



DER

KURIER

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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A SEVEN YEAR ITCH

(Ed. Note: MAGS Member **Bob Miller** shares his trials and tribulations of finding an illusive ancestor.)

Seven years ago I started my genealogical research. One of my most persistent problems was tracing the line of Emma Katherine Miller Wilds, my maternal grandmother. I knew that her family were German Lutherans and that someone was supposed to have been a wagonmaker in Stuttgart. I also had her birth date, knew that she had been born on the south side of Pittsburgh, and had an approximate location of the family farm.

My first step was to contact living relatives. Nothing --- except that one return letter from a 92 - year old great-aunt in Florida contained the family pages from my great-grandparents' Bible. She had no idea where the actual Bible was; these pages had been torn out years before, and as I was the only one expressing interest, she sent them to me.

I then located Cushing's *A Genealogical and Biographical History of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania*. Here I found my grandmother's parents, Jacob C. and Christina Miller. Fortunately, his parents were also listed as Jacob and Catherine Bender Miller from Württemberg. After trips to the Carnegie Library and Western Pennsylvania

Genealogical Society proved fruitless, I obtained detailed township maps and located all Lutheran churches within a thirty mile radius of the farm. By corresponding with these churches, I was able to find those which had records dating to the period of interest. I identified the Zion and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches as most likely and went to Pittsburgh to review these records. I found no Millers at the Zion church, but noticed a Catherine Greiaufmüller.

I next went to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, which had become the custodian of the St. Paul records on its closing. Here I found the name Creyaufmüller several times and then -- I was staring at the baptism record of my grandmother, but her name was given as Katherine Emma Creyaufmüller.

There was no mistake. All her data matched as well as the names of her brothers and sisters and their birth dates. Imagine my surprise when I found the original name of the family! Needless to say, I returned to the Zion Church and recorded all the Greiaufmüllers there.

Subsequently, I identified the families of Jacob and Christian Greiaufmüller at four churches; one in the Triangle and three on the south side. The name was spelled various ways: Crey---, Grei---, Kreiauf--- and even Krioff Müller. One point to be emphasized is that of the four sets of records, only one was in a library (Hillman

Library of the University of Pittsburgh), and only one was still in the original church.

Further, early records of that original church, the Zion Church, are missing from its founding to about 1860 --- rumor has it that they were last seen in an antique store. Sadder yet, cemeteries in which I am sure my ancestors were buried had yielded to progress as late as 1952 when dirt, tombstones and bones were heaped in trucks, carted to another cemetery and dumped with no pictorial or written record of the transfer. In fact, even the custodian of the cemetery where the remains were dumped wasn't even aware that this had happened. Of interest also was that although I hired two well qualified professional genealogists to assist in my search, they had not pieced together the clues leading to the discovery of the existence of the church records I was able to review.

Finally, I had a fairly good picture of the Creyaufmüllers in the Pittsburgh area: although I surmised that Jacob and Christian were brothers, I had not proved this. After all, my objective was to trace this particular branch back to Germany.

The breakthrough came when I reviewed the Michael Tepper book published in 1982, *Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Baltimore 1820-1834*. Here I found listed a Greifaufmüller, Jac. (sic) as arriving the third quarter 1833. Could it be?

After much wasted time I contacted an expert genealogist in the Stuttgart area and asked if he could help me. Several months later he reported a listing of emigrants departing the area in a Stuttgart paper --- *Stuttgarter Allgemeine Anzeigen*. Here was Jakob Creyaufmüller and the town from which he came. The next step was to search the church records of that town, Michelbach am Wald. There he found the marriage record of Johann Jakob Creyaufmüller and Katherine Barbara

Bender in Langenbeutingen in 1831. He also located Jakob's father, who was indeed a wagonmaker in the Stuttgart area, and showed that, indeed, Jakob and Christian were brothers, as well as identifying the parents of Katherine Bender. To date he has taken both families back several generations further with fascinating results.

Since the discovery of the home of Jakob Creyaufmüller, I have tried to locate my ancestors in the church records held by the Mormon church. I have concluded that their collection of such German records is hopelessly weak and that I must rely on my contact in Germany for further searching of the individual parish records until I can make the trip for myself. I think too that, even had I been interested in genealogical research earlier, I never would have pieced this much of the story together from family conversations. I have found the name Creyaufmüller continued in United States records until shortly before World War I. I surmise that the family then tried to remove all references to their German ancestry and changed their name to Miller.

I still have much research to do. For instance, the family arrived in Maryland in 1833 and first showed up in Pittsburgh records in 1841. They should appear somewhere in Maryland records during that period, and they should have had children in Maryland. If so, these children did not survive, nor did the two they had in Germany before leaving for this country.

But I have been persistent for seven years. Perhaps continued persistence will produce further surprises. I hope that this small example of a fortuitous combination of luck and persistence will encourage you when you are most frustrated.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The big MAGS news right now concerns plans for our Spring meeting. It's to be held on Saturday, May 24, 1986, at the New Windsor Service Center in New Windsor, MD, which is operated by the Church of the Brethren. This is not a run-of-the-mill meeting place, and should be especially nice in May. It is located on a former college campus, and so has the facilities to provide inexpensive lodging (including three meals a day). So, why not plan to spend the weekend and explore Carroll County as well. Many of our German ancestors settled there, so you may have specific locales to visit.

In addition to an exciting location, we have an interesting speaker. Dr. Delbert Gratz, a native of Ohio, received his doctorate from the University of Bern in Switzerland. He has done extensive research in Switzerland and Germany and his special interests concern the Mennonites and Amish in Switzerland, southern Germany, eastern France, and the USA. His genealogical publications include *The Bernese Anabaptists and Their American Descendants* and *Mennonite Genealogical Research*.

We'll have some of the usual displays and some new ones, but we are not emphasizing exhibits for this meeting. A visit to the New Windsor Center's International Gift Shop is a "must," we're told, so you'll probably want to spend any spare time there.

A registration form, complete with map, is enclosed with this newsletter. It's not too early to start making plans, especially if you want to stay overnight. Send your registration for the meeting to our new Registrar, Paul Fogle, and make lodging arrangements directly with the New Windsor Center. Addresses for both are provided on the flyer.

Thanks to everyone who replied to the questionnaire in the last *Der Kurier*. Some thoughtful suggestions and useful comments were provided. But we'd still like to hear from the rest of you. It's not too late to give us your ideas and suggestions. If you've mislaid your copy of the questionnaire, just write to the president or corresponding secretary and we'll send you another.

Judging from the replies we've received, you value the newsletter highly, but would like to see more source records or at least more pointers to source records. This fits in with a long-term MAGS goal of expanding *Der Kurier* to a more "meaty" publication without getting into publishing a literary quarterly. The latter is beyond our resources at the present time.

To expand *Der Kurier*, we need help from the membership in the following ways:

Contributions - Articles about sources available in your part of the world. For example, what can one find about early Germans in the Hagerstown, MD public library? Or, what can one learn close to home about ancestors far away? If you've had luck getting microfilms of German records through interlibrary loan, tell us about it. And stories about your own experiences would be interesting to others, particularly if you've made an exciting breakthrough or found little-known records. Send your stories and contributions, to Editor, *Der Kurier*, 207 N. Duke Dr., Sterling, VA 22170.

New Members - We need new members in order to offset printing costs for *Der Kurier*. Costs for producing and mailing the newsletter have risen steadily, while our number of dues-paying members has dropped. To finance *Der Kurier*, we need to have all our old members catch up on unpaid dues, or find a lot of new ones or both! Here's how you can help recruit new members; if you attend meetings of other

genealogy groups, or if you visit historical or genealogical libraries, you can take a stack of our brochures and leave them to be picked up by fellow researchers. If you're willing to do just this one thing it will make a tremendous effort for the Society's good. Just send a postcard to the membership chairperson, **Nancy H. Mossburg**, 223 Meadows Lane, NE, Leesburg, VA 22075 or myself, **Anne T. Tenny**, 10807 Montrose Ave., Garrett Park, MD 20896, and we'll send you brochures for each of the places you plan to visit. If there's a local newspaper in your area which prints announcements of our meetings, please send the name and address to our public relations chairperson, **Cathryn Dippo**, 1327 Dana St., Crofton, MD 21114.

OFF TO DEUTSCHLAND

Are you ready to travel to the land of your ancestors? **Paul Fogle**, a MAGS member in Frederick, MD, will be leading a group to Germany, Austria, and Switzerland for a two week journey. The flight leaves Baltimore-Washington International Airport on Sunday, June 29, 1986 and returns July 13th. Arrangements include motorcoach, hotels, two meals each day, and sightseeing. For those who wish to extend the trip beyond July 13th, arrangements for rental cars and/or hotel accommodations can be made through Paul. Contact him at P.O. Box 1149, Frederick, Md 21701 or call 301-662-8080 for information and brochures.

COMPUTERS: SOFTWARE REVIEW - ROOTS/M

ROOTS/M is billed as software to help organize your family tree and it can certainly do that. It can sort through numerous records to determine relationships, keep track of anniversaries and store information about hundreds of your relatives on a single floppy disk.

Of course, the first thing you should do with any new software, after you have made a safety copy, is to read the accompanying manual. A newcomer to genealogy and computers will be pleasantly surprised to notice that the manual does not immediately dive into a lot of computerese, but instead starts with a "survey of genealogy."

In the first chapter of the manual we are treated to an excellent article for a beginning genealogist and one that might provide a nice review for some experienced amateurs.

Then begins the fun with some real hands on work with the database.

The first thing to do is to get some data entered. And one thing that makes the rest of the entries so much easier is to start the first entry with the oldest ancestor. Also remember to keep the way the names, dates and places are entered consistent.

Entering the data is pretty straightforward until you get to the marriages. Then you have to select people already entered to marry the person you are entering. That was a little confusing at first, but I got used to it rather quickly and it is not a difficult procedure to master.

A nice feature when you run ROOTS/M is that you are not locked into one diskette for each family. Instead, this program allows you to name the data file with the family name if you like. That way you may have several different families on the same diskette.

Although your diskette has a finite amount of space, unless you are a professional or semi-professional genealogist you should have no space problems on your diskette. I was able to enter about 100 family entries in two separate family files and it used less than 10 kilobytes of

space on a diskette that can contain 191 kilobytes.

One thing to investigate before you buy is the operating system of your machine. The ROOTS/M for my machine uses a CP/M operating system and requires at least 32K of RAM. This will allow you to work with 500 records. If your machine has 64K of RAM, the number of records increases to 1600.

In summary, ROOTS/M is a neat, clean way to store information about your ancestors. It allows you to edit, list, trace through a pedigree chart, determine relationships, display anniversaries of marriages, births, and deaths, and when used with a printer, will print out pedigree charts and family group sheets. It is limited in the amount of additional information which one may desire to enter, but for the going price of around \$50.00, it is one of the more desirable for a genealogist to have.

ROOT/M is available from COMM SOFT, 2452 Embarcadero Way, Palo Alto, CA 94303.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL MACHINE (SAM)

TEXAS ALERT

SAM is the computerized bulletin board of the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission. SAM has next month's events listed, the history of 150 years ago, and five message areas. There is no charge or special passwords needed.

Anyone interested in Genealogy and/or family history is invited to post any items of interest they would like to share.

SAM may be reached at (512) 463-3188. It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can communicate at 300 or 1200 bps, 8 word bits, 2 stop bits, no parity.

If you have questions about the bulletin board, call Lynn Lumpkin or Ann Thorton at the Texas Sesquicentennial Commission: (512) 463-1986.

NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

Fairfax (VA) Genealogical Society

April 24: "The Stone Link: Cemeteries and their Records," Henry Thoreau Intermediate School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna, VA. Meeting begins at 7:45 p.m. For details, call Shirley Wilcox, 703-920-2385.

May 22: "Civil War Records at the National Archives." Same place and time as above.

Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania

April 22: "Pennsylvania Newspaper Project," 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA. Meeting begins at 2 p.m.

May 27: "Westward Expansion in Pennsylvania and the Old Northwest, 1755-1800." Same place and time as above.

Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society

April 5: "Eighth Annual Genealogical Conference," Lancaster Mennonite High School, 2176 Lincoln Hwy East, Lancaster, PA. Meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. For details, contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, c/o Lola M. Lehman, 2215 Millstream Rd., Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-393-9745.

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

May 24: "The Mennonite Challenge," New Windsor Service Center, New Windsor, MD. Meeting begins 9:15 a.m. For details, contact Mary K. Meyer, 5179 Perry Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

Please send notices of other societies' meetings to Editor, *Der Kurier*, 207 N. Duke Dr., Sterling, VA 22170.

search fee for non-members to use the library, however. The DAR Library is located at 1776 D St., N.W.

TIDBITS, MORSELS, AND CRUMBS

1850 Census of Cook County, Illinois: Outside of Chicago. Over 200 pages, soft cover. \$17.50 + \$2.50 postage and handling. Every name listed, alphabetized by heads of families. Shows dwelling number, household number, head of household, each member of household, ages and places of birth. Order from Chicago Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 1160, Chicago, IL 60690.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society was founded to help Americans trace the foreign origins of their ancestors, in particular the German-speaking areas of Europe. The Society's greatest assets are the Immigrant Library, a unique collection of German materials, including *Deutsches Familienarchiv* (a fully indexed collection of German genealogies) and *Ortsippenbücher* (lineage books of individual German towns), and the two research committees, the German Research Committee and the German Genealogical Exchange Group. For more information on the Immigrant Genealogical Society, write the Society at 5043 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601.

Western Maryland Genealogy, a quarterly journal, began in January 1985. Counties covered are Frederick, Washington, Montgomery, Allegany, Garrett, and parts of Carroll and the District of Columbia. Subscription is \$15.00 per year. Send orders to *Western Maryland Genealogy*, 709 E. Main St., Middletown, MD 21769.

The DAR Library in Washington, D.C. is now open on the first and third Sundays of the month from 1-5 p.m. There is still a \$5.00

HISTORICAL CALENDAR

- JANUARY**
- 3--1777 Washington crossed the Delaware River to engage the British at Princeton.
 - 14--1784 Congress ratified the Peace Treaty with Great Britain.
 - 25--1784 First sighting of the 1784 comet in Boston.
- FEBRUARY**
- 6--1778 France and the U.S. signed treaties of alliance, amity, and commerce.
 - 15--1776 British raided Prudence Island, RI.
 - 26--1784 Gov. Robert Livingston of New Jersey welcomed George Washington to his state.
- MARCH**
- 4--1784 Worcester newspaper suggested marriage to evade the bachelor tax.
 - 19--1778 South Carolina adopted a state constitution.
 - 31--1784 Abel Buell produced the first map of the United States to be engraved in America.

QUERIES column will resume next issue.

Der Kurier, the newsletter of the **Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society**, is published four times a year, in September, December, March, and June. Deadline date for copy is the first of August, November, February, and May. Send all copy to **Deborah M. Showalter**, 207 North Duke Dr, Sterling, VA, 22170-3115.

DER KURIER STAFF:

Editor - **Deborah M. Showalter**
Layout/Typing - **E. Allen Brown**
Queries Editor - **Elsie Swartwood**
Membership/Mailing - **George Billingslea**
Margaret Reese

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WHEN WRITING TO US:

INFORMATION ON MAGS: Send SASE to Corresponding Secretary, **Phyllis Lott**, 12111, Mt. Albert Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043.

MEMBERSHIP: \$5.00 single, \$7.00 family per year (Sept.1 - Aug. 31). **Nancy H. Mossburg**, 223 Meadows Ln., NE, Leesburg, VA 22075.

SURNAME EXCHANGE INDEX: Follow directions set up for this program or send SASE for information to **Sue S. Smyser**, 6266 Rose Hill Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310.

QUERIES: Follow directions set up for this program or send SASE for information to **Elsie Swartwood**, Queries Editor, 121 S. Juanita Ave., #4, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

SPRING AND FALL MEETINGS: (Information) Send SASE to **Mary K. Meyer**, 5179 Perry Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771. (Registration) Send SASE to **Paul E. Fogle**, 12 Locust Blvd., Middletown, MD 21769.

STUMPED ROOTS & PROFESSIONAL REFERRAL: For information on **STUMPED ROOTS** send SASE to **George Billingslea**, 1229 Wine Spring Ln., Ruxton, MD 21204.

SUGGESTIONS OR ASSISTANCE: **Anne T. Tenny**, 10807 Montrose Ave., Garrett Park, MD 20896-0141.

CANADIAN CHURCH RECORDS

If your ancestors were in Canada at some point, you might want to check church archives there. Below is a list of churches you can write to:

Anglican Church of Canada
General Synod Archives
600 Jarvis St.
Toronto, M4Y 9Z9

Canadian Baptist Archives
McMaster Divinity College
Main St.
Hamilton, Ontario, L8S 4K1

Canadian Jewish Archives
150 Beverley St.
Toronto, M5T 1Y6

Christian Reformed Archives
Calvin Seminary
3233 Burton S.
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506

Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter Day Saints
701 Stone Church Rd.
Box 4425, Station "D"
Hamilton, Ontario, L8V 4L8

Jehovah's Witness
150 Bridge Land Ave.
Toronto, Ontario

Lutheran Archives
Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Sir Wilfred Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario, N2L 3C4

Mennonite Archives of Ontario
Conrad Grebel College
University of Waterloo
Waterloo, Ontario

Presbyterian Church in Canada
Knox College
59 George St.
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2E6

Quaker-Canadian Friends
Historical Association
60 Lowther Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, M5R 1C7

Reform Church in America
Camp Shaloam
R.R. 4, Cambridge, Ontario

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
10 Overlea Blvd.
Toronto, Ontario, M4H 1A5

Roman Catholic Archdiocese
of Toronto
Chancery Office
55 Gould St.
Toronto, Ontario, M5B 1G1

Sisters of St. Joseph Archives
3377 Bayview Ave.
Willowdale, Ontario, M2M 3S4
(Records of school, orphanage and House of
Providence)

Ukrainian Catholic Archives
61 Glen Edyth Dr.
Toronto, Ontario, M4V 2V8

United Church of Canada Archives
Victoria College
73 Queens Park Cr. E.
Toronto, Ontario, M5S 1K7

CONTRIBUTORS: Ronald Otto, *Brant County Branch Newsletter of the Ontario Genealogical Society*, Anne Tenny, Bob Miller, Paul Fogle, E. Allen Brown, and *Fairfax Genealogical Society Newsletter*.



THE MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY -A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING

Saturday, 24 May 1986

at

The New Windsor Service Center
New Windsor, Carroll County, Maryland

Members \$16.00
Nonmembers \$18.00

Registration fee
includes luncheon

THE PROGRAM

coffee hour

"Challenge"
ert Gratz

12:00 a.m.

1:30 p.m.

3:00 p.m.

te "Challenge", continued

ng and Announcements

*** See reverse for information about lodging at New Windsor.
*** Mail registration by May 15th to:
Paul E. Fogle, 12 Locust Blvd, Middletown MD 21769

REGISTRATION FORM

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for _____ people to attend the
Spring Meeting at the rate of \$16.00 for _____ members and \$18.00
for _____ nonmembers.

I've added \$3.00 to the nonmember fee for MAGS membership.

I am unable to attend but would like to receive information
about the organization.

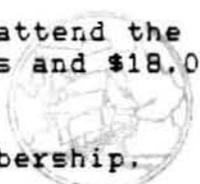
NAME _____

Names of other attendees _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

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Key to Campus Map

- A - Zigler Hall**
Meeting rooms, cafeteria, guest lodging, tours, information.
- B - Windsor Hall**
Guest lodging, large meeting room, staff and volunteer housing.
- C - Old Main**
International Gift Shop, guest lodging, meeting rooms.
- D - Becker Hall**
Staff and volunteer housing.
- E. SERRY Building**
Office, warehouse, wholesale display room and shipping, retail mail order.
- F - Recreation Building**
Volley ball, basketball, shuffleboard, pingpong, fireplace.
- G - Clothing Processing Building**
Sorting, packing, warehouse, shipping, cut garment area.
- H - Affiliated Offices**
- I - Residence**
- J - Medical Building**
Packing, warehouse, shipping, Center administration, office.
- P - Visitor Parking**



How to drive to New Windsor



The New Windsor Service Center

is administered by the Church of the Brethren General Board, Elgin, Illinois 60120, through its World Ministries Commission.

For further information on the Center, or to learn how you may participate in its programs, write or phone

New Windsor Service Center
Box 185
New Windsor, Maryland 21776
(301) 835-8484

Lodging

Tentative rates per person:

\$38.25, single occupancy.

\$28.25, double occupancy

For more details, to obtain a brochure, or to make reservations, call or write to the New Windsor Service Center.



MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY
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