

If Hasselmann had not been pardoned but would have been executed (arquebusiret), 8 men from Major General von Stammer's company would have placed him in the coffin, carried him to the churchyard and would have buried him there."

The full German text of the pardon has not been found, but there are four letters in French, then the official language of such communications:

1. A letter of August 27, 1776, signed by fourteen German citizens of Quebec, to General von Riedesel, pleading for the life of Andreas Hasselmann, who has been condemned to death for desertion.

2. Letter of August 29, 1776, by General von Riedesel answering the supplication of the Germans in Quebec, granting the pardon, although he deserved death. The pardon addressed to Lieutenant Colonel Baum is listed but seems lost.

3. Letter of thanks of the German citizens to Major General von Riedesel, dated Quebec, September 4, 1776.

4. General von Riedesel's reply of September 4, 1776, to the letter of thanks from the German citizens of Quebec.

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## **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL AND GENEALOGICAL DATA IN THE PUBLICATIONS OF THE GERMAN PIONEER SOCIETY OF CINCINNATI**

By

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On May 11 and May 12, 1868 a group of German-American Cincinnatians published ads in two local German newspapers calling for a meeting of persons interested in forming a German pioneer society. On Tuesday evening, May 12, 1868, the meeting was held in Geyer's Assembly Rooms on Court Street between Main and Walnut. Temporary officers were elected as follows: Dr. Joseph H. Pulte, president; Joseph Siefert, vice president; Christian von Seggern, secretary. Appointed to serve on a committee to draw up a constitution were F. A. Roewekamp, Joseph A. Hemann, Dr. Pulte, Siefert, Michael Pfau, and Nickolaus Hoeffler. On Tuesday

evening, May 26th, some 150 German-American pioneers adopted the constitution of Der Deutsche Pionier-Verein von Cincinnati, Ohio, and a nominating committee was appointed, consisting of Hemann, F. H. Roewekamp, Hermann Ficke, Franz Helfferich and Dr. Pulte.

On June 2nd the following members were elected officers for one year: C. F. Hanselmann, president; Joseph Darr, vice president, F. X. Dengler, secretary, George Klotter, treasurer. The Executive Committee consisted of August Moor, Nickolaus Hoeffler, Joseph Siefert, Michael Pfau, and John Geyer. The officers were installed on June 9th at Geyer's Hall and the society celebrated the historic occasion with a grandiose banquet. The St. Cäcilia Gesangverein, under the direction of H. F. Brüsselbach, provided the men with German song.

Paragraph I of the society's constitution stated that the purpose of the society shall be to renew the bonds of old friendships and to provide for the recording of the history and activities of the society for future generations through the collection of documents, notes and so forth. At the Nov. 10th meeting, discussion was taken up concerning the society's publishing a quarterly or monthly periodical, and a committee consisting of Hemann, H. M. Groenland and F. Bast was appointed and charged with the responsibility of meeting with the Executive Committee to formulate a plan for the same. At the March 3, 1869 meeting, the membership unanimously voted to begin the publication of a monthly, *Der Deutsche Pionier*. The first issue of this periodical appeared later that month.

*Der Deutsche Pionier* was published at a deficit of \$4,071.21 from March 1869 to March 1885 and so it was decided that it should appear as a quarterly. Two years later, the society ceased its publication and voted to publish an annual report instead. The annual report was published as a report of the Executive Committee (*Vorstandsbericht*).

*Der Deutsche Pionier* had seven editors: August Becker, Dr. Gustav Bruehl, Dr. E. H. Mack, Carl Ruemelin, Karl Knortz, H. A. Rattermann and Hermann Hensel. With the

exception of Mack and Hensel, all of them made indelible marks on the history of German-American literature and journalism.

The pages of *Der Deutsche Pionier* contain thousands of biographical sketches, articles, references and miscellany on not only the members of the society, but also on other German-Americans. Also a helpful source are the lists of subscribers. The membership, it should be noted, was not limited to Cincinnati; chapters of the society were formed in Newport, Kentucky on May 25, 1877, in Covington, Kentucky on May 26, 1877, in Toledo, Ohio in April 1878, and in Dayton, Ohio in August 1878. The society's oldest member in 1870 was probably Joseph K. Smith (Schmidt?) who joined on March 1 of that year. He was born in 1791 or 1792 in Frankfurt am Main, came to America with his parents in 1798, and settled in Cincinnati in 1808.

In September 1874 a group photograph was taken of 450 members of the society. Since this photo was widely distributed, it is probable that copies can still be located. It, too, might serve as a link to the past, especially for the family historian or genealogist whose ancestor was a member of the society.

The various *Vorstandsberichte* contain membership lists, notes on dues and who paid them, the addresses of officers and other members, and other data. In the sketches of deceased members one finds a great amount of detail that can be a great asset when doing genealogical research, e.g., a photo of the member, his name, age, place and dates of birth and death, date of immigration, address of residence, the maiden name of his wife, the date of his wife's birth and death, their date of marriage, the names and ages of their children, his occupations, the names of other organizations to which he belonged, the name of the cemetery at which he was buried, the names of the pallbearers, and so forth.

The records and publications of Der Deutsche Pionier-Verein von Cincinnati, Ohio have indeed met the criterion set forth in the society's constitution—they remain an invaluable source of biographical and genealogical data for this generation and future ones.

NOTES

1 The ads appeared in the *Cincinnati Volksblatt* and in the *Cincinnati Volksfreund*.

2 See Carl Pletz, "Der Deutsche Pionier-Verein," *Vorstandsbericht über das 50. Vereinsjahr 1917-1918* (S. Rosenthal and Co.: Cincinnati, 1918), 34-38.

3 Bio-bibliographical sketches on Hecker, Bruehl, Ruemelin, Knortz, and Rattermann (and references to secondary sources on them) are given in the manuscript to my *Dictionary of German-American Creative Writers*.

4 Don Heinrich Tolzmann, associate editor of the JGAS and German reference librarian at the University of Cincinnati is currently preparing an index to *Der Deutsche Pionier*.

5 See Clifford Smith, et al, *Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research* (Bowker: 1976).

6 Copies of the *Vorstandsberichte* are at the University of Cincinnati Library (Fick Collection) and the Western Reserve Historical Society (Ward Collection). For locations of *Der Deutsche Pionier* issues, see Karl J. R. Arndt and Mary E. Olson, *German-American Newspapers and Periodicals* (1955 and later eds.).

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## GERMAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL NOTES

Mrs. Pat Meehan, 35844 Sherborne Dr., Mt. Clemens, MI 48043 is researching the **Trapp** and **Henkel** families.

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Mrs. Janice Helmbrecht, 735 Grasley Lane, Zanesville, OH 43701, is researching the **Helmbrecht** and **Steller** families.

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Michael A. Landwehr, 725-39th St., West Des Moines, IA. 50265, is researching the **Brömmelsleck** and **Landwehr** families.

\*\*\*\*\*

Virginia Eschenbach, 221 Joliet St., Dyer, Indiana 46311, is researching the **Eschenbach** family.

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Wish to contact or obtain information about people named **Schimpf**. Write in English or German. Franz Schimpf, D-3360 Osterode am Harz, Schwimmbadstrasse 2, West Germany.

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**Seek info on:** SCHMITZ, FRANZ FEDTER (often misspelled SCHMIDT), Born, ca. 1839-1841, Nieheim, Prussia, Now Nordrhein-Westfalen, Federal Republic of Germany; died, 4 June 1872, San Francisco, California. Served in Civil War (Pvt., Co. C, 41st N.Y. Vol, Inf. Enl. 6 June 1861). **Married:** MARIA SCHMIDT, 21 Sept. 1866, New York, N.Y., born ca 1848, Hessen-Oldendorf, Hessia, dau. of Anna (Kirst) Schmidt. **Issue:** EDWARD HENRY SCHMITZ, born 1867, N.Y., died California 1935 (only child known). — Mrs. Jo Alice Schmitz, 5209 62nd St., Sacramento, Calif. 95820.

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