

## German Heritage Corridor Challenge

Missouri experienced one of the largest influxes of German immigrants in American history. For every census from 1850 to 1990, Germans were the leading immigrants to the state of Missouri, and to this day, German is the number one claimed ancestry in the state.



Largely inspired by Gottfried Duden's *Journey to the Western States of North America*, where he detailed the beauty of the Missouri River Valley and its resemblance to his homeland, thousands of German immigrants moved to Missouri in large groups beginning in the 1830s. By 1860, Germans comprised more than half of Missouri's foreign-born residents. They brought their distinctive German culture with them, including wine and beer making, agriculture, festivals, language, religion, and architecture, leaving an indelible imprint on Missouri and the nation.

While German settlements developed throughout the state, a large number of immigrants settled along the Missouri River, which is officially recognized today as Missouri's German Heritage Corridor. Along this corridor, distinctly German communities grew up and are still alive today, providing examples of Missouri's rich German heritage. Visit the sites listed below to experience cultural traditions and real-life stories of Missouri Germans.

*The German Heritage Corridor Challenge is sponsored by the **Missouri Humanities Council**. Founded by Congress in 1971, Missouri Humanities is one of the fifty-six state and territorial humanities councils that receives support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. For nearly 50 years they've been dedicated to helping Missourians explore the people, places, and ideas that shape our society. Their focus for the future remains the same; for a more thoughtful, informed, and civil society.*



***The German Heritage Corridor Challenge ... Visit at least 6 sites. Remember: Missouri Explorers must be registered in the program, and they are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites. Upload your verification photographs using the online submission form at <https://missouri2021.org/missouri-explorers/> to receive your merit badge button.***

**Remember**, Missouri Explorers, you are responsible for checking hours and availability of sites before arriving.

### Cole County

#### **Old Munichburg**

Northeast corner of Dunklin and Jefferson  
Jefferson City, Missouri

*Settled by German immigrants escaping their homeland's economic and political upheavals, the neighborhood was soon filled with unique brick homes, businesses, and churches. Many of the early immigrants had come from the town of Münchberg, in Bavaria, and referred to their new home as "Münchberg" as well. Other Jefferson Citians overheard this term and*

*misunderstood it as "Munichburg" – and the name stuck. The Munichburg Corner is on the northeast corner of Dunklin and Jefferson. It is a gateway park memorializing the past while asserting the neighborhood's bright future. The project was completed in 2010. Stone for the wall was salvaged from the old Nilges Grocery Store, which used to stand at the southeast corner of Jefferson and Ashley. Snap your photograph in front of the Old Munichburg stone wall.*

<http://www.oldmunichburg.com/>

## **Franklin County**

### **Washington Historical Society and Museum**

113 East Fourth Street  
Washington, Missouri  
636-239-0280

*Washington is a thriving town in Franklin County, founded by German immigrants and still dedicated to celebrating that heritage. The Historical Society and Museum contains historical artifacts relevant to Missouri's German heritage, including the papers on Dr. William Kiel, and is a popular spot to do genealogy research. It contains exhibits on Henry Tibbe (inventor of the corncob pipe), John B. Busch and the Busch Brewery, Franz Schwarzer (inventor of the "zither") and information on World War I, World War II, and the Missouri River. Snap your photograph outside the museum or with your favorite exhibit.*

<https://www.washmohistorical.org/>

## **Gasconade County**

### **Deutschheim State Historic Site \$**

109 W. 2nd Street  
Hermann, Missouri  
573-486-2200

*Visitors can discover a part of German-American heritage and experience an early Missouri settlement, all in one place—Deutschheim State Historic Site. This site is located in Hermann, a town known throughout the Midwest for its German heritage. Deutschheim State Historic Site preserves two structures that reflect the 1840s and 1850s when Germans first settled the Missouri River valley that reminded them of home. The site includes the Pommer-Gentner house, which was built in 1840 and is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Hermann. It also preserves the Carl Strehly house, which was built in 1842. Through guided tours of both historic houses, visitors can experience the daily life and traditions of German immigrants to Missouri in the mid-19th century. Snap your photograph in the Gemusegarten.*

<https://mostateparks.com/park/deutschheim-state-historic-site>

### **Historic Hermann Museum \$**

312 Schiller Street  
Hermann, Missouri  
573-486-2017

*The Hermann History Museum artfully displays two floors and seven rooms of historic treasures. Housed in the old school, which was completed in 1871, the museum testifies to the history of education in Hermann. The school offered bilingual education with classes taught in both German and English until 1914, at the onset of the World War I. The building continued to function until 1955 when students moved to a new and larger building. Today the museum recollects not only the history of the school but also German immigration to Hermann from the 1830s to the early 1900s. It offers the unique "River Room" describing steam boat history along the Missouri River. Also, the building offers a view of the clock tower mechanism, has a gift shop, and is handicap accessible. Snap your photograph with the clock tower.*

<https://historichermann.com/>

## **Saint Charles County**

### **Augusta Harmonie Verein**

5333 Hackman Road  
Augusta, Missouri  
636-741-4016

*Augusta Harmonie Verein was the foremost cultural institution of Augusta's German community. The society gained a county-wide reputation, which drew attendance to festivals from numerous other Missouri German towns. The Harmonie Verein was organized in January 1856 when charter members were forced by Missouri temperance laws to gather in a tent on the frozen Missouri River in order to enjoy wine and song. In addition to choral groups and a band, the Verein also founded a library for members, which at one time contained about 3500 volumes largely in the German language. Today, it is owned and operated by the Augusta Heritage Foundation and is in the process of*

*raising funds to renovate and continue cultural heritage and arts program. The building and surrounding grounds host special events seasonally. Snap your photograph in front of the historic gazebo.*

<https://www.augustaharmonieverein.org/>

### **Femme Osage German Evangelical Church**

4360 Cappeln Osage Road  
Augusta, Missouri  
636-228-4586

*Femme Osage Church is an early German immigrant church founded in 1833 and is the first Evangelical and Reformed Church west of the Mississippi River. It was founded by Rev. Herman Garlichs, who also started Bethany in Augusta. The church is situated in picturesque Femme Osage. Snap your photograph outside the church.*

<http://www.femmeosageucc.org/>

### **Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center**

7295 MO-94,  
Saint Charles, Missouri  
636-300-2600

*The site serves as a trailhead to the multi-use Hamburg Trail, with connections to Missouri Department of Conservation trail systems, the Great Rivers Greenways trail network, and the Katy Trail. The grounds include a native plant garden and the 150-acre Howell Prairie. For the adventurous, climb the 41-acre disposal cell and experience the best panoramic view of St. Charles County and the Howell Prairie. The Interpretive Center offers a detailed look at the history of the property as a TNT plant during World War II and the Cold War and the subsequent cleanup that resulted in the containment cell. In addition, the site tells the story of the towns of Howell, Hamburg, and Toonerville, which were evacuated and razed in order to build the site. Hamburg was a thriving German settlement founded in the mid-1800s, and many descendants of the families that resided there still hold reunions each year. Snap your photograph atop the containment cell or among the flowers of the prairie.*

<https://www.energy.gov/lm/weldon-spring-site-interpretive-center>

### **Saint Louis City**

#### **Anheuser Busch Brewery**

1200 Lynch Street  
Saint Louis, Missouri  
314-577-2626

*Adolphus Busch left Germany for the United States in 1857. He settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where he eventually established his own brewing supply house. In St. Louis, Busch also met and married Lilly Anheuser. Lilly's father, Eberhard Anheuser, owned a small brewery that had been making lager beer for some time. In 1864, Busch partnered with his father-in-law to form what would eventually become the Anheuser-Busch Company. Today, the brewery has expanded into one of the largest and most widely-recognized breweries in the world and hosts free tours and events. Snap your photograph of the eye-catching Budweiser sign on top of the Bevo Packaging Plant on Broadway.*

<https://www.anheuser-busch.com/about/breweries-and-tours/st-louis-mo.html>

### **Saint Louis County**

#### **Faust Park**

15025 Faust Park  
Chesterfield, Missouri  
314-615-8336

*Created in 1968 through the generosity of Leicester and Mary Plant Faust, much of the land that comprises Faust Park was the original estate of our second Governor, Frederick Bates. Today, the park contains several historic structures, each telling the story of a family that contributed to the development of this region. Many of these families were German immigrants or of German descent, and the buildings represent many different architectural styles and ways of living. The park today is over 200 acres and helps tell the story of what life in St. Louis County once was. Snap your photograph in front*

*of one of the historic structures.*

<https://stlouiscountymo.gov/st-louis-county-departments/parks/places/faust-park/>

### **Warren County**

#### **The Peers Store**

16011 Concord Hill Road  
Marthasville, Missouri

*This historic store was built for the arrival of the Katy Railroad in 1896 by a German family, the Glosemeyers. The store remained in operation through horrendous flooding and even the closing of the railroad in the 1980s until it finally closed in 2012. The store is now owned and operated by Magnificent Missouri, who transformed it into a prime example of what conservation and preservation along the Katy Trail can accomplish. They currently host live music on the porch, maintain a 4-acre Peers Prairie, and offer beverages, snacks, and local goods for purchase. The Peer Store was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017 (listed as "Glosemeyer General Store") in a joint effort between Magnificent Missouri and Missouri Humanities. Snap your photograph on the porch or behind the original store counter.*

<https://www.magnificentmissouri.org/>