



Volume 22, Number 1, March 2004

SOCIETIES IN CRISIS

The regrettable events at the National Genealogical Society are unfortunately symptomatic of ongoing problems within the genealogical community, particularly as they relate to societies. Many societies are losing members, they are seeing a drop-off in attendance at meetings, and they are losing revenue. The bottom line is that many genealogical societies are in crisis.

The root of the problem is change—transformations that have taken place over the past quarter-century and particularly within the past ten years. The digitalization of information accessed via the Internet has transformed how we go about finding information and/or contacting other genealogists. Twenty-five years ago historians found information in libraries, county courthouses, and record depositories. Now they can find some of what they need online.

While a number of societies have research facilities or libraries, most serve a different function. The majority provide a forum wherein members can exchange information. That exchange occurs through newsletters and meetings wherein members swap information on potential sources, or good old-fashioned “know how,” and the results of their research. Members of societies wanting information on families or possible sources post their “queries” in the society newsletter in hopes of finding answers to their questions.

Now that exchange of information takes place online in chat rooms, through electronic mailing lists, on bulletin boards and web pages. And, Internet resources have cut into library and record repository usage.

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society is weathering this storm fairly well. Membership has remained steady for several years. While the society is solvent, we have seen a drop in attendance at meetings in the past year.

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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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Der Kurier is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is indexed in the Periodical Source Index by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN, and the Genealogical Periodical Annual Index by Heritage Books, Inc, Bowie, MD.

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: James M. Beidler, PO Box 270, Lebanon, PA 17038. E-mail: jmbeidler@comcast.net

SOCIETIES IN CRISIS (Continued from Page 1)

Any number of problems can account for that change—the program, weather, the location where the meeting was held or personal considerations and obligations. But as a society we cannot become complacent—MAGS is not immune to all of the changes going on about us; like other societies MAGS has to change and adapt to this new environment.

The Board has put in place several changes that you will notice over the course of the coming year. The first ones that you may notice involve *Der Kurier*. We have a new and very capable editor, Jim Beidler. Jim brings to the job of editor a good background in writing and editing skills. Before becoming Executive Director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania, he already had authored a weekly newspaper genealogy column, “Roots & Branches,” for a number of years. Currently he writes the genealogy column in *German Life*.

Second, you will notice changes in the design of the newsletter—changes in style that will bring *Der Kurier* in line with the format used by most contemporary newsletters. Third, over time we will be including more content in *Der Kurier*—articles of interest that will identify new record sources or provide some insightful information on research in the U.S and Germany.

The location of the spring meeting is another change that was implemented by the Board of Directors. This year the spring meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. This change was not made lightly as some MAGS members are fond of Blob’s Park but Blob’s had some serious limitations such as insufficient lighting, the lack of a sound system, and the condition of the rest rooms.

Ultimately the society exists for the benefit of its members. Thus the Board needs to know what you want. Attendees at the spring meeting will be asked to evaluate the content of the program, the meeting location, and associated activities. If you do not like the move from Blob’s Park, for example, here is your chance to let us know.

Later this year a questionnaire will be sent to all members asking for input on services. If we are going to stay viable we need to know what you want and need. Thus we encourage you to return the evaluation form and questionnaire.

Online databases can provide family historians with the information they seek—but they cannot provide the “know how.” Fortunately a Society can, and that is the future of MAGS. Countless Americans have German ancestry and as every member of MAGS knows German research is not easy.

Thus MAGS will always have a mission but we have to find a way to fulfill that mission in this new environment. The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society has to find a way to reach out to a new generation of Americans who are discovering their ancestry in ways that are very different from the ones that were used when MAGS was established, but if we do, then we then we can see that MAGS remains viable in the future.

John T. Humphrey
President

der Kalender**2004**

April 22-25. The Society for German-American Studies. Twenty-Eighth Annual Symposium. New Ulm, MN. Contact: Jenny Eckstein, Chamber and Visitor's Bureau, Box 384, New Ulm, MN 56073-0384. Phone: 507-354-4217. E-mail jeckstein@newulm.net

April 24. Pennsylvania Chapter, PalAm Spring Conference. Yoder's, New Holland, Pennsylvania. Contact PA Chapter, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579-0280.

May 2. The German Society of Maryland. German Heritage Festival, Blob's Park, Jessup, MD. Contact: www.germansociety-md.com or write P.O. Box 22585, Baltimore, MD 21203-4585. Phone 410-685-0450.

May 19-22. National Genealogy Conf. in the States. Convention Center, Sacramento,

CA. E-mail: www.ngsgenealogy.org or www.sacvalleygenes.org

June 24-26. Palatines to America National Conference. Conference theme: "Where It All Began." Holiday Inn, Wolf Road, Albany, NY. For additional information contact PalAm web site: <http://www.palam.org>

September 24. Pennsylvania Chapter, PalAm Fall Conference. Yoder's, New Holland, PA. Contact PA Chapter, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579-0280.

September 26-28. NGS Genealogy Seminar in Historic Places. Salem, MA. Contact: www.ngsgenealogy.org or write National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399.

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).

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 members to submit research names to the Surname Exchange Index and to have the Index searched to determine if others are also researching the same family.

James M. Beidler of Lebanon, PA
(Beutler, Hiester, Machmer, Spayd)
Alice P. Bennett of Bellevue, WA
(Shaffer - all variations)
Marian Biegel of Tinley Park, IL
(Colstock, Fehrenkamp, Kime, Freier)
Paul F. Davis of Sun City West, AZ
(Hawk, Renne, Schertle)
Ginna Smith Denues of San Ramon, CA
(Denues/Dönges, Smit, Taylor, Carls)
Larry R. Gamby of Hagerstown, MD
Susan Hickman of Ridgefield, WA
(Markel, Howman, Horst, Zieger)
Barbara Hopkins of Silver Spring, MD
(Hopkins, Garrison, Yeatman, Dismar)
Tom Lewis & family of Stuart, FL
(Frantz, Herring, Hoff, Klemmer)
Kay Maselter of Rolling Hills Estates, CA

(Plush, Miller, Weeks)
Bonnie J. Painter of Edinburg, VA
(Painter/Bender, Volt, Lindamood, Rinehart)
Martha E. Rasmussen of Brownwood, TX
(Lambert, Horine, Mertz, Poffenberger)
Frank & Ramona Schmiedel of Foresthill CA
(Schmiedel, Rudolph)
Eric Schultz of Washington DC
(Kuehn/Kühn, Heller, Rinas, Wiederhoeft)
Walter & Patricia Shoaf of Belle Vernon, PA
(Shoaf, Nussbaumer, Engert, Merz)
Chris L. Skow of Huntingdon Valley, PA
(Krökel, Dattwyler, Rosenberger, Lehneis)
Sam Swartz of Sterling VA
(Carper, Drill)
Mark & Gloria Swift of Frederick, MD
(Shnautz -all variations, Shaffer, Omert)

NEWS FROM ELSEWHERE

The German Radio Hour, *Edelweiss*, broadcast on Sunday morning has gone off the air; however, its sponsor, the German Radio Klub, continues in existence with various social activities.

Vereinsnachrichten, German Society of Maryland, Vol. 1, Issue 41, September 2003, p. 2.

The Editor and Publisher of *Beyond Germanna*, John Blankenbaker, announced that he is ending publication with the November 2003 issue. For fifteen years Mr. Blankenbaker has provided German genealogists with ninety issues of an informative and quality publication. We congratulate him on a job well done and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Beyond Germanna, Vol. 15, No. 6, November 2003, p. 915.

FIMBLE FAMILY REGISTER

Information abstracted from a German-language Bible printed in 1763 by Christoph Sauer in Germantown, Pennsylvania. (Private collection)

[On page pasted to inside front cover, written in German script:] On May 26, 1760, Johan Georg Fimble married Catharina Fimble.

[On flyleaf in German script:]

Johan Georg Fimble was born in Deutschland in Oberböyhingen in Nürtieger Amt. He was 14 years old when confirmed. [Illegible portion. Then:] Johan Georg Fimbel was born in Deutschland in Wuerttenberger Land in Oberbeyhingen "drey stand Oberstugart." In Oberbyhingen was the Nürtiger Amt [illegible portion] 1786. Johan Georg Fimble of [the remainder is illegible].

[Note: John Humphrey lists Fimbals and Fimples in the Montgomery County volume of his *Pennsylvania Births*. The location, spelled various ways in this record, is probably Oberboihingen, southeast of Stuttgart.]

[A second register appears on front flyleaf. This one is written in English script. It reads:]

Henry Epright was born August 27, 1763.

Frances Epright was born September 22, 1768.

They were married February 5, 1793.

Henry Epright (deceased) February 19, 1833.

Henry Epright was 69 years, 6 months, and 11 days when he died.

Frances Epright died September 2, 1837.

Frances Epright was 68 years, 11 months, and 11 days old when she died.

Samuel Epright was born April 29, 1794.

Mary Epright was born October 27, 1795.

Catharine Epright was born March 2, 1798.

Juliann Epright was born January 26, 1800.

Rudolph Epright was born February 24, 1802.

Sarah Epright was born March 6, 1804.

Henry Epright was born April 12, 1806. Henry Epright died September 17, 1807.

Charles Epright was born December 26, 1807.

FRAKTUR FORUM

by **Corinne Earnest**

HAUPT AND HOUPT ON FRAKTUR

Kathleen Kenna asked about the name HAUPT/HOUPPT on fraktur. At times, information from fraktur comes from photocopies correspondents are generous enough to share.

Occasionally, correspondents furnish translations or transcriptions rather than photocopies, and at other times, the photocopies they provide are difficult to read due to paper loss, faded ink, or other problems with the original fraktur.

Several photocopies of fraktur having the name HAUPT are known, but thus far, I have been unable to locate the originals, assuming they survived. The earliest date I found on a fraktur that mentions HAUPT was taken from a photocopy of a taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) made for Magdalena HAUPT, daughter of Johannes and Catharina (SAUER) HAUPT.

Magdalena HAUPT was born about 4:30 in the morning on April 25, 1761 in Rockhill Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. The fraktur is attributed to an artist named Daniel Otto (circa 1770-1822). This piece was made long after the date of infill. Because it was made later than 1761, the family probably forgot information concerning Magdalena's baptism.

Magdalena married Johan Henrich SPANGLER. Daniel Otto made a taufschein for their daughter, Anna Maria. This certificate confirms Anna Maria's mother, Magdalena, was the daughter of Johannes HAUPT.

Anna Maria was born in West Buffalo Township, Northumberland [today's Union] County, Pennsylvania, about two o'clock in the afternoon of July 5, 1799. She was baptized by Pastor JASENSKY on September 5, presumably in 1799. Sponsors at her baptism were Georg and Anna Maria OBERMEYER.

Daniel Otto made a family register for the SPANGLER family. Unfortunately, the upper left corner is missing, but remaining portions suggest Johan Henrich SPANGLER was the son of Georg Christian SPANGLER.

Johan Henrich and Magdalena (HAUPT) SPANGLER were married by Salomon FRIEDERICI. This register confirms that Magdalena HAUPT was born on April 25, 1761 and that her parents were Johannes and Catharina HAUPT. It indicates Johan Henrich SPANGLER may have been born in 1763.

The children of Johan Henrich and Magdalena SPANGLER were born in West Buffalo Township, Union County. The first of these children, Johan Henrich, was born about nine o'clock in the morning on November 20, 1786.

He was baptized by Pastor SCHELLHART. Sponsors at his baptism were Christian and Catharina SPANGLER. Another son, Johan Georg, was born about nine o'clock in the morning on

September 9, 1788. He was baptized by Pastor WERSEN [?]. Johan Georg's parents were sponsors at his baptism. The next child was Johan Michael, who was born about six o'clock in the evening on November 4, 1792. He was baptized November 25, 1792 by Pastor JASENSKY. The sponsors at his baptism were Conrad and Elisabeth BERGER.

The remaining information on this register is too faded to read from the photocopy, but a translation from an unknown source says Frederich was born December 3, 1794 at about two o'clock in the morning. He was baptized by Pastor JASENSKY. The sponsors were Theodor and Catharina SANDER. And Anna Maria was born about two o'clock in the morning on July 5, 1799. She was baptized by Pastor JASENSKY on September 5 as reported on her taufschein. The sponsors were Georg and Anna Maria OBERMEYER. This data concerning Anna Maria SPANGLER confirms data given on her taufschein.

I sent Kathleen Kenna additional information concerning HAUPTs on fraktur. Many date from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and they record information from families in several counties of southeast Pennsylvania and one example from New Jersey. If you wish me to research your family names on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1007, East Berlin, PA 17316. Please be patient for a reply. MAGS provides this service to members at no charge.

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Many thanks to MAGS member and new Webmaster Jeff Hughes for compiling this everyname index to the Volume 21 of *Der Kurier*.

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TAXES, FINDING FEMALE ANCESTORS AND SOURCES FOR GERMAN RESEARCH

24 April 2004, Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland

8:30 Registration – Juice, pastries, coffee

9:00 Welcoming remarks

9:10 Taxes: Milk Them for All They're Worth!

Barbara Vines Little

10:10 break

10:35 Finding German Ancestors in the Nation's Capital

John T. Humphrey

11:35 Annual Business Meeting

12:00 Noon Luncheon

1:15 Teasing the Silent Women from the Shadow of History

Barbara Vines Little

2:15 Break

2:45 Using German Church Records in Germany and the U.S.

John T. Humphrey

3:45 Awarding of Door Prizes

4:00 Adjourn for the day

Absolutely no taping, either audio or visual will be permitted without prior approval of the speakers and MAGS. Send your request to Carl Shrader at 10 Saint Andrews Garth, Severna Park, MD 21146 no later than April 1.

Registration Form

MAGS Spring Meeting 24 April 2003 Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland. If you register by April 10, 2004 the fees are: Member @ \$30.00 Non-Member @ \$35.00
New Member dues: 1 year Ind. \$10.00 Family \$12.00

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Make check payable to: Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and mail check and registration form to:
Diane M. Kuster, 251 Serpentine Dr. Bayville, NJ 0872 Phone 732-606-6032 Email KusterDM@cs.com

The spring meeting will be held at the Comfort Inn Conference Center in Bowie, Maryland. The address is 4500, Crain Highway, Bowie—phone 866-244-9330. The hotel is located at the junction of routes US 301 and US 50 in Bowie, Maryland.

Barbara Vines Little, CG, is a professional genealogist specializing in problem solving using land platting and tax records, she lectures on methodology, publishing and Virginia research and is editor of the quarterly Magazine of *Virginia Genealogy* and the Virginia Genealogical Society's newsletter. She also serves on the Board of the National Genealogical Society and was program chair for the 1999 NGS Conference.

John T. Humphrey, MAGS president, is an award winning author of nineteen books and numerous articles. As the former director of the NGS Learning Center, he managed several NGS conferences, was responsible for the NGS research trip to Germany and the online and home study courses.

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