



Wheeling's 1906

**SAENGERFEST**  
**REVISITED**

A special edition of Lunch With Books  
at the Ohio County Public Library  
Sunday, May 29, 2016



# Dedication

Our Saengerfest is dedicated to Dr. Edward C. Wolf, whose work ensured that Wheeling's German singing societies would not be lost to history.



# Acknowledgements

Thanks for helping make today's program possible go to Dr. David Javersak; Chef Chris Kafauver and the West Virginia Northern Community College Culinary Arts Department; Wheeling Brewing Company; Curator Kelsy Traeger and the Museums of Oglebay Institute; Dr. Dennis Niess; and, especially, the singers and support team from the Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner Club and the Kolping Society of Cincinnati.

Special thanks to Dr. Scott Nekrosius and Diane Frey for asking to bring another Saengerfest to Wheeling and to Uli Gaertner for the history of Liederkrantz-Turner and today's concert program.

Extra special thanks to our patrons for your continuing support.

Cover logo design by Erin Rothenbuehler

## Music in the Air:

# Wheeling's 1906 Saengerfest Revisited

By Seán Duffy

## Germantown

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The Wheeling of one hundred ten years ago was a robust German town, with a German language newspaper, mandatory German language classes in many schools, and German language services in many churches.

It was also home to numerous German choral singing societies, including the Arion, Harmonie, Maennerchor, Beethoven, Germania, Liedertafel, Mozart, Concordia, Liederkrantz, and Teutonia. The Turner (or Turnverein) Society emphasized gymnastics and operated Turner's Hall. The singers were mostly male, accompanied, when needed, by female singers from the women's auxiliaries. The societies often had their own musicians.

In addition to their individual concerts, which often featured formal balls and dinners, these patriotic groups joined forces annually to sponsor Wheeling's biggest 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations at the Fairgrounds on Wheeling Island.

The German singing societies also sponsored three big regional singing festivals, or Saengerfests in Wheeling in 1860, 1885, and 1906. Other societies journeyed to town from far flung cities in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio to join their Wheeling brothers and sisters for a few days of concerts, parades, and picnics. The 1860 Saengerfest featured performances in Washington Hall and the Athenaeum (converted not long after to a Civil War military prison). The 1885 Saengerfest was held at Alhambra Palace Hall, a huge roller skating rink at Chapline and 33<sup>rd</sup> Streets, and ended with a "Monster Parade" and "Grand Excursion to Wheeling Park."

By the time of Wheeling's 1906 Saengerfest (held for the Central Ohio Singing District) only the big three Wheeling societies were still in operation: the upper crust Arion (a merger of the Harmonie and Maennerchor), which operated Arion Hall at 20<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets; the working class Beethoven, which also met at Arion Hall and would be the last of the Wheeling societies still standing, surviving until 1961; and the working class, South Wheeling based, Mozart (a merger of the Concordia and Liederkrantz supported by Henry Schmulbach and his brewery employees), which had a hall at 38<sup>th</sup> and Jacob and operated Mozart Park (and beer garden).



In this real photo postcard from the collections of the Ohio County Public Library Archives, “Arion Hall” at 20<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets is decked out in bunting and flags for the 1906 Saengerfest. The building still stands.



The Court Theatre was the primary venue for the 1906 festival. Image courtesy West Virginia and Regional History Collection.

## Gardens of Beer

Schmulbach's chief rival, brewer Anton Reymann, was a prominent member of the Arion Society, and operated his own beer garden at Wheeling Park. In fact, German beer gardens seemed to be around every corner in Wheeling at the time, from Mozart and Wheeling Parks, to Seibert's Pavilion in Edgwood. And beer was certainly a popular beverage at the German singing festivals, as Wheeling's singers fondly remembered the previous Saengerfest in 1904 in Akron where the Cleveland delegation wore hats with the German words for "What will you have?" on the front and on the back, "Always beer!"



There was even a German beer garden on the Coney Island amusement park in the river near Warwood, which had spared no expense in preparation for the 1906 Saengerfest, paying top dollar to book the hottest aerial act around that summer: the "French equilibrist" (tightrope walker) Arabie Philion. "Between 5000 and 7000 people saw [Philion] yesterday," the *News-Register* reported. "The steamer *Avalon* was crowded to its capacity on each trip and as many more went up on the traction cars." Large Saengerfest crowds were expected for Philion, who "stands upon a globe 28 inches in diameter and propels it up a spiral runway 160 feet long and then out upon an imitation cable 50 feet in length. The dare-devilry of the performance is accentuated by the fact that Philion does not have a net stretched to catch him in case he falls...In the night performance he released a fountain of fire, which enveloped him as he descended to the runway." The *News-Register* pronounced Philion's show a "novel, pleasant, and thrilling act" and encouraged Saengerfest visitors not to miss it. According to newspaper accounts, not many did.

Just three days later the Wheeling Amusement Company, which owned Coney, was sued for \$500. The cash drawer was levied but only contained a paltry \$100, so the owners were given until the end of the week to reach a settlement to avoid a forced sale of the island. The manager, Mr. Driehorst, was "said to have been surprised of the deputy sheriff being in possession of papers for the island, and he beat the deputy to it by about fifteen minutes via the 'airship' line," the *News-Register* joked, mocking the popular "Airship to the North Pole" attraction at Coney Island. The big 1907 flood would bring an end to the unlikely river resort.



**DOWN AT MOZART.**

A feature which was enjoyed as only Germans can enjoy it, after the concert.



**Coney Island**

**FREE!** Park; no gates. Vaudeville.

See Archie Phillion in his great \$1,500 feature act during Saengerfest week, commencing Sunday, August 19. Positively the biggest amusement sensation of summer.

Friday night, Amateur night.

**PHILLION'S ACT  
DELIGHTS MANY**

Best Free Open Air Act Ever Offered to Wheeling Amusement Seekers at Coney.

Archie Phillion's great act is the most novel and pleasing open air performance that has ever been given free to the amusement seekers of Greater Wheeling, and between 5,000 and 7,000 people saw it yesterday at free Coney Island. The steamer Avalon was crowded to its capacity on each trip, and as many more went up on the traction cars. All were delighted with the performance, and will give it a viva voce advertising that is certain to bring large throngs to the Island every afternoon and evening during the week of the saengerfest.

**AMUSEMENTS.**

**THIS WEEK**  
All Feature  
**VODVIL**  
—AT—  
**WHEELING PARK**  
Don't **FREE** Forget

**CONEY ISLAND**

Gala Amusement Week, commencing Sunday, August 12th, matinees and nights, **FREE—VAUDEVILLE—FREE.**

Look out for The Lady With the Red Mask, \$10 in gold to first person guessing her name. Friday night, amateur night, \$5 in gold to winner. Take steamer Avalon or traction cars. 7-23e&dh

# The Biggest

Wheeling's August 21-23, 1906 Saengerfest was the biggest of them all. Held primarily at the Court Theatre, it featured, in addition to Wheeling's big three (under the direction of Professor Herman Shockey), 24 visiting singing societies, including: Akron Saengerbund and Akron Leidertafel; Alliance Harmonie; Canton Arion; Cleveland Harmonie, Cleveland German-Hungarian Society, Cleveland Newburg Germania Mannerchore, Cleveland Schwabischer Saengerbund, Cleveland Turner Mannerchore, and Cleveland Deutsch Ungartscher Saengerbund; Columbus Germania, Columbus Leiderfranz; Dayton Mannerchore, Dayton Schwabischer Saengerbund; Lima Orion; Mansfield Arion; Marion Deutsch Bund; Parkersburg (WV) Germania; Sandusky Schfabishcer Saengerbund; and Youngstown Mannerchore.

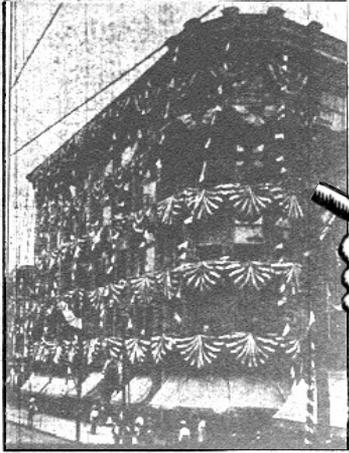
Also in town was the Chillicothe Eintracht which, back in 1885 when the Saengerfest was also a singing competition, had won a "silver loving cup." They forgot to bring the cup back to Wheeling with them in 1906, when the competitive aspect had been discontinued because it had "led to ill-feeling."

As each society arrived they were "met at the [train] depot by the reception committee and a band [typically the Opera House Band] and escorted by them to Arion Hall" for refreshments and then to their headquarters.

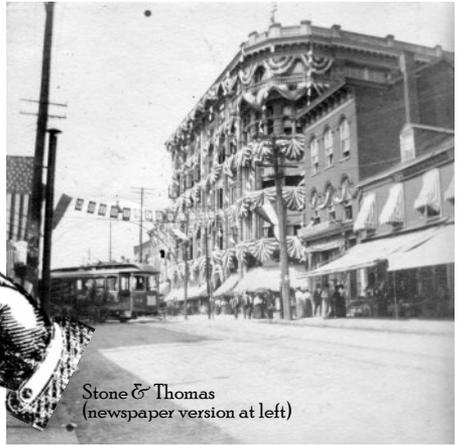
With between four and five thousand extra passengers expected per day, local railroads offered special trains, including the Pan Handle from Butler and Columbus, the B&O from Pittsburgh, Parkersburg, and Cleveland and the Wheeling and Lake Erie from Cleveland. And with so many thousands of visitors expected to descend upon the city, the hotels offered special rates and were soon booked so full, most reportedly had "a large number of cots placed about in the parlors and halls," with still more visitors having to be placed in private homes.

The idea of the streets teeming with out-of-towners had the Wheeling Police on high alert, expecting, "pickpockets and crooks of a similar nature." But in the end, the police seemed almost disappointed by how few crooks actually went to work.

In keeping with a request made by Wheeling Mayor Charles Schmidt in his official Saengerfest Proclamation, many buildings throughout town (including Stone & Thomas, Arion Hall, and the Court) were draped with German and American flags and bunting for the occasion. "The city has put on its gayest attire," the *Intelligencer* said, "and all thoroughfares are lined with buildings displaying flags, festoons and streamers of the American and German colors." The decorations by H. F. Behrens Company on South Market were said to be the most artistic by the "saenger-bruders," with German and American flags artfully arranged all over the front of the store.



Stone & Thomas' big department store in gala attire in honor of the Saengerfest.



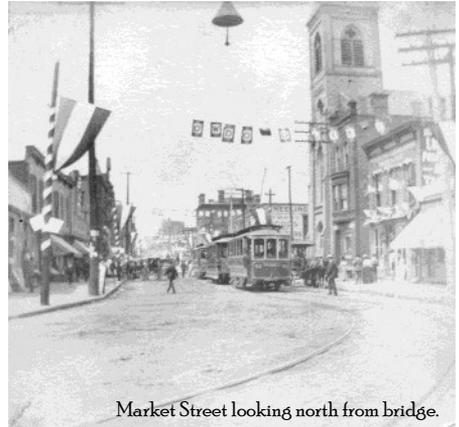
Stone & Thomas  
(newspaper version at left)

**GENERAL NOTICES.**  
**PROCLAMATION.**

MAYOR'S OFFICE.  
Whereas, The tenth annual Saengerfest of the Central Ohio Singer District will be held in our city August 21, 22, 23, and 24, assured that at least 2,000 to 4,000 people from all over this section will be the guests of the city of Wheeling at that time. Therefore, I hereby request all our citizens to give a cordial welcome to our visitors, and in evidence of our hospitality I urge all business men to decorate their places of business during the aforesaid three days with American and German flags and bunting. We wish to make our guests feel at home on this occasion and the city take on gala attire for this affair.  
Yours very truly,  
CHAS. C. SCHMIDT,  
Mayor of the City of Wheeling.



Stifel Dry Goods, 12th & Main



Market Street looking north from bridge.



MAYOR C. C. SCHMIDT,  
Mingling with the singers and telling them "what's what" about Wheeling.

The rare images (at right) of the streets of Wheeling decorated for the 1906 Saengerfest are from a photo album created by the Stifel family. L.F. Stifel was president of the Saengerfest Committee.

- Courtesy Dr. Dennis Niess.

# The Streets Were Alive

The streets of Wheeling had never been so alive with the sights and sounds of spontaneous singing, performance, and musicianship. The town was transformed into a German version of New Orleans. As they marched in the sweltering downtown street from their hotels to the Court to perform, the societies were usually accompanied by a “band of music.” Impromptu concerts broke out on street corners. The Cleveland German-Hungarian Society was the first to enlist an uninvited group tagged the “Leedle German Band” to play music as they walked from place to place. Other delegations followed suit, picking up the “Leedle German Band” to head impromptu parades. “There was music in the air after the concert last night,” the *News-Register* observed, “and the inevitable ‘Hi-lee hi-lo’ was sung freely on the street. All the visitors appeared to be having a good time. Many of the societies wore uniform caps, some of them with inscriptions in German across the visor.”

The biggest of Saengerfests was also a big marketing opportunity. In addition to an official lithography filled program, official badges were sold at Arion Hall and the Court, “...neat celluloid affairs, surmounted by the German flag, and bearing the words: ‘Tenth Central Ohio Saengerfest...Wheeling, W. Va.’”

The *New York Staats Zeitung*, the largest German daily newspaper in the country had a reporter at the events, and enterprising local newsboys “had supplied themselves with a large number of copies of [Wheeling’s] German Daily, *Duetsch Zeitung*, and were hawking their wares along the streets.”

Stores like C.A. House, House and Hermann, Hancher Jewelers, and Palace Furniture and Undertaking Parlor ran newspaper ads targeting Saengerfest attendees. In its ad welcoming the singers themselves, Stone & Thomas reminded them that they were required to wear a white vest and black bow tie, both of which they could purchase at – wait for it – Stone & Thomas, for just 98 cents to \$3 per vest and only 25 cents per tie!

## Opening Night

The sixty-piece Cleveland Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Ludwig Van Beethoven doppelganegr Johann Beck, served as the primary orchestra, backing a chorus of 700 men (for whom a huge wooden scaffolding was special built on top of the Court’s stage), and another chorus of 600 children directed by Miss Lucy Robinson that, attired all in white sang “Old Glory” “Dixie” and “America” while waving small American flags.

On opening night, August 21, with “a large German flag and on either side smaller American flags,” at center rear of the stage, “The curtain rose at 8:15...and from the rear, row upon row, from the extreme back of the stage forward and from the extreme of either wing in tier upon tier sat the immense chorus of 700 persons.” Beck led the symphony’s performance of Wagner’s Imperial March...” and then, “the largest song body ever heard in Wheeling” performed “Sing and Forget.” The volume was immense,” the *Intelligencer* reported, “but not to such an extent that it was rendered unpleasing...”



LEEDLE GERMAN BAND.

They were uninvited guests, but they are none the less welcome.



An original celluloid badge.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

# WHEELING SAENGERFEST

## COURT THEATRE

Tuesday and Wednesday Evenings  
and Wednesday Afternoon.

### AUGUST 21st and 22nd.

### THREE GRAND CONCERTS

—given by the—  
**CENTRAL OHIO SINGER UNION.**  
 MASS CHORUS OF  
 800—MALE VOICES—800  
 SCHOOL CHILDREN'S CHORUS OF  
 600—VOICES—600

The Cleveland Symphony Orchestra  
 of 50—Instruments—50

### THREE RENOWNED SOLOISTS.

Mrs. Alice Merritt-Cochran... Soprano.  
 Mr. Edward Strong..... Tenor.  
 Mr. E. A. Jahn..... Baritone.

Prices—50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.50. Box Seats \$2.00. Seats on sale at the Court Theatre on and after Thursday at 9 a. m. August 16th.

### Grand Street Parade, Volks-Fest and Picnic at Mozart Park

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 23rd, 1906.



## HANCHER



Jeweler, Optician and Diamond Importer

WE UNITE WITH YOUR WARM WELCOME to the Saengerfest visitors a splendid showing of Sterling Silver Souvenir Spoons. Make yourself quite at home here, whether just looking or buying.

1211 MARKET STREET

REPAIRING A SPECIALTY



## Willkommen, Ihr Sanger





THE LEADING FURNITURE STORE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
 BIDS YOU WELCOME!

UNDERTAKING PARLORS 1301 Main Street	<b>THE PALACE</b>	UNDERTAKING PARLORS 1301 Main Street
	1113-15 Main St.	1114-16 Water St.

## Waterland vs Ould Sod

Not all of the Saengerfest visitors were of German extraction. John Garrity the Irish “tinner” from “the ould sod” via Parkersburg was making the rounds at the Saengerfest concerts and parties, which he reportedly enjoyed “with a keen relish.” He became well known for “cracking jokes” and was “generally a center of a jolly crowd wherever he might go...”

Meanwhile, the vaudeville acts at Wheeling Park attracted both Irish and Germans, who “Thronged” the park. “It was the A.O.H. [Ancient Order of Hibernians] picnic,” the *News Register’s* version began, “but the Germans outnumbered the sons of the Ould Sod two to one. However they mingled together and all were out on pleasure bent and they certainly had it. After the excellent vaudeville performance, the Saengerfest visitors formed in bodies of about fifteen, each body having a leader, and then there was singing in every part of the park. This singing was kept up until they arrived in the city. And each one had a grand time, and only such a time as a German at Wheeling Park can have. Every amusement was indulged in and the refreshment counter was well patronized.” Indeed, the presence of so many hardcore German and Irish pleasure-bent amusement seekers at his park must have meant quite a boon to Mr. Reymann and the sales of his particular, hoppy refreshments.

## A Heat Wave

In the end, attendance at the official Saengerfest concerts was lower than expected, and the low numbers were blamed on an August heat wave that peaked at 96 degrees. In fact, the temperature inside the Court Theatre, packed with 700 choral singers, was stifling, and attendance at the outdoor venues received a corresponding boost. Eschewing the superheated indoor events, many visitors hopped the trolleys to visit neighboring towns, the parks, and Coney Island, while the Mozart, Arion, and Beethoven halls were left open for visitors to come and go.

Even so, enough spectators showed up at the Court on the final night that, when they joined with the 700 singers on stage to sing the *Star Spangled Banner*. “...the big auditorium rang with the harmony of the grand old national anthem and on the chorus the audience rose and joined in and 1,500 voices breathed out the country’s tune. It was a wonderful climax to a wonderful song festival and ended Wheeling’s greatest musical affair.”

Court Theatre manager Richardson and a team of just four men rather quickly dismantled the huge lumber scaffolding erected on top of the Court’s stage, which had impressively held the 700 singers without incident and without a single nail having been driven into the stage itself.

# IRISH AND GERMAN'S

Thronged Wheeling Park and Enjoyed  
The Fine Programme  
Presented.

Yesterday was a nextceptionally big day at Wheeling Park. It was the A. O. H. Picnic, but Germans predominated. A vast number of Saengeffest visitors enjoyed the excellent vaudeville performance, and then made up several bodies of about fifteen in number and sweet singing could be heard in all parts of the park. It was a jolly day for all. The evening performance was packed and as usual went big. This offering is one of the finest seen here in a long time and demonstrates the quality of the Keith offerings. For next week an exceptionally attractive programme has been arranged. It will equal in every way this week's presentation. No matter what the conditions are one is always sure of a great time at Wheeling Park, and every visitor is under the careful eye of the management and every point is strained to make them perfectly happy in every way.

TO-DAY  
**WHEELING PARK**

ALL STAR  
**VAUDEVILLE**

All Kind Amusements.

PICNIC OF  
**A. O. H.**

and Ladies' Auxiliary.

BIG SPECIAL FEATURES.

**FREE!** DON'T FORGET **FREE!**

## HEAT EXCESSIVE

Hottest Day Since the Early Summer  
Experienced in Wheeling  
Yesterday.

The hottest day since the early summer was experienced in Wheeling yesterday, and the result was a great thinning out of the number of pedestrians on the streets. To make the contrast all the more marked was the fact that the saengeffest had made more than the usual crowds in the business district. To avoid the heat these latter visitors adjourned in a body to Mozart park, while the other parks had more than the usual patronage.

The highest temperature recorded was at Schmidt's, when the thermometer at one time recorded 96, while 93 and 92 were recorded at many points throughout the city. The fact of the breeze was all that saved the city from feeling the full effect of the sun and as luck would have it not a case of prostration was reported.

## Chorus of Fifteen Hundred Sang "Star Spangle"

### GREAT FINALE OF THE CONCERTS

Greatest Musical Event in History of Wheeling Ends  
To-Day.

PARADE OF ALL THE  
SOCIETIES A FEATURE.

Picnic at Mozart Park Concludes  
Tenth Central Ohio  
Saengeffest.

With the singing of the "Star Spangler Banner" by fifteen hundred persons in the Court theatre last evening, the musical portion of the tenth saengeffest of the Central Ohio singing district was concluded, while with the picnic to-day the affair in its entirety ends. The gathering, beyond a doubt, is one of the greatest ever held in Wheeling and to its smallest detail has been a success, a fact that reflects the greatest of credit upon committees, conductors and all participating. The big feature of to-day will be the



C. W. APPENZELLER,  
Chairman Finance Committee.

really possible. The symphony orchestra appeared at both performances and their renditions of the classic and semi-classics has rarely, if ever, been equaled in the city. Every one of the forty-two musicians is an artist himself, while Director Johann Beck, of Cleveland, is possessed of a technical knowledge and skill that magnetically controls every musician and brings out volume after volume of harmony. This portion of the programme alone will afford it possible to visit Wheeling again they will be accorded a hearty welcome. While it is hard to name any particular number in which they excelled the others, some mention must be made of their rendition last evening of Forster's "Grand Dedication March."

Of the mass chorus enough for the singers cannot be said, while Prof. Herman M. Shockey, the conductor, brought them to a state of perfection such as is rarely equaled in big choruses and the remark was made that the 600 or 700 people appearing sang as one man. Prof. Shockey deserves the greatest credit for the chorus success of the Saengeffest and his ability as a musician and conductor, previously resting upon a firm foundation, is further enhanced and he may indeed look with pride, as all Wheeling does, upon his success upon



MARTIN KUHN,  
Member of Executive Committee.

were all attired in white and sang

# Volkfest!

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But the last concert was not really the end. The festivities ended in grand German style with another monster parade or Volkfest. The societies assembled at Arion Hall about 600 strong, and accompanied by the Opera House Band, Meister's Band and six others, marched up Market to 10<sup>th</sup>, down Main to 23<sup>rd</sup>, then over to Chapline, and down Chapline to 29<sup>th</sup>, where they hopped the incline street cars (along with thousands of others) to Mozart Park for a massive, Schmulbach beer-fueled picnic and party with dancing, bowling, shooting and general merriment.

Mozart Park, was "thronged Afternoon and Night," with an estimated 4000 people (the *Intelligencer* had the number over 10,000). "The Opera House Band," said the *Nems-Register*, rendered the concert music and Meister's Orchestra furnished the music for dancing. The large pavilion where the devotees of the terpsichorean art held sway was crowded all the time during the afternoon and evening." Banners were placed around the park to mark where each society was to congregate and have lunch.

In the shooting contest, Henry Beu won first prize: a silk umbrella. Second prize was a box of cigars, third a pipe. Bowling champ John Roth won a "handsome water pitcher." A "beautiful stein set" went to the second and third place bowlers.

Though they managed to transport visitors up the hill to fill the park without incident, four City Railway Company cars jumped the tracks while lugging the huge crowd back down the hill. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries.

Wheeling's biggest (and last) Saengerfest had come to a rousing end.

The next biennial Central Ohio Saengerfest was scheduled for Canton in 1908 in June "to escape the heat of August."

## Wheeling De-Germanized

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Despite the grand success of the 1906 Saengerfest, and despite Wheeling's status as a staunchly German town, just a few years later, the town's distinctive German character would be virtually erased. America's entry into the Great War sparked a highly effective national propaganda campaign against the German enemy. The ensuing anti-German backlash caused dramatic changes in Wheeling. In 1918, all German language instruction in city schools was discontinued, Wheeling businesses like the German Bank dropped the word "German" from their corporate names, and all of the German Singing Societies (except for the Beethoven) became extinct. And Wheeling would never again experience the merriment of a Saengerfest, that is, until the Ohio County Public Library revived the tradition in 2010.

# Saengerfest Revisited

And today, you are about to experience the sights, sounds, and smells of a bygone era.

Today we welcome back the Liederkranz-Turner Club, a German singing society from Dayton, Ohio, accompanied by the Kolping Society of Cincinnati. The Liederkranz-Turner singers were in town six years ago to mark the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Wheeling's 1885 Saengerfest. So memorable was their first Wheeling experience, they requested a return, along with their friends from Cincinnati, to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the last Wheeling Saengerfest in 1906.

After an introduction by Dr. David Javersak to provide the historical context, the Liederkranz-Turner Club and the Kolping Society will perform. Free German festival food created by Chef Chris Kefauver and the culinary arts department at West Virginia Northern Community College will be served. There will also be door prizes, including some from the Wheeling Brewing Company, which has crafted the seasonal Saengerfest Schwarzbier, a pilsner dedicated to the history of German singing in Wheeling.

## Willkommen bei der SAENGERFEST!



Images of the original 1906 program courtesy the Museums of Oglebay Institute.

2.531.3

# 10. Sanger-Fest

— des —

## CENTRAL-OHIO SENGERBEZIRKS

AM 21., 22. UND 23. AUGUST 1906



W · H · E · E · L · I · N · G  
W. VA.

Liederkranz-Turner Club sings at the 2010 Saengerfest at the library.

X.531.3

Edw. Blumenberg  
Wheeling, W. Va

**Fest-Behörde.**

L. F. STIFEL	Präsident
FIDELIS RIESTER	Vizepräsident
VAL. THEBY	Prot. Sekretär
J. C. JUNG	Korresp. Sekretär
A. A. SCHRAMM	Finanz-Sekretär
KARL HORSTMANN	Schatzmeister
C. W. APPENZELLER	Beisitzer
JACOB KORN	Beisitzer
E. HOFREUTER	Beisitzer
M. KUHN	Beisitzer

HERMANN M. SCHOCKEY	Fest-Dirigent
EDUARD BLUMENBERG	Vize-Dirigent

The "Knabe" Grand Concert Piano  
used during the Saengerfest is kindly  
furnished by the Music Firm  
F. W. BAUMER CO.

German-American Printing Co.

Images of the original 1906 program courtesy the Museums of Oglebay Institute.

Tuesday Evening, August 21, 1906

Reception and First Grand Concert

8:15 P. M.

PROGRAM

No Encores

1. IMPERIAL MARCH..... R. Wagner  
CLEVELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA  
MR. JOHANN H. BECK, CONDUCTOR.  
Address of welcome by the Hon. CHAS. C. SCHMIDT, Mayor  
of the City of Wheeling.  
Address by Mr. ALOIS KESSLER of Mansfield, O., Vice-President  
of the Central-Ohio-Singer-District.  
Address by Mr. LOUIS F. STIFEL, President of the  
Wheeling Sængerfest.
2. RECEPTION-CHORUS: "To the Artists", Mendelssohn  
Singing Societies "ARION", "BEETHOVEN" and "MOZART"  
of Wheeling, W. Va. Accompaniment by Cleveland  
Symphony Orchestra.  
MR. H. M. SCHOCKEY, CONDUCTOR.
3. BARITON-SOLO: "An jenem Tag" ..... Marschner  
Aria from "Hans Heiling".  
MR. E. A. JAHN.
4. PEER-GYNT SUITE..... Edw. Grieg  
a) "Asa's Death"  
b) "In the Hall of the Mountain-King"  
CLEVELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.  
MR. JOHANN H. BECK, CONDUCTOR.
5. MASS-CHORUS of the Central-Ohio-Singer-District:  
a) "Sing and Forget" ..... Silcher  
b) "Heath-Rose" ..... Werner  
MR. H. M. SCHOCKEY, CONDUCTOR.
6. SOPRAN-SOLO: "Dich teure Halle" ..... R. Wagner  
Aria from "Tannhäuser",  
MRS. ALICE MERRITT-COCHRAN.
7. OVERTURE: "Lara" ..... Johann H. Beck  
CLEVELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.  
MR. JOHANN H. BECK, CONDUCTOR.
8. MASS-CHORUS of the Central-Ohio-Singer-District:  
a) "What have I done to my Love?" ..... Hamma  
b) "Greeting to Home" ..... Attenhofer  
MR. EDWARD BLUMENBERG, CONDUCTOR.
9. TENOR-SOLO: "Walter's Price Song" ..... R. Wagner  
Aria from "Die Meistersinger",  
MR. EDWARD STRONG.
10. SYMPHONY in C minor, Op. 67..... Beethoven  
a) Andante con Moto.  
b) Finale Allegro.  
CLEVELAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA.  
MR. JOHANN H. BECK, CONDUCTOR.
11. TRIO from "Nachtlager of Granada" ..... Kreutzer  
Sopran, Tenor and Bariton.  
MRS. ALICE MERRITT-COCHRAN, MESSRS. EDWARD STRONG  
AND E. A. JAHN.
12. MASS-CHORUS of the Central-Ohio-Singer-District:  
"Banner Song" ..... Hirsch  
MR. H. M. SCHOCKEY CONDUCTOR,  
Accompaniment by Cleveland Symphony Orchestra.

Dienstag Abend, 21. August 1906

**Empfangs- und erstes Hauptkonzert**

8:15 Abends

**PROGRAMM**

Keine Entrees

1. KAISER-MARSCH ..... R. Wagner  
CLEVELANDER SYMPHONIE-ORCHESTER.  
Herr JOHANN H. BECK, Dirigent.  
Rede des Achtbaren CHAS. C. SCHMIDT, Bürgermeisters der  
Stadt Wheeling.  
Rede des Herrn ALOIS KESSLER von Mansfield, O., Vize-  
Präsidenten des Central-Ohio-Sängerbezirks.  
Rede des Herrn LOUIS F. STIFEL, Präsidenten des  
Wheelinger Sängeresfestes.
2. EMPFANGS-CHOR: „An die Künstler“ ..... Mendelssohn  
Gesangvereine „ARION“, „BEETHOVEN“ und „MOZART“ von  
Wheeling, W. Va., mit Begleitung des Clevelander  
Symphonie-Orchesters.  
HERR. H. M. SCHOCKEY, DIRIGENT.
3. BARITON-SOLO: „An jenem Tag“ ..... Marschner  
Arie aus „Hans Heiling“.  
HERR. E. E. JAHN
4. PEER-GYNT SUITE ..... Ed. Grieg  
a) „Asas Tod“  
b) „In der Halle des Bergkönigs“  
CLEVELANDER SYMPHONIE-ORCHESTER.  
HERR JOHANN H. BECK, DIRIGENT.
5. MASSENCHOR des Central-Ohio-Sängerbezirks:  
a) „Frisch gesungen“ ..... Silcher  
b) „Haidenröslein“ ..... Werner  
HERR H. M. SCHOCKEY, DIRIGENT.
6. SOPRAN-SOLO: „Dich teure Halle“ ..... R. Wagner  
Arie aus „Tannhäuser“.  
FRAU MERRITT-COCHRAN.
7. OUVERTURE: „Lara“ ..... Johann H. Beck  
CLEVELANDER SYMPHONIE ORCHESTER.  
HERR JOHANN H. BECK, DIRIGENT.
8. MASSENCHOR des Central-Ohio-Sängerbezirks:  
a) „Was hab' ich denn m. Feinsl. getan? ..... Hamma  
b) „Gruss der Heimat“ ..... Attenhofer  
HERR EDWARD BLUMENBERG, DIRIGENT.
9. TENOR-SOLO: „Walters Preislied“ ..... R. Wagner  
Aus „Die Meistersinger“.  
HERR. EDWARD STRONG.
10. SYMPHONIE in C Moll Op. 67 ..... Beethoven  
a) Andante con Moto.  
b) Finale-Allegro.  
CLEVELANDER SYMPHONIE-ORCHESTER.  
HERR JOHANN H. BECK, DIRIGENT.
11. TRIO aus dem „Nachtlager von Granada“ ..... Kreutzer  
Sopran, Tenor und Bariton.  
FRAU ALICE MERRITT-COCHRAN UND DIE HERREN  
EDWARD STRONG UND E. A. JAHN.
12. MASSENCHOR des Central-Ohio-Sängerbezirks:  
„Bannerlied“ ..... Hirsch  
HERR. H. M. SCHOCKEY, DIRIGENT.  
Begleitung: Clevelander Symphonie-Orchester.



Founded October 28, 1890

## HISTORY OF THE DAYTON TURNERS ASSOCIATION

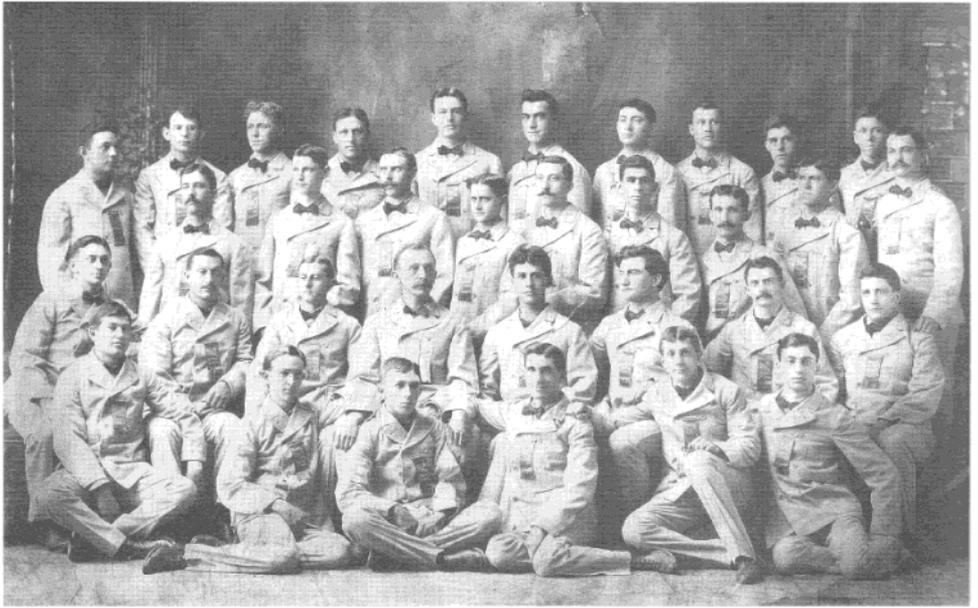
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After the revolution of 1848, many young men immigrated from German to the United States. They brought with them their system of physical education which had been introduced in 1811 by Frederick Ludwig Jahn. These young men established Turner Societies across the U.S. The First Turner Society was organized in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1848. Five years later, the Dayton Turners Association was established.

The Dayton Turners Association grew rapidly and soon became a center of activity for the whole family. Originally conceived to offer physical training to men and youths, the Turners soon offered physical education classes to boys and girls; classes for adult women were the next step.

The Turners were able to exhibit their skill level in competitions with other Turner groups in the Central States District of the American Turnerbund to which Dayton belonged. They also participated at the national level. In addition to the physical activities, the members enjoyed social and cultural opportunities such as balls, dinners, card parties, picnics, and theater performances.

The Dayton Turners always had their own hall. In 1936 the Turners moved to 1400 East Fifth Street. In the 1940's membership began to decline. By 1951 the decline was quite serious and in 1952 the Dayton Turners merged with the Dayton Liederkranz. The new society was named the Dayton Liederkranz-Turner.



# HISTORY OF THE DAYTON LIEDERKRANZ

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The Dayton Liederkrantz was established on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1888 by 26 men who met to form a German singing society. In addition to the concert, the Dayton Liederkrantz held a Fourth of July picnic and accepted invitations to sing at functions of other groups. They sang at the anniversary banquet of the Dayton Turners and participated in a flag ceremony at the German Oak Lodge #469, one of the Harugari Lodges in Dayton.

Between the fall of 1889 and 1890, many changes seem to have occurred at the Dayton Liederkrantz. The group seems to have been re-established under a new name Harugari Liederkrantz. The 6<sup>th</sup> of November 1890 issue of the Daytoner Volkszeitung contains an article about the founding of the Harugari Liederkrantz on October 28. The first elected officers were: C. Roth, President; John Schroer, Vice President; John Henning, Treasurer; Carl Jung, Librarian.

The name Harugari Liederkrantz was used from 1890-1911. The singers traveled during these years to participate in concerts and singing festivals and they presented an annual spring concert. After several months of practice, the group decided to have a concert on 31 January of the New Year. The men wore "dark clothing with a white vest and white tie." The program included "Marschlied" by Wieland, "Italianischer Salat" by Genee, "Die Ruhe" by Abt, and "Dirndele" by Claussen. At the turn of the century, a Ladies Circle was organized. The officers of 1901 were: Mrs. Anna Galle, President and Sophie Zimmer, Secretary. The ladies met on the first and third Fridays of the month at the Harugari Liederkrantz Hall.

Prior to 1901 the Liederkrantz had always rented quarters. In 1901 a decision was made to build a hall. Land was purchased at 600-610 Wayne Avenue and construction began. The Liederkrantz Hall was completed in 1902 and was the home of the organization for the next fifty years. Concerts, theater productions, and dances were held in the upper level. The lower level had a Rathskeller and kitchen.

In 1913 the Liederkrantz Hall was one of hundreds of structures affected by the Great Flood which occurred on March 25, two days after Easter Sunday. Enormous amounts of spring rain caused high water levels in Dayton's Great Miami River. The water level of the Great Miami at the Main Street bridge rose from three feet on Easter Sunday to twenty four feet at 7:00 a.m. on Tuesday morning when the river began to overflow. The water ranged from twenty six feet above street level in the downtown area. The Liederkrantz Hall, located just a few blocks from downtown, suffered extensive water damage. After the flood, numerous organizations came to the aid of the Dayton Liederkrantz, which received contributions from German societies as far away as New Orleans and St. Louis. The hall was cleaned and refurbished, new music was purchased, the Ladies Circle presented a new flag, and the sound of singing resumed once again.

About 1911 the name Harugari Liederkranz was dropped and the society returned to using its original name – Dayton Liederkranz. The Roaring Twenties ended with the failure of the banking system in 1929. The 1930s were difficult years for all due to the Depression.

Dayton Liederkranz persevered and in 1940 celebrated its Golden Jubilee. The ladies Liederkranz joined the men in planning a marvelous celebration. World War II and the post-war years saw the beginning of declining memberships for many organizations in Dayton. 1952 was decision-making year for the Dayton Liederkranz. There was talk of a new highway and urban renewal in the neighborhood. The Liederkranz Hall needed extensive repair work, but the decline in membership presented financial stress.

In 1952 a proposal to merge the Dayton Liederkranz and the Dayton Turners into a single organization was set forth and approved. The Liederkranz moved to the Turner building at 1400 E. Fifth Street. The first meeting of Dayton Liederkranz-Turner was held in January 1953.



*Liederkranz German Band - 1935*

## THE DAYTON LIEDERKRANZ-TURNER TODAY

The Dayton Liederkranz-Turner Society has grown enormously over the forty years since the merger of the two organizations in 1953. The properties adjacent to the Turner Hall were purchased to provide a larger facility and an adequate parking area. Both the interior and exterior of the building were remodeled. Oak, birch, linden and pine trees were planted to reflect our German heritage. The original Men's Chorus was joined in 1976 by a Women's Chorus. The Kinderchor was re-established in 1982. A folk-dancing group, Dayton Liederkranz-Turner Volkstänzer, was organized in 1981.

In 2007 a German Genealogy Group was formed to assist members and the those with German ancestry in their genealogy research. The ladies of the Liederkrantz have always been a source of great support. The most recent group, the Liederkrantz Women's Auxiliary, was established in 1945 and provided funds and valuable help for forty years.

As a member of Dayton's Sister City Program, Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner hosts visitors from Augsburg, Germany. The members welcome to their homes travelers from Augsburg and many other German cities. Current activities for our organization include Spring, Fall and Christmas concerts for the Dayton area community, as well as our Germanfest Picnic every August. As a charter member of the Southern Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana District of the North American Singers Association, our singers participate in the annual Saengerfest. The Volkstänzer dance year round and are wonderful ambassadors of German culture. The German Genealogy Group meets on a monthly basis and participates in the Germanfest Picnic.

Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner with the Eintracht Singing Society participate in the World A' Fair. These two clubs make up the Deutschland Committee to operate the German booth at World' A Fair in late spring. Other activities include Schlachtfest, Schnitzel Dinner Fasching, Beer Tastings and Oktoberfest.

First Annual Germanfest Picnic at Carillon Park was held in 1984. Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner planned the picnic at the Park's request; it was quite successful and has become a yearly event. It began on a small scale and something new is added each year. Crowd size increases each year; about 45,000 persons attended in 2015. Carillon Park is a wonderful setting. The many trees cast cool shade on a summer weekend. The large grassy area beneath the trees holds numerous colorful tents. A bandstand and dance floor anchor the north side of the picnic grounds with the Carillon, Kettering Civic Center and Carillon Brewery in the background.



Founded October 28, 1890

# Dayton Liederkrantz-Turner Club and the Kolping Society of Cincinnati Present:

## Wheeling 1906 Saengerfest Revisited Concert

May 29, 2016

Jeanette Filbrun Eakins, Director

### Deutschland Lied

**Words:** H. von Fallersleben

**Music:** Joseph Haydn

Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit

für das deutsche Vaterland!

Danach lasst uns alle streben

Brüderlich mit Herz und Hand!

Einigkeit und Recht und Freiheit

Sind des Glückes Unterpfand;

Blüh' in Glanze dieses Glückes,

Blühe, deutsches Vaterland.

### Star Spangled Banner

**Words:** Francis Scott Key

**Music:** John Stafford Smith

O! say can you see by the dawn's early  
light

What so proudly we hailed art the Twi-  
light's last gleaming.

Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
through the perilous fight,

O'er the ramparts we watched were so  
gallantly streaming.

And the rockets' red glare, the bombs  
bursting in air.

Gave proof through the night that our  
flag was still there.

O say does that star-spangled banner yet  
wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of  
the brave.

### Program

Deutsche Nationalhymne.....	Gemischterchor.....	H. von Fallersleben/Joseph Haydn
The Star Spangled Banner.....	Gemischterchor.....	Francis Scott Key/John Stafford Smith
Sängergruß.....	Gemischterchor.....	Albert Methfessel
Muß I Denn.....	Gemischterchor.....	Friederich Silcher
Ein Tiroler Wollte Jagen.....	Damenchor.....	Julius Cornet
Schwarzwald Wanderlied.....	Männerchor.....	H.Lichtenfels/H. Sonnet
Im Frühling.....	Damenchor.....	W.A. Mozart/Fritz Spies
Auf Der Lüneburger Heide.....	Männerchor.....	Ludwig Rahlf
Schwarzwald Wanderlied.....	Männerchor.....	H.Lichtenfels/H. Sonnet
Das Kufsteiner Lied.....	Gemischterchor.....	Karl Ganzer
Lieder die von Herzen Kommen.....	Damenchor.....	Volkslied
Aus Der Traube In Die Tonne .....	Männerchor.....	German Folk Song
Battle Hymn Of The Republic.....	Gemischterchor.....	J. W. Howe/W. Steffe
Alte Kameraden.....	Gemischterchor.....	C. Tiede

# LIEDER - SONGS

## Sängergruß - Singers Greetings

*“Greet God with a clear sound, with German words and songs! O continue to bloom, true to words and songs! Greet God with a clear sound, with German words and songs! O continue to bloom, true to words and songs!”*

## Muß I Denn - When I Have to (Wooden Heart)

Made popular by Elvis Presley when he was stationed in Germany. It was customary in Germany that a craftsman left his hometown to study his craft with different manufacturers in different places.

*“When I have to leave home, you my sweetheart have to stay. Even when I am not with you, you will be with me in my heart. You are crying that I have to leave you but I will remain true to you. When my time is up I will return and if I am still your sweetheart then we will marry.”*

## Ein Tiroler Wollte Jagen - A Tiroler Wanted to Hunt

This song became popular in the mountains during World War II. A Tiroler hunter was hunting a gray chamois buck but he was unable to shoot the goat because the buck was too smart. The chamois hunter wanted to visit the foresters daughter. However she laughed in his face and would not let him in the house.

*“My mother does not like for me to go out with another hunter, and besides, I already have someone else. But she went to her room and cried bitterly.”*

## Schwarzwald Wanderlied - Black Forest Hiking Song

Hiking or ‘Wandern’ in Germany is a very popular form of recreation. This song describes the elation of hiking in the Black Forest. The mountains, the dark woods, clear water and fresh air is wherever you look. It does not matter if you are poor or rich the beauty of the forest is there for all.

## Im Frühling

The meadows are greening and the fragrance of flowers is everywhere and the birds are singing. New life is everywhere in the forest and is a joyous time of year. The beautiful spring is in red and white like the blooming apple tree. All around us our Maker proclaims friendliness and what lives is happy in this great time. I should also praise our Maker the Father of nature. All your creations praise you and I will also join in the songs of praise. I will thank you for your goodness and favor and with childlike feeling I will dedicate my life to you.

## Auf Der Lüneburger Heide

The Lüneburger heath is a vast area in northern Germany and is famous for the colorful heather and the many sheep grazing in the heath.

*“On the Lüneburger heath, that beautiful land, I walked all over and found many wonderful things on my way. Valeri, valleri, my dearest treasure, but you already know that. Brother, empty your glasses, the Muskateller wine is turning sauer from standing around. We have to empty the barrel! Hey you’re pretty, you’re fine, you are like a colorful picture. We need to exchange our hearts’ desire then you have no idea how good that feels.”*

## **Das Kufsteiner Lied - The Kufsteiner Song**

Kufstein is a lovely city in the Tirol region of Austria.

*“Do you now the pearl of Tirol? The city Kufstein I think you know it! Surrounded by mountains so friendly and still. Yes this is Kufstein on the green Inn. There is so much to enjoy by us in Tirol. A good wine from South Tirol and many wish it would always be like this, with a pretty girl and a glass of wine. When the vacation is over and you have to say goodbye and drive home. One thinks about Kufstein and Tirol, my dear city live well, live well.”*

## **Lieder die von Herzen Kommen - Songs that come from the Heart**

Songs that come from the heart are songs that we always like to sing. Those songs ring like diamonds throughout the land. That is how I feel as well as you. Grief and worries are often forgotten, yes that is how we feel. We are captured by the first note, and that feels great. The music gives us wings and we flout into our luck. The sounds of the bugle and trumpets goes in our blood, our world is wonderful. The song ends in a question: *who makes all that come true?*

## **Aus Der Traube In Die Tonne - From the Grape to the Barrel**

This is a very popular German folk song praising wine, most likely Riesling from the Rhein region.

*“The wine comes from the grape and goes into the cask and from there to the barrel and then ‘Ob!’ rapture in the glass. Through the throat into the stomach into the blood and soul and is transformed into songs praising the wine. Then the following spring the songs come down as dew and they are transformed into wine again.”*

## **Battle Hymn Of The Republic**

This familiar classic from the American Civil War was written by Julia Ward Howe. The music is from the song “John Brown’s Body.”

## **Alte Kameraden - Old Comrades**

*“It is a great time when we see each other again. We have no worries and are so lucky because we understand each other so well. That alone is a reason to be happy, and so let us sing joyfully. Give us another day when we are together and watch the clouds moving in the sky. The sun, moon and stars guide us to a great goal. Old comrades sing di-ti-ri-ti- let us be happy. Even if the whole world is against us, we will always stay true to each other, and let us got through life together. We love music and sing joyfully, and let us remain old comrades.”*





# MENU



## Non-Vegetarian

Sauerbraten on Crostini  
German Potato Salad

## Vegetarian Options

Mushroom Stroganoff  
Cucumber Salad  
Spätzle

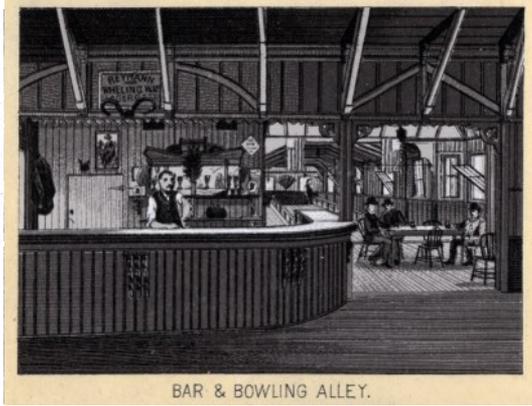
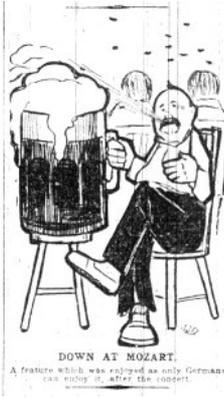
## Dessert

Mini Black Forest Cakes  
Mini Cheesecakes

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Prepared by West Virginia Northern Community College  
Culinary Arts Department

# Great food, but where's the beer garden?



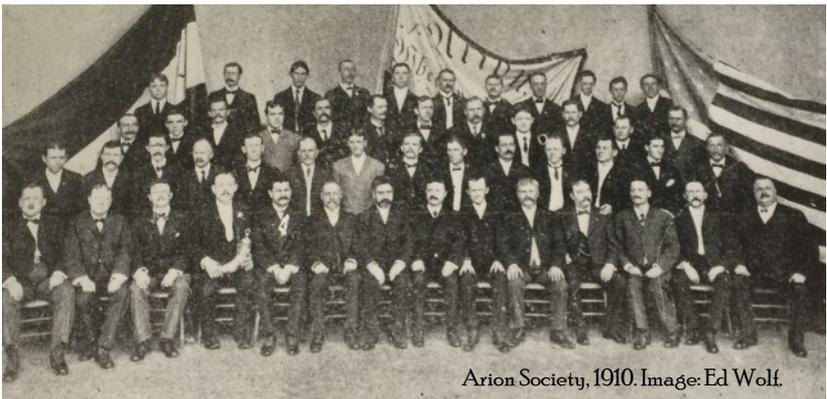
The bar at Anton Reymann's Beer Garden at Wheeling Park.

If you read our history of the 1906 Wheeling Saengerfest, you now know that BEER was a BIG part of the celebration. Singing was, and is, thirsty work. Listening to people sing can also make you thirsty.

Unfortunately, a German beer garden at the public library was not an option. So, as a compromise, inside your program you will find a little compensation for the lack of a proper beer garden from a local business that has created very tasty remedies for the singer's (and listener's) thirst.

If you like beer, please use it in good health. If you don't like beer, we hope you enjoy this souvenir program and a free soft drink.

## Prost!



Arion Society, 1910. Image: Ed Wolf.

**SAENGERFEST**



**WHEELING**

**Vielen Dank!**

**Viel Glück!**



Wheeling's 1906 Saengerfest Revisited in full swing!

**Prost!**