington Post and is entitled "The Press Then and Now; from Mencken to the Internet."

**SISTER SOCIETY DINNER AND LECTURE**

The Society for the History of the Germans in MD, founded in 1886 largely by members of our Society, holds its annual meeting on Sept. 14 in the Adlersaal at Zion. The event will feature a lecture by Prof. Randall Donaldson entitled "German Emigration into the Free State: the History of German American Communities in Maryland." Dr. Donaldson is a member of our Society. Tickets for the event are \$35 for the dinner and includes hors d'oeuvres and a cocktail hour (beer and wine). For reservations mail your check payable to Society for History of Germans in MD to Dr. Randall P. Donaldson, Modern Language Dept., Loyola University MD, 4501 N. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21210-2699. For questions please call 443-823-4720.

**WAR OF 1812 VICTORY CELEBRATION**

Because it was Marylanders who defeated the British at Baltimore, chased them back to England and ended the War of 1812, the State of Maryland is planning the greatest celebration held to date to commemorate the victory. It is planning major events during all of 2012. The victory over the British began with the Battle of North Point. Our own vice president, General John Stricker is known as the "Hero of North Point" for leading the charge against the British which delayed them long enough for Baltimore to prepare for battle. Some members of our Society fought in the battle.

Our Society wants to make sure that General Stricker is given proper due in the process of the celebration and so we are forming a "General John Stricker Committee". If you would like to be a charter member of that committee, call our office.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear friends and members.

At the 110th anniversary of the Bürgerverein this year, our board member Bernard A. Penner, Esquire delivered a speech which is published in this newsletter. I believe it raises questions which the German American community needs to address and to discuss. The issue in the 19th century was the integration into the mainstream of the American culture. In the 20th century our community became silent and went underground, to a great extent. The 21st century raises the question of our survival and remembering our history. As a person of faith, I have learned that a community that only wants new members for the sake of its own survival is doomed. We need to review and revisit our mission statement and develop programs and activities that bring to life our goals and visions.

To me educational outreach to young people, familiarizing them with the European German culture would be such a priority. I hope that our Society could create a new student exchange program. Such a program would benefit our Maryland community as a whole. Could you support such a dream?

Hopefully yours,  
H.J. Siegfried Otto

## A CALL FOR TEMPORARY HOUSING

A large contingent of students from Germany will be presenting the Three Penny Opera at Towson University. (Songs in German; speaking roles in English.) Our Society has contributed to this cultural exchange with a \$1,200 donation and we have purchased 40 student tickets to be distributed to local colleges and high schools. The troupe is still short of housing and needs accommodations for a few student and faculty members from Oldenburg, Germany while they are in town.

Do you have some room for one or two of them? Please contact Dr. Leneida Crawford at her email address:

lecrawford@towson.edu

**THREE PENNY OPERA** (Mac the knife)  
Our Society is supporting this musical production of German American Kurt Weill at Towson University.

We have arranged for fliers to be mailed to each of our members by the drama department of Towson Univ. containing all the details of the event. When you receive the mail from the university, please give it your prompt attention.

## OUR ROLE IN FORT MEADE OKTOBER-FEST HONORS ALBERT MYER, FOUNDER OF U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS

The German Society will staff a booth at the Fort Meade Oktoberfest Fri-Sun, September 24, 25 & 26; we will honor German American Major (later General) Albert James Myer, the founder of the U. S. Army Signal Corps which celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. Ft. Myer, VA was named for him. He was the world's first signal officer. Succeeding him as the army's second Chief Signal Officer was another German-American, Marylander William Nicodemus of Cumberland. (Another Marylander was head of the Confederate signal corps, William Norris of Reisterstown.)

Our booth will have special features:

- a working reproduction of the telegraph keys used in the civil war;
- re-enactors wearing uniforms of both the Union and Confederate signal corps;
- German immigrant action in the signal corps, including that of Thaddeus Lowe's line from a gas-inflated balloon with telegraph wires to the ground;
- demonstrations of early use of signal flags.

We are in need of volunteers to help staff our booth at Ft. Meade. Please call Walt Mathers at 410-768-3162 or via e-mail at aigo@civilwarsignals.Org

Please put "Fort Meade Oktoberfest" in the subject of your email.

We need volunteers Friday 5 pm to 11 pm; Saturday 12 noon to 11 pm and Sunday 12 pm to 7 pm. Pick your time.

## FESTIVAL SUFFERS HEATSTROKE

The 110th Maryland German Festival fell victim to a heat record for July 25th; local television stations and The Baltimore Sun predicted a heat/humidity index of 110 and urged people to stay home. Citizens heeded the warnings and the attendance for the day fell to 50% of the prior year's gate. Sunday's weather improved and so did the gate.

## OUR CULTURE TABLE PAID DIVIDENDS

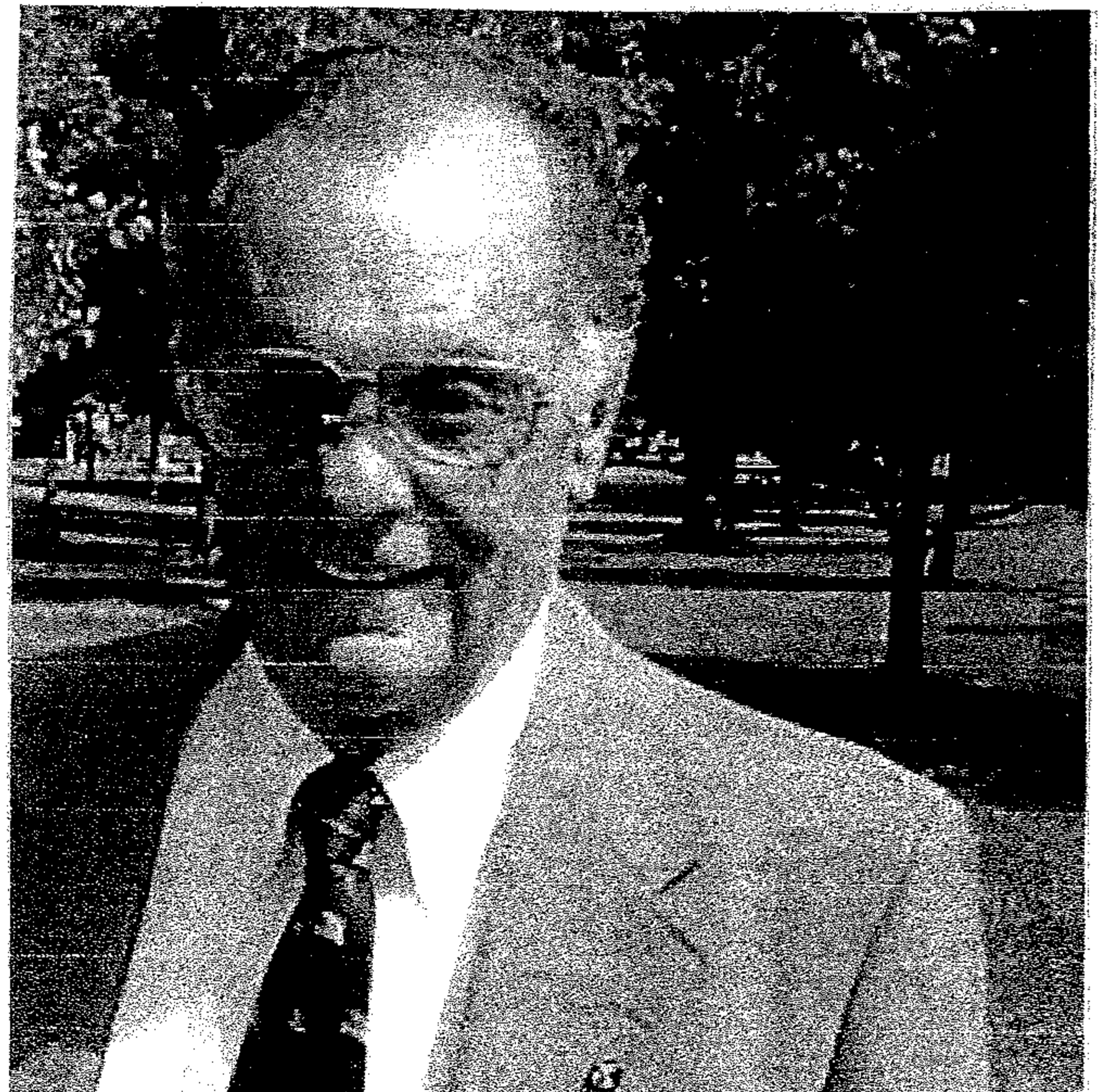
The lesser number of people was offset by the "quality" of visitors to our display. Those who braved the heat seemed highly motivated to learn about German American culture and traditions. Our volunteer members were able to spend more time with each person who came to our table, resulting in an increased interest in membership in our Society as well as more detailed discussions on the topics of heritage and traditions. Our volunteers were delighted to be able to evangelize and encourage sign-ups on the spot. We distributed 400 membership applications and hope to see a good return. Extra copies of our newsletter were printed for distribution at the festival. It was especially sought after. Our "Schnitzelbank" chart was a novelty which was most popular among the many old timers who remember singing it in the beer gardens of days of yore and at family gathering; some burst into song in front of our display. Several hundred copies were handed out. German Life magazine also supplied us with 300 copies for our picnic and for the festival; it was a "best seller" and gave our volunteers the chance to brag that it is the product of a young Maryland woman and is a national magazine produced in our home state. Our loyal member, Denis Smith, was on hand to photograph the event. His photos of the festival-goers in action will soon be available on our website.

## OUR UNTIRING WORKERS

Our membership chairman Dan Brooke worked our table for 6 hours on each day. Denis Tausendschoen, Mike and Linda Nieberding, Ted Potthast, Brigitte and Dr. Nicholas Fessenden put in numerous hours on both days. Paul Otto showed up early Saturday to set up our display. Walt Mathers and Doug Polaski came early Saturday to help set up and bring handouts. Dr. Armin and Marlene Mruck, Dr. Mary Upman, Dr. Mohamed Esa and numerous others helped make the event a success.

## Meet our directors DENNIS TAUSENDSCHOEN, NEWEST DIRECTOR

Dennis Tausendschoen was elected in April, having been selected for his past service and interest in our Society's mission and projects. His family came to Baltimore from Germany, his father's side in 1882 and his mother's (Hazel Irene Drebing) in 1830. His mother had family in America since 1751 and some served in the Continental Army in the American Revolution. Dennis attended Patterson Park High School in Baltimore and upon graduation joined the navy and served aboard two aircraft carriers, USS SIBONEY and USS RANDOLPH CVA 15. After his



naval service, he worked for a while for the State of Maryland and then attended Towson University, specializing in the influence of the frontier in the development of American society. Thereafter he worked in a civilian capacity for the U. S. Navy and the Coast Guard until his retirement in 1989. He still works occasionally and writes, having produced several publications.

Dennis is a lover of classical music and opera, especially the works of Beethoven, Mozart and Wagner. His main hobby is genealogy. He is a member of The Sons of the American Revolution, The Society of the War of 1812, Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Military Order of the Stars and Bars.

Dennis is active on various committees of our Society.

# Heimat Maryland

## A brief account of the German-American community in Maryland

On July 24 and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2010 the German-American community celebrates the 110<sup>th</sup> “German Festival.” The **Deutsch-Amerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland** sponsors this event acting as an umbrella for the eleven different German-American organizations listed at the end of this article.

In 1900 when the first “German Day” celebration was held, there were many German speakers and German-American clubs in Baltimore. Back then, when asked the question what do you have when **three Germans** get together in Baltimore? The joking answer was **four clubs**.

This abundance of German-American participation and enthusiasm led in 1900 to the creation of the **Independent Citizen’s Union of Maryland**. According to its official charter filed in 1904 the purpose of the organization is:

*“To promote good citizenship by investigation and discussion of the details pertaining to representative government, to encourage physical, mental, and moral training, to stimulate popular interest in early American history – particularly to encourage research as to the part that those of German blood or birth took in the early development of our nation.”*

Unfortunately today, more than a century later, the number of German clubs is declining. There are fewer volunteers to help at events like the German Festival. As the members of our remaining organizations grow older, younger people of German ancestry don’t seem to be as interested in preserving their cultural heritage.

Quiet as it is kept, difficulty attracting younger members is not hard to understand. The Twentieth Century has not been easy for German-American cultural identity. Considered in the cold light of Germany’s identification as “the enemy” in two world wars, it is actually rather remarkable that there are any German-American organizations left in Maryland, let alone enough to hold a festival.

What had been a lively and outspoken cultural community was abruptly silenced in 1916 when the local political debate heated up around the issue of whether or not America should enter the war against Germany. Not surprisingly, many German-Americans who lived in Maryland were opposed to war with Germany. The **Baltimore Correspondent**, the leading, but by no means only, German newspaper in Baltimore advised its German speaking readers that:

*“While it is not yet a crime to defend Germany’s position, it is unpatriotic and above all, unwise!”*

Less than a year later that advice turned into a warning:

*“Be Calm – Keep Your Tongue! Keep Wisely Silent. Remember your oath of allegiance! Remember that while Germany is the land of our fathers – this is the land of our children – and our children’s children.”*

In 2010, the wisdom of “keeping wisely silent” is reflected by the fact that today we can still gather as a German-American community under the grandstand at the Timonium State Fairgrounds. We can celebrate our 110<sup>th</sup> German Festival because our forefathers were proud to adopt a loyal attitude towards the United States and were willing to sacrifice the open expression of their feelings for Germany.

In order to survive and prosper in Maryland, our parents and grandparents had to become somewhat secretive about their sympathy for the suffering of relatives still living in Germany. Private letters between friends, expressions of concern for relatives and even anger about the way events were unfolding were all prudently hidden, kept secret and silent. German-American boys fought on the side of America against Germany without question. Families at home bore the sadness in silence. During those dark 30 years of mistrust, silence about German relations became customary. Children who grew up in Maryland homes where German had been spoken no longer heard the language. Some even lost track of their extended families in Germany altogether.

Instead of relatives in Germany the German-American families in Maryland created new “families” out of friendships formed in the different clubs of the **Buergerverein**, and at social gathering places like the **Deutsches Haus**. Although the local Lutheran and Catholic congregations stopped worshipping in the German language, the “oldtimers” who still sought German language ceremonies turned to Zion Church which continued its traditional German worship. As an “Independent” congregation **Zionskirche** was not obliged to follow the lead of the American Lutheran Church.

The spirit of community once again blossomed after the Second World War as families who were already established in Maryland opened their arms and their hearts to the last great wave of German immigrants who arrived in this country from their war ravaged homeland. Those new German-Americans experienced the “baby boom” right here in “**Heimat Maryland.**”

Our stories also include those families created when U.S. servicemen stationed in Germany brought their spouses home to their new home, or **Heimat**, in Maryland. The baby boomers of those immigrants are the grown-ups now, with babies and grand babies of their own.

Sadly the stories of far too many families, hidden under layers of negative publicity and neglect, are at risk of being lost. Even though the German-American community resurfaced in the 1950s, the silence about what happened during the war years (1915 – 1945) continued.

The problem created by this 30 year “hole” in our history is the number of individuals who know that they must be “German” because they have a German last name but who have no idea about the compelling story of their ancestors’ struggle to start a life in America. The community fails itself when there is no welcoming place, or identified group of knowledgeable people to whom those German-American descendents who want to research their individual family’s place in our history can go for help to discover their family’s story. Our archives are incomplete. Where does an interested person go to find documentation concerning the German-American reaction to the renaming of “German Street” to “Redwood Street” or concerning the great German-American Breweries just before Prohibition? Was there any reaction to the sale and demolition of the **Deutsches Haus** which stood where the Baltimore Symphony now performs. At the present rate of losing another piece of our collective memory with the passing of each individual club member, how long before Maryland forgets that there was ever a place like **Hausner’s Restaurant**?

Our festivals are fine. There is nothing wrong with beer, bratwurst, and music, but in order to attract the next generation there has to be something more. German visitors to our German-American “cultural” events often note how “old fashioned” our Americanized versions of their ethnic celebrations seem.

Germany, as a nation, has moved on in history. The German-American community in Maryland also needs to evolve and move on in order to attract the next generation who can authentically identify themselves as Americans of German descent. Let the member organizations of the **Buergerverein** listed on the next page collectively recommit themselves to the original purpose recorded back in 1904 to “encourage research” about the role that the German-American community has played in the ongoing “development of our nation.” Let the mission of the next ten years be to recover that piece of the German-American story that is “gone but cannot be forgotten” reflecting those German-American values that may have been “forgotten but are not gone.” It remains up to us, the “living memory” of this remarkable story to pass it on and preserve it so that it is not lost.

The foregoing article was adapted from the address given at the 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet of the Deutscher Amerikanischer Buergerverein von Maryland on May 8, 2010.

The member organizations of the

**Deutsch-Amerikanischer Buergerverein:**

Arion Gesangverein

Baltimore Kickers

Club Fidelitas

Deutsche Geselligkeit

Edelweiss Club

S. T. V. Immergruen

German Society of Maryland

Germania Lodge

Society for the History of Germans in Maryland

Verein Deutscher Trachten

Zion Church



## **SAR TO FORM MD GERMAN CHAPTER**

Some of our members who trace their ancestry back to the American Revolutionary War are members of the Sons of the American Revolution. They are seeking other German Americans in MD who are eligible for membership in the SAR to form a German chapter honoring Baron Johann DeKalb, a major general in the Continental Army who was with George Washington at Valley Forge. He later led a division of Maryland and Delaware troops.

DeKalb was killed in the Battle of Camden, S.C. but his actions led to the defeat of Cornwallis at Yorktown. His statue stands in front of the MD State House in Annapolis.

Tens of thousands of German Americans fought for our independence in the Revolutionary War. If you believe you have a lineal ancestor who rendered material support or served in the Continental armed forces during the Revolution, please join the group which is planning the German chapter by contacting Dennis Tausendschoen via email at Crabbiest1@aol.com. The group will help you with genealogical research to establish your qualifications to be a member of the SAR. Although your German forebears may have arrived in America after the Revolution, they may have married into families who fought in or aided the war of independence. Besides the name of your German ancestors, look into the names of those whom they married, as family trees have both male and female branches. Visit the SAR website at [www.marylandsar.org](http://www.marylandsar.org). The SAR has 30,000 members nationwide, but no state has a German chapter.

## **SCHOLARSHIP WINNER BRITTANY GRASSER WRITES US A LETTER**

"I received a German Society award in April 2007 and I want to tell you what I have been doing lately. I graduated from UMBC in spring, 2009 with a double degree in German and Finance. I taught lower level German courses while studying full time. Upon graduation I received a grant from Congress and the Bundestag to study in Germany for a year. This was my first time abroad (...actually it was my first time in a plane) and I had a wonderful time!. The U.S. and German governments sent 75 students from the US to Germany and 75 from Germany to the USA. The program included intensive language study, a semester at a German university and 5 months

Praktikum. I was placed in Koeln for language training, then to Magdeburg for part of the my University phase. I returned to Koeln and worked in the accounting department and sometimes taught German to newly enrolled students at the Karl Duisburg Centre. I went to many cities in Germany and experienced all aspects of German life. I saw the German Christmas season, Karneval, Easter and the Weltmeisterschaft!

Coming home has been quite a challenge. I need to find a job and I really want to keep my German skill up and I would love to be able to work and speak German every day! Getting used to American life again is harder than I thought. I really miss not having public transportation and German food. I even forgot English words for common things, but my family and friends try their best to understand what I mean.

I want to let you know that I finally got to use the scholarship money to go to Germany! I hope this email finds all of you well."

## **GERMAN CULTURE AND FOOD BLOG**

Our member, Maria Springer, is a specialist in German and Austrian culinary art. She has created an internet blog on which she tells one or two stories per month from her Austrian background.

Her blog address: <http://www.majaskitchen.com>  
To receive the blog via email you need to fill in your email address and click "submit".

## **OUR SOCIETY: FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

This issue of our newsletter calls upon us to think about the future. The insert of Bernard Penner's address to the Buergerverein describes the travails of the German Americans and where they stand today. Our president's message calls upon us to think about where we are headed; he points out that any group that seeks new members only for the sake of its own survival is doomed. The article discussing our mission statement tells how it was forged in a "constitutional convention" in 1985. We are now at a point where we must review our mission, analyze where we are and where we want to go. We need to find out how to urge young people to understand and appreciate our heritage.

## OUR MISSION: STUDY IT

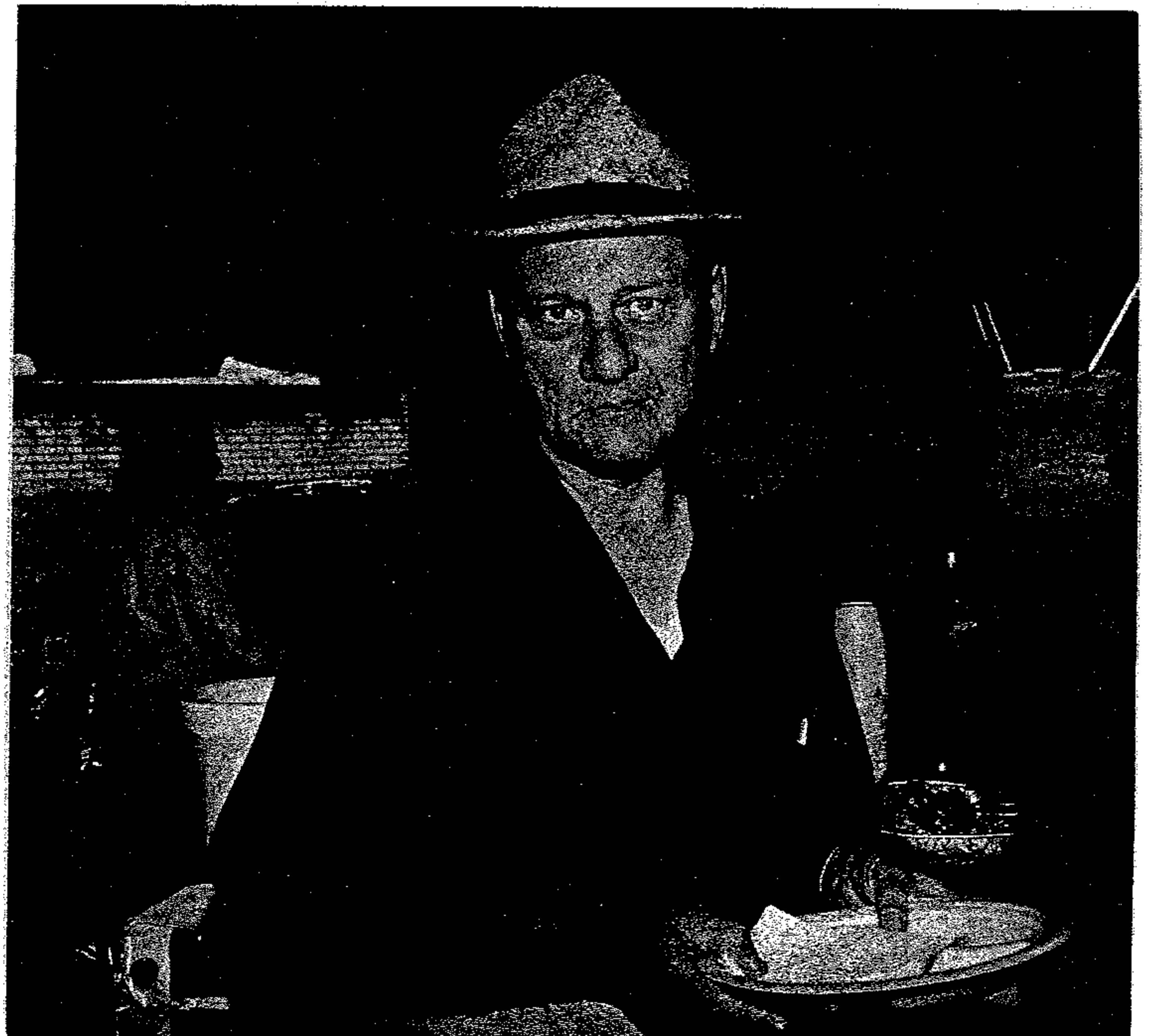
In 1985 our Society held a "constitutional convention" which resulted in the adoption of our Mission Statement, which appears on page 8 of this newsletter. It begins: "The purpose of the German Society of Maryland is to preserve the German heritage and traditions through educational, social and benevolent programs..." Every program and any proposed new activity needs to be analyzed in light of this purpose: preserving and promoting our heritage and traditions. Our bylaws stress that we are an American institution with Germanic roots. So the heritage and traditions referred to in our mission statement is a German American heritage. Our Society was founded nearly 100 years before there was a Germany. Our founders were Prussians, Bavarians, Westphalians, etc., as well as Austrians, Swiss and from German-speaking parts of what is now France, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Russia. Our heritage comes from all these lands, not just present day Germany. Today our major projects have to do with the study of the German language, the single link which tied our forefathers together. When they arrived in America, it was the English who bundled them together under the name "German"s; they considered themselves natives of the region from which they came. Whenever a new project is proposed to our Society, it must be viewed through the eyes of our mission statement: how does it preserve and promote our German American heritage and traditions?

## DENIS SMITH, PHOTOGRAPHER

For more than 25 years, Denis Smith has appeared at Maryland's ethnic events, taking photos of the participants and activities and putting them in albums. He has made a gift to The German Society of thousands of photos from our activities, placed them in albums and identified the event in a professional context. The albums are now a part of our permanent archives. The Society is planning to scan the albums, put them on CD's and on the internet so that they will be available to all.

What Denis has done for our Society he has also done for various other local German organizations; his collection represents a pictorial history of the German community of central Maryland spanning three decades. For many years he was the official photographer of the Steuben Parade in New York

City. Denis is a lifelong resident of Baltimore city. His father, a city fireman, taught Denis to be proud of his German tradition and Denis recalls his father saying to him "always be proud of your German heritage." Denis often photographed our member, William Donald Schaefer as mayor and governor; Schaefer knew of Denis' German background and always referred to him as "Schmidt". Denis' knowledge of local German activities is unparalleled and he is a walking history book. He is an avid reader of history, especially German and German American history and can make an extemporaneous history lecture at the drop of a pin; in fact, he was once called upon to give a speech on a moment's notice after the Steuben Day Parade in New York's Central Park. We are proud and happy to have Denis as a member of The German Society.



## THE BOY SCOUT OATH

A new member signed up at the German Festival. After paying his dues, he wanted to know how he would be officially accepted. The volunteer at our booth didn't know the answer but he remembered the boy scout oath. He told the new member to "raise your right hand and repeat after me: On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey...the rules and bylaws of The German Society of Maryland."

## WANT TO HOST A STUDENT?

ASSE International is a non-profit high school exchange organization in need of volunteer host families; and while it is now too late to sign up for the current year, you may want to do so in the future. The contact is Hanna at 1-800-677-2773. You may make the contact and plan for next year. The students are between 15 and 18 years old, and come with their own spending money and insurance. Families (or other interested people) are asked to provide the student with a room, meals and guidance during their stay. The student would attend your local high school and is interested in becoming a member of your family. The program looks to building a world of understanding through cross-cultural exchange. Our President, the Rev. H.J. Siegfried Otto is interested in student exchanges and you may contact him through our Society to discuss various aspects of student exchange, since he was himself an exchange student from Germany to the USA and graduated from an American high school.

## CAN WE PROMOTE A RADIO SHOW?

The Baltimore area lost our two German American Sunday radio hours when The radio stations which handled the Edelweiss Hour and the Radio Klub's German hour decided they no longer wanted to air ethnic. The Italian hour survived because one of the members of the Italian club, Nick Mangione, owned the radio station, WFBR. Realizing that you can listen to many radio stations on the internet, one of our members has suggested that we promote a German show and put it on the internet. The cost is minimal. It may be possible to obtain some of the resources of the Edelweiss Club and the German Radio Club and partner with one or more of the college and high school German clubs. A weekly show could be produced; listeners could tune it in at their convenience at any time during the week and not have to be confined to a specific Sunday morning time slot. Anyone with an internet connection can hear it from anywhere in the world. We contacted WTTR in Westminster and they did not reject outright our concept; so it may be possible to produce such a show in a professional setting. Our member suggested a possible partnership with McDaniel College, located just down the street from WTTR. Perhaps a partnership among the former producers of the Edelweiss Hour, the German Radio Club, McDaniel College, and other colleges and high

schools in Central Maryland. The program could have a large audience, especially if carried on the websites of many German American clubs and organizations, Would you tune in to listen to the program on the internet? Would you like to contribute your talents occasionally to the program? What do you think of the idea in general? Send a note with your thoughts to our newspaper editor Ted Potthast at 1819 Leadburn Rd., Towson, MD 21204...or leave a message on our office phone: 410-685-0450.

## HEAVEN AND HELL, ethnically speaking

Heaven is where:  
The police are British,  
The chefs are Italian,  
The mechanics are German,  
The lovers are French  
and it's all organized by the Swiss.

Hell is where:  
The police are German,  
The chefs are British,  
The mechanics are French,  
The lovers are Swiss, and  
it's all organized by the Italians.

## DER WECKER: GERMAN AMERICAN FORUM HAS ATTRACTED 4,000

An internet forum recently created to serve the Baltimore Washington area German American community has met with rapid success, with 4,000 persons visiting the website and registering to read and place messages and comments. It provides news of the current events of interest to German Americans. Der Wecker, (the alarm clock) takes its name from a Baltimore 19th century German newspaper. The site is free to use; its postings are monitored. Hop on the internet and check it out. Its founder, Walt Mathers is a member of our Society.