

Anniversary Issue

To acquaint the Germans newly arrived in this country with the social and political conditions in the United States; to familiarize them with their duties towards their adopted country and with the rights conferred upon them by the Constitution; to keep alive and foster their love for German social life and German song; to be a bond between them and their fatherland so that Mother Germania shall not be forgotten; to impress their children with the value of cultivating interest in the language of their fathers—this was the purpose which inspired the founding of the German Correspondent; this is the purpose of the paper now, after seventy-five years; and this will remain its purpose in the future.

The history of the German Correspondent, which is now looking back on its 75 years in existence, is so rich that only a short overview of its founding, evolution, purpose, and success can be given here. The founding of the German Correspondent fell in the second week of May 1841, a period when the city of Baltimore began its development into a major modern city, though it was already known all over the world as America's main port station. Therefore, the history of this newspaper is a part of the history of Baltimore and of the state of Maryland. The founder was Friedrich Raine, a young bookseller from Minden in North Rhine-Westphalia who immigrated in 1839. The paper first appeared weekly in a small format; the printing press was located on 2nd St. (now Water St.), near Frederick Street. On account of our excellent general and special interest reporting, our readership grew quickly and the paper was soon published three times weekly. Since 1847 the German Correspondent has appeared daily. Around this time the business relocated to the corner of Baltimore and Gay St., the center of the city's business life. Despite the political tumult of the 1850s and the four-year civil war, the business prospered. The founder even ventured to erect what was, at the time, a very large building on the corner of Baltimore St. and Post Office Avenue. The move occurred in 1869. The newspaper had to be expanded due to the increased German immigration following the French-German war in 1870-71; and in 1877 a belletristic supplement was added under the name the "Sunday Correspondent". At the same time, the German Correspondent began its weekly paper for Germans in the rural areas, who were particularly numerous in western Maryland. In the early 1880s, a modern rapid press needed to be set up, after the global telegraph service the "Associated Press" acquired one the previous decade. The German Correspondent was one of the first German newspapers at the outset of the 1890s to implement the linotype machine invented by German-born Baltimorean Ottmar Mergenthaler, and as a result began publishing six-page issues. On February 26th, 1893, the founder of the German Correspondent passed away, and his brother, Edward Raine, took over the business. "The Housewife", a monthly supplement in the Sunday German Correspondent, began February 27th, 1898. On February 7th, 1904, the prospering business fell victim to the Great Baltimore Fire, and could not publish in the following days. For weeks afterwards, the paper was produced in a smaller format with latin type until a new printing shop could be established in a rented house at 411 St. Paul Street. The paper was published at the printer of the only daily paper that was spared from the fire, then called the "World", while the editorial office resided in a room on Calvert near Lexington street. After the

establishment of the new printing shop, the weekday Correspondent expanded to eight pages, and the Sunday paper to twenty-two to twenty-four pages. The place where the old home of the Correspondent stood was bought by the "Gayety-Theatre-Co.". The current business location at 413 East Baltimore St. was built, and the Correspondent moved in on March 1st, 1906. Edward Raine died April 23rd, 1911. He left the business behind to his daughter, Mrs. Annie D. Raine, whose husband, Evan A. Heinz, served her father and uncle as Director for many years, and in later years was accepted as a partner. Under his responsible leadership, the German Correspondent continued successfully under the brand of the late Edward Raine.

In its 75 years of existence, the German Correspondent has always promoted the political teachings of Thomas Jefferson and represented the principles of the Democratic Party. One of the most meaningful battles that the paper has led was the defense of the foreign-born against ignorant attitudes in the 1850s. It is a similar battle as that which the Correspondent now leads against the hostilities to which those of American-German ancestry and all Germans have been exposed since the outbreak of the European war. During the civil war, the Correspondent remained devoted to the old democratic axiom of the inviolability of states' rights; accepting, however, that the preservation of the Union must stand above the interests of the individual states. The German Correspondent has always exerted an influence on state and municipal politics, and the German vote was crucial for various elections. To it we owe the introduction of German language classes in Baltimore public schools. The German Correspondent has strived to promote German social and intellectual life in the city and the state. Thus it took the operative part in the founding of the Independent Citizens Association of Maryland (Unabhängigen Bürgervereins von Maryland), which has a significant influence today in the political and social world. The business world, in particular the great Finance-Institute, has also come to appreciate the value of the German Correspondent, where they are able to make contact with a substantial number of desirable clients.