



# DER

# KURIER

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Est. 1982

## DUES! DUES! DUES!

If you have not yet paid your dues for 1987, this will be the last issue of *Der Kurier* that you will receive.

Please send dues to Nancy Mossburg, 233 Meadows Ln., NE, Leesburg, VA 22075. Dues are now \$7.50 for a single membership, or \$10.00 per family.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Meetings. The October meeting was a bit snake-bit. Sorry to say, one of our speakers, Milton Rubincam, suffered a stroke about ten days before the meeting. The latest report on him, to our relief, is that he suffered no permanent damage but will have to take it easy for a while. Fortunately for MAGS, John Heisey, another specialist in Pennsylvania and German research, was able to fill in for Milton at short notice and gave us an interesting talk, as did Mary Meyer, in spite of noisy competition from the adjoining room. I noticed that most people seemed to have a good time talking to each other about mutual interests - and of course that's one of the main purposes of the meetings.

The talks were taped with excellent equipment that filtered out almost all of the extraneous noise. Copies of the talk by John Heisey are available - see details elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Spring meeting will feature Herr Friederich Wollmershäuser, a German

professional genealogist and lecturer who will be touring the USA. The exact date and location are not firm yet, but full details will be in the next newsletter. The Fall '87 meeting will be held in New Windsor, Maryland.

Mail Auction. The mail auction also was snake-bit but ultimately successful in that it netted a reasonable profit. However we do apologize to those members who failed to receive auction notices; as far as we can deduce, one sheet of mailing labels must have been mislaid, since those who didn't receive the notices all seem to have lived in Annapolis or Northern Virginia. We're double-checking the mailing list and will be sure it doesn't happen again.

When all the books for whom checks were received are mailed out, we will compile a list of those remaining and offer them for straight sale in *Der Kurier*.

## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to MAGS: Margaret Myers, Louise Silva, Janet Colburn, Irving Costanzo, Dorothea Feigley, Anna Ruth Salzman, Boyd Hone, Nelson Franke, Patricia Bateman, Edith Axelson, Willa McConnel, Kenneth Johnson, Charles Hunt Family, Connie Levinson, Louise Levinson, Gary Myer, Patricia Kammer Hooper, Allan Gilmore, William Canis, H. M. Stiles, Carol Bennett, Joan Shevish, Raymond Banks, Theodore Seaman and Tom Maultsby.





## THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF PENNSYLVANIA COMING EVENTS

The Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania holds meetings that are open to all interested persons, and are planned to encompass a variety of both general and specific interests in genealogical problems. Anyone is welcome to participate in the activities, and to nourish your own interest in this fascinating work. Unless otherwise specified, all programs are open to interested persons without charge, and are held at 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. For further information write to the Society at the above address.

Tuesday, February 24, 1987

**TAX RECORDS IN SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA** by Francis W. Waite, President, Bucks County Genealogical Society.

Mrs. Waite will discuss the importance of tax records in genealogical research.

Tuesday March 24, 1987

**ANNUAL MEETING AND TEA - MARYLAND GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH** by Mary K. Meyer, F.N.G.S., author and lecturer.

As a retired Librarian and Genealogist of the Maryland Historical Society, Mrs. Meyer's expertise in Maryland research is of the highest degree. She will inform us of the research facilities in Maryland and their record holdings.

Tuesday May 19, 1987

**RESEARCHING COLONIAL GERMAN IMMIGRATION** by Annette K. Burgert, author and lecturer.

Annette Burgert has done extensive research on colonial German immigration as is evidenced by her publications.

## U.S. PASSENGER ARRIVAL LISTS

United States Passenger Arrival Lists came into being on March 2, 1819 with an act of Congress which specified that the captain of each vessel must supply the collector of customs at the port of arrival with a list of all passengers. For most ports copies or abstracts were made available from the originals and sent on to the State Department. Regrettably, the 1819 law did not provide for the storage and preservation of the original lists. Of the nearly 100 ports along the Atlantic and Gulf seaboard, original arrival lists exist for only seven of them (Baltimore, Boston, New Bedford, New Orleans, New York and Philadelphia, with a few for Mobile), and even these lists are far from complete. It is safe to say that the lists that are extant today are not complete for any port or for any year.

Although there were nearly 100 ports of entry, the ports did not have an equal number of passengers arriving each year. A tabulation of arrivals in the 19th century at five major ports for which original passenger lists exist shows from 50 to 90 percent of the total number of arrivals entered at the port of New York.

During the depression years one project of the WPA was to index the passenger arrival lists, along with their copies and abstracts. The only port for which the index was never completed was New York City between 1847 and 1897. This means that within those years most of the arrivals were never indexed. As a result, searching for an ancestor's arrival during this time of peak immigration may require searching through a dozen or more rolls of microfilm in any one year. This is very time consuming and can be frustrating when you realize that the very list upon which your ancestor's name appeared may be one of those that is missing.

The good news is that after the National Archives finished microfilming all extant passenger lists, they transferred the paper copies of the New York City lists (1820-1897) to the Balch Institute at Temple University in Philadelphia with the understanding that they would produce a computerized name index to fill the gaps in the WPA indexes from 1846 to 1897. The work has been in progress for the past ten years and the Institute recently completed a seven volume series of Irish arrivals from 1846

to 1851, called *The Famine Immigrants* (by Michael Pepper.)

Since the Balch Institute is a center for demographic research, they plan to continue to do the indexing entirely by nationality. The next groups to be published will be the arrivals who came from Eastern Europe (including East Germany) and Italy. The Institute expects to complete the indexing for every person of every nationality by 1992. How nice it will be when this project is completed and one more frustration in genealogy is eliminated.

(Information for this article was obtained by correspondence with Ira Glazier of the Balch Institute and Cynthia Fox of the National Archives.)

(Reprinted from the *Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter*)

### CASSETTE OF MAGS SPEAKER AVAILABLE

On October 25, 1986, Mary K. Meyer, 2nd vice-president of MAGS, and John Heisey, a well known genealogist from York, PA, spoke before the MAGS Fall meeting in Manassas, VA.

The three-cassette set of Mr. Heisey's talk on "Genealogical Research in Pennsylvania" is available for \$6.00 (postage included). Mrs. Meyer preferred that her talk on "the 1709'ers in New York" not be made available for sale. However, MAGS members may rent the cassette for a period of two weeks for \$3.00 (postage included). Please make all checks payable to MAGS and send your requests to The Editor, *Der Kurier*, 8645 Tower Drive, Laurel, MD 20707-1244. Please allow three weeks for delivery.

### COMPUTERS IN USE BY GENEALOGISTS

Genealogists seem to have discovered their powerful little computers are really very friendly. The intimidation by "computerese" we have all felt seems to be disappearing. Full use of the basic productivity applications (data bases and spread sheets, word processing, graphics,

and communication) is being made in all directions genealogists have exercised. But the most agonizing part of jumping on the CPU circuit is the decision of what machine to buy.

Buying a computer is as personal a decision as the car we select, the home we choose, or the clothes we buy. So do that homework--and not entirely in computer stores. Talk to everyone you know who is using a computer for any reason, and read the book *Computer Genealogy: A Guide to Research through High Technology* by recognized authorities Paul Andereck and Richard Pence. Other publications are available, as well as many computer magazines.

Computers are near perfect companions to the serious genealogist, and maybe even more so for the beginner, because they offer a means of neatly storing, retrieving, and reporting information that is gathered in the search for our forefathers. They offer the additional opportunity to collect source data for publication and perform other tasks that benefit more than the individual computer owner.

Those who would complain of the time it takes to key-in (type) the material from those filing cabinets and boxes are reminded of the value of reviewing previous research. How often have you looked again at some cold notes and realized there was a clue you missed the first time? A neatly arranged document stating the facts in an organized manner will be treasured by your descendants far more than a cabinet full of records they cannot decipher.

(Reprinted from the *NGS Newsletter*.)

### SURNAME FILE - AND MORE

Information on German surnames of interest to MAGS members is maintained by Sue Schnebly Smyser, who has been in charge of the Surname File for the last two years. Requests for information on names should be sent to her at 6266 Rose Hill Dr., Alexandria, VA 22310.

Below are the available files:

The Surname File. Most MAGS members are familiar with this file, and hopefully most have submitted cards for inclusion. If not, see

instructions below for preparing the cards - and send in as many cards as possible. And think of the wealth of data contained in his file: not only the primary surname on each card but also the synonyms/alternative spellings, as well as the names of the families with whom an ancestor intermarried and of other families being researched. Some cards have as many as 20 names on them! In order to make all the names as accessible as the primary names, a computer generated directory has been prepared to cross-index all the names in the Surname File.

**Der Kurier Index.** An all-issue name index to *Der Kurier* has been computerized by Terri Asche, who plans to update it frequently. It contains all the names mentioned in the newsletters so it covers both articles and queries.

**Family Newsletters.** MAGS has received a number of family newsletters: George Wolf of Hagerstown, MD is investigating the feasibility of indexing them. When this is done, the newsletters and index will also reside with Sue.

When requesting information from these files, don't forget to send one 22 cent stamp for every two names requested.

**SUBMITTING SURNAMES**

Surnames may be brought to any MAGS meeting or may be submitted on 3" X 5" index cards using the following format.

Primary Name	State
Alternate spellings	County

First name, birth data, marriage data, children, death data, other pertinent information. (If all information not available, send what you do know.)

Also researching surname(s).

Your name	Date submitted
Address	



**CEMETERY TRANSCRIBING:  
PREPARATIONS AND  
PROCEDURES**

Cemetery Transcribing

Cemetery research may supply the only clue to a lost generation in a family. Early vital statistic records generally are incomplete; many Bible records are lost or lay forgotten in attics; and newspaper files before 1900 are incomplete and their obituaries sketchy. Data from cemeteries fill this gap, but their usage depends on their availability and completeness. The following, while aimed primarily for the transcriber of abandoned or rural cemeteries where no formal records exist, can aid any genealogist with clues to locating and accurately transcribing his own family markers.

Geographical Research

Adequate preparations in finding cemeteries, proper tools, and personal safeguards dictate the venture's success. Transcribing begins with geographical research in the county or township to discover *all* its cemeteries. Completeness should be the goal; consult maps, local histories and deed records.

Maps supply knowledge on about 80 percent of the cemeteries in a county. These consist of early county maps, which were popular in the 1850's and 1860's, county atlases, which appeared between 1870 and the 1920's, county highway maps, and most important topographic maps. Early county maps (as well as census records) are valuable for indicating the degree of development in a county at that date; heavily populated areas suggest early settlement and the possibility of a greater number of private cemeteries. County atlases list the majority of cemeteries existing when published. By comparing early and later atlases, one can discover trends in population movements and in cemetery locations.

The county surveyor is best versed in his county's geography; his maps list almost all known cemeteries. But his guide, as well as the basis for current maps, are topographic maps. Drawn from aerial photographs, these maps cover a quadrangle of 7.5 X 8.5 square miles (sic) with each mile enlarged to slightly over 2.5

inches square, (sic) and show forested areas, all roads and trails, streams, most cemeteries, and even buildings. Conservation departments in most states have index maps showing the names of quadrangles in the state. Individual maps may be purchased for a slight cost. They also are available for consultation in state libraries and many city and college libraries. While these maps are invaluable for locating cemeteries and suggesting routes to them, many ancient abandoned graveyards, lost in wooded areas, have slipped the mapmaker's attention. Therefore, one must use other sources.

The local historian, who has delved into his county's early records, can locate many "lost" cemeteries. County histories also refer to graveyards, and old obituaries sometimes mention family cemeteries. Farmers are quite knowledgeable in their area's physical features. But the most authoritative of these additional sources are the deed records. In many states deeds mention virtually all cemeteries, often with exact sizes and legal locations. They usually indicate when a cemetery was excluded when the land was sold. One might discover, for instance, a deed reading: "it being understood that the graves shall not be disturbed, but said owners may lay the stones flat and cover them with earth if they choose so to do;" or one stating: "except ten foot Square which the grantor reserves where he has two Children Buried." Today such cemeteries may not exist physically, but deed records perpetuate their identity.

Cemetery locations may be given merely by section or by specific detail in terms of degrees. One can examine deed records by quickly limiting himself to Grantor indices, checking only the "exception" and "description" columns. It is impossible to investigate all deed records, but intuitive historiographical knowledge can eliminate much deed searching.

Knowledge of the area, especially the location of rivers and land barriers, of nationality groupings of settlers, and of their former residence will also suggest cemetery locations. Early settlers followed river beds into virgin territory, and the majority of cemeteries founded within twenty-five years of a county's formation are located close to these waterways. Samplings of deed records for sections through which rivers run might reveal several cemeteries. Of later

settlement, those of German background had their own church cemeteries. Rarely will there exist private or family cemeteries in areas of their settlement unless a different nationality, as the English, were there before. Settlers from the South, or from southern Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, tended to have private or neighborhood cemeteries. New Englanders and immigrants often centered their westward movement around their religion and so frequently had church cemeteries.

### Tools

Having determined cemetery locations, one still needs additional preparations--tools. A garden spade is vital for unearthing sunken tombstones and serves as an excellent lever for fallen stones. If one has to cut his way to tombstones, a small machete for cutting weeds and vines, a hatchet for chopping fallen tree limbs, a masonry hammer for use not only as a small pry-bar but also as a root cutter, a grass-trimmer, and even a chisel for severing difficult roots, are needed. Explore the soil with a thin probing rod, since stones might be buried from six inches to several feet. For the reading of inscriptions, several wire and bristle brushes varying in coarseness, a large putty knife scraper and chalk can reveal even the faintest lettering. While the use of wire brushes on tombstones is sometimes challenged, if used carefully, no damage will result. Monument firms as a matter of policy restore old tombstones with sandblasting techniques. They suggest that the removal of dirt, moss, lichen, and vines from the surface prevents roots from forming hairline cracks and chipping. Brushes should be used lightly but briskly and parallel to the surface.

A soft white chalk gives the best results for reading, especially when rubbed into the stone at difficult spots, although yellow chalk offers better contrast on white stones. Charcoal gives good contrast on light-colored, polished marble. Any type of powder can be effective but is hard to control in positioning it on the surface. Rubbings are more time-consuming and the large sheets present a storage problem. Chalk offers the greatest contrast, especially for photographs.

If one wants to measure the size of the stone or area of the cemetery, add twine, rulers, and tape measures to the kit. Finally, a clip board with

pads of 4" X 6" paper serve as the best means for the actual transcription. Many of these tools, excluding brushes, chalk and paper, are used infrequently, except in overgrown cemeteries.

### Precautions

Finally, consider personal safeguards. Dress in thick, protective clothing--levi (sic) pants or slacks, with a substantial shirt and work gloves. Include drinking water, a first aid kit and an insect repellent spray, and add a poison ivy preventative ointment of 10 percent sodium perborate (which any druggist can prepare). Poison ivy flourishes in cemeteries, even in winter. After visiting a cemetery, wash your hands immediately as an additional prevention against poison ivy. A boraxo (sic) waterless hand cleaner or ordinary alkali yellow laundry soap and plenty of rags serve this purpose well. Now you are ready to transcribe.

### Plotting the Cemetery

Begin by plotting the cemetery. Give its location according to county, township, and quarter section and list all roads and their distances from a town or state highway to the cemetery. Ask permission to cross private land. If stones no longer exist in a cemetery, it is quite important to list the cemetery and this fact in the final copy. Such knowledge can prove quite helpful to a researcher. You might be of additional help by locating references of burials from obituaries or descendants. For a cemetery with stones, measure its exact size, draw a rough map, note any unusual features, and indicate the relative position of each stone.

### Copying

The copy of each inscription determines your real success. One generally encounters four basic types of tombstones: slate or sandstone, marble, gray granite, and polished granite. The first type is the oldest, used generally before 1850. White chalk offers excellent contrast with the black slate of New England stones and the brown sandstones of the midwest. These stones usually are covered with moss or lichen and flake easily. Use care in cleaning them.

White marble stones stain easily and after nearly one hundred years of exposure to the

elements, tend to have their inscriptions weathered almost completely away. These often are the hardest to read. Rub chalk into the surface with your thumb or palm and blow the excess dust away. Lichen and moss also attack the gray granite stones, but a light brushing and white chalk quickly make their inscriptions legible. Polished granite tombstones, in popular use since the 1890's, offer the least problem in copying, but if white chalk is rubbed into the lettering, photographing becomes sharper. A cemetery frequently has a variety of these types of stones, and with little experience one can become proficient in reading any type.

In copying, accuracy must dominate. Copy data on both sides of a 4" X 6" card or paper. It is best to work in teams, with each person consulting the stone. Record inscriptions *exactly* as they appear, including "mistakes," as "Henery Eads/son/of/Wm & Harriet Eades/died/Dec. 6, 1844/aged 6 weeks/and 32 days." You can correct any errors in a note on the final record. Quakers, for example, reverse the day and month. In copying all tombstones, serve only as transcriber and not as an interpreter of inscriptions by abbreviating or codifying months or symbols.

Beware of pitfalls in copying, including mistaking a "4" for a "1" or confusing one for the other in the following combination: 8-5-6-3-9-2. Copy accurately the months "Mar." and "May," and "Jan." and "June." Distinguish between a "C" and a "G." A study of such letters and numbers on preserved stones might offer the key to determining the correct letter on a worn or chipped stone.

Make certain you have included all the inscription. If a stone is partially buried and ends, "aged 66 Yrs, 3 Ms," more data is there; if it ends "aged 66 Yrs & 3 Ms.," you are relatively sure of having the full inscription. Read any epitaphs since they sometimes mention birthplaces or a "mother" or "father" is "gone." Finally, do not rush or work when tired since you then tend to compromise in completeness and become inaccurate.

It is vital to record all burial indicators, including field stones (sic), depressions, and mounds, and it is equally important to indicate their sizes and relationship with tombstones. If, for example, you find two sets of field stones

(sic), approximately three feet apart each, and to the right of the stones of a husband and wife, it is possible that these are the graves of their children. If a cemetery has been cleaned with field stones (sic) removed and the ground leveled, discover who did the work and when. If it was a WPA project, perhaps a plat of the cemetery containing such grave indicators exists. It may be possible only to learn that a "few" or "many" such signs did exist. Mention such facts in the introduction.

### Making a Plat

Such investigation demands a plat of the cemetery. One suggestion a researcher can follow is to number each inscription, sets of field stones (sic), depressions and rises logically in rows, and draw a map, as follows: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 etc. Give the number before each name in an alphabetical transcription so one can pin-point exactly one grave in relation to others. This method has the advantage of showing distances (and family groupings) as well as stone relationships. If the cemetery is large, list graves by numbers in the final record as well as by an alphabetical listing. Merely use graph paper in making the map and pace off the distances.

While your cemetery plat is valuable for giving the cemetery's condition when you transcribed it, do not fail to search for prior plats. Check plat books in the recorder's office at the county court house (sic). If the cemetery was platted, it will give as a minimum lot numbers, and sometimes it may include owners' names. Perhaps years ago an association was created for cemetery care. A plat and records may still exist for such an organization, especially if the cemetery was part of a church society or a large neighborhood. County histories and the local historian are valuable in locating such records. If a large town or city cemetery contains an "old part" for which records no longer exist, and you are interested in locating a family name, check the Grantee deed index book in the recorder's office in the court house (sic). Such diligence and historical investigation could expand greatly the knowledge of burials for a cemetery.

### Photography

As an additional project, one may wish to photograph tombstones; the following suggestions are helpful. An Instamatic camera might be sufficient, but it has a fixed-focus lens which is inadequate for close work; exact conditions are needed. Polaroid cameras have the advantage of seeing the results immediately, but this camera has the disadvantage of not producing a negative, placing too much value on one picture. Obtain best results by using a camera with 35mm black and white 20 exposure film with an ASA rating of 125.

In photographing, use a light meter at the stone, even if the camera has an automatic photocell-controlled lens, since the amount of light hitting the photocell may be different from that hitting the stone. Photograph most stones at a distance of about four feet, making certain that the entire stone is centered in the view-finder. Best results are obtained on a hazy day. Each print costs about \$0.15, so this project might be limited to small cemeteries, stones written in foreign script or containing unusual symbols, or to old, decaying, or broken stones whose data will be gone in a few years.

### Final Copy

The last step in transcribing cemetery records is the final copy. Organization is the key. In an introduction, describe the cemetery as to kind--family, church or public. Give the cemetery's location, size and its present condition and that of the tombstones. If you have knowledge of the family, give that also. Next tell what you did and give the limitations of your research, for example, if you were unable to read all stones or if the cemetery's condition might have hidden some stones. Describe unmarked graves by the number of ground depressions and mounds and indicate the size of graves marked by fieldstones. Make a rough map of the cemetery's location and draw a plat, as suggested above. Do not give your record the appearance of being a complete transcription of the cemetery and stones there; a person can be buried with no indication of the fact. Such suggestion of "completeness" can mislead a researcher.

Organize the inscriptions in a logical, consistent manner. The following may serve as a guide:

- (5) EADS, H. \_\_\_\_ In memory of/HENRY EADS/born/in the year 1755/died/August 23, 1843. Stone broken at base & between "in the year" & "1755." On same stone with Mary Eads. A Rev. War soldier -- Md. S322226. "in Memory of" is arched.

The most accurate publication of inscriptions is to print the inscription exactly as it appears on the tombstone--allowing a printed line for each line on the stone, including all arched lines and peculiarities. Unfortunately this method becomes expensive in space and money for publishing large cemetery records.

It is important to remember that your record is source material; therefore, give the inscription *exactly* as it appears on the tombstone. If you want to correct or add any data, give it in parentheses after the inscription. Conclude your copy with your name and the date.

Cemetery transcribing can be considered an art. It requires skill, interest, and ability, all developed through patient practice. As your artful experience grows, transcribing becomes personal in the techniques used. Any method is efficient if it does not sacrifice accuracy and completeness.

Satisfaction results if your transcription appears as a verbal image of the stone itself. With cemeteries slowly being destroyed--by farming operations, by vandals, by nature--your accurate record grows in value. Not only will your art aid researchers throughout the country if placed in major libraries, but it will also serve future generations when tombstones have worn to smooth remembrances or become some thoughtless individual's doorstep.

(Reprinted, with permission of the American Association for State and Local History, from Technical Leaflet No. 9, "Cemetery Transcribing: Preparations and Procedures," by John J. Newman, in *History News* 26:5 (May

1971). Copyright © 1971 by the American Association for State and Local History).

## MARYLAND OLD CHURCH RECORDS PROJECT

The Maryland Old Church Records Project is an attempt to gather information on location and availability of church records in Maryland. All churches, especially those founded before 1910, all religions, all denominations, and churches no longer in existence, are included.

Genealogical and historical societies in the state are participating by helping to gather information as to where the original records of any given church may be found; whether there are copies of such records and where they may be; whether there are separate indices and where they are located; if photocopy, microfilm, typescript, or in printed form.

Member societies of the Genealogical Council of Maryland were asked to take responsibility for gathering information in their area (usually a county) and sending it to the address given in an instruction sheet. Each society was requested to appoint a representative to serve on the Maryland Church Records Committee.

It was suggested that each society participating in the project keep a copy of the Church Record Form containing the information gathered on any particular church and make the Form available to researchers in their geographical area.

The original Forms are being sent to Edna Kanely, 3210 Chesterfield Ave., Baltimore, MD 21213, Chairperson of the Project.

For nearly three years Church Record Forms have been received from participating societies and individual volunteers. Photocopies have been made and placed in binders at the Maryland Historical Society Library to be available to researchers, historians, genealogists and the public in general. Copies have been made for the Upper Shore Genealogical Society so that the information may be available to researchers on the Eastern Shore, and copies also are being given to the

Maryland State Archives. At the present time, there are over 2,300 Church Record Forms in the binders at MHS Library.

The original Church Record Forms are being held by the Maryland Church Records Committee, and a Publishing Committee has been established by the Genealogical Council of Maryland to help plan for publication of this work.

Much has been done, but there is a great deal more to do. If you are interested in helping this worthwhile project to completion, please contact your local genealogical society for name(s) of their representative and participants, for names and addresses of churches to be contacted, instructions, and Church Record Forms.

## MARY K. MEYER HONORED BY NGS

Our own Mary Keysor Meyer (2nd Vice-President of MAGS) was recently recognized for her contributions to genealogy and the National Genealogical Society and as co-compiler of *Passengers and Immigration Lists Index* and *Who's Who in Genealogy and Heraldry* and compiler and publisher of *Meyer's Directory of Genealogy Societies in the U.S.A. and Canada* by being designated a fellow of the NGS. The honor was bestowed in Columbus, OH by the NGS at the 1986 Conference of the States.

Anyone interested in Mrs. Meyer's books may write to her for information at 5179 Perry Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.



HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



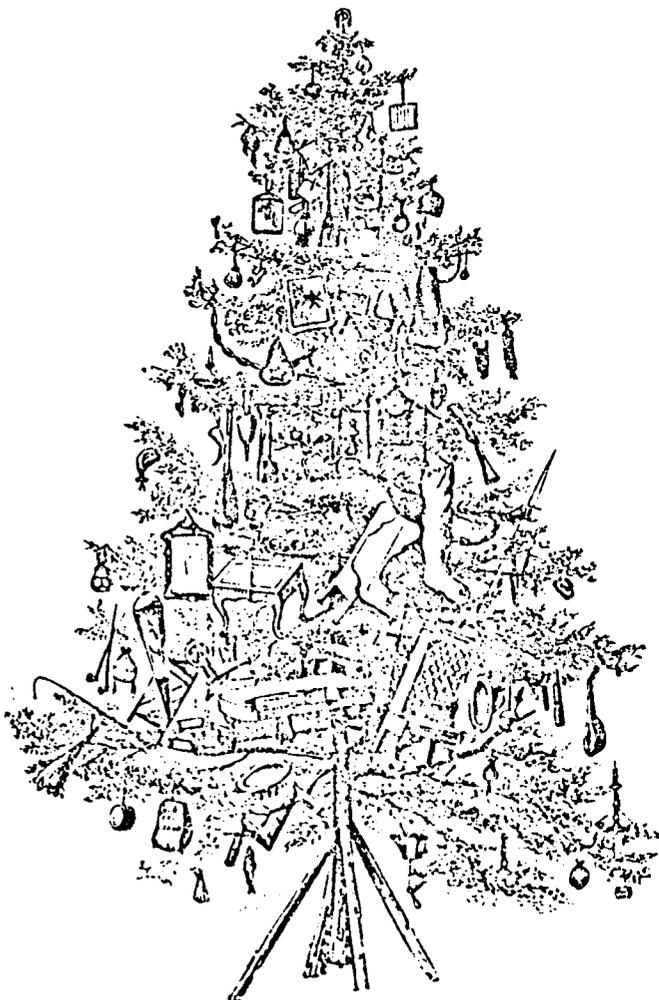
## CLARIFICATION - LIST OF EUROPEAN ORIGINS

As reported in the last *Der Kurier*, Dr. Calvin Schildknecht is compiling a *List of Origins of Settlers in Western Maryland and Neighboring Areas*. To clarify, these are intended to be European origins. Also, please give specific names of villages, towns, cities, etc., instead of just a placename such as "Germany."

Members wishing to share information of this sort should send it to Dr. Calvin Schildknecht, 135 Doubleday Ave., Gettysburg, PA 17325. The deadline has been changed to March 1, 1987.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Anne Tenny, Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, *Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Nancy H. Mossburg, Genealogical Council of Maryland, American Association for State and Local History and the *NGS Newsletter*.



## QUERIES

Please mention at least one time, one place, one German surname with known variant surnames. Limit each query to one family and use no more than fifty words, not counting your name and address. 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" X 11" 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: Query Editor, MAGS, 121 S. Juanita Ave. #4, Redondo Beach, CA 90277.

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**GUDGEL/  
GOTCHELL/  
GUTSHEL/  
GETCHEL  
GUDGEON** #5-1 Seek any information on Andrew GUDGEL Sr. family or related families. Andrew Jr. b. 1760 Baltimore. Family found in Fayette Co., PA 1768, then KY 1789. Dianne Gudgel-Holmes, 15140 Mesa Pl., Anchorage, AK 99516.

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**KNEPSHIELD/  
KNOEPFSHILD/  
KNEPSCHILD/  
KNEPSHEL  
NEPSHUL** #5-2 Bernhard KNEPSHIELD, "Educated for Catholic priesthood, became Lutheran. Still young, came to America, served Colonial cause as Surgeon during the Revolution, d. in York Co., PA at advanced age." md. Barbara FINK JUNG, 17 Sept., 1815, First Moravian Church, York, PA, ch: John. No records found. Mrs. Virginia Knepshield Noble, 5580 Moreno St. #59, Montclair, CA 91763.

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**BAKER/  
BECKER/  
REED  
FINK** #5-3 Dr. John BAKER (BECKER) b. ca. 1764 md. Ann REED, d. 1835 Huntingdon Co., PA, ch: Catherine b. 1816, d. 1857 Indiana Co., md. Samuel FINK b. 1812. Wanza Baker Merrifield, 808 Sugar Maple, Ponca City, OK 74604.

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**LONG  
LANG  
WITTER  
PIPER** #5-4 Desperately need children of Samuel and Catherine PIPER LONG. He d. 1828 Franklin Co., PA. She md. (2) Abraham WITTER. Samuel son of Ludwig LANG from Switzerland 1740. Wanza Baker Merrifield, 808 Sugar Maple, Ponca City, OK 74604.

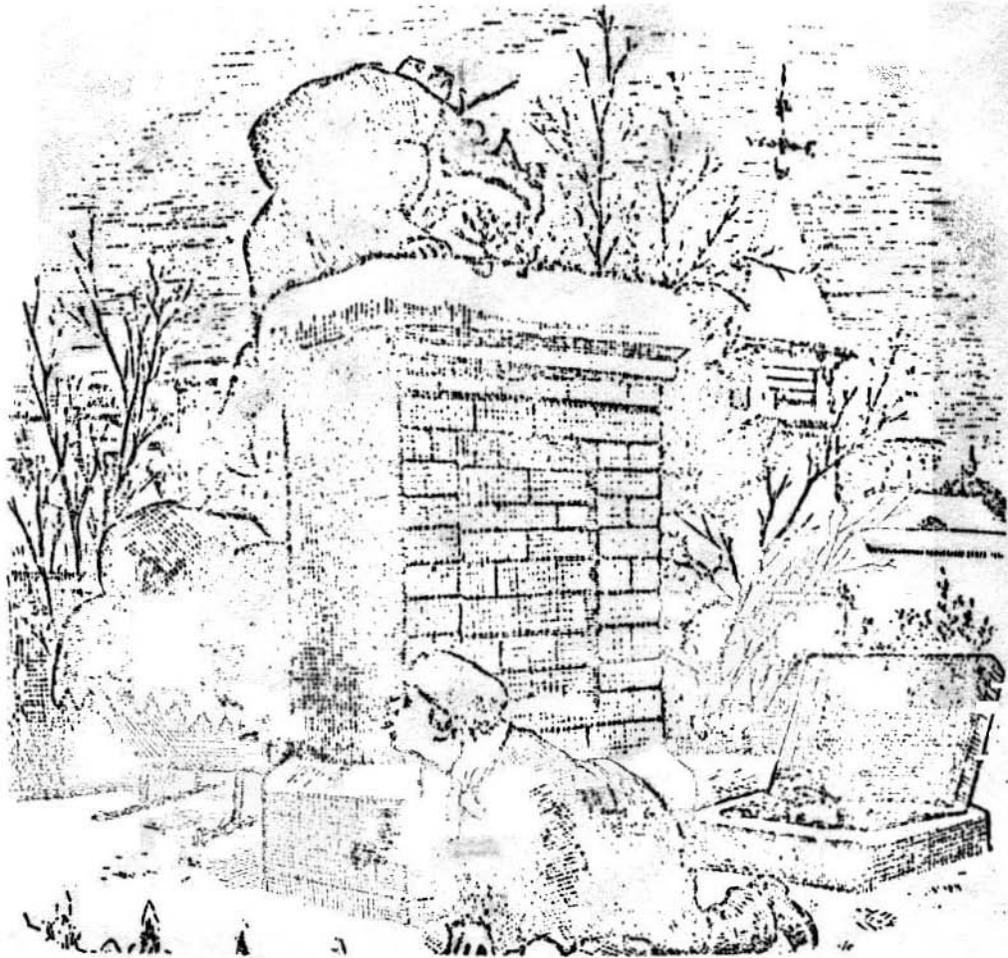
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**SEMPERT** #5-6 Frederick SEMPERT b. 1833 Mecklenburg, Germany, farmer, arr. East Hamburg, NY in 1868. Need reliable source of help here or in East Germany to determine village in Mecklenburg where he was born. Edward Sempert, 461 Swallow Ln., Spring Hill, FL 33526.

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**MECKLENBURG** #5-7 Need information on a book about the history, life and customs of Mecklenburg Schwenin and the Mecklenburg Strelitz before they entered the confederation in 1867. They spoke Platdeutsch - very similar to Penna. Dutch dialect. Edward Sempert, 461 Swallow Ln., Spring Hill, FL 33526.

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