



Germany Society

National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GERMANY SOCIETY

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GUTEN TAG:

Your Germany Society Newsletter brings to you the highlights of what happened at the Fall Leadership Conference in Louisville and a number of other interesting possibilities for our Society.



President Bruce A. Buehler

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT:

President Bruce brings you his best wishes for the New Year. May you and your families enjoy the blessings and opportunities made available in these United States. As we have been working to publish the second edition of the Germany Society Newsletter it occurred to me this time last year we were still thinking about what it would take to publish a newsletter. I felt strongly that a newsletter was a necessary vehicle of communication for the members of the society. I'm grateful that Compatriot Andrew "Andy" Johnson stepped up and asked to if he could be our Newsletter editor. As you can see it is great looking and hopefully it will provide our members with items that all can take an interest in and stay current.

Currently most of our members are dual from many of the 50 states. We have begun a recruiting effort in Germany with the hope that soon we can charter a chapter in country. With that being said you can see that communication can be a difficult task – at best.

We are trying to develop sections, in the newsletter, that will be a “standard” part of each publication such as a short synopsis of a member with photo. The Editor asked me to be the first candidate for this section – after long hesitation; I agreed. Another section will be devoted to articles about Germans during the Revolutionary War and what they accomplished. This publication features an article provided by **Dr. Robert England**, Primary member of the Alabama Society. The title of the article is German Formations in the Continental Army. I would encourage other members who have done research or doing research to provide them to our Editor for consideration and publication. Additionally, Dr. England provided a second article titled Germans and The American Revolution. Due to the length of the article, being prohibited for the newsletter, I will have it posted on the Germany Society Website.

I personally want to thank all of our members both Primary in Germany and our Dual Members here in the US. Our membership is growing in both groups and we are doing many good works for the SAR by showing a positive value as a society.

I’m proud of my Germany Society membership and proud to serve as your Society President. I hope you enjoy the newsletter. We welcome your feedback and ideas for future publications.

Fraternally,

Bruce A. Buehler

SOCIETY MEETING, 27 SEP 14, LOUISVILLE, KY: Our heritage demands that we keep really good records and the minutes of the

September meeting reflect that. They are so thorough that we can only summarize them here. The full content is on our website. Briefly, here are the highlights:

Twenty seven members attended the Fall Meeting. **Secretary Larry Guzy** reported that the current year membership showed 175 dual members and six resident members, an increase of two resident members over year end 2013. Several men living in Germany are pursuing transfer/membership. The dues notices were sent out by President Buehler. We need to continue pursuit of a recruiting ad in Germany through the USO and other means as well as making further contact with the DAR in Germany.

The Treasurer presented the committee developed budget and requested approval at this meeting. The amount the Society contributes annually to the SAR was raised to \$592 from \$500 so that in three years it will total \$1776 in keeping with the new campaign starting in January 2015. The return to reserves dropped to \$408. With these changes, the total budget of \$2350 was approved. The bank balance as of 15 Sep 2014 is \$2677.75

JROTC Committee Chairman David Jessel reported that there are four high schools in Germany that we support. There are a few more that are possibly supported by other Societies, and he will transfer them to this Society if they are not being well supported.

Our Constitution and By Law Committee: Herr **Lanny Patten** suggested an added statement to the approved by-laws incorporating the following thought: “promote formation of a viable

membership base in Germany". The Committee recommendations on the wording will be brought back to the spring meeting. **CSM William D. "Sky" King** has volunteered to be Chancellor and was approved by voice vote. His email address is joannandsky@aol.com

Newsletter editor Col. Andrew "Andy" Johnson will need input from compatriots for content. The Newsletter has no specific frequency established so it will be published periodically for now.

We will continue the Society support of Germany Resident Members by paying their 2015 National dues again to encourage new members. Once we reach our goal of a minimum of 15 Resident Members we could consider a change. Since September 2014 primary membership has increased to 9 members in Germany. Additionally, there are three prospective (resident) members who are currently working on their SAR applications.

And now, as promised, a brief biography of our leader: Bruce was born in Dayton, OH in a heavily German settlement community but now lives in Prattville, AL. He has a BS from Wright State University and a MPA in Public Administration from the University of Dayton. He also has a MA in Strategic Studies from the Air War College. Herr Bruce is a retired Federal Civil Service US Air Force civilian whose last assignment was HQ USAF, Pentagon, Washington, DC, as a Program Manager in the Logistics Directorate. He enlisted in USAF, 1965-1968, with service in Republic of Vietnam as a Combat Controller. He was commissioned 2 LT in US Army Reserve, Combat Engineer

Officer. In his last duty assignment, he served as Executive officer and Operations Officer for the 216th Engineer BN, Columbus, OH. Bruce retired as a Major in 1995. He is a member of too many worthy organizations to list but some include: Kentucky Colonel (42 years), Kiwanis International Distinguished Club President, 2010; and Distinguished Lt. Governor, 2011 and 2012, Order of Free and Accepted Masons, 32nd Degree (40 years), Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Prattville Promenaders Square Dance Club. In the SAR, he has been a member since January 22, 2010. His Patriot Ancestor is Jacob Coffman. Bruce is a primary member of the Alabama Society and a dual member of the Germany Society. He served the Alabama Society as Recording Secretary and State Secretary. He is currently Chairman, Veterans Recognition Committee, ALSSAR. Bruce has served as Vice President and is currently the President, Germany Society. Nationally, Bruce is serving as a member on seven committees to include Strategic Planning, Veterans Affairs, Veterans Recognition, DAR Liaison, Membership, JROTC/ROTC, and Knight Essay. His SAR recognitions include War Service Medal w/Vietnam Bar, Meritorious Service w/2 OLC, Society and Chapter Distinguished Service Medals, Patriot Medal, Chapter Roger Sherman Medal, Lamplighter Award for CAAH support, George Washington Fellows (supporter), Vietnam Corps (member), Knight Essay and JROTC/ROTC Endowments, contributor and member of the Friends of the SAR Library. He is married to Mary Alice (Wyatt) Spearnock. His **children**: Sheri L.

(Buehler) Casella (Deceased), Michael A. Spearnock, Suzanne "Michelle" (Buehler) Palmer and Patrick Reed Spearnock (SAR and Germany Society Member). Hard to believe he is old enough but he has 4 grandchildren; Daniel Palmer, Jr. (SAR and Germany Society member), Alyssa Palmer, Gianna Casella and Justin Palmer (SAR and Germany Society member). Bruce is a true renaissance man with interest in ballroom and square dancing, stained glass, and travel. He is a volunteer docent at The Alabama Archives and History and The Alabama Supreme Court. He is a supporter and contributor to the Friends of the Alabama Archives and History and the Montgomery Alabama Symphony. Bruce and Mary are members of the Prattville, AL Church of Christ.

GERMAN FORMATIONS IN THE CONTINENTAL ARMY by Dr. Robert England

This list is taken from The Encyclopedia of Continental Army Units: Battalions, Regiments and Independent Corps by Fred Anderson Berg published by Stackpole Books of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in 1972.

The most prominent of the German units was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Charles Armand Tuffin, a French nobleman. He commanded Baron Ottendorf's Independent Company and expanded it to include German prisoners of war and eventually formed a legion of mixed combat troops—dragoons, fusiliers, and possibly riflemen. Armand's Legion served mainly in the south. The legion served until November 25th of 1783 and was one of the last units in the army to be disbanded. (p.10)

Congress accepted Count Beniousky's American Legion. Close to 3,500 men filled its ranks when it was raised in France. The unit never sailed and since captured British and German soldiers joined, Berg speculates that "it is perhaps best these men never sailed." (p. 14)

In late June of 1776, Congress formed "the German Battalion of four Pennsylvania and four Maryland companies to be raised among the German settlers in those colonies" for an enlistment of three years as the 8th Maryland. The Maryland Corps formed around it. This unit had men from the Maryland Line and Rawling's formation. When the battalion ceased to exist, most of its men joined the 2nd Canadian Regiment and the Frederick Detachment. Commanders were Colonel Nicholas Haussegger and, later, Colonel the Baron de Arendt. (p. 47)

A unit of deserters, the German Volunteer Corps, never mustered as such. With more foreign soldiers, the men joined Armand's Legion. (p. 47)

In early December of 1776, Baron Ottendorf received a commission "to raise an independent corps." Strictly speaking, mercenaries, organized along the lines of a *freikorps*, serving as a light infantry company "and two companies of 'hunters' who possibly carried rifles, enlisted but for some reason, the command never fully organized. The soldiers found themselves under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Armand and became a legion. (p. 92)

German deserters served in Count Pulaski's legion, which gradually took on the characteristics of a *friekorps*. British deserters also joined. The formation eventually had mounted troops as well as infantry after the fashion of legions at that

time. After the count's death at Savannah, survivors joined a continental dragoon regiment—the 1st Light Regiment—while the infantry went to the 1st South Carolina Regiment. The officers received commissions with Armand's Legion. (p. 102)

Many of the foreign formations failed to completely organize for service. One of these was Captain John Paul Schott's Independent Corps. Three months after authorization, the men joined Ottendorf's Company. (p. 107)

Captain Von Heer's Provost Troops of Light Dragoons served as marchesie or military police. Von Heer, having previously served with Armand's Legion, recruited a number of foreigners for his command. Two non-commissioned officers and eight privates stayed on with headquarters and "were among the last horsemen in the Continental Army." (p. 133)

JOHANNES SCHWAIN COLLECTION:

The SAR Library has in its inventory volumes of the Johannes Schwain Historical Collection (JSHC) on the Hessians. The library is missing a few volumes. The Librarian General, C. Bruce Pickette, took action to obtain the missing volumes. Once all of the missing volumes are received, the library will possess a complete set. I would urge any of the Society members who are researching names of Germans who came over during the Revolutionary War to utilize the collection as one of the resources available for your research.

GERMANY SOCIETY LAPEL PIN

On 7 November President Buehler sent an email to a representative number of members to vote on a new fund raiser for

the Germany Society. The voting was positive and we will proceed with the project.

The profits from the sale of the lapel pins will be used to purchase two Regimental Deux Ponts flags. The Regimental flag is the flag the German Regiment carried when they fought against the British and other forces at Yorktown contributing to the surrender of General Cornwallis.



There is no known source for the flags; they will need to be handmade. The estimated cost of the flags is \$3,000.00. One of the flags will permanently hang in the SAR Museum and the other will be used by the Society for meetings and other events. (See page 6 for illustration) The lapel pin, illustrated above, will be 5/8" in diameter. The initial order will be for 300 pins. Pricing will be \$15.00 with shipping and handling included in the price. The quantity being ordered, once sold, should cover the estimated cost of the flags.

An announcement will be sent shortly to all members on how to pre-order the pins. It is a beautiful pin and will be something the Society members can wear with pride.

SOCIETY DUES: Society dues are separate and above your primary state dues. Early submission of payment is always appreciated and the dues remain at \$10.00 for the year. The dues cards were sent to

Society members in September. Your dues allow the Germany Society to continue good works and are very much appreciated. If you have not sent your dues for 2015 to our Society Secretary/Treasurer it would be most appreciated.



The flag of the Royal Deux Ponts Regiment

RECRUITING: If you enjoy the activities of the Germany Society and wish those works to expand, please tell other members about the Society and why you enjoy being a member of it. Ancestry is not a requirement but many, probably most, members have German heritage and perhaps even relatives in what is now Germany. It is a heritage worthy of celebration!

Send your application and a check for the modest sum of \$10.00 (How many DM to a dollar was that in the old days?) and send to Treasurer Larry Guzy at 4531 Paper Mill Rd. SE, Marietta, GA 30067-4025.

THE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP MEDAL:

The well-designed medal you see in column two on this page is a symbol of membership in the Germany Society. It is available to members in full size medal and in miniature for formal wear. Price for the set is \$50.00 which includes shipping and handling.



The Germany Society Membership Medals
Sons of the American Revolution

“The Germany Society Sons of the American Revolution was established to honor the men of German Regiments who fought under the French Expeditionary Forces in support of establishing

Independence for
America. Many of our
memberships have
ancestors of German
heritage.”