



DER KURIER

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY
A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Est. 1982

VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

November - 1983

MAGS FALL MEETING A SUCCESS -

MAGS members met in Towson, MD at the Quality Inn on October 8th for the second annual Fall meeting. The featured speaker for both morning and afternoon sessions was Dr. Arta F. Johnson, a noted genealogist from Ohio. Dr. Johnson spoke on "Problems with German Names" in the morning and "Problems with German Geography" in the afternoon.

The Silent Auction brought in about \$80 to MAGS through research offers by Mr. and Mrs. John W. Bateman and Bernard P. Reilly. We'd like to thank them for their generous offers to do research for MAGS members.

The Oldest Bible Contest was won by Beverly Hoch of Darnestown, MD. Beverly supplied a tome dated 1769 and carried to this country from Switzerland by her ancestor John Jacob Repass. She received Meyer's Directory of Genealogical Societies in the USA and Canada as a prize.

NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT -

First, let me say that MAGS placed its best foot forward with the membership display set up during the activities celebrating Maryland's German Heritage at College Park and Baltimore, MD., October 15 and 16. Our display attracted many people, fourteen of whom became members. Our strongest attraction seems to be that we are a society interested in helping members find ways to research their German ancestors.

Beverly Hoch and myself were at College Park, while I alone handled the Baltimore display at City Hall Plaza. There were many displays of the German influence on our culture, especially so at College Park. One of these was a display of birth certificates in fraktur art form. Interest was so great that many asked if they could have one done for themselves. The young lady who executed the certificates made arrangements for producing them for a fee. Their quality was excellent and they were beautiful. For anyone desiring to have one made, make inquiries to Margaret Westfield, 4422 Osage Avenue, No. 3, Philadelphia, PA 19104. Enclose an SASE.

There is a questionnaire enclosed with the newsletter which I would like each member to fill out according to their talents. Please send the completed form to Norman C. Emerick, 1323 Glendale Road, Balto., MD 21239. WE DO NEED HELP WITH OUR COMMITTEES AND OTHER TASKS. YOU CAN HELP BY SIGNIFYING WHAT TALENTS YOU ARE WILLING TO DONATE.

The books of Arta F. Johnson, Ph.D., who spoke at our recent meeting are most useful in the area of German ancestral research. A list of her books may be obtained by writing the author: 153 Aldrich Rd., Columbus, OH 43214. Enclose an SASE.

Annette K. Burgert, who authored Eighteenth Century Emigrants, Volume One, (1983, Pennsylvania German Society Publication), has also

authored a series of booklets on German ancestral research which are most helpful. To obtain a list of her publications, address the author: P. O. Box 93, Worthington, OH 43085. Please send an SASE.

A book which anyone having German ancestors will find helpful is Genealogical Queries and Reports of Research, by Herr Pfarrer Alfred Hans Kuby, published by the Pennsylvania chapter of Palatines to America. Herr Kuby is Director of the Evangelische Akademie der Pfalz at Speyer and Enkenbach, West Germany. The book is the result of a cooperative effort between Herr Kuby and the Pennsylvania chapter of Pal Am. Herr Kuby accepted over 220 queries regarding emigrant ancestors and performed research covering each ancestor and his family in Germany. All the queries and research answers are published in alphabetical order, revealing a well-spring of information not only on the ancestor, but on other names and places both in Germany and America. There is a comprehensive name index, a descendant name index, a place name index, and a passenger ship index. An excellent publication which can be ordered from Gary T. Hawbaker, Rt. 2, Box 409C, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. Cost of the book is \$17.50, postpaid.

Marta Coffman somehow was overlooked when mention was made in the previous issue concerning those who were of help in establishing Der Kurier. Marta was in attendance at our formation meeting, July 10, 1982. She also was the one who brought forward the name for the newsletter and most of all was the designer of the masthead for the newsletter. Marta undertook the responsibility of delivering the camera-ready copy to the printer, arranging for printing, picking up the finished product, folding, stapling and arranging for pickup by those who were to mail the newsletter. No little amount of work, and to let such effort go unnoticed is something which I don't want to happen, because it meant a great deal to me then and it certainly means as much to me at this time. We must

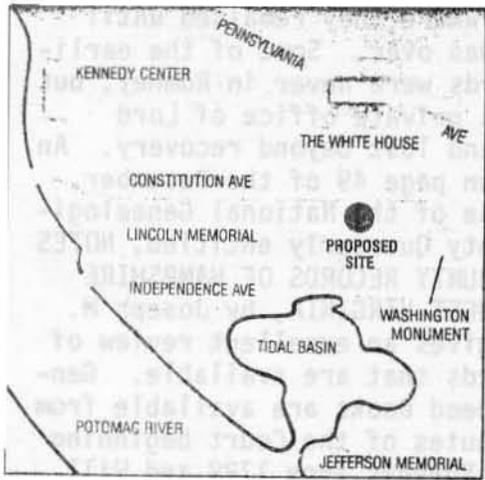
remember our newsletter has received plaudits from far and wide. What Marta did was a valuable part.

In closing, I would like to use part of a speech delivered by W. W. Armistead, Vice President of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, before a group of honor students at Knoxville, February 26th. It applies so well to our society and its objectives - and seems to say what the acronym KISS stands for: KEEP IT SIMPLE STUPID!

"It seems to me that the quality most seriously lacking in modern America is charity: I do not mean charity in the sense of gifts to the poor or to public works, but in the sense of the dictionary's first, more traditional definition: 'benevolent goodwill toward humanity.' There is all around us ample evidence of the decline of charity. Too few people appear willing to give others the benefit of the doubt. The news media seem to thrive on questioning the motives of public figures. And we have developed the most litigious society in the world, where many people seem eager to sue in order to derive personal profit from the errors or misfortunes of others. The decline of charity has been accompanied by an enormous skepticism and suspicion. Gentlemen's agreements, codes of ethics, reliance on one's word --- these now are regarded by many as quaintly naive and have been replaced by formal contracts, written job descriptions, and codified grievance procedures. Distrust is being institutionalized."

A season of celebrating, of Christmas and Hanukkah is approaching, and will only be several weeks away when you receive Der Kurier. Please accept the wishes of all the officers and committee members for a joyous season -- and a new year full of happiness and peace.

Norman C. Emerick



President Karl Carstens, of the Federal Republic of Germany participated in the ground-breaking of a German-American Friendship Garden in Washington, D.C. on October 5th, as part of the German-American Tricentennial celebration. The garden will occupy land along Constitution Avenue, between 15th and 17th Streets - on the grounds of the Washington Monument. (See map above)

Mrs. Ruth Denk, chairperson of the Friendship Committee, stressed the importance of the garden as a lasting symbol to German-American contributions to the United States and the lasting friendship between our nation and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Funds for the garden have been raised by numerous groups and individuals both in the United States and West Germany. Construction of the garden will begin in the spring of 1984, by the nationally-known landscape architecture firm of Oehme, van Sweden and Associates, of Baltimore, MD, who will design the garden at no charge. The National Park Service will maintain it.

Other dignitaries at the ground-breaking ceremony include: co-chairmen of the Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial, Horst G. Denk and Kenneth Rush; the Honorable Senator John Heinz of Pennsylvania; Chief of White House Protocol, Selwa Roosevelt, and President

Reagan's representative to the Tricentennial Commission, Charles Z. Wick, head of the U. S. Information Agency.

If you are interested in contributing to the German-American Friendship Garden, please send your gift to: Friendship Garden Fund, The Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial, 730 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. Make checks payable to the Presidential Commission for the German-American Tricentennial. All contributions are tax deductible.

A LETTER OF THANKS

Author Beverly Boehl wrote recently to thank MAGS and Der Kurier for reviewing her book, Deciphering the Church Records of Germany (Aug. 1983 issue). Below we have reproduced her letter:

3925 Amy
Garland, Texas 75043
23 October 1983

Deborah Showalter
9753 Good Luck Road #12
Seabrook, MD 20706

Dear Ms. Showalter:

Marleta Childs, who writes the column, "Kinsearching" for the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and several other Texas Newspapers, has sent me a copy of the review in Der Kurier of my handbook, Deciphering the Church Records of Germany. I want to thank you for the review. The booklet has been very successful, thanks in part to your review, I am sure; and in fact, I have had to publish a second printing (slightly revised).

Good luck to you with your Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and Der Kurier.

Sincerely yours,
Beverly Boehl

For those of you who would like to order Deciphering the Church Records of Germany, send \$7.50 to the author: Beverly Boehl, 3925 Amy, Garland, TX 75043.

Charles Althoff	Vicky Oliver
Mrs. Charles Althoff	Jeanne K. Pearson
Fredrica B. Baer	Miriam H. Phillips
John W. Bateman	Marianna F. Price
C. Richard Beam	Mary Cecil Repass
Alice E. Brown	Mary S. Riesner
Joan A. Carter	Lucille Rucille
Patricia A. Cramer	Leslie Robinson
Dudley H. Dohner	John F. Schnebly
Katherine Eltermann	Janice Seabolt
Helen B. Emanuel	David Showalter
William B. Fetters	Jeanne Showalter
John A. Frank, III	Cleta W. Smith
Jean Hahn	Robert Sommerwerck
Charlotte Hasslinger	Rudolph Sommerwerck
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Ruby Land	Nellie R. Walter
Howard G. Lanham	Roy H. Wampler
David A. Loizeaux	Melvin J. Warther
Phyllis Lott	Nora J. Wible
Sharon Martin	Robert Windemuth

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA RESEARCH

Hampshire County, being the oldest county in West Virginia, was formed from a part of Frederick County, VA in pursuance of an Article passed by the Virginia General Assembly on December 13, 1753. Originally, it included that which is now Hardy, Mineral and Grant Counties and parts of Morgan and Pendleton. It has contained its present boundaries since 1866, when Mineral County was erected. It is in the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley, west of the Blue Ridge, in what is known as the Northern Neck.

It is most unfortunate, for a county which was the source of much migration to many of the frontier areas, that the county records are incomplete. During the Civil War, the courthouse was used as a stable by the Northern Troops. The Deed, Will

and Estate Settlement Books were spirited away during the early part of the war to Winchester, then to Front Royal, later to Luray, all in Virginia and finally, to North Carolina where they remained until the war was over. Some of the earliest records were never in Romney, but kept in a private office of Lord Fairfax and lost beyond recovery. An article on page 49 of the December, 1927 issue of the National Genealogical Society Quarterly entitled, NOTES ON THE COUNTY RECORDS OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, by Joseph M. Kellogg gives an excellent review of the records that are available. Generally, Deed Books are available from 1757; Minutes of the Court beginning in 1788; Surveys from 1788 and Will Books beginning with Book 2, dating from 1780. Will Books, 1, 3, 4 and 6 are missing. There is an excellent book available, which contains information from Deed Books to 1800, Will Books to 1860 and Marriage Records 1824-1828, in addition to census information. The book is EARLY RECORDS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, VIRGINIA, NOW WEST VIRGINIA, 1782-1860, by Clara McCormack Sage and Laura Sage Jones, Delvan, Wisconsin, 1939; available in most large libraries in Maryland, Virginia and West Virginia and from The Virginia Book Company, Berryville, Virginia 22611.

The Hampshire County Public Library, Romney, West Virginia 26757 has an extensive genealogical collection pertaining to West Virginia, but more especially to Hampshire County. Miss Mary Pugh, a MAGS member, is the volunteer curator of the genealogical collection. She maintains an index file of a great number of people throughout the country, who have roots in Hampshire County. She welcomes inquiries from anyone who desires general genealogical information regarding their ancestors or the library's holdings. Mrs. Nancy C. Feller, the County Clerk of Hampshire County, Romney, is most accommodating in supplying copies of documents. Her office does not answer queries, but will search for a document (if time permits) providing sufficient information is given.

In either case, always send an SASE with your query. One may visit the library or courthouse during working hours; always expecting helpful assistance.

For those who may desire some excellent maps of the county, they are available through the West Virginia Department of Highways, Advanced Planning Division, 1900 Washington Street, East, Charleston, WV 25305; request a price list for the General Highway County Maps. The maps contain many geographical features and are multi-colored, quite reasonable and most helpful. Speaking of maps, should one be interested in knowing the exact location of any tract of land which an ancestor was granted from either Lord Fairfax or the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is an excellent private source available. One must know to whom the land was granted, if it was purchased from another by your ancestor. Knowing this, Mr. Galtjo Geertsema, 515 West John Street, Martinsburg, WV 25401, a surveyor, will upon request and a small fee, send a copy of a USCGS map, usually 1:24000, showing the geometrical layout of the tract of land. Mr. Geertsema's files contain information covering the Northern Neck of Virginia, west of the Blue Ridge, including most of Frederick County, VA as well as, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson Counties, WV.

There is a monthly newspaper in Hampshire County which began publication in 1982. They devote space in each issue to the genealogical history of the county, usually a family history. The column is edited by Dr. Wilmer L. Kerns, Ph.D., who also conducts a query column on genealogy. He will print queries as space permits. Please enclose an SASE. To date, the following families have had their history featured: Miller, Hott, Hickle, Kern, Alkire, Streit, Whitacre, Good, Slane, Ellis Pugh, LaFollette, Hickle and McKee - (through Oct. 1983 issue). Those interested in the newspaper may write

There are several books which are devoted to Hampshire County history and genealogy:

1. HISTORY OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, by Hu Maxwell and H. L. Swisher, 1879, reprinted with index 1972 by McClain Printing Company, Parsons, WV 26287 - and still available;
2. SHENANDOAH VALLEY PIONEER AND THEIR DESCENDANTS: A HISTORY OF FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA FROM ITS FORMATION IN 1738 TO 1908, by Thomas K. Cartmell, 1909, reprinted with index 1963 in two volumes. Available from the Virginia Book Company;
3. CAPON VALLEY, ITS PIONEERS AND THEIR DESCENDANTS, 1698-1940, Volume I and II, by Maud Pugh, 1948, reprinted in one volume with indices 1982 by William E. Lynch, Jr., 1433 Heather Lane, West Chester, PA 19380 and still available. The two volumes deal with family genealogy;
4. HISTORIC HAMPSHIRE: A SYMPOSIUM OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY AND ITS PEOPLE, PAST AND PRESENT, edited by Selden W. Brannon, 1976 and available from the McClain Printing Company;
5. EARLIEST SETTLERS, WEST FREDERICK-EASTERN HAMPSHIRE COUNTIES IN VIRGINIA by Grace Kelso Garner, 1978, W457 Shoshone Place, Spokane, WA 99203;
6. EARLY MARRIAGES, WESTERN FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA-EASTERN HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA, 1975, by GKG and Ralph L. Triplett;
7. EARLY BIRTHS-----, 1976, by GKG.

Ralph L. Triplett, Route One, Box 43, Gore, VA 22637 has published a number of monographs or books of cemetery recordings for cemeteries throughout Frederick County, Virginia and Hampshire County, West Virginia. His work is most accurate and one would be well

served to peruse the volumes. One Monograph of particular value is HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA CEMETERY RECORDS, compiled by Mary K. Ashbrook, Genealogical Records Chairman, Oklahoma City DAR Chapter, 1954-55. This monograph concerns only veterans of wars starting with the Revolutionary War. It covers most all of the county's cemeteries, both small and large, many of which are small family plots. The two copies of which I have knowledge repose in the County Clerk's Office in Romney and in the Hampshire County Public Library.

Other books which are of value with respect to family genealogy in the county are:

1. GUNSMITHS OF PENN-MAR-VA, 1790-1840, by William S. Bowers, 1979 and still available. Has a chapter on counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Shenandoah and Hampshire. It is available from the Virginia Book Company;
2. SHANHOLTZER HISTORY AND ALLIED FAMILY ROOTS, by Dr. Wilmer L. Kerns, 1980. It is available from the McClain Printing Company;
3. SIMS INDEX OF LAND GRANTS IN WEST VIRGINIA, privately printed. Available in the Hampshire County Courthouse, Clerk's Office;
4. HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CENSUS, 1782-1850, by Michael, 1976. Copies available from the Capon Bridge Public Library, Capon Bridge, WV 26711.

There are, of course, many other books and publications which contain information on Hampshire County, but are too numerous to mention. One may obtain a bibliography of pertinent publications by writing the West Virginia University Press, Morgantown WV 26505 and requesting, WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY-A BIBLIOGRAPHY AND GUIDE TO RESEARCH, by Harold M. Forbes, 1981. Please send an SASE with inquiry to obtain cost of publication. Most large libraries in the tri-state area have these books and publications. Two, in particular, are the George Peabody

Library, One East Mount Vernon Place, Baltimore, MD 21202 and the Hampshire County Public Library.

* F-L-A-S-H ! ! !

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* The bad news is that we don't have a query column this time, because we received so few queries. C'mon out there in MAGS-land, send in those queries. You never know who might read your query and discover he or she is a cousin. The good news is that we have a new Queries Editor, Elsie Lewis Smartwood, who is just dying to receive those queries. So let's all make Elsie feel at home and start sending her those little genealogical gems! Send your queries to Elsie Lewis Smartwood, 9421 Warfield Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20879..

BOOK REVIEW EDITOR NEEDED -

MAGS is looking for a book review editor to contribute at least one review in every issue of Der Kurier. Anyone who is interested, please contact: Deborah Showalter, Editor, 9753 Good Luck Road., #12, Seabrook, MD 20706.

ARTICLES - - - WE NEED ARTICLES

Der Kurier is desperately in need of articles and fillers for each issue. Anyone who has any information to share, please type it up and send it to the editor. If you're shy about your literary talents, don't worry --- that's what the editor's here for! We want to hear from all parts of the country, because that's what MAGS is all about -- sharing information. So let's get with it out there in MAGS-land and contribute your share. Send your articles and fillers to: Deborah Showalter, Editor, 9753 Good Luck Road, #12, Seabrook, MD 20706. Next deadline is February 1, 1984.

*****we repeat, next deadline is

FEBRUARY 1, 1984!!!!

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH IN MARYLAND:

A GUIDE, by Mary Keysor Meyer covers all the major areas for Maryland research, gives hours for the various genealogical storehouses, and tells where the researcher can locate specific records. Did you know that the Maryland Historical Society has copies of the passenger lists for the port of Baltimore 1797-date, a card index to the passenger arrivals in the port of Baltimore, 1833-1866, men listed as unfit for military duty during the War of 1812, plus much, much more? If you're interested in church records, Mrs. Meyer can point you in the right direction. She also lists the various historical societies in Maryland, gives addresses, hours and holdings. Best of all is a bibliography of books covering all the counties of Maryland. Genealogical Research in Maryland is available from the Maryland Historical Society, 201 W. Monument Street, Baltimore, MD 21201. Send SASE for more information.

PENNSYLVANIA MENNONITE HERITAGE -

Three hundred years after the first Mennonite-Quaker families arrived in America, the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society has released its 44-page Mennonite tricentennial issue of Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage. Copies are available for \$3.00 each from the Society at 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Special articles in the issue include "European Mennonite Motivation for Emigration, 1650-1750" by Cornelius J. Dyck; a biographical study of Jacob Funk (1730-1816), an early Germantown Mennonite preacher, by Robert F. Ulle; a transcription of the Germantown Mennonite Cemetery by Edsel B. Burdge, Jr.; and Germantown links to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, families--such as Shoemakers, Mylins, Groffs, Kreys and Funks--by Jane E. Best.

Also featured is a genealogical ancestry of Harold R. Mast, a descendant of 1707 Immigrant Jacob Kulp and Sarah van Sintern who, according to family

tradition, were the first couple to be married in the first log Mennonite meetinghouse at Germantown, PA. The magazine also includes genealogical queries, historical and genealogical research notes, genealogical tips, book reviews, and a list of a tri-centennial-related genealogical and historical books sold by the Historical Society.

The cover features Germantown's 1707 Rittenhouse House--homestead of the first Mennonite minister in North America, site of the first paper mill in English-speaking America, and birthplace of David Rittenhouse, the noted scientist.

The issue also has maps of Germantown in 1688, the Germantown Mennonite cemetery, and the Zurich area of Switzerland. Among the numerous photographs are the house of Francis Daniel Pastorius, founder of Germantown, the 1775 Concord School; Germantown Mennonite meetinghouse; Daniel K. Cassel; the 1690 "Wyck" house erected by Hans Milan; and the 1765 Johnson House.

* ARE YOUR DUES DUE??? - September *
* the first, 1983, marked the begin- *
* ning of the new MAGS membership *
* year. Get on the bandwagon and *
* get those dues in so you won't miss *
* any of the exciting things happen- *
* ing in MAGS!!! Single - \$5.00; *
* Family - \$7.00. *

PALATINES TO THE PALATINES -

The Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America will sponsor a genealogical tour to Germany in June, 1984. The tour will include free days for visiting ancestors' hometowns or villages, assistance in arranging contacts within hometowns, a group visit to Heimatstelle Phalz, a group visit with noted genealogists in the Palatinate, tours of Wurzburg and Augsburg and much more. The entire trip package has been priced at \$1,290 per person, double occupancy. The tour will begin June 18 and end June 30. For more

information, contact: Leo R. Wastler,
 Pennsylvania Chapter Tour Director,
 25 Clover Lane, Mechanicsburg, PA
 17055. Telephone: 717-697-0236.

LOOKING FOR DIE GESCHICHTE?

Below is a bibliography compiled by
 Margrit Krewson, European Division,
 Library of Congress, of books on
 our German ancestors. Remember, it's
 not only important to find out about
 individuals, but the places and times
 they lived in. Call numbers given
 are those for books at the Library
 of Congress. Your local library cat-
 aloguing system may be different, so
 consult with your librarian.

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