



Der Kurier

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An overview of Wiesbaden Consulate Agency records

By **Elissa Anderson, Anthony E. Freeman, Allison Skaggs
and Joseph Vincent**

Family historians are always searching for new sources of information. Members of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and other readers of *Der Kurier* are no exception.

With this end in mind, the MAGS Board renewed its efforts to provide MAGS members with new sources and suggestions on how to expand your research parameters. Theresa Polk's article "An Untapped Source for Family History: Records of the American Consular Agency at Kiel, 1866-1916" in the December 2013 issue of *Der Kurier* was the first result of this renewed effort

This article continues that work. It will be the first in a series of articles describing the records of the American Consular Agency at Wiesbaden. This article provides an overview of the Consular Agency to put the records in context.

Subsequent articles will describe individual series of records in greater detail, pointing out their value to family historians. Please note, even if your ancestor did not hail from the Wiesbaden area or travel to the city, these articles may hold great value to you.

In addition to providing detail about the record of the Agency and the area in Germany where it operated, the article will help you understand the primary mission of American foreign service posts and the records they created and maintained. This is portable information that you can use to explore the records of other consular agencies, consulates, legations and embassies.

These articles on the records of the Wiesbaden Consular Agency stem from a project a group of graduate students at the University of Maryland's College of

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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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*

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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 241, New Windsor, MD 21776. E-mail: james@beidler.us

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Diane Kuster

MAGS update this quarter

One of the top goals of the MAGS Board is to become the premier German genealogy society that genealogists and researchers will reach out to for guidance and assistance in locating ancestors and the places from whence they came. To become that society it takes money, time, effort and resources and we are starting to head in that direction.

For a couple of years now several board members have been indexing records from the United States National Archives and the New York Historical Society. To date there are nine databases on the MAGS website for which you can do a surname search.

Three of the databases – the Geissenhainer ones – are available to the public and members alike. This is per an agreement with NYHS. All other databases are available to members only. The following table shows the number of records that are currently available for search.

Surname Database	1,585
Pension Records	4,648
Naturalization Records	109
Bremen Emigrations	272
Bremen Marriages	917
Hamburg Marriages	251
Altoona Marriages	105
Geissenhainer Baptisms	4,100
Geissenhainer Confirmations	636
Geissenhainer Marriages	2,500

The board members who are performing the indexing are adding new records every month so you need to check back on a regular basis. You never know when you might find someone you're looking for! Going forward I will give an update on the progress made in both the *Der Kurier* and on our website regarding the number of records added to any database and if a new database is added. Updates will be posted on the home page of our website on a monthly basis so keep checking!

One additional database that work will begin on soon is the index of surnames that we include each year in the *Der Kurier* from the previous year's issues. MAGS member Emily Andrews has been very instrumental in compiling that list and she gets it done very fast. As surnames from the indexes are added to the website you will see an update on the site so again keep checking.

I've explained the time, effort and resources and now I'll address the money it will take to accomplish our goals. Back in March MAGS acquired the remaining inventory of John Humphrey's remaining inventory of his Pennsylvania Births series and his *Understanding and Using Baptismal Records*. I am not kidding when I say we had to move quickly otherwise these books would have been destroyed. Thanks to Debra Hoffman and her family for getting to John's residence and retrieving the books. This was not a small effort as there were approximately 199 cases of books weighing up to 42 pounds apiece. The books had to be loaded and then unloaded at a storage facility until it could be determined how we would market and sell the books. So the Hoffman clan got a heck of a workout that day. Judy Dohner and Bob Greiner met Debra at the storage facility where an inventory was taken as the boxes were unloaded and stored.

The money received from the sale of John's books will benefit MAGS as a whole. It was John Humphrey's desire along with many other board members to see us as the premier German genealogical society. I truly believe that John is looking out for us from up above and wanted us to have the rest of his books and to use the proceeds from the sale of them for the benefit of MAGS. Funds raised from the sale of the books will go towards marketing MAGS nationally, improving our website and determining a way to properly honor John's contribution to not just German genealogy but to genealogy overall.

Twelve of the fourteen titles that we obtained are now available to members and non-

members alike for \$10 each. Two of the fourteen are available for \$5 each. Shipping for a single title is \$4.50 and each additional title is 50 cents. A set of the books is available for \$100 plus \$15 shipping. An order form is inside this issue of *Der Kurier* and also can be downloaded from our website. It lists the titles available and where to mail your check if you wish to order. A word of advice ... three of the titles have less than 100 copies and when they're gone, they're gone so think about ordering today! Also, give the order form to your fellow genealogists and societies and anyone else who you feel would benefit from John's books.

I have a lot of folks to thank this issue. First, our "Civil War Pension File" Workshop held on March 21 was a great success! MAGS board member Debra Hoffman with assistant Dr. Kenneth Heger did an outstanding job and the attendees walked away with a wealth of knowledge. Carol Carman handled placing the files and images Debra had prepared onto each USB thumb drive that the attendees brought with them.

Our spring meeting on March 22 was also a success even though our attendance was lower than anticipated. Under the direction of our Sales Manager, Judy Dohner, sales were brisk especially in relation to John Humphrey's books. Judy was

assisted at the tables by her daughter Lee Roberts, Susannah Brooks and Debra Hoffman.

The NGS conference was held in Richmond, Virginia, this past May and we set up as a vendor there. We had a fantastic four days of sales with the bulk of the sales due to John's books! Many thanks to Susannah Brooks for coordinating the location of our spot in the vendor's hall and for managing the booth all four days. Assisting Susannah all four days as well were Carol Carman, Roy Shiflet and Charles Hessler. Stopping by to also assist were Bob Greiner and Debra Hoffman. Thank you to all for a successful conference!

Lastly, June is now here and the year is almost half over. Our fall meeting will be held on Saturday, October 25, at the Sheraton – Wilmington South, New Castle, Delaware. On Friday, October 24, we will hold a workshop at the same location. The four sessions on Saturday will focus on documenting American military service in the First World War. Speakers for the day are Connie Potter and Patrick Osborne.

Our workshop, which will be presented by Dr. Kenneth Heger, is entitled "Selling the War at Home" and will be an interactive session on posters from the Great War. The meeting and workshop flyers are both available on our website and they will also be in our September issue but mark your calendars and make your plans to attend. I hope to see many of you there!

Wiesbaden Consulate Agency overview

(Continued from cover)

Information (the iSchool) undertook. The students were in a Master of Library Science degree program in a class examining the basics of arranging and describing original records. As part of their work, Dr. Kenneth W. Heger, their professor and MAGS Board member, gave the students several assignments to tackle relating to these records. The assignments ranged from creating an historical narrative of the Consular Agency providing a context to the records' creation, to detailed descriptions of individual boxes and volumes. This article is the first in a series of monographs discussing the records of the Consular Agency at Wiesbaden, discussing

why they hold value to family historians. It places the records in the context in which they were created, providing you with an understanding of what your ancestor might have experienced while vacationing, studying or conducting business in the region.

WIESBADEN

The city of Wiesbaden is located on the east bank of the Rhine River, almost directly opposite of the city of Mainz and approximately twenty-five miles west of Frankfurt. For centuries it was the capital of the *Grafschaft* of



Wiesbaden's spas were a major draw for American tourists, making a U.S. outpost desirable in the area.

Nassau (ruled by a count), one of the hundreds of states of the Holy Roman Empire. The city's springs, its proximity to a major wine-growing region, and its position as capital of a midsized German state made the city a tourist draw. After the French Revolution, the Congress of Vienna expanded Nassau's size by allowing it to annex many smaller states around it and elevated the state's status to a *Herzogtum* (duchy, ruled by a duke). Wiesbaden remained the capital city and the duchy had a seat in the German Confederation's Diet. Wiesbaden's unique political status ended abruptly when the Duchy of Nassau was on the losing side of the Seven Weeks War. After that war, Prussia annexed the former duchy making it part of the new Prussian province of Hesse-Nassau.

Even though it was no longer a state capital, Wiesbaden remained a significant midsized German city. Its spas, broad avenues,

public parks and ample hotel rooms made Wiesbaden world renowned. The city and its environs were also home to a vibrant industry specializing in the fine wines produced in the nearby Rhine River valley. The combination of city amenities, spas and the wine industry resulted in Wiesbaden being a major tourist destination. By 1910, the city of Wiesbaden itself was home to about 110,000 individuals and the destination for thousands of tourists annually.

As the nineteenth century progressed, the area around Wiesbaden became increasingly commercial. The wine export industry expanded. Hotels sprang up to meet the demands of the tourist trade. Manufacturing industries began to develop. Notable among these enterprise were plants to manufacture chemicals; anilines and color dyes; artificial fertilizers; cement; porcelain and chinaware; clay pipes; beer mugs; and whetstones.

The United States participated in this growing trade. In 1911 the Department of State estimated, for example, the total exports to the United States from the Wiesbaden area amounted to \$785,358. In addition to wine, the principle items and the amount of money they generated were: aniline colors \$307,083; oxalic acid \$143,519; wine \$145,830; clay pipes \$29,193; cream of tartar \$16,978; and citric acid \$10,178.

THE CONSULAR AGENCY

The Consular Agency was not the first American presence in Wiesbaden. Before the Prussian annexation of the Duchy of Nassau in 1866, the United States had maintained a small consular presence in the city to represent American interests with the Duchy's government. Although those records are outside the scope of this article, the despatches the Consul sent to the Department of State are available for you to examine as National Archives Microfilm Publication T473, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in the Duchy of Nassau, 1854-1869*; this publication consists of a single roll of microfilm. After Prussia's annexation of the Duchy of Nassau, maintaining a presence in Wiesbaden was no longer a priority to the American government; consequently, the Department of that closed the consulate.

As the nineteenth century drew to a close, however, the Department rethought that decision. It noted that an increasing number of American tourists traveled to Wiesbaden to visit the spas, often citing the spas restorative powers as the draw. In 1901 the American government recognized this trend and decided to reestablish an official presence in the city to protect the interests of its citizens. The Department of State did not believe a full-fledged consulate would be necessary to protect American interests in the Wiesbaden area. Instead, it established a lesser diplomatic presence opting for a Consular Agency, operating under the auspices of the American Consulate General in Frankfurt.

The decision to open a Consular Agency in the city was a great benefit for American citizens. Although there were only about fifty to sixty Americans who considered the city their permanent residence, thousands of Americans traveled to the city each year. In 1910 the Department of State estimated approximately

10,000 Americans visited Wiesbaden, coming to the springs to improve their health, sample the local wines, study at a school in the general vicinity of Wiesbaden, or for a business purposes.

To ensure that the new Consular Agency served a useful purpose, the Department of State expected the Agency to look out for American interests not just within Wiesbaden proper, but in the area surrounding the city. Knowing this is essential for family historians whose ancestors may have come from the vicinity or traveled there. Other towns within the Agency's district included Bad Assmannshausen, Bad Ems, Bieberich, Niederwalluf, Schlangenbad, Schwalbach, and Winkel.

The Agency always remained small, and only had two Agents during its history. The Department of State appointed Charles Hollman to be the post's first Agent on January 19, 1901. He served in that capacity for about two years when the Department replaced him with J.B. Brewer on August 26, 1903. Hollman did not leave Wiesbaden and served in an official capacity at least one more time. Between April 14 and November 1, 1904, Brewer was temporarily the Vice Consul at the Consulate in Magdeburg. During that time Hollman served as Acting Agent.

John B. Brewer, the post's second and final Agent, possessed many admirable qualities. Brewer was trained as a civil engineer, and spoke several languages, including German. He had become a naturalized citizen in 1901, resided in New York state the Department of State appointed him to be Agent at Wiesbaden. His salary was \$1000. The Department praised Brewer as scholarly, a more than average consular agent, and a good linguist, who strove to produce satisfactory work. Brewer had, however, minor flaws in the State Department's eyes. First the Department felt that that Brewer had a slightly aristocratic approach to his duties. Second, the Department commented on Brewer's frustration in his lack of upward advancement.

The documents reveal that the offices had modern amenities; for example, they were lighted by electric light. Brewer performed a number of duties. These included keeping a record of tariff fees, quarantine regulations, and a corrected list of custom-houses and immediate transportation ports. The office did not possess or use a safe or

safety vault. The Agency kept a number of standard consular books, such as an invoice books; fee books; registers of letters sent and of letters received; and a letter press copy book used exclusively for office correspondence. All of those just listed were in fair condition and adequate for the running of the business each time the Department of State inspected the Agency. In addition the consulate kept files of unbound letters received.

The Agency's continued existence was never secure. In 1907 the Department of State considered closing the post, contending that nearby posts, in particular the Consular Agency at Mainz or the Consulate General at Frankfurt, could perform the functions the Wiesbaden Agency performed. Most of the Agency's official, revenue-producing work related to invoices. Since the majority of that business was done by mail, some in the State Department believed people could just as easily mail their request for invoices to the Consulate General in Frankfurt or the Consulate in Mainz. The debate went back and forth for years, without a final decision. The Agency's case was helped when in June 1908 the Department of State closed the Agency in Mainz and transferred its functions to Wiesbaden. Even so, State Department inspectors continued to vacillate. In 1910 H.W. Harris inspected the Agency. While he expressed some doubt as to the cost benefit ratio to keeping the Agency open, he made what became a compelling argument to keep the post open. He pointed out to the Department that many of the Americans visiting in Wiesbaden were there for health reasons and sufficiently infirmed that traveling to another city would have put an unnecessary burden on them. Traveling to Frankfurt would have been too difficult in Harris' mind. The closure of the post at Mainz, the health of American citizens who visited in Wiesbaden, and a reluctance to make a decision about the Agency's fate, combined to keep the post open until 1917 when the United States broke diplomatic relations with Germany.

THE RECORDS

The records of the United States Consular Agency at Wiesbaden are part of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group (RG) 84, Records of

Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. They are housed in the National Archives facility in College Park MD, often called Archives 2. As of the writing of this article the records are not available on-line. While some of the records are scanned and may be available on NARA's and the MAGS websites at some point in the future, you should plan to visit Archives 2 if you want to review the records.

Note on the Volume/Box and NAID numbers: Each volume and box among the Agency's records has two discrete numbers. When you take notes and make citations you should use both numbers. Each one has a different purpose at NARA and having both will make it easier for you or others to retrieve the records.

The first number is the volume or box number. You can quickly identify the box numbers; they are on the box label. Noting the correct volume number is trickier. Each volume has a white, acid-free tab inserted into it. Those tabs contain the number the Archives assigned to the volume. NARA created those tabs to move the records from their original location in the National Archives Building in Washington, DC to their current location in College Park. That helped NARA maintain physical control of the records. Since that time NARA and researchers have used those numbers to identify individual volumes. Please note, the volume number on the white tab may be different from the number on the volume's spine. While you may want to note the spine's number, the number on the white tab is crucial to retrieving the volume from the stacks.

The second number is the National Archives ID Number (NAID). The NAID is an artificial, computer-generated number to keep track of each volume, box, records series, etc. in NARA's on-line catalogue. The Wiesbaden Consular Agency's records as a whole (that is all of the volumes and boxes together) have the master NAID 1135601. If you access the Agency's records using the master NAID number, you will discover that each volume and box of the Consular Agency's records has its own NAID as well. You should note these numbers in addition to the volume or box number; they will help you search for them in NARA's catalogue and may help the staff locate the records in the stacks when you want to retrieve the records to

examine them. Subsequent article will provide the NAID information for each of the volumes or boxes the article discusses.

Records Series

The records consist of 17 bound volumes and 13 boxes. The Maryland students identified nine series. The series are:

- Fee Book, 1901-1917 (1 Volume)
- Invoice Book, 1901-1912 (2 Volumes)
- Press Copies of Letters Sent, 1904-1917 (4 Volumes)
- Registers of Official Letters Sent, 1906-1917 (5 Volumes)
- Register of Official Letters Received, 1916-1919 (2 Volumes)
- Unbound Miscellaneous and Official Correspondence, 1904-1917 (13 Boxes)
- Embassy Circulars During the War, 1914-1917 (1 Volume)
- Registration of American Citizens, 1904-1907 (1 Volume)
- Miscellaneous Records Book, 1903-1917 (1 Volume)

FUTURE ARTICLES

In the coming months MAGS will publish additional articles in *Der Kurier* and on the MAGS website providing additional detail on individual volumes and boxes of the Consular Agency at Wiesbaden's records. As they worked on the projects, the students scanned many documents. The published articles will include examples of documents from the Agency's records. This should be an exciting series, filled with great information. The upcoming articles will be:

- Part II, The Miscellaneous Records Book, 1903-1917
- Part III, The Register of American Citizens, 1904-1907
- Part IV, Financial Records 1901-1917
- Part V, Miscellaneous Correspondence Received, 1904-1917
- Part VI, Miscellaneous Correspondence Sent, 1904-1917

NOTE ON SOURCES FOR THIS ARTICLE

The authors used two primary sources of information to write this article. Both of them are part of National Archives Record Group 59,

General Records of the Department of State. Both of these sources are available for you to examine at the National Archives in College Park. Neither of these sources is available on-line.

The overwhelming amount of information in this article came from a single series of State Department inspection reports, **Inspection Reports on Foreign Service Posts, 1906-1936**. (RG 59, Entry 865, NAID 1229804). During these years, the Department of State inspected foreign service posts approximately every two years. The reports include information on the post's recordkeeping; administrative details, such as the office hours and location; and evaluation of the person in charge of the post; and general comments. This article illustrates how you can use these routine administrative reports to provide valuable context to the records. The 1910 inspection report includes picture post cards of the Wiesbaden area; the 1916 report includes a drawing of the consulate's floor plan. MAGS will use those images to illustrate articles and put them on the Society's website.

The second source was the **Lists of U.S. Consular Officers by Post, 1789-1939** (RG 59, Entry 802, NAID 1183046). These lists contain the names of ambassadors, consuls, vice consuls, consular agents, commercial agents, etc, arranged by foreign service post. Most lists are on standard printed forms and usually include the man's name, his title, the date he was appointed to the position, and the date he left the position. The form can also include his country of birth, his residence at the time of his appointment, and a reference to a subsequent foreign service posting. Although these lists are not available on-line, NARA reproduced them as NARA microfilm publication M587, *Lists of U.S. Consular Officers by Post, 1789-1939*. The publication consists of 21 rolls of microfilm that are arranged alphabetically by post. It is available in the Microfilm Research Room at the Archives facility in College Park, MD.

Note on Authors: Although all of the students in the class wrote essays on the history of the Wiesbaden Consular Agency, this paper is based exclusively on the work of the four people listed as authors. Professor Kenneth W. Heger, Ph.D. the course instructor pulled the information from the four essays and edited them into this article.

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HÖTEL ANKER: Pension Mk. 5 - 5.50 J.

TELEPHON N° 14, allg. Fernspr. Einrichtung, Reichsbank Giro Conto, Rudesheim Rheing.

BAD ASSMANNSHAUSEN *den 2. März 1904.*
AM RHEIN.

Letterheads from places in the Wiesbaden area point to it as a tourist spot.

Preisgekrönt, Ausstellung Düsseldorf 1902. *

Schloss Gutenfels u. Schlossberg, Pflanzstein, Otzen, Assmannshausen, Lorch, Johannisberg, Rüdesheim, Geisenheim, Bingen, Hembach, Bacharach, Steeg.

Blickerdenkmal, Telefon N° 1

Vereinigung Cauber Weingutsbesitzer

* Commanditgesellschaft *

Caub Rheingau, den 9. October 06

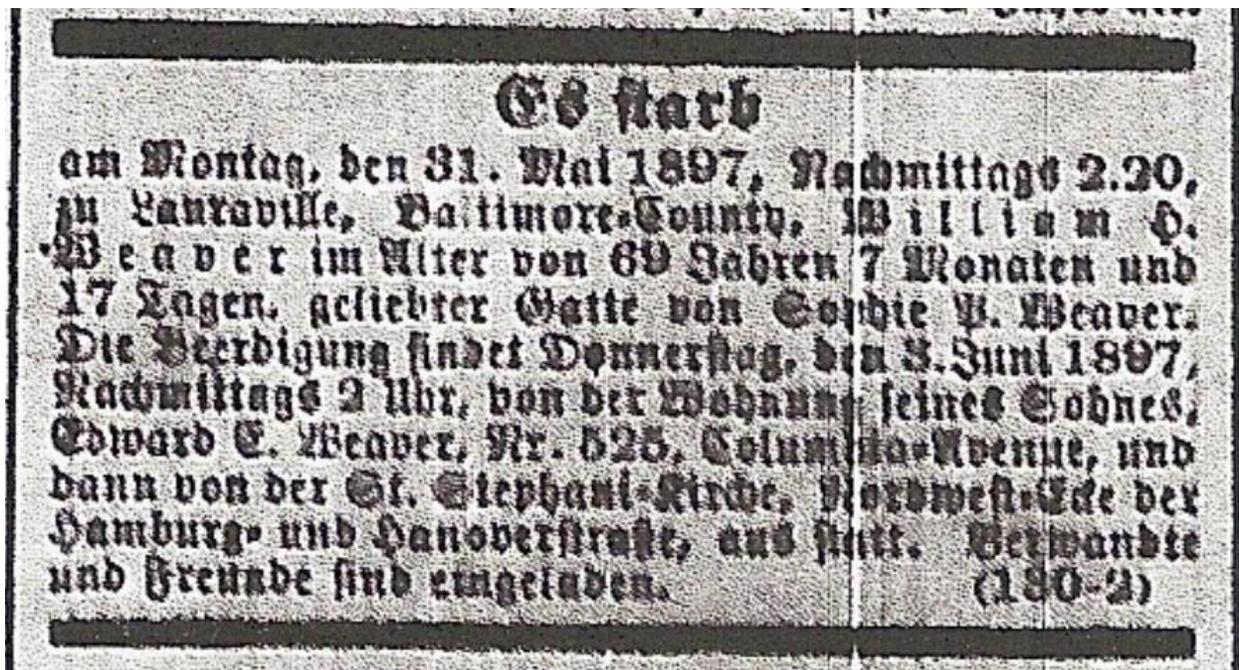
DEUTSCH UNTERRICHTSFORSCHUNG

By Debra A. Hoffman

Death notices

The featured article in the September 2013 issue of *Der Kurier* discussed the pending digital availability of the German-language newspaper, entitled *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, on the Library of Congress' website-*Chronicling America*.

While not digitized yet, these newspapers can be a rich source of information about our German ancestors. One of the items that can be found are death notices, such as the one below:¹



Once you find an item of interest, what are the next steps? How do you work with articles written in German and published in the *Fraktur* font? In order to be able to effectively use these in our research, it is first necessary to decode the font and then translate each word. Susannah Brooks shared her tip about obtaining a digital image and then enlarging it (like the example above) to be able to better decipher the letters.

The following steps will help you effectively utilize these records:

1. Obtain a copy of the article and then digitize and enlarge the image.

¹ "Es starb [William H. Weaver]," *Der Deutsche Correspondent* (Baltimore, Maryland), 1 June 1897, p. 2, col. 3; microfilm NP 2267, Central Library, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

2. Decipher each *Fraktur* letter using an example alphabet. There are internet sites that you can use such as <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fraktur>. Also, FamilySearch has a guide at http://feefhs.org/guides/German_Gothic.pdf.
3. Translate each sentence or word using a tool such as Google Translate found at <https://translate.google.com/>. Often if you can decipher what you think the meaning might be, you can enter that word in English and see what equivalent words are shown in German. For instance, if you enter “wife,” the German translation could be “Frau,” “Ehefrau,” “Gattin,” “Weib,” or “Gehmalin.” Comparing those words to what is written may help you translate the word.

Working with our example, this is the above death notice in German:

Es starb
 am Montag, den 31. Mai 1897, Nachmittags 2.20,
 zu Lauraville, Baltimore-County, William H.
 Weaver im Alter von 69 Jahren 7 Monaten und
 17 Tagen, geliebter Gatte von Sophie P. Weaver.
 Die Beerdigung sindet [sind] Donnerstag, den 3 Juni 1897,
 Nachmittags 2 Uhr, von der Wohnung seines Sohnes,
 Edward E. Weaver, Nr. 525, Columbia-Avenue, und
 dann von der St. Stephani-Kirche, Nordwest-Ecke der
 Hamburg-und Hanoverstrasse, aus statt. Verwandte
 und Freunde sind eingeladen. (130-2)

Entering each of the above lines into Google Translate provides the following rough translation below. It is not perfect, but it conveys the overall meaning. Putting a whole sentence into Google Translate should help the idiomatic expressions to translate correctly.

If they don't, then you can translate the sentence word for word. Also, as with all writing—English or German—misspellings can occur. As an example, “*Die Beerdigung sindet Donnerstag*” translates as “The burial finds Thursday,” which does not make sense; however “*Die Beerdigung sind Donnerstag*” translates as “The funeral will be Thursday.” As you work with German-language articles, you will become more proficient at recognizing words and translating them.

It died
 on Monday, May 31, 1897 2:20 in the afternoon,
 Lauraville, Baltimore County, William H.
 Weaver at the age of 69 years 7 months and
 17 days, beloved husband of Sophie P. Weaver.
 The funeral will be Thursday, June 3, 1897,
 2 clock afternoon, from the home of his son,
 Edward E. Weaver, # 525, Columbia Avenue, and
 then from the St. Stephen Church, Northwest corner of
 Hamburg and Hanover street, instead of. Relative[s]
 and friends are invited. (130-2)

Now it is your turn! Find an article and follow the steps outlined above to decipher it. You never know what genealogical gems you might uncover.

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Few fraktur bear Kinzie name

Clarke Hess, author of *Mennonite Arts*, once observed that not all Pennsylvania German families had fraktur made—or at least, not much fraktur. That observation is true of fraktur made for families with the surname, KINZIE. In addition, fraktur created for some families yield little genealogical data, and that, too, appears to be the case with the KINZIEs. Perhaps the reason is that the KINZIEs were Mennonites. Anabaptists, including Mennonites, do not practice infant baptism, so few Taufscheine (birth and baptism certificates) exist for these families. They did use printed forms of Taufscheine, but when they were filled out, the birth was recorded without a record of baptism unless it was an adult baptism. However, Mennonites made numerous family registers, which often were created as single, stand-alone sheets or penned in Bibles and other books such as the Mennonites' beloved *Martyrs' Mirror*.

Some time ago, Karen Caylor asked about the name KINZIE/KUENSIE on fraktur. At the time, I had recorded too few examples to write even a two-page article for *Der Kurier*. However, more examples are now known including a bookplate in a private collection made for Henrich KINTZI of Rockhill Township, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. (Unless otherwise noted, all locations given here are in Pennsylvania.) This bookplate is dated April 14, 1788. Another bookplate made by the same artist was made for Jacob KINTZI of Rockhill Township, Bucks County. Dated April 29, 1788, this bookplate is pictured in *Bucks County Fraktur*. Still another bookplate was made for Abraham KINSIE of Rockhill Township. According to this bookplate, the Bible it was in was given to Abraham by his father, Johannes KINSIE, on March 28, 1805.

In her article, "The Samuel W. Pennypacker Fraktur Collection at the Schwenkfelder Library and Heritage Center," Candace Perry lists two fraktur made for KINSEYs of Rockhill Township. One is a bookplate made for Abraham

KIENSIE and dated January 15, 1839. The other is an undated drawing made by or for Abraham KINSEY. It, too, gives the location of Rockhill Township, Bucks County. According to Perry, there were "at least two Abraham Kinseys, members of the same family, who could have been the owner of this drawing." Perry's article was published in the 2013 issue of *Der Reggeboge*.

In addition, three pieces of calligraphy showing the alphabet in fancy lettering have been attributed to Abraham K. KINSEY. They are owned by the Free Library of Philadelphia.

A confirmation certificate made for Leah KINZY is at the Muddy Creek Farm Library in Ephrata. Leah KINZY was confirmed on October 13, 1860 by S. R. BOYER, Lutheran pastor at Hinkletown in Lancaster County. A marriage certificate made for Leah KINZY is also at the Muddy Creek Farm Library, as is a confirmation certificate made for her husband, Daniel SHIMP. Daniel SHIMP was confirmed by S. R. BOYER in Hinkletown on October 6, 1866. Daniel SHIMP of Lancaster County married Leah KINZY on November 2, 1862. They were married by R.S. BOYER.

A Taufschein (single form of Taufscheine) at the Muddy Creek Farm Library was made for Leah KUNZY. This is probably the same Leah KINZY as mentioned above. She was apparently from a Mennonite family for she was born in 1843 and baptized as an adult in 1861. Her parents were Johannes and Johanna (EMD?) KUNZY. Leah was born in Mifflin County on January 8, 1843. She was baptized September 22, 1861, but the preacher's name was not given.

Also at Muddy Creek Farm Library are three Taufscheine made for sons of Daniel and Leah SHIMP. Charles SHIMP was born January 8, 1878 in Lancaster County. He was baptized by S. SWEITZER, but no date of baptism was given. Twins Milton and Martin SHIMP were born near Reamstown [Lancaster County] on June 16, 1882. They were baptized July 1, 1883 by J. H.

UMBENHEN. The parents sponsored all three baptisms.

On March 27, 1999, Horst Auction Center in Ephrata sold a birth record made for another Lea KIENSI. She was a daughter of Joseph and Sarah (LEININGER) KIENSI. This Lea KIENSI was born September 17, 1843. No location was given, but based on the artwork, she was born in northern Lancaster County. At the same sale, Horst sold two more birth records having the surname, KINZY. One was made for Rudolph KINZY, who was born on October 12, 1835 in Ephrata, Lancaster County, and the other made for William G. KINZY, who was born September 24, 1838 in Ephrata.

The Philip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College in Collegetown owns a Taufschein made for Margaretha, daughter of Abraham and Margaretha (HAGER) KUENZI. The daughter, Margaretha, was born in Adelboden in the Canton of Bern in Switzerland. She was born about nine o'clock in the evening on August 25, 1834. Margaretha was baptized by F. LOSENEGGER on August 29 presumably in 1834. Stephan LAUBER and Susanna HAGER sponsored the baptism.

On February 29, 2008, Conestoga Auctions in Manheim sold a Taufschein made for Catharine Agnes KINSEY. Her father was Abraham

KINSEY whose middle name was noted, but illegible. Catharine Agnes KINSEY was born on September 24, 1879 in Exeter Township, Berks County. She was baptized by B. D. ZWEIZIG on February 13, 1881. Catharine KEISER sponsored the baptism. The mother of Catharine Agnes KINSEY was Catharine Ellen, a daughter of Gottlieb KEISER.

Three Taufscheine in a private collection provide data for KINSIES. One is a Taufschein made for Ida M. KINSEY, daughter of Amos H. KINSEY and his wife, Deborah, a daughter of Joel and Caroline MANVILLER. Ida M. KINSEY was born in Oley Township, Berks County, on December 30, 1877. She was baptized in April of 1878, but no specific date of baptism was given. D. O. SCHOEDTER, Reformed, baptized Ida M. KINSEY. The parents sponsored the baptism.

Ida M. KINSEY became the wife of Peter P. LEVAN. Two Taufscheine made for their children are in the above-mentioned private collection. Raymond K. LEVAN was born November 28, 1896 in Oley Township. He was baptized March 2, 1897 by J. S. STAHR. Raymond's sister, Esther K. LEVAN, was born May 5, 1898 in Oley Township. She was baptized by J. S. STAHR on October 23, 1898. Ida M. (KINSEY) LEVAN sponsored both baptisms.

FAMILY REGISTER: Gechters in Berks County

A family register printed mid-nineteenth century by N. Currier of Currier & Ives fame in New York was filled out for Harrison GECHTER and his family. The register says Harrison GECHTER was born on October 17, 1837 in Exeter Township [Berks County, Pennsylvania]. He married twice. His first wife was Rebecca Ellen EVANS, who was born on August 21, 1838. They were married in Reading on August 17, 1861 by A. L. HERMAN. Their first child was Martha Henrietta GECHTER, who was born December 12, 1861 in Exeter Township. They then had twin sons, who were born October 15, 1864 in Exeter Township. They were George Harrison GECHTER, who died December 28, 1864 in Exeter Township. His twin brother, Johnathan Augustus, died March 26, 1868 in Alsace Township, Berks County. Their mother, Rebecca Ellen, died in Exeter Township the day after the twins were born. Harrison GECHTER then married Mary Ann BOOTH on May 3, 1865. They were married in Reading by A. HERMAN. Mary Ann BOOTH was born January 16, 1843 in Alsace Township. She and Harrison GECHTER had nine children, all born in Berks County. They were: Alice GECHTER, born September 14, 1865 in "Alice" [probably Alsace] Township; Rebecca GECHTER, born June 21, 1867 in Exeter Township; Charles Grant GECHTER, born March 18, 1869 in Alsace Township; Harry GECHTER, born September 8, 1871 in Cumru Township; Ell[a] Amanda, born January 11, 1873 in Alsace Township; Wellington Warren GECHTER, born May 26, 1876 in Alsace Township; John GECHTER, born August 8, 1879 in Cumru Township; William GECHTER, born March 2, 1882 in Cumru Township; and Irvin GECHTER, born August (?) 24, 1885 in Exeter Township.

Translators

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G., PO Box 1845, Provo, UT 84603
Phone: (801) 374-2587
E-Mail: grtpublications@juno.com.
Specialization: German-English, English-German, German script, French, Latin

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

8. Klaus F. Alt, 692 Carodon Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968
Phone: (434) 409-1582 E-mail: klaus@klaustrans.com

German Baltimore, Part 2

By John H. Foertschbeck Sr.

Part 1 of Foertschbeck's article ran last issue and included his bibliography for both parts.

German Clubs and Associations

„Wer nicht Liebt, Trinkt und Singt ist nie zu Wahrer Freude bringt“ (Who doesn't love, drink and sing will never find true happiness) is an old German “Spruch” or saying found on some Biersteins. This saying was exemplified by the many breweries, “bier gartens”, and singing societies found in Baltimore.

The 1889 R. L. Polk Baltimore City Directory lists twenty-nine breweries; many would be considered “craft beers” in today's world. These breweries were located throughout the city. Many, such as Wiessner's in Highlandtown (South East Baltimore) had large beer gardens associated with them.

More than a dozen German singing societies once existed in Baltimore. That number doesn't include church choirs. The Baltimore Liederkrantz was founded in 1836 and claimed to be the second oldest German singing society in the U.S. Arion, Eichenkrantz, Deutsches Männer Chor, Deutsche Damen Chor, Harmonie and the Germania Gesang Verein all existed into the later part of the twentieth century. Many of these organizations had over one hundred active members in their heyday.

One of the big social events of the year was the Annual Singer's Festival which became the Northeastern German Singing Societies. “Sängerbund Baltimore”, the consolidated Gesang Vereine, hosted the Sängerfests in 1854, 1859 and many years thereafter. The 1869 Northeastern Sängerfest was held in Baltimore's Schützen Park. President Theodore Roosevelt addressed the Baltimore hosted the 1903 Northeastern Sängerfest. The event attracted 16,000, with participating singing societies from cities in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Washington, D.C.

By 1900, Baltimore was home to well over one hundred German clubs, societies and/or associations (Vereine or Gesellschaften) dedicated to trades, arts, religious, sport, benevolent and social purposes. The baker (*Bäker*), brewer (*Bräu*),

butcher (*Metzger*), and tailor (*Schneider*) were among the many labor or workers associations. Athletic / Gymnastic (*Turn Verein*) were located throughout the city. Most of the German churches had a number of Vereine ranging from pure religious to social groups.

All of the German Catholic Churches had a para-military - beneficial “*Ritter*” or “knights” associations that provided aid to the poor and needy but also drilled in military formation. In the 1850's, the nativist “Know Nothings” sought to disrupt German festivals and events which help spur the growth of Schützen (protection) and Knights associations. The “Knights” regularly joined together at religious and social events. Monies raised by the “Knights” went to the parish and needy parishioners. All of these organizations disbanded in the frenzy of anti-German sentiments during World War I.

The German Masons were well represented in a number of Lodges. The Germania Lodge remains active today.

There were also ethnic or locality Vereine including - Badensder, Bayern, Canstatter Volkfest, Hessen-Darmstädter, Kurhessen, Schwaben, Schweizer, among others.

Wherever there were Germans there was a “*Bier Garten*” where families would gather, especially on the weekends, to sing, dance, eat and just socialize. Grieb's Park, Schützen Park (Belair Road), Wiessner's Park on Eastern Ave. and 1st St. (now Highland Ave.), Weber's Park, Avondale, River View Park, Darley Park (Harford Rd.) were all mentioned in old newspaper articles. There were many other “parks” located throughout the city. In the twentieth century two of the best known beer gardens / dance halls were Blob's Park in Jessups, MD, and the Deutsches Haus in downtown Baltimore.

The Blob family entered the U.S. through Ellis Island, NY, in 1893 when Max Blob was only ten years old. The family purchased 150 acre farm in Jessups, Anne Arundel County, MD. When prohibition ended in 1933, Max opened a German

style beer garden and dance hall. Blob's Park has been a holdover of this German tradition for several generations of Baltimoreans, as well as, lovers of German song and dance from the surrounding area. During World War II alleged Bund meetings sympathetic to NAZI Germany were held at the Blob's Park. The park also claims to have hosted America's first Oktoberfest in 1947. Max Blob died in 1969 and the facilities managed by relatives. The land was scheduled for development in 2007 but closing was delayed due to the economic slowdown. The park had a second life thanks to Max Eggerl, Max's great-nephew; however, it appears the park will close forever in 2014.

A consortium of German organizations purchases the Bryn Mawr School for young ladies in 1938. The school was founded in 1890 and relocated north of the city in 1937-38. The German societies found this to be a desirable location to centralize German culture. The primary German groups to acquire and jointly manage the new facilities were - German Beneficial Union, Baltimore American Soccer Club, Kamerandschaftbund, Technischer Verein, Independent Citizens Union, Baltimore Skat Club, Schlaraffia Baltimora, Deutsche Damen Chorus of Baltimore. These organizations offered classes in German, English and Americanism at the Deutsches Haus.

Despite the "Bund" associations at Blob's Park and the Deutsches Haus, the vast majority of German-Americans remained staunchly American. Thousands of German-Americans proudly served in the U.S. armed services during World War II.

In 2006, the Joseph Meyerhoff Assn. purchased the property to build a new home for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, thus ending another link to Baltimore's German past.

Religious Life - Reformed Churches

The increasing number of Germans in Baltimore is evidenced by the growth of German churches beginning in the mid-1700s. Itinerant German Reformed and Lutheran ministers would travel from Philadelphia, York and Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to minister to Germans in Baltimore. By 1894, there were at least 32 religious congregations - Reformed, Lutheran and Catholic, preaching in the German language.

Both the Reformed and Lutheran congregations wanted to build a church. Lacking enough members to financially support

independent facilities, they joined together and reached an understanding to -

1. buy a building lot,
2. build a common church,
3. "share" a preacher of whatever confession (denomination) was available until they could find a permanent minister.

It was further agreed that should both find ministers in the city, services would alternate between noon and afternoon on following Sundays. If either group grew too large for the existing church, whichever group held the majority could buy out the other group.

The two groups chose four men, two from each denomination to purchase land. The Lutheran representatives were Mr. Moritz Woerschler, schoolmaster, and Mr. Wilhelm Hackel, silversmith; Reformed representatives were Mr. Lerch, Inn Keeper, and Mr. Conrad Schmitt, mason. John Christian Faber was the first minister of the Reformed Church. He was born in Mosback on the Neckar in the Pfaltz. He served approximately 14 years and was succeeded by Rev. George Frederick Wallauer, Rev. Charles Louis Boehme, Rev. Nicholas Pomp (1783). Church Elders included - Jacob Coberts, Frederick and Jacob Meyer, and Henry Zorah; deacons Philip Crusius, Andrew Granget, and Philip Miller.

In 1756, members of the German Reformed Church and Lutherans of Baltimore bought a lot on Charles Street north of Saratoga St. The building committee included - Andrew Steiger, Frederick Meyer, Jacob Kühbord (Keeport), John Soller, Valentine Loersh and Conrad Smith. The Reformed church members shared worship space with the Lutherans until 1758 when the Lutherans had sufficient members and funds to form the Zion Lutheran Community.

In 1785, the First Reformed church under administration of Rev. Mr. Pomp and leadership of Michael, Daniel and Peter Diffenderfer, Frederick and Jacob Meyers built a larger church on Baltimore and Front streets. The cornerstone laid on September 1, 1785 and the first service held in the new church on June 20, 1787. In 1796, the parishioners dissatisfied with location, sold the church and bought a lot on the north side of Second Street near Holliday Street. The cornerstone for the new church was laid March 28, 1796, and completed in September 1797. Parish leaders at the time included - Melchior Keener, Andrew Steiger,

George Decker, Peter Diffenderfer, and Nicholas Schudy.

In February 1819, Dr. Michael Diffenderfer and 35 others petitioned the consistory for permission to have English preaching on every Sabbath afternoon. Rev. Lewis Meyer preached in German and English in 1827. Shortly thereafter, the last German service was preached and the church became known as the First English Reformed Church.

In 1771, the Second German Evangelical Reformed Church was organized under Pastor Benedict Schwope. In 1774, Rev. Philip Wilhelm Otterbein (1726 – 1813) born in Dillenburg, Germany, came to Baltimore from Lancaster, PA, at the invitation of Pastor Schwope and Francis Asbury. Otterbein's preaching along Wesleyan theology eventually led to conflicts with the Reformed Church. In 1800, Otterbein and Martin Boehm helped form the United Brethren in Christ. In 1785, the congregation built a church on Conway between Sharp and Hanover Streets that is still in active use. The church is known as the "Otterbein Church" and is the only extant eighteenth century church in continuous service in Baltimore. Over the years there were several mergers and in 1939 it became a United Methodist Church.

Religious Life - Lutheran Churches

Zion Lutheran Church, founded in 1755, has been conducting services in German ever since. Zion Church was formerly incorporated as "The High German Lutheran Congregation of Baltimore Town" on September 16, 1830. Rev. Johan Georg Bager was the first preacher to serve on a regular basis. For three consecutive years he traveled over 60 miles from Pennsylvania to Baltimore six times a year. He received annually not more than five Pounds, "*Blutwenig*" (bloody little), for the services of a religious. Only 11 persons belonged to the parish at that time.

On the July 9, 1758, Rev. Mr. Johan Caspar Kirchner took over the parish; he was a legitimate ordained minister from "*Teutschland*". He also traveled every six weeks from Pennsylvania where he served several small parishes. He was promised six Pound Pennsylvania money.

The first church built on Fish Street (now Saratoga) near Gay Street in 1762. An addition was built in 1785. A corner stone was laid for a new church early in 1807. The new church was

dedicated amidst a liturgical celebration led by Pastor Kurtz. In 1903, Pastor Julius Hofmann submitted suggestions for remodeling the inside of the church and a new "parish house". In 1912, after several years of fund raising, the cornerstone was laid and the new facilities completed in 1913. The mortgage of \$35,000 was paid off on November 9, 1924.

Zion was but the first of many Lutheran congregations to form in and around Baltimore. Many of these congregations held on to the German language and, others, especially after World War I, became English only congregations. Today, Zion remains the only church in Baltimore to hold regular, weekly services in the German language.

Religious Life – Catholic Church

German Catholics were surely present in the mid-18th century but there is little documentation to support this assumption. This was due partially to the anti-Catholic sentiment and partially to the absence of any Catholic Church in Baltimore until the mid-1700s. In colonial times, the official church / religion in Maryland was the Anglican or Church of England. Everyone had to financially support that faith regardless of their personal religious beliefs or preferences.

Maryland's Catholics in the 18th century were concentrated in the southern counties. In 1708, there were only 53 known Catholics in Baltimore. French refugees from Acadia and Haiti significantly increased the number of Catholics and services were held in a private home in 1756. The first priests ministering in Baltimore traveled from the Carroll Mansion, Doughoregan, in Howard County. The first record of Baltimore's German Catholics appeared as an announcement in the February 17, 1792, edition of the *Maryland Journal*. Rev. John Baptist Clouse came down from Pennsylvania to conduct Catholic services in the German language.

The first German Catholic congregation was St. John the Evangelist (*Evangelisten Johannes*) founded in 1800. The Redemptorists Fathers came to minister to the German Catholics In 1840 at the invitation of Archbishop Eccleston. They razed the old St. Johns to build a larger church under the patronage of their founder, St. Alphonsus Ligouri. By this time, many of the Germans were already relocating to East Baltimore and Fells Point. Archbishop Eccleston assigned St. James the Less on Aisquith St. to the Germans while St. Alphonsus was under construction.

St. John Neumann, C.S.s.R. (1811-1860), served in Baltimore for several years. He was responsible for bringing the School Sisters of Notre Dame, a Bavarian religious order, to teach in Baltimore Catholic schools. A saintly man, master of many languages, he traveled and preached at many churches on Maryland, Pennsylvania and Ohio, before being named Bishop of Philadelphia in 1852.

After St. Alphonsus was completed there was a sufficient number of German speaking Catholics to justify both parishes. The Redemptorists went on to establish over forty parishes in Maryland and nearby states. In Baltimore, the German "national" parishes were St. Alphonsus in the downtown area, St. James (*Sankt Jakobus*) in East Baltimore, Holy Cross (*Heilige Kreuz*) in South Baltimore, Fourteen Holy Martyrs (*Vierzehn Heiligen*) in West Baltimore, St. Michael's in upper Fells Point, St. Joseph's, Fullerton (Perry Hall - then the northeast suburbs) and Sacred Heart of Jesus (*Heilige Herz Jesu*) in Highlandtown. Fourteen Holy Martyrs, St. James and St. Michael's were all closed in the later part of the 1900's due to demographics. St. Alphonsus became a Lithuanian parish in 1917 and is a basilica shrine today. Holy Cross and Sacred Heart of Jesus lost their German identity many years ago. Sacred Heart of Jesus had German speaking priests and conducted an early Sunday morning German mass until the 1950's.

German Religious Life - German Jews

Jewish immigrants, at first mostly from Bavaria, settled in East Baltimore. By the Civil War there were an estimated 7,000 German Jews in Baltimore. Solomon Etting, a businessman, was an incorporator of "The German Society" in 1817. Jacob Cohen, also a businessman and civic leader was the vice president in 1817. Jacob's brother, Benjamin and his son Isaac Cohen, were treasurers of "The German Society" for 50 years (1825-1875).

The Lloyd Street Synagogue is the oldest in Maryland. When the Russian Jews arrived in the late 19th century they found a thriving Jewish community in East Baltimore. Eventually the Jews moved to the Northwest sections of the city. The early Jews were successful business people and took an active role in some German organizations. Many of Baltimore's best known department stores were Jewish owned – Hechts, Hutzlers, Hochschild-Kohn, Epsteins, Irvings, to mention

only a few. Many leading doctors and lawyers were Jewish, as were many philanthropists who contributed greatly to the Baltimore's cultural life.

A third wave of Jewish immigrants arrived in the late 1930s through early 1950s. The first part of the group escaped the anti-Semitism of NAZI Germany, the second part were survivors of the holocaust. A fourth wave of Jewish immigrants arrived from the Soviet Union in the 1990s and early 2000s. The mixing of these immigrants and their descendants focused more on a common Jewish versus nation of origin identity.

English-German Schools

The German immigrants were generally literate and had a high regard for education. Schools that taught German were formed often in conjunction with a church. As the German population grew there was a demand for public schools that would teach in German. There was much opposition from the Anglophiles as can be noted in a number of newspaper articles and editorials during the 1870s clear up to the U.S. entry into World War I. Cries of "one country, one people, one tongue" and opposition to use public funds to teach a "foreign" language were loud.

Despite this opposition, eight English-German schools were established in Baltimore. Subjects were taught in both languages. Attendance was 2,963 in 1873 and over 7,000 in 1899. In addition to the public schools, the German Catholic parishes taught in English and German as did a number of Lutheran and Reform congregations and a few private schools like Knapp's. At the turn of the 19th century Catholic schools under the Redemptorist Fathers and the School Sisters of Notre Dame had 3,000 students, Pastor Scheib's Lutheran school 800 students and Frederick Knapp's school 700 students.

It was common practice for the German school children to sing "My Country, Tis of Thee" and "Star-Spangled Banner" in German at public events.

Baltimore Germans in the 21st Century

After World War II the public exposure of German organizations was greatly diminished in Baltimore. The influx of German refugees and immigrants in the 1950s and 1960s brought a slight resurgence to the German Vereine but nothing that compared with the bustling German social and business life that existing in earlier years.

The number of German born or first generation German-Americans is but a fraction of what it was in the last half of the 19th century. German neighborhoods became “melting pots” and most German churches Anglicized after World War I. The building and baby booms following World War II began a mass exodus from the old city neighborhoods to the suburbs. German restaurants like Haussner’s in Highlandtown, Hasslinger’s and Otto Shellhase’s downtown are history. The Deutsches Haus remained a center for German events until the property was sold in 2006. Blob’s Park in Jessups remains open but is slated to be closed in 2014. The plethora of German butchers was reduced to Paul Schaefer’s and is currently survived only by Binkerts on Philadelphia Road.

Zion Lutheran founded in 1755 remains the only institution to maintain German language in their services and host a German language school. The Baltimore Kicker’s, founded in 1953 by Eddie Thau, a former player of the Erster Deutscher Sport Klub, Paul Trautner, Werner Juergensen, Alfred Zeller, the Hans & Fritz Steffen and several others remains one of Baltimore’s most active German-American associations. Surviving German singing societies have a dwindling membership.

But love for things German is far from dead in Baltimore. The following organizations are still active and promoting German heritage - Deutschamerikanischer Bürgerverein von Maryland, Inc. (1900); Deutsche Geselligkeit (1935); Edelweiss (1966); G.T.V. Immergrün Bavarian Dance Group (1972); General German Aged People’s Home (Greisenheim)(1881) now Edenwald in Towson; German Radio Klub (1946); German Society of Maryland (1783,); Germania Lodge (1872); Arion Gesangverein, Independent Citizens Union, Schlaraffia Baltimora; Society for the History of Germans in Maryland (1886); and Verein Deutscher Trachten (1979).

There is an annual German Day celebration in August and many German Fests held in Zion’s Adlersaal throughout the year. On Oct. 1, 2013, the Maryland General Assembly declared October as German-American Heritage Month. An effort led in part by Shelley Arnold, the Baltimore Kickers and other German Societies. While the use of the German language is all but lost, the plethora of German Vereine and Gesellschaften greatly reduced, and direct connections with the “Fatherland” lost, there are still many Baltimoreans who cherish and seek to preserve their German heritage.

SUCHANZEIGEN / *Queries*

Please mention at least one time, one place, one German surname with known variants. Limit each query to one family. Use no more than fifty (50) words, not counting your name and address. There is no charge for members of MAGS. Non-members please include \$1 (check payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society) per query with your submission.

More than one query may be sent at a time, but each should be clearly written or typed on a separate sheet of 8 1/2 by 11 inch clean, white paper. E-Mail is acceptable. Please indicate desired priority for printing. MAGS reserves the right to edit. Neither MAGS nor Der Kurier assumes any responsibility for accuracy. Send your Queries to Edythe H. Millar, Queries Editor, MAGS, 7102 Cedon Road, Woodford, VA 22580 or e-mail: ehoffmillar@netscape.net (Please write 'MAGS Query' in subject line)

LAMBKING

#32-4 Seek pos Ger translation for surname LAMBKING. Ggf lists fa b Ger. Pos LAMBKING is Anglicized fam name.

Diane Wilkins

Email: dirwilkie@aol.com

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2014

June 14. Frederick County Genealogical Society. Annual "Getting Started with Your Research or Need Help" Fair. Crumland Farms, 7407 Willow Road, Frederick, MD Additional details at <http://www.Frecogs.com>.

June 25-28. Palatines to America 2014 National Conference, Ramada Plaza Conference Center, 4000 Sinclair Road, Columbus, OH. Several presentations including featured speaker Roger Minert, PhD, AG. More info see www.palam.org or write to Palatines to America, PO Box 141260, Columbus, OH 43214.

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

Oct 11. Ohio Chapter, Palatines to America, Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 Jefferson Ave., Plain City, OH. Speaker: Baerbel Johnson of FamilySearch. More info: <http://www.oh-palam.org/>

Oct 24-25. MAGS Fall Workshop and Meeting, Sheraton – Wilmington South, New Castle, DE. More info: www.magsgen.com

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.

Kay Arnold of San Leandro, CA
(*Scheckenbaugh/Scheckenbach, Shermeyer, Schum, Keeports*)

Laurie Baker of Dunn Loring, VA
(*Dieter, Dietrich, Dietrick*)

Joan Beem of Ventura, CA
(*Drewes, Schultz, Beem, Wetzel*)

Ron & Jeanne Brasfield of Bel Air, MD
(*Walter, Eibert, Pfaff, Eberle*)

Charlaine Cook of McLean, VA
(*Kock, Albrict, Durholt*)

Janie Moore Darby of Manassas, VA
(*Reinaw/Rein/Rhyne, Booe, Sain, Bost*)

Lynn Dawson of Madison, VA
(*Meminger, Delarber, Roth, Rhoads*)

Susan Detweiler of Philadelphia, PA
(*Detweiler, Stauffer, Staudt, Graf*)

Sydney F. Cruice Dixon of Berwyn, PA
(*Armpriester, Armbruster, Berkley, Clever*)

Diane Enroughty of Henrico, VA
(*Drumheller, Leiss, Zimmerman, Lohr*)

Judy Kellar Fox of Aloha, OR
(*Keller, Muth, Reiter, Philippi*)

Laura Jones of Castro Valley, CA
(*Haag, Ramer, Sallade, Phillips*)

Kim Jordan of Sterling, VA
(*Bierdümpfel, Lührig, Jurgens, Buhlert*)

Anna Marie Kehnast of Pennsville, NJ
(*Kehnast, Cramp, Cooke, Koch*)

James Kempf of Fulton, MD
(*Kempf, Trossbach, Kronung*)

Cynthia M. Mitzen of Hillsborough, NJ
(*Dipple, Kautz, Krough, Adler*)

Karen S. Moore of Summit, NJ
(*Schuchhardt, Decker, Baitz, Ahrendt*)

Doris M. Nickoles of Ashton, MD
(*Warner, Miller, Koontz*)

Darren Price of Mountain View, CA
(*Strohmeier, Bachman, Herb, Klock*)

Beverly Schaefer of Holland, PA
(*Schaefer, Steger, Knoblauch, Morgenstern/Morningstar*)

Diane R. Schnurppusch of Burke, VA
(*Schnurppusch, Schmidt, Lange, Jenss*)

K. Vincent Schwartz of Hughesville, PA
(*Swartz, Schwartz, Snyder, Bastian*)

Deborah L. Smith of Ellicott City, MD
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BUCHBESPRECHUNG / *Book Reviews*

The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide

By James M. Beidler.

Published by Family Tree Books; Cincinnati, Ohio, 2014; 239 pp.

Appendixes, glossary, illustrations, index, maps, photographs. Softback. \$24.99 (shipping additional)

Daunted by the thought of researching your German ancestors? Author James Beidler has written a comprehensive beginning guide for those wanting to explore their Germanic roots. His latest book covers the basics from identifying the German town (“*Heimat*”) to researching and accessing records in Germany. His coverage includes areas that were part of the German Empire from 1871 to 1918, as well as Austria and Switzerland.

Beidler is a German researcher who publishes a weekly genealogy newspaper column, “Roots & Branches,” in the *Lebanon Daily News* and also authors a column in *German Life*. He edits *Der Kurier* for the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and has been published in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, *Ancestry* and *Family Tree Magazine*. He lectures nationally on German research topics.

The book begins by orienting the beginner on how to conduct genealogical research and provides interesting information on the prominence and influence of Germans on American culture and tradition. A clear and concise summary is provided on the sources that are likely to contain immigration information. Beidler goes into detail on the two waves of German immigrants and the differences between them. Understanding these differences can aid the researcher in narrowing down the region of origin for their ancestor. Additional guidance is provided concerning the best sources for finding German village names. While the book discusses some basic genealogy methodology, it does not use the terminology outlined in the leading genealogy standards and methodology books.

The second part of the book details the history and impact of events on the German people and their records. Knowledge of Germany’s history is crucial to determining the political boundaries, extant records and even reasons for immigration. The political boundaries and constant changes are necessary to determine which repositories may hold the needed records. The appendixes provide useful information on the civil and church archives in Europe and Germany as well as those important to German research in the United States.

One of the challenges in conducting German research is being able to read and translate documents due to the language and the *Fraktur* or German script. Beidler does an admirable job demonstrating how to work through a two-step process to tackle the *Fraktur* and German script. The book also contains a *Fraktur*/Gothic font chart and covers basic script keys and resources.

Two chapters are devoted to the familiar church records and civil registration. Details are provided on time periods and locations with an informative discussion on calendar changes. The book doesn’t stop there by covering those usual sources; it also discusses census, court, and military records as well as printed sources.

While cursory coverage of Switzerland and Austria are provided along with the city-states of Luxembourg and Liechtenstein, the chapter provides rudimentary information to get a researcher started. The concluding chapters provide illustrative case studies that fully demonstrate the book’s content. Throughout the book, there are helpful websites listed and the text is often supplemented by useful sidebar information and instructive case studies.

Beidler states “[n]ever take an attitude that a genealogical problem is unsolvable.” While many family historians balk at researching their German ancestors because of the special challenges of language and unique print and handwritten documents, this book provides a primer for those with a willing attitude to accept and overcome those challenges.

Reviewed by Debra A. Hoffman

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