Over the past 11 years I have found a wonderful home for my work and passion with the German American Heritage Center and Museum. I have been grateful to meet so many kind and genuine people and hope you have enjoyed much of the museum's programs and offerings during this time. But now I must enter the next stage of my career and service to the community. I must bid you all farewell as October is my last month here at the museum.

I remember fondly putting up the White Rose exhibit as one of my first exhibitions, and now it serves as my last here. I am so thankful for the volunteers, members, visitors, and staff I have gotten to know over the years. You all made working at the GAHC&M so enriching. I will miss my role here, but it is not goodbye entirely, as I will continue to work in and support the Quad Cities at the Putnam Museum.

It has truly been and honor and pleasure to spend time with you all and create connections and partnerships for the GAHC&M. I will remember my time here fondly and will continue to follow the museum as a member and supporter.

With sincere gratitude,

Kelly Lao
The German American Heritage Center & Museum is one of many organizations in the region participating in the community-wide project, Out of Darkness: Holocaust Messages for Today, which includes programming for children and adults to counter divisiveness, racial tensions, and intolerance by promoting dignity, diversity, equity, democratic values, human rights, and the power of the human spirit that are so badly needed today. The GAHC&M has two upcoming exhibitions and a full calendar of programming as part of this initiative this fall and winter.

In 1942/43 several students and a professor of philosophy at Munich’s Ludwig-Maximilian University called for resistance against the Nazi dictatorship by issuing several leaflets. “Leaflets of the White Rose” is what fellow students Hans Scholl and Alexander Schmorell named their first four papers, a call for passive resistance and the immediate termination of the war, self-published and distributed during the summer of 1942. In mid-January 1943 the fifth leaflet “Appeal to all Germans!” was spread across several German cities. Just one month later, Hans and Sophie Scholl are arrested while placing the sixth leaflet inside the University of Munich. Seven core members (Willi Graf, Prof. Kurt Huber, Hans Leipelt, Christoph Probst, Alexander Schmorell, Hans and Sophie Scholl) are executed, others receive long term prison sentences. In times of National Socialist terror, they were driven by humanistic motives and appealed to the responsibility of every individual for freedom and justice. The exhibition focuses on the group’s motives and motivation to resist, their resistance activities, the contents of their leaflets and the expansion of their resistance beyond Munich to Ulm, Saarbrücken, Hamburg, and other cities.

As part of this programming, the GAHC&M is bringing Emmy-award winner and author of Sophie Scholl and the White Rose Jud Newborn to the Quad Cities for a public lecture at the Figge Art Museum on Friday, October 21st at 6pm. Tickets at eventbrite.com. His multimedia presentation SPEAKING TRUTH TO POWER: THE WHITE ROSE STUDENT ANTI-NAZI RESISTANCE- AND HEROES TODAY IN THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS is not to be missed.

This exhibition shares the story of Markus and Anna Mattes, a Polish Jewish couple who moved to Mainz, Germany, in 1908 to raise their family. Through family pictures, documents, maps, and first-hand accounts in letters written by members of the Mattes family, we learn of the couple’s witness to the beginnings of the Holocaust, and their desperate attempts to escape Nazi Germany and join their children who found a home in the Quad Cities. These attempts, which ultimately failed, are haunting and echo the experience of many Jewish families during this time. The story of the Mattes family, as told through their own words from 1938-1941, honors the memory of those who did not survive.

Follow outofdarknessqc.com for more programming information.
As summer fades and autumn nears, both German and American youngsters have been called back to school. In Germany there are some interesting differences when a child first attends public school. The starting age is 6, not 5 years old as is typical here. Parents must pay the cost of required textbooks for each grade and in most instances are responsible for transportation to and from school. Busing is less common.

Here are some vintage textbooks from the GAHC resource library, typically used in American schools at the turn of the 20th century. They served both elementary children learning German and those who had spoken it at home prior to their school years, but had no experience in reading or writing German.

The book on the right, "Erstes Sprach- und Lesebuch" or "First Book of Speaking and Reading" shows a page featuring the letter "o." The left column shows the traditional Sütterlin penmanship taught in schools from 1915 to 1941. The right column shows the same words in Fraktur, which is the classic printed script used in books, newspapers, posters, and advertisements. It has a thicker, bolder look and its name is related to "fracture" due to the broken, disconnected strokes used to create it. Antiqua or Latin-type letters became the printed norm after World War II.

“First German Book for School and House” shows the mark of passing through many small hands - note the strip of glued calico on the cover which holds it together. A small sketch also reminds us that the pen is mightier than the sword.

Although each page is small, it provides a thorough dose of learning. At the top left is a sketch designed to be copied for small motor skills; the thick and thin lines are challenging.

At the top right of the page are math problems for recitation or copy work. The dot problems are for counting; and dots marked with a line represent subtraction. The page features the letter "k" in Sütterlin and Fraktur with vocabulary for sight reading using many common words.
Although the artisan craftsmanship of Blaudruck fabric has been reduced by modern chemical dyes and the mechanization of printing on cloth, there remain several phrases in the German language which have roots in this ancient practice. Here are some expressions that are still in use today:

blau machen (literally, to make blue) to skip school or to be absent from work without a valid excuse.

etwas blau sein lassen (literally, to let something be blue) to allow a situation to remain unchanged or as it is, to “not rock the boat.”

ins Blaue laufen (literally, to run into the blue) to come up empty, or fade into thin air. Generally used to explain a romantic gesture that is unrequited or a marriage proposal that was rejected.

eine blaue Botschaft liefern (literally, to deliver a blue message) a verbal excuse used to change the subject, to distract or to send someone on a useless errand.

eine Reise ins Blaue machen (literally, to take a trip into the blue) to travel or make an excursion without any particular destination in mind.

abwarten und ein blaues Wunder erleben (literally, to wait a moment and experience a blue miracle) to experience the completely unexpected, to have something happen “out of the blue.” This is a direct reference to the astonishing change of color when Blaudruck cloth emerges as bright green from the indigo dye bath and changes to blue when it oxidizes with the air.

hexen und blaufärben (literally, to bewitch and dye blue) to view something with skepticism or of dubious origin or nontransparent.

das Blaue vom Himmel unterschwätzen (literally, to talk the blue out of the sky) to convince or persuade as a result of relentless talk or on the basis of thin or hazy evidence.

der Blaurock (literally, the blue jacket or coat) this refers to the practice of young apprentices in the medieval guild system who wore pale blue coats to signify their status as early learners of their trade. It applied to many different craftsmen, not just dyers. Early garments were a pale grey blue that stemmed from forest plant dyes. Over time some regions forbade the wearing of blue jackets in parades, fearing the strength that workers could display when marching together. It is the origin of the “blue collar” designation in English speaking countries. In Germany many manufacturing workers and tradespeople still wear deep blue smocks or blue cotton lab coats on the job.

blauer Montag (literally, blue Monday) originally meant as the day when dyers could rest or not work as the cloth was soaking in the indigo and was not ready to be removed, so it was understood as an easy or lazy day. Over time this changed to a hard-won day off for many tradesmen, including the dyers. It was used for guild ceremonies such as greeting or bidding farewell to journeymen or to memorize the dead. More daily life applications included to mend and repair tools and property, to bathe or swim, and to go to court or to market.

And finally...

blau (literally, blue) but it also means drunk from too much to drink!

Make sure to visit the new exhibition featuring beautiful Blaudruck pieces from Germany and historic pieces from the Czech Republic on display in the 3rd Floor Gallery. Made possible with funding from Quad City Arts Arts Dollars. Also- shop our gift shop for one of a kind Blaudruck items from the workshop in Jever, Germany!
By the way, one is free here like a bird in the air as well as in his habits and attitudes in his dealing with others and in his clothing. One can get up early or late or relax, be lazy or diligent because no one takes note of it. One pays the government its minimal amount of dollars (I pay $3.50 for a tract of land 280 acres besides inventory. One works his two days on the roads (which are excellent almost the entire years from each farm into the city) and one is then finished with all obligations to the state. The sons must, of course, when they are grown up serve in the citizen’s militia, but they do not need to go to war like in Europe because the wars for the Union were conducted with volunteers and regulars. The future of the children, who are the focal point of the hearts of all not-so-rich parents in Germany, does not cause the slightest worry here. The future of 10 year old children whose parents die here without leaving any money, is more secure than in Germany. They can either be taught well or become schooled in women’s occupations as would an experienced woman 20 years of age.

An example: a son of mine 10 years old is working well in the last half year as an apprentice in a pharmacy and earns a salary of $1 a month instead of what such an apprentice would have to pay in Germany; in addition, he is treated like a gentleman, like a son in their house so lovingly and gently as one would not think possible in Germany, I could have written it a hundred times.

I can add that the area here is charming/attractive especially in our vicinity because we are situated on the bluffs and even own a small part of it. The entire trip from here to Davenport would generate the same kind of interest as the prettiest areas of Germany. The soil is so easy to work and productive such that a person here could not imagine it could be sucked dry as long as one changes very 3rd or 4th year and plants corn (and this is not a sacrifice, it is just as good as wheat). So I really don’t see how a person could wish for anything better. To whomever the earlier conditions were not satisfactory, he should be willing to leave his homeland. At least I can claim this because I have seen a part of the Union. My brother has experienced the same in other states and supported himself for months as a surveyor. Nowhere have we found a place or an area which we could prefer or equate with this area.

This is something more about the route for the trip as they reported to me and which they decided on from their emigration. By the way, I myself traveled via Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and St. Louis; I was as sick as a dog. However, there were so many joys of a divine nature that my wife and I often think back fondly on this trip. It cost me $200 for nine people and 1800 pounds of luggage. The most comfortable and advantageous is, in any case, via New Orleans and has the great advantage that one can take all of his household goods along and to have them here is of unlimited importance.

Large, beautiful farms are available at any time. An American thinks of selling his farm as a German would his dog. The price for the half-stocked and fenced farm is at present around $10 per acre. If however the great railway comes, it will link the east with the Pacific Ocean, and will now allow doing business in California and Oregon. And for this area and this cannot be delayed, the rail line goes from Chicago to Flora 80 miles from here and is also even at the moment from Flora to Rock Island by act of the...
legislature. All the necessary money has already been collected and so the meetings (of the legislature) will now be more significant. Therefore, 5 English miles from the city are large farms to be had at this price. But land in private hands is $3 to $4 per acre. If one wants public land, then one has to go 8 to 10 miles farther away, there is still quite enough of this type of farm. But whoever is no fool, prefers to pay $5 per acres close to the city rather than 1 and ½ dollars farther out.

The most advantageous is a stocked farm. The wheat produced as a rule yields 30 to 35 bushels an acre. It would, however in any case, produce more if it were farmed like in Germany. Reading material is as good here as in every small city in Germany. My farm lies behind the bluffs, about 3 English miles from the river; I can hear every steam ship clearly when it goes up and down the river. I also have bottom land on my farm; along the bluffs runs namely the riverbed of the dried up Blackhawk Creek; therefore, it runs diagonally through my land and this is the bottom land.

On the prairie is topsoil, consisting of vegetable matter one to two feet deep. And on top of that a type of earth which I as an expert must label as clay, and under that is loam with limestone as the lowest 20 to 30 feet deep and then sand. If one rents out his land holdings like my brother does, one is quite a gentleman and one therefore gets $2 per acre or 1/3 of the crop, which I would of course recommend by far.

Life here is endlessly wealthy; for $200 a year, one can live very well, that is if one has housing. The fact that the prairie has little wood is not a consideration. A cord of wood, 128 cubic feet therefore almost twice as big as in Holstein, costs $2 delivered, $1 if you go get it. Also, one can buy a single plot of forest land between 5 and 10 acres; the price is from $10 to $16 per acre. To come via New Orleans, one should not leave Hamburg after the 15th of March or travel in the fall. To come via New York, the time stays the same; it’s best in July, August and September.
I admit, I never asked, “Where did we come from? How did we get here?” In my defense, I never knew enough about my family history to ask intelligent questions. As a teenager, I learned that my paternal grandfather, Johann (later John) Ploog (1870-1953) worked in a sawmill in Hauntown, Clinton County when he first arrived in the United States in 1892. A dozen years later, in 1973 when I was stationed in England in the U.S. Air Force, my father, Vernon Ploog (1910-1989) wrote to me that relatives still lived in the tiny village of Elpersbüttel in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. As the guest of these relatives, I spent a long weekend on the same farm where my grandfather grew up. Ten years later, my father made a casual remark about my grandfather’s obligation to reimburse his employer by working at the sawmill in Hauntown for a certain period of time. Now, in retirement and with my parents gone, I have suddenly become inquisitive.

My father’s comment about my grandfather being an indentured laborer answers one question but it raises others. An indentured arrangement explains why my twenty-one-year-old grandfather chose to relocate to Hauntown, Iowa but it provides no explanation for how this arrangement came about. Assuming that his future employer financed his passage to the United States, this arrangement could not have resulted from his personal initiative alone. He must have had some contact with his future employer before he decided to emigrate. Did the sawmill in Hauntown actively recruit laborers from Germany through newspaper ads or printed pamphlets? This is very unlikely since the Hauntown mill was not a large operation. More likely, my grandfather’s emigration was made possible by individual contact between him and his employer, perhaps facilitated by an intermediary.

According to the Sawmill Museum in Clinton, Iowa, the mill in Hauntown, the Elk River Sawmill, was owned by Ernst Heinrich Struve (1827-1900). Struve emigrated from Germany in December 1848, arriving on the Gulf Coast in January 1849. He traveled up the Mississippi River, first to Scott County, then to Jackson County, and eventually to Clinton County. He bought a share of the Elk River Sawmill and later acquired complete ownership.

Struve enjoyed financial success in his dealings in farmland and in his acquisition of the sawmill within a couple of miles of the Mississippi River. The river served as a conduit for timber from throughout the northern Midwest. The Iowa State Extension Service report on “The Sawmills of Iowa” (1964) states that “In 1877 Clinton, Iowa was the largest lumber producing center in the world.” The Clinton baseball team is appropriately called the LumberKings and the city boasts a Sawmill Museum.

The Sawmill Museum holds letters between Ernst Heinrich Struve in the United States and his family in Germany. Upon arrival, Struve wrote to his father, Ernst Struve, in hopes of convincing his family to follow him. His letters to his parents and his brother, Carl W. Struve, were addressed to the small town of Helse near Marne in Holstein, only three miles from my grandfather’s home in Elpersbüttel. After his immediate family did join him, Struve corresponded with his cousin, Heinrich Schütt in Burg only about four miles from Elpersbüttel. Furthermore, in many of his letters, Struve inquired about the health of his aunt and uncle in Elpersbüttel. He does not refer to them by their first names, only as “aunt and uncle Westelhöf in Elpersbüttel.”

The fact that E.H. Struve, my grandfather’s employer, was from the same rural vicinity in Germany as my grandfather is too remarkable to be simply a coincidence. It is very likely that Struve’s relatives in or near Elpersbüttel would have been acquainted with the Ploog family. E.H. Struve’s latest surviving letters date from 1865, nearly thirty years before my grandfather emigrated, so his parents and his brother, Carl W. Struve, were addressed to the small town of Helse near Marne in Holstein, only three miles from my grandfather’s home in Elpersbüttel. After his immediate family did join him, Struve
corresponded with his cousin, Heinrich Schütt in Burg only about four miles from Elpersbüttel. Furthermore, in many of his letters, Struve inquired about the health of his aunt and uncle in Elpersbüttel. He does not refer to them by their first names, only as “aunt and uncle Westelhöf in Elpersbüttel.”

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The timing of my grandfather’s arrival in the spring of 1892 was fortuitous. Lumber production along the Mississippi peaked in that year. The very next year, in 1893 an economic panic led to corporate bankruptcies and double-digit unemployment. At the same time, the old-growth forests of Minnesota and Wisconsin had become depleted. The lumber boom was over. If my grandfather had not emigrated when he did, a year later the passage-for-labor arrangement might have never been offered to him.

Upon completion of his obligation to his employer, my grandfather farmed in Elk River Township, the township surrounding Hauntown and Andover. In February 1904, he married Frances Christine Kruse (1881-1939) of Andover. My grandmother was born in Andover but her father, Claus Kruse (1835-1916) had emigrated from Kiel, the capital of Schleswig-Holstein, only about forty-five miles from Elpersbüttel. My grandparents had seven children, four sons and three daughters. In 1918, the family bought a 235-acre farm with a sprawling twenty-four-room house just north of Charlotte in Waterford Township. The property is still in the family. It is currently farmed by one of my cousins and his son.
memberships & memorials

JULY 4- SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

WILLKOMMEN AN BORD

Bumann, Frances
Ciasto, Chis
Engelmann, Amy & Family
Field, Luann
Grischow, John
Hitzhusen, Margaret
Kiddo, Terri
Knuth, Paul
Mansfield, Ralph
Martin, Sue
Moeller, Mark
Pratt, Carol
Vogel-Brown, Connie

Camarillo, CA
Silvis, IL
Cedar Rapids, IA
Bettendorf, IA
Downers Grove, IL
Geneseo, IL
Taylor Ridge, IL
Auburn, AL
Wheeling, IL
Davenport, IA
Winona, MN
Tower, MN
Woodstock, GA

MEMORIALS

Marcia Koehler
Schar Blevins
Karl Ziegler
Paul Caskey
Johanna Giseburt
Jim Ames

special events

We have many exciting events this season—here are a few!

German Fest- This new event brings us to the newly renovated K-Square next to Duck City and the River Center. From 6-10pm on Friday, Oct. 14th, we will rock out with music from the all-female band the Dirndolls! Enjoy beer, games, and food trucks at this celebration of all things German with our friends at the Downtown Davenport Partnership!

Oktoberfest QC- This large event takes place on the grounds of the beautiful Hauberg Estate! Starting at noon, family activities and food and drink are available for free! At four we will switch to ticketed event with live music from Chicago-based Die Musikmeisters and a tapping! Join us for a trivia event early on by registering at Eventbrite! Evening games include keg bowling, best dressed King & Queen, and even games of strength! Support two non-profits on Saturday, Oct. 22nd from 12-9!

Weihnachtsmarkt- We bring back our beloved Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 10th from 10-2pm. We are accepting craft vendors—email info@gahc.org with interest! Enjoy handmade items such as wreaths, jewelry, wooden items, sweets, and more!

Holiday Windows by Atlanta Dawn!
Last year we enjoyed beautiful Nutcrackers adorning our historic storefront windows. This year Atlanta will bring us a fun twist on the German-American tradition of Christmas Pickles! Stay tuned and on the look-out!
SUNDAY 9TH. YOUNG ADULT READING CLUB. 10:30am.

SUNDAY 9TH. WHO KILLED MARGARET TRESEE? 2pm. In-person lecture. Register at eventbrite.com. FREE members, $5 non-members

THURSDAY 13TH. SPECTRA READING SERIES FT. INTERNATIONAL WRITERS-GERMANY/GUANGZHOU. 7pm. At Rozz Tox in Rock Island. FREE

FRIDAY 14TH. GERMAN FEST. 6-10pm. Music from Dirndolls. At Kaiserslautern Square Davenport. FREE

SATURDAY 15TH. HAUNTED MANSIONS OF THE QC. 2pm. In-person lecture. Register eventbrite.com, FREE members, $5 non-members

SUNDAY 16TH. POLISH JEWS AS REFUGEES. 2pm. In-person lecture. Tickets eventbrite.com, FREE members, $5 non-members

FRIDAY 21ST. JUD NEWBORN WHITE ROSE: STUDENT RESISTANCE TO HITLER. 6-8:30pm. In-person lecture at the Figge Art Museum. Refreshments before talk. Tickets eventbrite.com, $15 members, $20 non-members

SATURDAY 22ND. OKTOBERFEST QC 12-9pm. At the Hauberg Estate in Rock Island. Free till 4. Die Musikmeisters 4:30. $15 at the door $10 in advance.

SUNDAY 30TH. MATTES MUSIC PERFORMANCE. 2pm. FREE. Pre-registration required eventbrite.com

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER. DARKER SIDE OF Davenport WALKING TOURS. $10. Tickets on eventbrite.com. See all dates and times online

SATURDAY 5TH. GNOME TOTEM WORKSHOP. 9am-2pm. Bring sack lunch. Autumn or holiday designs available. Register eventbrite.com, $60 members, $70 non-members.

SUNDAY 6TH. FINAL DAYS OF SOPHIE SCHOLL. 1pm. Film showing at the Figge Art Museum. $5 all

TUESDAY 8TH. A CHRISTMAS CAROL. 5pm. Performance by Duffy Hudson. Light refreshments to follow. Tickets eventbrite.com, $10 members, $15 non-members


SUNDAY 13TH. YOUNG ADULT READING CLUB. 10:30am. Info at gahc.org/yareadingclub

SATURDAY 19TH. GAHC BOOK DISCUSSION. 10:30am. Info at gahc.org/gahc-book-discussion/

SUNDAY 20TH. HOLIDAY BLAUDRUCK BLOCK PRINTING WORKSHOP. 1pm. Register eventbrite.com, materials provided. Take home hand-printed gifts. $10 members, $15 non-members

2ND/3RD/4TH. CHRISTKINDLMARKT QUAD CITIES. Many vendors, live music, and food at the Freight House Farmers Market. christkindlmarktquadcities.com.

TUESDAY 6TH. KRAMPUS WITH AL RIDENOUR. 2pm. Virtual program. $5 all. Register eventbrite.com

SATURDAY 10TH. GAHC WEINHACHTSMARKT. 10am-2pm. Various vendors and activities at the GAHC. Free admission. Interested in being a vendor, email info@gahc.org or call 563-322-8844

EVERY DAY IN DECEMBER. ADVENT CALENDAR WINDOWS. Countdown to Christmas with a new design displayed in our windows each day made by 7th grade students at the Creative Arts Academy. The largest advent calendar in the USA!

For full details of all our events visit gahc.org/events

THURSDAY, NOV. 24TH. GAHC IS CLOSED. Happy Thanksgiving! We are open regular hours on the Friday the 25th

24TH/25TH/31ST/1ST. GAHC IS CLOSED. Happy Holidays! We are closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year’s Eve, and New Year’s Day. See you in 2023!
The Hauberg Estate & German American Heritage Center & Museum present:

**OKTOBERFEST**

**QUAD CITIES**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22ND, 2022**
12PM TO 9PM

GAMES - FOOD - BEER
LIVE MUSIC from DIE MUSIKMEISTERS!

**AT THE HAUBERG ESTATE**
1300 24th Street Rock Island, IL