



Der Kurier

Volume 29, Number 4, December 2011

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Diane Kuster

One hour a month keeps Diane away!

We all know the old saying “One apple a day keeps the doctor away.” Well here’s a new twist...”One hour a month keeps Diane away!” On Saturday, Oct. 29, I addressed our meeting attendees and implored them to donate one hour of their time each month to assist MAGS to create lists of other genealogical societies, historical societies, libraries and genealogy publications to which we can send our membership and meeting brochures. MAGS needs help creating a list of appropriate publications in which to place conference announcements. More on this will follow below but first I would like to update you regarding our Fall meeting in Hagerstown, which was held that same day.

A threat of early season snow became a reality on that Saturday. Hagerstown was forecasted to receive 5 to 8 inches of the white stuff and the snow did begin to fall in the morning. By midday the parking lot was covered with about 1 to 2 inches. Sadly, this prevented several registrants from attending the meeting. Unfortunately refunds could not be issued because we call our numbers into

the hotel one week ahead of the meeting and the hotel orders food for lunch based on those numbers.

A suggestion was made during the first break to see how we could speed up breaks so that anyone not staying the night at The Plaza could get on the road early. We handed out door prizes during lunch and then Bob Greiner began to deliver his presentation on Lutheran Church Records in New York City about 10 minutes ahead of schedule. After a 5 minute break John Humphrey took center stage and delivered his presentation.

We were able to end the meeting one half hour earlier than normal. The Maryland State Road Department did a great job in keeping the interstates clear so traveling home was easier than what we might have thought.

I would like to thank our speakers – Susannah Brooks, Gunter Schanzenbacher, Bob Greiner and John Humphrey – for ensuring they were in Hagerstown for their presentations. I also want to thank Susan

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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
- **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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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, *Der Kurier* Editor, MAGS, PO Box 334, Glenn Dale, MD 20769-0334. E-mail: james@beidler.us

One hour a month ...

(continued from cover)

Scheerer and Carol Carman for manning the check-in table the morning of the meeting and Debra Hoffman for assisting Judy Dohner at the MAGS Sales table during breaks.

OK, now I'll address my adage "One hour a month keeps Diane away!" Our society is no different from most genealogical and historical societies in relation to our dependence upon volunteers for our existence. I had at least two goals when I took over as president two years ago. The first was to have two meeting dates and locations planned a year in advance to take some pressure off of the process. We have accomplished this goal for 2012.

My second goal is to get our membership brochures and meeting flyers to every Family History Center in the United States. I also want to get our meeting notices onto other genealogical society calendars not just in the Mid-Atlantic region but in other states as well. Another great venue for our meeting flyers and membership brochures are libraries.

We have had people come to our meetings from Colorado, Louisiana and Florida and while they are members of our society we have the potential to bring in more. Even though we promote genealogy from the Mid-Atlantic area we are promoting German genealogy and genealogy in general so why not go after the bigger fish? I know we can get membership from outside the region but we can't get it without the assistance of our current members.

"One hour a month keeps Diane away!" That's right ... one hour a month! I'm looking for volunteers who have computers at home to help us gather state by state first all of the genealogical societies, then we'll tackle historical societies and then libraries. We also need to create a list of genealogy publications, such as journals and magazines; in order to send them our meeting information. We already have

a list of FHC's thanks to member George Martel and now it's time to go after the rest.

I know you're asking how this will work and I'll tell you. Some states have a listing of genealogical and historical societies on the Internet. We will compile a list of links to these sites, if available. We will assign one state to you. You will receive an Excel spreadsheet with preset columns for the society name, address, city, state and zip. There will also be a column for the society's web address and email address, if available. You will receive instructions on how to copy and paste information from the website to allow you to complete this task faster. Once you complete the spreadsheet you will email it back to us.

The same information gathering process will apply to libraries as well as magazines and other genealogical publications which are not under a particular society's control. We will start with the Mid-Atlantic region and then branch out from there.

How many members do we need for this project? The more we have the faster we can get done. We have a membership of over 400. If 10 percent of our membership stepped up we're looking at 40 volunteers. That's 1.25 states per person. This is a project that you can work on from home. You don't have to dress up, you can have your coffee and you dictate when you'll work on gathering the information. You're not required to attend board meetings or get up in front of a crowd and deliver a speech. You can remain anonymous to everyone else if you so wish.

What will happen with this information that you have gathered? We will then build e-mail and snail mail lists to get our meeting and membership information out. Outside the Mid-Atlantic region we would prefer e-mail but when necessary we will physically mail out our information.

Please, one hour a month, that's all I ask. If you want to do more that's up to you. Please e-mail me at president@magsgen.com or call me at (252) 281-5000 (if you want me to call you I'll be happy to do so as I have unlimited long distance) for more information or to volunteer your time. I look forward to hearing from you and would greatly appreciate your assistance.

If you would like us to mail flyers or brochures to other groups or organizations that are not necessarily genealogy related but you think might express an interest in what we do please send me their information. I'll be happy to send them our information.

The last area that I wish to address is our website and what we can offer our membership. We have discussed a members only area at our board meetings for some time now and what we can place there just for our members. We have three things that we will be working to place onto the site. First are all of our newsletters dating back to 1982. A CD containing our back issues has been sent to our webmaster, Diane Giannini. Diane anticipates having all of the PDF's on the site by the end of the first quarter. As this happens you will be kept up-to-date. Think about it...you will have the latest *Der Kurier* probably before it arrives in your mailbox!

Another item that we will look to add to the members only area is our spring and fall meeting minutes. We realize that most of our membership cannot attend these meetings and by posting the minutes online for you to see you will have a sense of where we stand as a society. The last items that we are looking to add are indexes currently in the compilation stages. MAGS board members Susannah Brooks, Ken Heger and Gunter Schanzenbacher are gathering information from some underused sources at the National Archives. It is going to take some time to determine how this information will be accessed but I know once it happens it's going to be a goldmine for our members.

Information on how the members only site will be accessed will be in an upcoming *Der Kurier*. I look forward to getting this to you! Many thanks to Judy Dohner for gathering the

Der Kuriers needed for conversion to a PDF and to Bob Greiner and Roy Shiflet for scanning the old newsletters and creating the PDFs!

We began including an evaluation form in our meeting packets several years ago and this meeting was no different. The evaluations allow attendees to critique us on how we're doing in selecting speakers, topics, locations, vendors and lunch to name a few. A section is also provided for comments and suggestions. Carol Carman then takes these and provides the MAGS board with a synopsis of the ratings for the speakers, topics, etc. along with all comments written on the evaluations. In relation to the evaluations received from the Fall meeting I would like to address several comments specifically:

- First, an attendee asked that MAGS brochures be available so that they can be taken back to libraries and other societies. Normally I do bring the next meeting's flyer and membership brochures with me to the meeting. Since the location of the Spring meeting changed as late as Saturday from the Comfort Inn to the Holiday Inn in Laurel I could not make those available. I did have membership brochures; but my mind at that time was on keeping the meeting moving ahead of the schedule. In the future I will ensure that I make an announcement that flyers and brochures are available.
- The second comment was in regards to the small number of vendors. I wish we could have more and it's not from a lack of trying on our part. If you have any suggestions for vendors please email me at president@magsgen.com or registration@magsgen.com. I will be happy to send the vendor an invitation and keep my fingers crossed that they will come to our meeting.
- The last comment that I wish to address is the one regarding the AARP rate being better than the MAGS rate for hotel rooms at The Plaza. Having attended other non-genealogical conferences where a block of rooms has

been set aside I've noticed that it's generally less expensive to book the room without a special conference rate. With that said I am not going to ask our Program Chair to ask for a "MAGS" rate for future conferences.

- Related to our meetings is our registration form. On this form is a spot for you to renew your membership. If you attend our meetings on a regular basis you can take advantage of this form to renew your membership and pay for both the meeting fee and renewal with one check, one stamp and one envelope! You may pay for multiple years if you wish to do so! When I receive your registration I email Gunter and let him know about your renewal. Being the frugal Germans that we are this process is perfect!
- Another item relating to the registration process is the confirmation of your

registration. This is done via email. If you do not have e-mail please note that your cancelled check also serves as confirmation. The bank that Bob Greiner uses for MAGS business also has branches here in North Carolina so I'm able to deposit checks every week. In the past I had to mail the checks to our treasurer and would do that once a month.

In closing we are entering our 30th year as a society. While this is a great achievement I want us to be around for another 30 and then some. I want you to know that I am very open to your concerns and suggestions. Please do not hesitate to email or call me at anytime. It's time to renew your membership for 2012, if you have not done so already. If you're thinking of not renewing I would like to know why and what I need to do to convince you to remain a MAGS member. Have a Happy Holiday season and I look forward to working with you next year!

Unearthing a hidden German heritage

By William Gray

The following narrative is presented as a way to add a new twist to the story of emigration to the United States. My ancestors had all arrived here by at least 1750. Some had come much earlier.

If you know something about genealogy, you understand that on each side, maternal and paternal, there are at least eight families, depending on how far back you want to go.

They were mainly from the British Isles. The Zimmerman family (Carpenter) was from Switzerland. These families all wound up in Centre County, Pennsylvania.

My father was a self-learned genealogist. His name was Samuel Hutchinson Gray. He spent many years researching and tracking his and my mother's forebears. This work was done in the 1920's. The results were organized on family trees, on large three feet by four feet sheets of heavy paper.

I was born in 1933 and I was added later using a different handwriting. I have these sheets even now.

These families in Centre County were all well-respected and prosperous. My parents left Centre County in 1915. The only family not traced was the Grays.

You are now probably wondering where I am going with this. I will now attempt to clarify. Over the years I have been given writings done by various family members. In particular, one paper was written in 1943 by a then 84 year old cousin.

Entitled *History of the Gray Ancestry*, she begins by stating that “two brothers, John Gray and Isaac Gray came from England. They first located in Lancaster County, Penna.”, which should have sparked an interest. Then they came to Hagerstown, Maryland, where I reside. It was part of Frederick County before it became Washington County.

The brothers acquired land in North Carolina, but John’s son Peter led a group of settlers into Centre County. Along with his wife Eve Crider (Kreider), there were the Hartsocks, Runk Gearhart and Heiskel family names. We were impressed that we had come back to Hagerstown in 1978; 190 years after the family had left.

Peter Gray’s sons John, my ancestor, returned in 1793 to marry Kathleen Hartsock, in Jonathan Hager’s church. We had a commemoration of that service performed in 1993. Since the 1793 service was in German, I wondered how much John understood.

Several years ago I was in contact with a librarian at the Bellefonte Library in Centre County. In passing, I told her that Peter Gray was the earliest settler in Centre County, a fact which she refuted on the spot.

I sent her pages from the 1943 paper that my cousin sent me. The response was overwhelming. She could not understand our claim of English heritage because the Grays were German through and through.

She provided examples from Peter Gray’s will written in German and witnessed with great difficulty by son Johannes, my ancestor John. When I spoke with her, she explained that everything was written in German, along with English for official filing.

My personal feeling is that Johannes had a limited reading and writing ability.

Shortly after, the Centre County Historical Association put me in touch with two fifth cousins who, over the years, had done extensive research on the Gray family, which they shared with me. One of them told me that German was spoken down to the era of his grandparents. They, however, had all left Centre County.

Various forms of documentation from Lancaster County churches, court records, etc. have tracked the Gray (Kray, Krey, Kraÿ) family. Peter Gray is in Hagerstown, and then goes to Centre County. The family is quickly assimilated, establishes Gray’s Church and Gray’s cemetery, both still operational today. They hit the ground running as leaders in the Methodist community. Peter’s son John, his son John, then Samuel T, then William Earnshaw all contributed to the community. No further trace of German. Incidentally, my great thanks to John Humphrey for his assistance in my research.

For me, a major question remains. Why was the German ancestry withheld? My father was a highly-educated graduate of Penn State. His father, a lawyer, died during an epidemic in 1902, when my father was 10.

My father’s genealogical research certainly had led him to the Gray history. It is to be remembered that this research had been conducted during the 1920’s, shortly after the first World War.

There was perhaps a trace of anti-Germanic feeling in the area at that time. And the elderly cousin’s paper in 1943 was right in the middle of WWII. I was a child in those years. There was never any mention of German heritage or of anti-German feeling.

Perhaps my father meant to go back to the drawing board to the Gray genealogy and never did. We will never know. Meanwhile I am enjoying my new found relationship with MAGS.

1764 letter to hometown surfaces

A “letter from the New World” was recently found in an old farm house in the small village of Etzenricht near the city Weiden in eastern Bavaria close to the border with the Czech Republic.

The local German researcher Margit Anspann deciphered and transcribed the German cursive script handwriting and genealogists Reinhard and Andreas Hofer translated it and directed it to the attention of *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler.

The immigrant was Johann Andreas Höcker, also spelled Hecker, and the descendants of this family are still residing in that village Etzenricht. The old farm house where the emigrant came from is still standing.

Margit Anspann and Max Hammer, the finder of the letter, are seeking descendants of Johann Andreas Höcker in America. The emigrant had settled in the county of Saxagotha in South Carolina.

A translation of the letter is below. The following pages show facsimiles of the original letter and a line-by-line transcription of the German, since the letter is an excellent example of cursive script.

God bless you

My dear beloved mother, brother and sister, if my letter will reach you in good health, it will be a great pleasure to me. Concerning myself, thank God, I am healthy as long as God allows and thank God I arrived happily in this country, although I of course had been partly ill on my journey, which has been great fun with the ship's crew, but thanks to God I had good people with me who gave me some help, and when I arrived, I had to work for three years to pay my journey, but I had found a good master, and when I was free I got in the holy state of marriage with a widow, in the year 1755, in which we had no children and we are living well, meanwhile our dear God has blessed me, for which I cannot thank him enough, as I have land enough and have 12 horses and carts and cattle enough and when somebody is lucky with cattle, he can have enough within a short time,

as you can keep as many as you like around here, and therefore doesn't need a herdsman, as it is in the forest summer and winter. Also I bought me two slaves or Moor as you name them who cost me eight hundred guilders and who now work for me, but in my trade I cannot work much, mostly on the field because this is a very good land for people who want to work, as a man here gets 100 acres of land and work and everyone also gets 50 acres for every child 45 guilders of money. For the beginning I would wish you, if you were not doing so well over there, that you would be here, because when somebody is willing to work, he can within a short time be as wealthy as nearly every farmer in Germany, then we don't have many spendings, of 100 acres one gives per year 3 guilders or at highest 4 guilders; the craftsmen are very wealthy here, too a tailor has 10 batz per day and his food, a dayworker in summer has also 10 batz and in winter half a guilder a day and his food. I would have written you long ago but did not have the right opportunity to, so you could supply yourself with some Schnitz, brandy, pepper and a lot of things, since the food on the ship is of a bad type you are not used to. It would be a great joy to see some of you, because I won't come to Germany anymore and if no one of you comes, I would ask you for an answer because it is of course a long and tiring journey. Once you were here you would not regret it. But if you would be bad off on the travel, you wouldn't blame me; though you can imagine how such a long journey can turn out. I dared it, and me and some poor guy has succeeded so that we now can live well, that way back in Germany we would not have been able to and I did not yet regret it that I came to this country; So once again mother, brother, sister, and all dear friends dear greetings and may God save you and bless and protect you.

Carolina, in Saxagotha, 26th November 1764

Johann Andreas Höcker

Gott zum Gruß
 Gesonders Vielgeliebter Mutter Bruder und
 Schwester wann mein schreiben Euch wird bey guter
 gesundheit antreffen, so soll es mir eine hertzl.
 freude seyn was mich anbelangt so bin ich Gott sey
 dank gesund so lang gott will und bin auch gott sey
 dank
 glücklich in dieses Land ankommen, wie wohlen ich
 freilich
 zum Theil auf meiner Reise bin krank gewesen
 die weille ich mich habe mit der schiffmanßschaft
 meiste Vergnigts lasen, doch aber gott sey es gedankt
 daß ich gute Leute habe bey mir gehabt, die mir
 etwas geholfen haben, und wie ich bin angekommen
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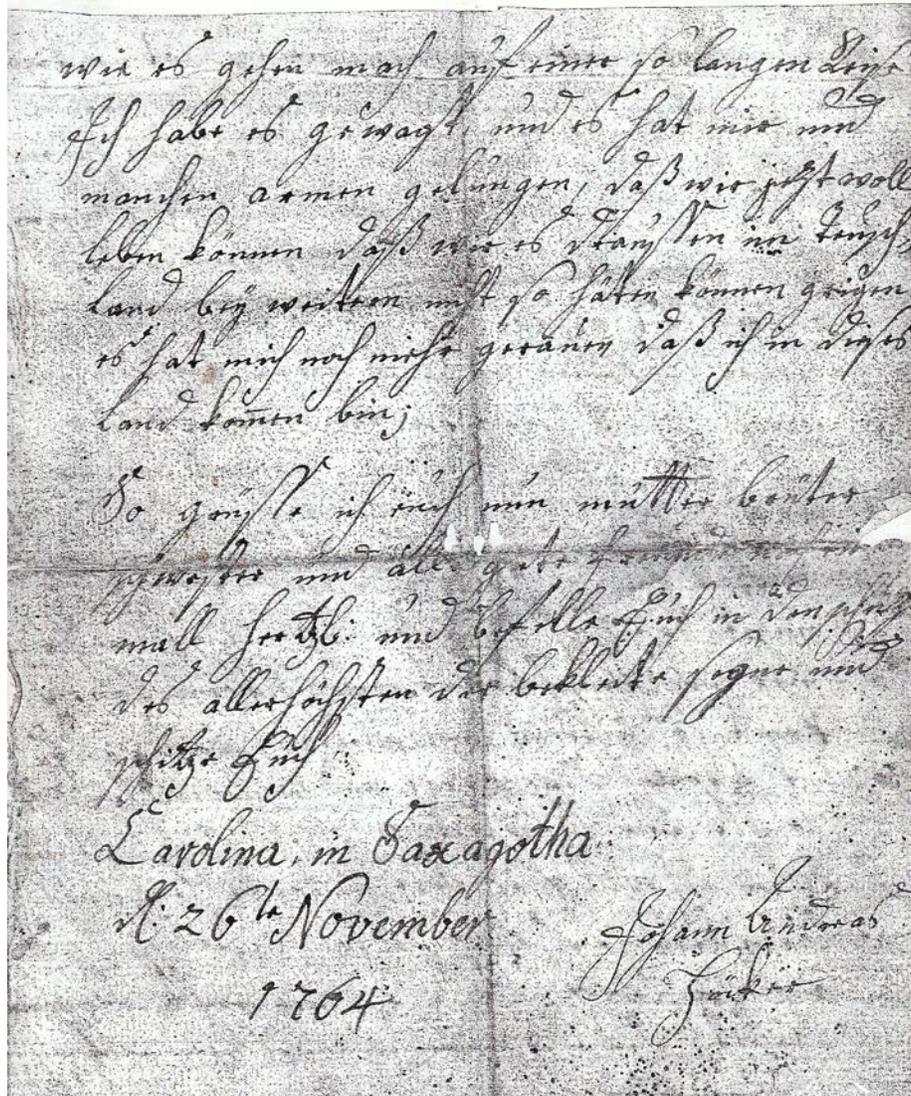
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 reuen Ich will Euch aber unterdessen nicht
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wie es gehen mach auf einer so langen Reise
 Ich habe es gewagt, und es hat mir und
 manchen armen gelungen, daß wir jetzt woll
 leben können daß wir es draußen im Teusch-
 land bey weitem nicht so hätten können zeigen
 es hat mich noch nicht gerauen daß ich in dieses
 Land kommen bin;
 So grüsse ich euch nun mutter bruter

schwester und alle gute freunde noch ein-
 mall hertzl. und befelle Euch in den schuz
 des allerhöchsten der bekleite segne und
 schitze Euch.

Caolina, in Saxagotha
 d. 26 te November
 1764

Johann Andreas
 Höcker

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Hulls / Holls hail from York County and Maryland ... and other places!

Carol Bartoski asked about HULLs and HOLLs on fraktur. According to Bartoski, her HULL and HOLL ancestors immigrated in 1738 from Liebstahl in today's Germany. They settled in York County, Pennsylvania, and some relocated to Carroll County, Maryland. I found the name scattered in several locations in the mid-Atlantic region, but especially in Pennsylvania where most fraktur were made. Names are spelled here as they appear on the fraktur. Unless otherwise noted, all locations are in Pennsylvania.

In the second volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp listed data from a Taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) made for Mary Ann MAUS, daughter of John and Savilla (HULL) MAUS. Mary Ann was born July 10, 1849, in Carroll County, Maryland. She was baptized August 11, 1849, by Wm. COLLIFLOWER. Mary Ann's parents served as her sponsors.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Isack ANGSTADT, whose mother was a HOHL. Isack was born November 28, 184,5 in Oley Township, Berks County. He was baptized May 24, 1846 by A. HERMANN. The sponsors at Isack's baptism were Samuel and Marya [Maria] STRUNCK. Isack ANGSTADT's parents were Ehren [Aaron] and Catharina (HOHL) ANGSTADT.

The current location is unknown of a Taufschein made for Maria ADAMS, daughter of Jesse and Rahel [Rachel] ADAMS. Maria ADAMS was born in Hanover Township, Lehigh County, on February 22, 1796. She was baptized and confirmed by C. JAEGER, Lutheran, but no dates for these events were given. The sponsors at Maria's baptism were Georg and Rosina HOLE. The certificate goes on to say Maria ADAMS married Adam FADSINGER on May 21, 1813.

In October 2003, Garth's Auctions in Delaware, Ohio, sold a Taufschein made for Susanna WOHNSIEDLER, daughter of Peter and Anna Catarina (HOLL) WOHNSIEDLER. Susanna was born December 31, 1804, in Amwell Township, Washington County. She was baptized by Pastor STAUCH on March 4, 1805. The only sponsor at Susanna's baptism was Susanna HOLL.

The current location is unknown of a Taufschein made for Effie Lucille HOHL, daughter of Amizon and Catherine F. (REIDER) HOHL. Effie Lucille was born May 5, 1896, in Reading, Berks County. She was baptized June 27, 1896, by Z.H. GABLE. The sponsors at Effie Lucille's baptism were her parents.

According to this certificate, Catherine F. HOHL's parents were Levi and Esther REIDER. Catherine F. HOHL's Taufschein survives. It says she was born to Levi and Esther (FAUST) REIDER. Catharine F. REIDER was born February 2, 1864, in Ruscombmanor Township, Berks County, and baptized May 6, 1864, by P.P. HOFFMAN. The parents sponsored Catharine's baptism. According to this certificate, Esther (FAUST) REIDER's father was Dewald FAUST.

Three Taufscheine (plural form of Taufschein) related to the above are in a private collection. The first names of the parents are spelled differently on the three. One was made for Luther R. HOHL, son of

Amican K. and Catherine (REIDER) HOHL. Luther R. was born in Reading on April 21, 1892. He was baptized on June 18, 1892, by Z.H. GABLE, Lutheran.

Another was made for Luella R., daughter of Amrean and Catherine F. (REIDER) HOHL. Luella R. was born in Reading on September 7, 1888, and baptized by Pastor GABLE on October 27, 1888. The third example was made for Della R. HOHL, daughter of Amizon K. and Catharina (REIDER) HOHL. Della R. was born in Reading on February 12, 1903, and baptized by Z.H. GABLE on April 11, 1903. The parents sponsored all three of these baptisms.

On May 14, 2005, Pook and Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a Taufschein made for John William HULL, son of Abram and Elisabeth (DALE) HULL. John William was born February 12, 1846, in Lamar Township, Clinton County. He was baptized by Pastor LINDEMAN, but no date of baptism was given, nor were sponsors listed.

The Myers Family File at the York County Heritage Trust in York has a photocopy of a Taufschein made for Eden Jane MYERS, daughter of Daniel C. and Sarah Ann (HULL) MYERS. Eden Jane was born September 8, 1878, in Heidelberg Township, York County. She was baptized by [Daniel Jacob] HAUER, but no date of baptism was recorded, nor were the sponsors listed. According to this certificate, Sarah Ann HULL's father was James HULL.

In 2007, the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg held an exhibit on fraktur. One example the Museum put on display mentioned Benjamin [Benjamin] and Barbara HULL as sponsors at the baptism of Barbara Ann FRANK, daughter of John and Ann (HICK[S]) FRANK. Barbara Ann was born in Somerset County on March 2, 1813. She was baptized by C. OESTREICH, but no date of baptism was given.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Margaret Conwell YOH, daughter of Milton G. and Margaret A. (HULL) YOH. Margaret Conwell YOH was born in Sinking Spring [Berks County] on October 31, 1891. She was baptized by W.J. KERSHNER, Reformed, on March 6, 1892. The only sponsor at Margaret Conwell's baptism was her mother.

In the first volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp listed data from a Taufschein made for Jacob HOLL, son of Georg and Gertraud (BIEMANN) HOLL. Jacob HOLL was born November 26, 1824, in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. He was baptized December 24, 1824, but no other information is available.

In his fifth volume, Stopp pictured a Taufschein/family register made for the family of Gottfried MILLER, son of Johannes and Dorethea (HÖHL) MILLER. Dorethea was born in 1700 in Europe. Johannes MILLER was from Grüna, Kreis Chemnitz in Saxony. Gottfried MILLER was born May 6, 1730, in Grüna. He immigrated to Philadelphia in 1763 and settled in Winchester, Virginia. On August 8, 1766, he married Anna Maria KURTZ, daughter of Johann Adam KURTZ of Württemberg. The MILLER family intermarried with the HENKEL family of well-known printers in New Market, Virginia.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938. Because I research fraktur for members of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society at no charge, I receive numerous requests. Please be patient for a reply.

Genealogical information found in historical German legal notices

By Bob Greiner

As described in an article in the June 2011 issue of *Der Kurier*, Google Books has digitized compendiums of several legal newspapers from 19th century Germany. Searching this source for the names of immigrant ancestors or your ancestral village can yield some interesting information not normally found in standard sources. The articles can provide details about our ancestors' lives in their village before they left Germany. These additional facts can enable you to better understand their reasons for leaving. They could also serve as evidence to validate information about your immigrant family obtained from other sources.

While a variety of legal notices are found in these newspapers, most that I found deal with the exchange of real property. In a series of articles I will describe several examples to give the reader an idea of the genealogical information contained therein. I Googled the term "Intelligenzblatt Herschberg Schilp" and discovered a notice dated 12 Jul 1836 that appeared in the *Amts- und Intelligenzblatt des Königlich Bayerischen RheinKries*. A translation of the title of the newspaper would be *Official Gazette and Advertiser of the Royal Bavarian District of the Rhein*. It advertised a sale of real estate to take place on 25 July in the village of Herschberg. The notice was the result of an earlier decision by the Royal Magistrate's Court at Waldfischbach, a village near Herschberg.

The following details are described in the notice. Maria Elisabetha Fischer, living in Herschberg was the widow of Heinrich Schilp, who had been a shepherd (Schäfer). She since married Jacob Kolter, a linen weaver. Several children of Maria Elisabetha and Heinrich Schilp were named – Heinrich, Maria Elisabetha, Katharina, and Anna Maria. The mother Maria Elisabetha was confirmed as a guardian of her minor children, together with Adam Bohl, junior. He might have been appointed as a guardian or representative of the children when their father died in 1827.

The real estate to be sold belonged to Maria Elisabetha and the children of Heinrich Schilp. The guardians represented their interests in the sale of the property. The description of the estate included:

the house with appurtenances, and all the farmland and pastures, within the boundaries of Herschberg, belonging to the children and their mother, in 18 items containing approximately 2 hectare 6 are 27 centiare [about 5 acres].

There was no indication in the notice of why the property was being sold. It does not appear to be due to debt or a foreclosure. Some further research would be required to determine what transpired here.

From previous research in the church records of Herschberg I knew the following facts. An annotation in the church book indicated that this family left Herschberg for America. Although the wife was named Elisabetha Margaretha in both marriage records, in several baptism records she was named Maria Elisabetha or just Elisabetha. They are most certainly the same person. The childrens' names do not match those in the legal record, but they appear to be in the correct birth order.

Heinrich Schilp (before 1897 - 23 Nov 1827), son of Daniel Schilp
m. 14 Jun 1818

Elisabetha Margaretha Fischer (circa 1800 – before 1880), dau. of Jacob Fischer

Heinrich (b. 30 Sep 1820)

Elisabetha (b. 4 Jul 1822)

Elisabetha (b. 15 Feb 1824)

Maria (b. 6 Jan 1826)

[Maria Elisabetha]

[Elisabetha Katharina?]

[Anna Maria]

Jacob Kolter(15 Apr 1805 – 6 May 1875), son of Johannes Kolter
m. 23 Apr 1829
Elisabetha Margaretha Fischer, widow of Heinrich Schilp
Margaretha (b. 15 Jun 1829)
Friederika (19 Nov 1831 – 13 Dec 1831)
Jacob (b. 1 Feb 1833)
Carolina (b. 19 Feb 1835)

A search of passenger lists on Ancestry.com revealed that a Jacob and Eliza Kolter and their children arrived at the port of New York on 14 October 1836 on board the ship Francois 1st. While husband and wife were listed separately on the passenger list, all seven children were included immediately following Elisabeth. The stated ages are not correct, but they are in the correct birth order. The four Schilp children are those mentioned in the legal notice. The three Kolter children match the names recorded in the church book. There are several other names on this passenger list that are familiar from the Herschberg area.

A further search of Federal census returns finds Jacob Kolter and family from 1840 in what is now Pusheta Township and the town of Wapakoneta in Auglaize County, Ohio. A count of the male and female children in 1840 revealed that there were 5 girls and 3 boys. Including a son Lewis, who was born in 1838, that would indicate that all of the children above were still with the family in 1840.

By 1850 only the youngest children – Jacob, Caroline, and Lewis – were still living with their parents. Jacob and Elisabeth were found in the 1860 and 1870 census as well, but not in 1880. Jacob died in 1875 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Wapakoneta. I found his tombstone on findagrave.com. I have not confirmed the death of Elisabetha.

Henry Schilb (Schilp), the eldest son of Elisabetha, was found in the Des Moines County, Iowa census from 1850 through 1880. His death was recorded there in 1895. The Schilp daughters would be difficult to find because they probably married between 1840 and 1850. More detailed research in Auglaize County and Des Moines County would be required to trace them.

The legal notice in the *Intelligenzblatt* provided names and established several relationships within this family. Those details enabled me to search online records that established when the family arrived in the United States and where they lived. Certainly the records in this country could have been found without the information provided by the legal newspaper. However, the additional details help to support the case for the acceptance of the passenger list and to validate the expected number of people in the 1840 census. The discovery of such a historical record can add value and credibility to other records used to construct a family history.

Translation of the article that follows

printed the 12. July 1836.

According to a unanimous[?]decision of the family council, taken by the Royal. Magistrates' Court at Waldfischbach [on the] 20th May last, and registered;

Before the undersigned Royal district notary, in the community of Herschberg by Adjunct Heinz;

On the appointment of Maria Elisabetha Fischer, unemployed, resident of Herschberg, widow of Henry Schilp (in life a shepherd), current wife of Jacob Kolter, linen weaver in Herschberg, by these presents duly authorized, acting as guardian over her minor children, begotten with her named husband, Heinrich Schilp; Heinrich Schilp, Maria Elisabetha, Katharina and Anna Maria Schilp, unemployed, living with their mother; and

Adam Bohl Jr., farmer, resident of Herschberg, joint[?] guardian of these children;

On Monday, 25 July, 8 o'clock in the morning, the following property will be auctioned: the house with appurtenances, and all the farmland and pastures, within the boundaries of Herschberg, belonging to children and their mother, in all 18 items containing approximately 2 hectare 6 are 27 centiare [about 5 acres].

The conditions can be seen at the undersigned.

Waldsfschbach, 9 July 1836.

Fasco, Notary.

pr. den 12. Juli 1836.

Zufolge homologirten Familienraths-Beschlusses, aufgenommen durch das Königl. Friedensgericht zu Waldsfschbach, sub letzten 20. Mal, und registriert;

Wird vor dem unterzeichneten Königl. Bezirksnotär, in der Gemeinde Herschberg bei Adjunkt Heinz;

Auf Anstehen von Maria Elisabetha Fischer, ohne Gewerbe, zu Herschberg wohnhaft, Wittwe von Heinrich Schilp, im Leben Schäfer allda, jetzige Ehefrau von Jacob Kolter, Kettenweber in Herschberg, von diesem gehörig ermächtigt, handelnd als Vormünderin über ihre, mit ihrem genannten Ehemanne, Heinrich Schilp, erzeugten annoch minderjährigen Kinder, Heinrich Schilp, Maria Elisabetha, Katharina und Anna Maria Schilp, ohne Gewerbe, bei ihrer Mutter wohnhaft; und

Von Adam Bohl junior, Ackerer, in Herschberg wohnhaft, Bevormund dieser Kinder;

Montag, den 25. Juli, Morgens 8 Uhr,

das Wohnhaus mit Zubehörungen, und sämmtlichem Acker- und Wiesenland, Herschberger Gemarkung, den genannten Kindern und deren Mutter zugehörig, in 18 Artikeln, enthaltend etwa 2 Hektaren 6 Aren und 27 Centiaren, zu Eigenthum versteigert werden.

Die Bedingungen sind zu sehen bei dem Unterscribenen.

Waldsfschbach, den 9. Juli 1836.

Fasco, Notär.

FAMILY REGISTER

Papers document Bean/Biehn family

In October 2011, Alderfer's Auction in Hatfield, Pennsylvania, sold two small sheets of paper that had notes scribbled on them concerning members of the BEAN family. These papers appear to have been notes recorded by family members in anticipation of a professional scrivener coming through the area to organize and pen the data in the family Bible.

The two papers vary in size, so they were probably not torn from a Bible. The notes are in English and appear to have been written about 1840. No location was mentioned on them, but the family might have been from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. That area was of particular interest to the person whose collection was consigned to the auction.

Quaker families named Bean were in Buckingham Township, Bucks County. However, despite the use of English in this record, this family might actually have been of German heritage. On two occasions, the writer recorded the name, Beihn, which was perhaps a misspelling of the German name, Biehn. Although the record does not say, the first two entries below are likely the parents of the family.

Births:

Isaac Bean was born June 3, 1775.

Catherine Bean was born June 2, 1779.

Jesse Bean was born January 31, 1803.

Susanna Bean was born October 5, 1804.

Hannah Bean was born March 17, 1809.

Mary Bean was born July 30, 1811.

Catharine Bean was born March 13, 1815.

Marriages:

Mary Bean married December 29, 1831.

Hannah Bean married May 1, 1832.

Susanna Bean married August 9, 1832.

Jesse Beihn married November 1, 1832.

Catharine Beihn married February 21, 1839.

An additional note with these papers gives no more than a name and date. It reads, "Martha Ward, December 21, 1819."

Retracting your steps creates eureka moments

By Corinne and Russell Earnest

Because original documents are generally the most reliable from which to obtain accurate information, locating primary sources is paramount to genealogists.

Always on the hunt for original records, the eventual discovery of these primary sources creates Eureka moments. Many of these moments are Eureka spelled with a small “e,” but we are grateful for them nonetheless.

In the previous issue of *Der Kurier*, we discussed locating original documents relevant to family history through the Internet, auctions, paper shows, shops that deal in old books and ephemera, relatives who kept family-related documents, and more.

In the some 40 years during which we have searched for genealogical clues, an important Eureka (with a small “e”) moment came with the subtle and gradual realization that finding original documents is becoming easier due to a widespread, increasing interest in early records.

Obviously, individuals such as family historians are not the only ones discovering original sources. A host of genealogical and historical societies, museums, and libraries are locating them, too. Patrons of these institutions often contribute collections of documents or funding needed for institutions to purchase documents.

For that reason, we learned many years ago that Eureka moments come about by retracing our footsteps as public institutions expand their collections. Often, volunteers at these institutions photocopy or otherwise create

images of early documents in their archives and file the images under the appropriate family names. Some are even indexing family files and posting the names on the Internet, thus eliminating the need for researchers to return frequently to an institution to learn about or access added records.

A Eureka (with a capital “E”) moment came for us when we discovered photocopies of documents added to files concerning our Earnest (Ernst) immigrant ancestor, Wilhelm Ernst (d Jan 1750), who settled near Schoeneck in northern Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Some years ago, while researching another ancestor at the Lancaster County Historical Society, we peeked into Wilhelm Ernst’s file and discovered a photocopy of a “*presteto*” which had not been there on our previous visits.

A *presteto* was a hastily prepared and abbreviated inventory of holdings following a person’s death. We immediately understood why a *presteto* was substituted for a more thorough inventory. Wilhelm Ernst wrote his will late in 1749. He must have known he was dying, but we never found a death date for him, although we suspected he died early in 1750.

The *presteto* was dated January 14, 1750, and gave us the clue we needed that suggested Wilhelm Ernst died during the early days of 1750. Because it was January, the weather might have prevented making a complete inventory of his estate. In fact, it was two neighbors – Michael Ness and Ulrich Shirk – who created the *presteto*.

The reason a more complete inventory was never made became clear to us later in yet another Eureka moment.

For years, we checked Wilhelm Ernst's file periodically while visiting the Lancaster County Historical Society. Nothing was added for a long time, but during one visit, the Librarian, Marjorie R. Bardeen, recognized us and said she found two other documents that mentioned Wilhelm Ernst and she was photocopying them for his file.

These papers became a major part of the story concerning Wilhelm Ernst's wife and widow, Eva Bach (1717-d aft 1773). We knew that Eva Bach immigrated in 1738 with her parents, Bartels and Margretha (Ebert) Bach. Eva Bach married Wilhelm Ernst a year later and they had two daughters, Elisabeth and Catharina, and a son named Christopher (1748-1818).

Six years after Wilhelm Ernst died, Eva (Bach) Ernst married Michael Huber (d Nov 1773) and had a son with him. What we did not know is where Eva was during those six years. As it happened, the two documents answered the question. She remarried April 2, 1750, to Dewald Brua of Strasburg, Lancaster County, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster. They married so soon after Wilhelm Ernst died, there was no need for a complete inventory.

In fact, when Dewald Brua died in January 1756, much of Wilhelm Ernst's estate as shown in the *presteto* was reflected in the inventory of Brua's estate. Eva Bach appeared to have retained most of the original holdings. She then married Michael Huber in 1756 and the couple settled near Hummelstown in Dauphin County.

The revelations about Wilhelm and Eva (Bach) Ernst came about because we returned to the Lancaster County Historical Society on several occasions, some of which gave us these Eureka moments. However, although we live in the mid-Atlantic region – what we called the

“candy store” in the previous issue of *Der Kurier* – there is still a lot of ground to cover. We learned to watch our favorite sites on the Internet, which we view not as an end-all for research, but as an added tool.

Seasoned family historians recognize family files, both at home and in institutions, expand beyond expectations. The Internet helps them watch for relevant information as files grow and more information becomes available. However, when it comes to primary sources, it is best to actually see the original paper.

Historians know a digitized image is no substitute. A digitized image does not show the size of the paper, nor watermarks which can identify papermakers and help determine where and when the document was made. It might not pick up words or phrases written with faded ink.

It will not show what is recorded on the reverse of a sheet unless the reverse was photographed. It may not show if the paper is wove or laid, a clue that helps date the document. It may not show fold marks in the paper which give clues about how documents were stored, or in the case of fraktur, whether a certificate commemorating baptism is European or American. (European certificates commemorating baptism were often folded around a coin or medal as a gift to the child.)

Still, tools are available today that help you find the next best thing to an original, for a digitized image or even a photocopy is better than hand-written notes that many of us were reduced to making when we began research decades ago.

In fact, when we think about it, our investigation into family history 40 years ago is like contrasting the Dark Ages with the Age of Information. Ironically, our work years ago seemed no harder than it is now, but we learned that it was far less complete than we realized – another eureka (with a small “e”) or at least, an “egads” moment.

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)

BUSS RITTER

#29-3 Seek par Johan Jacob BUSS, John Jacob BUSS, Jan Jacob BUSS, Johannes Jacob BUSS, Jan Johannes Jacob BUSS. b ca 1700 Darmstadt, Hessen, Germ; d Drylands, Northampton, PA. Marr Maria Catherina RITTER 21 Sept 1728 @ Gross und Klein Nievesheim Kirche, Rheinland-Pfalz, Germ.; Maria b ca 1700 Gross Nievesheim, Germ; d Drylands, Northampton, PA
Richard H. Buss 63 Conduit Street,
Annapolis, MD 21401 Tele: 410-263-5204 E-mail bussdm63@verizon.net

STÜSSEL/ STISSEL LENZ

#29-4 Seek par & sib Frederick Wilhelm STÜSSEL/STISSEL; b 11 Sept 1838 Obervorschütz, Kurhessen; imm ca 1855 to US; Union soldier 1861-1865, MD 1st Reg Inf; m 28 Oct 1866 Katherina Margaretha LENZ, Baltimore, MD; d 10 Jan 1890 Baltimore, MD. Appreciate any data.

Dawn Schulte 1075 Gilbert Rd. SE.
Bolivia, NC 28422 E-Mail
mhock@atmc.net Tele: 910-253-1636

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.

Dale & Linda Ashdown of Silver Spring, MD
(*Kissner, Knoell, Hammer, Ruppel*)
Joel David of Centreville, VA (*David*)
Joyce H. Johnson of Baltimore, MD
(*Brandstetter, Harris*)

Lynn Mattingly of McLean, VA
(*Zumstein, Schaaff, Briem, Joachim*)
Michael Stephens of Canton, MI
(*Leiss, Schriefer, Schriefer*)

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: globlakent@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.

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2011

Dec. 21. Library of Congress corner of 1st Street and Independence Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20540. "Resources for Genealogical Research at the Library of Congress. Additional details at <http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/tours.html>.

March 31. MAGS Spring Meeting at Holiday Inn, Laruel, MD. Registration: 8:30 am. Conference: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration: registration@magsgen.com or phone Diane Kuster at (252) 373-1684.

2012

May 9-12. National Genealogical Society, Conference in the States. "The Ohio River: Gateway to the Western Frontier," Duke Energy Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH. More info, www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Aug, 29 - Sept. 1. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference. in Birmingham, AL, with local co-host Alabama Genealogical Society. Plenty of lectures, vendors, special events, and genealogy networking. More information: www.fgsconference.org.

Oct. 13. MAGS Fall Meeting with site to be determined

Door Prize Winners – MAGS Fall Meeting – Hagerstown, Maryland – Oct. 29, 2011

The Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau 1939-1945 – winner **Doris Glick**

MAGS Tote Bag – winner **Bill Hellriegel**

In Search of Your European Roots – winner **George Martel**

German Map – winners **Susan Scheerer, Barbara Grempler, Donna Varley, Margie Greiner and Richard Buss**

German Chocolate Candy Bar – winners **Sylvia Fenzel, Leslie Bouvier, Patricia Young and Joel Cuffman**

Old Otterbein Church – winner **Elizabeth Short**

Kids and Kin the Family History Vacation That Involves Kids Number 1 – winners **Dr. Charles Glick and Mary Ann Mullerleile**

Proof Before You Publish! 21 Checklists for Proofreading Genealogy Publications – winners **Judy Dohner and Pam Kuehlman-Rumney**

Indexing Genealogy Publications – winners **Carol Carman and Jean Unger**

Our Family Diary – winners **Deyerle Atkins and Jon Mansch**

6 Month World Deluxe Membership to Ancestry.com – winner **Roy Shiflet**

1 Year World Deluxe Membership to Ancestry.com – winner **Bernard Graf**

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Each copy \$ 2.00
 Plus shipping and handling, each copy \$.75

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 \$3.20

Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents by Roger Minert. M/NM \$24.00 / 26.95

Shipping and handling \$ 3.70

Spelling Variations in German Names by Roger Minert
 M/NM\$15 / 16.95 S&H \$ 3.70

In Search of Your German Roots by Angus Baxter, 4th ed.
 M/NM: ...\$15.25/\$16.95 S&H\$3.70

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/\$18.95S&H.....\$3.70

German Church Books Beyond the Basics by Kenneth L. Smith, copyright 1989, revised edition,
 M/NM \$26.50/\$29.50 S&H ...\$3.70

Researching in Germany by Roger Minert
 M/NM ... \$14 / 15.95 S&H \$ 3.70

Germanic 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\$3.70

Pomerania Atlantic Bridge to Germany by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher,
 M/NM.....\$19.75/\$22 S&H \$3.70

Baden Atlantic Bridge to Germany by Linda M. Herrick and Wendy K. Uncapher
 M/NM..... \$18/\$20 S&H\$3.70

Lands of the German Empire and Before, Second Edition, by Wendy K. Uncapher,
 M/NM.....\$18/\$20 S&H\$3.70

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Geographical and Commercial Gazetteer of the German Empire, by Wendy K. Uncapher,
 M/NM.....\$8.10/\$9 S&H\$3.20

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