



Der Kurier

Volume 28, Number 4, December 2010

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Diane Kuster

Members' voices heard in meeting evaluations

Several years ago the MAGS board under the leadership of then President John Humphrey discussed creating an evaluation form that would be placed into each attendee's packet to rate several areas of each meeting. These areas include our speakers, session topics, speaker handouts, meeting locales and facilities and vendors to name a few.

Our 2nd Vice President at that time, Robert Reisinger, created an evaluation form, which has been in use since then with minor modifications. Following each meeting Bob and now Carol Carman would take the forms submitted and summarize them into a readable format for the board. The board receives the summary within a few days of the close of the meeting and we review the comments via email and at the next board meeting. It is these comments from which we are learning and striving to make our meetings better for all of our attendees and I will address each area above in this article.

Speakers and Session Topics

We are fortunate to have several board

members with strong ties to speakers within the genealogical community and as a result over the years we have had some wonderful sessions relating to not just general research but Germanic research in particular.

When looking for speakers regarding a particular topic or topics we try to engage speakers local to the area where our meeting will be held. When we engage local speakers we usually have more than one making presentations at the meeting. If we contract with a speaker outside the Mid-Atlantic region and we're flying that speaker in then we look for a speaker who can present at a minimum three sessions. Speaker honorariums, hotel and airfare (when applicable) all come out of your registration fees.

We do not require our speakers to be of German descent as we try to present topics relating to all aspects of genealogy such as census, DNA, record locations, etc. We hope that if the speaker is not of German descent or not performing German research that they can possibly include records showing persons, who

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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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
- Quarterly journal, *Der Kurier*
- MAGS Lending Library
- Ahnentafels published in *Der Kurier*
- Queries

A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.

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

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

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

MAGS board listens to evaluation feedback

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are from Germany or of German descent, but we do not require or demand this. For instance at our Fall 2010 meeting we had Martin Andresen present a talk on military records and their benefit to genealogists. Another time we had a speaker address the use of DNA and its benefit to genealogy.

There are some speakers we cannot engage simply because they are will only speak on the national conference level. That's their loss not ours. We look for speakers, who are not just knowledgeable on their specific topic but who hold the audience's attention and are entertaining as well. Dr. John Colleta is one example of a speaker, who is an expert in his field and is very amusing as well.

We also welcome and we seek out MAGS members who are willing to speak on topics relating to their research or particular areas of genealogy. Engaging our own members as speakers at our meetings is one way for us to get our membership involved. Many have been doing research for years and knowledge and solutions to breaking down the brick walls that confront all of us is of value to many.

It's not just present and past board members like John Humphrey, Susannah Brooks, Dr. Kenneth Heger and Corinne Earnest who have spoken eloquently and expertly but other members like Joseph Neville and Sharon Hodges, who have educated us in different areas of German genealogy.

In upcoming meetings Ken Heger, John Humphrey, Susannah Brooks and Gunter Schanzenbacher will give presentations related to their research and the databases they are creating from the US Consular records from Germany. Bob Greiner will also present a session on New York Lutheran Church Records in the Fall.

Many of you attend other genealogical and historical society meetings where speakers are heard. If you know of someone who is engaging and knowledgeable in any aspect of genealogy please contact any board member and let us know. We may not get them onto a program right away but we will consider them for a future meeting.

Speaker Handouts

An important aspect of our meetings is the handouts that a speaker gives us for the attendee packets. Comments on the evaluation forms range from "The speakers handouts were great with a lot of information" or "The speaker's handouts were limited and didn't correlate to what he or she spoke about." Naturally I'm paraphrasing here but I think you understand the gist of what we read on the forms.

I need to note that we have no control over handouts. It's up to the individual speaker whether they want to give us handouts or not. Naturally we encourage them to do so as it benefits the attendee even when the notes might be limited in detail. Some handouts will range from a single sheet to six and sometimes eight pages of material. MAGS pays to photocopy the handouts; and one year we spent a small fortune photocopying one speaker's handouts. The wealth of material that this speaker gave us was phenomenal! My arms bulked up just from bringing the boxes that contained the packets into the meeting!

In the past I've had members contact me for copies of the handouts because they may have been unable to attend the meeting. Our board voted several years ago to not sell or give away any speaker's notes. This is one of the benefits that attendees receive for paying for and attending meetings. This decision was made because of the time that speakers put into the research and preparation for their session.

Another factor, speakers do not want their handouts given away or sold. Many, if not most, speakers copyright their material and it cannot be published without their written permission. With the surge in Internet use and the capability to digitize books and other material a lot of items are popping up on sites without an author's permission.

With that said if you desire a speaker's handout you must register for the meeting whether you plan to attend or not. If you register for the meeting and do not check-in at the door your packet with all inserts are mailed to you within a week following the meeting.

Location, Location, Location

We all know how location plays a part in most things in life and with our meetings it's no different. Our spring meeting has been held in a central location for longer than I have been involved with our society. In that time I can remember having our Spring meeting in different locations because of special circumstances. In one instance we were asked to be the host society for a regional NGS conference in Columbia, Maryland. For another we had the opportunity to be a part of the 400th year celebration of the first Germans to America and we held our Spring meeting in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Originally we held our Spring meeting at Blob's Park in Jessup, Maryland. Blob's Park was a traditional German beerhall type facility with spacious grounds. While the theme of the location naturally was perfect for our group sadly the facilities were not for a few reasons. The sound system at Blob's was horrendous and attendees had a hard time hearing and understanding the speakers. We repeatedly requested two buffet lines to speed up the serving process and Blob's refused to accommodate us. The lighting was poor for the vendors and the place was not as clean, and getting worse, as one would want. Also, the ownership of Blob's didn't care one way or the other if we used their facility. We didn't fill the place so we weren't a money maker for them. Lastly the imminent closure of Blob's Park told us that it was time to move on. The Comfort Inn and Conference Center has been utilized ever since. We have established an excellent working relationship with the sales manager and this location is central to the District of Columbia, Annapolis, Baltimore and other points of interest for both research and entertainment in this region. It is situated right off of the US 50/301 corridor making it easy to access. Up until this year we were also provided with a wonderful menu, but I'll address that later.

Another item that played a major part in our decision to contract with the Comfort Inn was the cost associated with the use of their conference center. Like speaker fees the cost of the center is comes from your registration fees. If we deem a location too expensive we will not use it. In the past ten to eleven years we have raised our registration fees only once that I can remember.

When we plan our Fall meetings we try to pick a location that offers a great facility, research opportunities and plentiful sightseeing. We have found that when we move out of the DC-Northern Virginia area that our attendance falls dramatically. The exception to this rule is Gettysburg where we have sold out or come close to selling out our meeting. This has happened twice in ten years. We also do very well in Hagerstown, Maryland.

We've had many suggestions for meetings in northwest New Jersey, which had a large German population; Pittsburgh and its environs, which we are seriously considering; Baltimore; western Virginia in the Shenandoah-Interstate 81 corridor and southern Virginia to name a few. As I've said we do look at all of these and we try to select a region and center that will not cost us a fortune. While we mainly use hotels or other conference centers we have used a church hall as well. We are fortunate to have program chairs that are able to travel to locations and scout out facilities. We also encourage our membership to recommend facilities that will accommodate groups of 100 or more and are easily accessible by vehicle and for the handicapped.

Vendors

We invite vendors as a service to our attendees. One of the complaints we receive is the need for more vendors. A number of factors come into play as to why we have a limited number of vendors at our meetings. First, we're in competition with other functions on the same weekend. While we make every effort to avoid holding our meeting the same weekend as other groups it cannot always be avoided. A vendor invitation to our meetings is mailed at least six months ahead of the next meeting so they can get us on their calendar.

Vendors are there to make money and unfortunately we've had somewhat of a reputation for not spending money; so vendors have a tendency to avoid us. As it was explained to us by a former board member, who is also a vendor: a vendor is going to attend a function where they know that not only will they break even but make money as well. A vendor not only has to pay for the tables or space that they use but also possibly a hotel bill for their room stay, gas and wear and

tear on their vehicles and other expenses such as food.

We invite vendors of just not books but of genealogical supplies as well. We also solicit door prizes if they can't attend. We have some vendors who regularly supply us with a door prize. In the past we've invited vendors, who sell other items of a German nature such as clothing but to no avail. We will continue to solicit vendors and if you have suggestions for vendors please do not hesitate to send an email to registration@magsgen.com.

Your board decided several years ago to sell books relating to German genealogy. The call for a Sales Manager went out and Judy Dohner joined us. Through Judy's efforts in acquiring inventory the MAGS store has thrived not just at our meetings but at regional and national conferences. The sale of books has helped attract attention to our booth and new members to our society.

We have also added a couple of pins espousing our heritage and other books, while not necessarily related to genealogy, are German in nature. The greatest find was *Culinaria Germany* a cookbook that blends German cooking and German history in one volume. The softcover version of this book was found by Susannah Brooks and we sold every copy we had at our next meeting. We're still on the lookout for more or the next best item!

Things Out Of Our Control

There are items totally out of our control such as having a microwave and refrigerator in your hotel room. If you want these in your room please request them of the hotel when making your reservation.

The other item we can't control is when the chef quits, which is what happened before our Spring 2010 meeting at the Comfort Inn. We planned on having a German menu. This came about because at our previous meeting at the Comfort Inn the chef saw we were a German themed organization and he let us know he could prepare a menu for us since he regularly had a German meal as part of his monthly special offerings at the restaurant.

The day of the meeting we were served buffet style, which never happened before, and it then came to our attention that the chef had left the Comfort Inn's employ sometime before the

meeting. The board was disappointed as some of the vegetables were barely cooked. We can't control their cooking but we can control what we will select menu-wise in the future.

Lastly, we cannot refund your registration fee or any portion of it after the date listed on the registration form or on the day of the meeting. If you need to leave the facility during the lunch service and risk missing your meal please let a board member know and we'll ask the banquet manager to hold a meal for you. We give the sales manager a final count a few weeks before the meeting for planning purposes. They charge us accordingly based on the number.

Things we're working on to improve

Our lunches are traditionally served by a wait staff. It is very rare that lunch is buffet style and we try to avoid this. If we should ever have a buffet style lunch again we will announce this at the beginning of the meeting and if you should need assistance to let us know. We will work to ensure that you get your lunch.

If you have special dietary needs it's noted on the registration form to include a note with your registration with your restrictions or needs. While we have conveyed to the hotel that we need special meals and they've accommodated us we've dropped the ball when trying to locate the guest who requested the meal.

This has resulted in at least one instance of that guest going offsite for lunch. The banquet manager did walk around with the meals but no one spoke up.

Going forward the registrar will put a sticker on the registration packet of the attendee who requested a vegetarian or limited ingredient meal. We will ask the guest where they are sitting and when lunch service begins we will ensure that the guest gets their meal.

In conclusion

Your board works hard to make your meeting experience as great as possible. We know there are things we need to improve and that's why we use the evaluation process at each meeting and we will continue to so.

Naturally the evaluation form is not the only way to express your opinion or to make suggestions. Please do not hesitate to contact me at president@magsgen.com with your recommendations.

died soon after.” (Photocopy of actual page appears above)

FamilySearch wiki’s page on Berks County, PA, genealogy gives information about the availability of the *Reading Eagle* newspaper on the Google News Archive.

Sukol says that Baumann was obviously held in very high esteem. “Since the Dries line is one of my brick walls, how I wish that one of the genealogical charts which he also prepared, according to the article, had passed down through the Dries family!”

From the *Reading Eagle*, December 24, 1906 edition, p. 5

Intinerant(sic) Penman’s Visits Missed in Many Households

Since the Death of August Bauman, of Allentown, His Field in Berks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Bucks Counties Has Been Neglected – He was Master of His Art and There Will Probably be no Successor. Origin of the “Fracturschrift.”

August Bauman, of Allentown, the aged ornamental penman, who died recently in a hospital in Lehigh after being stricken with paralysis at the home of Solomon Dries, near Vera Cruz, for many years was a familiar figure in hundreds of homes in Berks, Lehigh, Montgomery and Bucks counties, where many specimens of his “Fracturschrift” are to be found in large family bibles, on baptismal, confirmation and marriage certificates, etc.

His visits are missed in many a household and there appears to be no one to take his place in executing the ancient art of ornamental lettering according to the German text.

There are other penmen of this sort in Berks and the neighboring counties, but like Bauman, they prefer to travel only their prescribed circuits and it is very seldom that one of them can be induced to cover new territory.

Bauman, many years ago, lived with his wife and children in Eastern Berks. He taught school in Maxatawny and in parts of Lehigh county, but when county superintendents began to examine the teachers, Bauman decided to devote all his time to penmanship.

His Work Resembled That of Monks of the Middle Ages.

His work was not merely that of the scrivener, for he employed the ornamental letters of the illuminated manuscripts produced by the monks of the Middle Ages, and he was therefore one of the very few modern penmen who have preserved this ancient art.

Bauman was able to make a living through his skill by reason of the love for the old-style ornamental pen work that has prevailed among the Pennsylvania Germans ever since their forefathers emigrated from the Rhine country two centuries ago, bringing with them their manuscript volumes of religious works.

This state was the haven of refuge for the “plain sects” who fled from Germany. As they were not permitted to print their hymnbooks, sermons and other literature in the Fatherland, they laboriously transcribed volume after volume, and thus there arose among them many men skilled in the use of the pen. Most of these volumes were adorned with large and intricate initial letters at the beginning of each chapter, and title-pages were executed in inks of several colors, after the style of the books made in the mediaeval cloisters before the invention of printing.

Manuscript Volumes of Religious Works.

Even in Pennsylvania, when the printing press was available, some of these sects, continued to encourage their penmen, and in Eastern Pennsylvania are preserved many manuscript volumes of sermons and other religious works that were transcribed after they had established their homes upon this side of the Atlantic.

It was the custom of the Pennsylvania Germans to preserve family records, which were revised by a professional penman in every generation. In addition, the baptismal and confirmation certificates of every child were also kept in similar form, and when the child was married the services of the penman were again required to draw up a marriage certificate. These documents were framed in the most attractive style of the times, and hung upon the walls of the parlor.

Though the regard for this old custom remains to some extent to this day the number of professional penmen has dwindled greatly.

Visited Patrons Once a Year.

Bauman arranged to visit all parts of his chosen territory at least once a year. He usually appeared in the parishes of the Lutheran and Reformed churches at the confirmation season, in the spring or fall, and obtained orders for confirmation certificates from the young people who had joined the church. The clergymen gave him information about the baptisms that had taken place since his last visit, and a visit to the parents usually led to orders for baptismal certificates.

From the pastors' certificates on printed blanks the penman obtained data for the more elaborate certificate which he was to prepare for show purposes. He carried with him an assortment of certificate forms, varying in price from 25 cents for those in black and white to \$1 or more for lithographed copies with gilt borders and red ornaments. Upon these blanks he then filled out the necessary particulars relative to the ceremony.

Great Genealogical Charts.

He wrote the records of births, marriages and deaths in the big family bibles that lie upon the marble-top tables in the parlors, and he prepared great genealogical charts, bearing all the names of all the ancestors and descendants and uncles and aunts and nephews and nieces of the family for whom they were prepared.

Some of the large charts that he prepared for framing look as though they had been painted, but all the lettering was executed with a pen.

He generally traveled on foot, carrying an umbrella and a case containing his pens and inks. He manufactured all the ink he used. Red was his favorite color, although he employed almost every shade.

As a natural result of his work, Bauman knew the intimate history of almost every family in his territory, and he took peculiar delight in following the career of his "boys" and "girls," as he termed those whose baptismal or confirmation certificates he had prepared.

Mementos of His Skill.

In every community there was usually one family with whom he was particularly intimate and with whom he made his home when he visited that community. To such families he presented mementos

of his skill. One of the most interesting of these is in the possession of Allen Fegley of Pennsburg. It (?) a linen cover for the back of a rocking chair, and upon it the penman had drawn a picture of himself standing at a crossroads and reading a sign which bears these words: "Three miles to Allen Fegley's."

Mr. Bauman was a native of Hungary, and was seventy years old. In his speech he gave evidence of culture, employing the purest German in conversation. He came to America in his youth and served in the civil war. Allentown he regarded as his home, although he was absent on his journeys during most of the year.

BIRTHS.

Solomon A. Aries, Born June 28th 1883, in Maratauny Township Berks Co. Pa. and was Baptized August 4th 1883, by Rev. J. J. Cressman, Sponsors: The Parents, -

Cheresia M. Aries, Born February 3rd 1885, in Geding, Austria, Europa, - and was Baptized Sponsors: Annie Marlin, Elijah, Daniel, 11th June 1905, Joseph, Franklin, 18th June 1906.

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Ackers plentiful in Lancaster

Jon Acker asked about ACKERs on fraktur. The Landis Valley Farm Museum just north of Lancaster, Pennsylvania,* has six Taufscheine (birth and baptism certificates) that mention ACKERs.

They were made for the children of Henrich and Maria (STAUFER) ACKER, many of whom died young. This may have been an Anabaptist family, for no information concerning baptism was recorded on the printed Taufscheine used for Henrich and Maria ACKER's children.

In order by birth, the first was made for Johannes ACKER, who was born about one o'clock in the afternoon on May 5, 1793. Johannes was born in Hempfield Township, Lancaster County. An added note says Johannes died on March 14, 1810 at the age of 16 years, 10 months, and 10 days.

A certificate made for Johannes's younger brother, Henrich, says Henrich ACKER was born about two o'clock in the afternoon on March 15, 1795. He was born in Earl Township, Lancaster County. Added notes on Henrich's Taufschein (singular for Taufscheine) say he died March 24, 1814.

A certificate made for Maria ACKER, daughter of Henrich and Maria (STAUFER) ACKER, says she was born about one o'clock in the afternoon on December 14, 1801 in Manheim Township, Lancaster County.

Anna ACKER was born about eleven o'clock in the morning on August 3, 1804. She was born in Manheim Township. Apparently Anna survived, for an added note on this certificate says, "This is my grandmother's birth paper. Mother's mother. Nathan E. REIST."

Barbara ACKER was born November 9, 1806 and died August 22, 1824 at the age of 17

years, 9 months, and 13 days. Barbara was born in Dauphin County.

Peter ACKER's certificate says he was born August 6, 1809 in Dauphin County. He died August 30, 1812 at the age of 3 years and 24 days.

The Free Library of Philadelphia has a Taufschein made for Henrich STAUFFER, son of Joseph and Catharina (ACKER) STAUFFER. Henrich STAUFFER was born April 13, 1802 in Warwick Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning baptism was recorded on Henrich's certificate. This Taufschein is pictured in the second volume of *The Pennsylvania German Fraktur* of The Free Library of Philadelphia.

The current location is unknown of a Taufschein made for Jacob ACKER, son of Henrich and Maria (ROHRER) ACKER. Jacob was born about eight o'clock in the morning on August 11, 1782 in Rapho Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning baptism was recorded on Jacob's certificate.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Margaretha ACKER, daughter of Jacob and Margaretha (MICKLEIN) ACKER. Margaretha ACKER was born in Earl Township, Lancaster County, on September 17, 1820. She was baptized on November 26, 1820 by Peter FILBERT. Margaretha's parents sponsored her baptism.

In the booklet, *Berks County Pennsylvania Fraktur: Geburts und Taufscheine*, Richard and Rosemarie Machmer picture a Taufschein made for Lea ACKER, daughter of Jonathann and Salome (SCHÖFER) ACKER. Lea was born about five o'clock in the morning on July 10, 1814. She was born in Maxatawny Township, Berks County, and baptized August 14, 1814 by Johan KNOSKY, Lutheran. The

sponsors at Lea's baptism were Nathan SCHÖFER and Elisabeth ACKER, both single.

The booklet, Hubers on Fraktur gives data from a Bible record related to the above. It says Lea ACKER was the wife of William HUBER. They were married by Daniel ZELLER on March 16, 1845. William HUBER was the son of Jacob and Catharina (DANKEL) HUBER. William was born December 19, 1821 and baptized by B. GERMAN (no date given). The sponsors at his baptism were his maternal grandparents, Jacob and Christina DANKEL.

The Bible record then repeats what was written on Lea ACKER's Taufschein, but the spellings of names are Anglicized. According to the Bible record, Lea ACKER was the daughter on Jonathan and Salome (SCHAEFFER) ACKER. She was born July 10, 1814 and baptized by J. KNOSKY. The sponsors at Lea's baptism were Nathan SCHAEFFER and Elisabeth ACKER.

William and Lea (ACKER) HUBER had two sons. Jonathan Edward Franklin HUBER was born June 13, 1845 and baptized by D. ZELLER (no date given). The baptismal sponsors were his maternal grandparents, Jonathan and Salome ACKER.

A stillborn son was born March 11, 1847. The record goes on to list four daughters born to "Edward HUBER" whose wife's name was not given. William and Leah [sic] HUBER, grandparents, sponsored the baptism of the last of these daughters. She was Isabella Sophia HUBER, born November 26, 1879 and baptized January 11, 1880 by Thomas REBER.

A Taufschein made for Maria ACKER, daughter of Jacob and Anna (ERB) ACKER, says Maria ACKER was born about two o'clock in the morning on March 22, 1819 in Warwick Township, Lancaster County. No information concerning baptism was recorded on her certificate. Maria's Taufschein sold at Conestoga Auctions in Manheim on December 5, 2008.

In the third volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a Taufschein made for Maria's half-sister, Catharina. According to this example, Catharina ACKER was born about nine o'clock in the evening on December 2, 1830 in East Hempfield Township, Lancaster County. She was the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth (SCHNEIDER) ACKER. No information concerning baptism was listed on Catharina's certificate.

A Bible record in a private collection is related to the above two Taufscheine. It says Jacob and Anna (ERB) ACKER married in May 1818. On May 23, 1826, Jacob married a second time. His second wife was Elizabeth SCHNEIDER.

According to this record, Jacob ACKER was born November 16, 1797 and died May 2, 1864 at the age of 66 years, 5 months, and 16 days. His first wife, Anna ERB, was born August 31, 1794 and died October 3, 1822 at the age of 28 years, 1 month, and 2 days. Jacob's second wife, Elizabeth, was born February 21, 1806 and died April 13, 1865 at the age of 59 years, 1 month, and 22 days.

Maria ACKER, mentioned on the above Taufschein, was the first child of Jacob and Anna (ERB) ACKER. They also had a daughter named Anna, who was born April 8, 1821. On March 31, 1827, Jacob and Elizabeth (SCHNEIDER) ACKER had a son named Henry.

Other children included John ACKER, who was born August 2, 1829 and died December 21, 1829 at the age of 4 months and 19 days. Catharine ACKER was born December 2, 1830. Joseph ACKER was born May 9, 1833 and died October 7, 1837 at the age of 4 years, 5 months, and 28 days. Elizabeth ACKER was born November 6, 1836. Veronica ACKER was born November 9, 1839. Susanna ACKER was born May 3, 1842. Jacob ACKER was born December 26, 1844 and died August 11, 1847 at the age of 2 years, 7 months, and 26 days.\

Added entries mention Henry ACKER with no information following his name, and Sarah Ann ACKER, who died July 25, 1908 at the age of 80 years, 11 months, and 13 days. Additional notes mention Sara ACKER, who was born January 12, 1848, and Herriett ACKER, who was born August 6, 1851.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for William Jacob, son of Allen J. and Eliza (ACKER) FUNK. William Jacob was born September 23, 1876 in Lower Macungie Township, Lehigh County. He was baptized by Thomas A. REBER on January 29, 1877. The parents sponsored William Jacob's baptism.

According to a Bible record made for the Jacob and Catharina (ROTH) BICKEL family of Berks County, Heinrich and Phillipina ACKER sponsored the baptism of Jacob BICKEL. Jacob BICKEL was the son of Jakob and Justina (DOLL) BICKEL. Jacob was born May 1, 1827 in Edenkoben in the Rhenish Pfalz, Bavaria (Rheinpfalz, Baiern). He was baptized and confirmed, but no information was given concerning where, when, and by whom. Jacob married Catharina ROTH, daughter of Peter and

Anna (HAAG) ROTH. Catharina was born April 24, 1824 in Elmenstein in the Rhenish Pfalz.

Again, little information is given about her baptism and confirmation other than the names of the baptismal sponsors, Catharina HAAG and her spouse. Both Jacob and Catharina (ROTH) BICKEL were baptized in Reformed congregations.

The record goes on to say Jacob BICKEL and Catharina ROTH married on April 29, 1855 (no location given) and had seven children, all born in Berks County.

As is customary, I sent Jon ACKER additional information about ACKERs on fraktur.

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

* Unless otherwise noted, all locations mentioned are in Pennsylvania.

FAMILY REGISTERS

Fraunfelders from Berks County, PA

A family register made for the FRAUNFELDER family begins by saying the Bible was presented to Miss Sarah FRAUNFELDER on July 20, 1879 by her father, David FRAUNFELDER.

David FRAUNFELDER of Perry Township [Berks County] and Sarah KERCHNER of Greenwich Township [Berks County] were married by Isaac RELLER on May 29, 1852. David FRAUNFELDER was a son of Johannes FRAUNFELDER and his wife whose maiden name was ZUWER, but whose first name was not given.

David FRAUNFELDER was born about ten o'clock at night on December 19, 1817 in Windsor Township, Berks County. He was

baptized March 8, 1818 by Carhl [Carl] HERMANN and confirmed by HERMANN on May 19, 1839. The sponsors at David's baptism were Jacob and Magdalena ZUWER.

David FRAUNFELDER died May 8, 1883 at the age of 65 years, 4 months, and 19 days. David's wife, Sarah KERCHNER, was born July 25, 1816 and died March 24, 1879 at the age of 62 years, 7 months, and 20 days.

David and Sarah (KERCHNER) FRAUNFELDER had two children. Isaac FRAUNFELDER was born about four o'clock in the afternoon on June 12, 1853 in Greenwich Township. He was baptized August 2, 1853 by Isaac RELLER. The sponsors at Isaac's baptism were Gottlieb KERCHNER and his wife. An

added note says Isaac FRAUNFELDER died June 14, 1917 at the age of 64 years and 9 days.

David and Sarah's second child was a daughter named Sara, who was born about 4:30 in the morning on May 23, 1856 in Perry

Township. She was baptized October 4, 1856 by J.S. HERMAN. The sponsors at Sara's baptism were her grandparents, Johannes FRAUNFELDER and his wife.

Bible record of Christian Guth

On June 26, 2010, Horst Auctions in Ephrata sold a Bible containing the family register of Christian GUTH of Conestoga Township, Lancaster County.

The record was written in German and dated January 2, 1835. According to this record, Christian GUTH was the son of Johannes and Maria GUTH. Christian was born January 1, 1796. On November 2, 1818, Christian GUTH married Catherine BRENNEMAN, the daughter of Johannes and Elisabeth BRENNEMAN. Catherine was born February 11, 1800. Christian and Catherine were married by Pastor HOFFMEYER in Lancaster.

The GUTHs had eleven children. Johannes was born August 22, 1819. Maria was born May 5, 1821. Barbara was born March 7, 1823. Nancy was born October 14, 1824 and died two days later.

Betsy was born November 10, 1825. Catherine was born March 15, 1831 and died December 29 at the age of 9 months and 14 days. Christian GUTH Jr. was born January 23, 1833.

Heinrich was born September 7, 1836. Elias was born June 20, 1839. Jacob was born December 17, 1841. And Abraham was born May 18, 1846.

Hoyer / Machemer family

A Bible record written in German and English was made for the George and Mary Ann (MACHEMER) HOYER family of Berks County, Pennsylvania. George HOYER married Mary Ann MACHEMER in Reading, Pennsylvania, on April 26, 1856. The pastor who married them was Augustus L. HERMAN of Reading.

The HOYERs had nine children. A stillborn daughter was born in 1856. A son named John Morris HOYER says he was born in Bern Township on May 4, 1857. He died January 20, 1859 at the age of 1 year, 8 months, and 16 days.

Märy Rebecca was born October 25, 1858 and baptized. No information was given about her baptism except that the baptismal sponsor was Märy MOSER. Märy Rebecca died September 11, 1859 at the age of 10 months and 16 days.

Eva Cath. was born January 29, 1860 and baptized April 8, 1860 by A.L. HERMAN. The sponsors at Eva Cath.'s baptism were

Sal[omon] and Cath[arina] HOYER. Eva Catharina died December 29, 1868, at the age of 7 years and 11 months.

Henriette was born October 4, 1861 and baptized February 2, 1862 by A.L. HERMAN. The sponsors at her baptism were the parents.

Ellen Susanna was born October 29, 1863 and baptized January 31, 1864 by A.L. HERMAN. The parents sponsored Ellen Susanna's baptism. Ellen Susanna died September 8, 1867 at the age of 3 years, 10 months, and 12 days.

Georg was born September 26, 1865 and baptized December 17, 1865 by B.D. ZWEIZIG. The only sponsor at Georg's baptism was his mother.

Rosabella was born October 29, 1868 and baptized March 2, 1869 by B.D. ZWEIZIG. The only sponsor at Rosabella's baptism was the mother. According to the Bible record, Rosabella died January 5, 1869 at the age of 1 year, 2 months, and 7 days.

Obviously, Rosabella's date of death was recorded incorrectly. The scrivener probably meant she died in 1870.

Deborah Sarah was born February 7, 1873 in Bern [Township] and baptized by B.D. ZWEIZIG on April 22, 1873.

The only sponsor at Deborah Sarah's baptism was Sarah ROTH.

Fischer / Leibensperger Bible record

A family register in an undated German-language Bible printed by the National Publishing Co. in Philadelphia was made for the FISCHER/LEIBENSBERGER family of Lehigh and Berks County, Pennsylvania.

According to this register, Geo. H.M. FISCHER and Alice LEIBENSBERGER were married by Eli KELLER, Reformed, in Zionsville, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, on August 25, 1883. Emma D. (?) KELLER witnessed their marriage.

George Henry FISCHER was the son of Lorenz and Elisabeth (MOLL) FISCHER. He was born July 23, 1861 in District Township, Berks County, and baptized by A.J. HERMAN on September 20, 1861. The sponsors at George Henry's baptism were Jeff. and Amanda RAUCH.

George Henry's wife, Alice, was the daughter of David and Levina (HEINBACH) LEIBENSBERGER. Alice was born May 29, 1866 in Longswamp Township, Berks County. She was baptized by A.J. HERMAN on August 1, 1866. Her parents sponsored her baptism.

The children of George Henry and Alice FISCHER were:

Freddie, born February 28, 1884 in Longswamp Township. He was baptized by Eli KELLER on April 27, 1884. Freddie's parents sponsored his baptism.

William Henry was born March 8, 1886 in Hereford Township, Berks County. He was baptized by Eli KELLER on May 23, 1886. Again, the parents sponsored the baptism.

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.

John & Eleanor Blankenbaker of Chadds Ford, PA

(No Names)

Jean Marie Nemeth of Pittsburgh, PA

(Brinkheide, Messick, Michaelis, Hutten)

Mike & Carol Stassik of Pittsburgh, PA

(Pscheidl, Steingraber)

Janet Sharp of Fayetteville, PA

(Scharf, Sharp, Paczkowski)

Elizabeth A. Reid of Rockville, MD

(Rasinski, Tybnitzki, Stetnik, Buckow)

Lesle Dunn of Pittsburgh, PA

(Knecht, Kuhns, Meyer, Upperman)

Willam Austin of Hingham, MA

(Frederick, Hunter, Brock)

Timothy A. Raab of Pylesville, MD

(Schafer/Schaefer, Johannes, Kreipl, Pimmer)

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

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Phone: (703) 683-6100

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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

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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.

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN / ***Book Reviews***

The Two Johan Michael Grauels

By Gail Komar

2008, Masthof Press, Morgantown, PA, 207 pages,
\$30.

This book is actually separate family histories of two men with the same name, who arrived in Pennsylvania within three years of each other (1733 and 1736).

One Johan Michael Grauel was married in Heuchelheim, Frankenthal, Pfalz in 1725 and was probably born about 1683. He settled in Reading, Berks County, Pennsylvania and his immediate descendants remained in that area.

The other was born 16 January 1701 in Langenselbold, Hesse. This man and his family also settled in Berks County Pennsylvania, but at least some of his immediate descendants moved farther west to Lancaster, York, and Adams Counties Pennsylvania, Frederick County Maryland, and into several Ohio counties.

For many years researchers mistakenly combined these families.

Gail Komar, has published two separate histories based on her research and that of other members of the Crawl Name Association. Within this book the histories are printed on different color paper and each has its own every-name index.

Each family is traced in America until the mid-19th Century (4 or 5 generations). The histories are presented in easy to follow descendants-list format with some narrative about individuals. Throughout there are full source citations at the bottom of each page.

For anyone researching the surnames Graul, Craul, Kroll, Crowell, or Crawl, this book would be extremely valuable. A few other

common surnames in the book are Moon, Spangler, Sadler, Hines, Oyler, and May.

It should be noted that Gail Komar is a charter member and former board member of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society.

Reviewed by Susannah Brooks

The Hanging of Susanna Cox **The True Story of Pennsylvania's Most** **Notorious Infanticide & the Legend That's** **Kept It Alive**

By Patricia Earnest Suter and Russell &
Corinne Earnest

2010, Stackpole Books, 164 pages with index.
www.stackpolebooks.com.

This is the story of Susanna Cox and the infanticide of her illegitimate child which took place in the early 1800s.

The authors came across Susanna's plight while visiting the Kutztown Folk Festival where her hanging is re-enacted several times throughout the festival. Using handwritten transcripts and accounts the tragic story of Susanna's subsequent trial and hanging are told.

Interspersed throughout the book is the poem that was published on a broadside and sold leading up to the days of this young, Pennsylvanian German girls hanging.

The authors take you on murder mystery thru time leaving no stone unturned. It's a story of did she or didn't she and who was the father and why wasn't he brought to trial as well for his transgression.

Analysis of the evidence presented at trial and in transcripts helps to lead the authors to a conclusion of who the father may have been.

The justice system and medical procedures during the early 1800s are explained

and how going forward changes in both were incorporated for better or worse.

Reviewed by Diane Kuster

Visiting Your Ancestral Town

By Carolyn Schott

2010. Columbia-Capstone, Redmond, WA. 94 pages.
\$6.49

While this author's primary research interest has been ethnic Germans east of modern (or even historical) Germany's boundaries, her book is a primer for anyone who's made the decision to visit an ancestral village – whether that place is “across the pond” or merely in another part of the United States.

Schott has been a board member of the Germans from Russia Heritage Society, but she has traced various lines back to Germany proper and has made *Heimat* visits in both Germany and today's Ukraine.

Her book is the first of a series of books called “Yes You! Yes Now!” and are not intended to be in-depth studies of their topics. As its back cover says, they are created for “the action-oriented person who wants to try something new and wants to find out about it now.”

This book seamlessly melds instruction with anecdotes. The author uses her genealogy background well in giving just enough tips on how to go about looking for immigrant's home villages for a non-genealogist to get started.

Schott ticks off the various reasons people give for such searches: trying to connect with

family stories and memories; the awe of walking in more distant ancestors' footsteps; and the opportunity to take the road less traveled.

She's also adept at going through “the good, the bad, and the ugly” ... the book has one chapter about when things go right – and another about when things go wrong!

A key piece of advice – as well as the subject of a well-done chart at the book's end – is whether to travel as part of a standard package tour, a small specialty tour, or as an independent traveler.

This particular decision has no right answer – each way of traveling has pro's and con's, and it's really up the individual and his or her comfort zone as far as what to do. What Schott does is lay out the template for the reader to “fill in” with his or her own priorities.

While Schott takes an upbeat attitude about the quest for an ancestral village, she's honest about what potential problems and pitfalls may await, so that readers can decide for themselves whether they want to do what's involved.

The author also gives a short rundown of genealogical methodology and documentation for beginners.

And, all in all, it's beginners who will benefit the most from this book and other still to come in the “Yes You! Yes Now!” series – giving them an “easy reading” start to what could become a rewarding quest to connect with a “sense of ancestral place” in America, Europe or both.

Reviewed by James M. Beidler

President announces new MAGS publicity team

Please welcome Roy Shiflet, who is our new Publicity Chairperson. Roy will take over from current MAGS President and Registrar Diane Kuster. Assisting Roy will be George Martel, who has already undertaken the task of putting together a list of all of the Family History Centers in the US and Amy McGraw.

Wanted: Newsletter indexer

MAGS President Diane Kuster is looking for a volunteer to take over the surname indexing of our newsletter. If you are interested or need more information please contact Diane at president@magsgen.com or by phone at (252) 281-5000.

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2011

Feb. 10-12. RootsTech Conference, Salt Palace Convention Center, Salt Lake City, UT. Bringing together technology creators with genealogy users with the goal of spurring innovation. Sponsored by a consortium including FamilySearch, NGS, FGS, NEHGS, Ancestry.com, and computer companies such as Microsoft and Dell. Early bird registration price (\$99) deadline is Jan 7. Price is \$150 thereafter. More information: <http://rootstech.familysearch.org/>

Apr. 2. Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society Spring Seminar at Comfort Inn Conference Center, Bowie, MD. Theme of "Underutilized Twentieth Century Records." Registration: 8:30 am. Conference: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Speakers: Megan Lewis, Chris Naylor, Ken Heger. Registration: registration@magsgen.com or phone Diane Kuster at (252) 373-1684. Hotel phone number for sleeping room reservations: (877) 424-6423

May 11-14. National Genealogical Society 2011 Family History Conference, North Charleston Convention Center, Charleston, SC. Theme: "Where the Past is Still Present" More information: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

June 2-4. Palatines to America National Conference, co-sponsored with Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Sheraton Station Square hotel, Pittsburgh, PA Theme: "Kommen Sie wieder nach Pennsylvania zurück! (Come back to Pennsylvania again!)" Speakers include: John Humphrey, Jim Beidler,

Michael Shaughnessy, and will also include German-themed entertainment and a Dinner Cruise on the Gateway Clipper on the three rivers that give Pittsburgh its nickname. Contact PA Chapter PalAm, PO Box 280, Strasburg, PA 17579; e-mail, eheinlein@comcast.net; website, www.palalam.org

June 10-12. 42nd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, Los Angeles Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. More information: <http://www.scsgenealogy.com/2010jam-home.htm>

Sept. 7-10. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference, "Pathways to the Heartland, Springfield, IL. With local co-host Illinois State Genealogical Society. Plenty of lectures, vendors, special events, and genealogy networking. More information: www.fgsconference.org.

Sept. 9-10. Genealogy Conference at Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center, Kutztown, PA, with speakers Helmut Schmahl from Germany, John Humphrey and Phillip Otterness on Sept. 10. Bus tour of Tulpehocken area on Sept. 9. More information: Lucy Kern, Heritage Center Library, 22 Luckenbill Road, Kutztown, PA 19530; e-mail, pagermanlibrary@Kutztown.edu; Website: <http://www.kutztown.edu/hcl>; telephone, (484) 646-4165

2012

May 9-12. National Genealogical Society 2012 Family History Conference, Cincinnati, OH. Theme: "The Ohio River: Gateway to the

Western Frontier," with many German-themed lectures and events planned. More information: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

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