



DER KURIER

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our fall meeting will be held October 29, 1988 at one of our favorite meeting places, the Brethren Center at New Windsor, MD -- in Carroll County, south of Westminster. We are pleased to announce the three speakers who have been scheduled to cover the topic of finding German ancestors who immigrated in the 19th century. They are Dr. James Bergquist of Villanova University, who will discuss immigration patterns and their historical background; Dr. John Coletta of the National Archives, who will talk about passenger lists and how to use them; and Mr. James Neagles, an author of research guides, who will talk about using naturalization records. All three are exceedingly well-qualified in their subjects.

While the main focus of this program will be the 1800s, certainly much of the information to be presented will be useful also to those of you who are interested in earlier or later periods. So use the enclosed flyer to make your reservations early, enjoy the autumn drive and consider spending the night; you can't beat the rates!

Several years ago, some of you sent in entries for the German Locality Index, sponsored by the Chicago Genealogical Society. Unfortunately, MAGS did not collect the requisite number of names for participation; however, we have purchased a copy of the Index printout, which cross-indexes surnames with Germanic locality of origin and time period. Members will be able to consult it at the fall and subsequent meetings, along with the Surname File.

SOME GENERAL RESEARCH SUGGESTIONS (WITH TONGUE- IN-CHEEK)

- 1. Be prepared and be patient.
- 2. Use whatever finding aids are available (including human ones), but don't be limited by them. Just because a collection is not indexed or sensibly (to the researcher) organized, does not mean there is nothing of value in it.
- 3. Pay close attention to chronology and administrative history. Think like a bureaucrat when trying to track down a paper trail.
- 4. Look for archives materials that may be available in some form outside the National Archives headquarters building, and even outside the National Archives system.
- 5. Keep your eyes and ears open. A forgotten guide spotted on the shelf, a label glanced at in passing, a chat over coffee with a fellow researcher could provide a clue to research possibilities that might otherwise be overlooked.
- 6. Follow instructions when they are given.
- 7. See number one!

MAGS SELECTS NEW EDITOR

MAGS would like to welcome Barbara Little as the new editor of *Der Kurier*. Beginning with the December issue, Barbara will take over the

reins from outgoing editor, Deborah M.S. Brown. Also with the December issue, please send all copy for *Der Kurier* to Barbara at P.O. Box 1273, Orange, VA 22960. Deadline dates are the first of November, February, May and August.

CELEBRATING GERMAN FALL FESTIVALS

Harvest Thanksgiving (Erntedankfest)
Usually celebrated on the first Sunday in October, the Erntedankfest celebrated the harvest. The altars of churches are decorated with the produce from the fields, and all give thanks for a bountiful harvest.

Church Fair (Kirchweih or Kirta)
Celebrated on the third Sunday in October in Bavaria, at one time the anniversary of the day was that on which the church had been dedicated.

Days in advance, everything is cleaned until it shines. The "grosse Gefress," grand spread, is laid out with all types of food. An old rule concerning this festival says "A real Kirchweih lasts Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, and if at all possible through till Wednesday."

In the larger cities, the Kirchweih takes on the look of a carnival with rides and stands selling food. In the smaller villages, all unmarried young men ask for their sweethearts' hand. They signify their love by leaving hazel twigs in the trough at the well. In some villages, dances are held to bring the young men and women closer together.

St. Martin's Day (Martinstag)
Originally held at various dates during the fall months, St. Martin's Day is normally celebrated today on November 11.

Bishop Martin of Tours, was a Catholic saint, who died around 400 A.D. Martinstag was much like our Halloween of today. Lantern marches ensued where participants carried pumpkins or turnips that had been hollowed out (often showing bizarre faces) with lights inside. People dressed up wearing costumes that made them ghastly-looking. In former centuries,

these parades were quite popular in northwestern Germany and the Rhineland.

The goose was also associated with St. Martin's Day. This came about, because at this time of year, the goose-fattening period ended. All during the summer, geese had been allowed to wander in the meadows and after the harvest they cleaned the stubble of fodder in the fields. But come fall, farmers would kill the extra geese to save fodder and sell them or use them as payment for taxes. Custom dictated that everyone ate goose on Martinstag!

LETTERS HOME

(Ed. Note: Johann Georg Richstein I and his wife, Louise, arrived in Baltimore just before 1800. Accompanying them were their children Catherina Elisa, John Jacob, Johannes, Christina and John Jost. The elderly couple had left three adult children behind in Germany, and others were already in Baltimore.

The following letters are from members of the family to relatives in Germany and provide us with some insight into the ups and downs of an immigrant family in Baltimore in the early 19th century.

In the first letter, son Johannes is writing to a kinsman to report their safe arrival; the second letter, written by Johann, Sr. reports that son Johannes has died. The remaining letters are occasioned partly by a legacy left by Johannes to his sisters still in Germany; one is written by his brother-in-law, Hieronimus Schneider, and the others by his brother Johann Georg II (anglicized to George). All report on family affairs, and the tone varies from optimism at first, to a realistic appraisal of the problems facing immigrants in a strange culture, using a strange language.)

Dr. Gunter Goos of Kassel (West Germany) has kindly given permission for publication of the letters by MAGS. Thanks to Gary E. Myer-Bruggey for subsequent proofing and translation and to Cathy Dippo for original translation.

To Johann Christ Blecher
in Ri(ch)stein

Baltimore, 11 January 1800

Dear Cousin!

We are, God be praised, all still well and healthy and can speak to each other every day, and everything is going quite well. I received your letter without any trouble. Dear cousin ["wasse", Base, female cousin] have her be so kind as to write to me at her first opportunity, whether Jost Stremmel is still in Berlenburg [Bad Berleburg, just north of Richstein] or if he has already left for America. If you would be so kind and give my heartfelt greetings to my dear sisters in Elberfeld and [that] I and my parents wish that they were here with us, for then they could earn more money here. Now, dear cousin Blecher, write to my sisters and console them that they can be assured that my father did not close them out of his heart; we left so quickly and could not keep our promise because our trip proceeded so quickly that we did not have a chance to speak with them.

Should one or the other of you come over here, you will be able to find me here, and my father will be moving into town in three months. We are lacking nothing and have yet to regret that we have come to this land. For my father is operating a tavern and my brother-in-law has a small store and already has built a new house a mile from here on the road to Hookstown, and his wife has been abed with child since then. I and my parents and brother-in-law send sincere greetings to you, brothers and sisters and all of your families and to all our good friends and commend you all into the care of God the Most High and remain your friends unto death.

Johannes Ristein (sic)

Elisabeth and Christina Richstein
c/o Mr. Maurenbrecher
Elberfeld

Baltimore, December 7, 1810

Dear beloved children!

I received your pleasing letter via Mr. Karthaus without any trouble and read therein that you are all still well, thanks be to God! I and my wife and five children are still well, God

be praised, and He called the 6th, Johannes, in his 29th year, from this time into eternity, without marrying. Mother is very feeble. We live on the same square where my son Georg Richstein, who is married to Catharina Petta, lives. They already have five children, and they are doing fairly well. My youngest daughter Christina is keeping house for me and your mother and she is (thus) fulfilling her child's duty to us, (so) that we are content.

Two daughters, i.e., Christina and Willhelmina, are still unmarried, of whom the latter lives with my granddaughter, the same is married to a [Mr.] Hubert, and they are living thus far happily in this world, thanks be to God.

My son-in-law Schneider and my daughter and their six children are fairing quite well, they have two daughters who are married, of whom one, Catharina, was married to Lehnhard Bange, but God placed her in widow status, and her husband left her with two children, i.e., a son and a daughter. By the way, dear children, we commend you all into the protection of God, the Lord guide you and lead you in His paths. I and mother are now weak, and eternity appears to be very close to us. In this world we no longer have any hope of seeing each other again, [but] our sincere wish is that we will see each other again in that world where our eternal fatherland is, where we shall rejoice always and eternally before the throne of God. I, mother, children, and the others greet you all from their hearts and commend you into the protection of God. Should this letter come into your hands, I ask for an answer in return.

Remain your faithful father and mother,

Georg Richtstein

Mr. Weber
at Elberfeld
near Dusseldorf

Mr. Weber in E(l)berfeld

Baltimore,
4 August 1817

I permit myself the liberty of requesting a favor of you with regard to some family matters pertaining to one of your countrymen, and request today that you in all of your goodness

please notify Elisabeth, Gethorau and Annelsa Richtstein that their brother *Georg Richtstein died already in 1806 and bequeathed each of his sisters an inheritance equal to the value of 111 Spanish dollars. For this reason I desire to know if this inheritance from the three sisters from Richtstein should be distributed here among the surviving siblings or be sent to Europe?

In case the money is to be sent to Europe, it will be necessary for them to send me a power of attorney first so that I may receive this money [for them].

By the way, my dears, I and my wife and siblings are fairing quite well, thanks be to God, and I pray that Heaven grant, that these lines will find all of you in the best of health, which would be the greatest of pleasures for me; please write me how you have fared as a result of the constant disturbances caused by the troops in that region?

We have been having very bad times here already for 15 months, and trade has come to a complete standstill, and the working man struggles just to subsist, in my next [letter] my dear siblings, I will perhaps be able to write you in more detail.

May you fare well and remain in good health, may Heaven grant all of you your individual wishes, and well-being.

Your everlastingly faithful brother-in-law

Hironimus Schneider

Care of Karthaus, Baltimore

(*Presumed to be an error; it was not Georg, but rather Johannes Richtstein who died in 1806; Georg is referred to as healthy, along with his family, in his father's letter of 1810.)

Baltimore, 29 March 1818

Beloved Sisters!

With the deepest sense of sharing in sincerest pleasure [we were] made well by your letters of 29 May and 8 [28?] April 1817 which were [sent] to our parents, if the same had only reached

them while they were still among the living on this world, but I must tell you, with the deepest feeling of sadness, dear sisters, that our father already died on March 22, 1815, and our dear mother died seven months thereafter. Dedicate to them therefore, you who are good, a tear to those deceased, for their ashes must remain sacred to us -- for we too one day will have to come to the end of our earthly life; for this reason take comfort, and build on Him who lives over us and you will feel an inner peace. Our deceased brother Johann left at his parting from this world 300 Spanish dollars, which our departed parents received, and after their deaths I purchased this sum [here the bottom part of the page is torn off] that if you wish to have this money, then you must send me a legal power of attorney, signed by each sister, for I have already spoken with Mr. Karthaus about this, and as soon as I receive the power of attorney, I will take out a bill of exchange from Karthaus for this amount of 300 dollars and send it to you care of a good [banking] house there where you will then be able to receive your money. You can therefore only send letters such as the power of attorney to Karthaus here.

As concerns me, dear sisters, I am well and healthy, thanks be to God, and in my 19th year of marriage, my wife has born me eight children, of whom one, however, is already at sleep in the Lord. The others are all well and healthy.

I am very sorry that my sister Liesbeth lost a good position as a result of the death of Mr. Maurenbrecher, at whose house she had resided for such a long time, the Creator [page torn off] a substitute again for it [page torn off] sister Stingen of [page torn off] fairs well and has been blessed with a goodly number of children.

Dear sisters, the inflation in Europe can be easily explained, where such a wearisomely long war has ravaged everything, but even this will change with time, and the Creator will bless you with good harvests then, although America has no war, everything is nonetheless excessively expensive here, and I would like to dissuade anyone from coming to America who can even passingly support himself in Europe! I cannot grasp what kinds of notions of America the emigrants in Europe must make for

themselves. The fools probably believe that they can pick the money from the trees here. But such people are really deluding themselves. Those who allow themselves to dream up such crazy notions would be much happier if they had never left German soil, for with money one can live well anywhere, but without this, hard work is called for, here just as in Europe. [bottom of page torn off]

Now, my dear sisters, I pray that this letter may find all of you in good health, and that Heaven may remind you, in a peaceful hour of happiness, to think of your brother, who even though far away, shall never forget to love you and hold you in high esteem. But also do not forget to write at the first opportunity and enclose the power of attorney so that I may send the money to you.

Now may you all fare well, as will eternally remain, your brother who loves you eternally.

P.S. Our sisters here, Christine, Louise, Marie Elise, are married, but Wilhelmine is still single, they are quite well, thanks be to God, and they all send you their sincere greetings.

Johann Georg Richstein

To Mr. Johann von der Heydt Jr.
in Elberfeld
Please deliver to Elisabeth and Christina
Richstein
in Elberfeld

Baltimore, 8 May 1824

Loving Sisters,

With delight we received your letter of 28 October 1818 and learned therein about your well-being at that time, and [learned] indeed with great delight that you had no difficulties in receiving the 300 Spanish dollars which I had paid to Mr. Karthaus in Baltimore on your behalf; pray also that you may make good use of it in health and with pleasure. Loving sisters, you wrote me once that Stiena wished to come to Baltimore, but I have already written her several times that I could not advise her to do this. First, times are not as they used to be here, second, it is unpleasant for a person such as her who cannot get along in the English

language, that is in Baltimore. There are areas here, where the people speak German, but it is not customary in cities. There have been many grown persons, who could have made a life for themselves in Germany, who are already sorry that they came here because they [confront] such a great change from German fashions, manners, weather, and diseases. But one cannot advise anyone for these reasons where he is to make his home. Where he is born, there he will feel happiest.

As concerns me and my family, we are all healthy and in good spirits. I have seven children living, the eldest daughter is almost 22 years old and has been married for five-and-a-half years and has three children, and she is faring quite well. The others are all still single and live at home with me, my other siblings are all healthy and in good spirits, Amili is not married, she is living with Christina, she is well and in good spirits. Mr. Schneider died a little over three years ago. Their son Johann and Catharina died soon thereafter, too. Our sister Luwisa is also a widow and has two children living, but they are both already grown up. I have so far done my duty to her as a brother. For now I know of nothing else to write to you, dear siblings, we greet you all many thousand times, and may the God of love and peace be with you, and us, until our end.

Write to me again as soon as possible care of my son-in-law's address, write

Mr. George Richstein
Care of Chr. Von Hollen
No. 77 S. Eutaw Street
Baltimore

(Ed. Note: You've seen how one immigrant family felt about the New World in their letters back to Germany. Now see how later generations of another family feel about moving "West.")

Some grammatical editing has been done in order to make the letters more easily readable.)

Henry Miers settled in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia c. 1755: He had come from "the Province of Pennsylvania," but no one knows from where, as yet. He raised a large family of

eight children, who scattered far and wide. Some stayed near their father's home in Edinburg, Virginia; one son went over the mountain into the Trout Run Valley of what is now West Virginia; one daughter married a man who moved his family to Tennessee; another son and daughter moved with their families to Ohio, then Indiana.

The letters below are from another daughter, Rosanna, and her husband, Abraham Barb, who also chose to move to Ohio. As far as is known, they married in Virginia in Trout Run, left shortly after and settled in Trumbull County, Ohio, near the town of Bristol. They are writing back to her brother, John Myers, who still lived in Trout Run.)

To: John Moyers (sic)
Virginia
Hardy County

October 30th, 1824, Trumbull, Ohio

Honored brothering (sic) law, We, with the help of Him (who) is mighty in power...inform you that we are all in good health at present, thanks be to him (that) holds the thread of our lifes (sic) in his hand....

We cannot come to see you this fall for I have too much work. I have not got my house done yet and I want to finish before winter comes in, but we expect to see you if we life (live) some longer.

I was sick this summer and had...bilious fever, the doctor says. I inform you that I wish you (would) send our money with father and if you and Jacob can posebly (sic) git (sic) it all, I would be very thank full (sic)...it is hard begining (sic) in the woode (sic) and bilding (sic)...my house costs me considerable....

Not much to write at present, only we remember our love to you all and especly (especially) to our old mother, from

Abraham and Rosanna Barb

P.S. Matthise Richman owes me for half a daze (days) work. I wish you would tell him to send it to (me)...Rosanna wishes you would send her a few of your early potatoes.... She thinks the ones better than this out here and a few of your wite (white) beene (beans) to plant....She wants you

to not forgit (sic) to git (sic) a Dutch testement (sic) and send it with father.

To: Mr. John Myres (sic)
Hardy County
Virginia
Woodstock Post Office

June 28, 1829; Trumbul (sic) County, Ohio

Dear Brother,

I have looked for a letter from you before this time, but have received none yet. There is one in the (post) office here from Hardy County, but has no bodys (sic) name on and the post master won't give it out. If any of you sent it, I want you to write an other (sic) and send it as soon as you can...I had calculated to come in there this fall, but I have give up coming.... We are all in good health at present, hoping that these few lines may find you in the same state of health...I remember my best respects to you and all inquiring friends. I have never wrote to you about the land...the land is good and if you wante (sic) come out here and work like you do there...you...soon become riche (sic), but I suppose you will never come here for Spittlers say you are too stingy and mother was a stingy old woman. She would give every thing (sic) to you and George [another brother], so I suppose (you) think you will be rich enough without coming out here.

yours respectfully
Rosina (sic) Barb

To: John Moyers (sic)
Hardy County

October the 24th, 1829

Brothers and Sisters and Mother,

We now take this opertunity (sic) to send a few lines to you to inform you that we are in good health at present, hoping this few lines may meet your presence in the same state of health. Forther (sic) we inform you that we received your letter and...things therein mensioned (sic) and you note I should send a recebt (sic) in full

by some safe hand...now I send you a receipt (sic)...with John Spittler....

We inform you that we have another daughter and [she] was born the 24th of September and her name is Sara Elisabeth.... We have nothing more to write, only we remember our love to you all and all inquiring friends.

Abraham Barb Rosenna (sic) Barb

To: John Myers in Hardy County
Virginia Shenandoah County
Woodstock Postoffice (sic)

August the 20th, 1832, Bristol

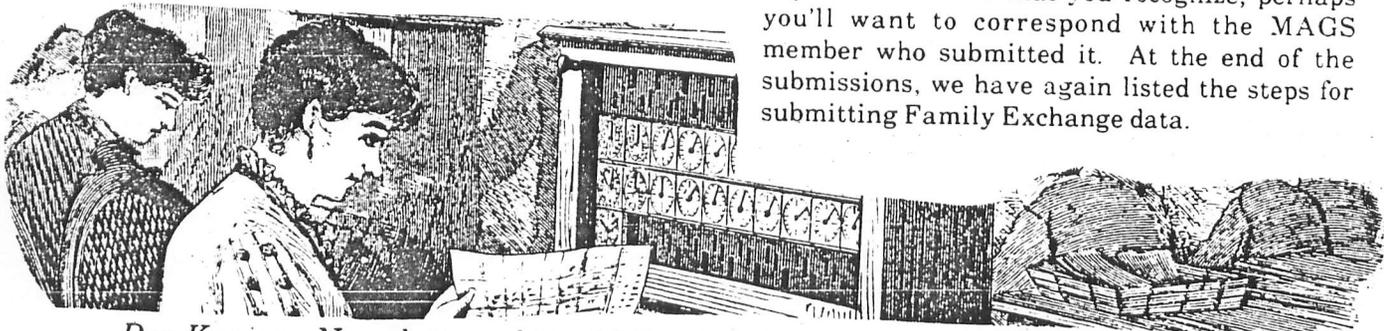
Sir,

We taken (sic) this opportunity (sic) to inform you that we are all well at present, only Rosanna is not well. She was put to bed on Friday (Friday) before Easter [April 22] and hath a pair (sic) of twins...boy and a girl, but they did not live but a few hours (sic) and she has bin (sic) sick ever since and is not able to make her own victuals (victuals) yet, but she is getting (sic) better. Now she has [been] to Doctor all the time it cost us a good cent. Further (sic), I inform (sic) you that I hath a cancer in my face and [went] to Doctor and it cost me fifteen dollars to git (sic) it out....

Rosanna thinks that she ought to have her share of Mothers (sic) estate and we need it, now having hath (sic) bad luck.... We have to make up some money by the first of November and if possible (sic) there can be any got for us, I would be glad if you could send it out in a letter as soon as possible (sic). We have lost four head of cattle this summer, two cows and two steers....

Nothing more at present, only (sic) our Love to sisters and brothers and all inquiring friends.

Abraham Barb Rosanna Barb



Der Kurier - Newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society - Vol. VII, No. 1, September, 1988

Bristol, January the 5th, 1833

Sir,

I received your letter and the money in several days after it was put in the Post office in Woodstock. I also received the cloth you sent. I have sent a letter to Jacob informing (him) that we have lost all of our children. They three died in one week (sic); the sickness was the cankerigh [diphtheria]. We gratefully (sic) mourn for their loss, but the Lord give us them and the Lord took them away again....

So much from an unworthy Dust,
Abraham Barb

P.S. Please let our friends and relations read this letter.

February the 26th, 1834

Sir,

We take this opportunity (sic) to inform you that we are all in good health at present, thanks be to God who gave it...hoping this few lines may find you so, too.... We have not hath (sic) much winter here this year. This month has been warm.... You wanted to know what bills [currency] would pass here; United States or most any good bank will pass. Direct the letter...and seal it good and I will rescue (rescue) it.

We remember our Love to you all and all friends.

Abraham Barb

FAMILY EXCHANGE DATA

In previous issues of *Der Kurier* we offered the Family Exchange, a chance to list ancestors and one piece of information about them. Below are some of the Family Exchange cards we received. If you see a name that you recognize, perhaps you'll want to correspond with the MAGS member who submitted it. At the end of the submissions, we have again listed the steps for submitting Family Exchange data.

The following were submitted by Steven Kemp,
1020 Mifflin St., Huntingdon, PA 16652:

BEAN
Thomas c. 1850, Cearfoss,
Washington Co., MD

EBERHARDT
Paul Manchester, Baltimore Co., MD
settler

MATHIAS
Joseph c. 1700's, lived Manchester, MD

MYERLY
John b. 1790, Pipe Creek, MD
son of Michael

RITTER
Jacob d. 1804, Leitersburg,
Washington Co., MD

SHRYOCK
David son of John S. & Mary (Teagarden)

STIEBER
George at Manchester,
Baltimore Co., MD, to 1795

SWORD
Margaret m. John Taylor/Schneider

YEAKLE (Jekel)
Jacob tinner, Washington Co., MD

ZOLLICKOFFER
Daniel Methodist pastor, Uniontown, MD

Family Exchange consists of 3" x 5" cards with the name of an ancestor and some piece of information about the person. When enough are received, they will be printed in *Der Kurier*. This is a different idea from that of the queries, and any queries should still be sent to the queries editor. To submit Family Exchange cards, follow the instructions below:

- Type or print surname of person you are submitting in all capital letters on upper left-hand corner of a 3" x 5" card.
- Type or print your MAGS membership number in the upper right-hand corner of the card. (Refer to mailing label on your latest issue of *Der Kurier* for number).

- Type or print first and middle names or initials of person under surname.
- Type or print information on person to the right of first and middle name or initials.
- Each listing must be kept within 40 spaces, i.e., count each letter and each space between words as a space, up to 40.
- Type or print your name and address on the back of the card.
- Submit up to 10 names at a time. You are charged a quarter (\$.25) per name or 10 for \$2.00.
- Make check payable to MAGS and mail with 3" x 5" cards to Doris Suresch, Family Exchange Service, 317 Johnson Farm Lane, Glen Burnie, MD 21061. If you wish an acknowledgment, also include SASE.

SAMPLE FAMILY EXCHANGE

SMITH 1111
John Bryan b. 1793, Calvert Co., MD

DIE BUCHS

The following can be ordered from Heritage Books, Inc., 1540 E Pointer Ridge Pl., Suite 101, Bowie, MD 20716. When ordering, please include book number (following price) and add \$2.50 to each order for shipping. Maryland residents, please add five percent sales tax.

Computer Genealogy, by Paul Andereck and Richard Pence. An introductory guide that shows what a computer can do for the genealogist, what features to look for when purchasing a system, and how to get your new system working. 1985, 280 pp., illus., index, paper, \$13.00, #X110.

German Immigrants: Lists of Passengers Bound from Bremen to New York, with Places of Origin, by Gary J. Zimmerman and Marion Wolfert. Bremen was the most active German seaport in the mid-19th century, handling three times as many immigrants as Hamburg. This compilation, based on passenger lists in the National Archives, names about 35,000 German immigrants per volume. Especially valuable, since the German departure lists were destroyed in World War II.
Vol. I: 1847-1854, 1985, 175 pp., \$20.00, #6580

Vol. II: 1855-1862, 1986, 167 pp., \$20.00, #6581.

Early Kentucky Tax Records: From the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society. Here are all the Kentucky tax lists ever published in the Kentucky Historical Society quarterly. They cover 1790-1819 and name about 12,000 people. These records are especially valuable because of the loss of the 1790 and 1800 federal censuses. They also supplement to a large degree, the "reconstructed" censuses of Heinemann and Clift. 1984, 318 pp., index, \$20.00, #3159.

Directory of Maryland Church Records, by Edna A. Kanely. A master directory to the extant records for over 2,600 Maryland churches. An invaluable tool for identifying and locating these records. 1988, 201 pp., paper, \$11.00, #X404.

Maryland Eastern Shore Vital Records, by F. Edward Wright. Extracts of births, deaths and marriages from court and church records. Each paper volume is fully indexed.

Vol. I, 1648-1725, 1983, 206 pp., \$15.50, #X710

Vol. II, 1726-1750, 1983, 171 pp., \$13.50, #X711

Vol. III, 1751-1775, 1984, 124 pp., \$12.50, #X712

Vol. IV, 1776-1800, 1985, 125 pp., \$12.50, #X713

Vol. V, 1801-1825, 1986, 125 pp., \$12.50, #X714.

Patents and Deeds and Other Early Records of New Jersey, 1664-1703, by William Nelson. Contains all the known surveys, patents, and deeds of proprietary New Jersey. Index has over 50,000 references. 1899 reprint, 770 pp., \$40.00, #4015.

Registers of Federal United States Military Records: A Guide to Manuscript Sources Available at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City and the National Archives in Washington, by Marilyn Deputy et al. Each volume includes sources describing enlistments, muster rolls, service records, bounty land records, pension records, prisoner-of-war records, etc., as well as indexes to the records. Most of the records discussed have been microfilmed and are widely available throughout the regional centers operated by the National Archives, LDS Branch Libraries or via interlibrary loan. Guidance on how to gain

access to the records is included. 1986, illus., paper.

Vol. 1, 1776-1860. Covers the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), the U.S. Army (1784-1916), War of 1812 (1812-1815), Indian Wars (1815-1898) and the Mexican War (1846-1848). 265 pp., \$25.00, #D101

Vol. 2, The Civil War. Covers U.S. Army records (1789-1916), General Records, Union Records, Federal Confederate Records, State Confederate Records and an Index to the National Archives Film Groups. 476 pp., \$35.00, #D102

Vol. 3, 1866-World War II and Records of Various Branches of the Military. Covers the Spanish-American War (1898), the Philippine Insurrection (1899-1902), World War I (1914-1918), World War II (1939-1945), U.S. Air Force Records, U.S. Army Records, U.S. Coast Guard Records, U.S. Marine Corps Records, U.S. Navy Records, and Records of Soldier Burials and Veteran's Homes. 176 pp., \$17.00, #D103.

Contributors

The Generator, Newsletter of St. Mary's County (MD) Genealogical Society; Deborah M.S. Brown; Anne Tenny; Steven Kemp; James L. Hansen, *Der Blumenbaum,* newsletter of the Sacramento (CA) German Genealogy Society, Nadine Ohliger, Dr. Gunter Goos.

TIDBITS, MORSELS AND CRUMBS

The Maryland Historical Society in Baltimore is now open on Wednesdays free of charge. Any non-members will be admitted to the Society Library and Museum without paying the customary admittance fee.

§

If you know your ancestor was alive when his or her father died, but is not listed in the will, write the county clerk and ask if the ancestor is listed in the Deed of Gift Book. Many children who were given land as a wedding gift or received their inheritance during their parents' lifetime, were sometimes left out of the will.

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MICROGEN is a genealogical organization based in Salt Lake, that offers many attractive services to genealogists. For instance, MICROGEN conducts genealogical research (for a fee), provides research proposals, has an extensive microfiche publications catalogue and will photocopy records for you at the Genealogical Library in Salt Lake. For more information, write the company at P.O. Box 11956, Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0956 or call 801-533-8472.

§

An easy way to find out if your ancestor carried life insurance is to send a business-sized SASE to: Policy Search, American Council of Life Insurance, 1850 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. They will send you a tracer form to fill out.

§

The federal government has turned over the official land surveys of Oklahoma (in storage for 100 years) to the State Department of Libraries, which maintains the State Archives. Oklahoma was the only state that did not receive its own land survey records. The original 2,000 plats and 235 volumes have been put on 8,000 microfiche.

§

BEGINNER'S LUCK

(Ed. note: Below is an account of the trials and tribulations of Nadine Ohliger, a member of the Sacramento (CA) German Genealogy Society. Nadine proves that all that hard work can and does pay off!)

My great-grandparent's marriage record from St. Mary's Church in Buffalo said, "No. 12. 25 January 1853, 3 banns, Fr. Nagel, Joannes Litz of Dealeiden, Rheno-Prussia, Catharina Meyer of Sandfest, Prussia. Witnesses: Paulus Leu, Mathias Seibenadler. Buffalo. Paid."



However, when their seven children were baptized, the records said he was from Reipeldingen, Prussia and she from Wallrode, Prussia. When Catharina died in 1866, the records showed that she was 32 years old, and the daughter of Jacob and Maria Lux Meyer.

At last, however, I had names and dates in order to write to the Standesamt (Archives) in Europe, for birth and marriage records of these families.

For Catharina Meyer, the records showed that "Sandfest" was really "St. Vith," which is just over the German border in Belgium, today. My answer from St. Vith came back in four months. It consisted of the marriage records of the parents of Catharina Meyer, plus 11 birth certificates of their other children. These priceless documents note names, occupations, names of towns of the witnesses, godparents, parents and maiden names back to grandparents.

Each time I wrote to the foreign archives, I enclosed two International Coupons (available at the post office) and \$5.00 U.S. cash. When I sent International Coupons in 1985 and 1986, they cost 65¢ each, but have since gone up with the recent postal raise. I won't go through all the wrong films I looked at at the Mormon library, nor all the wrong letters I wrote -- all my flailing around like a true beginner. But I haven't even gotten to the punch line of this entire saga.

Included in the packet from St. Vith was a separate letter written by the man who had done my research. His name was Konrad Meyer, living in the village of Wallerode: population 350! He wrote "I feel we must be related, but I have not had time to look up my family!" That has to be the understatement of the year!

We continue to correspond -- he in German which I do not know, and I in English which he does not know. I am fascinated and excited to find a friend in Belgium. All those letters and stamps and wrong turns were worth it over a period of two years. It is almost too bad to have such success as a beginner. What will I do for an encore?

WHAT IT'S CALLED LOCALLY

Apprentice/Guild Records =
Lehrlings/Gildenakten

Burgher Rolls = Buergerrollen

Census Lists = Volkszaanlunglisten

Church Donation Records = Zehntregister

Church Register Transcripts =
Kirchenbuecher-Zweitschriften

Church Registers = Kirchenbuecher

City Directories = Adressbuecher

Civil Registers = Standesamt buecher

Court Records = Gerichtsprotokolle

Emigration Records =
Auswanderungsunterlagen

Family and Citizen Registers = Familien - und
Buergerregister

Family Histories = Familiengeschichten

Land Records = Grundbuecher

Local Histories = Heimatbuecher

Military Records = Militaerakten

Nobility Records = Hofsakten

Old Newspapers = Alte Zeitungen

Orphan Records = Findlingsbuecher

Passenger Lists = Schilislisen

Police Registers = Einwohnermelderregister

Poorhouse Records = Armenhausregister

Probate Records = Testamente

School/University Records =
Schul/Universitaetsmatrikeln

Tax Records = Steuerregister

WRITE A LETTER -- NOW!

The Ohio State Legislature has a bill (House Bill 790) now in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee that has a section, #3705.23, that will limit access to birth, death and other vital records to persons who have a "direct and tangible interest" in the record, and designates those having such an interest. **GENEALOGISTS ARE NOT LISTED IN THAT GROUP!**

If you have ancestors who settled in Ohio or you are a resident there now, it is of the utmost importance that you write the Health and Human Services Committee to prevent this law from being passed or at least amended to include genealogists.

At present the Legislature is in summer recess, but by the time you receive this issue of *Der Kurier*, they will have returned. Senators who serve on the Health and Human Services Committee are: Robert L. Burch (D-New Philadelphia), Grace L. Drake (R-Solon), Linda Furney (D-Toledo), W. Scott Oelslager (R-North Canton), Richard C. Pfeiffer, Jr. (D-Columbus), Roy L. Ray (R-Akron), Gary C. Suhadolnik (R-Parma Heights) and Michael R. White (D-Cleveland).

The following text can be used in your letter:

We (I) would like H.B. 790, section 3705.23 amended to read that the public (especially genealogists) be allowed access to the Vital Statistics of the state of Ohio.

Address your letters to: Senator -----
Ohio Senate
Statehouse
Columbus, OH 43266-0604

It is imperative that we prevent states from sealing vital records. The past leads to the future. Please write a letter, now.



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, Edythe H. Millar, 760 Caroline Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546.

SEIDEL

7-1 Max Moritz Ernest **SEIDEL**, b 1869, Schmolln, Saxony, d 1943, Detroit, MI. Lv in Manchester, England (1889-1907), Berlin (1907-1911), Detroit, MI (1911-1943). Two brothers (Eugene, b 1870 and Richard, b ?), two sis (Flora, Elizabeth). Fa was August. Mother ? Seek any info. Will share. Nancy Mettler **LINEBERRY**, 3710-H West Steeplechase Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185

LINEBERRY SMITH

7-2 David **LINEBERRY**, b 1845, Randolph County, NC. d ? m Joanna **SMITH** in 1869. Ch included Loretta, Rosa, Samina, Eli William. Occ - farmer. Desc of **LINEBERRY** fam including Peter (b 1812), John (b 1771), Jacob (b 1751). Jacob emig from Hartz Mtn in Niedersachsen, Germany before 1821. Any info welcome. Will share. Nancy Mettler **LINEBERRY**, 3710-H Steeplechase Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185

COLLISI METTLER LIEBROCK

7-3 Emile **COLLISI**, b 1859, Abentheuer, Birkenfield, Rheinland Pfalz. m Ernest Ulrich **METTLER** 1886. Moved to St. Gallen, Switzerland. d 1900. Fa George **COLLISI**, d 1890. m Amalie August **LIEBROCK** (b ?) d 1887. Sibling Albert Julius (b 1853), Amalie August (b 1846), Marie Emma (b 1849), Auguste Louise (b 1850), Anna Louise (b 1853). Any info welcome. Will share. Nancy Mettler **LINEBERRY**, 3710-H Steeplechase Way, Williamsburg, VA 23185

STEARN/STARN MUTHART

7-4 George **STERN**, b ca 1734?, d ca May 1807, Lowhill Twp, Northampton Co., PA, m Elizabeth (?) ca 1754. Served PA militia, Revolutionary War. Dau Catharine m Johann Friedrich **MUTHART**, ca 1795, Lowhill Twp. Seek info on **STERN** fam. Will share. Harold Lefevre, 16408 Deer Lake Rd., Derwood, MD 20855.

FASNAUGHT FASNOT WEBER

7-5 Martin **FASNAUGHT**, b ca 1800, Berks Co.(?), PA. d 1848 Shelby Co., OH. m Maria **WEBER**, 1821, Lebanon Co., PA. Immig Stark Co., OH ca 1824. Dau Catherine b 1822, Berks, Co., PA. Seek info on **FASNAUGHT** fam. Will share. Harold Lefevre, 16408 Deer Lake Rd., Derwood, MD 20855.

POHLE
PUHL
POOL
LANGENDORFER

7-6 Michael POHL (sic), b ca 1790, Hesse-Darmstadt ?, m Susanna LANGENDORFER, b ca 1785. Emig Toledo, OH, ca 1845. Ch Michael, b ca 1823, Jacob, b ca 1821, and Catherine, b 1830. Seek info on POHL fam. Will share. Harold Lefevre, 16408 Deer Lake Rd., Derwood, MD 20855.

HARTMAN/HARTMANN
MUTHART

7-7 Magdalena HARTMAN, b ca 1754, Berks, Co. (?), PA d 1791, Bally, Burks, Co., PA. m ca 1771 Johann Friedrich MUTHART b Nov 1746, Philadelphia Co., PA. At least 4 sons and 5 dau. Ch baptized Catholic Jesuit Mission, Bally, Berks Co., PA. Seek info on HARTMAN fam. Will share. Harold Lefevre, 16408 Deer Lake Rd., Derwood, MD 20855.

WANN

7-8 Johan Wilhelm WANN, ar Philadelphia 11 Aug 1850 on ship *Patientce* (Strassburger-Hinke, *PA-Ger Pioneers, Vol I*, p 427). Traced in Ger or in USA after 1750? Connected to any other immigrant of that name? John L. Wann, Jr., 5624 N. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22207.

WANN

7-9 Jacob WANN, ar Philadelphia 23 Oct 1752 on ship *Rowley* (Strassburger-Hinke, *Pa-Ger Pioneers, Vol I*, p 499). Traced in Ger or USA after 1752? Connected to any other immigrant of that name? John L. Wann, Jr., 5624 N. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22207.

WANN

7-10 Joh. Casper WANN, ar Philadelphia 17 Sept 1753 on ship *Richard & Mary* (Strassburger-Hinke, *Pa-Ger Pioneers, Vol I*, p 531, 532 and 534). Traced in Ger or USA after 1753? Connected to any other immigrant of that name? John L. Wann, Jr., 5624 N. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22207.

WANN

7-11 Peter WANN, ar Philadelphia 5 Nov 1764 on ship *Prince of Wales*. Traced in Ger or USA after 1764? Connected to any other immigrant of that name? John L. Wann, Jr., 5624 N. 27th St., Arlington, VA 22207.

STANDARD PRUSSIAN ABBREVIATIONS

Provinces in Preussen (Prussia)

Brandenburg = Brandg.

Hann. = Hannover

Hessen-N. = Hessen-Nassau

Ostpr. = Ostpreussen

Pomm. = Pommern

Rheinl. = Rheinland

Sa. = Sachsen

Schles. = Schlesien

Schlesw.-Holst. = Schleswig-Holstein

Westf. = Westfalen

Westpr. = Westpreussen

Note that the Prussian provinces of Hohenzollern and Posen were not usually abbreviated.

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 Barbara Little, P. O. Box 1273, Orange, VA 22960.

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INFORMATION ON MAGS: Send SASE to Corresponding Secretary, Doris Suresch, 317 Johnson Farm Ln., Glen Burnie, MD 21061

MEMBERSHIP: \$7.50 single, \$10.00 family per year (Sept.1 - Aug. 31). Paul E. Fogle, 12 Locust Blvd., Middletown, MD 21769.

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 Queries Editor, Edythe H. Millar, 760 Caroline Dr., Ruther Glen, VA 22546.

SPRING AND FALL MEETINGS: (Information) Send SASE to Peter Linder, 3109 Ramblewood Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21043. (Registration) Send SASE to Bob Hull, 8308 Kay Ct., Annandale, VA 22003.

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.

THE MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY
A GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL FALL MEETING

Saturday, October 29, 1988

at

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



19TH CENTURY GERMAN IMMIGRATION

- 8:30 AM Registration, coffee hour, exhibits, etc.
- 9:15 AM Opening session
- 9:30 AM-11:00 AM Locating Your Immigrant Ancestor in Naturalization Records, James C. Neagles. Mr. Neagles has written three books on locating your Revolutionary, Confederate, and immigrant ancestors. He specializes in finding little known or local sources to solve your problem.
- 11:15 AM-1:45 PM Finding Ancestors on Ships' Passenger Lists, Dr. John Colletta. Dr. Colletta, employed by the Library of Congress, is a frequent lecturer at the National Archives Genealogy Workshops on such subjects as Pension Records, Passenger Lists, French Genealogical Research, and putting your ancestors into historical context. There will be a one-hour lunch break during this period.
- 2:00 PM-3:30 PM 19th Century Immigration - When, How, and Why? Dr. James Bergquist. Dr. Bergquist, who obtained his Ph.D. from Northwestern University, has been a longtime history professor at Villanova University. His major interest is in the 19th century German immigration to the United States.

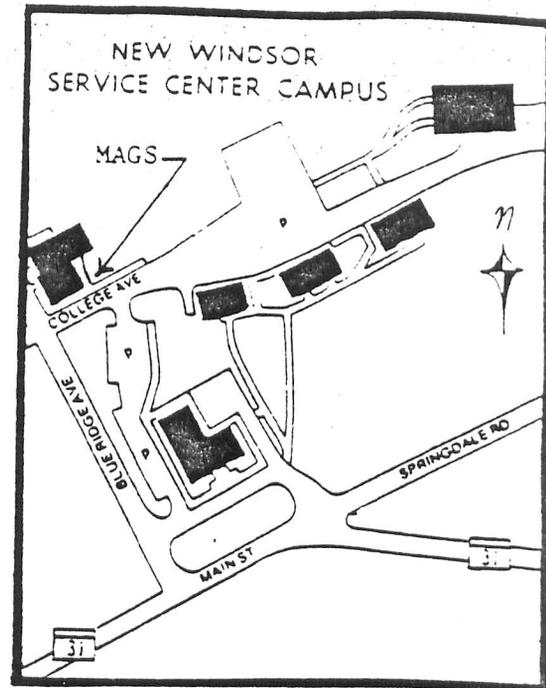
To participate in this program and avoid the late fee, mail registration form and fee by October 8, 1988 to Joan Sheviak, 3519 King Arthur Road, Annandale, VA 22003 (703) 560-7144. For a confirmation, please include a SASE.

REGISTRATION FORM - MAGS FALL MEETING

- _____ I am unable to attend but would like to receive information about MAGS
- _____ Please register me for the MAGS Fall meeting, October 29, 1988. My check is enclosed.
- _____ Members @ \$17.50 (includes lunch)
- _____ New member @ \$25.00 (includes first year's dues and lunch)
- _____ Non-member @ \$20.00 (includes lunch)
- _____ Late fee(s)-Postmarked after October 8, 1988 @ \$3.00
- _____ Please reserve lodging Friday night, October 28, at the Service Center for _____ people. It is available for \$28.10 per person, including dinner and breakfast. Do not send money for lodging. Pay when you register.

NAME _____ Telephone _____

ADDRESS _____



This year, MAGS will meet in the Blue Ridge Building. Park in the locations marked P, and enter from College Ave. The International Gift Shop, which is located near our meeting place, contains handicrafts from over 50 economically developing countries. If you need directions on Saturday, call the New Windsor Service Center, whose phone number is (301) 635-6464.



Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society
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