

Timeline: Germans and German Americans

Dates	Events
Middle Ages to 1860s	Germany is divided into a vast number of Kingdom states
1683	13 German families come to America and settle Germantown, PA
Early 1700s	Germans arrive in PA from Palatinate area in Germany (and become known as the “Pennsylvania Dutch”)
1700s, 1800s	Germans arrive in a steady stream to America
Early 1800s	Germans develop Christmas traditions, which are picked up by other Americans
1848-1850	Many Germans immigrate to the US because of failed liberal revolutions in Europe (these become known as the “Forty-Eighters”)
1850s	Germans settle in large numbers in Milwaukee; they will be the largest cultural group in the city
1860s	Germany begins to unify under Otto von Bismarck; Catholics are persecuted
1860s-1880s	Many Catholics leave Germany for the US; they will be the largest religious group among Milwaukee Germans
1880s-1814	Germans culture is celebrated and highly respected in the US, and particularly in Milwaukee (which becomes known as the “German Athens”)
1900s	WWI (1917-1819) and WWII (1942-1945): A backlash occurs in the US against German-Americans because of wars with Germany; German culture is played down