Springtime has always been my favorite time of year. Everything in nature feels more alive once more and one of my favorite pastimes is gardening. It is fun to plant something and watch it grow, aiding in the process. Gardening is rewarding as one gets to see and enjoy the fruits of their labor.

Just as gardening is rewarding due to the involvement of an individual, your involvement with the German American Heritage Center can be the same! There are two ways that anyone can help the GAHC this spring. First, it is the time of year that we begin our Birdies for Charity drive. The money received directly benefits the Center’s operations and programming. All funds donated are augmented by the John Deere Classic and are critical to our success as an organization.

Secondly, we are always on the lookout for people willing to volunteer at the Center. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to properly function as an organization. I sincerely thank all who volunteer or have volunteered with us in the past. If you are interested in helping the GAHC grow this spring, please reach out to a staff member.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen!

Daniel Cabage

Thank you to all who donate to Birdies for Charity in 2022!

The cover image this quarter is of Pysanky eggs, decorated with traditional Ukrainian folk designs using a wax-resist method. The name comes from the Ukrainian verb pysaty, "to write" or "to inscribe," as the designs are not painted on, but written with beeswax. Members of the Center created their own with the help of Crystal Potthoff. She generously donated a portion of proceeds to the relief effort in Ukraine.
While the majority of immigrants to Davenport and Scott County came from Schleswig-Holstein and areas of what was then considered Germany, many others came from parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, ruled by the Habsburg dynasty. These Habsburg emigres played major roles in the settlement of the area, just as their German counterparts did. But why are they not as familiar in our knowledge of early Iowa?

This significant emigration from the Habsburg Empire left a lasting impression on Davenport, Iowa, and the Upper Mississippi River Valley. Their influence was significant to our history. The ideas of revolution and freedom that they brought with them influenced support and participation of skilled fighters and speakers on behalf of the abolitionists and Union Army in the United States Civil War. We can also find their experiences and contributions in newspaper editorials, salons of high-minded discussion, and even American West folklore.

This exhibit is dedicated to those "Hidden Habsburgs" who are lesser known for their contributions. Explore the exciting and varied experiences of these early immigrants to Iowa and discover what brought them here, and ultimately how they disappeared from our history books in this new exhibition opening Sunday, April 24th!

CONFERENCE DETAILS
Saturday, April 30th 8am - 4pm FREE!
Hear from Keynote Speaker Dr. William Keel, panel discussions, exhibition tours, and learn about researching your own Hidden ancestors at the Richardson Sloan Special Collections- details and registration for the in-person conference available at Eastern Iowa Community College- eicc.edu then search "Hidden Habsburgs"
Online offerings are available at Eventbrite.com

Sunday, May 1st 1pm-2pm FREE!
Join us as Dr. Bill Roba takes us on a trolley tour through "Habsburg" Davenport!
The following letter was brought to the GAHC in 2011 for translation; names and places have been modified for privacy. The problems stated in the letter are those of our time – strikes, unemployment, wage insecurity, supply chain snags, historic and horrific inflation, and shortages of basic necessities. Thank goodness one also finds the eternal saving grace we all need in tough times – a sense of humor!

Duisburg August 23, 1923
Dear Family,

I take pen in hand to write a few lines to you on behalf of Mother. It’s been a bit of a long time, hopefully you’re not angry about that. The packages addressed to Mother arrived here undisturbed (literally “uneaten”); the joy was so great that at first sight none of us could say a word. The mailings arrived here just at the right time, on the evening before Christmas, and the glass workers are on strike. The last one lasted three months with no success. The box arrived on December 9th, Mother’s birthday. We would have written you sooner, but because you stated we should wait a bit with our reply, we have done so.

No further packages have arrived. Mother has some of the earlier contents still in the cellar, and she handles it sparingly. Here everything has grown so expensive that a fright comes over you just to step into a store. There are no longer any calculations in hundreds or thousands, everything is in the millions. We are getting ever closer to the abyss. Our neighbor has not been working for several months but is getting his full salary. I have been laid idle at home for 9 weeks due to lack of materials, coal and wire. I’m an employee of D. Kunne and Son Wiretack Factory, but I just get 2/3 of my pay. Irma is still at the bank. We’ve managed to work our way up to broken and broke millionaires. Julius missed 10 weeks due to an ulcer.

I want to tell you about a few prices. A shave costs 50,000 marks, a haircut 300,000 marks, a razor blade 1 million marks. A shot glass of schnapps is 60,000 marks. A glass of beer is 70,000 marks, a cigar 100,000 marks and 50 grams of cigarette tobacco is 380,000 marks. Those are the parts that would interest you, Uncle Emil.

Now other things: a blue working uniform is 9 million marks, to have a pair of shoes re-soled costs the pittance of 3 million marks. One egg is 60,000 marks, a lb. of margarine 1,100,000 marks, a pound of lard 1,200,000 marks, a six week old piglet costs 60,000 marks for the necessary drops of swine cholera vaccine 60,000 marks, potatoes are 60 million marks per pound. A pound of soft tinned soap is 400,000 marks, a bar of toilet soap - a very small size, was already 300,000 marks two weeks ago. At the grocery a liter of salad oil was 220 million marks. We paid 35,000 marks for our newspaper this month.

I think you can no longer doubt how things look here in the German Fatherland, but I nearly forgot to tell you, dear Emil, that bottled herring in a jar costs 50,000 marks. For today I want to close, I hope this letter arrives to find you in the best of health. Ten skeins of yarn cost 3,900,000 marks. I paid 420,000 marks for a pound of peas at the grocery store; white beans are 400,000 marks. One candle costs 50,000 marks a few days ago. Several weeks prior I paid 15,000 million marks for a liter of petroleum, which cannot be seen or heard of anymore. One liter of milk costs 160,000 marks and that rises from one Tuesday to the next Tuesday. A 3 1/2 pound loaf of bread is 112,000 marks and is not the finest. The grocery wanted 200,000 marks for one pound of flour; you pay 240,000 marks for a chocolate bar and discover that’s cheap. A pound of sugar is 40,000 marks. A package of 10 matchbooks is 50,000 marks. A load of coal is 2 million marks, but we can’t even get any more at all.

I want to thank all of you in Mother’s name with our deepest appreciation. We are doing pretty well when you realize what millions we are taking in. So who’s laughing?

Thanks once again. Loving greetings to all from Mother and everyone else; write us again soon.

From
Klaus Boehme
This article appeared in the American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society newsletter a number of years ago and is submitted by GAHC member Bob Burchett, a direct descendent of Mathias Frahm.

Born in 1821 in Hohn, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, Mathias Frahm was a cooper, a beer brewer, and a soldier before immigrating to the US in 1848. Mathias and wife, Katrina, had four sons, twins Charles and William, and August and Henry.

In 1850 Mathias and Sons started up the first beer brewery in Davenport, as well as one of the first breweries in Iowa.

All was not easy for City Brewery at first as grain spilled from horse-drawn wagons and rotting grain caused bad odors and attracted rodents.

The new brewery at 516-518 Harrison St. was becoming unpopular in the neighborhood. Mathias approached the Davenport City Council to request a sewer be installed. The Council declined. Mathias, along with John Noth, a fellow brewer, financed one of the first sanitary sewers in Davenport.

Later, in 1855, City Brewery was taken to court for violating the city ordinance prohibiting liquor manufacture. The jury declared the beer brewed by City Brewery was food and not intoxicating liquor!

For the next 10 years, the brewing operation became increasingly successful. Keg beer was supplied to such customers as Schuetzen Park, a blooming German-American recreational park in west Davenport. In 1869 Mathias became one of 16 charter members of the Schuetzen Verein. In that same year, Mathias won the prestigious King Shooter Award at the Park’s range.

On June 8, 1870 Mathias and fellow brewers hosted the Annual Beer Brewers National Convention in Davenport. Beer brewing, using old German recipes and procedures, was putting Davenport on the map!

City Brewery became the largest in the state. In 1880 Mathias built a splendid mansard-style brick home behind the brewery at 321 W. Sixth Street. A unique feature of the home was in the recreation room in the basement. The elevation of the basement was lower than the third floor of the brewery where the kegs were stored. A keg would be tapped and the beer piped to a basement spigot, thus the first beer on tap in a home!

In 1896 City Brewery and several other breweries were sold and consolidated into Davenport Malting Co. Frahm died in 1899 and willed $10,000 for the perpetuation of the German Free School. "Free" meant free thinking, a motto of the 1848ers. Mathias's son Henry took over the business and brewed German beer until prohibition hit the industry and the company closed.

The story of an 1848er

1866 Advertisement for Frahm Brewery.
To a large extent Davenport is situated beautifully and imposingly. It is somewhat elevated and high up on the bluffs on the banks of the Mississippi. It has about 2000 residents of whom 1/3 are Germans, mostly Holsteiners and Schleswigers. There is a lot going on, and our countrymen who live here are doing well. Across from Davenport on the banks of the Mississippi lies a city called Rock Island, which is competing with Davenport in growth. Between the two lies the beautifully situated Fort Armstrong. Three English miles to the side lies the little factory town Moline.

Davenport is growing visibly; in the previous summer 70 new mostly brick homes were built. In the next summer just as many are planned. Davenport is well cultivated in an area of 12 to 16 miles around the city. Half of these farms are in German hands. The fact that one under these circumstances can get everything one wishes is understandable. And that the area which we inhabit was the hunting grounds of Indians 15 years ago and a few traces of that are present as in Holstein. That was the case maybe 2000 years ago there. It looks a lot like Holstein here. We live as we did there, carry on our business with few changes. Only that we don’t have half as much trouble or work with that. The land here was plowed with machinery with eight yoked oxen which a boy can lead easily with commands. You can sow by hand. You never have to use fertilizer, mow with the machine, and a machine plows the field. The hay is burned on the field, never plowed more often than once.

On all the Holsteiners’ corn fields are sown and seldom done more than twice. The above mentioned plow is large and stout. The plower doesn’t have to do anything other than to sit or stand on it as is necessary; he can plow deeply or not so deeply whatever his capability is. For plowing afterwards, one needs a little lighter plow with a horse, nicer and more purposefully equipped as the best plows in Germany.

Above all, all the necessary pieces of equipment are available here, they are in part manufactured in Moline or sent here by steamship. In order to give you an idea of the land and prairie, on which I and my other countrymen live, I must mention that on the entire west side of the Mississippi where Iowa spreads out, there is a row of bluffs along the river which goes from north to south. And they border the river directly and at some times with a narrower or wider bottom. This row of bluffs is elevated mostly at 200 feet over the Mississippi, in some place ¼ but mostly 1 to 3 miles wide and covered with primeval forests. There are farms lying on all of this land and mostly ½ cultivated and owned by Americans. From the first time of the land settlement where one still preferred the forested area of the prairie, now however, it is lower in price than the prairie farms.

As one goes past the bluffs, the prairie spreads out like a hiker’s picture. It is a flat land (plateau) lying at the same elevation as the bluffs entirely treeless, however, leading up to the banks are countless rivers and streams which are flowing through the plateau and they are covered with forests. In such a way one sees only forests, and I hardly know a spot where one has to go farther than 3 English miles to a forest. The prairie is most like a marsh with no stones and trees and presents a very rich soil. Everything that blooms in Schleswig-Holstein also blooms here in exceptional goodness. When I say that it is similar to the marsh, then you would perhaps get a mistaken impression of it. But if you would think of this same area as a flat plain, it offers much more a kind of changing landscape from soft lowlands and uplands so that no water can remain standing on it. It has no
ditches. And it is suitable for crop growing with either wet or dry weather.

It is so good for your health that many old and young people that were sick in Germany now here become healthy noticeably quick. I myself have much experience with my own child who undertook the trip with us seriously sick. He got better on the trip after the 5 week long trip from New York by way of Philadelphia to this place again. However, here in a few weeks without medicine again recovered his health fully. One does not know about dangerous fevers here. Cold fevers are much more rare here than in my previous community. In short, the prairie is in my way of thinking so healthy – is as healthy as any point on God’s green earth. The nicest thing is clear drinking water is not a shortage here. I only needed to make my well 13 feet deep and until now even into the dry period never had less than 8 feet of water.

During the entire summer the prairie creates a large limitless, flower garden of blooms of exceptional beauty, which rise up out of the long grass. Their grass is so strong that the cattle around Johannes is totally butcher-able. [The cattle are so well fed with this grass that they are fit for slaughter] The lower parts of the prairie offer the most beautiful meadows for hay growing. And in order to get this, one really has to do nothing else and than just to mow it like Johannes. On the second or third day one collects it as it is fallen behind the scythe fully dried and then takes it to where one wants to put the hay bales. What concerns cattle, most of us just let it go outside the entire winter in order to find some food and water. In the mornings and evenings, however, we throw them some hay over the fence and that’s where one uses the hay bales so that it remains in better condition and is raised on the farm.

Besides this work, such as carrying water and finding wood to burn, the farmer has nothing to do in winter if he owns a self-contained farm and can just concern himself with the raising of his children, education and visiting his friends. If he does decide to own his own farm so, he becomes conscious of his time to obtain building materials to make rails in case he wants to use these as fences. It also looks prettier. It takes less work and is also a little less expensive. And that is what I have done. The temperature on the high prairie is indeed warm but almost never oppressively hot and does not hinder the work. I would like to say it is not warmer in Holstein. The evenings are beautiful and much loved and one sits outside without a frock, vest or scarf, often till deep in the night. Only in the lower lands does the temperature change with the sunset and it changes remarkably. There it is noticeably cold, especially in these lowlands, and nobody builds a residence. And at this time one has nothing to do. Where that comes from, no one here knows to say, and I also do not know the reason for this appearance which is noticeable to everyone.

In the main, spring starts in March, and the lowlands come to life first. The weather then remains like this ’till the middle of June, and after that comes the heat till the end of September. After that comes the Indian summer; usually ’till December and often until the new year. This year up till the 6th of December, people were still wearing summer clothes, and nothing else but a jacket outside. Somewhat characteristic of this climate is a kind of steadiness for weeks and months at a time; it doesn’t rain so that at the most we had one thunderstorm. Whereafter, however, the sky shows a beautiful blue and the sun comes out again in the purest form. If, however, winter comes, it lasts usually without interruption up till March and we will, therefore, since we already have frost, not hope for any relief from it during this time. There it is cold, seriously cold, however healthy; I who during the winter in Schwabstedt was always suffering from a cold, feel no trace of that, although I have to get used to the cold and change of temperature here.

The farmers in my area are all doing well although they, with the exception of my brother and another just arrived here two or three years ago and indeed most of them, had very little financial means, some even with debts. They are simple farm people who in Holstein were either day laborers or cottage owners. Now however, they are owners of farms of 100 to 200 acres (4 acres will yield 3 tons of considerable crop and a livestock with 12 to 16 steers. Only their houses are not much; even my house would compare favorably next to the humble dwellings of educated people in Holstein.

The second part of this letter will appear in the next issue of the Infoblatt.
Many of you are familiar with German or other world languages and probably know that translating from the foreign language to your native language is easier than the reverse. Here are some pitfalls to avoid when the English expression you are thinking of should not be translated word for word into German. These come from personal, often embarrassing experiences:

- While eating at a friend’s home, I was asked if I wanted any more. Using my best German at the time, I said, “Nein, danke. Ich bin voll.” My friends were laughing because I stated that I was drunk! I didn’t know that I should have said, “ich bin satt” (satisfied). Voll can mean “full” in some contexts but not with “ich bin *(I am).*

- While attending a dance at a local teachers’ college, I wanted to show my friends that I could use polite, appropriate German in social settings. Seeing a smartly dressed young woman, I decided to start with a compliment, saying “Sie sehen heute Abend sehr scharf aus.” I thought I had said, “You look really sharp tonight.” “Scharf” means “sharp,” right? Nein. What I said was, “You look really hot to trot tonight!” Before I could commit another linguistic atrocity, my friends whisked me away.

- While our local friends, both German and American, were attending a party we were hosting on a hot summer night, one of the American women declared to the Germans near her, “Ich bin heiss.” Of course, she was trying to express the heat’s effect on her. What she should have said was: "Mir ist heiss." Literally, "it is hot to me." What she actually said had certain sexual overtones! Knowing well the problems of literal wording, I pulled her aside and explained tactfully the use of “mir ist” instead of “ich bin.”

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You too can support the *Infoblatt* with an advertisement for your business.  
Contact Kelly at kelly.lao@gahc.org for details!
Aug.30/99

My dear Children!

I place these few lines in the Package containing my last Will and address them to you, instead of your dear Mother, for the Reason, that she and I have several times talked the Matter over and she fully understands my Wishes herein expressed. You have all been good Children, and a great Comfort to me. My happiest thoughts are connected with you in the hope and belief that after I shall be called away, you will all strive to be kind and good to your Mother, and to each other. I have the earnest and cherished desire, that you will, after I am gone, strive to preserve Harmony, and good will, and unselfish relations among yourselves. Try to keep the estate I leave you together, so far as you can, and make it productive of not only, of increase and Substance, but let it be a cause for mutual confidence and affection. Each of you should yield to the other more or less, if necessary to preserve harmony and union.

Sickness, Misfortune, perhaps something worse can come to someone of you, but my dear Children, face it bravely, and with hearts full of Love for each other, and do just, what you think, I would like to have you do, if I was present to advise and counsel you.

Be generous and unselfish to each other in Case of need and above all, be honest and noble, in all your dealings, not only with each other, but with the World.

I want you to always have a good Name.

It is better than riches, and your greatest happiness will come from your Knowledge of doing right.

You must first of all be good to your Mother. Do all you can to make her last days her best days, and when she is gone, and you, you are left without either father or Mother, try always to remember my last Wishes that you my dear Children shall live in harmony & mutual confidence, each doing all in his or her power to keep the estate productive of the best results, for the interest not only of any one Child, but for all surviving Children.

I can not say more in this Letter, it is merely a last Word to you all, begging you to remember your Fathers last wish, that you each, and all, do all you can, to promote each others happiness & welfare through life, no Matter what changes may come, or how one may be favored, or another frowned upon by the fortunes of the World.

Good bye my dear Children
Your loving Father

Note: Format and grammar are original
memberships & memorials

DECEMBER 6 - APRIL 12, 2022

WILLKOMMEN AN BORD
Burris, Jane  Davenport, IA
Burton, Lance  Bettendorf, IA
Crum, Karen  East Moline, IL
Greisbach, Franz  Bettendorf, IA
Hall, Kathryn  Davenport, IA
Horaney, William  Bettendorf, IA
Leedham, Denise  Mazzepa, MN
Maldonado, Alexis  Rock Island, IL
Parkinson, Constance  Rock Island, IL
Paschall, Anne  Rio Rancho, NM
Ross, Ann  Bend, OR
Schafer, Jay  Rock Island, IL
Schaubroeck, Cornelia  Rock Island, IL
Swanson, Marcia  East Moline, IL
Wallace, Mark  Oak Park, IL

MEMORIALS
TERRY MAHON
Marsha Coakley
Hedy & Michael Hustedde

LOIS KELLING SCHULTZ & LEONARD SCHULTZ
Beverly Meyer

RICHARD STROHMEIER
Linda Wagner

KARL ZIEGLER
Paul Caskey

Postcard image from Historic Washington Square Park. The park became the YMCA until recently. The old Y building is currently being demolished. What will be next for the old German-American park?
FRIDAY 9TH. HOPEFUL JOURNEYS. 2pm. In-Person presentation by Dr. Aaron Fogleman. FREE for members, $5 for non-members.

SUNDAY 24TH. FARM WOMEN AS GLOBAL CITIZENS: POST-WWII AUTHORITY OF THE “FIRST LADY OF THE FARM.” 2pm. Virtual presentation by Dr. Abby Dubisar. FREE and open to the public. Humanities Iowa sponsor.

SUNDAY 1ST. HIDDEN HABSBURGS TROLLEY TOUR. 1pm. Join us as we visit sites relating to our new exhibit with Dr. Bill Roba. Limited space available. Tickets at eventbrite.com. FREE (also included with In-Person Symposium registration).

FRIDAY 6TH. TAPESTRY FARMS FUNDRAISER. 7pm-10pm. Benefit for our friends at Tapestry Farm. 4th floor event room.

SUNDAY 5TH. WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE. 2pm. Hybrid Virtual and In-Person. Presentation and book signing by Dr. Jenny Barker-Devine. FREE Members, $5 Non-Members.

SATURDAY 11TH. PYSANKY EGG WORKSHOP. 12pm-3pm. In-person workshop with Crystal Potthoff. $25 Members, $30 Non-Members. Tickets at eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY 12TH. OFF THE MAP: ABANDONED TOWNS IN IOWA. 2pm. In-person presentation with Rosa Snyder. FREE and open to the public. Humanities Iowa sponsor.

SUNDAY 29TH. TRAVELING OBERAMMERGAU. 2pm. In-Person presentation by Dr. Glenn Ehrstine. Register at eventbrite.com. FREE admission. Presented in conjunction with Blue Horizon Travel and our trip to Oberammergau this summer.

SATURDAY 25TH. BEST OF THE WURST. 11am-3pm. GAHC parking lot, Live music, food & drink for sale $5 per person, FREE under 12. Tickets at door or eventbrite.com.

SUNDAY 26TH. 1848ERS. 2pm. Virtual lecture with Dr. Yogi Reppmann. Part 2 of his series. Tickets at eventbrite.com. FREE Members, $5 Non-Members.

THANK YOU!
To everyone who made our Eiermarkt Spring Craft Fair a success! We were so excited to see you all at the Center!

YOUNG ADULT READING CLUB. 10:30am. 2nd Sunday each month. Immigration related book each month, accessible options available. Breakfast provided! Ages 11-14. Contact jessica@gahc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
SUNDAY, JULY 17TH 5pm-6:30pm. Actor Duffy Hudson returns to perform: To Hell and Back: The Story of Audie Murphy! Details to Follow!
GET INTO THE SWING OF SPRING BY SUPPORTING THE GAHC!

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Please send your form to GAHC no later than Friday, June 20.

Use your phone's camera to scan this QR Code to visit the GAHC Birdies donation page!