

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

Book Reviews

German Heritage Guide to the State of Ohio

By Don Heinrich Tolzmann

2005. Available from Little Miami Publishing Co., P.O. Box 588, Milford, Ohio 45150-0588. Soft cover. 89 pages. Indexed. ISBN-10 1-932250. \$12.95 plus \$3.00 shipping and handling.

Tolzmann begins by stating the 1990 U.S. Federal Census indicates that 40 percent of the Ohio population claimed German ancestry making German-Americans the state's largest ethnic element.

Chapter titles include German Heritage Chronology, German Heritage Who's Who, German Heritage Towns and Cities, Notable German Heritage Sites, and ends with a listing of relevant museums and libraries. An extensive bibliography, references, and index complete the book sections.

Beginning in 1728, Johann Sodowsky, an immigrant from Posen who settled in Detroit, established trading with Ohio Indians in Sandusky. In the 1740's, Germans moved to the Ohio Valley. The chronology continues through the early 1800's, the Civil War (listing the German regiments and cavalry from Ohio), on into the 20th Century and ending with the year 2000.

Brief biographies are given of important Germans including such well known people as George Armstrong Custer (service man), Caroline L. Frankenberg (introduced the first kindergarten in America in 1838), William Clark Gable (movie star), Jack Nicklaus (golfer), John D. Rockefeller (founder of Standard Oil), Jerry Springer (TV personality), and Franz R. Wurlitzer (organ manufacturer) among others.

Descriptions and pictures, where available, of German churches are listed for all the counties in Ohio.

County locations of German-American Societies, bilingual schools, newspapers, area German villages and historical sites are listed.

Of particular interest are the museums and libraries listed in Chapter 5. They include the Mennonite Historical Library at Bluffton College; the German-American Collection at the Blegen Library located in the University of Cincinnati Archives and Rare Books Collection; and the German Heritage Museum in Cincinnati to name just a few. Addresses, websites, and telephone numbers are provided for all 29 of the listed museums and libraries.

German Heritage Guide to the State of Ohio is a wonderful reference guide for those interested in research in the state of Ohio whether one's ancestors settled there or moved through the state on their way to somewhere else. The reviewer especially enjoyed reading the biographies section.

Through this book, Tolzmann continues his informative, well organized and written German interest books.

Reviewed by Mariana Wilke