



DER KURIER

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In my column in the last *Der Kurier*, I mentioned that the Board had been trying to identify members' primary research interest; well, we certainly found one of them at our Spring Meeting. We had the largest turnout in our history, and our program was enthusiastically received. Almost 180 people attended, and 30 of them became new members whom we are glad to welcome. We can only conclude that Herr Wollmershäuser was the drawing card and that this reflects your interest in Germanic research on the other side of the ocean.

The evaluation sheets had mostly good things to say about the program and the arrangements and, even more important, offered some suggestions for future programs and meeting sites. These will be given careful consideration. And I hope this sense of involvement can continue; greater use of committees as provided in the MAGS constitution is going to be implemented in the coming months in order to better share both the responsibilities and the fun. Officers will be trying to recruit helpers for their committees - and no, you don't have to be an expert in German genealogy to participate! But in the meantime, if there is something you would especially like to work on - meetings, publications, researching - please let me know.

Fall Meeting

One of the things that came through loud and clear from Herr Wollmershäuser was the importance of doing our homework. No matter when they emigrated, the chance of finding ancestors in the Germanic countries depends on

knowing as much as possible about them from American-side research. Our Fall meeting will feature Annette Burgert, who is well known in the area of Pennsylvania German research and whose books are important reference works. The meeting will be held on October 24, 1987 at the Brethren Center in New Windsor, MD; excellent overnight accommodations are available at the Center at a very modest cost. More details in the next newsletter.

NEW SECRETARIES

Both of our secretaries have resigned for personal reasons and temporary replacements have been named to fill out their terms. Phyllis Lott, Corresponding Secretary, has been replaced by Doris Suresch, to whom requests for information about MAGS should be mailed. (See her address below in "Lecture Notes.") Ardyce Harrison, Recording Secretary, has been replaced by Cathryn Dippe, 1727 Dana St., Crofton, MD 21114. MAGS extends appreciation and thanks to Phyllis and Ardyce for their efforts in the past.

LECTURE NOTES AVAILABLE

MAGS members who were unable to attend the Spring meeting can still have copies of the speaker's handouts. About 40 pages in length, they may be obtained at cost, \$3.00 postpaid. Send a check made payable to MAGS to Doris Suresch, Corresponding Secretary, 317 Johnson Farm Ln., Glen Burnie, MD 21061.



ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A nominating committee, duly appointed by the president in January, reported a slate of nominees to members at the Spring meeting. The election process is to be conducted by mail and finalized at the Fall meeting. A ballot is provided elsewhere in *Der Kurier*. All members are urged to complete it and mail it to MAGS Treasurer, Bob Miller, 347 Scott Dr., Silver Spring, MD 20904.

The MAGS constitution specifies that officers be elected in odd-numbered years for two-year terms, with the exception of two at-large members of the Executive Board who are elected in even-numbered years, also to two-year terms. Due to an oversight, an election was not held in 1986, although two at-large members were appointed; therefore, this year's slate includes two nominees for one year terms on the Executive Board.

MARYLAND TO HOST GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

The Genealogical Committee of the Maryland Historical Society, The Maryland Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Council of Maryland will host a national genealogical conference July 16-18, 1987. The conference will be held at the Baltimore Hilton Inn, Reisterstown Road and I-695 (Baltimore Beltway). The theme will be "Maryland in Depth."

Lecturers will include Dr. Edward C. Pappenfuse, Robert W. Barnes, Raymond C. Clark, Mary K. Meyer, John Harlan Livezey, Donna Valley Russell and others.

For further information, contact Mary K. Meyer, General Chairman, 5179 Perry Rd., Mt. Airy, MD 21771.

FGS PUBLICATIONS

MAGS is now a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. All publications offered by FGS can be bought for a 10 percent discount by MAGS members. For a list of FGS publications, write: FGS, P.O. Box 220,

Davenport, IA 52805. MAGS' FGS number is 359M03.

NGS LEADS TO HAGERSTOWN

For those interested in ancestors from Hagerstown, MD, the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 8, April-July 1919, Nos. 1 and 2, pages 1-16, has a list of 302 tombstone inscriptions for Lutheran and Reformed cemeteries. Dates run for approximately 150 years from 1754-1894.

GERMANS TO AMERICA

Between 1850 and 1895, almost 5.5 million Germans arrived in America. The original ship manifests listing all passengers have been transferred to Temple University in Philadelphia, where they are now being committed to tape.

In the meantime, Scholarly Resources of Wilmington, DE is about to publish the lists in a 10 volume set for all ports in America from 1850-1855. Due to appear in June 1987, the lists will be published as they appeared originally, followed by a complete alphabetical listing of each of the approximately 780,000 passengers on the lists. The original lists contained names of all family members coming into the port.

Depending on response, Scholarly Resources will continue to publish the remaining lists up to 1895. Anyone interested in the lists, should call 1-800-772-8937 or write Scholarly Resources, 104 Greenhill Ave., Wilmington, DE 19805 for more information.

LUTHERAN CHURCH RECORDS

If your Pennsylvania ancestor lived east of the Susquehanna River, you will find records in the Lutheran Theological Seminary, 7301 Germantown Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19119.

For those relatives who lived in eastern Pennsylvania - west of the Susquehanna - it is likely that their records will be at the Lutheran

Theological Seminary Archives, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

For records of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, write: Robert C. Wiederaenders, Archivist, American Lutheran Church, 333 Wartburg Pl., Dubuque, IA 52001.

For records of the Swedish Lutheran Church, write: Swenson Swedish Immigration Research Center, Denkman Memorial Library, P.O. Box 175, Augustana College, Rock Island, IL 61201.

NEW MEMBERS

Der Kurier would like to welcome the following new members: Ronald M. Rudolf, Doris Suresch, Margaret L. Vollmer, Dan Kemp, Jane Dort Maunsell, Elizabeth Jane Cline Russell, Harold L. Meeker, Joseph Knecht, Sharon Knecht, Stephen T. Kemp, Leslie W. Barbour, Margaret Barbour, Dr. & Mrs. William P. Winter, Sylvia Elder, Kris Ring, The Lemmermann Family, Edward A. Motsinger, Beth Isham, Barbara Hampson-Keller, Edward Holt Neese, John J. Orth, Brenda K. Bridge and Paul Koberg.

TRACING ANCESTORS IN EUROPE

If your ancestors came to this country between 1850-1914, the Hamburg Historic Emigration Office in West Germany may be able to trace them in Europe.

Microfilm files documenting nearly 5 million people from Poland, Russia, Germany and Eastern Europe help researchers find ancestors who left for North America through the port of Hamburg.

The Hamburg Historic Emigration Office can often provide an ancestor's age, occupation, marital status, number of children, city of origin, ship's name and sailing date.

Searches are \$30.00 per person searched. Queries should include the name of the ancestor and date of emigration. If you are lucky enough to go to the office in person, the search only takes about an hour. Keep in mind,

however, that the office is closed on Mondays. If you must write, expect to wait up to six months for the information.

For more details, write: Historic Emigration Office, Holstenwall 24, 2000 Hamburg 36, West Germany.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS IT?

If you know the approximate name of your ancestral village, but have no idea where it is located, send the Immigrant Genealogical Society, 5043 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, a self-addressed stamped envelope and \$5.00 (\$3.00 to IGS members). They will send a photocopy of the description from the gazetteer written in German, an English translation of the German, the zip code for writing to anyone in the town and a photocopy of the area of the map which includes your town.

With the same order, for an additional \$3.00, they will check the German telephone directory for names of current residents bearing the surname of interest. You will receive this listing and a sample letter in German with English translation for writing to those possible relatives. For an additional \$2.00 they will send the address of local church(es) with a letter seeking information.

LET UNCLE SAM HELP

Looking for someone? The U.S. Social Security Administration will attempt to forward letters to persons whose address is unknown. One may send an unsealed letter with a cover letter which explains the relationship of the writer and reason why you wish the letter forwarded. Include the person's name, Social Security number, birthplace, birthdate and name of the parents if known. Mail to the Social Security Administration, Letter Forwarding Unit, 6401 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21235.

(Reprinted from the Immigrant Genealogical Society Newsletter.)



BEFORE YOU HIRE A RESEARCHER IN EUROPE

German genealogist, Friedrich Wollmershäuser, who spoke to MAGS members at the Spring meeting, gives a few tips before you hire a European researcher:

▶ Make sure the immigrant is really your ancestor. Herr Wollmershäuser gave an example of a client who had him search for someone, and after great difficulty he did find the ancestor. Several months later, he got a letter from the client, saying that that wasn't the ancestor after all, and could he please search another name.

Don't give the researcher a list of immigrants with the same surname, unless you know they were related. It's unfair to the researcher to give him or her a list of people with the same last name, in hopes that one may be your ancestor. A lot of time and effort is wasted.

▶ Look at published indexes to try and establish a connection. Instead of hiring a researcher to find out "everything," try and establish some connection of an immigrant ancestor to a former country.

▶ Know what religion the ancestor practiced before he came to the New World. You'll narrow the search down considerably if you can give a researcher the religion of your immigrant ancestor.

▶ Know if the immigrant was married before he came to the New World. If the immigrant was married, a researcher can usually look at parish registers for a record of the marriage and also for baptismal records of any children born before emigration.

▶ Know the occupation of the immigrant ancestor in his country of origin. He may practice that same trade in this country.



DEUTSCHES GESCHLECHTERBÜCHER

The best sources for German genealogical research are parish registers and records of civil registrations. Sometimes these records are not available to the researcher or have gaps in them, because of fire, floods, war or other natural and man-made disasters. When this is the case, the researcher needs to search secondary sources.

The German lineage books, *Deutsches Geschlechterbücher*, are among the best of the secondary research sources available to the German researcher. At the present time there are 190 volumes (a cumulated index is available for the first 150 volumes) of German lineage books available at the LDS Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. The first 119 volumes are in the old style German fractur, the rest in modern German. The library book call number for these volumes is 943 D2 dg. Originally called *Genealogisches Handbuch Bürgerlicher Familien* (*Genealogical Handbook of Middle Class Families*), the series was first published in 1889. Many of the volumes are devoted to specific German states, such as Hessen or Baden, while other volumes deal with families from all over Germany. Some of the genealogies listed even cross the ocean and link up with families living in America.

A brief history is given for each family, with a discussion of the origin of the name, a coat of arms if appropriate, places where the family lived and a complete genealogy. Pictures of people and places are sometimes scattered throughout the text.

The table of contents provides a very detailed breakdown of families covered in each volume and each volume has a surname index in the back. A list of abbreviations (*Abkürzung*) is also provided. There is also an index to surnames of noble descent, which are contained in the first 42 volumes.

(Adapted from an article in *The German Connection*.)

COLONIAL MEDICINE CONTINUED

(Ed. Note: Last issue, we brought you diseases of our colonial ancestors. This time, we offer some cures. All information is taken from *A History of the Valley of Virginia* by Samuel Kercheval, *The Healers: The Rise of the Medical Establishment* by John Duffy and *Medicine in Virginia in the 17th Century*, by Wyndham B. Blanton. Caution: We do not recommend any of these cures. Contact your doctor for treatment of any illness.)

Weeds, Herbs and Other Weird Cures

Alum: Used as an astringent.

Black snake root (*radex serpentaria nigra*): A remedy for gout, rheumatism and amenorrhoea.

Buckwheat cake: When placed on the head it will cure pain.

Dittany (pepper-wort): Distilled in water and drunk to get rid of worms.

Enema: Thought to cure all ills. In 17th century England, Lords and Ladies vied with one another for how many they had. To determine when the right time was to get one, they consulted their horoscope.

Fever and Ague Root: Used to purge if fresh root drunk with water; used to make sweat if root ground into powder and drunk.

Hydropaths: Treatment of the sick by using internal or external applications of "pure" mineral water (c. 1840s).

Jamestown weed (*datura stramonium*): Sedative and antispasmodic; in large doses a narcotic and poisonous.

Phases of moon: Look at a certain phase of the moon, place hand over the affected spot and say an incantation (often a Bible verse). Nosebleed, pain from cuts, bruises, burns, skin diseases, goiter and snake bite will be cured.

Phlebotomy (act of bleeding): "By bleeding, to the marrow commeth heat, It make cleane

your braine, relieves your eye, It mends your appetite, restoreth sleepe, Correcting humours that do waking keepe: All inward parts and senses also clearing, It mends the voyce, touch, smell & tast, & hearing."

Every doctor carried his lancet and bleeding glasses which were often costly and handed down as heirlooms.

Prickly Ash: Powdered bark for old wounds and running sores.

Rattlesnake root: Cures rattlesnake bite.

Sassafras (*sassafriz root*): Sassafras said to be useful in skin diseases, gout, rheumatism and syphilis. When mixed with water, forms a mucilage used in diseases of the eye and as a drink for dysentery and nephritis. Bark used as a stimulant and astringent.

Snake root (*serpenteria*): Used as a tonic, diuretic, diaphoretic and stimulant. Popular in typhoid and digestive disorders.

Tobacco: "Preserveth the body from obstructions." Thought to heal gout and ague, and neutralize the effects of drunkenness, weariness and hunger.

Turbith and Mechoacon: Used to purge the system.

Uroscopy ("water casting"): Examination of patient's urine by a doctor, who held it up to the light and read the patient's fate.

What To Do To Cure..

Apoplexy or palsy: Put common salt in the mouth of the victim and they will regain consciousness at once.

Burns: Make a poultice of Indian meal or potatoes, roasted turnips or slippery elm bark.

Common Cold Remedy: "Take a large cup of Linseed [oil?], two penny worth of Liquorice, and a quarter of a pound of Sun raisins. After simmering [ingredients] in two quarts of water, [add] a quarter pound of brown sugar candy, a tablespoon of old rum and a tablespoon of white

wine, vinegar or lemon juice. [Take] half-a-pint of this cordial at bedtime. Said to work a cure in two or three days."

Consumptive Complaint: Mix an equal quantity of white pitch or rosin and yellow beeswax and dissolve over fire. Fumigate room, making sure it is tightly shut up. Affected person should walk about the room and "Suck in the vapour by degrees."

Cough: Make syrup from spikenard and elecampane.

Croup: Juice of roasted onions or garlic drunk to make patient sweat.

Dropsy: Take 1 ounce of saltpeter and dissolve in 1 pint cold water. Take a wineglass full every morning and evening. Five to six ounces "will generally perfect a cure."

Dry-gripes: Take a sufficient quantity of May-Apple roots, wash and boil them in clean water, until the "quintessence of virtue" is received in the water; then drain and put 1/3 portion molasses and 2/3 portion water over them. Boil over a gentle fire and stir it often, for about 2 hours, then cool it, bottle it, and keep for use. Four spoonfuls to adults. If it doesn't work in 4 hours, take 1-2 more spoonfuls and repeat every 3 hours until it works.

Flux: Take 1 quart of warm water, one quart of port wine, half-a-pound of loaf sugar, a small quantity of cinnamon and logwood and stew for some time. Take for drink. If person has a bad case, take small quantity of Ipecacuanha (sic).

Frostbite: Rub the part affected with the fat of a dunghill fowl before a fire, morning and evening. Then grease a piece of flannel with the same fat and cover the part. Cures in 2 days.

Gunshot wound: Make slippery elm bark or flaxseed poultice.

Hiccough: Take a thimbleful of brandy, rum, or geneva.

Itch: Make ointment of brimstone and hog's lard.



Lungs: Take 2 ounces licorice root bruised, and boil it down in a quart of barley-water to a pint-and-a-half. Take one-quarter pint any time.

Pleurisy: Give patient a dose of tartar emetic. Next day bleed the patient and give them "pleurisy root" (butterfly weed) pounded fine in warm water. Repeat every 2 hours until patient recovers, usually 3 days, but never more than 6.

Rheumatism: Take scurvy-grass, brook-lime and water cresses and bake them in a slow oven. Press out one quart of juice. Put 2 large spoonfuls into half-a-pint of whey and drink in a "morning fasting." Sleep with feet to the fire and rub skin with oil of rattlesnakes, geese, wolves, bears, raccoons, groundhogs or skunks.

Respiratory Disease: Keep the patient warm by using hot bricks to the back and feet, hot salt or hot bran and vinegar to the breast and sides, the use of mustard, spirits of turpentine and cayenne pepper, and by mouth, sage tea, snakeroot tea, hot toddy, wine whey, opium, calomel, serpentaria, ammonia and camphor.

Snakebite: 1) Body of snake cut into pieces about two inches long, split open and laid on wound to draw out poison. 2) Chestnut leaves boiled. Wrap wound with chestnut bark and pour liquid from boiled leaves over it several times a day. Bind leaves to wound also. 3) Cup and suck the wound and then make deep incisions and fill with gunpowder and salt.

Sprain: Stupe (sic) the sprain with hot brandy and vinegar, then spread honey upon a strip of brown paper and roll it about the sprain. Renew morning and night. Cures in a day or two.

Teeth: For tooth powder, take 1/2 ounce each myrrh, rock alum, dragons blood and cream of tartar, and mix them into fine powder.

Warts: To remove, cut an apple, turnip, or onion in halves and rub the wart with the pieces and then bury them under the eaves of the house.

Whooping cough: To cure, breathe the breath of a fish.

Worms: Give patient large dose of common salt, pewter scrapings or sulphate of iron.

POSTAL SERVICE RULES AGAINST BAYLEY

On September 16, 1986, the Acting Judicial Officer of the U.S. Postal Service found that Beatrice Bayley, Inc., a publisher of "family heritage" books, is "engaged in a scheme to obtain money or property through the mail by means of materially false representations" and ordered the corporation to cease and desist from:

- "a) falsely representing the contents of any book, publication or other document ...;
- b) falsely representing the distribution of a surname in the general publication or any specialized population;
- c) falsely representing the identity of the author or other producer of information contained in a book;
- d) falsely representing the quantum, portion or other measure of any person's contribution to the authorship or production of a book ..."

The postmaster at Sterling, PA was ordered to return to the senders all mail addressed to Beatrice Bayley, Inc. after the corporation had had an opportunity to remove mail requesting a refund or representing a return of merchandise.

(From the *National Genealogical Society Newsletter*.)

CAVEAT EMPTOR

It seems that Elizabeth Ross is offering an opportunity to buy a limited edition about a family. The new twist comes from the creative use of her middle name. It seems that with each surname "she" addresses, her middle name is the same as the last name of the person she is addressing.

Apparently, of the same ilk are Adam S. Eterovich, Sharon Taylor, Vicki Lee Kerr, Jenny's Inc., Roots Research, Prairie States Publishing, Search and Research, Walter Manning, Cynthia Dean and the well known Beatrice Bayley.

Rena Gamez of the Southern California Genealogical Society points out that the National Genealogical Society has stated, "This latest, flagrant example of false advertising has been brought to the attention of the Consumer Protection Division of the U.S. Postal Service. In order to pursue this matter, the Postal Service needs to know of people who have ordered one of these books, believing it to have been compiled by a member of the family in question." Contact the Postmaster.

(Adapted from an article in the Immigrant Genealogical Society *Newsletter*.)

COMPUTERS AND DATES

A new method of listing dates, using fewer characters and descending order (i.e., 1987DE05 rather than 05/12/1982) is gaining acceptance in genealogical computer programs. Besides saving valuable computer storage capacity, the descending order is better suited to subsequent computer sorting by date. Using two alpha characters for the month (JA FE MR AP MA JE JL AU SE OC NO DE) separates the elements of the date and eliminates the confusion inherent in using numbers for both the month and day.

(Reprinted from *Canadian Connections*.)

THE EUROPEAN SEARCH FOR GERMAN IMMIGRANTS

German genealogy covers a large area when one considers the three main German speaking countries. Additionally, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein also use German as their official language. Books could be written about genealogical research for Germans immigrating to countries all over the world, such as Russia, South America, the Donauschwaben and the Pennsylvania Dutch (sic).

The latter embarked at Rotterdam, but they were Germans, many coming from the Palatinate. During the 18th century, most German immigrants arriving at Philadelphia were referred to as Palatines, although some came from as far east as the Duchy of Saxony.

When considering German research in this article, I shall limit myself to the former German Reich as it existed in 1918. That means that the reader will have found the name of his ancestor's birthplace and its modern spelling. Phonetic or dialectical spellings handed down from generation to generation cannot be found in German gazetteers, but they provide an important clue in determining the correct birthplace. We hear of immigrants having come from Darmstadt or "Meckelberg." The former usually refers to the Grand duchy of Hessen-Darmstadt and the latter to the Grand duchies of Mecklenberg-Schwerin and Mecklenberg-Strelitz. Any ancestors from Hessen may have been natives of Hessen-Cassel, Hessen-Nassau or Hessen-Darmstadt. There is a Mecklenberg village with a population of about 500, but before looking for your Mecklenberg ancestor in that village, it would be wise to have his birthplace verified. The same rule applies in all cases. Most of the 19th century German immigrants came from villages. They were peasants who were hoping for farms they could never have owned in the old country.

Another problem that researchers face is the Americanized German surname. In that regard you are referred to my article on the German-American Surname Archive in the July/August (sic) edition of *Heritage Quest*. Take, for instance, the German-American surname Wonsettler. It could be derived from the word Einsiedler (English meaning hermit) or from the name of the city of Wunsiedel. German genealogists and research centers will usually expect the inquirer to furnish the exact surname and birthplace of the German immigrant. However, there are isolated cases where genealogists can determine the misspelled German or Swiss birthplace from available European sources.

East or West Germany?

In tracing German ancestry one will need to ascertain whether the ancestor came from East or West Germany. What is commonly called East Germany is really the German Democratic Republic (GDR), referred to by the West Germans as Mitteldeutschland (Middle Germany). Therefore, we have a West and a Middle Germany. Where then is East

Germany? The German Federal Republic (DBR), which we call West Germany, considers that part of Germany as East Germany which was annexed by Poland. At the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City, microfilmed records are available for much of West Germany and some parts of East Germany which is in Polish hands. For the German Democratic Republic (Middle Germany), only the parish registers and some of the census records of the two former Grand duchies of Mecklenberg have been microfilmed.

Civil Registration

Universal civil registration was introduced in Germany in 1876. Parts of western Germany, under the French government, enforced such regulation near the beginning of the 19th century, some of it written in French. Wuerttemberg began registration in the form of family registers in 1807 to 1875.¹ When writing to the former Kingdom of Wuerttemberg, one does not ask for a birth certificate, but for a family certificate (*Familienschein*). Whenever possible, one researching in Germany should begin by securing the necessary data from the *Standesamt* (civil registrar). Recent laws may limit the issue of certificates by the *Standesamt*, located in most German cities and villages. Thus it is important to indicate to the civil registrar your degree of relationship to the immigrant ancestor. You may write in English, preferably a typewritten letter, enclosing two International Reply Coupons which you can buy at the post office. German sample letters have appeared in recent genealogical periodicals.² Some microfilmed *Standesamt* records can be found in the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.

Parish Registers

By far the most genealogical information is obtained from parish registers. Whenever possible you should determine whether the immigrant was Catholic, Lutheran (Evangelical), Reformed, etc. Should you fail to determine the ancestor's religion, just write to the church of the predominant religion of the area. *Meyers Orts-und Verkehrslexikon* associates towns with the proper religion. Very few pastors will do extensive research for you. Eventually you may have to engage the

services of a knowledgeable retired person or a professional genealogist. *Glenzdorf*³ is a great help in finding a European researcher. This remarkable genealogical directory was first published in 1977, with the third volume produced in 1984. It is the only German genealogical directory of its kind, since Starke-Verlag quit publishing *Wer sucht Wen?* with the 1956 volume. *Glenzdorf* is similar to the 1985 *Genealogical Research Directory* by Johnson and Sainty, except that the latter is arranged opposite from *Glenzdorf*. Because it is international, it does not include as many German lines as the former. *Glenzdorf* is especially strong on the part of East Germany now in Polish hands, and it has the special advantage of a geographical index.

Parish Register Inventories

To simplify the search of German parish registers, it is wise to consult printed parish register inventories, available for many parts of Germany. For a list of these inventories see my guide,⁴ covering Germany and adjoining countries. The guide will also provide information for the state of Bavaria, with the following inventories available: 1. Archdioceses Muenchen-Freising and Bamberg, and the following dioceses - 2. Augsburg, 3. Passau, 4. Regensburg, 5. Eichstaett, 6. Wuerzburg, and the inventory for the Lutheran and the Reformed Church in Bavaria.

Miscellaneous Sources

Censuses of Schleswig-Holstein and Mecklenberg (since 1819) have been microfilmed and are available at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. However, it is advisable to use them in connection with the parish registers. Other German censuses have been taken, but most were destroyed after the compilation of statistics.

City Directories

Although some librarians consider city and telephone directories non-genealogical, city directories are of great value in German research. Printed directories of all kinds began to appear in Germany in the 16th century, with city directories coming a little later. They are

helpful in locating the bearers of a surname, especially if they came from a little village. After all, it is the country people that replenish the cities. During serfdom, if a serf escaped to a city and managed to live in it without being caught by his lord "for a year and a day," he became a free man (so they say). A guide to German city directories was published in 1889.⁵ No doubt, later publications of that kind have been printed in the meantime.

Buergerbuecher (Citizen Books)

While city directories list most, if not all, inhabitants of a city and its suburbs, the more recent *Buergerbuecher* contain only the name of citizens who have sworn an oath of citizenship. Such books are available to us in printed form. Manuscript burgher lists are as old as the cities themselves and have been kept as recently as the turn of the century. I have in my possession the burgher certificate of my father, which states that he swore to fulfill the responsibilities of a good citizen. He did this as a young man at the turn of the century when he came to the city of Zwickau (Saxony) to work in the coal mines so that he could get married and support a family.

Funeral Sermons

Funeral sermons (*Leichenpredigten*) were first used in the 16th century, usually for nobility and prominent commoners. Some sermons even included pedigrees. These records originate from the custom of reading the deceased's life story during the funeral. A funeral sermon collection has been abridged and printed and is available at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.⁶ According to Heydenreich⁷, there is an immense number of funeral sermons in Poland for the 17th and 18th centuries.⁸ Fritz Roth⁹ has written a useful article and compiled three volumes evaluating funeral sermons, thus making them readily useful to the genealogist.¹⁰

If German researchers will examine the sources discussed in this article, leaving no avenue unexplored, the chances of documenting one's German ancestor should be greatly improved.



TIDBITS, MORSELS AND CRUMBS

For those who have access to a microfilm reader (usually available at most libraries), the National Archives Microfilm Rental Program might be the answer to some of your genealogical needs. For \$15.00 you can join and for \$3.00 per roll you can rent a microfilm roll for 30 days. You will be sent booklets listing the numbers for all census rolls for all states, for service records of the Revolutionary War and for applications for pensions and bounty land for the Revolutionary War. The address is P.O. Box 2940, Hyattsville, MD 20784. The telephone number is (301) 927-3701.

§

The staff of the New Jersey Bureau of Archives will check their "Family Name Index File" for an SASE. Write: New Jersey Bureau of Archives, New Jersey State Library, 185 W. State St., Trenton, NJ 08608.

§

The Tennessee State Library and Archives will make a free search of microfilmed county records. Request the proper form by sending an SASE to: Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 7th Ave., Nashville, TN 37219.

§

Records of Union Volunteers of Oklahoma are listed in Dakota Territory, 1890 Federal Census of Union Volunteers in the Civil War. Roll #76, Group M-123. This is also indexed on the microfilm.

§

Looking for an ancestor in or around Washington, DC including Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, MD? Plan to attend the Capital Seminar on October 16-17, 1987 at the Center of Adult Education, University of Maryland in College Park. This major event will include local speakers, exhibits, surname exchanges and more. For details write to: Capital Seminar, 13405 Collingwood Terrace, Silver Spring, MD 20904.

Footnotes

NOTE: Call numbers are given where applicable for books housed at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City.

1. Henning & Ribbe, *Handbuch der Genealogie*, (Neustadt/Aisch: Verlag Degener & Co., 1972), 95. Call #943 E6hr.
2. Frederick Walter Hilbig, "Do We Need a German-American Surname File?" *Heritage Quest* 1, no. 5 (May/June 1986) (sic): 36-37.
3. Johann Glensdorf, *Glensdorfs Internationales Genealogen-Lexikon*, 3 vols., (Bad Muenster am Deister: Wilhelm Rost Verlag, 1977-1984). Call #943 D27gi.
4. Frederick Walter Hilbig, *Bibliography of Research Aids of Germany and of Neighboring Countries*, (Salt Lake City: F. W. Hilbig, 1975). Call #943 Z3hi.
5. Henning & Ribbe, *Handbuch der Genealogie*, 131.
6. Friedrich Wecken, *Katalog der Stolbergischen Leichenpredigten-Sammlung*, 4 vols. (Leipzig: Degener & Co., 1927-1935). (At SLC Genealogical Library).
7. Eduard Heydenreich, *Handbuch der Praktischen Genealogie*, 2 vols., (Leipzig: Ludwig Degener, 1913).
8. *Ibid.*, 2:54.
9. Fritz Roth, "Literatur ueber Leichenpredigten und Personalschriften," in *Schriftumsberichte zur Genealogie* (Neustadt/Aisch: Verlag Degener & Co., 1959), 285-316.
10. Fritz Roth, *Restlose Auswertungen von Leichenpredigten der Jahre 1660-1750*, 3 vols., (Boppard/Rhein: Fritz Roth, 1959).

(Article by Frederick Walter Hilbig. Material taken with permission from *Ancestry Newsletter*, published by Ancestry, Inc., P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 81140. \$12.00/year for six issues.)

TERMS OF RELATIONSHIP

"Alias" -- The use of two surnames, joined by the word "alias," in early American records usually indicates an illegitimate birth and that the person has joined the surname of his reputed father to that of his mother.

However, there were two other reasons for the adoption of two surnames. Sometimes when children inherited through their mother they used both the father's and mother's names. Sometimes the name of the natural father, who had died, was joined to that of the stepfather. In cases of adoption, the original name and the name of the adoptive parent were sometimes used together.

As Jacobus wrote: "Too much should not be built upon casual mention of the relationship in early records." Conclusions about the relationship between any two people must rest on a preponderance of all the available evidence.

(Written by Donald Lines Jacobus. Reprinted from the *National Genealogical Society Newsletter*.)



§

The Archives Division, Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA 23219 has copies of all existing Virginia birth, death and marriage records prior to 1896.

§

The Missouri Bureau of Vital Statistics (birth and death records post-1910) has moved to 1730 Elm St., Jefferson City, MO 65101.

§

Effective January 1, 1987, fees for all certified copies of California vital records will increase. Birth records are now \$11.00, Death/Fetal Death \$7.00, Licensed and Confidential Marriages \$11.00 and Marriage Dissolutions \$11.00. Any questions, contact Customer Service Unit at 916-445-2684.

§

The National Huguenot Society has moved its headquarters. New address is National Huguenot Society, Miss Vera Reeves, Registrar General, 1118 Broadway, Vincennes, IN 47591.

§

German scholars are seeking information on areas and locations in the U.S. where Hessians settled. Contact Chatto-Hans Hoos-Rinningsland, Gierbergstrasse 164, 5900 Siegen 1, Federal Republic of Germany.

§

The Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Miami Valley (Ohio) Council on Genealogy and History are hosting "Harvest of History, 1987," July 8-12. For more information send long SASE to Terry A. Dunn, 2276 Diamond Mill Rd., Brookville, OH 45309.

**PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO
VOTE. BALLOT IS ON PAGE 15.**

FAMILY REUNIONS

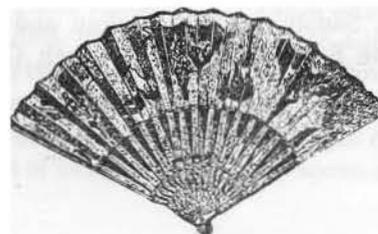
Appler: The 49th annual Appler Reunion will meet on August 16 at the Gettysburg Recreational Park in Gettysburg, PA. Further information is available from Charles Ross Appler, 503 Park Ave., Berkley Heights, NJ 07922.

Bicksler/Bixler: The 55th annual reunion of the Bickslers/Bixlers and their descendants will be held on August 30 at the Fredericksburg Fireman's Park, Fredericksburg, PA. Registration begins at 10:30 with a church service at 11:30. A chicken barbecue dinner will be served at 12:30 (advance registration required), followed with a business meeting and program at 2:00. Dr. M. Alfred Bichsel of Rochester, NY will be the keynote speaker. For reservations, contact H. J. Bicksler, 432 E. Oak St., Palmyra, PA 17078.

Hertzler/Hartzler: The 60th annual reunion of the Hertzler/Hartzler family will meet July 25 at the Allensville Fire House and Park, Allensville, PA, in Big Valley. Registration begins at 10:30 with a program at 1:00 PM. Each family should provide lunch. Coffee and ice cream will be served.

Ranck/Rank: The Ranck/Rank Clan Reunion, including all descendants of John Philip and John Michael Rank will meet on Saturday, July 18, at Ranck's United Methodist Church on Ranck's Church Road, two miles southeast of New Holland, PA. Registration will begin at 9:30 followed by a morning session on family genealogy by John W. Heisey. The 11:45 meal will be served by the church. Advance registration is required for the meal. The 1:30 session will include special music and a speech by Randy Maxson, giving his interpretation of Patrick Henry. For further information and to register contact Virginia Dissinger, Rt. 1, Box 214, New Holland, PA 17557.

(Reprinted from *The Mirror*, Newsletter of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society.)



DIE BUCHS

Lancaster County Tax Records: A New Index (Tax records before the federal census). Four volumes of tax records, each creating a "mini" census of Lancaster County (PA) prior to the first census of 1790. Each volume is 5 ½ x 8 ½. Soft cover.

Volume 1 (1780) contains the following subdivisions: Brecknock, Caernarvon, Cocalico, Colerain, Donegal, Earl, Elizabeth, Hempfield, Lampeter, Lancaster Borough, Lancaster Township, Leacock, Manheim, Manor, Mount Joy, Sadbury, Strasburg and Warwick. This index includes 4,430 names of taxables in Lancaster County. -- \$10.00.

Volume 2 (1780) contains the following subdivisions: Bart, Bethel, Conestoga, Derry, Drumore, East Hanover, Heidleberg, Lebanon, Little Britain, Londonderry, Martick, Paxtang, Rapho, Salisbury, Upper Paxtang, West Hanover, the towns of Heidelberg, Hummelstown, Jonestown, Manheim, Mayerstown, Middletown, Newmanstown, Stumpstown; and the district of Wiconisco. There are 4,468 names in this volume. -- \$10.00.

Volume 3 (1750) contains over 6,000 names from the following subdivisions: Bart, Bethel, Brecknock, Caernarvon, Cocalico, Colerain, Conestoga, Derry, Donegal, Drumore, Earl, East Hanover, Elizabeth, Heidelberg, Hempfield, Lampeter, Lancaster Borough, Lancaster Township, Leacock, Lebanon, Little Britain, Manheim, Manor, Martick, Mount Joy, Paxton, Rapho, Sadsbury, Salisbury, Strasburg, Warwick and West Hanover. -- \$15.00.

Volume 4 (1718-1726) contains over 5,500 records (over 3,000 taken from the original records and the others indexed from a 1916 document). These records are from Chester County, but the area included became part of Lancaster County. Subdivisions are: Conestoga, Pequea, East and West Conestoga, Donegal, Sadsburg, Tulpehocken and an area along the Schuylkill near French Creek. -- \$12.50.

1824 Map of Lancaster County by Joshua Scott. Did you know there was a Bauman's Tavern in Ephrata? That Kaufreths was near Earlville? That Stemen's Run flows into the Little Conestoga? That the Hersheys and Stauffers were located along Indian Town Run? That Kendig's Fulling Mill was in Martic (sic) township? You can learn this and more when you purchase this reprint of Scott's 1824 map of Lancaster County. Printed on Tyvek paper, this map will last for years under heavy use. Included is an index of all names found on the map (by township). Over 1,000 names and placenames are listed. Approximately 2' x 3' folded; printed on both sides with an overlap from one side to the other. -- \$12.50.

To order any of these books, or for further information on these and other books, contact Gary T. Hawbaker, P.O. Box 207, Hershey, PA 17033.

THE DERR FAMILY: 1750-1986 WITH ALLIED FAMILIES OF BAKER, FLOOK, HOOVER, KOOGLER, LONG, METZGER, SMITH, TEMPLING, TOMS, YASTE AND YOUTSEY

The Derr Family: 1750-1986 is a hardcover acid-free book with 145 photographs, documents, maps, ancestral charts and much more.

Philip Derr (1750-1821) of Frederick County, MD, is the central figure in this history of the Derr family. After living for a while in Washington County, MD, he and his wife, Barbara Koogle, settled on a farm near Middletown, MD. in 1790. This book traces Philip's nine children, his fifty-odd grandchildren, and his numerous great-grandchildren and their families. Attention is also given to John Derr of Washington County (died 1785) and John Derr of Frederick County (died 1825). Strong reasons are presented that lead one to accept the former as Philip's father, and the latter as Philip's brother. Along with the younger John Derr and his wife Margaret Sheffer, three generations of their descendants are included.

The families discussed in this work all established roots in western Maryland or southeastern Pennsylvania in the latter half of the 18th century. An appendix gives brief accounts of three unrelated Derr clans which also settled in Frederick County in the 18th century. And there is an index of more than 5,600 names under 1,100 surnames.

Send a check or money order for \$41.50 to Roy H. Wampler, 4620 N. Park Ave., Apt. 1006E, Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Maryland residents please include \$2.00 sales tax.

**BIEHN/BEAN FAMILY OF BUCKS
COUNTY, PA AND ONTARIO,
CANADA 1700-1886**

This book is a genealogical record and history of the descendants of Johannes Biehn, a Swiss Mennonite who came to America from the Rhenish Palatinate, Germany in 1739 and settled in Bucks County, PA, and his eldest son, Johannes Biehn, Jr., who emigrated in 1800 from Bucks County to Waterloo County, Ontario, Canada, with his entire married and unmarried family.

It is a 6" X 9" hardbound book containing 384 pages with gold lettering on the front cover and spine and printed on acid-free paper. There is a complete table of contents, list of illustrations, bibliography and two complete indexes: one for Bucks County, PA and the other for Ontario, Canada.

This book covers a time span of over 300 years and contains information on many eastern Pennsylvania settlers including: Cressman, Detweiler, Dirstine, Hartzel, Herr, Kolb, Ruhl, Savacool and Sellers. Bucks County families include: Cooper, Foellner, Frankenfield, Freed, Geisinger, Hager, Heller, Lightcap, Melchor, Trauger and Wolfinger. Canadian families include: Breithaupt, Facey, Fraser, Gottschalk, Haist, Hallman, Rosenberger, Saltzberger, Schellig, Schiedel and Shantz, plus many others.

This book is documented by archival records in Karlsruhe, Baden, Germany, county tax, courthouse, church and cemetery records as well as the U.S. census. It contains

innumerable bibliographic sketches, descendant charts, 58 photographs, documents, maps, drawings, military records and much more.

Send check or money order for \$27.00, which includes packaging and postage, to: Donald M. Biehn, 6 E. Cape Cod Ln., Peahala Park, NJ 08008.

**WÜRTTEMBERG EMIGRATION
INDEX, VOL. II OFF THE PRESS**

Volume II of the *Württemberg Emigration Index*, compiled by Trudy Schenk, Ruth Froelke and Inge Bork is off the press. Each entry contains vital information on name, date, place of birth, place of residence, date of application, destination and a citation to the source. Period covered is from the late 1700's to 1900. For more information, contact Heritage Books, Inc., 3602 Maureen, Suite 103, Bowie, MD 20715.

**OLD EUROPEAN MAPS
REVISITED**

In October of each year, one of Europe's largest book fairs is held in Frankfurt, Germany. Last year there was a splendid display of German State maps for the Federal Republic of Germany.

Each of the eight German States publishes a catalogue of maps. These catalogues are approximately 6" X 8" and are 1/8" to 1/4" thick.

The catalogues concentrate on topographic maps in scales of 1:200,000, 1:100,000 and 1:50,000. Nearly all of the tiny farm communities are shown on the 1:200,000 scale. For an enlargement of a specific area, one should order the 1:100,000, or better yet, the 1:50,000.

The catalogues also include a good selection of geological maps, county (kreis) maps and the so-called "wander" or natural park maps, as well as aerophoto maps.

In recent years, reproductions of historic maps are also included in these catalogues. For example, the catalogue for Rheinland-Pfalz

shows a series of maps for certain areas for the years 1797, 1803-20, 1841-1855, etc.

From time to time, C. R. Haller, a writer in *The Netherlands*, receives requests for information about German maps. Since the cost of these new maps and the good quality reproductions are nominal, as compared to the original old maps, he lists the main address for ordering maps below:

Landesvermessungsamt Baden-Württemberg
Buechsenstrasse 54, Postfach 1115
7000 Stuttgart 1
West Germany

Bayerisches Landesvermessungsamt
Alexandrastrasse 4
8000 München 22
West Germany

Hessisches Landesvermessungsamt
Postfach 3249, Schaperstrasse 16
6200 Wiesbaden 1
West Germany

Niedersaechsisches Landesverwaltungsamt
Postfach 107, Warmbüchekamp 2
3000 Hannover 1
West Germany

Landesvermessungsamt Nordrhein-Westfalen
Postfach 206007, Muffendorfer Strasse 19-21
5300 Bonn-Bad Godesberg 1
West Germany

Landesvermessungsamt Rheinland-Pfalz
Postfach 1428, Ferdinand-Saürbruch-Strasse 15
5400 Koblenz 1
West Germany

Landesvermessungsamt des Saarlandes
Neugrabenweg 2
6600 Saarbrücken 3
West Germany

Landesvermessungsamt Schleswig-Holstein
Postfach 5070, Mercatorstrasse 1
2300 Keil 1
West Germany

(Reprinted from *Mennonite Family History*.)

FEEDBACK FROM READERS

We enjoy hearing from our readers. If you have any comments about *Der Kurier* or the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society, please drop us a note. Write to: Editor, *Der Kurier*, 8645 Tower Drive, Laurel, MD 20707-1244.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MAIN READING ROOM TO BE RENOVATED

The Main Reading Room of the Library of Congress will close this June for a year of renovation. This is part of the renovations taking place in the older Jefferson and Adams Buildings. The renovations will include the room's lighting, seating, shelving and computer facilities.

Access to the Madison Building will not be affected.

During the renovation, book delivery and reference services will be switched to the fifth floor of the Adams Building.

CONTRIBUTORS

Contributors to this edition of *Der Kurier* include: *Line Upon Line* (Newsletter of the Genealogical Club of the Montgomery County (MD) Historical Society), Donald Lines Jacobus, National Genealogical Society *Newsletter*, Canadian *Connections*, Cathy Dippe, Donald M. Biehn, Gary T. Hawbaker, *Ancestry Newsletter*, Virginia Dissinger, Immigrant Genealogical Society *Newsletter*, *The German Connection*, *Mennonite Family History*, *The Mirror*, Newsletter of the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society and P. William Filby.



THE GENEALOGIST'S PSALM

Genealogy is my pastime, I shall not stray;
It maketh me to lie down and examine half-buried tombstones.

It leadeth me into still Court Houses,
it restoreth my ancestral knowledge.
It leadeth me in paths of census records and ships' passenger lists for my surname's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the shadows of research libraries and microfilm readers,
I shall fear no discouragement;
for a strong urge is within me;
the curiosity and motivation
they comforteth me.

It demandeth preparation of storage space for the acquisition of countless documents;
it annointest my head with burning midnight oil,
my family group sheets runneth over.

Surely birth, marriage, and death dates shall follow me
all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of a family-history seeker,
for ever.

---Wildamae Brestal

1987 Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Ballot

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Anne Tenny - <i>President</i> | <i>Mark your ballot,
cut out and mail to:</i>

Robert J. Miller
347 Scott Drive
Silver Spring,
Maryland 20904 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Paul Fogle - <i>1st Vice-President</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Peter Linder - <i>2nd Vice-President</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Cathryn Diplo - <i>Recording Secretary</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Doris Suresch - <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Robert J. Miller - <i>Treasurer</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Ardyce Harrison - <i>At-Large Member</i> (<u>1 year term</u>) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | George Billingsley - <i>At-Large Member</i> (<u>1 year term</u>) | |

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, 8645 Tower Dr., Laurel, MD 20707-1244.

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MEMBERSHIP: \$7.50 single, \$10.00 family per year (Sept. 1 - Aug. 31). Nancy H. Mossburg, 233 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.



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