

# Der Kurier

Volume 31, Number 2, June 2013

## Plucking passengers from consulate records

**G**enealogists with German ancestry are blessed, overall, with better records of immigrant passage than most ethnicities.

For the Colonial period, those arriving in Philadelphia – estimated at some 60,000 of the 80,000 German-speaking people to arrive during this time period – were recorded (at least those males age 16 and over) on lists that have been published in *Pennsylvania German Pioneers*. These lists were begun in 1727 and stretch in 1808.

Beginning in 1820, passenger lists were required by the United States and these records have been preserved by the National Archives – including many that have been digitized and available from a variety of sources.

From the departure standpoint, while

the great majority of lists of emigrants from Bremen have been lost, the No. 2 of departure, Hamburg, has excellent embarkation records.

The time period between the American Revolution and 1820, however, is an era for which there are fewer records to draw upon.

However, all is not lost, as Kenneth W. Heger demonstrates with the three short articles that follow in this issue. In each case, he draws upon National Archives records of the American Consulate in Bremen that provide a variety of details about trading ships in this “missing link” time period.

While these were not ships loaded with immigrants – their primary calling was

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## MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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- **Spring and Fall Meetings** featuring expert speakers
- **Quarterly journal, *Der Kurier***
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**A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.**

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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](mailto:james@beidler.us)

# Plucking passengers from consulate records

**(Continued from cover)**

the shipping of agricultural goods, according to the papers they filed with the consulate – there are a few names of passengers to be found, along with data on the crews of these ships, including valuable information such as their birthplaces.

The consulate reports also give details such as citizenship and residence of those aboard; tonnage of the ships; descriptions and quantities of cargo aboard.

Make no mistake: Finding an ancestor on these lists is not common. But Heger’s diligent extractions are an excellent example of what good researchers do – they expand the “universe of possibilities” as far as the types of records to be explored as genealogists.

And that exploration often rightfully expands beyond records in which our own ancestors will be found.

In the case of these consulate records, they also open a window onto “social history” items ranging from what type of crops and other goods were being exported from America to the German states during this time period to the need shown for finding replacement sailors for a return trip to the United States.

These records had a much different original use as they helped our fledgling nation keep track of American shipping (and those involved in it) while abroad. That we as genealogists give those records a much different use makes them no less important today as they were historically.

## **A BALTIMORE SHIP WITH A MID-ATLANTIC CREW: INFORMATION ON THE *PYOMINGO*, NOVEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER 1799**

**By Kenneth W. Heger**

The *Pyomingo* was a 183 ton ship based in Baltimore, Maryland. August Schwartze, Frederick Focke, and Frederick Schwartze of Baltimore owned the vessel.

In fall 1799 the *Pyomingo* held a cargo of agriculture goods bound for the German free city of Bremen, consisting of 70,102 pounds of coffee; 18,158 pounds of sugar; 139 hogsheads of tobacco; and 100 canisters of tobacco.<sup>1</sup> Captain Thomas Jackson of Edenton, North Carolina, was the ship’s captain; his crew hailed from a

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<sup>1</sup> “Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Sailed from the Port of Bremen, July 1, - December 31, 1799” Miscellaneous Records, Volume 12, Archival Research Catalogue Number 1279979, Records of the American Consulate at Bremen, National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of U.S. Foreign Service Posts. (Hereafter cited as NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12). Note on Volume 12: This volume has two sections. The front half of the volume consists of handwritten information the Consulate recorded to document its activities. The second half of the

wide geographic range, mostly centered in the Mid-Atlantic area of the United States. (See Table I for information on the ship’s crew.)

The *Pyomingo* arrived at the port of Brake in the Duchy of Oldenburg on November 17, 1799, after a brief stop at Cuxhaven, an outer port of the free city of Hamburg. The records do not indicate the reason for that stop.

Because the Weser River was too shallow to allow many ocean-going vessels to sail all the way to Bremen, it was common practice at that time for ships to dock in Brake and off load their cargo to smaller vessels for transport into Bremen. Not wasting any time, Captain Jackson traveled up the Weser the same day his ship docked to visit the American Consulate in Bremen to present his papers, including his crew list, and to finalize delivery of his cargo. There is no record of the *Pyomingo* encountering any difficulties while at sea or of any sailors leaving the ship in Europe.<sup>2</sup>

On December 12, 1799<sup>3</sup>, the *Pyomingo* left Bremen bound for Baltimore. Its cargo consisted of nails and ballast. The records also indicate there was at least one passenger on board. John Henry Ewald, a citizen of the Electorate of Hannover, booked passage on the ship and sailed to Baltimore.

volume contains the “Semi-Annual Reports of American Vessels Arrived at and Sailed from the Port of Bremen.” The first part of the volume is paginated; the second half is not.

<sup>2</sup> November 17 and November 19, 1799, p. 32, Miscellaneous Records, NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12.

<sup>3</sup> Note on departure date. The Miscellaneous Records section of the volume lists the *Pyomingo*’s departure date as December 12, 1799. The Semi-Annual Reports section lists the departure date as February 11, 1800. I examined the Miscellaneous Records section carefully but did not find any further references to the *Pyomingo* indicating a delay in her departure; therefore, I believe the December 12, 1799 date is correct.

<b>TABLE I CREW &amp; PASSENGER OF THE PYOMINGO, DECEMBER 1799<sup>4</sup></b>			
NAME	RANK	BIRTH PLACE	RESIDENCE
Thomas Jackson	Master	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
Levin Loteham	First Mate	Maryland	Baltimore, MD
Herman Blomroth	Boatswain	Bremen	Bremen
Anthony Drenel	Seaman	Pennsylvania	Baltimore, MD
Demssuy Murdaugh <sup>5</sup>	Seaman	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
Isaac Bembery	Seaman	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
James Riley	Seaman	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
Lancelot Anderwig	Seaman	Virginia	Baltimore, MD
Robert H. Smith	Cabin Boy	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
Johann Friderichsen	Seaman	Copenhagen	Baltimore, MD
Henry Skinner	Cook	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
John Robins	Seaman	North Carolina	Edenton, NC
Fred’k Pin	Seaman	Brake, Oldenburg	Brake, Oldenburg
John Yargen Corse <sup>6</sup>	Seaman	Copenhagen	Copenhagen
John Henry Ewald	Passenger	Hannover	Hannover

<sup>4</sup> December 12, 1799, p. 35, Miscellaneous Records, NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12.

<sup>5</sup> First name difficult to read. It may be Dempuy, or Demssay.

<sup>6</sup> Last name difficult to read. It may be Corpe.

## THE BALTIMORE SHIP *ALMY*, SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 1799

By **Kenneth W. Heger**

The *Almy* was a 191 ton merchant ship operating out of Baltimore, Maryland. John Stedman Horne of Baltimore owned the ship and in mid-1799 Shubald Snow was the *Almy*'s captain.<sup>7</sup> Snow was not a novice in trans-Atlantic voyages, having made at least once such voyage two years earlier. In September 1797, Snow was in Europe and returned to America on the Baltimore ship *Jane*. This may also indicate that Snow considered Baltimore his primary residence.<sup>8</sup>

Although the *Almy* was Baltimore owned, in fall 1799 it took on its cargo in Boston, Massachusetts. Horne and W.B. Magruder, a fellow merchant, loaded their cargo of 153,960 pounds of coffee; 30,190 pounds of sugar; 2,740 pounds of cotton; 161 hogsheads of tobacco; 298 pieces of Nicaragua wool; 339 pieces of Japan wool, and 335 bundles of Spanish sugar cane onto the ship. The cargo was destined for two companies in the German city state of Bremen, Friederich Delius and Pundsack & Vollers.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>7</sup> "Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Departed from the Port of Bremen, July – December 1799," Miscellaneous Record Book, 1797-1820, Records of the American Consulate at Bremen, National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of U.S. Foreign Service Posts. Archival Research Catalogue Number 1279979. (Hereafter cited as NARG 84, Bremen, Vol 12). Note on Volume 12; this volume has two sections. The front and most of the volume is entitled "Miscellaneous Record Book, 1791-1820." The back portion of the book contains the Semi-Annual Reports; this part of the volume is not paginated.

<sup>8</sup> September 2, 1797, Letter from Snow to American Consulate in Bremen, Miscellaneous Letters Received, Box 12, ARC ID 1280545, Records of American Consulate at Bremen, National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of U.S. Foreign Service Posts.

<sup>9</sup> "Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Departed from the Port of Bremen, July – December 1799," NARG 84, Vol. 12.

The *Almy* sailed directly from Boston to Europe, arriving in port on September 5, 1799. Because the Weser River was too shallow for most ocean-going vessels to sail all the way to Bremen, the *Almy* docked at the port of Brake in the Duchy of Oldenburg near the mouth of the Weser River. Until the city-state of Bremen completed construction of the dock facilities in Bremerhaven in the 1840s, Brake served as Bremen's outer port; consequently, it was common practice for vessels to dock in Brake, and unload their cargo onto smaller ships for transport into Bremen itself.<sup>10</sup>

After securing his ship Captain Snow went to the Consulate in Bremen to register his ship and speak to the Consul to help him solve a problem. Although the records do not list the names of the *Almy*'s original 13 crewmen, they do indicate that once in Brake, Snow discharged two sailors and his boatswain. The records do not indicate the reason for that action. For the voyage home, Snow needed replacements for these three men and turned to the Consul for assistance. The Consul came through for Snow, finding him three men to complete his crew. All three men were on board by October 11. (See Table I for information on these men.)

The *Almy* left Brake bound for Baltimore on October 17, 1799. For its homeward voyage the *Almy* carried least one passenger. Finding names of passengers leaving Germany for a dates this early is next to impossible. Fortunately, the Consul noted in the records that he had arranged passage to Baltimore for G.C. Lutz, a native of and current resident of the Electorate of Hannover providing us with a valuable piece of information.<sup>11</sup>

The *Almy*'s America-bound cargo was diverse and destined for several owners. In addition to ballast, the ship carried 264 chests of wine belonging to the Smith & Buchanan company; as well as 40 bundles of cordage and 107 hogsheads of

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

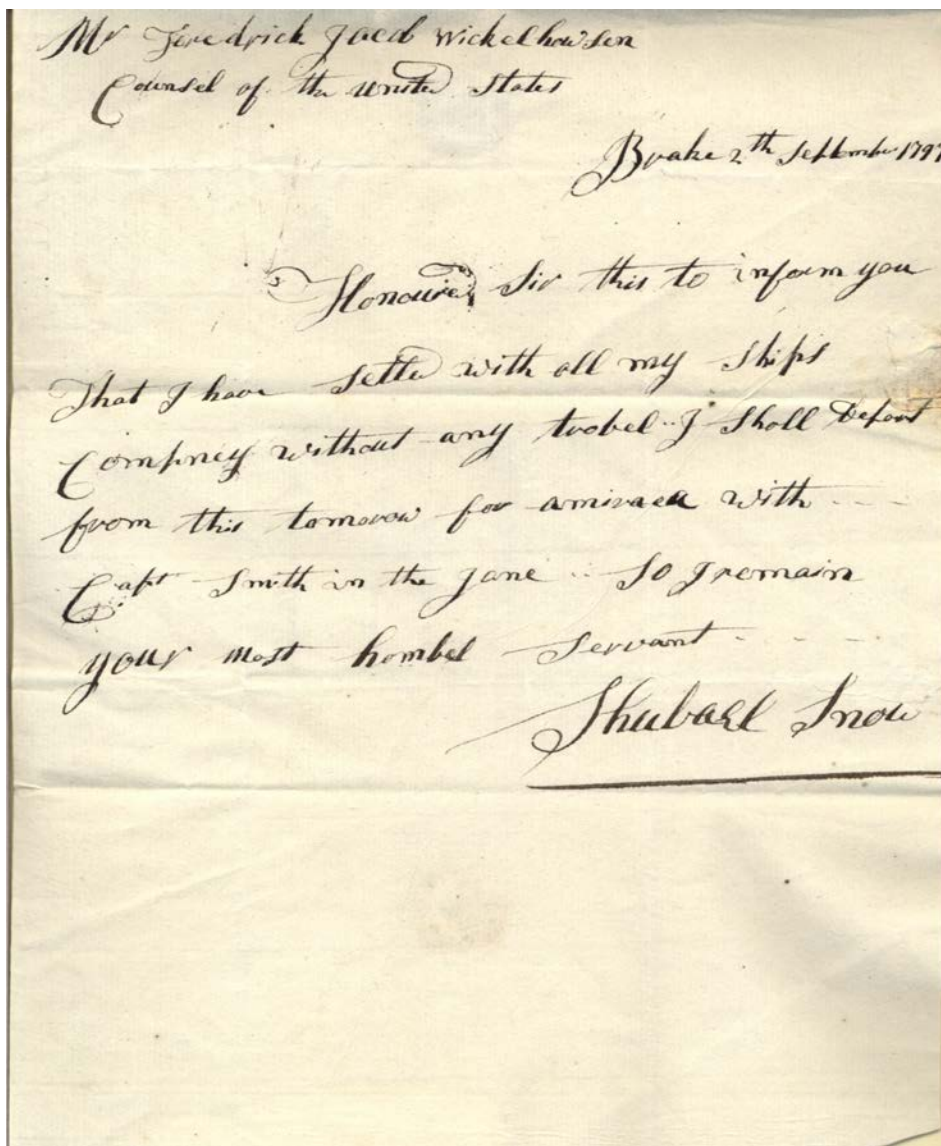
<sup>11</sup> Entry for October 11, 1799, p. 28, Miscellaneous Records, NARG 84, Vol. 12.

wine consigned to the ship's owner, J.S. Horne. Capitan Snow had a vested interest in making sure the *Almy* reached port safely; he owned an

additional 20 hogsheads of wine and 16 bundles of cordage among the cargo.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Entry for October 15, 1799, p. 28, Miscellaneous Records, NARG 84, Vol. 12.

REPLACEMENT CREW FOR THE ALMY, OCTOBER 1799 <sup>13</sup>			
NAME	STATUS	BIRTH PLACE	RESIDENCE
Friederich Jansen	Seaman	Prussia	Baltimore, MD
John Nebell	Seaman	Stosendi <sup>14</sup>	Baltimore, MD
James Capel	Boatswain	New York	New York



**Capt. Snow's  
1797 letter  
to the  
American  
Consul.**

<sup>13</sup> Ibid

<sup>14</sup> This is the closest I can decipher the handwriting for this place of birth. The writing could read Stosende or Stosend. It serves as an example of difficulty reading old handwriting and in identifying unfamiliar place names.

## THE PHILADELPHIA SHIP *DIANA*, JANUARY – MARCH 1801

By Kenneth W. Heger

The documentation of the ship *Diana*'s early 1801 voyage to Europe is limited but includes several tidbits of information that may be of value to family and local historians. The *Diana* was a 205 ton merchant ship operating out of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. James Smith and Jacob Ridgway of Philadelphia owned the vessel. William Hess served as the ship's captain during its voyage to the free city of Bremen in the first quarter of 1801. Smith and Ridgway owned the ship's cargo of 13,917 pounds of coffee; 131 hogsheads of tobacco; and sugar. In addition to these agricultural products, the *Diana* also carried 1000 staves for making barrels and an unspecified quantity of logwood.<sup>15</sup>

The *Diana* arrived at the port of Brake in the Duchy of Oldenburg on February 3. Because the Weser River was too shallow for most ocean

going vessels to sail all the way to Bremen itself, it was common practice for vessels to dock in Brake, and unload their cargo onto smaller ships for transport into Bremen.<sup>16</sup>

By late March the *Diana* had its homeward-bound cargo of linens on board. The records indicate that once in port, at least three of the *Diana*'s crew left the vessel forcing Captain Hess to turn to the American Consul in Bremen for assistance to find replacements for these crewmen so he could depart. With the Consul's help Hess engaged the services of two American citizens and one citizen of Bremen to fill out his crew for the homeward trip.<sup>17</sup> On March 23 the *Diana* sailed for Baltimore.

The Table includes important information on the replacement crew. Not only does it provide the names of the replacement crew, but it documents the national origin of two early immigrants to the United States. Given the absence of ship passenger lists and limited information on the Federal census, finding facts like these is a treasure.

<sup>15</sup> The quantity of sugar is unclear. The handwriting is very sloppy and reads 1400,24 or 1400.3.24. The report describes the logwood was "a quantity of logwood." "Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Department from the Port of Bremen, January – June 1801," Miscellaneous Record Book, 1797-1820, Records of the American Consulate at Bremen, National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of U.S. Foreign Service Posts. Archival Research Catalogue Number 1279979. (Hereafter cited as NARG 84, Bremen, Vol 12). Note on Volume 12; this volume has two sections. The front and most of the volume is entitled "Miscellaneous Record Book, 1791-1820. The back portion of the book contains the Semi-Annual Reports; this part of the volume is not paginated.

<sup>16</sup> "Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Department from the Port of Bremen, January – June 1801," NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12.

<sup>17</sup> Entry for March 23, 1801, "Miscellaneous Records," p. 62, & "Semi-Annual Report of American Vessels Arrived at and Department from the Port of Bremen, January – June 1801," NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12.

<b>REPLACEMENT CREW FOR THE <i>DIANA</i>, MARCH 1801<sup>18</sup></b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>STATUS</b>	<b>BIRTH PLACE</b>	<b>RESIDENCE</b>
John Stahl*	Seaman	Prussia	Baltimore, MD
Henry Blomendahl*	Seaman	Oldenburg	Baltimore, MD
John Gingall	Seaman	Bremen	Bremen

\* = American Citizen

<sup>18</sup> Entry for March 23, 1801, "Miscellaneous Records," p. 62, NARG 84, Bremen, Vol. 12.

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Diane Kuster

# Fall meeting, elections, retirements all a part of current year for MAGS

The month of June is already upon us and before we know it October will be here and we will be convening for our Fall meeting in York, Pennsylvania. We will be meeting on Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn Conference Center of York. Our program will feature Jim Beidler, *Der Kurier* editor, and Beth Leavitt and Patrick Connelly of our National Archives. The meeting flyer with our program is in this edition of *Der Kurier*. I hope to see many of you there!

Our meeting fees have remained steady since our Spring 2008 meeting. It is getting harder to find locations within a certain budget so beginning with our Spring 2014 meeting our registration fees will rise five dollars to \$45 for members and \$50 for non-members. After the cutoff date and at the door registrations will rise to \$50 for members and \$55 for non-members.

Our goal as a board is to continue to offer great meetings with excellent speakers who provide up-to-date information on performing German genealogical research both in the United States and abroad. We are also exploring holding workshops the day before the meeting, at an additional cost, to make you even more proficient than you already are.

I'm always looking for volunteers and this issue is not any different. Specifically I'm looking for someone to replace me as our registrar. I am in my fourteenth year and while I do enjoy this I need to move on from this aspect. If you are interested in this position please contact me at [president@magsgen.com](mailto:president@magsgen.com) or call me at 252-281-5000 and I'll explain all of the details to you and what's involved.

It's election time again. Enclosed as an insert is the ballot for this year's elections.

Please take the time to vote and mail back to our nominating chairperson Pam Kuehlmann-Rumney. If you have interest in becoming a board member please let me know. We always need help in a variety of areas!

Susannah Brooks is "retiring" from the board this year. Susannah is the last remaining board member since I joined in 2000. It has been a pleasure working with Susannah the past fourteen years and having one goal in common – MAGS!

When I came on board Susannah was responsible for our membership and later became our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. In the past few years Susannah relinquished her vice president duties and took over as our Corresponding Secretary. She also handled Stumped Roots and helped many find their way in the genealogy maze! I'm proud of her dedication but most of all I'm proud of our friendship! I know Susannah will be enjoying her "retirement" but I also know she will still be active in some way within MAGS. Thanks Susannah!

Our website is continuing to expand. Board member Dr. Kenneth Heger is always sending wonderful images gleaned from our National Archives to his fellow board members. I'll be getting these to our webmaster Diane Giannini for inclusion in our member's only area so check the website on a regular basis. They include documents from the US Consulate, postcards, maps and much more. They are exciting to look at and read and who knows what you might find!

Have a great summer and if you ever have a question, concern or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me at any time!



## Speaker Biographies for Fall 2013 MAGS meeting

**JAMES M. BEIDLER** writes “Roots and Branches,” an award-winning weekly newspaper column on genealogy. He is also a columnist for German Life magazine and editor of *Der Kurier*. He is an instructor for the on-line Family Tree University. Mr. Beidler sat on the Pennsylvania State Historic Records Advisory Board and is part of the selection committee for the Pennsylvania Digital Newspaper Project. Mr. Beidler graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hofstra University with a B.A. in political science.

**BETH LEVITT** is a certified archivist and an Archives Specialist at the National Archives in Philadelphia, where she specializes in outreach, access and reference. She received her undergraduate degree from Purdue University, and her M.A. from Florida State University. Ms. Levitt previously worked at the Presbyterian Historical Society and the Thomas Jefferson University, both in Philadelphia. She also worked at the University of Georgia and Emory University.

**PATRICK CONNELLY** is the Director of Research Services at the National Archives in New York City. Mr. Connelly received a B.A. in history from West Chester University and an MA in American History from Villanova University. He previously served as an Archives Specialist at the National Archives in Philadelphia, and as a local records archivist at the Library of Virginia. He was been employed at the National Archives for 13 years and presents lectures on genealogy and a variety of historical topics. These include lectures at national conferences of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

### DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

#### 2013

**June 19-22. Palatines to America, National Conference**, Albany, NY. Speakers: Henry Z “Hank” Jones Jr., Christine Crawford-Oppenheimer, Joseph Lieby, Jeff O’Connor, Hans Pohlsander, and Ernest Thode and Peter Christoph. More info: [www.palam.org](http://www.palam.org).

**August 21-24. Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference**, Fort Wayne, IN. Includes Wednesday “Focus on Societies” sessions.. More info: FGS, PO Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940, phone 1-888-FGS-1500, website URL: [www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org).

**October 5. MAGS Fall Meeting**, York, PA. Featured speakers Beth Levitt, Patrick

Connelly and James M. Beidler. More info: [www.magsgen.com](http://www.magsgen.com).

**October 26. North Hills Genealogists**, Pittsburgh, PA. Fall Conference theme: “Discover Your Roots, Discover Yourself: Putting Your Roots into Context,” Speaker: F. Warren Bittner, CG.. Lectures include: “Complex Evidence: What it is, How it Works, Why it Matters,” “Beat the Children with a Fresh Birch Stick so the Animals Don't Get Worms”; Reading for Historical Context”; “Secrets of Success with FamilySearch.org,” and “Exhausting Research to Find an Impossible Immigrant.” More info: [www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org](http://www.NorthHillsGenealogists.org).

## FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest



**This Vorschrift (writing specimen) dated 1820 was made for Salome Mattern; Dennis Moyer identified the artist as the “Hereford Township Artist” in Berks County.**

## Mattern fraktur found in several Pennsylvania counties

Raymond Brown asked about the name, MATTERN, on fraktur. The March 1994 issue of Der Kurier includes an article called “It ‘Matter’s On Fraktur,” which details genealogical data from several fraktur with the name MATTER. However, Raymond Brown is looking for MATTERN, and says there is no known connection between the two families.

Of course, those who follow the “Fraktur Forum” columns are aware that fraktur artists were not careful about spellings, so I

watch for possible family relationships on MATTER and MATTERN fraktur. Of interest, Raymond will give a presentation in July about the MATTERN family, so this is a good time to say “fraktur still matters.”

A Taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) in a private collection mentions Raymond Brown’s direct ancestors. It was made for Joel MATTERN, son of Nathan and Sara (DIEHL) MATTERN, from whom Raymond is descended through their son Aaron (1851-1934).

Aaron's older brother, Joel, was born February 11, 1850 in Upper Mahanoy Township, Northumberland County (unless otherwise noted, all locations are in Pennsylvania), and baptized on March 17, 1850 by Rudolph DÜNGER. The sponsors at Joel's baptism were Michael and Sara DIEHL. Added notes say Joel MATTERN was confirmed in the spring of 1865 by Pastor SCHMIDT, Lutheran.

Another example is known that mentions direct ancestors of Raymond Brown. It is a family register found by Susanna Brooks at the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. Made for the Christian Carl and Elisabetha SCHMICK family of Berks and Northampton Counties, this register mentions Peter and Catharina (WALPERT [WALBERT]) MATERN [sic]. According to Raymond Brown, Peter MATERN was the son of the immigrant Peter MATTERN (1706-82) and his wife, Maria Catharine. The family register says Christian Carl SCHMICK's wife, Elisabetha MATERN, daughter of Peter and Catharina (WALPERT) MATERN, was born September 2, 1768 in Macungie Township, Northampton [now Lehigh] County. Elisabetha MATERN was baptized by Nicolaus KURZ, Lutheran, but no baptismal date was recorded in the register. The name of Elisabetha WALPERT was originally written as the only sponsor, but her name was struck through and replaced by the names, Mathes and Elisabetha LUDWIG. T

he register reports that Christian Carl and Elisabetha (MATERN) SCHMICK married on May 29, 1792. An added note records a date of death, but does not say whose death. Presumably, it refers to Christian Carl SCHMICK. The date was December 30, 1844. According to the register, Christian Carl SCHMICK was born November 7, 1761 in Maxatawny Township, Berks County. He was the son of Johann Caspar and Magdalena (JÄGER) SCHMICK. Christian Carl was baptized by Philip Jacob MICHEL, Reformed, but no date of baptism was recorded. Johann Carl and Anna Margaretha SCHEIBELER sponsored Christian Carl's baptism.

The booklet, Bär's on Fraktur, records a Taufschein made for Carl BAER, son of Jonathan and Catharina (MATTERN) BAER. Carl BAER was born January 25, 1825 in Maxatawny Township, Berks County. He was baptized April 4, 1825 by C. HERMANN. The sponsors at Carl's baptism were Carl BAER and Anna MATTERN, both single.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Magdalena WOLFGANG, daughter of Daniel and Kaleia [Kasia?] (REWER) WOLFGANG. Magdalena was born September 8, 1860 in Eldred Township, Schuylkill County. She was baptized January 20, 1861 by Isaak F. STILI [STIELY]. The sponsors at Magdalena's baptism were Daniel and Litia MATTERN.

In the sixth volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, Klaus Stopp pictures a Taufschein made for Carl Georg MENGELSOHN, son of Georg Jacob and Maria (MATTERN) MENGELSOHN. Carl Georg was born May 19, 1880 in New York City. He was baptized January 29, 1882 by Franz G. SCHNEIDER. The only sponsor at Carl Georg's baptism was Georg E. M. I. WRIEDT. According to this certificate, the father Carl Georg MENGELSOHN was from Riga in "Deutschland, Europa." This may refer to Riga in Latvia where Baltic Germans were established for many centuries. The mother, Maria MATTERN, was from Rodenbach in the Rheinland-Pfalz ("Rheinpfalz, Deutschland").

The Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center in Pennsburg owns a Taufschein that mentions Isaac and Elisabet MATTERN as sponsors at the baptism of Sary [Sarah] Anna SALADE. Sary Anna was the daughter of Abraham and Juliana (LEVAN) SALADE. She was born in Hereford Township, Berks County, on June 3, 1841, and baptized by Pastor KELLER on July 29, 1841.

In the March 1994 issue of *Der Kurier*, I listed data from a birth and baptism certificate made for Catharina MATTER, daughter of Johannes and Maria (LEVAN) MATTER. I believe this family's surname might actually

have been MATTERN, but as I mentioned in 1994, I have not seen the original so cannot confirm the spelling. Catharina was born June 19, 1798 in Maxatawny Township, Berks County. She was baptized by Solomon FREDERICI, Lutheran, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Catharina's baptism were Jacob and Maria Magdalena LEVAN.

As mentioned, fraktur artists spelled erratically and two Taufscheine (plural of Taufschein) in a private collection illustrate that the surname MATTERN and MATTER (without the "n" ending) might appear on examples made for the same family. One of the Taufscheine was made for Willebe [Willoughby] TREXLER, son of Ruben and Sarah (MATTERN) TREXLER. Willebe was born in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, on January 2, 1837. He was baptized by Pastor GERMAN in 1837, but no specific date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Willebe's baptism were Peter and Magdalena SCHWARZ.

The other example was made for Willebe's older sister, Sallie Anschyleina [Angelina], daughter of Rubin and Sarah (MATTER) TREXLER. Sallie Anschyleina was born in Upper Milford Township on February 29, 1832. She was baptized on April 16, 1832 by Pastor GERMAN. The sponsors at

her baptism were Johannes and Sussana WEBER.

A Vorschrift (writing specimen) dated 1820 was made for Salome MATTERN. No biographical information, including a location, appears on the Vorschrift.

However, a Taufschein in the same private collection was made for a girl named Salome MATTERN, perhaps the same person for whom the Vorschrift was made. Salome MATTERN was the daughter of Georg and Catharina (REISS) MATTERN. She was born in Macungie Township, Northampton [Lehigh] County. Salome was born about eight o'clock in the evening on July 16, 1807. She was baptized by Pastor MILLER, but no date of baptism was given. Henrich and Gerdraut [Gertrude] MATTERN sponsored Salome's baptism.

*If you have names you want me to research on fraktur, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938.*

*There is no charge for members of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. However, I receive many requests, so please be patient for a reply.*

## **FAMILY REGISTERS**

### **Cressman / Ritter Bible record**

An English-language family register in a German-language Bible is in the collection of Jon Acker. The Bible was printed by Henry S. Goodspeed & Co. in New York.

The register was made for Abraham M. CRESSMAN of Limeport [Lower Milford Township, Lehigh County], Pennsylvania, and his wife, Amanda E. RITTER of Millerstown. Abraham and Amanda were married in Allentown on February 1, 1874 by William RATH.

According to this record, Abraham M. CRESSMAN was born November 27, 1838 in Upper Saucon Township, Lehigh County. He was baptized by B. GERMAN on March 5, 1839.

His parents – unnamed in this record – sponsored Abraham’s baptism. Amanda E. (RITTER) CRESSMAN was born December 18, 1851 in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County. She was baptized June 26, 1852 by August L. DECHANT. Her parents – also unnamed – sponsored Amanda’s baptism. No children were listed in the register.

## Brubacher family

On April 19, 2013, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a two-page family register made for the Tobias BRUBACHER family. No location was given in this German-language register, which was probably removed from a Bible or other book.

Tobias BRUBACHER was born about midnight on Thursday, July 24 1806. His wife, Esther MILLER, was born on Friday, December 2, 1808. They married on March 11, 1830 and had the following twelve children:

Anna BRUBACHER, born about eleven o’clock at night on Sunday, July 3, 1831

Jacob BRUBACHER, born about eleven o’clock at night on Friday, November 22, 1833, and died about noon on September 30, 1835 at the age of 1 year, 10 months, and 8 days

Barbara BRUBACHER, born about 11:30 in the morning on Tuesday, December 29, 1835, and died about seven o’clock in the evening on March 11, 1838 at the age of 2 years, 2 months, and 13 days

Elisabeth BRUBACHER, born about eight o’clock in the evening on Friday, May 18, 1838

Benjamin M. BRUBACHER, born about eight o’clock in the morning on Sunday, July 26, 1840

Twins, Tobias and Esther BRUBACHER, born Wednesday, July 20, 1842. Tobias was born about 10:30 at night and Esther was born ten minutes later.

Christian BRUBACHER, born about 1:30 in the morning on Wednesday, January 1, 1845

Magdalena BRUBACHER, born about ten o’clock at night on Wednesday, May 5, 1847

Naemi [Naomi] BRUBACHER, born about two o’clock in the afternoon on Monday, January 22, 1849

Aaron BRUBACHER, born about 7:30 in the evening on Wednesday, March 31, 1852

A stillborn son died was born on July 26, 1854

Death dates follow for three children who died within days of one another in 1851. Esther died September 25, 1851 at the age of 9 years, 2 months, and 5 days. Christian died September 29, 1851 at the age of 6 years, 8 months, and 28 days. Magdalena died October 8, 1851 at the age of 4 years, 5 months, and 3 days.

Aaron BRUBACHER died April 15, 1873 at the age of 21 years and 15 days.

## **BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN /** ***Book Review***

### **North Germany to North America - 19th Century Migration**

by Robert Lee Stockman

Published by PlattDüütsch Press, 2003, 2010

My first impression of this book was its size. At nearly 700 pages and 3 pounds you need strong arms and dogged determination to digest the information in this work. It took several months to read completely, a bit at a time. The experience gave me a better understanding of the life and customs of 19th century German immigrants.

The reader must first understand the focus of the book, as expressed by the author in the title and the preface. He chose to focus on immigrants from northern Germany (sometimes referred to as Low Germans), because there is so little written about these people. The political landscape of this area was quite different in the 18th and 19th centuries, so from a cultural perspective this group includes people from the northern Netherlands in the West to northern Poland in the East. The author specifically concentrates on the lower, rural working class immigrants rather than urban dwellers, following them on their journey to settlements in the United States and other continents.

To set the stage for the conditions that eventually led to emigration, the author uses the first chapter to recount the history of northern Germany. He begins at 2000 BC with a description of various tribes wandering across the land and concludes with the unification of Germany in 1871. The author then proceeds to detail the history of various kingdoms and regions of northern Germany. The intent is obviously to give the reader a more fine-grained understanding of the political conditions in which the immigrants lived. The result leaves

the reader with so much detail that one can become overwhelmed with information and lose the original point of the discussion.

Chapter 2 describes farming life in northern Germany. The author discusses concepts of cultivation, the layout of fields and crop rotation, farm implements, and techniques. The point, of course, is that the German farmers brought many of these ideas with them as they settled in rural areas of North America. The author spends much time describing the farmer (Bauer in High German, Buur in Low German) and his relationship with family members and other employees on the farm (Hof). Various farm activities are documented. Finally he discusses, in much detail, the evolution and construction of the typical farmhouse (Niedersachsenhaus). This large structure contained living quarters, animal stalls, and storage for crops and farm equipment. I personally found this to be quite interesting since my wife and I saw such a building during a visit to a farm museum in Germany.

In the third chapter we learn about a wide variety of customs and traditions practiced by the farming communities of the North. From baptism to marriage to funeral customs, we learn how the Germans celebrated the major events of life. But we also learn how they found entertainment and enjoyment despite the harsh, unending labor of farm life. From Candlemas (40 days after Christmas) through New Year's Eve the author describes the celebration of various holidays throughout the year.

How many of us know that the Germans believed that the weather on Candlemas, which was observed on February 2nd, was a predictor of weather for the rest of the winter? This tradition was brought to America as Groundhog Day.

I was amazed to read about a typical prayer recited before eating a meal. In German it began “Komm Herr Jesus, sei unser Gast ...”. I immediately recognized the prayer as one I memorized as a child. “Come Dear Jesus, be our Guest, and bless this food that Thou has given us.” I am more than 200 years removed from my immigrant German ancestors, and yet this prayer has survived essentially word for word in the customs of my family in southeastern Pennsylvania.

After describing life in the old country, in chapter 4 the author turns to a discussion of the immigrant journey from Germany to the United States and other destinations. He summarizes the ports of embarkation and arrival used to get to America. However, most of the space in the chapter is spent describing various roads, rivers, canals, and railroads that the immigrants used to push inland toward areas of settlement. Remember that since the book is about 19th century immigration, many of the original 13 colonies had already been settled for over a century. So these immigrants were headed mainly to the Midwest where land was plentiful and inexpensive.

Some interesting maps that show various migration routes throughout the country are included in this chapter. They help the reader to visualize how their ancestors probably traveled from the Atlantic coast to their homes in the interior. I also found a cut-away elevation map of the Great Lakes to be interesting. It shows the significant obstacles encountered trying to connect Lake Ontario with Lake Erie – a difference of over 300 feet of elevation.

The author also introduces several statistical tables in chapter 4, primarily to show the extent of immigration during the 19th century. He specifically attempts to show the predominance of German immigrants in various states. Unfortunately, I found the tables poorly laid out and difficult to interpret. The variety of information that he attempted to portray made the entirety very confusing.

It is back to a history lesson in chapter 5 – this time about the United States from before colonial times through the settlement of many of the individual states. The intent of this discussion is obviously to present historical elements that set the stage for the later settlement of immigrants in the Midwest. However, as with the first chapter, the lesson becomes a bit tedious. The reader might wonder whether less information could have made this chapter more interesting.

The sections on settlement of the Midwest and improvements to farm implements during the latter half of the century were more interesting. Perhaps this is because it gives the reader a direct view of what daily life might have been like for their pioneer ancestors. As with the earlier sections about farm life in Germany, it allows the reader to sense a closer connection with their ancestors.

As the author clearly explains in the preface, chapter 6 is “...unfortunately, an obviously sketchy and incomplete picture of the total North German settlement experience in America.” He attempts to document settlements in 14 states that contain significant numbers of North German immigrants. This takes nearly 130 pages. It is indeed very sketchy and disjointed as well. The author seems to skip from one discussion to another throughout the chapter without a clear plan of what he is trying to get across. While his attempt to document these settlements and encourage further research is laudable, the result leaves the reader unsatisfied.

In the appendices the author presents traditional verses and songs associated with various festivals that were celebrated in northern Germany. These verses and rhymes are given in Low German and translated into English. A few of these are somewhat humorous. Others might be of greater interest to someone more familiar with the Plattdüütsch (Low German) dialect or whose family came from northern Germany. Some of them are so long as to lose the reader’s interest.

There are many items of interest to be found in this book, especially for someone with German and particularly North German heritage. Even a person, such as myself, whose heritage is from 18th century southwestern German

immigrants, will find many of the customs and traditions discussed in this book to be familiar within their family heritage. I found the sections on farm life – both in Germany and the U.S. – to be the most interesting. The discussion of migration patterns – ocean travel and the journey inland – was also captivating.

Unfortunately, I also found significant problems with this book that tended to detract from the excellent underlying purpose. An editor could have provided useful guidance to correct items and improve the flow of information. There are many places where sentences and in some cases entire paragraphs were repeated. In other cases it was obvious that text was cut and pasted incorrectly. Occasional spelling and syntactical errors contributed to the overall feeling of an unprofessional work.

Another major problem was the lack of consistency of the story line in some places. This was particularly noticeable in the discussion of North German settlements in the states, but the

problem appeared throughout the book. At times it left the reader feeling disoriented.

While an extensive bibliography for each chapter is included, there are no footnotes or other references throughout the book to indicate where the author got specific pieces of information. Sometimes it is difficult for the reader to determine the difference between facts, family stories, or folklore. Of course, footnotes might have added another pound or two to this already voluminous work.

Finally, the size and scope of the book could be a deterrent to a reader with a genuine interest in the subject. In my opinion the author attempted to cover too broad a time range and too large a scope in this book. While the subject and much of the content are informative, the work as a whole can be overwhelming. The determined reader might find much of value here, but need patience to overcome the obstacles.

**Reviewed by Bob Greiner**

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