



THE GERMAN PIONEER

The Official Newsletter of the
German Heritage Museum
Of Greater Cincinnati



Christian Moerlein and Kolping Host Keg Tapping

Third Event in 2009 Museum Fundraising Series
Friday, August 15th 5:30 PM

The third evening in the wildly popular Christian Moerlein Keg Tapping Series will be held on Friday, August 14th. Our hosts for this night will be the [Kolping Society](#), the largest of Cincinnati's many German cultural organizations. until midnight, with the formal tap-beer will be Moerlein's Fifth and Vine into Cincinnati's famous Oktoberfest music, as well as plenty of good food a raffle for a Rookwood Pottery Christmas. These rare and collectible steins originally increased in value on the collector's market raffle, as well the availability of these, will directly benefit the Endowment Museum. The drawing for the stein (or sooner, if all of the tickets are sold early). You need not be present to win. We hope to see you there!



The festivities run from 5:30 PM until midnight, with the formal tapping ceremony at 7:00. The featured Oktoberfest, a fitting choice to lead season. The evening will include live and drink. We will once again feature a Christian Moerlein "Barbarossa" beer stein. Originally sold for \$350, but have rapidly increased in value on the collector's market. All proceeds from this popular event will be held at 10:00

Kolping Park is located at 10235 Mill Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45231, in Springfield Township. Click [HERE](#) for a map.



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The German Pioneer is the official newsletter of the German Heritage Museum of Greater Cincinnati. The museum is administered by the German-American Citizens League (GACL). The German Heritage Museum serves as a focal point in presenting and displaying German-American culture. This museum is the first of its kind in the region and a testament to the many contributions German immigrants and their descendants have made in the growth of the Ohio Valley and America. The museum focuses especially on representing the history of German-Americans in the Greater Cincinnati area, which became and remains one of the major German-American centers in the United States. In addition, displays showcase the activities of the organizations currently under the umbrella of the German-American Citizens' League of Greater Cincinnati.

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Advertising Rates

Advertising is graciously accepted. The rates are as follows:
Full page: 1 issue: \$30, 4 issues: \$90
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Business Card: 1 issue: \$5, 4 issues: \$15

Contact the editor for more information, including submission requirements.

Back issues are available at no cost on the

[FGHM website](#)

Join The Friends

The Friends of the German Heritage Museum (FGHM) was formed to support the German Heritage Museum, and was established by the German-American Citizens League (GACL).

The FGHM invites the support of all who are interested in the German Heritage Museum and wish to ensure its continued success for future generations. We strongly encourage all those interested in the German Heritage Museum to become a member of the FGHM!

Friends of the Museum may also wish to volunteer as guides at the Museum or assist in locating items of German-American heritage for donation to the Museum.

Membership Category

Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Non-profit Organization	\$35.00
Business	\$50.00
Sponsor	\$100.00
Benefactor	\$500.00

Memberships are for a one year period, and include an electronic subscription to this newsletter.

Memberships, heritage items and financial donations will support the Museum, as well as its ongoing educational programs and activities in the Greater Cincinnati area.

Make your contribution payable to the German-American Citizens League, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Gifts are tax deductible.

Please mail your membership or contribution to:

Nada Christine Huron
GACL Treasurer
1716 Ella St.
Cincinnati, OH 45223
nadahuron@fuse.net

Information

For further information about the museum, or the Friends of the German Heritage Museum, contact:

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann
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Upcoming Events

August 2: Special Presentation

"Growing up German in Indiana",
Dr. Norbert Krapf, *see page 3*

August 14: Christian Moerlein Keg Tapping

5:00 to midnight at Kolping Center

September 19: Making Your Own Beer

Beginner and advanced homebrewing demonstration and class presented by members of the Bloatarian Brewing League, held at the German Heritage Museum, noon to 6:00, details available at www.bloatarian.org.

October: German American Heritage Month *see page 3*

Second Monday: Stammtisch Night

Begins September 14th. Join the GACL and it's member clubs at [Hofbrauhaus](#) from 6:30 to 9:00 for general information and lots of socializing. Stammtisch participants will receive special pricing on food and beverages.

Museum Hours

The museum is open on Sundays, May 17th through October 25th, from 1 until 5 PM. The museum can also be opened by special appointment. There is no admission charge. The museum is staffed solely by volunteers. If you have a desire to view any particular artifacts, please make prior arrangements by calling (513) 598-5732.

The museum is located in West Fork Park, at 4764 West Fork Road, Cincinnati, OH, 45247.

Map It!

Growing Up German in Indiana

A special presentation by
Dr. Norbert Krapf
August 2nd, 2:00 PM

The German Heritage Museum is honored to welcome Dr. Norbert Krapf to Cincinnati. Dr. Krapf, a native of Jasper, Indiana, was selected in 2008 by the Indiana Arts Commission as the Indiana Poet Laureate for a two year appointment. He is a graduate of St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana, and received his M.A. and Ph.D. in English from the University of Notre Dame. When he moved from Indiana to the New York area in 1970 he began to trace his family history, study German, and write poems. He taught at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, and directed the C.W. Post Poetry Center. He twice served in Germany as a Senior Fulbright Professor of American Poetry, and he was also a U.S. Exchange Teacher at West Oxon Technical College, England. He moved to Indianapolis in 2004 to write full-time. Since 1976, Dr. Krapf has written or edited 21 books, two of which are his translations from the German. In 2008 the Indiana Historical Society Press released his prose memoir, *The Ripest Moments: A Southern Indiana Childhood*. Dr. Krapf's program for us is entitled "Growing Up German in Indiana". It recalls his rural, small-town upbringing in the German-Catholic community and unearths the distinctive place and culture in which he lived. He will also be available to sign copies of his books. Further information about Dr. Krapf is available on his [website](#).

German American Heritage Month October 2009

The German-American Heritage Month has been sponsored annually since 1989 by the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati. It is centered on German-American Day, the 6th of October, which was declared German-American Day by President Reagan in 1987. The month-long celebration is coordinated by Kenny Burck, Chair of the GACL's German-American Heritage Month Committee.

October 2: German-American Day Celebration. Location: Liberty Home German Society. Information: (513) 863-6912.

October 4: "Joseph A. Hemann: Cincinnati's First German Teacher (Old St. Mary's Church & Cincinnati Public Schools) and German-American Publisher (Der Volksfreund & Der Wahrheitsfreund)," presented by Douglas Carl Fricke, author of *Genealogy of the Mangold family from Bavaria*. Location: German Heritage Museum. Time: 2PM.

October 6: "German Immigration, Settlement, and Influences in the Greater Cincinnati Area," presented by Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, GACL President & Curator of the German Heritage Museum. Location: Northern Kentucky University, Landrum 506. Time: 1PM.

October 10: German American Day / Oktoberfest with Gebhard Erler. Location: Dayton Liederkranz-Turner. Information: www.DaytonGermanClub.org

October 11: German Heritage Book Signing: Kenny Burck, President of the Palatines to America and the Hamilton County Genealogical Society, discusses and signs copies of his books on German genealogy; Jeff Lueders discusses and signs copies of his book *Hamilton County's Green Township*; and Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, GACL President & Curator of the German Heritage Museum, discusses and signs copies of his books on German heritage. Location: German Heritage Museum. Time: 2-4PM.

October 12: "Cincinnati's German Heritage," presented by Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, GACL President & Curator of the German Heritage Museum. Location: Delhi Historical Society. Time: 7:30 PM.

October 18: "The Berlin Wall: German-American Perspectives," presented by Dr. Richard E. Schade, Hon. German Consul. Sponsor: German-American Citizens League. Location: German Heritage Museum. Time: 2PM.

October 25: German-American Heritage Month Trachten Mass at Old St. Mary's Church. Sponsor: German-American Citizens League. Location: Old St. Mary's Church. Time: 11 AM.

Note: For further updates to the calendar of events for the German-American Heritage Month, visit the GACL website at: www.gacl.org

Maifest!

Maifest, the museum's traditional opening day ceremonies, was held on a fine sunny day on May 17th. Quite a large crowd gathered to take in the museum and its exhibits, as well as a number of special entertainments. The [Cincinnati Carvers Guild](#) held a woodcarver's demonstration, and the [Thoroughbred Stein Verein](#) set up a large display of vintage and collectible beer steins. The day featured highly popular performances by the Middle Group Folk Dancers of the [Verein der Donauschwaben](#), and the Kinderchor of the [Fairview-Clifton German Language School](#). We'd like to thank all of the groups and the many attendees for helping to make our 2009 edition of **Maifest** such a popular success!



Photo courtesy of Francis Ott Allen



An Historic Title

The title of the official newsletter of the German Heritage Museum, *The German Pioneer*, harkens back to an historical journal published in Cincinnati from 1867 to 1887 – *Der Deutsche Pionier*.

For eighteen years this valuable historical journal came out annually in volumes comprising five to six hundred pages. Its best years were during the editorship of Heinrich A. Rattermann (1832-1923), who founded the German Mutual Insurance Company. To house his company he built the Germania Building, now on the national register of historic landmarks, which is located at 12th & Walnut in the Over-the-Rhine district.

In 1895, Rattermann organized the first of what became the annual German Day Celebrations in Cincinnati, and the organization that ensued from this event became the present day German-American Citizens League. Rattermann may, therefore, be viewed as the "founding father" of the GACL.

Born in Ankum in northwest Germany, Rattermann came to Cincinnati in 1846 with his family, and in 1856 founded the German Mutual Insurance Company, today the Hamilton County Insurance Company. Pictures as well as the works of Rattermann are on display at the German Heritage Museum.

In Rattermann's hometown the historical museum, Heimathaus Ankum, also has a display of Rattermann and his various books. Nearby there is a street named in his honor as well – Rattermann-Strasse. During your next trip to Germany, stop by for a visit at the museum in Ankum. Also available at the museum is a Cincinnati telephone directory, as so many people from the region immigrated to Cincinnati, and many are interested in contacting relatives in Cincinnati. For information, visit: [Heimathaus Ankum](#)

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann