

“Bei uns ist immer was los!”

OCTOBER 6, 1987—GERMAN AMERICAN DAY

What the Germans brought to America?

Landing in America

The first Germans arrived in the US as early as 1608 – but it was the 1683 movement that truly marked the beginning of America's German settlement.

This was the year in which a group of religious dissidents approached Francis Daniel Pastorius in Frankfurt am Main.

As a trained lawyer and agent for the German Society - a group of German land investors - Pastorius seemed like a good bet to help them to buy land in Pennsylvania.

They wanted to build a settlement there. And when they arrived on American shores, that's exactly what Pastorius helped them to do.

Pastorius negotiated the purchase of 5,700 acres of land from William Penn – the Englishman who had founded Pennsylvania a few years earlier.

On this land, Germantown was born.

