



Der Kurier

Volume 31, Number 3, September 2013

Digitization of *Der Deutsche Correspondent*

By Debra A. Hoffman

Newspapers are important for providing genealogical information and historical context for family research. Marylanders with German heritage will soon have access to an invaluable resource with the digitization of the German-language newspaper, *Der Deutsche Correspondent*.

With the significant influx of Germans immigrating into America during the first half of the 19th century, the German residents for the port city of Baltimore grew to about a quarter of its population by 1860. This significant increase in the German community resulted in the publication of several newspapers.

One of these newspapers, the *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, was founded in 1841 by Friedrich Raine.¹ A German who arrived in Baltimore in 1840, Raine was “from a family of skilled printers in

Westphalia,” and had apprenticed in a Muenster newspaper office.²

The Maryland Historical Society (MdHS) holds a significant collection of the paper, which contains approximately 84,000 pages contained in 98 bound volumes. It is almost complete from 1880 through 1918. “German historians have commented that this is one of the most important German newspapers in existence.

The newspaper was in print during the European Revolutions of 1848, the American Civil War, World War I, etc., providing the latest world and local news for its German readers.”³ Beginning with eight subscribers, the “newspaper could boast a circulation of about 15,000 during the 1880s and 1890s.”⁴ Initially started as a weekly paper, it was published daily by 1848.⁵

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

**PO Box 334
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<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

Digitization of *Der Deutsche Correspondent*

(Continued from cover)

As a result of the anti-German sentiment during World War I, “subscriptions and advertising declined so precipitously that Annie V. Raine, a niece of its founder and owner, decided to close the paper.” Publication ended on April 28, 1918.⁶

In partnership with the Charles Edward Hilgenberg Archives, the MdHS has currently digitized approximately 40,000 pages of the newspaper with the intent to create a digital archive. Once digitized, the images will be available online and each page will be indexed by Optical Character Recognition (OCR), so that it is searchable. MdHS plans to partner with Loyola University, located in Baltimore, to complete and sustain the archives, which will be available to students and outside researchers.⁷

While the images are not yet available, Dr. Gary B. Ruppert has published two volumes of translations and transcriptions covering five years of the newspaper; from 1879-1883. The first volume is entitled *The German Correspondent, Baltimore, Maryland: Translation and Transcription of Death Notices & Obituaries, 1879-1883* and the second volume is entitled *The German Correspondent, Baltimore, Maryland: Translation and Transcription of Marriages, Deaths and Selected Articles of Genealogical Interest, 1879-1883*. These two volumes demonstrate the wealth of information to be found in this newspaper.

Joe Tropea, Curator of Films & Photographs for the Maryland Historical Society, indicated that the plan for making the files accessible has not yet been finalized. The uncertainty stems from a recent \$325,000 grant that was awarded to the University of Maryland Libraries by the National Endowment for the Humanities to “make important historic newspapers from the state of Maryland freely accessible via the Internet.”⁸

The plan is to digitize the *Der Deutsche Correspondent* newspaper from the Library of Congress’s microfilm copies. The University of Maryland Library’s spring edition of their Link newsletter indicated it will be a two-year project. The first images will be available starting sometime this year on the Library of Congress’s Chronicling America website, which is found at the URL, <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

It is expected that 25,000 pages may be made available by October. The MdHS is still hoping that their higher quality scans will be able to help researchers though at the moment there is no definitive plan for when they will be accessible.

¹Suzanne Ellery Greene Chapelle, *Baltimore: An Illustrated History* (Sun Valley, Ca.: American Historical Press, 2001), 89.

²Frederick N. Rasmussen, “Preserving a part of the city’s German past,” *Baltimore Sun*, 24 January 2010, online archives (www.articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-01-24/news/bal-md.backstory24jan24_1_maryland-germans-german-exodus-german-newspapers : accessed 10 July 2013), para. 9.

³Maryland Historical Society, The Charles Edward Hilgenberg Archive (www.mdhs.org/library/projects-partnerships/hilgenberg-archive : accessed 10 July 2013), “Digitizing Der Deutsche Correspondent.”

⁴Frederick N. Rasmussen, “Preserving a part of the city’s German past,” *Baltimore Sun*, 24 January 2010, online archives (www.articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-01-24/news/bal-md.backstory24jan24_1_maryland-germans-german-exodus-german-newspapers : accessed 10 July 2013), para. 11 & 18.

⁵Suzanne Ellery Greene Chapelle, *Baltimore: An Illustrated History* (Sun Valley, Ca.: American Historical Press, 2001), 89.

⁶Frederick N. Rasmussen, “Preserving a part of the city’s German past,” *Baltimore Sun*, 24 January 2010, online archives (www.articles.baltimoresun.com/2010-01-24/news/bal-md.backstory24jan24_1_maryland-germans-german-exodus-german-newspapers : accessed 10 July 2013), para. 20-21.

⁷Maryland Historical Society, The Charles Edward Hilgenberg Archive (www.mdhs.org/library/projects-partnerships/hilgenberg-archive : accessed 10 July 2013), “Digitizing Der Deutsche Correspondent.”

⁸Eric Bartheld, “NEH awards grant to digitize historic newspapers,” *Library Link*, faculty update from the University of Maryland Libraries (Spring 2013): 1; digital image, University of Maryland Libraries (http://issuu.com/umdlibraries/docs/link_spring_2013 accessed 15 July 2013).

MAGS DATABASES

By Susannah Brooks

Marriages and Marriage Contracts from Records of U.S. Consuls in Bremen, Hamburg, Altona, 1850-1870

In much of Germany during the first six decades of the 19th century there were very restrictive marriage laws that prevented most poor people and many of the middle class from marrying. The U.S. Consul in Bremen began marrying people that were about to immigrate to the U.S. in 1850 and the Consul in Hamburg began to do so in February of 1852.

They continued to do so until August 1853 when the U.S. State Department informed them that they had no authority to do so. A few years later it was decided that it would not be illegal to issue "marriage contracts" or written pledges to marry to the emigrants from Germany. The Department of State felt that these contracts would help to protect families, especially women and children, by formalizing but not legalizing their relationship.

The Consuls at Bremen, Hamburg, and a few years later Altona issued marriage contracts. These contracts read just like a modern marriage ceremony, except that they contain a statement that the parties involved promise to marry as soon as they arrive in the U.S. or anyplace that they could legally marry. By the late 1860s most of Germany abolished the laws restricting marriage.

The actual copies of the contracts include the names of witnesses, but this information was not included in the database, because often the witnesses were employees of the Consulate or one groom would act as a witness for the next one in line.

In addition to the information included in the books of the Consulates, this researcher attempted to find the arrival of these individuals in the U.S. "Not found" means that in the short time allotted to each person in the database this researcher did not find the arrival, but someone devoting more time and using more name variations might find the arrival.

Many of the immigrants from Bremen were headed to the port of Baltimore and unfortunately many of the passenger arrival records for Baltimore as well as the Baltimore Quarterly Abstracts of Arrivals in the 1850s are missing. Nineteenth

century emigration records do not exist for Bremen, but do exist for Hamburg. [It should be noted that the Hamburg Emigration volume including 1 Jan 1853 - 14 Jul 1853 no longer exists.] If this researcher could not find an arrival of a couple from Hamburg, the Hamburg emigration lists were checked. In some cases the arrival could then be found using the name of the ship.

Anyone using the databases for Hamburg Marriages and Marriage Contracts should be aware that in the section entitled arrival information that data before the semi-colon (;) was taken from US arrival records and data after the semi-colon (or when no arrival date, port, or ship is listed) was taken from the Hamburg Emigration Lists. This researcher attempted to transcribe the entries using the spelling used in the records.

At present two of the databases are on the MAGS Members Only website:

- US Consul at Bremen Marriages September 1850 - August 1853 & Marriage Contracts August 1857 - September 1870
- US Consul at Hamburg Marriages February 1852 - August 1853

By the end of the year two additional related databases will be added:

- US Consul at Hamburg Marriage Contracts Mar 1857 - May 1866
- US Consul at Altona Marriage Contracts Sep 1862 - 1870

Source: NARA Record Group 84 Records of US Foreign Service Posts:

Records of the U.S. Consulate at Bremen

Vol. 230: Record of Marriages Sep 12, 1850 - Sep 6, 1851

Vol. 231: Record of Marriages Sep 12, 1851 - Jun 30, 1852

Vol. 234: Record of Marriages Jun 30, 1852 - Jul 20, 1853

Vol. 236: Record of Marriages Jul 1853 - Sep 1870 (contains 30 Jul 1853 - 7 Aug 1853 & 27 Aug 1857- Jun 1870)

Records of the U.S. Consulate at Hamburg

Vol. 378: Marriages 28 Feb 1852 - 10 Aug 1853

Vol. 159: Marriage Contracts 27 Mar 1857- 29 Nov 1858 (total of 91 contracts)

Vol. 377: Marriage Contracts 15 Mar 1859 - 16 May 1866 (total of 164 contracts)

Records of the U.S. Consulate at Altona

Vol. 2: Marriage Contracts Sep 1862 - Aug 1866

Database of Naturalization Records for Germans from Federal Courts in Eastern Pennsylvania, 1798-1833

Early federal naturalization records often contain a lot of information about the individual that is not available elsewhere. Most of the individuals listed in these records from the Federal District and Circuit Courts in Philadelphia, PA, were from England, Ireland, or France.

The French were equally divided between those from Europe and those from Santa Domingo (Haiti).

Many of the later stated that they were "fugitives from the conflagration of Cape Francis in the Island of St. Domingo in 1793") and a few were free blacks or servants of whites fleeing the island. This group included a few Germans.

This database contains 109, whose place of birth or allegiance to was to a place in German-speaking Europe.

Because the U.S. government did not require the names of immigrants arriving on ships prior to 1820, this information was often unknown to researchers. A few passenger lists exist 1800 - 1819 for the Port of Philadelphia, but not for other ports.

In many of these petitions and/or declarations the date and port of arrival, the port from which they sailed, and in a very small number of cases the name of the ship is listed. In some cases their exact birthplace is noted.

The records for an individual were often scattered throughout the rolls of microfilm listed below, but were combined for each person in the database.

These records were abstracted from Record Group 21 microfilm series M1522 (Naturalization Petitions for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

rolls 1-3, 39-41 and 369), at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Most of these records are now available online on Fold3.com.

In the process of creating this database I noted that 10 individuals sailed between September 1804 and July 1811 from the port of Tonningen, of which I and several other researchers had never heard.

Three (Hüsing, Loning, Spanhoofd) were from Bremen and one (Reimers) was from Hamburg, which were major ports at this time. Tonningen is the small port of Tönning (also Tönnen, Tünn, or Tønning) in Schleswig at the mouth of the Eider River near the North Sea. Why would someone who lived in a major port city travel to Tönning to emigrate?

This researcher's knowledge of European history is limited, but a quick Internet search and the 1911 Encyclopedia Britannica explained the situation. Napoleon had control of most of continental Europe at this time and had set his sights on Britain.

In order to weaken Britain in 1806 he ordered that French and allied countries could not trade with Britain (Berlin Decree of 1806 or the Continental Blockade).

In late 1807 Britain responded by forbidding French trade and blocking all French and allied ports. France in turn decreed that any ship using British ports or paying British tariffs would be seized.

Tönning was a Danish port at the time and remained neutral for a time before Denmark sided with the French against the British. But even after this the port was functioning when few others in Europe were.

A Familienstammbuch is purchased by a couple or given to them at the time of their marriage. These books were initiated in 1875 when civil registration was required throughout Germany. The book was taken to the registrar, who entered the official marriage record at the time he married the couple. If the couple also had a religious wedding, the minister, priest, or rabbi may have also filled out an additional page in the book. In some cases the marriage is the only entry in the book, but others were filled out more or less completely by the owners. The books range from very plain books with cardboard covers with only 20-30 pages to elaborate books with more than 200 pages. These lengthy books include not only the blank pages to record vital records and family history, but also contain information regarding the laws related to marriage and recording other vital records.

The book from which the following information was taken, also has 41 pages devoted to the Kaiser and his family with several photographs; a lengthy section entitled Gesundheitspflege (health care) that lists various diseases, first aid techniques, and results of overconsumption of alcohol with drawings; a chapter on the "greatest concerns and serious duties of parents," one on "concerns for the future" and an appendix that contains short sample letters to be written on different occasions. Another Familienstammbuch for a marriage in 1932 had pages for an Ahnentafel for both the husband and wife, places for photos (although none are in the book), and in an envelope in the back, which contained typed official copies of civil and Evangelische church records obtained in 1936 probably for the completion of Ahnenpasse for the couple. The oldest birth/baptism, for which there is official 1936 church documentation, was that of a boy born in 1826.

On 10 September 1928 Margot Schaefer age 18, who was born in Berlin and whose last residence was Prenzlau, arrived in New York on the SS New York from Hamburg. (*NARA microfilm series T715, roll 4338, list #3, p. 86*) She was detained overnight, probably until her stepfather could come to the port. Her mother Margaret age 38 and her stepfather William Knaack age 52 a U.S. citizen, arrived in New York on the SS Hamburg on 21 Feb 1928 (*roll 4214 list #2*). The information below is taken from the Familienstammbuch of Margot's parents, except where another source is noted. I have underlined the given names that were underlined in the book, which would have been the names the individuals were called.

Ancestors of Margot Helena Alice SCHÄFER

1. **Margot Helena Alice¹ SCHÄFER**, born 8 Jun 1910 in Berlin and was christened 18 Sep 1910 in St. Paul's Evangelische Kirche, Berlin. She was confirmed September 1926. She entered school at the Schiller Lyceum Berlin on 11 Oct 1916 and left the school Sep 1927.

Margot died 20 Apr 1998 in Bradenton, Manatee, Florida [*SSDI & FL Death Index*].

On 23 Mar 1941 Margot married **Wilhelm Peter Konrad WITZKY** in East Orange, New Jersey. Wilhelm was born 7 Aug 1903 in Mainz and died 22 Aug 1996 in Bradenton, Manatee, Florida [*SSDI & FL Death Index*].

Wilhelm & Margot Witzky had no children. They owned their home at 76 Autumn Ave Brooklyn New York.

Generation 2

2. **Georg Alfred² SCHÄFER**, born 9 Jun 1883 in Berlin and died 19 Sep 1921 in Berlin. He was married on 20 Jul 1909 in Rügenwalde Pommern to 3. **Margareta Emilie Adelheid PIPKE**, born 30 Aug 1889 in Rügenwalde, Pommern. On the same day they were also married at St. Marienkirche

in Rügenwalde. At the time of his marriage his occupation was Kaufmann (merchant) and at the time of his death he was a tradesman's helper.

Generation 3

4. **Julius Gustav Hermann³ SCHÄFER**, born 25 Dec 1850 in Bläsendorf bei Sadenbeck, Ostprignitz and he died 1917. Hermann was a police patrolman. He married 5. **Emma Hedwig BRUNNERT**, who was born 22 Dec 1856 in Rügenwalde, Pommern. She died 6 Nov 1916 in Berlin.

6. **Hermann Ewald Reinholdt³ PIPKE**, born 11 Jun 1857 in Stolp, Pommern. He was a Leistenschneider (last tailor/shoemaker). He married 7. **Emilie Luise WESTPHAL**, born 28 Jun 1858 in Rügenwalde, Pommern.

Generation 4

8. **Johann Christian⁴ SCHÄFER**, born 16 Aug 1823 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz; died 17 Mar 1905 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz. He married (1st wife) 9. **Friederike SCHLÄFKE**, born 1 Mar 1829 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz; died 14 Aug 1862 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz. (2nd wife) **Auguste Caroline SCHLÄFKE**, born 5 Dec 1834 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz; died 6 Aug 1907 in Bläsendorf, Ostprignitz. Auguste was Friedrike's sister.

10. **Karl⁴ KUNDE**, born 11 May in Rügenwalde, Pommern; died 6 Aug 1913 in Rügenwalde, Pommern. He married 11. **Emilie Johanna Auguste BRUNNERT**, born 18 May 1839 in Rügenwalde, Pommern; died 4 Apr 1912 in Berlin, Germany.

12. **Ernst⁴ PIPKE**, born 29 May 1827 in Erbach bei Driesen in der Neumark; died early 1886 in Rügenwalde, Pommern. Ernst was a Leistenmacher (last maker). He married 13. **Caroline LEMKE**, born 27 Jun 1829 in Stolp, Pommern; died 27 Aug 1899 in Rügenwalde, Pommern.

14. **Georg August⁴ WESTPHAL**, born 17 Mar 1818 in Pennekow bei Schlawa, Pommern; died 19 Oct 1893 in Rügenwalde, Pommern. He married on 17 Mar 1818 in Pennikow bei Schlawe 15. **Wilhelmine Maria SCHWARZ**, born 30 Nov 1824 in Böblin im Pommern; died 4 Dec 1878 in Rügenwalde, Pommern, Germany.

Generation 5

16. **Johann⁵ SCHÄFER**, died 1873.

17. **Friedrich⁵ SCHLÄFKE**, died 1831. He married 18. **Anna ROESLER**, born 3 Dec 1802; died 1878.

19. **(---)⁵ PIPKE**, died 1868/69 in Neuteich bei Kreuz am Ostbahn. He was a farmer in Erbach bei Dreisen in Neumark

20. **Johann⁵ LEMBKE** was a master weaver and the sexton at St. Petri Church in Stolp He married 21. **Luise KRUPP**, born in Schmolsin bei Stolp, Pommern.

22. **Martin⁵ WESTPHAL**, born in Pennekow bei Schlawe, Pommern. He was a farmer.

23. **Sophie Regina⁵ PANTEN**, born in Böblin, Pommern.

Generation 6

24. (---)⁶ **KRUPP**, died 1806. He is listed as "teacher Kropp."

There is a note saying that as a sergeant he went on an expedition to Russia.

* = American Citizen

Stammbaum der Familie.
Eltern des Ehemannes.

Der Vater.

Stand* *Polizei-Wachtmeister a. D.*
Vorname *Julius Gustav Hermann*

Nachname *Schäfer*

Religion *evangelisch*

Geburtsstag und Jahr *25. Dezember 1850*

Geburtsort *Blasendorf bei Ladebeck Ost-Pre.*

Letzter Wohnort

Verstorben { zu *1917*
am

Die Mutter.

Stand* *Lehrerin*
Vorname *Emma Hedwig*

Geburtsname *Brunner*

Religion *evangelisch*

Geburtsstag und Jahr *22. Dezember 1856*

Geburtsort *Rügenwalde i. Pommern*

Letzter Wohnort *Berlin 4. 39, Gerichtstraße 75*

Verstorben { zu *Berlin, Kl. d. Schafmann, Berlin 4. W.*
am *Samstags 19. am 6. November 1916*
Walt und dem Pastorat, Reinschendorf,
Blankesche

24

Großeltern des Ehemannes.

Der Vater des Vaters.	Der Vater der Mutter.
Eigentümer	<i>Ruhw. Landwirt</i>
<i>Johann</i>	<i>Karl</i>
<i>Christian</i>	<i>Flunde</i>
<i>Schäfer</i>	
<i>evangelisch</i>	<i>evangelisch</i>
<i>16. August 1823</i>	<i>11. Mai</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Rügenwalde</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Rügenwalde</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Rügenwalde</i>
<i>17. März 1905</i>	<i>6. August 1913</i>
<i>Leugen. Einführung</i>	
Die Mutter des Vaters.	Die Mutter der Mutter.
<i>Lehrerin</i>	<i>Lehrerin</i>
<i>Friederike</i>	<i>Emilie Johanna Auguste</i>
<i>geboren</i>	<i>Wegener, geb.</i>
<i>Schäfer</i>	<i>Brunner</i>
<i>evangelisch</i>	<i>evangelisch</i>
<i>1. März 1829</i>	<i>18. Mai 1839</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Rügenwalde</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Berlin 4. Wiesente. 100</i>
<i>Blasendorf</i>	<i>Berlin</i>
<i>14. August 1862</i>	<i>4. April 1916</i>
<i>Wohnort Blasendorf, Leugen. Einführung</i>	<i>Leugen. Einführung</i>
<i>geb. Schäfer, Leugen. der Friederike, geb. 5. 12. 1834.</i>	
<i>in Blasendorf, verstorben 6. August 1907 in Berlin</i>	

zwei auf dem St. Paul Kirchhof Berlin Rügenwalde

Familienstammbuch of 1928 immigrant Margot Schaefer shows her ancestors.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Diane Kuster

New databases and upcoming meeting highlight current MAGS news

I cannot believe it's the middle of August already and another year is flying by. In less than two months our Fall meeting will be upon us and registrations have been steadily arriving in my mailbox. If you're planning on attending you still have plenty of time to mail your registration in. I know this meeting will once again be informative and provide you with more ways to find your ancestors. Come join us on Oct. 5 in York!

Speaking of York, if you are planning on staying at the Holiday Inn where our meeting will be held please note that the hotel does not have an elevator. If you have any issues ascending a flight of stairs please contact the hotel directly at 717-846-9500 and request a room on the first floor.

We are starting to offer more images and databases on our website in the Members Only Area. The databases are the results of hard work by Gunter Schanzenbacher, Susannah Brooks, Ken Heger and Bob Greiner. Images have been supplied by Ken and Susannah as well and more are coming. The latest database addition to our website is the records of the United States Consulates in Bremen and Hamburg. All of our databases are searchable and who knows what you'll find!

The databases on our websites took a lot of time to compile. We can get more on quicker with your help. If you are interested in assisting with database compilation please contact me at president@magsgen.com. All you need is a computer. We supply the images and the instructions to get started!

In the coming months we will be updating and revising our website. We will start to offer the ability to purchase books and other MAGS store items online using PayPal. We will be able to accept credit cards using PayPal. No more printing the order and mailing a check!

We will also be offering the ability to register for meetings online and to renew your membership. MAGS Webmaster Diane Giannini is working on the details to make this a reality. I really feel that these moves will truly lead us on the road to becoming the premier German Genealogical Society that our board always talks about!

I'm happy to also announce that Judy Dohner, MAGS Store Manager, has purchased copies of the late John Humphrey's publications for sale in our store. By the time you read this we should have his books on our website available for sale. We will also have them at our Fall meeting. MAGS member John Foertschbeck has written a book entitled German Catholic Parishes of Maryland and Pennsylvania. Mr. Foertschbeck's book will also be available at our Fall meeting and hopefully at some point on our website as well.

It's now time for me to get on my soapbox about volunteers! Another area that we can use your help in is the compiling of genealogical and historical societies by state. Believe me this is paying off for us as it's helping to grow our membership. For our fall mailing we added the state of Illinois and I'm happy to say that we picked up three new memberships plus one couple who joined will be traveling to York for our Fall meeting! I cannot express my gratitude enough to George Martel, Marjorie Leyh and Cheyenne Cashin for helping to compile these lists. We are not quite at the halfway mark statewide yet but if we get at least fifteen to twenty volunteers to help we can be done in no time! Please contact Roy Shiflet at publicity@magsgen.com and he'll be happy to get you started.

I'm looking for a new registrar to take over for me. As I've stated earlier I am now in my fourteenth year in this position and it is time

for me to move on. The Registrar receives meeting registrations, prints the handouts, stuffs the meeting packets and checks attendees in at the meetings. If you are interested in learning more please contact me at registration@magsgen.com or president@magsgen.com. This is a great way to get involved with MAGS and meet your fellow members.

Our editor, Jim Beidler, is always looking for material to fill the pages of *Der Kurier*. You don't have to be a professional author to contribute and we can always use the material. Maybe you have a brick wall solution or even some great tips to share! If you wish to contribute and see your name in print please contact Jim at james@beidler.us.

Our Spring 2014 meeting on March 22 will again be held at the Holiday Inn Laurel West. Our title for this program is Creating Access for Genealogist's 24/7. Our speakers will be from our National Archives, Fold3 and

Ancestry.com. The flyer for our Spring meeting will be ready by the October meeting and on our website before then.

This spring we will also offer a separate workshop the day before (March 21) our regular meeting. It too will be held at the Holiday Inn. Carol Carman has arranged for us to utilize a room at the hotel for this workshop. MAGS Board Member Debra Hoffman, assisted by Dr. Kenneth Heger, will present *Dissecting a Civil War Pension File*. The workshop will last approximately three to three and a half hours.

You do not need to register for the meeting on Saturday or register for the meeting on Saturday if you wish to only attend the workshop. There will be a separate cost for the workshop. Details will be available on our website very soon and as an insert in an upcoming *Der Kurier*.

Have a safe rest of the summer and I hope to see you on Oct. 5!

✱ Attention ✱

MAGS is now accepting dues for the year
2014

\$15 for individual membership
\$20 for family membership
\$10 for Library membership

If the membership number above or below your name on the address label of your *Der Kurier* ends in “-13” (i.e.: John Doe **2304-13**) please pay next year's dues before January 1st.

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

Gunter Schanzenbacher
725 Fir Spring Dr
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268

You do **not** need to complete a membership form, if your name & correct mailing address are printed on your check
MAGS accepts payments for up to 5 years membership.
Questions: membership@magsgen.com

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Renninger correspondent helps find additional information on artist

Note: Fraktur artists and scribes spelled phonetically and inconsistently. Personal names appear here as they are shown on the fraktur. Unless otherwise noted, all locations listed below are in Pennsylvania.

When Wayne Kline asked about the surname, RENNINGER, on fraktur, he was aware of the fraktur artist named Johannes RENNINGER. Our own research about Johannes RENNINGER was scant and we had been unable to identify the artist among several Johannes RENNINGERS. Wayne provided us with candidates he thought possible, and said the one he favored was the Johannes RENNINGER who was born in 1820 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. We believe Wayne was correct. Wayne said this Johannes RENNINGER was buried at Hains Church in Berks County, and the records there confirm that. Thanks to Wayne, we furthered our research into fraktur artists whose lives and works we continuously research.

Concerning research into RENNINGERS per Wayne's request, we found the following. The Free Library of Philadelphia has a Taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) made for William MACHAMER, son of Michael and Christina (RENNINGER) MACHAMER. William was born June 2, 1841 in Ruscombmanor Township, Berks County. He was baptized November 15, 1841 by Pastor BERLEY. Antony and Anna HOP sponsored William's baptism.

The Free Library also has a Taufschein made for the mother of the Lutheran preacher, J[osiah] S[tauffer] RENNINGER, whose name appears frequently on fraktur as the person performing marriages and baptisms. RENNINGER's mother was Anna Maria STAUFFER, daughter of Jacob and Maria Margaretha (LINSEBIEGLER) STAUFFER. Anna Maria was born about 6:30 in the morning

on May 5, 1808. She was born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, and baptized on May 22, 1808 by Friedrich GEISSENHEIMER. The sponsors at Anna Maria's baptism were her grandparents, Paul and Anna Maria LINSEBIEGLER.

Anna Maria STAUFFER married Peter RENNINGER, and a known Taufschein was made for one of their sons. In the sixth volume of The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans, Klaus Stopp lists data from the Taufschein made for William RENNINGER, son of Peter and Anna Maria (STAUFFER) RENNINGER. William was born about four o'clock in the morning on December 25, 1831. He was born in Frederick Township [Montgomery County], and baptized by Conrad MILLER (no date given). The sponsors at William's baptism were Georg and Caralina MILLER. No baptism certificate is known for William's younger brother, Josiah Stauffer RENNINGER, but according to New Hanover, Montgomery County, church records, he was born March 7, 1838.

The Landis Valley Village and Farm Museum in Lancaster has a Taufschein that says Thomas DUMM and Salomae RINNINGER, both single, sponsored the baptism of Benjamin BORCKÝ, son of Jacob and Barbara (HERBER) BORCKÝ. Benjamin was born February 8, 1827 in Greenwich Township, Berks County. He was baptized by Pastor CORBE on March 10, 1827. On the reverse of this certificate is written that Benjamin BORKY married Maria Anna CROLL on May 4, 1850.

On September 28, 1996, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a Taufschein

made for Johannes BENCKES, son of Andreas and Margaretha (RENNINGER) BENCKES. Johannes was born in New Hanover Township, Montgomery County, on October 26, 1794. He was baptized on November 5, 1794 by Pastor FABER. Johannes and Barbara ACHE sponsored the baptism.

On September 8, 2006, Pook & Pook sold a related example. It was made for Andreas BÄNCKS, son of Andreas and Margreth (RENNINGER) BÄNCKS. Andreas BÄNCKS Jr. was born about four o'clock in the morning on December 7, 1801. He was born in New Hanover Township, and baptized by Friderich GEISENHEIMER. The sponsors at his baptism were Johannes and Christina GILBERT. An added note says Andreas married Chadrina PAUL on June (?) 6, 1823.

On June 26, 1998, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata sold a Taufschein made for Ellen BLOCH, daughter of Isaac and Esther (RENNINGER) BLOCH. Ellen was born in Maxatawny Township, Berks County, on January 11, 1856. She was baptized by Isaac ROELLER, Lutheran, but no date of baptism was given. The sponsors at Ellen's baptism were Louis BLOCH and Elisabeth GROSS.

The American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, has a Taufschein made for Susanna, daughter of Jacob ESHLEMAN and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of M. RENNINGER. Susanna was born May 29, 1836 in East Pennsboro Township, Cumberland County. No information about her baptism was given.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Johann Jacob RÄNNINGER, son of Johann Jacob RÄNNINGER and his wife, Margaretha, daughter of Johannes LOWEGUT. Johann Jacob RÄNNINGER Jr. was born about eleven o'clock in the evening on March 7, 1792 in Penn Township, Northumberland County. He was baptized on March 25, presumably in 1792, by Matheus GANTZEL. The sponsors at Johann Jacob's baptism were Johannes and Elisabetha GERMAN.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Henry Härrison, son of Johann RENNINGER and his wife, Rebecka, daughter of Henr. WITTENMEYER. Henry Härrison was born July 22, 1843 in Centre Township, Union

County. He was baptized November 4, 1843 by Joh. Pet[er] SCHINDEL Jr. The parents sponsored Henry Härrison's baptism.

The Winter/Summer 2005 issue of News from the Evangelical & Reformed Historical Society published information from a Bible record that says Charles B[owman] SCHNEDER married Elizabeth RENNINGER on July 21, 1885. They were married by D. B. SCHNEDER at the home of a Mr. DELLINGER in Marietta [Lancaster County]. Charles Bowman SCHNEDER was born January 5, 1861 in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County. He was baptized by D. HERTZ, but no other information regarding his baptism was given. Elizabeth RENNINGER died of convulsions brought on by influenza at 8:55 the night of March 12, 1890. She was 30 years and 19 days old.

Charles and Elizabeth (RENNINGER) SCHNEDER had two children, but an error appears to have crept into data concerning the years in which they were born. It is unknown if the error was made in the primary or the secondary source, but both the daughter and son born to the SCHNEDERs were said to have been born in 1886. The daughter was Elizabeth Renninger SCHNEDER, born February 2, 1886 in Brecknock Township. She was baptized by Pastor BOYER. The son was William Abraham SCHNEDER, born October 5, 1886 in Brecknock Township. He was baptized October 31, 1886 by S. SCHWEITZER. Following Elizabeth's death, Charles B. SCHNEDER married Ivy Elton HUGHES on June 9, 1891. They were married by J. F. MOYER at the home of the bride's parents in Pine Grove, Schuylkill County.

We sent Wayne Kline additional information from fraktur that mention RENNINGERs.

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

Leiby/Moser data found in margins

By Corinne and Russell Earnest

Regarding family registers, most genealogists think of Bible records, but Americans of German heritage recorded family registers and notes about family history almost anywhere. Mostly they appear on paper media, but some family registers and birth records appear on textiles. These include eighteenth and nineteenth century samplers, but also “show towels” made primarily for Mennonite families.

Regarding those made on paper, we covered six categories of Pennsylvania German registers in our book, *To the Latest Posterity*,¹ but we have found notes about family events such as births, marriages, and deaths in cookbooks and scrapbooks, on envelopes and receipts, in ledgers and day books, and even in a late nineteenth century student’s geography book. Many early and detailed registers created for Anabaptist families appear on the fly-leaves of the *Martyrs Mirror*, the beloved book so treasured by Mennonites.

Occasionally, fraktur artists and scribes penned family registers on the reverse of birth and baptism certificates. Consequently, many are framed and hang on the walls out-of-sight of the owners who display the decorated baptism certificates, but are completely unaware of what is written on back.

Recently, we came across a register recorded on the margins of a confirmation certificate printed by J. D. Wollenweber of Philadelphia. This certificate says Sarah A. MOSER was confirmed on March 29, 1861 by Owen LEOPOLD in the Lutheran Church in Tripoli, which is in Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Normally, excess margins on these certificates were trimmed, often to fit a frame, but on Sarah’s certificate, the wide margins were put to good use for recording the LEIBY/MOSER family register. Because the register was professionally penned, it does not appear to have been a matter of frugality in that it “re-used” existing paper. If that had been the case, the family probably would not have hired penmen to record the data.

Three professional penmen contributed entries to the LEIBY/MOSER register. Because they did, we can draw several conclusions about the register. Sarah, or perhaps her husband, John A. LEIBY, likely kept notes on scraps of paper waiting for an itinerant scribe to happen by. The Leibys could have written the family data themselves on the margins of Sarah’s confirmation certificate, but prized the register so much, they preferred the hand of a professional. They even went to the trouble of keeping the certificate readily available so scribes could add information as occasions arose.

We can attribute the handwriting of these itinerants to three well-known scribes. The scribe who began the register was R. Schweitzer (active ca. 1866-76). He penciled the baselines along the margins for organizing and recording entries through Lena Marianna, who was baptized late in 1874. Schweitzer was followed by a scribe named Augustus F. Weintraut (active ca. 1875-1904), who recorded Emma Rosa’s entry, and Rudolph Heinrich Ottomar Grossmann (1822-died after 1889) recorded the last entry for the birth and baptism of Oscar Jefferson LEIBY.

Details from the German-language confirmation certificate and register follow (names are spelled as they appear on the certificate):

The confirmation certificate was infilled for Sarah A. MOSER. She was confirmed in the Lutheran Church at Tripoli on March 29, 1861 by Owen LEOPOLD. The family register made for John A. and Sarah Anna (MOSER) LEIBY says:

John A. LEIBY was born May 25, 1824 and baptized August 22, 1824 by Pastor ZUELLICH [ZUILCH]. The sponsors were Johannes and Rebecca LEIBY.

Sarah Anna MOSER was born July 15, 1844 and baptized August 18, 1844 by Pastor OBERFELD. The sponsors at her baptism were Burkhard and Rebecca MOSER.

John A. LEIBY and Sarah Anna MOSER were married in Steinville on February 24, 1863 by John ZUILCH.

Their children were:

Medina Ellen LEIBY, born August 23, 1863 and baptized September 24, 1863. The sponsors were Philip and Mary Ann MOSER.

Mantana Alica LEIBY, born October 12, 1865 and baptized December 10, 1865 by F. ZUILCH. The sponsors were Daniel and Angelina LEIBY.

John Kossuth LEIBY, born September 23, 1867 and baptized November 10, 1867 by F. ZUILCH. The sponsors were the parents.

Sarah Ammalina LEIBY, born October 5, 1868 and baptized November 8, 1868 by F. ZUILCH. The sponsors were the parents.

Lena Marianna LEIBY, born September 13, 1874 and baptized November 1, 1874 by H. FOEGLE. The sponsors were the parents.

Emma Rosa LEIBY, born March 31, 1877 and baptized May 13, 1877 by H. S. FEGELEY. The sponsors were the parents.

Oscar Jefferson LEIBY, born December 14, 1879 and baptized April 5, 1880 by H. S. FEGELIE. The only sponsor at this baptism was Maria MOSER, single.

¹Corinne and Russell Earnest, *To the Latest Posterity: Pennsylvania-German Family Registers in the Fraktur Tradition* (University Park, Pa.: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2003).

Funeral home records book released

Volume 4 of *Murray Funeral Home Records, Washington, DC, 1934-1940*, is now available from the Prince George's County Genealogical Society for \$20 (MD residents add 6 percent tax) and \$3 shipping. Copies of Volumes 1, 2 and 3 are still available for \$20. If ordering more than one book the postage is \$3 for first book and 90 cents for each additional. Please send orders to: Prince George's County Genealogical Society, Publications – Murray, PO Box 819, Bowie, MD 20718-0819

Illustrating Maryland: Using the Institute of American Deltiology Postcard Collection for Family History

by **Vanathy Senthilkumar
and Sarah Espinosa**

Introduction

People researching their families benefit from knowing about their ancestors' daily lives. How their surrounding looked provides great insight into their world and how they lived, worked and played. Many researchers who have undertaken such research know all too well, that documenting the sights your ancestor saw on a regular basis can be a daunting task. Between fire, demolition, and renovation, the buildings slowly lose extensions and ornaments. Monuments and memorials remain while the city around them develops; historic residences, row houses, and churches disappear from skylines.

Fortunately, the postcards that the Institute of American Deltiology has collected are a fantastic source for family and local historians. Donald Brown established the Institute of American Deltiology (IAD) in Myerstown Pennsylvania in 1993; the IAD's main collection consists of an estimated 1 million postcards.¹

Brown intended the collection to document American heritage as seen through postcards, most of which date from 1870 to the present day. Fortunately for people with ancestors who lived in Maryland, the approximately 200,000 postcards the IAD donated to the Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, in College Park, MD, hold great images and are nearby and easy to access. The University expects more postcards to arrive in upcoming years.

MARYLAND RESEARCH

Out of the total IAD collection the University's Special Collections holds, there are four boxes containing approximately 2,130 postcards relating specifically to Maryland. The

collection represents all 23 counties, particularly Anne Arundel County (243 postcards), Frederick County (154), Washington County (157), Worcester County (129), and Baltimore County and City, the latter of which makes up the bulk of the IAD Maryland collection (more than 890 postcards). With such a wealth of information, a few examples relating to Baltimore will serve to demonstrate the collection's value.

Researchers interested in architecture and urban planning histories will benefit from views of the same location over time. The Baltimore section of the collection represents the decoration styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as reflected in banks, hotels, and commercial buildings.

The once solitarily standing buildings of the Baltimore skyline are now lost among the various taller buildings that were built around them in subsequent years. The postcards help you see what the city looked like before the advent of the city's skyscrapers.

In a folder entitled Businesses you can find images of by-gone Baltimore. One postcard captures the unique blue Bromo-Seltzer bottle on top of the Bromo-Seltzer Tower Building. Today the blue bottle that adorned the top of the tower has been removed. A private mailing card of the Belvedere Hotel in Baltimore is the oldest postcard in the IAD Maryland collection. More historic architecture postcard are available under the file folders Buildings, Churches, Hotels, Houses, Monuments and Memorials, Residences, Skyline, and Streets.

Transportation and industry transformed Baltimore and are represented strongly in the postcard collection. Researchers interested in the evolution of transportation can find postcards of horse-and-buggies, electric streetcars, buses, trolleys, and cars. The railroad industry and the



harbor feature prominently in the Baltimore part of the collection, which includes a divided back of

The Bromo-Seltzer Building

the B&O Piers at the industrial neighborhood of Locust Point, a divided back of new docks being constructed on the harbor and an undivided back of the Baltimore Chesapeake & Atlantic Railway Company at Light Street Wharf. File folders containing transportation and industry include Buses and Trolleys, Commerce, the Harbor, Harborplace, Inner or Upper Harbor, Industries, and Railroads.

Johns Hopkins features prominently in the collection, along with the University of Maryland, the Baltimore Medical College, the State Normal School (now known as Towson), and the Woman's College also known as Goucher College.

These postcards provide a pictographic history of these various institutions and how they have changed over the years. Baltimore's higher-

education institutions may be found in file folders including Towson, Colleges, Goucher College, Johns Hopkins University and Hospital, Peabody Institute, Schools, and University of Maryland Hospital.

Researchers studying early 19th-century handwriting and American culture will appreciate the short handwritten messages and the stories of individuals mentioned in postcards.

This can be seen in the series of postcards written by a gentleman in Baltimore, who goes by the initials of H.S.A., to a Chicago native named Lottie Sussmann. Their exchanges allow researchers to piece together a blossoming relationship.

The manner of the messages from IAD postcards foreshadows how people today communicate via texting, emailing and social media. Often referred to by Special Collections student assistants as "olden-day Tweets," these brief shout-outs contain as much historical significance as the pictorial views, and provide a priceless window into the lives of individuals throughout history.

USING THE IAD COLLECTION

Researchers can access the IAD Postcard Collection in the Special Collections by visiting the reading room on the first floor of Hornbake Library, University of Maryland.

Visitors using archival material, including the postcards, must fill out a use-agreement form² and present a photo ID to the reference librarian. Researchers can also access an online finding aid³ in the ArchivesUM database that describes the state, county, city, subject, and date of postcards within the collection.⁴

Special Collections has digitized some IAD postcards and made them accessible online through the Digital Collections National Trust Library (NTL) Historic Postcard Collection.⁵

Search specifically for digitized IAD postcards by conducting a keyword search for "Institute of American Deltiology" or browsing scans for postcards labeled "ArchivesUM Location: Institute of American Deltiology." To contact Special Collections with questions about the IAD

Postcard Collection, email
askhornbake@umd.edu.

Many staff and students at the Special Collections contributed to the creation of the finding aid for the IAD Collection. While the finding aid provides granular descriptions, some researchers may still have trouble finding views of specific buildings or landscapes. Inconsistencies exist in the hierarchies.

For example, some higher-education institutions are listed under the file folder Colleges, but Johns Hopkins and Goucher College have their own file folders. The University of Maryland Hospital has a file folder separate from Hospitals. Views of the Baltimore Harbor exist within at least three files--the Harbor, Harborplace, Inner or Upper Harbor--but are indirectly pictured within most of the Baltimore collection. Moreover, Maryland researchers will find the Baltimore City postcards filed within Baltimore County, even though Baltimore City exists independently.

CATEGORIES OF POSTCARDS AND DATING AT SPECIAL COLLECTIONS⁶

Special Collections recognizes seven different eras of postcards, with each era distinguished by specific markers. The various eras of postcards reveal chapters of American history.

1. Pioneer, extremely rare (1870-1898): The United States Postal Service (USPS) issued cards dubbed “American Souvenir Cards,” “Postal Cards,” and “Mail Cards,” which had a back exclusively for address and a front with a picture and space for message. The government pre-stamped cards for the price of a penny, regardless of distance. Privately printed postcards that included a written message required two-cent stamps).

2. Private mailing cards (PMC), very rare (1898-1901): The USPS held a monopoly on postal cards from 1873-1898, until Congress passed the Private Mailing Card Act. It fostered the growth of private companies to print postcards as it reduced the postage price of all cards to a penny. During this era postcards had the inscription “Private Mailing Card, Authorized by

Act of Congress on May 19, 1898” on cards not issued by the government. Like pioneer cards, PMC had undivided backs for the address and some white space on the front for messages.

3. Undivided back, (1901-1907): U.S. postal regulations required private companies to label the cards as “Post card.” The cards still had small white spaces on the front for messages. The postcards did not have a vertical line on the back which was strictly used only for the correspondence address. It did not, however, stop some defiant people from dividing the back for both message and address. This era, considering that an estimated seven billion postcard were mailed worldwide in 1905, is the golden age of postcards.⁷

4. Divided back, (1907-1914): The postcards in this era have a vertical line on the back that leaves room for the correspondence address on the right side and the message on the left. Divided back postcards typically do not have borders. This era signifies the birth of the modern postcard. Before the start of World War I, the U.S. imported postcards printed in the German Empire. This prompted the U.S. to increase taxes on imported postcards to benefit private American companies.

5. White border, (1915-1930): To save ink, publishers left the borders blank, thus providing the distinguishing characterization of the postcards from this time period. The quality and quantity of the postcards in this era are low compared to the predecessors and the successors. Due to the war, the government restricted use of certain materials to produce postcards. Furthermore, the price of mailing postcards went up to two-cents, which in turn curtailed its popularity.

6. Linen, (1930-1955): Linens differ by their cloth-like texture and bright coloring. Some cards produced during this era are not true linen but rather imitations. Some cards have a white or colored border and should not be confused with postcards from the white border era. Usually postcards from these two eras can be distinguished by copyright dates, postmark dates, texture, and color.

7. Photochrome, (1939-present): These cards look like photographs and often have a glossy finish.

CONCLUSION

The IAD Postcard Collection, housed in the Special Collections at University of Maryland Libraries, provides Maryland researchers with an incredible glimpse into history--whether one's interest lie in the postcard's rich imagery, the message, or the individual who treasured it.

Although this article included only examples from Baltimore postcards, the rest of the Maryland collection holds equal merit for historical significance. For those interested in postcard research, the multitude of states in the IAD collection contains older and more varied postcards. Special Collections staff and student

assistants continue to process recently-received postcards. Moreover, other postcard collections exist within Special Collections, including the National Trust Library Historic Postcard Collection⁸ and the Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications QSL card collection.⁹ Postcard collections have much to offer historical researchers, including those who wish to delve deeper into the history of the state of Maryland.

Vanathy Senthilkumar and Sarah Espinosa attend the Masters of Library Science Program at the University of Maryland iSchool and work as graduate student assistants at the Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries. They currently process the Institute of American Deltiology Postcard Collection.

REFERENCES

¹ Donald Brown, "Institute of American Deltiology: An Emerging Resource," Norman D. Stevens, ed. *Postcards in the Library: Invaluable Visual Resources*, Monograph Published Simultaneously As Popular Culture in Libraries, Vol 3, No 2, (Routledge: 1996), 17-26.

² Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, *Policies and Forms* (<http://www.lib.umd.edu/special/policies/home>: accessed 13 May 2013), "Using Materials in the Maryland Room" (PDF) and "Researcher Registration" (PDF).

³ The Society of American Archivists defines a finding aid as a "tool that facilitates discovery of information within a collection of records; a description of records that gives the repository physical and intellectual control over the materials and that assists users to gain access to and understand the materials." Society of American Archivists, *Glossary Search: Finding Aid* (<http://www2.archivists.org/glossary/terms/f/finding-aid>: accessed 17 May, 2013).

⁴ Digital Collections and Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, *Institute of American Deltiology*, a finding aid hosted on the ArchivesUM database (<http://hdl.handle.net/1903.1/13264>: accessed 13 May 2013).

⁵ Digital Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, *National Trust Library Historic Postcard Collection*, an online database hosting scans of postcards in the IAD and NTL postcard collections (<http://digital.lib.umd.edu/ntlpostcards>: accessed 13 May 2013).

⁶ Smithsonian Archives, *Greetings from the Smithsonian: A Postcard History of the Smithsonian Institution* (<http://siarchives.si.edu/history/exhibits/postcard/chronology.htm>: accessed 13 May 2013); Center of Southwest Studies Fort Lewis College, *Tips for determining when a U.S. postcard was published* (<http://swcenter.fortlewis.edu/images/M194/PostcardDating.htm>: accessed 13 May 2013); Metropolitan Postcard Club of New York City, *A not so Concise History of the Evolution of Postcards in the United States* (<http://www.metropostcard.com/metropchistory.html>: accessed 13 May 2013).

⁷ Rosamond B. Vaule, *As We Were: American Photographic Postcards, 1905-1930*. (David R. Godine, Publisher: 2004)

⁸ Digital Collections and Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries, *National Trust Library Historic Postcard Collection*, a finding aid hosted on the ArchivesUM database (: accessed 13 May 2013)

⁹ The Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications (CPRV) is a six-person group that preserves QSL cards, which are souvenirs of individual listening experiences and an important part of the history of radio, reflecting changes in national politics, broadcasters, frequencies and relations between stations and listeners. The CPRV is associated with the Library of American Broadcasting, Special Collections, University of Maryland Libraries. CPRV, *The Committee to Preserve Radio Verifications Homepage* (<http://www.ontheshortwaves.com/cprv.html>: accessed 13 May 2013).

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2013

Sept. 21. Germanic Genealogy Society, South St. Paul, MN. Featured speaker Zella Mirick, AG. More info: www.ggsmn.org.

October 5. MAGS Fall Meeting, York, PA. Featured speakers Beth Levitt, Patrick Connelly and James M. Beidler. More info: 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.

2014

May 7-10. National Genealogical Society, Richmond, VA. National Conference. MAGS will be participating and have Booth 507 in the exhibit hall! More info: <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Aug. 27-30. Federation of Genealogical Societies, San Antonio, TX. National Conference with the theme "Gone to Texas." More info: <https://www.fgsconference.org/>

BUCHBESPRECHUNGEN / *Book Review*

The Heart of the Taufschein: Fraktur and the Pivotal Role of Berks County, Pennsylvania

by Russell and Corinne Earnest

Published by Pennsylvania German Society, 2012

Russell and Corinne Earnest are no strangers to the MAGS audience; Corinne's "Fraktur Forum" appears in every issue of *Der Kurier* and she has answered countless inquiries as a service to the society's members. Russell also has written articles for our quarterly journal.

The Earnests estimate that they have recorded some 30,000 fraktur, the decorative folk art certificates that often have genealogical information, and Bible records in their lifetime of work.

And that lifetime of work – I hesitate to say "culminated," since I hope they continue to

inform us for years to come! – has resulted in what really needs to be called their masterwork, the 2012 Pennsylvania German Society annual publication that is entitled *The Heart of the Taufschein*.

Fraktur has been studied by people involved with Pennsylvania German culture, history and genealogy for decades. These manuscripts and paper forms are formally known as Frakturschriften, which means "broken writing" in German since in this type of decorative handwriting the letters are left unconnected.

As might be expected, it was thought at one time that the fraktur of the Pennsylvania Germans was merely a continuation of traditions began in Europe.

But while the concept of Fraktur, the singular and plural short form for Frakturschriften, seems to descend somewhat from the illuminated manuscript tradition of the European Middle Ages, the Earnests show that the Taufschein (baptismal certificate) and other such creations are a distinctly American phenomenon.

In fact, they trace the beginnings of what they differentiate as American “fraktur” (lower-case f) to the unordained Lutheran pastor Daniel Schumacher, who created baptismal certificates between the 1750s and 1780s, primarily for the Pennsylvania German people in churches at which he preached in what are today Berks and Lehigh counties.

I’ll admit to some prejudice at this point: The Berks County of the book’s subtitle is my birthplace as well as current residence – and I have long considered Schumacher’s creations to be the most interesting of all these pieces of folk art (Interestingly enough, however, none of the better than 200 Fraktur shown as illustrations in the book mention my direct-line ancestors despite the fact that not just my birthplace but nearly all of my American pedigree hails from Berks County!).

One of the many great points of scholarship that the Earnests put in the book is that the dating of fraktur can be difficult. While it might be thought that baptismal certificates were created contemporaneously with the event, many times other evidence has proved this not to be true.

After recounting Schumacher’s founding influence, the Earnests profile the rise of fraktur around the time of the American Revolution – along with an accompanying “revolution” in the production of fraktur when

artists had printers produce a “template” of sorts that they would then decorate, color and “in fill.”

This was followed in short order by Friedrich Krebs’ printed “three hearts” design that became popular in the decades on both sides of the turn into the 19th century (The Earnests recount how difficult it was for the printing technology of the time – with needing to use small, easily breakable pieces of metal type to form the lobes of the heart – to produce this ... so much so that they printed the exact dates on the first versions of these certificates).

The Earnests show that Southeastern Pennsylvania – and especially Berks County – was the hotbed of fraktur activity during this time period.

Schoolmasters, pastors, itinerant scribes and printers were all part of this industry that produced fraktur from the Mid-Atlantic to Southern back country and across the Appalachians to Ohio.

In talking about the genealogical value of fraktur, the Earnests stress that – perhaps primarily because of Schumacher – they often include the maiden name of the child’s mother. Genealogists who’ve suffered through church records that say nothing other than “and wife” for the mother’s name know how important this is!

Simply put, the Earnests have crafted a volume that is a treasure from the standpoints of scholarship, art and genealogy.

The website of the Earnest Archives and Library is found at the URL <http://www.earnestarchivesandlibrary.com>. For a free catalog of books on Fraktur, including those named above, write Russell D. Earnest Associates, PO Box 1132, Clayton DE 19938 or email them at RDEARNEST@aol.com

Reviewed by James M. Beidler

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.

Steven H. Amick of Newark, DE
(*Amick, Ickes, Bowser, Schoch*)
Constance G. Bryant of Hattiesburg, MS
(*No Names*)
Russ & Peggy Cole of Laurel, MD
(*Mattern, Lanz, Bayer, Cassel*)
Albert J. Hartman of Pittsburgh, PA
(*Hartmann, Graf, Diller, Bernardy*)

Stephen & Edris Hoover of Chicago, IL
(*Hoover, Naigle, Herman*)
Kristina Jarosik of Chicago, IL
(*Dunker, Siegwart, Winkler, Hepp*)
Garth Libhart of Washington, DC
(*Libhart, Libhardt*)
Marsha L.H. Masone of Clifton, VA
(*Henckel/Hinckel, Hauschild, Ellsworth, Frey*)

Nancy Mozeleski of Berryville, VA
(*Custer, Holsapple, Truby, Sandrock*)
Virginia A. Nuta of Montgomery Village, MD
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1866, Porter Co, IN. Liv Holton & Horton KS 1874-1922. Charles d 18 Aug 1922.

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