



# Der Kurier

Volume 23, Number 4, December 2005

## A German researcher's perspective on 18<sup>th</sup> century emigration from Franconia

*Editor's Note: The cover article for this issue is an excerpt of professional genealogical researcher Reinhard Hofer of Germany's presentation to the Raumberger Family Reunion in Berrysburg, PA, in August 2005. Hofer was successful in tracing the origins of the Raumberger family to Ingolstadt in the Catholic principality of Würzburg. Much of the background Hofer provides - especially on "cluster immigration" and how localized German history can be - is helpful perspective for others seeking information about immigrants to America in the 1700s. This family's immigrant was Barthel Raumberger, both the son of a miller as well as one who pursued that occupation himself. Excerpt used courtesy Reinhard Hofer and John A. Romberger.*

### By Reinhard Hofer

**D**uring the 18th century about 70,000 Germans came to America as immigrants. There was major emigration only from the provinces and countries along the Rhine, Neckar, and Main Rivers. These, among others, were Rheinpfalz, Rhein-hessen, Baden, Württemberg, Schweiz (Switzerland), Elsass, Kurpfalz (Heidelberg), and also Mainfranken, which contained Würzburg.

Two major wars interrupted the emigration. These were the War of the Austrian Succession, and then the so-called Seven Years War, of 1756 to 1763. The latter chiefly involved France and Britain, but also was extended to their colonies in America, where it became known as the "French and Indian War."

During these wars shipping by sea was hampered by the activities of pirates and buccaneers. But in the short interval between the wars, in 1748 to 1754, there was a great surge of emigration of about 36,000 Germans.

Approximately 120 ships with immigrants came to Philadelphia alone. About 5,000 of these immigrants came from Franconia along the Main River.

Barthel Raumberger and his family were among them. From the County of Wertheim on Main as many as 170 families emigrated. The British advertisers, such as John Simpson, stimulated the "American fever" by hiring traveling agents (or "recruiters") who distributed fliers, letters, and encouraging reports.

Also during the 18th century, more than 200,000 Germans went to Hungary, and about 30,000 to Russia. Some of their descendants are now migrating back to Germany. There was also a Franconian group that tried to start settlements in Guyana, a French colony in South America. Their voyage and many of their lives ended in catastrophe. Only about 2,000 survived to return, or after some years, to move on to North America, or to Russia.

(Continued on Page 79)

### In this issue

<b>Baltimore newspapers ....</b>	<b>84-85</b>	<b>Cloister People .....</b>	<b>90-91</b>	<b>New members .....</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Family registers .....</b>	<b>86-87</b>	<b>Translators .....</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>Dream to marker ...</b>	<b>96-97</b>
<b>Fraktur Forum .....</b>	<b>88-90</b>	<b>Suchanzeigen .....</b>	<b>93-94</b>	<b>Door prizes.....</b>	<b>98</b>
		<b>Buchbesprechung .....</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>Services .....</b>	<b>99</b>



# 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 10 July 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
- **Quartermly journal, *Der Kurier***
- **MAGS Lending Library**
- **Ahnentafels** published in *Der Kurier*
- **Queries**

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

## **Officers**

**President:** John T. Humphrey

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President:** Susannah E. Brooks

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President:** Robert R. Reisinger

**Corresponding Secretary:** Patricia P. Cramer

**Recording Secretary:** Maryllyn Reisinger

**Treasurer:** Betty deKeyser

**At-Large Board Member:** Diane M. Kuster

**At-Large Board Member:** Mariana Wilke

**Immediate Past President:** Dorothy J. Reed

## **Special Services**

**Ahnentafel:** Shirley E. Forrester

***Der Kurier* Editor:** James M. Beidler

**Historian:** Beverly Repass Hoch

**Library Administrator:** Mariana Wilke

**Membership:** Susannah E. Brooks

**Membership Assistant:** Janice Seabolt

**Programs:** Carl Shrader

**Publications:** Corinne P. Earnest

**Publicity:** Diane M. Kuster

**Queries:** Edythe H. Millar

**Registrar:** Diane M. Kuster

**Rep Assn German-American Soc:** Merl Arp

**Sales Manager:** Judy Dohner

**Webmaster:** Jeff Hughes

***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](mailto:james@beidler.us)



## Background on emigration from Franconia

(Continued from Page 77)

The authorities in the Germanic states tried to stop the Russian and American emigration movements by laws in 1771. Furthermore the advertising campaigns in Würzburg were forbidden, and the emigration promoters were threatened by a death penalty.

These measures were only partially successful. The next great wave of emigration to America occurred during the “Years of Hunger” in 1816 and 1817.

Eminent emigrants from Franconia in the 18<sup>th</sup> century included: Franz Daniel Pastorius, who in 1683 founded Germantown, PA, came from Sommerhausen near Würzburg; Johann Kalb, from Hüttendorf near Erlangen, was a Revolutionary War general who was killed in action.

Don Yoder’s 1950 essay on emigrants from the county of Wertheim included reports of some other Franconians: Johann Christoph Breitenherd, a gunsmith from Wertheim, became

famous for his “Lancaster” rifles, and Lorenz Albert, who emigrated from Michelrieth in 1754, became one of the famous wagon-makers of Adams County, Pennsylvania.

### Life in the Würzburg area

In 1750 about 250,000 inhabitants of the Diocese (Hochstift) of Würzburg lived in an area of 5,300 square kilometers (just over 2,000 square miles). Würzburg was No. 5 among the large “church principalities” of the Holy Roman Empire.

The title of the Prince-Bishop of Würzburg was: The Holy Roman Empire’s Prince and Bishop and Duke of Franconia. This prince and bishop ruled over 36 country towns and 725 villages.

Beneath the level of princely episcopal power, the inhabitants of the diocese were also subject to 60 different mostly nonresident landlords; for example, in Ansbach, Zobel von

Giebelstadt, and the Counts von Wertheim, etc. In addition to the many Catholic localities there were also 33 Protestant parishes and villages.

A contemporary traveler passing through the Franconian countryside around Würzburg found that “for one rich you can count 20 poor people.”

This means that 95 percent of the people were poor, as seen by that traveler. The farmers lived in bondage (and in a sense were still serfs).

They had to work for the landlord without pay (“socage” work) for up to 30 days per year, which, of course, reduced the time they had available for farming the land.

The taxes, and the tithes to be paid in kind, were high and burdensome. The villages also had to deliver recruits and horses for the numerous campaigns and wars.

In spite of 24 different taxes imposed on the people, there was a high “national” debt. The magnificent buildings indeed provided work for construction tradesmen and artisans, but they had to be financed.

The “Bishop’s Palace” in Würzburg was built in the years 1720 to 1753 under the direction of the renowned architect, Balthasar Neuman.

This is the same period during which the Raumberger immigrant lived in that area. He surely saw the construction when he came to the city from Ingolstadt, only 12 miles away.

The Bishop’s Palace in Würzburg was actually larger than Buckingham Palace in London, which was financed by the British Empire, not just by a small bishopric of 250,000 people.

The poverty of the citizenry, though, provoked no 18<sup>th</sup> century riots in Germany, and no revolution such as that in France (1789) or that in America (1775) — the Germanic subjects found their release only in emigration. They called emigration “election by feet.”

The first and last major uprising of farmers in southern Germany happened in 1525. That uprising was centered in Franconia. One of the leaders was the nobleman, Florian Geyer von Giebelstadt.

In a battle near Ingolstadt on 4 June 1525, his “army” of farmers was utterly destroyed. As many as 5,000 farmers died defending a “fortress” located adjacent to the Kautzenmühle where Barthel Raumberger worked perhaps 200

years later. Traces of the earthworks there can still be seen.

This uprising was suppressed with the decimation of about 30,000 Franconian farmers. This terrible experience long remained in the public memory. The next great devastation of the area happened during the Thirty Years War (1618 to 1648). This was a religious and civil war in all of central Europe. That long period of war killed about 30 percent of the population.

### **1740s economics spurred emigration**

When an economic crisis struck Franconia in about 1740, a great surge of emigration of farm people followed. At that time there was the beckoning opportunity of obtaining good land “free” in William Penn’s colony. During the 18th century about 10 percent of the population of Lower Franconia emigrated. But the losses were quickly replaced by rapid internal growth of the native population.

The causes of the economic crisis of the 1740s were the same as over time immemorial: small-state governing, extravagance of the princes, maladministration by officials, military duty, tax pressure, and “socage” work.

Furthermore, it may be said that the skilled crafts were overcrowded, there was no free choice of occupation, no freedom to travel, and no freedom to relocate or resettle.

The consequences were also the same as in earlier times: famine, overpopulation, unemployment, rising prices, and fragmentation of land holdings through apportioning by inheritances. In addition, about one-third of the good land was not farmed at all, but was left fallow as hunting ground for the nobility.

Wealthy or prosperous farmers who could stand in front of splendid farmsteads were not typical of those times. The majority of the people lived in miserable little houses or huts with stamped-earth floors and straw-covered roofs, often without a chimney, and on lots of less than 50 square meters in area.

Construction costs of such huts were estimated, by a demographer of that time, to have been about 78 reichstaler or under 100 florins. Such little huts could be swept away by even a moderate flood or storm.

Arable land was scarce in “Episcopal” 18th century Franconia, but, astonishingly, one can read that in spite of the great shortage of land,

## Natural forces took toll

Historian Robert A. Selig lists the whole gamut of problems that the Würzburg area faced in the mid-1700s in his book, *“Räutige Schafe und Geizige Hirten”: Studien zur Auswanderung aus dem Hochstift Würzburg im 18. Jahrhundert und ihren Ursachen*. Mainfränkische Studien 43 (Würzburg: HartDruck, 1988) Reprinted courtesy of Robert A. Selig.

- 1739 An export ban or embargo on fruits because of crop shortfalls
- 1740 Poor harvests and continuation of the embargo
- 1741 Poor harvests and continuation of the embargo
- 1742 Poor harvests and an outbreak of disease among horned livestock
- 1743 Poor harvests and continuation of losses due to livestock diseases
- 1744 Renewed outbreak of livestock diseases
- 1745 Continuation of very serious losses due to livestock diseases
- 1746 Export ban because of crop shortfall until 8 August 1746
- 1749 Export ban because of grasshopper plague in addition to livestock disease
- 1752 Export ban because of excessive rain during harvest
- 1753 Export ban because of rain during harvest, ban on distilling brandy from grain
- 1754 Export ban because of crop shortfall and continuing cattle disease, ban on harvesting fruit too early
- 1755 Export ban until 11 July 1755
- 1756 Export ban because of crop shortfall and cattle disease until 21 July 1763, then ban of "festivities" because of distressed times
- 1761 Bad wine year
- 1762 Bad wine year
- 1763 Bad wine year, strict renewal of export ban on 16 September 1763
- 1764 Bad wine year, export ban on animals, butter and other regional products widened; also a flood in January, and renewed livestock disease

there were in 1750 in the Bishopric of Würzburg about 23,000 acres of wasteland. This has been calculated to amount to about 10 percent of the available farm land, meadows, and vineyards under cultivation in 1812.

The reason for this was the hunting lust of the bishops, especially those of Seinsheim. But it was not only in Waldbüttlebrunn, where nearly half of the community's land lay fallow.

In many other areas the farmers had given up the fight against the lordship's game officers for the use of arable land. In addition, whatever taxes, game, and forced "contributions" exempted, the forces of nature threatened (See chart).

A plague of grasshoppers in 1749 was very severe in the area of Sulzdorf-Giebelstadt-Ingolstadt where the mill that was Barthel Raumberger's place of employment was located.

In the chronicle of Giebelstadt, it is written that: "The grasshoppers descended, heavy as a snowfall, and consumed the entire harvest." That meant that there was no grain for the millstones and therefore no money for the miller. Those were, indeed, hard times for the farmers, and for the millers as well.

### The religious situation in the region

*Cuius regio eius religio* is Latin for: "Whoever rules the region, it is his religion." This means, in other words: under whose rule one lived determined what religion one had to accept. The local Protestants had been forced to again become Catholics after the Thirty Years War.

The ownership of farms and houses in the Giebelstadt, Essfeld, and Ingolstadt area was mixed religiously. Some properties belonged to

the Protestant principality of Ansbach, and others to the Catholic Bishopric of Würzburg.

The British seemingly wanted only Protestant settlers for their American colonies. But Catholics were welcome in Hungary, as the Imperial government in Vienna, which controlled Hungary, was Catholic.

So then, what was a religiously mixed couple such as Barthel Raumberger (a Catholic) and his wife Anna Maria Brückner (a Protestant) to do?

Maybe the relationship of Barthel and his wife was a “true-love” story.

She presumably came from an exclusively Protestant village such as Sommerhausen, where she could not live peacefully with her Catholic husband-to-be; so they moved to a “mixed village” such as Giebelstadt-Ingolstadt to find a mill for rent.

In those times it was permissible for a miller to live either by the mill or in town and millers were relatively free in setting their own life styles.

### Millers had social status

Millers were able to read and write, and they also had to be good in arithmetic, while most of the farmers were not. Therefore millers often were mistrusted by the farmers. Often there were more mills in an area than could be operated profitably.

There were water-powered mills even on the smallest streams. There also were horse-powered mills, and even some small human-powered mills.

At that same time in America there was already a need for large mills around growing towns and cities, and there were good opportunities for young millers.

There were three classes of millers:

- Mill owners who were quite wealthy who comprised about 67 percent of all owners. Another 24 percent of the owners were middle class; and about 9 percent were otherwise landless. Often the owner of a mill was a noble family or a religious group other than the local parish.
- Mill tenants worked on the actual mill premises, as operators and managers. Some of them were, or became, quite wealthy, as apparently did Barthel’s

father, Caspar Rauemberger/Rauchenberger. He was a tenant miller (*Bestandsmüller*) in Theilheim for more than 40 years, and thus was well established in Theilheim society.

- Mill workers or apprentices (*Mühlknechte*) were the third class of millers. This class also included the itinerant or “wandering” millers. Most of them were miller’s sons or farmer’s sons. They had to serve for several years as trainees or apprentices until they could find a mill to lease, or even to buy, if they could arrange the financing. All young millers had to be married before they were eligible to lease a mill.

On the basis of this common pattern, one can reconstruct the career of Barthel Raumberger.

After his apprenticeship (possibly under his father) in the years 1730 to 1733, he probably served as a traveling miller until he met his wife Anna Maria Brückner in about 1740, and then soon afterward became a tenant miller at the Kautzenmühle near Ingolstadt in about 1742.

In the church books of that village he is registered as a “*molitor*,” which should be interpreted as “mill tenant” and not as “mill worker” or as “mill owner.”

Barthel’s probable birthplace, the mill house at Neumühle near Teilheim, was built in about 1600 and was dismantled around 1980. Kauzenmühle was built in about 1500.

### Würzburg prices about 1750

The common unit of currency in Franconia in 1750 was the “guilder,” which was also known as a “florin” [fl.]. Its value (purchasing power) was roughly equivalent to that of 60 U.S. dollars in 2005.

However, any conversion of guilders to today’s currency is difficult and inexact, because wages were very low in the 18th century. They were often paid partly “in kind” as components of a “barter economy.”

Raw materials and precious metals, however, were very expensive. A bricklayer in 1790 earned about one-half guilder (about \$30) a day, which was roughly comparable to the wage of a mill worker.

In agriculture one earned about 100 fl. per year in cash plus a fraction of that “in kind” (some of the produce).

A rather confusing set of currency units, some coined and some not, were in use at the same time: Gulden [fl.] (in English called “guilder” or “florin”) was just a unit used in accounting.

There was no “gulden” coin, but there were gold “guilders.”

The gold coins of old Germany were:

- The Empire ducat = 5 fl.  
The Carolin = 11 fl.
- The Gold guilder = 3 fl. = 2 Thaler
- The Cologne Mark = 24 fl.
- The Pistole (Louisd’or, Fredrichsd’or, Doubloon, Ducat) = 10 fl.
- The Guilder could be subdivided into 15 “batzes,” or 28 “shillings,” or 60 “Kreutzer,” or 168 “pfennig,” or 504 “heller,” or 5 pounds and 18 pfennig.

Also, in 1717 one Franconian fl. = 1.25 Rhenish fl.

### From Main to Rhine to Rotterdam

Departing emigrants typically traveled in groups; for example, many emigrants from Wertheim sailed on the *Neptune* along with Barthel and his family in 1753.

The emigrating Raumberger family departed from Ingolstadt, probably in April of 1753. They presumably went on a riverboat from Ochsenfurt via Würzburg to Wertheim, where numerous emigrants from Wertheim, whose names we know, joined them. From Wertheim they went down the Main River to Hanau and Frankfurt to the Prince-Bishopic Mainz am Rhein.

While going down the Rhine, they passed about 40 custom check stations with numerous inspections and controls. Traveling down to the seaport of Rotterdam on the North Sea probably took them at least three weeks.

Though this was not done in 1753, in 1754 the Prussians closed the Rhine at Cologne and the emigrant ships had to wait for weeks for more emigrants to arrive. The expenses of staying for several weeks in Rotterdam, including food and lodging, were accounted separately from the ocean passage.

The cost of the passage down the rivers to Rotterdam for one adult (“*ganze Fracht*” = whole freight) were 10 fl. (about \$600). Children from 4

to 12 years old went for half price. Children under 4 years were free. The baggage allowance for one household was: 2 boxes of 1.20 meters by 1.50 meters by 0.60 meters. More baggage could be taken for an extra charge.

When the ocean passage had not been booked in advance, one had to wait in Rotterdam for two weeks or more for space on an ocean-going emigrant ship that was ready for boarding.

In Rotterdam there was a special emigrant camp. Legal entry into Rotterdam was gained only with a valid contract, and transients were not allowed to stay in Holland.

The first stage of the ocean voyage was sailing to Cowes on the Isle of Wight, which took about two weeks.

From there the emigrants crossed the ocean in 8 to 10 weeks usually by the southern route to the Canary Islands, then going with the trade winds to the Caribbean, the Bahamas, and on to Philadelphia. So the entire journey took about five months.

### The costs of the ocean crossing

One “whole freight” (a person of age 14 or older) was 7 ½ Louisd’or (a 10 fl. unit) = 75 fl. = \$4,500. Children from 4 to 14 went for half-price (½ freight). Children under 4 were taken for free.

Space allotted on the ship for one family (that is, 4 “whole” freights) of 2 adults and 4 children was only about 6 feet square, or 36 square feet.

One surviving contract specifies that the space for one adult was 6 feet long and 1 1/2 feet wide. Passengers had to cook for themselves over an open fire (in a sandbox) on board.

In 1750 the price for one “whole freight” was 7 1/2 Louisd’or (or Doubloons or Pistoles), which amounted to 75 fl. per adult. So the emigrant, Barthel Raumberger, paid for 2 adults and 3 children under 14, a total of about \$15,000 in today’s currency.

Possibly he had the money from the sale of property in Ingolstadt, or he might have had to work as a “redemptionner” or “free-willer” in Pennsylvania for four to seven years. No good information has been found about his financial arrangements.

*Reinhard Hofer’s address is Hans-Reschstr. 6, 94099 Ruhstorf, Germany. His e-mail is Hofer-Bavaria@t-online.de.*

# German-American newspapers in Baltimore

Eva Slezak made an interesting presentation at the fall 2005 MAGS conference. The following is excerpted from that lecture with her permission.

Newspapers are an excellent source for family or local history. In addition to notices of births (not so frequently mentioned), marriages and deaths, social events such as dedications of public buildings and churches, cultural societies and fraternal organizations are sometimes noted. Legal notices and advertisements, names of ships arriving or departing and lists of people whose mail was accumulating in the post office can all provide clues in your search.

The German press in Baltimore dates from an early period. The first printers in the town were German and the first newspapers printed in the English language often contained advertisements printed in the German text. Due to the increase of the German population after the end of the Revolutionary War there was sufficient interest in printing a newspaper in the German language. Henry Dulhaier, on 14 June 1786, began the publication of a weekly newspaper at his printing office "on Market Street, nearly opposite the Green Tree, at the small price of ten shillings per annum."

J. Thomas Scharf in his 2-volume set, *History of Baltimore City and County* (1881) has an entire chapter devoted to "The Press of Baltimore," including the German publications. Descriptions range from basic identification to extensive family history and accomplishments.

**Baltimore Correspondent** see Der Deutsche Correspondent

## **Baltimore Volksfreund**

Daily morning paper published and edited by Sigmund Junger. It first came out 14 April 1879 and expanded two months after it began. Eventually it merged with *Die Biene von Baltimore* in 1873 to form *Baltimore Volksfreund und Biene*.

## **Baltimore Wecker**

A daily it began in October 1851. Founded by Carl (Charles) Heinrich (Henry) Schnauffer, who had participated in the 1848

revolution and compelled to leave Germany. After his death in 1854 his wife continued publishing until their son William took over and added a weekly edition to the paper.

Because of its political stance as a Republican paper in Maryland, it was mobbed after the presidential election in 1856 and later an office was destroyed 19 April 1861. The proprietor and editors fled the city, returning only after the military took control of Baltimore.

Ownership changed at the end of the Civil War; Gen. Francis (Franz) Sigel entered into partnership with Schnauffer for about two years, when William (Wilhelm) Rapp replaced Sigel. Rapp retired and George Blumenthal succeeded him. In 1873 Schnauffer disposed of the paper to Blumenthal who in turn disposed of it to Capt. J.R. Fellman who then in September 1877 sold it back to William Schnauffer who kept the weekly and suspended the daily issue.

**Taglicher Baltimore Wecker** see Baltimore Wecker

## **Bayerisches Wochenblatt**

Merged with *Deutsche Correspondent* in 1919 to form the *Baltimore Correspondent*.

## **Die Biene von Baltimore**

A Sunday paper it was first published by S. Junger and M. Muller and considered a progressive paper.

## **Der Deutsche Correspondent**

Published from 1848 to April 1918. Published weekly in German. Variant titles and editions include *Wochentliche Deutsche Correspondent*, *Deutsche Correspondent* (1841), *Sonntags-Correspondent*. The founder, owner and editor was Col. Frederick Raine. Grew from a weekly to a daily that "assumed its position among the very front rank of German-American newspapers." In 1919 it became the *Baltimore Correspondent* and came out weekly. Changing its title to *Taglicher Baltimore Correspondent*, it was published daily, except

Sunday, in German, *Sonntagsblatt des Baltimore Correspondent*. It was also published as the *Baltimore Daily Correspondent*. In 1941 it became a semiweekly through 1956 and the next year changed to a weekly until its demise in 1976.

***Die Katholische Volks-Zeitung or Volkszeitung***

Began in 1860 and ceased in October 1914. It was published weekly in German, "Bin Wochenblatt im Interesse der Kirche." Considered a successful German Catholic weekly paper that circulated widely in the United States, it was published by Kreuzer Brothers and edited by John Schmidt.

\*\*\*

One of Baltimore's most famous newspapermen was Henry Louis Mencken. Proud of his German heritage, he observed life around him with wry humor and recalled his early years as a reporter in *Newspaper Days 1899-1906*. In the preface he stated that his "book is mainly true, but with occasional stretchers ... reasonable accurate."

He wrote about the German newspapers, commenting about their reporters that they were some of Baltimore's "most eminent and popular" who led lives that were the admiration of their American colleagues.

"They covered spot news, to be sure, only sketchily, for a four-alarm fire was nothing to them unless the owner of the burned premises happened to be a German, or, at worst, an Austrian or a Swiss: but ever and anon they had a complicated and hair-raising German suicide ...or a riot at a Gesangverein rehearsal... and at all times they were salient figures in what may be called the social life of the Fourth Estate.

" ... their papers were not much interested in ordinary news, and there was no court martial if one of them missed a bank

robbery or even a murder, provided, of course, no German were involved. Their main business was to cover the purely German doings of the town – weddings, funerals, concerts, picnics, birthday parties, and so on. This kept them jumping pleasantly, for there were then 30,000 of their compatriots in Baltimore, and most of the 30,000 seemed to be getting on in the world, and were full of social enterprise. It was not sufficient for a German reporter to report their weddings as news: he also had to dance with the bride, drink with her father, and carry off a piece of the wedding cake, presumably for his wife. At a funeral of any consequence – say, that of a saloonkeeper, a pastor, or the head basso of a singing society – his duties were almost as onerous as those of a Totsauffer for a brewery, and if he quit before the last clod hit the coffin it was an indecorum.

" ... and he was remiss in his duties if he failed to sneak in a nice notice for the lady who had prepared the Sauerbraten or the Haringsalat. In his reports all malt liquor had to be superultra, and all potato salad the best yet seen on earth.

"The fattest regular story of the German brethren in my time was the monthly arrival of the North German Lloyd immigrant ship at Locust Point. All leaves were canceled on that day, and the instant the ship tied up at the Baltimore & Ohio pier its decks swarmed with journalists. Even at the turn of the century, of course, most of the actual immigrants were Slavs or Jews, but there were still some Germans, and among them there were bound to be a number of characters worth embalming in print – say a barber who had once shaved Bismarck, or a man with nineteen children, or a Prussian lieutenant whose foot had slipped in one way or another, forcing him, as the Germans say, to go 'round the corner.' "

## **Pennsylvania Statewide Genealogy Conference set for September 2006**

MAGS members whose ancestors lived in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania should note that the first statewide genealogy conference held in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania will take place on 29-30 September 2006, in Pittsburgh. The program will feature several nationally recognized genealogical speakers, including Roger Minert, who gave several outstanding presentations at the fall 2004 MAGS meeting.

Registration brochures will be available early in the New Year. If you want to receive a registration brochure, please go to [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org), click on the very first line or go to <http://www.genpa.org/PaConf06Sub.html> where you can fill in the form to request information.

## FAMILY REGISTERS

### Records with locations are exceptions

*Most family registers made for American families of German heritage are found between the Old and New Testaments in Bibles. Information in these registers can be rambling, without clear indications of family relationships, but the information often includes clues found nowhere else.*

*Unfortunately for researchers, many family registers include no locations. Likely, families assumed the family Bible would remain with the family, so they saw no need to record a location. They did not anticipate that descendants of those named in the register might move away and eventually forget the exact location of events recorded there. Having said this, locations are occasionally mentioned in family registers, such as the following examples made for the PRIEST/PENNYPACKER family of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, the BICKEL/ROTH register showing European origins, and the SEIBEL/BECK register of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.*

#### Priest/Pennypacker

The two-page PRIEST/PENNYPACKER register was written in English. It was removed from its original Bible, but preserved in a private collection. The register begins with the marriage of William PRIEST to Sarah PENNYPACKER on January 17, 1839.

The next column begins with the birth of John PRIEST. John PRIEST, born July 18, 1797, was William PRIEST's oldest brother. They were sons of Isaac and Sarah PRIEST. After John's date of birth, the register continues with births of brothers Joseph PRIEST, born December 30, 1802; Jesse PRIEST, born April 10, 1806; and Isaac PRIEST, born November 4, 1808. William PRIEST was born November 8, 1811.

At this point, the record gives data concerning William PRIEST's wife, Sarah PENNYPACKER, who was born August 17, 1814, to Henry and Susanna PENNYPACKER. Dates of birth for the children of William and Sarah (PENNYPACKER) PRIEST follow. Susanna was born May 28, 1840. Sarah Jane was born January 3, 1842. Aaron was born August 27, 1843. Johnathan [sic] was born September 2, 1845, and Anna Mary PRIEST was born February 4, 1853. The next entries fall under the handwritten heading of "Deaths." They say Eve Anna PRIEST, wife of Aaron PRIEST and daughter of Jacob SETZLER, died August 15, 1871, at the age of 23 years and 6 days. She was "beried" at Limerick Church, Montgomery County.

Sarah PRIEST, wife of William PRIEST and daughter of Henry and Susanna

PENNYPACKER, died July 27, 1875, at the age of 60 years, 11 months, and 10 days. William PRIEST, son of Isaac and Sarah PRIEST, died March 11, 1880, at the age of 68 years, 4 months, and 3 days.

Owen PENNYPACKER died December 26, 1847, at the age of 37 years, 11 months, and 20 days. Elizabeth DANFIELD, daughter of Henry and Susanna PENNYPACKER, died March 9, 1850 at the age of 50 years, 11 months, and 10 days. Sarah PRIEST, wife of Isaac PRIEST, died July 12, 1850, at the age of 80 years. James PENNYPACKER died January 13, 1851, at the age of 46 years, 3 months, and 13 days. Susanna PRIEST, daughter of Wm. and Sarah PRIEST, died January 17, 1853, at the age of 12 years, 7 months, and 20 days. Isaac PRIEST died June 3, 1854, at about 82 years of age. Aaron PRIEST, son of Wm. and Sarah PRIEST, died August 30, 1871, at the age of 28 years and 3 days. He was "beried" at Limerick Church in Montgomery County.

This record does not explain why Aaron PRIEST and his wife, Eve Anna (SETZLER) PRIEST, died at such a young age and only a few days apart, but the mention of this couple's burial in Montgomery County is helpful for tracing this family.

#### Bickel/Roth

A German-language register made for the BICKEL/ROTH family mentions the European origins of the family. It begins with the marriage of Jacob BICKEL to Catharina ROTH, both of whom were born in Europe. This record says Jacob BICKEL was the son of Jakob [sic] and

Justina (DOLL) BICKEL. Jacob BICKEL was born May 1, 1827, in Edenkoben, Rheinpfalz, Baiern [Bavaria]. He was baptized and his sponsors were Heinrich and Phillipina ACKER. He was also confirmed in the Reformed church (no date or location given) and married Catharina ROTH on April 29, 1855 (no location given). Catharina ROTH was the daughter of Peter and Anna (HAAG) ROTH. Catharina ROTH was born April 24, 1824, in Elmenstein, Rheinpfalz, Baiern. She, too, was baptized and confirmed in the Reformed church. The sponsors (presumably at her baptism) were Catharina HAAG and "her spouse" (*ihr Gatte*).

The children of Jacob and Catharina (ROTH) BICKEL included a stillborn daughter, born January 13, 1856. Next came Christina BICKEL, born February 15, 1857, in Molltown [Berks County, Pennsylvania]. She was baptized May 17, 1857, by S. HERMAN. Sponsors were Henry and Christina MUSBACH. William BICKEL was born October 17, 1858, in Molltown and baptized January 2, 1859, by S. HERMAN. The parents were sponsors. Maria Catharina BICKEL was born May 22, 1860, in Molltown. She was baptized July 15, 1860, by S. HERMAN. Her sponsors were Heinrich and Christina EMMERT. Sarah BICKEL was born May 31, 1862, in Molltown. She was baptized by S. HERMAN on August 17, 1862. The sponsors were Jacob and Barbara STUWER. Jacob BICKEL was born February 26, 1864, in Reading, Pennsylvania. He was baptized May 15, 1864, by B. BAUSMAN. Sponsors at his baptism were Jacob and Maria ROTH. And Sarah Elisabeth BICKEL was born August 11, 1866, in Leesport, Pennsylvania. She was baptized September 29, 1866, by B. BAUSMAN. Sponsors at her baptism were Conrad and Carolina ROTH and Henry and Elisabeth DAUM.

A list of deaths in this family begin with the stillborn daughter who was born in 1856. Christina BICKEL died September 13, 1858, at the age of 1 year, 6 months, and 28 days. Sarah BICKEL died April 11, 1864, at the age of 1 year, 10 months, and 11 days. Sarah Elisabeth BICKEL died on April 11, 1870, at the age of 3 years and 8 months, and William BICKEL died August 15, 1871, at the age of 12 years, 9 months, 27 days.

More deaths were added in pencil on the last page of the register. Mary K. [Maria

Catharina BICKEL] KAIN died May 13, 1926. Mary K. (SCHOENERT) STUTELLINE (b 26 Dec 1906) died November 10, 1926. And Jacob BICKEL (born Feb. 24, 1864) died June 5, 1934.

The above record was recorded in an 1868 German-language Bible printed by Ig. KOHLER in Philadelphia. A possible reason for the mention of Catharina HAAG's "spouse" as a baptismal sponsor for Catharina ROTH is that memory of family events in Europe failed after the family became separated from its European roots. Possibly, Catharina ROTH was named for her grandmother, so she could recall the name of that sponsor, but she could not recall her grandfather's name. This record was penned by Berks County fraktur scrivener John HEINZ (active circa 1856-85). The latest date he recorded was 1871, three years after the Bible was printed and thus a fairly reliable date for determining when the register was made.

### Seibel/Beck

A one-page German-language register gives locations of the parents during several events in their lives. This register says Johann SEIBEL was born October 7, 1773, in Hempfield Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. He was confirmed by Pastor FROM in Elisabethtown in May of 1790. Maria BECK was born June 20, 1773, in Donegal Township, Lancaster County. She was confirmed in Maytown, Pennsylvania, by Pastor KURTZ, Lutheran. She was confirmed in September, but the year was not given. Johann SEIBEL and Maria BECK were married in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by Pastor MÜHLENBERG on August 20, 1793.

The register does not name all the children born to Johann and Maria (BECK) SEIBEL, but their third child was a son named Johannes, born December 18, 1798. Johannes was baptized by Peter PENTZ [BENTZ] in Maytown (no date given). The sponsors at his baptism were Johannes MEYER and his wife.

Maria (BECK) SEIBEL died June 18, 1802 at the age of 28 years, 11 months, and 28 days. According to this register, she lived in marriage with Johann SEIBEL for 8 years, 9 months, and 28 days.

The SEIBEL/BECK register appears to have been written on the blank page of ledger, Bible, or other book. It is in a private collection.

# FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest



Taufschein of Maria Anna Lott. Courtesy Historical Society of Berks County

## Many Rolands found in Pennsylvania, particularly Berks, Lebanon counties

Donna Ristenbatt asked about ROLANDs on fraktur. Frame 279 of microfilm 251 at the Historical Society of Berks County in Reading, Pennsylvania, pictures a *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) having the name ROLAND. This certificate was made for Maria Anna LOTT, daughter of Nicolaus and Catarina (ROLAND) LOTT. Maria Anna was born about six o'clock in the evening on April 22, 1826, in Reading. She was baptized by William PAULI (no date given). The sponsors at her baptism were Jacob MAURER and his wife.

A coach and carriage painter named J.H. ROWLAND is mentioned in the first volume of

*German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition*. ROWLAND's calling card was found in a circa 1890 Bible having a family register made for the Eugene A. ELY family of Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. The calling card reads, "J.H. ROWLAND, Coach & Carriage Painter, No. 1226 Parrish Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Residence 1837 Camac St., B.12.13 above Montgomery Ave."

That same volume gives details from a *Taufschein* made for Sarah Elizabeth ROHLAND, daughter of John A. and Mary A. ROHLAND. According to the *Taufschein*, Mary A. ROHLAND's parents were Joseph and Elizabeth

BOYER. Sarah Elizabeth ROHLAND was born May 19, 1886, in North Lebanon Township, Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized February 27, 1887, by Henry J. WELKER. Her parents were sponsors at her baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Anna SCHREINER, daughter of Michael and Catharina (ROLAND) SCHREINER. Anna SCHREINER was born February 27, 1820, in Manheim Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. No information concerning baptism was given.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a *Taufschein* made for Johannes EMBICH, son of Jacob and Maria Magdalena (ROHLAND) EMBICH. Johannes EMBICH was born about eight o'clock in the morning on September 3, 1784, in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County. He was baptized by Wilhelm KURZ [KURTZ], but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at his baptism were Bernhart and Susana EMBICH. This *fraktur* was sold along with a handful of others at Costea Auction Company in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on July 6, 1993. The examples sold that day were made for Johannes and Anna Maria (CARMENE) EMBICH's children, Jacob (born 1813), Rebecca (born 1815), Johannes (born 1816), Maria Anna (born 1818), and Catarina Anna (born 1823). By the time these children were born, Johannes EMBICH and his wife were living in Green Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

In *Geburts- und Taufscheine: Illuminated Pennsylvania German Birth and Baptismal Certificates*, Harry Focht gives data from a *Taufschein* having the name ROHLAND. This example was made for Charles Edward, son of Charles Edward and Catharine ROHLAND. Charles Edward, Jr. was born March 24, 1845, in Lebanon, Lebanon County. He was baptized July 23 (or 28?), 1848 by Henry ROHLAND. According to the *Taufschein*, Catharine's parents were Felix and Margaret GOOD.

A photocopy of a *Taufschein* sent to us by a friend mentions Catrinna [Catharina] RULAND [sic], wife of Peter KNEP and mother of Catarina KNEP. According to the *Taufschein* Catarina KNEP was born December 10, 1808 in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. She was baptized February 6, 1809, by Pastor ADAM. The

sponsors at her baptism were Johannes MOYER and his wife.

As mentioned previously, *fraktur* associated with the name ROHLAND have been sold at auction. On May 17, 1997, auctioneer Neil A. Courtney of Richfield, Pennsylvania, sold several *fraktur* having the name KNEPP. One of these was a *Taufschein* made for Peter, son of Peter and Catharina KNEPP. According to this certificate, Catharina was the daughter of Henrich ROHLAND. Peter KNEPP Jr. was born March 3, 1824, in Beaver Township, Union County. He was baptized by Johann FELIX (no date given). Peter's grandparents, Georg and Maria KNEPP, were sponsors.

In September 2001, a Bible record made for the ROHLAND/LESSLY family was listed on eBay. This record states that Jacob ROHLAND was born April 5, 1820, and baptized September 18, 1844. He married Catarina LESSLY, who was born October 2, 1820. Their children included Mary, born January 5, 1845; Ezra, born September 11, 1847; and Elizabeth, born March 29, 1850. The picture shown on eBay is difficult to read, so Catarina LESSLY's surname may be LEFFLY. No location was shown on the record.

On November 18, 2000, Hesse Galleries in Otego, New York, sold an undated watercolor that mentions Jennett ROWLAND. This watercolor gives no genealogical data.

On May 23, 1997, Horst Auction Centre in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Jakob BETZ, son of Jeremias and Elisabetha (ROHLAND) BETZ. Jakob BETZ was born on January 7, 1821, in Newmanstown [Lebanon County], Pennsylvania. He was baptized by Pastor ULRICH on May or March 20, 1821. Jakob KOHL was the only sponsor at his baptism. Regarding the month of baptism, Klaus Stopp recorded the month as March, while I recorded it as May. Attempts to clear up the discrepancy did not help. In the *Sources and Documents Series of the Pennsylvania Germans (XIII): Records of Pastoral Acts at Christ Lutheran Church, Stouchsburg, Berk County, Pennsylvania* (Part II, translated by Frederick Weiser and published by the Pennsylvania German Society), Jacob [sic] BETZ's date of baptism is given as April 15, 1821.

On June 3, 1995, Christie's in New York sold a *Taufschein* made for Jacob ROHLAND, Jr., born about midnight on August 18, 1792. Jacob's

parents were Jacob and Christina (FERNZLER) ROHLAND. Jacob ROHLAND, Jr. was born in Lebanon Township, Dauphin County. No information concerning baptism was recorded on the certificate.

A related example to the one above is pictured in *Nineteenth-Century Folk Painting: Our Spirited National Heritage* which shows the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Tillou (published in 1973 by the William Benton Museum of Art). This *Taufschein* was made for Elisabetha, daughter of Jacob and Christina (FERNZLER) ROHLAND. Elisabetha was born March 14, 1800 in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County. She was baptized by Pastor ENGEL, but no date of baptism was given. The only sponsor at her baptism was Christina BETZ, wife of William BETZ.

In the third volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* having the name ROLAND. It was

made for Cathrina, daughter of Johanes and Maria (ROLAND) SCHENCK. Cathrina SCHENCK was born March 3, 1838 in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. She was baptized April 21, 1838 by Pastor BERNHEIM. Cathrina's parents were sponsors. According to this *Taufschein*, Maria ROLAND's father was Johanes ROLAND.

In the sixth volume of that same series, Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for John Jacob AHLER, son of Simon and Malinda (ROHLAND) AHLER. John Jacob AHLER was born October 6, 1866, in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County. He was baptized February 4, 1867. No other information is available.

*If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, send as self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. Please be patient for a reply.*

## People associated with Ephrata Cloister: Negley

By Corinne Earnest

Ilene Smith asked if MAGS could find the name of her fifth-great-grandmother, who was the wife of Rudolph NEGLEY. According to Smith, Rudolph NEGLEY came from Switzerland in 1717 to Pennsylvania where he became a bishop in the Mennonite Church.

Smith rightfully believed Rudolph NEGLEY had a connection with Ephrata Cloister. According to information at the Cloister, Rudolph NEGLEY/NAGELY was baptized in May of 1725 at Conestoga (northern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania) by Conrad BEISSEL (1691-1768), founder of the Cloister. NEGLEY actually joined the Cloister in October of 1739.

Unfortunately, the maiden name of Rudolph NEGLEY's wife, Elisabeth, is missing from Cloister records. Based on the files at the Cloister, all that is currently known about Elisabeth NEGLEY is that she was the wife of Rudolph NEGLEY and that she died in 1754. Her husband died April 1, 1765. The dates of birth for this couple are unknown. They were householders

at the Cloister and had several children, some of whom remained there.

According to Michael Showalter, Museum Educator at Ephrata Cloister, Rudolph NEGLEY owned land immediately east of the Cocalico, a creek on which the Cloister is situated. NEGLEY's spiritual name was Joiada, spelled Johoiada and Jojada in some records. He may have had a son named Rudolph NEGLEY who died on January 28, 1749. Smith claims her ancestor, Rudolph NEGLEY, died in 1749, but it could be that she is actually descended from the Rudolph who died in 1765. According to researchers whose letters remain in NEGLEY files kept at the Cloister, the second Rudolph NEGLEY may have been the celibate whose spiritual name was Zephania. Zephania's actual first name remains unknown, but his father was Rudolph NEGLEY.

Notations in early death registers concerning Zephania's death in 1749 say he was the son of "old Nägl" in one register and "Jojada

or Nägli” in the other. The family relationship is clear even though neither register mentions Zephania’s secular name. One account says Zephania was a celibate at the community in 1740. Thus, at the time his father joined the Cloister late in 1739 as a householder, Zephania was an adult and may have joined the Cloister at the same time.

Past correspondents whose letters are in files at the Cloister appear to have been searching for the same information Ilene Smith needs. Various requests asked for Elisabeth’s maiden name and if a second Rudolph (d 1749) was actually the son of the Rudolph who died in 1765.

In some cases, these letters add confusion concerning at least two Rudolph NEGLEYS. Likely, information in this correspondence has since been corrected by NEGLEY researchers, but the existing letters shed little light on NEGLEY family relationships, some of which remain unclear. However, the People Book consisting of printouts of data compiled from the Cloister files by Clarence Spohn, a former employee, clears up some (although not all) of these relationships. Likely, a NEGLEY researcher who has focused on this family could provide data that would assist, but that information is currently not on file at the Cloister.

Nevertheless, the People Book and related files are of interest to NEGLEY researchers. Thirteen NEGLEYS are identified by number in the People Book printouts. Rudolph NEGLEY (Joiada) is ID #490, his wife Elisabeth is ID #487, and Zephania (possibly a second Rudolph NEGLEY) is ID #489. Elisabeth’s maiden name is missing in all these listings.

One of the best developed files is that of a Jacob NEGLEY (ID #495), son of Rudolph (ID #490) and Elisabeth (ID #487) NEGLEY. This Jacob NEGLEY (not to be confused with his son, Jacob, who died at the Cloister in 1793 at age thirty) was a joiner and carpenter. Researchers looking for Jacob (ID #495) would find that his file contains a great deal of information.

Among other items, it lists several land transactions involving Jacob, the Cloister, and others. An inventory of his estate following his death at age 69 on August 8, 1790, lists, among other items, numerous carpentry tools and thousands of feet of lumber consisting of various species of wood. In addition, tax records from 1756 to 1788 are listed. Cloister records say Jacob

NEGLEY served as cantor (*Vorsinger*) for 40 years. He was a married householder, yet despite detailed information listed in the People Book, his wife’s name is missing from the early records used to compile printouts that constitute the People Book. One of the letters in the NEGLEY family file, however, suggests her name was Barbara.

As mentioned, the files kept at the Cloister were used to create the People Book. The People Book is more or less “frozen” and not subject to revision or expansion at this time, but it provides an orderly arrangement of factual data. The files at the Cloister, on the other hand, have the potential for expanding.

When researching for members of MAGS, I check both the files and the People Book for information readers are seeking. At times, the information simply is not there. Such was the case of finding Elisabeth’s maiden name. Naturally, I am unable to reconstruct large segments of families working from the files and the People Book alone, but readers looking for ancestors associated with Ephrata Cloister may benefit from knowing what they may or may not find at the Cloister.

Hopefully, readers of *Der Kurier* will add to the Cloister files. Although Ephrata Cloister is not a genealogical research facility per se, it welcomes data on people who had contact with the Cloister. If you can contribute information concerning an ancestor who had contact with Ephrata Cloister, send it to Michael S. Showalter, Museum Educator, Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main St., Ephrata, PA 17522.

*On a personal note, my husband and I recently moved from Pennsylvania to Delaware. Consequently, our research has been temporarily interrupted, but we hope to resume work early in 2006 after we reorganize our office and library. For those of you who have requested research, we thank you for your patience and ask for still more. We have your letters on file, and will write as soon as we can. Please note our new address below. If you wish me to research an ancestor who may have had contact with Ephrata Cloister, send your request with a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938.*

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:toedick@aol.com)) *She offers a professional translation service for German script, Middle High German, German for all documents & papers.*
- **Andrew Witter**, 1056 255<sup>th</sup> St., Donnellson, IA 52625-9069  
(E-mail: [ajwitter@juno.com](mailto: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](mailto: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>.*

## 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 )

### LUTZ LONG GOOD GUTH

#23-13 Seek town in Germ where LUTZ fam originated. Jacob LUTZ (b1763 at ?, d 1826 PA ) mar (1788 at ?) Catherine LONG (b 1767, Lancaster Co PA, d 1854). Both bur cem adjacent Stone Church of Brethren, Germany Valley, PA Her par Joseph LONG (d 1804) & Elizabeth nee GOOD/GUTH. Jacob LUTZ & Catherine LONG LUTZ had 10 ch: Elizabeth b 1889 MD, Johannes #1 b 1791 d young; Catherine b 1793; Susanna b 1795; Johannes #2 b 1798; Jacob b 1801; Nancy b 1803; Samuel b 1805; Abraham b 1808; Petrus b 1811. Jacob LUTZ & Joseph LONG lvd adjoining farms MD ca 1791. Also Germany Valley, Huntingdon Co.,PA ca 1795. Who are Jacob's par; any other sibl? When LUTZ fam to US? from?; ship? Ports?

**David S. Lutz, 2800 Northfield Road Charlottesville, VA 22901-1237 Ph: 434-973-2020 E-mail DLutz22901@aol.com**

### DEIKE RUTTER

#23-14 Seek par (b Germ) of John Henry DEIKE b NY ca 1850, d aft 1930; mar Ruth RUTTER (b England ca 1851). Ch: George Herman b NY 1879; Amy A b PA 1884. Fam mvd fm NY to Pittsburgh, PA ca 1881. Also seek info John's sib.

**Gigi Kelly 3219 L. Calf Pasture Hwy. Craigsville, VA 24430 E-mail caveushr@cfw.com**

### KIRCHNER KNOPP BILSOM

#23-15 Seek info William KIRCHNER b ca 1825, Saxony, Germ. Imm US before 1<sup>st</sup> ch b ca 1851 in Anne Arundel Co. MD. Mar (date/pl unk) to Margaret KNOPP (b 22 Dec. 1830 Germ, d 17 Feb 1917 Churchton, Anne Arundel

Co. MD) Her par George KNOPP & Elizabeth BILSOM

**Eunice Thomas P.O. Box 440, 33 Powellton Ave. Wachapreague, VA 23480 E-mail neverendingadventure@yahoo.com**

### GOOD DAVIES

#23-16 Seek info John Henry GOOD b 24 Sept 1855 PA, d 5 May 1916 Baltimore, MD. Mar Catherine (Kate) Louise DAVIES 24 Feb 1877 PA. Lvd New Market, York Co. PA per 1880 census w/ 1<sup>st</sup> ch Stella b ca 1879. By 1900 census lvd Sparrows Point, MD

**Eunice Thomas P.O. Box 440, 33 Powellton Ave. Wachapreague, VA 23480 E-mail neverendingadventure@yahoo.com**

### HUGELMEYER HUEGLEMEYER HUGGELMEYER ONNEN

#23-17 Seek info Heinrich & Johanna C. (ONNEN) HUGELMEYER. Heinrich b 27 May 1848 Lerden, Germ., d ca 1923 ?Germ?. Johanna b 21 Apr 1861 Osnabruck, Ger, d 9 Dec 1922 Baltimore, MD. Both imm to Baltimore, MD Sept 1882 fr Bremen Germ on ship KOLN. Heinrich went back to Germ May 1889. Johanna's fa H. F. ONNEN owned HOP Garden in Osnabruck until ca 1903.

**Eunice Thomas P.O. Box 440, 33 Powellton Ave. Wachapreague, VA 23480 E-mail neverendingadventure@yahoo.com**

### ROBERSON FISCHER/FISHER PEFLEY ALTICK/ALTIC

#23-18 Seek info on anc of Hannah FISHER ROBERSON b 1840 Franklin, VA, d 1914 Olympia WA. She dau of Jacob FISCHER/FISHER (b 1798, Franklin, VA d 1868 Carroll, IN) and Sarah L PEFLEY (b 1802 VA, d unk. in Carroll, IN). Hannah's gpar may have

been Peter FISCHER (b 1771, Bedford, VA, d 1840, Franklin, VA) and Elizabeth C. ALTICK/ALTIC (b 1771 Grayson, VA, d 1840 Franklin, VA).

**Allen R. Roberson 7546 East Wildcat Drive Gold Canyon, AZ 85218**  
**E-mail roberson71@msn.com**

## **BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN**

### ***Book Reviews***

#### **German Pioneer Accounts of the Great Sioux Uprising of 1862**

Edited by Don Heinrich Tolzmann

2002. Available from Little Miami Publishing Co., P.O. Box 588, Milford, Ohio 45150-0588. Soft cover, 106 pages, indexed. ISBN 0-9713657-6-8. \$15.95 plus \$3.00 shipping.

In 1870, the author's great-grandparents moved to Renville County, Minnesota. Their farm originally belonged to the Schwandt family most of whom had been killed in the August 1862 uprising.

With his interest whetted, the author came across several German books dealing with the attack by Sioux warriors on New Ulm, Minnesota in August 1862.

The Sioux Uprising, or Dakota Conflict, included the attack on New Ulm, situated in Brown County, the most populous center of the area with more than nine hundred people, most of whom were recent German immigrants.

The author says much has been written of the attacks, but nothing containing the direct accounts of those who experienced it first hand. Mary Schwandt and Wilhelmina Busse are two of those survivors. Both were captured by the Sioux.

To be fair to the Sioux, the author includes a summary, published by Marion P. Satterlee in 1927, giving the events leading up to the uprising.

It is another example of how the Sioux fell victim to bureaucracy and dishonesty.

In 1857, a minor Sioux uprising occurred. Heavy punishments came down by the

government cutting off monies for food and supplies.

The winter of 1861 was particularly harsh, leaving the Sioux hungry and desperate. In August 1862, several Sioux banded together to attack the Indian Agency followed by Fort Ridgely. On August 19, New Ulm was attacked with a second attack on August 23. In all 800 settlers and soldiers were killed.

Mary Schwandt was born near Berlin, German in 1848 and came to America in 1858 settling in Wisconsin. In spring of 1862, the family moved to Minnesota. Wilhelmina Busse's family also immigrated from Germany to Wisconsin finally settling, in 1860, in Minnesota.

Both women tell of their family's friendship with the Indians often working side by side with them.

They recount the horrors of seeing their neighbors and family members suddenly attacked and murdered before their eyes. Both were taken prisoner eventually being released.

There are reminiscences by others included at the end of Mary and Wilhelmina's stories.

This book is important for those of us with German ancestors.

It tells of the perils they faced in their settlement of the "west" whether it was in Pennsylvania or Virginia or Minnesota. It tells of the unfortunate circumstances and frustration the Sioux faced.

It also tells of the bravery of those who died and those who lived through it.

The author includes a comprehensive index at the end of the book.

**Reviewed by *Mariana Wilke***

## 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 nor most spelling variations. MAGS encourages all members to submit free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Donald M. Alshouse of Stoughton WI

*(Althaus/Althouse/Autthow/Alshouse)*

Ellen M. Bentley of Prosser WA

*(Scheffler, Winter, Volbrecht, Rudisill)*

Carolyn Bracken of Baltimore MD

Robert Cluck of Reston VA

*(Cluck, Myers, Eckert, Pittenturf)*

Ron & Marlene Coleman of St. George UT

*(Weit/White, S(c)hretz/ Shirts, Leonard, Kopp)*

Timothy A. Duskin of Centreville VA

*(Dillman, Reichert)*

Robert & Barbara Ehrenstrom of LaPlata MD

*(Ehrenstrom, Hirschmann, Clements, Middleton)*

Joe & Johnnie Freedle of Portland TN

*(Freedle, Eldridge, Burchet, Turner)*

Dr. Sean Henry of Frostburg MD

*(Ledermann, Hemsath, Ehlers, Hoch/High)*

Georganne Kelly of Craigsville VA

*(Deike, Buechele, Hoster)*

Julia M. Kenniston of Linthicum Heights MD

*(Hinkle, Mason, Kenniston, Shaffer)*

Ernst H. Kohlstruk of Camp Hill, PA

Patricia A. Lancaster of Pittsburgh PA

*(Holtzclaw, Fishback, Weber, Utterback)*

Anna L. McLean of Roanoke VA

*(Lineweaver/Leinenwober, Kober/Cover)*

Terry Crystal Miller of Baltimore MD

*(Miller, Sheffey, Bach/Baugh)*

Timothy S. Raab of Bel Air MD

*(Weber, Felty, Johann/Johannes, Kreipl)*

Barbara Clark Rogers of Broomes Island MD

*(Fennekohl, Knell, Fueghmann, Swartz)*

Robert A. Schutt of Sterling VA

*(Schutt, Fett)*

Nina Smith of Stevensville MD

## Open letter from new Publicity coordinator

Dear Member,

I have recently taken over Publicity in addition to my functions as your registrar for our meetings. In keeping with the German tradition in regards to thriftiness I am looking for help in distributing our membership brochures and meeting announcements twice a year.

If you frequent any historical museum, society, Family History Center or library on a regular basis that allows you to place other society literature in a general area and you are willing, I would like to mail you flyers and brochures twice a year for placement.

If you are willing to do this for us contact me with the museum/society/library name and location and I will add you to my list. Your willingness to help us will allow us to consolidate mailings and save on postage as well.

To contribute your time you may contact me in one of three ways –

- Via e-mail - [dmkuster@comcast.net](mailto:dmkuster@comcast.net) (State *MAGS Mailing* in the subject line so I don't think you're spamming me);
- Via phone – 732-606-6032 (please leave a message for me to call you back as I'm hardly ever home which my cat and dog will attest to); or
- Via mail – Diane Kuster, 251 Serpentine Drive, Bayville, NJ 08721-3261

Sincerely,  
Diane Kuster

# From a dream to the Census to a tombstone

By James M. Beidler

I like to say that the key to uncovering my maternal grandmother's ancestry started with a dream.

What made finding this ancestry difficult was the fact that Luella Emma Frederick, born in 1901, was illegitimate. When I began my genealogical search some 20 years ago, all that family members claimed to know was that Frederick or Fredericks was the surname of her father.

Then my mother had a dream in which an older member of our church congregation in Berks County told her he knew about Luella's father. My mother shared this with the man as a joke – but then he told her that, yes, he remembered going to the city of Reading, PA, as a child and that he was told that one of the men at "Frederick's butcher shop" was Luella's father. He even remembered that this butcher shop was in the 600 block of Schuylkill Avenue.

Now I had a starting point – verify the man's information by using city directories, which in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century usually list every individual in the city by address and occupation.

At first there seemed to be a discrepancy. In 1901 when my grandmother was born, there was indeed a Frederick's butcher shop – but it was in the 400 block of Schuylkill Avenue.

But before concluding that the information was wrong, I continued to look at more city directories, taking into account the fact that the memory of the man supplying the information probably would only date to around 1910. Sure enough – in 1905, the butcher shop is listed at 658 Schuylkill Ave., and it continued to be listed there through 1929.

Re-interviewing family members confirmed that the father was the son of the owner of the butcher shop – and, according to the 1900 U.S. Census, there was only one son old enough to father a child – Harry Frederick.

On Harry's mother's side, the name was Hiller, and documenting that family had its own twists and turns – including the fact that according to one census entry, Harry's grandmother had a child at age 60.

Harry's obituary noted his mother as Mary Hiller. She died in 1886 when he was a child, and her city of Reading death record gave age as 27, indicating an approximate birth year of 1859. This led me to the 1880 U.S. Census, which showed a 21-year-old Mary Hiller as daughter of Henry Hiller, 79. Henry's wife was listed as Mary, age 81.

Now that was a "hold the phone" situation – but I remembered that the census question on relationships was asking how each person was related to the head of the household (in this case, Henry) and not necessarily to each other.

Perhaps, Henry had been previously married to a younger woman. At the time I was doing this research a few years ago, there were no good indexes for the 1870 U.S. Census, and I couldn't find a Henry Hiller in the 1860 census indexes.

But when I did find Henry in the 1850 U.S. Census – there he was listed with a wife Mary, age 50 – who very much looked to be the same woman from the 1880 U.S. Census!

So I let this all percolate for a few years while I spent time on other projects. But recently, now having the U.S. Census at my computer fingertips courtesy of my Ancestry.com subscription, I decided to look for these Hillers again. In short order, I found Henry and Mary in the 1870 U.S. Census – this time without any sign of the "daughter" Mary.

But in 1860, I could find none of these Hillers. Then, looking at the 1850 census for Henry, I noted a son named Gottlieb. One of the search capabilities of the indexing by Ancestry.com enables the researcher to look for just a first name, along with geographic and age criteria, to narrow the search.

Now you wouldn't want to do this with a common name such as John, but looking for men named Gottlieb in Reading, Pennsylvania, in 1860 didn't seem too daunting.

The search result came back with a Gottlieb "Miller" in 1860 – living next to a Henry "Miller" – and ages and wives' names all matched with the Hiller families of 1850 and 1870. And,

best of all, Gottlieb showed a 1-year-old daughter Mary in his household. The 1880 U.S. Census had been wrong in showing Mary as Henry's daughter when she was really his granddaughter, and while proving this was relatively easy, something that is often more difficult to figure out is an immigrant's village of origin. But in the case of the Harry Frederick's maternal family, the Hillers, it was as simple as finding his great-grandparents' tombstones.

The key to finding these tombstones was the fact that the city of Reading was one of the few Pennsylvania municipalities that started keeping vital records earlier than either the countywide registrations of births and deaths (found from 1893 to 1905 in most counties) or the advent of statewide certificates in 1906.

Reading's death registers stretch from 1873 to 1905. Both Heinrich and Maria Hiller, the great-grandparents referred to earlier, died in that time period. Among the facts recorded by the Reading death registers were place of birth and place of burial. Place of birth for Heinrich and Maria was noted merely as "Germany." The burial sites for both were shown as "German Lutheran Cemetery."

Now this required a little research. In modern day Reading, it seems as if there's a Lutheran church on just about every street corner.

But what congregation – in the time period of the 1880s when the two Hillers died – both had a cemetery and would have been called the "German Lutheran" church? Fortunately, Reading attorney and genealogist Jeffrey J. Howell published two valuable reference works in the early 1980s – "Genealogical Guide to Berks County Churches" and "Genealogical Guide to Berks County Church and Public Cemeteries" – that made it a snap to deduce that the "German Lutheran Cemetery" was that of St. John's German Lutheran Church.

So this required a trip to the cemetery, nestled on the side of Neversink Mountain in the southeast portion of Reading. Without a whole lot of walking around, I found the tombstones of Heinrich and Maria Hiller, with a bonus: Heinrich's stone listed his birthplace as Moetzingen, Wuerttemberg; Maria's marker showed her maiden name as Nithammer and her birthplace as Jettingen, Wuerttemberg.

## **DER KALENDER / *The Calendar***

### **2006**

**March 18. Pennsylvania German Heritage Festival,** Lebanon Campus, Harrisburg Area Community College, Lebanon PA. Food, authentic crafts, and presentations including retired Kutztown (PA) University Professor David Valuska on "Pennsylvania Germans in the American Revolution." Contact (717) 270-4222.

**April 2. Lancaster Family History Conference.** Lancaster Mennonite High School, Lancaster, PA. Among the speakers will be MAGS President John T. Humphrey and *Der Kurier* Editor James M. Beidler. Contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

**April 22. Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines to America.** 2005 Spring Conference: Yoder's Banquet Room, New Holland, PA. Speaker: John T.

Humphrey. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579

**May 6. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.** Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland. Speaker: Marion Wolfert, AG. Topics: Records of the German Emigrant, German Research on the Internet, Germany, A Land of Traditions and Customs, and Prussia, "A Border on Wheels." Contact Diane M. Kuster, 251 Serpentine Drive, Bayville, NJ 08721, phone (732) 674-9963, e-mail dmkuster@comcast.net .

**June 2-4. Platt Conference.** Viol, Nordfriesland. Contact American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society, PO Box 0506, Walcott, IA 52773-0506

**Sept. 29-30. Pennsylvania Statewide Conference.** Pittsburgh, PA. For brochure, go to [www.genpa.org](http://www.genpa.org), click on the very first line or go to <http://www.genpa.org/PaConf06Sub.html> to fill in the form for information.

**Door Prize Winners  
Fall Meeting 22 October 2005  
Comfort Inn, Bowie, Maryland**

<u>Item</u>	Donor	Winner
<i>Family Tree Ancestral Tablet</i>	Tuttle Antiquarian Books, Inc.	Germaine Endres
<i>Ontario Fraktur A Pennsylvania-German Folk Tradition in Early Canada</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	Don Umberger
<i>Kids and Kin – The Family History Vacation that Involves Kids Number 1</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	James Weixel
<i>Proof Before You Publish 21 Checklists for Proofreading Genealogy Publications</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	John Scheringer
<i>The What Shall I Write Handbook for Editors of Family Genealogy Society Newsletters</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	Two copies – Ronald Graham & Phyllis Mills
<i>The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans Vol VI Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh – Reading</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	Rosemary Dodd
<i>Our Family Diary</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	Dick Bracken
<i>Indexing Genealogy Publications</i>	Russell D. Earnest Associates	Leslie Bouvier
<i>Understanding and Using Baptismal Records</i>	Anonymous	Two copies – Ellen Bentley & Barbara Clark Rogers
<i>Prominent Families of New Jersey: Volumes I &amp; II</i>	Genealogical Publishing Company	Barbara Ehrenstrom
<i>One Year Subscription to German Life Magazine</i>	German Life	Marjorie Buss
<i>Personal Marriage Records of Reverend J. J. Strine</i>	Closson Press	Karen Gelsleichter
<i>The Story of the Constitution</i>	Will-Britt Books	Merl Arp
<i>In Search of Our Ancestors</i>	Will-Britt Books	Nancy Cole
<i>Tracing Your Ancestry</i>	Will-Britt Books	Four copies – Margaret McKnew Suzanne Van Order Gary Frick Raymond Plantholt
<i>NGS NewsMagazine &amp; NGS Quarterly</i>	National Genealogical Society	Vernon Scheffel
<i>MAGS Tote Bag</i>	Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society	Two winners – Betty Goosman Maryllyn Reisinger
<i>20 % discount</i>	Willow Bend Books	Susan McGrew

**MAGS Services**

**Library**

The MAGS Library is housed in the Shenandoah County Library's Shenandoah Genealogy Room in Edinburg, VA.

Due to increasing labor and copying costs, the price of a hard copy of the MAGS Lending Library Book List will be increased from \$6.50 to \$10 when ordered from Shenandoah County Library.

If desired, the Book List may be downloaded from the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Web site. Just double click on the MAGS logo at the top of the home page. Then click on "Books, etc." and then on "Lending Library."

For more information: Mariana Wilke -  
mwilke@magpage.com or (610) 274-2332

**Queries printed in Der Kurier**

Members / Non-members.... No Cost / \$ 1.00  
Submit query and payment (if required) to:  
Edythe Millar, 7102 Cedon Road,  
Woodford, VA 22580

**Ahnentafels printed in Der Kurier**

Members only ..... No charge  
Submit your material to:  
Shirley E Forrester, 3455 Chiswick Ct.,  
Silver Spring, MD 20906

**MAGS Store**

**1. Back issues of Der Kurier**

Each copy ..... \$ 2.00  
Plus shipping and handling, each copy ..... \$ .50

**2. Surname Index for Der Kurier**

Part I (1982-1992), 30 pp ..... \$3.00  
Part II (1993-1998), 30 pp ..... \$3.00  
Plus shipping and handling, first index ..... \$ 1.50  
Each additional index in same order, add ... \$ .50

**3. Maxi-Atlas Deutschland**

2001/2002, maps in color, 300+ pp  
Members / Non-members ..... \$ 30.00 / \$ 35.00  
Shipping and handling ..... \$ 5.00

**4. MAGS Membership Lapel Pin**

Colors: black / white / gold. One-inch diameter.  
Members only ..... \$ 5.00  
Shipping and handling ..... \$ 1.00

**5. MAGS BAGS**

Canvas tote bag, wheat color with MAGS logo.  
Members only ..... \$ 8.00  
Shipping and handling ..... \$ 3.00

**6. Ahnentafels: Ancestral Charts for Families of German Heritage, Volume I**

Members / Non-Members ..... \$13.50 / \$15.00  
Shipping and handling ..... \$3.50

**7. MAGS T-shirts**

Large or X-Large ..... \$12.00  
2X-Large..... \$14.00  
3X-Large..... \$16.00

**ORDER FORM. Circle numbered item(s) desired, calculate cost below, and mail to:  
Judy Dohner, 6130 Sebring Drive, Columbia, MD 21044-3924  
Make checks payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. Do not send cash.**

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**ITEM COST** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

**5% SALES TAX** \_\_\_\_\_  
(MD addresses only)

**CITY, STATE, ZIP+4** \_\_\_\_\_

**SHIPPING** \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL COST** \_\_\_\_\_

**MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

**Please complete this form fully and send  
it with payment to address below.**

**NAME(S)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP + 4** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT MAGS  
?**

\_\_\_\_\_

**LIST 4 SURNAMES YOU ARE  
RESEARCHING**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Membership Fee:**

**\$10.00 (individual) or \$12.00 (family)**

**Make check or money order payable to  
Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and mail  
to:**

**S E Brooks**

**2010 Bermondsey Drive**

**Mitchellville, MD 20721-4213**