



Der Kurier

Volume 23, Number 2, June 2005

Capital influences

Germans found in Washington's history, records, buildings

By John T. Humphrey

Generally most Americans associate Germans with cities in the Midwest and Upper Midwest – namely St. Louis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee or Chicago. They do not associate Germans with Washington, D.C., and yet when you examine the evidence, Washington, as with nearly all American cities, benefited from its many residents who were of German descent. That evidence can be found in the city's history, its records and even in its architecture.

Georgetown, the oldest part of the city, predates the establishment of the capital by more than fifty years. The oldest house in Georgetown, located on M Street between 30th and 31st Street, was built on lot 3.

This piece of land was acquired on 11 June 1764 by Christopher Lehmann, a German immigrant who came to Maryland by way of Philadelphia. The National Park Service claims that Lehmann probably came from Pennsylvania in the 1760s.

When George Washington laid the cornerstone of the U.S. Capitol Building on

September 25, 1793, he was assisted by Valentine Reintzel, another Georgetown German.

Reintzel was asked to assist in setting the stone because he was the first Grand Master of the Masonic Lodge in Maryland. Reintzel, who was born on 26 February 1761 in Berks County Pennsylvania, was the son of Valentine and Sara Reintzel. Valentine's father was born in Niederhochstadt, Germany in 1722; he immigrated to Philadelphia in 1738.



Details discovered in Washington's city directories for the 1870s through the 1890s show the nation's capital continued to attract Germans. The evidence can be found in the city's churches, social organizations and even in the city's businesses. For example in the 1889 City Directory there are listings for the *Bayern Verein* (Bavarian Association), the *Washington Deutscher Unterstützungs Verein*, (the Washington German Aid Society), and the German Veterans Union.

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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<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**

**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 17042. E-mail: james@beidler.us

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John T. Humphrey

**MAGS Charter Member and Founding President,
Norman C. Emerick, dies at 82**

MAGS founding president, Norman Emerick, died on Saturday, November 6, 2004, in Seattle, WA, of complications associated with lymphoma.

He was born on November 26, 1921, in Springfield, IL, where he spent his formative years. Norm was the son of Athal Elder and Hazel Frances Cooper Emerick.

Upon graduation from high school he pursued a degree in civil engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign until he was drafted into the Army in 1942 in which he served with the Army Corps of Engineers in the South Pacific. He was discharged in 1945 with the rank of lieutenant.

After the war he completed his education and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1949 and his Master's one year later. On February 19, 1950, he married in Springfield to Charlotte Lorraine Thompson. They were the parents of two children, a son, Bruce C. Emerick of New York City, and a daughter, Ingrid Anne Emerick of Seattle.

In 1954 Norm moved with his family to Baltimore, MD, where he established his own engineering firm. He was an expert in soil mechanics and foundations. According to his daughter Ingrid, he did a lot of work for the courts in forensic engineering. He worked on projects many MAGS members recognize including the Baltimore Harbor Tunnel, the Jones Falls Expressway, St. John's College in Annapolis, Fallston High School and the Bethlehem Steel plant at Sparrows Point.

On March 13, 1982, temporary officers were elected to guide the formation of a German genealogical society in Maryland. Among them were Norman Emerick and Bev Hoch.

Initially the idea was to organize the group as the Maryland Chapter of Palatines to

America, but over the course of the following summer it became apparent the National Society would not allow the folks in Maryland to organize their local chapter in accordance with their own wishes.

Thus the decision was made to establish a separate genealogical society and a flier was mailed under Norm Emerick's name informing potential members of a new genealogical society with the name Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. At the first fall seminar held on September 25, 1982, in Frederick, MD, officers of the society were elected. Emerick was chosen as president, a position he held for three years.



Norman C. Emerick

In her eulogy, Ingrid Emerick described her father as a "man of great integrity both personally and professionally. He was uncompromisingly honest and hardworking. He was loyal to a fault. He was funny and had a quirky sense of humor."

I have few doubts members of MAGS who knew Norm agree with his daughter's characterization. Interestingly, near the conclusion of her eulogy she noted "he was always questioning the status quo and was a rebel at heart."

Norm Emerick's willingness to challenge the status quo and rebel are probably the very reasons why the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society exists. He and those who worked with him had the tenacity to say we are going to organize the society our way. Members of the society today say thanks!

German influences seen in nation's capital

(continued from Cover Page)

Examples of businesses were the German-American Fire Insurance Company and the German newspaper *Der Volks Tribune*. The city had several Lutheran churches that held Sunday morning worship services in German. Of note the Lutheran congregation situated on the corner 6th and P Streets, NW probably included many recent immigrants as the name given to the church was "The Church of the Fatherland."

German influences can also be seen in the city's architecture starting with the Library of Congress Jefferson building. That building was built under the supervision of two Germans, John L. Smithmeyer and Paul J. Pelz. The building's ornamentation and embellishment was the work of Albert Weinert, a sculptor of German descent.

The neighborhood in and around the Library of Congress was home to many Germans who probably worked on constructing the Jefferson Building. That evidence can be found in the structures around the library and in census records.

That evidence can be found in the structures around the library and in census records. Three buildings, identified as Mayers Block, were erected across the street from the Library of Congress on Pennsylvania Avenue in the 1860s to 1870s. A building on the corner of Third Street and Independence Avenue carries the name German American Building Association. Germans in this neighborhood organized a Lutheran congregation in 1870 and built a church on Second Street and Pennsylvania Avenue SE. The church building was demolished in the 1930s when the Library of Congress commenced construction of the Adams Building. The Lutheran congregation relocated and built a new structure on East Capitol Street opposite the Folger Shakespeare Library and is known as the Church of the Reformation.

And evidence can be found in other well-known buildings — structures designed by a well-known German born architect, Adolf Cluss, who

is credited with the design of more than eighty structures in Washington.

Among them are the Arts and Industries Building, constructed in 1879. This structure, built to house some of the collections exhibited at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, stands next to the "Castle" on the Mall. The building reflects the style of the period in that it is a classic Victorian structure, but detailing on the turrets shows Cluss's German origins. The design of the turrets is reminiscent of the tops of spires found on churches and "*Rathauses*" or town halls throughout Germany.

Cluss designed and supervised the construction of Charles Sumner School located on 17th and M Streets in NW Washington. This structure, which still stands, was built in 1872, the same year, another Cluss building was erected — Eastern Market located on Capitol Hill. One of his earlier structures is Calvary Baptist Church located at 777 8th Street, NW. It was designed and/or built in 1864.

During the 1870s and 1880s Cluss lived at 413 Second Street, NW, which was located between Constitution and Massachusetts Avenues at the base of Capitol Hill not far from the National Gallery of Art East Wing. When he died in 1905 it appears he was living at 2301 H Street, which is now part of George Washington University. In the 1880s, when he designed the above-referenced buildings, his architectural offices were located on the northeast corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and Fifteenth Streets, NW.

Readers of Der Kurier will find additional information on Adolf Cluss in this issue. Many thanks are extended to Carolyn Cross, wife of MAGS member Joseph Brown for submitting that material. As she notes in the article, an exhibit celebrating the accomplishments of this German born American architect will open in September 2005 in Washington and in Adolph Cluss's "heimat," Heibronn, Germany.

Cluss family in Germany and America

By Carolyn Cross

For Himmelfahrt weekend (that includes a Fathers Day very unlike the one we celebrate here) in May 2001 my partner and I took a bike tour of the Neckar River from Ludwigsberg to Heidelberg.

A morning of that trip included a stop at the Stadtarchiv (City Archives) of Heilbronn. Joe was planning to write an article on Adolf Cluss, a Washington, DC immigrant and architect born there.

We had previously contacted the center. The director was on vacation but his assistant helped us with whatever we wanted. She provided us with many pages of primary documentation about Cluss and his family. Some we had seen; a great deal was new.

In addition she indicated that the Smithsonian Institution had also contacted them regarding Adolf Cluss. It was a researcher's dream. We had so much paper we had to buy a tube and mail all the information back home.

From what we garnered, Joe contacted the Smithsonian Office of Historic Preservation and, in fact, they were doing research for a monograph on Cluss and his architecture. Through a friend Joe contacted the Goethe Institut in Washington because they supported a virtual tour Web site that included some Cluss buildings.

Thus the Adolf Cluss Exhibition Project was born. It has grown to a consortium of six major institutions in Washington and Heilbronn and will include a symposium, book, CD, Web site, Wuerttemberg Chamber Orchestra concert tour in the US as well as lectures and educational tours.

Opening for the concurrent exhibitions is slated for September 2005 at the Charles Sumner School Museum and Archives in Washington, DC and the Stadtarchiv in Heilbronn, Germany.

Dr. Peter Cluss lives not far from Heilbronn. He has little information about his ancestor because most turned to "ashes and smoke" in the December 1944 allied bombing of Heilbronn. Through another member of the team we contacted and visited Cluss's great-grandson

William Shacklette in Florida. He saved many letters from relatives to Cluss as well as pictures, objects and artwork. The letters include those from nieces in Germany, many with somewhat uncommon last names.

In an effort to learn more about Cluss we utilized Deutsche Telekom's online phone book. Caroline, Adolf's older sister had married a de Millas. We contacted the four listings with that last name in the country. Shortly thereafter Rudolf from Mannheim called us. We made arrangements to spend a day at his home. He had many wonderful family photographs and the baptism, marriage and death records his family had to compile when Hitler was in power to prove their ethnicity. We had a complete chart of several generations of Cluss's ancestors. Rudolf scanned all the pertinent documents, filled us in on his branch of the family tree and promised his full support including a trip to the exhibition opening in Washington.

Rudolf was later able to track down a cousin who owned a cottage in Switzerland that had been in the family for several generations. She knew nothing of Cluss but encouraged Rudolf to visit and look at what was in her attic. Here they found photographs of Adolf and his wife as young adults and his children that nobody in the project had previously seen.

We feel like Uncle Adolf (as many of his nieces addressed him) has become a member of our family. We know more about him than many of our own ancestors but still feel there is much to learn.

He participated actively in the 1848 Revolution in Germany, was a friend of and exchanged letters with Karl Marx, designed four of the first five buildings on the National Mall and participated actively in politics and society in post-Civil War Washington. Cluss buildings currently standing include the Eastern Market, Charles Sumner School, Franklin School and Arts and Industries Building. We have only been able to form such a complete picture through cooperation on both sides of the Atlantic.

AHNENTAFEL / Cluss

I

1. Adolf Ludwig Cluss, architect, born 14 Jul 1825 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg; died 24 Jul 1905 in Washington, DC.

He married **(1) Rosa Schmidt** 08 Feb 1859 in Zion Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD. She was born 10 Feb 1835 in Maryland, and died 10 Apr 1894 in Washington, DC. She was the daughter of Jacob Schmidt and Elisabetha Helena Fuchs.

Notes for Adolf Ludwig Cluss, Architect: Buried in Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC 27 July 1905

More About Rosa Schmidt: Burial: Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington, DC

II

2. Johann Heinrich Abraham Cluss, born 21 Nov 1792 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg; died 22 Jul 1857 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg.

3. Anna Christine Neuz, born 29 Nov 1796 in Neckargartach, Wuerttemberg; died 03 May 1827 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg.

III

4. Georg Andreas Cluss, born 12 Dec 1750 in Weinsburg, Wuerttemberg; died 01 Jun 1822 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg.

5. Regine Dorothea Linder, born 28 Sep 1751 in Lauffen?, Wuerttemberg; died 01 Sep 1837 in Heilbronn, Wuerttemberg.

Spring door prize winners

Here are the winners of the door prizes at the Spring Meeting of MAGS in Fredericksburg, VA:

Prize	Donated By	Winner
\$35 Gift Certificate	Virginia Genealogical Society	Lewis Young
15-Generation Pedigree Chart	Jigsaw Genealogy	Deyerle Atkins
15-Generation Pedigree Chart	Jigsaw Genealogy	Verna Johnson
8-Generation Fan Chart	Jigsaw Genealogy	Eileen Rodgers
Claiborne of Virginia	Virginia Genealogical Society	John Epperly
Evidence – Special Quarterly Edition	National Genealogical Society	Linda Pierce
Family Tree, A Collection of Diagrams	Tuttle Antiquarian Books, Inc.	Vicki Bristow
German Life – One Year Subscription	German Life Magazine	Sue Conlan
Gift Certificate	Heirloom Photographic Restoration	Steve Arnold
MAGS Tote Bag	Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society	Fayette Longwell
MAGS Tote Bag	Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society	Beverly Veness
One Year Gift Membership	Virginia Genealogical Society	Betty deKeyser
One Year Gift Membership	GRIVA	E. Kirk-Hepwell
Red Book, American State...	MyFamily.com	Linda Hitchcock
The Palatine Immigrant, Vol. XXIX	Palatines to America	Doris Young
Understanding and Using Baptismal...	Anonymous	Carol Bentley
Understanding and Using Baptismal...	Anonymous	K. Lineweaver
Virginia Genealogy, Sources & Res...	Genealogical Publishing Company	Leslie Bouvier
Virginians and California Gold 1850	GRIVA	Kathryn Hamilton
Early Landowners Fayette Co.	Ancestor Tracks	Ken Macomber
Early Landowners Greene Co.	Ancestor Tracks	Richard Buss
Early Landowners Scans Wash Co	Ancestor Tracks	Susan Knight
1 Year Sub. Family Tree Magazine	Family Tree Magazine	Richard Wilson
\$5 off purchase at conference	Maia's Books	Sharon Lang

Are your ancestors hiding in someone's Ahnentafel?

By Corinne Earnest

MAGS members often create ancestral charts called Ahnentafels (an Anglicized spelling of the German word, *Ahnentafeln*). Ahnentafels are similar to pedigree charts that list direct ancestors.

Those created by MAGS members are often published in *Der Kurier*, and afterwards updated and expanded before being published in book form (see MAGS's *Ahnentafels: Ancestral Charts for Families of German Heritage*).

Genealogists should not ignore Ahnentafels. As researchers looking for ancestors of German heritage know, Germans often traveled together and settled in groups. Armed with this knowledge, savvy sleuths watch for clusters of names rather than singling out ancestors' names alone.

They frequently discover that people from a village in Europe or from nearby villages appear on the same ship list and then in a localized area in America where they often appear together in church or other records.

Ahnentafels frequently show evidence of such groupings. As a result, researchers discover neighbors and friends were actually relatives of their ancestors. Keeping a keen eye open for these neighbors and friends in Ahnentafels can lead researchers to ancestral villages in Europe.

Some researchers have had lucky breaks through Ahnentafels. In one instance, a genealogist found his surname eight generations back in a maternal line of another's Ahnentafel. Along with the surname, he found several given names that appeared frequently in his family. Naturally, he followed a hunch that his ancestral home

might have been the same village or a nearby village mentioned by the author of the Ahnentafel. By checking microfilms of church records in the surrounding areas, he became further convinced he was on the right track. Through perseverance, he eventually found his ancestor. An Ahnentafel written by another researcher provided his first clue.

Some family historians leave research of maternal lines for "later," yet Ahnentafels often demonstrate that maternal lines are key to finding crucial data about a family's origin. Because each generation introduces new threads by way of mothers' maiden names, researchers who lack time and resources to develop these family lines may find someone else's effort suddenly became relevant to their own family history.

Of course, not all Ahnentafels lead back to Europe. Some researchers have limited success in finding their ancestors further back than mention on ship lists or in records kept on this side of the ocean. But that is why Ahnentafels compiled by others can prove so helpful.

The clusters of names found in Ahnentafels have the potential of benefiting related families. Consequently, researchers should avoid the assumption that Ahnentafels are for "other peoples' families." In fact, family historians who often wished for a single book that would expedite their research occasionally find the information they are seeking in Ahnentafels rather than in family specific genealogy books.

Hints for Creating Ahnentafels

MAGS urges members to submit Ahnentafels for publication in *Der Kurier*. An

Ahnentafel can be any length. Some submit brief Ahnentafels showing only three or four generations. Others submit lengthy examples that demonstrate the family's ability to trace back several centuries.

When authors of fully developed Ahnentafels are able to list data for many generations, they generally can do so in just a few family lines rather than all lines. Gradually, even in these lines, details become scant. By including collateral lines, some authors deviate from typical Ahnentafels that list only direct ancestors. However, most Ahnentafels show direct ancestors alone.

Ahnentafels employ a numbering system that identifies each individual. Most begin with the author of the Ahnentafel or a member of his or her family, such as a son or daughter or an ancestor.

The first person in an Ahnentafel (number 1) can be male or female. Afterwards, all males have even numbers and all females have odd numbers. This numbering system is handy for understanding family relationships. For example, to find the parents of an individual listed in an Ahnentafel, readers simply double that individual's number to find his or her father. To find that same individual's mother, readers double the number and add one.

Generational divisions are shown in Ahnentafels. The first generation shows the individual numbered one. The second generation includes numbers two and three, and so forth. Put in chart form, numbers appear like this:

<i>Generation:</i>	<i>Numbers:</i>
I	1
II	2-3
III	4-7
IV	8-15
V	16-31
VI	32-63

VII 64-127, and so forth*

Revisions to Ahnentafels are expected. In fact, many examples published in *Der Kurier* were expanded prior to being published in MAGS's book on Ahnentafels. One such contributor traced seventeen generations (to individual #90816). Do not be intimidated by long Ahnentafels. Most of us cannot produce reliable data beyond just a few generations.

Ideally, authors of Ahnentafels provide names, dates, and locations for each major event in their ancestors' lives. These events include births, marriages, and deaths. However, not all that information is available for every individual listed in a typical Ahnentafel.

And understandably, the trail eventually runs cold the further back in the history of most families. In fact, Ahnentafels are actually slices of a family's history rather than the entire pie. They are subject to numerous revisions as determined researchers fill in blanks. Those who write Ahnentafels or read them understand these limitations, but they forge ahead under the theory that sharing at least some information is better than sharing no information.

If you submit an Ahnentafel to MAGS, send it to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton, DE 19938. Be sure in your letter to state that MAGS has permission to publish it. It will be re-typed in the format preferred by MAGS. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope and an email address, if you have one.

*For more on the numbering system in Ahnentafels, see the introduction to MAGS's *Ahnentafels: Ancestral Charts for Families of German Heritage*. Also, to prepare an Ahnentafel, review Ahnentafels published in previous issues of *Der Kurier*.

AHNENTAFEL / Straw

Submitted by Richard M. Straw, 1599 Brush College Rd. NW, Salem, OR 97304-1432

I

1 **Philip STRAW**, b 20 Aug 1800, Hayfield Tp, Crawford Co PA; d 4 Jun 1865, Hayfield Tp, Crawford Co PA; bur Vernango Cem, Crawford Co PA.

II

2 **Jacob STRAW, Jr.**, b 3 Oct 1762, Hempfield Tp, Westmoreland Co PA; d 3 Oct 1837, Crawford Co PA; bur Saegertown Cem, Crawford Co PA.

3 **Sarah FRANKS**, b 15 Oct 1769, Fayette Co PA; d 1 Apr 1846, Saegertown, Crawford Co PA; bur Saegertown Cem, Crawford Co PA.

III

4 **Jacob STRAW, Sr.**, b 4 Dec 1727, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d May 1808, Hempfield Tp, Westmoreland Co PA.

5 **Anna Catharina ALTMAN**, b 14 Aug 1738, Herbitzheim, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d aft 1808, Westmoreland Co PA.

6 **Jacob FRANKS**, b 27 May 1743, Germany; d 5 Feb 1802, German Tp, Fayette Co PA; bur Jacob's Luth Cem near Uniontown PA.

7 **Barbara BRANDENBURG**, b abt 1741, Prussia?; d 12 May 1839, German Tp, Fayette Co PA; bur Jacob's Luth Cem near Uniontown PA.

IV

8 **Johann Theobald STROH**, b 12 Oct 1682, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 8 Nov 1765, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

9 **Christina JUNKER**, b 1684; d 30 Oct 1764, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

10 **Johann Jacob ALTMAN**, b 9 Feb 1700, Örmingen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 1777, Northampton Co PA.

11 **Anna Maria EISENMAN**, b 17 Feb 1701, Herbitzheim, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 20 Mar 1775, Lehigh Tp, Northampton Co PA.

12 **Michael FRANKS**.

14 **Ulrich (Alexander) BRANDENBURG**, b abt 1729; d Jul 1793, New Market District, Frederick Co MD.

15 **Anna ---**, b abt 1720, Prussia?; d abt 7 Feb 1808, New Market District, Frederick Co MD.

V

16 **Johann Jacob STROH**, b 12 Sep 1648, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 7 Nov 1725, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

17 **Anna Barbara HECKEL**, d 24 Nov 1725, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

20 **Johann(es) "Hans" ALTMAN**, b abt 1650, Örmingen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 21 Jun 1721, Örmingen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

21 **Eva ---**, b abt 1670, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

22 **Christian EISENMAN**.

23 **Anna Catharina BREITENSTEIN**.

VI

32 **Johann Theobald STROH**, b 1612, Mittersheim, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany; d 13 Feb 1669, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

33 **Agnes JUNCKER**, b 1615; d 15 Sep 1705, Wolfskirchen, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

40 **Hans Wilhelm ALTMAN**, b abt 1624, Alsace; d bef 1683.

41 Margaretha BELLINGER.

VII

64 Michael STROH, b abt 1580, Nassau-Saarwerden, Germany.

Editor's note: In a letter submitted with his Ahnentafel, Dick Straw mentioned web sites that attempt to tie Ulrich (Alexander) and Anna BRANDENBURG (numbers 14 and 15) to Friedrich Wilhelm, "the Great" Elector of Brandenburg. Dick Straw takes a cautious approach to this claim for he has no "adequate data to verify the connection." Therefore, he wisely limited this line of research to information he could prove.

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2005

June 2. Anne Arundel Genealogical Society.

Monthly meeting. "Advanced German Research" Speaker, Vernon Skinner. Severna Park United Methodist Church, 731 Benefield Boulevard, Severna Park, MD. 7:30 p.m. Web site <http://www.aagensoc.org>

June 3-5. Chapman Family Association Convention.

Holiday Inn, Williston Road, South Burlington, VT. Contact Liz Coddling, 717 Hollowdale, Edmond, OK 73003, phone (405) 359-7478

June 9-11. Palatines to America, Celebrating 30

Years. Hilton Hotel and Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, IN. Topics cover Meyers Orts, German Script, German Archives and much more. Contact Ralph Kroeler@prodigy.net or Ralph and Marge Kroehler, 6910 N. Rockvale, Peoria, IL 61614

July 9. German Interest Group-Wisconsin.

Greenhill Center of the Arts UW-Whitewater, Whitewater, WI. Speaker John T. Humphrey. Topics cover genealogical skills, German research resources, German character, and German ancestor's place of origin. Contact German Interest Group, PO Box 2185, Janesville, WI 53547, e-mail gig_wi@hotmail.com website <http://www.rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>

August 14-21. American Historical Society of Germans from Russia Convention. Oklahoma City, OK. Contact AHSGRoke@aol.com

August 19-21. Wertman Family Association Annual Reunion.

Berks County, PA, Comfort Inn, Bethel/Midway. Hotel reservations contact Audrey Brown (9 to 3 p.m.) (717) 933-8888. Web site <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~wertman>

August 19-22. FEEFHS Convention.

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN. www.feefhs.org

Aug. 21. Hoch/High Family Reunion, 93rd annual meeting. 1 p.m., American Legion Post 878, Deturk Road, Oley, Berks County, PA. Contact: Ralph Lorah, (610) 987-3541.

August 26-28. Tenth Annual Platt Conference.

Sponsored by American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society. Walcott, IA. Contact ASHHS, PO Box 506, Walcott, IA 52773, e-mail ASHHS@ASHHS.org.

September 7-10. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference.

Salt Lake City, UT. Contact <http://www.fgs.org>

October 22. Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America "2005 Fall Conference."

Yoder's Banquet Room, New Holland, PA. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579

German Translators

MAGS assumes no responsibility for the services listed. Contact the service providers directly for prices, length of time to complete translation, etc. If you find that any of the information above is no longer valid, please contact **MAGS** (PO Box 2642, Kensington, MD 20891-2642) so that corrections can be made to this list.

- **Ann C. Sherwin**, 1918 Medfield Rd., Raleigh, NC 27607-4732
(919-851-9281 or e-mail: asherwin@aol.com) *Accredited by the American Translators Assoc. for German-English & Spanish-English*
- **Trudy Schenk**, 8983 Daybreaker Dr., Park City, Utah 84098-5819
(e-mail: tschenk@sisna.com) *Professional genealogist and translator of genealogy-related items (will not do other translations), special skill reading old German scripts, experience reading and translating German, Latin, and French*
- **American Translators Association**, 1800 Diagonal Rd., Alexandria, VA
(703-683-6100) *Based on your needs they will assign a translator.*
- **Dr. Monika Edick**, 3249 Cambridge CT, Fairfax, VA 22030
(703-591-3656 or e-mail: toedick@aol.com) *She offers a professional translation service for German script, Middle High German, German for all documents & papers.*
- **Andrew Witter**, 1056 255th St., Donnellson, IA 52625-9069
(E-mail: ajwitter@juno.com or FAX: 319-835-3960) *He is a freelance translator from German to English. He has translated books, articles, letters, etc for various types of researchers. He can read older typefaces, handwriting, and documents.*
- **Dr. Helga R. Shay**, 363 Mansion Ave., Morgantown, WV 26505
(304-296-7822) *Her services include old German script, Frakturs, manuscripts, technical translations, & business correspondence.*
- **Karen Ell**, HCR 3, Box 8A, Killdeer, ND 58640
Ms. Ell is a native of Augsburg, Bavaria, and learned the old German script language form in school.
- **Free Translation Service via e-mail:** trans@genealogy.net *Your message length should be less than 40 lines (more than this should be split into 2 messages). Use only for genealogy. Your translation will be assigned to a volunteer. For more information go to: <http://w3g.med.uni.giessen.de/geme/sss/abt/translation.html>.*

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Much information on Gerber families to be found on certificates

Susannah Brooks asked about GERBERs on fraktur. Fortunately for researchers interested in this name, many fraktur that mention GERBERs are listed or even pictured in various publications. Susannah Brooks is especially interested in Benedict and Dorothea (LOREHT/LORETH) GERBER of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. A fraktur that mentions Benedict and Dorothea is known. It is a *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) made for Benedict, son of Jacob and Elisabeth GERBER.

Benedict was born December 22, 1796, in New Providence, Montgomery County. Benedict and Dorothea GERBER were sponsors at the younger Benedict's baptism. According to Susannah Brooks, Benedict and Dorothea were his grandparents. This fraktur is pictured in the first volume of *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur of the Free Library of Philadelphia*.

The second volume of the same publication shows a bookplate made by Henrich GERBER on October 25, 1821, for George HILLEGASS, probably of Bucks or Montgomery County. Typically, bookplates give little or no genealogy data. For example, a bookplate made for Samuel GERBER of Rapho Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, was made in 1859. No other information was included on the bookplate.

The Samuel GERBER bookplate is in a private collection. A similar bookplate, made for Catharina GERBER of Rapho Township, sold at Horst Auction Centre in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, on May 11, 1991. This bookplate gives Catharina GERBER's date of birth as April 9, 1797. And a bookplate is known that was made for Eva GERWER (a possible spelling of GERBER) in 1868. No genealogy is given on this bookplate, but the artist worked in Lancaster County. It is pictured in the second volume of *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur of the Free Library of Philadelphia*.

A decorated songbook dated 1769 was made by Hans Jacob RIPPAS, the

immigrant ancestor of MAGS historian, Beverly Repass Hoch. Hoch featured this remarkable songbook in *From Ziefen to Sally Run: Swiss Pioneer Jacob Repass (1737-1814) on the American Frontier*. The songbook includes family history and, unlike most fraktur, it details specific locations in Europe related to family events.

For example, REPASS recorded information about his wife, Anna GERBER, daughter of Johanes and Ursula (MOLLER) GERBER. Anna GERBER was born in the Canton of Basel in Riegenschweil on January 15, 1740. REPASS, himself, was born in the Canton of Basel in Ziefen near Basel, Switzerland, on September 26, 1737. His parents were Hans Jacob RIPPAS and Anna SPIESS. The REPASS's were married October 26, 1759, in the church in nearby Bübendorff by Pastor STRÜBE. REPASS listed names and dates of birth of many of their children.

With the clues her ancestor left her, Hoch researched the family in Europe and found the first children born to Hans Jacob and Anna (GERBER) RIPPAS were missing from the songbook, causing her to suspect portions of the fragile little handwritten book are missing. The history of this rare treasure is detailed in *From Ziefen to Sally Run*, but suffice it to say Hoch was exceedingly fortunate to discover the songbook, which turned up in Seattle, Washington — far from the home of Hans Jacob RIPPAS, who became a Reformed minister in Wythe County, Virginia.

The second volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* lists data from a birth record made for Anna GERWER, who was born October 2, 1788, in Leacock Township, Lancaster County. This fraktur is at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and is illustrated in Carol E. Faill's *Fraktur: A Selective Guide to the Franklin and Marshall Fraktur Collection*.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a *Taufschein* made for Johann GERBER, son of Felix and Anna (HECKERT) GERBER. Johann GERBER was born February 7, 1810, in Mount Joy Township, Lancaster County. No information about baptism was listed on this fraktur.

The third volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* gives information concerning the birth of Johann's older sister, Catharina. Catharina GERBER was born August 29, 1803, in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning baptism was given. A second example in that volume gives data from a *Taufschein* made for Amanda Elisabeth GERBER. She was the daughter of Nathan and Rebecca (JONAS) GERBER. Amanda Elisabeth was born April 25, 1862, in East Brunswick Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized August 17, 1862, by Pastor WAGNER. Her sponsors were her parents.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a *Taufschein* made for Daniel REX, son of Natan [Nathan] and Chatharina (GERBER) REX. Daniel REX was born February 24, 1848 in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized by Agust [August] BAUER on May 7, 1848. Sponsors at his baptism were Joseph and Balli ([Polly] GERBER) HUNZINGER.

In the sixth volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Carrie Passian

Catharine, daughter of Irvin E. and Cordelia (GERBER) TETER. Carrie Passian Catharine TETER was born January 18, 1893, in McKeansburg, Schuylkill County. She was baptized April 2, 1893 by H.A. WELLER. Her parents were sponsors at her baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Emaline Catharina BECK, daughter of Daniel and Anna (GERBER) BECK. Emaline Catharina was born October 8, 1852, in Mahoning Township, Carbon County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized November 28, 1852, by A. BAUER. Sponsors at her baptism were Daniel and Catharina GERBER.

In *The Fraktur-Writings or Illuminated Manuscripts of the Pennsylvania Germans*, Donald A. Shelley pictures a fraktur made for Jacob BÄR, son of Daniel and Maria (GERBER) BÄR. Jacob BÄR was born May 3, 1791, in Heidelberg Township, York County, Pennsylvania. No information concerning baptism was given on this certificate. Klaus Stopp pictured this same *Taufschein* in the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*.

The Reading Public Museum in Reading, Pennsylvania, has a *Taufschein* that mentions Jonathan GERBER and Catharina MILLER as sponsors at the baptism of Priscilla ZIMMERMAN. Priscilla was the daughter of Samuel and Susanna N. (MILLER) ZIMMERMAN. Priscilla was born in Penn Township, Schuylkill County, on January 28, 1817. She was baptized by Pastor SILLIG, Reformed, but no date of baptism was given.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Michael GERBER, son of Heinrich and Martalena [probably Magdalena] GERBER. Michael GERBER was born on May 24, 1805 in Penn Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. He was baptized by Pastor BONTERSCHLOT [Frederick William VON DER SLOOT], Reformed, but no date of baptism was given. Sponsors at his baptism were Michael and Catharina OEL. An added note says that Michael GERBER

was confirmed by Johannes ZILLIG [perhaps Johannes ZÜLCH] and that he married Maria MILLER on March 4, 1837.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Nathan GERBER, son of Michael and Maria (MILLER) GERBER. Nathan GERBER was born January 15, 1838, in Schuylkill Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized April 22, 1838, by Pastor MINNEC [probably Georg MENNIG]. Sponsors at his baptism were Samuel and Elisabeth BOYER. Added notes say Nathan GERBER was confirmed March 25, 1855, by Pastor EIGENBERG, whose name is spelled EICHENBERG and EIGELBERG on some of these records. Nathan married Marei [Maria] SEIDEL on May 13, 1860.

Nathan and Maria (SEIDEL) GERBER had a *Taufschein* made for their daughter, Emmaline Jane GERBER. Emmaline Jane was born October 10, 1860, in Mahoning Township, Carbon County. She was baptized December 16, 1860 by Pastor EICHENBERG. Sponsors at her baptism were Jonathan and Sarah (KOCHER) SEIDEL. This certificate is in a private collection.

In *Geburts-und Taufscheine: Illuminated Pennsylvania German Birth and Baptismal Certificates*, Harry Focht lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Rebeca Sifilla FERGURSON, daughter of William and Louisa (GERBER) FURGURSON [sic]. Rebeca Sifilla was born September 10, 1858, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized by Pastor TRIBNER, but no date was given. The only sponsor at Rebeca Sifilla's baptism was her grandmother, Sarah GERBER.

A *Taufschein* made for Catrina GERBER appeared on eBay in November 2001. Catrina was the daughter of Heinrich and Susanna (LADIG) GERBER. Catrina was born February 24, 1824, and baptized March 24, 1824, by C. HERMAN. Catrina was born in Windsor Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The sponsors at her baptism were Johannes and Catrina FINK.

In *Celebrating the Pennsylvania Germans: The Kunkel Family Fracturs*,

Lester Breininger pictures a *Taufschein* made for Regina CRON, daughter of Martin and Magdalena (LUTZ) CRON. Regina was born June 11, 1790, in Lynn Township, Northampton County [today's Lehigh County, Pennsylvania]. She was baptized by Pastor MILLER (no date given). Joseph and Regina GERBER were sponsors at Regina CRON's baptism. An added note says that Regina CRON was confirmed on Easter day in 1805 by Pastor OBERHAUS. She married June 21, 1812 [to Georg Michael KUNKEL].

The Rev. Daniel SCHUMACHER was one of the earliest fraktur artists to make *Taufscheine* (plural for *Taufschein*). In his register of baptisms, he marked entries for who he made fraktur. He made a *Taufschein* for Joseph HANS, son of Ludewigh [Ludwig] and Anna Elisabeth HANS. According to SCHUMACHER, Joseph HANS was born in Lynn Township [today's Lehigh County] on February 20, 1765. SCHUMACHER baptized him on October 8, 1765. Sponsors at Joseph's baptism were Joseph and Magdalena GERBER. Published in 1968 by the Pennsylvania German Society, SCHUMACHER's register was translated and partially indexed by Frederick Weiser.

In *Steigerwalds on Fraktur*, information from a *Taufschein* made for Leweina STEIGERWALT says she was a daughter of Andreas and Lusianna (SEMMELE) STEIGERWALT. Leweina was born in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County, on February 6, 1853. She was baptized by A. BAUER on March 27, 1853. Sponsors at her baptism were Daniel STEIGERWALT and Leweina GERBER, both single.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Jacob RAUDENBUSCH, son of Jesse and Rahel (GARWER [Rachel GERBER]) RAUDENBUSCH. Jacob was born in Rockhill Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania, on February 26, 1856. He was baptized by J.A. STRASBERGER on May 21, 1857. Jacob's parents were sponsors at his baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Maria, daughter of Isaac and Elisabeth (GERBER) SCHAEFFER. According to this certificate, Maria was born April 23, possibly in 1806. Maria was baptized May 23, 1806, by Pastor LOCHMAN. No location was given on the certificate, and the image I have is small, making the dates uncertain.

A Bible record in a private collection was made for John A. and Elizabeth GERBER of Schuylkill County. According to this record, John A. GERBER was from North Manheim Township, and Elizabeth, whose maiden name was RIEGEL, was from West Brunswick Township. They were married by Rudolf DUENGER, Reformed, in Fountain Spring, Pennsylvania, on Christmas day 1869. Jacob M. HERMAN was the only witness at their wedding. This record goes on to say John A. GERBER was the son of David and Maria (BOCK) GERBER. John was born in Manheim Township on February 9, 1847. He was baptized March 24, 1847 by Pastor MINNICH [probably Georg MENNIG]. The sponsors at this baptism were John and Eppi BERNHEISEL. Elizabeth RIEGEL (whose name is also written, REIGLE in this record) was the daughter of Daniel and Mary Magdalena (FISHER) RIEGEL. Elizabeth was born in West Brunswick Township on October 29, 1848. The GERBERS had the following children: Sylvester was born in Shenandoah City, Schuylkill County, on September 17, 1870; Daniel Harry was born in West Brunswick Township on March 24, 1872; David Lincoln was born in West Brunswick Township on June 5, 1875; Clinton Erastus was born in West Brunsick Township on July 13, 1878; Arthur Garfield was born in North Manheim Township on March 31, 1881; Oscar Eugene was born in North Manheim Township on December 5, 1883; Estella Ray was born in North Manheim Township on July 22, 1887; and Adam Charles was born in North Manheim Township on August 4, 1890. Three of these children died young. Sylvester died October 18, 1870; Oscar Eugene died March 20, 1886; and Estella Ray died September 4,

1887. The mother of these children, Elizabeth GERBER, died June 18, 1895 at the age of 46 years, 7 months, and 19 days. She was buried in Kimmels Church Cemetery in West Brunswick Township.

In the 1939 (vol. 1, no. 3) issue of *The Garber Historical and Genealogical Record*, Clark M. Garber pictures a *Taufschein* made for Hanna GARBER, daughter of Jonathan and Elisabeth (HUFFORD) GARBER. Hanna GARBER was born September 13, 1813, in West Bethlehem Township, Washington County, Pennsylvania. No information about baptism was listed on this *Taufschein*. Clark Garber includes information on GERBERs as well as GARBERs in his publications.

A Bible record in a private collection mentions Annie GARBER and Isaac McCAULEY as witnesses to the marriage of John P. and Mary A. (COLM) GABLE of Mountville, Pennsylvania. The GABLEs were married on October 30, 1873, by Jos. C. MUMMA.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Idah GERBER, daughter of John and Eliza GERBER. Idah GERBER was born July 20, 1872 in Bethel Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. According to this certificate, Eliza GERBER was the daughter of Isaac GERMAN. No information about baptism was given.

The first volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* gives data from a *Taufschein* made for Edwin KNEPPER, son of Salomon and Susanna (GERBER) KNEPPER. Edwin was born March 28, 1873, in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized May 16, 1873, by William Henry STRAUS. Edwin's parents were sponsors at his baptism.

A *Taufschein* related to the above example is in a private collection. It was made for Salomon and Susanna KNEPPER's son, Thomas. Thomas KNEPPER was born January 28, 1860, in West Penn Township. He was baptized February 4, 1860, by Pastor EIGELBERG. His parents were sponsors at his baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Ellmer Franklin LEIBY, son of Jacob L. and Mathilte (GERBER) LEIBY. Ellmer Franklin was born September 3, 1864, in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized November 7, 1864, by J. ZUILLICH [probably Johannes ZÜLCH]. Sponsors at his baptism were his parents.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Maria KOCH, daughter of Johannes and Hanna (GERBER) KOCH. Maria KOCH was born January 17, 1819, in Cumru Township, Berks County. She was baptized November 20, 1819, by Pastor KNOSKI. Sponsors at Maria's baptism were her parents. An added note on this certificate says Maria married Johannes HUMMEL on September 14, 1834. They were married by Isack RÖLLER.

In early issues of *The Pennsylvania Dutchman*, Claude W. Unger published lists of fraktur from his collection, many of which went to Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster. Three examples included the name GERBER. The February 15, 1951, issue mentions a marriage certificate made for Benjamin GERBER of Rapho Township and Elizabeth SWANGER of Mount Joy, Lancaster County. This couple was married on November 15, 1874, by David GERLACH. Witnesses to this union were Catharine GERLACH and Mary J. McLANE. The April 15, 1951, issue lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Maria MAUSZ. Maria MAUSZ was the daughter of Jacob and Elisabeth (GERBER) MAUSZ. Maria was born about nine o'clock in the evening on August 15, 1818. She was born in West Penn Township, Schuylkill County, and baptized by Pastor ZIELCH [ZÜLCH] on September 20, 1818. Sponsors at her baptism were Samuel and Christina ZEHNER. The June 15, 1951, issue lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Maria Klara, daughter of Johannes and Sibilla (ZECHMAN) SCHAFFER. Maria Klara was born about ten o'clock at night on November 27, 1810, in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. She was baptized by Pastor MAIER on January 6, 1811.

Sponsors at her baptism were Jacob and Magdalena GERBER.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a *Taufschein* made for Eliza GERBER, daughter of Christian and Anne Mary (MARTIN) GERBER. Eliza GERBER was born June 4, 1839, in Dover Township, York County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized by D. ZIEGLER, but no date of baptism was given. Eliza's parents were sponsors at her baptism.

In volume three of that same series, Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for John GARBER, son of Moses and Sarah (URICH) GARBER. John GARBER was born December 9, 1875, in Bethel Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. No information concerning his baptism was given.

June Burk Lloyd, Librarian at the York County Heritage Trust and author of *Faith and Family: Pennsylvania German Heritage in York County Area Fraktur*, shared data from a *Taufschein* having the name CERWER, which may be a phonetic spelling of GERBER. Parts of this example are difficult to read. It was made for Anna Catarina CERWER, daughter of Michael and Rosina (FRANK) CERWER. Anna Catarina was born in Shippensburg (?), Franklin County, Pennsylvania. She was born on April 24, 1794, and baptized June 20 by Pastor HOCK (?). Anna Catarina's parents were sponsors at her baptism. Anna Catarina apparently married Johannes EMIG, for Lloyd recorded several *Taufscheine* made for their children, who were born in York County.

Several Ohio Mennonite fraktur that mention GERBERS are pictured or discussed in *Decorative Arts of Ohio's Sonnenberg Mennonites*. Authored by Paul G. Locher, Joseph W. Irvin, and Stanley A. Kaufman and published in 1994 by The Kidron Community Historical Society in Kidron, Ohio, this publication pictures a new year's sentimental drawing made for Elisabeth GERBER in 1856. Two pictured examples are devotional verses inscribed

“Katarina GERBER, 1852” on the reverse. Another is a devotional verse that shows “Chatharina GARBER” written on front. Still another, a remembrance dated 1871, was made to commemorate Katarina GERBER, born November 23, 1833 and died November 7, 1864 (or 1867?). Apparently, Katarina GERBER married John BAUMGARTNER and the name of one of their daughters, Carolina BAUMGARTNER, appears on this piece. Another example discussed in this publication was a family register made for Johannes and Katharina (ZUERCHER) GERBER, who married in 1869. The register was made in 1886 and listed nine children born to the GERBERs. The tenth child was added later. Found in Wayne County, Ohio, no image of this family register was pictured in *Decorative Arts of Ohio's Sonnenberg Mennonites*, and the authors did not list the names of the children of Johannes and Katharina (ZUERCHER) GERBER.

However, a family register made for Ulrich and Anna (LEHMAN) GERBER of

Wayne County, Ohio, was pictured. It says Ulrich GERBER was born October 8, 1809 and Anna LEHMAN was born April 11, 1811. No location was shown on the register for Ulrich GERBER's place of birth, but Anna LEHMAN was born in the Canton of Bern in Switzerland. Their children were Maria, born November 12, 1837; Anna, born May 19, 1839; Isaak, born December 22, 1841; Catharina, born March 18, 1842 [sic]; Jakob, born December 12, 1843; Elisabeth, born February 23, 1846; Magdalena, born January 1, 1848; and Abraham, born June 12, 1849. All these children were born in Wayne County, Ohio. This register goes on to say Ulrich GERBER died May 9, 1874 in Wayne County and Isaak GERBER died March 22, 1873, also in Wayne County.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton, DE 19938. Please note my new address, and please be patient for a reply.

New Members for MAGS

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears *in bold 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. Members are also encouraged to submit free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Martha E. Cage of Mill Creek WV

(Kammerer, Heinbuch, Myers, McInturff)

Sharman Meck Carroll of Thorndale PA

(Bauer/Bower, Zimmerman, Gebhardt, Meck)

Charlotte L. F. Chambers of Glen Burnie MD

(Foerster, Dittmann, Beckman, Sonnenleiter)

Ruth Conner of Hampstead NC

(Leicht/Lloyd, Schott, Dagen)

Theresa Cotton of Rogersville MO

Edward L. Critzer of Richmond VA

(Kreitzer/Critzer/Creutzer, Wilson)

Leslie Dunn of Pittsburgh PA

(Knecht/Knight, Kunz, Eckert, Meyer)

Barbara B. Freshwater of Sunland CA

(Crouse, Shaffer, Bright, Kreul)

Judy

Judy Polk Harding & family of Fairfax VA

(Merdten/Martin, Pooock, Fuseli, Lange/Long)

Judy Herling of Richmond VA

(Herling, Bicof, Kintop, Witzke)

Diane L. Huffman of Greensboro NC

(Neff, Wisman, Penc, Mailip/Maylup)

Dianne Jensen of Gaithersburg MD

(Tallard, Dasher)

Verna Johnson of Iowa City IA

(Rouse/Rausch, Wilhoit, Tanner, Weber)

Alan Laudermilch of Barboursville VA

(Laudermilch, Trawitz, Bowman)

Kennett Offill of Plano TX

(Bricke, Rucker, Boyer, Isenberg)

James L. Pierce of Longmont CO

Angela P. Vines
& Joyce Ramirez of Rhome TX
(*Plattenburg, Vines, Hartman, Sheely*)
Gerald H. Reser, Sr. of Kansas City MO
(*Reser, Garr, Yeager*)
Charles B. & Roy W. Shiflet of Laurel MD
(*Hessler, Hors, Dircks, Puttenson*)

Eliza Elizabeth Stitely of Thurmont MD
(*Stitely, Eyler, Weller, Curfman*)
Edward Truslow of Huntington NY
(*Blank, Keller, Kronk, Zimmerman*)
Charles H. Wadhams of Fresno CA
(*Schaaffff*)
Hanno & Janie Wulf of Arlington VA
(*Biner, Wulf, Wiedman, Lowry*)

SUCHANZEIGEN / *Queries*

Please mention at least one time, one place, 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. E-Mail is acceptable. 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, 7102 Cedon Road Woodford, VA 22580 or e-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net (Please write 'MAGS Query' in subject line)

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

** This surname and variant spellings is a Soundex match with one or more entries in the Index being reasonably close to the Query

SCHWARTZ/SWARTZ* BLANK

23-1 Seek par Marie (Polly) SCHWARTZ/SWARTZ b 1826 Northampton Co. PA; d 3 April 1900 Luzerne Co. PA. m David BLANK (b 7 Jan 1827 Lehigh Co. PA; d 6 Aug 1909 Conyngham, Luzerne Co. PA) Both bur Union Cem in graves # 77 & #78 Conyngham, Luzerne Co. PA.

Ruth Steffey 1067 Blackbird St., El Cajon, CA 92020-1401 e-mail steffey2@cox.net

ALBERT*

#23-2 Seek maiden name Abigail/Appolonia/Abelona b 24 Oct 1794, d 12 Sept 1882 by records of Hanover Green Cem, Hanover Twp., Luzerne Co. PA. Abigail m John ALBERT ca 1811 in PA. John b 20 Dec 1788, d 20 Dec 1866. Both bur Hanover Green Cem, Hanover Twp., Luzerne Co. PA. Poss liv Monroe Co or Northampton Co prev.

Ruth Steffey 1067 Blackbird St., El Cajon, CA 92020-1401 e-mail steffey2@cox.net

EHLSCHLÄGER

#23-3 Seek info Adam EHLSCHLÄGER b 24 Jul 1834 Unterschambuch (sic?) Darmstadt; bur 18 Mar 1904 Washington, DC. Also seek info on anc

Elizabeth Brown PO Box 979, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425 e-mail richannbrown@earthlink.net

SCHRAGE PREIS

#23-4 Seek bpt rec Adolph SCHRAGE B 15 Jan 1860. Par Adam SCHRAGE and Eliza PREIS. Par m St. Michael and Zion. Seek Germ Reformed or Luth chu baptism recs in W Philadelphia, 24th Ward area.

**Kathy Kenna 420 Sun Valley Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15239
e-mail kkinplum@aol.com**

FERNAU SCHAFFER

#23-7 Seek info on Balthasar FERNAU b 1819. Believe on ship passenger list 1838 f/m Bremen or Blankenbach. Mar Anna Gertrude SCHAFFER (b ca 1813-1819, d 1898 bur Hazleton, PA). Res Luzerne Co PA area. At least 6 ch. Seek info on when/where they met; mdt, mpl,. Also ddt, dpl , where bur. Have conflicting cen info re where in Germany each are f/m

Theresa Cotton 199 Cricket Lane, Rogersville, MO 65742 e-mail tmc.fota@juno.com

MOTTER REINDOLLAR**

#23-6 Seek info on John MOTTER b ca 1816, bpl, dpl & ddt unk. m Rebecca REINDOLLAR (b ca 1814, d ca 1849, dpl unk) m 25 Jan 1838 St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Hanover, York, Co. PA. Ch: Elizabeth b ca 1840; George b ca 1845; Rebecca Mary b 18 Jan 1846.

Patricia Padian 7950 East Starlight Way # 245, Scottsdale, AZ 85250 (480) 947-4086 e-mail ppadian@cox.net

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN

Book Reviews

Family Tree Maker's Genealogical Records: Maryland Settlers and Soldiers, 1700s-1800s

CD. Available from Clearfield Company, Inc., Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, MD. Indexed. \$29.99 plus \$4 shipping.

(To use the CD, you must have a CD-ROM drive and a 4.0 or higher version of Family Archive Viewer or Family Tree Maker for Windows. A free download of the Family Archive Viewer is available from www.genealogy.com/dfav6.html.)

The contents of this CD include images from pages of fifteen titles originally published by the Genealogical Publishing Company. There are more than 313,000 names included of Maryland settlers and soldiers.

As explained in the Introduction section of the CD, "Since the books chosen for inclusion here cover a great variety of topics, this Family Archive is an especially comprehensive resource. Among the unique resources you'll find a two-volume set (*Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church from Original Sources*) that is said to be the most comprehensive collection of basic information ever compiled in Maryland genealogy. In addition, more than half of the books deal with military records (for example bounty land applications, muster rolls, pension claims, orderly books, etc.) and identify civilian and enlisted participants in the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and the War of 1812."

The CD begins with an Introduction fully describing the contents of the books found on the CD. It is followed by an Index section that is quite easy to use, as with most CDs from Family Tree Maker. For difficult to spell names, all one needs to do is scroll down the section where the name is apt to appear.

Actual images of the included books, listed below, follow the Introduction and Index. These books are:

- *Marriages and Deaths from the Maryland Gazette, 1727-1839* by Robert W. Barnes
- *Marriages and Deaths from Baltimore Newspapers, 1796-1816* by Robert W. Barnes
- *Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church from Original Sources*, two volumes by Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh
- *Revolutionary Records of Maryland* by Gaius marcus Brumbaugh and Margaret R. Hodges
- *Index of Marriage Licenses, Prince George's County, Maryland 1777-1886* by Helen W. Brown
- *Marriage Licenses of Caroline County, Maryland, 1774-1815* by Henry Downes Cranor
- *Index to Marriages and Deaths in the Baltimore Sun* by Thomas L. Hollowak
- *Index to Marriages in the Baltimore Sun 1851-1860* by Thomas L. Hollowak
- *The British Invasion of Maryland, 1812-1815* by William M. Marine

- *Muster Rolls and Other Records of Service of Maryland Troops in the American Revolution, 1775-1783* by Maryland Historical Society
- *Maryland Revolutionary Records* by Harry Wright Newman
- *A Record of Interments at the Friends Burial Ground, Baltimore, Maryland* by E.Erick Hoopes and Christina Hoopes
- *Orderly Book of the 'Maryland Loyalists Regiment' June 18, 1778 to October 12, 1778* by Caleb Jones
- *Roster of Civil War Soldiers from Washington County, Maryland* by Roger Keller
- *Civil War Burials in Baltimore's Loudon Park Cemetery* by Anna Miller Watring

Reviewed by *Mariana Wilke*

German Heritage Guide to the Greater Cincinnati Area

By Don Heinrich Tolzmann

2003. Available from Little Miami Publishing Co., P.O. Box 588, Milford, Ohio 45150-0588. Soft cover, 120 pages, indexed. ISBN 1-932250-07-7. \$15.95 plus \$3 shipping.

This is a book of general interest for those living in or visiting the great city of Cincinnati, Ohio, and for those interested in its German heritage.

Chapter 1 begins with a timeline of the German influence on this city and its surrounding area beginning in 1788-89 when the first German settlers arrived.

In 1790 Major David Ziegler, a veteran of the American Revolution arrives with a regiment of Pennsylvania German soldiers – many of whom remain to settle in the area.

In 1795, Martin Baum, began organized German immigration to the area using agents in the port cities of Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New Orleans. By 1860, 30 percent of the population of 161,000 is of German ancestry.

The timeline extends through the year 2003 when the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra celebrated its 125th anniversary of the Music Hall that began with the Over-the-Rhine district Germans who immigrated in the nineteenth century.

Chapter 2 covers German heritage highlights giving a short biography of Martin Baum, who is considered the father of the German immigrations to Ohio, and other German personalities instrumental in Cincinnati's development.

It also includes descriptions of the German-American societies in the area including their origins, and other aspects of German life and regional development such as the building of Lunken Airport named for Frederick Lunkenheimer and his sons who provided aviation products to early aviators.

The book continues listing important German artists, businessmen, and inventors. It describes German areas of interest in the German-American community of Cincinnati and the surrounding Cincinnati area. It ends with the museums and German halls and societies still in use today.

If only Tolzmann would write such a book for each of the American towns and cities where our ancestors settled. This is indeed a wonderful guide for any visitor to Cincinnati whether for genealogical purposes or for pleasure.

Reviewed by *Mariana Wilke*

Selected Hamilton County, Ohio, Church Baptism Records, 1860-1869

Indexed By Jeffrey G. Herbert

2004. Little Miami Publishing Co., PO Box 588, Milford, OH 45150-0588. Softcover. 444 pages, ISBN 1-932250-14-X.

The index is the book. It contains 23,500 baptisms from selected churches.

The keyword is "selected." Only thirty-two churches are mentioned. The Roman Catholic churches did not give permission to have their records included, and some other denominations also refused permission. In some cases the early records have been lost or were never recorded.

The indexer obtained the church birth and baptism records from LDS microfilm and from the public library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County.

The five-column list gives the name of the person baptized, the date, father, mother and the

last column is a code which refers to Table 2. This Table lists the name of the church, the dates, and the source from which the record was taken.

With the exception of two cases, one from the Public Library (North German Lutheran) and one from the church (Trinity Evangelical Lutheran), all of the records are from LDS microfilm. Table 3 shows the number of births by church and year. According to the compiler, most of the records were written in German, and he cautions the researcher to be aware of alternative spellings or the "Americanization" of immigrant names. He has included in Table 1 four unique German letters and their English equivalents.

The book is easy to use. There is a short introduction that is necessary to read before perusing the index.

It is a quick guide for finding ancestors who lived in the Hamilton County area or pioneer families who may have stopped for a period of time on their way west.

Reviewed by *Patricia Cramer*

**Introductory Guide to
Swiss Genealogical Research
(Swiss American Historical Society Publication
No. 21)**

By Lewis Bunker Rohrbach, CG

2004. Picton Press, PO Box 250, Rockport, ME 04856-0250. Softcover, 120 pages. Bibliography. ISBN 0-89725-583-6. \$14.95

The answer is Switzerland.

The question; what nation has four languages, two religions, and borders five countries. Thus begins a very brief history of Switzerland (Confederation Helvetia) before the time it was conquered by the Romans to the 20th century.

The languages and religions are covered, as well as an overview of Swiss emigration. The author devotes a chapter to the hereditary structure of Swiss citizenship and Heimat rights. Rohrbach points out the necessity of knowing the Heimat (place of hereditary right of citizenship) of one's ancestor before successful research can be accomplished.

Swiss genealogical research should begin in America. The author lists four research objectives, along with an explanation of each,

which should be achieved before beginning research in Switzerland.

He points out that research aids used by Americans are often missing in Switzerland; however, the book does contain a complete list of the location of church records and the types and location of government records. Have you considered using currency as a finding aid for your ancestor? Rohrbach explains the genealogical value of this information.

In this introductory guide there is a glossary of German terms, a list of male and female Christian names and nicknames from the 16th to 19th centuries, and a section on women and Swiss records — records contain the maiden surnames of women after marriage.

After reading this book, it appears that Swiss genealogical research could be complicated because of the varying levels of governmental structure.

However the author points out that most early records have survived and that much research can be done without going to Switzerland. For those who are researching Swiss ancestry, especially the beginner, this book is essential.

Reviewed by *Patricia Cramer*

**New Ulm, Minnesota – J. H. Strasser's History
and Chronology**

Translated and edited
by Don Heinrich Tolzmann

2003. Available from Little Miami Publishing Co., PO Box 588, Milford, Ohio 45150-0588. Soft cover, 371 pages, indexed. ISBN 1-932250-12-3. \$34.95 plus \$3 shipping.

There are three parts to this book. Part I is a translation of "New Ulm in Wort und Bild" (New Ulm in Word and Picture) by J.H. Strasser, who was the publisher and editor of the *New Ulm Post*. It originally appeared in a special issue of the *Post* in 1892.

Part II is a translation of Strasser's "Chronologie der Stadt New Ulm, Minnesota" (Chronology of the City of New Ulm, Minnesota) which was an 1899 book listing the major dates, facts, and events that took place up through 1899.

Part III contains illustrations that were included in a translated narrative history

Tolzmann published in 1997 followed by a list of the sources dealing with New Ulm history and a comprehensive index of the many names found within the book.

Tolzmann tells of the beginnings and development of New Ulm when, in the early 1850s, six young Chicago Germans founded the Chicago Land Association for the purpose of locating the "ideal town" site. They eventually settled at what became New Ulm, Minnesota.

Chapter headings in Part I include the Indian Uprising of 1862 where 800 people were killed, the locust plague of 1871-75, the tornado of black Friday 15 July 1881, and New Ulm in 1892 showing a bright future with descriptions of the schools and industries. It tells of New Ulm's cultural life and the contributions to society made by its citizens in the nineteenth century. Of especial interest is the listing, by name and unit, of its Civil War soldiers

Part II is a chronology of New Ulm history beginning with the 1850s and continuing through the 1890s. It lists, for example, such events as on 3 September 1871, when the Ev.Luth Church celebrated the "6th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone"; 11 September, "Funeral of Mrs. Jakob Mueller (Ida)"; 29 November, "Fire at Stoecker's new pottery"; 27 December, "Founding of a Arbeiterverein (worker's society)" with a listing of its officers. Each year is documented in such fashion with births, deaths, marriages, and local events. What a prize for family history seekers!

Among the listings in the Addenda to Part II are the names of the first thirty-three original settlers who were killed on August 18, 1862.

Part III includes many illustrations of the city buildings and sketches of some of its citizens including J.H. Strasser.

For those with New Ulm interests, this is a book of superb value. For those with interests in German immigration, settlement, industriousness, and tenacity, this book documents it quite well.

Reviewed by Mariana Wilke

Missouri's German Heritage

Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

2004. Available from Little Miami Publishing Co., PO Box 588, Milford, Ohio 45150-0588. Soft cover,

152 pages, indexed. ISBN 1-932250-22-0. \$15.95 plus \$3 shipping.

Here again, Tolzmann has edited an 1880 German history by Gustav Koerner who wrote about the Germans in America from 1818 to 1848.

Tolzmann took the chapters on Missouri Germans, originally an unpublished translation by William G. Bek, and edited it as a tribute to Missouri's German heritage.

The migration first started with Gottfried Duden who came to Warren County (eighty miles north of now St. Louis), Missouri in 1824. He fell in love with the area and life and wrote about it, enticing others to follow. Unfortunately Duden's enchantment with the place lasted only two years, but it began the flow of followers to the St. Louis area in the 1830s. Today, forty percent of Missouri's population includes German ancestry.

In 1870, half of the German immigrants lived in St. Louis totaling over 59,000. They came from Prussia primarily but also Hannover, Baden, Bavaria, and Wuerttemberg.

Throughout the book, the reasons for immigration are expressed, with the arrival of the Thirtys (refugees from the 1830s German revolutions) and the Forty-Eighters. Both groups contributed strongly to the Missouri political process including creation of leading newspapers, strong educational and religious systems, willing pro-Union Civil War support, and the creation and development of prosperous industries.

As with all of Tolzmann's works, very detailed footnotes follow each chapter, expanding on the original comments made within the chapter

The final chapter, written by Tolzmann brings Koerner's work into the twentieth century and the further contributions the Missouri Germans gave to not only that area but to the United States as a whole. At the end, Tolzmann lists additional sources for further reading on the German immigrants to Missouri. Again this book is a work of art for those interested in German culture and immigration.

Reviewed by Mariana Wilke

Update

The new address for William B. Fetters (author of *Maximilian Leech*, one of the books reviewed in the December 2004 issue of *Der Kurier*) is 10450 Lottsford Road, #5017, Mitchellville, MD 20721-2734.

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