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*The mission of the German American Heritage Center is to
preserve and enrich for present and future generations
knowledge of the German immigrant experience and its
impact on American culture.*

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES Dear members and friends,

Guten Tag!

It is hard to believe that fall is already upon us, and the holiday season is quickly approaching! My favorite holiday has always been Thanksgiving. For my family, it has always been a time for gathering, giving, and above all being thankful for what we have. Just as we gather for the holidays, the GAHC has many wonderful upcoming events for the members to gather and enjoy this season. We welcome the ever-popular Duffy Hudson back for another performance featuring Dr. Seuss. We also have our haunted walking tours, Oktoberfest, German Fest, and many more wonderful events coming up this fall.

At the GAHC, we too have much to be thankful for. For starters, I am grateful for our amazing staff. Brian, Clare, Aaron, Joan, Marisa, and Gloria are all incredible individuals who bring their invaluable talents with them and work tirelessly to make our museum better every day. I am very thankful to our volunteers who are critical to keeping the museum operating, and without whom we could not operate efficiently. We as an organization are also thankful for our members, without their support and involvement we would not be able to do what we do.

I would like to congratulate the achievement of our Assistant Director, Clare Tobin. She was honored by the Iowa Museum Association by being awarded the 2023 Rising Star Award. I can personally say that this is something that she well deserves. She provides the museum with fantastic programs, exhibits, and leadership. During our time without an executive director, she was the glue that kept the museum operating and thriving. The next time you see her at the museum, be sure to congratulate her for this award and thank her for all she does!

Viele Grüße,

Daniel Cabage

Daniel Cabage



Cover Image: *Autumn Morning on the Hills*, Karl Schmalhaus, c. 1910. 24" x 18" oil on canvas. This painting was one of the recently cleaned and restored pieces that is now on display on the 3rd floor. Karl Schmalhaus was a Prussian Cavalryman-turned-painter who immigrated to Davenport in 1883. He made a name for himself in the following decades for his artwork, and was widely exhibited in the area during his lifetime.

Travel: Budapest to Oktoberfest

Sept 22 - Oct 3, 2024, Mayflower Cruises & Tours

13 days + FREE INTERNATIONAL AIRFARE!!

(If you book by Oct 31st)

Cabins from \$5,035 - \$6,357pp

(double occupancy) plus insurance

You will only unpack 2 times on this trip - upon arrival in Budapest aboard your Emerald River Cruise and once at your Munich hotel! Beer, wine, and all meals are included on this remarkable cruise tour sponsored by Blue Horizon Travel and the German American Heritage Center and Museum. Budapest, Hungary was the rose of the Austro-Hungarian empire and is now a vibrant member of the European Union. Its city center straddles the beautiful Danube River where your cruise vessel will be docked for 3 glorious days before your westward cruise.



Munich City Center from Mayflower Tours

Ports of call include: Slovakia's charming capital, Bratislava; followed by Austria's imperial capital of Vienna (where your escort, Linda Meadors, studied for a year); the vineyard-rich Wachau Valley during wine harvest; Linz, Austria with a day trip into the Czech Republic visiting the fairytale village of Cesky Krumlov and its 13th century castle; and Bavarian Passau, Germany at the confluence of three of Europe's main waterways.

Oktoberfest Prost! After disembarking the cruise, you will drive through the Bavarian countryside to Munich, home of the famous Oktoberfest. Your visit will include a panoramic city tour showcasing Nymphenburg Palace, the Residenz, Parliament and more. Then, take a walk through Marienplatz Square to see the famous Glockenspiel and maybe stop in at the famous Hofbrau Haus beer hall. Of course, the highlight will be your merriment in a beer tent at the Oktoberfest fairgrounds sampling the local beer and food while enjoying the live music and festivities.

OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATIONS

GAMES - FOOD - BEER - LIVE MUSIC!

OCTOBER 14TH

12PM TO 9PM

AT THE HAUBERG ESTATE

1300 24th Street Rock Island, IL

12 - 4 pm Free | 4 - 9 pm \$20 presale, \$25 at the door

Kids 12 and under are free

Zimmerman
Honda

CBI
Bank & Trust

CCBT
QUAD
CITY
BANK &
TRUST

CRAWFORD
company



wvik
Quad Cities NPR | 90.3 FM

OCTOBER 21ST

12PM TO 8PM

AT KAISERSLAUTERN SQUARE

3rd Street, Across From the

Adler Davenport, IA

Free Admission

More sponsorships available,
contact us to find out more!

DPC
Davenport Printing Company



wvik
Quad Cities NPR | 90.3 FM

Art from the Archives

September 12, 2023 - February 18, 2024

Submitted by Jack Beemsterboer, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois

Over the years, the German American Heritage Center and Museum has been fortunate enough to acquire a number of artworks of considerable historical significance. Now, for the first time, we are pleased to present a bona-fide art exhibit consisting of pieces from our own collection. *Art from the Archives* combines beautiful examples of German artwork with local art created by German immigrants and their descendants.

The centerpiece of this new exhibit is undoubtedly *Frederick II, King of Prussia Reviewing a Parade of Troops with his Generals before the City of Potsdam*. Coming in at over four feet wide, this piece is almost as large as its lengthy title suggests. The famed Prussian ruler is depicted alongside his army in what is probably a training exercise or display. It's a classic example of 19th century historical painting by noted German artist Friedrich Kaiser, whose works have been exhibited in Berlin, Prague, Riga, Karlsruhe, Bratislava, and Potsdam.

Equally exciting are the many local pieces made by artists who lived or settled in Scott County. Karl Schmalhaus, perhaps Davenport's most notable painter, was known for his serene landscapes. A Prussian soldier in the 1870 Franco-Prussian conflict, Schmalhaus became a well-regarded artist once he settled in Davenport in the late 19th century. It is possible that his peaceful nature scenes provided some escape from a turbulent past. This exhibition features three of Schmalhaus' pieces.



Wilhelm Holm, German-American, 1857-1949, *Fishertown*, c. 1900.

A contemporary of Schmalhaus, Wilhelm Holm was an incredibly talented artist who was known for his fresco work in local homes. However, he was clearly skilled with oil painting as well, as his impressive piece, *Fishertown*, demonstrates. This beautiful work depicts the river bank at the foot of Marquette Street in Davenport. Due to various locks and dams which have since been built on the Mississippi, the wooded islands Holm so carefully recreated are no longer visible, making *Fishertown* an invaluable record of Davenport's history.

Art from the Archives will be on display from September 12th, 2023 - February 18th, 2024. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to view some of our most significant art pieces, many of which have never been displayed before.

Art from the Archives is sponsored by Chris Schnoor Sederstrom

Wilhelm Holm had a rough few years at the end of his life. There are news reports of incidents with which Holm was involved in the *Davenport Daily Times*. In 1943, he was found laying on the sidewalk on the corner of Brown and 8th streets in Davenport. He had suffered a severe head injury and clues suggested that he was robbed, but he could not recall what happened. Bystanders called an ambulance and he was taken to the hospital for his injuries.

Then, in 1946, he attempted suicide at the age of 89 because he could not bear the possibility of going blind due to a previous eye injury. He noted that he could not find a specialist to help his condition and he feared he would lose his sight. He injured himself, and then called his daughter to explain his decision and she informed the police who rushed to his home and got him to the hospital before it was too late. He passed away on May 15th, 1949 at the age of 91. He is buried in City Cemetery in Davenport.

Current Exhibition:

Klassiks for Kinder: German Toys with Joy

1st floor gallery, August 13th, 2023 – January 7th, 2024

collection updates

PAINTING RESTORATION

In preparation for *Art from the Archives*, the German American Heritage Center and Museum received funding from the State Historical Society of Iowa's Historical Resource Development Program. These grants are awarded to organizations to help preserve, conserve, interpret, enhance, and educate the public about historic preservation, museum collections, and documentary collections. With these funds, we were able to clean and restore four of the paintings from our collection that are on display in our current exhibition on the 3rd floor. The pieces include three works by Karl Schmalhaus and one by Leo Daub, both Iowa artists.

These paintings and frames were cleaned and restored by the Audrey Brown Art Studio located in Rock Island, Illinois. The paintings were removed from the frames so that the canvas and the frame could be treated separately. The varnish on the paintings was dirty and discolored which happens naturally with time and oxidation. Depending on how a painting is cared for and stored, varnish can last decades or even centuries before it needs to be removed and reapplied. The discoloration was more noticeable on the light areas of the images where the yellowing was more apparent and had collected dust.



Top and right: Before restoration
Bottom left: After restoration



The frames on two of the paintings were in poor condition. The surfaces were cracked, chipped, and unstable. The first piece, a small work by Karl Schmalhaus, was in desperate need of cleaning and frame restoration. The frame was repaired using rabbit skin glue putty and then oil gilded with 23k gold leaf. Rabbit skin glue is made by rendering the gelatin from animals, (usually not rabbits!) and the name designates a particular concentration of glue. This canvas also had a bubble in the surface, most likely from improper storage prior to the GAHC's acquisition. The canvas was repaired, the image was cleaned, and the frame looks brand new.

The second piece, a landscape done by Leo Daub, was cleaned and the frame restored as well. This work was painted in the 1950s, so it is one of the more recent pieces on display. It was significantly less dirty than the others, but the frame was in poor condition. The frame was repaired with rabbit skin glue putty and then painted to match the rest of the frame. Images do not do the works justice, so make sure you stop by and see them next time you are at the museum.

STATE HISTORICAL
SOCIETY OF IOWA



Left and middle: Before restoration
Right: After restoration



Thanks To a German

A RECURRING FEATURE IN WHICH WE HIGHLIGHT AN INVENTION OR COMPANY WITH GERMAN ROOTS

When the story of a soapmaker starts to bubble up, things can get thick and foamy pretty quickly. And so it is with Dr. Bronner's Magic Soaps. It began with Emanuel Heilbronner, a Jewish immigrant who fled Germany at age 20 in 1928. He dropped the "Heil-" syllable from his name due to the association with Hitler. Though no doctor, he adopted the title as an honorific and, due to his scientific background, intense personality and heavy German accent, no one disputed his action.

Emanuel came from a long line of family-based soapmakers which began in Laupheim, Germany in 1858. The family invented the first liquid castile soap in the 1890s and supplied washrooms throughout Germany. Emanuel was certified as a master soapmaker in the 1920s and also earned a university degree in chemistry. He founded the Dr. Bronner's firm in 1949 and began to make liquid peppermint soap and health food seasonings. He espoused an "all are one" philosophy for the unification of humanity, but realized that many came to hear his lectures on the topic for the free samples of soap. Reducing his tenets to the product labels served his spiritual outlook as well as supporting the business. By the 1970s the products became very popular among the young people of the time who urged a return to nature and promoted world peace in their music and writings.



Dr. Bronner's soap for sale in our gift shop

The expansion of products continued, including a foam concentrate still used in fighting forest and structural fires. Under the direction of the next generation, a continued emphasis on natural ingredients has led to the stringent Regenerative Organic Certification label, which assures that only ingredients are used which have been produced under conditions that support workers' rights, animal welfare, and environmental sustainability. The company has also developed several fair trade relationships in Africa, India, and Asia.

In 2022, the Dr. Bronner firm reported a profit of over \$120 million from its products, which are sold in over 40 countries worldwide. The company is also very active in philanthropic causes such as animal rights, regulation of GMO food labeling, healthy living, domestic hemp production, and environmental initiatives. About one-third of its profits are dedicated to these purposes. It is still run by descendants of Emanuel Bronner today and is located in Vista, California.

Clare Tobin - A Rising Star

A Master of Museum Studies graduate of Western Illinois University, Clare Tobin came to the German American Heritage Center in 2021. She wears many hats in her role as Assistant Director and strives for excellence in everything she does. She curates thoughtful exhibitions, creates meaningful programs, and engages the community by running the social media and weekly communications.

Clare Tobin will receive a Rising Star award from the Iowa Museum Association during the 2023 conference. Her award will be presented during the Annual Meeting, Tuesday, October 3, 2023 from Noon - 1 p.m.

We couldn't be more proud of her. Way to go, Clare!



NW DAVENPORT TURNERS

Phil Tunnicliff

President, Northwest Davenport Turner Society

The 19th century was, in many ways, the golden age of German American Spirit. And one of the ways that spirit expressed itself was through the American Turner Society. The Turners were founded in Germany in the early 1800s as a political and gymnastic movement to improve the physical well-being of German students. Throughout the 19th century, the Turners practiced and refined their brand of exercise, called gymnastics. Much of the gymnastics equipment we know today originated from these German groups. But more than an exercise group, the Turners were social and political. They held lectures and argued for social progress and a unified Germany. This eventually led to many Turners joining in the 1848 revolution in the German States. After the failure of that revolution, many of the so called "forty-eighters", who emigrated from Germany to America, brought the ideas of the Turners with them.



Turners gathered for a picnic at Nahant Marsh, 2022

The early American Turners were very patriotic for their adopted country and its democratic ideals. Many notable German Americans fought on the side of the Union in America's Civil War including the 20th New York Rifles, which was composed almost entirely of Turner recruits. The Society was rebranded as the North American Turner Society shortly after the Civil War and continued to grow throughout the remainder of the 19th century. In their American form, these societies became less political and more focused on promoting American spirit, German language in schools, and physical education. Their visible patriotism and firm belief in democracy was not enough to spare the societies from the anti-German sentiment of the first half of the 20th century, however, national reach and a strong community has kept the organizations around well into the 21st century. In the Quad-Cities, the Moline Turners and the Northwest Davenport Turners continue to meet for socializing, light exercise, and to appreciate the natural world.

Though many artifacts of German American tradition exist only in memory, it is important to recognize their legacy and that there are still organizations like the German American Heritage Center and Museum and the Turners, who keep the spirit of fellowship between the sisters Columbia and Germania alive.

The Northwest Davenport Turners come together to celebrate German culture and community.

Like us on Facebook at **NW Davenport Turners** to hear about our public events!

To request an application for membership, message us on Facebook or email us at: davenportturners@gmail.com

Annual membership is \$25



education updates

Outreach to Schools

The GAHC+M has been working to further define and revitalize its Educational Outreach program. The goals of educational outreach include offering teachers access to museum resources in order to further strengthen the educational opportunities they are able to provide their students. This includes a History Trunk Program (which gives teachers access to historical objects that fit the needs of their curriculum) and tours to the museum. Ultimately the GAHC+M desires to assist teachers and increase the number of students who have direct access to the museum and its resources.

To meet these goals, the Education Department is working to revitalize the trunk program and other outreach programs and has been working to market our offerings to teachers throughout the Quad Cities. Including presentations given to all Middle School and High School Social Studies teachers within the Davenport School District at their in-service on August 18th and attending the Teacher Appreciation Open House on September 7th held at the Figge.



ASL Tours

The GAHC+M, in collaboration with the Illinois/Iowa Center for Independent Living (IICIL), is offering tours of the museum in American Sign Language to members of the deaf community. This tour will feature our permanent exhibition and our current special exhibitions: *Art from the Archives* and *Klasskis for Kinder: German Toys with Joy*.

September 30th 2pm **FREE**, registration required
October 21st 2pm **FREE**, registration required
November 4th 2pm **FREE**, registration required



Willkommen Anna



The GAHC+M would like to welcome Anna Thomas who is joining us through the Graduate Assistantship program from Western Illinois University. Anna comes to the GAHC+M with a Bachelors in History and Art History from St. Ambrose and is currently pursuing a Masters in Museum Studies from WIU. She will be working alongside our staff on a myriad of projects through mid-December; specifically, she is working closely with Aaron Baker, our Education and DEAI Coordinator, on the revitalization of our Educational Outreach Program. We are excited to have her and all of the great knowledge and skills she brings to the team! Willkommen Anna!

IN MEMORY

Our organization is sad to acknowledge the passing of two individuals whose contributions to our founding, stability and growth will be long remembered and appreciated.

DON WELZENBACH

of Moline passed away Monday, August 14 at age 91. A Davenport native, Don dedicated hundreds of hours in the early days of GAHC's reconstruction of the Standard Hotel into the facility we enjoy today. He worked with many other new retirees to accomplish the dirty, messy and challenging jobs that needed to be done, as well as devoting many solo hours to researching the proper methods, materials and sources to do those jobs right. Don and his wife Lanora made many short trips around Iowa and Illinois to gather ideas and information about transforming our former eyesore into its current glory. His knowledge of German history and culture were also key factors contributing to the first visitor exhibitions and informational videos as the doors opened. He also assisted with fundraising efforts throughout the Quad Cities. Our sympathy is extended to his wife Lanora, as both spouses were Life Members.



Don Welzenbach explaining restoration plans to visitors (above), Welzenbach painting windows with Richard Muller and Al Tank (below)



Toy TPC truck from early exhibition at the museum

STUART THOMS

of Rock Island passed away in Rock Island on August 10 at age 89. Stuart and his wife Mary were early supporters of the German American Heritage Center and were Life Members. They were among the community leaders whose philanthropic backing was crucial in our first years. The successful growth of TPC, formerly the Thoms Proestler Company, was featured in a portion of our early professional exhibition that highlighted commercial leaders of German ancestry in the Quad Cities. The Thoms family was proud to back our initial efforts and continue to do so today.

PAINTING THE BUILDING



Image: T.C. Painting Co. painting the cornice on the northeast side of the building

Please excuse our mess and temporary road closures around the museum this fall. We are excited to work with T.C. Painting of Davenport to refresh the look of our beautiful building. Painting will be done on the north and south side cornices, the storefront and balcony, as well as the wooden windows. The color scheme is the same greens, yellow and red that have made our museum stand out over the years. Be sure to check out the paint job on your next visit to the museum.

Thanks to the Downtown Davenport Partnership for their support of this preservation and beautification project.

memberships & memorials

JUNE 19 - SEPTEMBER 10

WILLKOMMEN AN BORD

Aller, Kristen	Cedar Rapids IA
Awoukeng, Florence	Davenport IA
Ortiz, Linda	Moline IL
Eberlein-Johnson, Janice	Moline IL
Stoefen, Jerry & Susan	New Liberty IA
Wriedt, Mark & Laura	Rock Island IL
Shrikhande Family	Davenport IA
Rantilla, Debra	Bettendorf IA
Campagna, Dave & Jane	Bettendorf IA
Bowen, Ellen	Santa Rosa CA
Russman, Maxine	Davenport IA
Fuller, Melissa	East Moline IL
Lampasona, Janet B	Taylor Ridge IL
Dahms, Pam	Rock Island IL

MEMORIALS

DIANE VON DRESKY

Lowe, Jerry & Brown-Lowe, Janet

RUTH REYNOLDS

Reeg, Stanley

GEORGE STRAETKER

Reeg, Stanley

DON WELZENBACH

Lowe, Jerry & Brown-Lowe, Janet

Gluba, William

Hustedde, Michael & Hedy

Peterson, Michael & Mary Lee

Members Gift Shop Discount Weekend

20% off all gift shop merchandise during November 17-19, 2023



DID YOU RENEW?

Many memberships come due at the beginning of each new year. Make sure you are up to date to keep your copy of the Infoblatt coming your way, as well as the many other benefits of memberships. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a member, have them call, visit the website, or stop by the museum and we will get them registered.

- \$25** Student or Youth Membership
- \$35** Individual
- \$45** Couple
- \$55** Family or Grandparent

Become a Life Member and never renew again! Join our cadre of Life Members who have given a generous gift to the museum. Half of every life membership fee is put into our endowment fund, ensuring a bright future for the museum!

- \$1000** Individual Life Membership
- \$1500** Couple Life Membership

kalender of events

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oct

SUNDAY 8TH. WOODEN TOY MAKING WORKSHOP. 1pm. In-person. Tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com). \$5 per person. All materials provided, all ages welcome.

FRIDAY 13TH. LEGACY OF THE DAVENPORT ZITHER CLUB. 6pm. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. In-person. Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

SATURDAY 14TH. OKTOBERFEST QUAD CITIES. 12-9pm. At the Hauberg Estate in Rock Island. FREE ADMISSION 12-4pm, ticketed admission from 4-9pm. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. Children 12 and under free. Buy tickets on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

TUESDAY 17TH. THE MAGIC OF SEUSS. 6pm. Performance and magic show with Duffy Hudson. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Snacks provided. Register at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

SATURDAY 21ST. GERMANFEST AT K-SQUARE. 12-8pm. FREE. Live music and food trucks. 119 E. 3rd St. Davenport, IA.

SUNDAY 22ND. VOICES IN THE WALLS: MURDER, LEGENDS, AND HAUNTINGS OF THE QC. 2pm. In-person and online. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SUNDAY 29TH. UNRAVELING THE MYSTERY OF DOLLS. 2pm. In-person. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

DARKER SIDE OF DAVENPORT WALKING TOURS. Fridays and Saturdays this Fall. 6:30pm. \$20 per person. Tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

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nov

WEDNESDAY 1ST. SEPTEMBER TESTAMENT ONLINE LECTURE. 6pm with Russell Baldner. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SUNDAY 5TH. NEW THOUGHTS ON OLD FRITZ: FREDERICK THE GREAT OF PRUSSIA. 2pm. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. In-person. Tickets at [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SUNDAY 12TH. BACH'S OFFERING TO THE MUSICAL KING. 2pm. Frederick the Great and his connection to one of the most well-known composers of the 18th century. In-person. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SATURDAY 18TH. BOOK DISCUSSION. 10:30am. FREE. *Saved by Schindler* by William B. Friedrichs. More info at www.gahc.org/bookdiscussion

SUNDAY 19TH. DOORWAY TO HEROISM: THE STORY OF RABBI ROMBERG'S GREAT-UNCLE RICHARD STERN. 1:30pm. In-person. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register at www.gahc.org

17TH-19TH. MEMBERS ONLY SALE. Members receive 20% off on all gift shop purchases all weekend. Browse our wide selection of German ornaments, nutcrackers, smokers, chocolate, and more!

THURSDAY 23RD. THANKSGIVING. We will be closed for Thanksgiving.

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dec

SATURDAY 9TH. WEIHNACHTSMARKT HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR. 10am-2pm. Crafts, decor, homemade baked goods, and more! FREE ADMISSION.

SATURDAY 16TH. EULENSPIEGEL BREMEN TOWN MUSICIANS PERFORMANCE. 1pm. In-person puppet show. All ages welcome. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members. Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

SATURDAY 16TH. EULENSPIEGEL FINGER PUPPET WORKSHOP. 2:30pm. In-person workshop. All ages welcome. FREE for members, \$5 for non-members (included with the 1:00 performance registration). Register on [eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)

24TH-25TH, 31ST. CLOSED. The museum will be closed December 24th-25th and 31st. Frohe Weihnachten! Frohes Neues Jahr!

ASL TOURS THIS FALL. FREE. We are happy to offer tours of the museum in American Sign language on the following dates at 2pm: September 30th, October 21st, November 4th. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com

JANUARY 6TH-7TH, 2024. COMMUNITY OPEN HOUSE. FREE ADMISSION for all. Eulenspiegel puppet performance on Sunday, January 7th.

 **GERMAN AMERICAN HERITAGE**
center & museum

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for unique items handmade in Germany