



Mitteilungen

A publication of the
Sacramento Turn Verein
German-American Cultural Center - Library

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From German Lands to Kleindeutschland

97 Orchard Street, New York City...is an address one should tuck away as a location to visit on a trip to New York. Standing in front of the structure, one is faced with a narrow, slightly derelict apartment building erected in 1863 and inhabited by 7,000 various individuals from that time until its condemnation in 1935. After its condemnation, a couple of store fronts were renovated and continued business on the ground floor, but the apartments in the upper stories remained untouched until the space was re-discovered in 1988. After some research, historians and archeologists determined that it was a treasure trove example of the infamous tenement apartments on the Lower East Side area of New York City from the latter half of the nineteenth century into the twentieth century. After researchers pieced together stories of several occupants during that period, they restored a few flats to their original condition and opened this new National Historic Site to the public as The Tenement Museum. It provides a fascinating view into the past and is a worthwhile visit. (www.tenement.org)

Who lived here? Where did the people come from? Why did they choose to live in these dwellings? What were their lives like? German immigrants began arriving on North American shores in the

eighteenth century, but it wasn't until the nineteenth century that the numbers surged, especially after the 1848 revolution in Germany. All told, over four million Germans landed on the shores of New York in that century. Those who remained in New York, settled first in an area in Manhattan on the Lower



*Tenement Museum,
New York, NY*

East Side around Tompkins Square Park. The area on the Lower East became known as 'Little Germany: "Kleindeutschland," Deutschlände," or, by the Irish, "Dutchtown." At the time, New York City (Manhattan) was divided into wards, and the German immigrants settled mainly into the tenth, eleventh, thirteenth and seventeenth wards, which is an area between 14th St. and Division St.—the East River and the Bowery. By 1875, sixty-four percent of all inhabitants of the four wards were German American, representing approximately half of the city's German population. (Sources: Media Wiki and Jacob Riis, "All the Nations under Heaven")

Since the country of Germany did not exist as a unified nation until 1871, the arriving immigrants identified more with people from the areas they had left, where they were familiar with the dialect, the customs and dress. "Little Germany" was truly the first large non-English speaking language settlement in an

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The Sacramento Turn Verein's German-American Cultural Center is dedicated to preserving the same proud German heritage that was instrumental in the founding of the Sacramento Turn Verein in 1854.

The Sacramento Turn Verein, a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC, meets in the old "Turner Hall," at 3349 J Street in Sacramento where its German-American library is housed. Visitors are welcome.

Kleindeutschland Tenements, continued from page 1

American city, with German language newspapers, libraries, German theaters, choirs, schools, churches, synagogues, bakeries, beer gardens, and sports clubs. Fortunately, a majority of the Germans had some education and solid training as craftsmen, which enabled Kleindeutschland to prosper as a small city within New York City.

Stanley Nadel quotes a description of the neighborhood at its peak in the 1870s:

Kleindeutschland... consisted of 400 blocks formed by some six avenues and nearly forty streets. Tompkins Square formed pretty much the center. Avenue B, occasionally called the German Broadway, was the commercial artery. Each basement was a workshop, every first floor was a store, and the partially roofed sidewalks were markets for goods of all sorts. Avenue A was the street for beer halls, oyster saloons and groceries. The Bowery was the western border (anything further west was totally foreign), but it was also the amusement and loafing district. There all the artistic treats, from classical drama to puppet comedies, were available. (Lohr, Otto (1913) "Das New York Deutschtum der Vergangenheit" in Spengler, Otto (ed.) *Das Deutsche Element der Stadt New York*, New York: Steiger, p. 12, in Nadel, p. 36)

Mitteilungen

Quarterly newsletter of the Sacramento Turn Verein's
German-American Cultural Center - Library
3349 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95816

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The tenement buildings they occupied in the Lower East Side were initially single-family row houses with two to four stories that were converted into multi-family dwellings (two families on each floor including the attic and the basement.) The space was divided into small, one-bedroom flats and rented to new immigrants with little means. As the demand for housing increased, new tenement buildings with five to seven stories were built, typically 25 feet wide by 100 feet long, with a one-foot allowance between buildings. (History.com) These apartments had no windows, no ventilation, no lighting, heating or cooling, and no indoor plumbing. Outhouses and a hand water pump were in the back yard. The Tenement House Act of 1907 required that new construction had to include one outhouse per twenty people, but not until 1905, with the implementation of the 1901 Tenement House Act, were shared toilets required to be inside the building, along with water and gas lights. By 1900, more than 80,000 tenements had been built in New York City, housing 2.3 million people, or two-thirds of the total population then. (Source: <https://www.history.com/topics/immigration/tenements>)

Ordinary people—grocers, saloon keepers, tailors, painters, etc. lived and thrived in these tenement apartments. It was not unusual for a family of six to fifteen people to occupy one of these tiny flats. During the day, the flat might turn into a tailor's "studio" or a dressmaking workshop, or other income-producing pursuit. Sleeping and eating arrangements were made accordingly. As people prospered, some moved to other areas of New York City. Kleindeutschland began to shrink in size, but one tragic incident, the tragedy of the General Slocum, sped the demise of Kleindeutschland more than any other factor. SP

Turn to page 7 to read Eleanor Hedenkamp's article, *The Tragedy of the General Slocum*.



Postcard Collection
Maggie Land Blanch

Truth in Numbers...a View of Covid-19

by Uli Pelz

The Coronavirus Pandemic has caused unprecedented restrictions on both society and the economy. In observing the reporting on the pandemic in the German and American media, it is striking how biased the reporting has been, presumably because the media like big numbers. As a result, larger countries such as the United States and Brazil became the darlings for reporting big numbers. (The data from China and India has been sporadic and questionable.) Interestingly, the media seldom reported data from the United Kingdom or Belgium, although they initially had the highest numbers in Europe.

In this quest for the truth, certain criteria had to be used to establish a ranking. The media loved the total number of observed cases (Fallzahlen in German), but they depended largely on the amount of testing, which varied greatly in each country. Governments justified the restrictions by explaining that their hospitals had to manage the number of cases ("flatten the curve"). With the exception of some hot spots (initially Northern Italy, later New York City), most hospitals had excess capacity. Therefore, the number of hospitalization or ICU cases might not be the best criterion for ranking the countries. Finally, it became obvious that only a common basis for comparison would provide a clear picture. I settled on using the number of deaths per a population of 100,000 in each country. [However, even these numbers are not necessarily reliable and can be manipulated: for example, in August the United Kingdom reduced its count by over 5,000 because the deaths could not be attributed solely to the virus.]

Some of you may be surprised by the data in the adjoining table, and I hope my effort was worthwhile. I have updated the data continually during the past two months, and it will continue to fluctuate.

Data Sources:

Population: Worldometers.info (Google)

Deaths: Johns Hopkins Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE).

Covid-19 Statistics

as of September 15, 2020

Country/State	Population (millions)	Deaths (1000s)	Death rate / 100,000
Peru	33.0	30.9	93.6
Belgium.....	11.6	9.9	85.3
Spain	46.8	30.0	64.1
Chile.....	19.1	12.0	62.8
United Kingdom.....	66.7	41.8	62.7
Brazil	212.6	133.1	62.6
United States	331.0	196.0	59.2
Italy	60.4	35.6	58.9
Sweden.....	10.3	5.9	57.3
Mexico	128.9	71.7	55.6
France.....	65.3	31.0	47.5
Netherlands	17.1	6.3	36.8
Canada.....	37.7	9.2	24.4
Switzerland	8.7	2.0	23.0
Israel.....	8.7	1.2	13.8
Germany.....	83.2	9.4	11.3
Denmark.....	5.8	0.6	10.3
Austria.....	9.0	0.8	8.3
Japan	126.5	1.5	1.2
South Korea	51.3	0.4	0.8
India	1380.0	82.1	5.9
Iran	84.0	23.5	28.0
Russia.....	145.9	18.7	12.8
China	1439.3	4.7	0.3
New Jersey	9.2	16.0	173.9
New York	19.4	33.0	170.1
Georgia.....	4.0	6.4	160.0
Massachusetts	6.7	9.2	137.3
Connecticut	3.7	4.5	121.6
Louisiana.....	4.6	5.3	115.2
Arizona.....	7.3	5.3	72.6
Michigan	10.0	6.9	69.0
Illinois	12.6	8.6	68.3
Pennsylvania	12.7	7.9	62.2
Florida.....	21.5	12.8	59.5
Texas	29.9	14.6	48.8
California	39.9	14.6	36.6

Side-by-Side Story

Der Ziegenbock

Frau Hill wohnte in einem schönen Hause vor der Stadt. Eines Morgens sprach sie zu ihrer Magd Brigitte: „Ich gehe jetzt in die Kirche. Wenn du über die Straße zum Kaufmann gehst, oder in den Garten um Äpfel zu holen, so schließe die Haustür zu. Ich habe es dir schon oft befohlen und hoffe, dass du mir endlich gehorchen wirst. Es könnte sich leicht jemand in das Haus stehlen und Schaden anrichten.“ Frau Hill ging in die Kirche, Brigitte räumte die Zimmer auf und ging dann zum Kaufmann und ließ richtig wieder alle Türen offen stehen. Während Brigitte mit einem anderen Mädchen beim Kaufmann plauderte, lief ein Ziegenbock die Straße entlang und gerade in die offene Haustür hinein. Er sprang die Treppe hinauf und kam in das Zimmer von Frau Hill. Dort hing in einem schönen goldenen Rahmen ein großer Spiegel. Der Bock sah sich in dem Spiegel, dachte es sei noch ein Bock da, und stutzte und drohte ihm mit den Hörnern. Der Bock im Spiegel machte es auch so. Da sprang der rechte Bock auf den falschen los und stieß so gewaltig nach ihm, dass der Spiegel in 1000 Stücke sprang. Brigitte kam gerade vom Kaufmann zurück und hörte das Fallen der Glasscherben. Sie lief schnell in das Zimmer, sah das Unglück, schrie und trieb den Bock mit vielen Streichen aus dem Haus. Allein davon wurde der Spiegel nicht wieder ganz. Als Frau Hill nach Hause kam, war sie sehr böse und schickte Brigitte fort, ohne ihr Lohn zu zahlen. In ihrem neuen Dienste brauchte man dem Mädchen nicht mehr zu sagen, die Türe zu schließen. *IC*



The Billy Goat

Mrs. Hill lived in a beautiful house outside the city. One morning she said to her maid Brigitte: "I'm going to church now. If you go across the street to the merchant, or in the garden to get apples, close the front door. I have told you this many times before and I hope that you will finally obey me. Someone could easily steal into the house and cause damage."

Mrs. Hill went to church, Brigitte tidied up the rooms, then went to the merchant and sure enough, left all the doors open again. While Brigitte was chatting with another girl at the grocer's, a Billy goat ran down the street and straight into the open front door. He jumped up the stairs and came into Mrs. Hill's room. A large mirror hung there in a beautiful golden frame. The buck saw himself in the mirror and thought there was another buck there, stopped short and threatened him with his horns. The buck in the mirror acted the same. Then the real buck jumped at the wrong one and struck him so hard that the mirror broke into 1000 pieces. Brigitte had just returned from the merchant and heard the broken glass falling. She ran quickly into the room, saw the misfortune, screamed and drove the goat out of the house with many strikes. Alas, that didn't make the mirror whole again. When Mrs. Hill got home she was very angry and sent Brigitte away without paying her wages. In her new position there was no need ever to tell the girl to close the door. *IC*

Weisheiten

Ein Kompromiss ist die Kunst einen Kuchen so zu teilen, dass jeder meint, er habe das größte Stück bekommen.

A compromise is the art of slicing a cake in such a manner that everyone thinks he got the biggest piece.

Ludwig Erhard (1897–1977),
second chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany

Famous German Authors

Saša Stanišić (1978-)



Photo by Harald Krichel

Saša Stanišić was born in 1978 in the Bosnian town of Višegrad. When he was age fourteen, he and his parents fled to Germany, after Serbian troops occupied his hometown. They came to Heidelberg, where an uncle lived. Stanišić, who did not speak

German at that time, attended an international school and had the luck of meeting a German teacher who recognized and fostered his artistic talent. Initially, Stanišić had written his poems and stories in Bosnian, but the teacher encouraged him to translate them into German. Stanišić once said: "I never resisted the language and pretty quickly found it good that I was learning German." After graduating from high school he worked as a waiter to pay for his studies to become a teacher. After a stay abroad in the USA he added a second degree at the German Literature Institute in Leipzig.

In 2006 he published his debut novel. *Wie der Soldat das Grammophon reparierte* (How the Soldier Repaired the Gramophone), a book that plainly drew on a trove of autobiographical experiences of war, flight and new beginnings. It nevertheless contains a high degree of fictionalization. The young first-person narrator is called Aleksandar, who tells of his family in a tone of voice borrowed from the world of fairy tales – of food, smells and the feeling of security of a boy growing up. There is the sense of belonging and well-being characteristic of good times, which is then destroyed by the death of the boy's grandfather and the disintegration of the multi-ethnic state. A crack runs through the novel, the crack of a childhood torn apart by the windings of history. IC



Book Review

Vor dem Fest Before the Feast

by Saša Stanišić

Newly added to the GACC-Library is Saša Stanišić's *Vor dem Fest*, translated as *Before the Feast*.

The story, reminiscent of a fairy tale, takes place in the fictitious village of Fürstenfelde in the Uckermark region of Germany, and tells the events that happen during the night before the feast of St Anna. The feast is the annual highpoint of the village calendar, but no one remembers why it is celebrated. The narrator is the small rural community itself, and anyone who has ever lived in one of those out-of-the-way places will recognize the different village personalities immediately.

Christoph Schröder, a freelance literary critic and writer for several publications including *Süddeutsche Zeitung* and *Die Zeit*, stated that the story is a "very specific stocktaking of East German sensitivities: a disclosure of mentalities in an age after ideologies – with the exception of capitalism, which has swallowed everything else."

The book is available in the library in German and in English. The English translation is very good, but misses some nuances only understood by German speakers. For instance, the name of the minister is Uwe Hirtentäschel, and his email address is heiland@freenet.de. *Hirtentäschel* is shepherd's purse, and *Heiland* is another word for Jesus, at freenet no less. Or the very sad character Frau Schwermuth's name, *Schwermut* being German for melancholy. IC

The Sections of the Sacramento Turn Verein

- A Historical Perspective -

When were they formed? Why were they formed? What role do they play?

The Sacramento Turn Verein was founded in 1854 as one of 74 in the United States at that time, with the mission of educating the young to become physically, mentally, and morally sound adults. The main vehicles for accomplishing this was through gymnastics training, language education and singing. Over the century, the STV started to sprout "Sections."

The Mitteilungen is dedicating several issues to featuring the various Sections of the STV.

Handball - Racquetball Section

Many Turn Verein visitors and section members who use the parking lot behind our wonderful building, pass the big brick extension at the back of the structure unaware of the treasure hidden behind those walls. Not noticeable from within the building, since they are located behind the beautiful stage in the main hall, are two "wooden boxes", the courts of the Handball-Racquetball section.

Ball games are as old as humanity, but no one is quite sure when the modern game of handball, or wall ball, became popular in the United States. Two courts were known to exist in San Francisco in 1873, and the game was very popular in New York starting in the in the 1900s.

The type of handball being played here is not the handball that can be played in a gym, outdoor court or the beach, and uses a basketball size ball, a net,

and 7 team players. Rather it is the type of handball that uses a small rubber ball a little smaller than a tennis ball, and it is played against walls, with one opponent or in doubles.

The typical handball court is about 20 feet by 40 feet, and depending on the type of game, can be played off one wall, three walls, or four walls. Our courts were built of wood as part of the original Turner Hall in 1925, and have been in continued use ever since. The section members lovingly refer to the two plank courts as the "Holzkiste", the wooden box. Our courts are historic and the only wooden courts left in all of California. They are the pride of the section, as modern courts are cement and pressed board constructions.

The Handball-Racquetball section, originally called the Handball-Paddleball section, formally became a section in 1927, and as such is the third-oldest section



of the Turn Verein. Handball was a major sport at the STV until the 1960s. It has seen a resurgence in the last twenty years and again is a popular sport in our building. Sadly, though, there is no women's team. Any ladies ready to start one? Remember, it's a Handball and RACQUETball section.

Our two courts offer the male section members a place to perpetuate the athletic and competitive activities that have been principles of the STV for over 160 years. The Section holds regular open-court, walk-on play year-round. Handball is played Mondays thru Thursdays starting at 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays starting at 10:00 a.m. All levels are welcome. Or would you just like to come and watch a game from the court balcony?



Members of the STV's Handball - Racquetball Section

For more information about the Handball/Racquetball section please visit their website at <https://sites.google.com/site/turnvereinhandball/>. But remember: Due to Covid-19, exceptions apply. IC

The Tragedy of the General Slocum

by Eleanor Hedenkamp, reprinted from Der Blumenbaum, Vol. 39, No. 1

Kleindeutschland, or 'Little Germany', was a thriving and vibrant center of German life in New York City for much of the nineteenth century. Located in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, it was home to vast numbers of Germans who immigrated beginning in the 1840s and 1850s. More Germans lived there than in any other city in the world, except for Berlin and Vienna.

Economic conditions in Kleindeutschland ranged from great poverty to great wealth, but most of the German immigrants were industrious, educated, and skilled craftsmen. They were politically, socially, and culturally active, and retained many of their customs, as well as their language.

There were German language newspapers, music halls, and beer gardens.

Towards the end of the century Kleindeutschland began to decline as the more prosperous families moved to better areas, and immigrants from other countries began to move in. The tragedy of the General Slocum dramatically hastened this decline. The General Slocum, a wooden sidewheel steamboat, was a popular and familiar excursion vessel. Painted white with yellow funnels. its name was emblazoned in large gold letters on either side. On June 15, 1904 the boat was chartered by St. Mark's German

Lutheran Church for their annual Sunday School Outing, a huge event. They would travel up the East River to Locust Grove on Long Island for a picnic and a rare day of leisure. Ice cream, a special treat, was promised

The passengers on the General Slocum were mainly women and children; most of the men had to work. The vast majority were German, including many who had once lived in Kleindeutschland but had moved on. They looked forward all year to this day of revelry and relaxation, a homecoming, and a reunion with old friends. Others were not German, such as the Irish family who could not afford tickets, but received them as a gift from the German woman who ran the grocery store where they shopped.

One of the passengers, Margaret Hedenkamp, was especially excited. Today was the excursion and tomorrow she would be celebrating her 11th birthday at a party with friends. Her father, a carpenter, would be accompanying her, her mother, and younger brother, eight-year-old Frank, for the day.

It was a beautiful morning. Friends and families greeted each other at the dock with excitement. Most wore their finest clothes, and many carried elaborate picnic baskets. The New York Times reported "As she cast off and stood out into the stream her flags were flying, the band was playing a lively air, and her three decks were crowded to their capacity with a happy throng that looked for a pleasant day's outing." (NY Times, June 16, 1904).

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Remember when...?

Do you remember when and where this was?

Do you recognize the lady in the photo on the right?

Reach out to us via email at

gacclibrarystv@gmail.com.

Did you remember?



Front: Lisa Dillier, Irene Guzauskas, Gail Nemy, Marianne Ek, Ute Lyon, Hilde Hilmer

Center: Johanna Grosklos, Eva-Maria Povlson, Ilse Achermann, Gabriela Schoff, Ingrid Huber, Ingeborg Frasier, Krista Bowen, Ingeborg Carpenter

Back: Jim Kassel, Irene Quinn, Annemarie Schäfer, Al Guzauskas, Franz Bröcker, Al Schlenker, Ed Buffalo, Peter Kassel, Herb Deardorff, Gerd Rustmann, Ingeborg Baylocq, Lore Tritz



Was darf es denn bitte sein?

General Slocum Tragedy, continued from page 7

The sun was shining as the boat moved smoothly into the river. Children were allowed to explore and play while their mothers visited. A band played on the rear of the promenade deck which soon filled with happy dancers, primarily teen-agers.

But in the hold a small fire had begun, fueled by hay used to pack glassware for the trip. It was not noticed at first, but rapidly grew. There was a confused delay as many of the ship hands had never received any training on what to do in an emergency. In addition, the ship had been navigating Hells Gate, a particularly dangerous and unpredictable stretch of the river. The wind fanned the flames as the boat raced to Brother's Island where it was finally beached.

Passengers frantically attempted to save their families, especially their children. Mothers buckled their children into life vests only to see the old vests disintegrate or sink when they hit the water. Others tried to lower the lifeboats, but found them painted and wired in place. Fire hoses burst apart from the

water pressure. Many jumped into the water in desperation. But women were not taught to swim in those days, and they were hampered by their long and heavy petticoats and dresses. And the paddle wheels posed additional danger to those caught up in them. On the shore the fire had been spotted and help was mobilized. Some 50 boats ranging from rowboats to tugboats and yachts headed toward the boat, pulling survivors and bodies on board. On Brother's Island tuberculosis patients and nurses formed a lifeline using a long ladder to enable some survivors reach shore. One patient, a newly immigrated Irish girl of 16, had no swimming lessons, but she somehow taught herself and went out repeatedly, rescuing nine. But it was too late for most: over 800 children and 300 adults died, burned, or drowned in the river. Young Margaret, her brother Frank, and her father were among those who perished. They were identified by her distraught older brother. Her mother was hospitalized but survived.

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Sacramento Turn Verein German Language School (GSL)

We are quite proud of our GSL teachers and students, who have ably adapted to the use of Zoom for instruction during the past six months! To those of you who live far away: Now you may take virtual classes taught by our teachers without driving to Sacramento! We even had someone who lives in Hawaii take the cooking class in the most recent session, and she raved about it!

Refer to the website at www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org for information about online registration, cost, teachers, textbooks, and e-mail addresses for Director Jeanette Treiber and the GLS officers.

Late Fall 2020 Classes for Adults : Registration begins Oct. 3; (No classes during the week of Nov. 23 for Thanksgiving)

Class	Time (PM)	Dates	Place	Teacher	Book
Beginner B	T 6:00 to 7:30	10/20 to 12/15	Online	Tina	Menschen A1.1, lessons 5-8
Beginner C	W 7:45 to 9:15	10/21 to 12/16	Online	Jasmin	Menschen A1.1, lessons 9-12
Beginner D	M 7:45 to 9:15	10/19 to 12/14	Online	Jasmin	Menschen A1.2, lessons 13-16
Beginner F	W 6:00-7:30	10/21 to 12/16	Online	Karin	Menschen A1.2, lessons 21-24
Intermediate B	M 6:00 to 7:30	10/19 to 12/14	Online	Karin	Menschen A2.1, lessons 5-8
Intermediate F	T 7:45 to 9:15	10/20 to 12/15	Online	Tina	Menschen A2.2, lessons 21-24
Advanced F	T 7:45 to 9:15	10/20 to 12/15	Online	Sonja	Menschen B1.2, lessons 21-24
Intermediate CN	T 6:00-7:30	10/20 to 12/15	Online	Sonja	N/A
Advanced Exp	M 6:00-7:30	10/19 to 12/14	Online	Sonja/Tina	Aspekte
Advanced CN	M 7:45 to 9:15	10/19 to 12/14	Online	Sonja/Tina	N/A

To keep everyone safe during this pandemic, we are conducting all GLS classes online for the late fall 2020 term. Please register online. Books for adult classes can be purchased online and will be sent to you at no additional charge. Adult fees are \$110 for 8 week night classes (12 hours of instruction). Fees are due on enrollment and are non-refundable. If enrollment does not meet the minimum number of four students per class, we will attempt to consolidate classes on a single day, change the class time, or- as a last resort - we may be forced to cancel the class for the session. Students can register online with a credit card using PayPal approximately one week before classes start. Our website address is <http://stv-germanlanguageschool.org>.

Late Fall 2020 (No classes during Thanksgiving week)

Young children (ages 0-7)	Saturday, 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Oct. 17 to Dec. 12 (online)
Children's class (ages 8-12)	Saturday, 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON	Oct. 17 to Dec. 12 (online)
Heritage Speakers (ages 7 to 9)	Wednesdays, 4:30 to 5:00 PM, and Saturdays, 9:30 to 10:00 AM	Oct. 17 to Dec. 16 (online)
Heritage Speakers (ages 10 to 12)	Wednesdays, 5:00 to 6:00 PM, and Saturdays, 10:00 to 11:00 AM	Oct. 17 to Dec. 16 (online)

Due to the continued pandemic we are conducting all German classes online presently. We are confident that the children will have a good experience with our online program. Tuition for all classes is per child. The Young Children's class is \$65 per child for this session. The children's classes (8 to 12) is \$85 per child. The Heritage Speaker class for ages 7 to 9 is \$85, and the Heritage Speakers class for ages 10 to 12 is \$120. Fees are due on enrollment and are non-refundable. The minimum number of students per class is four. Please register online at <http://stv-germanlanguageschool.org>.

What's Going On at the Turn Verein?

The STV misses all of you! We're hoping that the building can once again begin inviting everyone to the many activities, but we currently do not have an anticipated date for when that will happen. Below is a list of the regularly scheduled monthly meetings per Section when there are no COVID-19 restrictions. Please contact a section for more specific information, if you need it. We have listed emails as each Section suggested. You may also refer to the STV website (www.sacramentoturnverein.com) for general information.

A last resort would be to call the STV office at (916) 442-7360. (Please do not expect an immediate answer if you leave a message.)

The meetings listed below are regularly scheduled monthly meetings or practices when Covid-19 is no longer a deterrent. Presently no meetings are scheduled at the STV, as the building is closed. Please do check the website for an update regarding the building and activities.

Sacramento Turn Verein (Main Club)

Meetings in the Ruhstaller Room

Membership Meeting:

September-May: First and Third Wednesdays, 8:00 PM; June-August: First Wednesday only, 8:00 PM

STV Executive Board & Trustee Meetings:

Fourth Wednesday: 7:00 PM

President: Freddie Diringer; Trustees: Ingeborg Carpenter, Gary Frankenstein, Walt Zacharias

Contact: www.sacramentoturnverein.com

STV Actives

Membership Meeting: Fourth Thursday, 8:00 PM (in the Schule)

President: Ed Broneske; Contact: edbroneske@mac.com

STV Alpentänzer Schuhplattler

Membership Meetings: dates vary; check the website

Dance Practices: Thursdays, 7:00 PM (seasonally)

Band Practices: seasonally; dates vary

President: Markus Geissler;

Contact: president@alpentanzer.com

STV German-American Cultural Center - Library

Membership Meeting: Second Wednesday, 7:30 PM

Special Event: Third Friday, 7:30 PM

Open Hours: Tuesdays 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, Saturdays 9:00 AM-1:00 PM

President: Olaavi Solander;

Contact: gacclibrarystv@gmail.com

STV Handball-Racquetball

Court Games: Monday through Friday: 4:00 PM

Membership Meeting: Second Thursday, 6:00 PM (in the Holzkiste)

President: Dan Hagan, Contact:

<https://sites.google.com/site/turnvereinhandball>

STV Harmonie

Rehearsal: Mondays, 7:30 PM (Banquet Hall)

Board Meeting: First Monday, 6:30 PM

President: Lorna Martens;

Contact: stharmonie@gmail.com

STV Soccer

Membership Meeting: Second Wednesday, 6:00 PM (Trophy Room)

President: David Telfer;

Contact: presidentstvsoccer@gmail.com

STV German Language School

Membership Meeting: First Thursday, 7:30 PM (Library)

Executive Board Meeting: Third Thursday, 7:30 PM (Library)

President: Emily Via; GLS Director: Jeanette Treiber

Contact: www.stv-germanlanguageschool.org

Director: gls.stv.jeanette@gmail.com



General Slocum Tragedy, continued from page 8

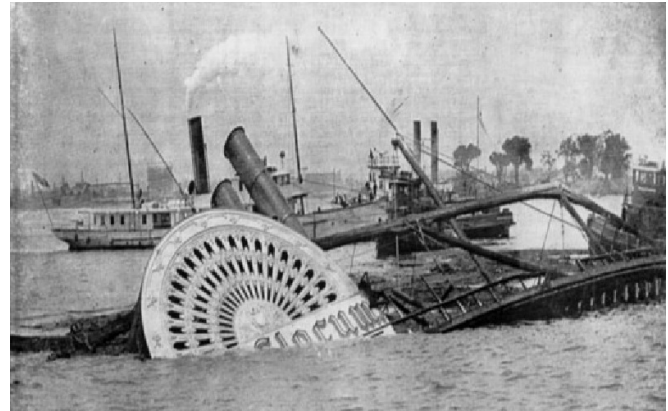
It was the largest loss of life in New York, almost tenfold that of the later Triangle Shirt Waist Factory, until the 9/11 World Trade Center disaster. Kleindeutschland, once an active and vibrant community was devastated. Every family lost relatives and friends; survivors moved away from the heartbreaking memories. Some survivors, and some rescuers as well, found it impossible to go on living. Yet it has been largely forgotten. The tragedy had affected a homogenous community, and not only the Triangle fire, but the Titanic, the war, and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic would replace the General Slocum in headline news. And, with World War I, anti-German sentiment arose.

Why did it happen? There are conflicting accounts and opinions as to the Captain's actions. Captain James Van Schaick had been a pilot and master in New York Harbor for 40 years, but his management was questioned. Some experts thought he had been in an impossible position and nothing would have substantially changed the outcome; others blamed him and his decisions. Certainly he bears responsibility for the failure to orient the crew to disaster and fire procedures. He was the only person convicted in the tragedy and served four years in Sing-Sing for criminal negligence and manslaughter before he was paroled and then pardoned.

Yet others shared culpability. The condition of the General Slocum was not unusual. Corruption and greed were widespread. Existing regulations and standards were ignored. Owners were not held accountable. Likewise, the inspectors, who had only two months earlier certified the boat safe, were not indicted, though they soon resigned their positions. The tragedy, however, mobilized public opinion. The revelations of corruption and greed led President Theodore Roosevelt to form a federal commission whose findings led to a dramatic overhaul of steamboat safety regulations and inspection procedures for ships throughout the US. It has also been suggested that the tragedy may even have contributed to the change in women's fashion, and to the increased popularity of swimming lessons for women and children., but that is harder to substantiate.

But the tragedy of the General Slocum has not been

completely forgotten. Even in this century, which saw the 100th anniversary of the tragedy and the deaths of the last survivors, a slow stream of books and articles, scholarly and sensational, sad and moving, have helped keep the story of the General Slocum alive.



Source: Unknown - prisoners of eternity, Public Domain

References

Books and articles

- Anbinder, Tyler. *City of Dreams: The 400 Year Epic History of Immigrant New York*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, Boston/ NY. 2016
- Lamberton, Karen T. *Angels in the Gate: New York City and the General Slocum Disaster*. Heritage Books, Westminster Maryland, 2006.
- O'Donnell, Edward T. *Ship Ablaze: The Tragedy of the Steamboat General Slocum*. New York: Broadway Books, 2003.
- Ogilvie, J.S. *History of the General Slocum Disaster*. London: Classic Reprint Series, Forgotten Books, 2017. This an interesting reproduction of a 1904 volume of brief vignettes mostly taken from newspapers of the day.

Online

- <http://www.maggieblanck.com/Goehle/GeneralSlocum.html>
- Houghtaling, Ted. *Witness to Tragedy: The Sinking of the General Slocum*. New York Historical Society Blog, February 24, 2016. <http://blog.nyhistory.org/witness-to-tragedy-the-sinking-of-the-general-slocum/>
- <https://www.spiegel.de/international/a-forgotten-new-york-disaster-the-dreadful-end-of-little-germany-a-410321.html>
- Brooklyn Daily Eagle June 1904 <https://bklyn.newspapers.com/paper/the-brooklyn-daily-eagle/1890/>
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- <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>
- <https://www.garemaritime.com/the-general-slocum/>

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