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GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM OF THE USA™

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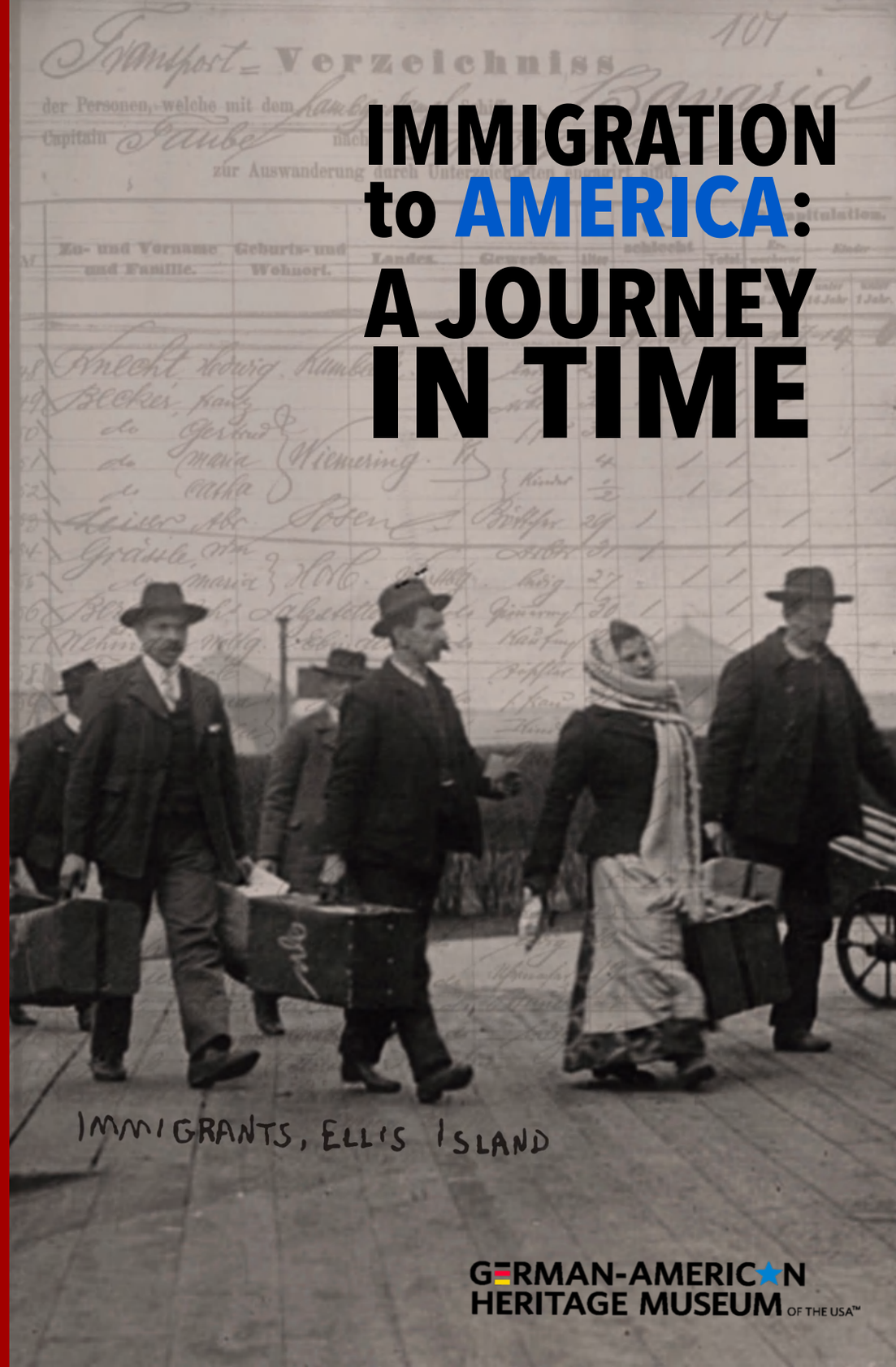
The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is an educational organization and serves as the national umbrella organization in which German-Americans worked together on vital issues of common concern and promote their heritage. Its mission is to preserve and promote the heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry.

The organization was founded in 1977 and chartered in 1978 in Pennsylvania as the "United German-American Committee of the USA". It is a nonprofit, non partisan 501(c)(3) organization. In 2006, it started doing business as the "German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®".

IMMIGRATION to AMERICA: A JOURNEY IN TIME



GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM OF THE USA™

CONTENTS

Cover photo: Immigrants Landing at Ellis Island ca. 1900. Germn passenger list, transatlantic voyage Hamburg to New York 1866. Above: This page Backpage: Welcome to the Land of Freedom.

IMMIGRATION to AMERICA: A JOURNEY IN TIME

The United States today is a patchwork of many races, cultures and ethnicities that formed this country over the last four centuries. Germans made up the largest of these groups, and their contributions shaped and made America the country it is today. One-sixth of the current U.S. population claims German or German-speaking ancestors. German immigrants started coming to the New World in the early 17th century. In the first phase of their immigration to America, religious motives played a large role. In the 19th and 20th centuries on the other hand, socioeconomic grievances and political oppression were the primary reasons that led many Europeans to seek a better life in the United States.

Among all the countries of the world, none held such a strong fascination for German immigrants as did America. Our goal is to tell their stories, their successes and failures, and their impact on the growth and history of America. We want to convey why they left their home country, how they were welcomed in the New World, and what happened to them as they began their new lives.

Today, no other country has such close political and economic ties to Germany as the United States of America. Our mission is to remember and commemorate the past and to cultivate and enhance the ongoing political, cultural and economic ties between our two countries.

the BEGINNINGS

This page, left Hamburg- Amerika Linie, circa 1900; Right: Elderly Amish couple in 1940s.

Facing page: German colonists resting in their travel; bottom: German immigrant family on their farm in 1872.

The first immigrants to America arrived in the early 17th century and continued to arrive in ever increasing numbers through the early 20th century. Settlement began in 1683 with the founding of a Mennonite village at Germantown, Pennsylvania, now part of Philadelphia. By 1914, about 7 million Germans had left their fatherland to settle in the United States.

America was viewed by many as the Promised Land — as a land flowing with milk and honey, as a paradise on earth. And the United States of America welcomed immigrants from Europe. American recruiters made extensive efforts to attract German immigrants, especially after the Civil War.

America needed settlers to cultivate the land, steel and mill workers to run their industries, and craftsmen to meet an ever increasing demand for goods and services. Entire immigration industries sprang into action, and immigrants became the profitable "trade" between 1885 and the onset of World War I. In Bremen and Hamburg, the most important ports of embarkation for German and Eastern European emigrants, German shipping agents took an active role in this "industry." As a means of marketing their services, they lobbied innkeepers, pastors, and teachers by offering them gifts of money, paintings, and even cuckoo clocks for promoting the transatlantic voyage among their own clientele.

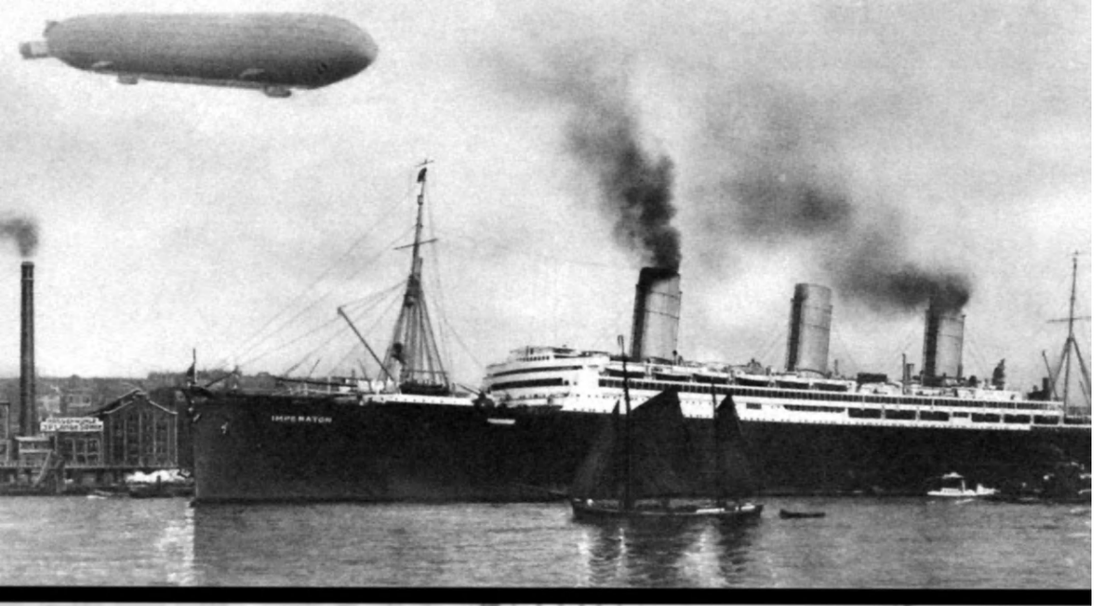
"Emigration Fever" spread. Many spent everything they had on a ticket to freedom. In the mid-19th century, the passage to America for an average craftsman cost approximately three months' wages, or about 50 German "*talers*" — from which the word "dollar" is derived. In Eastern Europe, families had to save for years to pay for passage from Hamburg or Bremen to the United States.

For many, the American dream did not materialize — thousands died during the crossing, and hundreds of thousands of those who arrived safely suffered from hunger, sickness, natural disaster, and other hardships. The gap between expectation and reality was often huge:

"I went to American becuase I thought streets were paved with gold. When I arrived, I found out that they weren't paved at all and that I was going to be the one to do it."

– Anonymous immigrant, 19th century

Many — roughly 20 percent of all immigrants — decided to return to Europe. Yet those who hung on, despite the hardship and pain, knew exactly why they chose to stay. They cherished, at the very least, their newfound political and religious freedom, which was often hard to come by in their homelands. In America there were no pogroms, no massacres, and the vast stretches of unsettled land offered opportunities for hardworking people to access the great promise of their new home.



the VOYAGE

In the 18th and 19th centuries, German immigrants traveled, on average, four to six months to reach America. They first had to reach a harbor by foot, carriage, or train, and then they had to wait for the next vessel to offer passage. The crossing itself would often take several more weeks, in extreme cases even months, depending on the weather.

Crossing the Atlantic was by far the most dangerous, and often deadliest, part of the voyage. Early sailing vessels provided little or no accommodations and no food for the passengers aboard. Diaries, letters, and other documents from that period bear witness to the horrors which most of the immigrants had to endure before they could reach the "Promised Land."

"There is terrible misery, stench, fumes, horror, vomiting, fever, dysentery, headache, heat, constipation, boils, scurvy, cancer, mouth rot, and the like, all of which come from the old and sharply sorted food and meat, also from very bad and foul water, so that many die miserably."

– Swabian School Master
Gottlieb Mittelberger (1750)

At the beginning of the Colonial Period, emigrants were embarking mostly from the ports of Rotterdam, Liverpool or Le Havre. From then onward, travelers crossing the Atlantic on sailing ships were taken on and treated as cargo. Traveling vessels bringing tobacco and cotton to Europe took emigrants as welcome "paying loads" to avoid sailing back empty. Until the middle of the 19th century, when the larger steamers came into service, the transatlantic journey was at best uncomfortable and at worst fatal.

"Just Imagine being trapped in the room with 110-115 other immigrants during a heavy storm, imagine the smell, the laughter and merriment, the vomiting and lamenting, the cries of children..."

– Friedrich Gerstaecker,
crossing to America on board
the Constitution in 1837

Estimates run up to 8,000 deaths at sea between 1830 and 1840 due to disease, malnutrition, virtually nonexistent accommodations, and overall inhumane conditions. Already in 1835, a New York newspaper described the immigrant vessels as "plague ships and floating coffins." Conditions changed with the rise of steamships, and transatlantic emigration became big a business. Bremerhaven and Hamburg became the most important points of departure for European immigrants. Both cities built special emigration hall, to house the growing number of emigrants, especially those from Eastern Europe.

In Hamburg, Albert Ballin, the founder of HAPAG (Hamburg-Amerikanische-Packetfahrt-Aktien-Gesellschaft), had an entire village built, called "Ballinstadt," with sleeping quarters for 2,500 people, running water, and its own medical and service system. Serving one of the largest mass migration in history, it was at the time the largest guesthouse in the world.

immigrants landing at Ellis Island, ca. 1900; Right: Germantown, Pennsylvania.

from INDIVIDUAL EMIGRANTS to "GERMANTOWN"

The colonization of America in the 17th century was mostly undertaken by seafaring nations like the English, the Dutch, the French, the Spanish, and the Swedish. Germany played no major role in the undertaking. Early German immigrants were mostly individuals seeking adventure and an opportunity to make their fortune in the American colonies.

It took until 1683 for the first large group of German settlers to come to America. On October 6th of that year, 13 families from Krefeld, North Rhine-Westphalia arrived in Philadelphia aboard the *Concord*. The English aristocrat William Penn, who had founded the British colony of Pennsylvania the previous year and who also envisioned a "holy experiment" that would create a utopian state of tolerance and freedom, had invited them. In order to colonize the vast stretches of forestland he had been granted by the British crown, he toured several German states, offering recruits grants of land and religious freedom, which was most precious to the new settlers.

Most passengers on the *Concord* were Mennonites, a Protestant sect whose beliefs were similar to that of the Quakers. Having endured religious oppression in their homeland, they followed Penn's call to start a new life in America.

The Krefelders were led by Francis Daniel Pastorius, a German lawyer hired by the "Frankfurter Compagnie" to recruit settlers for Pennsylvania. The Mennonite settlers wanted "to lead a quiet, godly and honest life in a howling wilderness." They established the first German settlement in America and named it "Germantown." It exists to this day within the boundaries of Philadelphia.

Initially, life in the first German Settlement was harsh and brutal. Immediately upon arrival, the settlers constructed primitive huts and cellars to survive the impending winter. These living conditions must have appeared barbaric both to the Germans themselves and to the other local European settlers. Pastorius, the first mayor of the town, used to refer to the settlement as "Armentown," an English-German mix meaning "poor-town." Thankfully, conditions improved over time. The settlers cleared the forest, built roads, harvested crops, raised livestock, and even cultivated a few vineyards. Pastorius wrote extensively in German, English, and Dutch about the early colonial times. He and his religious followers were the first to publish a proclamation against slavery in the U.S., which seems enlightened to the standards of their time, and still holds true today:

> *"Although they are black we cannot see why it should be more reasonable to keep them as slaves instead of whites!"*
>
> – *Proclamation, April 1688*

Many more German settlements followed in Pennsylvania. In the beginning, the majority were established by other Anabaptist sects, like the Amish and Herrnhuter. Later, due to the mass exodus of poverty and famine stricken citizens from the Palatinate in the southern Rhine region, farmers and skilled workers made the voyage to Pennsylvania without specific religious motives. They were called "Pennsylvania Dutch" because their language, "Deutsch," was easily corrupted to "Dutch" by English speakers.

The Germans became so numerous in some areas of Pennsylvania that even Benjamin Franklin, normally a strong advocate of European immigration to the United States, warned his countrymen against entry, fearing Anglo-American dominance might be endangered. He called the Germans "Palatine boors" ("Pfalzer Lümmel") and asked:

> "Why should they have permission to settle in such large numbers that they are threatening to displace the English language?"

His real motive was not anti-German however. He just wanted to steer the influx of German immigrants and disperse them equally across the country.

In recognition of the impact of these first German settlers and the achievements of Pastorius, the U.S. Congress and the Federal Republic of Germany issued a special postage stamp in time for the tricentennial anniversary in 1983.

The MUHLENBERG MYTH

One of the most persistent myths in the annals of American folk history holds that German nearly became the official language of the United States except for a single vote against it in a deadlocked Congress. This myth, which is still widespread among Germans and German-Americans alike to this day, dates back to 1794 when a contingent of German speakers from Virginia petitioned Congress to publish federal laws both in German and in English.

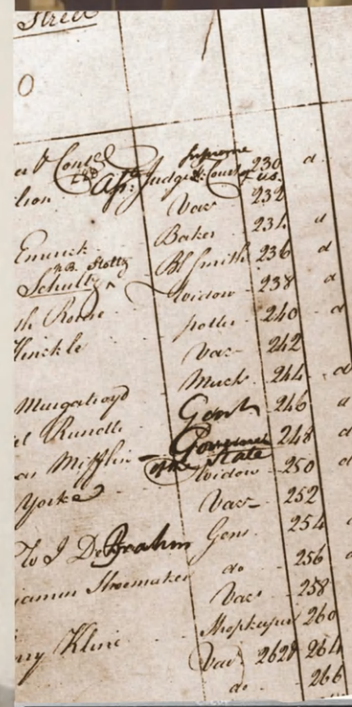
In 1795, after a House committee had reviewed and endorsed this petition, it reached the floor where the petition was debated but not decided. On January 17, 1795 a vote was called to adjourn the session. That vote, which had no bearing on the petition, stood at 42 in favor with 41 against. The petition itself was rejected at a later time. The exact vote tally is not known. At any rate, the German language would still have remained an unofficial language.

This petition is comparable to the current Washington, D.C. law mandating that municipal services be made available in the native tongues of those who seek them.

The Speaker of the House at the time of the petition's rejection was Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg, a son of German immigrants. Due to his Anglo-American leanings, many German-Americans held Muhlenberg responsible for the defeat of the petition.

And thus the Muhlenberg Myth was born and widely promoted by German-Americans in the 19th century, at a time when they perceived a decidedly "Anglo-American" bent in U.S. history books and publications. They wanted to draw public attention to the many achievements and contributions by German immigrants to the history and growth of the United States, but instead they got an urban legend.

To date neither the U.S. Constitution nor any amendment has established English as the offcial language of the United States.



This page: Muhlenberg Church, left top to bottom: 1856 Prince Henry of Prussia; census report, 1790; John Jacob Astor, 1894

REVOLUTIONARY WARS: FIGHTING on BOTH SIDES

Facing page, top to bottom: William Penn; battle of Germantown; Hessian, British, American Soldiers, 1776; General von Steuben drilling the troops; this page right; Molly Pitcher, 1778.

Although many religious German settlers and British Quakers believed in pacifism, the majority of the German colonial population supported the cause for American independence and supported the Revolutionary War.

In 1775, Heinrich Mueller, publisher of the influential German periodical *Der Wöchentliche Philadelphische Stadtbote*, was one of the first to call on his fellow countrymen to "defend law and liberty with arms!" He was also the first to publish the Declaration of Independence in German on July 5th, 1776, one day before it was published in English.

Germans fought on both sides during the Revolutionary War, but those fighting on the side of the British were neither American settlers nor volunteers. They were mercenary soldiers, mostly from the German state of Hesse. Their ruler, Landgrave Frederick II, had sold the services of about 20,000 Hessians to King George III of England. 10,000 others came from other smaller German states such as Braunschweig, Ansbach, and Waldeck. After the war, 17,000 soldiers returned to their home country, while 5,000 accepted an offer by the U.S. government to remain and settle in America.

The most prominent German fighting alongside George Washington was General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, the first Inspector General of the U.S. Army. By teaching the Revolutionary troops Prussian drills and firing tactics, and by establishing the first training manual for U.S. troops, he turned the Revolutionary militia into a disciplined fighting force. We know from his correspondence with a friend that it was not easy to teach Prussian drills to the undisciplined Revolutionary forces. Steuben complained "You tell your soldier, 'do this' and he does it! I have to tell mine first, 'this and that is the reason why you have to do it' and then he does it."

Another Revolutionary War hero and most trusted companion of General George Washington was the General John Peter Muhlenberg, a son of German immigrants and brother of Frederick Augustus Muhlenberg. Before the Revolutionary War, he served as a Lutheran pastor and famously referred to the Bible when he joined the army: "There is a time for all things and there is a time to preach and a time to pray, but the time for me to preach has passed away, and there is a time to fight, and that time has come now."

Mary Ludwig, daughter of Germans from the Palatinate and born in Pennsylvania around 1755, became another heroine of the American Revolution. Better known as Molly Pitcher, she accompanied her husband on active duty, and cooked and cared for the wounded. At the battle of Monmouth in New Jersey, a turning point, Molly brought water in a pitcher to the gunners, who suffered through the battle in the brutal heat of the day. When her husband was wounded, she courageously took over his position at the gun, inspiring the rebels to fight on to victory and making herself a legend in the process. In 1822, the State of Pennsylvania awarded her a state pension for her bravery.

400 YEARS of HELPING SHAPE AMERICA

The German-Americans have come a long way since 1607, when the first German reached the shores of the James River at Jamestown, Virginia. Today, the descendants of the more than 7 million Germans who immigrated to America make up America's largest ethnic group, and have become an integral part of the multicultural and multi-ethnic fabric of American society.

German-Americans have helped build and enrich the U.S. with their culture, music, faith, work, and industriousness. The history of the German-Americans, the largest single group of immigrants to America, is inseparable from the history of the United States. Throughout the last four centuries they have left their mark on politics, culture, and economy of their new home.

This timeline pays tribute to their rich heritage and achievements in every facet of American life. The story of German-Americans does not end with their history and heritage. It reaches into the 21st century as they continue to shape American life alongside the many other diverse groups of immigrants who have come to the United States.

SEE MORE INSIDE

1600

1607

The German doctor Johannes Fleischer is among the first English settlers to arrive on the shores of the James River in Virginia. The first permanent English settlement is established in Jamestown.

1608

Another five Germans arrive on the ship "Mary and Margaret" at the Jamestown settlement. The group includes three skilled glass blowers and carpenters.

1626

Peter Minuit, a German, arrives in "New Amsterdam." He serves as governor of this Dutch colony which later becomes New York.

1683

13 families of German Mennonites from Krefeld seeking religious freedom arrive in Pennsylvania. Met by Francis Pastorius and encouraged by William Penn, they purchase 43,000 acres of land and found the first permanent German settlement, Germantown, just north of Philadelphia.

1689

Francis Daniel Pastorius becomes the first mayor of German religious community in Germantown, Pennsylvania.


Philadelphische Zeitung.

SAMBSTAG, den 6 May. 1732.

An alle teutsche Einwohner der Provintz Pennsylvanien.

NACHDEM ich von verschiedenen teutschen Ein... dieses Landes bin worden, eine teutsche ...ugehen zu lassen, und ihnen ... das vornehmste und merckw... neues, so hier und in Europa ... möchte, zu communiciren; ... hierzu viele mühe, grosse co... denz und auch Unkosten erfor... den: Als habe mich entschlos... nen teutschen zu lieb gegen... Specimen davon heraus zu ge... ihnen dabey die Conditiones ... nothwendig zu der continuation ... benerfordert werden, bekent zu ...

Erstlich, müsten zum wenig... die unkosten die darauf lauffen, ... machen, 300 stücks können ... und debitiret werden, und mü... der Township dazu ein man... machet werden, welcher mir wi... se, wie viel Zeitungen jedes ma... müsten gesandt werden, und d... weiters einen jeglichen zustellen ... bezahlung davor einfordern mü...

Vor jede Zeitung muss jäh... Shillings erleget, und davon ...

wocae einmahl, nemlich Sonnabends in gegenwärtiger form einer Zeitung, nebst denen schlüssen so hier abgehan...

1700

1700s

The settling of the British colonies by small, German-speaking religious groups continues. They include Swiss Mennonites, Baptist Dunkers, Schwenkfelders, Moravians, Amish and Waldensians. Most German immigrants belong to the Lutheran and Reformed churches.

1714

Fort Germanna, was built by Lt. Gov. Alexander Spotswood beyond the frontier of European civilization in colonial Virginia. It protected 42 colonists from the Siegerland (North Rhine Westphalia.)

1720

First group of Amish land in Lancaster, PA .

1723

First German-language newspaper in the United States, the Philadelphische Zeitung is published in Pennsylvania.

1734

37 families expelled from Salzburg, Austria, land on shore of the Savannah River. They subsequently found the religious settlement of Ebenezer.

1742

Christopher Sauer, a German printer in Philadelphia, publishes the first German-language Bible in America. It is printed using lead-cast-movable type from the Lutheran Letter Foundry in Frankfurt, Germany.

1776

The Colonies declare their independence from the English crown. The Declaration of Independence is printed in German from the growing German-American community, which supports the Revolutionary War, approximately 230,000 persons of German descent live in the 13 original colonies.

1778

General Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben, a former Prussian officer, becomes the first Inspector General of the Continental Army. With his Prussian drill and training technique, he makes major contributions to the victories of the Revolutionary forces under General George Washington.

1783

As many as 5,000 of the Hessian mercenaries, hired by Britain to fight in the Revolutionary War, remain in America after being granted citizenship by the U.S. Congress.

1785

The United States of America signs the first treaty of Amity and Commerce with the German state of Prussia.

1795

Congress considers a proposal to print federal laws in German in addition to English. This petition by a group of Germans from Virginia does not pass.

1800

1821

The German tradition of having a specially decorated tree at Christmas time is introduced to America by the Pennsylvania Dutch in Lancaster, PA.

1844 – 1845

Prinz Karl of Solms-Braunfels sails to America with three ships and 100 families to settle in Texas. On 8,000 acres of land purchased near San Antonio, New Braunfels is founded.

1848

The failed democratic revolutions of 1848 cause tens of thousands to leave Germany and settle in America. Many of these immigrants are well educated intellectuals who contribute greatly to American culture. The most famous refugee of that time is Carl Schurz, who later serves the Union as a General in the Civil War, and afterwards as a U.S. Senator from Missouri and Secretary of the Interior.

1861 – 1865

The American Civil War takes place. German-Americans are traditionally opposed to slavery and the secession of the South. Most of them join the Union forces.

1872

Century-old privileges granted to German farmers living in Russia are revoked by the Tsarist government. This causes thousands of farmers and their families to emigrate. By 1920, well over 100,000 of these so-called "Volga" and "Black Sea" Germans live in the United States. The majority of them settle in the Dakotas, Nebraska and Colorado.

1890

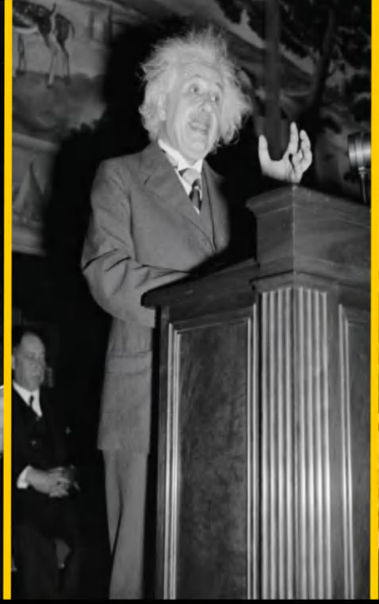
An estimated 2.8 million German-born immigrants live in the United States. A majority of these German-Americans are located in the "German-Triangle" which consists of Cincinnati, Milwaukee and St. Louis.

1872

Ellis Island opens in New York, becoming the major port of entry for over 12 million immigrants to the United States.

1894

At the height of German-American printing, approximately 800 German-language journals are being published in the United States. An example is the *New York Staatszeitung*.



1900

1904

More than one thousand German-Americans drown in a boating accident abroad the steamer *Slocum* on the East River in New York. This accident tears apart the formerly thriving community of Klein Deutschland, or "Little Germany," in New York City.

1914 – 1918

Despite attempts by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson to remain neutral, the sinking of the RMS *Lusitania* by a German U-boat thrusts America into World War I. During this period immigration ceases and German life and culture in the United States declines.

1923

On Dec. 8, the Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Consular Relations between Germany and the United States of America was signed in Washington, D.C. with the goal of improving relations between the U.S. and German governments.

1928

Herbert Hoover ("Huber") is the first American of German descent to be elected as President of the United States.

1933 – 1945

Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany leads to a significant increase in immigration by German scientists, writers, musicians, scholars and intellectuals in order to escape personal persecution and political suppression.

1948 – 1949

The Soviet Union blockades the occupied German territories under its control, cutting off West Berlin from territories under control by the Western Allies. With the famous Air Lift the Western Allies establish a lifeline to supply the 2.2 million people living in West Berlin with necessary provisions.

1949

The Federal Republic of Germany is established. Germany becomes the most important ally of the United States as well as being a frontline state during the Cold War.

1950 – 1980

Approximately 850,000 Germans immigrate to the United States.

1961

East Germany begins constructions on a wall along its border with West Germany in order to halt a mass exodus by its citizens who in large part were fleeing political oppression and economic backwardness for freedom in the West.

1983

The United States and West Germany celebrate the German-American Tricentennial, marking the 300th anniversary of German immigration to Pennsylvania.

1987

"German-American Day" is established by congressional Resolution and Presidential Proclamation.

1989

The Berlin Wall falls.

1990

Reunification of East and West Germany.

2000

2000

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, more than 46 million Americans claim to be solely or partially of German descent.

2008

50th Anniversary of the Steuben Parade in New York. Jamestown, Virginia 400th anniversary Celebration of the First Germans in America.

2010

More than 400 years after the first Germans arrived in the New World, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® opens the first national German-American Heritage Museum™ in Washington D.C.

2011

Launch of the first German Caucus in the US-Congress dedicated to maintaining and strengthening the relationship between the United States and Germany and to drawing attention to the heritage of German-American immigrants and their achievements in building the United States.

2017

GAHF celebrates 40th anniversary.

2019

75th anniversary of German and German-American internee exchanges for U.S. POWs during WWII. A memorial weekend takes place in New York City and Crystal City, Texas.

2019

100th anniversary of the Bauhaus Movement by German architect Walter Gropius, which heavily influenced American art and design throughout the 20th century.

2020

May 8 is the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII in Europe. Following the cessation of hostilities, the United States played an essential role in German recovery with economic assistance programs such as the Marshall Plan and emergency responses such as the Berlin Airlift. It marked the beginning of a lasting friendship and multi-level collaboration between the U.S. and Germany.

WHITE SLAVES: The SYSTEM of REDEMPTIONERS

Indentured servitude contract, 1830

One of the darkest chapters in the history of German immigration to America was that of the widespread system of redemptioneering. While similar to the English system of indentured servitude, British law offered its own immigrants greater legal protections than given to German immigrants. A redemptioner was typically a poor emigrant who gained passage across the Atlantic by taking out a hefty loan with a shipping contractor, which would be taken on upon arrival in the colonies by a wealthy landowner who would repay the shipper directly. Before disembarking, the emigrant would negotiate an often unfair and exploitative labor contract with his landlord, promising years of unpaid labor as repayment for the loan. The resulting arrangement closely resembled the system of African slavery. This import of cheap labor was very popular among landowners, especially during colonial times, since redemptioners were often less expensive than sales, lacked any form of civil rights or protection under the law, and could be bought and resold at auctions.

Gottlieb Mittelberger, an eyewitness at such an auction in Pennsylvania around 1750, described their fate as follows:

> *"Adult persons bind themselves in writing to serve three, four, five or six years for the amount due by them. But their young people, from 10-15 years, must serve till they are 21 years old. It often happens that parents and children after leaving the ship do not see each other again for many years, perhaps no more in all their lives."*

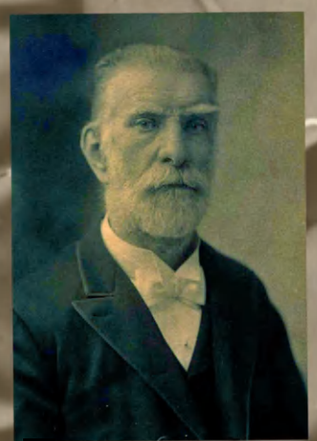
Although this system seems to be cruel and inhumane, without it only half of the German immigrants could have made it to America during the Colonial Period. Even immigration societies in Germany refrained from opposing it. Perhaps naïvely, they considered it a good opportunity to learn English and to adapt to the colonial way of life.

Johann Peter Zenger was such a case. He arrived as a redemptioner in 1709 at the age of 13 and spent eight years under contract to a printer in New York. He learned the trade so well that later he was able to found his own newspaper, the *New York Weekly Journal.* His outspoken criticism of the British governor landed him in jail, and his subsequent acquittal is considered to be one of the first victories for freedom of the press in the American colonies.

In the early 19th century, the practice of redemptioneering was phased out when cheap short-term labor became accessible and replaced long-term contracts.

the 48ERS:

AN INTELLECTUAL INFLUX WHICH HELPED SHAPE TODAY'S AMERICA



Democratic ideals, antimonarchical history, and its promise of personal freedom — the United States of America has always been a haven and role model for proponents of democratic values, as well as for revolutionaries from all corners of the world. At the beginning of the 19th century, Germany was a patchwork of hundreds of small fiefdoms, dukedoms, principalities and the like, mostly led by authoritarian rulers and monarchs. The period of "restoration" following the Napoleonic Wars, with its political oppression and anti-democratic climate, was a breeding ground for a national movement of intellectuals and students who demanded democratic reforms and unified nation state.

In March of 1848, the German Revolution broke out. After some early successes, a national assembly was created and a more liberal constitution was instituted. The rebellion failed, however, due to a lack of public support and an intervention by a Prussian military. Thousands of revolutionary leaders were threatened either with the death penalty or with lengthy jail terms. They chose exile instead.

Many found their way to the United States, including some of the best and brightest minds of their time. Professors and students, theologians and lawyers, writers and journalists fled in large numbers to America.

Although they were a relatively small group compared to the many earlier immigrants and the millions who were still to come, these immigrants were among the most educated ever to arrive in the United States. They called themselves the "48ers" and had a lasting impact on American political life and its development in the second half of the 19th century.

Their most prominent member was Carl Schurz. He helped Abraham Lincoln win his presidential campaign on his anti-slavery platform, which was strongly supported by German-Americans throughout the United States. He served his adopted country as Major General during the Civil War, and later served as Secretary of the Interior under President Hayes from 1877-1881. Carl Schurz was one of the first to promote the protection of forests on public land, and is therefore considered by many to be one of the founders of the U.S. National Park Service.

His wife, Margarethe Meyer-Schurz, opened the first American "Kindergarten" in Watertown, Wisconsin in 1856. Others, like Frederich Hecker, helped Lincoln and the Union win the Civil War by organizing an entire regiment of German-Americans who fought bravely and successfully in battles, perhaps most famously at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.

This page: Attack on the barricade at Alexanderplatz, Berlin, Germany, 1848; and Kindergarten scene. Opposite page, background: Carl Schurz; bottom left; Adolf Cluss; and bottom right; National Assembly in Frankfurt, Germany 1848.

Until the 20th century, most German-Americans preserved their culture and language by settling and living with others who shared their heritage. Today, one can still find hundreds of cities and villages whose names derive from German settlements on maps of the United States – take, for example, Bismarck in New Jersey, New Berlin in Wisconsin, or New Braunfels in Texas, to name just a few.

Cities like New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, Cincinnati, and Milwaukee all had their "little Germany" (Klein-Deutschland) neighborhoods until well into the 20th century. Around 1900, "Little Germany" on the lower East Side of Manhattan counted as the third largest German-speaking city after Berlin and Vienna.

Church services in many places were held in German, as was instruction in many German-speaking public school districts. By the beginning of World War I, more than 500 German-language newspaper were being published in the United States. Today, only a handful of those have survived.

The climax of German-American life and culture in the U.S. occurred around 1900. Countless social clubs, known as "Vereine", were founded to foster German customs and language. German families met in neighborhood beer halls, which were places of "Gemütlichkeit" (good fellowship and peace of mind) and where neighbors and relatives could come together to enjoy music, food, and socializing.

John Hockemeyer was a typical member of this generation. He was a respected member of the German community in the Washington D.C.'s Penn Quarter neighborhood. There, Hockemeyer built the Victorian residence, which now houses the German-American Heritage Museum™. Like his compatriots, he was proud of his German heritage and was eager to promote his native culture to the American public.

The thriving German-American life and culture in the U.S. came to an immediate halt at the beginning of World War I and remained muffled long afterward. German-Americans were scrutinized for signs of disloyalty toward their new home country. Anti-German hysteria went to ridiculous lengths: the Frankfurter became the "hot dog," the German Shepherd became the "Alsatian," and Sauerkraut became "liberty cabbage." Many German-Americans were jailed for speaking out in opposition to American politics. When the U.S. declared war on Germany in 1917, mobs attacked German-American citizens across the country in a jingoistic rage. In Illinois in 1918, one outspoken immigrant was even lynched.

As a result, German-Americans began to hide their German roots. They tried to assimilate completely and many lost touch with their German identities.

Yet the German-American influence and heritage remains ingrained in American culture today. From Christkindl Markets to Santa Claus; from Kindergarten to physical fitness training, which traces its roots back to German-American "Turnvereine;" to picnics, frankfurters, and apple strudels: German-Americans, their culture and their achievements have never ceased to play a major role in American life.

Opposite page, top: Members of the Steuben Society, 1919; middle left: German Song Playbill; bottom: Cincinnati-over-the Rhine Saloon, 1875.

GERMANS in EXILE: FORGED EMIGRATION DURING the THIRD REICH

Top background: Overview of the mass roll call of SA, SS, and NSKK troops, Nuremberg, November 1935; bottom; 39th Infantry American soldiers cross Siegfried Line, 1944; middle; Jews forced to march with star, 1938. Right page; Carl Laemmle.

Hitler's rise to power in 1933 and the methodical persecution of Jews led to a new involuntary wave of emigration from Europe. Hundreds of thousands of political refugees – many of them Jews – including scientists, artist, and writers, left Germany to seek safety abroad. The destination favored by most refugees and exiles was the United States, but due to a restrictive quota – based immigration policy, many of them were unable to emigrate to the U.S. South Africa, South America, Shanghai, Great Britain, and Switzerland were among the other major destinations for refugees from the Nazi Regime.

Several hundreds of thousands reached freedom and democracy in the United States, with the help of relatives or refugee aid organization, as well as through affidavits by U.S. citizens guaranteeing the financial support of refugees. Carl Laemmle, himself a German-American and the influential head of Universal Studios in Hollywood, helped more than 300 refugees find their way into the United States by issuing and signing such affidavits.

Those who were permitted entry into the U.S. were among the brightest of German culture and science. Writers like Nobel Prize winner Thomas Mann, Bertolt Brecht, and Lion Feuchtwanger, Bauhaus founder and architect Walter Gropius, historian Fritz Stern, future U.S. Treasurer Michael Blumenthal, future U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, and the best-known of them all, Albert Einstein, all fled to America in fear of the lurking menace that grew stronger every day in their homeland.

For Germany, this was an enormous cultural and intellectual brain drain, from which the country never fully recovered. There is no better proof than Albert Einstein's immigration to the United States in 1933. At that time, the German General Consul to New York, Carl-Otto Kiep, commented on Einstein's immigration with the prophetic words: "Your gain is our loss!" This statement cost him his diplomatic career. He was later sentenced to death for his role in the German anti-Hitler opposition.

It is more than an irony of fate that this generation of forced emigrants and exiles was, after the end of World War II, among the most outspoken proponents of rebuilding Germany into a democracy.

Like all settlers who sought freedom from religious and political persecution, and the 48ers who strove to no avail for democracy in their homeland and then found it here, all German-Americans are a testament to the positive cultural influx to America. It is no coincidence that both freedom of religion and democratic governance spread back to Germany in the wake of those migrations.

Partners in Leadership

World War II ended many decades ago. Since then, former enemies have become allies and even friends. Germany, which for decades was divided by the Iron Curtain and the Berlin Wall, is reunited. Due to its political stability and economic power, Germany has earned worldwide respect and admiration.

For decades, American Presidents and German Chancellors have been successful in building a strong and lasting transatlantic partnership and alliance. Whether as military partners in Afghanistan, the Balkans, the Middle East, or as economic allies trying to solve the global financial crisis, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany have become real "partners in leadership."

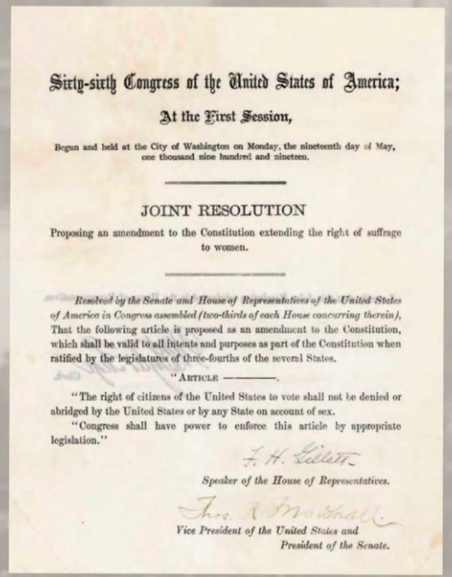
Today's Germany is no longer a major emigration country. In fact, it is just the opposite. Like the United States in the 19th and 20th centuries, Germany has become an immigration country. For political refugees as well as for people trying to escape economic hardships, Germany has become a beacon of hope. In the 21st century, both Germany and the United States are confronted with the problems and benefits from an influx of immigrants.

Remember the Ladies

These words, famously penned by future First Lady Abigail Adams in 1776, to urge her husband John and other members of the Continental Congress to not forget about the women in their quest for independence, also apply to the millions of German-American women who left their marks in manifold ways. Germans were a part of the British colony of Jamestown from the start, but it wasn't until the 1620s that the Virginia Company started sending women to the newly established colony. Regrettably, many of the names and places of origin have been lost, leaving today's historians with more questions than answers.

During the following years, the settling of the British colonies by small German-speaking religious groups and families seeking freedom continued. A prominent member of such a group was Barbara Heck (1734-1804), the mother of American Methodism. Originally from the Palatinate, her parents had first settled in County Limerick, Ireland where they became Methodists through exposure to the preaching of English reformer John Wesley. Barbara and her husband Paul immigrated to New York around 1760, and it was there that she became a leading figure of the small congregation and designed the simple chapel at John Street, which became the Methodists' first permanent house of worship.

Throughout the 19th century, German-American women took on more prominent roles outside the traditional confines of the home. Margarethe Meyer-Schurz (1833-1876) had studied with the child advocate, educational reformer, and creator of the Kindergarten concept, Friedrich Fröbel, in Hamburg, Germany. After moving to Watertown, Wisconsin, she opened the first German-style Kindergarten with guided play, songs, and group activities. Her success inspired many



Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America;

At the First Session,

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the nineteenth day of May, one thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to women.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled (two-thirds of each House concurring therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States.

"ARTICLE ———.

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate.

followers, and the Kindergarten was eventually incorporated in the American education system.

Fellow "Forty-Eighter" and feminist writer Mathilde Anneke (1817-1884) had a privileged upbringing on her father's estate in Westphalia. Her father's bankruptcy forced her into an unhappy marriage and a fierce custody battle over her children after the marriage ended in divorce. Her second wedding to former Prussian military officer Fritz Anneke proved much happier, and exposed her to political activities in the pursuit of freedom and democracy. After their emigration to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mathilde drew upon her newspaper publishing experience to start the first women's rights journal in the United States: the *Deutsche Frauen-Zeitung*, with the first issue appearing in March of 1852 – just four years after the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention in New York promoted women's rights.

Of course, it took several more decades for feminist ideas, such as women's suffrage, to take hold amongst a wider audience. It was yet another Wisconsinite, Meta Schlichting Berger (1873-1944), the daughter of German immigrants, who became a voice for women. A trained teacher, she developed an interest in politics through her husband who convinced her to run for the Milwaukee school board in 1909. She not only won, but eventually served as its president, where she fought for women's ability to teach after marriage and to become school administrators. This engagement prepared her well for her role as the vice president of the Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association from 1914-1917. Her commitment helped secure women's voting rights, and culminated in the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which was ratified on August 18, 1920.

This page, top left: Suffragettes walking with signs circa 1915, top right: Sixty-sixth Congress of the United States of America proposing an amendment to the Constitution extending the right of suffrage to Women; bottom left; location of the first kindergarten, picture taken 8 September, 2014. Opposite page, starting from the top left going down; Barbara Heck circa 1804, Margarethe Meyer-Schurz, Watertown Wisconsin, 1857, Mathilde Anneke, 1840, Meta Berger as she appeared in 1911, at the time of her husband's election to the United States Congress. Background: Suffragetters walking with signs circa, 1915 in New York.

Remember the *Ladies*

The years between the wars saw a significant reduction in the number of German immigrants until Hitler took power. One such immigrant, fleeing Nazi Germany, was Frieda Fromm-Reichmann (1889-1957), a psychiatrist and contemporary of Sigmund Freud.

Born in Karlsruhe to a Jewish family that valued education, she was encouraged by her father to study medicine and become a doctor. She enrolled in medical school in Königsberg, Prussia in 1908, and received her medical degree and the required certifications to work in 1914 – right before the outbreak of World War I. After a residency in neurology studying brain injuries with Kurt Goldstein, she served as a medical doctor and major in the German Army where she treated soldiers with brain damage. She learnt two important principles: The impact of brain trauma on healthy men and the adaptive capacity of the brain.

After the war, she immersed herself in the writings of Sigmund Freud, and began psychoanalytic training at the Berlin Institute – always with a focus on the role of trauma. Frieda fled Germany in 1934 and settled in Rockville, MD, where she continued to develop and expand her intensive therapy concept at Chestnut Lodge, a well-known psychiatric institution.




Amongst a few other important figures we also showcase Lucretia Garfield, née Rudolph, who was the first German-American First Lady from March to September 1881. Florence Kling Harding hailed from Marion, Ohio, where her father was a prominent businessman of German descent. Her paternal family came from Württemberg and she was the First Lady from March 1921 to August 1923. Elisabeth Ney (1833-1907) was a female sculptor and the first woman to study at the Munich Academy of Art. She created sculptures of Otto von Bismarck, King George V of Hanover, the composer Richard Wagner, Jacob Grimm of the Grimm Brothers, Cosima von Bülow, and the Bavarian "fairy tale" King Ludwig II. After moving to Texas, she continued her work, and created marble sculptures of Sam Houston and Stephen Austin, which can now be seen in the Texas State Capitol and in Washington, DC

This page: left to right, Dr. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann (1889-1957); Lucretia Garfield, née Rudolph, was the first German-American First Lady from March to September 1881; Florence Kling Harding, First Lady from March 1921 to August 1923; Elisabeth Ney (1833-1907) was a female sculptor, and the first woman to study at the Munich Academy of Art.

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F. H. Gillett

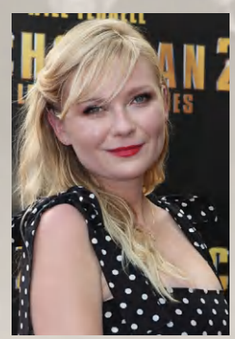
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

President of the Senate.

German-American women also made strides as artists and authors. Novelist and short story writer Patricia Highsmith (1921-1995), née Plangman, was famous for her psychological thrillers and strange tales influenced by Existentialist philosophers including Friedrich Nietzsche. Her first novel, *Strangers on a Train*, has been adapted for the stage and the screen numerous times – most notably by Alfred Hitchock in 1951; the same is true for her 1955 book *The Talented Mr. Ripley,* centering around a young man trying to make a living in New York by any means necessary.

When it comes to Hollywood, many women, including German-Americans, have experienced tremendous success as actresses – Marlene Dietrich, Ingrid Bergman, whose mother was German, Doris Day, Sandra Bullock, and Kirsten Dunst, to mention just a few – but they have also succeeded behind the cameras. Production designer Patrizia von Brandenstein, born in Arizona in 1943 to German-Russian immigrants, is the first woman to have won an Academy Award for best art direction for her work in the 1984 period drama film *Amadeus*, depicting a fictionalized biography of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Today, German-American women are artists, entrepreneurs, scientists, medical doctors, educators, politicians, pilots, farmers – or anything they want to be knowing that they stand on the shoulders of some truly amazing ladies.

Background; World War I doctors and nurses by ambulance vehicle, circa 1914-1918; top left to right: Marlene Dietrich as Monica Teasdale in "No Highway in the Sky," 1951; Ingrid Bergman for film "Gaslight," 1944; Doris Day, circa 1957; bottom left to right: Sandra Bullock at the premiere of "The Proposal" in 2009; Kirsten Dunst in Cannes 2016.

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IN MARCH 2010 THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF THE USA® OPENED THE FIRST NATIONAL GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE MUSEUM™ AS THE CENTRAL INSTITUTION FOR GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE AND CULTURE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Heritage Museum's mission is to collect, record, preserve and exhibit the rich cultural legacy of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to make their contributions to American history available to audiences of all ages.

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