



Der Kurier

Volume 24, Number 4, December 2006

Essay contest

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society sponsors competition with \$1,000 top prize

The first German to arrive in British North America landed in Jamestown in 1608. In less than two years we will celebrate 400 years of German immigration to America.

The Board of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society voted unanimously to sponsor an essay contest as part of the Society's commemoration of this important event.

The focus of the essays will be "Contributions of German-speaking Immigrants and/or Their Descendants to American Culture and Society." A complete list of subject areas is found on Page 71.

First, second, and third prizes will be given. These prizes are \$1,000, \$500, and \$250, respectively. Three levels with commensurate awards elevate the significance of the contest and encourage high-quality entries.



MAGS President John T. Humphrey points out Moravian architectural details during a tour of Bethlehem, PA, as part of the MAGS Fall Meeting. Article and additional photos, Pages 74-76.

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

**P.O. Box 2642
Kensington, MD 20891-2642**

<http://www.magsgen.com/>

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

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded 10 July 1982. Annual dues are only \$10 (individual) or \$12 (family). Membership is open to all interested persons without regard to place of residence, nationality, or ethnicity. Benefits of membership include:

- **Spring and Fall Meetings** featuring expert speakers
- **Quartermly journal, *Der Kurier***
- **MAGS Lending Library**
- **Ahnentafels** published in *Der Kurier*
- **Queries**

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

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Der Kurier is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is indexed in the Periodical Source Index by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN, and the Genealogical Periodical Annual Index by Heritage Books Inc., Bowie, MD.

Submissions to *Der Kurier*. Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: James M. Beidler, PO Box 270, Lebanon, PA 17042. E-mail: james@beidler.us

MAGS to sponsor essay contest

(Continued from Page 69)

MAGS will announce the winners of all three awards in 2008 at the Spring meeting to be held in Williamsburg at a Conference co-sponsored with the Society of German American Studies.

The essay contest is open to anyone (including non-MAGS members) Exceptions include MAGS Board Members and their immediate families and members of the Publications Committee and their immediate families as well as members of the judging committee and their immediate family. Each contestant may submit no more than one essay.

An Essay Evaluation Committee (EEC) has been formed for judging entries. The panel of judges includes five MAGS members: Merl Arp, Annette Burgert, Susannah Brooks, Pat Cramer and Joseph Neville. Because MAGS intends to publish the essays in *Der Kurier*, Corinne Earnest and James M. Beidler will serve ex-officio EEC members and or consultants

Procedures for judging include the following: The EEC will elect a chairperson. This chairperson will set criteria and ranking factors for judging entries. He or she will consider originality, documentation, knowledge of subject matter, quality of writing, etc.

Submissions will be sent to MAGS President, John Humphrey, who will block out the names of contestants and make photocopies (or prepare electronic transfer) of each essay for the five judges. Electronic submissions are encouraged. They should be sent to essay@magsgen.com.

The five judges will review each manuscript individually and convene as a group to determine winners. If deemed necessary, the chairperson may recommend counsel from an

expert or experts. However, soliciting paid experts must first meet with approval from the MAGS Board.

Essays must be author-originals of non-published works. Essays cannot exceed 10,000 words plus documentation. As noted contestants

are encouraged to send electronic submissions; however, if it is necessary to submit an essay as hardcopy, those submissions need to be double spaced. Essays must be written in English, using *Chicago Manual of Style* as a style guide. The submission date for all essays is by November 1, 2007.

MAGS will distribute press releases electronically and/or

through the mail to organizations that will announce the Essay Contest in their newsletters and journals. Organizations include the Max Kade Institute, Moravian College, Penn State University, the University of Cincinnati German-language Program, the National Genealogical Society, the Federation of Genealogical Societies, the Pennsylvania German Society, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, the Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center at Kutztown University, the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, the German Embassy and many more.

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2007. Judges will complete their evaluations by January 15, 2008, and the awards will be announced at the Spring meeting in April of 2008.

MAGS intends to publish entire essays or portions of them in *Der Kurier*. By doing so, we believe we can promote understanding of German influences upon American history and culture.

Any questions about the essay contest should be directed to MAGS President, John Humphrey, PaGenealogyBooks@aol.com.

Essay Contest Subjects can include:

- **Architecture**
- **Fine arts and folk art**
- **Family contributions to American society and culture**
- **History**
- **Immigration**
- **Industry and commerce**
- **Literature**
- **Military history**
- **Music**
- **Religion**
- **Science and technology**

FAMILY REGISTERS

Huber family register

A single-page, broadside-type family register made for the HUBER family is in a private collection. Entries for the last five children were written in English in this otherwise German-language register. The register gives no location, nor does it give the mother's maiden name. The parents of this family were Jacob and Malli [Molly] HUBER. Jacob HUBER was born June 28, 1779 and Malli was born ten years later on April 20, 1789. They married June 2, 1807 and had the following children:

Johannes HUBER was born December 22, 1808.

Jacob HUBER was born January 12, 1810.

Peter HUBER was born May 17, 1811.

Lidia HUBER was born October 6, 1812.

Mali HUBER was born February 15, 1814.

Freny HUBER was born August 11, 1815.

Joel HUBER was born May 23, 1817.

Esra HUBER was born October 6, 1818.

Daniel HOOVER was born December 4, 1819.

Salomon HOOVER was born August 23, 1822.

Cathreana HOVR [sic] was born June 9, 1825.

Tobias HOOVER was born October 3, 1828.

Caroline (?) HOOVER was born June 18, 1833.

Eisenhart Bible record

A four-page Bible record made for the EISENHART family is in a private collection. This German-language record, removed from its Bible, gives Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as a location in one entry for the EISENHART family. The parents of this family were Milton and Emma (ZUCK) EISENHART. They were married by F. BERKEMEYER on November 12, 1865.

Milton EISENHART was the son of Benjamin and Catharine (SEIBEL) EISENHART. Milton was born April 20, 1843. He was baptized by Joshua YEAGER (no date given) and his parents were sponsors.

Emma was the daughter of John and Naemi (BENNER) ZUCK. She was born October 4, 1843 and baptized by Wlm. B. KAEMMERER (no date given). Her parents were sponsors at her baptism.

The eleven children of Milton and Emma (ZUCK) EISENHART were:

Oscar Charles EISENHART, born October 28, 1866. He was baptized by William RATH (no date given). Charles and Margareth ZUCK were sponsors at his baptism.

The following five children were baptized by William RATH, but no date was given for their baptisms. Their parents were sponsors.

Esther EISENHART was born January 24, 1869.

Syllesta EISENHART was born September 1, 1870.

Martha Matilda EISENHART was born August 5, 1872. She died September 2, 1930.

Etna EISENHART was born January 16, 1874.

Alpheus EISENHART was born November 7, 1875.

Rebecca Catharina EISENHART was born December 6, 1877 and baptized by William RATH (no date given). Sarah ERDMAN sponsored her baptism.

Onias EISENHART was born April 3, 1880 and baptized by Joshua [sic] YEAGER. The sponsors were the parents.

Joseph EISENHART was born December 5, 1881 and baptized by Wm. WACKERNAGEL. Joseph's parents sponsored his baptism.

Daniel EISENHART was born October 5, 1883 and baptized by A. E. ERDMAN. Daniel's parents sponsored his baptism.

The last child was Saloma EISENHART, who was born on June 15, 1886, in Spring Valley, Northampton County, and baptized on August 1, 1886, by A. THORN, Lutheran. The parents were sponsors at Saloma's baptism.

Graeber Bible record

A family register removed from its original Bible is in a private collection. This German-language record was made for the Levi and Sarah S. (LUTZ) GRAEBER family of Berks County, Pennsylvania. They were married by Sassermann HERMANN in Kutztown on October 31, 1863.

According to this record, Levi GRAEBER was born March 8, 1839 in Albany Township, Berks County. His parents were Sam'l. and Catharina (DONAT) GRAEBER. Sarah S. LUTZ was born February 11, 1840 in Albany Township. She was the daughter of Christian and Sarah (SCHMIDT) LUTZ.

The children on Levi and Sarah S. (LUTZ) GRAEBER were:

Marken Thomas, born March 21, 1864.

James Francis, born March 4, 1867.

Carl Oscar, born Janaury 12, 1869.

Lina Cora, born November 2, 1870.

Catharina Sarah, born May 3, 1872.

The register gives the place of birth for the first four children as Albany Township. No place of birth is given with Catharina Sarah's entry.



Tour leader John T. Humphrey explains that Moravians used flat tombstones for their burials.

Bethlehem tour among Fall Meeting highlights

By Maryllyn M. Reisinger

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society held its Fall Meeting in Bethlehem, PA, on Saturday, October 14, 2006.

On Friday, October 13, 2006, MAGS sponsored a "Walking Tour of Historic Bethlehem" that was conducted by John T. Humphrey, our President. He has Moravian ancestors and has authored numerous books on the early Moravians.

About 25 persons went on the two-hour tour, which started at 2 p.m.

Humphrey noted that the Moravians were and are primarily evangelists. Moravian Administrator Bishop John Ettwein was the one who prepared a plan for Bethlehem.

Count Nicklaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf in 1722 provided shelter for Moravian refugees at Herrnhut, Germany.

Ten years later, two men set out from Herrnhut. Leonard Dober settled St. Thomas in the Danish West Indies, and David Nitschman founded Bethlehem, PA.

The MAGS tour started at Historic Hotel Bethlehem, which is where the Moravians first settled in 1741.

They built their first Log Cabin House where the Parking Lot is located now.

The tour went down steps to where the Water Works are, along the Monocacy Creek, which empties into the Lehigh River.

The tour then walked along the streets where the old houses were that housed the community.

In the old days, the children were not raised by their parents. After they were weaned, the girls all lived in what they called Single Sister Houses. When they reached a certain age, they lived in the Girls Seminary House. The boys did the same; later had a Brethren House. They had a Children's School. The groups were called choirs.

The parents lived in Married Couple houses. They also did everything together. Example, they had a tannery, soapmaking house, flax house, dye house, flour house, etc.

When the young men and women were ready for marriage, they were married by lot.

The young man would tell the leaders that he was interested in a certain young lady.

The leaders would make three papers, each with a different word - "yes," "no," or "nothing."

They would pray over them and then pick one. "Yes" meant they could get married; "no" meant they couldn't get married ever and couldn't apply again; "Nothing" meant indifferent, but they could apply again at a later date.

The last area toured was around the churches. The MAGS tour didn't enter any of them.

However, Humphrey did take the tour-goers the cemetery, which was different. In church the women sat on one side, and the men on the other side of the aisles.

In their cemetery the women are all buried together in one section, and the men



The Central Moravian Church was built in 1806.

together in another section. They have no tombstones as are seen in mosts cemeteries. They use flat stones, approximately 12 inches by 18 inches by 5 inches. They have name and date of birth and death. No reference to a husband or wife, or father or mother.

The tour was interesting. I knew nothing about the Moravian background. Of course, this was the olden days, and I'm sure things have changed today. I know our customs have changed drastically from the old days.



About two dozen people attended the walking tour of Bethlehem as part of the Fall Meeting.



Fall Meeting speakers, from left, Humphrey, Moravian archivist Paul Peucker, John Konvalinka.

German Translators

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

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

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Getting 'the goods' on Guths and Goods, especially from Lehigh, Lancaster counties

Eunice Thomas asked about the name GUTH and GOOD on fraktur. She was hoping fraktur might supply information about her ancestor, John Henry GOOD (1855-1916), who was born in Pennsylvania and may have lived at one time in York County, Pennsylvania, and later in the Baltimore area of Maryland.

While the first fraktur listed here suggests a presence of the GUTH family in York County, most examples I found were from Lehigh County (especially the Allentown area) and from Brecknock Township in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Eunice might search in those locations for her ancestors.

A *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) in a private collection was made for Peter PETER, whose mother was Catarina Elisabeth (GUTH) PETER and whose father was George Michael PETER. Peter PETER was born on January 29, 1798, in York Township, York County. He was baptized May 20, presumably in the same year, by Jacob GERRING [GOERING]. Peter and Elisabeth STREBER sponsored Peter's baptism. Information from this fraktur was recorded and shared by June Burk Lloyd, Librarian Emerita at the York County Heritage Trust in York, Pennsylvania.

The second volume of *German American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* gives details from a *Taufschein* made for Carl LESER, son of Johannes and Catharina (GUTH) LESER. Carl LESER was born about eight o'clock in the evening on February 9, 1806, in Whitehall Township, Northampton [today's Lehigh] County. He was baptized February 24, 1806, by Johan GOPRECH, Reformed. Sponsors at his baptism were Georg and Margaretha SPETH. According to Charles H. Glatfelter in *Pastors and People: German Lutheran and Reformed Churches in the Pennsylvania Field, 1717-1793*, John Christopher

GOBRECHT (1733-1815) was a pastor in York County about the time of this baptism.

The Historical Society of Berks County in Reading, Pennsylvania, has a *Taufschein* made for Eiseck [probably Isaac] GUTH, son of Pether [Peter] and Elisabeth (KERN) GUTH. Eiseck was born August 18, 1831, in Brecknock Township [Lancaster County]. He was baptized October 3, presumably in 1831, by Johann REICHERT. Sponsors at Eiseck's baptism were Henry and Barbara KERN. According to this certificate, Elisabeth GUTH was the daughter of Henry KERN.

A certificate made for Eiseck's younger brother, Peter, says he was born in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County. Peter GUTH was born December 12, 1842, and baptized in 1843 by Pastor FRIEDRICH. Peter's parents were sponsors at his baptism. His certificate is also at the Historical Society of Berks County.

Many members of the GUTH family in Brecknock Township were Mennonites. Their fraktur birth and baptism certificates offer no information concerning baptism, or they record adult baptisms (Mennonites do not practice infant baptism). On February 7, 1997, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Rahael [Rachel] MOSER, daughter of Peter and Barbara (GUTH) MOSER. Rahael was born January 16, 1808 in Brecknock Township. She was baptized as an adult on November 7, 1831 by Pastor TRUMBAUR. "The congregation" sponsored Rahael's baptism.

The Muddy Creek Farm Library in Ephrata has a photocopy of a *Taufschein* made for Sara MOSER, daughter of Benjamin and Elisabeth (GUTH) MOSER. Sara MOSER was born November 29, 1837, in Brecknock Township. No information concerning baptism is given on this certificate.

On November 26, 1997, auctioneer Lee Dockey in Pillow, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Elisabeth GUTH, daughter of Henrich and Elisabeth (HOFFMAN) GUTH. Elisabeth was born June 14, 1823, in Lancaster County.

The township on this example was difficult to read, but the scrivener probably meant to write Brecknock Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning baptism was given.

The Special Collections Department at Penn State University Library in University Park, Pennsylvania, has a *Taufschein* made for Johannes GUTH, son of Heinrich and Elisabeth (HOFFMANN) GUTH. Johannes GUTH was born in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County, on November 12, 1813. No other information was recorded on this certificate.

A *Taufschein* that is probably related to the above two examples was made for Issak GUTH, son of Henrich and Elisabeth (HOFFMANN) GUTH. Issak was born April 12, 1809, in Brecknock Township. No information concerning baptism was given on this certificate. It is listed in the second volume of Klaus Stopp's *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*.

Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, has a *Taufschein* made for Joseph and Barbara (HORST) GUTH's daughter, Magdalena. Magdalena GUTH was born in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County, on November 3, 1830. No information concerning baptism was entered on this certificate. However, the certificate does say that Barbara GUTH was the daughter of Joseph HORST.

In *Touch of the Dutchland* and in *Arts of the Pennsylvania Dutch*, Earl F. Robacker pictures a *Taufschein* made for Peter ROHMIG, son of Johann Adam and Catharina (BUTZ) ROHMIG. Peter ROHMIG was born in Macungie Township, Northampton [today's Lehigh] County, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 1770. He was baptized by Philipp Jacob MICHAEL, Reformed. No date of baptism was given, but Peter's sponsors were his grandparents, Peter and Barbara BUTZ.

On August 27, 1793, Peter ROHMIG married Johanna JACOBI, who was born May 17, 1773, in Whitehall Township, Northampton [today's Lehigh] County. Her birth and baptismal

information is recorded on the same certificate. Johanna was the daughter of "the late" Christian JACOBI and his wife Engel [sic] GUTH. Unlike her husband, Johanna was baptized as a Lutheran. She was baptized by Pastor BLUMER, but no date of baptism was given. Sponsors at her baptism were Paul GROS and Johanna SCHNEIDER.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Alice Mathilda GUTH, daughter of Lewis and Amanda (WOODRING) GUTH. Alice Mathilda was born December 13, 1873, in South Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized April 26, 1874, by E. FOGEL. Phaon and Caroline GUTH sponsored Alice Mathilda's baptism.

A *Taufschein* that appeared in 1995 at an antiques show in Nashville, Tennessee, was made for Mary Catharina MASSEY, daughter of Charles and Clarissa Maria (GOOD) MASSEY. Mary Catherina was born April 30, 1840, in Allentown, Lehigh County. She was baptized by Benjamin GERMAN, but no other information concerning baptism was given. According to this certificate, Clarissa Maria's father was Peter GOOD.

The late Richard Machmer, antique dealer in Hamburg, Pennsylvania, once owned a *Taufschein* made for Isaac WEIS, son of Johannes and Catharina (GUTH) WEIS. Isaac WEIS was born in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County, on March 21, 1850. No information concerning baptism was entered on this certificate.

A *Taufschein* related to the above is in a private collection. It was made for Isaac's younger sister, Susanna. Susanna WEIS was born in Brecknock Township on July 4, 1856. Again, no information concerning baptism was given. An added note says that Susanna WEIS died about four o'clock in the morning on October 7, 1863.

Information from additional fraktur having the name GUTH or GOOD is being sent to Eunice Thomas. If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. MAGS provides this service at no charge for MAGS members. Please be patient for a reply.

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

Book Reviews

18th Century Records of the German Lutheran Church of Philadelphia (St. Michael's and Zion)

Volume 1: Baptisms 1745-1769 Volume 4: Marriages and Confirmations Volume 5: Burials

By Robert L. Hess and F. Edward Wright

2004. 2005. 2006. Available from Colonial Roots, 17296 Coastal Highway, Lewes, DE 19958. Soft cover: V.1, 330 pages, indexed, \$29.00 plus \$5.50 shipping; V.4, 391 pages, indexed, \$35.00 plus \$5.50 shipping; V.5, 382 pages, indexed, plus \$5.50 shipping.

Of this five-volume set only three volumes are being reviewed. Volume 2, Baptisms 1770-1785 and Volume 3, Baptisms 1786-1800 were not included with the review copies.

Although the Lutheran church that was supported by the Swedish government provided religious services in the 1640s to the settlers in the Philadelphia area, it was not until 1732 that a German-speaking Lutheran congregation was formed. This congregation grew rapidly and under the leadership of Pastor Henry Melchior Muhlenberg two Lutheran churches were built — first, St. Michael's about 1743 and then Zion in 1769. The churches were administered as one congregation.

These volumes contain the entries from the original seven books of the German Lutheran congregation at Philadelphia before 1800. According to the compilers parts of this register have been published; however, they decided that the best way to present this information was to make "a fresh translation of all the pre-1800 lists in the ... seven books of the original register of the German Lutheran church at Philadelphia." The completion of this translation resulted in five volumes in chronological order.

An essential part of these books is the Introduction. It covers the historical background of the congregation, the pastors who served, and the types of records in each book with the dates and names of the pastors who recorded the information.

There is an explanation of how the volume is structured, a section on German/English spelling, how titles are used in the records, and the difference in the German/English meaning of "servant" and "slave." Also included is a list of other 18th century German-speaking churches in the Philadelphia area (five) as well as some of the English-speaking churches (12). After the name of each church, there is a list of their records and where they can be found.

Although German surnames predominate in these books, there are many English names. The Introduction in all three volumes is similar; however additional information on marriages and confirmations is in Volume 4, burials, burial grounds, and geographical place names in Europe in Volume 5, and Volume 1 identifies place names in the Philadelphia area. In Volumes 1 and 5 the place names are found within the records, but not in every record. Occasionally a deceased person's occupation or membership in a guild, or completion of bond-service is noted.

An interesting item was in the burial of Joh. Friedr. Ramming, July 1773—he was born and baptized in "Stuckard" (Stuttgart?), his grandfather was an aristocrat, and the compilers note that there was a two-page account of his adventures in coming to America.

Not all Pastors followed this procedure. The most information was recorded by Pastors Muhlenberg and Kunze. Pastor Kunze sometimes added religious information relating to church attendance and the quality of faith of the deceased. In one instance he referred to the deceased's husband as a "miserable wretch who had abandoned her..."

These books are easy to use with an all name index and entries in chronological order. The Introduction is informative and interesting.

They are not just for those whose families belonged to the Lutheran congregation; anyone researching Philadelphia families in the 18th Century, whether German or English, would benefit from reading these volumes. They would be a worthwhile addition to a family historian's personal library.

Reviewed by Patricia Cramer

German Immigrants in American Church Records, Volume 1: Indiana Protestant

Edited by Roger P. Minert, Ph.D, A.G.

2006. Available from Picton Press, P.O. Box 1347, Rockport, Maine 04841. Hard cover. 873 pages. Indexed. ISBN: 0-89725-759-6. \$79.50 plus shipping.

German Immigrants is a treasure chest of names especially for those who are researching their ancestry in the state of Indiana. But why Indiana and not say Ohio, Pennsylvania or another area where there was a large concentration of Germans?

Minert was teaching a class on German paleography and he needed his students to apply their global knowledge of old German handwriting. Indiana was picked for three reasons: First is the fact that it was located along three major routes of immigration and migration; second, most Germans who settled in Indiana did so after 1840 when the keeping of parish records was more common; and, third, the population of Indiana was fewer than its neighboring states of Ohio, Illinois and Michigan.

The goal of this publication was to identify all possible persons born in Germanic areas of Central Europe. Only those persons whose European birth could be proved would be included. The catalog at the Family History Library was perused on the township, town, county and state levels. From more than 100 films, Minert and his students narrowed their examination down to 78 parishes' total.

German Immigrants has a table of contents and a map of the counties in Indiana. The numbers on the map for each county correspond to the chapter to look at the record to make locating a record easier.

The records are broken out by church but more importantly the book has an Every Name Index which we all know is the first thing that we always turn to whenever we pick up a book for research. Naturally this book is an important addition to anyone's research simply because of the wealth of names contained within.

Reviewed by Diane Kuster

The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy

By Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG and Kay Germain Ingalls, CG

2005. Available from Alpha, A member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014 or most local bookstores. Softcover. 357 pages. Indexed. ISBN 1-59257-430-0. \$18.

Another great book in "The Complete Idiot's Guide to ..." series is the *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Genealogy* by Christine Rose, CG, CGL, FASG and Kay Germain Ingalls, CG.

There are six parts to the book covering everything from the definition of genealogy through DNA typing.

Part 1 covers the basics for new genealogists such as how to begin, recording information, advice on getting information from close family sources. It then helps the neophyte with organizing information including the use of computer generated reports.

Parts 2-4 thoroughly cover research online and in local libraries, genealogical societies, school records, family surname associations, cemeteries, newspapers, and military records. Especially good is the section on planning the research trip.

Part 5 covers the organization and compilation of research records in a readable format as well as resolving discrepancies, and, my favorite, putting everything into historical perspective.

Finally, the pros and cons of DNA typing is discussed in great detail, including its limitations – only males carrying the surname are eligible in the most common test. It even warns about the potential pitfalls of DNA typing, such as

yielding unhappy surprises by disproving paternal relationships and family connections.

The final chapter lists some obscure records that may provide the missing puzzle piece for instance records for the Southern Claims Commissions, bankruptcy, veterans home, U.S. Treasury, among others.

There is much consideration given throughout the book on the analysis of discrepancies.

Just one of the interesting items mentioned is the database of popular baby names by sex from 1880 to the present that was put together by the Social Security Administration.

Another item of interest is the use of "utility" software programs, also called "add-

ons," that supplement major genealogy programs. According to the authors "they may facilitate printing fancy charts, prepare slide shows, or use artificial intelligence to analyze your data and deliver suggestions of specific resources to help you find the missing pieces." Military records are discussed in detail including websites for searching World War I through the Vietnam War.

This reviewer found the *Idiot's Guide to Genealogy* to be a wonderful get started book, and, also, a great review book for the more experienced offering new leads and analysis of already gathered family information.

Reviewed by Mariana Wilke

SUCHANZEIGEN / *Queries*

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

Send your Queries to Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 7102 Cedon Road Woodford, VA 22580 or e-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net (Please write 'MAGS Query' in subject line)

SWARTZ CUSTER

#24-6 Seek pl /b in Ger & imm info of Peter SWARTZ, b perhaps 4 Oct 1765, d 27 Feb 1852. He m Mary CUSTER. Lvd Lycoming co, PA. He not the Peter SWARTZ indentured in Delp, Bucks co. PA.

Margaret Cass 728 Norristown Road, Apt H-224 Lower Gwynedd, PA 19002
e-mail cassm@voicenet.com

WENTZ ROSS NOACKER SPANGLER

#24-7 Seek info on Jacob WENTZ lvg PA. Deeded Cumberland co. PA land to 3 dau – Mary (b 1793, m Samuel ROSS); Catherine (b 1801, m William NOACKER); Martha (m William SPANGLER). All 3 dau & h mvd to Stark co. OH ca 1832.

Robert T. Walker 9424 Lost Trail Way
Potomac, MD 20854
e-mail terryjavelin@verizon.net

MAGS Welcomes New Members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in bold parentheses and italics* following the new member's name. Space does not permit more than four surnames or most spelling variations. MAGS encourages all members to submit free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Margaret S. Adams of Alexandria VA

(Scheel, Schnarr/Schnorr, Guy)

Lesle Dunn of Pittsburgh PA

John Faber of Massapequa NY

Charles L. Grunert of Watertown NY

(Heinrich/Henry)

David A. Heitzenroder of Pittsburgh PA

(Heitzenroder, Wicklin, Yessler, Janke)

Marilyn Cocchiola Holt of Pittsburgh PA

(Lindenmuth/Lindemuth)

John E. Mathis of Greensburg PA

(Mathis, Spiker/Speicher, Klaus/Claus, Bier)

Joy Matusiewicz of Poughkeepsie NY

(Goldman, Goolman, Coleman)

Frances Schaer Mercer of Columbus OH

(Barthauer, Mithoff, Fromme, Schaer)

Charles B. & Kathy R. Miller of Crockett VA

(Miller, Louthian, Newland, Keesling)

Margaret Nicaastro of Springfield VA

(Werner/Varner, Knight, Saunders)

Charles Schober of Melissa TX

(Schober, Feige, Ramoth, Kaiser)

Marie Angel Soffel of Hamilton Square NJ

(Rabenold, Reitenauer, Dietrick, Everett)

Diane Stanley of Wilmington DE

(Conrad, Diem, Bloom, Guyer)

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2007

January 8-12. Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. Salt Lake City, UT. Radisson Hotel. Nine courses of study, 20 classes per course, plus a Problem Solving Course with individualized consultation on research problems. Contact www.infouga.org

March 17. Pennsylvania German Heritage Festival. Lebanon, PA. Sponsored by PA German Studies Program of Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon Campus. Free presentation on the Irish Palatines – on St. Patrick's Day, no less! – by Henry Z "Hank" Jones. Contact (717) 270-6349.

March 18. Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America Spring Conference. Lebanon, PA. Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon

Campus. Speaker: Internationally known Palatine researcher Henry Z "Hank" Jones., with the following topics: "Tracing the Origins of Early 18th Century Emigrants"; "When the Sources are Wrong!"; and "Genealogy in the New Millennium: Where We've Been and Where We're Going!" Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, james@beidler.us

March 24. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Meeting. Bowie, MD. Comfort Inn. Speakers: Susannah Brooks, Corinne Earnest, and John Humphrey. Topics: Grammar and Vocabulary in Church Records and Other Documents, German Catholic Church Records in Germany and the U.S., German Protestant Church Records in Germany and the U.S., and Records on Fraktur. In the closing session a panel will take questions from the audience. Contact Diane Kuster, 2410 Jacqueline Drive,

B-13, Wilmington, DE 19810, (732) 674-9963
or magsregistrar@yahoo.com

March 24. Fairfax/Mount Vernon Genealogical Societies Joint Conference. Fairfax, VA. Marriott Fairfax at Fair Oaks, 11787 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. Contact www.fxgs.org/Conf2007.htm

March 31. Lancaster Family History Conference. Lancaster Mennonite High School, Lancaster, PA. Among the speakers will be *Der Kurier* Editor James M. Beidler. Contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

April 6-7. Seventy-first Annual Congress of The National Huguenot Society. Washington, DC Web site for additional information - Contact www.huguenot.netnation.com/general/

April 28. Sacramento German Genealogy Society Spring Seminar. Speaker is John T. Humphrey. Topics: Exploring German family history, Surmounting obstacles in German genealogical research, and Using Church records and other resources. Contact www.SacGerGenSoc.org

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

Aug. 15-18. Federation of Genealogical Societies national conference. Fort Wayne, IN, near the Allen County Public Library. Conference

theme is *Meeting at the Crossroads of America*. Contact: www.fgs.org or write to FGS, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; or call (888) FGS-1500.

Sept. 15. Genealogy Conference sponsored by Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center. Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Keynote speaker will be Roland Paul, former Director of the Institut für Pfälzische Geschichte und Volkskunde in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and author of *Palatines in Amerika*. He will talk about letters sent home to Germany by 18th Century immigrants to America. Other speakers will be Corinne Earnest (presenting on decorative arts, history, and culture of 18th and 19th century German ancestors through both Fraktur and Pennsylvania German Broadside) and John T. Humphrey (on the impact of economic forces that shaped the lives of our ancestors). Contact: Lucy Kern, Heritage Center Library, 22 Luckenbill Road, Kutztown, PA 19530; Phone: 484-646-4165; E-mail: pagermanlibrary@kutztown.edu
Web site: <http://www.kutztown.edu/hcl>

Oct. 6. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Meeting. Hagerstown, MD. More details to be announced.

2008

Sept. 3-6. Federation of Genealogical Societies national conference. Philadelphia, PA Conference theme is *Philadelphia: Footprints of Family History*. Contact: www.fgs.org or write to FGS, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; or call (888) FGS-1500.

DOOR PRIZES – FALL MEETING

Understanding & Using Baptismal Records by John T. Humphrey (Two copies)
Donated by Anonymous – **Winners – Nina Smith & Dr. Charles Glick**

MAGS Tote Bag (Two)
Donated by Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society - **Winners – Susan Knight & Gunter Schanzenbacher**

Candy Filled Mug (Two) – **Winners – Leslie Bouvier & Maryllyn Reisinger**
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Donated by Henry Preisendorfer – **Winner – Karel Henneberger**

Cavaliers and Pioneers – Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants Volume Six: 1749-1762
Edited by Dennis Ray Hudgins
Donated by the Virginia Genealogical Society – **Winner – John Schercinger**

Genealogy and Genetics NGS Quarterly Volume 93, No. 4, December 2005 (Two copies)
Donated by the National Genealogical Society – **Winner – Marilynne Ocando & Fayette Longwell**

Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records by John T. Humphrey
Donated by John Humphrey – **Winner – Richard Miller**

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Woodford, VA 22580

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Submit your material to:
Shirley E Forrester, 3455 Chiswick Ct.,

Silver Spring, MD 20906

MAGS Library

The MAGS Library is housed in the
Shenandoah County Library's Shenandoah
Genealogy Room in Edinburg, VA.

For more information: Mariana Wilke -
mwilke@magpage.com or (610) 274-2332

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