

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

**Thirty-Five Years of the
Society for German-American Studies:
A Chronology, 1968-2003**

Introduction

Since its founding in 1968, the Society for German-American Studies (SGAS) has made substantial contributions to the growth and development of the field of German-American Studies as the major scholarly organization in the field, especially by means of its publications, annual meetings and symposia. This chronology provides a guide to the history of the SGAS from its beginnings to the present time, and updates a history published on the occasion of the Society's twentieth anniversary.¹ Those interested in more information than that provided by the dates, facts, and events outlined here may want to consult the files of the *Society for German-American Studies Newsletter*, the archival records of the SGAS in the German-Americana Collection at the University of Cincinnati, as well as the sources noted here. As can readily be seen, a great deal has been accomplished since the SGAS was founded thirty-five years ago.

Chronology

1968

Robert E. Ward, Head of the Modern Languages and Literatures Department, Youngstown State University, established the SGAS, and commenced publication of a *Newsletter*, which appeared occasionally until 1977. Several factors led to the founding of the Society but two stand forth:

First, the 1960s were marked by the ethnic heritage revival, which has been described as the new "Age of Ethnicity." Ethnic groups began to assert themselves, and ethnic studies programs came into being, thereby reflecting the increased interest in ethnic studies in general, as well as German-American Studies in particular. The ethnic heritage revival went hand in hand with the interest in "roots," heritage, and family history that swept the country in the 1970s.

Second, by this time those interested in German-American Studies clearly felt that there was a definite need for the formation of a special interest group. This need was accentuated by the fact that the well-known journal, *The American-German Review*,

had been moving steadily away from German-Americana in its pages, and increasingly began to concentrate solely on the German-speaking countries of Europe. The first indication of this shift in editorial focus and policy came in 1966 when the last installment of the annual bibliography of German-Americana appeared in the journal, and then finally in 1968 when the journal stated explicitly: "We are now steering away from German-American history except for articles of very unusual interest and pertinence."²

These factors taken together illuminate the time period when the SGAS came into being, and help us understand why a need was felt for the creation of a society devoted to the field of German-American Studies.

1969

The journal, *German-American Studies*, edited by Ward, appeared as the organ of publication of the fledgling society for articles, essays, and reviews dealing with German-American history, literature, and culture. Although the circulation was small at first, it continued to grow, and reflect the increased interest.

1973

SGAS president Ward published a programmatic statement, *A Proposal on Behalf of the Preservation of German Culture in the U.S.A.*, calling for the establishment of research institutes for German-American Studies, and for foundational support of such centers. This built on earlier proposals in the earlier part of the century, and harkened back to the founding of the Germanic Museum at Harvard.³

In October, 1973, a "Symposium on German Culture in America and Ohio," organized by Ward in Cleveland, was important for the SGAS due to the fact that it "offered the first real opportunity for Society members to gather and discuss the general and specific issues facing the field." Speakers at this meeting included: LaVern J. Rippley, William I. Schreiber, John R. Sinnema, and Robert E. Ward.⁴ At this meeting, plans were discussed for future conferences and symposia scheduled for 1976 for the celebration of the American Bicentennial. Two conferences held that year were especially important for the SGAS.

1976

In October, the "Symposium on German-American Literature and Culture" was held at the University of Kansas, coordinated by Erich A. Albrecht and J. Anthony Burzle. Discussion there centered on the need for a more formal organizational structure, as well as a regular schedule of annual meetings for the Society.⁵ This discussion continued at a conference held the next month, in November, at the University of Cincinnati, the "Symposium on German-Americana," which was coordinated by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, Curator of the German-Americana Collection, and Jerry Glenn, Professor of German.⁶

At the Cincinnati meeting the SGAS was re-organized as it exists today, including its registration as a non-profit organization in the state of Ohio. It was also decided to schedule regular annual meetings and symposia and to publish a more substantial newsletter on a quarterly basis. The journal, *German-American Studies*, edited by Ward, changed its name to the *Journal of German-American Studies*, and at the same time, absorbed another publication, the *German-American Genealogist*, which had been published by Ward from March 1976 to May 1976.

Throughout the entire year of 1976, the American Bicentennial was celebrated, and many conferences, programs, symposia, and exhibits included coverage of the role played by German-Americans in American history, especially during the American Revolution. During the Bicentennial year, SGAS President, Robert E. Ward and Don Heinrich Tolzmann, attended the White House Conference on Ethnicity, and along with representatives of other ethnic groups and organizations, called for the U.S. Census to collect and record statistics that would register ethnic heritage. As a result, the U.S. Census in 1980 issued statistics relating to ethnic heritage, whereas in the past it had only reported on the statistics relating to immigrants, and the children of immigrants.⁷

1977

The Society's first regular annual meeting and symposium was held at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, and coordinated by John R. Sinnema, Professor of German at Baldwin-Wallace College. Plans were also made for forthcoming symposia at this meeting. The occasional *Newsletter*, edited by Ward since 1968, was superseded by the *Bulletin of the Society for German-American Studies*, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

1978

The second annual symposium was held also held at Baldwin-Wallace College, and coordinated by John R. Sinnema. The Bylaws of the SGAS were discussed, and unanimously approved by the membership. They stipulated the following as purposes of the Society:

To engage in and promote interest in the study of the history, literature, linguistics, folklore, genealogy, theater, music, and other creative art forms of the German element in the Americas. (Note that the German element is defined in the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* as including "immigrants and their descendants from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and other German-speaking areas of Europe.")

To publish, produce, and present research findings and educational materials of the same as a public service.

To assist researchers, teachers, and students.

To improve cross-cultural relations between the German-speaking countries and the Americas.

1979

The third annual symposium, held at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, was coordinated by LaVern J. Rippley, Professor German at St. Olaf College. After eleven years service, Ward retired as president, and Rippley was elected to that office. A major accomplishment during his term was his focus on pushing for the publication of an SGAS yearbook, and in winning the support of J. Anthony Burzle, University of Kansas, as editor of the new publication.⁸

Also, to promote national interest in the forthcoming German-American Tricentennial (1983), Don Heinrich Tolzmann was appointed chair of the SGAS Tricentennial Committee, and the SGAS issued the call for the nationwide celebration of the Tricentennial. Plans were also made to hold the 1983 SGAS symposium in Philadelphia during the Tricentennial celebration to be held there in October of that year.⁹

1980

The fourth annual Symposium of the SGAS was held at the University of Missouri-Columbia, and coordinated by Adolf E. Schroeder. At this meeting, the SGAS presented its first award, an Award for Meritorious Achievement to Robert E. Ward for his accomplishments on behalf of the field of German-American Studies in general, and the SGAS in particular.

The *Journal of German-American Studies*, ceased publication with volume 15, as it was scheduled to be succeeded by the forthcoming yearbook. The final issue of the *Journal* contained a comprehensive index, which listed close to four hundred items that had appeared in it since 1969. As a result of the U.S. Census, German-Americans were declared to be the nation's largest ethnic group, with statistics numbering one-fourth of the population.¹⁰

1981

The fifth annual symposium was held at San Antonio, Texas, and coordinated by Glen Lich. The first SGAS Awards for Outstanding Achievement in the field of German-American Studies were presented at this meeting to Adolf E. Schroeder and LaVern J. Rippley. At this meeting, Rippley retired as president, and was succeeded by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. The Society's *Bulletin*, edited by Tolzmann, was then superceded by the quarterly *Society for German-American Studies Newsletter*, and LaVern J. Rippley took on the responsibility of serving as its editor.

The first volume of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, edited by Burzle, appeared as volume 16, thus continuing the volume numbering of the *Journal of*

German-American Studies. Other initiatives begun that year were: First, the Yearbook Fund Drive was begun with the goal of raising \$100,000 for an endowment fund to support the new yearbook. Second, a membership drive was begun by Secretary and Membership Chairman, Robert E. Coley, for the purpose of attracting new members, as well as affiliated organizations and institutes.

1982

The sixth annual symposium of the SGAS was held at Fort Hays State University at Hays, Kansas, and coordinated by Helmut Schmeller. The meeting was held in conjunction with the international board meeting of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia.

1983

The seventh annual symposium was held 3-6 October at Philadelphia as the Tricentennial Conference of German-American History, Politics, and Culture. In 1979, the SGAS had been the first national organization to begin to promote and publicize the 1983 Tricentennial.¹¹ The celebration of the 300th anniversary of the founding of the first permanent all-German settlement in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania, on 6 October 1683 laid the groundwork for the establishment of German-American Day in 1987 by focusing on the significance of the 6th of October in German-American history.

1984

The eighth annual symposium was held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and coordinated by Jürgen Eichhoff, and included an excursion to Old World Wisconsin to visit the Pomeranian style homes there.

1985

The ninth annual symposium was held at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Nebraska, and coordinated by Paul Schach. A leather-bound copy of the *Yearbook* was presented to J. Anthony Burzle in honor of his service as editor. The *Yearbook* for this year contained a five year index covering 1981-1985. Thereafter, the *Yearbook* was co-edited by Helmut Huelsbergen and William D. Keel, who had served with Burzle as associate editors since 1981.

1986

The tenth annual symposium was held at the University of Cincinnati in Cincinnati, Ohio, and coordinated by Don Heinrich Tolzmann and Jerry Glenn. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Adolf E. Schroeder. The

SGAS Minutes of the 1986 Meeting record that: "Ruth Reichmann noted that October 6, 1983, was proclaimed German-American Day in recognition of the German-American Tricentennial and that something similar should be done to recognize the continuing contributions of German immigrants to American culture."

After discussion, the membership passed the following resolution: "The membership authorized the president of the Society to prepare a resolution calling for the President of the United States to proclaim October 6, 1986, German-American Day to call attention to the contributions German immigrants have made to the United States."¹² In addition, the SGAS German-American Day Committee was organized and chaired by SGAS President, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, and which included the following members: Ruth Reichmann, Nancy Pierce, and Marianne Bouvier. The committee successfully led the campaign to have the 6th of October declared as German-American Day, and this day has been commemorated ever since.¹³

1987

The eleventh annual symposium was held at the University of Kansas, and coordinated by Helmut Huelsbergen and William Keel. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Lester J. Seifert. As a result of the efforts of the SGAS, its proclamation regarding the establishment of German-American Day of the previous year was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, and a signing ceremony was held at the White House Rose Garden.¹⁴

1988

The twelfth annual symposium was held at Millersville University at Millersville, Pennsylvania, and coordinated by C. Richard Beam and Robert E. Coley, and focused on the 300th anniversary of the first protest against slavery in America at Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1688. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Don Yoder, who presented the keynote address at the symposium.

The SGAS Educational Task Force, chaired by Ruth Reichmann, completed guidelines for the introduction of German-American Studies into the curriculum at all educational levels. Copies of this were printed in the *SGAS Newsletter*, as well as in the *AATG Newsletter*, so that the combined distribution to individuals and institutions numbered close to 10,000. This exerted great influence in encouraging the introduction of German-American Studies into the curriculum at all levels.¹⁵

1989

The thirteenth annual symposium was held in Chicago, sponsored by Northeastern Illinois University, and coordinated by Charles Barber. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Paul Schach, University of Nebraska.

1990

The fourteenth annual symposium was held at Indiana University-Purdue University, and coordinated by Giles R. Hoyt and Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to John A. Hostetler.

1991

The fifteenth annual symposium was held at Georgetown University in Washington, D. C. , sponsored by the German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., an SGAS affiliate, and coordinated by Alfred Obernberger. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Günther Moltmann.

1992

The sixteenth annual symposium was held at the University of Kansas, and coordinated by Helmut Huelsbergen and William Keel. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Awards was presented to Hildegard Binder-Johnson.

1993

The seventeenth annual symposium was held Austin, Texas, sponsored by the German-Texan Heritage Society, an SGAS affiliate, and coordinated by Mary El-Beheri and Anna Thompson. A special award, the SGAS Founding Father Award, was presented to Robert E. Ward in recognition of his contributions to the SGAS in having founded the Society, and having issued its first newsletter, as well as editing the *Journal of German-American Studies*, and in organizing the 1973 symposium in Cleveland.¹⁶

The 1993 *Yearbook of German-American Studies* featured two important contributions that highlight the status of field of German-American Studies in general, and the SGAS in particular, by the 1990s. LaVern J. Rippley's essay "Toward a 1993 Definition of German-American Studies" clearly demonstrated the growth and development of the field and the SGAS, and his "Bibliography for the Teaching of German-Americana," provided an annotated guide to the basic sources necessary for the introduction of courses in German-American Studies. The materials and sources were, therefore, now readily available not only for research and study, but for the introduction of courses.

1994

The eighteenth annual symposium was held at Pennsylvania State University, and coordinated by Jürgen Eichhoff. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to C. Richard Beam. The SGAS calls for plans to made for the celebration of the 400th anniversary in 2008 of the arrival of the first Germans in America at Jamestown in 1608.¹⁷

1995

The nineteenth annual symposium was held at Louisville, Kentucky, sponsored by the Kentuckiana German Heritage Society, and coordinated by J. William Klapper. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann.

1996

The twentieth annual symposium was held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and coordinated by Henry Geitz. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Willi Paul Adams. Helmut Huelsbergen retired as Co-Editor of the *Yearbook* with William D. Keel, who now took on the responsibility of serving as sole Editor.

1997

The twenty-first annual symposium was held in St. Louis, Missouri, sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis, and coordinated by Steven Rowan. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Helmut Huelsbergen for his service editing the *Yearbook*. SGAS members Brad Miller and Gary Grassl obtained an historical marker in honor of the arrival of the first Germans in America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608.¹⁸

1998

The twentieth-second annual symposium was held at Indiana University-Purdue University, and coordinated by Giles R. Hoy and Ruth and Eberhard Reichmann, and focused on the 150th anniversary of the 1848 Revolution. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Robert E. Cazden.

1999

The twenty-third annual symposium was held at New Ulm, Minnesota, and coordinated by LaVern J. Rippley. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Brad Miller and Gary Grassl.

2000

The twenty-fourth annual symposium was held at Bremerhaven, Germany, sponsored by the Förderverein Deutsches Auswanderermuseum, and coordinated by Don Heinrich Tolzmann and Horst Rössler.¹⁹ The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Antonius Holtmann, and an SGAS Special Award for

Meritorious Achievement Award to Dirk Schroeder. The *Yearbook* contained a comprehensive index covering the years from 1981 through 2000.

2001

The twenty-fifth annual symposium was held at Grand Rapids State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and coordinated by Mary and Wilhelm Seeger. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Lisa Kahn, and an SGAS Special Award for Meritorious Achievement was presented to Ilse Hoffmann.

Two new committees were appointed: The SGAS Publication Fund Committee and the SGAS Research Fund Committee. The following members were appointed to serve on the former: William Keel, Chair; Helmut J. Schmeller; and Jerry Glenn; and, the following were appointed to serve on the latter: LaVern J. Rippley, Chair; Adolf Schroeder; and Gerhard Weiss.

2002

The twenty-sixth annual symposium was held at the Amana Colonies, Iowa, sponsored by the Amana Heritage Society, and coordinated by William Roba. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Guy Stern.

The "Annual Bibliography of German-Americana," published annually in the *Yearbook*, and edited by Dolores J. Hoyt and Giles R. Hoyt in collaboration with the Bibliographic Committee, contains for this year a total of 966 entries, an indication of the degree of publication in the field. The *Yearbook* was also well known by this time for its "Book Review Section," edited by Timothy J. Holian, as well as its Literary Review Essay, edited by Elfe Vallaster-Dona, who joined the editorial team this year, succeeding Jerry Glenn, who had pioneered that section.

2003

The twenty-seventh annual symposium, which marked the thirty-fifth anniversary of the SGAS, was held at Loyola College, Baltimore, Maryland, and coordinated by Randall Donaldson. The SGAS Outstanding Achievement Award was presented to Steven Rowan, and an SGAS Special Award for Meritorious Achievement to Margrit B. Krewson. The first supplemental issue of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies* appeared.²⁰ According to SGAS Treasurer and Membership Chair, William H. Roba, the SGAS had a total of twenty-one affiliated organizations by the time of its thirty-fifth anniversary.

At this time, the SGAS was well served by the following Regional Representatives: Washington, D. C. Representative: Margrit B. Krewson; National Affairs: Volker Schmeissner; Midwestern Representative: J. Gregory Redding; and, European Representative: Dirk Schroeder. Other SGAS representatives are: LaVern J. Rippley and Manfred Zimmermann who serve as SGAS Representatives on the Friends Executive Committee of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D. C.

First Vice President Manfred Zimmermann, reported that the future symposium schedule stood as follows: New Ulm, Minnesota (2004); Grand Rapids, Michigan (2005); Manning, Iowa (2006); Lawrence, Kansas (2007); and, Washington, D. C. (2008), with the latter to focus on the German-American Quadricentennial, the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Germans in America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1608.

SGAS Publications and Records

Newsletters

SGAS Newsletter (1968-77), edited by Robert E. Ward.

Bulletin of the Society for German-American Studies (1977-81), edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

Society for German-American Studies Newsletter (1981-to date), edited by LaVern J. Rippley.

Journals/Yearbook

German-American Studies (1969-76), edited by Robert E. Ward.

Journal of German-American Studies (1977-80), edited by Robert E. Ward.

Yearbook of German-American Studies (1981-85), edited by J. Anthony Burzle with Helmut E. Huelsbergen and William D. Keel; (1986-96), edited by Helmut E. Huelsbergen and William D. Keel; and (1997-to date), edited by William D. Keel.

Yearbook of German-American Studies: Supplemental Issue (2003-to date), edited by William D. Keel.

Special Reports

Robert E. Ward, *A Proposal on Behalf of the Preservation of German Culture in the U.S.* (Cleveland: SGAS, 1973).

Franziska C. Ott, ed., *SGAS in Bremerhaven: the 24th Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, June 2000* (Cincinnati: The Society for German-American Studies, 2000).

Indexes

Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "The Journal of German-American Studies, 1969-80: An Index," *Journal of German-American Studies*. 15:3-4 (1980): 75-94.

J. Anthony Buzle, "The Yearbook of German-American Studies, 1981-85: An Index," *Yearbook of German-American Studies*. 20 (1985): 199-203.

Helmuth E. Huelsbergen and William D. Keel, "Yearbook of German-American Studies, Volumes 21-27 (1986-92): Index of Articles and Reviews," *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 27 (1992): 229-40.

William D. Keel, "The Yearbook of German-American Studies: Twenty-Year Index: Volumes 16-35 (1981-2000): Articles, Review Essays, and Book Reviews," *Yearbook of German-American Studies*. 35 (2000): 265-303.

SGAS Records

The archival records of the SGAS are on file at the German-Americana Collection, University of Cincinnati.

SGAS Website

The SGAS website is sponsored and maintained by Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis University Libraries, and administered by Dolores J. Hoyt, and is located at: <<http://www-libiupui.edu/kade/sgasin.html>>

University of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, Ohio

Notes

¹ See Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "The Society for German-American Studies: The First Twenty-Five Years," *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 23 (1988): 165-71.

² *Ibid*, 166.

³ See Robert E. Ward, *A Proposal on Behalf of the Preservation of German Culture in the U.S.A.* (Cleveland: Society for German-American Studies, 1973), which provides a review of the status of the field of German-American Studies at the time it was written. Also, see Heinz Kloss, *Research Possibilities in the German-American Field*, edited with Introduction and Bibliography by LaVern J. Rippley (Hamburg: Buske, 1980). Rippley notes in his Introduction that the Kloss report "is now a historical document giving some insight, as well as in-depth information into the state of the art which prevailed in the field of German-American Studies some forty-odd years ago" (p. viii). Together both of these reports provide insight into the status of the field up to the time of the founding of the SGAS. For a recent survey and discussion of the definition of the field, see LaVern J. Rippley, "Towards a 1993 Definition of German-American Studies," *Yearbook* 28 (1993): 1-11.

⁴ Tolzmann, "The Society for German-American Studies..." p. 168. For the program of the 1973 meeting that Ward organized, see *Symposium on German Culture in America and Ohio: Saturday, October 13, 1973 at the German Central, Sponsored by the Cleveland Chapter of D.A.N.K. (German-American National*

Congress)/Symposium ueber deutsche Kultur in Amerika und Ohio, Samstag, den 13. Oktober 1973 auf der Deutschen Zentrale veranstaltet von der D.A.N.K. Gruppe Cleveland (Deutsch-Amerikanischer Kongress) (Cleveland, 1973).

⁵ See the conference proceedings published after the Kansas meeting, Erich A. Albrecht and J. Anthony Burzle, eds., *German-Americana, 1976: Symposium on German-American Literature and Culture at the University of Kansas, October 8-9, 1976, Under the Auspices of the Max Kade German-American Document and Research Center of the University of Kansas in Cooperation with the Department of German* (Lawrence, Kansas: The Max Kade German-American Document and Research Center, 1977).

⁶ For a report of the Cincinnati symposium, see Gert Niers, "Deutschamerika-Forschung jetzt zentral gesteuert," *New Yorker Staats-Zeitung und Herald* (18-19 December 1976). Among the members present at this organizational meeting were the following (in alphabetical order): Karl J. R. Arndt, Franz Ascher-Nash, Robert E. Cazen, Jerry Glenn, Edward P. Harris, Gert Niers, LaVern J. Rippley, Walter L. Robbins, John R. Sinnema, Don Heinrich Tolzmann, and Robert E. Ward.

⁷ Regarding the Census in general, and the 1976 White House Conference on Ethnicity, see Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "The U.S. Census and German-Americans," *SGAS Newsletter* 23, 3 (2002): 17.

⁸ See "The Society for German-American Studies Announces the Publication of a Yearbook," *SGAS Newsletter* 2, 3 (1980-81): 1, and also, J. Anthony Burzle, "Editorial Background: Yearbook of German-American Studies," *SGAS Newsletter* 2, 5 (1981): 9-10.

⁹ Regarding the SGAS German-American Tricentennial Committee, see "German-American Tricentennial Committee," *SGAS Newsletter* 1, 4 (1979-80): 7.

¹⁰ For coverage of the results of the U.S. Census, see "Majority of Americans Owe German Ancestry to Germany," *SGAS Newsletter* 3, 3 (1982):4; "America's Melting Pot: Who's In It?," *SGAS Newsletter* 4, 3 (1983): 5; and "United States: 52,000,000 of German Heritage," *SGAS Newsletter* 8, 1 (1987): 3.

¹¹ Regarding the Tricentennial, see LaVern J. Rippley, "Toward a 1993 Definition of German-American Studies," *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 28 (1993): 4.

¹² See Robert E. Coley, SGAS Secretary, Society for German-American Studies, Minutes of the Tenth Annual Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio, 26 April, 1986, p. 2. German-Americana Collection, SGAS Records, Box 141, File No. 2.

¹³ Regarding the SGAS German-American Day Committee, see "German-American Day Committee," *SGAS Newsletter* 7, 4 (1986): 25. The *Newsletter* reported as follows: "A SGAS German-American Day Committee has been appointed to help in the effort to establish Oct. 6, 1987, as German-American Day. The Committee is chaired by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, and the members include: Ruth Reichmann, President of the Indiana German Heritage Society; Nancy Pierce, President of the German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C.; and, Marianne Bouvier, Vice-President of the German-American National Congress. Please support the Society's work in obtaining the proclamation for a 1987 German-American Day."

¹⁴ For reports on the White House signing ceremony, see "German-American Day 1987," *SGAS Newsletter* 8, 4 (1987): 25, 27. Also, see: Don Heinrich Tolzmann, "The Origins of German-American Day," *The Steuben News* (November/December 2002), and my essay on the same topic in: *German-American Studies: Selected Essays* (New York: Peter Lang Pub. Co., 2001), 41-44.

¹⁵ For further information on the efforts of the SGAS in the direction of encouraging the introduction of German-American Studies into the curriculum, see LaVern J. Rippley, "Bibliography for the Teaching of German-Americana," *Yearbook of German-American Studies* 28 (1993): 119-42.

¹⁶ Regarding Ward, see: Tolzmann, *German-American Studies: Selected Essays*, 27-29.

¹⁷ For information on the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Germans in America at Jamestown, see Don Heinrich Tolzmann, *German-American Studies: Selected Essays*, 47-49.

¹⁸ Regarding the historical marker at Jamestown, see: German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., Inc., *First Germans At Jamestown, A Commemoration: The German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., Inc., Washington, D.C., 31 May 1997* (Washington, D.C.: The Society, 1997). This consists of the commemorative program for the unveiling of the historical marker for the "First Germans at Jamestown," at Jamestown, Virginia.

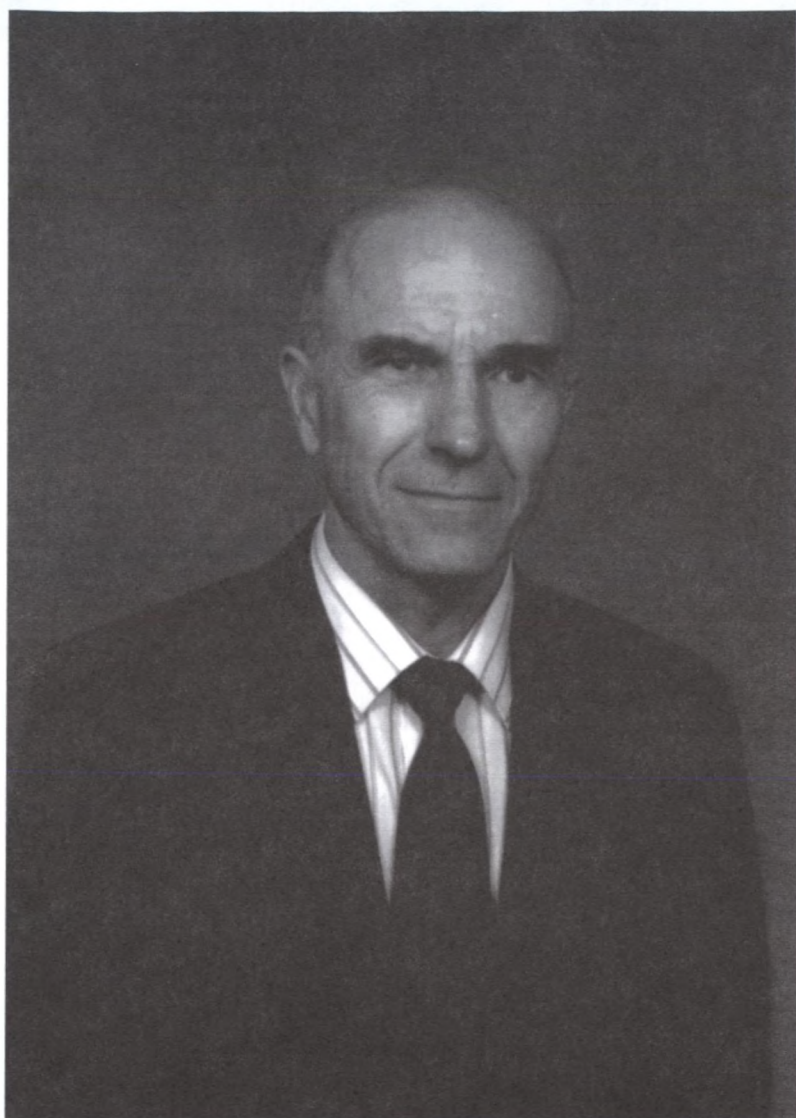
¹⁹ A description of plans for the SGAS symposium in Bremerhaven can be found in Horst Rössler, *Jahrestagung der Society for German-American Studies, Juni 2000, Bremerhaven: Deutsche Auswanderung in die USA (über Bremerhaven), Update Oktober 1999* (Bremerhaven: Förderverein Deutsches Auswanderermuseum e.V., 1999), as well as the final program, *The Society for German-American Studies Twenty-Fourth Annual Symposium, Bremerhaven, Germany, 11-17 June 2000* (Cincinnati: The Society for

German-American Studies, 2000). Also, see the collection of articles about the symposium by Franziska C. Ott, ed., *SGAS in Bremerhaven: the 24th Annual Symposium of the Society for German-American Studies, June 2000* (Cincinnati: The Society for German-American Studies, 2000).

²⁰ See Karl Friedrich Führer, *Wahrheit und Guter Rath, an die Einwohner Deutschlands, besonders in Hessen 1783* (*Truth and Good Advice, to the Inhabitants of Germany, Especially in Hesse*). Edited and translated by Christoph E. Schweitzer. *Yearbook of German-American Studies, Supplemental Issue, Volume 1* (Lawrence, Kansas: The Society for German-American Studies, 2003).



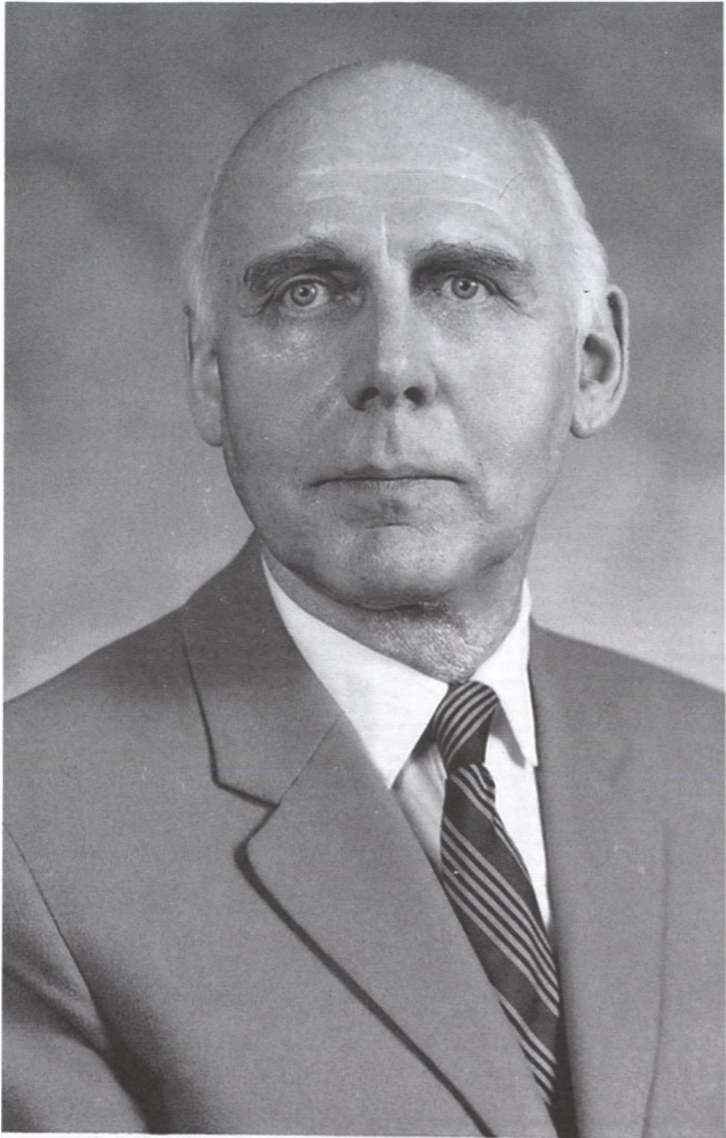
Robert E. Ward
Founder and First SGAS President
Editor of *German-American Studies*,
(lc) *Journal of German-American Studies*



LaVern J. Rippley
Second SGAS President
Editor of *The Society for German-American Studies Newsletter*



Don Heinrich Tolzmann
Third SGAS President,
With President Reagan at the 1987 Signing Ceremony
for the Proclamation of German-American Day



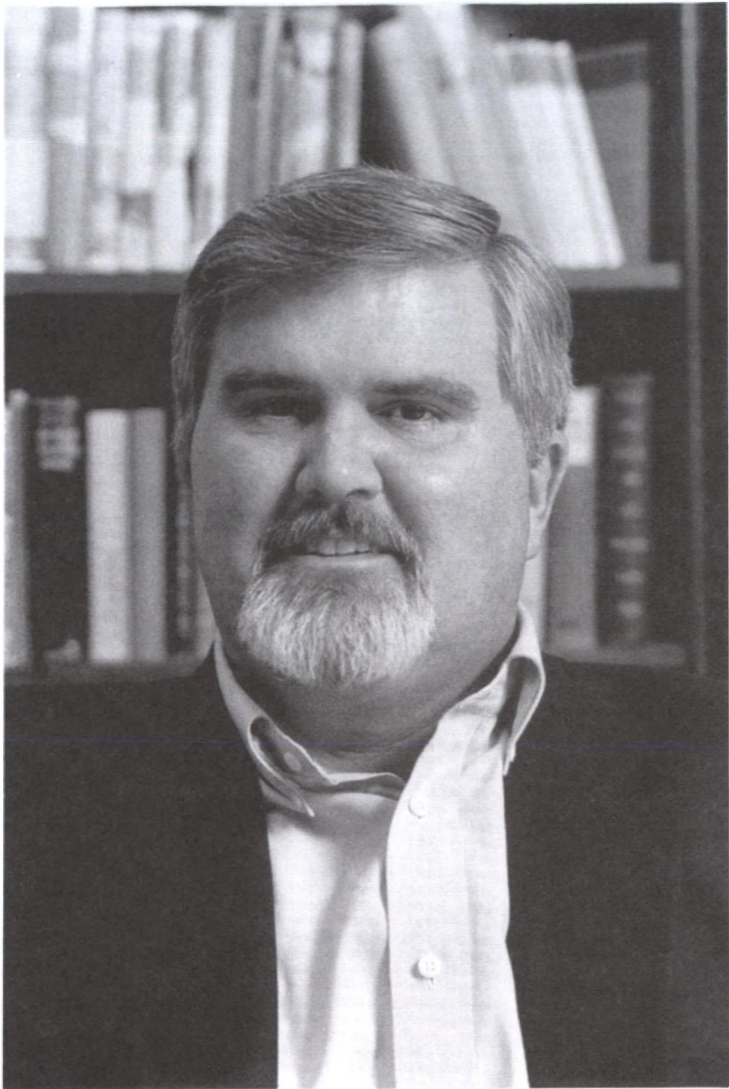
J. Anthony Burzle

First Editor of the *Yearbook of German-American Studies*

Photo courtesy of University Archives, Spencer Research Library,
University of Kansas Libraries



Helmut Huelsbergen
Co-Editor, with William D. Keel
Yearbook of German-American Studies
Photo courtesy of University Archives, Spencer Research Library,
University of Kansas Libraries



William D. Keel
Co-Editor, with Helmut Huelsbergen and Third Editor
Yearbook of German-American Studies
Photo courtesy of University Relations, University of Kansas



Home of the Yearbook of German-American Studies
Max Kade Center for German-American Studies, University of Kansas
Photo courtesy of University Relations, University of Kansas



Executive Committee of the SGAS in Oldenburg, Indiana, in Fall 2003; front row: Gregory Redding, Timothy Holian, Volker Schmeissner; middle row: Barbara Rippley, Frances Ott Allen, Elfe Vallaster-Dona, Dolores Hoyt; back row: Manfred Zimmermann, Giles Hoyt, William Keel, William Roba, and Don Heinrich Tolzmann