



DEUTSCHER VEREIN

Die Zeitung

November 2014

The Jasper Deutscher Verein was founded in January, 1980 to promote, preserve and celebrate our proud German Heritage in Jasper and surrounding area. The Club is intended to be primarily Social and Not-For-Profit.

German-American Day Celebrated



Rita and Jim Corn
2014 German Heritage Award Winners

The Jasper Deutscher Verein, Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., and the Jasper Partnership Commission sponsored a German-American Day Dinner and Program on Monday, October 6th, at KlubHaus 61 in Jasper. Over 90 individuals celebrated the occasion.

Raymie Eckerle, president of the Jasper Partnership Commission, welcomed all present. He introduced Mayor Terry Seitz who read the proclamation recognizing October 6th as German American Day in Jasper.

Bridgette Bartley, president of the Jasper Deutscher Verein, introduced the essay winners of the German Heritage essay contest which was held in conjunction with German-American Day.

The winner from Forest Park Junior Senior High School was Lauren Blume and her parents are Rodney and Susan Blume. The winner from Northeast Dubois High School was Kelcie Hassfurther. Kelcie is the daughter of Kurt and Sharon Hassfurther. Hunter Brooks was the winner from Southridge High School. Hunter is the son of William and Melodie Brooks. The winner from Jasper High School was Taylor Kleinhelter daughter of Tom and Angie Kleinhelter.



**2014 German Heritage Essay Winners
and Representatives of German
American - L to R**

**Lauren Blume, Taylor Kleinhelter, Kelcie
Hassfurther, Hunter Brooks,
SteffiSchmuecker, Rachel Levin, and
Jennifer Tuggle**

Each student presented their essay as part of the program of the evening. On behalf of German American, Steffi Schmuecker, Rachel Levin, and Jennifer Tuggle then presented each essay winner with a \$250 scholarship and certificate. Mrs. Bartley noted that this is the twelfth year that German American has sponsored the German Heritage Essay contest. German American has awarded over \$9,500 to students in the county who have won this contest.

Father Don Ackerman said grace before the meal.

Ms. Bartley also introduced Ken Sicard, of the Ferdinand Town Council. On behalf of Diane Hoppenjans, a member of the Ferdinand Tourism Commission, Mr. Sicard shared with the group Ferdinand's plans to possibly have a Sister Cities relationship with Dudenhofen, Germany. Mrs. Hoppenjans's presentation stated that immigrants who settled in Ferdinand came from a wide variety of regions, Bavaria, Hanover, Baden

Wurtenberg, and other German states and European countries. The Arnold, Bettag, Balbach, Grundhoefer, Hollander, Koenig, Lehr, Lindauer, Nord, Ofer, and Tretter families originated near Dudenhofen.

Visitors from Dudenhofen were in Ferdinand in October, 2013. A group of 48 will be returning to Ferdinand in March, 2015 and their choir will be giving a concert to help Ferdinand celebrate its 175th Anniversary. A group of sixteen from Ferdinand will travel to Dudenhofen in July, 2015. All are looking forward to developing a deeper relationship with the individuals from Dudenhofen. All are invited to attend the special concert in March, 2015.

Dudenhofen is located approximately two hours north of Pfaffenweiler, and about an hour north of Wagshurst.

Mrs. Wehr, president of Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc., presented the 16th annual German Heritage Award. The 2014 German Heritage Award was presented to Jim and Rita Corn.

Mr. and Mrs. Corn have been members of the Jasper Deutscher Verein since February, 1980 and have served as officers and on the board of directors of the Jasper Deutscher Verein. In early, 1985, Mr. Corn began working on one of his biggest projects, the Maypole at 6th and Newton Streets. In 1998, Mr. Corn carved a snail out of wood and the wooden snail was presented to the Community of Pfaffenweiler.

Mr. and Mrs. Corn were there to assemble the first Strassenfest booth and they helped to make the first Jasper Deutscher Verein Float a reality.

Mr. and Mrs. Corn have one son and two grandchildren.

Mr. Eckerle thanked Rita Egler, Lois Kuntz, Patti Goepfrich, Bridgette Bartley, Sandy Wehr, and Nathan Hanselman and the entire staff of KlubHaus 61 for their coordination of the evening's activities.

September Jasper Deutscher Verein in Review

The Jasper Deutscher Verein held their summer picnic on September 6th at the Jasper Outdoor Recreation. President Jarboe welcomed the 100 members and guests.

Vice President Mike Ackerman led the prayer before the meal. He announced the time and place of the German Heritage Award Dinner and that Diane Hoppenjans will give a program on Ferdinand's relationship with Germany. He also said that the winners of the German Heritage Essay Contest will read their essays. Financial sponsor of the essay contest is German American.

Ann and Phyllis Ackerman helped with the food and drinks. Pam Howard, Pat Dunkel, and Barb Schmitt welcomed guests. Grilled chicken and hamburgers were prepared by Clif Howard and Barb and Steve Schmitt prepared pulled pork. Members furnished sides and desserts.

Pat Schuler gave a brief report on the success of the Strassenfest food and pastry booths. He thanked everyone for volunteering their time, especially those who worked more than just one shift!

Winners of door prizes were Phyllis Ackerman, Linda Wehr, Lucille Kleeman, Fred Hollinden, Art Kapp, Ed Wening, Fran Johnson, Melvin Feller, Nancy Prechtel, Phyllis Schuler, Ann Ackerman, Laura Grammer, Betty Hanselman, and Paul Grammar. Special prizes were won by Patti Goepfrich and Phyllis Ackerman. Children's door prizes were won by Ari Wiseman, Cooper Welp, Trey Wiseman, Bri Wiseman, Killian Welp, and Cole Terwiske.

The Hasbeens was the entertainment for the evening.

Next meeting will be November 20th. It will be at the Jasper VFW with our yearly auction to benefit JHS German Exchange Program.

Submitted by

Barb Schmitt
Secretary

Message from Mike.....

We had a great turnout for our trip to Turtle Run Winery to sample their wines and enjoy entertainment from the Monarchs. These extra caravan trips seem to be very popular and we will continue to plan events such as these for 2015.

Congratulations to Jim and Rita Corn, recipients of this year's German Heritage Award presented at the German American Day Dinner at Klubhaus 61 on October 6. As long time supporters of our club who have given freely of their time and talents, Jim and Rita are very deserving.

Our first regular meeting is scheduled for November 20 at the VFW. This will be our auction meeting to help raise funds for the benefit of the high school German Exchange Program. To support our young people who have interest in German is a great way to support our mission to promote, preserve and celebrate our German Heritage. I hope that you are able to join us and enjoy the evening.

Our December Christmas meeting will be held on December 18, and feature a visit by Santa as well as entertainment. More to details will follow at our November meeting.

We are planning to keep beer/bread and wine/pie judging split into two meetings in 2015. Make plans now to prepare your special creation for judging.

Mike Ackerman
VP, Deutscher Verein

Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendars

November Meeting

At the Jasper VFW

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Time:

6:00pm - Doors Open

6:30pm – Welcome and call meeting to order

Members with last names beginning with

A - F bring a vegetable,

G - K bring a salad,

L - P bring a salad

R - Z bring a potato dish

Program – Annual auction to benefit JHS German Exchange Program

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item or two for the auction. Some suggestions included but are not limited to homemade cookies, pies, candy, cakes, Thanksgiving and Christmas items, handmade items, gift baskets, salsa, jellies, jams, books, gift certificates, gas cards, gift cars, wine, etc.

Let's see what other interesting items will be auctioned to the highest bidder!!!!!!!

The JHS German Exchange students will be selling advent calendars at this meeting.

Dezember Meeting

At the Jasper VFW

Thursday, Dezember 18, 2014

Annual Christmas Dinner

More details at the November meeting.

2015

August, 2015 - 30th Anniversary of Jasper-Pfaffenweiler Sister City Partnership - Celebration in Jasper. The Partnership Commission has been meeting to make plans for the event

Sister Cities of Jasper

Thank you to all who participated in the German Food for German Students fundraiser at the Schnitzelbank on October 12th. Your support is appreciated!!!!

Address Changes for Newsletters – Also for “Snowbirds” With Temporary Address Change

Would all members who are going to be gone for any period of time, please notify Rita Egler at P. O. Box 15, Jasper, IN 47547-0015 or call her at 812-634-9068 with your new address so we can forward your newsletter to you. This keeps us from having to pay double postage and assures you to receive all newsletters while you are away from home. Having your mail forwarded while you are gone will not work, simply because of the “Return Service Requested” stamped on our newsletter. This is stamped to let us know when someone has moved. The Post Office informs us of new addresses if you have permanently moved.

Please notify Patti Goepfrich of any email address changes. pmgoepfrich@gmail.com

At this time of Thanksgiving, let us remember the less fortunate of our communities. This would be a great time to make a donation to any organization helping those in need.

Your generosity will be appreciated.

What can we, as the younger generation, do to help maintain and preserve our German heritage?

By: Hunter Brooks

**Son of William and Melodie Brooks
Southridge High School**

German heritage permeates our community in Dubois County, Indiana, acting a source of pride among those who live here. The duty, therefore, falls to us to maintain and preserve this heritage for generations yet to come. This task can be accomplished by learning German in school, attending and promoting community German festivals, and supporting German American businesses.

The first significant method in which we can preserve our German heritage is for high school students to take German language classes. Learning German furthers student awareness of the cultural foundation of our community. Joining German clubs also offers opportunities to experience and preserve the heritage through activities and field trips, such as German based plays and experiencing German cuisine. They also offer the opportunity to observe the German version of several popular holidays, such as *Fasching* (Mardi Gras) and *Weinachten* (Christmas), as well as some exclusively German holidays like *Oktoberfest*. These experiences will help us better understand our heritage, and aid us in preserving it as well.

In addition to learning German in school, we can also preserve the German heritage by attending and promoting the various local festivals throughout the year. One of the more popular of these events is the *Strassenfest*, a festival that takes place every summer in Jasper, in which people from all over the county come to experience food and events put on by local businesses and organizations. Other events include the annual Huntingburg *Herbstfest*, which comes around every fall, and the *Volksfest* in Ferdinand. Symbolizing our German heritage, these festivals offer an opportunity to celebrate and experience the past from which our community developed. We must continue to support and promote them so they continue for future generations to experience.

The final way in which we, as the younger generation, can do to maintain our community's German heritage involves supporting German businesses. These businesses, such as the *Schnitzelbank* in Jasper, are tremendously important to our community as they represent a portion of German heritage. Another business is the German American Bank with multiple locations throughout the county, which further identifies this community's heritage. These businesses exemplify

the German heritage in our community, and our support can help maintain it.

In the census taken in the year 2000, nearly 65% of the population of Dubois County was reported as being of German descent. Because of this, it becomes imperative that we maintain and preserve the German heritage that so many people before us have done. If we take steps like learning German, promoting German festivals, and supporting German businesses, we can make sure that all the generations that come after ours will be able to fully experience and enjoy all of these examples of German heritage in our community.

Deutsch zu Mir (German to Me)

By: Kelcie Hassfurther

**Daughter of Kurt and Sharon Hassfurther
Northeast Dubois High School**

Being German is not just the language that we speak or the food we eat, but to my family and me, our German heritage means much more. German, to me, remains something as simple as the way we communicate with people, the traditions we share, or the memories we cherish.

Looking back on my childhood spent with my grandparents, a distinct German communication was shared between us. I can remember times that the German tongue surfaced. These, I assume, were the times that I was not supposed to know the meaning of the conversation. The little sayings, the tall tales, the friendliness in their voice, all reflect my German ancestors of the past. When these words begin to flow, it brings to life the heritage buried deep in our bones. The communication of our family cannot be described; something unique exists that not everyone can cherish in the ways that we as Germans do.

A simple prayer to give thanks for food and the family and friends gathered around it reveal the roots of our heritage. For as long as I can remember, there has not been a year that our family has not been together for a holiday. It may not be much, but the company of one another is enough to satisfy us. The togetherness of my Grandmother and me in the kitchen during the holidays is something irreplaceable. There were many lessons and stories shared in that kitchen that cannot be replaced. Prayer, family, and food: what more can a German ask for?

Being in each other's company often sets the atmosphere for reminiscing about "the good old days." Butchering, harvest time, building the new barn, putting up hay, or helping a neighbor going through hard times.

There is something that flows through a German's blood that makes us more compassionate with people and makes us cherish memories in a genuine way. A conversation can go from present tense and rewind 40 years in a mysterious way. I can envision the tear filled eyes of my elders and the aching laughter in the room as stories of the past fill the air. Cherishing these moments is part of our unique heritage.

German, to me, does not necessarily mean speaking in the native tongue. It does not mean gorging your stomach with mouthwatering food. To me, being German is about making memories and cherishing the ones passed along the way.

Germanification: Keeping My Heritage Alive
By: Lauren Blume

Daughter of Rodney and Susan Blume
Forest Park Jr. Sr. High School

When thinking of German heritage, the first thoughts might contain beer, meticulousness, and even anger. These characteristics, however, are found in almost every culture in some form, which many never realize. The German culture classifies as more, and growing up I gained much from my heritage. My life, shaped by my grandparents, the town I have grown to call home, and cultural events, makes me proud to say that thanks to these factors, *meine Deutsche Blut* (my German blood) thrives on, keeping my culture alive.

Growing up, my grandma constantly told stories about my grandparents' childhoods; both had many siblings, worked constantly with their families from sunrise to sunset without complaint, and kept traditional German values with them as they matured. Along with the never-ending stories, Grandma taught us various German traditions, like how to cook German foods and speak snatches of the *Deutsche Sprache* (German language). We partake in these activities daily, and if not for her, our lives would not be as interesting, even though we do spend each day in heritage-rich Ferdinand.

The community of Ferdinand formed unofficially before 1905, and traditions that the original European residents brought remained in great and small ways. The culture stays evident in the architecture of several town landmarks, such as the Monastery Immaculate Conception, St. Ferdinand Church, and several residences, such as the Wollenmann House. Along with German culture, strong faith goes hand in hand, which explains heavy influence of Christianity evident in the church, monastery, and my family. Several festivals throughout the year also hint at ongoing tradition in this

small town—the *Heimatfest*, the Primitive Days, and the *Christkindlmarkt*.

The *Heimatfest* (Hometown Festival) comes every June and celebrates summer and the community coming together as a family. The Primitive Days, occurring the second weekend of October, return the town to Ferdinand's first days, featuring antique tractors, outdoor markets, and monastery tours. Though fairly new to our community, the festival grows every year. The *Christkindlmarkt* (Christ Child Market), the largest of the three, draws local and national vendors to sell their wares in numerous public buildings and prepares the town for the Christmas season. The *Glockenspiel* (Chime), a *Christkindlmarkt* show featuring community youth (such as myself) clad in German dresses and lederhosen, portrays a cuckoo clock with traditional German Christmas carols and choreography imitating movements similar to animated dancers of true clocks.

These festivals not only draw substantial crowds into Ferdinand, but also bring citizens and visitors alike back into German traditional living. Having participated in these festivals, I feel a deep connection with not only my town, but also *meine Familie* (my family) who passed on their German heritage. Between growing under the care of my grandparents and contributing in my own way to town traditions, I feel that those with upbringings outside this close, traditional area will not get as much out of their German heritage as I. This town, along with my family, have shaped me into the person I am today, and I will never forget.

What does German Heritage mean to me?
By: Taylor Kleinhelter

Daughter of Tom and Angie Kleinhelter
Jasper High School

Picture yourself being in the bottom of a ship for several weeks or even months? That's what the Germans experienced as they journeyed to America. Germans mainly immigrated because their country was being attacked by other nations. People who lived in the southern part of Germany were robbed and tortured; consequently they were desperate to leave. German people had to go through so much just to get out of their country. America was a door to a new beginning. Can you imagine fleeing your homeland and leaving everyone you have ever known behind?

My German heritage is one thing I truly cherish. My ancestors set an example for me of willingness, sacrifice and courage in order to reach their goal. I think it is very important for people to know their heritage and

background story. The significance of heritage has become clear to me in recent years.

It is amazing to me that these families traveled half way across the country, built a home by themselves and had to provide for large families. Additionally their values had great depth and significance compared to today. They respected Marriage, Baptism, and military service. I believe it is very important for me and everyone to connect the present to the past. Our children are our best hope if we want to stay connected to the values that made our country great for future generations.

I would like to challenge everyone to research their ancestry. When you develop a new appreciation for information about your past, it is a great feeling. It may encourage you to dig further into the heritage. Your family may have been very wealthy or famous. You may have a secret behind your last name. Heritage is something most people take for granted. Remember, the way you live now is most definitely rooted in the past. Researching your predecessors reveals much about yourself.

Again, can you imagine living in the bottom of a ship for several weeks or even months? It is beyond my comprehension. The horrible circumstances they endured to provide the life I have makes me very grateful. I am a different person because of my newly found appreciation for my past.

Gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment

July 1, 2014 – September 30, 2014

In Memory of Marge Block

Rita and Gary Egler



**Endowments at the
Dubois County Community Foundation**

**Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club)
German Heritage Endowment**

A donor-advised endowment to benefit generations in ensuring that our German heritage is preserved and enriched in Jasper and Dubois County.

**Claude and Martina Eckert
Sister Cities Endowment**

A designated endowment to provide support to Sister Cities of Jasper, Inc. to support the Jasper/Pfaffenweiler relationship.

A gift to the Jasper Deutscher Verein (German Club) German Heritage Endowment or to the Claude and Martina Eckert Sister Cities Endowment is a wonderful way to remember that special someone. A gift in honor of someone or in memory of someone may be given. The Dubois County Community Foundation will send a letter of acknowledgment to the individual being honored or to the family of someone being remembered. Send your gift along with the appropriate information to the Dubois County Community Foundation, P. O. Box 269, Jasper, IN 47547-0269. Envelopes are also available at the greeting table at each club meeting.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

to the _____
(Please specify appropriate Endowment)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

I want my gift to be in memory of / in honor of:

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Greeting those who attended the annual Family Picnic in September were Jim Welp, Josh Dodd, and Matthias Hilger, members of the Jasper Stone Carvers group. They were demonstrating the art of Stone Carving and answering any questions anyone had on the art of Stone Carving.



Tools Used in Stone Carving



Karen Roesch, Ph.D.

Hoyt-Reichmann Scholar of German-American Studies
Director, Max Kade German-American Center
Assistant Professor, German
Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis

Ms. Roesch met with Joe and Irene Eckerle on October 12th when she visited Jasper and spoke to them about their early recollection of the German language and dialect of the German language.

Ms. Roesch had also attended the Ferdinand Folk Fest on September 20th.



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