



BOOK REVIEWS

C*incinnati's Germans Before World War I.* By Don Heinrich Tolzmann. Milford, Ohio: Little Miami Publishing Co., 2021. 242 pages, bibliography, index, hardcover. \$26.95.

"Cincinnati, along with Milwaukee and Saint Louis, became one of the three major corners of the 'German Triangle,' so-called for its historically high concentration of German-American residents." (p. 19) One German branch of my family was in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky prior to World War I, so I was interested to learn about what they might have experienced a

century ago. What I found in this volume went far beyond basic life in the Queen City.

Tolzmann collected lecture notes from his German American Heritage course, which he taught at the University of Cincinnati, and articles he wrote, synthesizing them with new material in the production of this monograph. In doing so, he has produced a social history that enlightens our understanding of the nineteenth-century immigrant experience. While some chapters cover specific Cincinnati places and events, this book also addresses the broader topic of German immigration to the United States: reasons immigrants left Germany and points of origin, the ordeal of traveling in steerage, and facets of life in the new country, including education, religion, business and industry, the German press, and German societies, among

other topics. I found especially interesting the list of food that passengers in steerage were given and a letter sent home by a German immigrant in America.

In later chapters, Tolzmann focuses directly on Cincinnati, discussing the German beer barons of that city and northern Kentucky and the area's German heritage. He relates a firsthand account of the construction of the Roebling Suspension Bridge and provides a "who's who" of Cincinnati Germans.

If you have German ancestors who arrived in this country during the nineteenth century, this work offers interesting insights into what they found in America.

Reviewed by Jane Theissen
StLGS Quarterly co-editor

O*ur Quaker Ancestors, Finding Them in Quaker Records,* by Ellen Thomas Berry and David Allen Berry; Second Edition, edited by Jana Sloan Broglin. Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2022. 152 pages. Softcover. \$28.50.

The Society of Friends, known as Quakers, began in seventeenth-century England, around the same time as the Puritans. Fleeing religious persecution, they flocked to the American colonies and kept moving from one location to another as they pursued safety, peace, and economic stability. "They were a study in contradictions." (p. 16) They held rigid rules of how to worship, although they believed in religious freedom. They were against fighting and slavery, although some fought in the Revolutionary War, and some