

Early Faculty of the Technical School of Cincinnati 1886-1899

Anthony, Etta I. 1886-1889
Mathematics, English Language, History

Booth, E. R., Ph.D. 1888-1899
Mathematics, Language and Literature, Shopwork,
Political Science, Assistant Principal, Principal

Brewer, H. F. 1892-1899
Physics, Political Science

Chipman, Horace D. 1892-1899
Mechanical Drawing, In charge of Carpenter Shop

Feeney, T. L. 1889-1899
Mathematics, Science

French, Webster 1894-1896
Mathematics

Hammer, Gustav F. 1889-1899
In charge of Machine Shop

Homburg, Fred 1889-1891
Natural History, Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics
(left to take a position at Woodward High School)

Jackson, George, B.S. 1899
Chemistry

Jones, Benjamin 1893-1899
Drawing

Klemm, L. R., Ph.D. 1888-1889
Geography, History, Language, Drawing, Principal

Kuersteiner, Albert F. 1886-1887
Mathematics, Natural and Physical Sciences

Lynch, J. A. 1889-1890
Machine Drawing

Ritchey, S. E. 1889-1891
In charge of Carpenter Shop (left to take a position
in Chicago IL)

Russell, Louis S. 1886-1888
Woodwork, Shopwork

Slicer, Will H. 1886-1892
Drawing, Shopwork

Smith, Louis C. 1897-1898
Mathematics, Shopwork

Stanwood, James B., M.E. 1889-1899
Director

Von Eye, Fred H. 1889-1899
Modern Languages, in charge of Blacksmith Shop

Whitaker, Miss H. B. 1889-1899
Mathematics, History

Source: Technical School of Cincinnati Records, 1886-1926, n.d., Mss 708, Folder 3, Cincinnati Museum Center

BOOK REVIEW

Colleen Phillips

Cincinnati's Germans Before World War I

Don Heinrich Tolzmann

Little Miami Publishing Company, Milford 2021

One can only marvel at the tenacity of Cincinnati's German pioneers. They endured months at sea, often traveling in steerage where they had to provide their own meals. Escaping illness, poverty, and political upheaval in Germany, they were drawn to Cincinnati after reading accounts lauding the many attributes of the Queen of the West. While they may not have had much in the way of material possessions, these industrious immigrants brought with them a rich heritage that flourished, establishing Cincinnati's distinctly German character.

Who better to tell their story than Don Heinrich Tolzmann? A Cincinnati by choice since 1974, Tolzmann has authored and edited numerous books and articles on German American history, with an emphasis on Cincinnati topics. He currently serves as president of the German-American Citizens League of Greater Cincinnati and curator of its German Heritage Museum. In his latest work, *Cincinnati's Germans Before World War I*, Tolzmann explores the many facets of Cincinnati's Teutonic colonization and cultural influences between 1820 and World War I, a period about which he had not

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previously written at length. This book includes material from the author's lectures and published articles on the city's German history, as well as a wealth of new material, all combining for a first-rate companion to Tolzmann's earlier publications.

In addition to detailing the educational, cultural, religious, and entrepreneurial contributions of Cincinnati's German forefathers, this book includes Germanic observations on Cincinnati that undoubtedly encouraged countless *Damen und Herren* to settle in the area. As early as 1792, Moravian missionary Johann Heckewelder extolled the beauty of the area and its rich land. Carl Anton Postl (1827) and Gottfried Duden (1829) were equally smitten by the Queen City. Postl wrote of Cincinnati's businesses, industries, and accessible location and called the city "one of the prettiest towns in the Union." Duden reported one could live cheaply but well in Cincinnati and noted a large percentage of Germans settled in the city.

German travel writer, Friedrich Gerstäcker, paid Cincinnati the highest compliment. In his 1844 travelogue, he dubbed Cincinnati "the El Dorado of the German emigrant."

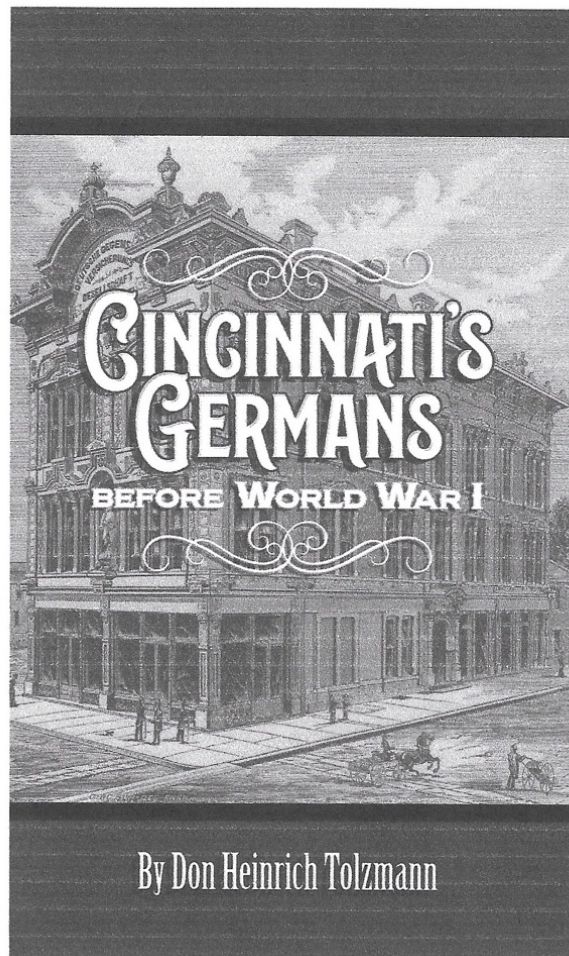
His numerous visits to Cincinnati, noted by several German-American historians, even included a mid-1840s interview for a teaching position in the newly opened German-English public schools. Regardless of where the road led him, Gerstäcker was drawn back to Cincinnati. In 1849, he wrote a widely popular guide for Germans coming to America that offered tips ranging from how to combat seasickness, choosing a farm site, and avoiding unscrupulous agents, to traveling into America's interior. He was held in such regard by his home

away from home that his death in Germany in 1872 was reported in the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

Readers will be able to read a translation of a letter penned in 1841 by Zinzinnatian Josef Riepberger to family back in Germany. Writing from his farm in Kolumpien (Columbia), he makes a strong case for his family to leave Germany for Ohio, citing all the area's finer points. In fact, he encourages

all young people to come to America. However, he writes, those between the ages of forty-five and fifty years old, without children on whom they can rely, should remain in Germany. Riepberger's letter also offers interesting insights into numerous aspects of daily life in Cincinnati.

The book includes a previously unpublished report on the Suspension Bridge written by Washington A. Roebling, son of John A. Roebling. Tolzmann, who has written and edited several books on Roebling and his bridge, discovered the 11-page manuscript while perusing the holdings of the Roebling Collection at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. In the brief report, Washington Roebling details the construction of the bridge and includes additional details about the span.



Cincinnati's Germans Before World War I provides a complete overview of Cincinnati's pre-World War I Germanic past in 217 pages. A selective Who's Who of Cincinnati's prominent German forefathers (excluding brewers and Civil War soldiers included in previous books), is an informative addition. Once again, Tolzmann has provided readers with a well-documented, thoroughly researched, and engrossing narrative. One need not have German ancestors to appreciate this book. †