



# Der Kurier

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## Look to a *Lebenslauf*

Personal memoirs of Moravians yield facts about ancestors as well as data on everyday lives

By John T. Humphrey

**B**ethlehem, Pennsylvania, site of the fall meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society was the principal Moravian settlement in British North America.

At Bethlehem, the Moravians constructed buildings that are among the most Germanic in the United States in terms of design and architecture.

Also located at Bethlehem are the archives of the Moravian church for the Northern Province. Numerous documents of interest to genealogists and historians can be found in that archive. Many of those documents are specific to the Moravian church as they detail the history of the church, its various settlements and congregations.

Other records reach out to a broader audience—documents such as travel journals and diaries that vividly depict life in the Colonies

**Factual:**

*“Our Sister Catharina Blum, was born on 1 September 1712 in the Province of New York ... her father was Stephen Steiger and her mother was Gertaut ... she and her husband Franz Blum were the parents of eleven children ...”*

**Catharina Blum’s *Lebenslauf***

**Spiritual:**

*“It was as if someone stood next to me and spoke very loudly. You should come into the church and you will be sheltered.”*

**Abraham Bömper’s *Lebenslauf***

**Historical:**

The families traveled from New York to Tulpehocken in Pennsylvania *“where no white men lived.”*

**George Lösch’s *Lebenslauf***

before and just after the American Revolution.

The *Lebenslauf* (which literally means “walk of life” in German) falls into both categories—these personal memoirs furnish information that is unique and yet they disclose details with a wider perspective.

It was the custom of the Moravians that members of the church record the experiences of their lives. The document that ensued, the *Lebenslauf* or personal memoir, therefore falls under the category of a personal record.

Details in the personal memoir can include information of genealogical interest but from the perspective of the Moravians

these memoirs furnished details on how the deceased faced life’s many challenges. The purpose of the *Lebenslauf* was a teaching tool.

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**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.

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# Turn to *Lebenslauf* for data on forebears, history

(Continued from Page 49)

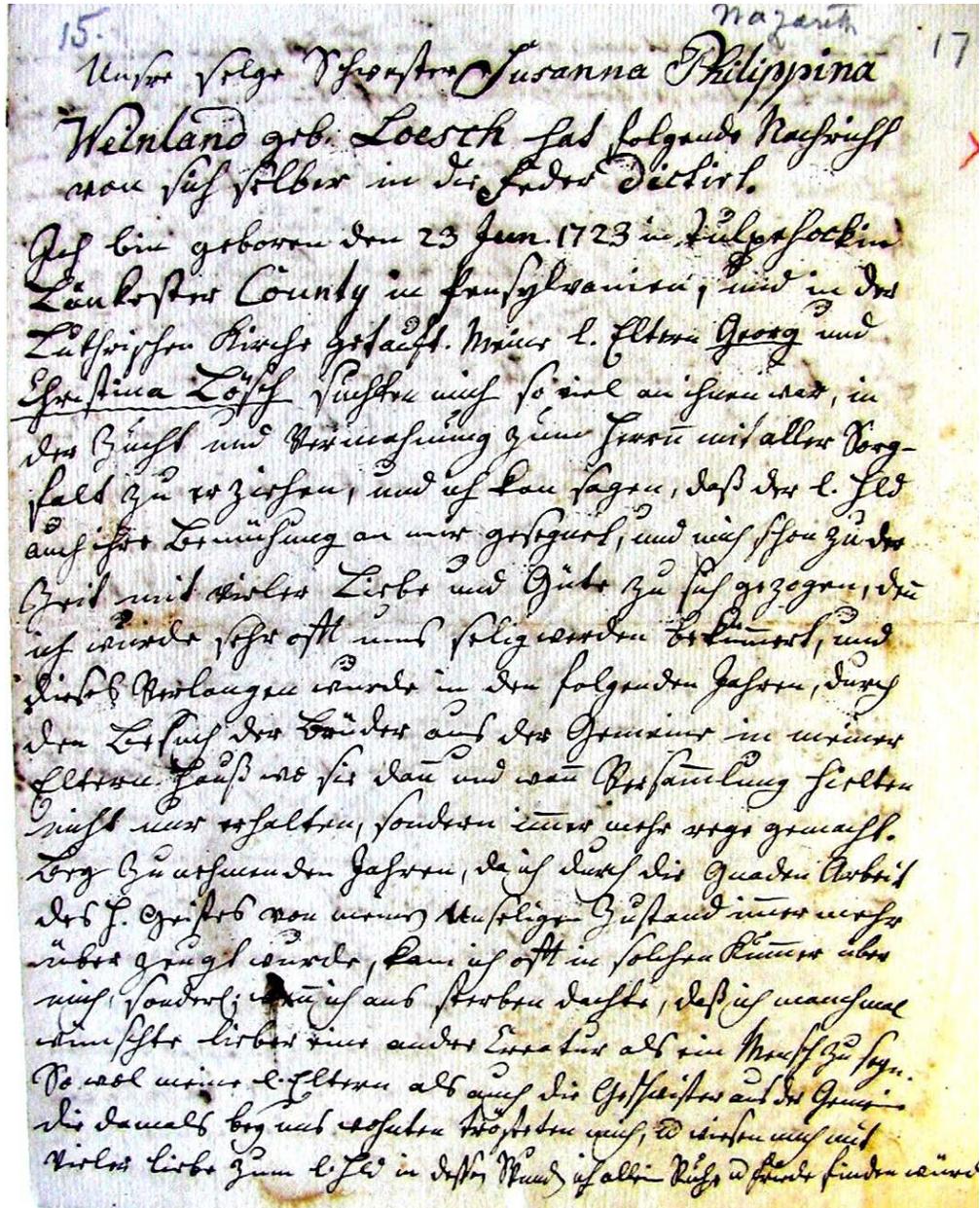
They were intended to show church members and others how to lead a pious life and they demonstrated how people were supposed to behave.

Literally thousands of *Lebenslaufen* (the German plural) can be found within the collections of the Moravian Archives at Bethlehem, the Moravian Archives for the Southern Province in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and the Moravian Archives at Herrnhut in Germany.

Those responsible for writing the personal memoirs could have been the subject of the *lebenslauf*—

making the document autobiographical—or the author could have been another member of the family or someone else such

as the pastor of the church. As these documents frequently include details surrounding the subject's last illness and death the final entries were recorded by someone other than the



Courtesy of the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem  
**A page from the *Lebenslauf* of Susanna Philippina Weinland, born Lösch**

deceased. After the subject of the memoir died, the *Lebenslauf* was then read at the funeral.

These personal memoirs vary in length. Some *Lebenslaufen* are several pages long and

provide a lot of material while others are only one-page sketches. While these memoirs vary significantly because they reflect people's lives, there are noteworthy similarities.

For instance most memoirs begin with information on decedent's date and location of birth. Anna Lösch, born Blum started her *Lebenslauf* by stating she was born on 7 November 1732 in Providence Township, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania. She noted her parents were Franz and Catharina Blum.

Her mother's *Lebenslauf* provides genealogical evidence of another kind. This personal memoir begins "Our Sister Catharina Blum, was born on 1 September 1712 in the Province of New York ... her father was Stephen Steiger and her mother was Gertaut ... she and her husband Franz Blum were the parents of eleven children—seven sons and four daughters." Thus this *Lebenslauf* furnishes the construct of the Blum family.

Other kinds of genealogical information appear in these records and they can include data on people who were not members of the church. In Abraham Bömper's *Lebenslauf* he furnished information on a 1755 trip to Surinam in South America. Bömper's traveling companions were two well-known Moravians, Nathaniel Seidel and Ludwig Hübner. While in Surinam they had met with Johann Nepveu, Bömper's brother-in-law, "who was the secretary of the governor." Bömper went on to note, after the governor died, Nepveu became the governor. This reference in his *Lebenslauf* led to the maiden name of Bömper's second wife—she was a Nepveu by birth.

As many members of the Moravian Church were immigrants, the significance of these personal memoirs with respect to immigration becomes apparent in the memoir of the aforementioned Franz Blum, husband of Catharina Blum and father of Anna Blum Lösch. He noted in his memoir that he was born on 1 May 1701 in Heuchelheim near Worms.

That information lead to an investigation of the Heuchelheim church records—a search that produced the date of his first marriage, the name of his first wife and the birth of their daughter

who also became a member of the Moravian Church in Pennsylvania. Thus, the *Lebenslauf* can furnish genealogists with evidence of immigration and provide a place of origin.

As with the preceding personal memoir, the relatively short *Lebenslauf* of Christina Eyerly born Schwarz furnishes details on her place of origin. She noted she was born on 15 March 1730 in Böttingen in der Pfalz. She identified her parents as David Schwarz and Anna Maria born Hartmann. She went on to state that "at the age of seven she traveled to Pennsylvania with her parents and three brothers." Her parents died en route and upon arrival in Philadelphia she went to live with her uncle Friedrich Hartmann who at the time lived in Germantown.

The *Bethlehem Diary* discloses Friedrich Hartman came to Bethlehem in 1743 and he and his wife were the caretakers of the inn located on the south side of the Lehigh River. Their son George belonged to the Moravian Church at Emmaus in Lehigh County. Information in the Emmaus Church records noted George Hartmann was born 13 April 1723 in Bischofsheim, data that was confirmed by renowned 18<sup>th</sup> century German immigrant specialist Annette Burgert in a search of the Neckarbischofsheim Lutheran Church registers.

Other details in these memoirs furnish information on previous church affiliation. Franz Blum disclosed he was baptized in Germany by a pastor of the Reformed church while George Lösch stated he, and his parents who were named in his *Lebenslauf*, were members of the Lutheran Church.

Lösch's daughter Susanna Philippina stated she was baptized in Pennsylvania by a pastor of the Lutheran church. The detail on her baptism is significant in that she and her parents were living in the Pennsylvania wilderness when there was no organized church. Her father states in his *Lebenslauf* when they settled in the then wilderness of Pennsylvania, they had no minister. He went on to state "Pastor van Duren" [sic] visited annually, preached, baptized children and administered communion. Presumably one of those children was his daughter Susanna Philippina. As the Lösch family were part of the

1723 migration of Germans from Schoharie, New York to Tulpehocken, Pennsylvania, “Pastor van Duren” was the Lutheran pastor in Schoharie, New York, Rev. Bernhard van Dierien.

Many Moravians in their personal memoirs described their first encounter with church leaders or ministers. Marianna Höth, who was born in Germany, noted in her memoir that she became acquainted with the Moravians in Philadelphia, where she attended a Moravian school. Heinrich Frey, whose *Lebenslauf* was recorded in the burial register of the Moravian Congregation in Lititz, wrote in his memoir he became acquainted with the Moravian missionary Christian Heinrich Rauch in 1741 and it was through the ministry of Rauch that he became a committed Moravian.

Abraham Bömper, who was born in 1705 in Herborn, Germany, had a very different experience. In the late 1730s he was living in Surinam, a Dutch Colony in South America. He noted that he had received a letter from his father who was living in New York. Accompanying that letter was a Moravian songbook. In 1739 he had his initial encounter with Moravian missionaries who were sent to minister to the natives in Surinam. He joined the church when he returned to New York.

Michael Miksch, who was born in 1710 in Moravia, migrated to the Zinzendorf estate in 1735 where he took his first communion as a Moravian on 3 December 1735. Thus his entry details other particulars that can be found with some frequency in a *Lebenslauf*—dates people joined the Moravian church and dates of first communion.

The primary focus of the *Lebenslauf* was spiritual; the authors describe in their own words their relationship to Christ, the church, and their understanding of their place in God’s world. Abraham Bömper wrote that he came to Bethlehem [in 1745] and he wanted to speak with the Brothers about his circumstances ... but they had no time because of the Synod [that was taking place in Bethlehem] and he then went to the churchyard, sat down and asked the Saviour to tell me what to do. “It was as if someone stood next to

me and spoke very loudly. You should come into the church and you will be sheltered.”

John Nicholas Weinland in his *Lebenslauf* stated “I fell into sin and could not endure my fear and anxiety, feeling miserable and sinful. I believe I was sold under sin and must receive grace and freedom from all sin from the Saviour. In 1740 I heard for the first time of the Brethren [the Moravians] through reading a Berlin address of the Count. That led me to seek grace and Godliness.”

Some details furnish new insights to genealogists and historians about 18<sup>th</sup> century life in general. An interesting example was the experience of the aforementioned Abraham Bömper. In his *Lebenslauf* he noted his father had gone to New York to seek religious freedom. Abraham remained behind in Germany. At a later date he “... left Holland for Paramaribo in Surinam, where [he] had corresponded with his father” in New York ...” Thus when the Bömper family left Germany for New York they left family members behind. They were not the only immigrant family who did this. The aforementioned Christina Schwarz noted in her *Lebenslauf* when she left Germany with her parents and brothers for Pennsylvania, three sisters remained behind. These sorts of comments lead to the question, how many other immigrant families left children in Germany?

Other details found in these records contribute to a larger understanding of history. George Lösch mentioned traveling from Germany to England in the late fall of 1709 with his parents, siblings and 60 other families. He noted his parents were poor. He went on to state there was much illness and death on journey from England to the “new world” and indeed shortly after his arrival in New York his own father, Balthasar Lösch, succumbed to the effects of the voyage and died.

On the 15 December 1721 in New York Lösch married Christina Walborn—another 1710 German immigrant. Because of problems associated with the purchase of land in New York, George Lösch and several others decided in 1723 to move to Pennsylvania. He traveled with his small son Jacob, born on 22 November 1722, and

his pregnant wife Christina down the eastern branch of the Susquehanna River in a canoe to the Swatara Creek below Harrisburg. They traveled up the creek about 30 miles and settled in a location “where no white men lived.” The details of that experienced as described by George Lösch were shared by the other families who made that same journey.

The *Lebenslauf* of Abraham Bömper’s fourth wife, Rachel Iselstein born Bogart, demonstrates experiences that were similar to Lösch’s. Iselstein noted she was born on 30 April 1701 in Marmeltown, near Kingston, New York. In 1725, at the age of 24, she married Isaac Iselstein and together they lived in Claverack, New York. She and her husband were members of the Dutch reformed church and the parents of six daughters.

In 1738 they traveled by boat down the Delaware River to the “Forks of the Delaware” at what is now Easton, Pennsylvania. They traveled up the west branch of the river, now know as the Lehigh River, to a tract of land located on the south bank. Here they built their cabin, but tragically they built the cabin on a flood plain and within a short period of time all was lost. The cabin was rebuilt a second time further away from the river.

In 1740 Rachel and Isaac Iselstein encountered the first group of Moravians who came from Georgia to Pennsylvania. A year later the Moravians became their neighbors as they had

purchased a tract land directly across the river from the Iselstein farm where they established the settlement of Bethlehem.

Data on Rachel’s husband, who died on 26 July 1742, was recorded by the Moravians in their settlement diary. They noted “the [funeral] services were conducted in English at the house of the family on the south side of the river and his body was interred on the farm.”

Three years later Rachel joined the church and moved across the river with her six daughters, her servant Jacob van DerMerk and her Negro slave Hanna.

Rachel’s experience as laid down in her *Lebenslauf* is similar in many ways to George Lösch’s in that it demonstrates how early settlers moved from one location to another—by boat, but in Rachel’s case they also reflect the tragedies that took place—the destruction of property because of natural phenomena. And her *Lebenslauf* introduces other realities of 18<sup>th</sup> century life—indentured servants and slaves.

The *Lebenslauf* or personal memoir offers genealogists the opportunity to discover important genealogical information and it affords historians the chance to discover details on life in mid-18<sup>th</sup> century Pennsylvania.

John T. Humphrey is president of MAGS and has a number of Moravian ancestors.

### **How to contact Moravian archives**

- Moravian Church in America - Northern Province, 41 W. Locust St., Bethlehem, PA 18018; Phone: (610) 866-3255; e-mail: [info@moravianchurcharchives.org](mailto:info@moravianchurcharchives.org); Web site URL: [www.moravianchurcharchives.org](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org) (The Northern Province covers the Moravian churches in the United States (except for North Carolina, Florida, Georgia and Virginia) and Canada)
- Moravian Church in America - Southern Province, 457 S. Church St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101; Phone: (336) 722-1742; e-mail: [MoravianArchives@mcsp.org](mailto:MoravianArchives@mcsp.org); Web site URL: [www.moravianarchives.org](http://www.moravianarchives.org)

## **FAMILY REGISTERS**

### **Cassel Bible record**

The following Bible record was removed from its Bible. This two-page record, in a private collection, is written in German and shows evidence of three penmen having made entries. The first scrivener (probably Heinrich Keyser) made entries to the year 1844. The second scrivener made two entries and signed, "Fr. Mittleman 1851." And the third scrivener (possibly William Henning) recorded an 1875 marriage.

Because locations are seldom mentioned in Bible records, it is important to recognize the hand of the scribes. Heinrich Keyser (active circa 1810-56) worked in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, primarily in the areas of Rapho and Warwick Townships. William Henning (1822-95) worked primarily in the city of Lancaster. And Fr. Mittelmann worked about 1838 to 1855, mostly in Lancaster and York Counties. The entries he made in the following record date 1846 and 1848.

[Parents:]

Johannes CASSEL was born July 16, 1809.

Maria (HOERNLY) CASSEL was born September 2, 1815.

Johannes CASSEL and Maria HOERNLY married March 28, 1837.

[Children:]

Anna CASSEL was born January 28, 1838.

Maria CASSEL was born April 1, 1839.

Heinrich CASSEL was born September 18, 1841.

Elisabeth CASSEL was born May 10, 1844.

Johanes [sic] CASSEL was born September 25, 1846.

Joseph CASSEL was born November 3, 1848.

Johannes CASSEL and Anna Z. WEBER married November 25, 1875.

### **Sahm, Schwartz family record**

A two-page, English-language Family Record removed from its Bible gives information concerning the SAHM and SCHWARTZ family of Penn Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Descendants of this family are fortunate that this record includes locations – a detail often omitted in Bible records. This Family Record is in a private collection.

According to the record, Isaac S. SAHM of Penn Township married Margaret SCHWARTZ of the town of Lebanon, Lebanon County, on November 21, 1867. The SAHMs were married in Lancaster by W.F. GERHARD.

Isaac S. SAHM was born May 27, 1842. Margaret SCHWARTZ was born October 2, 1847. Their children were Elisabeth SAHM, born August 19, 1868 in Penn Township, and Mary SAHM, born November 19, 1875 in Penn Township.

### **Unger, Roth family register**

A broadside-type family register made for the UNGER/ROTH family of Berks County, Pennsylvania, is in a private collection. This German-language register was made for William Augustus UNGER and his wife, Fayette (ROTH) UNGER.

According to this register, William Augustus UNGER was born November 27, 1827, in Windsor Township, Berks County. His wife, Fayette ROTH, was born September 6, 1830, in Alsace Township, Berks County. The UNGERs were married by Thomas T. JAEGER on December 23, 1848. No date of death was given for William Augustus UNGER, but Fayette (ROTH) UNGER died on October 2, 1897.

The UNGERs had several children but, unfortunately for this family, most of the sons died in infancy. The children born to William Augustus and Fayette UNGER were:

Elenora, born October 8, 1849 in Bern Township, Berks County.

The next two children died just days apart in April of 1853 "in their place of birth." They were Appolonius Daniel, born December 12, 1850 in Perry Township, Berks County, and Roseyus, born February 27, 1853, in Perry Township. Appolonius Daniel died on April 14 and Roseyus died on April 20, 1853.

The next child, Isabella, was born March 26, 1854, in Perry Township.

"A boy" was born June 25, 1855 in Perry Township. Apparently, this unnamed son was not stillborn, for his date of death was August 31, 1855.

Wallis Adam was next. He was born September 26, 1856, in Perry Township. He died December 2, 1856.

Rosa Agnes was born December 13, 1857, in Perry Township.

Salomon was born May 12, 1859, in Perry Township, but he died August 18, 1859.

Emma Jemina was born September 7, 1860 in Perry Township. She died October 5, 1860.

Mary Euorin was born October 26, 1861, in Perry Township.

Wilabe Orwen was born March 21, 1863. His place of birth is illegible. Wilabe Orwen died September 10, 1863.

Erasmus William was born April 21, 1864.

Oscar was born September 27, 1870.

### **Sandt, Buzzard Bible records**

A Bible record in a private collection was made for the Uriah and Lenora SANDT family of Northampton County, Pennsylvania. This English-language record has been removed from its Bible, probably by the "scrivener," who typeset the genealogy information on the Bible's preprinted family register pages.

Uriah SANDT was born March 21, 1861 and baptized May 15, 1861. His wife, Lenora, was born April 21, 1867 in Lower Mount Bethel Township, Northampton County. She was baptized June 23, 1867 by I.K. LOOS. Lenora's parents, Jesse and Sarah Sophia BUZZARD, were sponsors at her baptism.

The children of Uriah and Lenora (BUZZARD) SANDT were Archey J. SANDT, born August 30, 1885. He was baptized December 20, 1885.

Mertie May SANDT was born September 9, 1887. She was baptized January 14, 1888.

Clarence David SANDT was born July 23, 1889, and baptized January 3, 1890.

Howard Calvin SANDT was born July 11, 1893, and baptized September 17, 1893. Howard Calvin died January 23, 1894, at the age of six months and twelve days.

Carelessly written notes in pencil were added. These notes say that Idella Lenora SANDT was born May 6, 1906. The next entry is almost illegible. It appears to say Iork (?) SANDT was born July 13, 1909. Lester SANDT was born February 7, 1902. And Walter SANDT was born May 5 (no year given).

A related Bible record is in the same private collection. It was made for the BUZZARD family. This English-language record was hand-written and removed from its Bible. It says Jesse BUZZARD was born December 9, 1842 in Northampton County. His wife, Sarah S. BUZZARD, was born March 26, 1845, also in Northampton County.

Their children were Mary Alice BUZZARD, who was born February 12, 1862. She died when she was eleven day old on February 23, 1862.

Marietta was born May 20, 1864. She died August 27, 1864 at the age of eleven weeks.  
Calvin was born July 18, 1865. Leonora [sic] was born April 21, 1867, and baptized June 23, 1867.  
Ida was born October 14, 1874, and died December 20, 1901.

Added notes say that “mother” died November 10, 1901, and “father” died August 31, 1909.

## **IN REMEMBRANCE**

### **Klaus Stopp and Donald Shelley**

**E**arly this year, America lost two great scholars of Pennsylvania German manuscript art and German-language printing. Although neither were members of MAGS, they touched the lives of MAGS members and researchers of German-speaking heritage across America.

Author of the six-volume *Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Professor Dr. Klaus Stopp of Mainz, Germany, published his monumental study from 1997 to 2001.

Using genealogy data from fraktur birth and baptism certificates he recorded for nearly 30 years, Stopp included that data within his volumes.

In 1961, Dr. Donald A. Shelley published the first comprehensive reference to American fraktur, *The Fraktur-Writings or Illuminated Manuscripts of the Pennsylvania Germans*.

Both men will long be remembered for having launched studies that make Americans, including genealogists researching German-speaking ancestors, aware of 18th and 19th century decorated manuscripts called fraktur.

To the delight of genealogists, these manuscripts and hand-decorated printed forms contain personal information about early Pennsylvania-German families.

Klaus Stopp was well aware of MAGS. In preparation for writing his fifth volume (published in 1999), Stopp asked for assistance from MAGS member, Betty DeKeyser, to research 19th century German-language printers in Baltimore. He later expressed his thanks about finding Betty, saying she was the best genealogist he knew, and he acknowledged her work in the introduction to the Baltimore printers.



**Shelley**



**Stopp**

Donald Shelley influenced many authors on the subject of fraktur. Besides ourselves, these include June Burk Lloyd, librarian emerita at the York County Heritage Trust in York, Pennsylvania. June is no stranger to MAGS. She is mentioned several times in our “Fraktur Forum” column published quarterly in *Der Kurier*. Because Shelley was originally from York County, he was especially pleased to count Lloyd among his proteges and friends.

Having long been involved in the study of fraktur, we were privileged to know both Donald and Klaus personally. They were our friends and mentors. Both inspired and encouraged us. Because of them, we have pursued a life-long passion that led to our sharing (as both men would have wanted) genealogy data from fraktur with members of MAGS through *Der Kurier*.

To our sorrow, Donald Shelley died at his home in Oley, Pennsylvania, on April 19, 2006, and Klaus Stopp died suddenly a few weeks later at his home in Mainz on June 6, 2006.

**- Corinne and Russell Earnest**

## FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

# Many Hillegass samples come from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania

Alice Filemyer asked about the name HILLEGASS on fraktur. She mentioned that most of her HILLEGASS family would be found in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Unless otherwise noted, locations from examples listed here were from Pennsylvania, mostly Bucks, Lehigh, and Montgomery Counties, all of which adjoin one another.

A *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) made for John Petter [Peter] HILLAGASS [sic] is pictured in *Fraktur Writings and Folk Art Drawings of the Schwenkfelder Library Collection*. This certificate says that John Petter was the son of Johannes and Catharina (HILLAGASS) HILLAGASS. John Petter was born February 26, 1804 in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. He was baptized by Johannes FABER on March 28, 1804. The sponsors at John Petter's baptism were Jacob HILLAGASS and his wife.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has a *Taufschein* made for Lidia Amanda GERY, daughter of Joseph and Anna (HILLEGAS) GERY. Lidia Amanda was born March 27, 1830 in Upper Hanover Township. She was baptized June 13, 1830 by Pastor FABER. The only sponsor at Lidia Amanda's baptism was her grandmother, Elisabeth GERY.

A fraktur reward of merit illustrated in *Bucks County Fraktur* was made for Catherine HILLEGASS on February 12, 1837. Unlike *Taufscheine* (plural of *Taufschein*) that give details about the individuals for whom they were made, rewards of merit offer little or no biographical data. Catherine's schoolmaster, fraktur artist George GERHARD (1791-1846), signed her reward of merit, but he did not list a location. According to the caption that accompanies the illustration, the location was "probably Upper Milford Township, Lehigh

County," where GERHARD is known to have taught.

Like rewards of merit, fraktur bookplates showing book ownership offer few, if any, details concerning individuals for whom they were made. A bookplate made on October 25, 1821 by Henrich GERBER was made for George HILLEGASS. This bookplate is illustrated in the second volume of *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur of The Free Library of Philadelphia*. According to the caption, it was probably made in Bucks County. Also pictured is a bookplate made for Amelia HILLEGASS on April 4, 1854. In this instance, a location — Pennsburg, Montgomery County — was noted on the bookplate.

A *Taufschein* made for Owen SCHAEFFER says his parents were Amandes and Eliza (HILLEGAS) SCHAEFFER. Owen was born January 23, 1847 in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, and was baptized April 18, 1847 by Pastor GERMAN. Sponsors at his baptism were David and Elisabeth GERY. A *Taufschein* made for Owen's younger sister, Elisabeth Anna, says she was born March 27, 1850 in Salisbury Township, Lehigh County, and baptized May 12, 1850 by J. JAEGER. Her maternal grandparents, Peter and Elisabeth HILLEGASS, sponsored her baptism. These certificates are at the Schwenkfelder Library in Pennsburg.

Two other *Taufscheine* are at the Schwenkfelder Library. One was made for James ERDMAN, son of Ruben and Maria (HILLEGASS) ERDMAN. James ERDMAN was born in Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County, on February 27, 1859. He was baptized by D. WEISER on June 19, 1859. His parents were sponsors. The other was made for Elisabeth HILLEGAS, daughter of Peter and Elisabeth (MILLER) HILLEGAS. Elisabeth was born September 15, 1825 in Upper Hanover Township,

Montgomery County. She was baptized December 12, 1825 by Pastor WAAGE. Sponsors at her baptism were Johannes and Magdalena TRUMBAUER. Notations in the margins of this certificate suggest Elisabeth died April 16, 1875 at the age of 49 years, 7 months, and 1 day.

The second volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* gives data from a *Taufschein* made for Anna Maria SCHNEIDER, daughter of Adam and Elisabetha (HILLEGASS) SCHNEIDER. Anna Maria was born about two o'clock in the evening on March 27, 1791 in Lower Milford Township in Bucks [today's Lehigh] County. She was baptized by Christian ESSIG on April 17, 1791. Sponsors at her baptism were Abraham LEVI and Maria HILLEGASS, both single.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Heinrich ROTH, son of Alexander and Maria (HILLEGASS) ROTH. Heinrich ROTH was born June 17 (no year given) in Marlborough Township [Montgomery County]. Although this certificate says Heinrich ROTH was baptized, no information concerning baptism is given other than to say his parents were sponsors. Presumably, Heinrich ROTH was born about 1836, for the information concerning his birth is recorded on a printed certificate dated 1836.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Peter ROTH, another son of Alexander and Maria (HILLEGASS) ROTH. Peter ROTH was born in Marlborough Township, Montgomery County, on July 22, 1828. He was baptized in 1828 by J. MILLER. The sponsors at his baptism were Peter and Magdalena REITER.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection lists Alexander and Maria (HILLEGASS) ROTH as sponsors at the baptism of their grandson, Edwin Alexander ROTH. Edwin Alexander was the son of Alexander and Susanna (SCHNEIDER) ROTH. He was born in Marlborough Township on January 27, 1854 and baptized in 1854 by Pastor WAKE [WAAGE].

On September 21, 1991, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Catharina JOST, daughter of Daniel and Barbara (HILLEGASS) JOST.

Catharina JOST was born about eight o'clock in the evening on February 12, 1791 in Marlborough Township, Montgomery County. She was baptized April 3, 1791 by Nicolaus POMP. Sponsors at her baptism were Jacob JOST and Maria HILLEGASS, both single.

In the fourth volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures the *Taufschein* of Catharina JOST's younger brother, Johannes. Johannes JOST was born about ten o'clock in the evening on August 14, 1800 in Marlborough Township. He was baptized September 28, 1800 by Johannes FABER. The sponsors at Johannes JOST's baptism were Jacob and Christina SCHELLEBERGER.

In June 2002, a *Taufschein* appeared on eBay that was made for Maria HILLEGAS, daughter of Johannes Peter and Maria HILLEGAS. The daughter, Maria, was born August 28, 1820 in Napier Township, Bedford County. She was baptized September 26, 1820 by Pastor GERHART. The sponsors at her baptism may have been Henrich and Elisabeth HEIST, but the eBay image is difficult to read. June Lloyd, Librarian Emerita of the York County Heritage Trust in York, Pennsylvania, recorded information from this certificate, including a note on back that said, "I believe this is Great Grandmother of Mrs. Richard CRAVER (Helen)... I bought it from George WALTER's (Barber Shop) in 1975 for around \$50." Lloyd said this information was recorded on note paper of Mrs. Charles A. MERRILL, Jr. of Berlin, Pennsylvania.

A *Taufschein* listed in the first volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* says Maria Anna KITTELMAN's parents were Georg and Hannah (HILLIGASS) KITTELMAN. Maria Anna was born December 13, 1872 in Milford Township, Bucks County. She was baptized by Clemens WEISER, Reformed, on February 23, 1873. The sponsors at her baptism were her parents.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Milten [Milton], son of Georg and Anna (JERGER) HILLEGASS. Milten HILLEGASS was born in Marlborough Township, Montgomery County, on August 4, 1848. He was baptized October 29, 1848 by D. WEISSER [sic]. His

grandparents, John and Elisabeth JERGER, were sponsors at Milten's baptism.

On May 25, 1994, Alderfer Auction Company in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* that lists Thomas and Magdalena HILLEGASS as sponsors at the baptism of Philip JAECKEL. Philip JAECKEL was born on January 20, 1861 in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. He was baptized September 4, 1862 by Fr. WAAGE. Philip's parents were Joel and Mary Ann (HEIMBACH) JAECKEL.

On May 29, 1999, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata sold a *Taufschein* made for Lusinda HILLIGASS, daughter of Carl and Salina HILLIGASS. According to this certificate Salina HILLIGASS was the daughter of John BEUTLER. Lusinda HILLIGASS was born on August 26, 1846 in Springfield Township, Bucks County, and baptized in September, presumably in the same year. This certificate is in poor condition and difficult to read. The first name of the pastor who performed the baptism appears to have been Samuel, but his last name is illegible.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Lilly Catharina DICKERT, daughter of Daniel R. and Eliza Ann (HILLEGASS) DICKERT. Lilly Catharina was born on January 21, 1868 in Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County. She was baptized by Henry BASLER on March 29, 1868. Her parents were sponsors at her baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Henry HILLEGASS, son of George and Lidia HILLEGASS. Henry HILLEGASS, was born July 4, 1840 in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. He was baptized by F.R. WAGE [sic] on October 11, 1804 [sic]. No sponsors' names are given but, according to the certificate, Lidia HILLEGASS's father was George BREA. The anonymous scrivener who filled out this certificate was careless. He recorded that Henry was born in 1840, but baptized in 1804. Moreover, he highlighted Henry's first name to the point he made it almost illegible. It is possible the first name is George.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Charles Quinton HILLEGASS. Charles Quinton was the son of

John G. and Catharina A. (ZIEGLER) HILLEGASS. He was born June 29, 1870 in Upper Hanover Township, Montgomery County. Charles Quinton was baptized September 3, 1870 by C.Z. WEISER. His parents were sponsors at his baptism. This certificate says Catharina A. ZIEGLER's father was Jesse ZIEGLER.

That same volume lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Foster Calvin, son of Dr. Charles HILLEGASS and his wife, Mary Ellen SIEGFRIED. Foster Calvin was born in Marlborough Township, Montgomery County, on September 10, 1892. He was baptized a month later on October 10, 1892. No other information is available.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Joseph SCHNEIDER, son of Adam and Elisabetha (HILLEGASS) SCHNEIDER. Joseph was born about midnight on March 15, 1803 in Lower Milford Township, Bucks County. He was baptized March 17, 1803 by Johannes FABER. Sponsors at his baptism were Falentin [Valentin] and Margaretha KÜDER. Added notes to this *Taufschein* say Joseph SCHNEIDER was confirmed in 1819 by George MENNIG and he married Elisabeth ZIMMERMAN on July 31, 1824.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Clemente NEHS, daughter of Samuel and Sophia (HILLEGASS) NEHS. Clemente was born November 10, 1847 in Franconia Township, Montgomery County. She was baptized April 2, 1848 by Pastor PEIXOTO. Clemente's parents were sponsors at her baptism.

A fraktur artist named Jacob HILLEGASS worked about 1811. Reportedly, he made several fraktur but, to date, I know of only one — a writing example dated 1811. Until more examples by this elusive artist can be attributed to him with certainty, his whereabouts or anything about his life remains unknown.

*If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. Please note my new address, and please be patient for a reply.*

# Salt Lake City's German resources abound

By James M. Beidler

Now you'd think that with as many trips to use the Family History Library in Salt Lake City as I've taken – seven in the last nine years – it might not be a big learning experience anymore.

Well, every time I go, it just reinforces the cliché “the more you know, the less you know.”

What I thought would be my major project for a trip a couple years ago was documenting the ancestors of the first 19<sup>th</sup> immigrant ancestors I'd found in my personal genealogy, Heinrich and Maria (Niethammer) Hiller, who hailed from adjoining towns in Wuerttemberg (These are the same folks I wrote about finding on a cemetery in the December 2005 edition of *Der Kurier*).

Given that both villages' church records appeared to start in the 1500s, I was prepared to spend perhaps four research days sifting through the smeared inks and handwriting that looks like chicken scratch.

Then I found out that both of these towns – Moetzingen and Unterjettingen – were the subjects of an “Ortsippenbuch,” which is usually produced by a well-qualified historian or genealogist from the area in question.

The compiler of an Ortsippenbuch sifts through the all of the records that exist for the village – church registers, tax lists, censuses and the like.

The resulting information is then organized alphabetically by family and the families are numbered. The family numbers are then used to move from generation to generation, and also to cross-reference females into their own families.

How far back in time the family entries stretch depends purely on the date from which records survive, but many books are able to take the families into the 1500s or before.

The result was that each Ortsippenbuch added some 20 ancestors to my pedigree chart – in just a few hours rather than the days I had expected to spend on the project.

Information on whether an Ortsippenbuch is available for sale can be found by writing directly to the German village. Many German communities now have Web sites with an e-mail address.

Try feeding the name of the town into Google – [www.google.com](http://www.google.com) – or use the name of the town with a “dot de” suffix (Germany's “dot com” equivalent). For example, to find a site for Moetzingen in Wuerttemberg, try [www.moetzingen.de](http://www.moetzingen.de).

While in Salt Lake, I also listened to a presentation by library staff on “German Compiled Genealogies and Other Published Sources.”

One of these is “Der Schluessel,” an index to German-language genealogy and heraldry periodicals.

Among the other multivolume compiled genealogies and periodical indexes available at the Family History Library are the “Ahnstammkartei,” a microfilmed index of references to German surnames including information on 6 million individuals and “Deutsche Geschlechterbuecher,” a set of more than 200 books, some of which are specific to a certain part of Germany.

Most of these collections are oriented toward people who stayed in Germany, so it is not overly likely that researchers with 18<sup>th</sup> century German immigrants to America will find their ancestors; however, by finding references to the surname in certain villages, they can try to find the immigrants in those villages.

James M. Beidler is editor of *Der Kurier*. He also writes a weekly newspaper column “Roots & Branches” as well as a family research column for *German Life* magazine.

# German Translators

**MAGS assumes no responsibility for the services listed.** Contact the service providers directly for prices, length of time to complete translation, etc. If you find that any of the information above is no longer valid, please contact **MAGS** (PO Box 2642, Kensington, MD 20891-2642) so that corrections can be made to this list.

- **Ann C. Sherwin**, 1918 Medfield Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607-4732  
(919-851-9281 or e-mail: asherwin@aol.com) *Accredited by the American Translators Assoc. for German-English & Spanish-English*
- **Trudy Schenk**, 8983 Daybreaker Dr., Park City, Utah 84098-5819  
(e-mail: tschenk@sisna.com) *Professional genealogist and translator of genealogy-related items (will not do other translations), special skill reading old German scripts, experience reading and translating German, Latin, and French*
- **American Translators Association**, 1800 Diagonal Rd., Alexandria, VA  
(703-683-6100) *Based on your needs they will assign a translator.*
- **Dr. Monika Edick**, 3249 Cambridge CT, Fairfax, VA 22030  
(703-591-3656 or e-mail: toedick@aol.com) *She offers a professional translation service for German script, Middle High German, German for all documents & papers.*
- **Andrew Witter**, 1056 255<sup>th</sup> St., Donnellson, IA 52625-9069  
(E-mail: ajwitter@juno.com or FAX: 319-835-3960) *He is a freelance translator from German to English. He has translated books, articles, letters, etc for various types of researchers. He can read older typefaces, handwriting, and documents.*
- **Dr. Helga R. Shay**, 363 Mansion Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505  
(304-296-7822) *Her services include old German script, Frakturs, manuscripts, technical translations, & business correspondence.*
- **Karen Ell**, HCR 3, Box 8A, Killdeer, ND 58640  
*Ms. Ell is a native of Augsburg, Bavaria, and learned the old German script language form in school.*
- **Free Translation Service via e-mail:** trans@genealogy.net *Your message length should be less than 40 lines (more than this should be split into 2 messages). Use only for genealogy. Your translation will be assigned to a volunteer. For more information go to: <http://w3g.med.uni.giessen.de/geme/sss/abt/translation.html>.*

## BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

### *Book Reviews*

#### **German Settlers of Iowa Their Descendants & Their European Ancestors Revised Edition**

By Margaret Krug Palen

2000. Available from Heritage Books Inc., 65 East Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157-5026. Soft cover. 650 pages. Indexed. ISBN 0-7884-1664-2. \$45.00 plus \$4.00 shipping. Can be ordered by phone 410-876-6101, online orders@HeritageBooks.com or bookorder@WillowBendBooks.com

German emigration to America peaked in the mid-19th century. The numerous reasons are well covered by the author as well as a description of German village life and farming.

Intertwined in this are examples of the hardships endured by the immigrants as they forged a new life in Iowa. Palen has visited her ancestors' villages in Germany where some family members still reside. She includes pictures of cousins as well as ancestral homes. It would be helpful if she had included a map of Germany as well as a map of Iowa, because she often mentions place names in both areas.

Palen refers to her book as a dictionary. "Ancestors are listed along side the latest progeny of families." (Reference, Preface). This format is surprising, because it gives vital statistics and personal information on people who were living in 2000 as well as currently.

No references are cited as to where the information was obtained other than mentioning the names of the contributors to the book.

The Bibliography contains the titles of publications of general historical and genealogical interest, as well as collections of research notes and papers from individuals and family reunions. There is an explanation

of abbreviations and how the reader can connect families in Germany and Iowa.

The title of the book indicates its specialized content. The index contains 83 pages with only a small number of non-German names. For those researching families in Iowa this volume may be helpful.

**Reviewed by Patricia Cramer**

#### **Johannes Heintz and His Descendants**

By John Clagett Proctor, LL.M.  
Greenville, Pennsylvania 1918

1918, 1999. Available from Higginson Book Company, P.O. Box 778, Salem, MA 01970. Soft cover, 111 pages. Indexed. \$17.50 plus \$1.75 shipping.

In 1751 Johannes Heintz arrived in Philadelphia with his wife and three adult sons Heinrich, Daniel, Johannes and Johannes's seven year old son, Johannes.

They were of German and Swiss extraction and emigrated from Dillenburg, Prussia. The family believes that they arrived on the ship *Two Brothers*. One hundred sixty-seven years later the progenitor's great-great-great-great grandson, John Clagett Proctor, published the Heintz family history.

The author has designated a number for the three Johannes Heintz: the first remained in Pennsylvania; his son, Johannes the second, moved to Liberty, Frederick County, Maryland; his son, Johannes the third, moved in 1790 to Georgetown, a section of Washington, D.C. He changed his name to John Hines. Most of the Heintz family used the English spelling soon after arriving in the colonies.

The format used by Mr. Proctor is a biography for each descendant of the progenitor ("little is known of Daniel and Heinrich Heintz" p. 6) followed by a

descendant chart to the third or fourth generation.

Within the list of descendants there is biographical material of both historical and personal interest. Three wars are covered as well skirmishes in the Indian Territories and there is a varied list of occupations, education, and community service.

Although some Heintz descendants moved to Ohio and Indiana, the majority of the family is found in Washington, D.C., and Frederick, Maryland.

Keep in mind that this book was first published in 1918 and some of the landmarks

mentioned, especially those in Washington, D.C., no longer exist.

This does not detract from the wealth of genealogical information in Proctor's book; however, before citing it as a reference, geographical facts should be verified.

The book is easy to use, readable, and interesting. We thank Carol A. Hines, wife of a descendant of Rudolph Hines – fourth son of Johannes Heintz the second – for donating this book to the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Library.

**Reviewed by Patricia Cramer**

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Please mention at least one time, one place, 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. E-Mail is acceptable. 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, 7102 Cedon Road Woodford, VA 22580 or e-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net (Please write 'MAGS Query' in subject line )

### LANGENEGGER LONGENECKER

#24-5 Seek male LANGENEGGER from Munich, Germany, area to participate in LONGENECKER Y-DNA project.

Ulrich LANGENEGGER, a Mennonite to PA ca 1718 fr Canton Bern, Switzerland. Male desc (aka LONGENECKER) have Y-DNA markers of haplogroup "R1b".

In 19<sup>th</sup> century LANGNEGGERS to US fm Gais, Canton Appenzell Switzerland. Male desc have totally different Y-DNA markers of haplogroup "R1a".

These 2 groups not related.

In 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries a third group of LANGENEGGERS possibly unrelated from Munich. Germany

**Richard Cryer, Longenecker Family  
Newsletter, 469 Riversville Road, Greenwich  
CT 06831 Email dickcryer@juno.com**

### DECKER

#24-4 Seek info DECKER fam liv PA. William DECKER b ca 1825 PA; mar Catherine Margaret (b 1836, PA). Mar by 1855, where? They lvd Fulton Co. When did anc arr? William in 1860 cen, but not in 1850 cen. William bur Hendershot Cem, PA. Need help.

**Judy Burgan, 21419 Leiter St, Hagerstown,  
MD 21742 Email mrat134@wmconnect.com**

## MAGS Welcomes New Members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in bold 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 free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Charles J. Clemens of Groveville NJ (*Clemens, Shafer/Schaffer, etc. Lovett*)

Sigrid L. Moore of Royal Oak MI (*Beier, Hielscher, Schroeder, Teller*)

John F. Price of Annapolis MD (*Wendt, Nehring*)

Gunter Schanzenbacher of Waynesboro PA (*Schanzenbacher, Jero, Zaiger, Oreher*)

David S. Sedlak of Manassas VA (*Kremeyer, Weis/Wise, Frazier, Swanner*)

J. Scott Selby of Rockville VA (*Cashour, Nicodemus, Burge, Brandebury*)

A correction on the new members from last issue: Elizabeth A. Becker of Lakewood, NJ, is searching for ancestors with the *Lomberg* surname.

## DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

### 2006

**23-24 September. The Maryland Genealogical Society 2006 Seminar.** Hilton Hotel, Columbia, MD - "British Isles - Finding Your Overseas Roots" with Paul Blake and Maggie Loughran. For directions, a map, registration, fees, and the full program schedule, see the Maryland Genealogical Society Web site at the URL, [www.MdGenSoc.org](http://www.MdGenSoc.org)

**September 29-30. Pennsylvania Genealogy Conference.** Pittsburgh, PA. Sponsored by The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and The Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. Sheraton Station Square Hotel. Twenty-eight sessions featuring eminent genealogists, numerous vendors, and a dinner cruise (price extra). Contact [www.pagenealogyconference.com](http://www.pagenealogyconference.com) or write to Pennsylvania Genealogy Conference 2006, 1509 Clinton Road, Glenshaw, PA 15116

**October 14. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Meeting.** Bethlehem, PA. Historic Hotel Bethlehem. Speakers: John Konvalinka, CG, CGL and Dr. Paul Peuker. Topics: Genealogy Research in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century/Traditional vs. Computer Based, Wealth of Records in the Moravian Archives, New Jersey Genealogical Research, and Your Immigrant Ancestors-Find Them in Cyberspace. Contact Diane Kuster, 2410 Jacqueline Drive, B-13, Wilmington, DE 19810, phone (732) 674-9963, or [magsregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:magsregistrar@yahoo.com)

**October 21. Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America Fall Conference.** New Holland, PA. Yoder's Restaurant. Speaker Larry Jensen from the Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah, speaking on: Understanding German Records and Jurisdictions, References and Resources for Tracing German Population Movements, and Using Maps in Doing German Genealogical Research. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, [james@beidler.us](mailto:james@beidler.us)

### 2007

**March 17. Pennsylvania German Heritage Festival.** Lebanon, PA. Sponsored by PA German Studies Program of Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus. Free presentation on the Irish Palatines by Henry Z "Hank" Jones. Contact (717) 270-6349.

**March 18. Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America Spring Conference.** Lebanon, PA. Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus. Speaker: Internationally known Palatine researcher Henry Z "Hank" Jones. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, [james@beidler.us](mailto:james@beidler.us)

**March 24. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Meeting.** Bowie, MD. Comfort Inn. Speakers: Susannah Brooks, Corinne Earnest, and John Humphrey. Topics: Grammar and Vocabulary in Church Records and Other Documents, German Catholic Church Records in Germany and the U.S., German Protestant Church Records in Germany and the U.S., and Records on Fraktur. In the closing session a panel will take questions from the audience. Contact Diane Kuster, 2410 Jacqueline Drive, B-13, Wilmington, DE 19810, (732) 674-9963 or [magsregistrar@yahoo.com](mailto:magsregistrar@yahoo.com)

**May 16-19. NGS Conference in the States.** Richmond, VA. Contact <http://ngsgenealogy.org> or write to NGS, 3108 Columbia Pike, Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22204-4304

**Aug. 15-18. Federation of Genealogical Societies national conference.** Fort Wayne, IN, near the Allen County Public Library. Conference theme is *Meeting at the Crossroads of America*. Contact: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org) or write to FGS, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; or call (888) FGS-1500.

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