

On Exhibit at Heritage Hall in 2017!

The German-American Experience: 1820 to 1920

People of German heritage were among the earliest white settlers of Marion County and the rest of Ohio. They were pushed out of their homeland by shortages of land and religious or political oppression. Many came seeking religious or political freedom, others for economic opportunities greater than those in Europe, and others simply for the chance to start fresh in a new land.

Many migrated from Pennsylvania during the late 1700s and the early 1800s along Zane's Trace. The arrivals before 1850 were mostly farmers who sought out the most productive land, where their intensive farming techniques would pay off. Many came to cities, where German-speaking districts soon emerged.

German immigrants tended to establish their own communities. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, many native-born Americans feared outsiders. Some of these people objected to the immigrants' religious and cultural beliefs, while others believed that the foreigners would corrupt the morals of United States citizens.

Those who were anti-immigration also contended that the quality of life within the United States would decline, as there were not enough jobs to employ the millions of people migrating to America. Many native-born Americans hoped either to limit immigration or to force foreigners to convert to American customs and beliefs.



In 1900, 204,160 native-born Germans resided in Ohio. The coming of World War I brought with it a backlash against German culture in the United States. Despite the fact that a large number of Ohioans had German ancestry, they faced a large amount of anti-German sentiment.



When the U.S. declared war on Germany in 1917, anti-German sentiment rose across the nation, and German-American institutions came under attack.

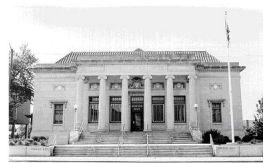
In some areas German street names were changed, the teaching of German was banned in schools, and German-language publications removed from libraries. For German-American culture, the new century was a time of severe setbacks--and a devastating blow from which it has never fully recovered.

Some discrimination was hateful, but cosmetic rather than physical: The names of schools, foods, streets, and towns, were often changed, and music written by Wagner and Mendelssohn removed from concert programs and even weddings. Physical attacks, though rare, are more violent: German-American businesses and homes vandalized, and German-Americans, accused of being "pro-German", were tarred and feathered, and, in at least once instance, lynched.

This exhibit tells the story of the impact German-Americans had on the early growth of Marion County and the effect World War I had on the local German-speaking communities.

Heritage Hall
169 East Church Street
Marion, Ohio 43302

Email:
mchs@marionhistory.com
www.marionhistory.com



Marion County Historical Society

2017 Upcoming Events



Celebrate Marion County and Ohio History with the Marion County Historical Society!

Tel: 740-387-4255
www.marionhistory.com

Be Sure to Attend These Events!

Exhibits Come to Life During "A Night at Heritage Hall"

The Marion County Historical Society presents the 10th Annual "A Night at Heritage Hall" Friday evening March 24th and Saturday evening March 25th. For MCHS members, pre-registration is \$3.50; tickets at the door \$4.00. For non-members, pre-registration is \$7.00; tickets at the door are \$8.00. Tour times: 7:00pm to 9:00pm both nights.



Explore the museum by flashlight, meet historic personalities and the past as you travel among exhibits throughout the historic 1910 building that spring to life to tell their stories.

To register your family or group for one of the flashlight tours, send your check or money order to *NAHH Heritage Hall, 169 East Church Street, Marion OH 43302* (be sure to specify which night) or purchase online at www.marionhistory.com.

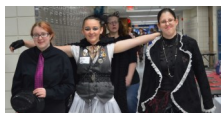
For more info call MCHS at 740-387-4255. Pre registration ends March 23rd.

Time Travellers' Faire



Join us at 7 PM on May 6th at the Tri-Rivers Career Center, 222 Marion-Mt. Gilead Rd, in Marion. This event includes opportunities to learn historic dances, watch demonstrations of historic crafts, participate in a costume parade and enjoy a wide assortment of

appetizers and desserts, listen to historic music, enjoy vaudeville shows and much more! Costumed Dress from the past, present, and future is encouraged but not required! Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at door.



Luncheon With the First Ladies



Join former First Ladies of the United States in the auditorium at Tri-Rivers Career Center in Marion on August

19th, at 11:00am. Listen to the experiences of the former First Ladies while enjoying some of the sumptuous dishes they served during their tenure at the White House! Cost per ticket is \$20.00 and all tickets must be ordered by August 10th. Purchase tickets by phone at 740-387-4255 or order online at www.marionhistory.com.

Travel Through Time

September 16th -17th beginning at 10am each day, the Marion County Historical Society



presents a walk through the 18th and 19th century at Sawyer-Ludwig Park located at 1313 Davids Street in Marion. Meet Native Americans, militia, settlers and Civil War soldiers as you step back in time with period food, historic entertainment, hands-on activities, historic trail tours, encampments, demonstrations, vendors and more.



Dinner With the Presidents



Meet and dine with Presidents of the United States of America and special guests, such as Mary Ellen Withrow, 40th Treasurer of the United States, on October 21st and November 4th, from 5:30 - 8:30 PM at Marion Harding High School located at 1500 Harding Highway East in Marion, Ohio.

The evening begins with a gala reception and the arrival of the Presidents followed by a buffet dinner of dishes taken from the White House cookbook! Reservations for the October dinner must be made by October 12th, reservations for the November dinner must be made by October 26th. Event prices are \$47.00 for VIP seating and \$26.00 for general seating, children \$20.00 general seating. No Children's prices for VIP. VIP seating with presidents is limited, please order tickets early!



For more info on these events, visit www.marionhistory.com, Email: mchs@marionhistory.com or call 740-387-4255.