



Presumptions and German Research

Some of the biggest obstacles that impede our research are the ones we create. Presumptions top that list, and as family historians we are prone to presume all kinds of things. For example, we might presuppose ancestors having the surname *Taylor* were English, when in fact they may have been German; immigrant surnames such as *Schneider* were often translated. Or, we might assume that women named in estate records were wives of sons, when in reality they may have been unmarried daughters. The most common mistake is to assume common ancestry based on common surnames.

Publications may tempt the unwary family historian in making unintentional presumptions. In the case of German families such problems are often founded on language difficulties. For example, a publication may be incomplete. *Will Abstracts of Northampton County 1752-1802* (Closson Press) is a useful publication for the family historian. The careful researcher will note, however, that it has information on wills that were recorded in English only. It omits those that were written in German, and the number of German wills recorded in Northampton County is not insignificant—between 1752 and 1840 there were 349. Family historians who cannot find a will for an ancestor in *Will Abstracts* might assume a will was never made, when in fact it may have been written in German but was never translated.

Publications with inaccurate translations are a second potential source of error. The *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives of the United States* (third edition) furnishes a useful example. A German fraktur is reproduced on page 171. The caption reads, "Baptismal fraktur of Henry Muskenung submitted as documentation as part of a pension application...." Many Revolutionary War pension applications do contain baptismal information. However, a careful reading of the German script reveals that the document in question is not a baptismal fraktur, but instead a record of first communion. The date of first communion can be as many as 15 years after the date of baptism/birth. An incorrect birth date can then propagate other erroneous genealogical assumptions.

These examples illustrate how important it is for family historians to know the strengths and limitations of their sources particularly when they are used to find information on German ancestors.

John Humphrey, President

MAGS Welcomes New Members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in parentheses and italics* following the new member's name. Space does not permit more than four surnames or most spelling variations. MAGS encourages all members to submit their research names to the Surname Exchange Index and to have the Index searched to determine if others are also researching the same family.

Marguerite E. Adams of Bonita Springs FL
(*Dekob/DeKalb, Winstin*)

Margaret Arrington of Edgewater MD
(*Pellicot, Dressel*)

Charles & Mary Ann Babendreier of Silver Spring MD
(*Babendreier, Mylius, Schrider, Ohrendorf*)

Roxanne M. Cockerham of Malvern PA
(*Eyler, Reed, Williar, Harbaugh*)

Julia G. Cwalina of Leesburg FL
(*Huether, Otto, Schmidt, Whitman*)

George S. Diehl Jr. of Towson MD
(*Diehl, Smyth, Krause, Taylor*)

Thomas T. Dossey of Wood River IL
(*Dossey, Dorsey/Dorcy/Dorcey*)

Robert C. Eisele of Chevy Chase MD
(*Eisele*)

Joseph Felsheim of Mt. Laurel NJ
(*Felsheim*)

Janice B. Heller of Palm Desert CA
(*Dochnahl, Heller, Schremser, Buelmann*)

Mary Lou Kington of Galesburg IL
(*Schemel, Geiger, Holder, Demuth*)

Mary Anne Lawler of Enola PA
(*Abmayr/Apmeyer, Reith, Steinbrunner, Roos*)

June Ann S. Lindner of Charleston WV
(*Shawver, Rippeth, Crane, Cavendish*)

Richard L. Lucas of Waldorf MD
(*Stalhut, Schenck, Fultz/Fults, Bush*)

Charles & Marcia Masser of Cary NC
(*Kantelhardt, Weller, Ritter, Rummell*)

R. Elizabeth McClendon of Bernalillo NM
(*Kathrein, Bloomquist, German, Rettinger*)

Rose C. McLaughlin of Lynn MA
(*Klein, Schmalzer, Eckerl, Schindele*)

Helen A. Murphy & family of Rockville MD
(*Veith*)

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. of Lock Haven PA
(*Newcomer, Brooks, Keeler, Maneval*)

Michael J. O'Malley of Newton NJ
(*Grimmer, Weick/Weik, Kari/Kary*)

Kenneth Redheffer & family of Roanoke VA
(*Redheffer/Rothenhoefer*)

Thelma E. Schaefer of Baltimore MD
Amy V. Trommer of Dauphin PA

(*Trommer, Seibel, Black, Cassidy*)

MAGS Lending Library

One of the benefits of MAGS membership has been access to its unique Lending Library, from which books can be borrowed by mail (in fact, *only* by mail). Carl Shrader has served as MAGS Library Administrator since the Library's inception, but now he must relinquish this role. ***Thanks, Carl, for all your hard work over the years.***

To date, the MAGS Board has not found a new home for the Library, and the books and other materials are being moved into temporary storage. Regretfully, operation of the Lending Library must be suspended till further notice.

October: Family History Month

October has been named Family History Month by the United States Senate. The bill was introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R) Utah. (From *Orangeburgh German-Swiss Newsletter*, Winter 2002, Vol. 10, Number 1).

New Schedule at MD State Archives

The Maryland State Archives has changed its days of operation. The new days they are open are Wednesday - Friday (8:00 am to 4:30 pm) and Saturdays (8:30 am - noon, 1:00 pm - 4:30 pm) except the 1st Saturday of each month and Saturdays of holiday weekends. They are closed all Mondays & Tuesdays and 1st Saturday of month plus Saturdays of holiday weekends as well as all federal and state holidays. For details see: <<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/>>.

FRAKTUR FORUM

by Corinne Earnest

STAY TUNED FOR FAMILY FRAKTUR REBMANN and BENNER

Some time ago, Arthur Pittenger asked about the name REBMANN on fraktur. Hoping to find something that might help Arthur, I delayed writing him. To avoid further delay, the following two examples give a bit of information that might prove useful. I was unable to find Arthur's great-grandmother, Mary Ann (REBMANN) DINKLE of York County, Pennsylvania. However, a York County taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) having the name REBMAN, is pictured in Volume V (#801) of Klaus Stopp's *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*. This example was made for Edna Lucy REBMAN, daughter of Jacob and Susan REBMAN. Edna Lucy was born June 19, 1884 and baptized by G.W. ENDERS. Jacob and Susan REBMAN -- presumably the parents -- stood as sponsors at Edna Lucy's baptism. No date of baptism is given.

An earlier fraktur suggests REBMANNs were in Berks County, Pennsylvania, in 1795. According to a taufschein made for this family, Magdalena SCHAEFFER was the daughter of Friedrich and Margretha (REBMAENN) SCHAEFFER. Magdalena was born October 30, 1795 in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. No information concerning baptism is given other than the names of the sponsors at baptism. The sponsors were Georg and Magdalena [Magdalena] KEISER. This example is in a private collection.

MAGS wants to thank Arthur Pittenger for his patience, and ask that readers continue watching *Der Kurier* for further information concerning family fraktur. We hold your requests on file, and will get back to you -- sometimes more than once. So stay tuned! In the December 1999 issue of *Der Kurier*, we published an article called "Benners on Fraktur." Since that article was published, more fraktur having the name BENNER have become known. One is a taufschein made for Waschinton [sic], son of David and Margareth (WHITE) BENER. Waschinton was born January 1, 1828 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. He was baptized in January of 1856, but no other information concerning his baptism is given. This example is in a private collection.

On November 17, 2001, Conestoga Auction Company in Manheim, Pennsylvania, sold a taufschein made for Franklin Henry BENNER, son of Elias and Henrietta BENNER. Elias BENNER was the son of Christian BENNER, and Henrietta was the daughter of John DENGLER. Franklin Henry was born December 13, 1856 in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. He was baptized on January 11, 1857 by Isaac MIESE. His parents were sponsors.

In Volume VI of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a taufschein (#993.1) made for Lawrence William, son of Albert P. and Lillie V. (ROTH) BENNER. Lawrence William was born December 20, 1896 in Washington Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. He was baptized January 7, 1897 by Josiah B. FOX, Lutheran. The parents were sponsors.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Russell D. Earnest Associates, P.O. Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316.

SUCHANZEIGEN

Please mention at least one time, one place, and one German surname with known variants. Limit each query to one family. Use no more than fifty (50) words, not counting your name and address. There is no charge for members of MAGS. Non-members please include \$1.00 (check payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society) per query with your submission. 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 by 11 inch 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 Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 511 FOREST GLEN CIRCLE, MURFREESBORO, TN 37128. E-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net

NEWCOMER* (Neucomer, Nelcomer, Neukommer, Newcommen)

#20-7 Seek par of Jacob NEWCOMER I, b 1765 (bpl unk); m Mary, May 1795; d 1839 Lycoming County, PA.

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

BROOKS* HAINES*

#20-8 Seek par of Howard J. BROOKS b 1865, Williamsport, Lycoming Co. PA; d 1906, Denver, CO; m Elizabeth (Lizzie) Ann HAINES b 1865, d April 1946, Williamsport, PA. Howard a Methodist minister.

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

KEELER* (KALEAU) MOORE*

#20-9 Seek par John F. KEELER (KALEAU), (bpl & date unk); m Mary Ann MOORE; d 1906-1915, Nordmont, Davidson Twp, Sullivan Co, PA.

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

MOORE* (MOHR) KEELER*

#20-10 Seek par Mary Ann MOORE (MOHR) b 1855, Coal Twp, PA; d 25 Jul 1915, Williamsport, Lycoming Co. PA. Mar John F. KEELER (KALEAU)

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

LUTZ* (LUTS) MILLER*

#20-11 Seek par Mahlon LUTZ (LUTS), Sr., b Nov 1831 Schuylkill Co. PA; m Catherine MILLER 1852; d 1902 Schuylkill Co. PA.

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

MOORE* (MOHR) HEIL*

#20-12 Seek par Elias MOORE (MOHR) b Gibraltar, Brecknocht Twp, PA; m Mary HEIL b Gibraltar, Brechnocht Twp. PA; d 1898, Alleghney, Berks Co., PA

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

HEIL* MOORE* (MOHR)

#20-13 Seek par Mary HEIL, b Gibraltar, Berks Co. PA.; d Jan 6 1886, Berks Co.. PA.; mar Elias MOORE (MOHR)

Charles A. Newcomer, Jr. 8 Daffodil Lane, Lock Haven, PA 17745-1609
E-mail: cnewcome@hotmail.com

PELLICOT

#20-14 Seek bpl Julius PELLICOT. Stated fr Nurnberg when mar in 1858 at Baltimore. Nurnberg archives ref to Bamberg archives for Catholic rec. Bamberg had no info and ref back to Nurnberg. In later life, Julius told ch he from France. How to verify?

Margaret Arrington, 5710 Fifth Ave., Edgewater, MD 21037. Ph: 410-798-0394
E-mail: marrington6@webtv.net

MEISSNER KOTHE FINK*

#20-15 Seek info MEISSNER fam. Seek anc Joseph Johann MEISSNER; b 22 Sept 1812. Golschwiz nr Jacobskirche, Glogau, Schlessen, Ger; d 23 June 1858, same area. (Glogau now Poland); m Maria Theresa KOTHE. par Georg Friedrich MEISSNER & Barbara Clara FINK.

John Royston Fisher, 5011 Channel View Lane, Anacortes, WA 98211-4090
E-mail: jrf@fidalgo.net

KOTHE WITTEBE MEISSNER

#20-16 Seek info KOTHE fam. Seek anc Maria Theresia KOTHE, b 1 Apr 1816, Huenery, nr Jacobskirche, Glogau, Schleisen, Ger (Glogau now Poland). Par Johann KOTHE & Carolina WITTEBE of same area. Mar Joseph Johan MEISSNER

John Royston Fisher, 5011 Channel View Lane, Anacortes, WA 98211-4090
E-mail: jrf@fidalgo.net

** Information on this family is available through the Surname Exchange Index*

***Stumped Roots* needs your help!**

For the past 6 years Stumped Roots has been a committee of one. This results in slow responses to members' queries and perhaps incomplete replies, because one person cannot be aware of all the resources available. Stumped Roots has received questions regarding research from the 18th through early 20th Century, resources in all of the mid-Atlantic states as well as at least 8 other states, as well as research and resources in Germany. The Stumped Roots chairman spends a great deal of time trying to locate and become familiar with resources that are available in all these areas and time periods to respond to queries. Other board members have been helpful when a question involves their areas of expertise, but everyone needs to help their fellow researchers.

Each MAGS member is an "expert" in at least one type of research or resource based on his/her own research experience. Ideally Stumped Roots would like to find other members of MAGS who would answer queries. But if this is not possible, Stumped Roots would like to establish a list of "consultants" to whom it could turn when a specific question arises. This help could be based on your experience researching a specific type of record, researching in a specific geographic area, or a willingness to check on records or books available in a local genealogical/historical society. It should not involve a great deal of work since the number of queries is limited. The queries vary greatly and you would only be consulted on the items you specify.

All of us over the years have been helped by others through their actual research or from their suggestions on where to go look. Here is an opportunity for you to do the same. This is an opportunity for you to share some of your expertise/knowledge, which will allow your fellow researchers to get over a hump or an obstacle in their research. Here is a chance for you to give back and in the process share what you have learned.

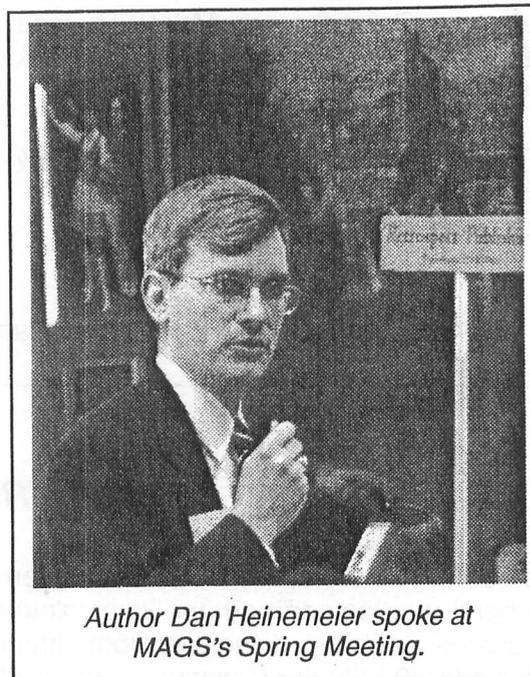
Please send the item or list of the items (record types, geographic areas, time periods, resources, local societies), on which you would be willing to be a "consultant", along with your address (regular and e-mail) and phone number to Susannah E. Brooks, Stumped Roots, 2010 Bermondsey Drive, Mitchellville, Maryland 20721.

***Ortssippenbücher*: a Useful Tool in German Genealogical Research¹**

By Dan C. Heinemeier

What are *Ortssippenbücher*?

Ortssippenbücher may be translated as "local lineage books." These are publications by individual German towns or villages that provide fairly detailed vital records information on their inhabitants over long periods of time, e.g., births, deaths and marriages from 1638-1808 or 1570-1875. They are a potential gold mine of genealogical information, and a number of them are readily accessible in Washington, DC via the Library of Congress (LOC). Another possible source would be the records maintained by the Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS). This article will focus on the holdings in the Library of Congress, since these have been indexed by the author for the National Genealogical Society and offer NGS members the opportunity to easily identify the available villages by name and geographic area.



Author Dan Heinemeier spoke at
MAGS's Spring Meeting.

What data are used to create the books?

The source records for these books tends to vary by location, depending in part on the thoroughness of the compilers and the availability of relevant records. Church records are of course the most-used source material, but other interesting records sometimes are drawn upon as well. I have found *Ortssippenbücher* that include lists of personal financial losses (mostly through plunder by soldiers) incurred by families in the Thirty Years War (1618-48), tax lists of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, lists of pastors and town mayors, and even a special list of Jewish inhabitants apparently recorded in local census records of the early nineteenth century. The data are arranged typically in an alphabetical format by family name, in which a group of family members are mentioned with dates of births, deaths, marriages, etc. The records also often give the occupation of the head of household. Sometimes relevant relationships of other members of the family are mentioned, such as the fact that a wife was previously widowed or a child was born without an identified father.

What other information may be found in the *Ortssippenbücher*?

Some of the *Ortssippenbücher* include a more or less extensive history of the village itself, as well as line drawings of the local church or other scenes. The histories may contain excerpts written by local pastors or other officials concerning major disasters or events that occurred in the town; a description of the terrible effects on the community of the plagues that broke out in the Thirty Years War is a typical theme. One such book had a separate section on the vital records information of non-residents who were married, baptized or had other activity recorded in local church books. Another includes an anecdote from the pastor who served from 1613-34, in which the poor man

¹ This article was initially published in *NGS Newsmagazine* Volume 25 Number 6 (November December 2001) pages 350-351. Republished with the consent of Dan Heinemeier, the author, and the National Genealogical Society.

complained bitterly that no matter how hard he preached, scolded and fined his parishioners he was never able to break their superstitious resort to magic to address their needs and ills. As you can see, these books are truly a moveable feast of information.

How are these records useful in genealogical research?

The most obvious use is of course when one finds one's ancestral village included among these books and can track an individual family name over time. But even if you are not lucky enough to find your own ancestral village among the published *Ortssippenbücher*, it's still worth going to a detailed map of German villages to see whether there are books for communities in the same area or region. The history of villages in the same area will mostly follow parallel a course, and provide interesting clues to what life was like in the villages as a whole during a given time period. In addition, a neighboring village easily may contain records of ancestors who may have migrated there to buy land, marry, etc.

How can NGS help you identify whether a book exists for your ancestral village?

An index of the books available in the Library of Congress has been created and is now maintained by NGS. It may be obtained by contacting the NGS Learning Center. Created from the on-line catalog of LOC holdings, the index has been organized according to historical (and/or modern) geographical areas in Germany. This allows the user to determine not just whether a particular village is available, but also what other villages may be accessed from the same region. Another way to access the LOC holdings is of course via their website at <http://lcweb.loc.gov>. Simply enter "Ortssippenbuecher" into the search function and over 230' entries will become accessible. These are not arranged by state/region as is the NGS index, however. The index has the villages (number in each area included below in parentheses) organized under these geographic categories: Baden/Württemberg (89), Brandenburg (1), Czech Republic (1), *Donauschwaben* (Danube Swabians) (11), East Friesland (28), East Prussia (1), Franconia (2), Hannover/Lower Saxony (17), Hesse (19), Pfalz (12), Rheinland (6), Saarland (6), Saxony (1), Silesia (1), Swabia (3), Thuringia (2), Ukraine (1), Waldeck (27), and Westphalia (6).

What about the language problem for non-German speakers?

These records are all in German, and the historical prose will present some problems for those without at least a rudimentary knowledge of the language. However, the ancestor listings are fairly easy to interpret with no more than a German-English dictionary to help with basic terms such as *verheiratet* (married), *gestorben* (died) and *geboren* (born). Except for arcane ones no longer in existence, most occupations as well as other pertinent terms also should be translatable with just a dictionary. You may also find the history sections worth having translated by a professional because they will be some of the most revealing information available anywhere on the lives of your ancestors.

How can I determine whether such books exist for a village outside the LOC holdings?

Some books may be available through the LDS records mentioned at the beginning of this article. Here one should call or visit your local LDS Family History Center, organized locally by stakes. You do not have to be an LDS member to access these centers. The librarian or other volunteers should be able to direct you to available resources in the extensive Mormon record holdings in Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, these records are only available for loan to the local history centers if they have been microfilmed, and copyright restrictions have impeded microfilming of many books published more recently than 56 years ago. So a trip to Salt Lake City may be required to access

many of these holdings.

Of course another direct approach would be to write to the German village in which you have interest, requesting the local church official or mayor (typically, a *Bürgermeister*) to advise you about the existence of a local *Ortssippenbuch*. Another alternative well worth trying at the same time is to ask about a *Heimatbuch*, or local history book. These may contain less extensive vital records data, but they are gold mines of information, generally stretching over the many centuries of existence of a given village. These histories often are written to commemorate the 600th, 750th or even 900th anniversary of the village's founding, or its first reference in ancient records. Many include information on specific village families, particularly when these have existed in the area for long periods of time.

Whether you can identify an actual village or simply know that your ancestors came from Swabia, Bavaria or Hannover, I would encourage you to check out the *Ortssippenbücher*. They can be a fascinating and fun tool to better understanding our German forebears through their history at the local level. Below are some examples of the types of records found in these books, translated from the German:

Jewish Families in Messel in the years 1812/13, per the Population List of 1 Feb 1813

<u>Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>House #</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Other</u>
1. Heyum Neuberger	Married	6	2 Children	
2. Lämmle Oppenheimer	Married	6	3 Children	
3. Wolf Hofmann	Married	10	2 Children	
4. Bezahlal Kahn	Married	16	2 Children	
5. Bendit Rothschild	Married	22	2 Children	
6. Wolf Goldenblum	Married	35	1 Child	
7. Moses Neu	Married	40	1 Child	(1 Jewish Servant Girl)
8. Abraham Neu	Married	40	2 Children	(1 Jewish Servant Girl)
9. Elias Stern	Widower	43	2 Children	
10. ____ Wertheimer	Married	43	2 Children	
11. Heyum Preuß	Married	56	5 Children	
12. Aron Metzger	Widower	56	3 Children	
13. Moses Haas	Married	56	3 Children	
14. Gumbel Merkel	Married	80	2 Children	
15. Isaak Merkel	Married	80	2 Children	
16. Joseph Brill	Widow	84	3 children	(1 male Jewish servant)
17. Gumbel Bentheim	Widower	84	3 children	
18. Lazarus Bär	Married	85	4 Children	
19. Israel Madacai	Married	88	2 Children	

At this time there were nineteen families in Messel, a total of eighty-one persons, or 12.21% of the village population. In 115 houses 169 families lived, of which 150 were Christian homes. Of twelve

servants in the village, three were employed by Jewish families. Messel is now a large village located a few miles northeast of Darmstadt in Hesse. Source: *Familienbuch Messel*, published in Darmstadt, 1998.

Typical entry in a German *Ortssippenbuch*, from: *Familienbuch Langen/Hessen, Darmstadt, 1996*:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Marriage</u>	<u>Death</u>
BECKER, Jacob	9 Aug 1801		
Master Tailor, son of Georg Conrad			
Brenner, Christina Cath.	18 May 1797	11 Sep 1834 (in Langen)	
1. Joh. Friedrich Wilhelm	10 Feb 1801	xx.xx.1818	
2. Jakob	6 July 1803	12 Dec 1830	4 May 1833
3. Joh. Georg	15 Aug 1805		
4. Georg Philipp	19 Dec 1807		
5. Regina Wilhelmine	28 Oct 1811		7 May 1876
6. Johannes	24 Sep 1815		31 Jul 1818

Langen is now a small town located in Hesse, just north of Darmstadt.

Official U.S. State Websites

To reach the official Website of any state in the United States, try typing into the address line of your browser: <[http://www.state. __. us](http://www.state.__.us)>, where the blanks are filled in with the two-letter U.S. postal service abbreviation for the state. For instance, <<http://www.state.nc.us>> takes you to the official state Website of North Carolina. Alternatively, the following Websites display maps of the U.S. where you can click on the state to jump to the official state Website:

<<http://www.fcsl.edu/Library/states.htm>>

<<http://www.globalcomputing.com/states.html>>

Surname Resource

DREISBACH, DRESBACH, DRESBACK, DRIESBAUGH:
 <<http://www.dreisbachfamily.org/>>

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

Celebrating 2 Decades of Service to German-American Genealogy

Are Your Pennsylvania German Ancestors Really Swiss?

Annette K. Burgert, F.A.S.G., F.G.S.P.

To understand the emigration to America, we must first understand some of the events that preceded it. We have read and heard occasional references to the Thirty Years' War as we study this emigration and attend various seminars. The Thirty Years' War started in 1618 and ended in 1648, thirty-five years before the founding of Pennsylvania and sixty years before the first large colony of Germans came to New York, but the effect of that war, and several smaller wars that followed, had a great influence on the subsequent emigration. For those who survived the battles, hunger, high prices and disease were waiting, and it was usually the disease that took the highest toll. The plague swept through Europe and many villages were totally destroyed or depopulated. At the end of the wars, a few new settlers came into the devastated areas from villages in Austria, Wuerttemberg and Baden and France; but by far, the largest number of new settlers who came to repopulate the area were from Switzerland. One of the areas that has been researched is the Kraichgau.

The book, *Swiss Immigrants in the Kraichgau after the Thirty Years' War*, lists more than five thousand names and in many cases, the village of origin in Switzerland¹. Another source, giving more family detail of some of the Swiss in the Kraichgau is my volume

¹ Diefenbacher, Karl, Pfister, Hans Ulrich and Hotz, Kurt H. *Schweizer Einwanderer in den Kraichgau nach dem Dreissigjahrigen Krieg*. Sinsheim: Heimatverein Kraichgau e. V.

In celebration of MAGS's 20th anniversary, *Der Kurier* has been reprinting articles from issues of the past two decades.

Noted genealogist Annette K. Burgert presented a lecture at the MAGS Spring 1994 Meeting. This related article first appeared in the December 1994 issue of *Der Kurier* (Vol. 12, No. 6).

The conclusion of this article will appear in the next issue of *Der Kurier*.

about emigrants from the Northern Kraichgau². A helpful source of information on Mennonites in the Kraichgau and other German areas is the published Mennonite census lists. These lists were originally published in *The Mennonite Quarterly Review* in 1940 and 1941. They have been republished by Mennonite Family History, Elverson, Pennsylvania.

Similar lists of Swiss settlers exist and have been published for the German districts of Hanau-Lichtenberg and Nassau-Saarwerden, both territories that are today a part of Alsace. Both areas saw a large influx of Swiss after the wars in this area. These lists were published many years ago, and are out of

² Burgert, Annette Kunselman. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America, Vol. I: The Northern Kraichgau*. Breinigsville: The Pennsylvania German Society, Vol. 16, 1983. An appendix contains many references to Swiss Mennonite families who appear in the Kraichgau records. It has been estimated that the proportion of Swiss in the Kraichgau was approximately 40% of the population after the Thirty Years' War.

print, but copies are available in the Family History Library in Salt Lake City³.

After the defeat of Louis XIV in 1697, many Reformed Swiss families came into the area and they appear in large numbers in the Reformed parish records at Diedendorf. Eventually many of these families participated in the emigration from this region in the 18th century. They are documented in my recently published volume about emigrants from the northern Alsace⁴.

Canton Bern provided the majority of Swiss immigrants into the Alsatian territories. In Nassau-Saarwerden a total of 441 families with identified origins arrived in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, over 400 of them from Canton Bern, and only 14 from Canton Zurich, plus a few from other Cantons. In Hanau-Lichtenberg there were more than 1100 Swiss with Cantons identified; 972 came from Canton Bern; about 70 came from Canton Zurich, and only a few from other Cantons. In addition to the two areas already mentioned, the Northern Kraichgau and Alsace, many other regions were also similarly affected by the frequent wars. The Palatinate, Baden, the Odenwald, all experienced destruction and repopulation.

Similar conditions existed throughout other German lands. Rothenburg, a lovely ancient walled city, is a tourist mecca today. In the 17th century Rothenburg ruled over a region of 400 square kilometers in Southwest

Franconia and included approximately 100 villages within its territory. In 1618 when the war started, there were 1,503 taxable peasant households. By 1641, there were 447 households, a loss of 70%, and about 25 of the villages were completely uninhabited. By 1700, this territory had recovered its pre-war size and population.

In the Odenwald, a forested region located primarily in southern Hessen, the years 1634 to 1636 were so bad that they have a special name for the period: the *Schreckensjahren*, the horror years. Almost 90% of the people in southern Hessen died and many villages were depopulated. Most of the pastors died of the plague or were killed by soldiers; church records were lost or destroyed in many places. After 1650, record keeping resumed again, but not always in correct order. It took 100 years for the population figures in this area to return to their pre-war levels. In certain areas where there was such a large population loss, the process of repopulation actually developed a totally different population. The few survivors in an area often had to look elsewhere for marriage partners. Here, as elsewhere, people moved into the region from other German districts as well as Austria, Holland and especially Switzerland. A helpful book containing lists of names for this area is Herbert W. Debor's *Emigration into the Odenwaldkreis after the Thirty Years' War*⁵.

(To be continued.)

³ Bodmer, Walter. *L'Immigration Suisse dans le Comte de Hanau-Lichtenberg au DixSeptieme Siecle*. Strasbourg: Imprimerie Heitz & Cie, 1930. The county of Hanau-Lichtenberg is located today in the Department Bas-Rhin, France.

Grieb, Robert. *L'Immigration Suisse dans les paroisses du Comte de Nassau-Sarrewerden apres la Guerre de Trente Ans*. Saverne: Societe D'Histoire et D'Archeologie de Saverne, 1971. The county of Nassau-Sarrewerden is today located in the Department Bas-Rhin, France.

⁴ Burgert, Annette K. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from the Northern Alsace to America. The Pennsylvania German Society, Vol 26*. Myerstown, 1992. This volume contains many families of Swiss origin who lived in this area before emigrating to America; in many cases, their earlier Swiss Heimat is given.

⁵ Debor, Herbert Wilhelm. *Zuwanderungen in den Odenwaldkreis nach dem 30jahrigen Krieg*. 1989.

Annette Burgert's article on
**"Are Your Pennsylvania German
 Ancestors Really Swiss?"**
 will conclude in the next issue
 of *Der Kurier* (December 2002).

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

The German Research Companion by Shirley J. Reimer

2000 (Revised edition). Lorelei Press, PO Box 221356, Sacramento, CA 95822. Softcover, 662 pages including 33 page index. \$32 (includes S&H).

The German Research Companion contains in brief format almost everything a researcher, beginner or expert, may need to know while doing German genealogical research in either the United States or Germany. The book is divided into nine sections, each covering a different aspect (church records, government records, etc) of research. Included in the book are chronologies of important historical events in Germany and the US, as well as events related to emigration and immigration.

Throughout the book are numerous vocabulary and abbreviation lists containing essential information for researchers, but finding the appropriate list to answer a specific question can be time consuming. There are addresses in both Germany and the US for many archives, libraries, publishers, and other agencies that a researcher might need, but in spite of an extensive index finding the information may take several tries.

Some information is repeated in different sections of the book. Some of the lists, such as all the possible categories of information contained in the Family History Library catalog, seem rather meaningless and impede easy access to all the excellent information that the book contains.

Reviewed by Susannah E. Brooks

Immigrants to the Middle Colonies Edited by Michael Tepper

Reprint of 1978 book. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202-3897. Ph: 1-800-296-6687.

Hardcover, 178 pages including everyname index. Item GPC #5745. Price: \$17.50 plus \$3.50 S&H.

This is a reprint of a volume published in 1978. It represents, according to the book's subtitle, "A Consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists and Associated Data from The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record.

The book contains fifteen articles from the NYGBR, the last two of which "fall somewhat outside of the scope of this work" and are therefore included in an Appendix. The oldest of the pieces ("Shipwrights, Fishermen, Passengers from England," by Charles B. Moore) was published in 1879; the newest ("A Passenger List for the Ship William," by Dagoberto Molerio), in 1970.

The editor's introduction provides historical context for the individual articles. As he notes, "What first strikes the reader about the passenger lists consolidated from NYGBR is that better than half of them are not, properly speaking, ship passenger lists at all, but rather reconstructed, or inferential, lists of passengers [that] approximate ship passenger lists somewhat in the way an early tax list approximates a census of inhabitants..."

The articles focus on seventeenth- and eighteenth-century colonial New Netherland/New York. Most of them treat immigrants living under Dutch jurisdiction, which extended as far south as what is now the state of Delaware. Thus, "about half of the articles in this collection deal with Dutch and Walloon immigrants, [though] others are concerned with immigrants of German and English provenance, and some few touch upon Huguenots and Jews."

German migrants figure prominently in three of the articles: "Representative Pioneer Settlers of New Netherland," "Lists of Germans from the Palatinate Who Came to England in 1709," and "Some Emigrants to America from the Ludwigsburg District, Wurttemberg, Germany, 1738-1750."

The lists are occasionally supplemented by interesting notes and introductions. Thus, one can read about the formation of family names in the Low Countries or about the Colonial Naturalization Act of 1740.

All in all, an interesting and eclectic collection of pieces.

Reviewed by Joseph Neville

Ricketts Families of Maryland
Book 25 of Our Maryland Heritage
by William Neal Hurley, Jr.

2001. Heritage Books, Inc, 1540-E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716. Softcover, 179 pages. Book Number H1754. ISBN 0-7884-1754-1. \$19.00 + \$5.00 S&H.

This study of the Ricketts families has been limited somewhat to members of the family having their origins primarily in Frederick & Montgomery Counties, Maryland. There is no mention of European origins of this family.

The Introduction and Order of Presentation sets the stage for the author's in depth research that leads throughout the United States. The journey begins in Cecil County in the northeast corner of the state. There is also a reference to studies by Doris Rex Schutte of Bonita Springs, Florida that cover descendants in Ohio and Indiana.

Most of the individuals reported in this text are presumed to descend from one Thomas Ricketts, Jr., born about 1685 in Anne Arundel County. Chapters are included on the descendants of Jeremiah Ricketts (died c. 1818) and Verlinda Ricketts (born c. 1798), through whom the Ricketts are connected to the Trail families of Montgomery County.

The majority of the data presented in this study has been gleaned from the records of the Montgomery County Historical Society, supplemented by consultation of census returns, church and cemetery records, obituary collections and published works of

family history and genealogical abstracts. The text is enhanced by an extensive 9-page bibliography and an every-name index.

This reviewer found the presentation pleasing and well connected to make for a good understanding of the time and families under discussion.

Reviewed by Dorothy Jackson Reed

Lands of the German Empire
and Before
by Wendy K. Uncapher

2000, Origins, 4327 Milton Av, Janesville, WI 53546. Softbound, 137 pp. Index, many maps. \$18.00 + \$3.00 S/H.

In 1871 the German Empire was formed out of numerous Germanic states. This was the first time the name Germany could be used to indicate a country of homogeneous people. It was unified under one government, one ruler and was at its greatest size to that date. What we know as Germany started as a rather large area but eventually was divided into many (literally hundreds) of small estates before the Empire.

This book contains a brief history of Germany, a list of Gazetteers to aid in finding towns, and Internet sources for Town Lists. There is a page (both sides) devoted to each state in the German Empire from Alsace-Lorraine to Württemberg- thirty six altogether. These pages contain historical information and maps.

There are lists of Kreise and Ämter which are similar to our townships and counties. These are listed for all the states. In another chapter, various Eras of German History from the 800's to the present are described. This includes maps to help explain the division of land and the location of cities. Another chapter deals with the Lands of the Holy Roman Empire, including territory, place names and maps. At the end of the book is a glossary and index.

The book should be quite helpful to anyone trying to locate the area and/or town in which their ancestors lived, and to learn the history of that region.

Reviewed by Thomas H. Leininger

German Maps and Facts for Genealogy

by Wendy K. Uncapher and
Linda M. Herrick

2001. Origins, 4327 Milton Ave., Janesville, WI 53546. Softcover, 72 pp. Incl. index – 8 ½ x 11 perfect bound black and white maps. Price \$14.00 + \$3.00 S/H - WI residents add 5% sales tax.

This book is really a companion to the book *Lands of the German Empire and Before* by the same author, Wendy Uncapher. These books could be used together to good advantage. The researcher should have a magnifying glass at hand because the maps have very small print.

The maps in the book depict German settlement growth for over a millennium and then the expansion of the various Empires, Confederations, Republics and Reichs through which the Germanic people lived. Other maps show colonies in Africa and the Pacific area. There are maps and statistics covering migration due to wars. Maps showing the distribution of dialects, religion and civil registration of vital statistics are also included.

Other maps show the rivers, forests, elevations and the distribution of industrial and farm products. There are maps of the German States with their own indexes. These are accompanied by general information for each state. In the back of the book are German place names with corresponding names in other languages. There is a small glossary and a bibliography.

This book is an interesting and helpful collection of material for those researching German ancestry.

Reviewed by Thomas H. Leininger

Chenango County, N.Y. Directory 1902

by George Hanford

2001. (Facsimile reprint originally published in 1902.) Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716. Softcover, 689 pages, foldout map on the cover. Size: 8 ¼ x 5 ¼". Book No. H1948. Cost: \$48.50, plus \$5 S&H.

This book must have taken a lot of time to put together. The Table of Contents lists towns, Churches, the county's Classified Business Directory, Newspapers, Notaries Public, Postoffices (sic), Town and Village Governments, the United States Government and other line items. Within each town, the people and businesses are listed, including people who lived in the rural areas. Each name listed includes information about where they lived. For those living in rural areas it gives an "r" number—a specific road number. There is a foldout map on the inside back cover where you can locate the numbered road and determine where an individual lived. Also included after each name is age, occupation, marital status and in some cases details of ownership. The occupation category in one specific entry is: "soldier, Co. A, 1 reg. Light artillery, farmer...." The marital status of women may be shown as: "widow" or "widow of John". Farm ownership indicates: "farms for Mary Owen", or "on shares", etc. Advertisements are liberally sprinkled throughout showing dates businesses were established, who the owners are, etc.

There is no overall index of names but the names are alphabetically listed instead under each town or business directory. The type size is large enough to make reading easy. From a historical standpoint this book provides interesting social and demographic information and could add dimension to any genealogical research in Chenango County, NY. German surnames are limited.

Reviewed by Marilynne Ocando

AHNENTAFEL – DOLCH

Submitted by Shelley Dolch Arnold
1413 W. Old Coldspring Lane
Baltimore, MD 21209

I

1 **Michele Marie HOWARD**, b 18 Mar 1952, Baltimore MD; m 7 Aug 1971, William Thomas ARNOLD, Baltimore MD.

II

2 **Thomas Edwin HOWARD**, b 30 September 1934, Baltimore MD; m 19 Dec 1951, Dolores Marie DOLCH, Baltimore MD; div 1953; d 27 Jul 1993, Middlesex MA; bur Waltham MA.

3 **Dolores Marie DOLCH**, b 14 May 1932, Baltimore MD; m (1) Thomas Edwin HOWARD; m (2) 30 Nov 1957, Francis Edward DOLAN, Baltimore MD.

III

6 **John Carl DOLCH**, b 7 Aug 1909, Baltimore MD; m 4 Sep 1930, Lillian Louise WILKINS, Baltimore MD; d 1 Feb 1976; bur Howard Co MD.

7 **Lillian Louise WILKINS**, b 4 Oct 1911, Baltimore MD; d 5 Jan 1989.

IV

12 **John Carl DOLCH**, b 10 Dec 1887, Baltimore MD; m 25 Nov 1908, Bessie Elisabeth SCHWARTZ, Baltimore MD; d 3 Jul 1939, Baltimore MD; bur Baltimore MD.

13 **Bessie Elisabeth SCHWARTZ**, b 5 May 1893, Baltimore MD; d 5 Dec 1949, Baltimore MD; bur Baltimore MD.

14 **Alfred WILKINS**, b 1876, Baltimore MD; m Mary Elizabeth COOKE, Baltimore MD.

15 **Mary Elizabeth COOKE**, b 1888, Baltimore MD.

V

24 **Karl Johann DOLCH**, b 12 Sep 1838, Helmstadt, Germany; m (1) 1864, Magdalena KOCH, Gerach, Germany; m (2) 1868, Margareta LIEBIG, Baltimore MD; d 26 Mar 1917, Baltimore MD; bur Baltimore MD.

25 **Margareta LIEBIG**, b 18 Mar 1849, Germany; d 29 Dec 1909, Jersey City NJ; bur Baltimore MD.

26 **August SCHWARTZ**, b 6 Dec 1846, Germany; m Augusta WASHMUTH, Germany; d 3 Dec 1903.

27 **Augusta WASHMUTH**, b 27 Jul 1850, Baltimore MD; d 3 Mar 1915, Baltimore MD.

VI

48 **Johann Georg Bernhard DOLCH**, b 16 Mar 1816, Helmstadt, Germany; m Anna Marie PRIOR, Helmstadt, Germany.

49 **Anna Marie PRIOR**, b Helmstadt, Germany.

52 **Clamens SCHWARTZ**, b Germany; m **Wilhelmenia LOCKMAN**, Germany.

53 **Wilhelmenia LOCKMAN**, b Germany.

54 **August WASHMUTH**, b Germany; m **Katarina LOUDERMAN**.

55 **Katarina LOUDERMAN**, b Germany.

VII

96 **Johann Georg David DOLCH**, b 22 Apr 1787, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m (1) **Veronika SCHLEYHAUF**; m (2) 1821, **Maria Christiane HORCHER**, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

97 **Veronika SCHLEYHAUF**, b 11 Oct 1791, Kaltenwesten, Germany; d 30 Dec 1880, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

VIII

192 **Johann Ludwig DOLCH**, b 17 Nov 1761, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m (1) 20 Feb 1787, **Sara ARNOLD**, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m (2) 21 Sep 1800, **Maria EB**, Kaltenwesten, Germany; d 14 Aug 1827.

193 **Sara ARNOLD**, b 3 Apr 1762, Kaltenwesten, Germany; d 3 Sep 1800, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

IX

384 **Johann Ludwig DOLCH**, b 6 Mar 1729, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m 13 Nov 1759, **Maria Dorothea RUDOLF**, Kaltenwesten, Germany; d 18 Mar 1791, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

385 **Maria Dorothea RUDOLF**, b 25 Aug 1767, Kaltenwesten, Germany; d 20 Aug 1837, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

X

768 **Johann Conrad DOLCH**, b 1690, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m (1) 30 Apr 1721, **Elisabeth MAYER AUS BONNIGHEIM**, Kaltenwesten, Germany; m (2) 31 Aug 1736, **Katharina MACK**; d 19 Dec 1774.

769 **Elisabeth MAYER AUS BONNIGHEIM**, b Kaltenwesten, Germany.

XI

1536 **Nicholaus DOLCH**, b 1665, Germany; m **Katharina Margaretha MOENIUS**; d 11 Jan 1702.

1537 **Katharina Margaretha MOENIUS**, b 1668; d 15 Dec 1735.

XII

3072 **Hans Conrad DOLCH**, b 21 May 1636, Creuzburg, Germany; d 10 Nov 1692, Kaltenwesten, Germany.

XIII

6144 **Curt DOLCHEN**, b 1598, Creuzburg, Germany.

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