



German-American Heritage Month celebrates the contributions and history of Americans with German Ancestry. It is celebrated on Sunday, October 1, 2017 and has been observed the month of October since 1989. German is America's largest ancestry group. According to the Census Bureau, nearly 50,000,000 Americans claim German ancestry.

German traditions celebrated in America:

**Food:** Chicken Fried Steak (originally brought over as wiener schnitzel), American picnic items such as the hot dog/frankfurter, German potato salad and various condiments such as Heinz Ketchup and Hellman Mayonnaise, sauerkraut and of course German Beer! Beer is a major part of German Culture!!!!



**Holiday Traditions:** The Nutcracker Story and Figuring, the Christmas tree, Easter Bunny and Easter egg hunts.

**Other various contributions:** Ring binder, gingerbread houses, Advent Calendars, gummi bears, prefabricated houses and "Here Comes the Bride."

### Did you know?

- October 6, 1683 was the date of the first German settlement, which was established in Germantown, PA.
- In 1983, President Ronald Reagan made the first Presidential Proclamation proclaiming October 6<sup>th</sup> as German-American Day
- In 1855, German immigrants in Wisconsin launched the first kindergarten in America, based on the kindergartens in Germany.
- Germans introduced physical education into the public schools
- John Bausch and Henry Lomb created the first American optical company



### Sources:

<http://daysofyear.com/german-american-heritage-month/>

<http://www.germanmarylanders.org/legislative-efforts>

<https://prezi.com/gt-4h8-bbiqw/german-american-heritage-month/>

[2011/04/05/15-things-you-didnt-know-were-german/](http://2011/04/05/15-things-you-didnt-know-were-german/)

<http://1stchoicemag.com/leisure-recreation/76-german-immigrant-influence-on-american-culture>

[https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/genealogy\\_research\\_strategies/international-genealogy-research/genealogists-celebrate-german-american-heritage-month/](https://www.familytreemagazine.com/articles/genealogy_research_strategies/international-genealogy-research/genealogists-celebrate-german-american-heritage-month/)