

## Exploring Family History at the Max Kade Institute

*Pamela Tesch*



Photograph of children from the Schumann family archives, ca. 1890, Kaukauna, Wisconsin.



“Ma and Pa” from *Meinholz Family History and Genealogy* (1709–1982).

*There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children—one is roots, the other, wings.* [Anonymous]

**T**he Family History Archive in the Max Kade Institute Library is uniquely successful in bringing to life the experiences of German-American immigrants. Some of the family histories contain original documents, while others are narratives published in book form. Personal papers are sometimes included, such as family trees, letters, photos, memoirs, illustrations, poems, recipes, report cards, postcards, journals, and more. Many of the histories are the work of genealogists who not only document the history of their immigrant ancestors, but

simultaneously contribute to our understanding of American and world history. These materials, now at the MKI, are available to anyone wishing to use them for historical research. Here are three examples.

First is the *Borchardt Family History* (of Marathon County, Wisconsin), published by Ruth and Donald Duxbury in 1993. This undertaking was initiated by their daughter Jan as a school project, and it became an ongoing family endeavor that so far has lasted more than 15 years. In addition to the basic text, it includes family records, maps of Germany and Wisconsin, and a short history of Germans in Wisconsin, placing the Borchardt family squarely within the

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## Greetings, Friends and Readers!

My remarks this time are a simple plea for your help in raising the last \$200,000 needed for the renovation of the fourth floor of the University Club, which is to be the new home of the MKI next year. We are proud of our growth and progress since our founding in 1983. Our library and archives include one of the largest collections of German-language materials published in North America, as well as primary source documents—letters, diaries, photos, audio recordings, and community records—that document the experience of the millions of German-speaking

immigrants who settled in this country and their descendants. In addition, our research, cooperation with scholars throughout the world, interdisciplinary programming, teaching and support for school programs, and outreach activities have also expanded. But this means that the capacity of the Keystone House has been strained beyond all reasonable limits, and, in short, our upcoming relocation is urgent.

Necessity has been accompanied by the opportunity to build a facility that will meet our requirements. This includes a state-of-the-art library and archives, an exhibit space, comfortable reading areas, a conference room, and offices. The renovation project is budgeted at \$1.1 million,

and we are now within reach of our goal. The deadline is the end of the current calendar year, as final construction plans must be made, and the UW–Madison has agreed to match, dollar for dollar, any private money we can raise by then.

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to the many people who have already responded with generous donations, and we urge our other Friends and patrons to support the MKI now and to help guarantee its future by sending in their contributions. Remember: **gifts given by the end of this year will be doubled!**

We send you our best wishes for a season filled with happiness, hard work, and success. Do stay in touch!  
—Cora Lee



**Help us raise the final \$200,000!**  
**Through the end of 2011 all donations will be *matched dollar for dollar***  
**by the University of Wisconsin–Madison.**

**All gifts to the MKI Library Project are fully tax deductible.**

- Gifts can be sent by check made out to UW Foundation, with MKI Library Project in the memo line, and mailed to: Max Kade Institute, 901 University Bay Dr., Madison, WI 53705,
- or made online through the MKI Web site: <http://mki.wisc.edu> (click on “MKI Library Campaign”).

For additional information contact  
Antje Petty at the Max Kade Institute (608-262-7546 or [apetty@wisc.edu](mailto:apetty@wisc.edu)).

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## Upcoming MKI Events

### Lectures

**December 7, 2011, Wednesday, 7–8pm, Memorial UNION, see “Today In the Union” for room**

*Stories from Wisconsin: Germans, Beer, and Prohibition*

Presentation by Jerry Apps, Professor Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and the author of more than 30 books on country life and Wisconsin history, including *Breweries of Wisconsin*.

To cap off the evening, join us for a beer at the Rathskeller in the Memorial Union.

**March 21, 2012, Wednesday, time and place TBA**

*The American Civil War and the German Empire in the Red and Black Atlantic*

Lecture by Andrew Zimmerman, Professor of History and International Affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, DC.

MKI lectures are free and open to the public. No registration is required.

### German Genealogy Workshops

Co-sponsored by the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) and the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society (WSGS).

The registration fee for each workshop is \$35 for members of the Friends of MKI, WHS, or WSGS, and \$40 for non-members.

**March 3, 2012, Saturday, 9:00am–noon, Memorial LIBRARY, room 231**

*Genealogical Resources for German-American Ancestry, Online and Off*

Instructor: Lori Bessler

**March 18, 2012, Sunday, 1–4:00pm, Memorial LIBRARY, room 231**

*Tracing Your Jewish Roots from German-Speaking Europe*

Instructor: Fran Loeb Luebke

Co-sponsored by the UW–Madison Mosse/Weinstein Center for Jewish Studies

**March 24, 2012, Saturday, 8:00am–noon, University Club, room 212**

*Reading Old German Script*

Instructor: Karyl Rommelfanger

Register early! Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come first-serve basis.

For more information including registration details see the MKI Web site ([mki.wisc.edu](http://mki.wisc.edu))

or contact Antje Petty at 608-262-7546 or [apetty@wisc.edu](mailto:apetty@wisc.edu).

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### Announcement

**November 7, Monday, 8–9pm, Wisconsin Public Television**

*Wisconsin's Nazi Resistance: The Mildred Fish-Harnack Story*

Mildred Fish was born in Milwaukee in 1902 and attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Along with her German husband Arvid Harnack, she was active in an underground Nazi resistance circle in Berlin until her capture and execution in 1943, making her the only American woman executed on the direct orders of Adolf Hitler. This Wisconsin Public Television documentary incorporates historical film footage as well as newly uncovered information from both German and American archives.

## Out of the Stacks, Into Communities: MKI Outreach Programs

*Antje Petty*

The Max Kade Institute's Library and Archives preserve a wealth of German-language books published in America, personal and community documents, and the voices of Americans who still speak the German dialects of their immigrant ancestors. They all contribute to our understanding of the many aspects of immigration, settlement, and community building that make up the German-American experience. At the MKI, we are focusing on bringing these stories to light and on sharing the Institute's resources with as many people as possible, working with community groups and individuals throughout Wisconsin and beyond. The following are some of our most recent activities.

**MKI Community Presentations:** Believing strongly in the "Wisconsin Idea," the University of Wisconsin's vision that "the boundaries of the University are the boundaries of the state," MKI staff members routinely

travel to all corners of Wisconsin and throughout the region to give presentations to various community groups, including local historical societies and libraries, genealogy and heritage groups, and businesses and service organizations such as Rotary and Shriner clubs. There is no shortage of subject matter! Some of our more popular topics include an overview of German immigration to America/Wisconsin, the German language in America/Wisconsin, German immigrant women, German-language schools in America, or German-American cookbooks and foodways.

**MKI Community Exhibits:** Another way we share our resources is through MKI exhibits at local community events. This summer and fall, the MKI showed displays on "What's in a German Name?" at German Fest in Milwaukee, "Low-German Speakers in the Midwest—Past and Present" at the International Low-German Conference in Wausau, and "How German is American?" at the Osh-

kosh Oktoberfest.

**Assistance with Local History Projects:** We are always excited to learn that a library, church, or community group has preserved materials that document its early history in the German language. The Institute, and especially MKI Librarian Kevin Kurdylo, regularly helps local organizations with the assessment and cataloging of their historic German-American documents. Currently we are involved in researching the history of a Dane County farm family whose members emigrated from Mecklenburg in the 1850s and 1860s. One of the family's early settlement sites will become part of the educational trail system at Pope Farm Conservancy. Stay tuned for more news on this exciting project in future newsletters!

**Educational Outreach:** When finished, the Pope Farm Conservancy project will include a trail with interpretative signs geared towards fourth-grade students who are learning about Wisconsin. This is just one example of how the MKI's contributions aid K-12 students. We work closely with teachers of German, history, social sciences, and other subjects, helping them to incorporate information about the German-American experience in their classrooms, as well as authentic, historical materials. We also assist with lesson plans, curriculum units, and professional development workshops for teachers.



MKI exhibit at the Oshkosh Oktoberfest.



An outreach presentation by Kristin Speth at Mineral Point, Wisconsin.

**Workshops:** We offer a number of workshops for general audiences, too. Check out information about the MKI's upcoming series of three genealogy workshops on "Genealogical Resources for German-American Ancestry, Online and Off," "Reading Old German Script," and "Tracing Your Jewish Roots from German-Speaking Europe" on page 3.

**Public Conferences and Lectures by Invited Scholars:** Several times a year, the MKI invites nationally and internationally known scholars to Madison to share their most recent research on a variety of German-American topics. These talks and conferences have proven to be popular with general audiences, students, and other scholars alike. In March of this year our conference "German and German-American Dimensions of the Civil War," added different perspectives to the discussion of a pivotal event in American history. See the calendar on page 3 for two upcoming presentations: "Stories from Wisconsin: Germans, Beer, and Prohibition," by UW-Madison Professor Emeritus Jerry Apps, and "The American Civil War and the German Empire in the

Red and Black Atlantic" by Andrew Zimmerman, Professor of History at George Washington University.

**Monograph Series and Free Publications:** For those who seek more in-depth information on the German-American experience, the MKI publishes a monograph series that includes titles as varied as *Wisconsin German Land and Life*, *Other Witnesses: An Anthology of Literature of the German Americans, 1850–1914*, and *The Wisconsin Office of Emigration 1853–1855*. For a limited time, the MKI is offering five of its titles at drastically reduced prices, if they are ordered directly from the UW Press. See page 12 for details. In addition, we offer free publications that provide more general information and samples from our collection. These include our CD and booklet concerning German dialects spoken in America, called *German Words—American Voices*, and the popular *How German is American?* poster and brochure. Thanks to the generous support of the Federal Republic of Germany/Consulate Chicago, the brochure has just been reissued in a revised printing.

**MKI on the Web:** Last but not least, the Max Kade Institute has an extensive Web site that reaches people around the globe. Here you can search our library catalog, learn about our events, sample some of our resources, and experience German Americana in one of our online exhibits. In addition, the MKI has a blog and is now on Facebook.

Our goal is always to make our outreach activities relevant to YOU! Tell us what aspects of German-American history you are interested in and what kind of program we can bring to your community! .... And we invite you to "like" us on Facebook! 🇺🇸

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## Hear Their Voices: Audio Recordings in MKI's North American German Dialect Collection

Mark Louden and Joe Salmons



An important and rare resource in the MKI Library and Archives is the North American German Dialect Archive (NAGDA), which consists of hundreds of hours of interviews—now digitized—conducted with speakers of German from various parts of the United States. It is growing rapidly today, and we're making progress on interpreting earlier recordings.

NAGDA contains interviews with U.S.-born descendants of immigrants from German-speaking Europe, two or (usually) more generations removed from immigration. It includes a number of distinct collections donated to MKI by the original investigators or their families. The oldest recordings were made in the 1940s by Professor Lester W. J. "Smoky" Seifert of the UW Department of German and one of the leading figures in German-American linguistics. The Seifert Collection contains interviews

with heritage speakers of German from southern Wisconsin, some born around the time of the Civil War, and includes material in both Low German (really a distinct language from 'German') and what is known as "Wisconsin High German," a variety of the standard language that contemporary Standard German speakers can understand. Other collections in NAGDA include interviews made with German speakers from across Wisconsin, as well as Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, and West Virginia. A number of European German dialects are represented in these interviews, from the Low German dialects of northern and northeastern Europe, to Swiss German, to dialects spoken in former ethnic German territories of Eastern Europe. The largest collection, donated by Professor Wolfgang W. Moelleken, now retired from the University at Albany-SUNY, contains over 300 interviews made with speakers of Pennsylvania Dutch, a language descended from German that developed in colonial Pennsylvania and remains one of the few heritage varieties of German still learned by children today.

The importance of NAGDA is twofold. On the one hand, students and scholars from here and abroad are learning from material in the archive. Especially linguists benefit directly. We can compare recordings from 65 years ago to recordings we are making now, so that we can

see directly how much language has changed over time. Even sound recordings made in the 1940s allow phonetic analysis. At the same time, the substance of the interviews sheds important light on a number of questions pertaining to local and family history and regional culture. Much if not most of the material these interviews contain is not recorded in history books; rather, they represent the experiences of individuals which deepen our understanding of American life, past and present. Interviews with community members who lived over a century ago provide a very different perspective on what their lives were like from what can be obtained in Census data, church records, and newspaper articles.

Just as importantly, NAGDA serves as a significant resource for the public and the MKI's outreach work. For many years, MKI staff members, as well as faculty and students from UW-Madison, have drawn on NAGDA material for presentations to community groups and schools across Wisconsin and beyond. In the spirit of the Wisconsin Idea, they promote the mission of the MKI to disseminate research on the immigration experience to scholars and non-scholars alike. The presentations can take on a very personal quality. On several occasions, presenters have met with former interviewees and their families and given them digital copies of their interviews. In

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# Immigrant Norwegian and Swedish in the Upper Midwest

*Brent Allen, Lucas Annear, Marcus Cederstöm, Kristin Speth, and Brandy Trygstad*

At the Max Kade Institute we look at the German-American experience in the context of other immigrant groups past and present, such as Norwegians and Swedes. At least since 1931, when Einar Haugen joined the faculty of the Department of Scandinavian Studies, the University of Wisconsin–Madison has been directly involved in efforts to understand the Norwegian spoken in the American Upper Midwest.

Over a year ago, prompted by discussions with the Text-Lab at the University of Oslo, faculty and students working with the Center for the Study of Upper Midwestern Cultures began the next generation's work to nurture that tradition. In September of 2010, we hosted a group of leading Norwegian linguists for a workshop on "Investigating immigrant languages in America." Colleagues and students from the U.S. spoke about German, Low German, West Frisian, immigrant-influenced English, and, yes, Norwegian in the region. Inspired by our European colleagues' presentations on Norwegian, and especially having had the opportunity to participate in some of their fieldwork, a number of us are recording Norwegian in the region and beginning analysis.

Luke Annear (Scandinavian Studies), Kristin Speth (German), and Brent Allen (Linguistics) have been visiting towns in Minnesota and Wisconsin to work with heritage speakers of Norwegian. Some of

these speakers are fourth-generation Americans who learned Norwegian as their mother tongue, though they all use English as their primary language now. About 40 people were interviewed who could either understand Norwegian or were still fluent speakers. The data are proving very rich indeed, not just for this particular immigrant community, but for understanding an array of subfields of linguistics, from language shift, to borrowing and code-switching, to phonetics and phonology.

Using frameworks being developed at the University of Wisconsin to understand language shift, Luke and Kristin have examined the role of newspapers and local churches in maintaining Norwegian in the Midwest. They conclude that both the use of Norwegian within various social domains and the high concentrations of native speakers in rural areas were major factors in the persistence of Norwegian as a heritage language. More recently, drawing on work by Yaron Matras on bilingual speech, they have focused on how English elements—words and longer units—are incorporated into Norwegian conversation. Brent Allen, working together with Professor Joe Salmons, is studying the apparent influence of Norwegian phonological contrasts (like geminate or 'long' consonants) on the English of Norwegian heritage speakers.

Other fieldwork by Brandy Trygstad (English and German) and Marcus Cederström (Scandinavian

Studies and Folklore) is focusing on Swedish spoken in the region. Similar to the Norwegian group, these speakers learned Swedish as their first language, but the evidence suggests that English has become the dominant language. Current work is examining code-switching, as well as convergence in pragmatics and syntax. Issues beyond linguistic structure include the folkloric conceptualization and construction of Swedishness, such as the celebration of holidays and food traditions.

We have already presented our results at the Germanic Linguistics Annual Conference (GLAC) in Austin, Texas, the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) Conference in Decorah, Iowa, and the second workshop on immigrant languages in America in Gudbrandsdal, Norway, as well as at regional meetings of the American Dialect Society and the American Folklore Society.

Our recent efforts continue a tradition of linguistic studies at Wisconsin, but at the same time represent only a beginning. 

*Brent Allen, Lucas Annear, Marcus Cederstöm, Kristin Speth, and Brandy Trygstad are graduate students at the UW–Madison who study different aspects of Germanic linguistics and folklore and, under the direction of Professor Joe Salmons, work together to research Norwegian and Swedish as heritage languages in the Upper Midwest.*

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history of Wisconsin as a whole.

The following quote gives us some idea of the amount of research involved:

Data for Family Chronologies and Family Group Sheets in this *Borchardt Family History* were gathered from a multitude of sources: state and federal censuses; vital statistics; church records; marriage indexes; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) International Genealogical Index (IGI) microfiche and microfilms; newspaper accounts and obituaries; county probate records and land records; city and county directories; atlases and county plat maps; published county histories (i.e., Marathon County, Wisconsin); cemetery markers, inscriptions, indexes and records; microfilmed and/or published passenger departure and arrival lists. (*Borchardt*

*Family History*, p. x)

In addition to the Max Kade Institute, other organizations helped the Borchardt family with its research, including the Wisconsin Historical Society in Madison, the University of Wisconsin–Madison Memorial Library, the Madison Branch of the Library and Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and the Marathon County Historical Society. This history contains family photos; birth, wedding, and death announcements; personal stories about immigrant adventures; recipes; and short memoir pieces written by each member of the family today, which are entitled “Reflections of Growing Up.” These short essays make the book especially interesting, because several family members include details of their lives that provide insights into historical periods such as the Great Depression or the post-World War II era.

A second example is the *Meinholz Family History* (of Dane County, Wisconsin), researched and written

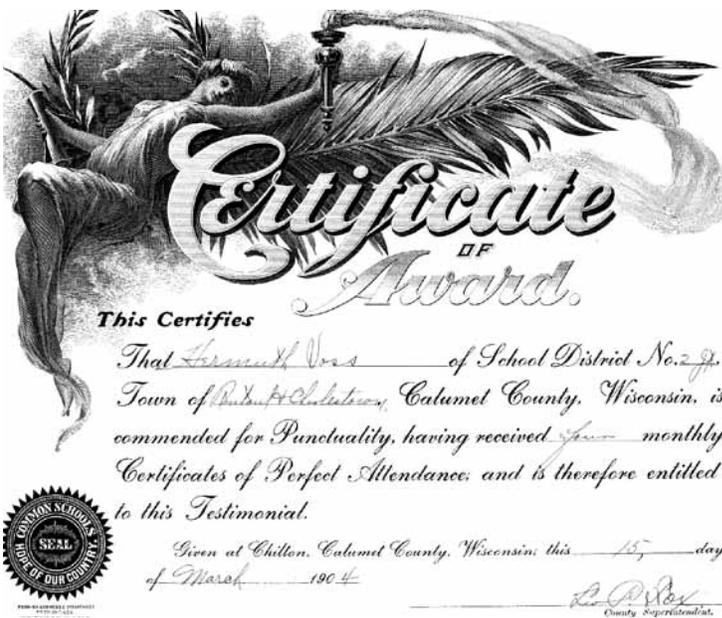


Seraphine Meinholz

by Margaret G. Meyer and illustrated by numerous photographs, as well as charming sketches by Don Meyer. The text richly portrays events in the lives of the extended family and includes personal accounts, such as this detailed description written by Seraphine Meinholz (née Ackerman) of her 1892 voyage to her new home in Middleton, Wisconsin:

Seraphine’s father had packed fine breads and pastries for her to take with her on her journey. The first time she saw someone seasick she got sick too, and for the rest of the voyage the only food she could eat was the dark rye bread the peasants had with them. She traded her fine baked goods for the schwartzbrod. She never lost her fondness for dark rye bread.

Seraphine’s aunt Catherine purchased the ship’s ticket in Madison which included the train fare, and sent it to Walldürn with a letter of instructions—the letter is dated 26 Jan 1892. She cautioned her 16-year-old niece not to talk to boys—especially on board ship—to take along a



Punctuality award for Hermuth Voss of Rantoul, Wisconsin, 1904.



Es haben bei Schaffer & Kerndl, S. W. Corner of 4th & Wood, St. Louis

1870 marriage certificate for Hans and Anna Voss.

kimmel bread, a cup, a soup dish, and a wash dish. She told her she might get seasick and vomit a lot—that she should not eat much and it would go away. She should bring along: red carrot seeds, a handful of white stalk beans, small dahlia tubers from Eckert and wrap them in damp moss and paper, violet seeds and viola seeds—some marzipan and some baking tins . . . This is how she ended her letter, “In God’s Name – and in the name of the Blessed Virgin and your Guardian Angel, I hope you arrive safe here—and don’t cry much. I hope you will be brave and behave the way you promised—everything should be good. (*Meinholz Family History*, pp. 119–120)

Further contextualization is provided in this book by family trees; maps; poems; and photos of areas

in Germany and Wisconsin, family members, and their churches and graves.

Not all family histories in the MKI collection are bound as books. Some are large portfolios that tell the family history through important papers: family trees stapled together, hand-written journals, ribbon-bound collected letters, and rough envelopes containing school certificates.

One such example is a large collection of loose papers that belonged to members of the Voss family of Rantoul in Calumet County, Wisconsin. It includes marriage and baptism certificates, receipts, property titles, insurance documents, correspondence, and more—almost all in German. From these we learn that Hans Voss, born in 1843 in St. Annen in Holstein, had come to Rantoul in 1869, where he married Anna Reinhold in 1870. Anna, born in 1849 in Bernhusen/Schleswig, was three years old when she came to Wisconsin with her parents. The couple became the

parents of twelve children. According to the 1910 census, Anna, who grew up and went to school in Wisconsin, could read and write, but only in German, and was thus a monolingual speaker of German, although she had been in Wisconsin for many decades.

Bundles of receipts, neatly tied with string, tell the story of Hans and Anna as landowners. For several decades the couple paid off loans to individuals and banks for different parcels of farmland. Thereafter, they began to rent out their land and even sell some of it in installments.

One packet of letters tells of a family tragedy. In 1920, Anna and Hans entered into a legal dispute with the “Bureau of War Risk Management,” other government agencies, and several insurance companies to claim compensation after their youngest son, Hermuth, died of injuries sustained on a WWI battlefield. Interestingly, all correspondence was undertaken on the parents’ behalf by other community members. Were they not able to pursue this formal matter in the English language? The documents themselves fail to tell us, and we wish we had more information, but in this case contextualization is lacking.

Some of the Institute’s family history documents have been made available online as Virtual Archives, including the *Frautschi Letters Virtual Archive* <[csumc.wisc.edu/flva/FLVAhomed.html](http://csumc.wisc.edu/flva/FLVAhomed.html)> and the *Jakob Sternberger Project* <[mki.wisc.edu/Resources/Archival\\_Images/Sternberger/Sternberger\\_index.htm](http://mki.wisc.edu/Resources/Archival_Images/Sternberger/Sternberger_index.htm)>.

We hope that the MKI Family History Archives not only provide

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# Baking for the Holidays

Antje Petty

Just in time for the holidays, here are some old German-American recipes from *Pickled Herring and Pumpkin Pie: A Nineteenth-Century Cookbook for German Immigrants to America* by Henriette Davidis, published by the Max Kade Institute. We love the old dishes, but we also feel fortunate that 21<sup>st</sup>-century kitchen utensils and appliances make cooking and baking so much easier than it was 100–150 years ago. For example, we don't have to test “the degree of heat in the oven by means of a piece of paper” anymore, as suggested in the introduction to the baking section: *If the paper soon turns to a yellow (not black) color in the oven, this indicates the “first degree” of heat and is sufficient for puff paste and yeast doughs; if it turns yellow slowly it indicates the “second degree” of heat, fit for most kinds of baking; the “third degree” must be still lower for*

*cakes that should dry more than bake.* Today, we can also drastically reduce the “mixing time” for cake batter by using electric appliances, and on most days, we probably cook and bake for fewer people—except for a holiday feast. Guten Appetit!

## Apple Cake with Almond Icing

*Take 18–20 nice cooking apples of medium size and for the filling nicely washed currants, sugar, cinnamon, citron and a little butter. For the icing, 6 fresh eggs, ¼ pound of sugar, ¼ pound of grated almonds and ½ teaspoonful of mace.*

*Pare the apples, take out the core and leave the apples whole, put them into a pan side by side and fill with currants, sugar, cinnamon, citron and a small piece of butter. Then take the yolks of the eggs, sugar, almonds and mace, stir together for ¼ hour, mix with the beaten whites of the eggs, pour over the apples and bake for 1–1 ¼ hours. Serve this if possible when warm; if made the day before set in the oven for ¼ hour before serving.*

## Eberfeld “Kringel”

*2 pounds of flour, ¾ pound of butter, ½ pound of sugar, 5 eggs, ¼ pound of cinnamon (if cinnamon is not liked, vanilla or cardamom seeds can be used), 1 cupful of milk, ¾ pound of currants or 2 cupfuls of jelly and fresh yeast.*

*Stir ½ of the flour with the warm milk, eggs, and yeast, let it rise and then take ¼ pound of sugar and enough flour so that the dough can*



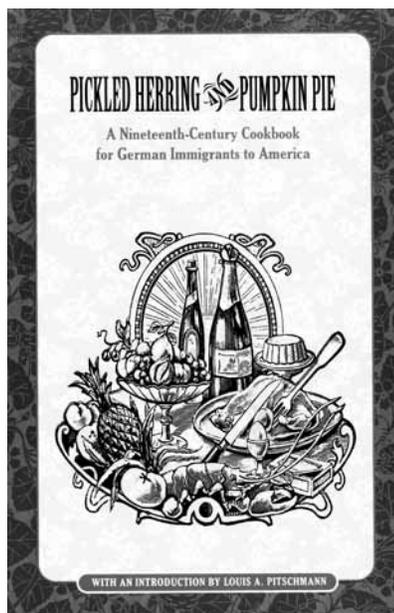
Bei der Anfertigung des „Bunten Bier“.

“Preparing the Pumpkin Pie,” from the November 1905 issue of *Die Abendschule*.

*be kneaded. Work in the butter and the remaining flour. Then roll out the dough, not too thin, strew over it the remaining sugar, currants and cinnamon, or spread with jelly, roll and form in the shape of a wreath. Lay on a pan, and when risen spread with butter and bake for ¾ hour in a hot oven.*

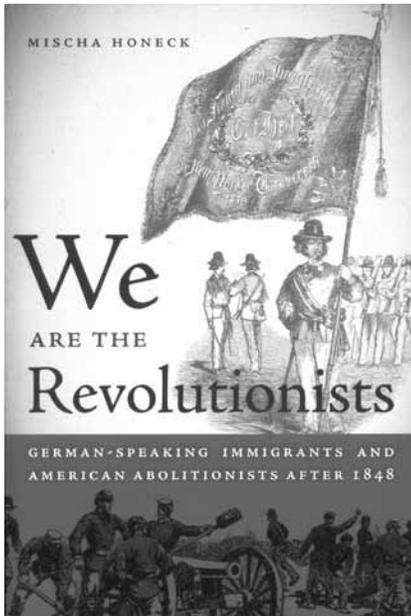
## Coffee Pretzels

*Make a dough of ¾ pound of flour, 1 ounce of freshly roasted and finely ground coffee, 2 whole eggs, the yolks of 2 eggs, 5 ounces of sugar, 3 ounces of butter, vanilla, grated lemon peel, a pinch of salt and a teaspoonful of baking powder. Make into small pretzels and bake in a moderate oven to a light brown color. 🍪*



## Forty-Eighters and Abolitionists: Interethnic Collaboration in the U.S. Civil War Era

Cora Lee Kluge



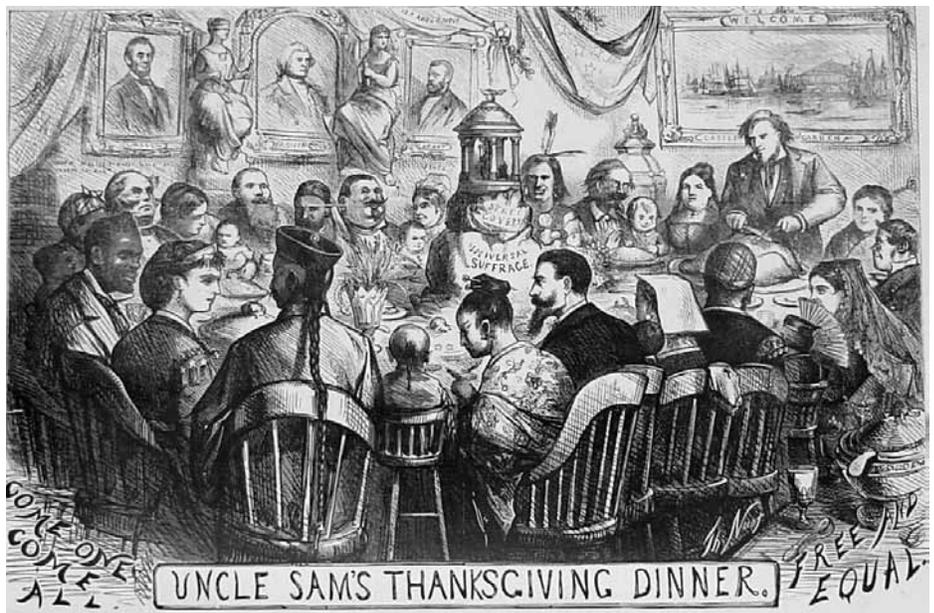
*We Are the Revolutionists: German-Speaking Immigrants and American Abolitionists After 1848.* By Mischa Honeck. Athens and London: University of Georgia Press, 2011. 260 pages. Cloth \$59.95; paper \$24.95.

We at the Max Kade Institute are pleased to count Mischa Honeck among our friends and associates. He spent time at UW–Madison doing research during the academic year 2005–2006; and he returned this past March to speak at our conference on “German and German-American Dimensions of the U.S. Civil War.” His new monograph, which deals with connections between German Forty-eighters and American abolitionists, firmly establishes him as one of the leading young German historians in the field of German-American studies.

Using the tools of what he terms “microhistory and collective biography,” Honeck focuses on the interactions of specific individuals, including Adolf Douai and Frederick Law Olmsted in Texas; August Willich and Peter Clark in Cincinnati; Mathilde Franziska Anneke and Mary Booth in Milwaukee; and Karl Heinzen and Wendell Phillips in Boston. These are familiar names: the only one I had not known is that of the black educator Peter Clark. What is fresh and new is Honeck’s approach to telling the story of this era; he concentrates on relationships between German refugees and American abolitionists—“border-crossing companionships”—in ways that both show the anti-slavery movement’s international ties and also reveal relatively unknown details of the

philosophical, political, racial, and intercultural debates in this country.

But this is more than a simple biographical study of relationships. Honeck’s first chapter sets the stage by outlining the political and intellectual discussions on both sides of the Atlantic. Using material gathered from a broad range of international newspapers, political speeches, published papers, and modern as well as older scholarship, it presents in 25 pages an excellent overview of the issues being debated and the views held throughout the western world. The next four chapters concentrate on the four areas central to his study—Texas, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, and Boston—but they contain far more about these areas than mere information about the main figures he has identified. Honeck’s final chapter



This Thomas Nast cartoon endorsing ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment appeared in the November 20, 1869 issue of *Harper's Weekly*.

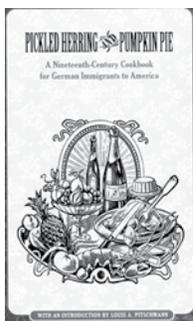
again broadens the perspective, exploring the role of Forty-eighters in American politics after the end of the Civil War, when the abolition of slavery had been accomplished, but the “revolution was half-accomplished” (from the title of the chapter) and the work begun by the revolutionists was largely laid aside.

Honeck offers a correction to many previous studies of this period. German-American scholars have tended to isolate and highlight the role of members of the German immigrant community, while American historians have frequently overlooked material written in a foreign language. Even those who work along the intersection of German-Americans and Anglo-Americans are led by anti-immigrant prejudices in the U.S. such as the nativist movement to emphasize the lack of cooperation between the two groups instead of studying their collaboration. Honeck avoids such pitfalls, in part because of the ease with which he uncovers and deals with both English-language and German-language texts, and in part because he has chosen to probe specifically the interethnic relationships. The result is an admirable contribution that reveals the interconnectedness between the European and American liberal movements of the mid-nineteenth century. 🦋

## MKI BOOK SALE — For a limited time only!

**40%–50% off on selected MKI publications  
when you order directly from the University of Wisconsin Press!**

1. Click the “Publications” tab on the MKI website <mki.wisc.edu>.
2. Choose the book you want to order and click on “How to order.” This will lead you to the UW Press page.
3. Click “Add to cart.” On the shopping cart page, enter **KADE11** as promo code and click “checkout.” The new price will now appear in the shopping cart!

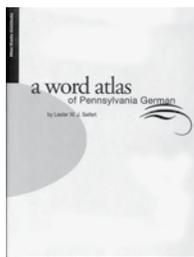


***Pickled Herring and Pumpkin Pie:***  
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Continued from page 9

a valuable research tool, but also encourage others to document their family histories. See the suggestions in the box to the right for help in getting started. 

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*Pam Tesch holds a Ph.D. in German from the UW–Madison. She currently teaches in the Oconomowoc, Wisconsin school district.*

### Documenting Your Family History

It is never too early or too late to start documenting your own family history. But how to begin? Here are a few suggestions:

- First, gather as many personal documents from members of your family as you can.
- Interview family members and family friends, and record their stories.
- Make a plan. Decide which parts of your family history you want to work on first and how to record and organize your information.
- Contact a genealogical society, and visit the Max Kade Institute to see what others have done and to discuss your project with members of the staff.
- Check out genealogy resources online. Links can be found at the MKI Web site, especially under the Genealogy tab: <http://csumc.wisc.edu/mki/Genealogy/1.GenealogyFrames.htm>. Here you can find helpful information, including maps, lists of translator services, and links to German heritage societies. There are many other resources on the Internet, such as those provided by [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), where you can search for your ancestor in a multitude of records and can also see if someone else somewhere in the world is already researching your family.
- Check out the resources and events at your local library or local historical society, which—like the Wisconsin Historical Society—may offer workshops by genealogical specialists.
- Participate in the genealogy workshops offered by the MKI in March 2012. See page 3.

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## In Memoriam: Peter Arvedson (1937–2011)

*Antje Petty*



On July 14, 2011, the Max Kade Institute lost a dear Friend, member of the Friends' Board of Directors, and our Treasurer: Peter Arvedson. Peter became involved with the Institute through his work with history and more specifically his research into the life and contributions of Milwaukee beer baron Captain Frederick Pabst.

Peter was born in Peoria, IL. The son of a university chaplain, he grew up on the University of Illinois Champaign–Urban campus. It was his father who instilled a love of history and genealogy in Peter. However, after graduating from high school, Peter chose a different path: he studied chemistry at the University of Illinois and went on to receive a Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Throughout his graduate school years, Peter balanced his interest in

science with his fondness for history and genealogy, spending many hours at the Wisconsin State Historical Society, where he researched his family's story. At the same time, Peter remained involved in the Episcopalian Church, eventually receiving a Master of Divinity degree from the General Theological Seminary in New York City. Subsequently, Peter served as an Episcopal priest in parishes in Effingham, IL, Okinawa, Japan, Madison, WI, and Buffalo, NY. After his retirement in 2002, he moved to the Milwaukee area.

It was in Buffalo, NY, that Peter got acquainted with a great-grand niece of Emil and Lisette Schandain. Lisette was the sister of Frederick Pabst's wife Maria, and the two women were the daughters of Milwaukee brewer Phillip Best. Pabst and Schandain together ran their father-in-law's brewing company, which eventually expanded into the national beer emporium that became the Pabst Brewing Company. After moving to Wisconsin, Peter began to explore Milwaukee history and soon came in contact with the Pabst Mansion and its historian John Eastberg. It turned out that Peter's connection to the New York Schandain family provided a crucial link for those studying the Mansion's history, and Peter was hooked.

In the following years, Peter intensively researched the Best, Pabst, and Schandain families, uncovered some buried history in long-forgotten

documents, arranged for the transfer of family heirlooms to the Pabst Mansions, and even found family artifacts on E-Bay. A particularly curious find was a set of two letters written to the heirs of Frederick Pabst in 1904 by the pastor of the church in Nikolausrieth, Thuringia, where Pabst was born, requesting money to build a new church for the town. Translations of the letters and more information about the Pabst family can be found in the summer 2007 issue of the MKI Newsletter.

For Peter one of the highlights of his research was a trip to Thuringia and Nikolausrieth. There he connected with local historians, creating a bridge between Pabst's home community and Milwaukee. Another highlight was the placement of a memorial monument on the Best family grave at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. Peter had spearheaded efforts to raise funds for the construction of the memorial, and in May he took part in the unveiling ceremony. See the Spring 2011 issue of the MKI Newsletter.

We at the MKI greatly miss Peter, his dedication, his knowledge, and his wonderful sense of humor. 🍷

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*Continued from page 6*

many cases, these are the only audio recordings families have of their late relatives.

German as a spoken heritage language is receding in Wisconsin and elsewhere, and it is critical that we document it as thoroughly as we can. Aside from Pennsylvania Dutch in Old Order Amish and Old Order Mennonite communities, immigrant German varieties are no longer widely spoken, and most of the remaining fluent speakers are now elderly. This parallels the situation of virtually all immigrant languages and also many Native American languages in the U.S. Currently, a group of graduate and undergraduate students are working with MKI to document heritage varieties of German and Low German, as well as other immigrant languages spoken in Wisconsin, including Norwegian, Swedish, and

West Frisian, by conducting interviews with these last generations of speakers. The important work of these students not only enriches the scope of NAGDA; it also advances the mission of MKI to promote high-quality research and to make the fruits of that research available to the public.

A small sample of the recordings in

NAGDA are accessible online here: [csumc.wisc.edu/AmericanLanguages/](http://csumc.wisc.edu/AmericanLanguages/). Soon, that sample will be greatly expanded with the addition of some of our oldest recordings, including transcriptions and commentary. 

**The Newsletter of the Friends of the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies is published three times a year at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. Submissions are invited and should be sent to:**

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## The MKI Library Project Capital Campaign

*Are you*

- ... passionate about history?
- ... interested in America as an immigrant country?
- ... intrigued by the experiences of your German ancestors?
- ... concerned about the preservation of American print culture?

**Help us raise the final \$200,000 to build a state-of-the art facility  
for preserving and sharing German-American history!**

**Through the end of 2011, all donations will be *matched dollar for dollar*  
by the University of Wisconsin–Madison.**

*This is a three-year fundraising campaign. Tax-deductible contributions can be made to the MKI Library Capital Campaign Fund at the UW Foundation. For more information, contact Antje Petty at (608) 262-7546 or <apetty@wisc.edu>.*