



HEYMANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.heymanhistorical.org

Fall/Winter 2022

Meet the Unsung Heroine of the Heymann Historical Society

For decades, our German cousin and HHS board member, Ulrike Gapp, has facilitated our German-American communications, travel, and fellowship. With her patient smile and calm demeanor, Ulrike is truly the unsung heroine of our familial organization, keeping our trans-Atlantic connection strong. She has kindly agreed to share her autobiography in this edition of the newsletter.

I was born on December 13, 1960 in Burgschwalbach, Germany. My parents were Anni and Otto Gapp. They have both already passed away. My sister Dagmar Thiels is eight years older than I. She lives with her husband Berthold in Aarbergen, not far away from Burgschwalbach. They have two children, Melanie and Marco, and five grandchildren. My great-grandmother Karoline Bondorf came from Kaltenholzhausen. Her maiden name was Heymann. (She was Annelore Altenhofen's aunt). In Burgschwalbach I attended primary school for 4 years. After that I went to secondary school in Diez for 6 years. Afterwards, I attended the Higher Commercial School in Limburg for 1 year. I then did an apprenticeship as an office clerk at a SPAR food wholesaler in Limburg. There - and after a fusion of the company (also in Mainz) I worked for 12 years.

I have been working for the Aqseptence Group GmbH (formerly Passavant-Werke AG) in Aarbergen (not far from where I live) since June of 1990. At the same time, I completed an accountancy course from 1990-



Above: Ulrike poses in front of the German flag during a 2009 visit to the USA.

Center: The Gapp family at Christmas 1961. Pictured from left to right are Dagmar, Anni, Ulrike, and Otto.

Bottom: On her first visit to the USA, Ulrike poses with Norm and Pearl Schwochow at Hunts Corners.



1993. If you would like to know more about this company, you can find information at www.aqseptence.com. There are two subsidiaries in the US; one is in New Brighton, Minnesota and one in Rochester, Indiana.

I have been a member of the Burgschwalbach church council since 2009. I am responsible for the production of the church newspaper. I am in the birthday visiting service for elderly parishioners and for various activities concerning our church. Some of you have had the opportunity to visit our beautiful old church in recent years. This church was the pastorate of our relative Johannes Heymann. He had this church renovated in the 17th century, in the years after the 30 Years War. Unfortunately, he was also known as a 'witch priest'. He accused some people from Burgschwalbach of witchcraft. They were tried and executed in the town of Idstein. Among them was his own aunt.

In my free time, I love to read. I also love to travel. I was able to visit several countries, including France, Poland, Greece, Turkey, Malta, Egypt, Israel, Syria, Jordan. I have been to the United States three times. My first trip was with a group of German Heymans in 1998. In Ohio the 150th anniversary of the first emigration of a
(continued on Page 6)

Bridging our past, present, and future...

Kaltenholzhausen's New "Old" Church-Part 2

In this issue, we conclude the article from our Spring newsletter regarding the celebration of the 125th anniversary of the "new" church in Kaltenholzhausen. The information, translations, and photographs for this story were provided to us by the courtesy of Ulrike Gapp and Brigitte Kitschke. Thank you, ladies!

In a "site plan for the construction project for the new church in Kaltenholzhausen, scale 1:500" it can be seen that the new building was planned in the immediate vicinity of the old building and was also realized in this way. The foundation stone was laid on 21 October 1893. According to old tradition, "valuable papers, bread and wine were walled in" under the foundation stone (according to the commemorative publication). The stones for the foundation were broken from the quarry in the community forest of Kaltenholzhausen. For the rest of the masonry, quarry stones came from the quarry to Hahnstätten and Burgschwalbach. Here are some records: The bricks came from Diez and Freindiez, walllimestone from the Hahnstätter Kalkbruch, Kles was extracted from the Aar, sand from Solms came with wagons to Hahnstätten station, timber was partly extracted from the community forest by special felling or delivered by the carpenter from Hausen. Adolf Spieß's pastor at the time wrote: "The pedestal, cornice, gable and pillar stones, as well as the altar, altar step and stairs, are made of triachite stones and come from Waldenhahn in the Westerwald.

The construction sand was supplied from the ironworks of Burgsolms. The church was listed in 1895 up to pedestal." It continues: "The masonry work was carried out by the master mason Wilhelm Schmittel of Kaltenholzhausen, the carpentry work by the master carpenter Zimmermann von Hahnstätten and brothers Schäfer



Above: A view of the church tower.

Center: A close-up of the new cornerstone of the church.

Bottom: A view of the tower clock supplied by J. Höchst from Flörsheim



of Hausen. The roofing work of master roofer August Koch of Hahnstätten, the carpentry work of master carpenter Loos. Mayor Wilhelm Gaul made a special effort to build the church and earned great merits." To improve the bell ringing of the new church, a new bell was added, which was recast in the bell foundry Rincker from Sinn near Herborn. A special piece of jewelry in the form of glass mosaic work in the windows was designed by the company Kutz und Kluter from Wiesbaden. In addition, a new tower clock, supplied by J. Höchst from Flörsheim for 660 marks, ensured the "new" time. The total construction sum is estimated at 35,500 Mark.

The consecration of the church took place on September 28, 1896. The "Invitation" to the inauguration on Monday, September 28, 1896 in the afternoon at 2 p.m. contained the "Festive Order of the Church Inauguration." Before the keys were handed over at the new church, all those involved in the construction of the new church gathered as well as invited guests at the school in Kaltenholzhausen. The commemorative publication "100 Years of the Evangelical Church of Kaltenholzhausen" states the following: "Under the sounds of the music band, the school youth, the virgins, the warriors' association, the singing club, the clergy, the church board, the municipal council, the builders and all the festival participants marched through the festively decorated village.

In front of the new church, the site manager, architect Ludwig Hofmann, handed over the key to the pastor Adolf Spieß and the school youth sang the song: 'Start everything with the Lord.' Then the doors were opened and the people entered." The inauguration of the new church was taken over by General Superintendent Dr. Ernst. The festive sermon was given by Pastor (Continued on page 4...)

From the Desk of the President...

Dear Cousins,

The end of another good year for the Heymann Historical Society has taken place as we have now entered 2023. On October 9, 2022 the Board of Directors met for its Fall meeting. On that occasion an amendment was made to our regulations so as to permit members of the Board to attend by electronic means if there was no way that a Board member could safely attend in person.

We are very blessed to have our unique and strong family connection. As always, I want to thank the many family members who work together so well in order to preserve this Society. It is a pleasure to be able to work with each of them and to have the privilege of serving as your president.

-David A. Hyman

Celebrating Christmas the German Way

How closely are we following the traditions of our German ancestors where the Christmas holiday is concerned? Historically, Germans placed more of their festive focus on Christmas Eve (Heiliger Abend) festivities than on Christmas Day (Erster Feiertag) or "First Celebration Day." Trees were decorated on December 24th, and children would wait outside the main room of the home on that evening straining to hear the ring of a bell signifying that Christkindl (the Christ child... the basis for 'Kris Kringle') had delivered their presents. Before the "bescherung" (opening of gifts), many families would sing carols, indulge in delicious holiday foods, and attend Christmas Eve church services, often by candlelight. On Page 4, we examine more of the Christmas folklore of our German predecessors.



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Treasurer: Kurt E. Heyman 419.541.0544

Trustees:

Marcia Adelman	Ulrike Gapp
Scott Bailey	Lanton Lee
Paula Heyman	Rachel Parrett
Neil Horn	

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Naughty Versus Nice in Deutschland

KRAMPUSNACHT

December 5th is a pivotal night during the Christmas season for children in Germany. This is the night when youngsters discover whether they will be rewarded for their good behavior in the previous year or visited by the fearsome Krampus—a devil-like creature sent to punish naughty children and teach them difficult lessons so that their less-than-pleasing actions will not be repeated in future years. The tradition of the Krampus is believed to be nearly 1000 years old. Men dress up in hideous demonic costumes comprised of animal furs and a wooden mask patrolling the streets (often at the behest of the parents of particularly troublesome kids) to scare and chase offending children with sticks! Krampusnacht is most popular in Germany, Austria, Croatia, and Australia!



SANKT NIKOLAUS TAG

St Nicolas Day has its roots in the Catholic regions of Europe. On the evening of December 5th each year, German children clean their boots and shoes, place them outside of their doors, and try to sleep as anticipation wells up inside of them. In the morning, if they have been good, they find their shoes filled with candy, small gifts, and various treats from St Nicolas. When Martin Luther initiated the Protestant Reformation, he tried to replace some of the more Catholic elements of Christmas with biblical ones. So, das Christkindl (an angel-like Christ Child) was introduced to replace the Catholic saint. Now, Christkindl (Santa Claus's predecessor) is popular among both Catholics and Protestants in Germany.



Kaltenholzhausen's New "Old" Church

Continued from Page 2... Spieß (Adolf Spieß was pastor in Hahnstätten from 1882-1898). Although this inauguration took place on a Monday, many guests from near and far had come together. The church was occupied to the last seat, so that many participants took part

Much has happened in and around the Church in recent years. A 50-year commemoration ceremony took place in 1946. Just in time for the 100th anniversary of the church building, the district administration of Rhein-Lahn placed the church in Kaltenholzhausen under monument protection in 1996. Justification among other things: "With the three-storey low tower with pointed helmet, the unplastered natural stone church built in neo-Gothic forms with the steep slate roofs on the hill above the village is a characteristic feature of the place and a testimony to the intellectual and artistic work in the late 19th century. There is a public interest in conservation and maintenance for scientific and urban planning reasons as well as for revitalizing and increasing the value of the environment."

...Since the inauguration, 125 years have passed in which the Word of God has been and is at the center of worship celebrations. Many people experienced comfort and strengthening of their faith within their walls. Let us hope and wish together that this Church will continue to strengthen and pass on the Christian faith in the future. In this way, the church board from Hahnstätten congratulates its friendly and parish-affiliated neighboring community on the anniversary "125 years of "new" church in Kaltenholzhausen."

(This report was written by Reiner Keitsch, member of the church board of Hahnstätten in the Community letter of the Protestant parishes Hahnstätten and Kaltenholzhausen, Easter 2021.)

Minutes from Fall Board Meeting

After another wonderful meal provided by Donna Seaman, the Fall Meeting of the Heymann Historical Society was called to order on October 9 at 2:06 p.m. by President David Hyman. Roll call was taken. David Hyman, Elizabeth Horvatich, William Seaman, Kurt Heyman, Scott Bailey, Paula Heyman, Neil Horn, Rachel Parrett, and Lanton Lee were present. Ulrike Gapp and Marcia Adelman were not present. Minutes of the Spring 2022 meeting were read by William Seaman. Neil Horn moved to accept the minutes as is, and Beth Horvatich seconded the motion. The motion passed without dissent.

Kurt Heyman presented the Treasurer's Report. Per the high standards of past reports by our treasurer, Kurt covered in detail the income statement, the balance sheet (which includes everything from cash balances, collectibles, buildings, marketable bonds and securities, furniture, etc.) and a list of contributors to the society. Kurt Heyman mentioned that an audit still needs to be done on the society's finances. Rachel Parrett moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lanton Lee seconded the motion, and said motion passed without dissent. While Kurt Heyman had the floor, he mentioned that the expiring trustee terms of William Seaman, Scott Bailey, Rachel Parrett, and Marcia Adelman had not been renewed/re-elected at the annual meeting on August 7, 2022. Kurt Heyman made the motion to re-elect the four individuals listed above to 3-year terms. Neil Horn seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. Last and not least (*according to the Secretary himself, but NOT the group as a whole**), Kurt mentioned that 2022 marks the 40th year of service to the society by William Seaman – the longest serving board member.

In Old Business Rachel Parrett spoke to the website and newsletter. Kudos were given to Ulrike for help with future articles in the newsletter. William Seaman asked about the reach of our newsletter. After some quick math by Rachel Parrett, 1500 copies of the newsletter are sent to 43 states and 4 countries. The scope of the newsletter might argue a point with a certain lawyer (not David Hyman or Paula Heyman) who stated that we are an obscure organization. Jackie Hyman gave a report on gifts. \$220 of gifts were sold at the annual meeting in August. Commemorative coins were discussed as a possible addition to the gift inventory. The coins would have Heymann Historical Society – 175th Anniversary inscribed upon them. More details to come at the next meeting. The status of the Emerson Creek industrial wind project was presented by William Seaman. Multiple wind turbines would be close to Hunts Corners. The project is currently in litigation, funded by local citizens, at the Ohio Supreme Court. At the time of the meeting and as these notes are transcribed, oral arguments have yet to be scheduled.

In New Business William Seaman noted that during one of the weddings held at the church in 2022, our banners were removed from their hangers, and never put back up. During the removal of the three banners, the Kaltenholzhause banner was damaged. William Seaman made a 2-part motion that future events at the church cannot remove the banners from the church walls and that the Kaltenholzhause banner needs to be repaired. Kurt Heyman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. David Hyman then presented a resolution to update our Code of Regulations regarding attendance and participation by its members at its future scheduled meetings. Under Article IX it will read as follows...

The regular meetings of the Board of Trustees/Directors of The Heymann Historical Society shall, if possible, take place on the last Sunday in March and the last Sunday in September of each calendar year at a place to be determined in advance by the Board,

In the event that, due to unavoidable absence by a member of the Board due to personal illness, family emergency, inclement weather, previously scheduled vacation out of the area, employment conflict, travel difficulties, or always in the case of a Board member who resides outside the United States of America, a member unable to personally attend a meeting, shall, upon sufficient prior notice, be allowed to attend a meeting, if the same can reasonably be arranged, by video conferencing. Such participation shall also constitute attendance for the purpose of having a quorum and the video conferencing member shall be allowed full participation in the business of the Board including voting.

It is intended that attendance by video conferencing shall be the exception and not the rule. If otherwise possible, personal attendance by each member at meetings is expected.

William Seaman moved to accept and adopt this resolution. Scott Bailey seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 yeas to 0 nays. The motion was adopted October 9, 2022. Our vice president Beth Horvatich made the motion to approve all actions by the board over the past year. William Seaman seconded the motion, and it passed without dissent. No names were submitted by the nominating committee to replace Ed Rose, who resigned earlier in 2022. At the spring meeting we will either have nominees to present to the board, or we will determine if 11 members on the board is sufficient. Kurt Heyman made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula Heyman seconded the motion, and the motion passed quickly and unanimously – the meeting adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

-Respectfully submitted, William Seaman

*Editor's addition

In Memoriam

John Edward Robinson of Bowling Green, OH, born Apr 15, 1942 - Apr 26, 2022, age 80, pg 55

James M. Shaarda of North Royalton, OH, born Nov 2, 1962- Aug 7, 2022, age 59, pg 579

Margit Altenhofen-Kramer of Bad Ems, Germany, born Mar 27, 1956 - Oct 8, 2022, age 66, pg 1248

Charles A. Hacker of Sandusky, OH, born Dec 10, 1935 - Oct 28, 2022, age 86, pg 327

If you have a family marriage, birth, or death that you would like included in the newsletter, please email the information to heymanhistorical@gmail.com or submit the details to the editor for publication by mail. Contact details are found at the bottom of page 3.

The Unsung Heroine of the HHS

Continued from Page 1... 'Heymann' from Germany to the USA was celebrated. First, German and American Heymans spent a good time together. Afterwards, accompanied by some American Heymans, we travelled on to Chicago. Afterwards, part of the German group went on a round trip in the West, including San Diego, Las Vegas, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, and Bryce Canyon.

My second trip was again very special. In 2004, I first visited Lenore and Elden Plue near Detroit. After a few days we drove on to Ohio for a meeting of the Heymann Society - at the home of Norma and Louis Zorn. For a week I then stayed with Joan Zorn. I visited some relatives, and we went on excursions in the area. Then Carol Germond, Ruth Berner, and Laurel and Duane Heyman set off with me to visit New York, Philadelphia and Washington. We travelled by train. It was a great tour with four lovely people and with many lasting impressions and memories. Afterwards, I flew from Washington to Florida to visit Reva June and Bob Nasby.

My 3rd trip took me - at the invitation of Laurel and Duane Heyman - to

Michigan. A day trip took us to Ohio to the home of Norma and Louis Zorn. Here some of the Heymans came together. Laurel and Duane Heyman also enabled me to visit Carol Germond after the meeting. A detour was also made to the house of Monica Slabodnick, Ruth Berner's daughter. It was an unforgettable day with great encounters and conversations. Following the visit to Laurel and Duane, I had booked a round trip 'Indian Summer' in the east of the USA. My hosts did not miss the opportunity to take me there by car. They took me to Boston to the hotel where the tour began.

I have particularly fond memories of the Heyman Cousins trips through Europe. Together we visited different cities and areas and had a good time together. A highlight for both, the American and German Heymans, were always the visits and meetings in Kaltenholzhausen and Burschwalbach. Hopefully we can get together again sometime.

-Submitted by Ulrike Gapp



Ulrike, above, in 2022, poses for a photograph for this article.



Ulrike dubbed this photo as one of her favorites. Pictured with Ulrike in New York, NY are Carol Germond, Ruth Berner, Duane Heyman, and Laurel Heyman.

Thank You for Supporting the HHS

HEYMANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Memorials & Contributions

April 27, 2022 - November 13, 2022

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El Paso, Texas

Danny L Smith

The Altar Group

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Elizabeth A & Martin Horvatic

William G Heiman Reunion

Las Vegas, Nevada

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Tontogany, Ohio

Nancy Bachman

Randy Haas, Janet (Wade) Heiman,

Marla (Storch) Gordon, Nancy Jane (Heiman) Younkin

David A & Jackie Hyman

Paulding, Ohio

Your support of our Not-for-Profit makes this publication possible. Publishing, printing, and mailing costs are covered by the HHS, so that you can receive this newsletter twice a year. Please consider making a tax deductible donation to help us cover the costs of this unique genealogical resource. Thank you!



Charitable Giving

The Heymann Historical Society is a Not-For-Profit corporation established December 15, 1981, dedicated to promoting our family heritage by preserving the Hunts Corners Church, researching and publishing the family genealogy, and preserving family memorabilia. Please consider reducing your Federal Income Taxes, estate taxes, and avoid paying capital gains taxes on the current value of any stock you may wish to transfer to the HHS. If you have any questions regarding how to transfer your stock to the Heymann Historical Society, please give Board President and attorney David Hyman a call, and he will be glad to assist you. Office Ph: 419.399.4916 or Home Ph: 419.399.4659.

Naming an organization and giving a life insurance policy is another way of completing your plans to help an organization to continue after your death and is a meaningful legacy. A monetary gift in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one is another thoughtful way to support the society. Contributions and memorials may be mailed at any time to: **Heymann Historical Society**, Kurt Heyman, 2417 Mudbrook Rd, Huron, Ohio 44839. Ph: 419.541.0544 (Heymann Historical Society—Federal Tax ID # 34-1365013)

Please Note: Do NOT use the address on this page for HHS correspondence. Please choose the address from those listed on Page 3 that matches the type of information you are sending. Thank you.

HEYMANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Kaltenholzhausen Celebrates Church Anniversary

About 75 visitors, including many guests from surrounding communities, came to the festive service celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Protestant church in Kaltenholzhausen, which was consecrated in 1896. In his sermon, Pastor Michalke recalled the importance of the church for the village of Kaltenholzhausen. According to the chronicle, almost the entire village was involved in the construction of the church. Since its construction, the generously designed building has been the landmark of Kaltenholzhausen, visible from afar. Under the biblical motto "You are a house of living stones" (1 Peter 2:5), Rev. Michalke emphasized that even the most magnificent houses of worship would be meaningless if they did not contain a living congregation gathered under God's Word, standing together in fellowship and prayer, living out their faith with one another and spreading Christian hope.

The church council entrusted with the leadership of the congregation of about 260 souls from 2015 to 2021 was ceremoniously bid farewell, after which the new council elected on 13 June was inaugurated. Stefan Schnee, outgoing chairman of the church council, recalled groundbreaking decisions of the ending term of office and the great challenge of maintaining the buildings with the scarce resources. The festive service was musically framed by the contributions of the Liederhain singing group under the direction of Katrin Engel.

A champagne reception followed in front of the church with greetings from the local mayor Christian Neeb (presentation of a donation for the urgently needed and costly revision of the organ) and the chairperson of the GV Yvonne Theobald. Annett Kitschke read a greeting from the Synodal Board of the Nassau Land Deanery.

The Protestant partner parish of Hahnstätten planted a Ginkgo tree in the churchyard. The celebration continued on the grounds of the Protestant community center with a barbecue, coffee, cake and children's entertainment. There was a quiz with questions about the church and the local congregation. In addition, a large jigsaw puzzle of the church was put together. The puzzle pieces were colored in by guests. The guests could leave a birthday wish for the church. Both will be displayed in the church during the anniversary year.

(This report was written by Annett Kitschke, member of the church board of Kaltenholzhausen and appeared in the Community letter of the Protestant parishes Hahnstätten and Kaltenholzhausen, Christmas 2021.)



Die Kirche ist ein wichtiger Teil meines Lebens mit vielen Erinnerungen. Sie ist für mich "Heimat." (The church is an important part of my life with many memories. It is "home" for me.) - Brigitte Kitschke