

TEMPORARY EXHIBIT

Emigration Stories (Auswanderung Geschichten)

Michigan is a state settled by immigrants. Even the earliest Native Americans to live in this area originally came from somewhere else.

In 1845, Frankenmuth was the first of four colonies, organized by Pastor Wilhelm Löhe in Bavaria. One of his goals was to create a place where German immigrants could settle, but still worship in the German language as they had in Bavaria. He felt that staying “German” would help them stay Lutheran.

The Bavarian Lutherans who settled here were followed by immigrants from other parts of what became Germany in 1871. Germans from Russia settled in the area to work sugar beet fields and to find jobs in factories.

Not all of the immigrants who settled in this area were German, but each had a story to tell. In this exhibit are gathered together a collection of these stories. There is a study area for anyone who wishes to sit and read more about these people and an area for children to “Pack for the Journey.”

Immigrate or Emigrate?



When people leave a country to settle in another country, they emigrate from that country (E for exit).



When people enter another country to settle, they immigrate to that country (I for in).

What was happening elsewhere while this area was being settled?



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1845 Florida becomes the 27th U.S. state and President John Tyler signs a bill authorizing the United States to annex the Republic of Texas. In December, Texas is admitted as the 28th U.S. state.

1845 James K. Polk succeeds John Tyler as the 11th President of the United States. He announces to Congress that the Monroe Doctrine should be enforced and that the United States should aggressively expand into the West (Manifest Destiny).



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1845 Frankenmuth colonists arrive.

1845 The University of Michigan graduates its first class.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1845 Pastor Wilhelm Löhe organizes the first of four colonies for Michigan.

1845/1846 A series of bad harvests culminates in the potato blight of 1845/46, bringing widespread misery and some starvation. An economic depression adds to the hardship, spreading discontent among the poor and middle class. Many see emigration to North America as a means towards a new life.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1846 The Irish Potato Famine (1845-1849) causes an increase in immigration to the United States.

1846 Mexican American War (1846-1848) results in California declaring independence from Mexico.

1846 Iowa is admitted as the 29th U.S. State.

1846 Elias Howe patents the sewing machine.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1846 A woman addresses the Michigan legislature (Ernestine Rose on Women's suffrage).



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1846-1856 saw the emigration of 70,000 Bavarians, heading for America. That is approximately 1/2 of all the Bavarians that emigrated. Between 1845 and 1854 the second great wave of German-speaking immigrants (940,000) arrive in America (Ref. www.reinhartgenealogy.com). The first emigration wave was 1817/1818.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1847 Samuel Colt sells his first revolver pistol to the United States government.

1847 Yerba Buena, California is renamed San Francisco. 1846/1847 The Donner Party, a group of California emigrants, becomes snowbound in the Sierra Nevada.

1847 The American Medical Association (AMA) is founded in Philadelphia.

1847 The United States issues its first postage stamps.

1847 Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman, born 1774), American pioneer agronomist, passes away.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1847 Governor Greenly signs a bill moving the state capital from Detroit to Lansing Township.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1847-1849 The railroad between Hanover and Bremen was under construction. Rail travel on the route used by most immigrants was possible from Nuremberg to Fuerth and from Werdau to Hanover via Leipzig. Travel between these points was overland, often by foot.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1848 Mexican-American War (1846-1848) ends with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe. All of the Republic of Texas' territorial claims are ceded to the United States for \$15 million.

1848 James W. Marshall finds gold at Sutter's Mill, in Coloma, near Sacramento, California (California Gold Rush).

1848 The Boston Female Medical School opens; the first medical school for women.

1848 A cholera epidemic in New York kills 5000. In the United States, cholera is prevalent in the 19th century, until virtually eliminated by modern sewage and water treatment systems.

1848 Wisconsin is admitted as the 30th U.S. state.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1848 Epaphroditus Ransom is the first governor sworn in at the new capital in Lansing (Michigan is the 26th state in 1837. Stevens T. Mason is the first state governor).



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1848/1849 The success of the 1848 revolution in France sparks revolts in various German cities. The National Assembly, consisting of about 800 delegates from all of the Confederated German states, meets to draft a constitution for all of Germany (Frankfurt Parliament, 1850). The reforms fail when the conservatives regain power. Increased militarism causes many within Germany, particularly males, to emigrate in order to avoid military service. Most flee to the United States and are referred to as the “48’ers” (not to be confused with the Gold Rush 49’ers). 1848 King Ludwig I of Bavaria abdicates.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1850 President Zachary Taylor dies while in office and Vice President Millard Fillmore becomes the 13th President of the United States.

1850 California is admitted as the 31st U.S. State. 1858 Minnesota is admitted as the 32nd U.S. State. 1859 Oregon is admitted as the 33rd U.S. State.

1850 Harriet Tubman becomes an official conductor of the Underground Railroad.

1852 Democrat Franklin Pierce elected 14th president.

1856 Democrat James Buchanan is elected 15th president.

1857 Elisha Otis' first elevator is installed in New York.

1859 Edwin Drake drills the first oil well in the United States, near Titusville, Pennsylvania.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1850 Voters approve Michigan's second constitution.

1854 Michiganians gather in Jackson to form the national Republican Party.

1855 The Soo Locks open, overcoming the St. Mary's River rapids.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1850's The Prussians fail to unify the German monarchies under the constitution written at the Frankfurt Parliament (1850); restoration of the German Confederation under Austrian leadership.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1863-1869 First Transcontinental Railroad in the U.S. is built.

April 12, 1861-April 9, 1865 American Civil War is fought between the remaining United States of America under President Abraham Lincoln and the self-declared Confederate States of America under President Jefferson Davis. 1865 President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln, is assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

1865-1869 President Andrew Johnson oversees the Reconstruction era.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1861 The 1st Michigan Infantry is mustered into service of the United States at Detroit.

1864 The First Michigan Colored Infantry is mustered into federal service.

1865 Members of the Fourth Michigan Cavalry capture Jefferson Davis.

1866 Former territorial governor and U.S. senator, Lewis Cass, dies in Detroit.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1862 Otto von Bismarck appointed chancellor in Prussia to resolve the budget crisis.

1866 Austrian-Prussian War is won by Prussia. 1867 The North German Confederation established under Prussian leadership. Its constitution was prepared by Prussian Prime Minister, Otto von Bismarck. This constitution became the basis for the 1871 constitution of the German Empire. Germany acquired some democratic features including the Reichstag (parliament).



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1870 Christmas is declared a federal holiday.

1873 Ulysses S. Grant begins his second presidential term. 1870-1877 Post-Civil-War reconstruction continued under President Rutherford B. Hayes (president 1876).

1873 Henry Rose exhibits barbed wire at an Illinois county fair and Joseph Glidden and Jacob Haisch invent a machine to mass-produce it.

1873 Bank Panic: In 1874 The United States Greenback Party is established, mainly by farmers financially hurt by the Panic of 1873. A series of bank panics (1873, 1893 and 1907) provided strong demand for the creation of a centralized banking system.

1876 Telephone is invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

1876 United States orders all Native Americans to move into reservations.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1870 African Americans in Michigan go to the polls to vote.

1879 Dedication ceremonies are held at Michigan's new State Capital building in Lansing.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1870 The Franco-Prussian War won by the German Confederation. The surrender of Emperor Napoleon II accepted on September 2nd.

1871 German princes sign unification treaty and create a constitution establishing the second German Empire (creates “Germany”).

January 2, 1872 Pastor Wilhelm Löhe passes away at the age of 63, having influenced the Lutheran Church on five continents.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1880's Electric lighting, phonographs and gasoline-powered automobiles are commercially produced. The Washington Monument is built.

1884 First proclamation of eight-hour workday by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions.

1884 Statue of Liberty arrives in New York harbor.

1889 Grover Cleveland, 22nd president, is succeeded by Benjamin Harrison.

1889 Johnstown, Pennsylvania flood kills more than 2,200 people and shocks the country.

1889 Land Run: thousands rush to claim land in Oklahoma. The last open land rush in Oklahoma is held in 1892



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1881 Forest fires race across the Thumb, leaving 282 people dead. It was the first domestic crisis for the American Red Cross.

1887 The Grand Hotel opens on Mackinac Island.

1889 The peninsulas are linked by an underwater telephone cable.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

March 1888 The Kaiser dies. Rising militarism in the following years causes many within Germany, particularly males, to emigrate in order to avoid military service. Most flee to the United States.



Events in the United States (courtesy of *Wikipedia*)

1890's "Gay Nineties" (a term coined in the 1920's) refers to the period's merriment or frivolity.

1890 Idaho is admitted as the 43rd U.S. state and Wyoming the 44th. In 1896 Utah is admitted as the 45th U.S. State.

1891 Thomas A. Edison patents the radio. In 1893 Thomas Edison constructs the first motion picture studio (West Orange, NJ).

1892 Grover Cleveland is elected president over Benjamin Harrison. 1897 William McKinley succeeds Grover Cleveland as president.

1892 Ellis Island begins accepting immigrants to the United States.

1893 Stock cash on the NY stock exchange starts a depression.

1893 World's Columbian Exposition (World's Fair) in Chicago opens, fascinating the country.

1896 Shookum Jim Mason, George Cormack and Dawson Charlie discover gold in the Klondike (Alaska Gold Rush).

1898 Spanish-American War (April-August): USS Maine explodes in Havana harbor, cause undetermined. The war results in Cuba's freedom from Spain and United States' control of Puerto Rico, Philippines and Guam.



Events in Michigan (courtesy of *Michigan History*)

1896 Charles B. King drives the first auto (gasoline-powered carriage) in Detroit and Henry Ford introduces his quadricycle.



Events in Bavaria (Germany)

1891 Payment of old-age pensions begins in Germany