

Book Review: *Illinois' German Heritage*, edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann, review by William Keel, in *Yearbook of German-American Studies*, 40(2005), pp.165-166.

Illinois' German Heritage.

Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann. Milford, OH: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2005. 190 pp. \$16.95.

Tolzmann's latest edition of historical texts and essays provides readers with a close look at one of the more neglected states in the German-American settlement area: Illinois. By bringing together firsthand accounts from the nineteenth century and essays from twentieth-century historians, this book explores the rich German heritage of Illinois from the earliest settlements to the present. More importantly, we learn about the significant role played by German leaders in Illinois during the tumultuous years leading up to, during and following the Civil War. The essays, together with Tolzmann's contributions in the area of research tools, offer both scholar and interested layperson an excellent introduction to the state's German side.

Following a brief introduction, which provides bibliographic detail on the selections edited for this volume, Tolzmann has culled and translated two chapters from Gustav Körner's book published in 1880, *Das deutsche Element in den Vereinigten Staaten von Nordamerika, 1818-1848*, that focus on the important German enclave east of St. Louis near Belleville, Illinois, that gave rise to the term "Latin Farmers" and also on settlements in central Illinois such as Highland settled by the Swiss. A third chapter, devoted to the Germans in Chicago, is taken from a 1932 publication, *The Germans of Chicago*, by Andrew Jacke Townsend.

After giving the reader an overview of the German settlements and important figures throughout the state, Tolzmann presents three biographical sketches of significant German immigrants in the nineteenth century: Gustav Körner (by Evarts B. Greene, 1907), Friedrich Hecker (by Alice Reynolds, 1946), and Francis A. Hoffmann (by D. I. Nelke, 1895). Both Körner and Hoffmann served as lieutenant governor of Illinois in the years surrounding the Civil War and were active in Republican politics, especially in the political career of Abraham Lincoln. Hecker, of course, was the hero of 1848 fame, who settled on a farm near Belleville, Illinois, and continued to speak out and serve the cause of liberty for the remainder of his life (Hecker enlisted as a private in the volunteer infantry formed in St. Louis in April 1861 upon Lincoln's call to put down the rebellion; he later became a colonel of his own regiment in Illinois).

In addition to providing lengthy annotated notes to each of the first six chapters, Tolzmann summarizes the development of the German community in Illinois in a final chapter on its "German Heritage." After placing the Germans of Illinois in the overall context of German immigration and settlement in the nineteenth century, he provides interesting details on political, religious and cultural life of the Germans in Illinois during that period. Of particular note are the events surrounding the controversial Haymarket Riot of 1886 and the subsequent pardon of some of the perpetrators by German-American governor John Peter Altgeld in 1893. This chapter concludes with a focus on the twentieth century, giving special attention to the German-American Alliance and the anti-German feelings during the World War One era, as well as developments since that time such as the formation of a new organization based in Chicago, the German-American National Kongress (D.A.N.K.). The volume also includes a guide to sources and an index.

In comparison with some of the editor's earlier publications of edited texts, the typographical errors appear greatly reduced. A second edition should, however, correct misspellings such as "Speier" (6; instead of *Speyer*), "Berkley" (9; instead of *Berkeley*), "18544" (74; instead of *1854*), or "principle" (94; instead of *principal*). Electronic word division has also apparently led to a number of unfortunate glitches that should be remedied, such as "Rhei-nkreis" (16) or "Man-nheim" (21). On page 75 we also find six lines of text repeated causing much confusion as to whether the Germans of Chicago favored or opposed the right of new immigrants to vote on the important issue of allowing slavery in Kansas Territory. But despite such *Schönheitsfehler* this is a volume worthy of widespread attention, both for those interested in the heritage of the German community in Illinois and beyond the borders of that state. Tolzmann believes that "German immigration has had a deep and lasting influence on the social, cultural, economic, religious, and political landscape of the state" (161). This reviewer concurs that the chapters presented by the editor confirm that claim.

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