



Deutsch Historie

A short history of the German State
and the Immigration to America

Presented by the

CARVER COUNTY

historical society





What is Germany?

- Land that is now Germany has had many identities
 - Germania – Reference to Germanic tribes along Danube and Rhine
 - Frankish Empire
 - Holy Roman Empire – (962-1806) Karl die Grosse
 - Realm of the Germans
 - German Confederation – Loose Union of 39 States





Prussia 1525-1947

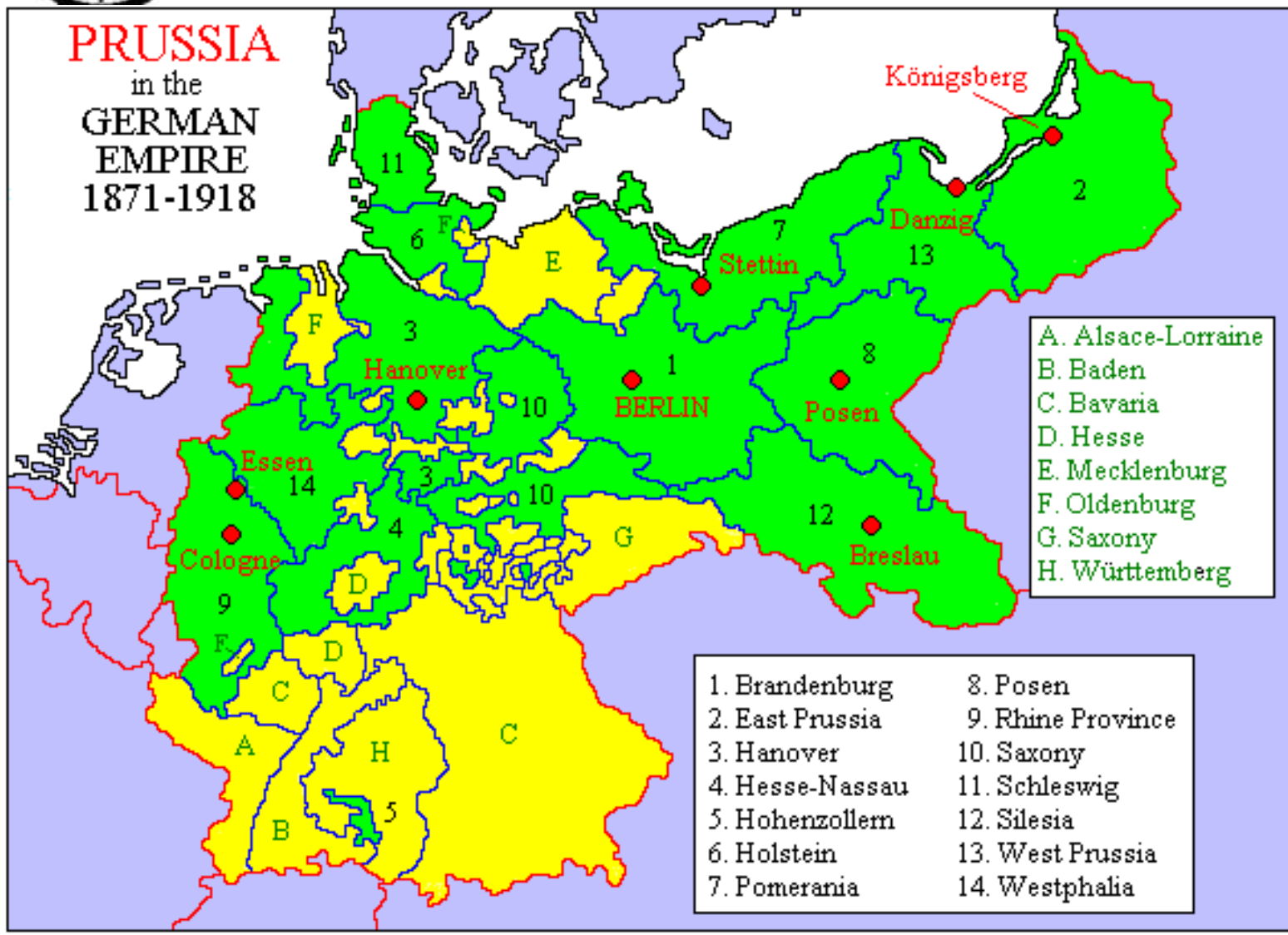
- Gained power as the largest state in the Northern German Confederation
- After Congress of Vienna was most powerful of all German States
- Height of Power in 18th and 19th Century
 - Notable Prussians
 - Frederick II (Die Grosse) Reign: 1740-1786
 - Otto von Bismarck (First Chancellor of German Empire)





Prussia

PRUSSIA
in the
**GERMAN
EMPIRE**
1871-1918



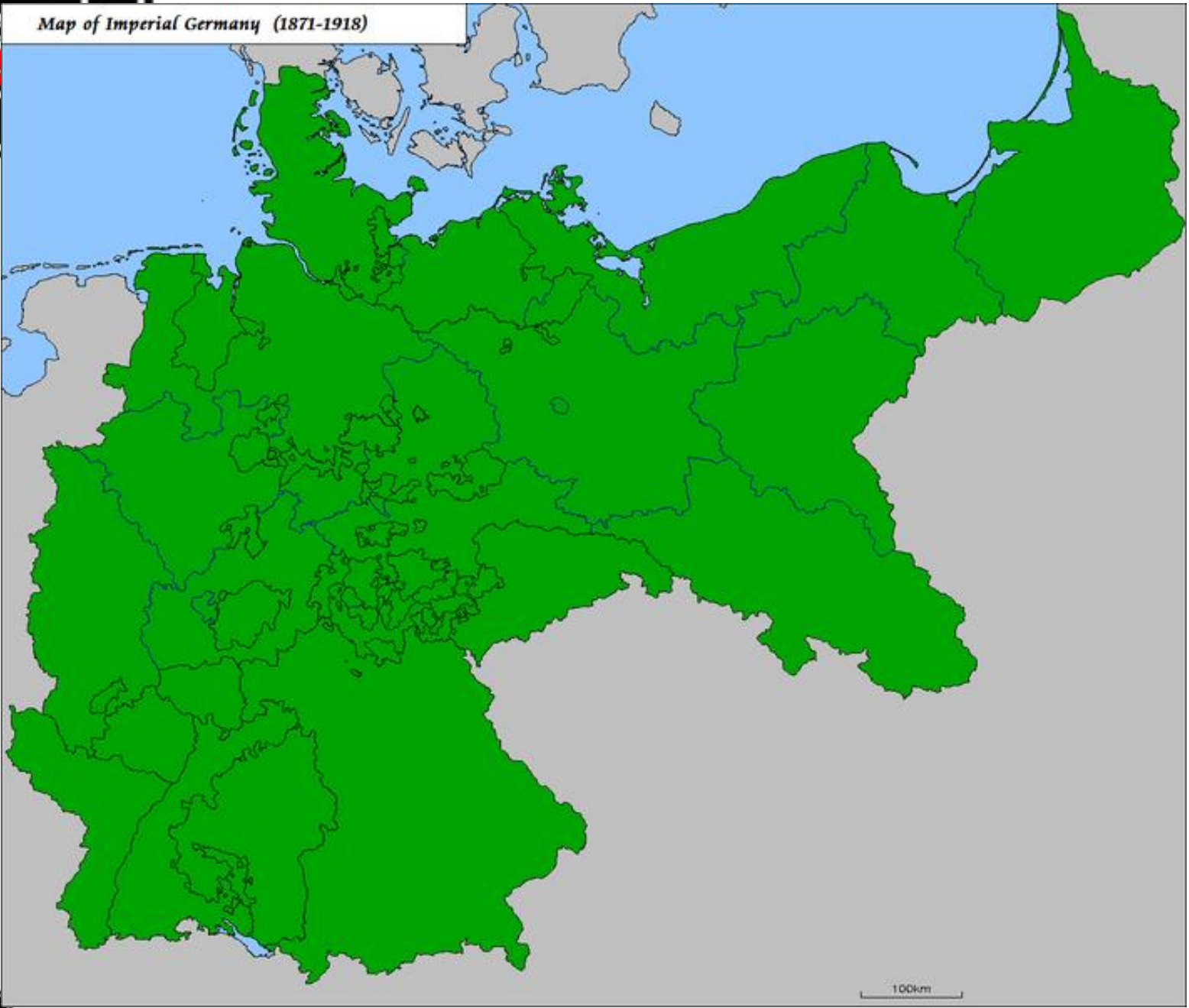


German Empire

- Founded in 1871
- Unification to combat the French
- Wilhelm I proclaimed Emperor
- Bismarck proclaimed Chancellor
- Austria excluded (“Little Germany”)
 - Austria remained as part of Hapsburg Empire



Map of Imperial Germany (1871-1918)





Deutsch Historie

Migrating and maintaining a German Identity





Who were they?

- Saxons
- Bavarians
- Prussians
- Alsace
- Bohemians
- Germans



- Poles
- Austrians
- Bohemians
- Luxembourgers
- Swiss





Why Minnesota?

- German Migration coincided with opening of Minnesota Territory
- In search of good land for Farming
 - Drawn to Minnesota and Mississippi river valleys





Finding a New Home

- Came searching for farmland
- In search of economic prosperity
- Religious Freedom
- Status Equality
- Avoided Conscription
- Migration slowed after unification
 - Germany strengthen post-unification





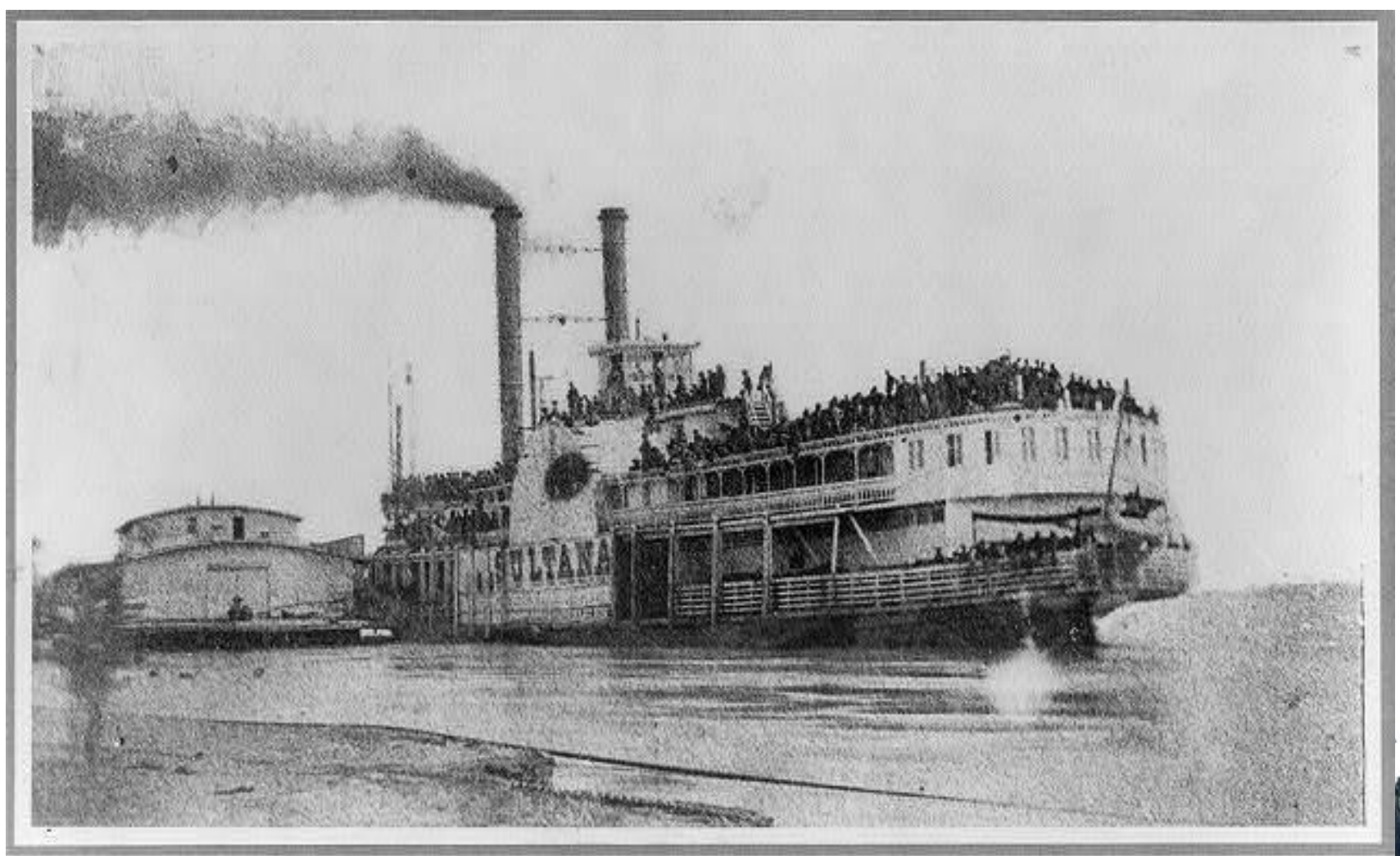
Atlantic Crossing

- Putting their life in a box
 - Often had to leave behind family heirlooms
- Left from ports in western Europe
 - Most major vessels came out of Britain
- Often alongside immigrants from all over Europe





They came by Water





They came by land





Drawn to Minnesota

- “America Letters”
- Advertisements
- Recruiters
- Homestead Act



What they did

- Homesteaders
- Craftsmen
- Brewers
- Clerks





Called to Action

- Many recent Germans immigrants volunteered to fight for Union in Civil War
 - Ironic since many left to avoid conscription
- Served with distinction on all fronts





Growing Pains

- Germans moved in on ancestral hunting grounds
- 1862 – Dakota rebel against US government to try to reclaim lands
- New Ulm attacked
- Settlers in Waconia fled to Coney island





German Settlements

- Waconia
- Chaska
- New Germany
- Young America
- Mayer
- Hamburg
- Cologne
- Victoria





They made a home for themselves

St Joseph's Catholic,
Waconia

St John's Lutheran,
Young America





Preserving their Heritage

Carver County Reading Society

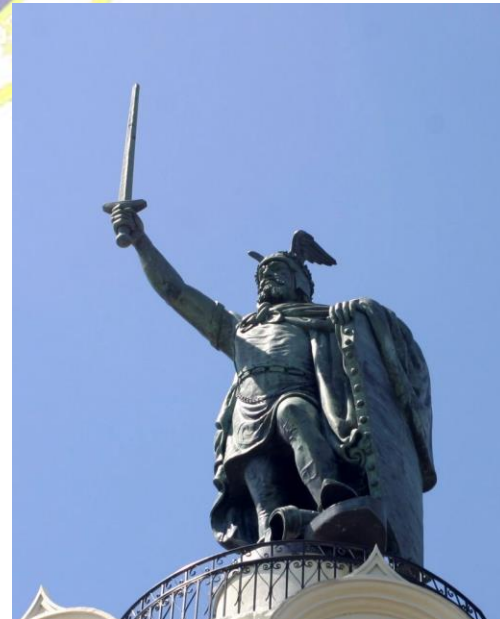
Free Thinkers

Frei Gemeinde

- Relied on principles of rationalism
- Rejected traditional religious thought
- Fritz Schütz
 - Spoke in Chaska in 1877
 - Offended many traditional Catholics

Sons of Hermann

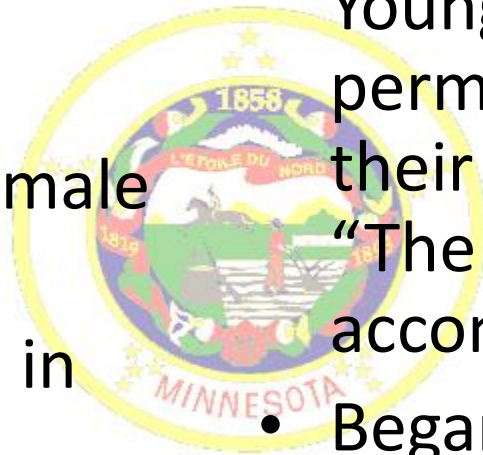
- German clubs that helped promote exchange of ideas and development of community bonds





Pioneer Mannerchor

- Founded in 1861 in Benton by Karl Bachmann
- Group of the best male singers in town
- Sang mostly songs in German
- After practices gathered around DesBrosse Runde Tisch
- In 1876 they chose Young America as the permanent home for their meetings and built “The Singers’ Hall” to accommodate meetings
- Began holding special meeting once a year
- Called the festival “Stiftungsfest” (Founders’ day Festival)





Stiftungsfest

The oldest annual celebration in Minnesota

- July 7, 1938 – Pioneer Mannerchor dissolves and hands over responsibility of carrying on festival to fire department
- Festival expanded to involve a baseball game and more
- Germans from New Ulm often made the trip to attend





Turnfest

- German Gymnastics competition
- Celebration of German Ethnic Culture





Severing ties with the Fatherland

- April 6, 1917 – USA enters World War I against Germany
 - Many towns, businesses, even families change their names and tongue
- Commission of Public Safety formed to ensure loyalty and continuing support of the war effort





Lasting Legacy

- Many communities maintained their German identities even after World War 2
 - Festivals
 - German Language
 - Stores/People
- 44.3% of Carver County citizens claim German Heritage (1st Largest)
 - 37.9% Statewide (1st Largest)



