



**DER KURIER**

**Volume 20, Number 4, December 2002**

### **MAGS Celebrates Twenty Years**

Ten years ago when MAGS celebrated its tenth Anniversary then President Debbie Brown noted, "It seems like yesterday when a group of us met on a cool Autumn day to try and form a society dedicated to German Research." She went on "I do not believe any of us had a clue as to what we were doing much less what we were getting ourselves into!"

MAGS has come a long way since. We are a society of 600 dues paying members. We hold two well-attended events each calendar year. We have a news letter, *Der Kurier*, that can hold its own against the best and we are solvent. But the amazing part is our dues are still only \$10.00.

These are the successes that we can measure. We can gauge attendance at meetings, the quality of articles in *Der Kurier* or the success of member services like Stumped Roots. But MAGS's greatest achievements cannot be measured as many successes are unknown. We do not know, for example, the number of members who have attended MAGS meetings where they gained new insights that lead to a solution of a difficult research problem. We do not know the number of members who have met a cousin or two through MAGS with whom they have shared family information. We do not know the number of members who have solved genealogical problems by using the MAGS library or the Stumped Roots service. And we do not know how many members have had the fortune to make contact with distant relatives in Germany as a result of MAGS meetings.

Society volunteers need to keep these immeasurable accomplishments in mind because when we contribute to the society we do make a difference in the lives of our fellow genealogists.

On 18 October 2002 at our anniversary banquet we celebrated the anniversary of an organization—the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. But if the truth be told we really celebrated twenty years of hard work. We celebrated the efforts of the many volunteers who made certain this society was a success. They are the ones who made things happen, and they are the ones who made this twentieth anniversary possible.

Ten years ago Norm Emerick, MAGS's first president, speculated about the future. He noted MAGS's second decade had the potential to be even more rewarding and fruitful than the first. And indeed as we now look back over the last ten years it was quite a decade. Few family historians could have predicted all the changes that took place in genealogy between

*(Continued on page 63)*



## MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2642  
Kensington, MD 20891-2642

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>

**Our mission: to stimulate and facilitate research on Germanic genealogy and heritage in the mid-Atlantic region**

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded July 10, 1982. Annual dues are only \$10 (individual) or \$12 (family). Membership is open to all interested persons without regard to place of residence, nationality, or ethnicity. Benefits of membership include:

- Spring and Fall Meetings** featuring expert speakers.
- Quarterly newsletter, *Der Kurier*.**
- MAGS Lending Library**
- Ahnentafels** published in *Der Kurier*.
- Queries**
- Surname Exchange Index**
- Stumped Roots**

**A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.  
Contact information for MAGS special services appears on the inside back cover.**

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**Submissions to *Der Kurier*.** Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: John W Bieber, 25 Rolling Road, Claymont, DE 19703. E-mail: [long.hair@att.net](mailto:long.hair@att.net) Phone: 302-798-7210.

der Kalender

2003

January 19-26. NGS Research Trip to Salt Lake City, Utah. Details: 703-525-0050 or visit <www.ngsgenealogy.org>

February 14-16. NGS Regional Conference Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. Sheila Benedict and Cyndi Howells are the speakers. Phone NGS at 703-525-0050 or visit the web site <www.ngsgenealogy.org>

April 6-13. Salt Lake City Genealogy Trip. Organized by Indiana Chapter member Sharon Kennedy, approved by Palatines to America board of directors. Details: Sharon Kennedy, 367 Nottinghill Court, Indianapolis, IN 46234, e-mail: SKenn63523@aol.com

April 26. MAGS Spring Meeting. Blob's Park, Maryland. Theme: Servitude, Church Records and Bureaucrats! For a preview, see page 65 of this issue of Der Kurier.

April 24-27. Society for German-American Studies 27th Annual Symposium. Baltimore, Maryland. Open to non-members. For more information contact German Society of Maryland, P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203-4585. Phone 410-685-0450.

June 19, 20, 21. Palatines to America National Conference. Ramada Plaza Hotel,

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4900 Sinclair Road, Columbus, Ohio 43229. Phone 614-847-0511. Additional information: Contact Mary Hess at mhess138@aol.com

July 12. German Interest Group Workshop. University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Campus. Featured speaker is Marion Wolfert of Salt Lake City. For details contact German Interest Group-Wisconsin, P.O. Box 2185, Janesville, WI 53547-2185.

If you would like your event or program placed on der Kalender, please send the information to the MAGS Editor by the stated deadline (see inside front page).

(Continued from front cover)

1992 and 2002. Those changes have been fairly dramatic, but MAGS has survived them well.

And now as the Society moves into its third decade, the message has to get out, if MAGS prosperity is to continue its members have to be thinking about the future. But that future will not happen if we do not develop new leadership—we have to find men and women willing to be nominated for various offices. And we have to identify members who are willing to serve on various committees.

The time to start is now. We are in need of some help—we need members willing to help the Board. We need a nominating committee, we need to fill the At Large position on the Board, and we need help editing Der Kurier. If you can help with any of these positions please contact John Humphrey by phone at 202-544-4142 or online at Cymricrts@aol.com. Thanks!

John Humphrey, President

## PEOPLE AND EVENTS

### MAGS Fall Meeting and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

On Friday, October 18, over one hundred members of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society celebrated MAGS's success at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet. Several charter members were present and were given flowers. They included Cathryn S. Dippe, William and Pat Cramer, Nancy Mossburg, Edythe Hoff Millar, and Helyn Collison.

Unbeknownst to the President or Board of MAGS, MAGS member John L. Cain introduced a resolution in the City Council of Baltimore offering "sincerest congratulations to the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society in recognition of Celebrating Its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary." The resolution passed by the Baltimore City Council directed that "this resolution be presented on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of October 2002" which was done by Councilman Cain at the Banquet. The resolution was signed by the Council President, by Councilman John Cain and by Nicholas D'Adamo for the Council.

Dr. George Schweitzer gave an entertaining presentation in costume. He built his presentation around David Hackett Fischer's idea four very different British folkways were responsible for the eating habits of early British colonists. Prof. Schweitzer applied Fischer's ideas to Germany. He identified regions of Germany that had different drinking habits, and then discussed emigration from these regions of Germany and the areas where they located in the United States.

It appears the ancestors of many MAGS members were from the wine drinking areas in southwest Germany. Nineteenth-century immigrants from Bavaria came from a beer-drinking area, and they were influential in settlements and early industry in places like St. Louis and Milwaukee. The schnapps drinkers were from the north.

There are exceptions of course; one MAGS member was overheard saying, if all of his German ancestors were from the Pfalz, why did he prefer beer over wine? (Hum) Moving on, the evening concluded with the entire assemblage singing *Drink up, drink up all you Germans*, to the tune of *Deutschland, Deutschland über Alles*. The Austrian tune, penned by Franz Joseph Haydn, is also found in many church hymnals under the title of *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*.

On Saturday October 19, MAGS hosted the NGS regional conference. Between 240 and 250 eager family historians came to the Hilton Columbia to hear Cyndi Howells and Sheila Benedict. Both speakers are nationally recognized and have spoken at numerous conferences around the country. Cyndi Howells is best known as the owner and "webmaster" of Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet. Sheila is a full time genealogical and historical researcher. She was responsible for putting together the program for the FGS Conference that was held in Ontario, California in August of this year.

On Saturday, MAGS members and other attendees had to make some difficult choices as presentations were given simultaneously. Sheila covered more traditional research topics like collateral research, newspapers, maps and county histories, while Cyndi hit hot button issues such as the Internet, web sites and search engines.

Evaluation forms returned to NGS after the conference indicated the joint meeting was very successful. While some folks had problems with the facilities, there were only a few negatives noted as they related to the program. Bottom line, the MAGS association with NGS for this event raised the Society's visibility and brought a lot of folks to the meeting who had no prior knowledge of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

### Spring Meeting Preview

MAGS's annual Spring Meeting will be held on Saturday April 26, 2003 at Blob's Park, Jessup, Maryland. The theme is "**Servitude, Church Records and Bureaucrats!**"

Marianne S. Wokeck, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor of History at Indiana/Purdue University. She is an expert on 18<sup>th</sup>-century migration to America, and has researched extensively in Europe. Dr. Wokeck's latest book, *Trade in Strangers*, explores how the German and Irish systems of immigration evolved from earlier haphazard forms.

Dr Wokeck will present three talks at the Spring Meeting, titled:

- Indentured Servitude as a Household Economy Strategy
- Calculating Transatlantic Travel Times in the Colonial Period

- Know Your 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Bureaucrat: He May be the Key for Finding *Your Ancestor*

The second speaker at the Spring Meeting will be Cathryn S. Dippo, Ph.D. She is author of *Friedrichstal Church Records 1698-1812*, a transcription of records for one of the few Huguenot churches to be established in Germany after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. She is currently completing the transcription of a second Huguenot Church, Welsch-Neuret. Dr. Dippo is a former President of MAGS and has been conducting research in Germany for more than fifteen years. She will present a talk titled:

- German Huguenot Church Records

The cost for the meeting is \$30 for MAGS members and \$35 for non-members, which includes lunch. Look for registration materials in the March 2003 issue of *Der Kurier*, and on MAGS's Website:

<<http://www.rootsweb.com/~usmags/>>.

### 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.

Jane Bensinger of Newark DE

**(Bensinger, Alspach, Paul, Yeager)**

June Kness of Britton Miami FL

**(Kness/Knies, Bowers, McCullister)**

James W. Brush of Horse Shoe NC

**(Rader, Strayer, Bumgard, Bender/Painter)**

Rodger W. & Susan E. Bundy of

Westminister MD **(Hauck, Brummell,**

**Laütenschlager, Drewanz)**

Milo & Wendy Coerper of Chevy Chase MD

**(Coerper, von Petersdorf, Schar,**

**Stombaugh)**

David V. Dietrich of Crofton MD

**(Dietrich, Schade/Schah, Kramer,**

**Schweitzer)**

T. Arden Eidell of Crestwood NY

Lyle G. Hartman of Landenberg PA

**(Hartman, Hammer, Eberhard(t), Rippe)**

Ellen M. Higgins of Seaville NJ

**(Mauk/Mauch, Hefflefinger)**

Richard & Carol Hines of Colbert WA

**(Hines/Heintz, Darr/Dorr, Metz)**

Roy & Lois Labs of Beltsville MD

**(Labs, Thompson, Eftman, Malchow)**

Joy Malessa of Riverton NJ

**(Antes, Malessa, Plage, Zimmerman)**

Charles & Lois Norton of Mars, PA

**(Shaffer, Foust, Weigand(t), English)**

James & Barbara Payne of Youngsville NC

**(Kuper, Shein/Schein)**

Helen I. & Vernon J. Person of Olney MD

**(Weaver, Gerlinger, Miller, Lorton)**

Doris, Keith, & Lisa Reed of Crownsville MD

**(Pheil/Phiel/Peal, Whittlesey)**

Janet M. Simons of Takoma Park, MD

**(Simons, Van Vranken, Grathwohl,**

**Spotholtz)**

Dr. Leon W. Transeau of Boyds MD

**(Transu/Dransu/Transeo/Transeau)**

Charles H. Wadhams of Fresno CA

**(Schaaff)**

James H. Weirman of Laurel MD

**(Bargmann, Euler/Eyler, Reiss, Reutzel)**

Phyllis Genther Yoshida of Falls Church VA

**(Guenther, Marks, Sesler, Myers)**

## HER “FULL MEASURE” — A TRIBUTE TO MAGS FOUNDING MEMBER BEVERLY REPASS HOCH, CGRS

In 1992, as MAGS celebrated its first decade, Norman C. Emerick, MAGS's first president, wrote a history of the organization. His history recognized members such as Beverly Repass Hoch, who together with Emerick co-chaired a group of Washington, DC-area German-interest genealogists who eventually founded MAGS on July 10, 1982. Emerick's history praised founding members who gave their “full measure” to launch MAGS. Among founding members, Bev Hoch deserves special recognition.

As Emerick put it, without Hoch “there would be no MAGS!” He continued, calling her “the instigator, the never-ending advisor, hard worker no matter what undone thing had to be done, and one of the best friends anyone could ever hope to have.” None of this has changed. Hoch is the best friend any organization could have. Her tireless work continues to this day as she serves as MAGS's Historian and pinch hits whenever duty calls to fulfill other tasks.

It is hard to imagine forming a national genealogical society from the ground up, but in addition to doing just that, Hoch raised a family, and often worked outside the home. Today, she writes and lectures extensively on the subject of genealogy, and chairs the Wythe County Historical Society Library in Wytheville, Virginia, where she now lives with husband Frank. Her current position requires applying for grants, and supervising fifteen volunteers and an archivist, who are researching the Library's manuscript and Library collection.

Hoch's interest in genealogy began in the 1970s. She joined numerous societies, including Pennsylvania German Society, National Genealogical Society, Palatines to America, Association for Professional Genealogists, Daughters of the American Revolution, and Federation of Genealogy Societies. In 1982, Hoch became a Certified Genealogical Records Specialist (CGRS), with recommendations from her client of three years, Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and others. In 1986, Hoch moved from Maryland to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she continued her research and writing, and where she taught genealogy classes and lectured through the University of New Mexico Continuing Education program.

From 1986 to 1990, Hoch was a technical editor for Science Applications International Corporation and Mission Research Corporation in Albuquerque. But her “real job” never diminished her devotion to genealogy. Hoch's contributions to German genealogy are impressive. She edited, authored, or co-authored 22 book-length publications and numerous articles. In 1978, Hoch became first editor of *Line Upon Line*, newsletter of the Montgomery County Historical Society, Genealogy Club, Rockville, Maryland. She today edits *Repass Family Newsletter: Descendants of Jacob Rippas and Anna Gerber*, which won the 1995 National Genealogical Society first place award for the best family newsletter. In 1993, Hoch published *From Ziefen to Sally Run: Swiss Pioneer Jacob Repass (1737-1814) on the American Frontier*, which serves as a model of family histories with its emphasis on early generations of Repasses in America. Other highlights include *The War Between the States in Wythe County, Virginia: 1861-1865*, which Hoch co-authored with Frank Emerson and John M. Johnson. Hoch also teamed up with Mary B. Kegley, Tim Smith, Judy Porter, Corinne Earnest, and others to publish books in the field of genealogy.

MAGS is fortunate to have dedicated volunteers like Bev Hoch. She exemplifies what volunteers can accomplish. In her own unassuming way and with her often behind-the-scenes style, Bev inspires us all. For this, MAGS members wish to add to Norm Emerick's praise by paying Bev Hoch this special tribute: **Bev— with all our thanks!**



## Win-Win Agreement between Two Libraries

After repeated pleas to MAGS members at meetings and through *Der Kurier* for help in finding a new home for the MAGS Library, the MAGS Librarian with the approval of the MAGS Board was able to negotiate an agreement with the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg, Virginia. The agreement was voted on and approved by the MAGS Board at its meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This agreement will benefit both patrons of the Shenandoah County Library and *all* MAGS members. The MAGS collection will move to the Shenandoah Room at the Shenandoah County Library early in 2003. The Shenandoah Room consists of a non-circulating collection of local history and genealogy books. Because of the large number of Germans who settled in the area, the addition of the MAGS collection will greatly enhance the holdings and research capabilities for all patrons.

- The Shenandoah Room is open for in-house research to the public; therefore, *all* MAGS members who visit Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg, Virginia will be able to use the books. In the past only registered MAGS Library members (those who paid a deposit and registered with the MAGS library) had access by mail to the MAGS collection.
- Registered MAGS Library members will *not* lose their special privilege to order books by mail. They may continue to order up to three books at a time by mail with the postage and postal insurance prepaid by the borrower. In addition, registered MAGS Library members who live in the area of the Shenandoah County Library will be able to check books out of the MAGS collection. They will be the *only* patrons permitted to check out these books. A list of registered MAGS Library members will be maintained by both Shenandoah County Library and MAGS.
- The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Library collection will be shelved separate from other collections in the Shenandoah Room and it will continue to use the Library of Congress cataloging system. In addition to having color-coded labels, all books will contain a stamp indicating that they are the property of MAGS.
- Shenandoah County Library already has a team of volunteer genealogists to assist patrons in the Shenandoah Room and who provide research services *for a fee* to anyone requesting the service. MAGS members may request this service directly from the Shenandoah County Library for their usual fee. This is a service that the MAGS Library could not provide to its members in the past.
- The MAGS Book List will be available from both the Shenandoah County Library and MAGS. It will also continue to be available on the MAGS web site.
- After 15 years the MAGS collection will become the property of the Shenandoah County Library. If Shenandoah County Library does not fulfill its obligations as stated above during this period, MAGS may withdraw the collection. If the collection is not used by a MAGS member during any given 12 month period, the collection will become the property of Shenandoah County Library at the end of that 12 month period. If this were to happen, registered MAGS Library members would maintain their borrowing privileges for the duration of this agreement for reasonable fees payable to the Shenandoah County Library.

In order to facilitate services to MAGS members, we need a MAGS member who lives in the area to act as a volunteer liaison with the Shenandoah County Library, to monitor use by MAGS members, and to handle mail requests by registered MAGS library members. If you can help MAGS in this capacity, *immediately* contact John T. Humphrey, MAGS president, PO Box 2642, Kensington, MD 20891-2642 or through the MAGS web site.

**FRAKTUR FORUM**

by Corinne Earnest

**REIMER ON FRAKTUR**

Vincent Walsh asked about the name REIMER on fraktur. Among other locations, this surname appears on fraktur from Northampton County, Pennsylvania. In *Pennsylvania Births, Northampton County 1733-1800*, John Humphrey mentions REIMERS, and he mentions names such as LANTZ, RAMBACH, and GERMANTON — surnames found on fraktur made for REIMERS. One of these is a taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) made for Isaac LANTZ, son of Peter and Catharina (REIMER) LANTZ. Isaac was born September 24, 1792 in Williams Township. He was baptized by Pastor JÄGER, Reformed. No date of baptism was given. Sponsors were Isaac and Catharina SCHUMACHER. This example is pictured in the second volume of *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur of the Free Library of Philadelphia* (#300).

A taufschein in a private collection was made for Elisabetha, daughter of Jacob and Elisabetha REIMER. The younger Elisabetha was born November 2, 1792 in Plainfield Township, Northampton County. She was baptized in her infancy (pastor's name not given). Sponsors were Conrad and Elisabetha GERMANTON. That same collection has a taufschein made for Maria RAMBACH, daughter of Johannes and Elisabeth (REIMER) RAMBACH. Maria was born in Newport Township, Luzerne County, on December 8, 1824. She was baptized by Pastor ZÄUSSER, Reformed, on January 10, 1825. Sponsors were Johannes and Catharina MEYER.

Keeping in mind that fraktur artists and scribes spelled phonetically, variant spellings such as REIMERT, RAMER, REMER, and RÖHMER might be possibilities for fraktur that would help Vincent Walsh. The State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg has a taufschein made for Maria Magdalena, daughter of Johann and Magdalena (ADAM) REIMERT. Maria Magdalena was born in Weisenberg Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on September 20, 1825. She was baptized by J. KNOSKY on October 16, 1825. Her sponsors were Jonathan and Rebeca (ADAM) HAFNER. Lehigh County was carved from Northampton County in 1812. This example is pictured in Donald A. Shelley's, *The Fraktur-Writings or Illuminated Manuscripts of the Pennsylvania Germans* (#94).

A taufschein in a private collection was made for Magdalena, daughter of Daniel and Kaieia (REMER) WOLFGANG. Magdalena was born September 8, 1860 in Eldred Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized January 20, 1861 by Isaak F. STILL. Daniel and Litia [Lydia] MATTERN were sponsors. This taufschein is written in a poor hand with spellings such as "Setfember" for September, "Pannselvani" for Pennsylvania, and "Amariga" for America. It is uncertain what name was meant when the scrivener wrote Magdalena's mother's name as "Kaieia."

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest at P.O. Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316. This service is free to members of MAGS. Please be patient for a reply.

## 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

(NOTE: The first two entries below, #20-15 and #20-16, are repeated from the September issue of *Der Kurier*. That issue gave an incorrect zip code for the submitter.)

### 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 98221-4090. 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 98221-4090. E-mail: jrf@fidalgo.net

### POFF\* PFAFF\* POFFENBERGER\* PFAFFENBERGER\*

#20-17 Seek info par George POFF/PFAFF/POFFENBERGER/PFAFFENBERGER who mar Anna MERCHANT in Philadelphia, PA in Aug 1772. His desc mig along the Great Valley Road to Floyd Co. VA.

Logan R. Jennings, 6 Pungo Dr., Hertford NC 27944. E-mail: loganj@mcshi.com  
Ph: 252-426-4865

### LINEPENSEL LEINPENSEL ENGELMAN

# 20-18 Seek par of Charles LEINPENSEL/LINEPENSEL b 11 Jul 1836. Where? Naturalization papers renounced allegiance to "King of Prussia". Mar Maria ENGELMAN 15 Sept 1863, Weiterhausers Church, Allegheny, PA; d 30 Sept 1923, Northside, Pittsburgh PA.

Edythe Hoff Millar, 511 Forest Glen Circle, Murfreesboro, TN 37128  
E-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net

*\*This surname, and variant spellings, is found in the MAGS Surname Exchange Index together with the researcher(s) reporting interest in the surname*

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### The German Connection

Back issues of *The German Connection* from 1992 to 2001 are for sale. A current listing is available on their website <<http://feefhs.org/gra/frg-gra.html>> or send a SASE to The German Research Association, Inc., P. O. Box 711600, San Diego, CA 92171-1600. (*The German Connection, Vol. 26, No. 2, Second Quarter 2002*)

## Destination America: From Gross-Umstadt to Baltimore By Dave Dietrich

### Overview

While growing up in southeastern Baltimore County, I would often wonder about the origins of our family. I would turn to older family members in hopes of satisfying my curiosity. Unfortunately, very little was known about our family from oral history other than that the name "Dietrich" was German. Living relatives had known my paternal great grandparents, Frederick Christian Dietrich and Maggie Schweitzer Dietrich. Beyond them, however, virtually nothing was known, other than the rumor that Frederick Christian Dietrich had come from a large family.

My curiosity remained largely unsatisfied until 1979. It was then when I embarked on a systematic commitment to trace and record the history of our family. Now, 23 years later, much of my curiosity has been satisfied. In fact, my genealogical research has resulted in extending our knowledge of the family back four centuries and thirteen generations (from my children). In the process, we also have discovered and made contact with living relatives from the Old Country.

This article addresses the line of the Dietrich family that emigrated from the Hessian town of Gross-Umstadt in 1836-1837. Their emigration is placed in an historical context, documentary evidence is then briefly discussed, and finally descendant lines are shown.

### Historical Context

The decade of the 1830s was an unfortunate time for many residents of the tiny Hessian town of Gross-Umstadt. A downturn in the weather conditions in the northern Odenwald resulted in a series of bad harvests. This downturn initially impacted the farmers. Eventually general economic malaise and depression set in throughout the entire northern Odenwald region. As the farmers became economically ruined, they

were no longer able to afford the goods and services of others. This situation ultimately spelled disaster for everyone, as Gross-Umstadt was so heavily dependent on the economic health of its farmers. Perhaps the extent of this economic adversity is best described by the old 19th Century German adage, "*Hat der Bauer Geld, so hats die ganze Welt.*" (When the farmer has money then so does the whole world.)

Yet there was much more at play here. This agricultural downturn was occurring at a time when practically every level of German society was experiencing profound socioeconomic turbulence from the ensuing Industrial Age. Many German farmers and artisans were finding that they could no longer compete with agricultural mechanization and industrial mass production. The abrupt change in weather conditions in the northern Odenwald only served to hasten the ill-effects of this greater trend. Although the larger trend was no doubt adversely impacting on many people, the abrupt agricultural downturn probably was the final catalyst in the decision by many Gross-Umstaedters to emigrate.

Let's explore a little more closely the political-economic situation in Germany of the 1830s. The first fact to bear in mind is that there was no Germany. Unlike Great Britain and France, which had developed into modern nation-states, "Germany" remained a loosely confederated, feudal quilt work of kingdoms, duchies, grand duchies, free cities, and the like. Its over-arching political-economic structure was a direct by-product of the Middle Ages. This structure included institutional remnants of the *Hanseatic League* and the *Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation*. This anachronistic structure encouraged a rigid social caste system that could not accommodate the sea-change in political and economic conditions brought about by unprecedented industrialization.

In the face of these political-economic mega-trends, during the years 1831 to 1840 no less than eighty Gross-Umstaedters left

for North America. Young Henrich Dietrich was no exception. In January 1836, Henrich, then twenty-five years old, set out for America. Accompanying him was his twenty-eight year old wife, Maria Christina (nee Holzapel), their one year old son Balthasar, and Maria's mother, Eva Maria Holzapel (age 64). Their journey ended in the summer of 1836 in the Port of Baltimore.

The following year saw the remainder of Henrich's family leave for America. In March 1837, Henrich Dietrich's father, also named Henrich, and his siblings Johann Adam, Balthasar, Johann Philipp, Johannes, and Anna Maria left Gross-Umstadt. They arrived in Baltimore in the summer of 1837.

It is extremely difficult for us to fully grasp the hardships that people had to endure in those days in order to secure a better way of life in the New World. People usually sold most of their belongings just to pay for passage across the Atlantic. And this hurdle had to be overcome at a time when people were in the direst economic straits. There was also the problem of how to get from central Europe to the nearest port of embarkation. For the residents of Gross-Umstadt, this meant first traveling by road to Gernsheim, a village along the east bank of the Rhine River. The arduous journey would continue up the Rhine by whatever mode of transportation available (rail travel was a decade or more away). The journey would usually end in the Port of Rotterdam, Holland. There the emigrants would try to secure berths for themselves and their families on board ships bound for the Americas.

### Documentary Evidence

We know from the marriage records of the Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore that the Dietrich's were from Gross-Umstadt. These records are corroborated by the Evangelical Church records in Gross-Umstadt, Germany. Yet another source, the

tombstone of Johann Adam Dietrich, refers to Gross-Umstadt. The inscription reads: *Adam Dietrich, geboren 21 Juli 1808 in Gross-Umstadt, Grossherzogtum Hessen-Darmstadt* (English translation: Adam Dietrich, born 21 July 1808 in Gross-Umstadt, Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt.)

Emigration records from the *Hessische Familiengeschichtliche Vereinigung* (Hessian Genealogical Society) also reveal that the family departed in January 1836 and March 1837, respectively. Unfortunately, the Passenger Ship Lists that probably contain the more precise and detailed information on their emigration have never been located. However, in the *Quarterly Abstracts of Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at the Port of Baltimore*, the Dietrich family appears in the records covering the years 1836 and 1837. The following entries are found in the 1836 *Quarterly Abstract* for the period July-September: Henrich Dietrich (25), Balthasar Dietrich (1), Maria Christina (28), and Eva Maria Holzapel (64). Also, the abstract says the Dietrich's came from Germany.

The *Quarterly Abstract* for July-September 1837 contains the following entries: Henrich Dietrich (60), male, shoemaker; Adam Dietrich (28), male; Balthasar Dietrich (24), male; Philipp Dietrich (18), male; Johannes (16), male; Anna M. (32), female; and Margarete Maser (26), female. Balthasar Dietrich and Margarete Maser would later marry in the Zion Lutheran Church in Baltimore on 18 October 1837.

These records clearly show that the Dietrich family entered the Port of Baltimore in 1836 and 1837, respectfully.

### Descendant Lines

I mentioned at the beginning of this article that the original Dietrich emigrants were Henrich Dietrich and his six children. What follows are the lists of the known descendants of those children:

#### Descendants of Maria Dietrich

1	Maria Dietrich	1806 -
..	+Heinrich Noll	1807 - 1871

**Descendants of Adam Dietrich**

- 1 Adam Dietrich 1808 - 1872
- .. +Anna Margaretha Meiser 1810 - 1884
- ..... 2 Maria Dietrich 1841 -
- ..... 2 John H. Dietrich 1841 - 1901
- ..... +Bertha Eiermann 1849 - 1917
- ..... 3 William George Dietrich 1866 - 1946
- ..... +Mary C. 1866 -
- ..... 4 Edgar Clarence Dietrich 1897 -
- ..... +Margaret 1896 -
- ..... 5 Katherine Dietrich
- ..... +Paul V. Morley Sr. - 1979
- ..... 6 Paul V. Morley Jr.
- ..... 6 William J. Morley
- ..... 6 Kathleen M. Morley
- ..... +Edward C. Grapski
- ..... 5 Doris M. Dietrich 1917 -
- ..... 5 Mary K Dietrich 1920 -
- ..... \*2nd Wife of William George Dietrich:
- ..... +Lotta
- ..... 3 Anna Maria Dietrich 1868 - 1900
- ..... 3 Charles Dietrich 1869 - 1946
- ..... +Anna Katherine Schmidt
- ..... 4 Leroy R. Dietrich - 1983
- ..... +Evelyn Zumbrun
- ..... 5 Donald R. Dietrich
- ..... 3 Adam Dietrich 1871 - 1880
- ..... 3 Johanna Dietrich 1872 - 1880
- ..... 3 Edward Adolph Dietrich 1874 - 1887
- ..... 3 Frederick Christian Dietrich 1876 - 1947
- ..... +Margaret Schweitzer 1874 - 1936
- ..... 4 Elmer Martin Dietrich 1896 - 1948
- ..... +Elizabeth Rebecca Kramer 1897 - 1981
- ..... 5 Vernon Elmer Dietrich 1925 - 1999
- ..... +Anna Maxine Ratcliff 1927 -
- ..... 6 David Vernon Dietrich 1951 -
- ..... +Joyce Lynne Frye 1953 -
- ..... 7 Hans Philipp Dietrich 1985 -
- ..... 7 Greta Marie Dietrich 1989 -
- ..... 6 Kathleen Ann Dietrich 1955 -
- ..... +Robert Koslowski
- ..... 7 Kyle Aaron Koslowski
- ..... 7 Daniel Koslowski
- ..... 5 Kenneth Allan Dietrich 1930 - 1996
- ..... +Rose Emory
- ..... 6 Christine Nettie Dietrich 1958 -
- ..... +Mike
- ..... 7 Nicole Dietrich
- ..... 6 Michael Allan Dietrich 1968 -
- ..... 4 Irwin Wilbur Dietrich 1908 - 1957
- ..... +Marie Augusta Dorbett
- ..... 3 Unknown Dietrich 1877 - 1880
- ..... 3 Amelia Dietrich 1879 - 1880
- ..... 3 Emma Dietrich 1880 -
- ..... +Harry Hill

..... 4 Donald Hill  
 ..... 4 Harry Hill  
 ..... 3 Lillian M. Dietrich 1882 - 1954  
 ..... +Henry F. Hellemann  
 ..... 4 Lester Hellemann  
 ..... 4 Adeline Hellemann  
 ..... +Billingsley  
 ..... \*2nd Husband of Lillian M. Dietrich:  
 ..... +John Geil 1878 -  
 ..... 4 Adeline Geil  
 ..... +Billingsley  
 ..... 3 John Edwin Dietrich 1883 - 1967  
 ..... +Martha L. Hardesty  
 ..... 3 Kate Dietrich 1885 -  
 ..... +Roy Austin  
 ..... 3 George Dietrich 1886 - 1969  
 ..... 3 Harry Dietrich 1889 -  
 ..... +Beatrice 1889 -  
 ..... 4 Florence Dietrich 1911 -  
 ..... 4 Harry C. Dietrich 1915 -  
 ..... 4 Edwin M. Dietrich 1916 -  
 ..... 3 Maggie Margaret Dietrich 1891 -  
 ..... 2 Margaretha Dietrich 1845 -  
 ..... +Charles Altvater 1847 -  
 ..... 2 Adam Dietrich Jr. 1847 - 1925  
 ..... +Josephine 1862 -  
 ..... 3 Mammie Dietrich 1884 -  
 ..... 3 Emma Dietrich 1888 -  
 ..... \*2nd Wife of Adam Dietrich Jr.:  
 ..... +Amelia Braungart 1846 -  
 ..... 3 Amelia M. Dietrich 1870 -  
 ..... +Leffert  
 ..... 4 John George Leffert  
 ..... 3 August Dietrich 1877 - 1925  
 ..... +Elizabeth 1878 -  
 ..... 4 Hazel Dietrich  
 ..... 4 Amelia Dietrich  
 ..... 2 Heinrich Dietrich 1852 -

**Descendants of Henrich Dietrich**

1 Henrich Dietrich 1810 - 1875  
 .. +Maria Christina Holzapel 1807 - 1868  
 ..... 2 Maria Dietrich 1840 -  
 ..... 2 Bulzer Dietrich 1836 -  
 ..... 2 Christine Dietrich 1843 -  
 ..... 2 Henry Dietrich 1847 -  
 ..... \*2nd Wife of Henrich Dietrich:  
 .. +Mary E. Merck 1811 -

**Descendants of Balthasar Dietrich**

1 Balthasar Dietrich 1813 -  
 .. +Margarete Maser 1810 -  
 ..... 2 Balthasar Dietrich I 1838 -  
 ..... 2 Balthasar Dietrich II 1839 -  
 ..... +Wilhemina Lehlweber

..... 3 Edward Carl Dietrich 1862 -  
 ..... 3 Henry Dietrich  
 ..... 3 Gustav Dietrich  
 ..... 3 Louis Oscar Dietrich 1863 -

**Descendants of Philipp Dietrich**

1 Philipp Dietrich 1819 - 1887  
 .. +Maria Katharina Henkel 1822 -  
 ..... 2 Catharina Dietrich 1845 -  
 ..... +Hugo Kuehne 1839 - 1882  
 ..... 3 Hugh L. Kuehne 1866 - 1889  
 ..... 3 Paul Kuehne 1869 - 1920  
 ..... 2 Helena Dietrich 1846 - 1926  
 ..... +Ferdinand Vollers Sr. 1845 - 1885  
 ..... 3 Ferdinand Vollers Jr. 1878 - 1879  
 ..... 3 Stillborn Child 1872 - 1872  
 ..... 3 Lena Vollers 1873 -  
 ..... \*2nd Husband of Helena Dietrich:  
 ..... +William Wilkinson 1847 - 1919  
 ..... 2 Philipp Dietrich Jr. 1848 -  
 ..... +Johanna 1851 -  
 ..... 3 Charles Philipp Dietrich 1872 -  
 ..... 2 Maria Dietrich 1853 -  
 ..... +Danneberg  
 ..... 2 Henry Dietrich 1856 - 1884  
 ..... 3 Nellie Dietrich  
 ..... 2 Maria Christina Dietrich 1851 -

**Descendants of Johannes Dietrich**

1 Johannes Dietrich 1822 -  
 .. +Katharina Helfrich  
 ..... 2 Johann Philipp Dietrich 1848 -  
 ..... 2 Emilia Dietrich 1850 - 1862  
 ..... 2 Maria Catherina Dietrich 1852 -  
 ..... 2 George Washington Dietrich 1855 -  
 ..... +Emma Eiermann 1855 -  
 ..... 3 John W. Dietrich 1879 -  
 ..... 3 George Washington Dietrich Jr. 1870 -  
 ..... 3 Mamie M. Dietrich 1882 -  
 ..... 3 Katherine Dietrich 1885 -  
 ..... 3 Emma Dietrich 1889 -  
 ..... 3 William G. Dietrich 1894 -  
 ..... 2 Mary Dietrich 1857 -  
 ..... 2 Johannes Heinrich Dietrich 1859 -

**Conclusion**

There is much research that remains and many areas yet unexplored. Yet there comes a time with any research endeavor when what has been discovered must be recorded. My intent, therefore, is to provide this initial genealogical portrait of the Dietrich family (and allied families) for all to enjoy.

## 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.

*(Article continued from previous issue.)*

Information about the economic and demographic impact of the war abounds in the tax records, parish registers and other records which in some areas were maintained with great care. Historians can pinpoint hundreds of villages that were depopulated, but there were also hundreds of towns and villages which survived the war almost intact. Historians disagree on the population loss in the Palatinate. One estimate says the population of the Palatinate dropped from half-a-million to less than 50,000. Another estimate places the loss at ¾ of the Palatine population, and this is the number most frequently quoted. One must keep in mind that what appears to be a population loss was in reality a population transfer; villages emptied, but nearby cities grew with refugees seeking the protection that was offered by these fortified cities. This long and costly war has been described as an unprecedented catastrophe for the German people. The Treaty of Westphalia, which concluded this war, also contained the seeds of the later mass migration.

This treaty contained the stipulation that the people in each political unit should take the religion of the ruler. But the only recognized religions were Catholic, Lutheran and Reformed. There were many small religious

In celebration of MAGS's 20<sup>th</sup> 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).

Appearing here is the second part of the reprinted article. For the first part, see the previous issue of *Der Kurier* (Vol. 20, No. 3, September 2002).

groups that would eventually participate in the emigration to America, seeking religious freedom including Mennonites, Moravians, Schwenkfelders, Brethren (called Dunkards), German Quakers, and Amish.

We tend to emphasize the Thirty Years' War but the destruction did not end with the treaty at the close of that war. In 1674, French troops marched through the Palatinate, laying waste to the land. In France, the Edict of Nantes, which had provided some protection to French Protestants, was revoked in 1686 and the Huguenots fled into the adjacent German territories. Once again, Louis XIV of France sent his troops, this time with orders to totally destroy the Palatinate. The destruction and brutality that followed surpassed the horrors of the Thirty Years' War. This war lasted for twelve years ending in 1697; but peace didn't last long. The wars

of the Spanish Succession arrived with the new century and lasted until 1714<sup>6</sup>.

The religious factor also entered in. After the wars, in an attempt to get new citizens into their lands, certain German rulers were desperate enough to offer some concessions to induce settlers into their territories. These concessions included a limited religious tolerance. Switzerland was overpopulated and the Swiss Mennonites were being subjected to some rather severe persecution; some were being deported, since they refused to change their faith. With them went many Reformed Swiss who disapproved of the harsh treatment by the authorities. Thousands of Swiss moved into these German territories. After a time, some of the concessions that had been offered to induce these settlers into new areas were rescinded by the ruling families. Taxes were imposed and certain privileges were denied. Nor was the religious intolerance limited to just the Mennonites. Persecution, war, pestilence, hunger, religious intolerance, heavy taxation, all contributed to the emigration fever; but first and foremost on the list of reasons was the fact that they simply wanted a better way of life! Imagine the courage it took for them to go and find it. One of my favorite immigrants was a seventy-year-old man from Ittlingen named Johann Conrad Klemm<sup>7</sup>; he had two wives, and fourteen children born in Ittlingen

<sup>6</sup> There are many works detailing the repopulation of the Palatinate. A sampling: Joder, Karl. "Swiss Emigrants from 1694-1754 who Settled in the Palatinate, Alsace-Lorraine, Baden-Württemberg and Pennsylvania," in *Mennonite Family History*, Vol. 2, no. 4. Elverson PA, Oct. 1983.

Johnson, Arta F. A series of articles published in *Pfälzisch-Rheinische Familienkunde*, Band 12, Heft 7, 8, 9, 10, 1992-1993. Each article contains lists of Swiss located in specific Palatine villages; the villages published to date are Klein Schifferstadt, Haardt a. d. Weinstrasse, Dannstadt-Schauerheim, Iggelheim, Gimmeldingen and Mussbach.

Burgert, Annette K. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America, Vol. II: The Western Palatinate*. Birdsboro: The Pennsylvania German Society, Vol. 19, 1985. A 12-page appendix lists many Swiss who appear in the Rieschweiler Parish, giving their Swiss village of origin.

<sup>7</sup> Burgert, *Northern Kraichgau*, immigrant family # 286, page 207.

in the Kraichgau. One of his sons emigrated in 1742; then, in 1747, eight members of his family received a special communion "before going to the New Land". He left some married children and grandchildren behind in Germany when he left with part of his family, probably knowing that he would never see them again. He survived the journey in 1747 and lived for seven more years in Pennsylvania. For every immigrant there is a similar story of courage. We can only begin to imagine the conditions that would compel a seventy-year-old man to leave home and family, to try to start all over again.

Many researchers are unaware of their Swiss ancestry because of their interim residence for one, two, and even three generations in German territories before their final emigration to America. There was also heavy Swiss emigration directly from Switzerland, at the same time this indirect emigration was taking place. Part of this direct Swiss emigration has been documented in Albert B. Faust and Gaius M. Brumbaugh's *Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies*. Originally published in two volumes (Washington: The National Genealogical Society, 1920, 1925), it was reprinted with Leo Schelbert's additions and corrections by Genealogical Publishing Company in 1976.

This is a good reference with which to start your research, but it does not contain every Swiss emigrant of that period. The Zurich lists, for example, cover just a ten-year period; and there was emigration from Zurich both before and after the years included in this work.

A most useful set of volumes to help determine if your ancestral name might be of Swiss origin is Ulrich F. Hagmann's *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz* (6 vols., Zurich: 1968-1976). These volumes contain a listing of all surnames and the towns and villages in which those names are found. The entries are coded and those with a small (a) indicate that the family name was found in that village before 1800. One drawback to

this work is that surnames now extinct in Switzerland are not listed. So if all of the family emigrated in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the name is not found there today, it will not be listed.

In every canton in Switzerland there is a state archive, but the material held by each one is different. Every canton does as it pleases about civil registry. In some cantons, but not all, the old records have been centralized in the state archive. There is no central archive for all of Switzerland that would compare to our National Archives.

When you have established that your German family is indeed of Swiss origin, there are several how-to books available for continuing your Swiss research. One of these, Maralyn A. Wellauer's *Tracing Your Swiss Roots* (Milwaukee: 1979), also includes the Swiss postal zip code directory, a finding aid for locating the correct Swiss village.

### Selected Bibliography

The following are elected titles that list Swiss families who relocated in specific areas. Most titles mention the places of earlier residence in Switzerland and new villages of residence in Germany and France. Although several are foreign language publications, most can be read by persons who are just slightly familiar with either language. Some of the more recently published works are available from book sellers in America. Some older titles have been microfilmed by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and are available on loan at their branch libraries.

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.

- Burgert, Annette K. *A Century of Emigration from Affoltern am Albis, Canton Zurich, Switzerland*. Worthington, OH: AKB Publications, 1984. Emigration after the Thirty Years' War.
- 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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Eighteenth Century Emigrants from German-Speaking Lands to North America, Vol. II: The Western Palatinate*. Birdsboro: The Pennsylvania German Society, Vol. 19, 1985. A 12-page appendix lists many Swiss who appear in the Rieschweiler Parish, giving their Swiss village of origin.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *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.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century Emigrants from Lachen-Speyerdorf in the Palatinate*. Myerstown, 1989. A 4-page appendix contains a list of earlier Swiss origins from this Palatine church book.
- Debor, Herbert Wilhelm. *Zuwanderungen in den Odenwaldkreis nach dem 30jahrigen Krieg*. 1989.
- Diefenbacher, Karl, Pfister, Hans Ulrich and Hotz, Kurt H. *Schweizer Einwanderer in den Kraichgau nach dem Dreissigjahrigen Krieg*. Sinsheim: Heimatverein Kraichgau e. V.; 1983. This volume has notes and remarks in English to assist the American researcher.
- Eshelman, H. Frank. *Historical Background and Annals of the Swiss and German Pioneer Settlers of South Eastern Pennsylvania*. Lancaster: 1917; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1969.
- Faust, Albert B. and Brumbaugh, Gaius M. *Lists of Swiss Emigrants in the Eighteenth Century to the American Colonies*. Originally published in 2 volumes, Washington: The National Genealogical Society, 1920, 1925. Reprinted with Leo Schelbert's additions and corrections, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976.

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### Ancestral Villages of Germanna Colonists

John Blankenberger, editor of *Beyond Germanna*, has posted photographs on the web that he and his wife, Eleanor, took during two recent trips to Germany. These are pictures of some of the villages from which the Germanna Colonists originated. Go to <[www.germanna.com](http://www.germanna.com)> and click on German and Austrian Photos. (*Beyond Germanna, News and Notes, Vo. 14, No. 5, September 2002*)

## BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

### William King's Mortality Books, Volume 1, 1795-1832

Transcribed by Jane Donovan and  
Carlton Fletcher

2001. Heritage Books, Inc., 1540E Pointer Ridge Place, Bowie, MD 20716. 237 pages, softcover. Size: 8 ¼ x 5 ¼". Book No. D1853. Price: \$23 plus \$5 shipping / handling.

This is a listing that was transcribed from the original mortality books now in the collections of the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. William King was a cabinetry artisan who also built burial coffins in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. There is a short biography of the artisan and an explanation of the meaning of the entries. The volume includes chronological and alphabetical listings, thereby eliminating the need for an index.

The information in this volume covers a very early period in the Washington, D.C. area and provides information never before available. The summary of the book states that this is a listing of all burials in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. Also, the introductory statement indicates: "As a rule, surnames correspond to the person who paid for King's services, not the person being buried." I located a number of ancestral names in the listings including Thomas CRAMPHIN and Allen BOWIE. Both proved to be exceptions to the rule. Both were significant political figures in this area during their lifetimes. The first entry reads: CRAMPHIN, Thomas 12/3/1830 M. His tombstone indicates he died December 2, 1830 and he is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in northeast Washington, D.C. The letter "M" indicates his coffin was made of mahogany. An entry for Allen BOWIE, step-brother of Thomas Cramphin, reads: BOWIE, Allen 5/22/1803 M. The month of death on his tombstone was difficult to read. Was it "March" or "May" 1803? This entry provides some evidence

and an approximate day of death. His burial is listed in the Register for Prince George's (MD) Parish. Some of the more difficult names to research are JACKSON and BEALL. A number of entries are listed for those names. In one case an entry reads: BEALL, Ninian's child 10/22/1810 W. "W" meaning a walnut coffin.

Some of the entries indicate "of Bladensburg", or "of P.G. Co." All segments of society are represented in this volume with ethnicity sometimes indicated as well. Only a few German surnames are listed. In my opinion this volume offers some good research possibilities for an early time period. There is also a second volume available from the publisher.

*Reviewed by Marilynne G. Ocando*

### The Hidden Half of the Family, a Sourcebook for Women's Genealogy by Christian Kassabian Schaefer

1999. Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., 1000 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202. 306 pages, soft cover, some illustrations. Indexed by subject, states, 8 ½ x 11. Book # 98-73684. Cost \$35 plus tax & \$3.50 S&H.

In the introduction of the book is good useful information for looking for the forgotten "other half". It organizes information by state (approximately 5 pages for each state) on where to look for "vital" records including divorce and property for women.

It has a glossary of various "old" words used years ago and a large bibliography, so that one can check more on a reference source.

This book would help someone just starting their family history. It has a lot of helpful suggestions.

*Reviewed by Karen Ann Gelsleichter*

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