



DER KURIER

Volume 14, Number 2 , June 1996

MAGS Looks Forward

The last issue of Der Kurier led off with a brief update about MAGS and noted that the organization is in a "period of transition." Indeed it is! MAGS has been fortunate in having dedicated leadership in people like Norman C. Emerick, Anne Tenney, Bev Hoch, Carl Schrader, Mary K. Meyer, Gail Komar, Debbie Brown, and others. These people continue to serve the organization, but it is a time now to build on their contributions and move forward.

Always looking forward, the MAGS Board is considering new ways we can serve our members. One way to accomplish this is to form a Steering Committee which will meet in the Washington, D.C. area two or three times next fall and give recommendations to the Board to achieve broad-based goals such as boosting membership and providing services to members.

As part of this effort, your suggestions in the questionnaire circulated in 1995 are under consideration. The response to that questionnaire was tremendous and suggestions you offered were relevant to our focus on MAGS's mission. In addition, Board members have advanced several new ideas. Now we need to take a close look at details and determine how practical these ideas are in terms of MAGS financial and manpower resources. In short, it is time to determine where we want to be five years from now. If you want to serve on the Steering Committee, we sure want to hear from you. Contact MAGS President, Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316; 717-259-0299 (e-mail address: RDEARNEST@AOL.com).

Are you overdue with your membership payment? You are overdue if your latest copy of the Newsletter carries the number 95 to the right of your name and if you have not yet sent in your dues. The membership year began on January 1. Please send your dues payment (\$10 single, \$12 family) to Dorothy Jackson Reed, 14710 Sherwood Drive, Greencastle, PA 17225-8403. If you have any questions, please phone Dorothy on (717) 597-1747.

Der Kalender

- 14-17 Aug. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference "In Your Ancestors' Image". Rochester, NY. For further details, write FGS, P.O. Box 3385, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-338, or telephone/fax (214) 907-9727.
- 13-14 Sep Annual seminar of the Tidewater Genealogical Society, Christopher Newport University Student Center Contact Ernest Lee Culler, Tidewater Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 7650, Hampton, VA 23666.
- 6 Oct. German-American Day (nationwide). Dates of observance may vary locally.
- 26 Oct. MAGS Fall Meeting, Holiday Inn, Cumberland, Maryland (see inside article)

If you would like your organization's event or program placed on Der Kalender, please send the information to the MAGS Acting Editor: Merl E. Arp, 20 Kinsman View Circle, Silver Spring, Md 20901, by the first of the month prior to der Kurier publication.

Don't Forget to Order Your MAGS Lapel Pin! The MAGS lapel pin is a beauty: black, white, and gold, with the new MAGS logo! Each pin costs \$5.00 plus \$1.00 postage and handling charges. Send your order and check to Joan Sheviak, 3519 King Arthur Road, Annandale, VA 22003. Allow at least two weeks for delivery!

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society was founded on July 10, 1982, by a group of dedicated persons having a common interest in learning more about the Germanic genealogy in the mid-Atlantic region. The term "Mid-Atlantic" describes the general area into which our early German ancestors came when they arrived in America, and for the Society's purposes includes New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, District of Columbia, Virginia, West Virginia, and the Carolinas. The Society holds two meetings annually, in the spring and in the fall, open to members and the interested public, featuring speakers expert or knowledgeable in various aspects of relevant genealogical research and knowledge. The Society publishes a quarterly Newsletter for distribution during the months of March, June, September, and December. In addition to the meetings, the Society offers a wide range of other services, such as a lending library, query service, professional referral and advice, and a surname exchange (see back page of Newsletter for listing and contacts for further information). The Society does not perform research for individuals or other organizations.

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society is a non-profit organization whose officers serve on a voluntary, pro bono basis.

Membership in the Society is \$10.00 per year for a single membership and \$12.00 for a family membership (for further details see back page of Newsletter). The membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Membership is based upon the individual's interests common to the Society and not on place of residence or ethnic affiliation.

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People and Events

MAGS Spring Meeting Successful

MAGS held its 1996 Spring Meeting on April 27 at Blob's Park, Jessup, Maryland, with a large and attentive crowd in attendance. The morning session featured two presentations by John T. Humphrey, the first on "Baptismal Records: Understanding Their Meaning and Use", the second titled "Are You Having Trouble Finding Baptismal Records for your Pennsylvania Ancestors?". The first lecture provided the audience with an excellent summary of the development of and variations of the institution of baptism in the Christian church and its various branches. Humphrey's presentation provided telling insights into the various reasons why some of our colonial forebears received baptismal certificates while others didn't. Humphrey's presentations were so well received that they will be published in abbreviated form in the MAGS Newsletter.

The afternoon session featured John Heisey who began by leading the audience through the intricate maze of reading German script. Every person in the audience received their own set of "learning aides": copies of old American records written in German. It was a challenging but useful exercise to work through the material with Mr. Heisey. After that brain-stretching task, Mr. Heisey concluded with a talk and slide show depicting village life in western Europe at the time when many of our forefathers departed for the New World.

Door prizes were a new feature of the Spring Meeting, with the donated by the following vendors [Skelton Closet; German Life magazine; Masthof; Immigrant Genealogical Society] and by MAGS. The winners were Carol Chambers of Severna Park, MD; Bale Boggs of Rockville, MD; Darlene Hunter of Woodbridge, VA; Betty Goosman of Baltimore, MD; Jeanne Baden of Bunker Hill, WV; Werner Fehlauer of McLean, VA; Pat Bonnes of Fairfax, MD; Earl Dunn of Rockville, MD; Martha Blais of Hempstead, NY; and Nancy Courtney of Silver Spring, MD.

Anne Tenny's Address

Some MAGS members will remember former MAGS president and program chairperson, Anne Tenny. Anne is now residing at Arden Courts, a facility for Alzheimer's patients. She would enjoy hearing from you and especially enjoys receiving cards. Her current address is: Anne Tenny, Arden Courts # 11E, 10718 Potomac Tennis Lane, Potomac, MD 20854

Summary Report on the Meeting of the Maryland Genealogical Council

The Genealogical Council of Maryland held its spring meeting on April 13, 1996, at the Carroll County Historical Society in Westminster, Maryland. Attending from MAGS were Gwen Read and Marilynne Ocando.

Committee chairpersons announced donations from the Council's Endowment Fund to the Maryland State Archives and the Maryland Historical Society for the purpose of preservation of records. The Council has also revised its by-laws to adequately reflect incorporation and non-profit status.

Plans were proposed for the publication of twenty-six provincial families, with supporting documentation, by Family Line Publications. The Council's state coordinator for Maryland on the Civil War Soldier Indexing Projects reported some progress, thanks to Maryland volunteers and cooperation with the Federation of Genealogical Societies. It was also announced that in June of this year the Council will publish a Cemetery Directory, Volume I, covering the counties of Anne Arundel, Carroll, Montgomery, and Prince George's.

Gwen S. Read
MAGS Representative to the
Genealogical Council of Maryland.

When Did the First Germans Arrive in America?

Gary C. Grassl of Silver Spring, Maryland, has the answer: 1608! In a well-documented research paper Grassl has amassed evidence which establishes that the first Germans settled in the New World in 1608 at Jamestown, Virginia, the site of the first permanent English settlement in America. Citing various sources, Grassl proves that Jamestown, founded in 1607 by the English, also had German glassmakers and carpenters as early as 1608, and later, mineral specialists and sawmillwrights. Some of the Germans are referred to only by their first names, although one source refers to a Swiss-German called "William Volday [Waldi?]". These German craftsmen were customarily referred to as "Dutch-men". In his article Grassl does not mention the geographic origins of most of the German immigrants, although one source mentions Hamburg as the origin of one or more of the German craftsmen.

Honoring the First Germans

Visitors to the Jamestown Glasshouse are informed by the National Park Service that "Polish and German glassmakers" built the glassmaking furnaces in 1608, but currently there is no historical marker or sign at the Colonial National Historical Park [Jamestown] to inform visitors of the earliest German contributions to the building of our country. The first German immigrants to Jamestown deserve recognition, and by honoring them, we would honor all German immigrants who followed in their footsteps. Bradford Miller, President of the German Heritage Society of Greater Washington, D.C., has proposed that the most effective and least costly immediate step would be to urge the Commonwealth of Virginia to erect an highway marker near Jamestown in honor of the first German immigrants. Virginia authorities have thus far been receptive to the idea, but Miller recommends that Virginia residents write the Governor of Virginia urging installation of such a marker. MAGS members interested in supporting the marker project should write to: Governor George Allen, Commonwealth of Virginia, State Capitol, Richmond, VA 23219.

MAGS Fall Meeting Will Combine Genealogy and Scenery

The Fall Meeting of MAGS is scheduled to take place on Saturday, October 26, in the Holiday Inn in downtown Cumberland, western Maryland. As usual, the event will provide morning and afternoon presentations on subjects of interest to genealogists and family historians, along with a midday sit-down meal. However, this meeting will offer participants more than the intricacies of birth data and family relationships. The MAGS Fall Meeting will offer participants the glorious colors of autumn in a semi-wild natural setting, assuming that nature cooperates fully! For those of you not acquainted with the western Maryland, the Cumberland area is nestled in a river valley surrounded by hills covered by substantial forests. There are several local and state parks nearby which should offer plenty of woodland wonder. The autumn colors should be beautiful!

But there is more to be seen and experienced! You can ride the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad on a scenic 32 mile round trip between Cumberland and the town of Frostburg. You can enjoy a century of rail history in one afternoon! MAGS Vice President Frank Wisman indicates that some people have already approached him ready and willing to sign up for this excursion.

The city of Cumberland is also a city of two hundred and fifty years of history as a frontier outpost and former transportation hub. The city features Victorian style homes, some of which are open to public viewing. The residential area on the heights above the town as well as a picturesque downtown are home to grand architecture.

Persons attending the Fall Meeting will also appreciate the relatively new super highway, route 48, which connects Cumberland with the rest of Maryland and other points east, as well as with West Virginia. Driving to and from Cumberland.

So, see you in Cumberland on October 26! Make it into a long, refreshing weekend of family history, scenery, sightseeing, and just plain relaxation!

Letters

... to the Editor:

Just a brief note to thank you for the Fasching article in the latest [March 1996] "Der Kurier". I always enjoy the MAGS newsletter, and find it very useful, but the Fasching article was particularly relevant to me because it referred specifically to the "Ortenau district" (Ortenaukreis) and the town of Zell (am Harmersbach). This is where my Schilli ancestors lived for generations before coming to America in the mid-nineteenth century. I'm in the process of completing a history of our European Schilli ancestors, and the colorful information on how Carnival was (and is) celebrated in their home territory should be of real interest to my readers.

Dean Linder
Columbia, Maryland

Dear MAGS,

The [MAGS] meeting last Saturday [April 27, 1996] at Blob's Park was such a wonderful meeting. The atmosphere and food were without blemish.

It was very enlightening to learn how much we are dependent on baptismal records and how difficult they are sometimes to find. But Mr. Humphrey [guest speaker] gave us hope in finding them at different periods and in different areas. I am so grateful that he shared with us all the information he has accumulated on this subject, and especially the chronology he provided. With help like this, we should be able to find whatever it is that has us stumped right now!

The MAGS Lending Library is also a fantastic way to see books that otherwise would be hard for me and many others to see. Carl Shrader's efforts are greatly appreciated also.

My thanks go to all of you for the meetings you provide.

Alice Harmon
West River, Maryland

Do you ever need someone to translate German into English?

I have translated letters from and genealogical information on my German ancestors. Also, I have translated books and articles. I would be happy to send you a sample of my work.

Andrew Witter
2018 Waterfront Drive, #45
Iowa City, IA 52240

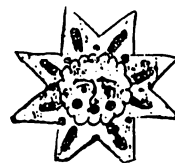
FRAKTUR FORUM

GEIGERs on Fraktur

Veronica Butcher asked about the name GEIGER, among others, on fraktur. She gave information about early ancestors, often too early for American fraktur, which dates about 1750 and lasted into this century. However, fraktur examples might help her trace some of her later GEIGER clan. These include a Taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) in the Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pennsylvania. This example is unusual in that it records data about two people. The first was Elisabeth GEIGER, born February 1, 1798, whose parents were Dieter and Elisabeth GEIGER. She was baptized by Reverend WEINLAND, Lutheran [no date given]. Her mother's maiden name was written various ways on this fraktur, ranging from ROT, to RAT, to ROTH and RATH. Sponsors at Elisabeth's baptism were Jonathan and Elisabeth ROTH. No location is given. The second part of this Taufschein says that Elisabeth RATH was born September 18, 1778 in Colebrookdale Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Jonathan and Elisabeth (LIN) ROTH. Elisabeth was baptized by Reverend MUHLENBURG, Lutheran. Sponsors were Peter and Elisabeth BASTIAN.

In the same collection, a Bible record gives information about the family of Killian GAUGHER, which may or may not be the name GEIGER. Sketchy as the information is on this record, it does list early dates. It says Killian GAUGHER was born in Pennsylvania in Old "Luschehopp" on August 18, 1725. He married Anna Margreda BITTEL November 26, 1745. Children born to this marriage are listed by birthdate only: the first born August 4, 1747 and baptized August 23, 1747; a daughter born October 9, 1749 and baptized January 2, 1750. Another daughter was born November 17, 1751 and baptized February 2, 1752. And on Tuesday, September 24, 1753 at about six o'clock in the evening, another child was born. This child was baptized Sunday, December 23 at about four o'clock.

A Taufschein was made for Henrich GEIGER, born in Heidelberg Township, Northampton County on December 17, 1804, son of Jacob and Apollonia (BAER) GEIGER. He was baptized by Fridrich OBERHAUS, Lutheran, on January 18, 1805.



by Corrine Earnest

Sponsors were Henrich HOFMANN and Maria REX, both single. An added note says Henrich was confirmed April 18, 1818 and married May 25, 1828 to Maria PETER. This fraktur is in The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg (63.19.10).

Another Taufschein was made for Thomas KERN, who was born September 9, 1826 in Rockhill Township, Bucks County. His father was Samuel KERN and his mother was Catarina [sic], born GEIGER. Thomas was baptized November 26, 1826 by Reverend STRASBERGER. Sponsors were Adam KERN who may have been Thomas's grandfather. Literally this line reads, "Sponsors were Adam KERN [and] his grandfather." The brackets appear on the fraktur, but may have been meant to delete the word "and." This example is in a private collection.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has a Taufschein made for Catarina GEIGER, born March 15, 1794 at about five o'clock in the morning in Frederick Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Georg and Susanna (SCHEFER) GEIGER. Catarina was baptized April 15, 1794 by Conrad ROELLER. Sponsors were Jacob SCHMIDT and Catarina SCHEFER. This Taufschein is pictured (#453) in the two-volume set of fraktur in the Free Library Philadelphia, published by the Pennsylvania German Society in 1976.

The third volume in our series, German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition, lists a Bible record (#893) made for the Heinrich and Susanna (BAER) ENGEL family of Windsor Township, Berks County. This Bible record says that Henrich ENGEL was born October 5, 1820. Sponsors at his baptism were Henrich and Sibila GEIGER. No date of baptism is given.

We will return to the name Geiger, plus other names Veronica requested in a future issue of Der Kurier. If you have names you wish us to research on fraktur, simply send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316-0507.

Baptismal Records: Understanding Their Meaning & Use

by

John T. Humphrey

To fully exploit the information that is available in any record, genealogists must be able to place that record into its proper context. In terms of baptismal records, that process is complicated because of two factors: the variety of religious beliefs in this region [Mid-Atlantic Region], especially as they relate to baptism, and the limited background on baptisms that most genealogists [and family historians] bring to their research, that is, most genealogists bring to their research a background on baptism that is limited to the traditions of one faith - their own!

The Origin and Nature of Baptism

Several elements surround baptism that are essential to understanding its significance and practice as it relates to genealogical research. Those elements include baptism's meaning, the proper candidates for baptism, confirmation, sponsors at baptisms, and emergency and conditional baptism. Depending on the denomination, some if not all of those elements will appear in the baptismal records and they will impact on the information that is available to the researcher.

The exact rite of baptism was not defined in the New Testament. Procedures were developed by the early church. Baptism in the early church was by immersion, and it was restricted to adults. As adult baptism receded and infant baptism emerged, the baptismal liturgy was modified to allow for an adult, generally a parent, to speak and act on behalf of the child. Changes made to the liturgy in the ninth century included restrictions that stated anyone related to the infant, albeit parents, grandparents, uncles or wives, aunts or their husbands, cousins or individuals who might enter the family through marriage could no longer act as a sponsor for that infant at baptism.

For three quarters of the now almost two-thousand year history of the Christian Church, baptism was seen as complete remission from original sin. Simply stated, it was looked upon as the only way to Heaven; all those who died unbaptized were unsaved. The concept baptism equals salvation meant seriously ill infants and adults who died unbaptized were lost souls. To remedy this problem, the church devised the mechanism of emergency baptism. In the absence of a priest, a lay man or lay woman could perform the rite provided they baptized the infant "in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

The position of the Catholic Church on baptism altered little as a result of the Reformation. The Catholic Church holds the centuries-old position: baptism is salvation from original sin. Baptism in the Catholic Church is open to everyone. Parental membership is not a prerequisite; in fact, in emergency situations parental consent is not even necessary.

The Catholic Church has actually stipulated the information that is to be recorded in a baptismal register. That information is to include: the name of the person baptized, the name of the minister, the names of parents and sponsors, the day upon which the baptism is conferred and the location.

(continued next page)

Reformation and Protestant Theology

Martin Luther retained the traditional belief that baptism was salvation. Luther's major contribution to the theology of baptism was his introduction of the element of faith. According to Luther, without faith, baptism was of no use. Luther vehemently denied penance as man's salvation for post-baptismal sin. Luther argued that faith helps man to survive the daily tests of sin and suffering. Luther retained sponsors at baptism, but he lifted the restrictions that the Catholic Church implemented in the ninth century that prohibited family members from acting as sponsors for their relatives.

The ideas of the Church of England on baptism are similar to those of both the Catholic and Lutheran churches. For Anglicans, baptism is salvation and entrance into Christ's church. Sponsors were/are present at Anglican baptism and make vows on behalf of the child. Like the Lutheran church, the Anglican Church retained the centuries-old practice of emergency baptism.

Baptismal information recorded by Anglican ministers was prescribed by law. That 1603 law stated "each parish was to have a parchment book wherein the day and year of every christening was to be written.. .. the warden was to record in said book the names of all persons baptized, together with the names and surnames of the parents." The names of sponsors present at Church of England baptisms were not recorded, probably because the recordation of that information was not mandated in the 1063 law and that tradition never developed in England and later in America for recording that information.

The foundations of Presbyterian theology are the ideas of John Calvin. Calvin retained the traditional position that baptism is entrance into the Church, but in his scheme, baptism was not salvation but rather a seal or sign of God's covenant of grace for believers and their children. Calvin believed that all children who died unbaptized are saved, which mitigates the urgency of baptism in the Presbyterian Church. Thus it should not be too surprising that Calvin also rejected emergency baptism.

In the Presbyterian Church the sacraments are called sealing ordinances. Eligibility for the rite of baptism was based on the membership of the parents. The parents not only had to be members of the church, but they had to be members of the church in good standing.

The beliefs of the German Reformed Church were not founded on the theology of one man. Reformed doctrine was based on the thinking of several men, including John Calvin, Heinrich Bullinger, Ulrich Zwingli, and others. The single most important document that expresses the doctrine of the German Reformed churches is the Heidelberg Catechism which was written in 1563. That Catechism does not talk of miraculous salvation conferred by baptism as found in Catholic, Anglican, and Lutheran beliefs. It was Zwingli's opinion that the sacraments were not miraculous vehicles, but were symbols of divine grace.

Like the Presbyterians, the German Reformed Church limited baptism to children of communicant members. One or both parents had to be a confirmed member of the church, or had to express a sincere desire to become a communicant member.

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The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

22 APRIL 1995

ANTRIM HOUSE RESTAURANT, GREENCASTLE, PA

Help Set the Course for M A G S Future!

THE MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC
SOCIETY - A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE V - NOMINATIONS, TERMS OF OFFICE.
SECTION I (OF FOUR SECTIONS).

A NOMINATING COMMITTEE CONSISTING OF AT LEAST THREE MEMBERS WHO ARE NOT MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT AT LEAST FOUR MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SPRING MEETING. THE SLATE NOMINATED SHALL BE PUBLISHED ALONG WITH A RETURN BALLOT AND DISTRIBUTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP IN THE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER PRIOR TO THE FALL MEETING. TWO ADDITIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS SHALL BE NOMINATED WITH THE SLATE OF OFFICERS. NOMINATIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY IN WRITTEN FORM ADDRESSED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE. THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE SPRING MEETING AND ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS MAY ALSO BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR. NO NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FIRST HAVING THE NOMINEE'S CONSENT TO BE NOMINATED FOR THE PROPOSED OFFICE.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

CARL M. SHRADER, CHAIRMAN,
MERL E. ARP, EDWARD G. WINNER



Please read the instructions and candidate nominee information on the other side. Then be prepared to accept the slate or offer your nominations (after obtaining consent from the nominee) and vote after the slate is read.



Important Voter Information

This list of nominees, to fill the open positions on the Board, is recommended by the nominating committee and offered to the MAGS Board for approval. Then the slate will be offered to the membership in attendance for additional nominations. (As stated in the Constitution at left, prior consent by the intended nominee is required.) Then a vote will be taken from the membership for the slate. Following the meeting, the full slate, including those Board members who have ask to return to the Board, will be submitted to the full membership in the MAGS publication, *Der Kurier*. The ballot will be returned to the Treasurer for counting and final results will be announced at the fall meeting, time and place to be announced.

A brief biographical sketch of the four candidates is provided below.

for PRESIDENT:

Corinne Earnest, co-owner of Russell D. Earnest Associates, Publisher, received her B.A. from Oregon College of Education with a major in secondary education and a minor in modern languages. She acquired her M.A. in American literature from the University of California, Sonoma. In 1976, she began freelance writing, and in 1988, Corinne and husband, Russ, started their book publishing business. She has coauthored several books about genealogy and in particular, about *fraktur*, most of which are 18th and 19th century Pennsylvania German birth and baptism certificates. Corinne lectures and writes on German-American heritage, writing family histories, and *fraktur*. In addition, she writes regular columns about *fraktur* in *Der Kurier* and in *Antique Week*. In 1992, she received the first annual William M. Hiester Award from the Historical Society of Berks County in Reading, PA for an article she wrote about *fraktur*. She and Russ maintain an index of more than 15,000 surnames on numerous *frakturs* found in public and private collections.

for CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

Marilynne Ocando, retired from the Federal Government in October 1993, where she was an Administrative Officer. In this position she was responsible for the administration of personnel matters, budget and finance, procurement and contracts, and administrative services.

Since 1977 she has researched two of her family lines, both, in the U.S. and in Germany where she has found relatives living. She has been a member of MAGS since 1992. She also holds memberships in: The National Genealogical Society, the Illinois Genealogical Society and the Capital PAF (Personal Ancestral File) Users Group. She is a past member of the German Genealogical Society and the Iowa Genealogical Society.

Marilynne completed two training sessions at the National Archives: "Introduction to Genealogical Research" and "German-American Research." She received a Certificate of Completion for the NGS home study course "American Genealogy: A Basic Course." She recently resumed study of the German language at the Deutsche Schule in Potomac, MD. Her next interest is to put her research findings into writing and creating a photo-album of her ancestral lines.

for RECORDING SECRETARY:

Deyerle R. Atkins, was born on April 15, 1936. She claims her German heritage

from her great-great grandmother, Nancy Deyerle for whom she got her given name "Deyerle." She received her education in the public schools of Prince George's County, Maryland. She attended the University of Maryland, College Park, MD. She currently works for the wholesale florists' industry as a bookkeeper.

Deyerle claims the genealogy bug bit her on July 4, 1961 at 4:00 P.M. By nine, five hours later, she was thoroughly infected and has never recovered from the contagious disease. As a matter of fact she has seen it become an epidemic. Her field of research is centered on the state of Virginia.

She is a member of several genealogy societies having joined MAGS in 1992.

for REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE:

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

Mr. Humphrey holds membership in the National Genealogical Society, the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, Palatines to America, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society, the Northampton County Historical Society, the Moravian Historical Society, and the Family History Society of Gwynedd in North Wales.

Other Candidates for Election

Appointees, completing terms, in positions after resignations of previously elected Board members and nominated for election:

for SECOND VICE PRESIDENT, Programs:

Franklin O. Wisman.

For TREASURER:

Linda Gail Komar.



Returning Board Members, asked to continue in Office:

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT, for Membership:

Dorothy Jackson Reed.

REPRESENTATIVE-AT-LARGE:

Robert L. Hull.

(Baptismal Records - continued)

Mennonites practice a form of baptism called "believer baptism", that is, baptism is entered into freely by believing adults. For Mennonites and others in the Anabaptist tradition, the coupling of baptism with repentance as found in the New Testament is proof that baptism could not be administered by any but a true believer. Mennonites also object to the coercive nature of infant baptism. The church in Mennonite doctrine is a voluntary association of those who had a personal experience, and the decision to both accept Christ and enter into his church is one that must be based on personal belief. Because an infant when baptized has no involvement in the decision, the child is not being brought into the church by his own choosing.

George Fox, a Quaker, rejected the sacrament of baptism as practiced by most other churches. He believed in a inward baptism of the Holy Spirit. The external washing of baptism was seen as an outward manifestation that had no meaning.

Frontier Realities in Colonial America

Evidence in Pennsylvania's early church records shows that when some parents went in search of a minister to baptize their children, they were not always successful in finding one of their own faith. In the course of looking for an Anglican cleric or Reformed minister they may have encountered a Jesuit priest or a Moravian missionary who may have performed the baptism and the resultant record, if one was kept, was recorded in the registers of a different faith. Thus in the search for alternative sources, genealogists must know which churches were open to baptizing the infants of non-members, and that knowledge comes from understanding baptismal practices and beliefs, because beliefs and doctrine determined the "rules of baptism".

The foregoing article is an abbreviated version of a presentation made by Mr. Humphrey at the Spring Meeting of MAGS on April 27, 1996. Readers desiring more detailed advice on this subject are directed to a new publication by Mr. Humphrey Understanding and Using Baptismal Records, a 168-page paperback with illustrations, charts, bibliography, which can be ordered directly from: John T. Humphrey, P.O. Box 15190, Washington, D.C. 20003. Our next issue of the MAGS Newsletter will feature another article by Mr. Humphrey on this important topic of baptismal records.

1996 Is Martin Luther Year, The Four Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of his Death

This year is Martin Luther Year in Germany. Luther was the German theologian whose questions about religious faith and authority reshaped Western Christendom. Born in 1483 in Eisleben, now the German state of Saxony-Anhalt, Luther attended Erfurt university and later was ordained as a priest in the Christian church. In 1517 Luther challenged the church's dispensation of indulgences, and his continuing rebellion against the church resulted in his excommunication. In 1522, Luther translated the Bible, resulting in the New Testament. In 1525 the city of Nürnberg adopted the Reformation, followed by a chain of events resulting in the fission of the Christian church into today's Catholic church and innumerable Protestant groups. Martin Luther died in Eisleben on February 18, 1546; hence the celebration this year of the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his death. The Reformation also led to the Thirty Years War, which devastated the German states.

AHNENTAFEL

Laura Ellen JEFFERSON Platter
6662 Mohawk Court
Columbia, MD 21046-1037

-----I

- 1 Laura J. JEFFERSON: b 1934 Gainesville, FL

-----II

- 2 Wayne Otto JEFFERSON: b 1907 Pittsford, MI
- 3 Cornelia Eleanor KELLY: b 1913 Mayo, FL

-----III

- 4 Oscar William JEFFERSON: b 1858 OH
- 5 Laura Elmira KESSLER: b 1874 Schuylkill Co., PA
- 6 James Homer KELLY: b 1878 FL
- 7 Birdie Love SWORDS: b 1888 GA

-----IV

- 8 Milton JEFFERSON: b 1831 NY ?
- 9 Eliza[beth] WRIGHT: b OH
- 10 Joel JESSLER:
- 11 Sara Jane HOCH:
- 12 John Ruben KELLY: b 1847 GA
- 13 Cornelia Eleanor KITCHENS: b 1851
- 14 Andrew Jackson SWORDS: b 1855 Oxford, GA
- 15 Lugenia Ellender THOMASON: b 1858 Chapel Hill, GA

-----V

- 16 Thomas JEFFERSON: b 1809? NY
- 17 Mary: b 1810 NY
- 20 William KESSLER
- 22 William HOCH
- 23 Ida or Sarah: ? b 1817 ?
- 24 George Wiley KELLY: b 1811
- 25 Harriet SMITH: b 1812
- 26 John KITCHENS: b 1822 Macon, GA
- 27 Lucyan Lydia COXWELL: b 1829
- 28 Thomas H [ouston or Hamilton] SWORDS: b 1824 Walton Co.,GA
- 29 Rebecca Naomi WALKER: b 1829

-----VI

- 40 Charles R. KELLY: b c1785 DE ?
- 41 Betsey WILEY: b 1794 Halifax Co, VA
- 44 John SWORD:
- 45 Mary CASSON:

(Ahnentafel: Jefferson - continued)

-----VII

- 82 George WILEY: b 1756 VA ?
- 83 Frances STANFIELD: b 1769 VA ?
- 88 James SWORD : b Ireland
- 90 James F CASSON : b Edgefield District, SC

-----VIII

- 164 William WILEY: b 1683
- 165 Elinor (Cleverius): Bloucester ? Co, VA.

My Family Tree

I climbed my family tree and found it was not worth the climb,
and so - I scampered down, convinced it was a waste of time.

Some branches of my family tree are rotten to the core,
and all the tree was full of sap, and hung with nuts galore!

And, though I bragged about my kinfolk before I made the climb,
the truth compells me now to tell of those not worth a dime.

And I beg friends, who boast aloud of their ancestors great
"Go climb your family tree and learn of crooks who aren't so straight."

I climbed my family tree, and learned - as I came sliding down -
my tree is like a 'tater vine: the best is underground!

Author anonymous - Copy provided by Mrs. Frederick N. Brass of Ambridge, PA.

Suchanzeigen

Please mention at least one time, one place, one German surname with known variants. Limit each query to one family. Use no more than fifty (50) words, not counting your name and address. There is no charge for members of MAGS. Non-members please include \$1.00 (check payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society) per query with your submission. More than one query may be sent at a time, but each should be clearly written or typed on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch clean, white paper. Please indicate desired priority for printing. MAGS reserves the right to edit. Neither MAGS nor Der Kurier assumes any responsibility for accuracy. Send your Queries to Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 760 Lake Caroline Drive, Ruther Glen, VA 22546-5304.

SWORTZEL SCHWARTSEL

#14-6 Seek info John A. SWORTZEL and w Catherine of Middlebrook, VA. b 1742, d 1815. In VA by 1791. How did they get there? How are they related to SWORTZELS in PA? Ch: John, Jr.; Anna Christinia; Ann Maria; Ferry; Jacob; Joseph; Henry

Ruth Swortzel Porter 371 E. Main St. Orange, VA 22960-1832

KUNKEL FEHR

#14-7 Seek info Dr. Carl Friedrich KUNKEL b 1819 Gollismaas, d 1897 Kiel. Also son-in-law Conrad Heinrich Franz FEHR, kunstmaler (portrait painter) in Berlin, b 1854 Toftlund, d 1933 Berlin. Article in KIELER NEWEST NEWS 7 Apr. 1935 about home in Kiel and in KIELER NEWESTEN NACHRICHTEN on 28 Jan 1933 on Conrad FEHR. Are these articles available and how may they be obtained?

Eric D. Olandt 49 Hiawatha Trail Medford Lakes, NJ 08055

KIELER NEWEST NEWS KIELER NEWESTEN NACHRICHTEN

#14-8 Seek info and/or copies of 7 April 1935 and 28 Jan 1933 of these German newspapers.

Eric D. Olandt 49 Hiawatha Trail Medford Lakes, NJ 08055

PAPKE KELECHKA STYN DAVIS

#14-9 Seek info Adolph PAPKE b 1849 Prussia; m Adeline KELECHKA. Lvd Canada, then Buffalo, NY. CH: Daug Ottlia b 1872, m August STYN; son Adolph Edward b 1884 m Margaret DAVIS; William b 1874; Susan b 1876; Kate b 1880; Adeline b 1887; Lizzie b 1890.

Sheila Strickland 4216 Charley Forest St. Olney MD 20832

(continued next page)

SCHMITT SCHMIDT GWEISEL GEORGE NEALE HANSEN

#14-10 Seek info Joseph SCHMITT/SCHMIDT etc. b 1770 Wurttemberg, d.1846 Baltimore, MD; m Barabara GWEISEL b 1780 Wurttemberg, d 1846, Baltimore, MD. Members St. John's German Catholic Church; Imm prior 1819. CH: Margaret b 1819 (m 1838 Joseph GEORGE) d __?; Bernard (Benjamin) b 1821 m 1843 Mary Eliz. NEALE, d 1872; John (Joseph) b 1824 m 1854 Mary HANSEN d__?

Francis Neale Smith 1500 20th St. South Arlington, VA 22202

SCHIELE SCHELE SHELE FARNSWORTH

#14-11 Seek info Johann Friedrich SCHIELE, b ca 1818. From Wuerttemberg? Fr Hanover? Mar Rachel FARNSWORTH, 1826-1884. They had 7 ch in central PA

Donald L. Schiele 366 Lehigh Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232-2008

KALLENBACH/KALLENBAUGH COLLINBACH/COLINBAUGH, etc. MESSICK

#14-12 Seek info Balzer (Balser) KALLENBACH b 3 Nov. 1833 Saxony, poss Westphalia or Thuringia or even Bavaria. Emi 1850-1852?. Mar Catharine MESSICK 16 Jan 1864, Tarentum, PA. Civil War-Union Forces 1864-65. 8 Ch, 5 survived. Died 1 Nov 1871, McKeesport, PA. Parents? Siblings? Date & Pl of departure and arr in US? Naturalization?

Joyce Cox Lund Route 2, Box 3342 Lopez Island, WA 98261

KALLANBACH/KALENBACH/KALLENBAUGH MAHLER KRATZ PRIEBE

#14-13 Seek par and emi info of Detrich/Dedrich/Ditrich KALLANBACH, b ca 1819 Saxony, Germ (where?); mar 19 Oct 1879, Natrona, PA to Margaret KRATZ MAHLER (b ca 1807 Bavaria); d 21 Sept 1879 Natrona, PA. One known child, Henry. Civil War, Union Forces 1864-65. Emi 1850-52 w/ bro or cousin or__? Balser KALLENBACH. Stepdau Augusta MAHLER m Pastor Frederick PRIEBE.

Joyce Cox Lund Route 2, Box 3342 Lopez Island, WA 98261

SWAGLER MESSICK

#14-14 Seek info Catharine SWAGLER b 19 Dec 1799, Ger (where?) Par ? Mar (when?) Nelsen MESSICK b 13 Oct 1779 (Mass?). He d 1 May 1842 (where?). She d 30 Jan 1866 (where?). Ch: John; Nelsen, Jr; Charles Rany; Joseph; Jacob; Elizabeth; Hiram; Catharine b 18 Jul 1839, Columbiana, OH, mar 16 Jan 1864 Tarentum, PA d 29 Apr 1906, PA.

Joyce Cox Lund Route 2, Box 3342 Lopez Island, WA 98261

(continued next page)

ZEIDERS FLOREY NEIMOND FITTING

#14-15 Seek info par Andrew ZEIDERS b 26 Mar 1826 PA, mar ca 1851 Elizabeth FLOREY NEIMOND, d 28 Oct 1887, Monroe Twp, Juniata Co. PA. Andrew and Eliz had 7 ch. Other marriages, Mary & Sarah. Par could be George and Margaret (or Susannah FITTING).

Joyce Cox Lund Route 2, Box 3342 Lopez Island, WA 98261

COON KUHN

#14-16 Seek info Christian and Elisabeth COON/KUHN. d 1806 in Frederick Co. MD

Mrs. Evelyn E. Boose 2352 Tyrone Rd. Westminster, MD 21158-2636

ABENSCHÖN/OVERSHINE CRESS PROPST BEHRINGER/BARRINGER SOSSAMAN COUGHENOUR FISCHER/FISHER BOGER

#14-17 Seek Rev War svc Christian ABENSCHÖN/OVERSHINE of 1760's Deutch Buffalo Creek, Cabarrus Co. NC. Desc wed local CRESS, PROPST, BEHRINGER/BARRINGER, SOSSAMAN, COUGHENOUR, FISCHER/FISHER, BOGER.

J.A.L. Miller, Jr. 2810-K Carriage Dr Winston-Salem, NC 27106-5328

HOLLINGER

#14-18 Seek info on 1600's/1700's Irish HOLLINGER (Orig fr Germ). Fam to 1700's USA

J.A.L. Miller, Jr. 2810-K Carriage Dr Winston-Salem, NC 27106-5328

HARMANSON HARMANNSEN SAVAGE

#14-19 Seek desc Lt. Thomas HARMANSON, Sr. (Harmannsen, 1625 Brandenburg, Ger) of Tidewater VA 1600's. Dau Elisha HARMANSON wed Capt. Thomas SAVAGE.

J.A.L. Miller, Jr. 2810-K Carriage Dr Winston-Salem, NC 27106-5328

MATHIAS MONTGOMERY SEIFERT

#14-20 Seek info Jacob MATHIAS b 1813 York Co ?. d 1888; m. Eliz MONTGOMERY b 1818 York Co ?. maybe MD, d 1861. Lvd York Haven. Son John A. b 1842, d 1885, mar Catharine SEIFERT b 1848, d 1917.

Nancy Schwanger 632 Lopax Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17112-4357

(continued next page)

PURDY TAYLOR

#14-21 Seek info Elizabeth PURDY b 19 Aug 1759 (where?), d 17 Feb.1833, bur Luzern Co. PA. Parents? m. Thomas TAYLOR c 1780. He served Rev. War in Mass & NY; then settled PA. Were they mar bef to PA?

Ruth Steffey 1067 Blackbird St. El Cajon, CA 92020-1401

VALENTINE TAYLOR

#14-22 Seek bpl and par Mary VALENTINE b 30 Apr 1793, d 9 Sept 1867, Luzerne Co. PA. m. Thomas TAYLOR ca 1815. "History of Luzerne Co. PA" by H.C. Bradsby says she native of NJ. Where did they marry?

Ruth Steffey 1067 Blackbird St. El Cajon, CA 92020-1401

CASELL CASSEL KASSEL RAMBACH(ER) BRAUN

#14-23 Seek par Nicholas CASELL (KASSEL/CASSEL) m 1768 Rosina RAMBACH(ER), lvd Middletown, PA 1770's. Mvd w/ 2nd wife Margaret BRAUN to Wythe Co. VA early 1780's; d 1816

S.C. Cowl 2016 Sandymount Rd. Finksburg, MD 21048

SNAVELY SCHNEBELE MERCER MUSSER

#14-24 Seek info John SNAVELY (SCHNEBELE) Lancaster Co. PA; m. Christina MERCER (MUSSER). They separated, she m. a Cullop. John movd to Montgomery Co. VA w/ sons Peter and Jacob. John d there 1790.

S.C. Cowl 2016 Sandymount Rd. Finksburg, MD 21048

#14-25 **SHAVER** Seek par Adam SHAVER b 1789 (where?), d 1872, Wythe Co. VA. Had sons John M. and Stephan who mvd to MO ca 1850

S.C. Cowl 2016 Sandymount Rd. Finksburg, MD 21048

COLLER/CULLER MULLER WOODWARD STORM

#14-26 Seek desc Jacob COLLER/CULLER b ca 1749, ? Switzerland or Germ, d bef 1830, Franklin, Warren Co. OH. m. Elizabeth MULLER 16 Nov 1773 Frederick Co. MD. 7 ch bpt Frederick Co. MD: Jacob 1775 (m Mary STORM; John 1777; Catherine 1779; Johan Philip 1781; Anna Maria 1786, m Nathaniel WOODWARD; Magdalena 1792; George 1799. Left Frederick Co. @ 1815. Jacob, Elizabeth, son Jacob, son-in-law Nathaniel WOODWARD in Franklin OH 1820 census. Wid Elizabeth, s Jacob, N. WOODWARD in Franklin, OH 1830 cen. None in 1840 cen.

Patricia A. Fogle 12 Locust Blvd. Middletown, MD 21769-7934

Der Kurier, the newsletter of the **Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society**, is published four times a year: March, June, September, and December. Deadline for copy is the first of February, May, August, and November. Send all copy to Merl E. Arp, 20 Kinsman View Circle, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901. Der Kurier is indexed in the PERiodical Source Index published by the Allen County Public Library and in GPAI published by Heritage Books, Inc.

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Stumped Roots &

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Post Office Box 2642
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ISSN 1059-9762

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