



# THE GERMAN PIONEER

The Official Newsletter of the  
German Heritage Museum  
Of Greater Cincinnati



## Winter Lecture Series

The German Heritage Museum To Feature Two Events  
For It's First Winter Lecture Series This Season

This winter the German Heritage Museum will be hosting two events in it's inaugural winter lecture series. On Saturday, January 31st, Dr. Andrea Fieler will present "My German Experience Of Cincinnati". Dr. Andrea Fieler was born near Aachen, Germany, and received her Ph.D from the Department of German Studies at the University of Cincinnati 2009, after having emigrated to the US in 2002. She currently works part-time at the Department of World Languages and Literatures at Northern Kentucky University and pursues her research of the German author W.G. Sebald.

On Saturday, February 28th Mr. Gerald Houchell will present the program "The Pennsylvania German Long Rifle." This weapon, created by the German gunsmiths of Pennsylvania, was an indispensable part of a settler's life, and was a major factor in the American success in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Houchell is a retired engineer and current Secretary of the Cincinnati Chapter Ohio Society Sons of the American Revolution, member and Armorer, Nolan Carson Color Guard, Cincinnati SAR, and the owner of Period Long Rifle Operations.

The Winter Lecture Series of the German Heritage Museum was made possible by a grant from Northern Kentucky University. Our thanks go out to NKU for their generous support of the Museum and the German-American Citizens League. *Details of the grant, and Kaitlin Mullikin, our student champion, can be found on page 4.*

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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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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](mailto:nadahuron@fuse.net)

#### Information

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

Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann  
GACL President  
6829 Westin Ridge  
Cleves, OH 45002  
[dtolzmann@yahoo.com](mailto:dtolzmann@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Events

### January 31: Museum Lecture Series

"My German Experience of Cincinnati",  
Dr. Andrea Fieler, 2:00 PM  
*See page 1*

### February 16: Fat Tuesday - Fastnacht

6:00 PM Hofbrauhaus Newport,  
*See page 3*

### February 28: Museum Lecture Series

"The Pennsylvania German Long Rifle",  
Gerald Houchell, 2:00 PM  
*See page 1*

### March 5-7: Bockfest

Parade, Cultural Exhibits, and Entertainment  
[Bockfest Website](#)

### May 16: Maifest

Museum opens for the season  
Details to be announced

### Second Monday: Stammtisch Night

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 16th through October 24th, 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!](#)**

# *How I Got to Germany*

Nada Christine Huron

Having studied only two years of Latin in high school, I took the first year of the German language in my second year at Vincennes (IN) University Junior College to complete the language requirement. I realized years later that I chose German mainly because my older brother, Rodger Huron (a very talented banjo and fiddle player in SE Indiana, by the way), had taken it at his college, Heidelberg College in Tiffin, OH, the year before. Got to keep up with those siblings!

That spring semester at Vincennes, the professor passed around a pamphlet about jobs in Europe for college-aged students, sponsored by the American Student Information Service (ASIS) in Luxembourg. Since I had to decide the next fall whether to transfer to a four-year college or to start working (plus probably possessing an adventurous nature, having grown up in a small town), I took the information home on spring break and proposed the program to my parents. They agreed and for \$500, I was sold a round-trip ticket to Luxembourg City and indefinite job placements practically anywhere in Europe (plus health insurance!). From the different type jobs listed, I asked for farm work, resort hotel, or governess/nanny. My assignment arrived shortly, along with four LP's of the Berlitz' Learn-a-Language record kit. My job was to be a nurse aid at the St. Rita Pflegeheim (care center) in Deisenhofen, West Germany (20-minute train SE of Munich).

So that fall of 1968, I took my first-ever plane ride to NYC and then on to Luxembourg airport in an Icelandic Airline propeller jet (I remember seeing them 'propel' outside my window!). ASIS met us 20 young Americans at the airport and for 5 days we ventured out to a different European country for 'orientation'. My most lingering memory from that week is the French toilet in a restaurant (I'm sure many reading this know exactly how they worked!).

The next week I boarded a train for the Munich Hauptbahnhof (main train station) where a Sister/Schwester from the Catholic-run care center was to meet me. I remember introducing myself with just my first and last names, to which she responded, "Do you have another first name?" So from then on, I was addressed as "Schwester Christina". I guess "Nada" wouldn't be very easy for the patients to remember? I really kind of enjoyed hearing my new "German" name.

The nurse aide job entailed bed making (I never really could fluff the down comforters to the patients' standards), bed-pan emptying, serving Kaffee Dienst (every patient got a semmel/biscuit or special pastry that their family brought in for them), and on every day that the sun shone, every patient went outside for 30 minutes!

The job contracts with ASIS were for 2-4 months' duration, so after 3 months of 6 days/week, alternate weekends off, 11-hour-long days (actually, 8.5 hrs of work, one-hour lunch and a 1.5-hour break in late afternoon) at St. Rita's, I put in a request for a different job. The social networking brought info about a factory job inside Munich at the Agfa Kamera Werk in Giesing. My new assignment was in Eingangs Kontrolle/incoming goods inspection for the manufacture of cameras; and, with work hours of 7am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday, I was able to experience Munich more. One of my supervisors was Josef Pickel. I kidded him to how his name translated from English and he took me aside one day and shared with me his time as a Hitler Youth.

After nine months away from home, this small-town 21-year-old who'd never been outside Indiana experienced true Heimweh (homesickness). And, of course, after 2 days of my return home in April, 1969, I said to myself, "What have I done??!!"

However, while at the camera factory, I had worked along side a young man, Oliver Jürgens (son of the actor Kurt Jürgens), who was my "equal": same age, both 2 yrs of college, doing the same level job. One payday, we compared pay stubs and he was making several pfenning more than I per hour. I made an appointment with the head of Personnel, Herr Eckert, and asked the question "Why?", which brought the quick, simple answer of, "He's a man." I don't remember my response, except accepting it and going back to work. But within a few weeks, after I'd decided to return home, Herr Eckert called me into his office (I guess he had received a list of existing workers?). He told me that if I ever wanted to return to work at the Agfa Kamera Werk, to just let him know.

So, four years later in March, 1973, after completing a teaching degree in Cincinnati, I wrote that letter of request to Herr Eckert, they got my work permit arranged, and I returned and worked one full year at the Agfa Kamera factory in Munich. That year I traveled to Venice, Berlin, London, Frankfurt and experienced my grosse Liebe/first love.

In my mother's eulogy in 2005, I stated my thanks to my parents for allowing their child to work and live abroad. Next to having a child, that experience has been the richest time of my life.

Nada Christine Huron  
January 18, 2010

*"Schwester Christina" is the current Treasurer of the German-American Citizens League.*

## ***Fat Tuesday-Fastnacht*** ***Tuesday, February 16*** ***Hofbrauhaus Newport***

The annual Fat Tuesday – Fastnacht celebration takes place Tuesday, February 16, 2010, from 6PM till closing. Sponsored by the German-American Citizens League, the celebration takes place at the Hofbräuhaus Newport.

This year's features the Enzian Dancers with a special Fat Tuesday dance presentation and prizes for the best costumes. Plans this year call for a special guest: Christian Uhde, the Lord Mayor of Munich, Germany, who will be visiting the area.

Celebrate the night before the Fast German-style!

For information, call: 574-1741.

## ***Museum Volunteers***

The museum is staffed by volunteers during all of it's open hours. We are currently filling out our volunteer schedule for 2010. If you've helped us in the past, or are interested in becoming a new volunteer, we'd love to hear from you. A staff shift is four hours, 1:00 to 5:00 PM on Sunday afternoon. It's a great way to get to know the museum, and interact with a wide variety of guests. No experience or special knowledge is required, and we open and close the museum for you. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer, or have any questions, please contact Bill Kraeling by [email](#) or at 513-793-1645.

## ***Northern Kentucky University Gives Mayerson Philanthropy Project Award to GACL***

### ***Student Efforts Benefit the Museum***

The German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati was the recipient of the NKU Mayerson Philanthropy Project Award for 2009. This came about as the result of a project in the Public History Class taught by Dr. Rebecca J. Bailey, Director of the Public History Program at Northern Kentucky University. Students in this class were assigned the task of preparing grant applications for area museums. One of her students, Kaitlin Mullikin, became interested in the German Heritage Museum and took on the task of preparing a grant application, which resulted in the GACL winning the award of a grant for \$1,000 for the Museum. Altogether, there were more than a dozen grant applications submitted by students in Dr. Bailey's class. This will support the new German Heritage Museum Lecture Series beginning this winter. The GACL thanks Katilin Mullikin for he outstanding job she did in preparing the grant application and Dr. Bailey for the excellent program she directs. The German Heritage Museum also received a "Certificate of Appreciation" from NKU's Public History Program. Winning this award serves as recognition of the value the German Heritage Museum as the only musuem of its kind in the Ohio Valley region.

## ***Buy a Brick!***

Commemorate the contributions of the German-Americans of Cincinnati by becoming a part of

### ***The Heritage Walk***

at the German Heritage Museum.



The Heritage Walk is a 24 x 26 foot brick walkway directly in front of the German Heritage Museum. The purpose of the walkway is to allow the people of Cincinnati to celebrate their German-American heritage by becoming a permanent part of the German Heritage Museum. In addition, all funds derived from this program will assist in the maintenance of the museum.

### ***It's For Everyone***

You need not be of German ancestry or even from the Cincinnati area to become a part of The Heritage Walk. You need only be proud to be a citizen interested in preserving a large part of Cincinnati's history.

### ***Gift or Memorial***

An engraved brick makes a thoughtful and lasting gift to a relative or friend. A brick can also be a way to memorialize your ancestors and others. Gift cards are also available. In addition, donations are tax deductible! Bricks are available in two sizes. The large 8x8 bricks have space for up to six lines of 14 characters each. The smaller 4x8 bricks have space for up to three lines. Large bricks are available for \$50. Small bricks are \$35, or three for \$100.

### ***Order Today!***

For more information about obtaining your brick for The Heritage Walk at the German Heritage Museum, contact:

Kenny Burck  
[kburck@juno.com](mailto:kburck@juno.com)  
789 Carini Lane  
Cincinnati, OH 45218-1509  
513-851-9549

# ***Vote for Jacob Mueller***

## ***New Ohio Representative Sought for National Statuary Hall***

Nominations are being sought for candidates for a statue in the National Statuary Hall in Washington, D.C. Each state is represented there with two statues, and one is now being sought for Ohio.

The German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati (GACL) has endorsed the nomination of Jacob Mueller (1822-1905) to represent Ohio in the National Statuary Hall.

Mueller served as Lt. Governor of Ohio (elected 1871) and as a delegate at several national Republican conventions, including the 1860 one that nominated Lincoln.

Jacob Mueller emigrated from Germany after the 1848 Revolution there, settled in Cleveland, and immediately became involved in contributing to his new homeland.

In 1860, he was a delegate at the national Republican convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln for President and was responsible for raising two regiments for the Union Army when the Civil War broke out.

In 1885, President Grover Cleveland appointed him U.S. Consul to Frankfurt am Main. Aside from practicing law, he published a German-American newspaper in Cleveland, *Der Wächter am Erie*.



The GACL feels that Jacob Mueller represents all the immigrants that came to Ohio and helped make it what it is today. He also represents the strong German heritage of the state (40% of German ancestry).

In this regard, mention should be made of the unjust treatment of German-Americans during and after World War I, when German instruction was declared illegal in the state of Ohio until this unconstitutional law (the Ake Law) was overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1923.

Honoring Jacob Mueller would help right the wrongs of the past and also honor a great Ohioan.

Thus far, no decision has been made on the subject of the new statue in the National Statuary Hall, but there is a selection committee in place.

For further information on the selection committee and process, visit the [Legacy for Ohio website](#). You can also place your vote at this site.

For further information on Lt. Gov. Jacob Mueller, see the biographical entry on him from the [Encyclopedia of Cleveland History](#).

# ***New Benches Donated***

The Bayerische Unterstützung Verein (Bavarian Beneficial Society) and the Fullbeck Family have donated two new benches for the museum grounds. These new benches have been



located directly adjacent to the main walkway, as you approach the main entrance of the museum. Our thanks go out to both the Bavarians and the Fullbecks for their generosity!

