



DER KURIER

Volume 21, Number 2, June 2003

Special Thanks!

The odd-numbered year on the calendar always marks a transition year for MAGS and 2003 is no exception. Accompanying this issue of *Der Kurier* is the ballot for the election of officers to serve on the Board for the next two years. Please take the time to read through the biographies and return the ballot.

I want to express my thanks to the members of the current Board of Directors who have worked with me for the past two years—Susannah Brooks, First Vice President; Jane Adams Clarke, Second Vice President, Corresponding Secretary Pat Cramer, Recording Secretary Deyerle Atkins, and At-Large Board Member Betty deKeyser. The Board of Directors could not function without the support of several MAGS members who have done outstanding work over the past two years: Diane Kuster who handles registrations for all of our meetings; Carl Shrader who did an outstanding job building the library and then seeing that it was successfully moved to the Shenandoah Public Library; Ruth Yos for her work on the MAGS web page; Judy Dohner for all of her efforts managing book sales, and the Editor of *Der Kurier*, John Bieber. And special thanks to Dorothy Reed, for her help as Chairperson of the Nominating Committee.

As you will note there will be some changes in MAGS leadership with the incoming Board of Directors. Several current members will be leaving the Board and others have agreed to take on additional duties or new responsibilities. Special thanks goes to those individuals who will be serving on the next Board, particularly the new additions—Mary Ellen Wilmoth who will be handling publicity and Robert Reisinger who will fill the At-Large position.

On behalf of the membership, thanks for a job well done!

John T. Humphrey
President



MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2642
Kensington, MD 20891-2642

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>

Our mission: to stimulate and facilitate research on Germanic genealogy and heritage in the mid-Atlantic region

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded July 10, 1982. Annual dues are only \$10 (individual) or \$12 (family). Membership is open to all interested persons without regard to place of residence, nationality, or ethnicity. Benefits of membership include:

- Spring and Fall Meetings** featuring expert speakers.
- Quarterly newsletter, *Der Kurier*.
- MAGS Lending Library**
- Ahnentafels** published in *Der Kurier*.
- Queries**
- Surname Exchange Index**
- Stumped Roots**

A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.

Contact information for MAGS special services appears on the inside back cover.

Officers

President: John T. Humphrey
1st Vice President: Susannah E. Brooks
2nd Vice President: Jane Adams Clarke
Corresponding Secretary: Patricia P. Cramer
Recording Secretary: Deyerle R. Atkins
Treasurer: Open
At-Large Board Member: Betty deKeyser
At-Large Board Member: Open
Immediate Past President: Dorothy J. Reed

Special Services

Ahnentafel: Shirley E. Forrester
Editor: John W. Bieber
Historian: Beverly Repass Hoch
Library Administrator: Carl M. Shrader
Membership: Susannah E. Brooks
Programs: Jane Adams Clarke
Publications: Corinne P. Earnest
Publicity: Open
Queries: Edythe H. Millar
Registrar: Diane M. Kuster
Rep Assn German-American Soc: Merl Arp
Sales Manager: Judy Dohner
Stumped Roots: Susannah E. Brooks
Surname Exchange: Edward G. Winner
Webmaster: R. Yos

Der Kurier is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is indexed in the Periodical Source Index by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN, and the Genealogical Periodical Annual Index by Heritage Books, Inc, Bowie, MD.

Submissions to *Der Kurier*. Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: John W Bieber, 25 Rolling Road, Claymont, DE 19703. E-mail: long.hair@att.net Phone: 302-798-7210.

der Kalender

2003

July 6-10. Virginia Institute of Genealogical Research. For *Virginia* researchers. Roslyn, Virginia Diocesan Center, 8727 River Road, Richmond, VA. For details: Virginia Genealogical Society. E-mail mail@vgs.org Phone 804-285-8954, Tue or Wed between 9:30 A.M. and 12:30 P.M.

July 11-12. Midwestern Roots 2003. Family history and genealogy conference. Information: Indiana Historical Society, 450 W. Ohio St., Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269. Phone 317-232-1882. Web: www.indianahistory.com

July 12. Pathways to the German Homeland. Univ Wisconsin, Whitewater Campus. Information: German Interest Group-Wisconsin, PO Box 2185, Janesville, WI 53547-2185. Web: http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html

July 2003. Trip to Germany, focused on Leipzig area. Sponsored by German America Heritage Center. Details: Bruce Bufe 563-793-5900 (work) or 563-332-1820 (home). E-mail: Bruce.Bufe@risd41.org

August 9. Enders Family Reunion at Enders Grove in Enders, Halifax. Memorial Sevice at 1:00 P.M., food, games, music. Details: www.endersfamily.org

ELECTION TIME

It's MAGS election time again !

Exercise your right as a MAGS member to vote for your officers. The official ballot is inserted in this issue of *Der Kurier*.

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August 15-17. Wertman Family Reunion. Lockport, New York. Information: Niagara County Genealogical Society, 215 Niagara Street, Lockport, NY 14094. Phone 716-433-1033. Web: genealogy@niagaracounty.org

August 17. HOCH / HIGH Family Reunion. Oley, Pennsylvania. Descendants of Rudolph and Melchior Hoch will meet near the farm where Rudolph settled in 1728. Details: Ralph P. Lorah, 610-987-3541.

October 3-5. Platt Conference, Manning, Iowa. Information: American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society (ASHHS), P.O. Box 506, Walcott, IA 52773-0506. Web: www.ASHHS.org E-mail: ASHHS@ASHHS.org

October 18. MAGS Fall Meeting. Wilmington, Delaware. Details will appear in the next issue of *Der Kurier* and on MAGS's Website: www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/

November 8. Reality Genealogy Conference. FCC Conference Center, Frederick, Maryland. Speaker: Ms. Trudy Schenk. For more information contact Ms. Pepper Scotto, President FRECOGS, 301-834-9907.

If you would like your event or program placed on der Kalender, please send the information to the MAGS Editor by the stated deadline (see inside front page).

MAGS Welcomes New Members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in parentheses and italics* following the new member's name. Space does not permit more than four surnames or most spelling variations. MAGS encourages all members to submit their research names to the Surname Exchange Index and to have the Index searched to determine if others are also researching the same family.

Herbert M. Bohner of New Cumberland PA

Laura Charming of Woodbine MD

(Majeski, Lanviski, Shoman, Swick)

Glenn Clark of McLean VA

Doneda Clemmer of Bethlehem PA

(Gearhart, Serfass)

Shirley Dinsch of Highland Village TX

(Dins(c)h, Minch, Covey)

Sarah E. Dulany of Pasadena MD

(Lindemann, Hutson, Rumble, Starr)

Margaret Gagliardi of Annadale VA

(Trout, Hull, Uhl, Beck)

Christopher Garman of Annapolis MD

(Gehrens, Hillmann, Lacroix, Wichgrebe)

Elizabeth A. Green of Columbia MD

(Huff, Rogler, Kuespert/Kispert, Woolf)

Anne Hardman of Silver Spring MD

Sue Ward Jackson of Marshfield MO

(Herring)

Carol Kehler of Broomall PA

(Kehler, Hübner, Krippelbauer)

Patrick & Denise King of Harrisburg PA

(King/Koenig, Boehm)

Gerald & Cecilia Lazzaro of Springfield MD

Earl H. Lippert of Middletown PA

(Lippert, Evelhoch, Yost, Knisely)

June & Ronald Lloyd of York PA

(Haugh, Shelley, Berk)

Joyce Morningstar of Conshohocken PA

(Morningstar/Morgenstern, Hollenberry, Reinaman)

Sharon Peach of Beaverton OR

(Crass, Ross)

Mary Pettiss of Parkersburg WV

(Duerrbeck, Bibel, Haeuser, Herterich)

Marjorie J. Phillips of Woodhaven NY

(Bracht, Kreuscher, Eisenhauer)

Diane M. Preiser of West Chester PA

(Fleis(c)her, Hites, Schaffner, Henninger)

George Schrenker, Jr. of Dundalk MD

Nancy Welsh of Irwin PA

(Sandrock, Gernhard, Hardman, Hollinger)

J. Karl Yochum of Palmyra VA

(Yochum, Macheimer, Grill, Longenecker)

MAGS SPRING MEETING

MAGS's annual Spring Meeting was held April 26, 2003 at Blob's Park, Maryland. The theme was **Servitude, Church Records and Bureaucrats!** Featured speakers were Dr. Marianne S. Wokeck and Dr. Cathryn S. Dipppo.

Door prizes are a traditional part of the semiannual MAGS meetings. At the Spring Meeting, the prizes and winners were:

Subscriptions to *German Life Magazine* - Barbara Bishop and Mary Ann Mullerleile.

\$20 Gift Certificate to Higginson Book Co. - Joan Sheviak.

Pennsylvania German Roots Across the Ocean donated by The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania - Coralinn Kuehl.

Archive Box with Supplies donated by The Hollinger Corporation - Berry Scheffel Goosman.

Our Family Diary donated by Russell D. Earnest Associates - Evelyn Schramm.

Tracing Your Ancestry donated by Will-Britt Books - Don W. Umberger, Thelma A. Husband and Bernice Hoffman.

Finding Your Roots donated by Diane M. Kuster - Kathryn Hamilton.

MAGS Library Reopens

New location, added services go beyond books by mail

Carl M. Shrader, Library Administrator

In February the Library contents were packed in boxes and moved to the Shenandoah County Library (SCL), Shenandoah Genealogy Room, in Edinburg, Virginia. This move will benefit both patrons of the Shenandoah County Library and **all** MAGS members. The Shenandoah Room consists of a non-circulating collection of local history and genealogy books. Because of the large number of Germans who settled in the area, the addition of the MAGS collection will greatly enhance the holdings and research capabilities for all patrons.

The Shenandoah Room is open for in-house research to the public; therefore, **all** MAGS members who visit Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg, Virginia are invited to use the books, both MAGS and SCL. In the past only registered MAGS Library members (those who paid a deposit and registered with the MAGS library) had limited access by mail to the MAGS collection.

Registered MAGS Library members **do not** lose their special privilege to order books by mail. The registered members, with current membership dues paid, may continue to order up to three books at a time by mail with the postage and postal insurance prepaid by the borrower. Karen Cooper, a MAGS member for many years, lives nearby the SCL and has volunteered to fill the request for books by mail from the SCL. In addition, registered MAGS Library members who live in the area of the Shenandoah County Library are now able to check books out of the MAGS collection. They are the **only** patrons permitted to **check out** these MAGS books. A list of registered MAGS Library members will be maintained by both Shenandoah County Library and MAGS.

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Library collection is shelved separate from other collections in the Shenandoah Room and it

will continue to use the Library of Congress cataloging system. In addition to having color-coded labels, all books contain a stamp indicating that they are the property of MAGS.

SCL has a team of volunteer genealogists to assist patrons in the Shenandoah Room and who provide research services **for a fee** to anyone requesting the service. MAGS members may request this service directly from the Shenandoah County Library for their usual fee. This is a service that the MAGS Library could not provide to its members in the past.

The MAGS Book List is available from Shenandoah County Library, and Karen Cooper, as noted above, will fill the request for the Book List as well as books by mail from the SCL to MAGS members. The Book List will also continue to be available on the MAGS web site which has a link to the SCL website. There are also pictures of the MAGS collection on the SCL site:

<www.shenandoah.co.lib.va.us>

In order to better facilitate services to MAGS members, we need another MAGS member who lives in the area to act as a volunteer liaison with the Shenandoah County Library, to monitor use by MAGS members, and to handle mail requests by registered MAGS library members. If you can help MAGS in this capacity contact Carl M. Shrader, 10 Saint Andrews Garth, Severna Park, MD 21146 or MAGS web site:

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>>

The new address for registering or ordering books:

MAGS LENDING LIBRARY
Shenandoah County Library
514 Stoney Creek Boulevard
Edinburg, VA 22824

FRAKTUR FORUM

by Corinne Earnest

**HUNT / HETZEL:
NOT ALL FRAKTUR WERE MADE IN PENNSYLVANIA**

Doris Hetzel asked about Hunts and Hetzels on fraktur. Doris was hoping for mentions of her family in Ohio. Unfortunately, although fraktur were made in Ohio, so little attention has been paid to them that no one has systematically recorded examples from that state. My husband, Russ, and I have recorded more than 25,000 fraktur, and consequently may have the best record of Ohio fraktur but, regrettably, we found nothing from Ohio that helps Doris. However, we did locate fraktur having her surnames from other states. A taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) was made for Thomas, son of Thomas and Katharine (KAUFMAN) HUNT. The younger Thomas HUNT was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, on October 30, 1812. He was baptized by Pastor ROCKWELL, but no other information concerning baptism was given. This example is pictured by Klaus Stopp in Volume V of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*.

A family register was made for a HUNT family in Vermont. Made by fraktur artist John Van Minian (active circa 1805-42), this register was pictured in the May 1975 issue of *The Magazine Antiques*. The register says that Demas P. HUNT was the son of Joseph and Judy HUNT. Demas P. HUNT was born in Dorset, Vermont, on July 17, 1799. He married Sidanna, daughter of David and Mary SHANNON, on October 17, 1826. Sidanna SHANNON was born November 22, 1806. Demas P. and Sidanna HUNT had Deantha HUNT, born December 9, 1827, and William Lewis HUNT, born July 22, 1829. Demas P. HUNT died March 28, 1830.

A taufschein in a private collection was made for Jemima, daughter of George and Lidia (HUNT) DECKER. Jemima was born April 7, 1858 in Shrewsbury Township, York County, Pennsylvania. Jemima was baptized by D. GRING (no date given) and her parents were sponsors.

Doris also asked about the name HETZEL on fraktur. In the July 1999 issue of the *Wythe County Historical Review*, MAGS Historian, Beverly Repass Hoch, listed data from a fraktur made for Catharina KECKLI [KEGLEY]. Catharina's parents were Johann George and Catharina (HÜTZL) KECKLI. Catharina KECKLI was born January 20, 1796, probably in Wythe County, Virginia. No information was given concerning her baptism other than the sponsors' names, Johannes and Elisabeth SCHNEIDER. An added note says Catharina died September 27, 1862 at age 66 years, 8 months, and 7 days.

A fraktur artist named John HETZEL (born 1760) may have been a schoolmaster at Muddy Creek Church in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was son of schoolmaster Heinrich HETZEL, who died in September 1786 in Earl Township, Lancaster County. A picture of John HETZEL's only known fraktur appears in Scott T. Swank's, *Arts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, published in 1983.

I will continue to search for Doris Hetzel's family names on fraktur. If you have names on fraktur you wish me to research, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1007 East Berlin, PA 17316. Please be patient for a reply.

SUCHANZEIGEN

Please mention at least one time, one place, and one German surname with known variants. Limit each query to one family. Use no more than fifty (50) words, not counting your name and address. There is no charge for members of MAGS. Non-members please include \$1.00 (check payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society) per query with your submission. More than one query may be sent at a time, but each should be clearly written or typed on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch clean, white paper. Please indicate desired priority for printing. MAGS reserves the right to edit. Neither MAGS nor *Der Kurier* assumes any responsibility for accuracy. Send your Queries to Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 511 FOREST GLEN CIRCLE, MURFREESBORO, TN 37128. E-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net

KOLB* SEEBERGER

21-5 Seek birth/baptism/siblings of John KOLB b Northern Bavaria. Imm to Baltimore, Md abt 1840 as a child. Par Johann KOLB and Margarethe (Martha) MILLER. John mar Barbara SEEBERGER (the elder) Apr 1861, d Aug 1888, bur Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in Baltimore, Md. among 30-40 other KOLB plots. Problem with dupl names and minimal oral fam history. Will appreciate any info or clues.

Edw. Shipley, 43 McCampbell Rd. Holmdel, NJ 07733, E-mail eshipley@worldnet.att.net

PREIS SCHRAGE WAGNER* BESCHEL SMITH

21-6 Seek info abt Elizabeth/Elise PREIS b 1834 Gehaus, SaxeWeimar, m 23 Apr 1854 in Philadelphia, PA to Adam SCHRAGE. Did other fam memb imm to Philadelphia w/Elise in early 1850's? She mar August Wagner abt 1865 and mvd to Pittsburgh; d 1908. Ch w/WAGNER: August 1866-1875; Louise Henriette b 1868, m BESCHEL; Friedrich Theodore b 1870, m SMITH.

Kathy Kenna, 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2428
E-Mail: kkinplum@aol.com

JAHN SCHUCHE

21-7 Seek info fam of Robert JAHN b 1823 in Gollendorf, Schlesien, nr Patschkau (now Poland). Par Joseph JAHN and Johanne SCHUCHE. Wish to locate Catholic records, this village.

Kathy Kenna, 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2428
E-Mail: kkinplum@aol.com

GARBE

21-8 Seek info par of Ludwig GARBE, b 1850/1851 in Miloschewo, West Prussia.

Kathy Kenna, 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2428
E-Mail: kkinplum@aol.com

WISSOTSKY WHITSOTSKI MACH DEINERT

21-9 Seek info Franz WISSOTSKY / WHITSOTSKI m abt 1854 Ernestine Wilhelmine MACH; b 1835 Brunnow, Pommern. Franz d bet 1864-1867, when Ernestine mar DEINERT and imm to Pittsburgh, PA

Kathy Kenna, 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2428
E-Mail: kkinplum@aol.com

[NAME UNKNOWN]

21-10 Have photo of soldier in army uniform from West Prussia, circa 1870's. Can anyone identify unit from uniform?

Kathy Kenna, 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239-2428
E-Mail: kkinplum@aol.com

FARNE PARKIN SCHMIDT

21-11 Seek info/par William FARNE (1834 1909) mar Susannah PARKIN. William was carpenter in St. Clair, Schuylkill Co, PA. Soldier in Company G, 48th PA Reg in Civ W. Poss son of Jacob & Catherine SCHMIDT FARNE, b Bavaria.

William H. Pryor, Jr., 100 Wesley Road, Greenville, NC 27858
E-Mail: wpryor2@earthlink.net

RITTER* SONES SOHNS

#21-12 Seek info/par Daniel RITTER (1788-1866) mar Elizabeth SONES (1795-1867), dau of Peter SONES(SOHNS). Daniel RITTER farmer in Lycoming Co., PA

William H. Pryor, Jr., 100 Wesley Road
Greenville, NC 27858
E-mail: wpryor2@earthlink.net

LONGENECKER*

#21-13 Seek par Daniel LONGENECKER, d 1756 in Mingo Creek, Philadelphia Co., PA. Also Ulrich LONGENECKER d 1757 in Coventry, Chester, Co. PA. (not the Ulrich who d 1752 in Rapho, Lancaster Co. PA). Daniel and Ulrich arr in PA on or bef 1718. Poss brothers. Daniel poss fr Krefeld, Germany. Ulrich b in Ruegsau, Switzerland and poss emi to Palatine, Germany.

Dick Cryer, 469 Riversville Road, Greenwich,
CT 06831
E-mail: dickcryer@juno.com

**MAUK* MAUCK* MAUCH
HEFFLEFINGER**

21-14 Seek info Henry MAUK, b Wurttemberg, Germany, May 1831. To US 1845. Mar Anna Catherine HEFFLEFINGER in Philadelphia, PA 1861

Ellen M. Higgins, 15 Elizabeth Lane, Seaville,
NJ 08230-1373
E-mail: SQUIRREL4H@AOL.COM

**HEFFLEFINGER HEFFELFINGER
MAUK***

21-15 Seek info Anna Catherine HEFFLEFINGER, b Montgomery Co, PA Mar 1841. Was orphan as teenager. Mar Henry MAUK 1861 in Philadelphia, PA. Need par and sib info.

Ellen M. Higgins, 15 Elizabeth Lane, Seaville,
NJ 08230-1373
E-mail: SQUIRREL4H@AOL.COM

**This surname, and variant spellings, is found in the MAGS Surname Exchange Index together with the researcher(s) reporting interest in the surname.*

MERTZ / BOSSERT FAMILY REGISTER

Information abstracted from a German-language Bible. No imprint. The Bible record is bound between the Old and New Testaments. It has preprinted 188---. Infill attributed to scrivener, Jacobus Heinie. (Private collection)

Marriages: Tilgman [sic] Mertz and Sarah Jane Bossert. Married November 26, 1864 by Joseph Dubs.

Births:

Thilgman [sic] Mertz, a son of Joseph and Sallÿ Mertz, was born June 24, 1835. Baptized by Pastor Dubs. Sponsors were Dewalt and Catharina Mertz. [The "24" in the date was originally written "14" and later corrected in pencil.]

His wife, Sarah Jane, a daughter of Daniel and Catharina Bossert, was born February 7, 1845. Baptized by Pastor Reibel. Sponsors were Owen and Feÿette Hall. [Sarah Jane] died March 31, 1932.

(1) Maspÿ Daniel Mertz was born February 27, 1873. Baptized by Pastor Renninger. Sponsors were Ruben Säger and his wife Marÿ Ann.

(2) Kati Sallÿ Ann Mertz was born May 6, 1875. Baptized by Pastor Renninger. Sponsors were Stephen and Carolina Ritter.

My Collateral Research: More Than One Way to Skin a Cat

Cora McDonnell

2717 Hartsfield Rd., Tallahassee, FL, USA

It had been twenty-four years since my daughter brought home a class assignment from her fifth grade teacher to be completed over the Christmas holidays, a genealogy assignment. She was to ask for her parents' and grandparents' help filling out blanks for names, dates and places in her family tree. I have always been grateful to that teacher; because of her assignment we have information on our families that would have been lost forever. However, one branch of the tree was conspicuously empty. We knew no information about my mother's father other than the date of his birth in Germany. Nothing more! There were no names for his parents, no name for the town of his birth. Sitting at the Christmas dinner table, we talked with my mother and uncle about this. I said, "There have to be records that will show his birthplace. I will find them." *Hah!*

The very next business day I marched to the county courthouse in Memphis, TN asking for my grandparents' marriage certificate. There it was. Otto RICHTER and Louise VANDERCAMMEN were married 12 February 1896. Now I knew the date, but nothing more. The marriage certificate only gave their names and the date of the ceremony, neither parent's name nor the hoped for birthplace. Considering that the year was 1896, I should have been happy to have found a marriage record, but I had much to learn about genealogy.

Tracing back the history of our families was occasionally easy, usually difficult. My father's DAVIS family turned out to be easiest, even though there were three *John DAVIS* in this part of the tree. Six generations back Lodowick DAVIS was born in Montgomery Co., Maryland Colony. He had enlisted in the Maryland militia on his seventeenth birthday in 1781, and applied for a pension based on his Revolutionary War service in his old age. Thank you, Lodowick! We persevered thru the more difficult searches, finding information on our other

families, McDONNELL, O'LEARY, ROBINSON, TUDO, RICHARDSON, OWEN, SHAW, VANDERCAMMEN, MARCHAND tracing them back at least several generations. My husband and I wandered thru old cemeteries, searched thru microfilms of old newspapers. Librarians came to know our faces. Still, the RICHTER branch of my family tree was conspicuously vacant.

It wasn't for lack of effort. I didn't know the year that my grandfather RICHTER emigrated from Germany. Sure, the 1900 census asked for the year of immigration, but a census taker in Memphis, TN managed to leave this question unanswered. There was no other census to help since Otto died in 1908. This same census stated that he had been naturalized. When I wrote to the Shelby County, TN Archives asking for a naturalization record, they replied that his name was in an index, but unfortunately the volume with the original records had disappeared. Many of these old records were not saved. Thanks! During another Christmas trip to Memphis, I spent several days searching the microfilms of 1908 newspapers to find a funeral announcement. I learned the hour for his funeral, however it gave no indication that he was even born. His death certificate was more helpful. He was born in Germany; his father's name was *Gus*. Was this some clerk's best attempt at Gustav, maybe August? What about church records? My cousin worked on that project to find that the Lutheran Church in Memphis had no record of him. There was a life insurance policy for Otto RICHTER, but the company hadn't saved their old records.

What did I know about this grandfather? We had old 19th century photographs of his family in Germany, some of them taken at studios in Magdeburg and Gardelegen. We had more old photos of the RICHTERs than any of our other ancestors. Trying to identify people in the pictures, my mother could only write *Poppa's mother*,

Poppa's brother, Poppa's sisters. She didn't have names for them. Their nameless faces from Germany bothered me. Taking the old pictures from my grandmother's album, we photographed them, and the next Christmas I enjoyed giving presents of the copies to my cousins, feeling that the grandfather we never knew would probably appreciate this. Letters from his family in Germany had been discarded, because no one could read the German writing after his death. At least we knew from family stories that Otto RICHTER had left home as a teenager to avoid serving in the military. He came to the USA alone thru New York City. He looked very young, I would guess about fifteen, in an undated photograph taken in Memphis. At first he earned his living painting murals in the homes of wealthy Memphians, but gradually chemicals in the paints affected his health. Abandoning art, he opened a saloon on Adams St. in downtown Memphis. My mother, the first born, remembered living above the saloon, playing on the sidewalks, the Turnverein, a May Fest, swimming at the Gymnasium. There were many German influences in her childhood.

About 1985 I asked my mother, "Why did your father choose to come to Memphis?" She replied, "Because old man PALM lived here. He came from Poppa's village in Germany." My uncle Adolph remembered him very well. Mr. PALM had been wounded in the Civil War and left for dead on the battlefield. He delighted in showing the children a hole in his abdomen from the wound where maggots ate away decaying flesh, saving his life. Yes, this would certainly be remembered! A book in the Memphis library listed names of men from the Midsouth area (a name used for Memphis and its surrounding area in three states) who served the Confederacy during the Civil War. There was an entry for Gustavus Adolphus PALM in the 9th Mississippi Infantry. A 1900 Memphis directory listed G. A. PALM. Until last spring that's all we knew of him.

I was on-line searching for a surname in the IGI database, when, just for fun, I typed in a search for PALM. There was an 1865 marriage record for Gustavus Adolphus in

Holly Springs, MS. Mississippi? Thirty miles south of Memphis, Holly Springs is in Marshall County, MS. On the Marshall County Rootsweb site I did a search for PALM. Bobby Mitchell's column *The Grey Ghost*, written about Marshall County during the Civil War, included a story about Mr. PALM. Left for dead on a battle field at Perryville, KY, he had recovered, and returned to serve with Gen. Forest in Mississippi. He was a war hero. His birth and death dates were given, but I was frustrated to read only that he was born in Prussia. Deb Haines, webmaster for the Marshall Co. site, was a great help. She located Mr. PALM's naturalization record, mailing me a copy. It said that he renounced all allegiance to the Emperor of Prussia. That was all it said! Deb also wrote that he had married into one of the old pioneer families of Marshall County, that there was a genealogy for the WOODSON family microfilmed by the LDS. Searching thru the film, I found that he married Martha WOODSON in 1865. After her death, he married her sister Ada WOODSON. Three surviving daughters lived in the Memphis area. Would you believe it! The genealogy only gave his initials with no mention of German origins.

Gustavus Adolphus died 27 January 1917. I asked my cousin to check microfilms of Memphis newspapers for an obituary. The library had nothing for the last week of January 1917, no obituary, but he did send a copy of the 1900 census. G. A. PALM immigrated to the USA in 1854. Using an LDS guide to Hamburg Passenger Records I ordered the microfilm that included 1854. C. H. and G. A. PALM were passengers traveling together on the ship *Sir Isaac Newton* when it left Hamburg, Germany to arrive in New York City on 16 August 1854. Their birthplace, *Geburtsort*, was Celle, Hannover. Now I had a birthplace in Germany; I found the *motherlode*. Subscribing to the Hannover Rootsweb Mailing List, the good people on this list were very helpful. There had been PALMs in areas of the Hannover Kingdom for centuries yet not in Celle. However, Celle was a large city even in the 19th century, and must have

☐ **BALLOT** ☐

MAGS EXECUTIVE BOARD OFFICERS 2003 – 2004

NOMINATING COMMITTEE BY Dorothy Jackson Reed and Diane M. Kuster

This list of nominees is recommended by the nominating committee and offered to the MAGS Board for approval. Then the slate will be offered to the membership in attendance for additional nominations. Then a vote will be taken from the membership for the slate. Following the meeting, the full slate, including those Board members who have asked to return to the Board, will be submitted to the full membership in the MAGS publication, *Der Kurier*. The ballot will be returned to the Registrar for counting and final results will be announced at the fall meeting, 18 October 2003.

President – John T. Humphrey a native of Northampton County, PA, resides in Washington, DC. He received his B.A. in government and Public Administration from the American University in Washington. For more than twenty years he has been actively engaged in genealogical research, working primarily in Northampton County, PA. His published works include *Early Families of Northampton County, Pennsylvania* (two volumes) and a series of books listing eighteenth-century births for the Eastern Pennsylvania counties of Bucks, Chester, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia. He has also written articles for the *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*. John is the Director of the Learning Center for the National Genealogical Society in Arlington, VA.

First Vice President – Susannah Brooks has been the MAGS membership chairman since 1999 and Stumped Roots chairman since 1996. She is a volunteer genealogy staff aide at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC. She specializes in 19th and early 20th century US, German, and African-American research.

Second Vice President – Carl Shrader born in Kentucky grew up in Tennessee and served in the USAF during the Korean War. Wife Mary and Carl moved to Washington, DC. He joined the National Geographic Society staff for 38 years serving as Director of Photographic Services and later Assistant Vice President of Pre-Press Production. Carl and Mary have two sons and five grandchildren.

Carl volunteered at the MHS/AAGS Kuethe Library. He supervised/organized the map collection, was editor/publisher of the fund raiser project to reprint the C.M. Hopkins 1878 Atlas of Anne Arundel County, MD. After joining MAGS in 1990 he set-up and organized a lend-by-mail library, now over 1,000 books and multi-volumes of newsletters, periodicals and CD-ROM's. The growing library was successfully transferred to the Shenandoah County, VA Library. The mail program continues, adding walk-in to the MAGS program. Carl is currently involved with the Kerchner Lehigh County, PA website as coordinator for the family surname. The Shrader family tree is with the Horine families of Frederick County, MD website. Carl continues to enjoy genealogy taking his German/French heritage back to the early 1600's.

Please mark your ballot and return by August 31, 2003. This is a pre-addressed self-mailer.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> President – John T. Humphrey | <input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer – Betty deKeyser |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Vice President – Susannah Brooks | <input type="checkbox"/> At-Large Board Member – Robert Reisinger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Second Vice President- Carl Shrader | <input type="checkbox"/> At-Large Board Member – Diane M. Kuster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corresponding Secretary – Position Open | <input type="checkbox"/> [Write in Candidate] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary – Deyerle Atkins | <input type="checkbox"/> [Write in Candidate] |

Corresponding Secretary – Position Open

Recording Secretary – Deyerle Atkins was born on April 15, 1936. She claims her German heritage from her great-great grandmother, Nancy Deyerle from whom she got her given name. She received her education in the public schools of Prince George’s County, Maryland. She attended the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. Deyerle claims the genealogy bug bit her on July 4, 1961 at 4:00 PM. By nine, five hours later, she was thoroughly infected and has never recovered from the contagious disease. As a matter of fact she has seen it become an epidemic. Her field of research is centered on the state of Virginia. She is a member of several genealogy societies having joined MAGS in 1992.

Treasurer – Betty deKeyser has served MAGS as Program chair and as an At-Large Board member. She is a past president of the Anne Arundel Genealogical Society. She is also on the board of the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. Betty holds a degree in Business Administration from Western Maryland College and held administrative and management positions in industry before retirement.

At-Large Board Member – Robert R. Reisinger is a native of York, Pennsylvania where his German ancestors settled in 1749. He is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University, a registered professional engineer, and currently Director of Engineering and Manufacturing for Acco Chain & Lifting Products in York where he has been employed for 43 years.

He plans to retire at the end of this year and devote more time to genealogical research and complete a book with photographs titled “Reisinger Tombstones in York County, Pennsylvania.”

Mr. Reisinger has been active in several technical societies and trade associations. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the Crane Manufacturers Association of America, a past president of the Hoist Manufacturers Institute, and a past president of the Monorail Manufacturers Association. He has authored numerous articles for the technical and business press and has appeared as an expert witness in product liability cases.

Mr. Reisinger has been a member of MAGS since 2000 and is also a member of Palatines to America, the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, and the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. His wife, Maryllyn, is also a member of MAGS. They have two grown children and three grandchildren.

At-Large Board Member – Diane M. Kuster is currently the MAGS registrar. She has a degree in Business Administration from Georgian Court College. Currently, she is employed as an AS/400 Administrator for a large mortgage company in New Jersey. Diane also holds memberships in TIARA for which she transcribes tapes, the Irish Genealogical Society, the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History and is a life member of the National Genealogical Society. Diane became a member of MAGS in 1999 while attending the NGS Conference in Richmond, VA.

MAGS Ballot

Diane M. Kuster
251 Serpentine Drive
Bayville, NJ 08721-3261

had many churches with records I should search. Why hadn't I found PALM in Glazier and Filby's Germans to America? I returned to the Florida State Library where they have this compilation of German passengers arriving in the United States. Browsing thru the volume for 1854 I reached ships arriving in August, and there was the *Sir Isaac Newton*. C. H. and G. A. PAHN were on the passenger list. G. A. was fourteen years old, exactly the right age for *old man PALM*. C. H. was seventeen, perhaps an older brother. PAHN? Probably an easy mistake to make copying from a handwritten ship's arrival list of passengers, I think I can forgive Glazier and Filby.

It was now June. My husband and I traveled to Memphis for my 50th high school reunion. Because of the Lewis/Tyson prize fight at the Pyramid, hotel rooms were scarce and expensive. We made the drive in two days, and, staying in Tupelo, MS the first night, we faced a short, leisurely drive the second day. I suggested that we take a detour by Holly Springs. In this small, Magnolia scented town it was easy to find Hillcrest Cemetery. In the hot midday sun I ran through Section B searching for the PALM grave site while my husband, resting in the shade of a large tree, struck up a conversation with another cemetery visitor. When I finally found the PALM gravesite, there was Gustavus Adolphus, his wives Martha and Ada, and a young daughter. The tombstone made no mention of a birthplace, but I copied all the names and dates. Who was most productive? My husband. Glad to get out of the sun, I was beckoned to the shady tree and introduced to James Miller of Holly Springs. Learning that Mr. PALM had been a member of the old Hudsonville Presbyterian Church, he invited us home to see a book about the history of the Holly Springs Presbyterian Church. In his living room we welcomed cold refreshments, and I took the large, impressive book in hand. Written by Rev. Milton Winter, the present pastor of the church, his index listed PALM. The appropriate number led to a half page about the subject of my search. Gustavus Adolphus had been an important member of

the church, helping rebuild it after the Civil War's devastation. He had owned a lumber yard and a construction company. Several homes that he built grace Holly Springs today. Most important to my search, Mr. PALM had returned to Germany to visit his birthplace, where he was arrested by the Prussian government. He had never fulfilled his requisite military service, the Prussian draft. According to Rev. Winter, "The State Department at Washington had much trouble getting him released." There had to be records of this, somewhere. Thanking Mr. Miller profusely, we explained that we were headed to a party in Memphis and said goodbye.

After a fun reunion we started home, but not before stopping at the Shelby County Courthouse. A request to see my grandfather's will surprised us. He died at age forty four, intestate, without a will. Gustavus Adolphus PALM was appointed by the court to administer his estate. I copied Mr. PALM's inventory of assets. He was responsible for the sale of my grandfather's saloon and disbursement of funds to the widow and two children. With these treasured copies in hand we detoured again to Holly Springs hoping to find Rev. Winter. I think that ministers have a day-off on Mondays for he was nowhere to be found. The kind staff at the newspaper office gave me an e-mail address; unfortunately the library's history room was closed for renovations.

Rev. Winter quickly replied to my e-mail and promised to look thru his notes for Mr. PALM's obituary. With few thoughts of genealogy we left on a summer vacation camping trip. Two weeks later I returned with new, inspired strategies for searching in Celle, for locating government documents related to the arrest in Prussia. I had mail waiting, an e-mail from Rev. Winter. He had found a 1917 obituary in a Holly Springs newspaper, and had copied the obituary by hand for me explaining that the old paper was quite fragile. Gustavus Adolphus PALM was born in Calbe, Prussia. The *find a map* link at www.expedia.com gave me four possible locations in Germany. One of them, Kalbe-Milde, was in Sachsen-Anhalt 10 kilometers

north of Gardelegen, source of RICHTER photographs. The letters K and C are often interchanged in German, but this was not *Celle, Hannover*. What happened? Did a ship's agent mistakenly hear the PALM boys' *Calbe* as *Celle*? Were the two running away, lying about their birthplace? I had been ready to assiduously search all church records from Celle. A Google search for *Calbe* led me to an internet history of the small town, Kalbe-Milde written by Henning Krüger, a resident whose family origins in Calbe go back for centuries. For the first time I used Google's *Language Tools* to help translate the German website. Wow! The name of the town had been changed from Calbe to Kalbe-Milde in 1954 to distinguish it from the city Calbe to the south. A controversial miller in the 18th century was named PALM. I signed Henning's on-line guestbook writing "I think that my grandfather was born in Kalbe-Milde." Asking if he would be interested in doing some genealogy work for me, Henning replied that, although genealogy was his great interest, he was not a professional.

My LDS microfilm order of Kalbe-Milde Kirchenbuch (church records for Taufen, Heiraten and Tote – baptism, marriage and death) arrives. According to the LDS outline for German Research, church records are the best source for genealogy in Germany prior to civil registration. The Family History Center calls me 7:00PM Thursday night to say that my order is here. Skipping supper I drive to the center, thinking that my grandfather's birth date is certain. My grandmother left a small, black leather book in which she wrote birth dates for all her family. Moving to the part of the film for August 1864 I find that the handwritten script is clear and legible. Thank goodness, so often it is not. Carl Gustav Otto RICHTER was born on 16 August 1864 to Carl August RICHTER and his wife, Marie Sophie geb. (an abbreviation for *born*) MALISCH. He was baptised on 4 September nineteen days later. I explain to the FHC volunteers why I am crying, "I've searched for my grandfather's birth record for twenty-four years." Returning

home after much too short a time searching the Kirchenbuch, I say simply, "I found him!"

Now I have spent many, many hours abstracting records from the Kalbe-Milde Kirchenbuch. The four microfilms cover church records from 1808 thru 1874. Names, dates and places are not difficult for me to pick out of the old German script, but some words I simply can't translate. Few Germans are able to read the old script, but my friend Henning helps me tremendously. Because of his help I know that August RICHTER was a master cabinet maker; Sophie was his second wife. I learn the German custom of giving their children honorary family names preceding the *Ruffname*, the name the child will use. Four children were born to August's first wife, and six to Sophie. Some died as babies. A sure way to know if a child survived is to find his/her name on the Konfirmation list fourteen years after the baptismal record. I found records for the PALM family. Gustav Adolph PALM was born 11 July 1839, the very same birth date I had found in Holly Springs. His older brother was Carl Herman. Their father was Gustav Rudolph PALM; *old man PALM's* death certificate gave his father's name, *Rudolph*. Finding PALM records that agree with information from the USA reinforces my conviction that I have found my grandfather's birthplace.

Last October we traveled to Kalbe-Milde. We found no RICHTER cousins, but it was a joy to meet Henning, his wife Uta and their family. We walked thru the streets of the *Pottkuchen* as the old part of the town is called. Across from the 12th century church St. Nicolai, Frau Elisabeth Ozminski, another Calbe historian, pointed out the old house she was told had belonged to the Tischlermeister (cabinet maker). At Rev. Neumann's rectory Henning and I poured over Kirchenbuch recorded after 1874. Following the death of Carl August and Sophie RICHTER we found no entries for my family. What became of the surviving brothers and sisters? Every answer raises five more questions when you are searching for ancestors. *Is genealogy ever finished?* This beautiful little town of my grandfather

includes the remains of an ancient castle, and we saw a huge nest left by a great White Stork at the top of a castle wall. One of my mother's stories was about a drawing her father made for her when she asked about his home in Germany. He drew a picture of his village with large stork nests on the chimney tops. I wish mother were here to tell her about our trip and our search for her father's birth place. She would have probably said, "There's more than one way to skin a cat!"

A strict definition of collateral reads "belonging to the same ancestral stock but not in a direct line of descent." Genealogists might say, in a broad sense of the term, that I have used collateral research. When I faced a genealogical brick wall, I branched my

research to include another immigrant. If I had not questioned my mother and uncle, Gustavus Adolphus PALM would have remained unknown to me. The RICHTER branch of my daughter's family tree would still be empty. Always search for other family members, neighbors and their friends in the United States. Immigrants don't come alone. Thanks to help from Henning and Uta Krüger, my cousin Bubba Richter, James Miller, Deb Haines and Bobby Mitchell, the Prussia Roots mailing list, volunteers at the Tallahassee Family History Center and especially from Rev. Milton Winter who provided the essential name of the town, we have a home in Calbe, Germany. It has been a long, sometimes hopeless, frustrating, ecstatic, joyful journey home.

SAEGER / RITTER FAMILY REGISTER

Information abstracted from a German-language Bible printed and published by Kimber and Sharpless in Philadelphia. No date. Family register bound between Old and New Testaments. On the family register pages that are bound in, the actual family register is pasted in within the pre-printed borders. The family register is written in German fraktur lettering on ruled paper and signed, "Peter Meyer, scripsit." (Private collection)

Ruben Saeger was born December 22, 1820 in North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pa. [He was] baptized January 21, 1821 by Rev. Mendsent [Mendsen]. He was married by Rev. Dubbs on June 10, 1849 to Mary Ann Ritter.

Mary Ann Ritter was born September 13, 1829 in North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pa. [She was] baptized October 9, 1829 by Rev. Gobrecht.

[Below Mary Ann Ritter's name is written in pencil in English:] "Daughter of Henry Ritter and his wife Elezabeth, nee Syder [probably Snyder]."

Children:

Rebecca Jane, born December 4, 1849 in North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. Baptized February 20, 1850 by Rev. Mendsen. Sponsors were the parents.

David Henry Daniel, born June 17, 1852 in North Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. Baptized August 8, 1852 by Rev. Mendsen. Sponsors were Joseph and Susanna Roth.

Deaths:

David Henry Daniel died December 29, 1853 at the age of 1 year, 6 months, and 12 days.

Rebecca Jane died June 15, 1863.

Mary Ann Saeger died June 12, 1900 at the age of 70 years, 8 months, and 29 days.

FAMILY REGISTERS IN BIBLES

MAGS is fortunate enough to know a private collector willing to share the genealogically rich family registers found in his early Bibles. Many of these Bibles were owned by Pennsylvania German families. Some have more than one family register in them, so they are a treasure for families seeking primary sources concerning their families.

By way of introducing the sixteen Bible records to be published in *Der Kurier* throughout this and the next several issues, we first want to say a word about the Bibles themselves. Most (but not all) of the Bibles in this collection were printed and published in America. It often comes as a surprise to many Americans that no — that's right, *no* — English-language Bibles were printed in America prior to the Revolution. This despite the fact that Boston dominated the colonial period print market. Because the British Crown protected London printers by not allowing American colonial printers to print the Bible in English, America's English-language Bibles had to be imported.

The British government, however, did allow German-language Bibles to be printed in colonial America. Thus, three editions of German-language Bibles were printed during the colonial period. These were printed in 1743, 1763, and 1776 in Philadelphia by the Christopher Saur's, father and son. The 1776 edition is known as the "gunwad Bible" because its pages were used during the Revolution for gun wadding.

German printers were always on the cutting edge in the world of printing, but their production in this country is often little recognized. Among the many accomplishments of early German printers in America, Friederich Goeb was the first of any printer to

print the Bible west of the Allegheny Mountains. Also, German printers at Ephrata Cloister north of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, printed the largest book published in colonial America — the *Martyrs Mirror*. Family registers are often found in *Martyrs Mirrors*, as is one made for the Kolb family that will be published in *Der Kurier*.

And in 1805/06, Gottlob Jungmann in Reading, Pennsylvania, published the first German-language Bible having a pre-printed family register bound between the Old and New Testaments. While in 1791, Isaiah Thomas of Worcester, Massachusetts, printed the first American Bible having a pre-printed family register bound between the Old and New Testaments, it surprises many that Gottlob Jungmann became the first German-language printer to print such a register ever — anywhere. That includes Bibles printed in Europe. German-speaking Europeans did not embrace this practice until the mid-1800s. The Oberholzer and Baumann family registers to be published in *Der Kurier* are found in Jungmann Bibles.

This issue of *Der Kurier* lists registers for the following families: Saeger/Ritter (p 33); Vetter (p 35); and Mertz/Bossert (p 28).

Future issues of *Der Kurier* will list family registers made for: Hartman/Schmeck; Snively/Stoner; Kolb/Van Sintern; Fatzinger/Hoffman; Mertz/Crauthamel; Jacobi/Weikel; Oberholzer; Baumann/Burkholder; Ohnmacht/Paff; Fimble; Shipman/Reed; Fagely/Yoder/Keeler; and Wieland/Wenrich. Naturally, many other names are mentioned in these registers, so continue to watch *Der Kurier* for more information concerning these primary sources.

VETTER FAMILY REGISTER

Information abstracted from a German-language Bible printed and published by Kimber and Sharpless, Philadelphia, Nro. 50, N. 4th Street. German-language family register bound between Old and New Testaments. Register written in German script. (Private collection)

Births:

My son Carolus was born the June 5, 1823. [He] was baptized July 6. The sponsors were Iohannes Mertz and his wife Hatarina [probably Catharina] in Upper Mahanoy [?] Township, Northumberland County, Pa. [In margin:] Mr. Hueÿwel.

My son Daniel was born November 27, 1825. Baptized January 15 by Pastor Huÿwel [sic]. The sponsors were Elisabeth Vetter and Josua Vetter, both single.

My daughter Elisabeth was born. [In margin:] 1828.

My daughter was born.

My son Iohannes was born February 28, 1832 and baptized April 8 by Pastor Stili [Stiely]. The sponsors were Iohannes and Hatarina Braun.

My daughter Hatarina was born October 4, 1833 and baptized December 16. The sponsors were Georg and Maria Elesabet Miller. The pastor was Mr. Steili.

My daughter Hettie was born September 3, 1836 [and] baptized October 15. The sponsors were her parents. The pastor was Mr. Stielie.

My son Benwel [Benneville] was born April 21, 1841 and baptized the May 26. The sponsors were his parents. [He was baptized] by Pastor Stile [Stiely].

"I" was married on June 22, 1822 by Pastor Hueÿwel.

[Illegible notes with numbers:] 1876, 22, and 73 [years], 8 [months, and] 3 days.

Deaths:

My son Daniel died December 30, 1864, aged 39 years, 1 month, and 3 days.

Elisabeth Fetter died August 20, 1865, aged 66 years, 10 months, and 19 days. [Illegible note in margin might say "my sister."]

My son [Carolus in margin] died October 23, 1871, aged 48 years, 4 months, and 16 days [sic].

My daughter Hette [sic] died February 27, 1872, aged 35 years, 5 months, and 25 days [sic].

[In English:] B. Fetter died January 6, 1887, aged 45 years, 8 months, and 15 days.

[In illegible German script:] My mother died August 13, --- 69.

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

The Ford at the Schuylkill: A Glimpse of Early Reading, Pennsylvania From Lenapehoking Frontier Outpost

by Kathy M. Scogna

1998. Kathy Miller Scogna, 695 N. Church Road, Wernersville, PA 19565. Hardcover, illustrated, 144 pages. Indexed. Contact author for price and shipping.

The Ford at the Schuylkill is an easy-to-read book having numerous illustrations that visually enhance the early history of the city of Reading in Berks County, Pennsylvania. Author Kathy Scogna used a variety of illustrations from Almanacs, woodcuts, broadsides, paintings, indentures, maps, prints, fraktur, and pen and ink or pencil sketches to help readers interested in Reading's formative years envision the city and its surroundings from about 1681 when William Penn arrived in America to the Revolution. She also illustrated her history with old and contemporary photographs to picture landmarks and structures typical of the period.

Scogna quoted from early records written by some of Pennsylvania's most important personages such as Conrad Weiser, Henrich Melchior Muhlenberg, Delaware Indian Teedyuscung, William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, and others. Scogna's quoted materials were selected for great effectiveness, bringing to life people who played important roles in Pennsylvania's history during periods such as the Great Awakening, frontier expansion beyond Philadelphia, the French and Indian Wars, and the years leading up to the Revolution.

Rather than a strict chronological history, Scogna's history explores Reading's past by subject. Subjects include Lenape and Delaware native American history, William Penn's Holy Experiment, the laying out of Reading along the Schuylkill River and the formation of Berks County, life in frontier Reading Town, local incidents during the

French and Indian War, and more. Scogna offers no depth to any subject, but her enthusiasm for the flavor of early Reading and its inhabitants is obvious in her coverage of the subject.

Because Scogna's history is heavy with illustrations — which are helpful and interesting in themselves — it would have been better if Scogna detailed her sources for illustrations. In some cases, she mentioned her source in the captions, but she was inconsistent in doing so.

For readers wanting to explore the history of Reading and Berks County in a fast read and with numerous images, this book is worthwhile. It is loaded with names and has a short bibliography. A seven-page everyname index makes this book attractive to genealogists.

Reviewed by Corinne Earnest

Carolina Families - A Bibliography of Books about North and South Carolina Families

by Donald M. Hehir

1994. Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716. Softcover, 366 pages. Includes Glossary, Introduction and Abbreviations. Bibliographic References: 36 pp.; Family Names Index: 29 pp. Book # H137. Cost (pre-publication): \$32 + \$ s/h.

Over 1400 Carolina surnames are referenced. This book provides a comprehensive listing of all printed Carolina genealogies and family histories in major library collections in the U. S. The author researched library listings and catalogs covering the Library of Congress, the National Genealogical Society, the Library of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and historical association libraries from Massachusetts to California.

Although many books deal with multiple families, the everyname index helps

researchers find surnames that would otherwise remain buried within the text. There is also a bibliography of titles on microfilm at the Library of Congress and a listing of Carolina family history and genealogical sources that can be found in the reference collection of the Library.

English and French surnames are predominate in the index, but a good number of German names appear also, such as Bauman, Bartelspacher/Bidelspach, Brunk, Byerly, Cassel, Ensminger, Fullenwider, etc. No genealogist working with Carolina families should be without this timesaving volume on his or her shelf.

Reviewed by Deyerle Atkins

**Translated Abstracts of Death Notices
in the Portsmouth Correspondent,
1894-1908**

Abstracted and Translated
by Jeffrey G. Herbert
Edited by Barbara Keyser Gargiulo

2000. Little Miami Publishing Company, P. O. Box 588, Milford, OH 45150-0588. Hardcover, viii, 548 pages, illustrations, bibliography, index. \$50.00 plus \$3.00 mailing. Ohio residents add \$3.00 sales tax.

It is the hope of every family historian to find as much information as possible in one source without having to search through endless records. If these records are written in German, the research becomes more difficult. The solution could lie in the use of newspaper obituaries, especially German-language newspapers which have been translated into English.

The *Portsmouth Correspondent* was a weekly German-language newspaper published in Portsmouth, Scioto County Ohio which is in south central Ohio, near the Kentucky border, where the Scioto River meets the Ohio River. Besides southeastern Ohio the newspaper circulation included northeastern Kentucky and West Virginia. The editor points out that nearly every state is mentioned along with

many counties in Ohio, Kentucky, and Indiana.

Most of the death notices give details about the deceased's life, family members, and place of birth. If the origin was in Germany, the name of the town is usually given as well as the year of immigration. In some instances the occupation or military service record in Germany is also given. The newspaper editor often took the opportunity to editorialize on the personality and popularity of the deceased.

In addition to the death notices, there are eight notices of wedding anniversaries—five silver and three golden anniversaries. Another item of interest is the publication of regulations for German Marriages in Germany. In addition to the announcement of the betrothal, there were fourteen governmental requirements before a couple could marry. It was published in the *Portsmouth Inquirer* 22 July 1850. This would be an extremely valuable document for the family researcher.

The genealogist may or may not find a family connection in this book; however, it is interesting reading in that it conveys the culture and life of immigrant Germans in Ohio.

Reviewed by Patricia Cramer

**Roster of Civil War Soldiers from
Washington County, Maryland**
by Roger Keller

1998 reprint. Clearfield Co., Inc., 200 E. Eager Street, Baltimore, MD 21202-3897. Soft cover, 249 pages. Book #9195. \$25 plus \$3.50 shipping & handling.

This compilation of Washington County, Maryland, Civil War soldiers draws from numerous sources and from opposing sides of the conflict. War-time diaries, the Maryland Adjutant General's roster of serviceman, rosters of home guard and U.S. colored troops, listings of Marylanders in the Confederacy, records for non-combatants,

cemetery records, county directories, federal censuses, veteran's periodicals, and some who died as prisoners of war were among historical records consulted.

Listed alphabetically, soldiers' names, rank, company and regiment, age at time of enlistment, and service record are given. The age at enlistment often appears and some birth and death dates are included. War experiences are discussed, especially those for which pension files were available. Occasional post-war supplemental information is given including place of burial and other biographical data.

The author takes care to document his research in an abbreviated or coded form at the end of each soldier's record. Coded sources are given in more detail in the front matter; however, some of the codes are not explained. An every-name index would have enhanced the publication by providing easier access to the names of soldiers' comrades occasionally included in the record.

Washington County, Maryland, was heavily settled by German-speaking families in the 18th Century. Many surnames of recognizable German derivation appear in this compilation, which provides important data for MAGS members whose lineage includes those who lived in Washington County during the period of the Civil War.

Reviewed by Beverly Repass Hoch

Early German-American Newspapers:
Daniel Miller's History

Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann

Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place
Bowie, MD 20716. Softcover, 115 pp, everyname
index. Item #T1782 Ph: 1.800.398.7709. Price:
\$15 plus \$5 shipping

Daniel Miller's *Early German American Newspapers* (completed in April 1910) is a survey of the German-American press as it developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The book's 18 chapters include a foreword and concluding summary. The

remaining 16 chapters, some quite brief, are organized geographically, with thirteen devoted to cities, counties, and regions in Pennsylvania. Enhancing Miller's narrative are reproductions of some of the newspapers discussed in the text, generally portions of front pages.

The newspapers described by Miller represented efforts – often unsuccessful – at developing and maintaining connections among German-Americans. Their value as conveyors of news, however, was another matter, one captured by Miller's observation about the Lehigh County *Friedens-Bote*: "As was the case with all the German papers in their beginning, this one was small in size and meager in news."

The book can be read with profit by anyone interested in early German-American history. Touching on the ways that some German-Americans were adjusting to the society around them was Miller's reference to Charles Spatz, who in 1876 "made the [*Boyertown Demokrat*] half English and half German," and whose son "divorced the languages and now publishes an English paper entitled *Berks County Democrat* and a German paper under the original title of *Boyertown Bauer*." Similarly, Miller mentioned Joseph Carpenter, "a member of the Zimmerman family of Lancaster, Pa. [who] had translated his name into English, as many others have done."

Miller's closing chapter contains a section on the "Decline of the German Papers." There Miller some four years before the outbreak of World War I predicted "that if [a] man now fifty years old will be permitted to die of old age, he will outlive nearly all of the German periodicals. It is a sad fact to contemplate, but there is no escape from this fate."

The editor has improved upon Miller's original work by providing an index of persons mentioned in the narrative, though the "Editor's Introduction" is less illuminating than it should have been.

Reviewed by Joseph Neville

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