



Happy New Year and Welcome to 2020

The American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society held our quarterly meeting on November 17, 2019. Sixty three people attended (42 members and 21 guests). We offer our warmest regard to all who attended and hope to see all of you again soon.

Mary Burchett reported on the 2019 Low German Friendship conference, and we are pleased to announce the conference was a success with many positive comments. Financially, ASHHS netted a small profit after all the bills and income associated to the conference were reconciled.

Current and upcoming officers were announced:

President: Michael Kearney

Immediate Past President: Franz Neff

Correspondence: Franz Neff

Recording Secretary: Marcella Siegel

Corresponding Secretary: Janice Danz

Treasurer: Carmella Mehrens

Genealogy: Karen Puck

Budget/Finance: Lois Kundel

By-Laws: Lee Muller

Librarian/Historian: Elaine Hein

Newsletter Editor: Daniel W. Holst

Publicity/Public Relations: Mary Ann Muller

Purchasing and Sales: Janice Dawson

Programs: Carl Keeney

The current chairpersons of *Endowment*, *Publicity*, and *Nominations* would like to be replaced. Anybody who would like to fill their roles should contact us at ashhswalcott@gmail.com

Following quarterly business and new officer elections, seven members of the Davenport Zither Ensemble played a number of songs. Michael Hustedde narrated the program and encouraged us to sing along. Some of the music was instrumental while some songs were in German. Some pictures follow:



Zither. What is a Zither?

Discover on page 13



Elected Officers

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Budget/Finance: Lois Kundel
By-Laws/Parliamentarian: Lee Muller
Librarian: Elaine Hein
Historian: Elaine Hein
Membership: Janice Dawson
Newsletter Editor: Daniel W. Holst
Public Relations/Publicity:
Mary Ann Muller
Purchasing and Sales: Janice Dawson
Programs: Carl Keeney

Special Committee

Endowment Fund: Dean Rohweder
German Membership: Wolfgang Remppe
Parade: Franz Neff
Protocol: Janice Danz
Refreshments:
Magda Brodersen and Mary Ann Muller
Registrar: Janice Dawson
Translators: Erna Cielecki, Franz Neff
Nominations:

Layout and editorial contributions by:
Fortifying Your Written Word
www.danielwholst.com



ASHHS Headquarters

The **ASHHS Goal** is preserving and promoting the heritage of Schleswig-Holstein in the USA. We encourage cultural exchange, family research, study of the languages and dialects of Schleswig-Holstein, conferences and other programs pursuant to the above objectives.

The **ASHHS Newsletter** is published bimonthly for its members. Contributions are welcomed. Submitted material remains the property of the submitter until publication. Please cite sources and give others credit where due. Observation of copyright privileges is required. Responsibility for accuracy of printed information lies with the submitter, not with ASHHS, the ASHHS Newsletter, or the Newsletter committee. Corrections will be published if given in writing. The Newsletter committee reserves the right to edit material for space, form, spelling, and grammar.

Deadlines for Submissions

Dec 15 for Jan/Feb Issue
Feb 15 for Mar/Apr Issue
Apr 15 for May/June Issue
Jun 15 for Jul/Aug Issue
Aug 15 for Sep/Oct Issue
Oct 15 for Nov/Dec Issue

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ASHHS Policy on Publicizing Events and Activities of other Societies and Organizations: As a matter of mutual interest and courtesy, this Newsletter may publish articles and notices about German-American events and activities which are not sponsored or organized by ASHHS or its board of directors. The publishing of such material in the Newsletter shall not in any way imply any ASHHS responsibility for the content, results, success or failure of such activities and events.

The ASHHS Genealogical Research

Policy: ASHHS provides research assistance for its members only. Members who desire this assistance should contact the genealogy director by regular mail or e-mail. The ASHHS genealogy director maintains and utilizes access to a variety of available genealogical resources to assist in all research activities. The genealogy staff will strive to locate information and assist members in their searches. However, if the desired information cannot be located, the genealogy director may provide the member with a list of alternative research sources. Members are expected to pay for any expenses (such as photocopies, printing and postage) associated with a search. The ASHHS genealogy staff will provide 3 hours free research to members, after which there is a minimal fee if further research is desired. The e-mail address of Karen Puck, the ASHHS genealogy director, is kpuck2015@gmail.com.

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Features in the January/February Issue

Featured in this Issue

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Reminder

Membership fees are now due. Please stay current on your membership.

Crosses of Distinction

Crosses of Distinction is an original and ongoing historical fiction story about the Franco-Prussian War and the families it affected and how their lives will ultimately all collide throughout history.

- Kylie Schaffer is a Senior Airman in today's US Air Force currently serving with the 494th Fighter Squadron from RAF Lakenheath in England. They are deployed to Ciechanow, Poland. Her third great grandfather served in and won the Iron Cross during the Franco-Prussian War for reasons unknown.
- Ailbe Stuhr fought in the Schleswig-Holstein war against Denmark and refuses to allow his twin teenage sons, Harimann and Hansi, to fight in the imminent war with France. He has decided to send them to America.
- Theodore the son of Ailbe's neighbors Koenraad and Mili Schaffer was just conscripted into the Prussian Army.
- Adamina lost her father while leaving Romania for Germany with her Jewish mother Tikva. They have met Angelika, Tikva's sister, in Munich and are all currently traveling towards Hamburg.

Website Announcement

In the coming year, many changes will be made to the ASHHS website at ASHHS.ORG. Please stay tuned here or visit our website to see those changes. If you have any recommendations for the website, please email me at danielwholst@gmail.com

Please keep your membership current.

Don't miss out on the stories
and events coming in 2020.

We also want to hear and print your stories of travel, heritage, and life history.

Send submissions to danielwholst@gmail.com

From the President

By Michael Kearney



Moin moin!

I am honored that ASHHS elected me to serve as our next president. My most humble gratitude to each and every member and a promise to serve and promote ASHHS.

Thank you to Franz Neff for his faithful service these last couple of years. His leadership has inspired many others, created a stronger Heritage Society, and brought us together in the wonderful 2019 Friendship Conference.

My first order of business is to continue to lead ASHHS, and I believe that we need to expand the membership of our society.

To accomplish that we need to reach out to a wider audience. Let's brainstorm and solicit new ideas to reach a new and younger audience and make ASHHS more relevant to the vibrant communities of German-American descent.

Yours truly

President

Michael Kearney

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael J. Kearney". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font on a dark grey rectangular background.



ASHHS President Michael Kearney's great grandparents arrived in New York from Hamburg aboard the SS Westphalia (pictured above). Christened in 1868, the SS *Westphalia* was built by Caird & Co. and operated by the Hamburg America Line. She was 340 feet long, 40 feet wide, and 33 feet in depth. Her primary ports of call were Hamburg, Germany and New York, US. She sailed for the Hamburg America Line through 1886 until sold in 1887. Afterwards, she was sold at least one more time and assumed several other names: *Atlantica*, *Provincia Di Sao Paulo*, *Mentana*, and finally *Sud America*. She was scrapped at Genoa in 1901.

Calendar

ASHHS QUARTERLY MEETING

February 16, 2020

The American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS) quarterly meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., on Sunday, February 16, 2020 at the Walcott American Legion, 121 W. Bryant St., Walcott, Iowa.

The Quad City Ukulele Club will be the program. They will be playing a mixture of German songs along with Rock & Roll, Folk, and Country music of the 1950s and the 1960s.

Light refreshments will be provided. The program is free and open to the public. The Walcott Legion is handicap accessible. For more information, call Mary Ann Muller 563-284-6640, or e-mail leemarmul@aol.com.

New Email Address

The ASHHS office now has a new email address. please make note of it. It is: ashhswalcott@gmail.com

German-American Friendship Conference

September 11-13, 2020 in Bredstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

By Hans-Werner Hamann

The many beautiful moments and encounters of the last conference together with the 30th anniversary celebration of ASHHS in Bettendorf, Iowa are still in our memories. Now we can look forward to the next conference in beautiful city of Bredstedt in North Frisia along the North Sea coast of Schleswig-Holstein.

Bredstedt joined with DeWitt, Iowa as sister cities in 2011. The mayors of both places, Christian Schmidt from Bredstedt and Don Thiltgen from DeWitt, would like to refresh this partnership and bring it to a broader audience with this conference and the meeting of participants from the USA and North Frisia. To support this and make the conference known, both have set up a facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/Bredstedt.

DeWitt.sistercities. You can register, inform, or post photos. Bürgermeister Christian Schmidt *möchte alle Gäste privat unterbringen und bittet deshalb um rechtzeitige An-*



meldung (wants to accommodate all guests privately and therefore asks for timely registration.)

To prepare for the conference, a working group has met several times in Bredstedt. Since 2018, this was prepared by the former provost and current chairman of

the German-America Society in Husum, Dr. Helmut Edelmann and Hans-Werner Hamann of ASHHS. In the spring 2019, there was the first meeting in the office of North Frisia county with the Mayor Christian Schmidt. Further participants of this working group are Anke Bahnsen, Dr. Hans Peter Stamp, Brigitte Ritz, Petra Petersen of Felix Middendorf. (please take a look at the photo)

The outline for the program of the Friendship Conference in September is ready. It begins on Friday evening with a meeting to welcome and get to know each other, this is accompanied by a colorful program of costume dancers and music by "Spielmannszügen."

~ Continued next page



German-American Friendship Conference

September 11-13, 2020 in Bredstedt, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

~ Continued from Previous Page

On Saturday morning, after the welcome, there will be a lecture program on the history of Schleswig-Holstein and the emigration from North Frisia/Schleswig-Holstein to America. In the breaks you can get information about emigration and family research, you will find tables of AGGSH (Working Community Genealogy Schleswig -Holstein), IGeff (community of interests own family research), and NFI (Nordfriisk Instituut). Much information will be available.

In the afternoon, excursions to the area will be offered, for example to the Hallig (Little island) Nordstrandischmoor or to the island Nordstrand with a boat trip through the Wadden Sea. Alternatively, a history tour is provided, this goes to the city of Husum to Ludwig-Nissen-house possibly also to the nearby castle. A barbecue that evening should conclude this day.

On Sunday morning, a Low German church service followed by a lunch will conclude the friendship conference.

In the next ASHHS newsletter, I will introduce the city of Bredstedt with photos and information. Anyone who has ever had a look before can do so at www.bredstedt.de



People in the photo from the left: Anke Bahnsen, Dr. Hans-Peter Stamp, Brigitte Ritz, Petra Petersen, Bürgermeister Christian Schmidt, Dr. Helmut Edelmann, Felix Middendorf und Hans-Werner Hamann.

Braist is the name of Bredstedt in the Frisian language.

Marketplace in Bredstedt



Is This "Really" a New Decade?

~ Editor

Welcome to the year 2020. But is this the start of a new decade? This debate always rages at this time, every two lustrums or so. However, regardless of one's view on the subject there is one item without question: A decade is a period of ten years. The word decade originated from the Romanized Greek word *dekas*. It's meaning is a group of ten.

A decade is essentially any group of ten years.

Latin based year groups

Biennium is 2 years
Quadrennium is 4 years
Lustrum is 5 years
Century is 100 years
Millennium is 1000 years.

(The 20 year 'score' is not Latin but originates from the Old Norse word *Skora* which means notch or tally)

However, the contention arises from any decade to the official Decade (capitalized to differentiate). Many people argue that our current millennium didn't start until January 1, 2001. Others scoff and say no, it was January 1, 2000. The same holds true for the Decade.

Does this Decade begin on the first day of 2020 or the first day

of 2021? The official *Anno Domini* system of years began with year 1 and states that new Decades don't begin until 2021, or 1921, 1961, and the millennium on January 1, 2001.

Why did the year system of *Anno Domini* begin with 1 and not 0. I speculate (wildly) that perhaps because at that time the number zero was ironically non-existent. There is no true zero in the Roman Numeral system that originated in Ancient Rome which remained the standard numerical system until Arabic Numerals replace them circa the 14th Century. In 725CE zero began to be annotated as N in Roman Numerals. It is the origin of our word nihilism.

The base ten of Roman Numerals are 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. In the Arabic system we use today: 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. Do you see the difference?

One could easily get trapped into the history of the Julian and Gregorian calendar systems and how Dionysius Exiguus of Scythia Minor calculated Easter. But I'm already yawning, so I expect you are too.

So, in this absolutely meaningless subject that can spark immense debate, I come to only one conclusion. I'm embarrassed by the fashion of the '70s; I love the music of the '80s; the Roaring '20s was a crazy time (I imagine); the '30s not so much. I hope the 2000 twenties—or 2020s—will be a wonderful decade for me. And for me that starts on January 1, 2020.

Happy New Year!
and
Happy New Decade!

~ Help Wanted ~

Do you enjoy genealogy, ancestry and research?

ASHHS is looking for a volunteer to assist Karen Puck with genealogy.

The volunteer must be computer and internet savvy and have experience with genealogy and ancestry.

Volunteer must be local to Eastern Iowa.

If anyone is interested, please contact me at danielwholst@gmail.com.

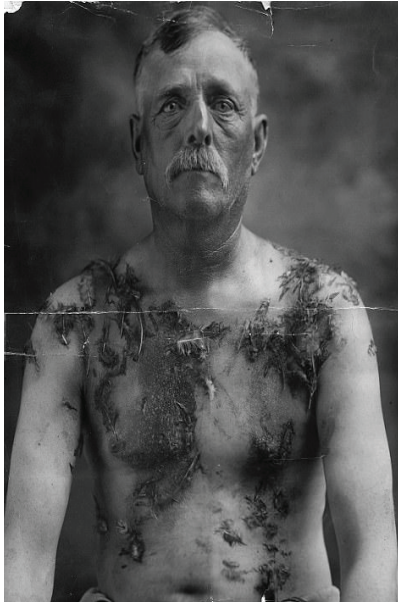
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You will find the application on the back cover.



Editorial: Today in 2020 Hindsight

~ By Daniel W. Holst



German Man Tar and Feathered



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Here Lies the Remains of German in B.H.S. (Baraboo High School, Wisconsin)



Chicago, Illinois

As we begin a new decade (see page 7), I thought a glance backwards could be insightful. It is 2020 and hindsight must be 2020 or history is nothing.

German immigration to America started off strong in the twentieth century. From 1901 to 1910, 314,500 Germans immigrated to America, but the next decade, 1911-1920 saw a huge reduction to 143,900. That is obviously the decade of World War I and the world was occupied under other needs. But remarkably, the following decade from 1921-1930 had 412,200 Germans immigrating to America. In fact, the two decades with the highest immigration count from Germany to America were the two following each World War. 1951-1960 had the highest immigration count of 477,800. By the end of the twentieth century only 58,900 Germans immigrated to America from 1991 to 1997. That period was the lowest of the entire century. (Data mined from “20 Century Statistics” from <https://www.census.gov/prod/99pubs/99statab/sec31.pdf>).

The two greatest decades of German growth following both World Wars is evidentiary salient. And the lowest at the close of the century is also historically salient as Germany finally became unified following the Cold War.

Unfortunately, those Germans arriving a century ago following World War I faced a culture that had normalized hatred and discrimination against Germans.

Many of those who propagated such hatred and discrimination obviously justified it via American deaths within the trenches lacing war-torn Europe or from those drowned within the RMS *Lusitania*.

—Historical sidenote: The sinking of the RMS *Lusitania* was justified under the *Law of Armed Conflict* as the declared neutral America was secretly transporting weapons and other war materials to Britain.—

Unfortunately, purveyors of hatred justify it from some personal excuse of loss or even the perceived threat that an unknown entity or idea may cause.

These four pictures display the hatred German immigrants faced in coming to America following World War I. Such hatred still existed following WWII. Yet Germans still emigrated. While German discrimination has mostly abated, other ethnic, cultural, and ideological hatred remains. Do we then use our strength and experience to ignore it or lead against it?

Einen Frohen Valentinstag! Happy Valentine's Day

~ Editor

Germans do have a strong propensity for love. I fondly remember many times that a German citizen helped me to navigate German culture or German transportation for this hapless American. German *Kantines* from Bitburg, Germany to Sardinia, Italy to Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas love their international customers eager for authentic German culture. But that authenticity doesn't include Valentine's Day.

Legends surrounding Saint Valentine continue to proliferate culture and folk traditions. But Saint Valentine had nothing to do with our modern Valentine's Day. That distinction belongs to 14th Century English poet Geoffrey Chaucer. He wrote in the 1382 poem *Parlement of Foules* using Middle English "For this was on seynt Volantynys day / Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make." (For this was on St. Valentine's Day, when every bird cometh there to choose his mate).

Both William Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and John Donne's poem celebrating the marriage of King James' daughter Elizabeth Stuart (The Winter Queen) to Frederick V, King of Bohemia (1619-1620) helped to create what we know as our modern Valentine's Day.

Edmund Spenser created the "Roses are Red" convention from his 1590 *The Faerie Queen* poem:

She bath'd with roses red, and violets blew,
And all the sweetest flowres, that in the forrest grew.

Valentine's Day in Germany is a relatively new tradition only dating back a few decades. Many believe it was the American soldiers stationed in Germany during the 1950s who introduced Valentine's Day to Germany. Additionally, it is primarily an adult oriented celebration. While Germany has embraced several surrounding and familiar traditions, Germany does have some unique Valentine's Day traditions.

The pig is identified with German Valentine's Day traditions. Also Germans bake large heart-shaped ginger cookies called *Lebkuchenherz*. Happy Valentine.



Valentine's Day Vocabulary

	Valentine's Day = der Valentinstag (Plural: die Valentinstage)
	Happy Valentine's Day! = Einen frohen Valentinstag!
	flower = die Blume (Plural: die Blumen)
	He gives her many flowers as a gift. = Er schenkt ihr viele Blumen als Geschenk.
	heart = das Herz (Plural: die Herzen)
	My heart is yours. = Mein Herz gehört Dir.
	kiss = der Kuss (Plural: die Küsse)
	It is a soft kiss on the cheek. = Es ist ein sanfter Kuss auf die Wange.
	love = die Liebe (Plural: die Lieben)
	He is my big love. = Er ist meine große Liebe.
	marriage proposal = der Heiratsantrag (Plural: die Heiratsanträge)
	He proposes to his girlfriend. = Er macht seiner Freundin einen Heiratsantrag.

Learn German Couch

Crosses of Distinction

~ By Daniel W. Holst

“Waking the Dragons”

~ Ciechanow, Poland, June 16, 2019, 1300 hours

Senior Airman Kylie Schaffer ensured her ear-plugs were fully seated and that her earmuffs fit snugly just before the dragon awoke. Drogon woke, and what began as a loud squeal slowly grew into a vast roar until the squeal fell off and only the roar remained. Kylie named her favorite F-15E Strike Eagle Drogon after the dragon from *The Game of Thrones* for it always flew true, and Noah was its dedicated crew chief. She stood next to the halon fire extinguisher as the fireguard in case a fire erupted during the startup sequence. Noah walked around the running aircraft removing safety pins and ensuring all final pre-flights were completed. After all was completed, he stood to the front and left side of the aircraft.

After a few minutes, Noah joined his fists and split them apart with thumbs outward. It was the universal signal to remove the wheel chocks, and Kylie removed both pair and then stood to the side while Noah marshalled Drogon from parking into the taxiway. Noah saluted the pilot on her way out and reached up and tagged the Radar Warning Receiver antenna on the wingtip. He kept his hand up to high five Kylie. “Another good launch.”

Kylie stretched up and slapped his raised hand. “How long is the mission today?”

“She is flying a CAP mission today, so about eight to ten hours or so.”

“Wonderful. Too bad we can’t play some cards.”

Looking at the expeditor truck driving up fast, he commented, “can’t he give us just a moment’s rest?”

Kylie rolled her eyes in response. “Yeah, look around.” She saw the trees of Ciechanow standing tall, her fellow Airmen carrying on their normal duties. No shots or blasts interrupted the post-launch quiet. It was peacefully quiet and calm. “Yeah, war is unforgiving. It never stops.”

The expeditor pulled up right next to them. “You two are needed in the pro-super’s office immediately. Get in.”

Noah and Kylie exchanged a quick glance and got in the truck. The expeditor drove off.

Master Sergeant Daniels looked over his computer and glanced at some papers on his desk. “Okay, sir will do. Will have them in the air in an hour.” Daniels

clicked the button on his speaker phone and saw Noah and Kylie at his door. “Balls 28 had an in-flight emergency for an environmental failure. You two along with a security officer, an ENE specialist, and Master Sergeant Herring are flying into Ukraine. You need to get your fast-pack bags and we’ll take you to the terminal. All your equipment is being gathered now. You will also be armed as this is civilian territory close to the Russian border. Master Sergeant Herring will further brief you on the C-17. We need you there now, the plane back in the air ASAP, and you back here yesterday. Understand!”

“Yes sir,” spoke both Kylie and Noah. They quickly departed to gather their bags.

By the time they reached the terminal, they saw the loadmaster of the C-17 Globemaster III prepare their equipment pallet for loading. Master Sergeant Herring stood behind the aircraft along with the security specialist who issued each of them an M-4 rifle with three 30-round magazines.

They slung the rifles over their shoulders and put the magazines in the pouch on their web belt.

Noah wondered. *Are we expecting any trouble or serious opposition?* He glanced protectively at Kylie. But she stood strong, confident, and uniquely able. *Was she not scared? Is she noticing that I am.* Noah settled his composure; he shuttered his insecurities and felt the cross pendant hanging under his shirt.

By the time everything was loaded and the cargo doors were closed, Herring looked at each of them. “The following brief is classified. Balls 28 has IFE’d into an old and secret Cold War airfield outside of Vysoka Yaruha. It is only a few miles from Russia. Due to optics, we cannot be seen flying there. We will land at the Kharkiv International Airport in early evening and our Ukrainian operatives will drive us down the M2 motorway to the downed aircraft. They will have two unmarked cars. I will ride in the first with the specialist then Kylie, Noah, and Security will ride in the second. Our equipment will follow in a truck. Do not relinquish your arms for any reason. The specialist has confirmed he can fix the aircraft in two hours. Afterwards Kylie will key in the electronic warfare codes. We will forgo a separate operational check. The pilots will perform it upon startup with everyone standing by for any issue that might prevent flight. Our goal is to

Crosses of Distinction

~ Continued from previous page

get it back in the air towards Ciechanow and us back to Kharkiv before daybreak. Any questions?"

Herring didn't notice any blank or confused expressions. He knew these people, and he knew he had the best team. "Get some rest people. It is going to be a long night."

~ 17 May 1870, 1000 hours, Hamburg, Germany

Ailbe stood in amazement. The ships along the quay dwarfed the surrounding warehouses. Men moved crates and other goods along cranes, tracks, and wagons. Steam and electricity ran this machine of flawless German labor. The sky stank of wood, coal and grease, but pride swelled up within him like the sun rising after pre-dawn rain. Pride for having fought for his country, and pride for his sons who were leaving for a better life in America. So why did he feel so guilty? Was he now denying his teenage boys the choice that children need to become women and men? No, he believed America offered plenty of hardship for them to grow into their future. In sending them away from war, he knew he was right.

"Dad, which ship is ours?" ask Hansi.

"Yeah, which one wants to take us to America." Harimann sarcastically replied.

"There she is," replied Ailbe. He was a bit taken back by his vernacular of a sea shanty. It must have been from the books he once read as a child. Such large ships became living landscapes of imagination. Whales and leviathans whose grandeur and promise of life and death intoxicated everyone onto the wine-dark seas of ancient legend.

"The Lady Anglia?"

"Yes, boys. She sails under a British flag, but she is strong and makes straightway for New York. You both remember what I instructed you."

"Yes, father," replied Harimann. We will land at Ellis Island, and request immigrant status as agriculturalists going to Iowa.

"Now remember, you both have first class tickets to ease your transition into America, so it is important to keep yourselves clean and presentable throughout the trip."

Ailbe looked at them with love and admiration.

"You will do fine. Your mother and I love you."

Ailbe and the boys said their last goodbyes. Several

hugs tied the knots of family, and tears broke apart a son's reliance for his father and likewise a father for his son. Manhood arrived, never late, but always early.

Hansi and Harimann stood on the ship's deck. All checked in and luggage put away, they watched as the ship pulled away from the harbor. Harimann looked out towards the horizon. "Are you scared, Hansi," he asked his twin brother.

"Not anymore."

Harimann looked towards his brother but saw and heard nothing, then a splash, a scream, and faint words. "Goodbye, Harimann. Enjoy America."

Harimann saw his brother swim towards the harbor. Harimann watched the receding shore, scared to look the horizon, scared at the unknown.

Hansi reached the shore and thankfully found the money he stashed away still secure. He walked the streets of Hamburg for a while before finding a small hotel. He entered and saw some Prussian soldiers discussing operations. "Hello good sirs. I want to fight for my country too."

Their leader shook his head. "Who are you? Boy."

"My name is Hansi," Standing tall now to face them as equals in strength and courage, "I am twenty years old without a family. I will fight for Germany. I will be a soldier."

The head soldier laughed. All right boy, let's see if you can fight, but don't call us soldiers, we are dragoons." Then he swung his fist into Hansi's head. Hansi fell, but not flat.

He quickly stood but instead of leaping at the dragoon, he stood still and said, "but you hit like a soldier."

The dragoon yelled and dived toward Hansi. But Hansi's father was a great soldier and a better father. He taught his boys how to fight thugs.

Hansi caught the dragoon's arm and twisted it away to force the dragoon lower. He kicked him square in the butt and the dragoon fell face flat upon the grimy floor.

The other dragoons laughed and their leader got up quickly, red-faced and furious. He reached out and grasped Hansi's head. "You fight with wit and courage, boy."

Hansi insisted, "My name is Hansi."

The dragoon smiled. "Welcome to the Prussian Dragoons, Hansi. Consider yourself a Dragoner."

Scouting Iowa: From Scottish Aristocracy to California, and Saving George Washington

~ Editor

Did you know that the roots of the state of Iowa are found within Scottish history, the founding of California, and saving George Washington from the Conway Cabal during America's Revolutionary War?

I did not!

That is, until I decided to use the Prussian Dragoons in chapter five of *Crosses of Distinction* (pages 10–11). I knew of the military unit called a dragoon, but I never knew what they were. Dragoons are simply mounted calvary units that can also fight on foot. But I should stop before I spoil the story.

William Alexander was the senior male descendent of the paternal grandfather of the 1st Earl of Stirling (died 1640) of Scotland. He was initially awarded the title "Earl" in 1759 by a Scottish Court, but the House of Lords overruled Scottish law and denied him aristocracy. However, William Alexander continued to call himself Lord Stirling.

More importantly, William Alexander was a Revolutionary War Major General and commanded the 1st Maryland Regiment. He fought in the Battle of Long Island, but it was a battle he lost from which he was captured. However, his loss allowed General Washington to escape. In the long game, it was a victory.

The British released him in a prisoner exchange, and Washington welcomed him back with a promotion but more importantly, trust.

That trust paid off when Alexander exposed the Conway Cabal. Led by Brigadier General Thomas Conway, the cabal sought to replace Washington with General Horatio Gates. The cabal failed and Washington led the Continental Army to victory and ultimately himself to the Presidency.

William Alexander died in 1783, but left behind a family. And one of his great grandchildren was Stephen Watts Kearney (sometimes annotated as Kearny).

Kearney was a major military figure in the Mexican-American War. Because he was the ranking Army officer, Kearney claimed command of California following the war. There is some dispute in this particularly from Commodore Stockton of the US Navy Pacific Squadron which actually put California under US control.

Kearney's exploits included many events within US history. He was associated with Kit Carson, found and buried members of the ill-fated Donner Party, and wrote the Kearney Code. He has many locations named after him. He is also called the Father of the United States Calvary. And that is where our story as Iowans begins.

In 1833, he was assigned second-in-command of the newly formed 1st Dragoon Regiment (the first US mounted infantry unit). The 1st Dragoon Regiment eventually became the now famous and still active 1st US Calvary.

In 1835, Colonel Kearney led the 1st Dragoon Regiment as they scouted Iowa following the pur-

chase of Iowa from Chief Blackhawk in 1832.

To commemorate that action, Iowa designated the Dragoon Trail in 1933.

For 200 miles the Dragoon Trail follows the 1st Dragoon Regiment as they scouted along the Des Moines River and founded outposts in Fort Dodge, Knoxville, and Pella (among others).

The trail passes many attractions including Lake Red Rock, Ledges State Park, Kate Shelley High Bridge, and Dolliver Memorial Park.



What is a Zither?

~ Editor

The zither is an ancient, global musical instrument. And, as it turns out, it is quite popular in science fiction as Commander Spock from Star Trek is seen several times in the series and movies playing a variation of the zither.

Basically a zither is defined by two characteristics. One, it is a stringed instrument where the strings are stretched across a thin, flat body. Two, it lacks the neck assembly found in guitars or lutes. A zither can have any number of strings from one to several dozen.

There is the zither instrument usually classified between Concert, Chord, or Alpine. Then there is the zither family which includes a multiple groups of instruments from a kanun to a guqin to a dulcimer, and an autoharp. Technically, the piano also belongs to the zither family.

Evidence exists of a kanun dating back to 1600BCE, but no artifact remains. However, archeologists uncovered a Chinese guqin dating back to 433BCE. It was found in the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng.

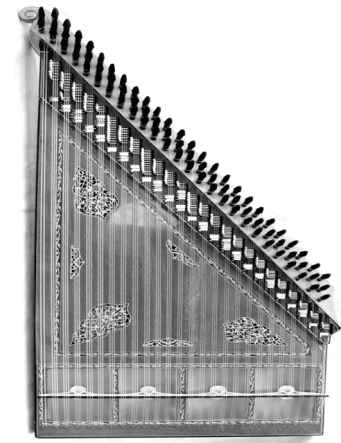
The name zither for the stringed instrument (or the instrument itself) was most probably introduced to Germany in the early 1600s. German scholar and musicologist Michael Praetorius described in his famous treatise on music theory *Syntagma Musicum* about an Englishman who visited Germany with a cittern (*einem kleinen Citterlein*).

The name has its roots from the Greek word *cithara* or latin *cythara* which is also the root word for guitar and cittern.

Regardless, the zither became quite popular, but its heyday ended

by the late 1960s. Due to its waning popularity, very few manufacturers build new zithers. As a result, most zithers in use today are about a century old.

We thank the Davenport Zither Assembly for their entertainment and involvement within the Iowa/Illinois community in reintroducing an ancient instrument to a 21st Century world.



Kanun



Zither at ASHHS Meeting



Japanese Zither



Chinese Zither



Spock playing Zither in Star Trek



Chinese Guqin

The Importance of Cultural Heritage

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Not everyone feels a connection with their cultural heritage, but many people do. What is it about cultural heritage that draws these people to it? Some may think traditions are archaic and no longer relevant, and that they are unnecessary during these modern times. Perhaps for some, they aren't; but for others, exploring cultural heritage offers a robust variety of benefits.

Culture can give people a connection to certain social values, beliefs, religions and customs. It allows them to identify with others of similar mindsets and backgrounds. Cultural heritage can provide an automatic sense of unity and belonging within a group and allows us to better understand previous generations and the history of where we come from.

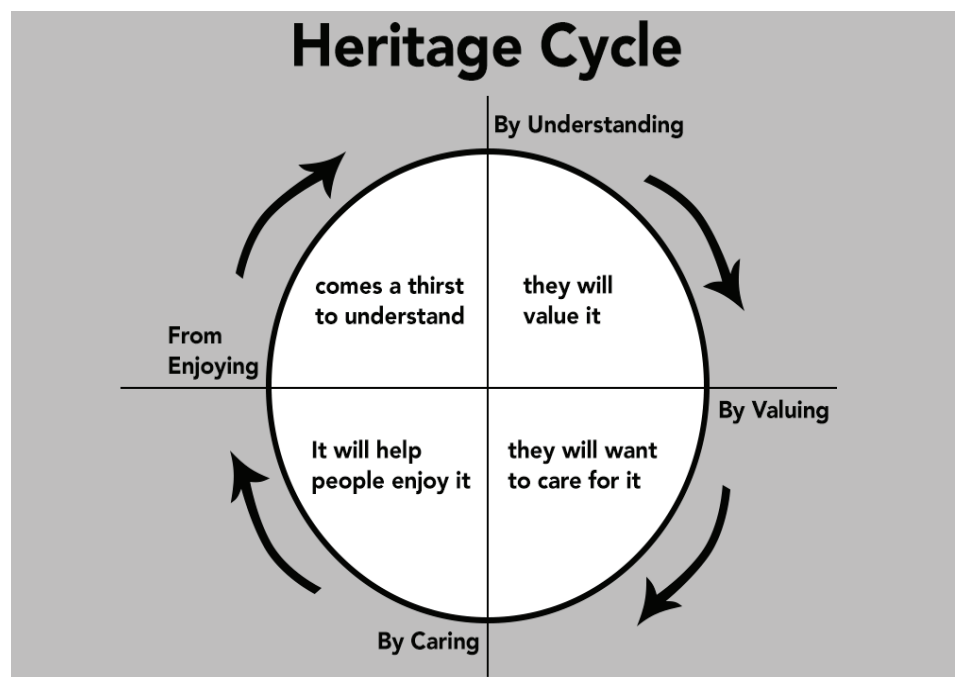
In large cities especially, it can be easy to feel lost and alone among so many other cultures and backgrounds. New York City, for example, is a huge melting pot of people from all over the country and the world. There are large communities based around certain cultural heritages, including Irish, Italian, Asian, and others.

Another benefit that comes from preserving cultural heritage as a whole is the communal support. Those that identify strongly with a certain heritage are often more likely to help out others in that same community. Real estate mogul Carl Mattone and his family, for example, are often sighted at fundraisers for local Catholic schools. Mattone was raised Catholic and attended Holy Cross High School in New York, where he has also been on the Board of Directors.

Cultural heritage is made up of many things large and small. We can see it in the buildings, townscapes, and even in archaeological remains. Culture can be perceived through natural sources as well: the agriculture and landscapes associated with it. It is preserved through books, artifacts, objects, pictures, photographs, art, and oral tradition. Cultural heritage is in the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the religions we follow, and the skills we learn. Sometimes we can touch and see what makes up a culture; other times it is intangible.

The Heritage Cycle from Simon Thurley helps explain the process of finding and incorporating culture into our lives, if we wish to do so. It begins with understanding the culture. Only then may we begin to value it. From there, we can learn to care for a culture and eventually enjoy it. With more enjoyment, we will want to learn and understand more—and so the circle goes.

Simon Thurley is a leading historian, former Museum director and former Chief Executive of English Heritage. (simonthurley.com)



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New members joining late in the year will have a paid membership through the following year.

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