The Society for German-American Studies was founded for the purpose of encouraging and advancing the scholarly study of the history, language, literature, and culture of the German element in the Americas. This includes coverage of the immigrants and their descendants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking areas of Europe. Members of the Society include representatives from various academic disciplines and others who share a common interest in German-American studies.

The Yearbook is published annually. The editor welcomes contributions in English, preferably, or German on all aspects of German-Americana from members of the Society. The manuscript should be prepared following the University of Chicago Press Manual of Style and be submitted electronically, without the author’s name in the document so that it can be reviewed anonymously by members of the Editorial Board. All correspondence regarding the Yearbook should be addressed to William D. Keel (wkeel@ku.edu). Inquiries regarding book reviews for the Yearbook should be addressed to Susan M. Schürer (schurer@sunlink.net). The Newsletter appears three times a year. Items for the Newsletter should be submitted to the co-editors (MKGAC@iupui.edu). Inquiries regarding the SGAS website should be addressed to Matthew Lange (langem@uww.edu).

The Society for German-American Studies is open to membership from individuals, societies, and libraries. Annual membership dues for individuals include subscriptions to both the Yearbook and all issues of the Newsletter published during the calendar year. Libraries, societies, and other organizations interested in obtaining the publications of the Society may subscribe to publications only. Membership and subscription applications are available online at sgas.org.
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Our regular readers may be pleasantly surprised to receive a second Yearbook of German-American Studies within a year since the publication of volume 48 (2013). Thanks to the hard work of both our member-authors who submitted their essays for consideration and that of the hard-working members of our Editorial Board, we have been able to publish volume 49 (2014) in late fall 2015. We encourage our members to continue to submit their research for publication in our SGAS Yearbook.

This issue offers a focus on the centenary of the First World War with three essays by Walter Kamphoefner, Rebecca Odom and Joseph Neville. Ernest Menze explores the evolution of Friedrich Ludwig Jahn’s views while Thaddeus Romansky investigates Turner soldiers during the U.S. Civil War. For those with an interest in literature, Gert Niers discusses the writings of German-Jewish authors in exile and Alexander Ritter unravels another mystery in the biography of Charles Sealsfield. Cecile Zorach attempts to understand the impact of wartime memories from childhood on German-Americans. For the linguist, Derek Drake and Alexander Kramer analyze the variety of German spoken near Roxbury, Wisconsin.

Preceding the Book Review section edited by Susan Schürer, who again very much deserves our thanks, we are including a review essay by James Dow on the three-volume publication edited by Peter Hoehnle, The Inspirationists, 1714-1932. The compilation details the life of the Amana Colonies in Iowa until the “Great Change” in 1932 when property held in common was privatized. Following the book reviews, we again provide a list of doctoral dissertations and master’s theses from the year 2014 which have some aspect of German-American Studies as a focus.

Please take some time to review the documents at the end of this volume that outline the organization and purposes of the Society, especially our Bylaws, with recent amendments adopted by the Executive Committee in October 2015 at its fall meeting in Madison, Wisconsin. The SGAS Bylaws are
followed by our policies for scholarly support—the Karl J. R. Arndt Fund for publication subsidies for monographs published by members and the Albert Bernhardt Faust Fund for the support of members’ research projects. Members should avail themselves of the opportunities for scholarly support from SGAS by contacting the respective committee chair. New in this issue is the list of recipients of the SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award following information on that award. SGAS has also begun a Student Membership Fund supported by our Life members (who are listed following a description of the fund) with matching contributions by Life members Mary and William Seeger of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Marc Pierce of the University of Texas-Austin has recently been appointed to serve on our Editorial Board as a reviewer for manuscripts dealing with topics in linguistics. We also want to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all members of the Editorial Board (see page iii) for their willingness to review and critique manuscripts and ensure the high quality of the Society’s “flagship” publication. Given the larger number of submission this year, our Editorial Board members have been very busy.

May the editor reiterate that at the Society’s website, sgas.org, you will find with one or two clicks all of the information on forthcoming publications and symposia, membership renewals, opportunities for scholarly support, the dissemination of members’ research as well as making a financial contribution to the Society. In particular, you will find information on ordering back issues of the Yearbook of German-American Studies as well as the Supplemental Issues published in 2003, 2006, 2010 and 2012. The Yearbook was published as a paperback until 2003. The older paperback issues are available for a minimal charge of $5.00 per volume; the hardbound newer issues for $10.00. A small charge for postage will also be added to the cost. We encourage those members who wish to supplement their set of issues with missing ones to take advantage of the offer. Please contact the editor at wkeel@ku.edu for further information or assistance.

As always, the editor looks forward to seeing many of you at our next Annual Symposium to be held April 28-30, 2016, in San Antonio, Texas. Presenters are encouraged to submit their essays for consideration by the Editorial Board for possible publication in a forthcoming Yearbook. We now encourage electronic submission of your manuscript (see the editor’s e-mail address above).

Max Kade Center for German-American Studies
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas
November 2015
Don Yoder (1921-2015):
In Memoriam

Shortly before his 94th birthday, our beloved colleague and “dean” of Pennsylvania German folklife, Don Yoder, died on August 11, 2015, in Devon, Pennsylvania. He was devoted to the history and culture of Pennsylvania, especially the folkways of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Don was Professor Emeritus of Folklife Studies, Religious Studies, and American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, where he taught for forty years (1956-96) and directed some 60 doctoral dissertations.

Don was born in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on August 27, 1921, to Jacob H. and Ora M. Yoder. He earned his Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of Chicago in 1947. After teaching at Union Theological Seminary and Muhlenberg College, Don taught at Franklin & Marshall College for several years before joining the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania in 1956.

In 1949, Don co-founded the Pennsylvania Dutch Folklore Center at Franklin & Marshall College with Alfred L. Shoemaker and J. William Frey, which later became the Pennsylvania Folklife Society. In the same year, they initiated the journal The Pennsylvania Dutchman—later renamed Pennsylvania Folklife—for which Don served as either co-editor or editor for some three decades. The three Franklin & Marshall colleagues also established the Kutztown Folk Festival in 1950, the first ethnic festival of its kind. The festival was designed to be an educational experience for visitors consisting of demonstrations, seminars, performances and presentations.

After his arrival at the University of Pennsylvania, he was instrumental in establishing the first folklife studies program in the United States. Don
is, indeed, the father of the notion of “folklife” as a field for scholarly study. He defined it in his 1974 essay published in *Pennsylvania Folklife*: “The term ‘folklife’ . . . means the total range of traditional culture as researchable in the regional or ethnic contexts.” with a particular emphasis on the activities of daily life. This distinctive approach differed from folklore, which focused research on the collection of verbal cultural material. This folklife methodology embraced all aspects of life and greatly expanded the scope of folk cultural study and preservation. By broadening his scholarly interests in folksongs and spirituals beyond expressive culture to encompass the entire way of life of a particular group, Don researched and published on material culture, foodways, magical practices, and calendar customs and much more.

Don was an early member of the Society for German-American Studies and served from 1984 until 1996 on the Editorial Board of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies*. His insightful as well as helpful critiques of essays made a significant contribution to the quality of our publication and the scholarship of our authors. At our 12th Symposium at Millersville University of Pennsylvania in 1988, Don gave the keynote address entitled “The ‘Dutchman’ and ‘Deitschlenner’: The New World Confronts the Old.” This author vividly recalls the impact that Don’s clear and concise analysis had for our understanding of that issue. The editors were very pleased to publish Don’s keynote address in the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 23 (1988): 1-17. The Society also honored Don for his many contributions to German-American Studies with its Outstanding Achievement Award, presented during that 1988 Symposium held in Millersville, Pennsylvania. At the Symposium in Millersville, Don was also generous enough to give this author a personal guided tour of the periodicals and archives in the Shadak-Fackenthal Library at Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster treating the culture and history of the Pennsylvania Germans—just the two of us. His enthusiasm and joy as a scholar of Pennsylvania folkways on that evening was infectious. That he would take the time for this tour on the busy evening prior to his keynote address amazed me. But that simple gesture of Don’s remains a testament in my mind to his never-ending devotion to the joy of scholarly inquiry.

*William D. Keel*  
*Editor*