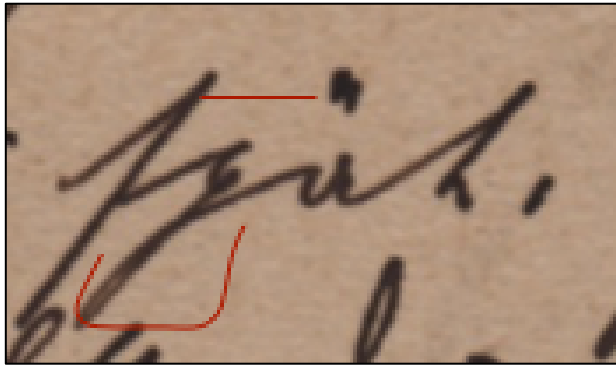


Der Kurier

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 2 / JUNE 2021



Hall of Famer: Former MAGS President John T. Humphrey was recently inducted into the National Genealogy Hall of Fame. *Der Kurier's* tribute to him begins on **page 44** with Editor Emeritus James M. Beidler's memorial to his friend and mentor.



Advanced tips: In Katherine Schober's final "Stick to the Script" column for *Der Kurier*, she gives us a summary of her top five advanced tips for reading German handwriting, including interpreting umlauts and telling the difference between a "p" and a "g." Can you guess what the word at left is? **Page 66.**

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**MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY**

PO Box 241

New Windsor, MD 21776

<http://www.magsgen.com>

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

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded in July 1982. Annual dues are only \$15 (individual) or \$20 (family). Add \$5 if you desire a printed copy of **Der Kurier** each quarter. Membership is open to all interested persons without regard to place of residence, nationality, or ethnicity. A membership application appears on the back cover and on our website. Benefits include:

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– German research aids, searchable databases

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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. Unless previous arrangements are made with the editor, material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to Sean Kessler, *Der Kurier* Editor, MAGS, 400 S Manoa Rd, Havertown, PA 19083. E-mail: newsletter@magsgen.com

VOM PRÄSIDENT**FROM THE PRESIDENT*****Der Sommer kommt bald an!***

Yes. Summer will officially arrive at the end of the month, and vacation time begins in earnest. Our editor, Sean Kessler, has given us another great issue of *Der Kurier*. With its informative articles and engaging illustrations, our Society's journal will make ideal vacation reading.

The state of our Society is sound. Membership chair Gunter Schanzenbacher reported that membership continued to grow over the last quarter. Treasurer Bob Greiner reported that our finances are solid. That's great news.

Our recent conference with Dr. Roger Minert was a smashing success. Registration was high and the evaluations glowing. Dr. Minert's talks were engaging and as entertaining as they were informative. The speaker answered many questions after the day's events had officially ended, and he encouraged attendees to email him with additional questions. I confess; I took him up on that offer.

I want to remind you all that our summer workshop is still on. MAGS member Andy Hochreiter will lead another of his popular workshops on DNA. This workshop will require a little preparation work for the attendees to make the most out of the session. If this is of interest, keep your eyes open for more information on the website and through blast emails. Andy's workshops are popular and fill up quickly.

Our fall conference featuring Dr. Michael Lacopo is well in hand. Please note, this conference will also be an online, two-day event, taking place on 22 and 23 October. We will provide you with additional details in the coming months but mark the date on your calendar now.

As we plan for the future, the Board has a request. As you know, the Board opted to pivot to virtual conferences in the face of the COVID crisis, and the two conferences we've held since making that decision were very well attended. Thanks to our conference team, led by Carol Carman and Debra Hoffman, things went off smoothly both times, and we discovered that MAGS reached a much broader audience than the Society had in recent in-person conferences. The Board asks that you let us know how you feel about continuing to hold virtual conferences. If you can let us know what you liked about the online conferences and what you missed about not being in a hotel, that will be of great help to the Board as we plan our next events.

To get you in the mood for your summer holidays, and hopefully bring a smile to your face, I conclude with a postcard from the Department of State's 1909 inspection of the American consulate in Carlsbad (Karlsbad), Austria-Hungary. It illustrates how summer vacations were all the rage over a century ago and how popular this European spa was with tourists during the high season. Practice your German by noting the caption at the top of the card! Once you translate it, you can understand why your Board refers to this card as "*Wo is Wolfgang?*" *Willkommen in den Sommer!*

**Kenneth W. Heger**

**EMERITIERTER HERAUSGEBER****EDITOR EMERITUS**

Memorializing a Mentor, With Fondness and Sadness

When it was officially announced recently as part of the National Genealogical Society's virtual conference that the MAGS nomination of the late John T. Humphrey to the National Genealogy Hall of Fame was successful, it was another step for me in a personal journey that began with John's death almost nine years ago.

To have a mentor—a man who had run many marathons—die at just age 64, it becomes, indeed, a lifelong journey.

I recall that I first met John at the 2000 NGS Conference in Providence, Rhode Island. He was already a “big dog” in the family history community and a staffer at NGS. I was the newly minted executive director of Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, just barely beginning to stretch my legs beyond being a local semi-professional hobbyist.

Among the things I was pitching in an attempt to give relevance to GSP was something I was calling a “Virtual Lecture.” You'd know them better as webinars today.

I'm not sure if John volunteered or how much persuasion he needed, but he agreed to be the first presenter.



James M. Beidler

The technology was more limited but provided graciously by Kimberly Powell, then the “About.com” genealogy guide. We provided the actual lecture in written form in advance and then set a time to go online for a question-and-answer session—all done by typing back and forth.

I made sure John had a couple softball questions in advance, but then the other queries started coming in left and right! I think we had allocated an hour and he ended up doing close to an hour and half.

There was a way for the presenter and hosts to “back channel” chat privately and John told me toward the end, “I think I’ve lost 10 pounds over the last hour! This is intense!” But I was heartened when within a year John began virtual lectures as an NGS activity, too.

It was John who hired me as Editor of *Der Kurier* in 2003 and both as President and Immediate Past President of MAGS, he was the organization’s guiding light—helping pick programming, contributing articles, recruiting new board members, and just generally giving us all the benefit of his accumulated wisdom. When MAGS announced it would be the lead for John’s nomination to the Hall of Fame, I was the speaker and said: “For those of us who write, who lecture, and who research German genealogy, we all still walk in John’s shadow. But it is a shadow with the warmth of sunshine.”

Just a couple of years after John’s death, my first commercially published book came out. An attendee who saw it at a conference asked me, quite casually, whether I knew John Humphrey as she had just learned of his passing. I opened a copy of my book and pointed to dedication to John and said, “Yes, I sure knew John Humphrey.” Long may his memory last!

A Tribute to John T. Humphrey

In honor of former MAGS President John T. Humphrey’s induction into the National Genealogy Hall of Fame, we’re including the announcement from the National Genealogical Society as well as some pages from the September 2012 issue of *Der Kurier*, published about a month after his untimely death. Included are tributes and reminiscences from MAGS Research Inquiries correspondent Susannah E. Brooks, MAGS 2nd Vice President Carol Carman, and MAGS Recording Secretary Debra A. Hoffman.



John T. Humphrey

John T. Humphrey’s MAGS offices

John was a member of MAGS for at least the last 20 years and during that time held the following offices:

1995-1999	At-Large Board Member
1999-2001	Second Vice President and Program Chair
2001-2009	President
2009-2012	Immediate Past President

Der Kurier

Volume 30, Number 3, September 2012

NGS Award Honorees

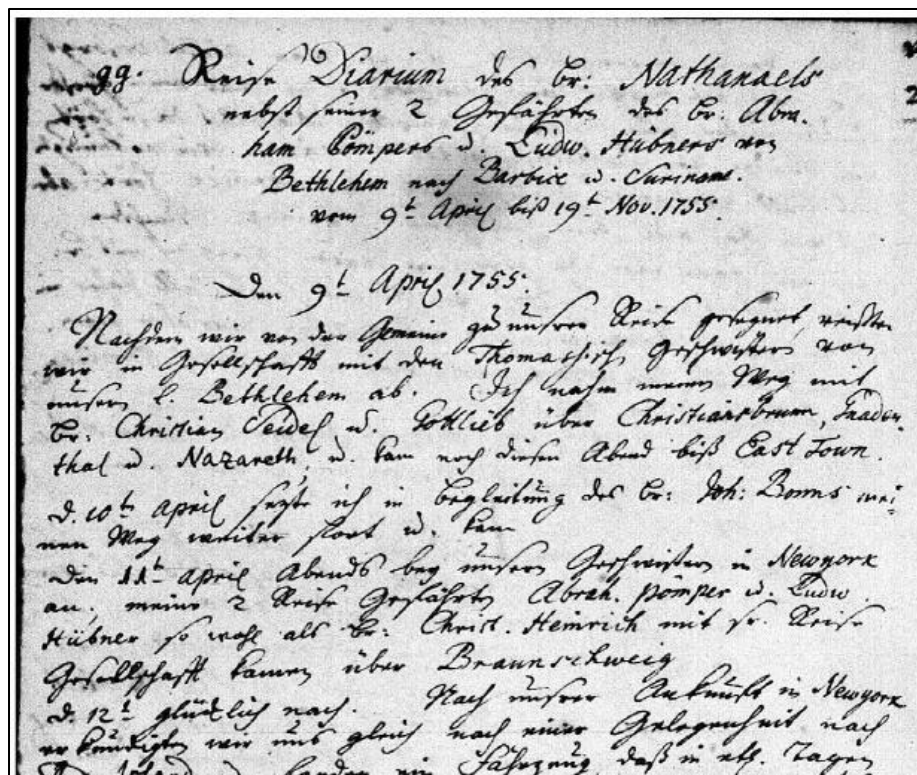
National Genealogy Hall of Fame: John T. Humphrey, CG®

NGS introduced its National Genealogy Hall of Fame in 1986. The award honors outstanding genealogists whose achievements in American genealogy have had a great impact on the field. We invite you to visit the [National Genealogy Hall of Fame](#) and learn about its honorees. Nominated by the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society, this year's inductee is **John T. Humphrey**. Born in Penn Argyl, Pennsylvania, in 1948, he died in Washington, DC, in 2012. Always a scholar, Humphrey had a passion for sharing his knowledge and teaching others.

In demand as a speaker on German and Pennsylvania topics, Humphrey became an expert in reading old German script. In 2008, at Williamsburg's 400th Anniversary Celebration, he gave a keynote address on German contributions to America. Two years later, he was invited to Germany to speak on researching Germans in America. In 2011 he taught the first-ever German course at Samford's Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research.

Humphrey authored many genealogical articles and books. Two of his most recognized publications are *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records* and *Pennsylvania Births*, fifteen volumes of birth and baptism transcriptions. He broke new ground when he unearthed ancestor charts of Nazi SS officers in captured German records housed at the United States National Archives. Humphrey served as president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. He joined the NGS staff as education manager in 2000.

All who heard Humphrey's lectures, read his books and articles, or participated in NGS activities he initiated, benefited from his knowledge and skills.



The opening page of a handwritten German travel journal from the mid-1700s that was translated by John T. Humphrey

Like the excitement of a little boy ...

By **Susannah E. Brooks**

John Humphrey was a role model and mentor to me both as a researcher and a speaker, but more important he was a friend for the past 16 years. When thinking of John, two similar incidents come to mind. In both cases he reminded me of a little boy, who had just been given a dollar and told he could spend all of it in the penny candy store (some of us are old enough to remember such places).

While John was still working at NGS one of his co-workers showed him a family Ahnenpäss from the 1930's or 1940's. He immediately became intrigued and began reading all he could about Ahnenpässe. He read in one source that the National Archives and Records Administration had a collection of Ahnenpässe, so he asked me if I knew anything about them, since I am a volunteer at Archives I. After a little research I determined that the only possible record group would be that containing the Captured German Records and contacted a specialist for this record group. There were no Ahnenpässe, but rather more than 7,000 rolls of microfilm of the Nazi SS marriage records, many of which contain Ahnentafeln. When I relayed the information to him, his excitement was that of the little boy. Because he was a good German, he did not recklessly spend his whole dollar at one time, but

began a systematic study of one of his family's surnames (Dietrich) because there were only six rolls of files with that surname. At the same time, in typical John fashion, he began an extensive study of how and why the records were created.

About two years ago a NARA staff member arranged to take John and I into the stacks at Archives II, to give us an idea of the extensive collection of U.S. Consular Records that they had from U.S. Consulates in Germany during the 19th and early 20th centuries and how some of these records would be valuable to genealogists. Again I saw the little boy, because John's eyes just lit up and he could hardly stand still as the staff member pulled some of the books from the shelves for us to glance at. John began a study of some of the probate records contained in the files and worked on it whenever he could get to Archives II. This led him to the discovery of an immigrant aid society in NYC that was involved with some of the cases, which he excitedly told me about.

At times research can be boring with few or any results, but John's excitement for underutilized or undiscovered records and his systematic approach to learning about and using the records certainly inspires me to continue the search.

What I have been struck with in the last week is that John's mourners and friends read like a Who's Who in the genealogy world. He knew and was on a par with all the big names in genealogy and yet he never was too busy or too important to help the beginner.

October 13. MAGS Fall Meeting, Best Western Hotel, Westminster, MD. Featured speakers include Ann Morrison, Kenneth Heger and Susannah Brooks. One slot will be a question and answer session for your thorniest problems. More info: www.magsgen.com.

The entry from *Der Kalender* for the MAGS Fall Meeting in 2012. John had been slated to speak at the event.

I had a chance to observe him at both OGS and NGS this year and I am sure everyone who came up to his booth was sure John was very interested in their individual quest -- and he probably really was. No question was dumb or too inconsequential for him to spend time helping answer. For his lectures at both conferences you had to arrive early or you would be turned away. And if he knew someone and spotted them he had a grin for them that would light up a room.

– **Carol Carman**

Travel from Bethlehem, PA, to South America

Translation by John T. Humphrey, CGSM

Part I of Humphrey's translation of the travel journal ran in the June 2012 issue of *Der Kurier*.

The travel journal used for this translation was found on a microfilmed copy of the "Bethlehem Diary" located at the Pennsylvania State Archives in Harrisburg.

The travel journal was recorded in the Diary at the end of calendar year 1755. It furnishes interesting insights into 18th-century travel and life on the northern coast of South America. The journal is being published here with the permission of the Moravian Archives, in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

Travel Diary of Brother Nathanael [Seidel]

with his two traveling companions Brother Abraham Bömper and
Ludwig Hübner from Bethlehem to Barbice and Suriname from 9 April until 19 November 1755.

(continuation)

5 September 1755

After we made our departure with our white and brown [Brethren] we traveled with our boat and we accompanied Brother Schuman again from our dear Pilgerhut to Suriname.

(Activities up until then have gone into Brother Schuman's travel diary.)

25 September 1755

We came to Suriname to our dear Brothers Dehne and Rolfs well and lucky and they were very pleased as they had been expecting us.

26 September 1755

After we had gone by Brothers Dehne and Rolfs, we had to go to the Governor of Suriname about our matter, we went to Mr. Leshner, the former Governor in Barbice, our good friend, and reported our arrival to him, and that we came here to talk with the Governor about the proposal for a piece of land for us and our Indian Brethren in the area of Suriname. Mr. Leshner told us that in this matter the Governor still seems to be thinking / ruminating, and that since then he has talked with a Senior council about it, the proposal they like very well, and [agreed] with him as well about this matter. Mr. Lechner reported our arrival to the Governor and our problem and asked that we write to him with our request stating what we can possibly do.



John T. Humphrey points out Moravian architectural details during a tour of Bethlehem, PA, as part of the MAGS Fall 2006 Meeting.

MAGS Bookstore – Limited supply of remaining titles

Title and Author Member / Non-member Price

Pennsylvania Births, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill Counties

John T. Humphrey \$10.00 / \$10.00

Pennsylvania Births, Dauphin County 1757-1825

John T. Humphrey \$10.00 / \$10.00

Pennsylvania Births, Delaware County 1682-1800

John T. Humphrey \$5.00 / \$5.00

Title and Author Member / Non-member Price

Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records

John T. Humphrey \$10.00 / \$10.00

Pennsylvania Births, Philadelphia County 1644-1765

John T. Humphrey \$10.00 / \$10.00

Pennsylvania Births, Philadelphia County 1766-1780

John T. Humphrey \$10.00 / \$10.00

John's books were featured in the MAGS Bookstore in 2018 and 2019.

I joined the MAGS Board when John was the President and I was lucky to have worked with him over the past several years. I came to know and appreciate not only his knowledge and expertise, but his kindness as well. He always had time to answer my questions and I am glad that I was able to hear many of his lectures and benefit from his German research expertise.

His booth at MAGS meetings as well as national conferences was always busy with many people asking questions and requesting help and he always gave freely of his time and expertise. When I heard of his death, I was saddened not only for my loss of a friend, but for the loss to the genealogical community as a whole.

I feel blessed to have known him and worked with him. I will continue to miss him, but am glad that he left us a legacy in his books and lectures. Rest in peace, John.

– Debra Hoffman

John Thomas Humphrey (1948-2012)

John Thomas Humphrey, 64, passed away suddenly of a stroke on August 11, 2012, in Washington, D.C.

Born: He was the son of the late David and Edythe Humphrey of Pen Argyl, PA.

Personal: John was graduated from Pen Argyl High School in 1966, and was graduated from American University with a BA in government and public administration in 1970. Soon after college John began renovating townhouses on historic Capitol Hill, eventually completing more than twenty properties.

John transitioned to professional genealogy, and compiled the fifteen volume *Pennsylvania Birth Series*, authored four books, and innumerable articles. As a Certified Genealogist, John lectured and taught nationally and internationally on Pennsylvanian, German, Welsh and Moravian ancestry, and could read and write old German typeface.

In addition to his love of genealogy, John ran more than twenty marathons, enjoyed worldwide travel, and the endless devotion of his Polish Lowland Sheepdogs and Labrador Retrievers.

Survivors: He is survived by his sister, Joan E. Mack Humphrey; nephew, Jonathan Mack; niece, Jennifer Mack; and John Doney, his partner of twelve years.

Services: Funeral services were at the Guerro & Ruggiero Funeral Home, 126 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Pen Argyl. Interment was in Plainfield Cemetery.

Memorials: As expressions of sympathy, memorial contributions may be sent in John's name to the Northampton County SPCA, the Maryland SPCA, and/or the annual fund of Moravian College, all C/O the funeral home.

A partial bibliography

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Finding Ancestors in *Taufscheine*

These are the final two *Taufscheine* submitted to *Der Kurier* by Dr. Jonathan Acker. If you are of Pennsylvania German heritage, German-American heritage, or just a fan of Pennsylvania folk art, membership in the Pennsylvania German Society at the “patron” level or higher includes a copy of the annual volume, <https://www.pgs.org/Membership.aspx>.



This is an all-hand form done for Daniel Berto, son of Johannes Berdo and (An)na Cad(a)rina. He was born 9 May 1775 in Richmond Township in Berks County. His baptism date and the pastor are not mentioned. He does have baptismal sponsors, however: Dannel Sch(w)artz and his wife. The scrivener is unknown. You can see a portion of this form was replaced after obvious paper-loss. The parents on this form are Dr. Acker's fifth-great-grandparents.



This form was done for Elisabetha Frey, daughter of Johann Adam Frey and Elisabetha Herb. She was born 16 April 1795 in District Township in Berks County and was baptized on 26 July 1795 by Pastor Weinland. The scrivener is unknown. The parents on this form are Dr. Acker's fifth-great-grandparents.

AUSWANDERER ZUSAMMEN

IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS

Frederick Besel's 1854 Letter to Germany: Part II

TRANSLATED BY DR. MICHAEL KRAEMER
WITH INTRODUCTION BY BOB GREINER



Bob Greiner

Dr. Michael Kraemer is a recent immigrant from Germany, who translated Christian Ph. H. Brandt's "Martin Luthers Hochzeitsgeschenk" (Martin Luther's Wedding Gift) and several handwritten letters by Johann Friedrich Carl Besel, with the translation encouraged by the latter's great-great-grandson, Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod Pastor Keith Besel in Colorado.

Editor's note: Part I of this article was featured in the March issue of *Der Kurier* and it described Frederick Besel's origins in Breitenlohe as well as his early time in the United States. After training for several years at the Basel Mission in Switzerland to be a missionary, Besel arrived in New York in 1848. He immediately accepted a call to serve a German Lutheran church in Somerset County, New Jersey. After several years he relocated to Holmes County, Ohio, where he was responsible for multiple dispersed congregations. The second part of his 1854 letter that follows below picks up as he describes the arduous weekly journeys that he made on horseback to reach his parishioners. He also talks about his decision to move to Macoupin County, Illinois, and his family's journey to get there.

...In this region I was a missionary in the right sense of the word and in action, only I did not fare so well as compared with a missionary that receives support from home. – If you have enough time, you are now invited to travel with me for a month.

First Sunday. In the morning we ride 4 ½ miles to church. When we are finished there, we ride with an empty stomach for another 9 miles to preach there at 2 o'clock, then on some occasions we have worship again in Carlisle about 6 miles to the side. Hence it will be 8 or 9 o'clock at night before you come home again and eat.

Second Sunday. In the morning we ride for 14 miles to Oxford, where the worship service is at 10. When it is over, we continue for 6 miles to Wolves Creek where we have church at 2:30, and then it is often the case that you continue for another 3-4 miles to baptize a child and to stay overnight. You travel home on Monday. In the winter there is danger of flooding, when the Killbuck (a highly feverish river) rises.

Third Sunday. Saturday noon you mount your horse to ride 18 miles to New Bedford. There is church on Sunday morning at 10, and then 5 miles further again at 2 o'clock. On Monday you have to do errands such as visiting sick people etc. I once lived in that town, thinking it was better for holding school for the numerous youth. In this settlement there are 125 German Lutheran families, partly Pennsylvanians and partly from Württemberg. Here also lives the widow of the previous pastor, who had a dreadful state of affairs, although a little better than his predecessors. Those did it as follows: One year a Lutheran pastor served both the Lutheran and the Reformed church members at the same time. The following year it was the turn of the Reformed, and a

Reformed pastor served both congregations and taught the confirmation classes, whose students are usually quite old and have already married before they go to class. After teaching the confirmands the Reformed pastor calls a Lutheran pastor to confirm the Lutheran students by laying on of hands. Is it then a wonder that the Reformed called my teaching of the Lord's Supper a Catholic one and shamefully persecuted me so that my life was not safe either by day or by night? About my time here I could write a rather thick book if I wanted to describe my sufferings. – My predecessor, whose family is still here, improved things somewhat by removing the need of the Reformed pastor, because he as a so-called Lutheran pastor combined everything. He came from Prussia, studied in Bonn and – fled to here after having been charged with stealing the daughter of a respected Catholic family. In this way quite a few flee to come here and begin to preach where they are accepted. Whether they can stay depends on their walk and how they fit in the circumstances of the congregation. The one who only preaches and puts up with everything will be rehired for the next year. But we will move on for now, just as I had to continue and temporarily conduct worship services for the better-minded part in a log-cabin.

Fourth Sunday. We are leaving already Friday noon, since it is 30 miles to Coshocton and a very unpleasant road. Having arrived in Coshocton Saturday night, you hand over the horse to the innkeeper, and the pastor finds out where he can stay at a church member's house. For if he wanted to stay at the inn, how could he pay for it? So he must accept to sleep here or there, at the house of a grandfather or a son or even a servant. O my, what beds or roommates you find there sometimes! And yet, a faithful shepherd readily accepts these hardships and denials, if only he finds an opportunity to reach out to the souls in the house and to teach them. – But if you ask: How is such a deplorable pastor faring when he finds himself in rain and snow, in wind and weather, staying with strange people, oftentimes in a house where you can see through the roof and count the stars and look outside through holes in the wall? – Well, you have to go through that, too, and to thank the Lord that He gives you a strong condition in an otherwise weak body. But, admittedly, it is hard when you lie sick and then finally have to be transported home, as I also experienced.

Now we are in the county capital Coshocton. On Sunday morning before the service the pastor is called here and there to baptize a child, to marry a couple or to visit someone sick, then at 10 he hurries to the church, but to which one? Sometimes you find room in the Presbyterian Church, sometimes in the Methodist one, at other times in the schoolhouse or even the courthouse. At 12 noon the worship service is over. Since, however, 11 miles further down in the bush another congregation is gathered at 2:30, the pastor hurries there on his horse that is tied in front of the church, and he rides there with an empty stomach. After the second service he visits this house or that one for baptisms or to see sick people, and so it will finally be 9 pm until he can rest and have a meal. If you have not eaten since 6 o'clock in the morning, the food tastes good, whatever it may be.

The next morning we travel 5 miles to the side, for there again people are gathered for worship and want children to be baptized. And then we start riding home, which now amounts to 40 miles.

On Tuesday evening one is home again after a five day absence, where things are waiting to be done in the house and a few messengers are there to take along the pastor

for 16, 18, 24 miles to give sermons at funerals, for which you usually prepare on the horse. In addition you teach school as much as time and circumstances permit.

Kirchliche Mittheilungen

aus und über

Nord - Amerika.

1854.
Inhalt: Ein Brief von Pastor Fr. Besel in Staunton, Illinois.
Nro. 5.

Ein Brief von P. Fr. Besel in Staunton, Illinois.
 (Abgedruckt nicht bloß zu Liebe so manches Freundes, den Pastor Besel noch in der alten Heimat hat, sondern insbesondere zum Beweis, daß es noch lange nicht an der Zeit ist, unsere amerikanische Thätigkeit zu beschließen.)

Eine lange Reihe von Jahren ist verfloßen, seit Sie dem Unterzeichneten Ihre Liebe bewiesen, die ich nicht vergeße, wenngleich Sie wenig Aufmerksamkeit auf meine Wenigkeit legen konnten, denn Zeit und Umstände ließen es nicht zu. Und

deutsche Sitte und Gottesfurcht fast nirgends mehr zu finden war, läßt sich denken; und daß Gleichgiltigkeit gegen Gottes Wort und Bekenntnis vorherrschte, wie sollte es anders möglich sein! An vier Plätzen suchte ich denn mit Gottes Hilfe das Banner des Kreuzes aufzurichten; ich fand hie und da Gehör und auch bald, besonders an zwei Orten, festen Fuß, um Gemeinden zu bilden und Kirchen zu bauen. Es gelang. Aber, aber, — meine gute Meinung und Toleranz wurde das Lehrgeld für mich für die Zukunft. Ich ließ mich nämlich von einigen Freunden und von meinem

Besel's original published letter

But you will reply to me: Why all this extensive riding when worship is kept only every 4 weeks? Is that not hard and useless for both pastor and congregation? – Our dear Germans at home would hardly accept this in Germany, but what is to be done here in this country? Or should each congregation call a pastor only for itself? I was alone far away and in a large field. Should I have left it to unionist people? Or should every congregation call a pastor only for itself? Now well, the Pennsylvanians could have done this, and the few that were gathered out of the Union did it; the other congregations were and partly still are too poor and partly too small in number to do such. The attempt was made, however, and unfortunately failed, when a pastor was called and sent from Fort Wayne, who was not at all adequate for the needs and wishes of the congregations. By this unsuccessful attempt my own labor was split apart and entirely hindered by the rage of the enemies rushing into the gap. As a whole my day's work here seemed to come to an end. The enemies of the Union became more and more brave and impudent; one church after another was closed to me, and one person after another threatened my life. My schoolboys of 22-28 years of age had learned to read, and both to the congregation and to me a change of persons seemed advisable. Then suddenly without initiative from either side I received on the second Christmas Day of 1852 a call to the Lutheran congregation in Staunton.

3) **In the state of Illinois.** This small congregation was gathered 6 years ago by Brother Lochner, was temporarily visited after Brother Lochner's departure by Brother Birkmann and was finally served by Brother Reisner for $\frac{3}{4}$ years until his blessed homegoing.

Looking back on my recent almost 4 years, I would have rather stayed in Ohio. Here the Lord presented us with two little sons, our Theophil, now 3 years old, and my dear Paul, born on March 21, 1853, for which Herr Haas in Nürnberg was appointed as godfather. Here quite a few were won through God's grace not only to the confession, but also to the Savior, as for example one Pennsylvanian man offered to feed me and my family at his expense in order to keep enjoying the blessing that these poor people did not have before, but were, as an old pious Pennsylvanian often said, heathen. Even if nothing else testified to the blessing of God, the following statement of this pious farmer would be sufficient: "Before Besel came here, we were as good as the heathen, - he has smashed the Union and made us Lutheran, - he has taken on the sects and beaten the Amish, he has baptized and taught our children." (In this congregation there were 3 families whose children, with a total of 19, had not been baptized.) But soli Deo gloria [to God alone be glory].

The journey from Holmes County in Ohio to Staunton in Illinois is long, about 1100 miles. For this reason we had to sell everything that we could do without in order to undertake this journey. On April 21 (that is only 4 weeks after the birth of little Paul) we departed with heavy hearts from the Pennsylvanians accompanying us for a while and weeping. On the 29th we arrived in St. Louis, where I had to leave the mother and her 3 children, who had all fallen sick along the way, with the dear pastor Wynecken for 2 ½ weeks and continued 40 miles further into the prairie of the state of Illinois. The prairie begins soon after St. Louis and extends towards the east for 300 miles to Chicago. A long and wide meadows, and yet what a multitude of Germans there! The nearest neighboring pastors are Straßen (32 miles), Birkmann (60 miles), Scholz (60 miles) and Baumgart. - My mission post is more in the middle of Western Illinois. Here is first the congregation in Staunton, which consisted only of 3 families when the dear pastor Reißner died. The forceful introduction of unknown and unfamiliar ceremonies and quite a few other things made this number so small.

Nine families extended the call to me, which were joined by 5 more families since then. Six miles from here I established a second Lutheran congregation of unchanged Augsburg Confession. I was able to found a third one 22 miles from here in our county capital in October last year, a fourth one is being formed 15 miles from here, and attempts to a fifth one will be made in the near future. In Staunton there is a worship service every Sunday, which I hold myself. Only every 4th Sunday, when I ride to Carlinville (the county capital), there is a reading worship service there. Six miles from here a service is every other Sunday, and in the other districts it takes place during the week. If the Lord gives grace and growth, two of these newly gathered congregations will soon call their own pastors, lifting a great burden from me. A man should stand here and visit the many places unhindered that are still without a preacher and are crying for help or will fall prey to the Methodists. So for example a man recently wrote to me, who moved here with 2 other families from one of my Ohio congregations, that I should have mercy and present at least once a year God's Word and the Holy Sacraments to them, since they know of no other help. But alas, these dear people live 150 miles from here; they are still poor, and I am unable to pay for the journey.

Taking everything together, I must sigh and look to the multitude that are without a shepherd and ask the LORD that His kingdom would come to them, too. I myself am longing for more rest, which would be very good for my frail health, because the fever

that is prevalent in these regions has taken its toll on us. After my family came to join me from St. Louis, the children had the whooping cough and a fever with a rash. After a short break on August 1, my wife was overcome by a high fever during my 5 day absence among distant congregations and lay helplessly for 4 days by herself. The following week the same fever seized the 3 children, and I had to be their nurse day and night. Eventually, exhausted by the exertion, I sank to join the 4 sick ones in a manner that the doctors gave up all hope for me. But the Lord wanted to extend my life some more and wondrously rescued me from death. Yet one was taken out of our midst, and this was my son dearest to my heart Paul, who died on September 29. – This rift was very painful for the flesh and took many a hope with it. But my soul rejoices to have one heir in heaven. Since I have so little opportunity to lessen my load, I had to carry the cold fever in my throat until recently, but now it is better. God be thanked and praised for this.

Now I must finally come to a conclusion, since I have already engaged your patience for a long time, and the pale ink makes the writing hard to read. But last night the ink froze at the oven, and I cannot immediately get more. Please forgive me for my boringness and other things.

The Lord be with you and with your fellow humble fellow-servant of Christ

Friedrich Besel.

Brighten Up Your Research by Adding Visuals: A Quick Look at the *U.S.S. NEW YORK*,¹ 1895-1899

BY KENNETH W. HEGER, PH.D.

We all take pride in our research and telling our family's history, relying on textual documents to provide the data. Many of us want to share our work, but we may need something extra to gain the interest of others. Inserting a picture, postcard, map, etc., into our work adds another dimension to the story, and it helps others understand our family's story more clearly. Finding and selecting visuals takes extra work, but it might be the bait you need to entice people to learn more about your family's exploits. Looking at the history of the *U.S.S. New York* at the end of the nineteenth century shows how you can add exciting illustrations to an ancestor's story with relative ease.

The Kiel Canal²

In 1895, the German Empire held a ceremony to open officially the new Kaiser Wilhelm Canal (also known as the Kiel Canal) connecting the North Sea with the Baltic Sea. The opening was an international affair, with naval vessels of many nations visiting Kiel for the event. Textual documents

¹ For more information on the *U.S.S. New York*, start with Wikipedia's page on the ship. It contains an overview of the ship's history and has useful footnotes to other sources. Be sure to access the page for the pre-dreadnought battleship; use the reference *U.S.S. New York (ACR-2)* when accessing Wikipedia.

² For more information on the Kiel Canal, start with Wikipedia's page on the canal. It contains an overview of the canal and the opening ceremonies along with useful footnotes to other sources.

tell us that a squadron of American naval vessels represented the United States at the canal's official opening. Records of the American consulate in Kiel recorded that the U.S.S. *San Francisco*, the U.S.S. *New York*, the U.S.S. *Columbia*, and the U.S.S. *Marblehead* formed the squadron. That record provides the evidence you need to document an aspect of your ancestor's life. Illustration 1 is a scan

1

Of the U. S. Arm of war have been at Kiel.

1866.	<i>Albatross</i>	Capt. Brauer.	
1874.	<i>Franklin</i>	Franklin	Geschwader Rear Admiral. Harden.
	<i>Alaska</i>	"	
1880.	<i>Enterprise</i>	Breege	(Commander)
1890.	<i>Baltimore</i>	W. P. Shelby	Nov 25/9 - 3/10 1894.

To the Testimonials of the Kaiser Wilhelm Canal.

Squadron, Rear Admiral, Kirkland.

1895.	<i>San Francisco</i>	Capt. E. H. Shepard	Nov 26 - 2/7 95
	<i>New York</i>	R. S. Evans	2/6 - 4/7 95.
	<i>Columbia</i>	G. Sumner	2/6 - 4/7 95
	<i>Marblehead</i>	O. Neil	2/6 - 4/6 95.

1901 *Enterprise* Commander E. H. Hughes 30/7 - 2/10 01
(Massachusetts Naval Training Ship)

Hartford Commander John H. Hawley 30/7 - 1/3 01

Buffalo Hutchins 4/10 - 4/8 01

1903. *Hearse* Capt. J. W. Humphill, Commander }
San Francisco Asa Wallis } 23/6 -
Chicago L. E. Coovernell } 30/6 03.
Nachias H. de Coca }

Rear Admiral R. S. Cotton, Commander in Chief.

1911 *Atlantic Squadron* (Commander R. Badger, Rear Admiral.)

<i>Louisiana</i>	Capt. Tinker.	24/6 1911 ~ 30/6 1911
<i>Kansas</i>	Hergewoff	
<i>New Hampshire</i>	Badger	
<i>South Carolina</i>	Fichtler	
<i>Cyclops</i>	Capt. George Wiley	

1911 *School Squadron* (Commander R. E. Banks, U. S. Navy)

<i>Texas</i>	Commander R. E. Banks	2/7 1911 ~ 12/7 11 7 Bergen Norwegen ab 1/7
<i>Indiana</i>	L. H. Mulhose	
<i>Massachusetts</i>	G. R. Kewell	

Illustration 1: List of American vessels

of the page from the Kiel consulate's Miscellaneous Record Book³ listing the names of American vessels that visited the city. That is a good start, but why stop there? The following text provides a cache of potential illustrations and how you could use them in your research.

Illustration 2 is a map of Kiel harbor. The map is dated 1897 so it postdates the

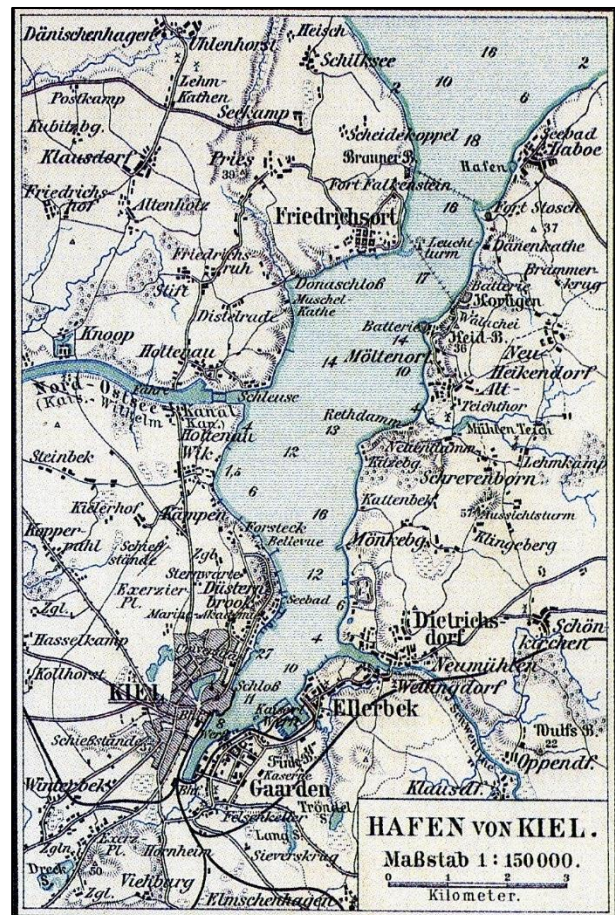


Illustration 2: Kiel Harbor

³ National Archives Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State; Records of the American Consulate in Kiel, Germany; Miscellaneous Record Book, 1866-1914; Page 001; Vol. 001; NAID 1327108. Note: This volume is also digitally available online at NARA's website, www.archives.gov. Go to the "Research Our Records" page on NARA's website and enter the volume's NAID into the search box. The search results will take you to the digital copy of the volume.

canal's opening, but it shows the canal's location in Kiel harbor, the distance between the canal and the city, and gives you a clearer idea where your ancestor's ship may have been.⁴ Now you have placed your ancestor geographically.

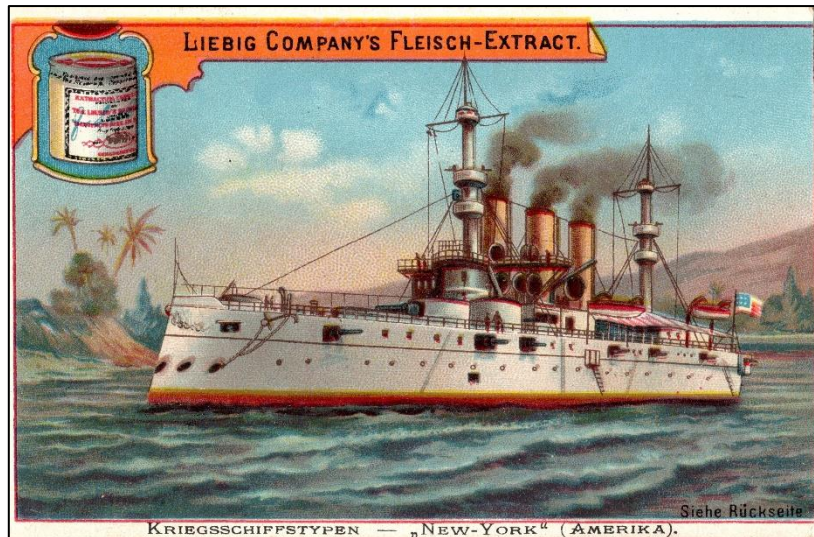


Illustration 3: U.S.S. New York

Illustration 4 might have value to your ancestor's story as well. It shows the Austro-Hungarian armored cruiser *S.M.S. Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresa*.⁶ The *Maria Theresa* represented Austria-Hungary at the canal's opening and is an example of one of the sights your naval ancestor would have seen: foreign naval vessels. Coincidentally, this image is among the same six-card Liebig product trade card set as the *New York*. (Spoiler: this article demonstrates the wisdom of examining records closely and taking thorough notes in case we need to reexamine the records.)

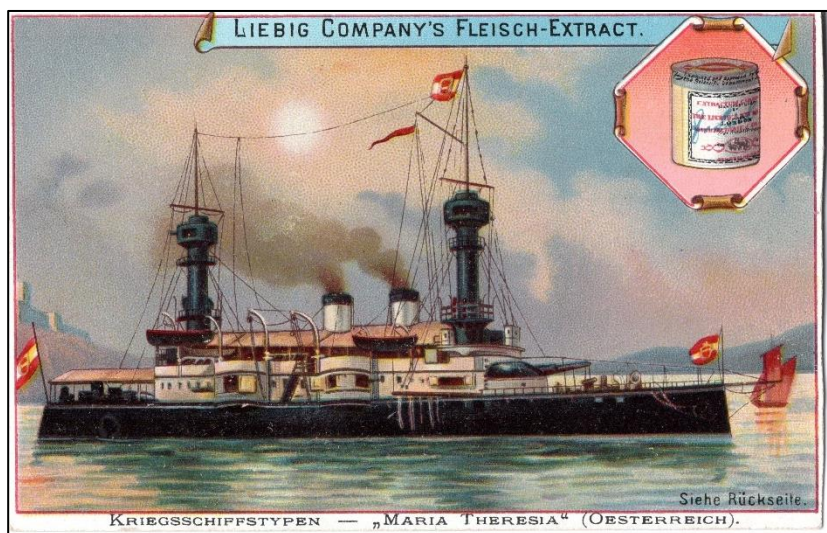


Illustration 4: S.M.S. Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresa

Illustration 5 is an image of the reason the squadron was in Kiel, the ceremony officially opening the canal. It is a fantastic image of the pomp associated with the event and would greatly

⁴ This insert is part of a larger map of Schleswig-Holstein published in the 5th edition of *Meyers Konversations-Lexicon*. Hermann Julius Meyer, Leipzig and Vienna, 1897.

⁵ From the author's collection. The other five nations represented in this set are: Austria-Hungary, England, France, Germany, and Italy.

⁶ From the author's collection.

enhance your family's story. When your ancestor experienced a major event, or even a smaller, local ceremony, having an image of that event will be a key document to include in your family's history.⁷ In this case, the card is a quality reproduction of a vintage postcard.



Illustration 5: Ceremonial opening of the Kiel Canal (*Kaiser Wilhelmkanal*)



Illustrations 6 (at left) and 7 (at right) are extra, little additions. **Illustration 6** is the American flag; that is an easy way to illustrate your veteran ancestor's life. **Illustration 7** is the American nineteenth-century naval jack; that image is rarer but a nice touch to add to a naval veteran's biography. Both these cards were trade cards the Breisch-Williams Caramel Company of Oxford, PA included in its packages of candy.⁸ While these images are minor ones, they might add a little pizzaz to your ancestor's biography.



⁷ From the author's collection; it is a reproduction of a postcard from the time.

⁸ Both images are from the author's collection.

A Chance Encounter During the Spanish-American War

The *New York*'s story after its trip to the Baltic Sea shows how your research might uncover unexpected surprises and let you reuse images to illustrate several events. After attending the opening of the Kiel Canal, the *New York* returned to American waters. When war broke out between the United States and Spain in 1898 the *New York* sailed to the Caribbean near Cuba as part of an American squadron blockading the island and supporting American troops. Admiral William Sampson commanded the squadron and used the *New York* as his flagship.⁹

In an interesting twist of fate, the *New York* was not the only ship in the Caribbean during the Spanish-American War that had been at the Kiel Canal opening. At the outbreak of hostilities, the Austro-Hungarian government ordered the cruiser *Maria Theresa*¹⁰ to the West Indies on a mission to evacuate Austrian and German citizens from Santiago, Cuba. As the Austrian vessel approached the island, an American ship spotted the *Maria Theresa* and, fearing it was a Spanish warship, alerted the American fleet. The Americans sprang into action. Fortunately, the Americans realized their mistake before shots were fired. Admiral Sampson's *New York* was involved in inspecting the *Maria Theresa* to ensure the cruiser was not a threat; Admiral Sampson eventually allowed the ship to perform its mission.



To start illustrating this part of your ancestor's life, you can reuse the images of the *New York* and the *Maria Theresa* (Illustrations 3 and 4). To help you, your family, and others understand how the misidentification of the *Maria Theresa* might have happened, look at Illustrations 8 and 9 at left.¹¹ **Illustration 8** (left) shows the Austrian naval flag, and **Illustration 9** (right) shows the Spanish flag. Looking closely at the two flags, you can see similarities. Both have red horizontal stripes at the top and the bottom of the flag. Both have a coat of arms in the middle field. At a distance, the differences between the emblems in that middle field and the different color of the center stripes may

have been difficult to discern, especially as the *Maria Theresa*'s flag fluttered in the wind. The sudden, unexpected arrival of an unidentified warship with a flag resembling that of the enemy must have been an unsettling moment. The images of the two flags provide you with a unique perspective on the experience of sailors serving on the *New York*, the *Maria Theresa*, and any other American

⁹ Refer to footnote one for additional research. The Wikipedia pages on the Spanish-American War and William Sampson may be of use to you as well.

¹⁰ See the Wikipedia page for the *Maria Theresa* for more information on the ship's service history and useful footnotes to other sources. (*SMS Kaiserin und Königin Maria Theresa*)

¹¹ Both Illustration 8 and Illustration 9 are from the author's collection. The Players Cigarette Company issued these cards as part of a series of flags of the world, including these trading cards in their product packages.

ship involved in the incident. Following the examples in the Kiel Canal section above, you can add images of other American ships, Spanish cruisers, a map of Cuba, etc.

Finding Visuals

For MAGS members, the Society's website is a good place to begin to hunt for potential illustrations. Over the years, MAGS projects have included scanning thousands of postcards and maps. Our web committee always does a stellar job ingesting these images into our website so that members have access to an ever-growing source of visuals. If you have not done so, take some time to familiarize yourself with the website and browse through the scans. Remember, it's www.magsgen.com.

You no doubt noticed several of these images came from a non-traditional source: food company and tobacco company product trading cards. That gives the images an added "Wow!" factor. Not only will they illustrate your ancestor's life, but they may engender additional interest in your work owing to the uniqueness of the images and the creative way you used them. As you begin to use such images, you will note that Illustrations 6 and 7 show wear from their life of more than a century; you should handle brittle images carefully and store them properly, but that should not dissuade you from using them. Using sites like Ebay and Etsy, you can find original product cards; a Google search will help you find others. A retail company like Zazzle offers quality reproductions of vintage postcards and product trade cards. (Naturally, MAGS does not endorse any one site; these are merely suggestions to help you start your research.)

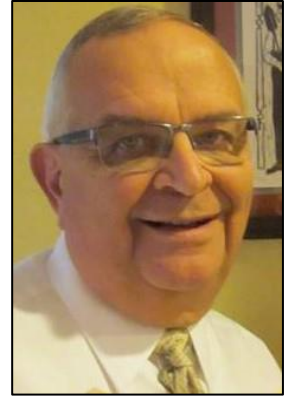
Finally, you will note several of this article's footnotes refer to Wikipedia. It is wise to use Wikipedia cautiously, but it can be a good place to find resources for additional research. In addition, many Wikipedia pages include visual images, and the citations to those images, that you might be able to use when writing your family history or that may give you clues about where to look for images.

Hopefully, this short article shows you the value of illustrating your family history, introduces you to the range of sources where you can find illustrations, and inspires you to look in non-traditional places. You do not need to try to incorporate every image you find into your family history right away, or even at all. At the same time, it is always better to have more sources for our projects than not enough. Now go forth and spruce up your ancestors' biographies with exciting visuals.

Dr. Heger is the president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and a retired senior lecturer at the University of Maryland College of Information Studies (UMD iSchool). He is a research associate at the college's Digital Curation Innovation Center. His research and teaching centers on digital curation, particularly around cultural collections.

UNSERE SPRACHBLÄTTER**OUR LANGUAGE LEAVES*****Isch hab dich gelle gern!***

Over the course of the past few weeks, I have been asked several times about German dialects, so I thought it was time to write an article on the topic for *Der Kurier*. Dialects are not readily understood by the English-speaking population of the US, since we really don't have them in this country. We do indeed have regionalisms in our language: in the Pittsburgh area carbonated drinks are known as "pop," while elsewhere in the state they are called "soda," just to cite one example. We also have differences from area to area in our pronunciations. It is pretty obvious when a person is from the Boston area vs. a person being from Texas. But, in spite of these differences in "accent," the basic structure of English is not different. The same applies for those from England, or from any other English-speaking country for that matter. The Brits call sneakers "trainers," to name just one difference, but the basic English language structure remains intact. While an American speaker of English may have difficulty understanding the Brit because of the latter's "accent," they are speaking one and the same language.

**Ken Weaver**

Some linguists suggest that there are over 160 different dialects of English, but my contention is that there are 160 different "accents" with a variety of regionalized expressions and terms, and that the language structure is essentially the same in all. That is not the case with German dialects.

The German Empire of 1910 comprised much of central Europe and was approximately 80% the size of our state of Texas in square mileage. In those 208,800 square miles, there were over 250 different German dialects spoken, many of which are still spoken today, although their use is waning with the passing of each generation. While the issue of accent isn't as huge a difference as with English, German dialects vary greatly in not only vocabulary but also grammatical issues such as word order.

While it is highly unlikely that you will find official records of your German ancestors written in a dialect, it is possible that you may find letters or comments in a family Bible written in one, although some of the dialects were strictly oral languages and really have no written component.

Dialects have been extensively studied for centuries in the German-speaking territory, but before delving into that topic, it is first important to understand the German that is found in German records. Officially it is known as *Standarddeutsch*, Standard German. (It was once known as "high German," but that term is misleading, and hopefully, by the end of this discussion, the reader will understand why Standard German is the preferred terminology.)

The development of this Standard German dates back to 1522, when Reformation leader Martin Luther translated the New Testament from its original Latin and Greek texts into a language that all Germans could understand. Twelve years later in 1534, he published his translation of the Old Testament and it is this work that created what we know as Standard German today. It is the language of the press, education, government, and TV and radio. A German from Hamburg in the

north will understand it as will the Bavarian in the south. (Remember, though, all languages are not static; they change over time. New words and phrases come and go within a language, so that terms understood a hundred years ago no longer carry meaning today.)

While standard German is the unifying language of the German-speaking territory, the dialects which predate it by centuries have been extensively studied, compared, and contrasted. While each dialect is unique and different in terms of vocabulary, grammatical structure, and sounds, they do have similarities. They have been categorized into three regional groups, as illustrated in the map below. (The dividing lines are known as the *Benrather Linie* and the *Speyer Linie*.)

The names of these dialect regions are based on the geography of the territory. The Alpine region in the south has the dialects entitled *Hochdeutsch*, high German, sometimes referred to *Oberdeutsch*, over German. The central section of dialects is known as *Mitteldeutsch*, or middle German. And in the north, where the terrain is very flat, the dialects are known as *Plattdeutsch*, low (or flat) German. The dialect regions in no way reflect anything but the geography of the land and have absolutely nothing to do with the socioeconomics or class structure of the people who live in the region.

Each of the regions has a wide variety of different dialects. To name just a few:

In the north, there is *Niedersächsisch*, *Niederfränkisch*, *Pommersch*, and *Westfälisch*. The central section includes *Rheinfränkisch*, *Sächsisch*, *Schlesisch*, and *Thüringisch*. The southern region includes *Schwäbisch*, *Allemannisch*, and *Bairisch*.

Among other things, the phonetics or sounds of the dialects helped researchers determine the similarities of the dialects within the region. In the *Plattdeutsch* area, words contain more of what might be called “hard” consonant sounds, such as “k.” Further south in the *Mitteldeutsch* region, that same sound is “softer” and not as harsh, and became “ch.” (That is not the English “ch” as in cheese, but rather the German “ch” as in *ach*.) The same applies to the “harder” “p” sound in the *Mitteldeutsch* area as it became a “softer” “pf” in the southern *Hochdeutsch* section.

It is this difference in sounds that has the biggest impact on genealogists, for it helps to determine where a German surname might originate. For instance, Adolf Bach in his published research entitled *Deutsche Namenkunde* (German Onomastics) in 1956 provided examples of how names sounded in the various regions. In the north, names like Piper, Koopmann, Wittenberg, and Holthusen have “softer” consonant sounds than their southern counterparts Pfeifer, Kaufmann, Weissenburg, and Holzhausen.



In addition to sound differences, dialects impact endings of surnames. To illustrate, examples include the diminutive suffix *-le*, found frequently in Baden and Württemberg, or *-leb*, found in surnames in Hesse and derived from the *Sächsisch* suffix *-leben*. A very thorough article on dialectic surname suffixes can be found online at <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~mstone/dialectical.html>. While the author studied surnames of German immigrants in the Syracuse, NY, area in particular, the list is rather extensive and shows exactly how dialects have impacted surnames.

Hoping the reader now has some basic understanding of the impact the many dialects have on surnames, it is important to show exactly how different the dialects are. In an article published by *Süddeutsche Zeitung* in 2007, one can readily see the differences among several dialects and standard German in the short sentence “I love you.” One does not have to speak German to see how different the vocabulary is in the various dialects.

<u>Standarddeutsch</u>	<u>Ich liebe dich.</u>
<i>Sächsisch</i>	<i>Ich gnuddl dich.</i>
<i>Rheinland</i>	<i>Isch leev disch.</i>
<i>Bairisch</i>	<i>I mog di.</i>
<i>Allgäuerisch</i>	<i>I däd die grad nemma.</i>
<i>Baden</i>	<i>Lüsch, hab düüsch lüüb.</i>
<i>Öcher Platt</i>	<i>Komma bei müsch bei.</i>
<i>Hessisch</i>	<i>Ay gude, isch hab disch gelle gern.</i>
<i>Graz</i>	<i>Du bei awas fesch.</i>
<i>Ruhrpott</i>	<i>Perle, ich mag Dich.</i>
<i>Hamburg</i>	<i>Ich känn dish gut laidn.</i>
<i>Schwäbisch</i>	<i>Lieb hanni di.</i>
<i>Berlin</i>	<i>Ick liebe Dir.</i>
<i>Steiermark</i>	<i>I hob di gäärn.</i>
<i>Fränkisch</i>	<i>Ich mog dich, Du Bredd.</i>
<i>Siebenberger Sächsisch</i>	<i>Ech hun dich lähv, men Schatzgen.</i>

From: <https://www.sueddeutsche.de/leben/bildstrecke-ich-liebe-dich-in-verschiedenen-dialekten-1.352719>

One of the questions I was asked about dialects was the status of what is known in this country as Pennsylvania Dutch. It is indeed a German dialect but unlike its counterparts in Europe, English has greatly influenced it. In the 18th Century, the original German immigrants from the Palatinate in southwestern Germany brought with them their dialect, most likely related to *Pfälzisch*, but since it spoken on this side of the Atlantic its evolution over the years reflects the English spoken here. It is used extensively in the Amish communities, not only in Pennsylvania, but also in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin to name just a few states. Amish church services are conducted in Pennsylvania Dutch, although the Bible used at these services is the Martin Luther translation of the 1500s read with Pennsylvania Dutch pronunciation. Because of its isolation from day-to-day German, speakers of Pennsylvania Dutch are very prone to use what is known as “code switching,” where any Pennsylvania Dutch word unknown to the speaker is replaced without much fanfare with an English word. (It is suggested that 10–15% of Pennsylvania Dutch vocabulary is actually English!)

I am hopeful that this discussion has provided some insight into German dialects and has answered more questions than it created. There certainly are many more complicated linguistic aspects to dialects, such as consonant shifts, that I could have mentioned, but I attempted to provide an overview without getting too technical. *Bis zum nächsten Mal, tschüß!*

(Sadly, although raised in the Pennsylvania Dutch speaking section of the state, I do not have any skills in the dialect. Pennsylvania Dutch was the language my grandparents used when they didn't want my mother to know what was being said, and they unfortunately did not pass their knowledge along!)

As a native Pennsylvania Dutchman, Weaver can trace most every line of ancestors to a German immigrant in the 18th century, so it was only natural that he learn to speak German and did so under the tutelage of a very inspiring immigrant high school German teacher. Majoring in German at Millersville University, he studied at Philipps-Universität as a junior and upon graduation began a career as a German teacher and later became a principal. Upon retirement from the public schools, he taught at the college level until moving to Florida. Feel free to e-mail suggestions for this column to kenneth.n.weaver@gmail.com.

VORSCHRIFT IST VORSCHRIFT**STICK TO THE SCRIPT**

Five Advanced Tips for Deciphering German Handwriting

Editor's note: This will be Katherine's last regular column for *Der Kurier*. Editor Emeritus James M. Beidler and I thank her for her excellent contributions to the publication over the past three years and we wish her the best!

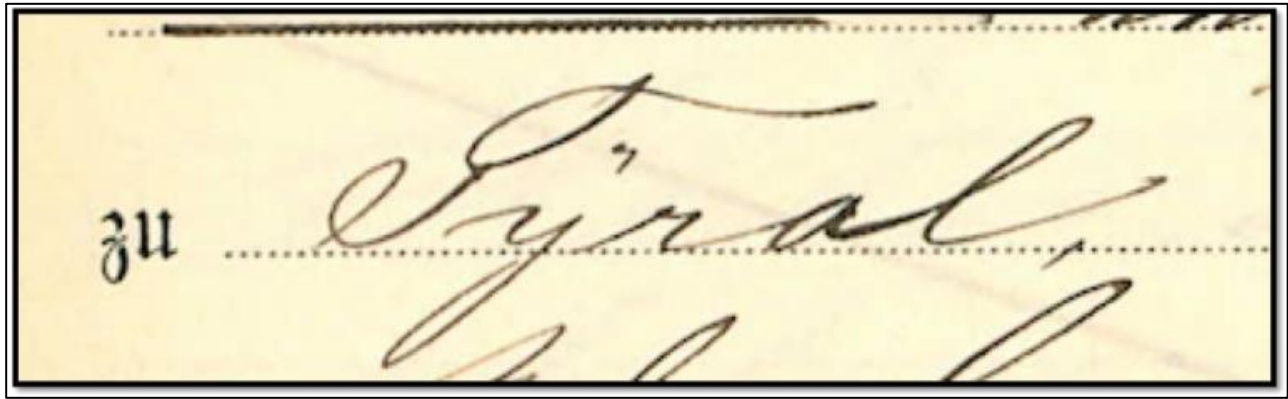


Katherine Schober

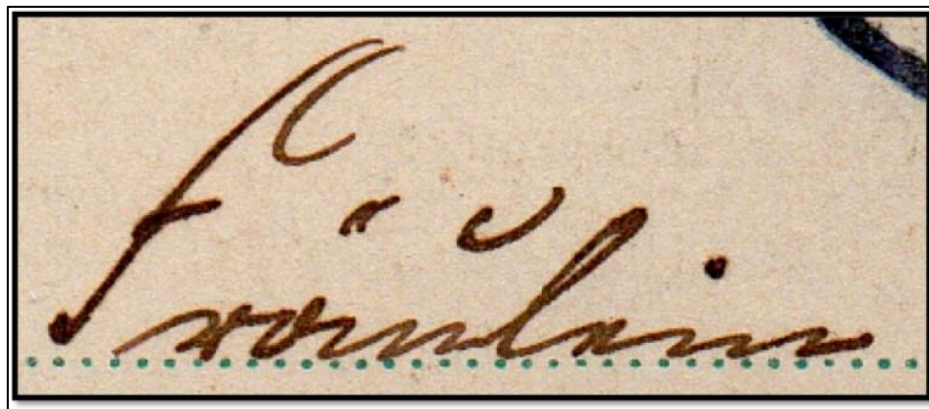
Throughout the past three years, this column has focused on different aspects of the old German handwriting. As you consistently improve in your knowledge of the individual letters, I wanted to discuss some more advanced facets of the handwriting that can sometimes confuse people—and teach you how to overcome these obstacles yourself.

1. Umlaut Variations

Umlauts, which are the two dots that can be found over the “a,” “o,” “u,” and sometimes “y” should usually be just that—two dots. Sometimes, however, scribes got a little creative and varied the way in which they wrote their umlauts. It's therefore important to be aware of just what variations these umlauts might take so that you can recognize them when you see them. Below are three different examples of types of umlauts you may see in your German documents.



The umlaut above the "y" in the word "Tyrol" (a state in Austria) is pretty standard, although the two dots seem to be connected in the middle here.

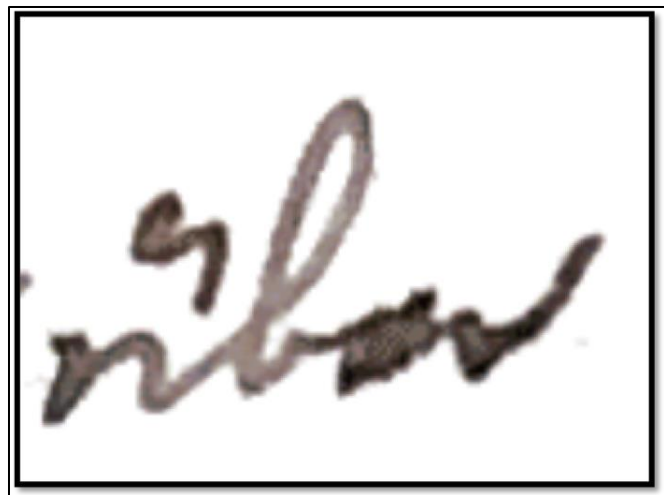


The umlaut above the "a" in the word "Fräulein" (Miss) has the two dots almost completely joined together—you may not recognize them as separate dots at first.

It is also helpful to know that if you see *any* of these umlaut variations above a letter, it is going to be an "a," "o," "u," or "y" below, as those are the only letters that can be umlauted. That narrows down your letter options from 26 to 4! Remember, the umlauted "y" does not occur in modern German. It is much more common in older documents.

2. German Letter Combinations

It is very helpful to be able to sight-read certain letter combinations so that you no longer have to take time to decipher every individual letter in your document. Below are some of the most common letter combinations in the German language. Once you memorize these, your deciphering task will become much easier!



The umlaut above the "u" in "über" (about, over) almost looks like a sideways zigzag! Some scribes were very creative in their umlauts.



sch

ß (sounds like "ss")

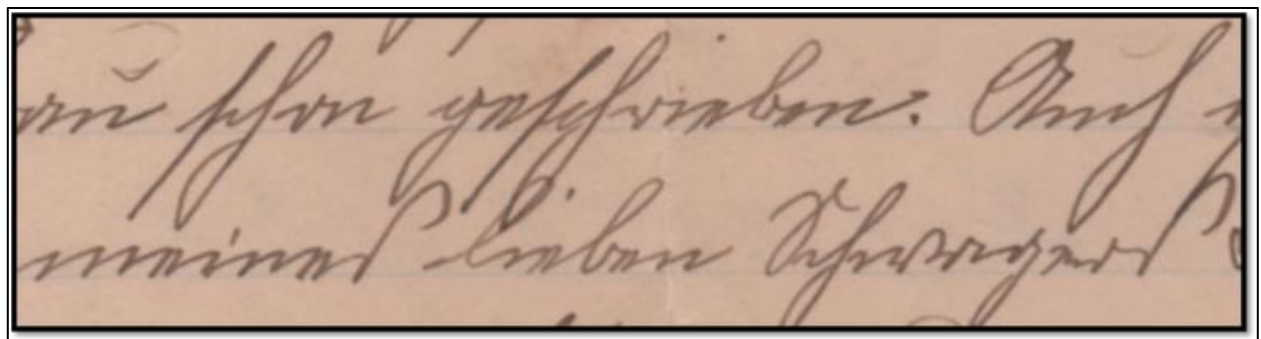
st



ch

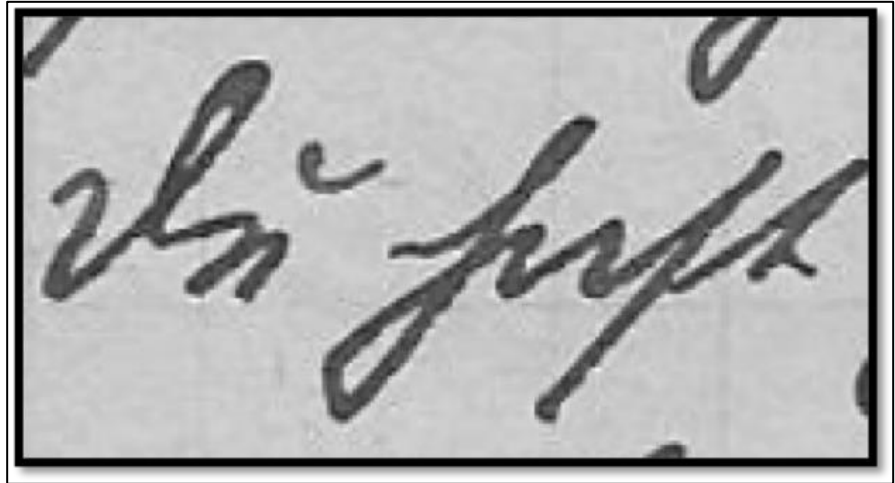
ck

th



Can you see the "sch" at the beginning of the first full word above? That word is "schon" (already). This letter combination is also present in the next word, "geschrieben" (wrote).

Can you see the "st" at the end of "du hast" (you have)?



3. Tricky Letter Mix-Ups

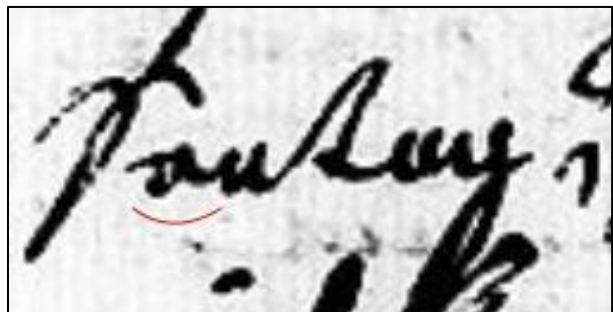
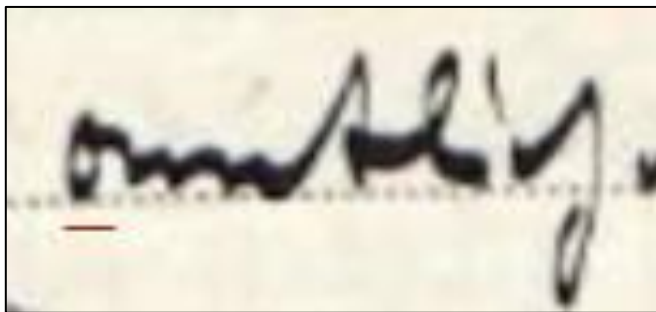
In March's issue, we discussed many letter look-alikes that often get confused with one another. Two of the most difficult letter pairs to differentiate from one another are "a/o" and "g/p."



"a" and "o"



As you can see above, the "o" (at right above) should end with a hook to the right, while the "a" (at left above) should flow directly into the next letter. However, if the scribe does not bring his final line of the "a" down to the line, these two letters can be very tricky to tell apart (as seen in the words "amtlich" [official] and "Sontag" [sic] [Sunday] below).



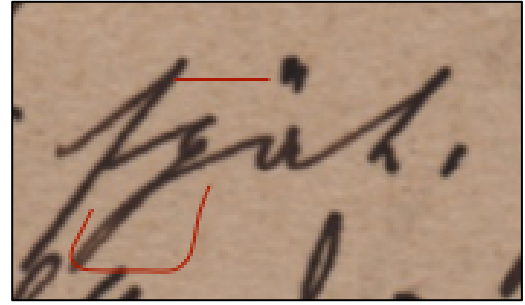
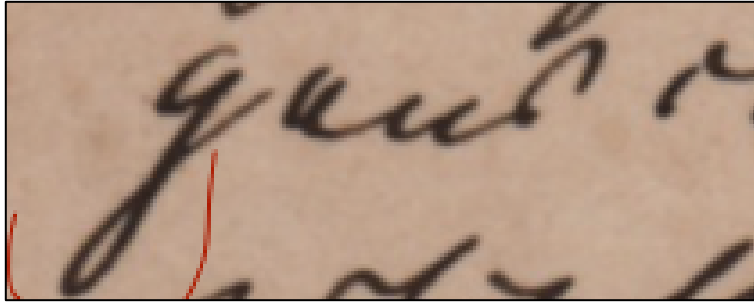
"g" and "p"



Notice where the circles are on these two letters. The "g's" circle (at left) is to the left of the bottom loop, while the "p's" circle (at right) is to the right of the bottom loop. That is one of the only ways to tell these two letters



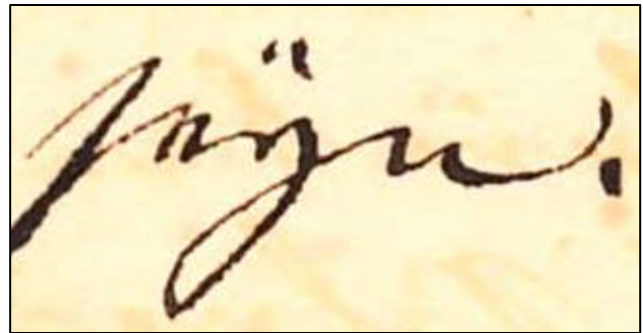
apart. See an example of a "g" in "-gens" (the end of the word "morgens," meaning "in the morning") and a "p" in the word "spät" (late) below.



4. Old-Fashioned Spellings

Even if you can decipher the handwritten word itself, some words are spelled in an old-fashioned manner, meaning that you may not be able to find them in a dictionary. It is therefore important to be aware of old-fashioned spelling patterns, such as:

- An extra “h” in a word. (You may see this in words such as “*verheirathet*” [married] or “*Monath*” [month].)
- “eÿ” instead of “ei.” (You may see this in words such as “*seÿn*” instead of “*sein*” [to be] or “*beÿ*” instead of “*bei*” [a preposition].)
- “I” instead of “J.” (You may see this in very old documents, in words such as “*Iahr*” instead of “*Jahr*” [year].)

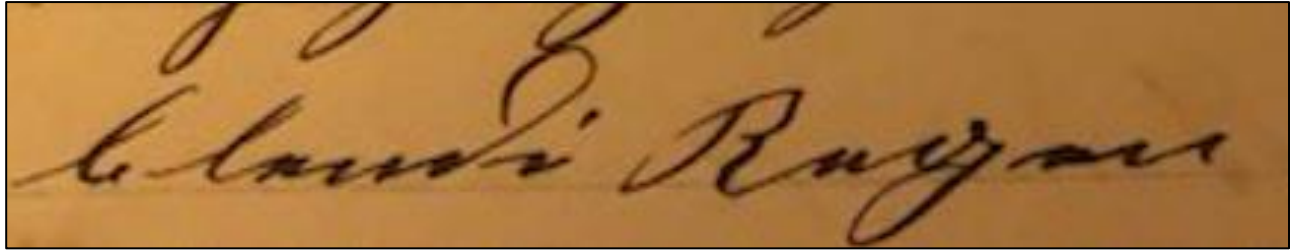


**“seÿn”, an old-fashioned spelling of “sein”.
See the umlaut above the “y”?**

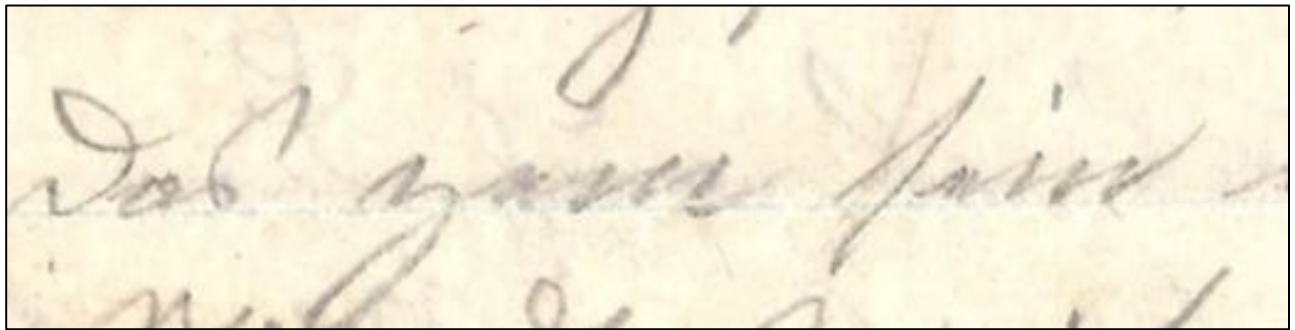
5. Denglisch (Deutsch [German] + Englisch [English])

Sometimes in the past, especially for those German ancestors already living in America, you may see your author combining the German and English languages—by writing English words with German spelling patterns! Therefore, it is important to be aware that:

- 1) This did happen semi-frequently in letters from German immigrants. If a word doesn’t make sense in German, consider the fact that it might be an English word with German phonetics.
- 2) Germans frequently mixed up certain letters in spelling. These include:
 - f/v
 - k/g
 - t/d
 - p/b



This excerpt from a letter from a German in America says "*blendi Regen*." It took me a long time to figure out that by "*blendi*" he meant "plenty"—an English word in the midst of his German document. "b" and "p" and "d" and "t" are common swaps with one another and remembering this helped me to decipher this word.



The second word in this phrase from a German immigrant's letter says "*zem*." Again, it took me a while to figure out that the author meant "same" in English (in the midst of his otherwise German document). The "e" in German sounds like a long "a," and the "z" sounds like a "ts"—similar to the "s" for "same" in his mind, I suppose!

I hope that these advanced tips help you as you continue your handwriting journey! Best of luck!

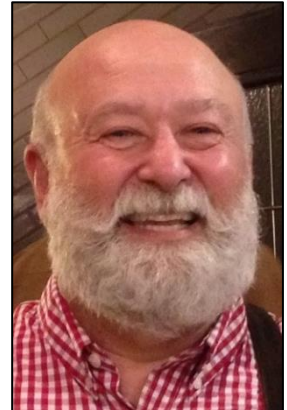
Schober is the author of the book, *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*, and creator of the online course, *Reading the Old German Handwriting*. Her business is SK Translations, found on the web at www.SKTranslations.com.

DNA-ENTDECKUNGEN

DNA DISCOVERIES

The X Chromosome's Unique Inheritance

As observed in earlier articles, there are different types of DNA that can be used to study family relationships. These include autosomal DNA, mitochondrial DNA, and the sex-determining chromosomes, Y DNA and X DNA. In this issue, I'd like to discuss the unique qualities of the X chromosome. As with all our chromosomes, one copy comes from our mother. But the complimentary sex chromosome from our father is either another X chromosome or a Y chromosome. This roll of the dice determines whether the child is a girl or a boy. It is interesting to consider the effect on our genomes that result from inheriting a single or two X chromosomes (outside the obvious gender factor). This includes the inheritance pattern, the amount of X DNA, and the ancestors who may have contributed X DNA. An important note is that we are not talking about mitochondrial DNA, which provides information about the matrilinear ancestry.



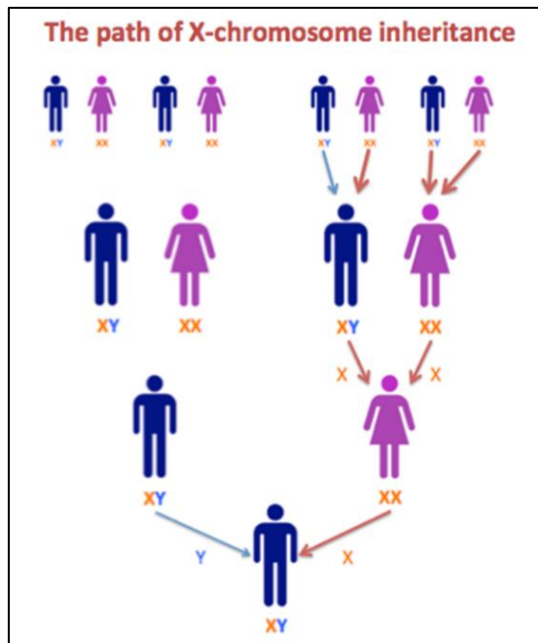
Andrew
Hochreiter

Although X DNA is distinct, a separate test is not required. Results are incorporated into the autosomal test by the test companies. This is because the X chromosome recombines like the autosomal chromosomes. Reporting and tools for X results vary at the different test companies.

- Ancestry DNA does not use in total centimorgans (cM) or matching.
- MyHeritage does not use in total cM or matching.
- 23andMe includes in total cM and matching.
- FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA) includes in Family Finder results.
 - Not counted in total cM shared
 - Reported at 1 cM or greater if two people already match on another chromosome

Despite these differences, all four companies include the X chromosome in the raw data download. Since Ancestry and MyHeritage do not report X DNA, these results need to be transferred (as part of autosomal results) to FTDNA to use the X DNA data. A transfer to a third-party tool called GEDmatch can also be done to analyze X DNA data.

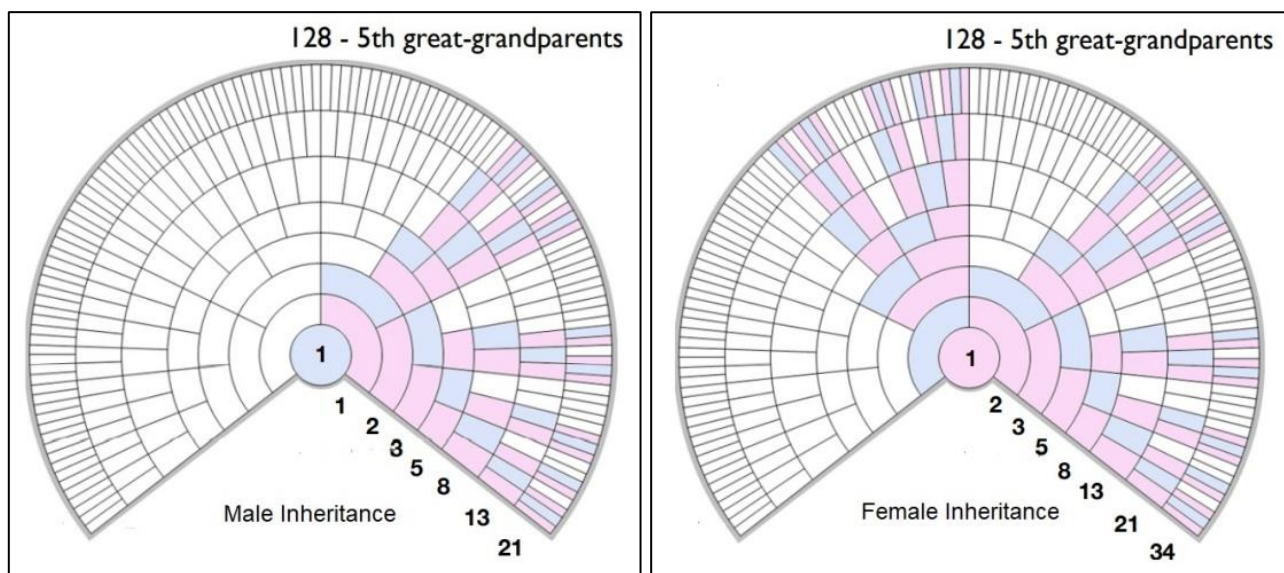
To begin, males have only one X chromosome, which is inherited from their mothers. Females have two X chromosomes, one from each parent. This forms a unique inheritance pattern that is different for men and women.



The X chromosome is larger than the Y chromosome, with 155 million base pairs (bps) as compared to 59 million bps. The difference between men and women also affects the amount of X DNA in their genomes. Centimorgans (cM) are used in genetic genealogy to measure the amount of shared DNA between individuals to estimate relationships. Males have about 196 cM of X DNA while females have about 392 cM (they have two X chromosomes, so they have twice the amount). These amounts therefore influence matches on the X chromosomes. The X chromosome accounts for about 5% of the total human genome and contains upward of 1,200 genes.

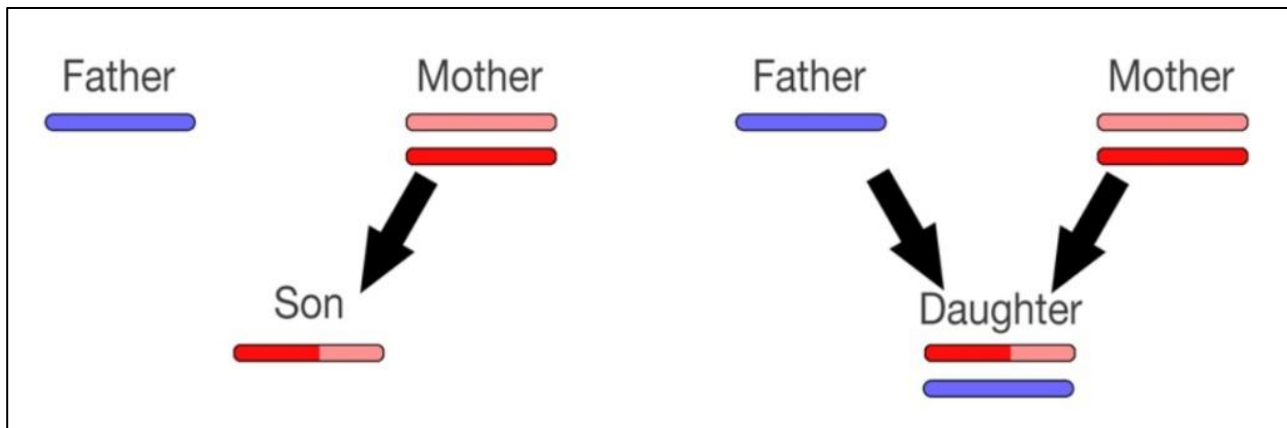
Men inherit X DNA from their mothers and pass this to their daughters but not their sons (fathers pass the Y chromosome to their sons). The X chromosome from

the mother is a recombination of her two X chromosomes or a whole copy of one of them. The fan charts below highlight the ancestors who could possibly contribute X DNA. Notice in the male case that it is limited to his maternal side. X DNA is never passed from male to male. Ancestors on a male's paternal side do not contribute any X DNA. The numbers along the edge represent the possible ancestors at each generation who could contribute to the X DNA. This narrows the ancestral lines who are associated with the X chromosome. So, for a male, there are 21 ancestors out of 128 at the fifth-great-grandparents' generation who could have contributed X DNA.



Women inherit an X chromosome from their fathers and an X from their mothers. The X from the father is 100% from his mother (the daughter's paternal grandmother). A woman's X from her mother is a recombination of her mother's two Xs. The X chromosome in a female from her father offers additional ancestors from the paternal side. For females, there are 34 ancestors out of 128 at the fifth-great-grandparents' generation who could have contributed X DNA. An interesting fact is

that the number of ancestors increases in the Fibonacci Sequence. This sequence is the series of numbers: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21, 34, etc. The next number is found by adding up the two previous numbers. So, the 2 is found by adding the two numbers before it ($1 + 1$), and then the 3 is found by adding the two numbers before it ($1 + 2$), and so on.

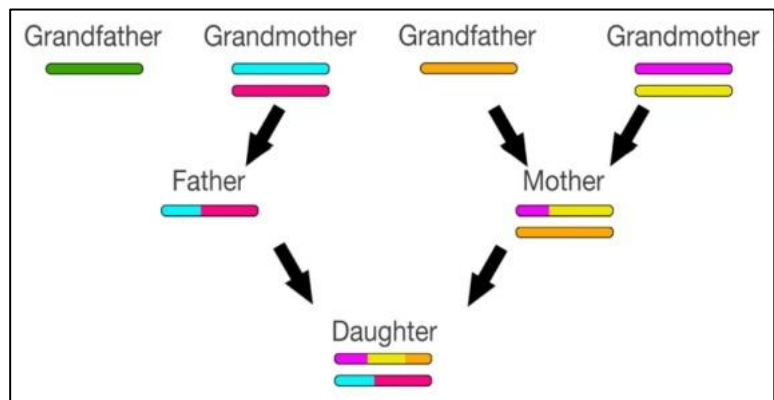


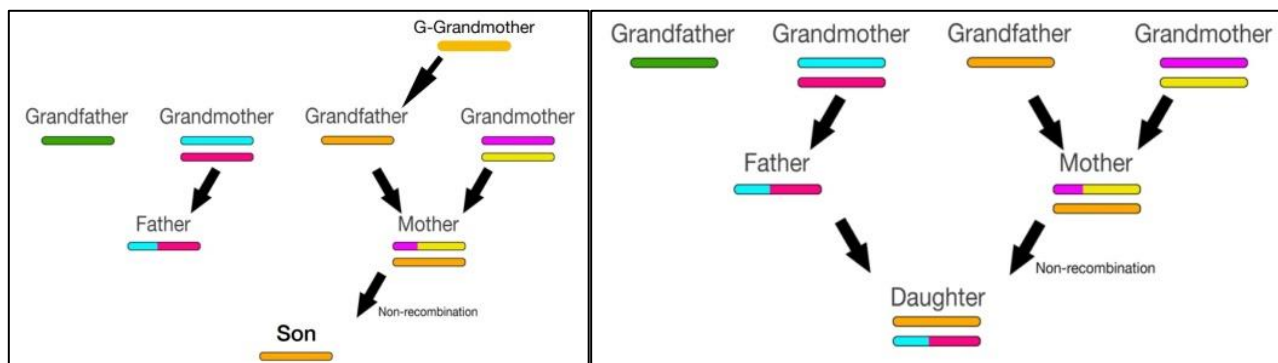
Example scenarios of X chromosome inheritance for a son and a daughter

There are also other circumstances that affect matching. Recombination can factor into the picture when the X DNA from a mother mixes her two X chromosomes (one from each parent), which passes a new chromosome arrangement on to her child (son or daughter). A mother's two X chromosomes don't always recombine. Around 14% of the time, one of the mother's X chromosomes is passed unbroken to her child. Some of this randomness is illustrated in the following situations:

- If a brother has X matches in common with his sister(s), then the sisters will know that those matches must have come from their mother, as their brother could only have inherited them from their mother.
- A daughter will share a whole X chromosome with her father.
- Full sisters will share a whole X chromosome, inherited from their father.
- Half-sisters will share a whole X chromosome if they have the same father.
- It's possible that two siblings may not share any X DNA.
- A male who has an unknown X DNA match will know the relationship is on his maternal side.

Here are some illustrations of these recombined and non-recombined situations in sons and daughters.





It is important to consider the gender of the match. An X DNA match between two males limits the connection to the maternal side for both. An X DNA match between a male and female narrows the man's connection to his maternal side, but the female could be either. Nevertheless, X DNA still can discount many lines. An X DNA match between two women can be limited the least, but still discounts many lines.

The test company FTDNA conveniently identifies X matches. On the autosomal DNA matches page, X matches are shown. To explore the X match further, the Chromosome Browser tool can be accessed, which provides the matching segments on the X chromosome. Small segments can be problematic as false positives. It is wise to investigate segments of at least 10 cM for males and 20 cM for females.

Chromosome Browser

In Common With

Not In Common With

dnagen tools

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1-30 of 3877

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Page 1

/ 130

Go

All (3877)

Paternal (252)

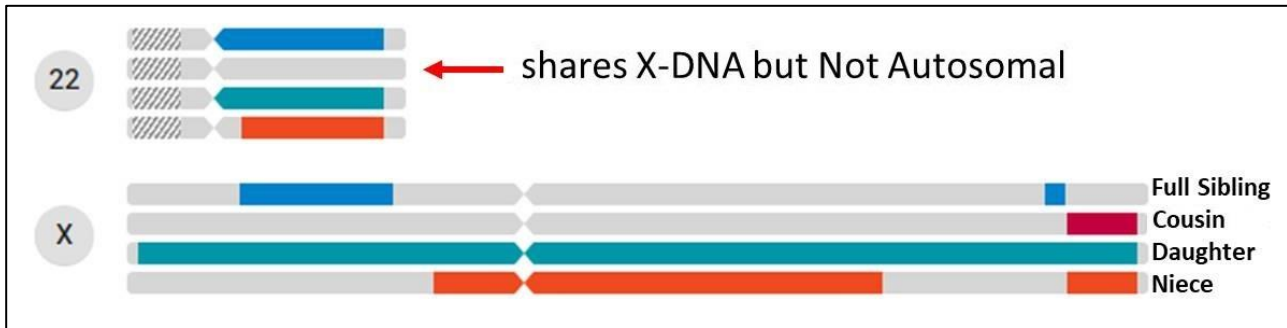
Maternal (371)

Both (2)

Calculating Family Matching

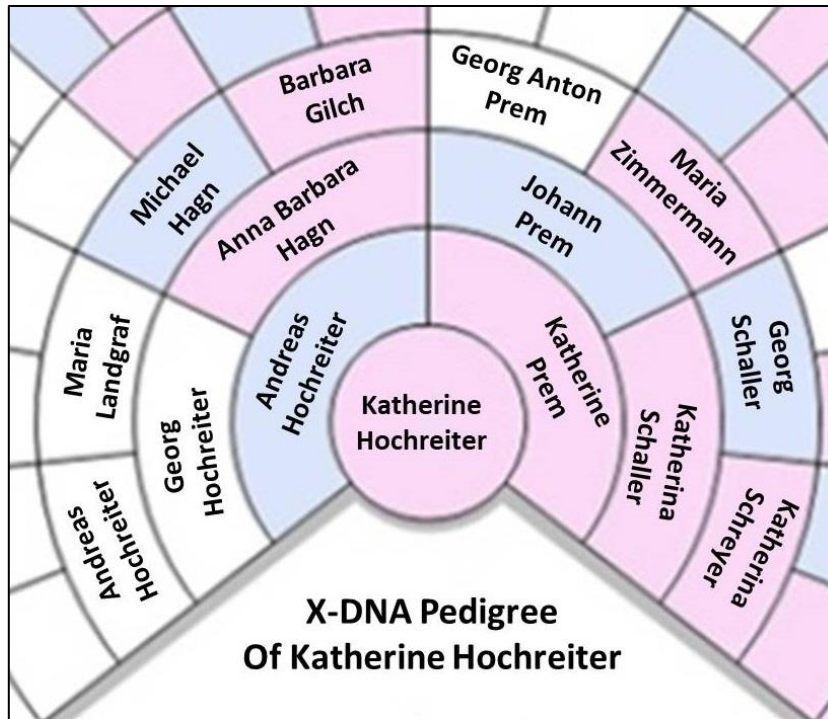
Name	Match Date	Relationship Range	Shared Centimorgans	Longest Block	X-Match	Linked Relationship	Ancestral Surnames
☐ 08/25/2016 Full Sister 2,631 219 X-Match Sister							
☐ 07/19/2016 Full Brother, Half Brother, Grandfather/ Grandson 2,269 219 X-Match Brother							
☐ 01/16/2017 1st Cousin, Half Sister, Grandmother/ Granddaughter, Aunt/ Niece 1,195 102 1st Cousin							

Multiple X matches can be compared to ascertain segments from common ancestors. In the following example, a man's X DNA is compared to his X DNA known matches. Some observations can be made based on the inheritance characteristics of X DNA. First is the obvious full match with his daughter who inherited an entire X chromosome from him. Secondly, there are two shared segments with his full sibling. Although they both inherited their X DNA from their mother, the mother's two X chromosomes recombined differently when passed to them. So, their X DNA is a different combination from their maternal grandparents. Lastly, the first cousin and niece both share X DNA segments with the man. There is a known relationship from the maternal ancestors, but analysis can be complicated from the dynamics of recombination, randomness, and the unique inheritance pattern. X segments may be older than expected with more distant common ancestors. Long segments of X DNA can persist for several generations. The common ancestor may be outside the genealogical time frame, which can be indicated when the X match does not share autosomal DNA.



The unique inheritance pattern of X DNA can help with cousin searching. Fewer ancestors need to be checked for the common-ancestor connection. Research can be narrowed down, with some lines entirely discounted. For example, a male has only eight possible contributors out of 32 great grandparents to research, thus narrowing the amount of required research. When linking X DNA to ancestors, it is very helpful to fill the names of ancestors into the fan charts shown earlier. The charts clearly show the ancestors in the colored sections who are possible contributors to your X chromosome(s). When searching for common ancestors with an X DNA match, you can look for surnames and lineages that

occupy the positions that form the X DNA inheritance pattern lines.



X DNA may or may not help genealogical research. An important point is that traditional genealogy research needs to be combined with genetic genealogy to track down relative connections. X-DNA matches can help by narrowing research to specific lines. Pay attention to those X matches in addition to the autosomal results because they may provide clues to common ancestors. X-DNA can be a fascinating addition to tracing family history.

Andrew Hochreiter, MEd, MIS, is a genetic genealogist who manages multiple DNA surname projects and has successfully applied DNA to trace several related family branches overseas. He is an experienced genealogist and has 12 years involved with genetic genealogy. He instructs continuing education courses in basic and advanced genetic genealogy at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. He is a facilitator for the genetic genealogy module of the online Genealogical Research Course at Boston University.

DER KALENDER

THE CALENDAR

2021

4–5 & 11–12 June. Two separate virtual conferences hosted by the Southern California Genealogical Society—Genetic Genealogy, “The Genes in Your Family,” and Jamboree, “The Stars in Your Family.”

<http://genealogyjamboree.com/2021/>

17 July–24 July. The International German Genealogy Partnership’s 2021 Virtual Conference, featuring headline speakers Ute Brandenburg, Dr. Wolfgang Grams, Timo Kracke, Roger P. Minert, PhD, AG, FUGA, Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL, *Der Kurier* “Stick to the Script” columnist Katherine Schober, MA, Diahan Southard, and Michael Strauss, AG.



2021 INTERNATIONAL
German Genealogy Conference

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN GENEALOGY PARTNERSHIP

<https://playbacknow.regfox.com/iggp2021>

7 August. Location TBD. Using DNA Tools at AncestryDNA to Exploit Genetic Test Results in Family Research, presented by *Der Kurier* “DNA Discoveries” columnist Andrew Hochreiter. This workshop will be a hands-on experience to become familiar with the tools at AncestryDNA to analyze and use DNA test results.



24–25 September. “Rustic Pathways,” the Ohio Genealogical Society 2021 Fall Retreat, Salt Fork State Park & Conference Center, Cambridge, OH. Topics will range from Female Research, Native American Research, Methodology, to Ohio Research. Speakers will be Peggy Clemens Lauritzen, Thomas S. Neel, Elissa Scalise Powell, and Amie Bowser Tennant.

<https://www.ogsconference.org/>

25 September. 2021 New York State Family History Conference @ Home. 21 Sessions: Livestream, On-demand, and Q&A

22–23 October. 2021 MAGS Virtual Fall Conference, featuring Dr. Michael Lacopo.



29–30 October. 2021 North Carolina Genealogical Society Fall Conference. It has not been decided if the event will be virtual or in-person, but if it ends up being in-person, it will be held at the McKimmon Conference and Training Center in Raleigh, NC.

<https://www.ncgenealogy.org/event/2021-ncgs-fall-conference/>

2022

25–28 May. “Our American Mosaic,” National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Sacramento, CA. A detailed program brochure including pricing will be available this fall with registration opening in December 2021.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/2022-NGS-Family-History-Conference-Brochure.pdf>

16–18 June. 2022 Palatines to America National Conference, DoubleTree Denver Hotel, Denver, CO.

<https://www.palam.org/calendardetails.php?id=219>

8–10 September. 2022 New York State Family History Conference, Albany, NY.

MAGS Welcomes These 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.

ELIZABETH BAUMEISTER of INVER GROVE HEIGHTS, MN

(Washick/Vasik, Kaestner/Kastner, Menhofer, Gustafson)

PAM BELLOMY of LA HABRA, CA

(Wanamaker/Wannenmacher, Swartslander, Helwick/Helwig)

DONALD CHARLES of HUNTINGDON VALLEY, PA

(Charles, Muterspaugh, Grossman, Lutz)

KELLY COOPER of CHANTILLY, VA

(Vogel, Sackmeister, Mohler, Schimpf)

ANN CROSTON of DENNIS, MA

(Fineisen, Rowlader, Hiesrodt, Wenzler)

SYDNEY CRUICE of BERWYN, PA

(Armpriester/Armbruster, Buerkle, Rowe)

ROBERTA EGLESTON of OAKMONT, PA

(Trapper, Riethmiller, Schuster)

JACLYN FOX of SHADY SIDE, MD

(Vogel, Pfaff, Keller, Krausz)

MARTIN GURTZ of RESTON, VA

(Gurtz, Guertz, Gurz, Kurz)

ANNA MARIA HAWNER of WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA

(Hawner, Schmid(t), Haffner, Molitor)

KEVIN HERMES of PORT CLINTON, OH

(Hermes, Fuchs, Wiese, Angelbeck)

JOYCE JOHNSON of LEWES, DE

(Macklenberg, Brandstetter, Wherle)

ROSEANN KEBLES of DALLAS, PA

(Eisenbart, Gearhardt, Waldhöfer, Schwab)

MOLLIE KING of OWINGS, MD

(Engelmeier/Engelmeyer, Lambrecht, Hehner, Behn)

WERNER MARGARD of UPPER ARLINGTON, OH

(Kuechmann/Kishman, Margard, Tingler, Myers)

BARBARA MAY of PENNDDEL, PA

(Braumbach, Ettinger, Rentschler, Faerber)

RACHEL MYERS of ANNAPOLIS, MD

(Myers, Zang, Henkel, Nulmier)

LISA OAKLEY of SARATOGA, CA

(Seitz, Wills)

HENRY PENROD of VANCOUVER, WA

(Penrod)

GINNEY PUMPHREY of LITTLE ROCK, AR

(Baer, Riedmueller, Huebner, Geyer)

PAMELA REID of SPRINGFIELD, VA

(Emmert, Emert, Neidig)

CHERRY ROEGNER of SPRING HILL, KS

(Roegner, Baumann, Kastenholz, Mehlhorn)

ROBERT SCHERER of YARDLEY, PA

(Scherer)

KENNETH SHUCK of WASHINGTON, DC

(Truckenmiller, Shuck, Saunders, Stiffler)

DONNA SMITH of COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

(Reitzel, Traister, Slifer, Schleiffer)

MARYANN TUCK of CARY, NC

(Stockert, Prophet, Sieben, Seligman)

PATRICIA UHRIC of CORAOPOLIS, PA

(Gearhard, Younghans)

VICKY WOLF of WALDORF, MD

(Wolf)

STANLEY YON of ATLANTA, GA

(Schroeder, Eichelberger, Yon, Wagner)

Translators

This list of translators is offered as a service to MAGS members. It is not intended, however, as an endorsement or recommendation of any translator's work. When requesting a translation, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the translator's reply, along with a photocopy of a sample page from the text to be translated so that the translator may understand your needs and estimate the charge for the translation. Do not send original documents.

1. Klaus F. Alt, 692 Carodon Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3138

Phone: (434) 409-1582

Email: klaus@klaustrans.com

American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English, English into German

2. American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314-2875

Phone: (703) 683-6100

Website: www.atanet.org

They have an online directory for individual translators and area of specialization choices.

3. Gen Collins

Phone: (301) 770-0683

Email: glcjpc@verizon.net

Specialization: Translates German and German script into English and English to German.

4. Uwe Jacobsen, Wilhelm-Spiegel-Str. 30, D-24145 Kiel, Germany

Email: uwejacobsen@gmx.de

Specialization: Genealogical research in Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg-Altona, Sonderjylland / Denmark. Transcription and translation of old documents.

5. Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G., PO Box 1845, Provo, UT 84603-1845

Phone: (801) 374-2587

Email: grtpublications@juno.com

Specialization: German-English, English-German, German script, French, Latin

6. Katherine Schober

Phone: (314) 660-1061

Email: language@sktranslations.com

Website: sktranslations.com

Specialization: Genealogy and old German script, translates German to English

7. Ann C. Sherwin

Website: www.asherwin.com

Specialization: Genealogy, history, old handwriting.

American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English

8. Andrew Witter, 2056 255th St., Donnellson, IA 52625-9679

Phone: (319) 835-3960

Email: andrewjwitter@gmail.com



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Waynesboro PA 17268-2914

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calendar year receive all issues for the year.