



Der Kurier

Volume 28, Number 3, September 2010

Our society's connections with other organizations

By Merl E. Arp

On the inside of the first page of each issue of *Der Kurier* you find a MAGS mission statement, information concerning membership in MAGS, and a listing of MAGS officers and members with special duties (**Special Services**).

The list of Special Services begins with the editor of *Der Kurier*, James M. Beidler, and further down, a listing for Merl Arp as MAGS representative with the Association of German-American Societies of Greater Washington, DC (AGAS). Hopefully that entry prompts questions like: What is AGAS? Is MAGS a member of AGAS and why? What, if anything, can we gain by MAGS representation on AGAS?

AGAS is a German-American umbrella organization with over a dozen different member organizations in the greater Washington, DC area, such as the German-American Heritage Society, the Washington Saengerbund, the local chapter of the national association of teachers of German, and so on.

MAGS is also a member of AGAS and has been a member for several years. I serve as the MAGS representative to AGAS, which meets at least four times a year in Washington, DC, has a board of directors consisting of representatives

from all member organizations, and traditionally has held an annual German festival at Blob's Park in Jessup, Maryland.

Why belong to AGAS?

One reason for belonging to AGAS is to announce the events hosted by each member organization. Unfortunately many people are unaware of German-American organizations and their events. Too often each organization exists in its own world.

My task, as MAGS representative to AGAS, is to make AGAS and its constituent membership aware of genealogy in general and MAGS in particular. AGAS does not have a regular publication, but I do announce the spring and fall meetings of MAGS and invite one and all to attend. These announcements are recorded in the minutes of AGAS meetings which minutes are then distributed to all AGAS members. My wife and I also man a genealogy table at the annual AGAS festival.

Benefits of outreach

As MAGS rep I also am a member of the German Society of Maryland, which in turn is a member of both AGAS and the Buergerverein of

(Continued on Page 51)

In this issue

Germany genealogy societies	51-52
Panning for gold	54-59
Suchanzeigen / New members.....	59
Fraktur Forum.....	60-61

'Endstation' and Family registers .	62-68
Buchbesprechung	68-70
Der Kalender	70
MAGS Store	71



MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

PO Box 334

Glenn Dale MD 20769-0334

<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*.

Officers

President: Diane M. Kuster
1st Vice President: Gunter Schanzenbacher
2nd Vice President: Carol Carman
Corresponding Secretary: Susannah E. Brooks
Recording Secretary: Debra A. Hoffman
Treasurer: Robert Greiner
At-Large Board Member: Dr. Kenneth Heger
At-Large Board Member: Diane Giannini
Immediate Past President: John T. Humphrey

Special Services

***Der Kurier* Editor:** James M. Beidler
Historian: Beverly Repass Hoch
Membership: Gunter Schanzenbacher
Membership Assistant: Janice Seabolt
Programs: Carol Carman
Publications: Corinne P. Earnest
Publicity: Diane M. Kuster
Publicity Asst.: Debra Hoffman
Queries: Edythe H. Millar
Registrar: Diane M. Kuster
Rep Assn German-Am Soc: Merl Arp
Sales Manager: Judy Dohner
Webmaster: Diane Giannini

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

The MAGS role in the German society world

(Continued from Page 49)

Maryland (German Citizens Society of Maryland). The Buergerverein hosts an annual German festival, currently held at the county fairgrounds in Timonium, Maryland.

That festival is visited by several thousand people. As part of an effort to publicize MAGS my wife and I have manned genealogy chairs at the German Society table each year.

Three years ago Susannah Brooks, our long-serving former president and MAGS officer, and I joined forces to create a hand out (a research tips sheet) for distribution at festivals and other events. More recently the genealogy chair at the German Society festival has maintained sign-up

sheets for people interested in genealogy, while at the same time inviting those people to join MAGS. This approach has been successful, but the question remains: what to do with the lists of those individuals who have signed up? One answer would be to invite those individuals to an evening of genealogy at a central location in Baltimore.

One potential problem is that so many of us, in particular our most knowledgeable members, might not have time to participate in such a gathering. Your suggestions are welcome and will be appreciated. Please forward your suggestions and comments to me: Merl Arp at merlarpl@aol.com, or (301) 681-3464. Thank you!

Society contrasts: Germany and America

By John T. Humphrey

In April 2010 I had the unique opportunity to attend two genealogical events in Germany. The first meeting was a two-day seminar held on April 17 and 18 at *Schloss Dhaun* in the Rhineland-Palatinate.

The opportunity to attend the second event came about because of unanticipated delays in getting home due to the volcanic eruption in Iceland. Both events demonstrated similarities between genealogical society meetings in Germany and in the United States stop at the water's edge!

Dissimilarities in meeting facilities were the first notable difference. The two-day seminar took place in a castle situated at the top of a mountain overlooking the Nahe River Valley. Views from the castle of the surrounding countryside as well as the building itself were spectacular.

The foundation and surrounding walls dated from the thirteenth-century; the recently renovated meeting, guest and dining rooms were in a part of the castle built in the seventeenth-century.

The second meeting, held on the twenty-first April, was the monthly meeting of the *Kreis Kusel* Genealogical Society. It took place in an old mill that had been transformed into a guesthouse and restaurant. The meeting held special significance as I have ancestors who left *Kreis Kusel* in the 1730s 1740s for Pennsylvania.

I attended the two-day seminar at the invitation of Herr Roland Geiger who asked me to give a presentation on German genealogy in the United States. The invitation to the second meeting was extended by my host Herr Dr. Roland Paul who gave a presentation on Mennonites in Pennsylvania.

The ratio between men and women attendees was another noticeable difference. Most attendees at genealogical events in the United States are women; in Germany three quarters or more of the attendees at both events were men.

Beverages were another notable difference. The Seminar at *Schloss Dhaun* opened with a "champagne" toast in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of

this event. The beverage served at the *Kusel* County Genealogical Society meeting was a locally brewed beer. Dare I admit to having a refill?

German concepts of space are very different from those that we have as Americans. If someone travels thirty minutes to a genealogy meeting in the United States many people would consider them to be local.

When I asked attendees at the seminar where they came from, participants who had to travel 30 minutes or even 30 miles, did not consider themselves to be local—they left me know in no uncertain terms they were from a different place.

Before the presentations and or lecture began attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves and briefly state where they were from and the extent of their interest in genealogy. In addition to providing names virtually everyone also stated their age, something totally unimaginable in the United States.

Three presentations given on the first day of the seminar discussed aspects of German immigration to America and German influences on American culture. The presenters were Herr Roland Geiger and Dr. Helmut Schmahl. My presentation explored difficulties associated with finding information on German ancestors in the United States.

On second day of the seminar, Dr. Sylvie Tritz discussed a topic unique to Germany and or other countries in Europe. She had several overheads showing statuary and architectural artifacts from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries that contained family information.

One overhead had the image of a “renaissance” man surrounded by four family crests. The surnames of his ancestor could be determined by the family crests alone. Dr. Tritz had photographs of other buildings in Germany

where the names of residents and prior owners were inscribed on the outside of the building.

The last presentation was given by Professor Hans-Joachim Kühn. His subject was financial records located at the State Archives for the Rhineland Palatinate in Speyer. Many of the accounts were created in the late middle ages.

The most revealing discovery was the curiosity German genealogists have with research in the United States as Germans want to find “their disappearing cousins.”

One gentleman noted relatives of his ancestors went to Brazil and New York. He located his distant relatives in Brazil but he was uncertain about how he could find his relatives in New York.

I fielded similar questions from a woman whose distant relatives settled in Massillon, Ohio. She had no concepts about how one goes about finding information on Germans who settled in the United States.

Fortunately I was able to point her to the United States census and I also mentioned the Ohio Genealogical Society as well as the chapter for the county where distant relatives located. And, I gave her information on the courthouse for the county where the research subject settled.

Interest in American resources and genealogy was not limited to attendees at these two events. When I visited the *Hessische familiengeschliche Vereinigung in Darmstadt* a member of that society had innumerable questions about resources available in the United States for discovering information on German immigrants and the methods that we use to find the ancestral village or *Heimat* in Germany.

While there may be differences in how we organize society meetings and events, the goal is the same—the quest for information on the ancestors that we share in common.

Translators

This list of translators is offered as a service to MAGS members. It is not intended, however, as an endorsement or recommendation of any translator's work. When requesting a translation, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the translator's reply, along with a photocopy of a sample page from the text to be translated so that the translator may understand your needs and estimate the charge for the translation. Do not send original documents.

1. Andrew Witter
2056 – 255th St., Donnellson, IA 51625-
Phone: (319) 835-3960
E-Mail: ajwitter@iowatelecom.net

2. Gen Collins
Phone: (301) 770-0683
E-Mail: glcjpc@verizon.net
Specialization: Translates German and German script and English to German.
NOTE: No address to be listed.

3. Global Accents
15011 Hunter Mountain Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906-6216
Phone: (301) 438-0020
E-Mail: globlakcnt@aol.com
Web site (being redesigned): www.Globalaccents.com

4. Ann C. Sherwin
1918 Medfield Road, Raleigh, NC 27606-4732
Phone: (919) 859-5846
E-Mail: asherwin@aol.com
Web site: www.asherwin.com
Specialization: Genealogy and local history; Fraktur and German script, personal documents.
Accredited by the American Translators Association for German-English & Spanish- English.

5. American Translators Association
225 Reinekers Lane, Sute 590, Alexandria, VA 22314
Phone: (703) 683-6100
Web site: www.atanet.org.
They have an online directory for individual translators and area of specialization choices.

6. Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G.
PO Box 12045, Provo, UT 84603
Phone: (801) 374-2587; Fax (801) 374-3580
E-Mail: grtpublications@juno.com.
Specialization: German-English, English-German, German script, French, Latin

7. Uwe Jacobsen
Wilhelm-Spiegel-Str. 30, D-24145 Kiel, Germany E-mail: uwejacobsen@gmx.de Specialization:
Genealogical research in Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg-Altona, Sonderjylland / Denmark Transcription of
old documents.

Panning for Genealogical Gold

By **Susannah E. Brooks**

When one pans for gold, one has to sift through a lot of sand, small stones, and other rubble from the bottom of a stream bed in order to find even the smallest amount of the precious mineral. Panning for genealogical gold is no different. Dr. Kenneth Heger introduced MAGS members to the value of U.S. Consular Records for genealogists in several short articles in *Der Kurier* and three presentations at the MAGS conference in Hagerstown. His emphasis was American seaman listed in some of the records. In the Spring of this year I finally went to Archives II (NARA - College Park, MD) and began to look through a few of the records to see what other types of information might be available. What I discovered is that if your ancestor (German, American, or occasionally other) had any dealing with a U.S. Consular office in Germany there might be a record of that contact.

This is a massive collection of records, which are mostly in bound handwritten volumes, but some are boxes of unbound records. Some of the most common reasons for contact were Americans travelling in Germany (passport renewals, visa, etc); American businessmen needing affidavits, powers of attorney, signature guarantees, and help resolving problems with German suppliers or purchasers; registration of births, deaths, and/or marriages of American citizens living in Germany; and American shipping interests and treatment of American sailors by both American and non-American shipping companies doing business in German ports.

But almost anything that you can imagine might be found in several thousand volumes. The volumes are arranged by the city where the consular office was located, then by general topic (the largest number being letters received and letters sent), and then by date. There is no general index and most of the volumes are not indexed individually, so one has to pan through the waste to find the golden nuggets of information. Records exist for the following U.S. Consular Offices in Germany:

Aachen	Coblenz	Furth	Mainz
Altona	Coburg	Gera	Mannheim
Annaberg	Cologne	Glauchau	Markneukirchen
Augsburg	Cuxhaven	Hamburg	Munich
Bamberg	Danzig	Hanover	Nuremberg
Barmen	Dresden	Kassel	Oldenburg
Berlin	Dusseldorf	Karlsruhe	Plauen
Brake-Nordenham	Eibenstock	Kehl	Solingen
Bremen	Emden	Kiel	Sonneberg
Bremerhaven	Erfurt	Konigburg	Stettin
Breslau	Essen	Leipzig	Stuttgart
Burtscheid	Fiensburg	Ludwigshafen	Swinemunde
Chemnitz	Frankfurt am Main	Magdeburg	Zittau

It should be noted that the finding aids for U.S. Consular Records use the American spelling of city names and do not use umlauts or substitute an e for an umlaut (ex. Munich, not München or Muenchen). The number of volumes or boxes for each city varies greatly from only one volume for Burtscheid to over 300 volumes for Bremen. The time span also varies greatly from city to city. For some of the cities where only a few volumes exist, the records may only cover a few years. Other cities have records that range from 1797 to the early 1930's, although the majority are for the time period 1870 to 1914.

To access the records at Archives II (National Archives and Records Administration at College Park Maryland) begin in the finding aid room within the second floor research room. Look for two large white notebooks labeled RG84, which contain a list of every volume of Consular records arranged alphabetically by city, regardless of the country. The description of the type of records for each volume is no more than a few words plus the years covered. Note the city, dates, description, and volume numbers that you want and a staff member will show you how to fill out the request forms.

The earliest volume I looked at was Volume 12 for the U.S. Consulate at Bremen 1797 - 1820. This volume contained a chart of American-owned ships that arrived and departed from Bremen. If one has a interest in trade between the U.S. and Germany during this period the information could be useful (name of ship, tons, description, Master, port from which cleared, time/date of arrival in Bremen, cargo inward, value (in US\$ & Spanish), property of, date of departure, destination, cargo outward, value, and property of. None of the entries mention passengers and the only person named was the Master or Captain. Common incoming cargo was tobacco, rice, coffee, and lumber. Most outgoing ships just had ballast and staves (the person that entered the information often did not cross his t's so that I was initially fooled into reading this word as slaves, which it is not.)

When the consular office labeled a volume Miscellaneous they definitely meant that term. In Volume 529 Leipzig (1857 - 1898) "Miscellaneous Records" the following types of entries were found: passports issued, lists of Americans in Leipzig, copies of a few marriage certificates in the 1870's, births of Americans in Leipzig (includes marriage date and place of parents), affidavits, signature guarantees, powers of attorney, copies of a few wills, and an inventory of an estate of an American, who lived and died in Leipzig. Some of the entries were in German, but the majority were in English.

Volume 13 "Memorandum Book of Consulate at Bremen" 4 Jan 1830 - 24 Aug 1836 had two separate indexes in the back of the volume. One index covered entries through 5 Oct 1833 and the other index covered the remainder of the book. The index had very few names, but rather contained the type of report, document, or action that took place on a given day. I noticed repeated entries for "certificate of emigration" and decided to pursue this. Between 16 Dec 1833 and 23 Aug 1836 the US Consul at Bremen issued 270 certificates of emigration to emigrants plus their families. A memorandum book is basically a log of actions, so the actual certificates were not in the book, but in one case the consul at Bremen sends a batch of blank certificates to the consul at Bamberg and the wording for family and individual certificates was entered into the Memorandum Book:

August 13th 1836

Forwarded to Consul Louis Mark at Bamberg Fifty Certificates of Emigration. 36 Certificates of the following tenor: I Joshua Dodge Consul of the United States of America for the Port of Bremen, do hereby certify that any Alien, being a free white person, after Residence of five years in and having conformed to the Laws of the United States of America respecting Naturalization may be admitted to become a Citizen of the said United States; and that from the moment of his arrival in the said United States he will enjoy the Protection of the Laws and freedom of Profession. The foregoing Certificate is granted for a family (eine Familie) whose Name is to be put at the foot of this Certificate. Witness my Hand and the Seal of the Consular Office.

And 14 Certificates of the following tenor. I, Joshua Dodge, Consul of the United States of America for the Port of Bremen, do hereby certify that any Alien, being a free white Person, after a Residence of five years in, and having conformed to the Laws of the United States; and that from the moment of his arrival in the said United States he will enjoy the Protection of the Laws and freedom of profession. The foregoing Certificate is granted for a single person (eine ladige Person) whose name is to be put at the foot of the Certificate. Witness my Hand and the Seal of the Consular Office at Bremen this thirteenth day of August 1836 and in the 61st year of the Independence of the United States of America.

Certificates were often issued in groups of 2 to 10 individuals or families and sent to one person for distribution. Over half of the certificates were sent at various times to Frederick Jacob Wichelhausen for emigrants. Wichelhausen, a German citizen, had been appointed the US Consul at Bremen in May 1796 by George Washington (Journal of Executive Proceedings of the Senate of the United States of America, Vol. 1, p. 210) and served until December 1833. By the mid-1840's Wichelhausen owned at least one ship bearing his name and was in the business of transporting immigrants to the U.S. In the mid-1830's this may have been the beginning of his business. One should note that even though all these certificates were issued out of Bremen, all the listed emigrants resided in one small section of Mittelfranken Bavaria west of Nürnberg. Below is the entry from 4 Feb 1836 for 9 emigrants and their families. [As you can see there is some bleed-through on most pages, but all are readable.]

4th

Five certificates for Emigrants forwarded to Johann Konrad Schauf at Wilhelmsdorf.

Forwarded to Johann Konrad Schauf at Wilhelmsdorf near Emstkirchen in Bavaria, nine certificates of Emigration, vizt, one for Johann Konrad Schauf with his wife and three children, Katrina, Barbara, Henrietta, Franziska, Sabina, and Magdalen, one for Daniel Iselzier with his wife Kunigunda and three children; one for Paulus Beck with his bride Rosina Blaufelder; one for Peter Hasellbecher with his bride Margaretha Brand and one child; one for Johann Schill with his wife Margaretha and one child; one for Johann Leindcker with his wife Kunigunda and four children; one for Tobias Reifs with his wife Ester; one for Johann Blofzer, and one for Friedrich Seibald.

The information contained in the memorandum book varies for each emigrant or family. All give the emigrant's name and residence. In some cases the names of the wife, children, and other household members travelling with the emigrant are listed, but in other cases only the fact that a wife and the number of children or other individuals are listed. Since Germans are citizens and natives of their birth place and vital and church records were all created at the local level, the residence information is vital to German researchers. Even if the person is not living in his birth town, there may be records in his town of residence that note his birth place. Once in the U.S. the German immigrant's birth place is often listed merely as the kingdom, state, or duchy that he was from or even just Germany. When using the information in Consular records, remember that in most cases an American is writing the information, so the spelling of the town may be phonic rather than correct. I have created a database of the 270 emigrants and the information about them and their families contained in this volume from the US Consulate in Bremen.

Below are examples from the database including page#, date the certificate was issued, emigrant's name, if accompanied by wife, children, and other household members (with their names if listed), and the town (plus occasionally the Kreis) he/she was from. I also randomly choose about forty names and attempted to find their arrival in the U.S. using Ancestry.com and found just over half of them. This is a time period when many immigration records were lost or damaged, so that these emigration certificates may be the only hint to when your ancestor left Germany. For those, for whom I found arrival records, I added that information to the records as "date US arrival, arrival port, ship, and comments."

page#: 192
date: 24 Feb 1834
name: Bauer, Jacob
wife: with him
children: 8: Eva Dorethea, Georg, Barbara, Johanne
Rosine, Adam Matthaus, Johann, & Jacob
from: Schottensheim

page#: 191
date: 22 Feb 1834
name: Hohman, Joh. Georg
wife: with him
children: daughter
other family members: 2 grandchildren
from: Haubach, Schlüchten

page#: 210
date: 24 Mar 1834
name: Amon, Johann Georg
wife: Anna Margaretha
children: Georg Michael, Anna Margaretha,
Anna Maria, Maria Barbara
other family members: sister: Elisabeth Amon
from: Anfelden, Leutershausen

page#: 191
date: 22 Feb 1834
name: Barteles, Joseph & family
from: Steinach
date US arrival: 7 Jun 1834
arrival port: Baltimore
ship: Johanna Elizabeth
comments: peasant, 5 adults, list as Bartelmess

page#: 192
date: 22 Feb 1834
name: Bauer, Johann & family
from: Pappnlauer
date US arrival:
arrival port: 7 Jun 1834
ship: Johanna Elizabeth
comments: shoemaker, 3 adults + 6 children from
Boppenlauer

page#: 501
date: 4 Feb 1836
name: Beck, Paulus
wife: bride, Rosina Blaufelder
from: Wilhelmsdorf near Emskirchen
(This couple appears in the middle of the image
above)

page#: 483
date: 30 Nov 1835
name: Drescherin, Margaretha
children: 7
from: Rüdern

page#: 509
date: 5 Mar 1836
name: Heindt, J.L.
wife: with him
children: 3
other family members: servant: Dinkelmeyer of
Dietenhofen
from: Esschenbach

page#: 500
date: 27 Jan 1836
name: Zulauf, Elisabetha
children: natural son: Konrad Frohlich
from: Arnshain, Alsfeld

page#: 178
date: 5 Mar 1836
name: Heizenröder, Ludwig
from: Volmerts, Banholz
date US arrival: 2 Jul 1834
arrival port: Baltimore
ship: Johanna
comments: listed on ship as Gebruder Heizenröder --
3 adult males

page#: 190
date: 21 Feb 1834
name: Künschner, Carl
wife: Barbara

children: 7: Barbara Schmidt, Lorenz Schmidt, Adam Schmidt, Jacob Schmidt, Marian Künschner, Georg Künschner, Leonhard Künschner
other family members: Mr. Fried'r Bunge
from: Windheim

page#: 509
date: 5 Mar 1836
name: Lohmüller, Gg.
wife: with him
children: 5
other family members: father-in-law, 2 sisters-in-law, & servant
from: Birkenfeld

page#: 499
date: 27 Jan 1836
name: Merlau or Merlan, Anna Margretha
children: natural daughter, Elisabetha Horst
from: Arnshain, Alsfeld

page#: 185
date: 23 Jan 1834
name: Rupp, John Georg
wife: Anna Marg.
children: sons: Johann Michael & Johann Sebastian, stepsons: Georg Fried Betzelt & Johann Betzelt; stepdaughter: Maria Barbara Betzelt
from: Erckenbrechtshofen near Windsheim

page#: 508
date: 29 Feb 1836
name: Schem, J. C.
wife: with him
children: 2
other family members: sister & maidservant with 2 children
from: Neuhof

page#: 499
date: 27 Jan 1836
name: Strauss, Simon
wife: bride: Caroline Lauer
children: 2
other family members: sister: Carolina Strauss
from: Nensenheim

page#: 537
date: 24 May 1836
name: String, Peter
wife: with him
children: 3
other family members: Helena M Meyer with 2 children
from: Leutershausen

page#: 192
date: 24 Feb 1834
name: Uebelacker, Casper
wife: with him
other family members: Nic Diel & Peter Ebert, their servants & Johannes Harp, servant boy
from: Mittelkalbach

page#: 508
date: 29 Feb 1836
name: Volkenstein, F. C.
wife: with him
other family members: cousin: Joc. Haring
from: Iphofen

page#: 403
date: 21 Feb 1835
name: Wilcker, Mrs. Jost
children: 5: Peter, Andreas, Jacob, Leonhard, Christina, Catharina
from: Wallersdorf, Alsfeld
date US arrival: 21 Jul 1835
arrival port: New York
ship: Emilie & Helene
comments: listed as widow Wilkers with 6 children

page#: 209
date: 22 Mar 1834
name: Will, Casper
wife: bride: Maria Eva Schwenzer of Utrichshausen
children: 3 sons: Heinrich, Johann, & Georg, & bride's daughter: Elisabeth Will
from: Opperz Neuhof

page#: 191
date: 22 Feb 1834
name: Hohman, Joh. Georg
wife: with him
children: daughter
other family members: 2 grandchildren
from: Haubach, Schlüchten

Any MAGS member may request up to eight (8) free searches of this database (a family listed together would count as one name) by contacting this researcher at corresponding@magsgen.com. Please include your MAGS membership number, which is found near your name on the mailing label of *Der Kurier*. For those without email, please send your request with a stamped self-addressed envelope to MAGS, PO Box 334, Glenn Dale, MD 20769-0334. For non-MAGS members and members making requests for more than 8 names, the cost for a search is \$1.00 per name (check payable to MAGS) plus a stamped self-addressed envelope. Remember that this database only includes emigrants from a small area of Bavaria, who may have arrived in the U.S. 1834-1837. MAGS would like other members, who are able to do research at Archives II, to help to index, extract data, create databases, and/or summarize information found in the US Consular Records from Germany.

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 (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)

REIF SEITZ

#28-5 Seek info Theresia REIF b 14 Feb 1864 in Bockighofen, Wurt; d 8 Sept 1934 Lancaster, PA. Sponsored nephews/nieces named SEITZ: Margaretha (b 1891), Joseph (b 1900), Karl (b 1901), Frederick (b 1903), Anna (b 1906). All b Southeim, Wurt. and settled in Lancaster PA.

**Michael J. Braunger 600 Roosevelt Blvd,
Apartment G6, Falls Church, VA 22044**

E-mail mbraunger@hotmail.com

PRICE

#28-6 Seek info on German PRICE fam in w. MD. Samuel Wesley PRICE (1817-1883) of Frederick County, MD. Believe of German desc. His mother, Hannah b 1780. Seek location of info of Germans in w MD, especially PRICE fam. **Maurice M. Bursey
101 Longwood Place Chapel Hill, NC 27514-9584**

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.

Joseph M. Grimm of Sahuarita, AZ

***(Grimm/Grim, Reifschneider,
Rhodenbaugh, Roush)***

Carolyn Stopinski Miller of Derwood, MD

(Wratz, Snyder, Dutterer, Bowersox)

Lowell R. Fischer of Bernardsville, NJ

(Fischer, Laumann, Wenz Nuss)

Kay Bernstein of Eldersburg, MD

(Orndorff, Zittle, Lechliter, Shoemaker)

Jon Charles Acker of Tuscaloosa, AL

(Acker, Stern, Folk, Werley)

Judy G. Russell of Avenel, NJ

(Geissler, Graumüller, Nuckel, Smidt)

Todd A. Zeigler of Baltimore, MD

(Shearer, Zeigler, Runk, Renoll)

Ethelyn F. Bishop of Laurel, MD

(Weigel, Lambrix, Donat, Duschel)

Kathy S. Barker of Chatsworth, CA

(Steinberg, Malchow, Zierke, Bornstaedt)

Carolyn Kippert McQuown of Punxsutawney, PA

(Hufnagle, Kippert, Rodkey, Shaffer)

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Hesslerers / Hasslers found in Pennsylvania

Charles Hessler asked about HESSLERs on fraktur. Most examples I found were for HASSLERs and other variant spellings. Having checked with Charles, he agreed some of these might be of use to him in his research. Unless otherwise noted, all locations given below are in Pennsylvania. Names are spelled as they appear on the fraktur.

A *Taufschein* (birth and baptism certificate) in a private collection was made for Magdalena BLATT, daughter of Fridrich and Magdalena (HASLER) BLATT. The daughter, Magdalena, was born October 30, 1809, in Bern Township, Berks County. She was baptized December 24, 1809, by Pastor HENDEL. Tobias and Catharina WAAGNER [*sic*] sponsored Magdalena's baptism. A second *Taufschein* made for this family is in the same collection. This example was made for Magdalena's younger brother, David BLATT, who was born in Bern Township about two o'clock in the morning on November 29, 1825. David was baptized by Pastor MÄYER on January 10, 1826. The sponsors at David's baptism were Johannes and Leah SCHLAPICH.

In the fourth volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp lists data from a *Taufschein* made for Heinrich and Rebecka (HASSLER) FINCK's daughter, Siere Rebecka. Siere Rebecka was born April 12, 1843, in Bern Township. She was baptized by Pastor MAIER on August 18, 1843. The sponsors at her baptism were Amos and Susanna PIERSEN.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Magdalena HASLER, daughter of Friederich and Sarhaan [Sarah Ann] (PALM) HASLER. Magdalena was born about seven o'clock in the morning on April 6, 1781. She was born in Heidelberg Township, Berks County. Magdalena was baptized by Imanuel SHULTZ, Lutheran, on May 6, 1781. The sponsors at her baptism were Ludwig SCHWEYTER and Magdalena HASSLER, both single.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Hanüy HESLER, son of Jacob and Sarah HESLER. Hanüy was born on October 17, 1815, in Haycock Township, Bucks County. He was baptized by Pastor RÖLLER, Lutheran, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Hanüy's baptism were Johannes and Maria SCHMITT. The fraktur artist who made Hanüy's *Taufschein* might have meant his first name to read Henry.

The Library Company of Philadelphia has a *Taufschein* made for Wilhelm, son of Friedrich and Sussanna (HOLLENBACH) HÄSSLER. Wilhelm was born August 15, 1821, in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. He was baptized by Pastor MINNIG on October 7, 1821. Christian and Magdalena NEY sponsored Wilhelm's baptism.

Genealogy information from a related Bible record is listed in the first volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition*. This record says William HASSLER, son of Friedrich and Susanna (HOLLENBACH) HASSLER, was born August 15, 1821, in Tulpehocken Township. William married Anna MORGEN, daughter of Johannes and Anna Maria (SCHMIDT) MORGEN. Anna was born August 21, 1825, in Pinegrove Township, Schuylkill County. The HASSLERs married on March 18, 1848. They were married in Lebanon County by Thomas S. LEINBACH. According to the Bible record, the HASSLERs had six children, the first five of whom were born in Tulpehocken Township. The first child was Emilie, born September 12, 1848. Johann Daniel was born May 20, 1850. Charles Willebin was born January 8, 1854. George Jefferson was born January 17, 1856. Mary Isabella Lucetta was born October 17, 1858. And Susanna Elisabetha was born in Jackson Township, Lebanon County, on February 8, 1861.

On March 27, 1998, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata sold a *Taufschein* that mentions Abram and Catharina HASLER as sponsors at the baptism of Dewald and Süssanna KITTELMAN's son, Henrich. Henrich KITTELMAN was born about ten o'clock in the evening on April 21, 1796, in Heidelberg Township, Berks County. He was baptized on July 24, presumably in 1796, by Wilhelm BOSS [BOOS].

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Daniel HEISSLER, son of Johannes and Catharina (JOST) HEISSLER. Daniel HEISSLER was born March 31, 1818, in Brunswick Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized by Daniel SCHAEFFER, Lutheran, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Daniel's baptism were Adam and Sussanna JOST.

A *Taufschein* in a private collection was made for Eduard Frankln. MILLER, son of Josua Jacob L. and Brisille [Priscilla] Rebecca (HÄUTZLER) MILLER. Eduard Frankl[i]n was born October 1, 1883, in Albany Township, Berks County. He was baptized at Eckville in Albany Township on December 2, 1883 by David BENZ. The sponsors at the baptism were the parents.

On June 1, 1996, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a *Taufschein* made for Heinrich HASLER, who was born July 17, 1804, in Bern Township, Berks County. Heinrich HASSLER's parents were Johannes and Rahel [Rachel] (RICKERT) HASLER. Heinrich HASLER was baptized on August 26, probably in 1804, by Pastor LEHMAN. The sponsors at his baptism were Heinrich and Elisabeth HASLER.

On November 24, 2003, Conestoga Auctions in Manheim sold a *Taufschein* made for Jacob Adam SCHEFFER, son of John F. SCHEFFER and his wife, Louisa, the daughter of J. HASLER. Jacob Adam was born in Manchester District, Carroll County, Maryland. He was born February 12, 1869, and baptized by H. WEISER, but no date of baptism was given. Jacob Adam's parents sponsored his baptism.

The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College in Collegeville has a *Taufschein* made for Michael STOBER, son of Friederich and Anna (HETZLER) STOBER. Michael was born in Haines Township, Centre County, on May 16, 1793. He was baptized by Pastor JASENSKÝ, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Michael's baptism were Michael and Elisabeth ROHN. An added note says Michael Stover died on June 20, 1868, at the age of 75 years, 1 month, and 4 days.

A related example was made for Michael's younger brother, Daniel. Daniel STOBER was born about eight o'clock in the evening on February 14, 1809. He, too, was born in Haines Township. Daniel was baptized by Ludwig Wilhelm ILGEN, but no date of baptism was given on his *Taufschein*. The baptismal sponsors were Johannes and Margreth WEBER. Klaus Stopp pictured Daniel's *Taufschein* in the third volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a *Taufschein* made for Johannes CARMENE, son of Anthonÿ and Anna Christina (HETZLER) CARMENE. Johannes CARMENE was born about ten o'clock in the morning on June 15, 1760, in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County. He was baptized June 15, probably the same day he was born, by Gotlieb ENGELAND. The sponsors at Johannes's baptism were Johannes and Juliana CARMENE.

A related example sold at Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown on May 11, 2007. It was made for Johan Martin, son of Anthony and Anna Christina (HETZLER) CARMENE. Johan Martin was born in Lebanon Township, Lancaster County, at about nine o'clock in the evening on September 12, 1766. Johan Martin was baptized by Gotlieb ENGELAND on October 5, probably in 1766. Martin and Anna Magdalena KOLMER sponsored Johan Martin's baptism. An added note says Johan Martin died July 27, 1834 at the age of 67 years, 10 months, and 15 days.

On June 20, 1979, Sotheby's in New York sold a *Taufschein* made for Catharina PETERMAN, daughter of Henrich and Elisabeth (SCHULTZ) PETERMAN. Catharina was born September 12, 1828, in Codorus Township, York County. She was baptized by Pastor MÄYER, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at her baptism were George and Catharina HASSLER.

As customary, I am sending Charles Hessler additional data from fraktur.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, simply send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. There is no charge to MAGS members for this service.

Endstation der Pennsylvania Deutschen Schreibkunst

By Corinne and Russell Earnest

From the begats in the Bible to the American Indian who orally passed ancient traditions to younger generations, people of most cultures care about their “roots.” In Europe, families of note recorded their histories, but families of humble beginnings, who were often illiterate, seldom did. The Reformation changed all that as Protestant families learned to read. Naturally, one book found in the homes of Protestants was the Bible. As a result, these families kept their most treasured memories on the flyleaves of the Bible and since about 1800, on family register pages bound by printers between the Old and New Testaments.

These Bible registers became popular among English- and German-speaking Americans, but during the nineteenth century especially, registers made for Pennsylvania Germans, most of whom were Protestants, differed from those made by their English-speaking neighbors. As was true of many of their records – such as *fraktur* – Pennsylvania Germans liked to decorate Bible records. Or to be more exact, they liked to have their Bible records decorated by itinerant, professional scribes who made them “pretty.” Consequently, throughout the nineteenth century, Pennsylvania German family registers found in Bibles became attractive works of manuscript art.

By the twentieth century, descendants of Pennsylvania Germans rather than professional penmen recorded genealogy data in Bibles and they often did so in English. These records resemble more the registers made by Americans of British heritage. In other words, unlike nineteenth century records, twentieth century Bible records made for descendants of Pennsylvania Germans were generally plain. Occasionally, they were written in pencil or even ballpoint pen, but rarely were they decorated.

Don Yoder, a distinguished scholar in the field of Pennsylvania German culture and history, correctly recognized that nineteenth century decorated Bible records made by and for Pennsylvania Germans were an extension of *fraktur* – in fact, the last stage of evolutionary changes in the field of *fraktur*. He called the decorated Bible record the “*Endstation der Pennsylvania Deutschen Schreibkunst*,” or the last development in Pennsylvania German manuscript art referred to as *fraktur*.¹

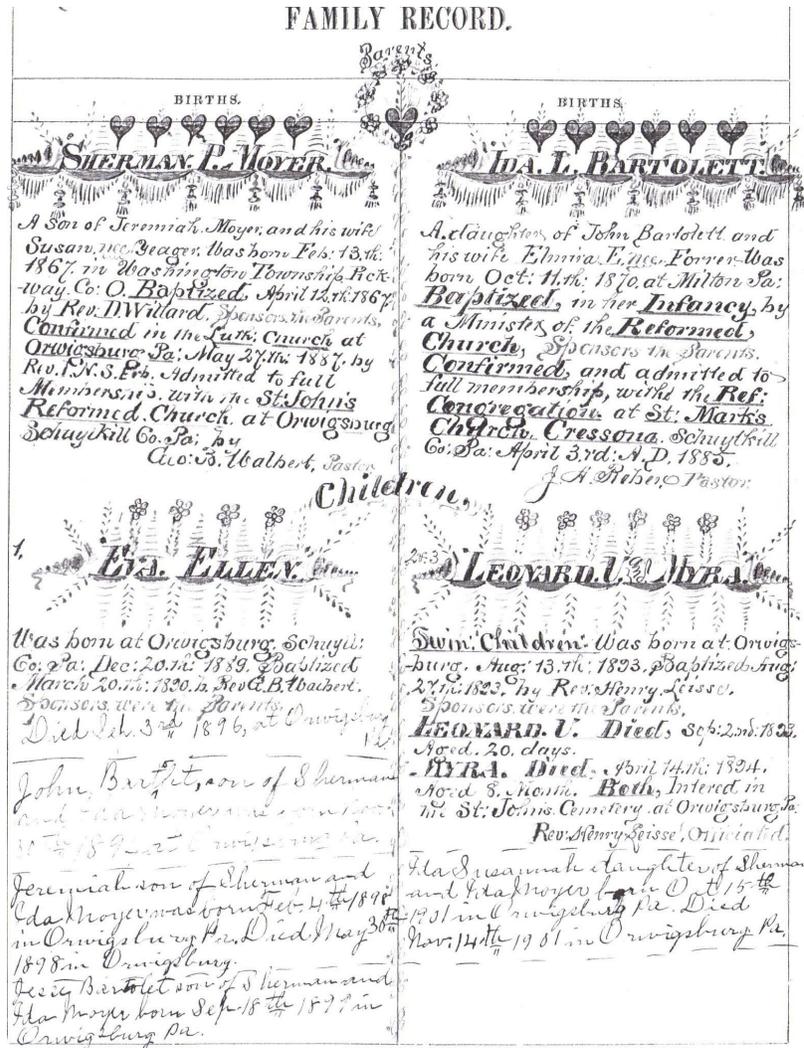
Most itinerant penmen working in Pennsylvania German communities were bilingual. But whether writing in German or English, exquisite calligraphy was not the only skill brought to Bible records made by professional penmen. These itinerants included content that was frequently omitted by family members whose skills with a pen or pencil were more mundane and their sense of pertinent detail less developed. Instead, professional scribes, accustomed to completing *Taufscheine* (birth and baptism certificates), organized data in such a way that they remembered to detail information today’s genealogists like to see on every piece of paper – names, dates, locations, and family relationships. Scribes consistently showed family relationships and often included data from a generation back on both sides of the family. And many wrote mothers’ maiden names when recording previous generations, thus providing additional clues about a family’s history.

Because they thoughtfully organized data they then wrote in decorative lettering, penmen were in great demand throughout southeastern Pennsylvania during the nineteenth century and into the early years of the twentieth century. Unfortunately, family members who recorded data in Bibles were less thorough. For instance, a Bible record made for the Hubert family was written by one of several family members in ink and pencil. The ink used to

record portions of the text was watered down causing the text to be illegible today, and portions of the penciled text are illegible. The English-language register records births of the children of William and Sophey (Triseler) Hubert who “ware Marit” on May 24, 1835. Several children were born between 1836 and 1854.

The entire register was re-recorded on the second page in a slightly more legible hand. However, the year of birth for the last child, Lizze Margret, was altered with pencil and names are spelled slightly differently. But the person recording the data onto the second page corrected a major error. He or she included the birth of Casper Emanuel Hubert on December 10, 1850. This child does not appear in the first record. Moreover, the page that records deaths shows two names but no death dates. In fact, a single notation beside Casper’s name states the obvious – “dead.” In addition, a notation about the birth of Marry Ann Brouand (?), born on November 18, 1771, leaves today’s genealogist to guess at Marry Ann’s surname, which may actually have been Brown, and her relationship to the Hubert family.

One problem with homemade family registers is that people who spoke the dialect, when switching to English, found that writing and spelling English was difficult for them. But genealogists can generally deal with problems of phonetic spellings. What frustrates them most is the lack of detail. In a Bible record made for the Moyer and Bartolet family of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, a family member began the record in a plain hand. Information in various entries was scant. For example, this plainly written record says Ida L. Bartolett was born in Milton, Pennsylvania, on October 11, 1870. A professional scrivener and Bible salesman named Henry S. Eisenhuth (1830-96) of Orwigsburg recorded information about her

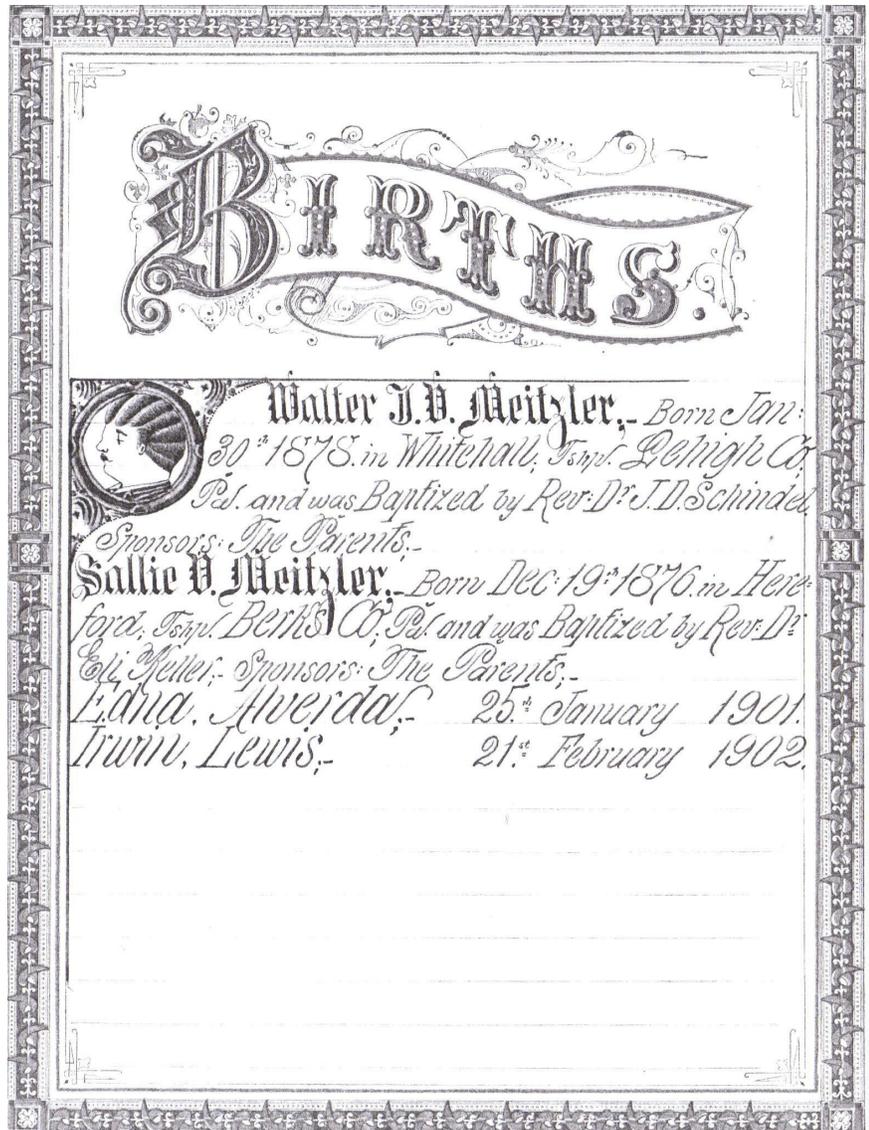


family and children (Figure 1, above). Eisenhuth signed many of his works, but had he not signed them, his art can be distinguished from others’ because of his use of several colors of inks, and his hearts, flowers, and clusters of grapes. In the entry concerning Ida’s birth, Eisenhuth elaborated with details that offer considerable information. Ida L. Bartolett, wrote Eisenhuth, was the daughter of John Bartolett and his wife, Elmira E. Forrer. Ida L. Bartolett was born October 11, 1870 at Milton and baptized in her infancy by a Minister of the Reformed Church. The sponsors at her baptism were her parents. On April 3, 1885, Ida was confirmed and admitted to full membership with the Reformed Congregation at St. Mark’s Church at Cressona in Schuylkill County. She was confirmed by J.A. Reber.

The four-page Bible record says that on May 27, 1887 Ida L. Bartolett married Sherman P. Moyer of Orwigsburg, Schuylkill County. According to Eisenhuth, Moyer was the son of Jeremiah and Susan (Yeager) Moyer. Sherman was born February 13, 1867 in Washington Township, Pickaway County, Ohio. Eisenhuth recorded three children born to Sherman and Ida Moyer. All three died young. Eisenhuth wrote that on April 14, 1894 the third child (a twin named Myra) died. That was his last entry in the Moyer register.

Afterwards, a family member penned information about subsequent events. This person recorded the births of John in 1894, Jeremiah in 1898, Jesse in 1899, and Ida Susannah in 1901. He or she also recorded the death on September 3, 1896 of the Moyer's first child, Eva Ellen. Due to the work of Josh Reeder, who wrote an article about Eisenhuth, we know that Eisenhuth was struck by a train and killed in March of 1896 (Josh Reeder, "Henry Eisenhuth, Victorian Frakturist," *Antique Review*, January 1997, pp. 12-13). Following Myra's death, Eisenhuth apparently did not return to the Moyer household before his own untimely death.

Prolific artists who wrote genealogy data on *Taufscheine* and in Bibles include, among many others, J. George E. Franck (active ca. 1878-1912), Georg August H. Hainbach (active ca. 1876-1919), and August Baumann (active ca. 1879-1905). Families for whom Baumann worked are treated with small portraiture that are believed to be family



members. The example shown here appears on one of three pages in a record made for Walter I.V. Meitzler of Whitehall Township, Lehigh County, and his wife, Sallie V. Heimbach of Hereford Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania (**Figure 2, above**). They married in Allentown on June 9, 1900. Baumann utilized different styles of writing in this record. The style shown here makes the Meitzlers' middle initials so ornate they can be misread, but he repeated the names on another page in a simpler hand. Formerly in the Roughwood Collection, this English-language record ended after the birth of Irwin Lewis in 1902. Baumann worked until 1905, but he signed and dated the Meitzler record on February 15, 1904.

Occasionally, itinerant scribes failed to record valuable information or they made mistakes. For instance, Eisenhuth recorded Sherman Moyer's middle initial as "P." on one page and "B." on another. But professional scribes, accustomed to filling out *Taufscheine*, were less likely to err. Evidence suggests families kept notes about family events such as births, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, and deaths on small pieces of paper that they tucked into their Bible awaiting the arrival of a scribe who would create a permanent and artistically appealing record.

Family members, on the other hand, often added to the record as events occurred. The piece of information they most often forgot to record was the location – as happened in the Hubert record. They probably assumed the family would keep the Bible at home and home would always be in one place.

The hands of several professional penmen appear in many Bible registers. The penmen who arrived at a farm subsequent to the one who began the original record often attempted to copy the penmanship of the original writer, perhaps in hopes of making his entry

blend with the rest of the page. Other penmen made no such attempts. But for the most part, these itinerants recorded pertinent data accurately and thoroughly, thus creating what today genealogists would call primary source "family group sheets" – and especially attractive ones at that.

No systematic study has been made of Pennsylvania German Bible records. There are so many such records, this would be a daunting task, but eventually it will be done. Already, many of the scribes have been identified and continuing research is helping to identify the hands of numerous major fraktur artists known more for their *Taufscheine* than for Bible records. But no complete understanding of the works of individual artists, or the entire field of fraktur, can be accomplished without including the "*Endstation der Pennsylvanisch Deutschen Schreibkunst.*"

Our thanks go to Don Yoder for his enthusiastic support of our work on fraktur. Don is an inspiration to all who are fortunate enough to know him.

FAMILY REGISTERS AND SUCH

Bible from Fehr / Clewell family

On June 3, 2010, Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, sold a German-language Bible with a family register bound between the Old and New Testament. The Kimber and Sharpless Bible was printed in Philadelphia. Written in German script, the register was made for Joseph and Julianna F. (CLEWELL) FEHR of Bushkill Township, Northampton County, Pennsylvania. Names given below are spelled phonetically and appear here as they do in the original. Portions of this register were illegible.

The FEHRs married on March 23, 1845. They had eleven children, all of whom were born in Bushkill Township. A son named Franklin Ruben FEHR was born May 14, 1846 and baptized by Pastor TRÄGER on June 14,

1846. Four family members sponsored Franklin Ruben's baptism. They were Ruben CLEWELL, Elisabeth FEHR, Ruben FEHR, and Carolina CLEWELL.

On September 17, 1847, the FEHRs had a daughter named Louisa Emilie. Louisa Emilie was baptized October 17, 1847 by Pastor TRÄGER. The sponsors at her baptism were George and Susanna FEHR, Sabina CLEWELL, and Christina (?) SIEGFRIT [SIEGFRIED].

On September 23, 1848, the FEHRs had a daughter named Melinda (?) Elisabeth. She was baptized by Pastor TRÄGER on November 22, 1848. The sponsors were David TREIN (?) and Lisette SIEGFRIT.

On December 7, 1849, the FEHRs had a son named Andreas. Andreas FEHR was baptized, but information concerning his baptism is illegible. The sponsors at Andreas's baptism were Heinrich HUBER (?) and Susana CLEWELL.

A daughter named Juliana Maria was born on March 7, 1851 and baptized on March 23, 1851 by Pastor LENERT. The baptismal sponsors were Philip and Maria BERSTLER. Juliana Maria died January 19, 1856 at the age of four years, ten months, and twelve days.

A daughter named Ellen Paulina was born March 22, 1852. She was baptized April 25, 1852 by Pastor TRÄGER. The sponsors at Ellen Paulina's baptism were Joseph FRITZ and Maria FEHR.

A daughter named Hellene was born September 10, 1853. She was baptized by Pastor TRÄGER in October (no day of the month given), 1853. The sponsors at Hellene's baptism were Georg and Hilina MILLER.

A son named Tilman Fritrich was born September 24, 1854 and baptized by Pastor TRÄGER on October 22, 1854. The sponsors at Tilman Fritrich's baptism were Fritrich FEHR and (his wife?) Liweina.

Isak Samuel FEHR was born on February 2, 1857 and baptized April 12, 1857 by Pastor FUCHS. The sponsors were Georg and Hette SCHWEIZER.

On October 19, 1859, the FEHRs had a daughter named Matilte Kadarina, who was baptized by Pastor FUCHS on March 15, 1860. The sponsors at her baptism were Johannes and Mariaa [*sic*] FEHR.

A daughter named Clere Susana was born on April 7, 1862 and baptized in June 1862, but no specific day of the month was recorded and the pastor's name is illegible. The sponsors at Clere Susana's baptism were Franklin KELLER and a woman whose first name is illegible, but whose last name was KLEWELL.

Bible from Steffan / Albrecht family

A Bible containing a family register sold at Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, on June 3, 2010. The register was made for Jonathan and Susanna (ALBRECHT) STEFFEN of Macungie Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Penned in a German-language Bible that was printed in 1798 in Basel, Switzerland, the register says Jonathan STEFFEN and Susanna ALBRECHT married on June 13, 1808. Jonathan STEFFEN was the son of Jacob and Catharina (HERRMANN) STEFFEN. He was born September 26, 1786 in Macungie Township and baptized by Pastor LEHMANN (no date of baptism given). The sponsors at his baptism were Diederich and Magdalena DONNER.

Jonathan's wife, Susanna ALBRECHT, was the daughter of Dewald and Susanna (SCHMEIER) ALBRECHT. Susanna was born July 18, 1792 in Macungie Township. She was baptized by Pastor BUSKIRG, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Susanna ALBRECHT's baptism were Johannes and Philipine ALBRECHT.

Either this register is incomplete or the STEFFENs had no children, for no children are listed. However, a penciled note was added in English that says Tilghman STEFFEN died February 24, 1910. And another illegible note was added that has a date of January 1, 1876.

Bible from Ebling / Boyer family

A German-language Bible printed in 1875 by A.D. HOLMAN of Philadelphia contains information from a family register that begins by saying Emilie EBLING was given the Bible in May 1875 by her father, Jacob BOYER,

of Bern Township, Berks County. Emilie, whose name is also written as Emilia BOYER, married Obadiah David EBLING of Heidelberg Township, Berks County, on December 3, 1867. They were married by August PAULI in

Reading. According to this record, Obadiah David EBLING, son of David and Maria (ZERLE) EBLING, was born January 24, 1847 in Maiden creek Township, Berks County. He was baptized March 14, 1847 by A. HERMAN. The sponsors at Obadiah David's baptism were Hirob and Sarah GRAMIS. Obadiah's wife, Emilie EBLING, was the daughter of Jacob and Elisabeth (BOYER) BOYER. Emilie was born August 24, 1847 in Washington Township,

Berks County. She was baptized in 1848 by A. PAULI. The sponsors at her baptism were William and Elisabeth BOYER. The EBLINGS had one daughter. Her name was Clara Cordelia. Clara Cordelia was born March 9, 1873 in Heidelberg Township and baptized April 13, 1873 by Pastor DAVES. The sponsors at her baptism were her parents. This Bible sold at Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, on June 3, 2010.

Bible from Griesemer / Huber, Beysher families

A German-language Bible printed in Philadelphia in 1838 by Kimber and Sharpless has a register made for the GRIESEMER/HUBER and BEYSHER families. The Bible begins with data concerning Jacob GRIESEMER, who was born July 19, 1787. His wife, Susana HUBER, was born March 20, 1790. Family relationships throughout this record are unclear but, apparently, the GRIESEMERs had a daughter named Lydia, who was born July 18, 1837. Jacob GRIESEMER died July 29, 1856, but no information concerning the death of Susana HUBER was given. The Bible seems to have

changed hands, coming to the family of Mary Alice BEYSHER, who was born February 27, 1864. A Mary Ann BEYSHER, who died on October 30, 1889 at the age of 76 years and 9 days, is also mentioned. Safarus M. BEYSHER died April 20, 1894 at the age of 54 years, 1 month, and 25 (or 28?) days. Diana M. BEYSHER died December 29, 1914 at the age of 74 years, 1 month, and 11 days. Margaret Verginia (BEYSHER) CHRISTMAN died June 9, 1916 at the age of 42 years, 5 months, and 15 days. This Bible sold at Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, on June 3, 2010.

Beaver register

On June 3, 2010, Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, sold a German-language sermon book that contains an English-language family register. Names below are spelled as they appear in the register. The register was made for Daniel BEAVER and his wives, Mary and Catharina. Daniel BEAVER noted that the book belonged to him on August 30, 1806. He married Mary (maiden name not given) on February 7, 1833. This record contains confusing information, but apparently Daniel's second wife, Catharina, was born July 18, 1814. A later notation says, "Mary, my first wife, died January 24, 1850. She was the mother of our family. Age 41 years, 13 days. She [lived in marriage] 17 years, 17 days." A date of what appears to be Daniel's second marriage was written as October 28, 1852.

The children of Daniel and Mary BEAVER were: Noa[h], born January 1, 1834;

Jaramiah, born October 28, 1835; Lewaise, born March 8, 1838; Shaliltz, born June 26, 1840; Mary Anna Elisabeth, born May 18, 1842; Daniel Manrow [Monroe], born August 31, 1844; Lewcenta [Lucinda], born February 6, 1847; Joshua Malachi, born October 20, 1849; and Samuel Obadiah, born January 25, 1853.

This register, which gives no location, continues with notations that begin with one of those unclear pronoun antecedents that English teachers cautioned would confuse readers. In an attempt to show family relationships, notes that further frustrate readers are added. Probably, the people listed below represent the grandparents, parents, and siblings of Daniel BEAVER. The remainder of the record says:

Our grandfather, Nicholous BEAVER, died March 13, 182___. (The year is illegible due to paper loss.)

Our sister, Anna Catharina, died July 25, 1833.
Her child, August 13, 1833, Mary Catharina.
Our mother, Elisabeth, died August 9, 1834,
grandmother.
Our brother, Jacob, died September 13, 1839.

Our brother, David, died September 19, 1844.
Our sister, Laro (?) Christina, brother Jacob's
wife, died May 16, 1848.
Our father, John Beaver, died October 29, 1857,
grandfather.

Bible from Hubbert family

On June 3, 2010, Alderfer Auctions in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, sold a Mathew Carey Bible printed in Philadelphia and dated November 9, 1804.

Notations in this Bible were made for the HUBBERT family. The title page has "John

HUBBERT Seneaur [Senior]" written on it. Inside are dates of birth for Christian and Margreat HUBBERT. Margreat, wife of Christian HUBBERT, was born September 30, 1758. Christian was born February 16, 1759. No location was recorded.

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN / *Book Reviews*

Immigrant and Entrepreneur: The Atlantic World of Caspar Wistar, 1650-1750

By Rosalind Beiler

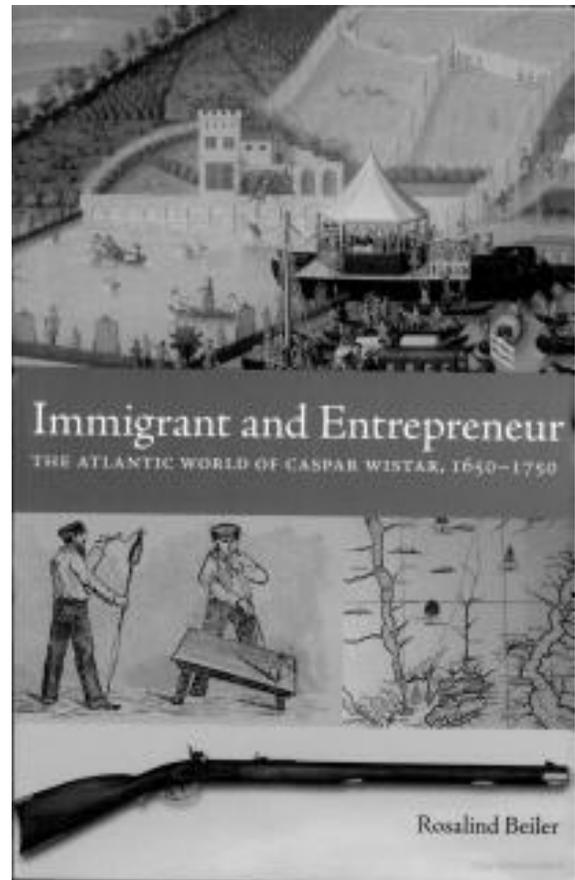
2009. Penn State Press (Part of Max Kade German-American Research Institute series). 208 pages. \$55

The author, an associate professor of history at the University of Central Florida, has penned an outstanding book that should be read by everyone with a serious interest in learning about 18th century ancestors from the Palatinate.

The book is titled *Immigrant and Entrepreneur: The Atlantic World of Caspar Wistar, 1650-1750*, and it uses Wistar as the prism through which the "Old World to New World" transition of many of our ancestors can be observed.

Wistar, born in 1696 in the tiny village of Waldhisbach near Heidelberg in the Neckar River valley, came to America in 1717, and by his death in 1752 was one of the most wealthy men in Pennsylvania.

Many Pennsylvania Germans had at least brushing encounters with Wistar – either through his brass-button manufacturing firm or through his importing business (among other things, specially



modified long rifles) or – most importantly – his land speculation.

Among his more prominent land purchases was that of Fell's Manor in the

Tulpehocken area. He bought 10,000 acres there from a descendant of William Penn and then resold parcels to the many Schoharie Palatines who had been squatting in the area waiting for the Penn family to buy the land from the Indians. Wistar's purchase helped give the Penns' the capital to buy that Indian land, and Wistar probably was better suited to deal with his fellow Germans in getting them to pay for the land they had occupied.

Wistar's story could be called "rags to riches," but Beiler shows that it's a bit more complicated than that. In the first half of her book, she outlines the struggles of Wistar's grandfather and father as foresters working for the bureaucracy of the Palatine elector.

She shows that they were "men in the middle" trying to balance their loyalties to their employer (the elector) along with their sympathies toward their neighbors in the villages in which they resided. Beiler indicates that Wistar undoubtedly saw those struggles and modified them in various ways to the pioneer Pennsylvania landscape.

Beiler obviously has immersed herself in reading the goings on recorded in the Palatine archives – down to petty village fights.

She also uses the compilations by longtime genealogy researchers of Palatine immigrants, authors Henry Z "Hank" Jones and Annette K. Burgert, to help her prove another one of her theses: That Wistar was involved in a web of relationships both of blood and commerce that helped him reach his plateau of prominence.

Another outstanding part of Beiler's book is that she demystifies the religious situation in the Palatinate during the time frame of 18th century emigration.

Previous generations of historians have uncritically accepted the political theory dictated by treaties at the end of religious wars that the faith of the ruler determined that of his subjects without investigating the reality of religious faith "on the ground" in the Palatinate.

While it's true that the state-supported church changed with the ruler, by and large there was a degree of toleration for the other faiths.

Beiler shows that while these changes caused much angst amongst religious hierarchies

– even creating competitions among clergy for members and resources – it probably was a "so what" experience for the average person (One thing that is of more interest: When one of the Palatine electors mandated that church buildings be shared, it may have been what planted the seeds for the many "union churches" that once dotted the rural areas of Pennsylvania's German arc from Lancaster and York to the Lehigh Valley).

She also indicates that this religious flexibility prepared Wistar for Pennsylvania – and made him flexible enough to become a Quaker, which in turn set him up to rub elbows with the then-dominant class in Pennsylvania, much to his worldly benefit.

All in all, *Immigrant and Entrepreneur* is a fine study of both its central character Caspar Wistar as well as his two worlds – the Palatinate and Pennsylvania, and while Wistar was an exceptional person, his story resonates with the many of us whose more humble immigrant ancestors may have only been his customers.

Reviewed by James M. Beidler

The Journey Takers

By Leslie Albrecht Huber

2010. Foundation Books. 321 pages. \$19.95. Available from author, www.thejourneytakers.com

In this narrative, the author rather seamlessly alternates amongst passages that lay out the information from records directly mentioning her ancestors, relate her feelings as she went through her present-day search, and – finally and most importantly – use her many historical sources to create scenes from the everyday lives of her ancestors.

In the present-day portions of narrative, the readers can follow Huber from an archival internship in Germany before she's even married to the point a few years later when she's mothering a brood of children.

This type of back-and-forth technique could be distracting, but Huber succeeds by not overdramatizing it.

For anyone attempting to better understand the social history of their German ancestors, one of the strengths of Huber's book is its extensive bibliographic endnotes.

It is the sources listed in these endnotes that the author uses to create "might have happened" episodes from her ancestors' lives.

To her credit, she clearly labels these creations as such, but her extensive reading shown by her bibliography makes it seem logical that things may well have occurred as she has written. This is the type of book that needs to be read with one hand bookmarking the endnotes for easy flipping back and forth.

One passage that will grab readers who haven't explored their roots in Germany – and ring true for those who already have done so – is her tale of going to the church in which her immigrant Albrecht ancestors were married in 1864.

This part of the narrative starts with her being gruffly rebuffed by the wife of a local historian (to who she had been referred) before the historian himself warmly goes through his records and then offers to drive her to the village of Goldebee in Mecklenburg since he says it would be too far for her to walk.

Once in Goldebee, they find the church warden and upon entering the church Huber is overcome by being the first of her American family to return to this place: "Without warning, I feel my throat choke up. Embarrassed, I glance over the two older men, hoping my emotions aren't apparent. To my surprise, I see tears in the eyes of both of them."

The church warden then charges her – having rescued these ancestors from obscurity – to not let them ever be forgotten again. Her book fulfills that charge.

Reviewed by James M. Beidler

✱ Attention ✱

MAGS is now accepting dues for the year 2011.

\$15 for individual membership
\$20 for family membership

If the membership number above or below your name on the address label of your *Der Kurier* ends in "-10" (i.e.: John Doe **2304-10**) you must pay next year's dues before January 1st.

Mail your check made payable to **MAGS** to:

Gunter Schanzenbacher
725 Fir Spring Dr
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268

You do **not** need to complete a membership form, if your name & correct mailing address are printed on your check. Please include your membership number on the check.

MAGS accepts payments for up to 5 years membership.
Questions: membership@magsgen.com

DER KALENDER /
The Calendar

2010

Sept. 25. Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines to America at Harrisburg/Hershey Holiday Inn, Grantville, PA. Paul Peucker from the Moravian Archives, Bethlehem, PA. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, eheinlein@comcast.net; website, www.pa-palam.org

Oct. 2. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Fall Seminar at Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Harrisburg, PA. Registration: 8:30 am. Conference: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers: John Humphrey, CG, Sharon Hodges, Martin Andresen. Registration: registration@magsgen.com or phone Diane Kuster at (252) 373-1684.

MAGS Store

Back issues of *Der Kurier*

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

Surname Index for *Der Kurier*

Part I (1982-1992), 30 pp
 and Part II (1993-1998), 30 pp \$6
 Plus shipping and handling, first index \$3

Maxi-Atlas Deutschland

2008/2009, maps in color, 300+ pp
 Members / Non-members \$ 26 / \$ 29
 Shipping and handling \$ 5

***Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents* by Roger Minert.**

M/NM \$24.00 / 26.95
 Shipping and handling \$ 3.50

Spelling Variations in German Names

by Roger Minert
 M/NM \$15 / 16.95
 Shipping and handling \$ 3.50

***Managing a Genealogical Project* by William Dollarhide,**

M/NM.....\$13.45/\$14.95
 S&H.....\$3.50

***In Search of Your German Roots A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in the Germanic Areas of Europe* by Angus Baxter, Fourth edition**

M/NM: \$15.25/\$16.95
 Shipping and handling \$ 3.50

***In Search of Your European Roots A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in Every Country in Europe,* by Angus Baxter, Third edition**

M/NM\$17.05/\$18.95
S&H.....\$3.50

***German Church Books Beyond the Basics* by Kenneth L. Smith, copyright 1989, revised edition,**

M/NM\$26.50/\$29.50
 S&H\$3.50

***Researching in Germany* by Roger Minert**

M/NM \$14 / 15.95
 Shipping and handling \$ 3.50

***German Genealogy: A Guide to Worldwide Sources and Migration Patterns* (Third Ed.) by Edward Brandt**

M/NM \$44/\$49 S&H..... \$ 5

***Alsace-Lorraine Atlantic Bridge to Germany* by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher,**

M/NM..... \$18/\$20 S&H\$3.50

***Pomerania Atlantic Bridge to Germany* by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher,**

M/NM.....\$19.75/\$22 S&H \$3.50

***Baden Atlantic Bridge to Germany* by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher**

M/NM.....\$18/\$20 S&H\$3.50

***Lands of the German Empire and Before, Second Edition,* by Wendy K. Uncapher,**

M/NM.....\$18/\$20 S&H\$3.50

***How to Read and Understand Meyers Orts Meyers Geographical and Commercial Gazetteer of the German Empire,* by Wendy K. Uncapher,**

M/NM.....\$8.10/\$9 S&H\$3

***German Maps and Facts for Genealogy Second Edition,* by Wendy K. Uncapher and Linda M. Herrick,**

M/NM\$12.50/\$14 S&H\$3.50

***If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records* by Edna M. Bentz, M/NM.....\$15.50/\$17.25**

S&H\$3.50

MAGS Membership Lapel Pin

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

MAGS BAGS

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

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

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

**ORDER FORM. Circle 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 _____
STREET ADDRESS _____
CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 _____

ITEM COST	_____
6% SALES TAX (MD addresses only)	_____
SHIPPING	_____
TOTAL COST (Amount enclosed)	_____



The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Apollo, PA
15613
Permit No. 86

PO Box 334
Glenn Dale MD 20769-0334
ISSN 1059-9762

Address Service Requested

MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

NAME(S)

HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR ABOUT MAGS ?

LIST 4 SURNAMES YOU ARE RESEARCHING

Membership year runs January 1 through December 31.

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE _____ ZIP + 4 _____

PHONE

E-MAIL

Annual Membership Fee:

\$15.00 (individual) or \$20.00 (family)

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

Gunter Schanzenbacher

725 Fir Spring Dr.

Waynesboro PA 17268-2914

New members joining anytime during the calendar year receive all copies of that year's newsletter