



## Where did Jefferson City Come From?

By Carrie Tergin | Mayor

On April 8, 2015, less than a day after the mayoral election, I received a message from Vanessa Schweinhaupt, a reporter for the German newspaper "Frankenpost," offering congratulations on the election and putting me on the spot about whether this new mayor would continue the partnership that started a decade earlier by Mayor John Landwehr and Münchberg Mayor (Bürgermeister) Thomas Fein. I quickly felt the responsibility to carry on the tradition that began generations before this partnership was ever thought about. Many can trace their heritage directly to Münchberg, Germany, and now "Old Munichburg" celebrates where Jefferson City "came from."

We all came from somewhere, but our German heritage is strong, and regardless of why or how we ended up in Jefferson City, you're right at home in Old Munichburg, especially during Oktoberfest with the traditional German food, music, and the mayor's "official" keg tapping ceremony kicking it all off! Followed by the famous dachshund races--which I learned from Vanessa that these "long-dog races" are not common in the "real" Oktoberfest!

Back to Vanessa, her message on election eve voiced concern. Would I continue the partnership with our "twin" city in Germany? Also, what was it like to be a young woman leading our city? Vanessa got to find out

firsthand when she visited JCMO in Sept/Oct--our partnership is strong! We are already planning to welcome new Münchberg Bürgermeister, Christian Zuber, and friends next August when they will visit us during the eclipse. The following year Jefferson Citians plan to visit Germany. In fact, our "twin" cities recently won an award for the "Best German-American Partnership City!"

I can't wait to see the place where many of our ancestors came from. Even this Greek mayor will be German for a day! We all enjoyed reading Vanessa's recent articles in the News Tribune--especially her impressions of Jefferson City: the "spacious" red brick houses, with "huge" cars in front, plenty of rooms, balconies, a "barbecue-corner," and a lot of stairs! In writing about our "little" Oktoberfest, she "got the feeling that the Jeff Citians are happy to have visitors from their twin city, Münchberg." "I recognize it, because of the way people talk to me and how they treat me. I have received such appreciation from strangers very rarely in my life, like it happens these days in JC. I feel totally at home." -Vanessa

Jefferson City is proud of its Münchberg history. Our partnership has created friendships and connections across the world. We look forward to continuing to partner in new ways and are honored to win the award for best partnership. It's beyond where we came from; it's

where we are now, globally connecting, building new friendships, sharing traditions (and Central Dairy!) with the world.

#Partnership  
 #Global  
 #AdventureAbroad  
 #Münchberg  
 #OldMunichburg

