



Der Kurier

Volume 32, Number 3, September 2014

Wiesbaden Consulate's 'Miscellaneous Records'

By Helen MacDiarmid

This is the second in a six-part series describing the records of the U.S. Consular Agency in Wiesbaden, Germany, based on work done by Dr. Kenneth W. Heger's students at the University of Maryland's College of Information (the iSchool). The series provides information on the records' content, their arrangement, and how you may be able to use them to research your family's history. This article discusses the Agency's Miscellaneous Records Book.

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, Maryland, has extensive holdings related to American Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. Among these documents are textual records originated by United States Consular Offices in Germany.

The consular posts that operated throughout Germany before the First World War are underused sources, containing a

wealth of information for family historians. The records of the American Consular Agency at Wiesbaden are an example of these records.

Virtually every American Foreign Service post includes at least one bound volume entitled "Miscellaneous Records Book." The Wiesbaden Consular Agency is no exception. Miscellaneous Records Books are an intriguing category of records.

The Department of State intended these volumes to contain information that did not easily fit into other categories of Foreign Service post files, such as correspondence files, registrations of American citizens, fee and invoice books, or despatches to the Department of State. That was the theory. The practice, however, was often different.

Miscellaneous Records volumes often include information on the post's furniture and

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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:

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Gunter Schanzenbacher,
Interim President

Officers change, mission remains!

Citing personal reasons, Diane Kuster resigned her position as MAGS President on July 19, 2014. The Board reluctantly accepted her resignation only after many attempts to get her to reconsider failed.

Diane has been a vital member of this organization for the past fifteen years and has been integral in promoting and growing MAGS as a premier German genealogical society.

Additionally, she has been instrumental in publicizing MAGS throughout the United States and growing our membership, which now includes members from 31 states, Canada and Germany. Diane has been the driving force in obtaining an inventory of John Humphrey's books, expanding the meeting locations and collaborating with Ken and Carol to offer excellent programs at the fall and spring meetings.

Diane was on the MAGS Board of Directors since January 2000 where she held various positions including Registrar and Publicity Chairperson. While no longer president, we are happy that Diane will continue to work on indexing projects for MAGS and will be overseeing the sale of John Humphrey's books.

As a result of Diane's resignation and with the Board of Directors' support, I will act as the interim president to finish out her term. The next election is scheduled for the fall of 2015.

MAGS continues to add new records to its online databases. The records (1827 - 1852) of the Lutheran pastor Rev. Frederick W. Geissenhainer of New York City have been publicly available on our web site for some time and in the near future a significant addition will be made to this database.

The Surname Name Database in our "Members Only" area was also updated. It now contains all of the names submitted by members through June 2014.

Changes were also made to the website search function. You can now search for a name in all of our online databases at once.

The Global Name Search button on the left side menu bar will take you to a page describing how the search works.

On the search page enter some form of a given and/or surname and click Search. The results will indicate in which databases the name was found. Clicking on the database name will take you to the search page for that database. There you can enter the name to find the specific details. This is significantly easier than searching every database individually.

On a final note, it was 100 years ago that the great calamity of World War I began. Many of you had family involved with that Great War. Our fall meeting, being held on October 25th at the Sheraton-Wilmington South, New Castle, Delaware, will focus on documenting American military service in that war.

The speakers, Connie Potter and Patrick Osborn, will be presenting a great program. In addition, Dr. Kenneth Heger, will present a special interactive workshop the day before, entitled "Selling the War at Home."

You can sign up using the enclosed flyers. For additional information and the speakers' biographies, visit our website at <http://www.magsgen.com/>. We hope to see you there!

Der Kurier wins award from international society

This publication was recently honored by the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors as one of the winners in the society's 2014 Excellence-in-Writing Competition. *Der Kurier* was awarded 2nd place in "Category 3 – Genealogy Newsletters." The category is a relatively new one in the ISFHWE competition (this was its third year as part of the contest) and this was the first year *Der Kurier* was entered. Many thanks to everyone in MAGS who contributes articles and ideas to make this publication an award winner!

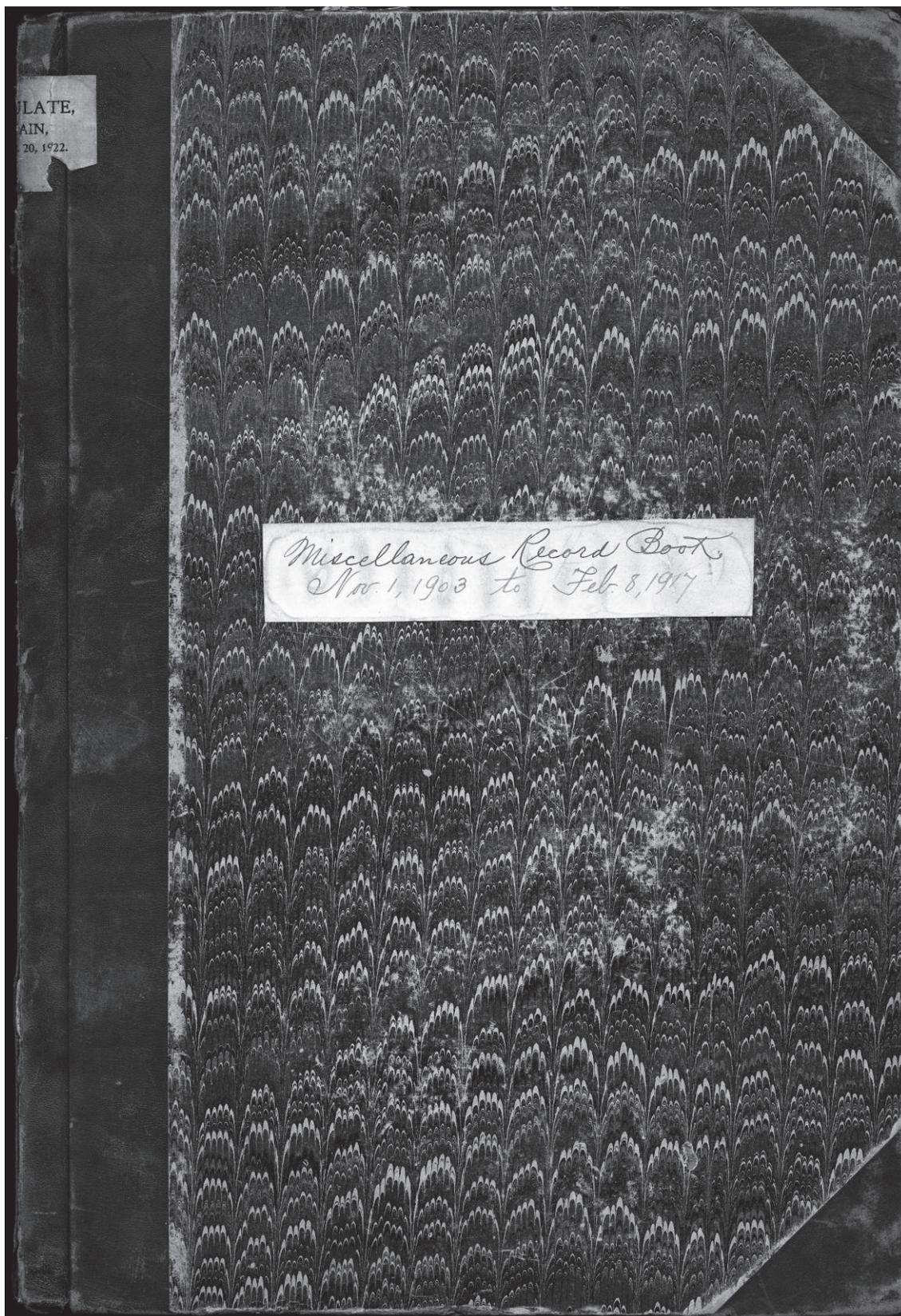


Figure I – Cover of the Wiesbaden Miscellaneous Records Book.

Wiesbaden Consulate's 'Miscellaneous Records'

(Continued from cover)

administrative expenditures, notes about the post's staff, and a diary of daily events at the post. That is precisely the kind of information the Department of State anticipated a Foreign Service officer would record in these volumes.

Just as often, however, these volumes include information for which the Department of State created other file categories. It is common for a Miscellaneous Records Book to include correspondence, notes on financial matters, and information about American citizens. That makes them worth at least a quick perusal.

The Miscellaneous Records Book among the records of the Consular Agency at Wiesbaden is one of those volumes containing a wealth of information. This bound volume (Volume 2 among the Agency's records, National Archives ID (NAID) 1328629) is arranged chronologically, covering the period from November 1, 1903, to February 8, 1917. A single man, Consular Agent John B. Brewer, maintained the volume, giving some consistency in the transmission of information. English is the predominant language, although some entries are in German in cases where Brewer was writing to a native German speaker or there is a German-language document inserted into the volume. The handwriting is mostly legible.

The volume's condition is very good; there are no torn pages or significant discoloration. The volume is roughly 18" x 12". Although the volume has 270 numbered pages, the Agent only used about 130 of them. Leaving large portions of a Miscellaneous Records Volume empty was common, especially among small posts like Wiesbaden. A rough count of the 130 pages with information, however, yields an estimate of 300 handwritten entries, some forms and inserts, and a few typed letters and newspaper clippings. (See Figure I for the Volume's cover)

Although there is no list of contents, the volume is easy to explore. It is in chronological order so searching for information for a specific

date is simple. An examination of the entries yielded six main categories of documents:

- Death notices of American citizens
- Commercial and trade information
- Requests for assistance obtaining passports
- Summaries of fees and invoices
- Plans for important visitors and Fourth of July celebrations
- Some limited WWI information

Information on these topics varied widely. Year after year, there is a great deal of information on the Agent's plans to celebrate American Independence Day. On the topic of trade, there is a particularly interesting response from the Consular Agent to the Assistant Secretary of State, dated August 22, 1907, asking whether Wiesbaden would be a productive market for American automobiles, motorboats, or other goods. Copies of other outgoing communications document an investigation by a confidential agent of the U.S. Treasury Department as to the alleged undervaluation of invoices by R. Koepp & Co., Germany, dated March 22, 1912.

The volume also contains the name of a business that developed a new cure for leprosy, a reference to one of Wiesbaden's foremost occultists, and a note about a visit by the Consular Agent to the local police department seeking their assistance in assuring that the American national emblem was displayed in appropriate ways and places.

VISITS OF AMERICANS

Agent Brewer made frequent mention of groups of Americans visiting Wiesbaden. As discussed in Part I of this series of articles, Wiesbaden was a significant destination for American tourists and one of the main reasons the Department of State had established the Agency. July 1912 was a particularly active month. On the

third, Brewer mentioned the arrival of representatives of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The group stopped briefly in Wiesbaden on its way to Frankfurt. Late in the month a group of German-American teachers paid a longer visit to the town. This event included a concert at the town's major spa; Brewer inserted a copy of the event's program into the volume. (See Figure II for this program) These serve as excellent examples of how a Foreign Service post might document American professional organizations traveling through their district.

DEATHS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

Death notices of American citizens in Wiesbaden make up a majority of the records, comprising almost one-third of the volume's entries. Given the fact that so many Americans traveled to Wiesbaden for health reasons, it should not be shocking that some of them died while there. These entries give the Miscellaneous Records Book great value to family historians.

The entries for deaths can vary in size but most of them contain the same basic information. An entry can include the date the citizen died, the cause of death, the disposition of the remains, and a contact address for surviving relatives (this address can be a German or American address). Sometimes the entries can provide you with tremendous information. Page 66 contains death reports for Catherine and John Lauer. Catherine died on November 20, 1906, of "cataract of the intestines" while staying at the Paulinenstift Hospital in Wiesbaden. Casper Lauer of Dotzheim retrieved her remains. Almost one year later on November 8, 1907, her husband John died of old age at the same hospital. Once again Casper Lauer retrieved the body. (See Figure III for additional examples of death notices).

It is important to note here that Ancestry has digitized and uploaded many Department of State death notices onto its site. Each Foreign Service post was supposed to report the death of American citizens to the Department headquarters in Washington, DC. While that on-line source is a boon to family historians, it does not seem to include the names of all Americans

who died overseas. Naturally you can search the Ancestry site, but you might also want to double check the sources each Foreign Service post maintained. Keep in mind, it is extremely rare for these volumes to have an index so be prepared to undertake some research.

USING THE MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS BOOK

The contents of the Miscellaneous Records Book are scanned. The National Archive plans to post the scanned images on its website in the near future. You can use the NAID number (1328629) to access the images once the volume is uploaded. MAGS also hopes to upload these images as part of the Society's goal to make the website more useful to its members.

Until those images are available online, you can examine the original volume in the National Archives Textual Research Room in College Park, Maryland. To cite the information you find, you should include the following information: RG 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State; Records of the Consular Agency at Wiesbaden, Germany; Miscellaneous Records Book; Volume 2, NAID 1328629.

To help you find information, Table I provides a chronological list of names for which there are death notices.

FULL SERIES

This series began in the June 2014 issue of *Der Kurier* with an overview of the Wiesbaden Consulate records.

The upcoming articles will be:

- 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

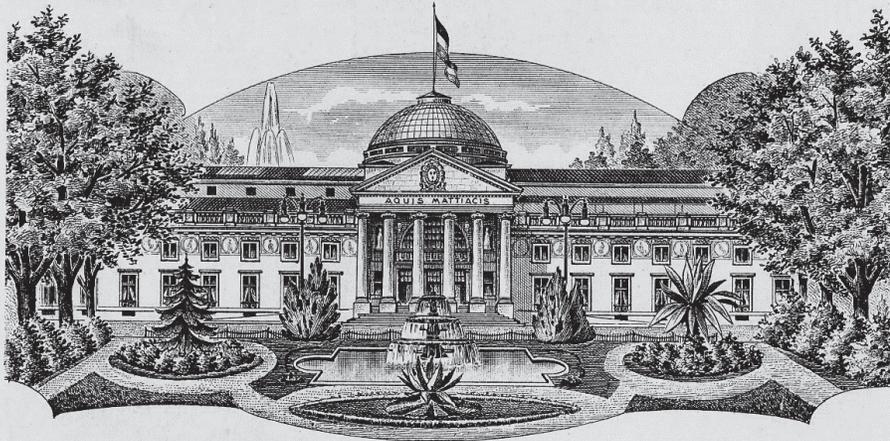
Dr. Kenneth W. Heger provided substantial assistance in the final version of this article.

TABLE I
List of Deaths Noted
in the Miscellaneous Records Book

Page Number	Name	Date of Death, if provided	US Address of Relatives, if provided
5	Theodore Bloess	Nov. 7, 1903	
8 & 12	Max Gerstendorfer	Dec. 15, 1903	43 Park Place, New York
18 & 19	Mrs. Marie Claussen, nee Kreutyfeld	March 2, 1904	488 LaSalle Avenue, Chicago, Illinois
24	Alfous Louis von Dries (?)		
33	George William Travers	Jan. 27, 1905	
33	Christina Nolten, nee Hild	Feb. 3, 1905	
40	Henry Valentine Feder		
41	Nathan Tilloston Bolles		
42	Michael Elias	July 6, 1905	
43	Ottilie Johanna Jacoby, nee Krug		
47	Anna Gruen	Aug. 24, 1905	1114 Dolman Street St. Louis, MO
48	Helena Eugenie Seton	Sept. 9, 1905	Tureer (?) Park, NY
51	Catherine Stengel		
51	Mary Elizabeth Henderson, nee Barney	March 30, 1906	89 Walnut St East Orange, NJ
52	Ferdinand Dreas	May, 1906	161 & 163 Russell St Brooklyn, NY
52	Andrew Blum		New York City
54	Isidore Löwenthal	Sept. 6, 1906	Baltimore, MD
54	Eberhard Niemann	Sept. 9, 1906	Baltimore, MD
54 & 55 & Insert	Peter Schütter	Sept. 16, 1906	66 Lake Shore Dr Chicago, IL
55	Anton Edward Faust, Esq.	Sept. 28, 1906	1815 Missouri Ave St. Louis, MO
56	John Franz Heinrich Vogt	Sept. 30, 1906	
56	Gerhard Edward Drakenfeld	Oct. 2, 1906	
57	Henry Pfaff		Boston
57	Juliet Hessenberg, nee Wright	Oct. 24, 1906	
58	Carl Christian Retter	Nov. 9, 1906	
60	Arnold Kreuzler		
60	John Wieland		2018 California Street San Francisco, CA

Page Number	Name	Date of Death, if provided	US Address of Relatives, if provided
62	Joseph Franklin Rosenbaum	July 24, 1907	New York City, NY
65	Julius Wilhelm Hupfeld	Oct. 12, 1907	
65	Cecilia Louise Wigand	Dec. 21, 1907	Passaic, New Jersey
66	Catherine Lauer	Nov. 20, 1906	
66	John Lauer	Nov. 8, 1907	
69	Reinhold G. Tauebürg (?)	May 18, 1908	
70	Andreas Stiefvater	June 18, 1908	
70	Mrs. Margaret Wiley, nee Shark	July 22, 1908	
71	Guido Pleissner	Oct. 6, 1908	
71	Mrs. Harriet Lissauer, nee Sparberg		
71	Otto Hagen		
72	Bernhard Hersbach	Dec. 9, 1908	
72	Henry Glass	Nov. 29, 1908	
73	Jaues Leinous	Jan. 21, 1909	
73-76	Friedericke Wernerskirch	March 2, 1909	New York City, NY
77	Wilhelm August Lapfgear (?)	March 29, 1909	
77	Joseph Francis O'Donnell	April 27, 1909	Bloomington, NY
78	Jacob Levy	May 28, 1908	
78	Frank Sigmund Brown	June 25, 1909	
78	Ludwig Ohlbom (?)	July 1, 1909	
79	Dr. Charles Bartley	Aug. 14, 1909	1290 West 22 nd St. Chicago, IL
79	Charles Meyer	Aug. 22, 1909	
79	Hester Elizabeth Kimball	Nov. 7, 1909	Chicago, IL
80	Ernst Schierenberg	Nov. 8, 1909	
80	Richard Strehlow	Dec. 8, 1909	7215 Second Ave Brooklyn, NYC
81	Charles Jutte	March 3, 1910	5204 Liberty Ave Pittsburg, PA
81 & 82	Charlotte Traub	March 19, 1910	NY
82	Eliza Turner, nee Matheson	April 19, 1910	Laurence, KS
82	Margaret Meyer, nee Hausmann	May 17, 1910	
83	Jacob Moritz	June 9, 1910	Salt Lake City, UT
85	Sarah Sadler Stone (Mrs. Wilbur Stone)	July 28, 1910	Denver, CO
86	Mrs. Philippine Donegan	Oct. 8, 1910	
88 & 90	Hon. William Leighton	March 10, 1911	Chicago, IL
92	John Knell	July 25, 1911	227 North Lake St Aurora, IL

Page Number	Name	Date of Death, if provided	US Address of Relatives, if provided
92	Franette Mueller, nee Ellenuaer (?)	Aug. 2, 1911	
94	Mrs. Emma Reiner	Aug. 18, 1911	Chicago, IL
94	Rev. Clement Vonn	Nov. 13, 1911	Chicago, IL
96	Louise Wolff	Feb. 14, 1912	505 East 56 th St New York, NY
99	Mary Klaueke, nee Freeze	April 19, 1912	Tiffin, OH
99	Frank D. Hill		
102	Henry Eder	July 8, 1912	1234 Dearborn Ave Chicago, IL
102	Adolf Ludwig Poekwitz	Sept. 1, 1912	San Francisco, CA
104	Elizabeth Archenhold	Sept. 26, 1912	Waco, Texas
106	Jessie Sandel, nee Miller	May 16, 1913	Escondido, CA
108	Oscar Naumdorff	July 13, 1913	Newark, NJ
109	Maria Lieber	Sept. 1, 1913	
111	Adolphus Busch	Oct. 10, 1913	St. Louis, MO
111	Hermann John Huskamp	Oct. 26, 1913	Santa Barbara, CA
113	Philipp Kaltwasser	Dec. 18, 1913	
114	Sarah Mathilda Spencer	March 22, 1914	Philadelphia, PA
116	Peter Pfohl	May 1, 1914	Niagara Falls, NY
117	Meta Kern	June 12, 1914	222 Fourth Ave New York, NY
118	Frederick Seivert	July 18, 1914	St. Louis, MO
120	Mary Oppenseim	Aug. 13, 1914	
120	Ferdinand Leith	Aug. 30, 1914	Los Angeles, CA
122	Hugo Reisinger	Sept. 27, 1914	993 Fifth Ave New York, NY
122	Charles F. Pfander	Nov. 1, 1914	
124	Louise Hagen	Feb. 18, 1915	
125	Frederick von Benkendorff	April 16, 1915	New York, NY
125	Adam Fahs	April 15, 1915	
127	Mona Jansen (death by suicide)	Jan. 21, 1916	Chicago, IL
128	John J. Silverston O'Neill	Feb. 14, 1916	
	Notes: (?) indicates uncertainty about the spelling of a name 'nee' indicates a former name		



Kurhaus

FEST-PROGRAMM

für den Besuch der

Deutsch-Amerikanischen
Lehrer und Lehrerinnen

in WIESBADEN

am Freitag, den 19. Juli 1912.

Gleichzeitig Ausweis zum freien Besuche des
Kurhauses und des Kochbrunnens.

WIESBADEN, 19. Juli 1912.

Der Magistrat.

FEST-PROGRAMM.	
VORMITTAGS 10 UHR:	Begrüssung in der Wandelhalle und Aushändigung des Fest-Programms.
	Besichtigung des Kurhauses, daran anschliessend
	Frühkonzert im Kurgarten und einfacher Imbiss auf der Terrasse.
	Hiernach evtl. Besichtigung der höheren Mädchenschule auf dem Schlossplatz.
NACHMITTAGS 3 UHR:	Treffpunkt Kaiser Friedrich-Platz.
	Fahrt mit der elektrischen Bahn nach Beausite.
	Aufstieg zum Neroberg. Besichtigung.
NACHMITTAGS 5 UHR:	Abstieg durch den Philosophenweg, Promenade durch die Nerotal-Anlagen, Besichtigung des Kriegerdenkmals und des Kochbrunnens.
ABENDS 8 UHR:	Grosses Festkonzert im Kurgarten und Illumination. Vorträge der Wiesbadener Sängervereinigung. Prinz Heinrich-Marsch, Pax triumphans, unter persönlicher Leitung des Komponisten Herrn van der Stucken.

Figure II (left-hand page and above) – Program from visit of German-American teachers.

Place of death: 46 Kers. Strasse, Wiesbaden, Germany.
 Cause of death: old age - 79 years. -
 Buried in Wiesbaden.
 Disposition of effects: Household goods, wearing apparel etc.
 left to her daughter, Mrs. Auguste Heuer, nee Clausen.
 Address of family: Mrs. Auguste Heuer, 46^{II} Kers. Strasse Wiesbaden.
 Family in America is notified.
 as accompanied by her daughter as above. -
 Paul Jergensen 488 La Salle Avenue, Chicago Ill. is ad-
 ministrators of the Estate.
 There are three children in America, Money left in equal
 parts to the children. They are all of age.
 Seal. J. B. Brewer
 U. S. Consul. Wiesbaden.
 Germany.

Wiesbaden, March 28. 1904.

Recorded, that this day before me appeared and registered
 as American Citizens:
 Johann August Livermann, from Chicago, Ill. at present residing
 at Wiesbaden, ²⁷ and his Son,
 Carl Siegfried Livermann, born July 5. 1890 at Maunheim.
 Baden, Germany.
 John August Livermann has been naturalized as an American
 Citizen on Nov. 1. 1880 at Chicago Ill.
 Signatures:

Aug. Livermann
 Carl Siegfried Livermann.

John B. Brewer.
 U. S. Consul. 27.

Figure III- Death notices from the Miscellaneous volume.

Wittgenstein databases a model for German regional researchers

By James M. Beidler

If only every single, solitary area of Germany had a researcher such as Jochen Karl Mehldau – well, it might take a lot of the “thrill of the hunt” out of German genealogy but on the other hand it would leave many people with a whole lot more ancestors than they have now!

Mehldau, a retired city manager and surveyor who lives in Karlsruhe in the German state of Baden-Württemberg, has roots further north in the villages of the former German *Grafschaft* (often translated as “county” but probably better rendered as “countship”) of Wittgenstein.

Wittgenstein is a relatively small, still-wooded hilly area about an hour north of Frankfurt am Main. For centuries, it was divided into “twin countships” that were each ruled by related noble families, who were initially titled *Graf* (German for count) and later *Fürst* (prince) before the area was made part of Prussia as that state expanded in the 1800s.

Today, it is part of the *Kreis* (county or district) of Siegen-Wittgenstein, which is now part of the state North Rhine-Westphalia.

Mehldau began genealogy as a hobby more than half a century ago, but it truly became his mission since retiring a decade-and-a-half ago.

“First I searched for my own ancestors and relatives,” says Mehldau. “There was a large problem in Wittgenstein. In each place, there are many people with the same name at the same time.”

These identically named people were not always differentiated even in the church books, Mehldau said. “In addition, some books or some entries are missing. It is thus very difficult to find the correct ancestors,” he said.

He has written numerous genealogical articles, most of which appeared in the periodical “Wittgenstein,” published by the Wittgensteiner Heimatverein. Many of his projects have involved

tracing house ownership in Wittgenstein villages from the 16th to 19th century.

In 1982, Mehldau began to input and arrange all the data from the village in which his mother was born, Erndtebrück. “That was the beginning of the database,” he recalled.

From this starting point, Mehldau continued working on his pedigree-linked database until it now contains more than 150,000 people - including all the data from the church records of Wittgenstein villages through the year 1875. “The database contains also individuals from the neighboring territories,” Mehldau added.

In addition to church records, his database also contains information from archives such as marriage contracts, taxes and deliveries, inhabitant listings, and data about farms. Few of these additional records have been microfilmed by the Mormons.

While only a relatively small percentage of emigrants from Wittgenstein are so noted in the church books, those notations do add up – more than a thousand notations regarding emigrants are found in his database, Mehldau says.

Mehldau makes extracts from his database available for a fee in three options:

- Data for specific individuals
- Lists of ancestors
- Lists of descendants

The database entries are in German, but Mehldau sends along an English key to the German words, symbols, and abbreviations.

Mehldau’s website describes his services and database in detail; the English version is found at the URL, www.wittgensteiner.net/en/index.html

The website contains a huge amount of information about Wittgenstein, including a listing of surnames from the area as well as detailed listing of the sources from which his database was gleaned.

Other subpages on his website give a history of Wittgenstein as well as an exhaustive list of “hamlets,” cross-roads communities founded outside of established villages in the 1800s

(Mehldau’s list includes every one of these having 10 or more residents in 1900!)

He can be contacted by e-mail at: jkmehldau@arcor.de.

Der Kurier editor Beidler has a number of families who hail from the towns of Wittgenstein, including Hiester / Hüster, Gicker / Gücker, Rick / Rück, Weaver and Zacharias.

Wittgenstein Family Database

Locations

The list shows all communities within the Kreis Wittgenstein, which existed as independent entities until December 31st, 1974

The letter following the community shows to which town this community belongs today:

B = Bad Berleburg, E = Erndtebrück, L = Bad Laasphe, W = Winterberg

Alertshausen B	Laasphe L
Amtshausen L	Langewiese W
Arfeld B	Mollseifen W
Aue B	Neuastenberg W
Balde E	Niederlaasphe L
Banfe L	Oberndorf L
Beddelhausen B	Puderbach L
Benfe E	Raumland B
Berghausen B	Richstein B
Berleburg B	Rinthe B
Bermershausen L	Rückershausen L
Bernshausen L	Rüppershausen L
Birkefehl E	Sassenshausen B
Birkelbach E	Sassmannshausen L
Diedenshausen B	Schameder E
Dotzlar B	Schüller B
Elsoff B	Schwarzenau B
Erndtebrück E	Steinbach L
Feudingen L	Stünzel B
Fischelbach L	Volkholz L
Girkhausen B	Weide L
Großenbach L	Weidenhausen B
Heiligenborn L	Wemlighausen B
Hemschlar B	Wingeshausen B
Herbertshausen L	Womelsdorf E
Hesselbach L	Wunderthausen B
Holzhausen L	Zinse E
Kunst-Wittgenstein L	.



Mehldau’s website gives a list of which communities now have jurisdiction over villages in Wittgenstein.

FAMILY REGISTERS

Bible records sold at auction

By Corinne Earnest

In a departure from my usual *fraktur* articles, I translated and transcribed several family registers from Bibles that were recently sold at auction. Many have names that I covered in previous issues of *Der Kurier*.

BECKER/LUDWIG Bible Record

A family register for the BECKER/LUDWIG family of Berks County, Pennsylvania, appears in a German-language Bible printed in Leipzig in 1844. Three professional scribes plus family members contributed entries. Georg August S. Hainbach (active ca. 1876-1920) recorded the death of Jesse BECKER, the father of this family.

This record says Jesse BECKER and Elisabeth LUDWIG, both of Center Township, Berks County, married on December 13, 1845. They were married by Isaac MIESE. Jesse BECKER was born January 28, 1824 in Albany Township, Berks County. He was baptized March 21, 1824, by Pastor JEAGER. Jacob and Catharina BEHLÿ sponsored Jesse's baptism. Jesse BECKER died September 29, 1896 in Center Township at the age of 72 years, 8 months, and 1 day.

Jesse's wife, Elisabeth LUDWIG, was born April 14, 1827 in Bern Township, Berks County. She was baptized on June 3, 1827 by Pastor STREÿEN. Jacob and Magdalena FAUST sponsored Elisabeth's baptism. Elisabeth (LUDWIG) BECKER died February 3, 1879, in Center Township.

The BECKERS had a family of nine children. All were born in Berks County and the first seven were baptized by Isaac MIESE.

Fränklin BECKER was born January 18, 1848 in Center Township. He was baptized April

24, 1848 and died on March 29, 1901 at the age of 53 years, 2 months, and 11 days.

James BECKER was born June 1, 1849 in Penn Township and baptized August 19, 1849. He died February 26, 1922 at the age of 72 years, 8 months, and 25 days.

Allison BECKER was born March 25, 1851 in Bern Township. She was baptized May 25, 1851 and died June 8, 1920 at the age of 69 years, 2 months, and 13 days.

Sarah Melinda BECKER was born December 29, 1852 in Bern Township. She was baptized in March 1853, but no specific day of baptism was recorded. Sarah Melinda died December 6, 1934 at the age of 81 years, 11 months, and 7 days.

Levi BECKER was born October 10, 1854 in Center Township and baptized December 31, 1854. Levi died July 10, 1920 at the age of 65 years and 9 months.

Maria Anna BECKER was born September 17, 1856 in Center Township. No date of baptism was recorded. Maria Anna died January 1, 1931 at the age of 74 years, 3 months, and 14 days.

Mendon BECKER was born July 31, 1858 and was baptized in September 1858, but no specific date was recorded. Mendon died November 16, 1914 at the age of 56 years, 3 months, and 16 days.

Emma Elisabeth BECKER was born May 18, 1862 in Center Township. She was baptized in June 1862 by Pastor FOX, and died September 11, 1938 at the age of 76 years, 3 months, and 23 days.

Milton BECKER was born August 3, 1864 in Center Township. He was baptized September 18, 1864 by B. D. ZWEIZIG. Milton died February 13, 1942 at the age of 77 years, 6 months, and 10 days.

BRAUN/MERZ Family Register

A family register made for the BRAUN/MERZ family of Berks and Schuylkill Counties, Pennsylvania, was recorded in a German-language Kimber and Sharpless Bible from Philadelphia. The scrivener was Gottlieb SCHMID (active ca. 1845-63), who noted he wrote the record on January 11, 1857.

The family register begins with a notation concerning the marriage of Martin BRAUN and Brisilla [Priscilla] MERZ on May 20, 1848. They were married by Daniel ULRICH. Martin BRAUN was a son of John and Eva (RIED) BRAUN. He was born November 6, 1822 in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, and died July 3, 1903 at the age of 80 years, 7 months, and 27 days. Martin BRAUN's wife, Brisilla MERZ, was a daughter of Johann and Sara (PAUL) MERZ. Brisilla was born December 10, 1827 in Brunswick Township, Schuylkill County.

The BRAUNs had seven children, all of whom were born in Tulpehocken Township. Isabella BRAUN was born on May 22, 1849. Catharina Brisilla BRAUN was born October 27, 1850. Emilie Jane BRAUN was born December 21, 1852. Passewell Martin BRAUN was born September 15, 1854. Emma Rebecca BRAUN was born September 1, 1856. Mary Jane BRAUN was born December 23, 1858. John Henry BRAUN was born November 10, 1860. He died May 12, 1864 at the age of 3 years, 6 months, and 2 days.

An added note written in English says Henry WAGNER and his wife, Kate P. BROWN, had a son named Milton Theodore WAGNER.

Milton Theodore was born in Tulpehocken Township on March 25, 1871 and baptized by F. MAYER in 1871. The parents witnessed Milton Theodore's baptism. The Kate P. BROWN referred to here is likely Martin and Brisilla (MERZ) BRAUN's second daughter, Catharina Brisilla.

CROLL/GRIM Family Register

A German-language family register removed from its Bible was made for Martin Sebaldu CROLL and his wife, Elisabeth Ann GRIM. This couple was married on June 10, 1865 by Alfred D. CROLL. They married in Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania. Martin Sebaldu CROLL was born August 19, 1844 in Maxatawny Township, Berks County. Elizabeth Ann GRIM, whose name is spelled "Elizabeth" and "Elisabeth" in this record, was born March 31, 1843 in Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County.

The CROLLs had two sons. They were William Martin CROLL, who was born April 9, 1866 in Upper Macungie Township, Lehigh County, and Carls [sic] Alfred CROLL who was born July 2, 1877, in Maxatawny Township, Berks County.

It is possible the CROLLs had more children listed on pages that are now separated from the original Bible and the two pages recorded here.

CROUNSE/LIVINGSTON Family Register

A family register written in English was recorded on a separate sheet and tucked into an English-language Bible having a register made for the MARLETT(E) family (see next).

No location for the family was noted, and the unknown writer made a vague reference at the top saying, "Family Record of Grandfather Crounse."

This register says Conrad CROUNSE was born March 23, 1773. On July 4, 1795, he married Margaret LIVINGSTON, who was born November 8, 1775. Conrad and Margaret CROUNSE had thirteen children. They were: Abraham CROUNSE, born May 28, 1796; Maria

CROUNSE, born February 3, 1798; Peter CROUNSE, born October 11, 1799; Nancy CROUNSE, born January 1, 1802; Frederick CROUNSE, born April 29, 1804, "Grandfather"; Elizabeth CROUNSE, born January 31, 1806; Anna Barbara CROUNSE, born April 16, 1808; Margaret CROUNSE, born March 10, 1810; John CROUNSE, born May 23, 1812; Jacob CROUNSE, born July 27, 1814; twins, Philip Conrad and Henry Pierce CROUNSE, born June 23, 1816; and Rebecca CROUNSE, born May 23, 1819.

MARLETT(E)/CROUNSE Family Register

An English-language family register related to the above gives locations for the MARLETT(E) and CROUNSE family in the state of New York. The Bible was printed for the American Bible Society in 1843 by D. Fanshaw of New York. The name, George W. MARLETT, is penciled on the title page. The surname, MARLETT, is spelled with and without an "E" ending throughout the register.

The family register begins with several marriages. James J. MARLETT married Eliza S. MARLETT on April 13, 1842. They were married by John NOTT in Rotterdam, Schenectady County, New York. The next entry says Georg W. MARLETT married Hattie L. CROUNSE. They were married by E. E. SEELEY on March 8, 1864 in Schenectady. Charles P. MARLETTE married Mary L. FREEMAN on July 29, 1890 in Schenectady. They were married by H. C. HINDS. Wm. C. MARLETTE married Sarah SCHERMERHORN on December 10, 1890. They were married in Rotterdam, New York, by H. C. HINDS. Harriet Elizabeth MARLETTE married Clayton P. YODER on November 8, 1913. They were married in Schenectady by R. A. STEVENSON.

List of births and deaths follow. James J. MARLETT was born May 12, 1822 and his wife, Eliza S. MARLETT, was born April 15, 1819. The next births are for their children. George W. MARLETT was born October 18, 1842. He died September 26, 1915 in his 73rd year. John B. MARLETT was born January 23, 1845. He died

January 30, 1861 at the age of 16 years and 7 days. Albert A. MARLETT was born June 1, 1847. Willie J. MARLETT was born February 7, 1851. He died July 9, 1852 at the age of 1 year, 5 months, and 2 days. Another Willie J. MARLETT was born February 11, 1857.

The next entries are written in other hands, and it is uncertain how these children were related to James J. and Eliza S. MARLETT. Perhaps they were their grandchildren. Willie C. MARLETT was born December 17, 1864. Charles P. MARLETT was born April 1, 1866. Charles "Parker" MARLETTE died November 16, 1942 in his 76th year. His wife, Mary L. (FREEMAN) MARLETTE, died November 25, 1925 in her 60th year. Lizzie F. MARLETT was born November 4, 1870. She died September 9, 1871 at the age of 10 months and 6 days. Freddie J. MARLETT was born January 9, 1884. He died April 13, 1884 at the age of 3 months and 4 days. Harriet Elizabeth MARLETT was born November 13, 1892, and John S. MARLETT was born June 5, also in 1892.

One other death is recorded for Harriet L. MARLETTE, who died July 9, 1893 in her 54th year.

YOUNDT Death Announcement

A record of death was recorded in English on a separate sheet and tucked into a Bible printed by Edgewood Publishing Company. With the exception of capitalizing the surnames, the original spellings and punctuation, shown here, capture the flavor of this record. The "Muddy Creak Church" referred to is perhaps Muddy Creek Church in East Cocalico Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. This record says:

"Mary A. YOUNDT Wife [wife] of Samuel YOUNDT Whas borne March the 18. A. D. 1849 and died May the 25. A. D. 1884 and Whas buried on Thursday May the 29 at Muddy Creak Church and her funeral Surman Whas preacht by Revernd S. S. SWEITZER Reforme preacher of the Gosple and brought her age to 35 years 2 month and 7 days."

DEUTSCH UNTERRICHTSFORSCHUNG

By Debra A. Hoffman

Mastering German script

One of the major challenges in conducting German research, besides the obvious language barrier, is learning to read the German script. For those just beginning to research their German ancestors, it can be frustrating to be unable to interpret the records.

The following resources are provided to assist those interested in learning German script. Traditionally, those proficient in reading the German Script were self-taught. It is an expertise that is honed through experience in working with the records. With the Internet, more educational resources are available now than in the past to learn this skill.

Mastering the ability to read German Script is crucial to becoming a proficient German researcher. While it is not necessary to become fluent in German, a basic knowledge is helpful particularly the genealogical significant terms.

Books

Bentz, Edna M. *If I Can, You Can: Deciphering Germanic Records*. San Diego, Calif.: Edna M. Bentz, 1982.

Mashey, Anne B. *A Guide to Olde German Handwriting of the Mid-1800s for Genealogists, Researchers, Antiquers*. Wexford, Pa.: Anne B. Mashey, 1982.

Minert, Roger P. *Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin, and French in Historical Manuscripts*. GRT Publications, Second edition, 2013.

Storrer, Norman J., and Larry O. Jenson. *A Genealogical and Demographic Handbook of German Handwriting, 17th-19th Centuries*. Pleasant Grove, Utah: Norman J. Storrer, 1977.

Verdenhalven, Fritz. *Die deutsche Schrift—The German Script: Ein Übungsbuch* [an exercise book]. Neustadt an der Aisch: Verlag Degener & Co., 1991.

Courses

BYU Independent Study offers an online class, which covers German script. The course, HIST 351 - Germanic Family, Local and Social History Research includes a lesson on the German alphabet, Gothic script and printing. For more information see <http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/description.cfm?title=HIST-351-200>

The Moravian Archives located in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, offers an annual German Script Course. The course is held annually for two weeks in June. Registration is limited to fifteen students and there is a prerequisite for good reading ability of modern German. There is a scholarship available and students may also receive three continuing education credits if registration is made through the Comenius Center of Moravian College. For more information see <http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org/germanscript.php>.

Institutes

The following weeklong institutes offer courses on German and immigrant research:

The Genealogical Research Institute at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg, Illinois will be held for the first time from May – June 2015. For additional information see their website at <http://www.sandburggenealogy.com/>.

The Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh (GRIP) is held annually in July in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. For additional information see their website at <http://www.gripitt.org/>.

The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) is held annually in June at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. For additional information see their website at <http://ighr.samford.edu/>.

The Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy (SLIG) is held annually in January in Salt Lake City, Utah. For additional information see their website at <http://www.infouga.org/cpage.php?pt=42>.

Websites

The following websites provide information, guidance and tutorials for learning to read German Script:

Blackletter	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackletter
Cyndi's List - Handwriting & Script - Locality Specific	www.cyndislist.com/handwriting/locality/
Deciphering German Script (Kurrentschrift)	https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Deciphering_German_Script_(Kurrentschrift)
Fraktur & German Script - Ann C. Sherwin	asherwin.com
German Genealogy - Language. Handwriting and Script	www.genealoger.com/german/ger_german_language.htm
German language, alphabets and pronunciation - Omniglot	www.omniglot.com/writing/german.htm
German Script class	http://www.frenchfamilyassoc.com/FFA/CHARTS/Chart195/Chart195GermanScript.pdf
German Script Tutorial	https://script.byu.edu/Pages/German/en/welcome.aspx
German Script Tutorial FamilySearch.org	https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/german-script-tutorial/91
Handwriting Guide: German Gothic - FEEFHS	feefhs.org/guides/German_Gothic.pdf
Helps for Translating That Old German Handwriting	http://nancysfamilyhistoryblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/helps-for-translating-that-old-german.html
Kurrent Kupferstich Old German Script or Suetterlin	www.waldenfont.com/product.asp?productID=8
Old German Writings	www.suetterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Titel.htm
Old German Script - Kurrent	genealogy.about.com/od/paleography/ig/old_handwriting/Kurrent.htm
Suetterlin / German handwriting	www.suetterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Sutterlin.htm
Sütterlin	http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sütterlin

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: globlaknt@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

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2014

Sept. 11. Delaware Historical Society, 505 N. Market St., Wilmington, DE. MAGS member Dr. Joseph Neville speaking on "Through the Eyes of Tourists: Germany as World War I Commences." A fascinating lecture based on case studies of German-American tourists in Germany at the outbreak of the Great War. More info: www.dehistory.org/calendar-main

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. 17-18. The Genealogy Event, Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, 1 Bowling Green, New York City. Sponsored in partnership with the National Archives. Presenters will include *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler. More info: <http://www.thegenealogyevent.com/#!nyc-fall-2014/c24hy>

Oct 24-25. MAGS Fall Workshop and Meeting, Sheraton – Wilmington South, New Castle, DE. Speakers: Connie Potter and Patrick Osborn, In addition, Dr. Kenneth Heger will present a

special interactive workshop on Oct. 24 entitled "Selling the War at Home." More info: www.magsgen.com

2015

Feb. 12-14. Co-conference of RootsTech and Federation of Genealogical Societies, Salt Lake City, UT. More info: www.rootstech.org and <https://www.fgsconference.org/>

May 2. Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines to America, Spring Conference, Kutztown, PA. More info: www.palam.org/pennsylvania-palam-chapter.php

May 13-16. National Genealogical Society Conference, "Crossroads of America," St. Charles, MO. Tuesday, May 12, pre-conference events will include a special German workshop – German-themed lunch included! More info: www.ngsgnealogy.org

June 26-27. Palatines to America 2015 National Conference, Harrisburg, PA. More info see www.palam.org or write to Palatines to America, PO Box 141260, Columbus, OH 43214.

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)

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.

David & Carol Baynes of Deale, MD
(*Imhoff, Reipe, Neuemayre, Leidlich*)

Sandra Dewine of Silver Spring, MD
(*Kisling, Kesling, Kiessling, Kislinger*)

Kathy Horner of West Hartford, CT
(*Von Hagen, Wessel*)

Erwin Jaumann of Gaithersburg, MD
(*Jaumann, Fiedler, Oehler, Wester*)

Erika Lopresti of Virginia Beach, VA
(*Rottler, Mumma, Linze, Wünsch*)

Constance Rifkind of Lilburn, GA
(*Zirkle, Henkel, Lindamood, Koiner*)

Bruce Schall of Kansas City, MO
(*Schall, Newhard, Kistlerh*)

James Simonis of East Amhurst, NY
(*Simonis, Fogle, Welter, Reiner*)

BUCHBESPRECHUNG / *Book Reviews*

Crimes and Mercies: The Fate of German Civilians Under Allied Occupation, 1944-1950

By James Bacque

Published by Little Brown; London, England, 1997; 288 pp. Illustrations. Softback. \$24.99

Crimes and Mercies, like the author's previous tome *Other Losses*, deals with a subject that many will find disbelieving, some will say never happened and the rest will be angry and ask why.

At the end of the war, the Allies set in motion the systematic starvation of the German military and they also began starving the civilian population under the orders of Eisenhower, Truman, Marshall and others. According to Mr. Bacque in *Other Losses*, General Eisenhower hated the Germans, which is interesting since Eisenhower had German-speaking ancestry.

On the flip side the Americans and the Canadians began the largest relief program in the world. At first the Germans were excluded but then former President Herbert Hoover and Canadian

Prime Minister Mackenzie King stepped in and moved food by the ton to those in greatest need and firmly insisting that the civilian population in Germany be taken care of as well.

Many in the Truman administration tried to dismiss Hoover but he truly was a humble hero. He did not believe that the conquered should be vanquished for all eternity the way others did and sadly Herbert Hoover was never really given his due. The efforts of Hoover and King saved as many as 800 million lives.

Crimes and Mercies was originally published in 1997 and you're wondering why it's being reviewed now. Simply put this book never went over well here in the United States. Many in office at that time have denied that this ever happened.

It is a book like its predecessor that needs to be read in silence so you can concentrate on the subject and what is being said. This book does not have any genealogical value at first glance but maybe it will give you an idea of what may have happened to a relative that you have not been able to locate during this time period.

Reviewed by Diane Kuster

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Surname Index for *Der Kurier*

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In Search of Your European Roots A Complete Guide to Tracing Your Ancestors in Every Country in Europe, by Angus Baxter, Third ed. M/NM ...\$18.90/\$21 S&H...\$3.70

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

Researching in Germany by Roger Minert M/NM ... \$17 / 19 S&H \$ 3.70

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How to Read and Understand Meyers Orts Meyers Geographical and Commercial Gazetteer of the German Empire, by Wendy K. Uncapher,

M/NM.....\$10.75/\$11.95 S&H\$3.20

The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide by James M. Beidler M/NM\$21 / \$25 S&H.....\$3.70

German Maps and Facts for Genealogy Second Edition, by Wendy K. Uncapher and Linda M. Herrick, M/NM\$17.75/\$19.95 S&H\$3.70

If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records by Edna M. Bentz, M/NM....\$15.50/\$17.25 S&H\$3.70

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The German Research Companion, 3rd Edition by Shirley J. Riemer, Roger P. Minert, Jennifer A. Anderson M/NM \$27.75/31.00 S&H \$3.70

German American Names, 3rd Edition by George F. Jones M/NM \$29.75/33.00 S&H \$3.70

The Wehrmacht War Crimes Bureau 1939-1945 by Alfred M. deZayas M/NM \$29.00/32.50 S&H \$3.70

Where to look for Hard-to-Find German-Speaking Ancestors in Eastern Europe by Bruce Brandt & Edward Reimer Brandt M/NM \$21.25/23.00 S&H \$3.70

German English Genealogical Dictionary by Ernest Thode M/NM \$26.75/29.95 S&H \$3.70

Address Book for Germanic Genealogy, 6th Ed. by Ernest Thode M/NM \$24.75 / 27 S&H \$3.70

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