

Der Kurier

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 4 / DECEMBER 2021



Round Two: MAGS President Dr. Kenneth W. Heger's second installment in a series of three examining the records of the U.S. Department of State in the Kingdom of Saxony includes descriptions of the record sets and a transcription of a letter from Washington, D.C., to Dresden. (There are plenty of names this time, too!) **Page 127.**



Which sign are you? “Our Language Leaves” columnist Ken Weaver corroborates the adage “you learn something new every day” as he recounts a visit he recently made to the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley in his hometown of Ephrata, PA. **Page 153.**

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**MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY**

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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:

Spring & Fall Conferences and Workshops

– Featuring expert speakers, member discounts

Outstanding members-only website

– German research aids, searchable databases

Der Kurier – Our award-winning 40-page quarterly journal

Stumped Roots - Individualized research help

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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

Looking Forward to 2022

As I write this column, I'm in Garrett County, Maryland, and it's snowing. It's my first snowfall of the 2021–2022 winter. It reminds me that another year is almost gone, and it's time for a brief overview of our Society's accomplishments.

It was a good year for MAGS. MAGS members made well-received presentations at the International Germanic Genealogical Partnership (IGGP) conference. All the presentations were recorded and are available for attendees to listen to at their convenience; the IGGP folks told me that MAGS presentations were among the best-reviewed presentations of the conference.

(I add a quick note of thanks to John Frank for representing MAGS on IGGP calls.) MAGS Board members, including Debra Hoffman and me, presented at the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records. Carol Carman and Andy Hochreiter were key players in planning an East Coast conference on DNA for family historians. Spreading the word about MAGS and what the Society has to offer helped grow our membership. Membership chair Gunter Schanzenbacher reported we finally reached our first membership goal of having 500 members. Now we strive for our next goal: 600 members.

Before I continue, I thank those of you who voted in the recent Board elections. On behalf of the Board we thank you for having confidence in us for another two years. As the following narrative indicates, we have bold plans to grow MAGS.

So what's new on the horizon for MAGS? We have exciting conferences led by well-known speakers. In the spring, nationally known speaker Paula Stuart Warren will present to the Society. Just a quick note here, out of an abundance of caution, the Board opted to hold the spring conference virtually. In addition to lingering health concerns, we discovered having virtual conferences allows people who cannot attend conferences in person to participate; that is an important factor to consider if we want to attract attendees and new members, especially ones living outside of MAGS's core geographic areas. Be sure to check the MAGS website regularly for updates.

Speaking of the MAGS website, you may be aware that the Society has contracted with a new company to host it. While the new company presents MAGS with opportunities to expand its web presence, there will be some growing pains as we begin to use the new site and learn how best to take advantage of its capabilities. (Here's a shout out to our Web Committee: Carol Carman, Bob Greiner, and Roy Shiflet.)

The new website gives us the opportunity to add a great deal of new content, content that is in the pipeline to upload in 2022. We plan to add information to existing databases, post searchable datasets to new records, upload more scans of visuals, and put new research guides on-line. Please remember, the people who create these new products do so as volunteers to increase MAGS's value to the membership and grow the Society; therefore, the new content will come in throughout the year. The Web Committee will upload the content as it becomes available. That means if your membership



Kenneth W. Heger

expires before new content is uploaded, you will not be able to access it. You can renew your membership on-line and at \$15 per year; membership in MAGS is a bargain.

Again this quarter, I ask you to help your Society by spreading the word about MAGS. Access the website. There is good material there, including some great scans of vintage postcards. What you find there will help you tell potential members why they should join. Visuals like this are available to you in several places. If you've visited the Society's website recently, you may have noticed two places at the bottom of the front page displaying images. One is entitled "Gift from the Archives" and the other is entitled "Document of the Month." Both of them include a description of the document and text pointing out features of the image that might enhance its value to you. There are more images on the members-only portion of the website. You should also check out our Facebook page where MAGS volunteers, currently led by Dave Hunsicker, add visuals regularly. Take a look at all these places and see how you can use the content the Society's volunteers have provided you.

You can also remind your research pals about our conferences, workshops, and the Society's great publication—*Der Kurier*. As Board members Jackie Curro and Cheyenne Cashin often remind me, our goal is to make MAGS also stand for the Major American Germanic Society. It would be great if we could swell our membership total to at least 600 by next year this time.



From the author's collection

also see the B&O rail lines leading from the docks out of the city, the tracks that took immigrants to the Midwest and beyond. For those of you whose ancestors arrived in Baltimore, this card will be an ideal visual for your family history. It is for me. My Uropa Liebreich and Uroma Luisa both arrived at those docks when they emigrated from Bohemia, leaving Austria-Hungary for their new lives in the United States.

I close with my visual for this issue of *Der Kurier*, a vintage postcard of Fort McHenry in Baltimore. The card's original caption alerts you to the fort, setting in the foreground. I call your attention to the long buildings behind and to the right of the fort. Those were docks for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and served as Baltimore's primary immigration arrival site. Remember, Baltimore was America's second-largest port of arrival for immigrants. You can

Finally, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.

Fröhliche Weihnachten, Alle!

New Challenges Found By Returning to an Old Job

As I reported on in my last *Der Kurier* column, I had the honor of co-chairing an all-virtual conference for the International German Genealogy Partnership in July. While my life was still full after finishing the year of work leading up to that conference and I enjoyed being part of the team at Legacy Tree Genealogists as a full-time employee, I'll admit that I started thinking about what my next challenge might be.



James M. Beidler

Well, it didn't take me long to find out. In May of this year, I had rejoined the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, a group for which I had been executive director from 1999 to 2003. Frankly, I looked upon my membership dues as a donation since I understood the society to have been in what might be generously described as a fallow period for the last few years. And even when the current GSP Board President Valerie-Anne Lutz asked whether I'd do a Zoom with her and GSP Board Secretary Kathryn Donahue, I figured I'd give them a few "bullet points" to chew on and that would be that.

What developed instead was a long and detailed conversation—and my realization that GSP was already on the rebound—and when I came up for air after the IGGP conference and found that Donahue had been a registrant and was singing its praises, I began to see larger possibilities.

And then those "larger possibilities" morphed into what I'm calling a "life comes at you fast" moment. I floated the idea of me coming to GSP as an interim executive director. In turn, the key people, the GSP Executive Committee and then its full Board of Directors, liked the idea.

So in mid-October, I began the work of taking what's being done by the GSP Board, staff, and volunteers—they've been digitizing their collections; have added a FamilySearch Affiliate Library designation; and catalogued their library—and enhancing it in every direction.

We've started a free "Third Thursdays" webinar program with a mix of local and nationally known speakers; there'll be a return to publications (at least in electronic form); and GSP will look to do what it can to help and aid the many local and regional organizations that serve genealogists in Pennsylvania.

As we look forward to emerging from the shadow of COVID-19, I'm confident that GSP will emerge from a similar shadow and turn its website into a first stop for every genealogist with Pennsylvania roots, which is estimated to be as high as one in four Americans who have at least one ancestor who stepped foot in the Keystone State.

What else will be happening? While I hate to be repetitious, I feel compelled to quote the ending of my September column for *Der Kurier* (applying to a different context): Stay tuned!

Saturday, April 2, 2022

MAGS Virtual Spring Conference 2022 (On-line)

10:00 am to 4:00 pm

Virtual presentation with Zoom

Germans in U.S. Government Records

with

Paula Stuart-Warren, CGSM, FMGS, FUGA

Program:

10:00 AM (EDT)

The U.S. Federal Government: Underutilized Research Resources

If you ask a group of genealogists what the U.S. National Archives (NARA) has for genealogical research, the most likely answers will be pension records and census. These are valuable resources in our family information quest, but a listing of other NARA holdings of value for our research would easily fill up many pages. Beyond NARA, other federal agencies contain helpful research information. This lecture is designed to acquaint you with other federal records that may hold some of those elusive family details. The examples will have you eagerly awaiting time at NARA.

11:30 AM (EDT)

World War I Era U.S. Alien Registrations

The U. S forced registrations of non-citizen Germanic people during WWI. Both males and females over the age of 14 had to register. Some registrations still exist, as do some abstracts, name lists, and court battles. An ancestor may have been interred in a prison camp or had personal property seized. Businesses and schools underwent significant changes for protections. Minnesota required registrations of all non-citizens from every country and those records are available today. All the forms asked for extensive family and background information, including place of birth, family members serving in the military against the U.S. and other helpful family history details.

12:30 AM (EDT) Lunch break

1:45 PM (EDT)

They Joined, They Associated:**Finding Records of Germanic Organizations and Other Collections**

U. S. libraries, historical societies, archives, and university library special collections sections hold the records from many organizations that our Germanic ancestors joined. The organization may have been a German heritage, charitable, religious, resettlement, political, social, or insurance entity. As our parts of our families migrated, so did the records. There may be substantial information on places of origin, relatives, migration, and other details buried away in a manuscript collection. Finding these collections with records of membership, donations, necrologies, stories, activities, and more has become easier in recent years. Many free finding aids online and off lead you to these research nuggets that represent hundreds of years of material.

3:00 PM (EDT)

German Research Gems:**Back Issues of Genealogical and Historical periodicals**

They sit on library shelves and a vast number are digitized and online today. Genealogical and historical societies and other organizations in the U.S. have been publishing periodicals for decades. Articles have covered culture, migration, ethnicity, military, churches, cemeteries, and other aspects of German ancestry. Specialized finding aids, print and online access, and indexes are covered as we delve into the gems these back issues hold.

Registration:

\$35.00 for MAGS Members / \$50.00 for Non-members

You can register online [here](#) or you can mail payment (noting "2022 Spring Conference" on the check) to:

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

ATTN: Cheyenne Cashin

20650 Hope Spring Terrace, Unit 403

Ashburn, VA 20147-2950

email: registration@magsgen.com

You can visit Paula's website to learn more about her.

<http://genealogybypaula.com/>

Saxony, Part II

Registration of American Citizens, 1907–1917

BY KENNETH W. HEGER, PH.D.

This is the second article in a three-part series introducing you to records the American Department of State created to document its work in the Kingdom of Saxony. It focuses on volumes the consulates kept to register American citizens.

Registration Volumes

As you begin your research in these records, it is important to remember that registration with a consulate was not a requirement for American citizens in the nineteenth or early twentieth centuries; consequently, the records do not contain information on all American citizens traveling through or residing in Saxony. Even though there was no requirement to do so, many citizens found value in visiting a consulate and registering with the local American representatives. Doing so often made it easier for the citizen to interact with the consulate, such as getting assistance settling an estate or doing business in the consular district. In addition, if the consulate knew a citizen was in the district, it could make it easier and quicker for the consulate to intervene on the citizen's behalf with local Saxon officials if the citizen found themselves in legal trouble.

Standardization of Data

Prior to 1907, registration volumes were usually akin to visitors registers. They were generally handwritten, often with the citizen entering the registration data into the volume themselves. The information these volumes contained was not standardized from consulate to consulate and often lacked information the consulate might need to assist an American in need.

In 1907 the Department of State addressed this shortcoming when it standardized registration procedures and created three distinct registration forms: citizens in general, certain classes of women, and children born to American parents outside of the United States. For each type of registration, the Department developed a printed form making it easy for consulates to collect relevant information. The new process eliminated guess work; the consulate simply needed to fill in the blanks on the form. The Department advised consulates to bind these certificates of registration into volumes, which consulates did. The rest of this article provides you with an overview of the types of registration volumes for Saxony, explains their limitations, cites examples from the volumes, and tells you how to access the records.

Certificates of Registrations for American Citizens

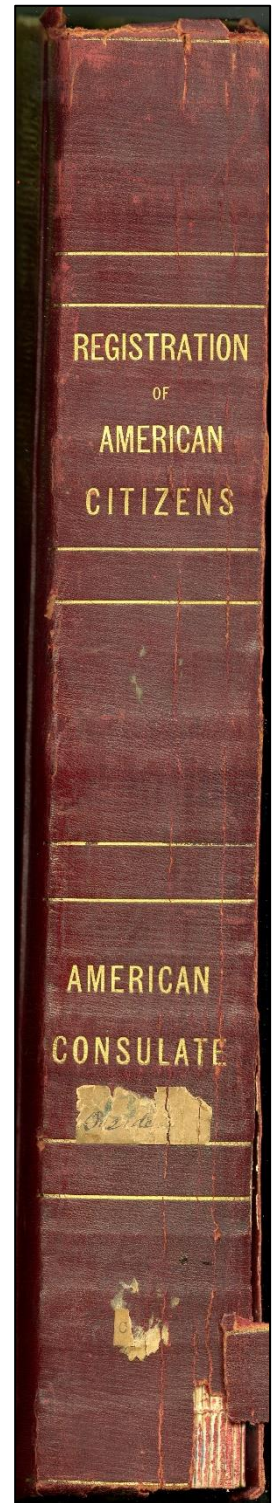
These volumes are universally the most complete type of citizen registration in any consulate's records. The volumes usually contain 500 pages, although not every volume is completely full. Remember, it was up to the citizen to register with the consulate. These certificates prescribe the information a consulate should collect for each registrant: the citizen's name; the citizen's place and date of birth; the date the citizen arrived in the consular district; the reason the citizen was in the consular district; and proof of American citizenship. The form also had spaces for the data on the citizen's spouse and children. (See Image 1 on the next page for an example of a blank form.) This section of the article explains the Department of State's instructions on how to complete a registration certificate and the limitations on who could register. It also gives you examples of registrations, illustrating how you can use the information to flesh out your ancestor's life and find clues about related documents among other consular records.

Strict Regulations on Completing the Forms

When the Department issued these forms in 1907, the days of consulates collecting a hodge-podge of information on citizens were over. The Department of State took the completion of these forms seriously, issuing instructions to foreign service posts on how to fill out the forms, and when a consulate become sloppy in this work, the Department issued a stern rebuke. The following transcription illustrates the process to complete a form, and how the Department corrected an errant consulate's work. As a bonus, it contains many names to support family research.

Example of Instructions: Despatch 12 September 1908, No. 62 From the Department of State to Dresden

This seven-page despatch contains approximately three dozen names. It demonstrates the Department's attention to process; provides a reference to another document containing detailed instructions to consulates on how to complete a certificate of registration; and shows the steps the Department required consulates to take to ensure that American citizens registering at the consulate provided current, complete information and that the registration was up to date. Some references to people are merely a passing mention of the name; other references to people contain much more detail. The text is in italics to indicate it is a verbatim transcription; the italicized text has no other significance. Some text is underlined in the original; it is likely the staff of the consulate general underlined the text for emphasis.



**Spine of a
volume
containing
Certificates of
Registration of
American
Citizens**

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CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN.

I, _____ of the United
(Name of consul.) (Title.)
States of America at _____, hereby certify that
(Name of place.)
_____ is registered as an American citizen
(Name of person registered.)
in this consulate. He was born _____ at _____,
(Date of birth.) (Place of birth.)
and is a citizen of the United States by birth (or naturalization). He arrived in
_____ on _____, where he is now
(Place of foreign residence.) (Date.)
residing for the purpose of _____. He is
(Reason why residing in foreign place.)
married to _____, who was born in _____
(Name of wife.) (Place of birth of wife.)
and resides at _____.
(Place of wife's residence.)
He has the following children:

_____, born in _____
(Name of child.) (Place of birth.)
on _____, and residing at _____;
(Date of birth.) (Place of residence.)
and _____, born in _____
(Name of child.) (Place of birth.)
on _____, and residing at _____;
(Date of birth.) (Place of residence.)
and _____, born in _____
(Name of child.) (Place of birth.)
on _____, and residing at _____;
(Date of birth.) (Place of residence.)

His citizenship of the United States is established by _____
(Nature of proof of citizenship produced.)

This certificate is not a passport and its validity expires on _____
(Date of expiration.)

The following is the signature of _____
(Signature of person registered.)

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my
seal of office.

[L. S.]

American Consul

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Image 1: Example of a blank certificate of registration. From Dresden's
Registration of American Citizens Volume, Vol. 136, NAID 1325318,
NARA RG 84.

In reply refer to File No. 11011/24-101¹

Department of State,

Washington

Serial No. 62

September 12, 1908

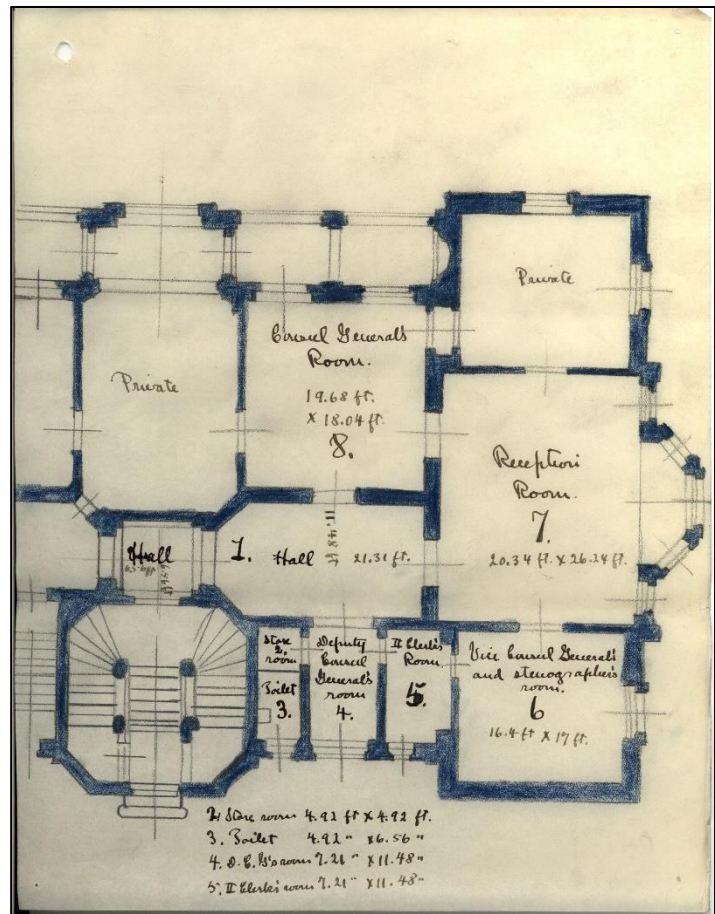
T. St. John Gaffney, Esquire,
American Consul General
Dresden, Germany

Sir:

The Department is in receipt of your unnumbered despatch of the 9th ultimo, transmitting certificates of registration of American citizens.

It is compelled to believe that you have not studied with sufficient care the regulations on the subject of registration, expatriation, and the resumption of citizenship by women. The Executive orders on these subjects dated April 6, 1907, are embodied in the Department's circular instructions of April 19, 1907, entitled "Children of Citizens Board Abroad," "Registration of Women Who Desire to Resume or Retain American Citizenship," "Reports of Fraudulent Naturalization," "Registration of American Citizens," and "Expatriation," with the circular of May 14, 1908, amending one of the rules in the last named circular.

The circular entitled "Registration of American Citizens" requires that immediately upon the registration of an American citizen a duplicate of the registration should be forthwith sent to this Department, together with a state-



The floor plan from the 1913-1914 inspection of the Dresden Consulate. It shows the consulate's layout, giving you a feel for where your ancestor would have stood inside the consulate.

¹ This is a reference to a file among the Numeric and Minor Files of the Department of State's central office file, the records the Department kept in Washington, D.C. Those records are part of National Archives Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State. The entire Numeric and Minor Files series is available as National Archives microfilm publication M862, *Numeric and Minor Files of the Department of State, 1906-1910*.

ment whether a certificate of registration has been issued. The certificates which you send to the Department are in some instances more than a year old. If they had been sent forthwith it would have been easier than it is now to correct errors and to prevent their recurrence.

The form of registration provides for the signature of the person registered, but none of the certificates you send have been signed.

The circular states that the same general principles governing applications for passports govern applications for registration. Therefore, you should not register a naturalized citizen unless he presents his certificate of naturalization or a passport previously issued, the latter being prima facie evidence that he has already presented his certificate of naturalization to this Department or to one of its agents abroad. Some of the certificates which you transmit state that a naturalization certificate was presented to you, but the name of the court which conferred the naturalization and the date of the naturalization should always be inserted.

Inasmuch as the citizenship of a woman under law follows the citizenship of her husband, it is necessary, whenever you register a woman, that you should state whether she is married or not, and if she is married what is the nationality of her husband. If her husband is not a citizen of the United States she is not eligible for registration. If her husband was a foreigner and she is a widow or has an absolute divorce, she may revert to her American citizenship, but, in order for you to register her she must state the reasons for her residence abroad and that she intends to return to the United States to reside permanently. The registration of the following women cannot

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be accepted by the Department until the question of their marriage and conservation of American citizenship has been established: **Mary Elizabeth Strafford-Smith, Adeline Mary Nickerson, Elizabeth M. Green, Dorothea Hoyt, Leonora B. Lucas, Anne Atkins, Barbara A. Schaeffer-Crane, Anna Conyngham-Smoyer, Nona Yantis, Ethelred S. Lundsgaard, Mary S. Lundsgaard, Irene Margaretha Kleinstuck, Margaret Kuhn Hoyt, Pauline Kleinstuck, Dorothy Turner, and Eleanor Knagenhjelm.**

Leopold Schreiber, whom you registered November 29, 1907, was born in Austria and has been residing in Dresden since 1901. Under the law it must be presumed that he has ceased to be a citizen of the United States in consequence of residing abroad for more than five years. He may overcome this presumption by presenting evidence satisfactorily establishing that he is engaged in American trade or commerce; or that he is residing abroad for reasons of health or education; or that some unforeseen exigency prevents his return to the United States to reside permanently. The rules on this subject are to be found in the circular of April 19, 1907, entitled "Expatriation" as amended by the circular of May 14, 1908. You should require Mr. Schreiber to make an affidavit to bring him within the Department's rules, and if you have good reason to believe his statements are true and that they bring him within the rules you should so report, whereupon he may be registered; a duplicate of his affidavit being sent to this Department. A form of affidavit has

already been sent to you, but I enclose another copy. If his statements bring him within the rule, but you are not willing to accept them as satisfactory proof to overcome the pre-

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sumption of expatriation, you should require him to bring supporting evidence to corroborate his statements, and you should send duplicates of such evidence to the Department. If he cannot produce evidence to overcome the presumption that he has ceased to be a citizen of the United States, then he should be required to deliver up his certificate of naturalization; you should take his affidavit setting forth the reasons for his residence abroad; you should make a certificate over your seal and signature setting forth the facts of his residence abroad, of the reasons for such residence, of his intentions for the future as manifested by the circumstances surrounding his residence, and that, having been afforded full opportunity to overcome the presumption that he has ceased to be a citizen of the United States in consequence of his prolonged residence abroad, he has failed to produce such evidence. You should send these papers to the Department in order that it may institute proceedings in the court in which he was naturalized as a citizen of the United States. It is further noted in Mr. Schreiber's case that the date and the place of his naturalization are omitted.

Louis D. Nathan, who was registered September 30, 1907, was born in Prussia and claims citizenship by naturalization. You also state that his citizenship was established by "letters and papers." The Department awaits proof of his having acquired citizenship in the manner required by law.

Bernard Nathan, registered October 25, 1907, was born in Holstein and has been residing in Dresden since 1904. The same observations apply in his case as in the case of Mr. Schreiber.

H. Moeller, registered November 2, 1907, was born in Meuselbach, Thuringen. You state that his citizenship of the United States was established by "no identification on paper." The impropriety of his registration without any proof of his identity or American citizenship is palpable.

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Hermann C. Dass, registered October 1, 1907, was born in Saxony and has been residing in Dresden since May 1901. The same observations apply in his case as in the case of Mr. Schreiber, with reference to the presumption that he has ceased to be a citizen of the United States; but it does not appear that he has satisfactorily established that he was ever a citizen of the United States, as you seem to have accepted as proof of this vital point, simply "letters."

C.O.H. Fritzsche, registered October 2, 1907, was born in Saxony and has been residing in Dresden since 1900. The same observations apply in his case as that of Mr. Schreiber.

Emil Goodman, registered October 9, 1907, was born in Saxony. You state that his citizenship was established by "discharge papers as Paymaster United States Navy." Military or naval service does not constitute citizenship although it may be a reason for a court to confer

citizenship. The discharge papers presented to you should not have been accepted by themselves as proof of Mr. Goodman's citizenship.

George F. Gall, registered September 30, 1907, was born in Germany and has been residing in Dresden since 1905. Possibly at the time you registered him two years had not elapsed since his arrival in Dresden. If however two years had elapsed you should require from him such evidence as indicated in the case of Mr. Schreiber.

Karl Hermann Kurth, registered September 20, 1907, was born in Dresden and has been residing therein since March 1900. The same observations apply to him with reference to his overcoming the evidence of his expatriation as apply to the case of Mr. Schreiber, but it appears that you accepted as proof of his American citizenship simply "letters," and as already stated such evidence is inadmissible in proof of lawful naturalization.

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Arthur C. Leonhardi, registered October 10, 1907, proved his citizenship in the same unsatisfactory way.

Ludwig Landt, registered October 21, 1907, was born in Mecklinburg-Schwerin² and has been residing in Dresden since 1904. The same observations apply to his case as in the case of Mr. Gall.

Albert Beyer, registered November 2, 1907, was born in Saxony. The certificate does not state when he arrived in Dresden, and the Department does not know whether the presumption of expatriation lies against him or not.

August Strunz, registered June 24, 1908, was born in Dresden, and has been residing therein since October 25, 1905; **Salomon Zickel**, registered December 6 1907, was born in Prussia, March 10, 1879, and has been residing in Dresden since 1905; **August Spitzbarth**, registered September 27, 1907, was born in Saxony and has been residing in Dresden since May 1905; **Georg Walther Otto**, registered November 22, 1907, was born in Saxony and has been residing in Dresden since 1904; **Albert F. Weinberger**, registered October 31, 1907, was born in Dresden and has been residing therein since May 1904; **Max Weyhmann**, registered October 2, 1907, was born in Germany and has been residing in Dresden since November 3, 1904; **Charles A.W.W. Walthausen**, registered October 1907, was born in Hanover, and has been residing in Dresden since October 1904; **Paul Ernst Julius Ulbricht**, registered December 3, 1907, was born in Saxony and has been residing in Dresden since June 20, 1901. To each of these cases the instructions concerning Mr. Schreiber should be applied.

Alfred M. Ballke-Balque, registered September 10, 1907, was born in New York City July 5, 1856, and has been residing in Dresden since 1869, that is to say, for nearly forty years.

² Misspelled. Should be Mecklenburg-Schwerin.

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*You are referred to the closing paragraph of the Department's circular instruction of April 19, 1907, entitled "Expatriation," and the excerpt from the Department's circular of March 27, 1899, which lays down the principles to be applied in the case of native American citizens who have been residing outside of the United States for prolonged periods. Mr. **Ballcke-Balque**³ should be afforded an opportunity to submit a statement showing the nature of his occupation abroad and his intentions with reference to future residence and if he entertains no intention of returning to the United States to reside he is not entitled to registration.*

The Act of March 2, 1907, relative to expatriation and the protection of Americans abroad imposes important functions upon diplomatic and consular officers, and the Department regards it as essential to the interests of our citizens resident abroad that they be afforded full opportunity to make the conservation of their citizenship a matter of official record. It therefore expects its agents to carry out the regulations with tact and thoroughness.

The certificates of registration of the persons named above are herewith returned.

I am, Sir,

*Your obedient servant
[signature]*

Third Assistant Secretary

*Enclosure: Certificates of registration as stated above.
Form of affidavit⁴*

[Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate-General in Dresden, Germany; 12 September 1908, despatch No. 62 from the Department of State; Instructions & Despatches received from the Department of State, 1908. Volume 77; NAID 1325259]

Examples of Volumes Containing Certificates of Registration

The following section consists of extracts of information from the volumes of two consulates, Zittau and Plauen. The text illustrates the data a volume can contain and demonstrates how you can use some of the data to create a biography of your ancestor, beyond the fact that he or she was in a city in Saxony between 1907 and 1917.

³ His name is spelled differently on each page.

⁴ None of the enclosures are in the file.

Extracts from Zittau's Register of American Citizens, 1908–1910

Although it only contains five certificates of registration, this volume is a fine example of these documents, showing how you can incorporate them into your research. You can learn a lot about these men and, in a more general sense, see examples of reasons American citizens were in Saxony. The purpose for the citizen's visit appears in quotes (") to reproduce the consulate's exact wording. Pay particular attention to the information from the forms for the last two men in the list. It illustrates that you might be able to construct personal relationships using these certificates of registration.

- **Oscar H. Schneider** was born on 8 June 1859 in Erfurt, Prussia. He arrived in Zittau 19 April 1903 to "carry on a business as a photographer." He was single. He had been naturalized as a citizen in Hudson County, NJ; he presented the naturalization certificate as proof of citizenship. (Page 1)
- **Franz Georg Polater** was born on 23 February 1883 in Baltimore, MD. He arrived in Oberodenwitz in April 1903 to "earn his living as an inspector in brick works." He was single. He used his birth certificate to prove his citizenship. (Page 2)
- **John Mader** was born on 21 January 1878 in Brockersdorf, Moravia (Austria-Hungary). He arrived in Neugersdorf on 18 January 1908 to "study." He was single. He used his American passport to prove his citizenship. He has two certificates of registration. (Pages 3 & 6)
- **Frederick C. Muller** was born 24 May 1862 in Hirschfelde, Saxony. He arrived in Hirschfelde in January 1899 to "conduct his own spinning mill." He was married to Helen Knobloch (born in Ronau); the couple had no children. He used his discharge military discharge papers as proof of citizenship. He had served as a private in Co. B, 1st Louisiana Infantry.⁵ (Page 4)
- **August Hohn** was born on 2 November 1880 in Mackeinbach (best guess). He arrived in Hirschfelde in January 1899 to be a "clerk." He was single. He used his discharge papers as proof of citizenship; he had served as a musician in Co. B, 1st Louisiana Infantry.⁶ (Page 5)

[**Citation:** NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Zittau Germany; Certificates of Registration of American Citizens, 1903-1908; Vol. 36; NAID 1328693.]

One Example from Plauen—Casper Hermann

Casper Hermann's certificate of registration shows how you might be able to use the information in these certificates to document matters crucial to writing your ancestor's biography beyond lineage and personal relationships. The following text abstracts the data from Hermann's registration in Plauen. In addition to the personal data the form contains on each family member, be sure to note the other information on the form.

⁵ A search on Ancestry's site confirmed that Muller had served in this unit during the Spanish-American War.

⁶ A search on Ancestry's site confirmed that Hohn had served in this unit as a musician during the Spanish-American War.

Casper Hermann chose to register with the consulate in Plauen, Saxony, and his form contains a great deal of personal information about him and each member of his family. He was born on 9 March 1871 in Koenigsberg, Bohemia (Austria-Hungary). He arrived in Plauen on 17 September 1913 for the purpose of selling his foreign patents on printing machines. He was married to Margarete Hüttner, who had been born in Kulenbach, Bavaria. She was with him in Plauen. The couple had four children, all of whom had accompanied their parents to Plauen. Henry W. Fred Hermann was born on 29 June 1892 in New York. Harry Hermann was born on 1 March 1899 in New York. Margarete Hermann was born 5 January 1902 in Baltimore, MD. Helene Hermann was born 3 October 1906 in Baltimore, MD.

109

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN.

I, Rudolph Frick, Vice Consul of the United States of America at Leipzig Germany, hereby certify that Casper Hermann is registered as an American citizen in this consulate. He was born March 9 1871 at Koenigsberg, Prussia, Austria and is a citizen of the United States by birth for naturalization. He arrived in Leipzig Germany on May 14 1909, where he is now residing for the purpose of selling his foreign patents. He is married to Margarete Hüttner, who was born in Kulenbach, Bavaria and resides at Leipzig Germany.

He has the following children:

Henry William Fred, born in New York on June 29 1892, and residing at Plauen, Vogtland; and Harry, born in New York on March 14 1899, and residing at Leipzig Germany; and Margarete, born in Bettendorf, Ad. on January 5 1902, and residing at Leipzig Germany; and Helene, born in Baltimore, Md. on October 3 1906 and residing at Leipzig, Germany.

His address in Leipzig is: L. Fr. Zschacher, Kirchstr. 19.

His citizenship of the United States is established by his certificate of Naturalization, issued by the Court of Leipzig, dated Prussia, Va February 14, 1901.

This certificate is not a passport and its validity expires on June 26 1913.

The following is the signature of Casper Hermann.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto signed my name and affixed my seal of office. frick

[L. S.] 7/10/16 Rudolph Frick
American Consul
VICE

Image 2: Caspar Hermann's certificate of registration in Leipzig, Page 109, Leipzig Registration of American Citizens, Vol. 519, NAID 1297286, NARA RG 84. This volume is not online as of July 2021. Hermann's certificate of registration in Dresden is available online; see the article text for the citation for that volume.

The first thing you may note is all the names and the personal data the form contains, but do not stop there. The form has a notation that Hermann had also registered with the consulate in Leipzig on 26 June 1913. That gives you a clue for another place to look, so let's do that.

Checking the volume containing those certificates among the Leipzig records turned up that certificate. The personal data is the same, but the fact that the family had been in Leipzig is significant. It adds another dimension to your research by showing how you can combine several certificates and use them to trace your ancestors' movements. In this case, the forms document Hermann had lived in Bohemia, New York, Baltimore, Leipzig, and Plauen. It is a great way to make your family's history more dynamic. (See Image 2 for a copy of Hermann's Leipzig registration form.)

[Plauen Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Plauen, German; Certificates of Registration of American Citizens, 1909-1914; Vol. 81; NAID 1328169; p. 46. **Note: The Plauen volume is**

available online at NARA; see this article's section on accessing records online for further information.

Leipzig Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American consulate in Leipzig, Germany; Certificates of Registration of American Citizens, 1909-1922; Vol. 519; NAID 1297286; p. 109. **This volume is not online as of July 2021.**]

Registrations of Women and Children

In addition to the certificates of registration for American citizens, the Department of State created forms to register certain classes of women and children at consulates. The volumes for women fell into two categories. One category was women who had been American citizens before their marriage to a foreigner; these women had lost their citizenship and registered with a consulate after their marriage ended through the husband's death or through divorce to record their intention to regain their citizenship. The other category was non-citizen women who had been married to an American citizen; these women had acquired American citizenship through their husband and wanted to formalize (or retain) their American citizenship. The volumes for children were to register children currently residing in the consular district born outside of the United States to American citizens; those children could have been born outside the consulate district where their parents registered them. Sadly, as enticing as these volumes of women and children sound, consulates rarely used them. The volumes generally contain 200 pages, and most of those pages are blank. The following text extracts data from the volumes American consulates in Saxony used to register these women and children. For additional information, you should examine original volumes.

Note: Several of these volumes are online through NARA's website. The sections below indicate which volumes were online as of July 2021. See the section on accessing records on the NARA website for additional information.

Women

Registrations of women included: woman's name, place and date of birth, her husband's name (and sometimes his date & place of birth), date of the marriage, when the marriage ended and whether through death or divorce, when she intended to return to the United States, and the date she signed the registration form.

Chemnitz Volume

Register of Women Who Were Citizens before Marriage ("Registrations of Women"), 1913.

There is only one entry; it is for **Elisabeth Christiane Linhardt**. This entry appears on Page 1. The certificate, signed 2 September 1913, includes the following data:

- She was born 26 April 1856 in Hof, Bavaria.
- She was an American citizen at the time she married **Josef Linhardt**.
- Josef Linhardt was born in Brodin, Bohemia, Austria-Hungary, on 21 January 1882.
- Josef Linhardt died 7 January 1908 in Brooklyn, NY.

- She was in Chemnitz and planned to return to the United States in two years.

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Chemnitz, Germany; Registration of Women, 1913; Vol. 171; NAID 1324487]

Dresden Volumes

Certificates of Registration of Women who Acquired American Citizenship by Marriage. 24 October 1907; 11 February 1908; and 5 June 1908.

The register contains the names of three women who wished to certify their American citizenship which they had obtained through marriage.

- **Ernestine Behrens** (Widow of **Frederick A.F. Behrens**) (Page 1)
- **Caroline Muehlbach** (Widow of **Wm. Muehlbach**) (Page 2)
- **Marie M. Poehlmann** (Widow of **Karl Otto Poehlmann**) (Page 3)

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Dresden, Germany; Registrations of Women; Vol 137; NAID 1325319]

Certificates of Registration of a Woman Who before Marriage to a Foreigner was an American Citizen. 26 June 1911.

This volume contains a single certificate to validate the claim of **Adele M. Schladitz** (ex-wife of **William H. Schladitz**), a citizen before marriage, who wanted to retain her citizenship because of her husband's death. The entry is on Page 1. Image 3 reproduces this page.

1

Certificate of Registration of Widow or Divorced Woman Who, before Marriage to a Foreigner, was an American Citizen.

I, Adele M. Schladitz (Name of woman), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I was born on July 17, 1875 (Date of birth) in New York City (Place of birth) and was, up to the time of my marriage on Jan. 6, 1902 (Date of marriage) to William H. Schladitz (Name of late husband) a citizen of the United States; that the said William H. Schladitz was born in Hoboken, N.J. (Place of his birth) and was at the time of his death (or our divorce), a citizen (or subject) of the German Empire (Name of country); that the said William H. Schladitz (Name of late husband) died (or we were divorced) on Dec. 15, 1910 (Date of death or divorce) at Bridgeport, Conn. (Place of death or divorce); that I am now temporarily residing in Dresden (Place of residence) and desire to resume my American citizenship; that it is my intention to return to the United States within one year (Time of intended foreign residence), with the intention of residing and performing the duties of an American citizen.

Adele M. Schladitz

Sworn (or affirmed) and subscribed to before me at Dresden this 26 day of June, 1911

[I. S.] Wm. J. Bywater
Depy. American Consul-General.

I, Wm. J. Bywater (Name of official), American D.C. C. at Dresden (Place of consulate), certify that Adele M. Schladitz (Name of woman), who signed the above affidavit, is the person she represents herself to be, and that the proof presented of her marriage to William H. Schladitz (Name of late husband) and of the termination of her marital relation with William H. Schladitz (Name of late husband) is as follows:

Certified copy of divorce decree, Superior Court, Bridgeport, Conn. (State here nature of proof presented.)

In testimony whereof I have hereto signed my name and affixed my seal of office.

[I. S.] Wm. J. Bywater
Depy. American Consul-General.

Image 3: Page 1 from the Registration of Women who Were Citizens before Marriage to a Foreigner volume among the Dresden records, Vol. 140, NAID 1325322, NARA RG 84.

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Dresden, Germany; Registrations of Women; Vol. 140; NAID 1325322]

Leipzig Volumes

Certificates of Registration of a Widow or Divorcee who Acquired American Citizenship by Marriage. 2 June 1910

The volume contains a single entry.

- **Rosa Gerhart, wife of Ernst Gerhart.** They married 11 February 1902 and divorced 6 October 1907. The certificate was cancelled in accordance with the State Department's Instruction No. 11, dated 24 September 1910.

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Leipzig, Germany; Registrations of Women; Vol. 524; NAID 1297291]

Certificates of Registration of Widows or Divorcees Who before Marriage to a Foreigner Were American Citizens. 16 November 1914 & 25 July 1915.

There are only two entries in this register. They are for:

- **Mabel E. Raabe**—Married to **Franz B. Raabe** on 23 December 1908; marriage ended on 23 October 1914; she was residing in Leipzig.
- **Pauline C. Guimaraes**—Married to **Henry F. Guimaraes** on 23 May 1887; marriage ended in December 1897; she was residing in Halle.

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Leipzig, Germany; Registrations of Women; Vol. 525; NAID 1297292]

Children Born Abroad to American Parents

The certificates of registrations of children generally include the following information: date and place of the child's birth, proof of the father's citizenship, and the date form was signed. The following section provides you with names and some data on the children for whom there are registration certificates. The first volume (Chemnitz) extracts extensive data to illustrate what a certificate might include; references to other volumes provide more limited information, but serve as indexes to those volumes. For additional information, you should examine the original volumes.

Chemnitz Volume

Registration of Children of American Parents. February 1916. 1 Volume.

The document is a certificate documenting the person's birth overseas to American parents, in which the parents state the child's intention and desire to remain an American citizen. There are two certificates per page. Note that the first two names in the volume denote siblings, both of whom were born in the same city but who departed Chemnitz for different locations. The third entry illustrates that, on occasion, consulates registered children who were born in the United States or made an error in recording information. When this occurs, you need to do additional research in other

sources to determine the truth, but at least you know that your ancestor and at least one of his or her parents were in a foreign city and when they were there.

There are only three entries. They are for:

- **Amalie Charlotte Schmidt (Page 2)**
 - Born Dobeln, Saxony, on 12 February 1894
 - Left for Berlin March 1916
 - Form signed 10 February 1916
- **Elisabeth Mary Schmidt (Page 2)**
 - Born in Dobeln, Saxony, on 25 April 1895
 - Left for Zwickau near Plauen June 1916
 - Form signed 10 February 1916
- **Friederich Biering (Page 3)**
 - Born in Philadelphia, PA, 20 October 1895
 - Form signed 14 February [year blank but likely 1916]
 - No other data
- **Note:** Page 1 is blank.

This volume is available digitally on the NARA website. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Chemnitz; Registration of Children Born Abroad, 1916; Vol. 170; NAID 1324486]

Dresden Volumes

Certificates of Registration of American Children Born Abroad. 1908-1913

The entries are arranged chronologically. These books were to be a record of children born abroad to American parents. Each page has a place for two entries. There are only seven names in these volumes.

Volume 138 (NAID 1325320)

- **William Dalton Henderson** (Page 1)
- **Richard Schoene** (Page 1)
- **Otto Ludwig Wolf** (certificate cancelled) (Page 2)



A postcard an inspector included in his report of his inspection of the Dresden Consulate in 1910. Any citizen who registered with the consulate around the time of the report would have done so in this building.

- Carl Wilhelm Fritz Schmidt (Page 2)
- Carola Mebius (Page 3)

Volume 139 (NAID 1325321)

- Kenneth Hamilton (Page 1)
- Fritz Maigler (Page 1)

Both volumes are available digitally on NARA's website. [Citations: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Chemnitz; Registration of Children Born Abroad – See above for volume numbers and NAIDs]

1

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF CHILD BORN ABROAD OF
AMERICAN PARENTS.

I, Leopold Openhym, born in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria
on December 9, 1896, of parents who were at the time of my birth an
American citizen, do solemnly declare that it is my intention and desire to remain
a citizen of the United States and to become a resident thereof. My father acquired
citizenship through birth ~~for~~ at New York City,
N.Y. as proven by his birth certificate
issued by the Department of Health of
N.Y. City on Oct. 21, 1886

Leopold Openhym

Subscribed to before me this 19th day of October
at Leipzig, Germany
[L. S.] W. P. Kunz
American Consul

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF CHILD BORN ABROAD OF
AMERICAN PARENTS.

I, Ernest Witte, born in Springfield, England
on Nov. 18, 1898, of parents who were at the time of my birth
American citizens, do solemnly declare that it is my intention and desire to remain
a citizen of the United States and to become a resident thereof. My father acquired
citizenship through ~~birth~~ (or naturalization)* before the Court of
Common Pleas at Newark, N.J. on
the 30th January 1893

Ernest Witte

Subscribed to before me this 29th day of November
at Leipzig, Germany
[L. S.] W. P. Kunz
American Consul

* If by birth, state where the father was born; if by naturalization, state when and where he was naturalized, as shown by record evidence of such naturalization.

Image 4: Page 1 from the Registration of Children Born Abroad volume among the Leipzig records, Vol. 523, NAID 1297290, NARA RG 84

Leipzig Volume

Certificates of Registration of American Children Born Abroad. 10 October 19, 1896 & 30 January 1893; year of registration unclear. 1 vol. 1 in.

The records are arranged chronologically. **Note on Dates:** The dates listed above are the boys' birth dates; the date the parents signed the registration form is unclear.

This volume was to list children board abroad to American parents, recording the names of those children whom the parents wanted to remain American citizens. There are only two entries in the volume. They are for:

- **Leopold Openhym** (Born 19 October 1896 in Schrobenhausen, Bavaria)
- **Ernest Witte** (Born 8 November 1898 in Springfield, England)

Image 4 reproduces this page.

This volume is NOT available digitally on the NARA website as of July 2021. [Citation: NARA RG 84; Records of the American Consulate in Leipzig; Registration of Children Born Abroad; Volume 523; NAID 1297290]

Want to Learn More?

There are tools to help you learn more about these registration volumes; for example, the National Archives has a good preliminary inventory of the records that includes a short administrative history of the consulate, a list of consuls, and divides the records into series complete with a scope and content note for each series. NARA will provide that inventory free of charge if you contact them and ask for it. Remember to ask for the preliminary inventory for NARA Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Post of the Department of State, and the consulate in which you are interested. **Both the inventories and Guides will alert you to any registration volumes a consulate may have created and if the consulate registered citizens in a volume other than one labeled as a registration volume.**

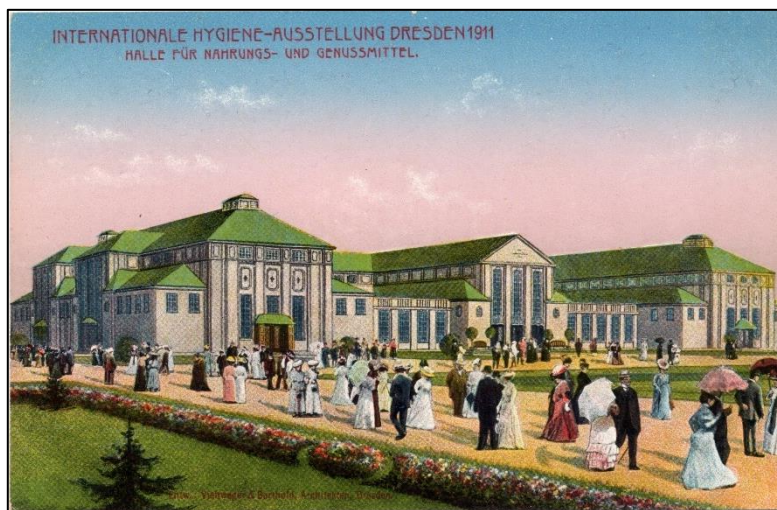


A poster for the 1911 International Hygiene Exposition in Dresden (from the author's collection)

How to Access Volumes Online

As you read this article, you noted NARA has made several of these volumes available on its website. It is easy to access those records using the National Archives Identifier, the NAID. The NAID is the number NARA assigned to material when it entered series, volumes, boxes, files, etc., into its online catalogue. This article notes the NAID for each of these volumes. To examine the digital versions, use the following technique:

- Access NARA's homepage (www.archives.gov).



The *Nahrungsmittel Halle* taken during the 1911 International Hygiene Exposition in Dresden (from the author's collection)

- From the homepage, navigate to the "Research Our Records" page.
- That page includes a search box. Enter the numerical portion of the NAID of the volume or box you want to research into the search box.
- The search results will pull up the description of the volume or box; if there are digitized images from that volume or box, you can access them from that page.
 - Example: Enter 1325320 into the search box and it will take you to Dresden's Children of American Citizens Born Abroad Volume 138.

Future Developments

This article identifies records online as of July 2021. Because NARA's digitization efforts will likely be ongoing, you should check NARA's website regularly to see if the records they wish to examine are available digitally online.

In addition, MAGS plans to add the names in the registration volumes in this article to a new dataset. That process is labor-intensive so please be patient with the MAGS volunteers doing this work. It is our goal to have that new dataset added to our master database by June 2022.

Third Article

The final article in this series will focus on consular correspondence and provide you with an overview of correspondence and the universe of records available to research Saxony. It will appear in the next issue of *Der Kurier*.

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.

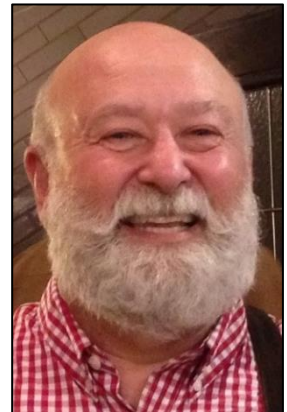
DNA-ENTDECKUNGEN**DNA DISCOVERIES**

Understanding Relationships

Family is a fundamental aspect of our lives. We all have a father and mother; some have children. From there, it becomes an ever-expanding web of cousins, ancestors, and other relatives with increasingly distant relationships. As genealogists, we focus as much on ancestors as on cousins. *Familiengeschichten* (family histories) become important as we try to reconstruct the lives of our forefathers.

When we talk about families, the traditional notion of the nuclear unit is composed of *Vater* (father), *Mutter* (mother), and two or three *Kinder* (children). Sometimes, *Opa* (grandpa) and *Oma* (grandma) are included. Of course, our modern society has widened this definition with more inclusive combinations of non-conventional units. Be that as it may, when we research family history, we tend to look for the traditional nuclear family. This is understandable even though non-conventional units were as common in the past as they are now.

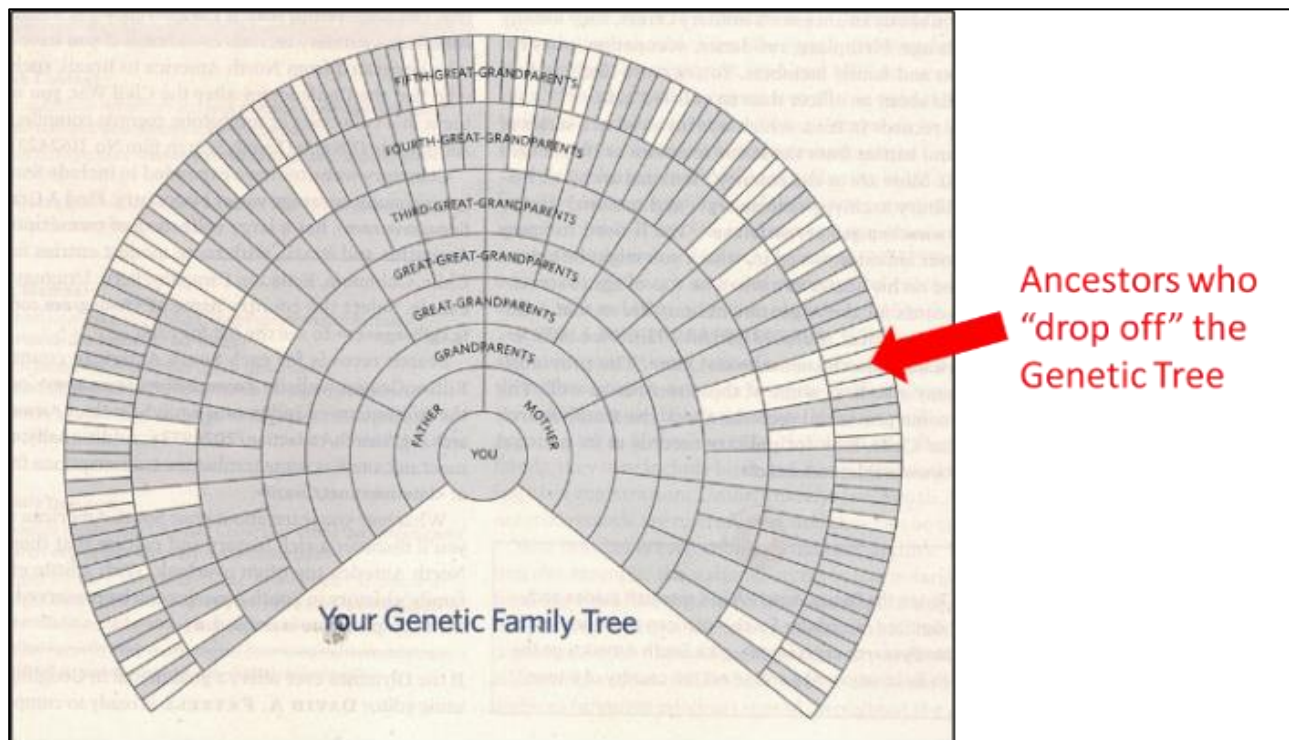
In some ways, relationships were more regulated in the past with Church doctrine governing consanguinity, marriage restrictions within one's social class, and requirements for marriage banns,



**Andrew
Hochreiter**

baptisms, and other rites to be performed to make the relationship legitimate. I have always admired the Germans' objectivity in recording illegitimate births. I personally have two subsequent generations of illegitimacies among my Hochreiter ancestors. These candid records are helpful when researching family history in case there is a surname switch. Fortunately, these *uneheliche Kinder* (illegitimate children) of mine kept our forefathers' surname to ensure our common Y-DNA signature in this line.

Relationships can be complicated. Understanding relationships is important to traditional genealogy as well as genetic genealogy. We usually think of our family tree in terms of ancestors. But it's also useful to imagine our tree in terms of inherited DNA. In this respect, we all have two types of family trees. One is our **Genealogical Family Tree**. This is made up of all our ancestors who preceded us whether we know their names or not. Each position was occupied by a real person who existed as our four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, sixteen great-great-grandparents, and so on going back in time. A second type of family tree also exists for us. It is our **Genetic Family Tree**. The Genetic Family Tree is a subset of our Genealogical Family Tree. It is fractional because not all our ancestors passed down their DNA to us.



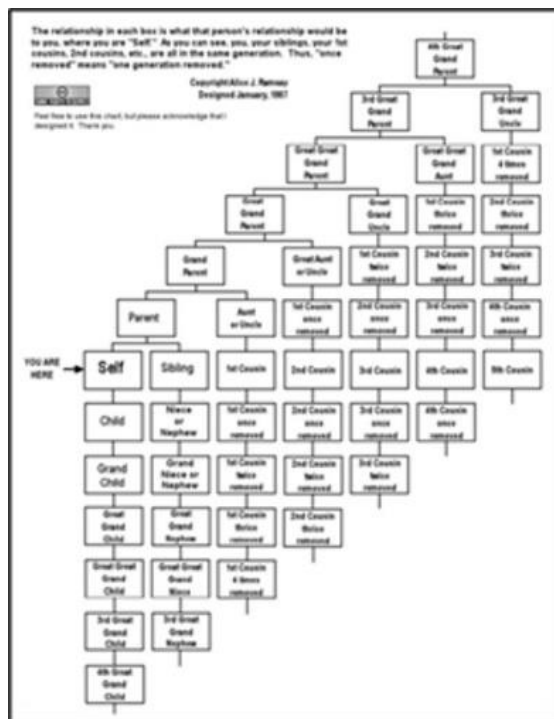
An illustration of the fact that we do not carry DNA from all of our direct ancestors

DNA from ancestors starts to dissipate over generations. Each of our parents contributed 50% of our autosomal DNA. Their DNA, in turn, was inherited from their parents in the same proportion of exactly 50%. But when the grandparents' contribution is passed to us by our parents, the proportions may start to vary from the average of 25%. For example, our father's 50% input to our DNA may comprise 21% from one grandparent and 29% from the other grandparent. Over generations, some DNA from specific ancestors will continue to be reduced until it disappears. That is why autosomal DNA can only be effective in detecting ancestors back five to seven generations.

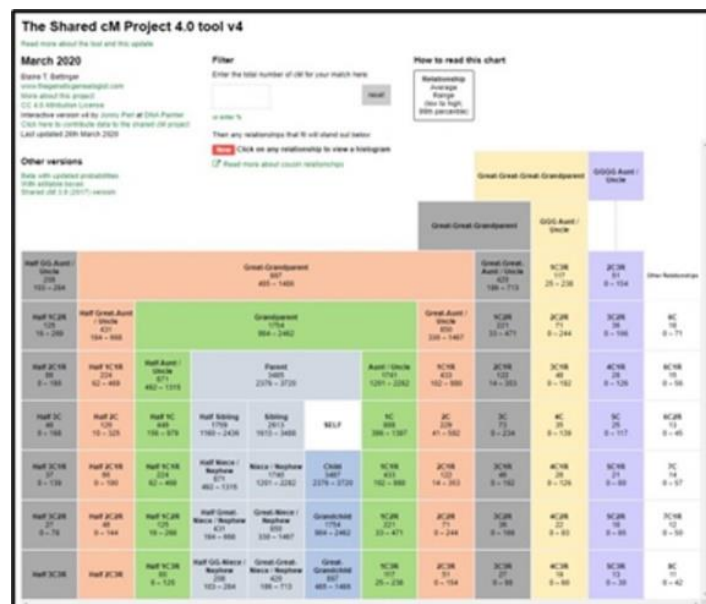
The chart above illustrates how the Genetic Family Tree is a subset of the Genealogical Family Tree and does not comprise all our ancestors.

What criteria define genealogical and genetic relationships? If we as humans all descend from the proverbial genetic Adam and Eve, and those descendants who migrated out of Africa to populate the world, are we not all related? Science shows that humans are about 99.9% genetically the same, with only about 0.1% of our DNA responsible for all the differences in appearance, traits, and personalities. But these facts would hardly satisfy a family historian, even those who claim descendancy from the great procreators like Charlemagne or Genghis Khan.

This raises the question, “What is family?” And why is understanding relationships important? It may be wiser to examine this from bottom up rather than the *Weltanschauung* (worldview) approach. Although a genealogical view and a genetic view help define a relationship, there are differences to consider. Both start with comparing and delineating the connection between two people in a group. A relationship is identified based on their positions relative to each other, usually through a shared link (an ancestor or DNA). In genealogical relationships, it is understanding the association through kinship definitions with familial labels like paternal, maternal, cousin, removed, and half relationships. Genetic relationships focus on genetic factors like shared DNA, inherited segments, matches, and genetic networks. Reference charts such as these illustrate the similarities and differences of defining relationships in either sense.



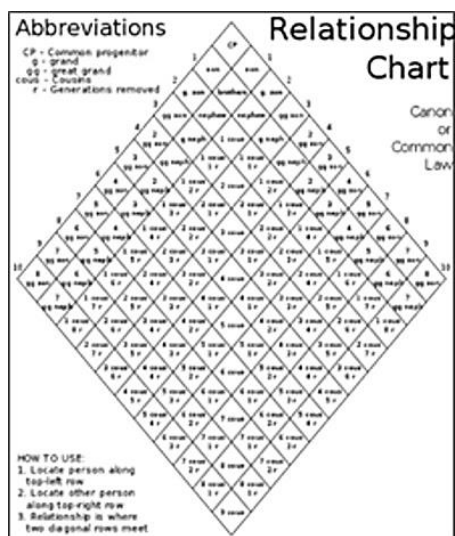
Genealogical Relationship Chart



Genetic Relationship Chart

Genealogical Family Tree Point of View

A genealogical family tree includes the ancestors and descendants of a family considered as a group. In genealogical terms, we determine a relationship to another individual through a common

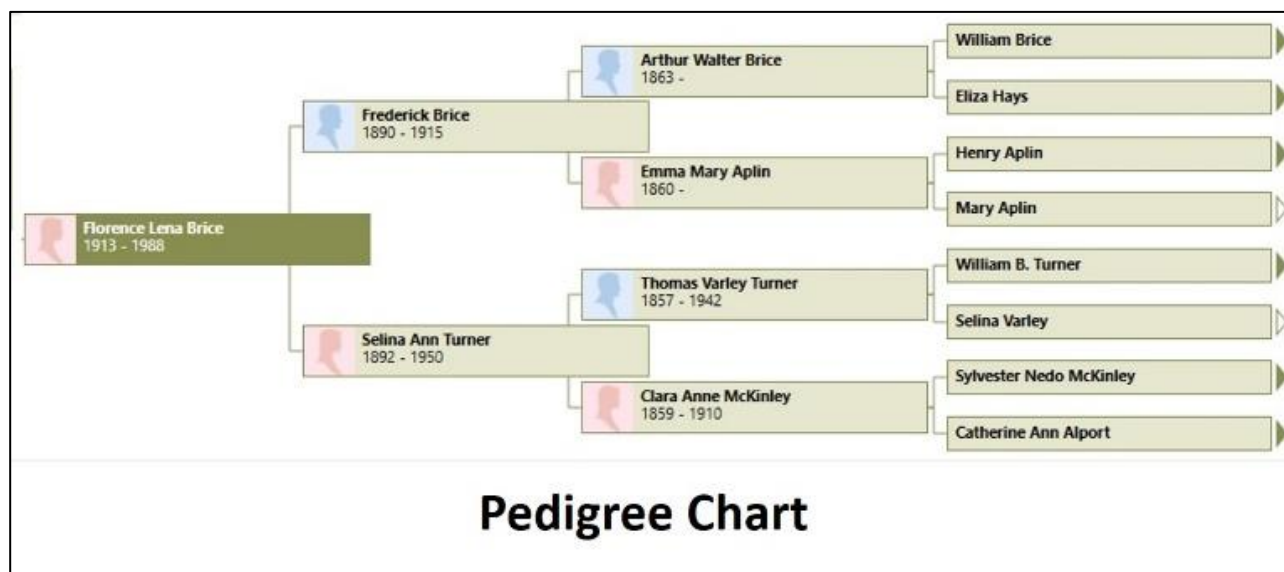


Canon or Common Law Chart

ancestor. These relationships can be represented in a diagram of a family's ancestry that maps the lineage of a person. A family tree is a chart that shows all the people in a family over generations with their relationship to one another. The relationship designation can shift depending on with whom you are compared or matched. You are the parent of your child, but you are a child of your parent. Names and labels vary greatly, with some having great precision and others being more vague. There are aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, degrees of cousins, and grandparents. More precision is added with full or half relationships and "removed" designations to define generational differences. This can become confusing, so reference to a Kinship Relationship chart, like the example at left, is helpful. These charts originated with Canon law for the Church to regulate marriage between cousins.

There is a rich vocabulary of terms for relationships that vary in preciseness of definition. Patruel means "child of your paternal uncle." Another term is avuncle, which refers to a mother's brother. Niblings can define your nieces and nephews. An interesting one is brother-german. This means a full brother who shares both parents. German in this case means "of the same parents," or germane, not the country or language. Synonyms can add to the vitality of kinship terminology. Paternal can be colorfully replaced by agnate, patrikin, and patrilineal kin. Equivalent words for maternal are enate, matricin, and matrilineal kin.

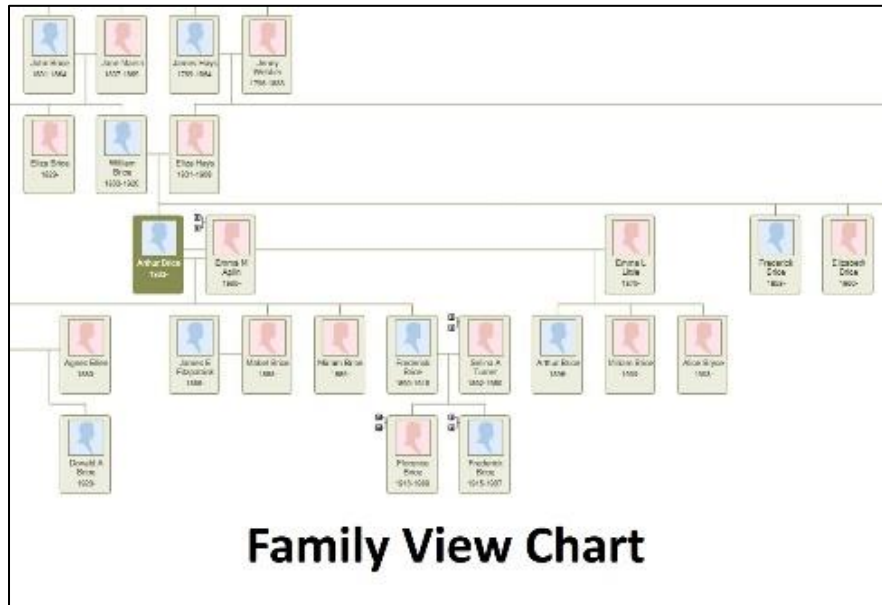
When we illustrate a genealogical family tree, there are different views to depict relationships. It is a representation of family history that can be portrayed in different formats. These diagrams can emphasize different aspects such as ancestral pedigree, family units, and collateral lines.



Pedigree Chart

Genealogical research can lead to ancestor discoveries and determining relations using traditional resources. So, when should you consider using DNA testing to help define a relationship? Many times, it occurs simultaneously as one researches family history. Other times, it becomes

necessary to apply genetic genealogy when an extensive document search fails. DNA can help prove or disprove a relationship, find an unknown ancestor, map genetic origins to geographical areas, or identify new avenues to research.



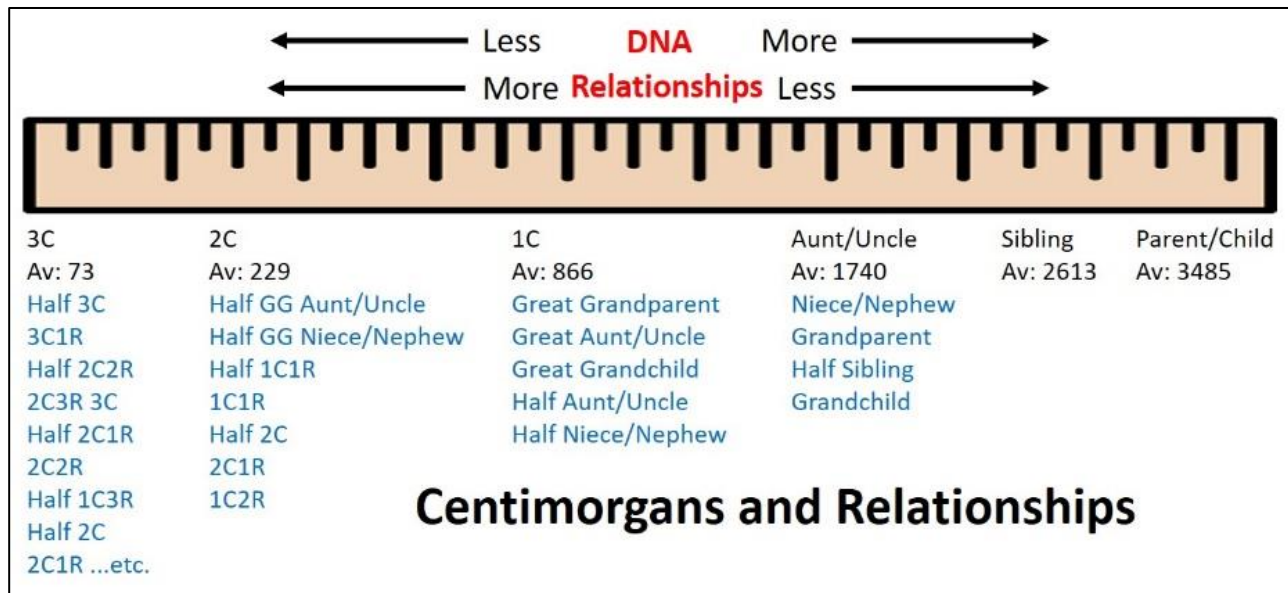
Genetic Family Tree Point of View

When DNA is used in family research, identifying relationships requires understanding the dynamics of inheritance and the variable nature of shared DNA. Relationships can be estimated but verification must still be done with traditional research to provide a specific relationship between genetic matches. DNA can prove that two people are related, but not how. Fortunately, the testing companies provide automated tools for initial matching and analysis. When enough DNA is shared between two people in the company database, a match is made. A list of all our matches is generated in order of closeness. Some matches will be close, but most are distant. That is because we have many more distant relatives than close ones. Each company has its own matching thresholds to determine the estimated relationship.

Relationships are estimated based on the amount of shared DNA, which is measured in a unit called centimorgan (cM). These are units of probability, not units of physical distance. But despite its complex definition, it is convenient for genealogists to think of cM in terms of quantity, which makes it easier to gauge relationships with shared DNA. Some general rules can be applied: the more total cM shared, the closer the relationship; the longer the DNA segment, the closer the relationship. Short segments could be false positives.

Tools have been created to assist researchers to determine possible relationships based on shared cM of DNA. The most useful is the Shared cM Project that provides the average amount shared in a specific relationship and the possible range of cM that could be shared. The range is important because DNA is random and not inherited in precise amounts by relatives. So, two related paternal first cousins could match with anywhere between 396 to 1397 cM, despite the average of 866 cM. This tool is available for free at <https://dnapainter.com/> and should be checked when analyzing an unknown match for a predicted relationship. See the Shared cM Project in the Genetic Relationship Chart on page 145.

Another variable in predicting a relationship is the multiple relationships that can be represented by the same amount of DNA. As mentioned, look at shared cM in terms of amounts. The more cM, the closer the relationship represented by fewer numbers of possible relationships. Conversely, smaller amounts of shared cM represent more possibilities.



It is essential to understand the correlation between your DNA matches and the common ancestor shared with them. For example, you share grandparents with a first cousin. You share great-grandparents with a second cousin. Knowing these connections can help you identify relationships in either direction when using DNA. For instance, say you have an unknown match predicted as a second-third cousin with 170 cM shared DNA. You may want to start looking for the common ancestor in the great- to great-great-grandparent generations. The same can be applied in reverse, as when you discover a common ancestor in an unknown match's family tree. The common ancestor is a great-great-grandmother, which would map you and your match as third cousins. But keep in mind that if you and your match are in different generations, the relationship could be second cousin once removed (2C1R). You must think flexibly about unknown relationships until documentation provides the answer.

Relative	Common Ancestor	Avg. Shared cM	Range of Shared cM	Odds of Matching
Self	Parents	3485	2376-3720	100%
Sibling	Parents	2613	1613-3488	100%
1C	Grandparents	866	396-1397	100%
2C	Great Grandparents	229	41-592	>99%
3C	2xGreat Grandparents	73	0-234	~90%
4C	3xGreat Grandparents	35	0-139	>50%
5C	4xGreat Grandparents	25	0-117	>15%
6C	5xGreat Grandparents	18	0-71	<5%

The use of specific matches can create groups of genetic relatives. When DNA is used to separate various matches, Genetic Networks are formed, which will lead to identifying the source (a common ancestor) of the shared DNA segments. Since DNA inheritance is random, not all descendants inherit the same amount or particular segments of DNA. This can introduce uncertainty in predicting a relationship based on DNA. But it can also reaffirm a relationship when shared segments are present.

The combination of traditional research with DNA can be powerful in finding relatives and ancestors. Understanding the two types of family trees will enhance the research of relationships with unknown relatives and matches. By discovering the relationship, new family lines and ancestors are revealed that add new branches to our family trees.

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.

AUSWANDERER ZUSAMMEN**IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS**

The Bortz Family from Köslin District, Pomerania

In the last issue, I wrote about my search for the origin of John Greiner, the ancestor of an acquaintance. The search for John's wife, Mathilda Bortz, was just as interesting, as I will describe here. In the process, I discovered some fruitful sources for Pomeranian research and learned more about the German religious experience.



Bob Greiner

According to the initial information I was given, Mathilda Bortz was born in Köslin, Prussia, in 1851. Köslin was the seat of the district (*Kreis*) of the same name in the Province of Pomerania (*Pommern*) in Prussia. As is typical with German research, one must consider that the immigrant could have lived anywhere in the *Kreis* and not just the city.

By 1869 Mathilda Bortz was in Greene County, Iowa, where she married John Greiner. Although not found in the 1870 or 1880 Federal Censuses, they appeared in the 1895 Iowa State Census and the 1900 Federal Census in Greene County. The 1900 Census gave her exact birth date as 7 January 1850. That is rather unusual, even for the 1900 census.

I searched for other people with the surname Bortz (or Bartz) in Greene County. A Charles and Wilhelmina were living there with two children in 1870. In 1880 Gottlieb and Wilhelmina were living with a son and his wife. It eventually became apparent that Charles and Gottlieb were the same person. Wilhelmina died in 1883 and was buried in Greene County. Gottlieb died sometime after 1895, but his date of death and place of burial are unknown.

I found several family trees on Ancestry and FamilySearch for the Gottlieb Bortz family. Most of them included four sons, but not Mathilda. The trees indicated the family was from Casline, Prussia—a corruption based on the German pronunciation of Köslin. Census records for several of their children suggested that they immigrated in 1866 or 1867.

Wilhelm Gottlieb Ludwig Bortz (L7BT-K2W)

b. ca. 1811 *Kreis* Köslin, Pomerania – after 1895, Greene Co., Iowa?

md. before 1842?, *Kreis* Köslin

Caroline Wilhelmine Christine Mischke

b. ca. 1818, *Kreis* Köslin, d. 24 May 1883, Greene Co., Iowa

Children (all born in *Kreis* Köslin)

- **August Bortz**, b. 24 Aug 1842, d. 5 Jul 1923 Los Angeles Co., California
- **Carl Bortz**, b. ca. 1846, d. 12 Jul 1867, Tama Co., Iowa
- **Mathilda Bortz**, b. 7 Jan 1850, d. 6 Aug 1907, Greene Co., Iowa
- **Carl Ludwig Hermann Bortz**, b. 14 Aug 1852, Mocker, *Kreis* Köslin, d. 28 Aug 1852, Mocker
- **Albert Hermann Ludwig Bortz**, b. 18 Jul 1856, Mocker, *Kreis* Köslin, d. 19 Jul 1920, Des Moines, Iowa
- **Henry Bortz**, b. 12 Sep 1858, d. 3 Jan 1909, Orange Co., California

Using that information, I was able to easily find a passenger list for the family. They sailed from Hamburg on 5 May 1866. No corresponding arrival list has been found. A great feature of the Hamburg lists is that they typically include the last place of residence. The family—spelled Barz on the list—came from the village of Mocker in Prussia. The passengers included the parents, four sons, and a daughter Mathilda, age 16.

I was now almost certain that Mathilda was a member of this Bortz family. The final proof was

found in a 1920 obituary for Mathilda's brother Albert. Among the attendees at the funeral were John Greiner and several of his daughters. (Mathilda Greiner had died by then.) Once again, we see the value of investigating all members of a family.

Where was Mocker? Using meyersgaz.org, I discovered that it was a small village in *Kreis* Köslin. The Protestant parish was in the nearby village of Wisbuhr. You can also use kartenmeister.com to enter the German village names to see more information about them, including their current Polish names (Mokre and Wyszecborz). These villages were in the Prussian province of Pomerania beginning in 1815; since 1945 the region has been in Poland. Note that the western part of the historical province of Pomerania is now part of the German state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The eastern part, including the former *Kreis* Köslin, is in Poland.

It's always a good idea to search the FamilySearch Wiki to learn more about regions of Germany. I found an article entitled "Pomerania (Pommern), Prussia, German Empire Genealogy."¹ In addition to many facts, maps, etc., it also suggests websites to use for additional research. Among these was Pommerscher Greif—the Association for Family and Local history Research.² I found it to

¹ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pomerania_\(Pommern\),_Prussia,_German_Empire_Genealogy](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pomerania_(Pommern),_Prussia,_German_Empire_Genealogy)

² <https://www.pommerscher-greif.de/>

be a wonderfully useful site. (*Greif* is the German word for griffin—a mythical creature. A stylized one is pictured on the Pomeranian coat of arms.)

The website has several features you can use to find Pomeranian ancestors. You should use the Google Chrome browser to automatically translate the site pages into English. Just remember that personal and place names will also be translated, which can get a bit confusing. Switch back to German when viewing or entering personal and village names.

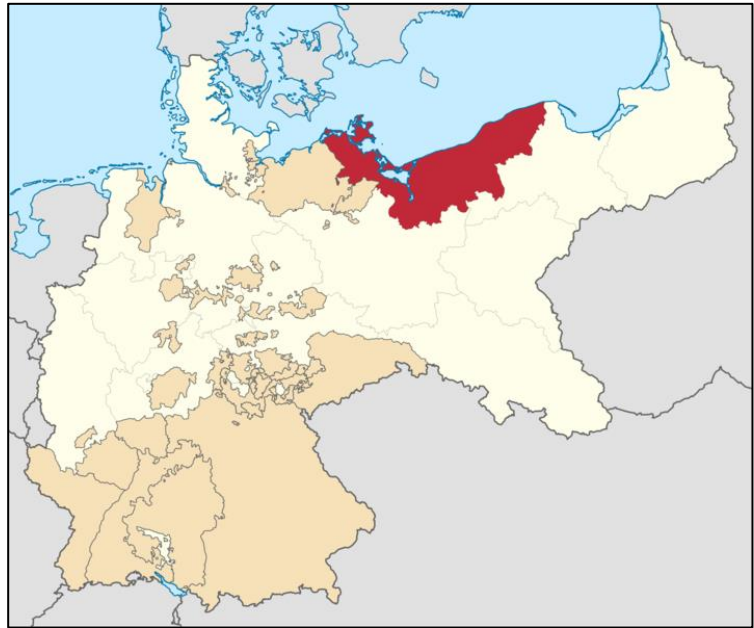
The **source search** allows you to enter a place name to learn what sources are available for that location. A goal of the association is to consolidate information about records scattered throughout many different repositories in Germany and Poland. The results show which civil and church records are available, where they can be found, and whether they are available online. If they are online, a link to the record will be included. They will also indicate whether the source has been indexed by the Pommerscher Greif.

The **personal database**—called GreifX—allows you to enter the name of a person to search. You can use name variants and restrict the search by dates and location. Birth, marriage, and death records are searched separately. If the results for a person include online records, a direct link to the record is provided. There is also an English user's guide on the database search page.

A source search for Mocker returned the German and Polish village names. When you click on the village, you see that civil birth, marriage, and death records are available online from 1874–1919. Protestant church records from 1794–1874 are also online. These were all from Wisbuhr. Catholic records can be found in the diocesan archive in Koszalin, Poland, but they are not online.

I tried searching the database for Gottlieb Bortz, checking the box for phonetic spelling and for marriages, but found nothing. The same search for baptisms with only the surname produced several pages of results, many of them in Mocker. Two of the children's names matched those on the passenger list, and they had the same mother – Wilhelmina Mieschke. The surname was consistently spelled Barz in these records. That's why it's a good idea to selectively use wildcards or phonetic options for surnames when searching.

A click on the link gave more details about the baptism event, plus more about the child and parents. There was also a link to the church baptism record on another website. While this seemed to be a good find, the given names for the parents varied quite a bit, although both included Gottlieb and Wilhelmina. I was certainly in the right place.



Map of Pomerania within the German Empire

[This file is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported, 2.5 Generic, 2.0 Generic and 1.0 Generic license.]

The link took me to the Genbaza website,³ which has images of the Wisbuhr church book. The site requires you to create a free account to view the images. Once I did that (using the English translation), I was able to navigate to the Köslin district, and then found the link for Wisbuhr (Wyszeborz).

Once in the digitized church book, I was able to search through the images to locate the birth dates of the known children. The GreifX result gives you the year and entry number, but you must navigate through the book to find the specific record. I found three potential baptism records for the children of Gottlieb and Wilhelmina and a death record for one of them, but no marriage record for them. It seemed to be the right family, because the birth date for Albert Bortz matched that known from Iowa records. I looked in a few nearby parishes with no more luck.



Albert Bortz baptism record from Wisbuhr church book

Residence: Mocker, house #28
Father: Wilhelm Gottlieb Barz, property owner
Mother: Caroline Wilhelmine Christine Mieschke
Child: Albert Hermann Ludwig
Birth date: Eighteenth (18) July, 5 o'clock in the morning
Status: Legitimate
Baptism date: Twenty-fifth (25) July
Godparents:
 1. Michael Krödel, property owner
 2. Carl Racke, property owner's son
 3. Ottilie Ristow
 All from Mocker

The Pommerscher Greif website also has a list of contacts for different counties of Pomerania. I placed a query and soon received a reply. The information included documentation that was provided to a researcher ten years ago. It explained that the Barz family were members of the *Alt Lutheraner* (Old Lutheran) denomination. This group refused to accept the decrees of Prussian King Frederick William III that merged Lutheran and Reformed churches into the

Prussian Union of Churches. This eventually became the Evangelical Church of Germany. In 1841 the dissenting group formed the Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Prussia independent from the state church.

The letter explained that the *Alt Lutheraner* kept their own church books separate from the state church. The pastors of state-supported churches did not always record life events for those people in dissenting congregations. That explains why not all records for the Barz family appear in the Wisbuhr church book. Few church books from *Alt Lutheraner* churches exist.

There are several other websites with online Pomeranian records. Ancestry has a dataset entitled **Pomerania, Germany, Parish Register Transcripts, 1544–1883** with images from a large set of parishes.⁴ There are also some Pomeranian records in **Germany, selected Protestant church**

³ <https://metryki.genbaza.pl/index/list>

⁴ <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/8798/>

books 1518–1921.⁵ FamilySearch has two record sets: **Germany, Prussia, Pomerania Church Records, 1544–1945**⁶ and **Germany, Prussia, Pomerania, Catholic and Lutheran Church Records, 1544–1966.**⁷ Archion also has some under the archives for **Ostgebiete: Evang. Zentralarchiv Berlin.**⁸ See the FamilySearch Wiki article “Pomerania (Pommern), German Empire Church Records” for more details and links.⁹

The search for the family of Mathilda Bortz presented several common genealogical challenges. The first was to find proof that connected her to the family of the same name living in Greene County, Iowa. That was solved by finding a passenger list with the whole family and an obituary linking her to her siblings.

The second challenge was to find her place of birth given the scant known information. The passenger list pinpointed that. Finally, finding documentation of her birth proved to be almost impossible. The Pommerscher Greif website yielded the only available information about the Bortz family. The extant church records at Genbaza yielded sufficient information about Mathilda’s brother Albert to confirm Mocker (or the nearby region) as Mathilda’s place of birth.

⁵ <https://www.ancestry.de/search/collections/61456/> (in German)

⁶ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/1874205>

⁷ <https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/3665083>

⁸ https://www.archion.de/de/browse/?no_cache=1&path=3

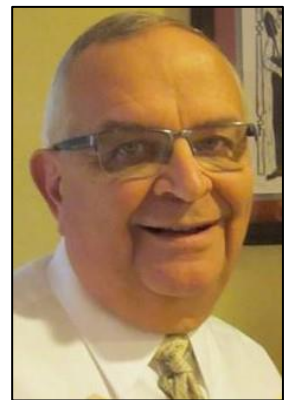
⁹ [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pomerania_\(Pommern\),_German_Empire_Church_Records](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Pomerania_(Pommern),_German_Empire_Church_Records)

UNSERE SPRACHBLÄTTER

OUR LANGUAGE LEAVES

Welches Sternzeichen bist du?

Every American genealogist who researches German ancestors and has worked with old German church and civil records as well as old Bibles and family books has developed a German vocabulary of words and expressions that are frequently found in those documents, such as *geboren*, *getauft*, *gestorben*, *Vater*, *Mutter*, *Taufzeugen*, etc. But recently, I again had my eyes opened and discovered a whole new set of German genealogy vocabulary that I had not seen in birth/baptismal records before.



Ken Weaver

I was born and raised in Ephrata, PA, and am still a member of the Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley which is located there. I have spent numerous hours researching my mother’s side of the family in the extensive library collection there, but never had the opportunity to visit the adjoining museum until this past August when we were in Pennsylvania. The museum is staffed by volunteers and their hours and my visits to the library just never jibed. Not the case this time!

On the second floor of the museum in a long, glass-enclosed case are several books printed on the presses of the Brethren of the Ephrata Cloister, as well as one hand-lettered family book entry, pictured here:



This document is a goldmine in terms of its linguistic features! It is a very neatly penned *Fraktur* family book entry of the birth of the children of Abraham and Maria Hershey and opens with a poem about how children are a gift from God. But the main thing that jumped off the page to this retired German teacher is the spelling of the couple's last name. In English, their name is Hershey, but with correct and proper German spelling, the artist names them *Herschi*.

Each of the twelve children was born *im Jahr Christi* ("in the year of Christ") extending from the birth of the first child in 1802 to the twelfth in 1825. The artist who lettered this document was indeed human, since the entry for the last child Catharina has the word *Christi* misspelled—the long "s" is missing. The spelling of the month November in the entry for the third child is also incorrect. (November in German is spelled the same as it is in English, not with a "w" as in this entry.)

But what made this document extremely unique for me was that the sign of the zodiac was noted for each child's birth. In all the tons of birth documents I have transcribed and translated for researchers, **not one** made any mention of the astrological signs. While the spelling for the names of the signs isn't perfect (*Waag*, *Schitz*, and *Low* are misspelled.), the scribe used the phrasing in each

Die Sternzeichen - Signs of the Stars (Zodiac)		
Aries	der Widder	ram
Taurus	der Stier	bull
Gemini	die Zwillinge	twins
Cancer	der Krebs	crab
Leo	der Löwe	lion
Virgo	die Jungfrau	virgin
Libra	die Waage	scales
Scorpio	der Skorpion	scorpion
Sagittarius	der Schütze	shooter
Capricorn	der Steinbock	ibex
Aquarius	der Wassermann	water man
Pisces	die Fische	fish

entry: *und ihr/sein Zeichen ist in der ____ or ist im ____*: “and her/his sign is in the ____.” (*Im* is a contraction for *in dem* and precedes masculine names of the sign and *in der* would precede feminine or plural sign names.)

The German names of the signs of the zodiac come mostly from the name of the animal that depicts the sign. The chart here names the twelve signs with a direct translation of each sign name. *Sternzeichen* is a compound noun; *Stern* is the German word for star, *Zeichen*, sign/s.

Quite surprisingly, after returning from Ephrata, I had some spare time and decided to do some of my own research and headed to the website of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. In checking for one of my Palatine immigrant ancestors, the website sent me to

the July 1973 edition of the *Mennonite Research Journal*, a publication no longer printed, but available for review on the historical society’s website. And what to my wondering eyes did appear on page 32 another *Fraktur* birth/baptismal record from 1793, pictured here. In the line under the child’s name (Anna Jansi) is the line: *Im Zeichen des Krebs*—in the sign of Cancer.

The discovery of a second document led me on a research tangent. Was there another side to our German ancestors than the Bible-driven religion, be it Mennonite, Lutheran, Reformed, or Catholic? And the answer to that question is a resounding “yes!”

I found an extremely interesting book by Gerald C. Milnes entitled: *German Appalachian Folklore: Signs, Cures and Witchery* (University of Tennessee Press, c. 2007). While this book



Source: *Mennonite Research Journal*, Vol. XIV, No. 3 – July, 1973 – pg. 32
Used with permission of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

focuses on those German immigrants who migrated west into what is today West Virginia, the book related numerous Pennsylvania sources of practices by our ancestors that were not necessarily religious. On page 50 of the book, Milnes indicates that numerous family Bibles contained *Fraktur* birth records that noted under which sign of the zodiac the child was born.

The book certainly opened my eyes that our German ancestors looked for explanations for phenomena in life that could not be explained through Biblical references. That included not only the signs of the zodiac but a wide variety of other non-religious practices such as curses, folk medicine and cures, conjuring, and other practices that might be labeled as occult. The development of almanacs grew out of this search by our ancestors to explain the biblical unexplainable. (It is noted that our farming German ancestors planted by the signs of the zodiac and Ben Franklin even capitalized on this belief in the power of the phases of the moon by having thousands of copies of his *Poor Richard's Almanac* translated and printed in German.)

My focus in this quarterly column is German language and that was certainly how I began when I came upon the family birth record in the Ephrata museum. What I discovered though was a whole new side to my ancestors and one that should have been more obvious to me, growing up in Lancaster County. Where else does one see that blend of religion and the occult than on the many barns in the area “protected” by hex signs, which are a blend of religion and practices and ideas that are not found in the Bible?

Additional research led me to several other articles that help to explain this blend of our ancestors’ belief system that are on the website of the Glencairn Museum in Bryn Athyn, PA, a suburb northeast of Philadelphia:

“HEX SIGNS: SACRED AND CELESTIAL SYMBOLISM IN PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH BARN STARS”

<https://glencairnmuseum.org/newsletter/2019/3/19/hex-signs-sacred-and-celestial-symbolism-in-pennsylvania-dutch-barn-stars>

(In this document is also an image of a *Fraktur* birth record of one Benjamin Meyer who was born under the sign of Scorpio.)

“POWWOWING IN PENNSYLVANIA: HEALING RITUALS OF THE DUTCH COUNTRY”

<https://glencairnmuseum.org/newsletter/2017/3/2/powwowing-in-pennsylvania>

I encourage readers to take a closer look at the “other” side of what they might have once considered their very religious German ancestors. They brought with them more than just their ardent religious beliefs, but also beliefs in concepts that go beyond what they read in the Bible. Our German ancestors were a blend, both religious and otherwise, and I was amazed at how finding one document in a museum in Ephrata, with what I first believed was a linguistic oddity, broadened my thinking about the lives of my German forefathers.

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.

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.

NICKI BIRCH of VIENNA, VA
(*No Names*)

VIRGINIA CHAREST of TAMPA, FL
(*Miller, Hartmiller*)

ROBERT FRITZ of ELLICOTT CITY, MD
(*Neumann, Fritz, Roether, Vetter*)

DONALD GRAHAM of GLEN BURNIE, MD
(*Hunt/Hund, Hollstern, Helkelman, Baudendistel*)

SHARI KNAUST of PACIFIC, MO
(*Mohn, Beuchler, Flaugh*)

FRANK & GISELA KOLESZAR of NEW OXFORD, PA
(*Thanert, Löblich, von Löblich, Schwipper*)

MARILYN LERCH of ROANOKE, VA
(*Moyer, Griffin, Fretz, Ebert*)

CHRISTINE MURPHY of LONG VALLEY, NJ
(*Zimmerman, Schissler, Rupert, Braucher*)

CAROLE & WILLIAM POPP of ASH FORK, AZ
(*No Names*)

KIMBERLY POWELL of OAKDALE, PA
(*No Names*)

LAUREN TORELLA of HOLTSVILLE, NY
(*Hoffman, Hotz*)

PATRICIA ZEIS of HUDSON, FL
(*Zeis, Heller, Dengler, Kost*)

DER KALENDER

2022

3–5 March. RootsTech 2022, Virtual. Inspiring keynote speakers, unlimited access to over 1,500 sessions, and an Expo Hall with companies from around the world.
<https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/>.

12 March. Fairfax Genealogical Society 2022 Spring Conference, Location TBD.
<https://fxgs.org/eventListings.php?nm=79>.

2 April. MAGS Virtual Spring Conference 2022. Four presentations from Paula Stuart-Warren, CGSM, FMGS, FUGA, on



THE CALENDAR

the topic of "Germans in U.S. Government Records." Log in to your member account, then visit the link below to register at the member rate.

<https://www.magsgen.com/store.php?sid=1&cid=4>.

27–30 April. "Jazz It Up." Ohio Genealogical Society Conference 2022, Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH. Featuring speakers Bob Batchelor, David Rohr, and Daniel Horowitz.
<https://www.ogsconference.org/registration/>.

24–28 May. "Our American Mosaic," National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, SAFE Credit Union Convention Center, Sacramento, CA, hosted locally by the

California Genealogical Society. See the link below for a brochure of the event's activities.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/NGS-2022-Conf-Anncmnt-Bro-R2-1.pdf>.

16–18 June. 2022 Palatines to America National Conference, DoubleTree Denver Hotel, Denver, CO, including presentations by Wolfgang Grams and Daniel Jones. Online registration begins 10 January 2022.

https://www.palam.org/palam_update/resources/palam-2022conf/flyernov3.pdf.

25 June. Germanic Genealogy Society Annual Meeting, Location TBD. Featuring a

presentation entitled “How to Plan a Trip to Germany” by Wolfgang Grams.

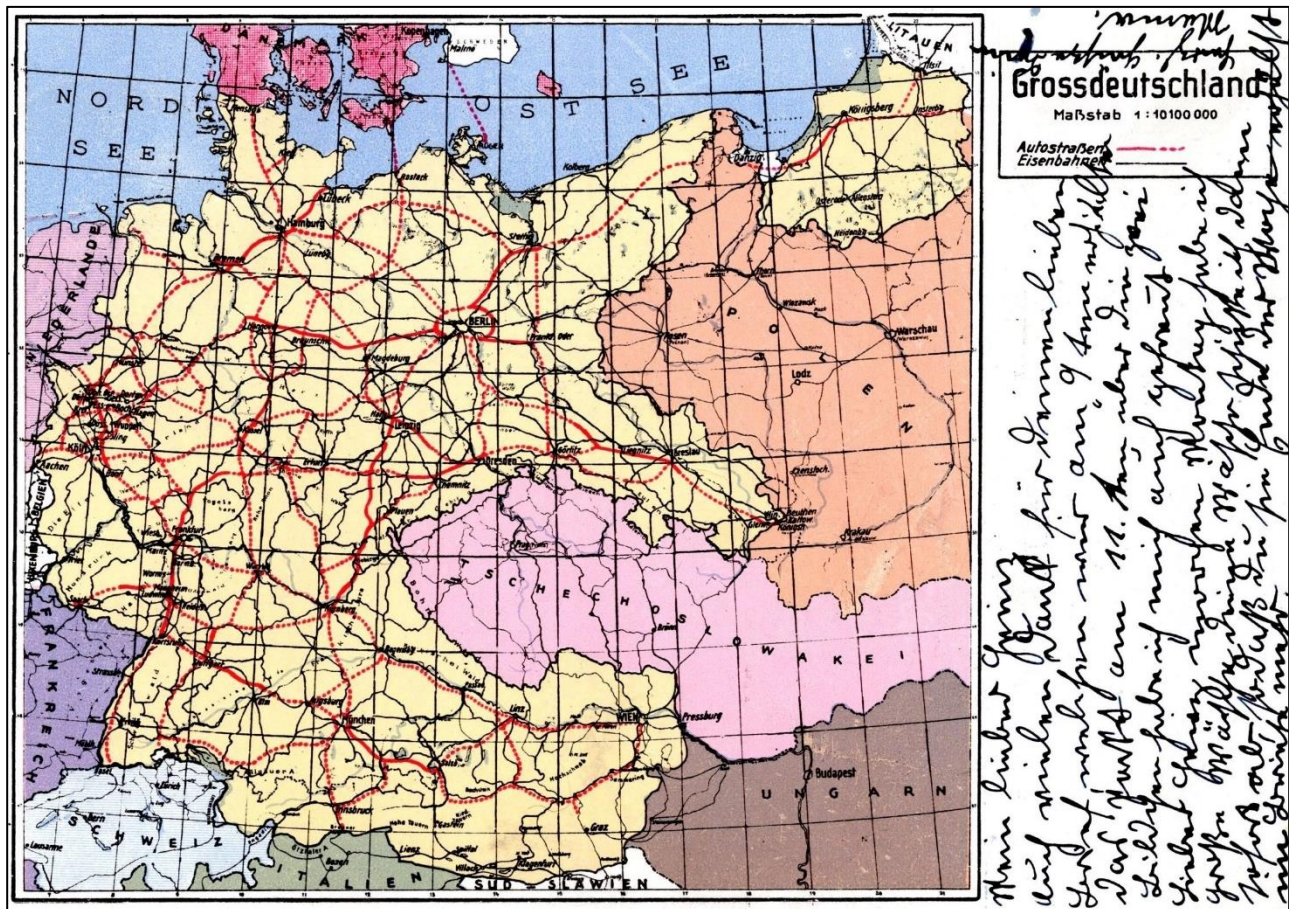
<https://ggsnmn.org/eventListings.php?nm=38>.

19-27 August. Southern California Genealogical Society's Jamboree 2022, featuring three online, virtual conferences. Registration opens 7 March 2022.

<https://genealogyjamboree.com/>

8–10 September. 2022 New York State Family History Conference, Albany, NY. Featuring a combination of in-person and online events.

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/2022>.



A map of *Großdeutschland* (Greater Germany) after the annexation of Austria (*Anschluss*) in 1938

The red lines show *Autostraßen* (highways) and the black lines show *Eisenbahnen* (railways). Put your German-script-reading skills to the test and try to transcribe/translate the note someone wrote on the right side!

[from MAGS President Dr. Kenneth Heger's personal collection]

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. 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.

4. 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

5. Katherine Schober

Phone: (314) 660-1061

Email: language@sktranslations.com

Website: <https://germanologyunlocked.com/>

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

6. Ann C. Sherwin

Website: www.asherwin.com

Specialization: Genealogy, history, old handwriting.

American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English

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

Phone: (319) 835-3960

Email: andrewjwitter@gmail.com

8. Theresa Berns

Website: <https://www.tb-translations.com/>

Specialization: German to English and English to German; historical documents; old German script



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