

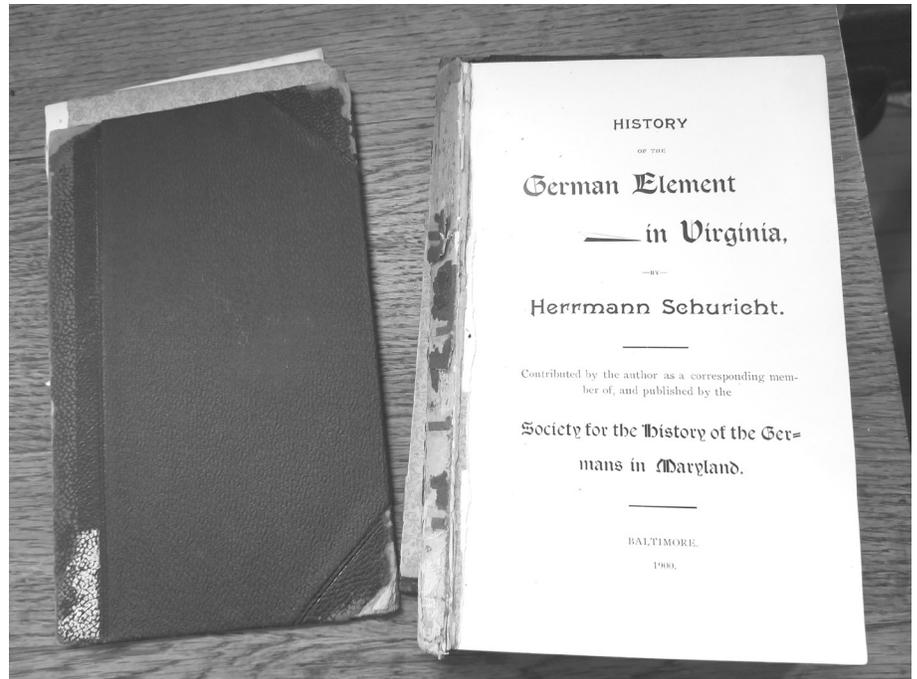
## Restoration and Conservation of MKI Library and Archival Materials

Kevin Kurdylo

Since the founding of the Max Kade Institute (MKI), we have relied entirely on donations of books and other items to create and expand our exemplary Library and Archives. Many of the materials, whether due to age, heavy use, or less-than-ideal storage situations, are in fragile condition.

Thanks to a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant, along with donations by the Friends of the MKI, our new Library and Archives has climate control mechanisms in place that allow us to regulate and stabilize environmental conditions that affect our materials, thus prolonging their life spans.

Over the years we have also had books repaired and conserved, usually through a grant program sponsored by the Friends of Memorial Library, at Memorial Library's Conservation Lab, where Marta Gomez and her talented and highly trained students work with great care and devotion to return our books to us in a sturdy, lasting, and usable state. In cases where paper is too brittle for repair, the Lab has provided us with acid-free enclosures to help preserve the items and prevent further deterioration. Recently, in addition to books, the Lab has restored and encapsulated two *Reisepässe* (passports) in our Archives; these are emigration passports from Württemberg to America for Johann Georg and Madgalene Deuschle, dated 1855 and 1858. The encapsulation allows



Schuricht's *History of the German Element in Virginia*, now awaiting repair at Grimm's Bindery

us to carry the documents safely to outreach events throughout the state and beyond.

And now, thanks to donations from the MKI Friends, along with a matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, MKI has more than \$800 to devote to preservation and the acquisition of research/outreach materials. However, as COVID-19 restrictions have all but shut down Memorial Library's Conservation Lab, we are turning to another provider for repair services, Grimm Book Bindery, in Madison. Fittingly, Grimm's has a German-American history. Gottlieb Grimm was born in 1831 in Bottingen in the Kingdom of Württemberg. Having learned the craft of bookbinding from his father,

Gottlieb immigrated to America in 1849 and settled in Madison in 1850. It is believed that Gottlieb bound the first book ever in Madison, a collection of back issues of *Graham's Magazine*, which Madison banker Simeon Mills had saved and wanted bound.

Gottlieb Grimm and his partner, Daniel Maul, founded the Madison New Book Bindery in 1855. Both Gottlieb and Daniel (who was born in 1823 in Hesse-Darmstadt) were also among the eight founding members of the Madison Maennerchor, a German singing society started in 1852. Though Grimm and Maul sold Madison New Book Bindery in 1857 to Atwood, Calkins and Webb, Gottlieb continued working with the



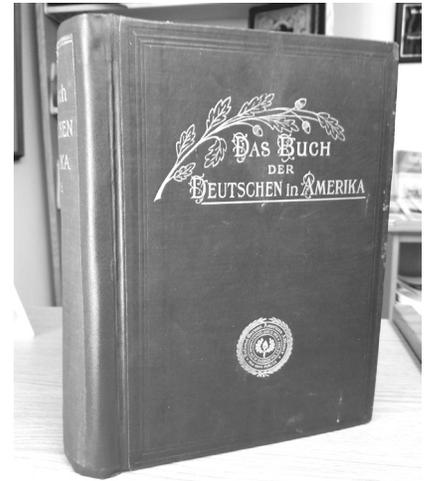
A well-worn copy of the third volume in Schick's *Humoristische Bibliothek*, published in Chicago by German immigrant Louis Schick

firm as a supervisor until 1860, when he joined BW Suckow's Bindery as foreman. In 1874 Gottlieb bought that bindery from its owner and named it Grimm Book Bindery, Inc. It has been in the family ever since, and although President Bill Grimm passed away on April 30, 2020, his sister Judith and brother Karl now run the business.

We have a total of eight items awaiting repairs at Grimm's, including *Arithmetisches Exempelbuch für deutsche Volksschulen Nordamerikas. Viertes Heft. Die bürgerlichen Rechnungsarten* (St. Louis, Mo.: Deutsche Ev.- Luth. Synode von Missouri, Ohio u. a. St., 1876); Alfred Ira's *Der Missionsplatz. Eine Erzählung aus der kirchlichen Missionsthätigkeit im Staate Wisconsin* (Antigo, Wis.: Antigo Publishing Co., 1902); Fred Rübesamen's *Grenz-*

*erleben: Bilder und Skizzen aus dem "Wilden Westen"* (Chicago: Selbstverlag des Verfassers in Kommission bei Koelling & Klappenbach, 1894); Benjamin Rush's *An Account of the Manners of the German Inhabitants of Pennsylvania: Written in 1789* (Philadelphia: S. P. Town, 1875); Julius Stinde's *Humoresken und Gedichte* (Schick's Humoristische Bibliothek, no. 3. Chicago: L. Schick, 1886); Hermann Schuricht's *History of the German Element in Virginia* (Baltimore, T. Kroh & sons, printers, 1900); and G. A. Zimmermann's *Handbuch der deutschen Literatur Europa's und Amerika's. Zweiter Theil* (Chicago: H. Enderis, 1876).

In addition, we are having repaired a large and colored "Map of the United States and Territories, Shewing [sic] the Extent of Public Surveys and Other Details," that was included in the 1866 *Bericht des Commissionär des General-Landamtes, der Vereinigten Staaten von America*.



*Das Buch der Deutschen in America*, finely repaired by Memorial Library's Conservation Lab

We hope to be able to include this map in outreach presentations in the future. We will provide an update on the map and the other items once we have them finished and returned, which is expected by the end of April 2021. Thanks again to Thrivent and our Friends for their donations, which is helping MKI to preserve our German-American history! 🇺🇸



Passports for Johann Georg and Madgalene Deuschle, dated 1855 and 1858, repaired and encapsulated by UW-Memorial Library's Conservation Lab