



German Research Discussion Group

Review of the October and December 2021 Meetings:
At the October meeting, the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies (UW) was introduced. The Institute maintains a collection of German recordings, voices, and dialects in various parts of the US and Germany, including a map of German dialects. These projects can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

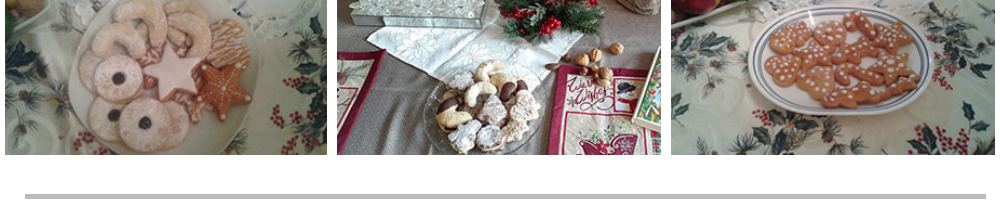
Also, check out this [German link](#). Can you locate any of the familiar sounds you have heard from your own family? Let us know at the January 2022 meeting!

The December meeting was dedicated to German holiday traditions. Following a short presentation by Iveta, attendees had an opportunity to reminisce about their customs and traditions. One of our volunteers Bob, surprised us by playing *Stille Nacht* on his guitar, and singing it in German! He rightly received virtual applause. 🎵

And of course, *Oh Tannenbaum* was played at the very end, maybe you were still humming this melody as you were leaving the meeting...

Next meeting: January 15 | 2 p.m.
We will continue exploring the largest German website, Genealogy.net (CompGen.de), and discussing your discoveries and maybe even surprises. If you plan to attend, you can register [here](#).

[REGISTER](#)



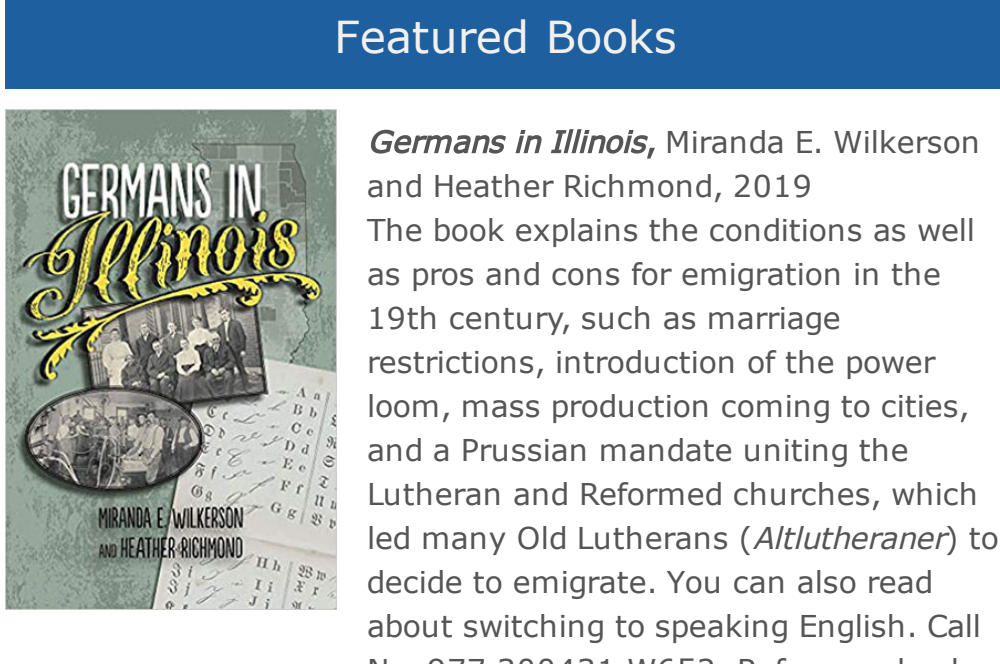
Featured Resources

MGC Periodicals

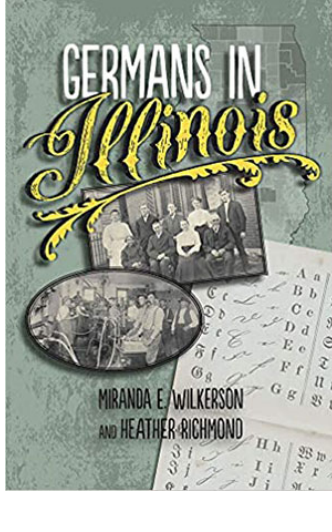
The Heimatbrief, Newsletter Magazine of the German-Bohemian Heritage Society, Vol. 32, Issue 1 & 2, March/June 2021.

The cover page features the beautiful spa city of Marienbad (Mariánské Lázně, Czech Rep.). Among the spa's visitors in the past were the British King Edward VII, Austrian Emperor Franz Joseph, Johan Wolfgang von Goethe, and others (including me — I lived in another beautiful spa city of Karlovy Vary, Carlsbad).

In this issue, the German Bohemian immigrants of Crawford County, Ohio, are listed, along with places of origin, in many cases. The *Kreis Pilsen to Ohio, An Immigration Story*, Part I by Marilyn Clark, precedes the immigrant's chart. The society has a [website](#), also.

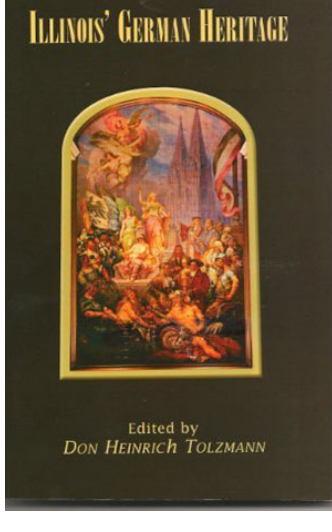


Featured Books



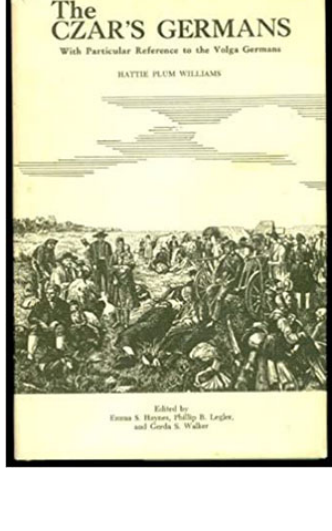
Germans in Illinois, Miranda E. Wilkerson and Heather Richmond, 2019
The book explains the conditions as well as pros and cons for emigration in the 19th century, such as marriage restrictions, introduction of the power loom, mass production coming to cities, and a Prussian mandate uniting the Lutheran and Reformed churches, which led many Old Lutherans (*Altlutheraner*) to decide to emigrate. You can also read about switching to speaking English. Call No. 977.300431 W652, Reference book.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Illinois German Heritage, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, 2005.
We stay in Illinois for our next featured book. If you have ancestors from Illinois, maybe you will find their names in the list of Pre-1830 Settlers, Post-1830 Settlers, or list of Naturalizations, 1833-1841. The younger generation of German immigrants went to cities and some of them worked as journalists. Excerpt from page 130: 'A war of words frequently occurred between the representatives of the two immigrations, the older receiving the nickname *die Grauen*, and the younger *die Grünen*.'

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The Czar's Germans, with Particular Reference to the Volga Germans by Hattie Plum Williams.
Although the book was published in 1975, it gives a nice review to German settlement in Russian lands. The author sought information for this book in 24 archives in Germany! Here's an excerpt: 'The history of these various groups of German sectarians in Russia is as fascinating as the story of their brethren in Pennsylvania.' The book contains pictures and drawings, which adds to a better understanding of life and conditions.

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Research Tips

Did you check German newspapers published in the United States? There might be obituaries, advertisements, announcements (even about adoption). You can learn about relatives you did not know about. If your ancestor was a merchant or craftsman, he might have advertised in newspapers.

For genealogy, one of the most valuable papers was *Illinois Staats Zeitung*, published from 1848 until 1922. Check the [Genealogy Bank](#), one of the MGC research databases. Search newspapers in localities where Germans settled – check under Historical and Genealogical Societies. Also, be sure to [check the LOC](#).

The Census
The U.S. Federal Census has been taken every 10 years since 1790. For examples, censuses for 1900-1930 give the immigration year while the 1920 census gives also the year of naturalization. Censuses for 1850-1880 give the state, kingdom, province (for ex. Rhenish Hesse, Rhenish Bavaria).

Be sure to read all columns such as mother's tongue, language spoken at home, etc. Pay attention to families living nearby. Our ancestors would be surrounded by people who spoke the same language and shared similar customs and values.

The census is accessible online at various MGC research databases – just give us a call. Note: The 1950 census will be released in April 2022.



Places to Visit

This time, let's visit the **State Historical Society of Missouri's Kansas City Research Center** located on the UMKC campus in Kansas City, MO. Call ahead and make an appointment to study records, such as the [Sozialer Turnverein](#). [Check here](#) for various other manuscripts.

After hours of studying documents, treat yourself to authentic [Grünauer](#) and [Affäre](#).



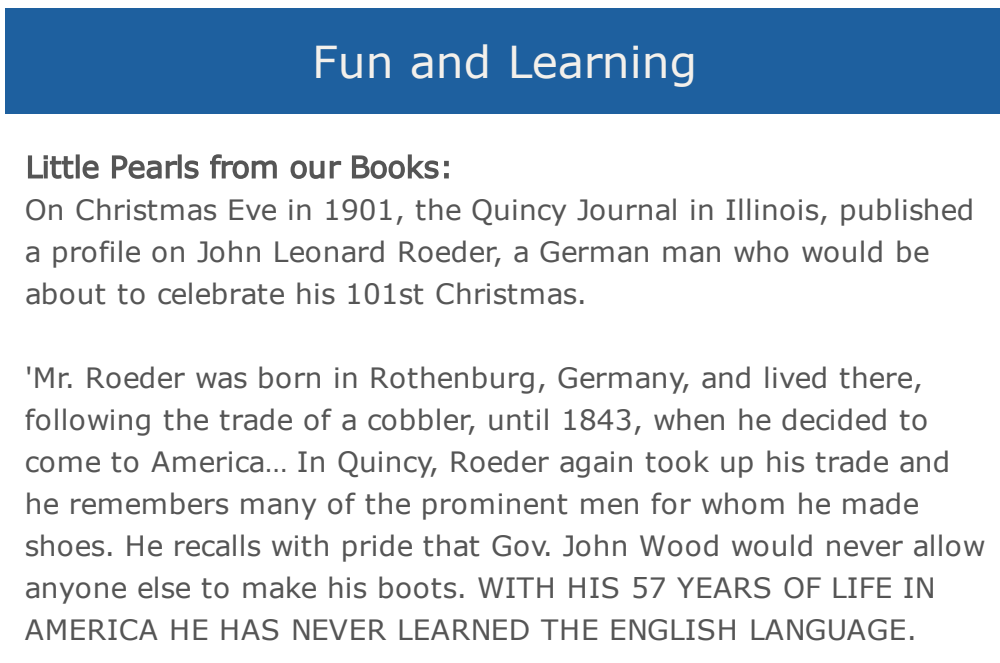
If UMKC is too close to home, visit **Ulm in Baden-Württemberg** (Neu-Ulm lies in Bavaria). It was first mentioned in the year 854. You can challenge yourself by climbing 768 steps up the famous cathedral steeple. The Ulm Minster has the tallest church tower in the world.

See for yourself in [this this video](#) along with listening to German.

Ulm is famous for the [Bread Museum](#) that illustrates how important role the bread was playing for centuries, and still in many families is a staple and cannot be missed on the table!

[Read the interview](#) with the Neu-Ulm City Archives on the 30th anniversary of the US withdrawal from Neu-Ulm. (Note: Neu-Ulm was a part of Ulm until 1810).

MGC has vital records, including family registers (index) on microfilm, starting from the 1560s (Evangelische Kirche). MGC also has a Phone Directory 1980/81 for Ulm/Neu Ulm. People did not move often, so if your ancestor came from this area, there might be a good chance that the descendants of other siblings might have stayed in the area. Check the names.



Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from our Books:
On Christmas Eve in 1901, the Quincy Journal in Illinois, published a profile on John Leonard Roeder, a German man who would be about to celebrate his 101st Christmas.

'Mr. Roeder was born in Rothenburg, Germany, and lived there, following the trade of a cobbler, until 1843, when he decided to come to America... In Quincy, Roeder again took up his trade and he remembers many of the prominent men for whom he made shoes. He recalls with pride that Gov. John Wood would never allow anyone else to make his boots. WITH HIS 57 YEARS OF LIFE IN AMERICA HE HAS NEVER LEARNED THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.'

'Learning English in 19th-century America was neither quick nor effortless. Further, it wasn't uncommon for some Anglo-Americans in German-dominant communities to learn German.'

Excerpts from *Germans in Illinois*, by Miranda E. Wilkerson and Heather Richmond, 2019.

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf!

- Einw_h _ _rm_Id_amt (Resident Registry Office)
- Em_g _ _ntenv_rz_ch _ _sse (Lists of Emigrants)
- E_pfa _ _er (Addressee, Recipient)
- Fa _ _kar _ _ (Ticket)
- Ge _ _h _ _ (Fee, charge)
- G_ _ _d (Money)

Christi's Proverb:
'Oft sieht man den Wald vor lauter Bäumen nicht.'
"Often you can't see the forest because of all the trees."

Thank you. Danke schön.
Iveta B.