



# Der Kurier

Volume 25, Number 4, December 2007

## Resuscitation of records

### Preserving documents for the future is part of a compact between generations

By Russell Earnest

Although family historians increasingly rely on the Internet for information, veteran genealogists know that nothing substitutes for original documents.

The use of primary sources eliminates the introduction of errors and omissions in abstracts, transcriptions, and translations. As a consequence, seasoned genealogists know how important it is to locate original records, or at the very least, obtain photocopies made from originals.

Every researcher encounters errors in secondary sources. Of course, we all make mistakes, and I suspected one when someone abstracted information from an 18th century document that mentioned one of my ancestors.

My ancestor is Christopher Ernst, but his name is written as Christian Ernst in published books that relied on the erroneous abstract. After acquiring a photocopy of the original, I found my suspicions were well-founded.

The name Christopher was originally recorded as “Christ<sup>o</sup>.” The person abstracting data may not have noticed the tiny raised “o,” and assumed “Christ.” stood for Christian.

Experiences such as this launch genealogists into treasure hunts as they attempt to obtain originals or images of records. Happily, the hunt is frequently made easier through a major shortcut, for family historians often inherit original documents. Consequently, it becomes their

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# MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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

<http://www.magsgen.com/>

**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 \$15 (individual) or \$20 (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.**

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

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: James M. Beidler, PO Box 270, Lebanon, PA 17042. E-mail: [james@beidler.us](mailto:james@beidler.us)

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By John T. Humphrey

# MAGS at 25 ... and counting!

Numerous genealogical societies can trace their origins to an event that took place in the fall of 1975—the epic portrayal on national television of Alex Haley’s “*Roots*.” That singular event sparked a desire on the part of millions of Americans to replicate Haley’s success in finding his family’s origins.

It was a change that I personally witnessed. My own search began in the late 1960s and clerks at courthouses did not fully understand what I was doing, but after “*Roots*” they got it—they fully understood why I was spending time in “their office looking for dead people.” But the other immediate change that I noticed after “*Roots*” was the increased numbers of people who were now working along side of me in those courthouses and in the libraries.

Historically genealogy in this country was pursued by Americans whose origins were in Great Britain, but the influx of “would-be family historians” in the 1970s and 1980s included many people whose ancestors came from other places. Those family historians discovered they were not getting answers to their “how to” questions at the more traditional societies.

It became apparent very quickly difficulties associated with finding German forebears were more demanding than those associated with finding ancestors whose origins were in Great Britain. Those realizations necessitated the need to create societies with a specific focus. In the case of Americans searching for their German “roots” that focus was Germans!

Several German genealogical societies organized in various parts of the United States during this era. Palatines to America was probably

the first. PalAm got its start in 1975 in Columbus, Ohio. The Germanic Genealogy Society organized in St. Paul, Minn., in 1979. The Sacramento German Society was established in 1983, and the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society was established during the summer of 1982. But the history MAGS goes back a little further.

Like their contemporaries in other parts of the United States, genealogists in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and northern Virginia were in search of their German ancestors and they were stymied as to how to effectively go about doing it. One outlet for them was the Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America that had organized in 1977. It was a place to go for that much needed “how to” information.

As Bev Hoch noted in her history of MAGS written for the twentieth anniversary celebration “Demands in the field of Germanic research became evident as events sponsoring lectures on the subject emerged as the best attended. Some of the same people were seen repeatedly at such meetings, and many formed car pools to attend events in Pennsylvania just to spend a day learning about Germanic heritage. Conferences in Pennsylvania held by the Pennsylvania Chapter of Palatines to America (PalAm) were always popular events.”

Bev Hoch “spearheaded the formation of a society” in the Washington-Baltimore area similar to the one that existed in Pennsylvania. Discussions were held early on as to whether or not the ad-hoc Maryland group should become a chapter of Palatines to America.

Those discussions were fruitful and the Maryland group commenced the process of

organizing a Maryland Chapter of Palatines to America. The first officers of that society were Beverly-Repass Hoch and Norman C. Emerick, Co-Chairpersons; Robert J. Miller, Treasurer; Deborah Showalter, Secretary, and Lyla Greathouse Gold, Memberships. But difficulties with respect to the "scope of the chapter" in terms of the membership area and "the allotment of dues" resulted in a decision made on the tenth of July 1982 to establish a new society to be called the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS). The area defined by the society included the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina.

As is the case with all newly organized societies, "the first years were a struggle to build membership" and to organize activities and services useful to society members. By-laws for the society were written, planning meetings were held, and memberships were solicited. Decisions were made that set the standard for what was to follow over the ensuing twenty-five years.

The society would hold spring and fall seminars featuring speakers on topics of interest to genealogists whose ancestors came from Germany, and the society would publish a newsletter named "*Der Kurier*."

The first MAGS membership year began on the first of September 1982. Those members who joined the first year were designated charter members. At the end of that year the number of charter members totaled 260. For many reasons the number of charter members in MAGS has dwindled, but several of those early members are still members of the society. By 1984 the society had 375 dues-paying members and the numbers continued to grow. When the society celebrated its twentieth-anniversary in 2002 total memberships exceeded 600.

The society's first seminar was held in September 1982. Forty-one members and friends were in attendance. The speakers at the meeting, held in Dan-Dee Motel and Country Inn in Frederick, Md., were Calvin E. Schildknecht whose topic was "Research on German-American Names," and Mary K. Meyer who spoke about the "Passenger and Immigration List Index" that she co-authored with William Filby.

Over the ensuing years members of the society have had an opportunity to hear some of America's best-known genealogists speak on

topics of interest to German family historians. Among them were: Milton Rubincam, Don Yoder, Annette Burgert, Frederick S. Weiser, John Heisey, Earnest Thode, Peter Stebbens Craig, Delbert Gratz, Dr. Arta Johnson, Hank Z Jones, Marianne S. Wokeck, Peggy Shomo Joyner, Trudy Schenk, Roger Minert, Marion Wolfert, George Schweitzer and from Germany Friederich Wollmershäuser, Roland Paul and Helmut Schmahl. Over the years several MAGS members who have gone on to establish reputations as genealogists in their own right spoke at MAGS meetings. They include MAGS first second vice president Mary K. Meyers, past president Corinne Earnest, current first vice president, Susannah Brooks, MAGS current president John Humphrey and former NGS president Barbara Vines Little who was also the editor of *Der Kurier* from 1988 until 1994.

The first issue of *Der Kurier* was printed and mailed in September 1982. In hindsight the equipment used seems ancient. The first edition was put together with a "typewriter." MAGS member Marta Coffman was responsible for printing, collating and mailing. *Der Kurier's* first editor was Debbie Showalter (later Brown) who went on to serve as the president of the society from 1991 until 1995.

The content of *Der Kurier* and the quality of articles in *Der Kurier* has changed as the society has grown and matured. The earliest editions of *Der Kurier* served primarily as a "newsletter." Those editions included information on meetings, lists of members, and queries. Issues from the mid- to late 1980s included additional details about the society, its organizational structure and they included snippets of information on places to research and possible sources of information.

A noted change was made in June 1989 with the addition of a feature column titled Fraktur Forum, authored by Corinne Earnest. The title of Corinne's first article was "What-Tur? Fraktur." That particular column has continued as a feature of *Der Kurier* ever since.

A number of significant changes were made to *Der Kurier* in 2004 under the management of the current editor, Jim Beidler. The modifications were both stylistic and substantive. The most important change was the decision to add more-in-depth articles. Included among articles contributed by MAGS members in

recent years are: Marilynne Ocando's article "Translating or deciphering: A big difference," Bob Greiner's article "A trip worth making Finding Rev. Frederick W. Geissenhainer's New York City Lutheran records," "Extra details in newspapers" by Joseph Neville and Corinne and Russell Earnest's article "Finding tips for Bible Records."

Over the course of *Der Kurier's* now twenty-five volumes numerous members and book editors have reviewed books of interest to family historians searching for their German heritage. Many of those books were later contributed to the MAGS library, housed for many years in Carl Shrader's basement. The more than 7,000 items in that library were later moved and are available on loan at the Shenandoah County Library in Edinburg, Virginia. Information on the MAGS library can be found on MAGS Web site:

<http://www.magsgen.com/library.html>.

When MAGS was established twenty-five years ago, societies performed some basic functions. Many had research facilities or libraries similar to MAGS. Most societies provided a forum wherein members could exchange information through newsletters and meetings. Members of societies wanting information on families or possible sources of information posted "queries" in society newsletters. All of that has changed. The transformations that have taken place over the past twenty-five years with respect to how family historians go about finding information on their ancestors and how they organize the results of their search are enormous. Now that exchange of information takes place online in chat rooms or through electronic mailing lists, online bulletin boards and through web pages. And Internet resources have cut into library and record repository usage. Many genealogical societies experienced difficulties as they moved through this transition period. The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society weathered this storm fairly well. The Society has experienced a drop in the total number of memberships, but attendance at the spring and fall meetings remains strong, and the society is solvent.

A number of things unique to MAGS bode well for the future. Despite the "hoopla" about the Internet, difficulties associated with finding ancestors who came to the United States

from Germany still exist. Family historians still have to learn how to go about finding information on ancestors who spoke a foreign language and who wrote in a script that is totally unintelligible to most Americans and even many Germans. Difficulties associated with that sort of search are not resolved on the internet. The "how to" has to be learned in a different environment, namely "the class room" or in the case of MAGS "the seminar."

Additional strengths come from MAGS unique position in terms of geography and history. The society is located in an area that is one of the major genealogical centers in the United States and we have readily available resources like the National Archives. Unbeknownst to many German genealogists throughout the United States we also have easy access to an astounding collection of resources published in Germany at the Library of Congress. Another strong point is our membership. Because MAGS is situated on the east coast, many MAGS members have German ancestors who came to this country in late-seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, but we also have many members whose ancestors came to America in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

That fact has forced the society to learn how to accommodate the research needs and interests of two somewhat diverse groups representing different time periods.

But in the process of accommodating the needs of both groups members of the society have come to appreciate the totality of the German experience in the context of America. Over the past twenty-five years the society has grown and in the process the society has undergone many changes. Comments I made in December 2002 recognizing MAGS Twentieth-Anniversary still hold true. "At our anniversary banquet we celebrated the anniversary of an organization—the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. But if the truth be told we really celebrated twenty years of hard work. We celebrated the efforts of the many volunteers who made certain this society was a success. They are the ones who made things happen, and they are the ones who made this twentieth anniversary possible." I now have to rephrase that last sentence and to add "twenty-five years!"

Harrisburg June - 1823

1823 Mr. Ohnhaus (Mrs. Belle Roman)

June 6	Enlarged entry	To Dissection - noi -	25
		To Pulv. Cranium - noi	25
		To Aditus b. miles -	2.50
			<u>\$3.00</u>
7		To Sp. N. auct. - Zi -	25
8	Cured	To Sal. Epsom - Zi	20
		Aditus - noi	2.50
			<u>\$5.95</u>

  

1823 Mr. John Geiger

June 6		To Ol. Monarda Zi	50
		To Aditus - noi	30
8		To Aditus - noi	25
10		Alb. Cametic - Zi	25
		To Ol. Monarda - Zi	25
12	Apparatus	Alb. Refry - Zi	25
		To Aditus - noi	50
			<u>\$2.50</u>

  

1823 Mr. Jacob Barts (pro wife)

June 7	Wife spasms stomach	To R. Opia or Elbur. a. a Zi	25
		Aditus - noi	25
8	Cured	Aditus - noi	50

The Day Book of Dr. Cornelius Luther of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has an acid stain that ate through the front cover and pages below. This page, from June 1823 shows the name John Geiger above the stain, but names on several succeeding pages are lost forever. (Private collection)

# Conserving documents for the future

(Continued from Page 61)

responsibility to ensure these documents are passed to future generations in as good or better condition than they found them. Three steps are

required for preserving primary source material. They include prioritizing documents, stabilizing them through proper storage, and conservation.

## The first step: Prioritizing

Because professional conservation can be costly, prioritize what needs attention. Among other considerations, take into account early, unique, valuable, and significant documents.

Colonial-era primary sources, as well as some military documents pertaining to the Revolution, the Civil War, and other events of historical significance may have monetary value.

But also sort out what is unique and

important to your family. Of course, many originals that families inherit are unique, for their uniqueness involves what is written on them, and that information is priceless to your family.

And if a document is unique in the sense that the type of document is rare or historically significant, consider having it professionally conserved or at least consult a professional about how to keep its current condition stable.

## Next on deck: Stabilizing

To prevent future damage to important documents, place them in a safe, air-conditioned space. That is, avoid storing them in a cellar where moisture causes “foxing” (reddish spots), mold and mildew, or weakness in the paper. And avoid placing them in the attic where heat during the summer causes paper to become “attic burned” (dark and brittle).

Store documents flat between two sheets of acid-free paper. You can purchase inexpensive acid-free paper in various sizes and weights from arts and crafts suppliers such as A.C. Moore or Michael’s. These retailers often carry acid-free artists’ tablets, so you can purchase many sheets at one time in a single tablet. Once stored between acid-free sheets of paper, check your documents occasionally throughout the year to make sure they are safe from moisture and silverfish or other insects. It is best to store the material in archival boxes.

Although many people like to frame their earliest and best documents, that is not a good idea. Instead, photograph the document and frame the photograph. Then, store the original as described above. If, in order to enjoy the original, you feel you absolutely must frame it, keep it out of sunlight. Also, make sure acid-

free cardboard separates the document from the frame’s backboard and that spacers placed around the outer edge on the front of the document separate it from the glass. Check the document periodically for silverfish that get between it and its backing.

Too often, when you walk by a framed picture every day, you forget it is there, yet silverfish may be eating away the paper. I know of several instances in which this occurred — twice on important pieces. One was a sampler — the earliest known in the county. Silverfish actually prefer *textiles* such as samplers because they like linen. That is why it is so important to keep your eye on framed *paper*. Eighteenth and early nineteenth century documents are made from rags, and these rags often had linen in them. Later paper was made from wood pulp, which is less attractive to silverfish, but because of acidity deteriorates relatively quickly.

Another problem with framing documents involves general housekeeping. When you clean the glass on a framed document, lay it flat on its back on a table. Do not spray the glass with a cleanser, but gently wipe it with a soft clean cloth that is only slightly damp. Some people damage documents

by spraying the glass with a cleanser while the piece is still hanging on the wall. Unfortunately, the cleanser drips into the lower edge of the frame and wicks up onto the paper, causing unattractive water stains on the lower margin and eventually destroying the document.

And beware of “professional framers.” A framer is not a trained paper conservator. A colleague decided he would unframe and check documents he had framed by self-described professionals. When he did, he discovered problems with the documents ranging from

stains in the corners where the framers placed hinges to hold the documents in place, to weakness and damage along the papers’ edge caused by improperly mounted spacers. He resorted to taking the documents to a professional conservator to undo the damage that was caused only a few years before. Keeping in mind that these documents made their way in good condition for more than a century until they were framed, our friend wished he had opted to store the documents between acid-free sheets.

### **Finally: Conserving**

Conservation of old documents is best left to professionals. Conservators can be expensive and they take a long time, but there are reasons for that. We (my wife, Corinne, and I) work with fraktur, and we have our favorite conservator who knows that fraktur are special documents that have many variables when it comes to pigments, inks, and paper.

Schoolmasters made early fraktur, and they often concocted their own inks and paints to decorate them. In addition, techniques used by 18th and 19th century fraktur artists must be taken into consideration. Some used sharp instruments that cut or deeply creased paper, thus weakening it.

Documents should go to the appropriate conservator. Some might specialize in photographs, others in tintypes. Some may work best on vellum or parchment. Others may specialize in 19th century prints. Whatever document you want preserved, match the document to the specialty of the conservator. Ask for references and ask to see “before” photographs and the finished results.

When you consult a conservator, clearly express what you want, showing the conservator critical areas on the document. To relate a horror story, a friend had two early 19th century printed forms with handwritten information that was important to local historians. But the documents needed to be cleaned before publishing them in a book. Our friend took the forms to a conservator who promised a quick turn-around time, but he

paid a high price for his hurry. The conservator (who should have known better) destroyed the handwritten text. The printer’s ink held, but not the handwritten portion which, of course, contained the crucial data.

This brings me to another recommendation. Before you take documents to a conservator, make photocopies or photographs of them. Had our friend done this, he would not have lost the vital information that should have been preserved for all time. It is unwise to make numerous photocopies from an original document. The light from the copy machine will fade the document, but it is a good idea to make at least one copy. That way, you can use the photocopy rather than the original for your research and to make second generation copies if more are needed.

Regarding conservation, I strongly advise you do not attempt home remedies, especially on important documents. Through the years, I have witnessed self-appointed conservators virtually destroy paper they “mended.” Under no circumstances mend tears with tape. People we worked with over the years, including Klaus Stopp who put together major collections of maps, fraktur, broadsides, and other ephemera, even cautioned us never to use so-called “archival tape.”

Mistrust any modern resins, for they have not been tested by time. Many people who work with old documents do not even allow sticky notes to come into contact with them. The

older the paper, the more degraded and fragile it has become so that even mild resins in sticky notes or framers' hinges can further damage or weaken it. And, of course, never laminate old records. The petroleum-based resins and heat used in the lamination process immediately begins to destroy the paper it was meant to preserve.

I also caution against encapsulation, which is similar to framing except that documents are fully enclosed in a protective housing. Among other problems, encapsulation discourages caretakers from checking originals because the housing is "permanent," making it difficult to remove documents for inspection.

Other don'ts include:

- Don't act too fast. If a document appears stable, it might be best to leave it alone.
- Avoid folding paper. Instead, store paper items flat, for paper will eventually separate at the folds.

Obviously, do not use paper clips and staples.

- When handling old documents, pick them up carefully to avoid causing edgewear.
- Do not bring food or drinks to the table when working with old paper.
- And do not allow old documents to come into prolonged contact with newspaper clippings such as obituaries. Paper used to print newspapers is highly acidic and meant to last only a short period of time. It yellows quickly and can destroy other paper it touches. In fact, it is best to photocopy obituaries and other newspaper clippings on acid-free paper. The photocopies will likely last longer than the original clippings.

### **A postscript: Relative importance**

Our daughter shares our interest in early paper and genealogy. She once remarked that a piece of paper does not have to be signed by George Washington to be important. For most genealogists, a paper can be "historically" important — on a small scale — as a family document. Your ancestors' original papers may

give you little, if any, financial rewards, but even a small scrap can result in a "Eureka" moment that makes you feel like you hit the jackpot. And your descendants will experience that same Eureka moment once they learn you were an attentive caretaker of the family's fragile heirlooms.

*Russell Earnest has researched and studied Pennsylvania German material culture for more than forty years. Since his retirement from the federal government in 1996, he authors and publishes books about Pennsylvania German broadsides and fraktur.*

## ***Der Kurier* submissions from membership encouraged**

MAGS members have been wonderful about sharing articles and abstracts for publication in *Der Kurier* during my four years as editor – but I could always use more. Many times the experiences that you've had with your genealogy are relevant to other researchers, and an article in *Der Kurier* is a way to share that information with other MAGS members.

My address and e-mail are listed in the box on the inside cover of each issue. Please share the wealth with others!

– James M. Beidler, Editor, *Der Kurier*

## MAGS to Celebrate 400 Years of Germans in America

In April 2008 the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society in cooperation with the Society for German American Studies will commemorate the Four Hundredth Anniversary of the arrival of the first Germans in British North America at a meeting to be held in Williamsburg Virginia. This will be a special event and it is one you will not want to miss.

The commemoration to be held in Williamsburg and Jamestown is surprisingly the first ever for this event. For many years historians and scholars thought the first Germans to arrive in British North America were the “Krefelders” who came to Philadelphia in 1683. But recent scholarship and research has demonstrated those assumptions were in error. The first German to arrive was Johannes Fleischer. He was born in Breslau, Silesia, and received his Ph.D. at the University of Frankfurt an der Oder. Later he earned his M.D. at the University of Basel in Switzerland. He studied medicinal plants in Germany and he contributed to a German textbook on the subject. He came to America in January 1608 to find plants in “the New World” with medicinal value. Unfortunately he died about six months later.

A second ship arrived in 1608 with additional Germans, glass makers who were probably from Grossalmerode in the Spessart Mountains of Hesse. These German glassmakers conducted a “trial of glass” at the James Fort and sent their output back to England when the ship returned in December 1608. In 1609 they built a glasshouse at “Glasshousepoint” about a mile from the James Fort. Archeologist Jean Carl Harrington found evidence “that considerable glass was melted and fabricated. It shows also that all of it was common green glass.”

The MAGS meeting will be held on Saturday, April 19, 2008, at the Woodlands Hotel & Suites Colonial Williamsburg. One of America’s preeminent German historians and genealogists, Dr. Roger Minert, will be our speaker. Family historians have a never-ending interest in daily events in the lives of their ancestors. Dr. Minert’s first presentation is titled “A day in the life of your German ancestors.” This presentation deals with the common

activities of families on the farm and in the trades.

A subject that is fundamental to all genealogical research is the focus of Dr. Minert’s second presentation. The lecture is titled “Surnames in German-language Regions of Europe.” As Dr. Minert notes in his comments on this lecture, “One of the fascinating topics among family history researchers in the German language is that of names—especially German surnames.” This presentation features a description of the chronological and geographical introduction of surnames in Central Europe, the relationship between surnames and place names and the tricky question of surname meanings and translations.

As noted the spring meeting is being held in Williamsburg to commemorate the arrival of the first Germans in this country. But that event was only the beginning. Over the ensuing four hundred years millions of Germans came to the United States and they brought along their knowledge and skills and in the process they made enormous contributions to the history of this country, its society and culture. Society president John Humphrey will discuss some of those contributions in a presentation titled “Four Hundred Years of Germans in America.”

Later that afternoon Dr. Minert will give ninety-minute presentation titled “Status in German Society 1500 to 1800: Where did your ancestors fit in?” “Thanks to a great extent to the very well-developed and rather inflexible feudal system in Germanic territories in Europe, our ancestors were quite stable in their social and economic status. The structure of classes (from the highest to the lowest) is described in this presentation with an emphasis on correctly placing our ancestors on that social scale continuum. Advantages and disadvantages for our ancestors are discussed, as well as advantages for modern historians searching for their ancestors in that world.

Dr. Minert’s presentations are the result of his own personal research in resources found in Germany and not available to researchers in

this country. As he notes "The details provided represent the culmination of the presenter's reading on the topic over the last decade, from hard-to-find literature available only to the German audience." His presentations will be a unique opportunity to gather information and knowledge on your German ancestors that is not available in any other place.

MAGS members will have an opportunity to attend events scheduled by the Society for German American Studies whose annual meeting extends over several days. The price for admission to those events will not be included in the registration fee for the MAGS meeting. On Friday evening the Society for German American Studies will hold its annual banquet and traditionally they have a speaker of note.

Remnants of the original Jamestown Fort were recently discovered by Dr. William Kelso. The only structures left from the early settlement near the fort are four ovens built by

the German glassmakers. A tour of the "Glass Hut" at Jamestown will take place Saturday afternoon. A ceremony marking the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary is scheduled to take place near the fort at 5:30. A plaque will be unveiled. Preliminary plans call for an honor guard and German band. Later that evening the Society for German American Studies will hold a reception. A church service, in German, will be held on Sunday, April 20.

A block of rooms has been reserved for this conference co-sponsored with the Society for German American Studies at the Woodlands Hotel and Suites, Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia. That rate is good for reservations made before 29 February 2008. If reservations are made after the date, the discounted rate will not be available. In order to get the discount, you will need to note when you reserve your room that you are attending the Society for German American Studies / Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society event.

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

### **2008**

**April 19. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Meeting.** Williamsburg, VA. Woodlands Hotel and Suites. Speaker: Roger Minert. Topics include: life of German ancestors, their status in German society 1500-1800, where your ancestor fit in, and surnames in German language regions of Europe. Contact: [www.magsgen.com](http://www.magsgen.com)

**April 19. Lancaster Family History Conference.** Lancaster, PA. Contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, PA 17602-1499.

**May 14-17. National Genealogical Society. Conference in the States.** Kansas City, MO. Theme: "Show Me the Records." Contact: [www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

**June 12-15. Platt-Deutsche Conference,** sponsored by the American Schleswig-Holstein

Heritage Society, Probstei in eastern Schleswig-Holstein. Contact: [burchettme@prodigy.net](mailto:burchettme@prodigy.net)

**June 19-21. Palatines to America National Conference.** Midwest Conference and Hotel Center, Columbus, OH. The theme is "Tune up you German Speaking Research." For additional information see the PalAm website: [www.palam.org](http://www.palam.org) or write to Palatines to America, 611 East Weber Road, Columbus, Ohio 43211-1097.

**September 3-6. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference.** Philadelphia, PA. Theme: Philadelphia Footprints of Family History. Contact: FGS, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-00940, Phone: 888-FGS-1500. Web site: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)



Georg Miller Jr.'s *Taufschein* shows he was born in Cocalico Township, Lancaster County.

## FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

### Krall / Graul / Croll documents found in various locations

Barbara Freshwater is interested in the name KRALL, GRAUL, and CROLL on fraktur, and former Treasurer of MAGS, Gail Komar, is also interested in this name.

Although many examples listed here were made for families living in Lebanon and York counties, Pennsylvania, the KRALLs (along with various spellings of the name) appear on fraktur from Ohio, West Virginia, and

elsewhere. Unless otherwise noted, locations shown below are in Pennsylvania.

The Schwenkfelder Library in Pennsburg has a *Taufschein* on which Philip and Sara KROLL are listed as sponsors at the baptism of Carolina SCHELL. Carolina SCHELL was born about five o'clock "midday" on November 8, 1837. She was born in Sumneytown, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and baptized February 16,

probably in 1838, by Fred. HOFMAN. Carolina's parents were Johannes and Hanna (DREISBACH) SCHELL.

A Bible record made for the Henry G. and Lizzie G. HUNSICKER family of Montgomery County mentions the name CROLL. This record says that Henry G. HUNSICKER was the son of Isaac C. and Mary (GERGES) HUNSICKER. Henry G. HUNSICKER was born February 16, 1855, in East Perkiomen Township, Montgomery County. His wife, Lizzie G. HUNSICKER was the daughter of Michael S. and Mary (GEISINGER) CRALL. Lizzie G. CRALL was born January 10, 1856, in Upper Salford Township, Montgomery County. No other pages from this Bible record are available to us, and they may not exist. The record is in a private collection.

The first volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Johannes GRALL, son of Tobias and Magdalena GRALL. Johannes GRALL was born April 8, 1830, in Hanover Township, Lebanon County. He was baptized on July 25, 1830, by Johannes GRING. Johannes GRALL's parents sponsored his baptism. The maiden name of Magdalena GRALL is difficult to read, but it might have been SADESAN.

The same volume gives information from a *Taufschein* made for Georg MILLER Jr., son of Georg and Maria (GRALL) MILLER. Georg MILLER Jr. was born about five o'clock in the evening on July 20, 1807. He was born in Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, and baptized by Eman[uel] SCHULTZ on October 26 (?), 1807. The sponsors at his baptism were Ludwig and Catharina RÖHRER.

The Landis Valley Farm Museum in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, has a *Taufschein* made for Benjamin BORCKÝ, son of Jacob and Barbara (HERBER) BORCKÝ. Benjamin was born February 8, 1827, in Greenwich Township, Berks County. He was baptized by Pastor CORBE (?) on March 10, 1827. Thomas

DUMM and Salomä RINNINGER, both single, sponsored Benjamin's baptism. On the reverse of this certificate is written in German, "Benjamin BORKÝ [sic] married Maria Anna CROLL [on] May 4, 1850.

LDS microfilm 1012614 pictures a *Taufschein* made for Magdalena HOLDIMAN, daughter of Heinrich and Cathrina (KRALL) HOLDIMAN. Magdalena HOLDIMAN was born March 21, 1846, in Union Township, Lebanon County. She was baptized in June of 1851, but no other information concerning her baptism was listed.

The American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, has a *Taufschein* made for Peter and Maria BRUBACHER's daughter, Elisabeth. According to this certificate, Maria BRUBACHER's father was Johan KROLL. Elisabeth BRUBACHER was born November 5, 1832 in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning her baptism was given.

The Lebanon County Historical Society in Lebanon has a *Taufschein* made for Catharina KRALL, daughter of John and Sarah KRALL. Catharina was born in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, on March 17, 1862. She was baptized by P.L. HAINS, whose name was added to the certificate by someone other than the original scrivener. No date of baptism was given, and the names of the sponsors were not listed. However, the certificate does say that Sarah KRALL's father was John MOOR.

On December 21, 2002, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for William Martin CROLL, son of Martin S. and Elisabeth A. (GRIM) CROLL. William Martin was born in Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, on April 9, 1866. He was baptized on May 15, 1866 by A.D. CROLL, Lutheran pastor in Longswamp [Berks County]. The only sponsor at William Martin's baptism was his maternal grandmother, Elisabeth (KUHNS) GRIM. A related confirmation certificate says that William M. CROLL was confirmed in Weisenberg, Lehigh

County, on November 7, 1880, by O. LEOPOLD of the Jordan Charge.

The whereabouts is unknown of a *Taufschein* made for Ellen Elizabeth HEILMAN, daughter of Cyrus and Anna (KRALL) HEILMAN. Ellen Elizabeth was born January 24, 1881, in North Annville Township, Lebanon County. She was baptized June 15, 1881, by I.M. DIETZLER. Ellen Elizabeth's parents sponsored her baptism. According to this certificate, Anna HEILMAN's parents were George and Barbara KRALL.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Mary Magdalena CRALL, daughter of Christian and Elizabeth (HANDSHOE) CRALL. Mary Magdalena was born November 28, 1831, in Cumberland County. She was baptized, but no information concerning her baptism was given other than to say the parents were sponsors. This certificate lists Elizabeth (HANDSHOE) CRALL's father as D. HANDSHOE.

A *Taufschein* made for Friedericha Carolina GROLL says she was the daughter of Friederich GROLL from Germany and his wife, Barbara (AUGENSTEIN) GROLL, from Baden. Friedericha Carolina GROLL was born September 1, 1854, in Richland Township, Marion County, Ohio. She was baptized, and her parents sponsored the baptism, but other information concerning baptism is too faded to read from my photocopy. The owner of this example, which is in a private collection, attempted to read the data from the original, but she had no luck either.

Information from a *Taufschein* in a private collection was shared by June Burk Lloyd, Librarian Emerita at the York County Heritage Trust in York, Pennsylvania. This *Taufschein* was made for Catharine KRAUL, daughter of William and Elisabeth (LUCKENBAUGH) KRAUL. Catharine KRAUL was born November 25, 1833, in Heidelberg Township, York County. She was baptized by S. GUTELIUS, but no date of baptism was given. Jacob and Nancy TOMAN sponsored Catharine's baptism.

Lloyd also shared a photocopy of a *Taufschein* from an unknown source. It was made for Anna Maria DEMUTH, daughter of Johannes and Susanna (KROLL) DEMUTH. Anna Maria was born about four o'clock in the afternoon on May 22, 1794 in York County. She was baptized in June, presumably in 1794, by Pastor KERRING [GÖRING]. The sponsors at Anna Maria's baptism were Friederich and Maria Magdalena HUWELE. On December 9, 2000, Kleinfelter's Auctions in Lebanon, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Lusiane KRALL, daughter of Jacob and Catarina (MÜLLER) KRALL. Lusiane KRALL was born June 25, 1814, in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County. She was baptized by Pastor HIESTER on August 16, 1814. Georg and Magdalena MEES sponsored Lusiane's baptism. According to this certificate, Catarina KRALL's father was Fr. MÜLLER.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Johannes JUNGST, son of Jacob and Christina (ELLINGER) JUNGST. Johannes JUNGST was born November 17, 1804, in Heidelberg Township, Dauphin County. He was baptized December 12, 1804, by Pastor HÜSTER [HIESTER]. The sponsors at his baptism were Johannes and Magdalena SPENGLER. Added notes on this certificate say that Johannes JUNGST married Sarah KRALL on December 27, 1829, and that he died September 23, 1867.

A Bible in a private collection has in it a family register made for the Henry H. and Rosamunda (MELSHEIMER) SPAHR family of York County. Henry and Rosamunda SPAHR were married on July 7, 1859 by Daniel ZIEGLER, Reformed. The witnesses at the marriage were George KROLL and Sarah J. SURITH (?).

The whereabouts is unknown of a *Taufschein* made for Maria GLAHS, daughter of Georg and Sarah (KROLL) GLAHS. Maria GLAHS was born October 25, 1816, in Penn Township, Union County. She was baptized in November, presumably 1816, by Conrad

WALTER. Maria's parents sponsored her baptism.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Alexander KROLL, son of Salomon and Catharina (KLEINDIENST) KROLL. Alexander KROLL was born January 15, 1820 in Codorus Township, York County. He was baptized June 5, 1820, by Pastor RUDYSILL. The sponsors at Alexander's baptism were Christian and Eva KLEINDIENST.

In *Geburts-und Taufscheine: Illuminated Pennsylvania German Birth and Baptismal Certificates*, Harry Focht lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Catharina Elisabetha MAÜER, daughter of Michael and Louisanna (KRALL) MAÜER. Catharina Elisabetha was born November 29, 1844 in Millcreek Township, Lebanon County. She was baptized by Pastor LEINBACH, but no other information concerning baptism was given.

Although the surname differs in its phonetic spelling, a *Taufschein* in a private collection may be related to the above. It was made for Johannes MAÿER, son of Michael and Louisana (KRALL) MAÿER. Johannes MAÿER was born in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, on June 21, 1854. He was baptized July 4, 1855 by Thomas H. LEINBACH. Johannes MAÿER's parents served as sponsors at his baptism.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Lissy MECKQUETH, daughter of Johannes and Caroline (KRALL) MECKQUETH. Lissy was born March 31, 1871, in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County. No information concerning Lissy's baptism was noted.

On February 22, 2003, auctioneers Neil Courtney and Kenneth Hassinger of Richfield and McClure, Pennsylvania, sold a *Taufschein* made for Wilhelm BRAUN, son of John and Anna Maria (GRAUL) BRAUN. Wilhelm BRAUN was born in Penn Township, Berks

County, on August 24, 1791. He was baptized by Pastor WAGNER, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Wilhelm BRAUN's baptism were Johannes GRAUL and his wife. A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Jonas H. KRALL, son of Phares K. and Emma (HOSTETTER) KRALL. According to this certificate, Emma was the daughter of Joseph HOSTETTER. Jonas H. KRALL was born in South Annville Township, Lebanon County, on July 31, 1896. No information concerning baptism was recorded on his certificate.

A Bible record related to the above *Taufschein* is in the same collection. It was made for the Christian and Christiana (KREIDER) KRALL family. Christian and Christiana KRALL were married in Lebanon on October 22, 1868 by F.W. KREMER. Christian was the son of Benjamin and Kati (BRAND) KRALL. Kati's father was Christian BRAND. Christian KRALL was born July 28, 1842 in South Lebanon Township, Lebanon County. Christiana KRALL was the daughter of Jonas and Barbara (SHEAFFER) KREIDER. Barbara KREIDER's father was John SHEAFFER. Christiana KRALL was born January 6, 1841, in Cornwall Township, Lebanon County. Christian and Christiana KRALL had six children. Amanda K. KRALL was born March 14, 1870. Phares K. KRALL was born May 19, 1872. Mary K. KRALL was born May 20, 1874. Sarah K. KRALL was born November 23, 1876. She died August 31, 1877 at the age of 9 months and 8 days. Fanny K. KRALL was born August 14, 1878. And Jonas K. KRALL was born March 25, 1882. He died September 14, 1884, at the age of 2 years, 5 months, and 19 days.

In the fourth volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for David RITTER, son of Heinrich and Barbara (KRALL) RITTER. David RITTER was born January 23, 1805 and baptized February 24, 1805, but no other information, including a location, was listed.

The whereabouts is unknown of a *Taufschein* that served a dual purpose, for it

recorded the births of two KRAUL children. The parents noted on this certificate were Henrich and Maria (SMIT) KRAUL. Their daughter, Catharina, was born August 6, 1816, in Jefferson County, Virginia [today's West Virginia]. She was baptized at the Presbyterian Church by Louis MEYER (no date given). The parents sponsored Catharina's baptism. The KRAUL's son was William Henry KRAUL, born October 28, 1820 in Jefferson County. He was baptized by Pastor CRAFT. The only sponsor at his baptism was his mother.

On December 9, 1998, auctioneer Kathy Maurer of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, sold several *Taufscheine* that mention P.C. CROLL who baptized three children of Grant and Mary (HEBERLING) WAGNER. Mrs. P.C. CROLL and Miss Emma WAGNER served as sponsors at the baptisms, which took place on May 12, 1900. The WAGNER children were born in Fredericksburg, Lebanon County. Harriet May WAGNER was born March 2, 1891. Edna Bertha WAGNER was born December 20, 1893. And Roy Henry was born December 22, 1898. Harriet May's certificate says that Mary (HEBERLING) WAGNER's parents were Percival and Sarah HEBERLING. This

certificate also lists her father as Grant Henry WAGNER. Naturally, P.C. CROLL's name appears frequently on *fraktur* as having baptized children, but these examples are detailed here because Mrs. P.C. CROLL [Sallie A. (GRIESS) CROLL] sponsored the baptisms.

P.C. CROLL (Philip Columbus CROLL, born 1852 in Berks County) was the editor of the monthly, *The Pennsylvania-German*. In the first decade of the 1900s, he included articles in various issues concerning the CROLL family history. Much of that history goes back to early Montgomery County, an area that especially interests Barbara Freshwater. Also, Gail Komar is publishing a book about the history of the CROLL family. For more information about her book, visit Gail's Web site at [www.crowlconnections.org](http://www.crowlconnections.org).

*If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. Please be patient for a reply. Because I research fraktur at no charge for members of MAGS, I receive many requests.*

## In Memoriam: Shirley E. Forrester

Shirley E. Forrester, who was a longtime member of MAGS and the person in charge of collecting member *Ahnentafels*, died on Tuesday, the twenty-eighth of August 2007. She was the widow of the late Richard Elmer Forrester and the mother of Mark Alan Forrester, Michael Davies Forrester and Karen Jean Cudd.

Shirley served in the position of Corresponding Secretary from October 1991 to October 1995. At about the same time she was appointed as the co-chair of the *Ahnentafel* Committee.

When Ardyce E. Harrison resigned as Chairperson in February 1994, Shirley assumed full responsibility. She continued to serve until her death this past August. She received *Ahnentafels* from submitters, interacted with them concerning their submissions and put the *Ahnentafels* into final form for printing in the *Der Kurier*.

In 2000 and 2001 she worked with Corinne Earnest in pulling together information for the first MAGS publication *Ahnentafels: Ancestral Charts for Families of German Heritage*. She was a willing and pleasant volunteer whose services will be greatly missed.

## MAGS Welcomes New Members

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 free queries to the queries editor regarding specific ancestors.

Carol Bartoski of Camp Hill PA  
(*Hull, Bretz, Bentzel, Shearer*)

Elizabeth Bode of Washington DC  
(*Erb, Schmidt, Scharping*)

Jim & Laura Buchheit of Mt. Airy MD  
(*Buchheit, Berger*)

Dianne C. Cobb of Gainesville VA  
(*Halm, Ullepitsch, Buechly*)

Lillian Farina of Laurel MD  
(*Andresen, Boysen, Jannen, Jurgens*)

John Hess of Martinsburg WV  
(*Hess(e), Horner*)

William W. Higgins of Alexandria VA  
(*Yax, Traver, Stover, Behm*)

Donald & Marjorie Leyh of Greencastle PA  
(*Leyh, Schmidt*)

C. L. Mutchler of Ellicott City MD  
(*Mutschler/Mutchler*)

Carol Nida of Edgewater MD  
(*Reiss/Rice, Veltin/Valentine, Ritter, Myers*)

Carolyn Scholl of Waynesboro PA  
(*Scholl, Pasquith, Teas, Beatty*)

Sarah Strider Seemann of Rockville MD  
(*Reich, Steiner, Strider*)

Janet S. West of Kansas City MO  
(*Keiser, Garber, Schmidt, Berger/Borger*)

## **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)

There are no queries for this edition of *Der Kurier*.

## FAMILY REGISTERS

### Hunsberger family Bible record

*A family register removed from its original Bible is in a private collection. This English-language register was made for the HUNSBERGER/FREEMAN family of Berks County, Pennsylvania.*

According to this register, Jacob C. HUNSBERGER and Elizabeth Caroline FREEMAN were married by Jacob FRY in Reading, Pennsylvania, on October 28, 1876. They were married in the presence of George HASSMAN and Ellen HUNSBERGER.

Jacob C. HUNSBERGER was born On May 6, 1856, in Douglass Township, Berks County. He was baptized by Edmund LEAF, Sr. and his mother sponsored the baptism. Jacob C. HUNSBERGER was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth (CARVEY) HUNSBERGER.

Elizabeth Caroline FREEMAN was the daughter of Samuel and Ellen Barbara (SNOVEL) FREEMAN. Elizabeth Caroline was born April 23, 1858 in Cumru Township, Berks County. She was baptized in 1858 by F.A.M. KELLER. The sponsors at her baptism were her parents.

Jacob C. and Elizabeth Caroline (FREEMAN) HUNSBERGER were confirmed as members of St. James Lutheran Church in

Reading on April 11, 1875. They were confirmed by M.C. HORINE, and they married on October 28, 1875. The year, 1875, in both instances is pencilled over in the original record. The year of confirmation was changed to 1875 from 1884. The original year of marriage appears unchanged.

The HUNSBERGERS had three sons. They included: George Edward HUNSBERGER, who was born April 29, 1877, in Reading. He was baptized September 28, 1877 by B.M. SCHMUCKER. The only sponsor at George Edward's baptism was Susan Linda KUGLER; Jacob Howard HUNSBERGER was born November 30, 1878, in Reading. He was baptized by Jno. W. STEINMETZ in April of 1880. The only sponsor at his baptism was James LONGACRE.; and George William HUNSBERGER was born June 14, 1897, in Reading. He was baptized July 17, 1897 by Jno. A. KUTZ. The only sponsor at his baptism was Elizebeth [sic] HUNSBERGER.

### Bartolet, Moyer families in various states

*An English-language family register in a private collection and removed from its original Bible gives information concerning the BARTOLET and MOYER families from widely spread locations.*

According to this record John BARTOLET and Elmira E. FORRER married on July 18, 1867. The date of birth for John was not given or a page is missing from this record. Elmira E. BARTOLET was born January 3, 1848 in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. They were married by Jacob KLEIN in Schuylkill Haven, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. Elmira E. BARTOLET, wife of John, died in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, on May 21, 1881 at the age of 33 years, 4 months, and 18 days.

Either John married a second time, or another John BARTOLET married Josephine

HEFNER on July 22, 1899. John and Josephine (HEFNER) BERTOLET were married in Sioux City, Iowa.

The record continues with the births of what are likely the children of John and Elmira E. (FORRER) BARTOLET. The first child was Sarah R. BARTOLET, who was born at White Haven in Pennsylvania on March 10, 1869. Sarah died in Milton, Pennsylvania, on March 25, 1870. Next came Ida L. BARTOLET. She was born in Milton on October 11, 1870. The next three children were born and died in Catawissa

Township, Columbia County, Pennsylvania. They were Eve BARTOLET, born June 10, 1872 and died January 14, 1877; Elmira BARTOLET, born January 10, 1874 and died June 4, 1874; and Daniel A. BARTOLET, born April 12, 1875 and died August 7, 1875. The last child was John E. BARTOLET, who was born May 12, 1881 in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. He died on December 4 (no year given ) in Pottsville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

The next entries were made for the Sherman B. MOYER family of Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County. Sherman B. MOYER and Ida L. BARTOLETT [sic] married on January 24, 1889. They were married by D.B. ALBRIGHT in the presence of Mrs. Lydia ALBRIGHT.

According to this record Sherman P. [sic] MOYER was the son of Jeremiah and Susan (YEAGER) MOYER. Sherman was born February 13, 1867 in Washington Township, Pickaway County, Ohio. He was baptized on April 12, 1867 by D. WILLARD. Sherman's parents sponsored his baptism. He was confirmed in the Lutheran Church at Orwigsburg, Pennsylvania, on May 27, 1887 by I.N.S. ERB.

No date is given for the following entry, but Sherman was "admitted to the full Membership with the St. John's Reformed Church at Orwigsburg, Schuylkill Co. Pa. by Geo. B. WALBERT, Pastor."

Sherman MOYER's wife, Ida L. BARTOLETT whose birth information is given above, was baptized in her infancy by "a Minister of the Reformed Church." Her parents sponsored her baptism. Ida was confirmed and admitted to full membership with the "Ref. Congregation at St. Mark's Church [at] Cressona" in Schuylkill County. She was confirmed April 3, 1885 by J.A. REBER.

Sherman and Ida L. (BARTOLETT) MOYER's children were all born in Orwigsburg. Eva Ellen was born December 20, 1889 and baptized March 20, 1890 by G.B. WALBERT.

Her parents sponsored her baptism. Eva Ellen died September 3, 1896 in Orwigsburg. Twins Leonard V. and Myra MOYER were born August 13, 1893 and baptized August 27, 1893 by Henry LEISSE. Leonard died September 2, 1893 at the age of 20 days. Myra died April 14, 1894 at the age of 8 months. Both are buried in St. John's Cemetery in Orwigsburg. Henry LEISSE officiated at their funerals.

John Bartolet MOYER was born November 30, 1894. Jeremiah MOYER was born February 4, 1898. He died May 30, 1898 in Orwigsburg.

Jesse Bartolet MOYER was born September 18, 1899.

And Ida Susannah was born October 15, 1901. She died November 14, 1901, in Orwigsburg.

## **Leader family in York County, Pennsylvania**

*A Bible offered for sale at the York Emporium (an antique mall that specializes in ephemera) in York, Pennsylvania, contains a brief family register for the LEADER family. This English-language register is found in a Bible printed about 1875 for the Rosenberger & Co. publisher in Harrisburg.*

The register begins with the marriage of Franklin LEADER and Emma S. WANBAUCH, both of Spring Garden Township, York County. They were married December 24, 1879, by J.C. DEININGER. Franklin LEADER was born May 18, 1855, and Emma S. WANBAUCH was born May 3, 1859.

Two children are listed. The dates for Michael Wanbauch LEADER are incomplete. The record says only that he was born in 1880 and baptized on March 26 by J.C. DEININGER. His sister, Margaret Elizabeth LEADER, was born May 20, 1881, and baptized November 27 (no year given) by J.C. DEININGER.

## BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN / *Book Reviews*

### Listing of Gravestone Markers in ...

... **Loucks Cemetery, West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania**

... **Union Cemetery (Neiman's Graveyard), West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania**

... **Shiloh Union Cemetery (New Section), West Manchester Township, York County, Pennsylvania**

Transcribed and Compiled by  
Maryllyn M. and Robert R. Reisinger

All published 2006 by Maryllyn M. and Robert R. Reisinger. Soft cover. Indexed. Loucks Cemetery, 26 pages. Shiloh Union Cemetery (Neiman's Graveyard), 100 pages. Shiloh Union Cemetery (New Section), 174 pages. Those wishing to obtain a copy of any of the three volumes, please contact the Reisingers at 2515 Midpine Drive, York, PA 17404-1223.

All three of these books were transcribed and compiled by Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society members Maryllyn M. and Robert R. Reisinger. Beautiful passages, one from John 3:16 (KJV) and the other written by Maryllyn Reisinger appear at the beginning of each volume. Two lines from Maryllyn Reisinger's beautiful and touching poem are: "Our bodies are buried here. But our soul goes straight to Heaven."

Within the Introduction is a map and written description of the cemetery layout. A detailed history of the cemetery follows. To give the reader an example of the type of information found in these volumes, an example from the volume *Listing of Gravestone Markers in Shiloh Union Cemetery (Neiman's Graveyard)*, page 4 is given: "Shiloh Union Cemetery (now known as Shiloh Lutheran and Shiloh United Church of Christ Cemetery) is located at the intersection of Carlisle Road and Church Road....."

It goes on in paragraph three of that same page to describe the beginnings of the cemetery: "The first burial in Neiman's Graveyard occurred

in January 1772 and was a child with the surname of Weigel. This person was to be buried at the graveyard at the Loucks Schoolhouse (or Meetinghouse) located on Loucks Road, but because of severe snow drifts, it was impossible to get there and permission was granted to intern the body on the plot of land that is now known as Neiman's Graveyard."

Names, dates and type of monument (obelisk, headstone, footstone, or wooden cross) are indicated for each burial. Exact locations of the burial are listed by section names. Because of the specific location guides each of the sites can be easily identified and found if one chose to visit the cemetery.

An example of the type of information contained within the books appears on page 12 of the *Listing of Gravestone Markers in Loucks Cemetery*.

"Row Six, Starting at Loucks Road

1.Headstone (Reading on stone is in German.)

MARIA BARBARA LECRONE

BORN FEB. 14, 1763 DIED 1834"

An alphabetized, every name index follows the burial listings making it easy to check for ancestors.

Each of us knows the value of cemetery listings. And these three volumes are no exception to being worth their weight in gold. The type face is large and bold and easily read. It reflects the care in recording and presentation of data that is so typical of the Reisingers.

**Reviewed by Mariana Wilke**

### **German Genealogy A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns Third Edition**

By Edward R. Brandt, Ph.D., Mary Sutter Bellingham, Kent Cutkomp, Kermit Frye, Patricia Adams Lowe, and Paul Sternberg

2007. Available from Germanic Genealogy Society, P. O. Box 16312, St. Paul, MN 55116-0312. Softcover. 658 pages. Indexed. ISBN 0-9644337-4-5 and 978-0-9644337-4-8. \$44 for GGS Members plus \$2.86 tax for MN residents; \$49 for

Non-GGS Members plus \$3.19 tax. Shipping and handling \$6.

What one basic condition is required to be German? The answer found in the Preface of "German Genealogy" is that the "person or people in question be German speaking." The authors have magnificently covered and written about German speaking people who migrated throughout the world. According to the publishers, information on more than ninety countries has been revised and/or expanded.

The genealogist who is taking a first step in German research will find Chapters one through six to be invaluable – how to begin and use United States records, search passenger lists, and become familiar with variations in the spelling of surnames. When reading German language records, the researchers can refer to the section on German vocabulary. For the intermediate and advanced genealogist these chapters are a good review source. Even reading the Table of Contents is an education in itself. Each of the twenty-one chapters thoroughly covers its subject and is followed by a section of further reading; listing titles, authors, and a brief description of the subject matter. There is an annotated bibliography at the end of the book.

The authors lead the researcher through basic organization, the use of computers in record keeping, navigating the internet for research, and how to use the Family History Library. Next is the history of German speaking people in Europe, their names, the names of their places of origin, and how geography, politics and religious affiliation affected their emigration patterns. Researching German ancestors in Europe is the

largest section in the book; however, more than 100 pages are dedicated to researching German immigrants to non-European countries

There is a chronology of German history, twenty-nine maps (black and white drawings) including several of Germany, Eastern Europe, German settlements in Australia and Central and South America as well as a map of German dialects and European rivers leading to seaports. An additional aid is the use of tables which are found throughout the book; for example, the official language of a given country and languages used on documents and records. One of the most interesting tables is on page 110; "Genealogy of Churches with Emphasis on German-American Churches." (Courtesy of David H. Koss, Ph.D.) The reviewer considers it to be an ancestor chart of churches.

The authors have thought of everything to make research easy and enjoyable. They have included sample letters in German with an English translation. There are ancestor charts, and family group sheets written in German, French, and Polish. No translation is given for these charts. Another research aid is the chapter on useful addresses.

This easy to use book is recommended for anyone engaged in German ancestor research, whether a beginner, intermediate or advanced. It can be used for serious research or as a casual read for background information. One can never be too advanced to learn something new or to look at a research problem in a different light.

**Reviewed by Patricia Cramer**

This book is now available for sale at MAGS meetings.

### German language materials donated to MAGS Lending Library

The following German language materials were donated to MAGS by MAGS member William Ruff. These books have been placed in the MAGS Lending Library in Shenandoah for members' use.

- CD set, Living Language, *German, Complete Course*
- *The Berlitz Self-Teacher*, German
- *Berlitz Essential German*
- *Deutsch Durch Deutsch* by Franz J. Pfister
- *Warum Nicht Auf Deutsch* by Driessle Rognebakke
- *Reading German Alternate* by Morgan Strothmann
- *Fokus Deutsch, Beginning German I* by Robert DiDonato et al
- *Workbook/Laboratory Manual to accompany Fokus Deutsch, Beginning German I* by Robert DeDonato et al (Includes CD)
- *German Verb Drills* by Astrid Henschel

## DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FALL MEETING 2007

The following items were donated by Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society:

**MAGS Tote Bag** – won by Bob Greiner & Margaret Bond

The following items were donated by Will-Britt Books:

***The Beauty of a Grandmother's Love*** won by Gail B. Miller

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***How to Get Happily Published*** won by Fayette Longwell

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The following items were donated by the National Genealogical Society

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The following item was donated by Colonial Roots:

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The following item was donated by Ancestor Tracks:

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The following items were donated by the Berks County Genealogical Society:

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***Journal of the Berks County Genealogical Society*** (10 sets) – won by Sarah Strider Seeman, Irene Hardman, Edward J. Hanner, Kathy Satterfield, Richard Bush, Marjorie Buss, Charles Hessler, Barbara Grempler, Lee R. Kunkle & Mary Ann Mullerleile

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