



BALTIMORE CITY HALL,
DESIGNED BY ARCHITECT
GEORGE ALOYSIUS FREDERICK
(1842-1924).

THE GERMAN FACE OF MARYLAND

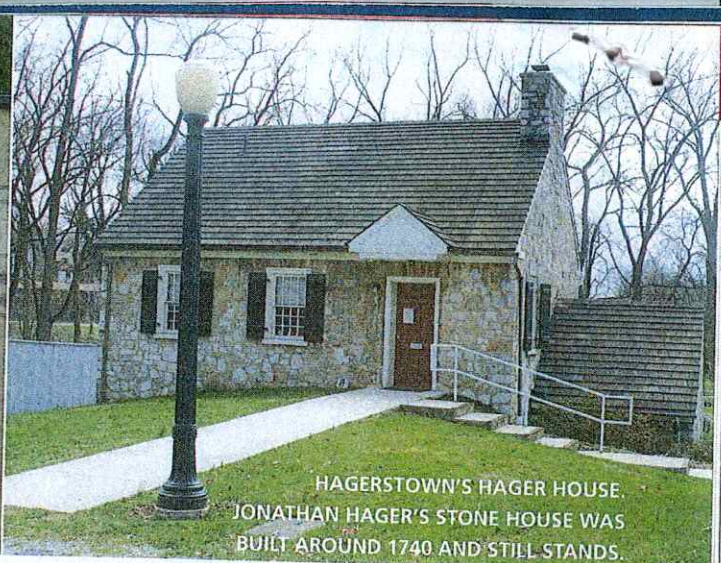
BY SHELLEY ARNOLD

The “Old Line State” has a history rich with German history and contributions.

Maryland, like many other states, has been home to many persons of German lineage. If you listen to the state song, “Maryland, My Maryland”, the music will sound very familiar to German ears as the song is set to the tune of “Lauriger Horatius”—better known as the tune of “O Tannenbaum”. My great grandparents arrived in Baltimore in 1848 (Clemans Schwartz and sons) and 1865 (John Dolch and family), two centuries after the first Germans arrived in America in 1608. It was that German heritage and my research of Germans in Maryland that prompted me to approach Delegate Susan Aumann and Senator Katherine Klausmeier, both serving in the Maryland General Assembly, and solicit their help to introduce a bill declaring October German American Heritage Month in Maryland. After three years, the support of several legislators and the German clubs in Maryland, HB34/SB17 finally passed during the last minutes of the 2013 session. The new law was signed by Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley on May 2, 2013. It was an important step to acknowledge the numerous contributions German Marylanders have made to the state and to the world.

After Lord Baltimore, in 1732, made the liberal offer of 200 acres of land in fee for a cheap rent, it didn’t take long for Germans to populate Maryland. Germans settled throughout the entire state beginning with a migration from Pennsylvania to the Maryland west, down to the main metropolitan area of Baltimore.

One of the main counties settled by the Germans with some of the earliest recorded histories was Frederick. Proof of one of the earliest settlements here is Schifferstadt: built in 1758 by Elias Bruner, the youngest son of Joseph Bruner, a German immigrant. Joseph and his family emigrated from the village of Klein Schifferstadt in the Palatinate region of Southwest Germany in 1829, living first in Pennsylvania. He purchased the large piece of land in what is now Frederick County, Maryland in 1746, cleared it and built the home for his family. The first home, in all probability, was a log cabin or Holzbau (three room wooden structure). This structure was replaced with the current stone structure which, it has been said, was built to house not only the Bruner family but also other family members and neighbors that sought refuge from the raids during the French and Indian War. Many of the original architectural features -- many traditionally German, such as the built in cupboards near the fireplace, the winding staircases and the baking oven -- remain after more than 200 years.



HAGERSTOWN'S HAGER HOUSE.
JONATHAN HAGER'S STONE HOUSE WAS
BUILT AROUND 1740 AND STILL STANDS.

Hager House and Museum

When German immigrants and founder of Hagerstown, Jonathan Hager, arrived in this colony in 1708, western Maryland was a frontier. Maryland's colonial governor was offering cheap land to those willing to settle here. In 1739, Hager obtained 200 acres which he called "Hager's Fancy" and began building the home. He presented his new bride, German neighbor, Elizabeth Berninger, with their new home in 1740.

Hager House's 2nd stone walls offered protection from attack and the elements. Rye straw and mud filler between floors and partitions provided insulation. Two cool springs under the house made the basement a pleasant retreat on hot summer days.

Jonathan Hager grew prosperous here. He opened a trading post in his new home and acquired more land. In 1743, he sold "Hager's Fancy" to Jacob Rohrer for a substantial profit. Hager House remained in the Rohrer family until 1944 when it was purchased by the Washington County Historical Society. It was presented to the City of Hagerstown in 1964 and was opened to the public in 1967.

Today, restored and furnished, Hager House offers a glimpse of 18th century life. The adjacent Hager Museum houses an extensive collection of period artifacts, including many items discovered during the restoration of the Hager House.

Not far from Schifferstadt, a little further west, you will find Hagerstown, named after Jonathan Hager (1719 to 1775), a German immigrant from Westphalia. His stone house, built around 1740 still stands in Washington County, Maryland. Jonathan Hager originally named his 200 acres of land Hager's Fancy, but officially changed it to Elizabethtown (after his wife) in 1762. The town grew dramatically and Hager was elected to the General Assembly. At that time, he couldn't take his seat because of his German birth. This led to the House of Delegates changing the law and Hager taking his seat, not once but twice—he was elected again in 1773. The town name was officially changed to Hagerstown in 1813 when the Maryland State Legislature officially endorsed it.

Travel a little further west to Cumberland and here too, you find the many contributions of the early Germans. Churches began to raise their spires in the Cumberland sky, including St. Peter & Paul (the most important German Catholic settlement outside of Baltimore in 1841). Even before that church was built, St. Paul's Lutheran, formerly Christ's English Lutheran, was established in 1794 and even though the name said English, the original constitution was written in German. St. Luke's Lutheran was a little different than what we are accustomed to seeing...here a German congregation was withdrawing from an English congregation, St. Paul's. As the number of Germans increased in the area, St. Luke's, in 1838 became their own separate German congregation. The Germans had arrived in Cumberland.

The town grew and prospered because of businesses like the Old German Brewing Company, also known as the Queen City Brewing Company. At its peak it produced more than 250,000 barrels of beer a year: "Old German Beer" was a household name in the 1950s. The company was acquired (as were the beer labels of Old German, Old Export, Heritage House, Brown Derby, Gamecock Ale and Old Dutch) by the Pittsburgh Brewing Company in the 1970s and the brewery itself was demolished in 1975, ending 152 years of brewing in Cumberland. The area also boasted one of the largest department stores, Rosenbaum's. The store was built in 1897 and at one time was one of the largest employers in the area, putting some 200+ Cumberland residents to work. The store was owned by Simon and Fredericke Rosenbaum, German immigrants.

What is so great about the department store is the architecture. Built by Architect J. S. Siebert in Renaissance form, the building features three large arcades with three-sided bay windows. There are multiple carvings and sculptures within the cornice and arcades. The building still stands and is part of the Cumberland Historic District.

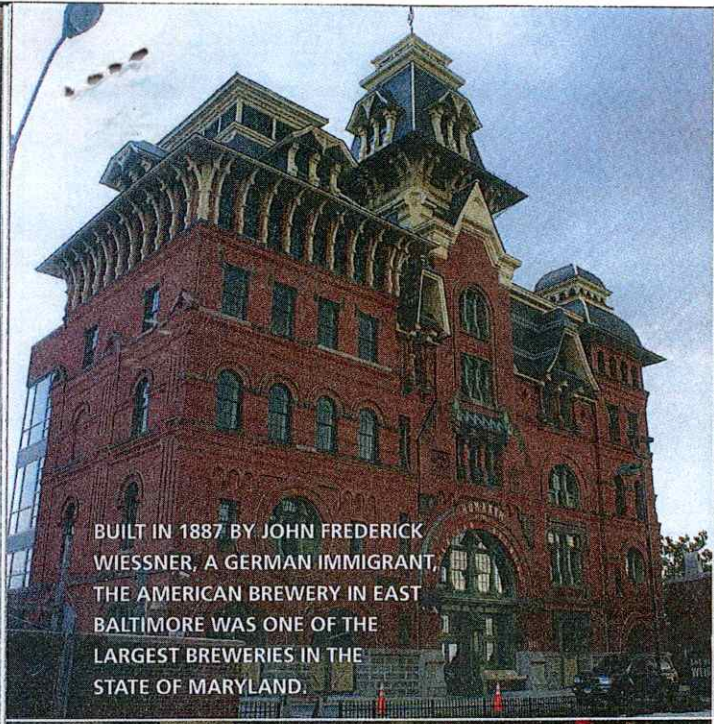
Western Maryland was not the only area populated and benefiting from German immigration, especially if you are were looking for retail giants. Baltimore was home to some of the largest and most profitable establishments, including the Hecht Company, Hochschild Kohn's, Brager-Gutman's, and Hutzler's, all of which were founded by German immigrants.

Germans have had a significant impact on life in Maryland and German Marylanders in the United States. The first glass factory in the United States was opened by John Amelung from Bremen, Germany near Frederick in 1784. The first paper mill, which printed the first U.S. paper currency, was operated by William Hoffman, a German from Frankfurt in 1776. Other firsts by German Marylanders include the first U.S. Sugar Refinery (Gartz, 1796); the first umbrella factory (Beehler, 1828), first Catholic Women's College in the U.S. (Notre Dame, 1873), the first Linotype (Mergenthaler, 1884), and the first Medical Alumni Association (Miltenberger, UMD, 1875).

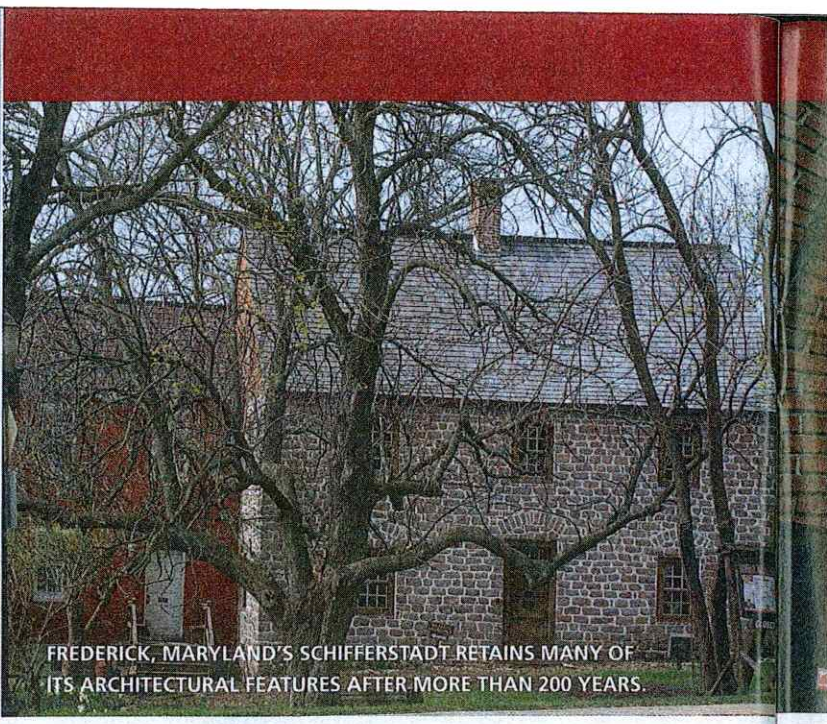
In Maryland, German Marylanders were instrumental in many firsts within the boundaries of the state, including the first ballpark with double decker stands (Vonder Horst, 1891), the largest piano factory in the U.S. (Knabe, 1839), and the founding of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra (Gustav Strube, 1916).

Maryland blossomed and grew with the determination and strong work ethic of so many German immigrants and their descendants. The German influence was and continues to be seen in all aspects of life in Maryland.

One of the first German newsletters printed in Maryland was in 1785 in Frederick. *The Marylandische Zeitung* was published biweekly and was the first of at least 35 German newspapers from 1785 to 1941. German printers such as Hassebach, Hanzche, Gruber, Hoen, Mergenthaler, and Raine, kept the public informed in German. Frederick Raine immigrated from Westphalia and began one of the most successful enterprises in Baltimore, with the founding of the *Deutsche Korrespondent*, a daily newspa-



BUILT IN 1887 BY JOHN FREDERICK WIESSNER, A GERMAN IMMIGRANT, THE AMERICAN BREWERY IN EAST BALTIMORE WAS ONE OF THE LARGEST BREWERIES IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND.



FREDERICK, MARYLAND'S SCHIFFERSTADT RETAINS MANY OF ITS ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES AFTER MORE THAN 200 YEARS.



THE BALTIMORE KICKERS ARE ONE OF MANY GERMAN CLUBS THAT MEET REGULARLY ACROSS MARYLAND.



AT ONE TIME, CUMBERLAND'S ROSENBAUM'S DEPARTMENT STORE EMPLOYED OVER 200 PEOPLE.

per (1841-1918).

Maryland was graced and grew with the ingenuity and hard work of German manufacturers like Ax & Gail, Niemann (tobacco), Brandt (steamships), Dietrich, Keyser (steel), Dohme Family (pharmaceuticals, chemicals), Hilgartner (stone), Knapp, Matthai (tinware), Potthast, (woodworks), Torsch (canned goods), Weiskittel (stoves) and Wilkins (curled hair) to the many great brewing families like the Bauernschmidts, Weissner's, and von derHorsts.

Some of the most fantastic structures in Maryland were designed and built by German architects and engineers, one of the most famous being George Aloysius Frederick, who designed and built Baltimore City Hall in 1875. Among some of his other buildings (those still standing) are the Abell building, the U.S. Marine Hospital and the Edgar Allen Poe Monument. He also built several wonderful pieces of architecture that unfortunately are no longer standing including the German Orphan Asylum, the Greisenheim, Hollins Market, the Hutzler Brothers Building, and several other structures.

German Marylanders have made large contributions to the arts in Maryland and include well-known names such as H.L. Mencken, Gustav Stube, and Hillary Hahn, but many others aren't as well-known such as J.T. Heyen (poet), Frederick Kemmelmeyer (painter, known for his works of George Washington), and Adalbert Volck, whose cartoons grace the glass cases at the Smithsonian. Did you know that the composer of "Anchors Aweigh" was a German Marylander (Lt. Charles Zimmerman)?

Maryland is graced with many wonderful sculptures by many German artists. I enjoy the work of Hans Schuler (1874-1951). Schuler emigrated to the US while still a child, attended the Maryland Institute of Art and was in the first graduating class of the Rinehart School of Sculpture. He was the first American Sculptor to win the Salon Gold Medal. He became the director of the Maryland Institute. His work is found in many museums and throughout the state. The family Schuler continues to run the art school established by Hans Schuler's son,

BALTIMORE'S ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH HOLDS A CHRISTKINDLMARKT EACH YEAR. HERE, THE NUREMBURG ANGEL PAYS A VISIT.



Hans. The school is operated by his granddaughter Francesca Guerin and her son Hans and still operates in the same location in Baltimore City.

Maryland is also home to many great pieces by William Rinehart, J. Maxwell Miller, and Edward Berge. A Rinehart statue sits in front of the State House in Annapolis Maryland.

German Marylanders have played an important role in the military in Maryland, beginning with the Revolutionary War and the "German Battallion" to Henry Gunther, the last man to be killed in WWI, to Captain Schroeder, the first American soldier to go ashore from a landing craft in the D-Day invasion in WWII. Maryland celebrated the anniversary of the War of 1812 and in 2012-2014, the German Society honored Brigadier General John Stricker, a German Marylander who led the Battle at Northpoint (1814) and saved the city of Baltimore.

The German Society of Maryland is not new to German immigrants. In fact, the Society was established 1783, incorporated by an Act of Congress in 1818, and has consistently been present to help German immigrants and those of German descent. The Society continues to help through scholarships and cultural events.

Many of the churches in the state began as German speaking parishes. Many remain today. The churches were the meeting points, the community centers, and often the school. Private German schools such as the Zion (Schreib) School (1836), Küster Schule for Girls, Reinhardt School for Girls, Wacher School (1851), and the Knapp School (1853) led to increased awareness for the development of higher and better education. In 1875, there were five German public schools in the city of Baltimore, where all instruction was done in German. More than 100 churches are known to have existed in Maryland that provided services in the German language. Today, Zion Lutheran Church in the City of Baltimore, which was established in 1755, continues to hold one service in the German language every Sunday and also continues to operate a German language school in the City of

Baltimore. Zion was named to the National Registry of Historic Places in 2013.

Anyone living in Maryland is familiar with Schmidt Bakery (Elizabeth Mimms), Goetz Candies, Berger Cookies, CC Lang (sauerkraut and canned goods), Koester's Bread, Gunther Beer, Stieff Company, Otterbein Bakery, Rheb's Chocolates, Hauswald's Bread, and Babe Ruth, the "Sultan of Swat". Many living here do not know of the many other contributions by Germans. How many Marylanders know that their beloved "Old Bay" was developed by Frankfurt native, Gustav Brunn in 1940? Do they know the Catonsville Children's Home began as the German Orphan's Home?

The basic facts are that in 1790 more than 100,000 Germans had immigrated to the U.S. They accounted for 12% of the population in Maryland. In 1833 180,000 Germans arrived in Maryland ports alone. In 1900, 53.4% of Marylanders had one or both parents who were born in the German speaking districts of middle Europe (Austria, Germany, Switzerland) and had the 4th largest concentration of German-Americans. By 1914, on the eve of WWI, 94,000 Germans lived in the City of Baltimore, comprising 20% of its total population. Today, with German immigration down, but those of German descent climbing, it is difficult to fine tune the numbers. Census records no longer ask if you are of European/German descent. However, according to the US Census Bureau in 2008, German Americans comprise 16.5% of the US population. In Maryland, the German population is also the largest ethnic population with 16.5% (932,275 of the 5,633,597 Marylanders).

The German influence continues today. It is present in the hundreds of German street names and the many German social, civic, and benevolent clubs, all with active memberships. Events such as Oktoberfests, Schützenfests, Schlachtfests, Fasching and many others are part of everyday life. Frederick boasts a Friday evening Stammtisch; Baltimore supports a German soccer club and monthly German dinner meetings; and many still worship in German in Baltimore and Annapolis.

The contributions of Maryland's forefathers are still celebrated and the declaration of German Heritage Month in Maryland assures that future generations see that German heritage is alive and well...in the state of Maryland. **GL**

German Marylanders
www.germanmarylanders.org

German Ancestry Across Maryland— At a Glance

Aberdeen – 16.7%	Ellicott City – 21.5%
Arnold – 23.3%	Frederick – 21.5%
Baltimore – 7.4%	Salisbury – 11.1%
Beltsville – 11.4%	Silver Spring – 8.5%
Bethesda – 13.8%	Towson – 23.2%
Bowie – 14.7%	
Columbia – 16.1%	

Source: 2010 Citydata.com