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The Pennsylvania German Heritage Center Association



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**RETURN TO:**  
Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center  
Kutztown University  
PO Box 306  
Kutztown, PA 19530

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

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**PA German Cultural Heritage Center**  
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania  
PO Box 306  
Kutztown, PA 19530

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**Heritage Center News**

Published regularly for the friends of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University.

Number 28

Fall--2004

Newsletter edited by Mary K. Henry  
Administrative Assistant

**Slate of Events – 2004-05**

- December 4\* Christmas on the Farm
- February 5 Antique Valentine Workshop
- February 8 PA German language class starts
- April 9-10 Reading/Berks and Lehigh Guild Craft Show
- April 23\*\* Springtime on the Farm
- April 23-24 Old Time Plow Boys plowing show
- June 20-30 Heritage Hostel trip to Germany
- July 2-10 Kutztown PA German Festival
- July 25-28 Children's Cultural Camp
- August 13-14 Old Time Plow Boys plowing show
- September 17 National Genealogy Seminar
- Date TBA Harvest Festival
- December 3\*\*\* Christmas on the Farm

\*Snow date December 5

\*\*Rain date April 24

\*\*\* Snow date December 4

Ongoing school tours are held throughout the year. The Center is opened for group tours by appointment. Individuals can tour the Center of Monday through Friday from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. To schedule an appointment, please call 610-683-1330.

Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center  
PO Box 306  
Kutztown, PA 19530  
610-683-1330  
610-683-4638 (fax)  
henry@kutztown.edu

<http://www.kutztown.edu/community>

**DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**

This will be one of my last communiqués with you as the Freyberger Professor. A faculty search is taking place for my replacement and hopefully the new person will be designated by the end of December. I do not plan to drop out of the study of the Pennsylvania Germans, and my work on Pennsylvania Germans in the American Revolution and World War II will continue. I will also continue to work closely with the Pennsylvania German Society.

We have come a long way in 10 years, and very little of this would have been possible without the true Pennsilfaanisch Deutsche Leit—namely you! I am reluctant to start thanking you by name as there are so many, and I merely ask those who have worked so closely with me to accept my deep gratitude and hearty thank you.

In closing, I do want to discuss one of my research projects and that is the Pennsylvania Germans in the Revolutionary War. I have talked to you briefly before about von Heers Provost Corps (military police) of the Continental Army. This is a group of men coming primarily from Reading and Pottstown, and nearly 90% were Pennsylvania Germans. I have an article soon to appear about these important men. We have started a living history group reenacting this unit. So far they have made appearances at the Moland House, Valley Forge, and the Brandywine battle site, and in all cases they were warmly received for their authenticity and their use of German. If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact me at 610-683-8944, and we can discuss ways for you to become a dragoon in the Marechausee.

This unit was formed in the winter of 1777-78 at the Valley Forge encampment, and its commander was Captain Bartholomew von Heers of Reading, PA. The unit was designated as a light dragoon corps (cavalry), but not all men served as horsemen. Their job was to guard the army from spies and infiltrators. They maintained law and order, arrested deserters, chased out loose women, and controlled the sale of liquor and other goods in camp. Washington was adamant about the development of this Corps, and through the remaining years of the war, they served

not true is the claim that they were Washington's personal body guard—they were not! On occasion they would serve in that capacity, but this was not their normal duty.

Once again, thank you for some wonderful memories and support in helping build a great center for the study of this wonderful culture.

Mach's gut!  
David L. Valuska  
Executive Director &  
Freyberger Professor of PA  
German Studies

**News from the Farm**

Christmas on the Farm will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on December 4 (snow date is December 5). The Belsnickel (PA Dutch Santa) will visit the one-room school where you will be welcomed by the school marm. The Wieand Folk Lore Choral Group will sing dialect Christmas songs, renowned PA German artists will demonstrate and sell their unique crafts, and the aroma of home baked cookies ready for children to decorate will lure visitors to the kitchen where mulled cider will be warming in the walk-in fireplace. Clear-toy candies made with antique molds will be made in the summer kitchen. The genealogy library will be open, and the Pastorius Association will share information on the first prominent German settlers in America. Food will be available for sale as well. The farmhouse museum will be deck out for Christmas, and visitors are invited to stroll the grounds and visit the log cabins and the other buildings to enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas.

I would encourage those of you who have not yet become members to consider joining the Association for fiscal year 2004-2005. Information is listed in the column to the right. Simply cut off the panel, fill out the reverse side, and mail it with your check. Members now receive the acclaimed semi-annual *Pennsylvania German Review* and will have a yearly journal/yearbook made available to them as well. We look forward to seeing your name listed on our membership list.

**Category Membership Gift**  
*(All members may tour the buildings at the site free)*

- Paerson** (individual).....\$25-\$49  
*Use of library, Heemet Fescht, publications—free*
- Familye** (Family—children under 18).....\$50-\$599  
*Use of library, Heemet Fescht, publications—free*
- Hunnert Daaler Helfer** (\$100 Helper).....\$100-\$249  
*All of above plus 10% discount on items offered for sale at the Center's gift shop*
- Gross Helfer** (Big Helper).....\$250-\$499  
*All of above plus priority participation in trip to Germany*
- Bresident Glieder** (President Member)....\$500-\$999  
*All of above plus free dinner at Glieder Fescht*
- Hoch Gewwe Glieder** (Top Giver)....\$1,000-\$2,499  
*All of above plus large unframed school print*  
*(The amounts listed above are annual fees)*
- Leweszeit Glieder** (Lifetime Member).....\$2,500+  
*All of above plus large framed school print*

Please send me information to include the Heritage Center in my estate planning.

**Mission of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center**

The mission of the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University is to gather, preserve, and disseminate knowledge of Pennsylvania German rural life in southeastern Pennsylvania. The primary functions of the Center are educational and archival. Our mission is achieved by programs and collections which authentically portray Pennsylvania German life. Examples of programs are lectures, musical events, reenactments, folklife festivals, and courses in folklore, history, and the Pennsylvania German dialect. Collections include the Center's buildings and artifacts, literature, historical and genealogical records representing the spectrum of activity in rural life of the period. The Center is part of the educational program at Kutztown University as well as a public resource. The Center seeks the participation and support of individuals and organizations in fulfilling its mission.