

also noted Sophie Koerner's contributions in establishing kindergarten classes for young students.

Illinois State Representative Tom Holbrook discussed the Koerner and Engelmann legacy in southwest Illinois. Representative Holbrook obtained state funds that allowed the City of Belleville to purchase the Koerner home so it could be restored. Holbrook and St. Clair County Board Chairman Mark Kern have worked together to purchase the Engelmann farm near Shiloh for use as a park. The Koerner and Engelmann properties may be used to interpret the impact of German immigrants on the area's cultural and economic development.

Engelmann family descendent Mary Armstrong presented Koerner Rombauer with an Engelmann family ancestral wine bottle dating to the 1830's.

Koerner House Restoration Committee member Jim Ettling was on the mend and unable to attend but made sure a cake, in the form of the Koerner house, was part of the special occasion.



*Rombauer family members from St. Helena, CA.*

Wolfgang Stueken proposed a birthday wine toast to Gustave Koerner followed by the Koerner and Engelmann family descendents singing "Happy Birthday" with the assistance of the "Prevailing Winds" quintet of the Belleville Philharmonic Society. Stueken also donated a letter written by Koerner at his Belleville home and addressed to fellow German immigrant and Republican Party activist Adolph Kapp of New York. Stueken bought the letter at a New York bookstore.

On Saturday, November 21, descendents gathered at Walnut Hill cemetery for the planting of a commemorative tree at the Koerner family gravesite. Nurseryman Bob Dintelmann came out of retirement to oversee the planting.

The group then toured the Koerner house and received an update on stabilization repairs, interior demolition work, and reviewed overall plans for the restoration.

The party was then taken to a reception hosted by the downtown Belleville law firm of Mathis, Marifian, Richter and Grandy where Wolfgang Stueken presented a slide show of Koerner's German birthplace and Rombauer wines once again produced their "gemutlich" glow.

We would like to thank the following for making the 200th anniversary a wonderful success: Honorary Chair Fred & Barbara Kern; Event Committee : Molly McKenzie , Cathleen Lindauer, Patty Gregory (Reigning "Belle of the Milkmaids" Contest Winner) & Jack LeChien; Mayor Mark Eckert; Belleville, Illinois, Tourism; Jeff Dawe & Walnut Hill Cemetery crew; St. Clair County Historical Society & President Daphne Sumner; Belleville News-Democrat; Rombauer Vineyards; "Prevailing Winds" quintet; Law firm of Mathis, Marifian, Richter, Grandy, Ltd; Memorial Hospital; Print Master; Eckert's Florist; Andy Gaa & Belleville East HS German Honors Class; Pearce Wilson & Millstadt Venture Crew; Koerner House Restoration Committee members Norma Walker, Dave Braswell, Bob Dintelmann, Loretta Lopinot, Sue Sharp, Joan Davis, Diane Walsh, John Bertram, Jim Ettling, Colleen Hensel, Jennifer Marquis, Genevieve and Nancy Le Chien.

Special thanks to all of the Koerner and Engelmann family descendents for traveling great distances to be a part of our celebration. It was truly an affair to remember.



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