

## GERMAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

### THE 1817 WARTBURG FESTIVAL

In 1817 Prince Metternich of Austria and the reactionary princes of Germany suppressed liberal ideas emanating from the debris of the French Revolution.

Young idealists commemorated the Protestant Reformation at the famous Wartburg Festival to protest the suppression. The festival ended with a giant bonfire where all symbols of tyranny, censorship and oppression were burned.

A period of persecution followed the festival and many were forced to leave the Fatherland. Among the illustrious immigrants were Karl Follen, the first full professor of German in the U.S., and Franz Lieber, the creator of the Encyclopedia Americana.

The 1817 Wartburg Festival presented by:  
GERMAN-AMERICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS  
Philadelphia Chapter