



Der Kurier

Volume 26, Number 4, December 2008

Members stepping up for board but more needed

As was noted in the last two issues of *Der Kurier*, MAGS will be undergoing some important changes in the coming calendar year with respect to the election of officers.

The response to the announcement in the September issue of *Der Kurier* was positive and several members, including some on the current Board, have expressed an interest in helping to see that the society moves forward. But we are still in need of help—specifically we need someone to take over the tasks so ably performed by Bob Reisinger and Susannah Brooks.

The responsibility of the First Vice President is Membership. This is a task that can be handled from the comfort of home. As was noted in the September issue, the person who handles this job needs to have the ability to handle the electronic database that is used to maintain the membership lists. As I recall the MAGS membership list is maintained in an Excel Spread Sheet, software that is part of Microsoft Office. It is easy to use. Some of the responsibilities of the First Vice President have been handled by others. For example, Janice Seabolt has assisted Susannah in preparing and mailing all new member packets.

The Second Vice President is responsible for the spring and fall meetings. For the past 10 years, the current president has recommend

speakers and lecture topics for the approval by the Board. That system will remain in place. Thus the person holding the office of Second Vice President will not have to worry about speaker selection; the person holding that office can focus on meeting locations and work that needs to be done with the hotel staff. The Second Vice President will also work with the Board in planning the meeting and or making recommendations.

All meetings are planned well in advance of the meeting dates in order to secure quality speakers and convenient locations for events, which mitigates any urgency and or pressure with this particular job. Added benefits of advanced planning include the opportunity to get advance notice about the meeting in *Der Kurier* and other print and electronic media. The Second Vice President is not responsible for meeting publicity and registration. Those assignments have traditionally been carried out by other members of the Board.

We need your help in managing the society. If you would like to get more involved please contact President John T. Humphrey at PaGenealogyBooks@aol.com or call (202) 577-7572.

MAGS is a great society—let's keep it going!

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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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 10 July 1982. Annual dues are only \$15 (individual) or \$20 (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
- **Quartermly journal, *Der Kurier***
- **MAGS Lending Library**
- **Ahnentafels** published in *Der Kurier*
- **Queries**

**A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.
Contact information for MAGS special services appears on the inside back cover.**

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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.

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: James M. Beidler, PO Box 270, Lebanon, PA 17042. E-mail: james@beidler.us

MAGS spring seminar: Not to be missed!

Members of MAGS, and other genealogists with an interest in exploring their German forebears, will have a unique opportunity on 18 April 2009 as the speakers at the spring meeting will be exploring some new sources of information that are available to researchers in the Washington-Baltimore area.

Dr. Kenneth Heger, a society member and former manager of the Family History Program at the National Archives in Washington, DC, will open the meeting with a much-needed presentation on the “political geography” of Germany.

The Holy Roman Empire came to an end around the time of the French Revolution and the country was reorganized with some “help” from Napoleon Bonaparte. Hundreds of small states, principalities, dukedoms and ecclesiastical jurisdictions were combined into 39 states. But the changes did not stop with Napoleon, in fact the process that started under Napoleon accelerated under the Prussians.

Dr. Heger will also discuss some of the other changes that influenced the German middle class such as the creation of the *Zollverein* or German Customs Union and technological changes that resulted in greater mobility and an increase in emigration to the United States. His presentation will include numerous maps that illustrate these transformations.

MAGS First Vice President, Susannah Brooks, will explore a variety of records maintained at the National Archives that offer genealogists the opportunity to find information that may have gone missing in other kinds of

records namely an ancestor’s date of birth. Records to be covered include: the U.S. Census, immigration records, naturalizations, World War I draft cards, passport applications and captured German records. Her examples will be primarily for those whose place of birth was somewhere in Germany. Hint—this kind of information may lead to a place of origin.

For centuries Bremen was one of Germany’s primary ports. The city in the early nineteenth-century established a new deep-water port further down the river because of the silting in the river that was taking place near Bremen.

This new city was called Bremerhaven and it consolidated Bremen’s place as a major player in trans-Atlantic trade. Records were created by the American Consulate at Bremen that are of interest to family historians. Dr. Heger will discuss the types of records that contain information pertaining to specific individuals. He will talk about how those records are organized and the methods genealogists need to use to gain access to them.

Millions of immigrants came from Germany to the United States through Bremen’s sister port, Hamburg. The Americans had a consulate in Hamburg as well. Dr. Heger will present material on the consular records maintained in Hamburg in a manner that is similar to what exists for Bremen.

Both lectures will include illustrations of documents and charts with information gleaned from the documents, as well as specific examples of who can benefit from using these records.

For more information contact the MAGS Registrar, Diane Kuster, at dkuster@nc.rr.com.

ESSAY CONTEST SECOND PRIZE

An Incubator for German-American Educators of the Deaf:

The Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, 1857-1917

By Kenneth W. Heger, Ph.D.

Beer and rocket science are two topics that spring to mind when one thinks of German-American influence in the United States. So strong is the hold of these two stereotypic occupations on the minds of many people that German-American contributions in other fields often get lost. A little known area where German-Americans played a significant role was in education of the deaf before the First World War, in particular German-Americans affiliated with the Columbia Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in Washington, D.C.

The Columbia Institution was in the vanguard of the development of education for the deaf in the United States. The Institution's Gallaudet College was the first college in the world intended specifically for the deaf, and it quickly distinguished itself as model for higher education. The Institution's faculty attended national and international conferences of educators of the deaf, and dignitaries from around the world came to speak at the Institution. The Institution also received recognition and awards at international expositions, which in turn raised the school's profile and bestowed a high level of prestige on students, faculty, and staff affiliated with it.

German-Americans were involved with the Institution at all levels. They were among the Institution's faculty. They provided administrative support to ensure the primary school and college ran smoothly. Perhaps of greater significance, many of the Institution's German-American graduates went on to teach in state schools for the deaf, and minister to deaf American congregations. In addition, alumni

founded schools for the deaf and led national deaf rights advocacy organizations. This wide array of activities throughout the United States enabled them to have a major effect on deaf education in America.

The Institution

In February 1857, the Columbia Institution for the Instruction of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind began operations. Located in the District of Columbia, the Institution's initial mission was to offer primary education and vocational training to deaf, mute and blind children. During its first years, the Institution concentrated on providing elementary and high school level education to deaf pupils through its primary school, known as the Kendall School. The Kendall School was quickly a great success, attracting pupils from throughout the United States.

In 1862 the Institution's president, Edward Miner Gallaudet, petitioned Congress to establish a national college as part of the Institution. Two years later, Congress authorized the Institution to grant liberal arts and science degrees. On June 28, 1864, the Columbia Institution founded the National Deaf Mute College, making it the first institution of higher learning focusing on the needs of the deaf in the world. The College broadened its mission in 1887 when it opened enrollment to women. Four years later, the Institution created a Normal Department to train hearing teachers in the principles of deaf education. In 1893, the Institution's Board of Directors and alumni recognized the Gallaudet family's commitment to the education of deaf Americans by renaming

the National Deaf Mute College as Gallaudet College in honor of Edward Miner's father Thomas, who had founded the first school for the deaf in the United States in 1817.¹ Because the Institution's college is now known by the post-1893 name and much of this narrative pertains to the years after the name change, I shall refer to it as Gallaudet College.

The Institution's reputation attracted high-profile American and distinguished foreign guests. America's Centennial Anniversary in 1876 brought Brazil's Emperor Dom Pedro II to the United States; his itinerary included a visit to the Institution. In 1878, Congressman and future president James A. Garfield came to the school and spoke to the student body. Jules Cambon, the French minister to the United States, visited the school and addressed the student body in 1898. Wu Ting Fan, Chinese minister to the United States, spoke to the graduation class in 1901. President Theodore Roosevelt addressed the graduating class in 1906.²

Educators within the United States consistently praised the Columbia Institution, in particular Gallaudet College. In 1881, for example, approximately 160 delegates of twenty-eight schools for the deaf met in Jacksonville, Illinois. At that convention, the delegates unanimously approved a resolution to Congress lauding the College's work and urging Congress to provide the College with additional funds so it could expand

its academic and training programs.³ During his trip through the United States in 1883-1884, Gallaudet reported similar interest in and support of the College among educators of the deaf.⁴

The Columbia Institution's prestige extended to educators outside of the United States. In 1895 Nath Banerji from India enrolled in the Normal Department. Banerji had founded a school for the deaf in Calcutta in 1893 and came to the Columbia Institution for training on how to improve his school's instruction. Shimpachi Konishi, the director of the School for the Deaf and Blind in Tokyo, Japan, visited the Institution in 1897 to study its teaching techniques. Konishi hoped to adopt the Institution's dual method of teaching students oral skills and sign language in his school in Tokyo. In 1903, Minhui Cho, Korean Minister to the United States, made a special trip to the Institution. The Korean government planned to establish schools for the deaf and wanted to use the Columbia Institution as a model. Based on that visit, the Korean government sent Yun Chung Kim of Seoul to train at the Institution's Normal Department for the 1903-1904 academic year.⁵

The case of Otto Friedrich Kruse (1801-1880) serves as an interesting illustration of Gallaudet College's international clout. Kruse was perhaps Germany's most distinguished deaf mute, having taught at schools for the deaf in city-state of Bremen and the Duchy of Schleswig, as well as editing journals on deaf education and magazines for teachers of the deaf. Gallaudet College awarded him a Master's Degree at the end of the 1877-1878 academic year; his advanced degree yielded immediate, positive results for him. According to an August 13, 1878, article in the *Journal de Bruxelles*

¹ "Gallaudet College. Seventy-Second Year, 1935-1936." Printed by Students of Gallaudet College at the University, 1936. pp. 15-16. File designation 20-1 Columbia Institution of the Deaf. Central Classified Files of the Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, 1907-1936, National Archives Record Group 48. (Hereafter cited as "Gallaudet College" CCF DOI NARG 48.)

² Annual Report of the Columbia Institution for the Deaf (Hereafter cited as ARCI) 1875, p. 746; ARCI 1878; ARCI 1898, pp. 828-829; ARCI 1901, pp. 502-505; ARCI 1906, pp. 790-791.

³ ARCI 1881, pp 943-944.

⁴ ARCI 1884, pp. 492-494.

⁵ ARCI 1897, p. 624; ARCI 1895, pp. 713-714 & ARCI 1896, pp. 601-601; ARCI 1903, pp. 460 & 464; ARCI 1904, p. 300;

discussing Kruse, the degree raised his social status and standing in the academic community because it provided him with the same type of advanced degree most of his colleagues held, thereby admitting him to their academic circle.⁶

With such an outstanding reputation, it is not surprising that the Institution earned national and international recognition for its programs. At the Paris Universal Exposition in 1879, the college won a special diploma and a silver medal for its work with the deaf. In 1893, the school won numerous awards at the World's Columbian Exposition. Also known as the Chicago World's Fair, the Exposition gave Gallaudet College a gold medal for its college curriculum, and special recognition for the College's unique status as the only institution of higher learning in the world exclusively for the deaf, pointing to the school's success rate at producing writers, educators, editors, lawyers, and other skilled professionals. The Institution's exhibit of publications and photographs won a gold medal at the 1899 Paris Exhibition. At the Louisiana Purchase Exposition a few years later, the Institution won more awards. They included a gold medal for its programs in the Kendall School and Gallaudet College, the grand prize in education for President Edward Miner Gallaudet in recognition of his life-long work in deaf education, and a special commemorative medal for Professor Percival Hall for his exceptional work as an instructor.⁷

German-American faculty

Although only a handful of German-Americans served on the Institution's faculty before World War I, they made noticeable

contributions to deaf education and helped the Institution acquire its vaunted reputation. Two people played major roles, for example, in the realization of programs to teach deaf pupils practical skills they could use in the business world and to run a household efficiently. One man taught hundreds of students during the course of his three-decade tenure in the Kendall School. In addition, scores of German-Americans served as ad hoc guest lecturers.

Peter Baumgras was one of the first German-Americans to play a major role in the Institution's development. Bavarian-born Baumgras was a graduate of Munich's Academy of Art and known throughout the United States for his artistic skills. In 1861, only four years after the Institution's founding, Baumgras joined the school's faculty as Instructor of Drawing. The Institution's leadership believed it was important to provide deaf-mutes with as many practical skills as possible. Baumgras' classes, they contended, would help students develop the requisite skills to obtain jobs as designers, artists, engineers, and engravers, thereby enabling them to earn a good living after graduation. The school's annual reports consistently lauded the success he had teaching art and drawing, praising the work his students produced. The 1862 through 1864 annual reports, for example, make special note of the progress his students demonstrated in pencil drawings, a key talent for success in the design and engraving fields.⁸

Throughout his tenure, his job title changed and his responsibilities grew. In 1865, his job title became Instructor of Drawing and Painting in the Kendall School. That same year, the Institution added him to the faculty of Gallaudet College as Instructor of Art. While his classes were a routine part of the curriculum in the primary school, they were electives in the college. Baumgras remained at the Institution until the end of the 1876-1877

⁶ ARCI 1878, p. 1040; See also the German website Kultur und Geschichte Gehoerlose (Culture and History of Deafness) www.kugg.de/history/in_Kruse.

⁷ Paris Universal Exposition see ARCI 1879, p. 503; World's Columbian Exposition see ARCI 1894, p. 535 & ARCI 1898, p. 832; Paris Exposition see ARCI 1900, p. 437; & Louisiana Purchase Exposition see ARCI 1905, p. 850.

⁸ ARCI 1861, p. 901; ARCI 1862, pp. 641-642; ARCI 1863, p. 714; ARCI 1864, p. 735.

school year when he resigned to accept a professorship at the University of Illinois, Champaign.⁹

The program Baumgras initiated continued after his resignation and yielded fruit. In its 1890 annual report, the Institution indicated that several college graduates applied the drawing and art skills they learned at Gallaudet as the basis for careers in architecture. Near the turn of the century, there were several German-American students who pursued careers architecture and related fields. Arthur O. Steidemann graduated, for example, from Gallaudet's technical course and went on to Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, to study architecture. William Geilfuss moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and found work as a lithographer.¹⁰

Kendall School instructor Theodore Adams Kiesel was a second generation German-American. Leaving his home in Delaware, Kiesel began his affiliation with the Columbia Institution in 1873 as a student in the Gallaudet College's preparatory class. In 1880, his senior year, the college's administration tapped him to become an instructor in the primary school to replace his retiring colleague Wilbur N. Sparrow. The appointment became permanent after Kiesel received his Bachelor of Philosophy degree at the end of the 1881-1882 school year. After his appointment, he made the District of Columbia his permanent residence.¹¹

The Institution's choice of Kiesel as a teacher in the primary school turned out to be a propitious choice. Although

⁹ ARCI 1877, p. 849; See faculty lists included in ARCI's for 1861-1877 to note changes in Baumgras' job title.

¹⁰ ARCI 1890, p. 343; Steidemann see ARCI 1903, p. 462; Geilfuss see 1910 Federal census, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI, ED 14, p. 14A.

¹¹ ARCI 1880, p. 9. 501-502; ARCI 1882, p. 893; City Directories for the District of Columbia for 1890 and 1891.

Kiesel taught children from throughout the United States, his pupils came increasingly from two jurisdictions, Delaware and the District of Columbia. As states and territories began to establish their own primary schools for deaf students, they sent fewer children to Washington, D.C. In Kiesel's first year on the faculty, there were 23 students from the District, four from Delaware, and 10 from others states. Those figures became increasing lopsided. In 1895, all but 18 of the Kendall School's 58 students came from Delaware or the District and 10 years later, only seven of Kendall's 72 students hailed from outside these two jurisdictions. The student body's composition provided Kiesel with a unique opportunity to serve the deaf communities in the state of his youth and the city where he currently resided.¹²

Almost every year, Kiesel made a special lecture in the Kendall Green School to supplement students' regular course work. Most of Kiesel's lectures focused on historical topics. In 1883 his lecture was entitled "The Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln." Other lectures included "King Philip's War" (1885), "The Capture of Louisburg in 1741" (1890), and "King Alfred the Great" (1900). In two successive years, however, Kiesel took the opportunity to lecture on the land of his ancestors. In 1893, he entitled his presentation "Rambles in Germany," and the next year "Travels in Switzerland."¹³

In 1886, Kiesel went to California as a representative of the Institution at the 11th Convention of American Instructors the Deaf. Held in Berkeley, this was the largest meeting of teachers of the deaf to date. In addition to attending sessions, Kiesel delivered a paper to

¹² Except for 1857 and 1866, each Annual Report includes the names of students enrolled at the Institution. Usually, the student list is at the end of the narrative section.

¹³ ARCI 1883, p. 457; ARCI 1885, p. 726; ARCI 1890, p. 336; ARCI 1893, p. 475; ARCI 1894, p. 527; ARCI 1900, p. 482.

his colleagues. The next academic year, Kiesel used his trip as the basis for a lecture to his Kendall School students entitled "A Visit to the Pacific Coast and Yellowstone Region."¹⁴

Kiesel had a long, successful career; he served as an instructor in the primary school until his death on November 17, 1909. By the end of the 1906-1907 academic year, approximately 540 students from 46 states and territories had attended the Kendall School. During his nearly 32 years as a teacher, Kiesel taught most of these students, guiding them through their course work and enabling them to lead successful, productive lives after they left the school.¹⁵

There were three other German-Americans on the faculty just before the outbreak of the war. The college temporarily employed Mrs. George Landick, for example, as an instructor in the College throughout most of 1913. Although her brief tenure limited her impact on the Institution, her willingness to step into a breach left by a departing faculty member warrants mentioning her.¹⁶

Irving S. Fوسفeld joined the faculty of the college in 1916. Fوسفeld was very qualified to teach at the Institution, having a Bachelor of Science degree from Columbia University, as well as a Bachelor of Pedagogy from Gallaudet's Normal Department. Fوسفeld served as a professor of English and history, until 1918 when he took a leave of absence to join the military. Although beyond the scope of this article, Fوسفeld had a distinguished career at the Columbia Institution after the war, including serving as a dean.¹⁷

Charlotte E. Weiss, a graduate of the Drexel Institute in Philadelphia, joined the Institution's staff as Instructor of Drawing and Applied Art in 1917. Like Peter Baumgras a half century before her, the school intended Weiss to concentrate on practical aspects of her field. Specifically, the Institution hired her to teach the young women of the college the key elements of interior design and how to design clothing. This mandate extended similar instruction already given to male students to female students. The school hoped to give these young women more independence after graduation by preparing them to manage a household efficiently and to provide them with skills they could use to gain employment in the garment industry. In 1918, the school's administration recognized Weiss' potential by giving her the position of teacher in charge of college women, in addition to her work as instructor of applied art.¹⁸

Although not members of the faculty per se, many German-American college students served as lecturers in the Kendall School. In the 1880s, the Institution turned to college seniors to lecture to students in the Kendall School. These presentations served a dual purpose; they were to supplement the primary school's regular classes, and give college students interested in teaching a chance to practice lecturing. Many German-American students took advantage of this opportunity. Historical topics were particularly popular. John Elmer Staudacher spoke about the life of the American patriot Ethan Allen. William Henry Zorn lectured on the English king Alfred the Great. Robert Zahn explained the boyhood of president U.S. Grant. College students also lectured on literary topics. Frank Abraham Leitner talked about the labors of Hercules. Asa A. Strutsman discussed Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice." Joseph Bertram Bumgardner and Alice May Teegarten expounded on Robin Hood. Frieda Wilhelmina Bauman talked about Jules Verne's "Around the

¹⁴ ARCI 1886, pp. 805-807; ARCI 1887, p. 1323.

¹⁵ ARCI 1907, p. 479; ARCI 1910, p. 366.

¹⁶ ARCI 1913, p. 613.

¹⁷ ARCI 1916, p. 678 & ARCI 1918, p. 721; For Fوسفeld's accomplishments after World War I see "Fوسفeld, Irving S." in Gallaudet University Library Guide to Deaf Biographies at liblists.wrlc.org/deafblio

¹⁸ ARCI 1917, pp. 705-706; ARCI 1918, p. 721.

World in Eighty Days." Interestingly, only Emma Matilda Praeger chose a topic with German roots, entitling her presentation "The Neibelungenlied."¹⁹

German-American administrative staff

Not all German-American employees of the Institution were members of an academic department. Instead, many served in various capacities behind the scenes. They cared for the students' physical needs and performed other tasks to ensure that the Institution ran smoothly.

Washington, D.C. resident Emil S. Friedrich played a key role in Gallaudet College's early history. He designed the exterior of the College's central building in 1866. Five years later he assumed the role of the construction project's superintendent and oversaw the building's final completion, ensuring it was ready for the next academic year's classes.²⁰

Three German-Americans held jobs as matrons or student supervisors in the Kendall School, playing a role in students' daily life outside the classroom. During their tenure, the three people were responsible for ensuring that the children obeyed the Institution's rules on conduct. More significantly, they strove to keep the children healthy and properly clothed. The Institution hired Mary E. Schenk to be the primary school's assistant matron in 1908.

In 1910, the Institution promoted her to be matron in charge of the domestic department, a position she held until her resignation in 1914. Mrs. E.A. Frey served as the boys' matron in the Kendall School for the academic year 1913-1914. Robert Unsworth was the boys'

¹⁹ Staudacher ARCI 1888, p. 597; Zorn ARCI 1890, p. 337; Zahn ARCI 1898 p. 826; Leitner ARCI 1890 p. 337; Strutsmann ARCI 1899, p. 407; Bumgardner 1899, p. 407; Teegarten ARCI 1907, p. 472; Bauman ARCI 1902, p. 392; Praeger ARCI 1900, p. 482.

²⁰ ARCI 1866, p. 595; ARCI 1871, p. 1137.

supervisor beginning with the 1917-1918 academic year.²¹

Other German-Americans also played roles behind the scenes. District of Columbia resident Dr. L.L. Friedrich served as the Institution's attending physician for several months in 1891 while the school's regular doctor was abroad in Europe. The annual report notes there were no deaths or serious illnesses during his brief tenure. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Heil worked as a cook between 1891 and 1903. Her efforts helped students eat a proper diet, keeping them healthy and able to concentrate on their studies. German-born L.A. Roth served as an usher in 1897. Robert Zahn was the school's janitor the same year. Laura V. Frederick worked as the Institution's assistant seamstress between 1897 and 1900. At the turn of the century, German-born Mary Durr served as a domestic, helping keep the school clean.²²

Note: This is Part One of the essay that received the second prize in the contest sponsored by MAGS with the theme of "Contributions of Germans to American History and Culture," celebrating "Four Hundred Years of Germans in America."

Next issue: German-American alumni and conclusion

²¹ Schenk see ARCI 1910, p. 366 & ARCI 1914, p. 603 & Faculty lists for years 1908-1914; Frey see ARCI 1913, p. 613 & ARCI 1914, p. 604; Unsworth see ARCI 1916, p. 676 & Faculty lists for 1916-1917.

²² Friedrich see ARCI 1891, p. 521; Heil see Official Register of the United States (Hereafter cited as ORUS) "Employees of the Columbia Institution," 1891-1903 volumes; Frederick see ORUS "Employees of the Columbia Institution," 1897 volume & U.S. Federal Census for the District of Columbia, 1900, ED 149, Sheet 1.; Roth see ORUS "Employees of the Columbia Institution," 1897 volume; Zahn see ORUS "Employees of the Columbia Institution," 1897 volume; and Durr see U.S. Federal Census for the District of Columbia, 1900, ED 149, Sheet 1.

Das Personenstandsrechtsreformgesetz

By Susannah E. Brooks

Germans love their long words, but this one is of special importance to German genealogists. This massive revision of the civil status law is the first in 50 years and went into effect on 1 January 2009.

It changes how certain records will be kept in the future (basically changing from paper to electronic records), it changes the titles used for some future records, unifies many individual laws enacted since the late 1950s, and changes what records will now be considered public records and, therefore, what will be available to genealogists.

There are two very important sections that apply to researchers. The first states that within certain guidelines, especially the time frames listed below, anyone with a legitimate interest will have access to the records. For genealogists this means that you may now *legally* access records for the relatives of your direct-line ancestors. In the past you could not hire a researcher in Germany to find records for your great-grandmother's siblings, for example; because you or your designee were only permitted to have access to records on your direct-line ancestors.

Many of us got around this by doing our own research using German records available through the FHL or used records in archives in Germany. In Germany we may have been required to sign a form stating that

we would only look for information on our direct-line ancestors and that we would not use any of the information to harm others; but in reality we looked at any available records we wanted.

The other important change for genealogists is the new time-lines regarding which records will be available. Under existing law one could not obtain vital records (birth, marriage, death) for any event after 1874. Again some microfilm of German records available through the FHL contained records after that date, so of course we used them; but in some cases the archives that provided the records strictly adhered to the law and records would abruptly end mid-page after 31 Dec 1874.

In some instances civil registration offices would provide information if we provided a death certificate and proof that the person was our direct-line ancestor, but they had no obligation to do so. Now birth records will be available if they are 110 years old, which means that this year you may obtain birth records through 1898. Marriage records must now be 80 years old (through 1928) before they are released and death records must be 30 years old (through 1978).

The law also states that records that are now considered public due to age will be moved to the appropriate archives.

Confirmation certificate

From the contents of a "Golden Censer; or Devotions for Young Christians" by Rev. H. Harbaugh, D. D. which is now in a private collection. This book was given as a present to its owner a Miss Alberta A. Clauser, upon her Confirmation. Within this book are several pages inscribed that; Miss Alberta A. Clauser was born October 13, 1887 and that she was baptized December 4, 1887. Following those pages is a beautiful golden bordered Confirmation Certificate which states "*This is to Certify That **Miss Alberta A. Clauser** was received into the full Communion of the **St Paul's Reformed Church** by the solem rite of Confirmation on the **Eleventh** day of **Oct.** in the year of Our Lord 1902*". It was signed by **W. Donat Pastor, Schuyl Co. Pa.**

– Gunter Schanzenbacher

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Knappenbergers found in Pennsylvania areas

Upon reading the March 2008 issue of *Der Kurier* in which an article concerning CHRISTMANs on fraktur appeared, Lee James Irwin recognized names of his ancestors. The fraktur that mentioned his family was made for Philip KNAPPENBERGER.

As a follow-up, this article details fraktur having the name KNAPPENBERGER. All locations noted below are in Pennsylvania. Macungie Township, Northampton County, mentioned frequently in this article, became Upper and Lower Macungie townships in today's Lehigh County. Family names are spelled as they appear on the fraktur, so many variations occur. For example, the first three examples show various spellings of the name of the pastor, Jacob van BUSKIRK.

The Philip KNAPPENBERGER example mentioned in the CHRISTMAN article says that Philip was the son of Heinrich and Margareth (ABEL) KNAPPENBERGER. Philip's grandfathers are mentioned on the fraktur. His paternal grandfather was the "older" Michael KNAPPENBERGER. His maternal grandfather was Jacob ABEL. Philip KNAPPENBERGER was born in Macungie Township, Northampton County, on March 7, 1776. He was baptized by Pastor VON BUSKIRK, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Philip's baptism were Philip and Margaretha CHRISTMAN.

A related *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) is pictured in *Bucks County Fraktur*. This certificate was made for Philip KNAPPENBERGER's older brother, Johan Adam. Johan Adam KNAPPENBERGER was born in Macungie Township, Northampton County, on July 11, 1769. Johan Adam's parents were Henrich KNAPPENBERGER, son of Michael KNAPPENBERGER Sr., and Anna Margaretha ABEL, daughter of Jacob ABEL. Johan Adam was baptized by Jacob Van BOSSKIRCH, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Johan Adam's baptism were Adam and Gertraut TESCH.

As noted in the June 2008 issue of *Der Kurier*, another *Taufschein* mentions the KNAPPENBERGERs and CHRISTMANs. This *Taufschein* was made for Maria, daughter of Johan Adam and Chatharina (MEIER) KNAPPENBERGER. Maria was born about eleven o'clock at night on February 7, 1795 in Macungie Township. She was baptized by Pastor BUSKIRG, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Maria's baptism were Henrich and Barbara CHRISTMAN.

The current location is unknown of a *Taufschein* made for Heinrich, son of Heinrich and Catharina KNAPPENBERGER. Heinrich KNAPPENBERGER Jr. was born May 3, 1811, in Macungie Township, Northampton County. He was baptized by Pastor HEIM, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Heinrich's baptism were his grandparents, Heinrich and Margretha KNAPPENBERGER.

The location is unknown of a *Taufschein* made for Johannes, son of Conrad and Barbara KNAPPENBERGER. Johannes KNAPPENBERGER was born March 8, 1774. He was baptized, but no information concerning his baptism is available other than the names of the sponsors, Johannes MOSER and Susanna PREIS. No location was given on the fraktur, but the correspondent who shared a photocopy of this example says Johannes KNAPPENBERGER was born in Macungie Township.

The Library Company of Philadelphia has a *Taufschein* made for Edwin Henry KNAPPENBERGER, son of Peter F. and Emma-Cycilia S. KNAPPENBERGER. Edwin Henry was born August 15, 1880, in Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County. He was baptized on November 7, 1880, by Owen LEOPOLD, Lutheran, at Ziegel's Church in Weisenberg. The sponsors at Edwin Henry's baptism were the mother and Kitty (ANGSTADT) DERR. According to this certificate, Emma-Cycilia S. was the daughter of Reuben BENECOFFE.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Amanda Aquila, daughter of Harrison and Sarah (ARNDT) KNAPPENBERGER. Amanda Aquila was born October 30, 1850, in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. She was baptized May 11, 1851, by J. JÄGER. The sponsors at Amanda Aquila's baptism were Johann J. KNAPPENBERGER and Levina ARNDT, both single.

A *Taufschein* made for Blanch Leanda KNAPPENBERGER is in a private collection. This certificate says Blanch Leanda's parents were William H. and Emma Jane (ECK) KNAPPENBERGER. Blanch Leanda was born on June 12, 1898, in South Allentown, Lehigh County. She was baptized by C.E. SANDT on July 10, 1898. The parents sponsored Blanch Leanda's baptism. According to this certificate Emma Jane KNAPPENBERGER was the daughter of David ECK.

Blanch Leanda's confirmation certificate is in a private collection. It states that Blanch Leanda was confirmed April 10, 1914, by C.A. KERSCHNER, Lutheran, in South Allentown.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has a *Taufschein* made for Salomon ZIMMERMAN, son of Jacob and Catharina (GNABENBERGER) ZIMMERMAN. Salomon was born about eight o'clock in the evening on May 24, 1811. He was born in Lowhill Township, Northampton County. Salomon was baptized by Pastor HAINE, Lutheran, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Salomon's baptism were Henrich and Margaretha GNABENBERGER.

On November 17, 2001, Conestoga Auctions in Manheim sold a *Taufschein* made for Jacob, son of Philip and Barbara (STÄTLER) GNABENBERGE[R]. Jacob was born about eight o'clock in the evening on October 5, 1808, in Macungie Township, Northampton County. He was baptized by Pastor HAINE, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Jacob's baptism were Philip and Margaretha STEININGER.

The Historical Society of Berks County in Reading has a *Taufschein* that mentions the name KNAPPENBERGER. This example was made for Gertraut [Gertrude] WENDLING, daughter of Heinrich and Catharina (HEIMBACH) WENDLING. Gertraut was born in Hereford Township, Berks County, on October 25, 1815. She was baptized by Pastor DESCHAND on December 26, 1815. The sponsors at Gertraut's baptism were Elias and Gertraut WEISS. Notations added to this certificate say Gertraut was confirmed May 8, 1830, by Pastor ROLLER, Lutheran. Another note is more difficult to read. It appears to say Gertraut married on May 28, 1835, to a man named KNAPPENBERGER, son of Phillip KNAPPENBERGER.

On November 22, 2003, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata sold a *Taufschein* made for Charles Henry, son of Henry C. and Ellamanda E. (KNAPPENBERGER) RITTER. Charles Henry was born in Longswamp Township, Berks County, on June 8, 1886. He was baptized at the home of his parents on August 22, 1886, by Milton J. KRAMLICH, Lutheran. Charles Henry's parents served as baptismal sponsors.

On December 15, 1994, Alderfer Auction Company in Hatfield sold a *Taufschein* made for Jacob RITTER, son of Henrich and Lidia (KNABBENBERG) RITTER. Jacob RITTER was born about seven o'clock in the morning on October 21, 1808. He was born in Salisbury Township, Northampton [today's Lehigh] County. Jacob was baptized by Pastor HEINE on January 8, 1809. The sponsors at his baptism were Johannes RITTER and Susanna KLEIN.

The Schwenkfelder Library in Pennsburg has a *Taufschein* made for Heinrich and Helena (LICK) KNAPPENBERGER's daughter, Ellemenda Jane. Ellemenda Jane was born in Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County, on January 18, 1851. She was baptized by J. JAEGER on March 18, 1851. The sponsors at Ellemenda Jane's baptism were William F. and Margaretha KERCHER.

The Schwenkfelder Library has a second example that mentions KNAPPENBERGERS. This *Taufschein* was made for John Edward XANDER, son of Joseph Edward and Priscilla

(KNAPPENBERGER) XANDER. John Edward was born March 13, 1888 in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. He was baptized April 15, 1888 by F.K. BERND. The sponsors at John Edward's baptism were his parents.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Benjamin H. and Adden J. (KNAPPENBERGER) ACKER's daughter, Beulah May. Beulah May ACKER was born April 12, 1889, in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County. She was baptized November 16, 1889, by M.J. KRAMLICH. The sponsors at Beulah May's baptism were her parents.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Franklin Pierce OSWALD, son of Herman and Mary Alice (KNAPPENBERGER) OSWALD. Franklin Pierce was born October 10, 1905, in Pottstown, Montgomery County. He was baptized January 22, 1906, by Pastor AVONS. The sponsors at Franklin Pierce's baptism were his parents.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Mary Alice KNAPPENBERGER, daughter of Thomas A. and Emma C. (WINKLER) KNAPPENBERGER. Mary Alice was born October 16, 1879 in Longswamp Township, Berks County. She was baptized January 25, 1880 by William ROTH. The sponsors at her baptism were Amelia WINKLER and her brother, Gustave WINKLER. The sponsors' names are somewhat confused. Another name, that of T. (?) BÖTCHER, also appears in the space allocated for sponsors. According to this certificate, Emma C. WINKLER's father was Robert WINKLER.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection mentions Hettie KNAPPENBERGER as the only sponsor at Raymond William Chauncey WEISER's baptism. Raymond William Chauncey was born October 12, 1890, in Topton, Berks County. His parents were Alvin Z. and Lizzie (HENNING) WEISER. Alfred J. HERMAN, Reformed, baptized Raymond William Chauncey on January 25, 1891. The date of April 3, 1891, also appears on this example, but likely, that was the day the genealogy data was entered onto the printed *Taufschein*.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Anna Josaphina, daughter of Nathan and Sarah Anna (KNAPPENBERGER) SCHWANDER. Anna Josaphina was born March 20, 1864 in Allentown, Lehigh County. She was baptized April 1, 1864, but no other information concerning her baptism is available.

In that same volume, Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Emilie, daughter of Heinrich and Maria (MILLER) KNAPPENBERGER. Emilie KNAPPENBERGER was born on February 19, 1845, in Longswamp Township, Berks County. She was baptized June 22, 1845, by C. HERMANN. The sponsors at Emilie's baptism were Georg and Sarah REPP.

A related *Taufschein* is in a private collection. It was made for Emilie's younger brother, Penrose. Penrose KNAPPENBERGER was born April 21, 1847, in Longswamp Township. He was baptized June 20, 1847, by J. JAEGER. The sponsors at Penrose's baptism were Jacob and Maria TREXLER.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for a son of Percival J. and Amanda (KNAPPENBERGER) HERTZEL. The son's name is faded and difficult to read from our photocopy. It might have been Eddie Williy. This son was born January 29, 1889, in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, and baptized February 20, 1890, by J. MADDERN. The only sponsor at his baptism was the mother.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. There is no charge to members of MAGS for this service.

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2009

March 28. Virginia Beach Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, VA. Featuring "Tell Me About It" with John Philip Colletta, Ph.D. Central Library, Virginia Beach, VA. Vendors, prizes, free DNA kits, magazines, goodies and much more. For more details, please call J.B. Wright 757.495.0672, email jwright73@cox.net, or visit www.rootsweb.com/~vavbgs.

April 4. Palatines to America, Pennsylvania Chapter, Annual Spring Seminar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. New Holland, PA. Yoder's Restaurant. Speakers: James M. Beidler and Robert Longcore. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, james@beidler.us.

April 18. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Meeting. Speakers: Kenneth Heger and Susannah Brooks. Contact: www.magsgen.com.

May 13-16. National Genealogical Society Conference, Raleigh, NC. Theme: "From Roanoke to the West." Reservations for the Conference hotel at the Raleigh Marriott City Center: Call 866-260-1270 There is a college graduation the same weekend, so rooms will fill early. Mention NGS 2009 when making reservations. For additional information: <http://www.ngs.org>

June 18-20. Palatines to America 2009 National Conference, Fort Wayne, IN. Allen County Public Library: "Research With the Experts" Featured speaker: Annette Burgert; Additional workshops and expert consultants. Information and reservations online at www.palam.org or write to: Ann Rodick, 211 S. Spriggs Ct. Bloomington, IN 47403-9610

Sept. 2-5. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference, Little Rock, AR. Theme: "Passages Through Time," Information for registration at www.fgsconference.org.

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The Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne, Indiana offers a service for those who have done many years of research but do not plan to publish a genealogy. Just send your unbound "master copy" to the Historical Genealogy Department.

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BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

Book Reviews

Civil War Tales of the Tennessee Valley

By William Lindsey McDonald

2003. Available from Heart of Dixie Publishing, 1812 CR 111, Killen, Alabama 35645. Soft cover. 231 pages. Indexed. \$17.95 plus shipping and handling.

Within this book, the author included 90 vignettes of the American Civil War from around northwest Alabama – in particular the town of Florence, Lauderdale County.

McDonald's credentials include having written a dozen previous books along with service in both World War II and the Korean War before retiring as colonel.

He served as past president of the Florence Historical Board and as officers in other historical societies. The book is well referenced – all of the stories come from personal diaries or other well documented sources. There is an extensive index.

The author brings to life the everyday activities and hardships of the people in Alabama and its surrounding areas during and after the Civil War.

This book is not specifically about German heritage, but it is about those who settled the South including many Germans.

Most of the stories are told from the Southern side although many are Unionist accounts. One of the most horrifying tales is the destruction of Florence. Florence in 1858 was a

massive textile complex employing over 800 people and in 1850 produced 80,000 yards of cloth weekly with an annual income of half a million dollars.

Union Capt. Ridsen Deford, who grew up in the area and following orders from Col. Cornyn, was instrumental in burning the mills and tearing down the dams – essentially destroying Florence.

Florence did not recover until well after the war. Yet, Deford also captured and hung many of the robbers and murderers who were taking advantage of the wartime troubles to serve themselves.

McDonald provides short biographies of many famous people who were born and/or raised in northwest Alabama. One person in particular was of especial interest. Helen Keller was born in Florence. Her father, Arthur H. Keller served in the Confederate Cavalry and later became the editor of the North Alabamian Newspaper.

Other famous people from Florence were Lawrence Sullivan Ross who became governor of Texas and later president of Texas A & M University; Robert A. Young, a Methodist minister and president of Florence Wesleyan University that later became the University of Alabama; and Ellen Virginia Saunders McFarland, author of *The Little Rebel*, a popular book then and much later, a popular movie. These are but a few of the many biographies included in McDonald's book.

Civil War Tales of the Tennessee Valley is light reading since it is in short story format.

It is interesting to learn of the final days of many of the famous War heroes and leaders. The reviewer thoroughly enjoyed McDonald's book, and, after reading *Civil War Tales of the Tennessee Valley*, would like to read his other books.

Reviewed by Mariana Wilke

**Colonial Trails to Arlington
A History of a Scott Bennett Line
In Virginia
And a Wiedman Line in
Pennsylvania**

By Janie Scott Wulf

2007. Published for the author by Gateway Press, Inc., 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211. Hard cover. 191 pages. Indexed. Library of Congress Control Number 200730465. Available from Janie Scott Wulf, 510 N. Norwood St., Arlington, VA 22203, \$25 plus shipping and handling.

A deep love and enjoyment of family, genealogy, and history is reflected in the well-researched and interestingly written family history of the Scott and Bennett lines.

The two families began in Virginia in the area immediately south of the James River, and this is the main geographic area covered in the book; however, the author's grandmother, Bertha Jane Wiedman, was born in Scranton, Pennsylvania and it is believed that her paternal line can be traced to Germany.

The book is divided into two sections: the first part covers the ancestors of Wulf's father, Porter O'Brien Scott, followed by their individual biographies. The same format is used for Livinia Claire Bennett, the author's mother.

The book is easy to use. Centered above each biography, and printed in bold type, is the name of the individual with birth and death dates. The amount of genealogical, historical, and personal information is determined by the records and research aids which were available to the author. These are documented.

Wulf, a member of MAGS, has included fascinating stories of her childhood memories of her grandparents and great-grandparents. She has also included her own biography.

Although Virginia is the main setting for this family history, some of the lines are traced to the general mid-Atlantic area – especially New York. The scope goes even further than that: to England, Norway, Holland, France, and Ireland. The time period is from the 16th century to the present.

This genealogy is enhanced by the inclusion of pictures, maps, charts, an extensive bibliography, and an every name index. The reader is encouraged to enjoy the appendix that contains from pictures to poetry, beginning with two charming paintings of the Scott family homes from circa 1900-1910.

These were done by the author's daughter, Jane Biner Wulf Smith. Then follows twelve pages (double side) of family pictures, from ancestors to the current generation, and includes close friends and neighbors who have enriched the life of the Wulf family.

Anyone interested in southern Virginia research, especially Isle of Wight and Surrey counties and the surrounding area, should find this book helpful. I also recommend it as a good example of how to write a family history which is both professional and interesting.

Reviewed by Patricia Cramer

SUCHANZEIGEN / *Queries*

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)

BAYER (BEAR) WEAVER

#26-6 Seek info on fam of Margaret J BAYER, b May 1851, d May 1906. Mar Charles H J WEAVER Jun 1870. Both lifetime residents Baltimore City, MD. Margaret's f Geo BAYER.

Debra Hoffman P.O. Box 755, New Windsor, MD 21776 e-mail:
d2hoffman@verizon.net

Recommendation, offer from member

MAGS member Roy W Shiflet reports that he spent time in northern Germany last fall and would like to recommend the following individual as an excellent researcher in the Schleswig-Holstein area:

Uwe Jacobsen of Kiel, Germany, with an e-mail of uwejacobsen@gmx.de

“Also, if any member is interested in photos of Lubeck, Kiel, Husum, Friedrichstadt, or Hamburg, I will be glad to share,” Shiflet wrote.

Shiflet can be contacted by e-mail at rwayne724@verizon.net

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.

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(Kaiser, Sidel, Sörgel, Gieseler)

Patrica P. Jobe of Knoxville TN
(Ensminger, Mueller)
Anna Marie Kehnast of Pennsville NJ
(Kehnast/Kühnast/Kiehnast)

Allan Knoch of Alexandria VA
(Knoch, Lang, Reidenbaugh/-bach, Bauer)
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