

	German Settlement Update #28, April 16, 2011 565 Co. Rd. U, Hudson, WI 54016 Edited by Richard Schwenk, Ph.D. ricschwenk@yahoo.com Website: http://home.earthlink.net/~germansettlement/ "Preserving our past and improving our future"	Wisconsin Historical Society Affiliate Wisconsin registered nonstock corp. Ch. 181 FEIN: 20-4978871 - IRS Tax exemption code 501(c)(3)
---	---	--

*The German Settlement Heritage Society (GSHS) invites
you to join us in celebrating events for the
160th Anniversary of German Settlement Founding*

May 14 (Sat.) 9:00 a.m. Pioneer Grove Work Day, planting near 858 Yost Dr. ,Picnic lunch
& dedicating memorial markers, starting at 11:30, Practice *Hammerschlagen*

June 12 (Sun.) 4:00 p.m. Pioneer Baking & Ice Cream Social at historic Schwalen farm, 837
County Rd. N., Family fun, petting zoo, a musical skit, and *Hammerschlagen*

Oct. 1 (Sat.) 5:30 p.m. German Food & Barn Dance, silent auction, with Mike & Eddie Band
at the Ganz Barn, 565 County. Rd. U

+ + +

Oscar Von Kuster was Among 1st to Answer Lincoln's Call to Serve in the Civil War

It is now 150 years since President Lincoln's issued a call for volunteers to serve in the Civil War. Oscar Von Kuster, then 22 and a stout-hearted logger near Stillwater, was among those who volunteered to join the Civil War, with many others from Minnesota. He was wounded, but went back to fight in other battles until the end of the war. He married Anna Margaretha Rohl, raised 10 children and farmed in the German Settlement for many years before being buried there in 1914. He was one of the last in the Last Man Club that met each year in Stillwater on July 21, Bull Run Day. He's one of our heros.

LAST MAN CLUB from TIME mag. At Stillwater, Minn., the Last Man Club was holding its last dinner. There were really three Last Men—Peter Hall, 89; Charles Lockwood, 86; John Goff, 85. Sixty-six years ago they had marched off to the Civil War with Company B of the First Minnesota Regiment. Many soldiers of Company B fell at their first battle—Bull Run—many at Antietam, at Gettysburg, at other battles that are history to almost everyone today but are memories to the old men of the Last Man Club. In 1886 there were only 34 Company B members surviving. In that year those 34 men formed the Last Man Club [based on their motto, "fight to the last man"]. They agreed to meet every year on July 21 (Bull Run Day), as long as any of them should be left alive. They put away a bottle of Burgundy from which the Last Man should drink a toast to his dead comrades. They decided that in their dining-hall there would be 34 chairs, even when most of those chairs should hold no occupant. And they appointed Mrs. Samuel Bloomer, widow of the Company's color sergeant to be custodian of their battle flag.

For last week's dinner Mrs. Bloomer had draped with black and ornamented with bouquets 31 of the 34 chairs. The three men who remained decided that this would be their last meeting, feeling, perhaps, that none of them might be left alive when July 21 should have arrived again. So they brought out the bottle of Burgundy and stood stiffly erect while Peter Hall gave the toast: "Men love

their country now, but our dead comrades loved "it most." The Last Dinner of the Last Man Club was history.

History Buff Stuff

In what year did the last "Last Man Club" meet? Hint: Oscar Von Kuster (1839-1914) died 14 years earlier.

+ + +

Which one of these fun activities did the German Settlement pioneers probably not do?
[a] Hammerschlagen, [b] Group Singing, [c] Bowling, [d] Lawn weddings feasts, [e] Throw dried cow pies.

(Submit your correct answers to Richard Schwenk at one of our events this summer. For a prize?)

+ + +

Hammerschlagen (Nail pounding game of skill)

Hammerschlagen is a Germanic game of skill in which several contestants try to be first in hammering a nail into a cross-section of a log. The hammer is passed from one player to the next until someone countersinks their nail into the wood. It is usually considered an adult game, but children can play when accompanied by an adult. Prizes may be awarded to the winners and are subject to change.

ITEMS Required for a legitimate game of *Hammerschlagen*.

- * One Stump or cross-section of a tree, at least 24 inches in diameter
- * One 12 penny (3-1/4 inch) common nail per contestant.
- * One hammer to pass around to take turns hitting the contestants own nail with one swing.

RULES:

1. Each contestant pays a deposit and places an amount in the center of the log – the winner will get the amount in the center.
2. Contestants will have their nail started 1/4th inch by the host of the game
3. Each contestant gets one strike (*schlagen*) at the nail with the hammer using one swing and then passes the hammer to the next person.
4. If a contestant throws or drops the hammer or takes an extra swing he/she must place an additional amount in the center of the log before continuing in the game.
5. A winner is named after the winning contestant's nail is below the surface of the wood. At least one other contestant must verify that the nail is below the surface.
6. After the winner is verified the game continues until all nails are down. The last contestant with a nail above the surface must forfeit his/her deposit.
7. *Hammerschlagen* practice must be done with your own nails and logs.

+ + +

***A Friendly Reminder © It's Time to Start or Renew your
German Settlement Heritage Society membership for 2011***

(Please send dues before April 30. See reward coupon below.)

(Congratulations, if you have already paid and Many Thanks!)

THIS IS AN INVITATION to all interested in preserving the history of the German Settlement. It's easy to renew or become a GSHS member now.

Benefits of Membership

- * Opportunity to participate in activities that preserve and even make history
- * Satisfaction in passing on our heritage and accomplishments to the next generations
- * Receive German Settlement Updates via email newsletters (Latest email contact appreciated)
- * Opportunity to be a member of an affiliate of the Wisconsin Historical Society with Tax Exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) for a nonprofit organization
- * **Those paid members by April 30** will receive a full size copy of this 20% Discount pass at any Wisconsin historic site or museum (*Ask Richard Schwenk for these at the May 14 or June 12 events*)



----- Please fill out, cut off here & send to the address below -----

German Settlement Heritage Society, Inc. Membership

Name: _____ Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ (for GS Updates) Phone(s): _____

Circle one or more years that you are paying dues for: **2011, 2012, _____.**

Annual dues/donations. Check a category that fits best for your life.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Corporate Member \$1000+ | ☐ Contributor \$30 |
| ☐ Lifetime Member \$500+ | ☐ Household \$25 |
| ☐ Benefactor \$100 | ☐ Senior \$10 |
| ☐ Supporter \$50 | ☐ Individual or a Senior Couple \$15 |
| ☐ Preservation donor \$_____ | |
| ☐ Memorial paver stone, engraved with the name: _____ \$50.00 | |

TOTAL = \$ _____ Send short memorial name to: Chas Garbe, 772 Cty. Rd. N, Hudson, WI 54016

Please make checks for membership & memorial payable to:

**German Settlement Heritage Society & send to:
Evonne Ganz, 565 County Rd. U, Hudson, WI 54016**