

Der Kurier

Volume 32, Number 4, December 2014

Immigrant's journey, step by step

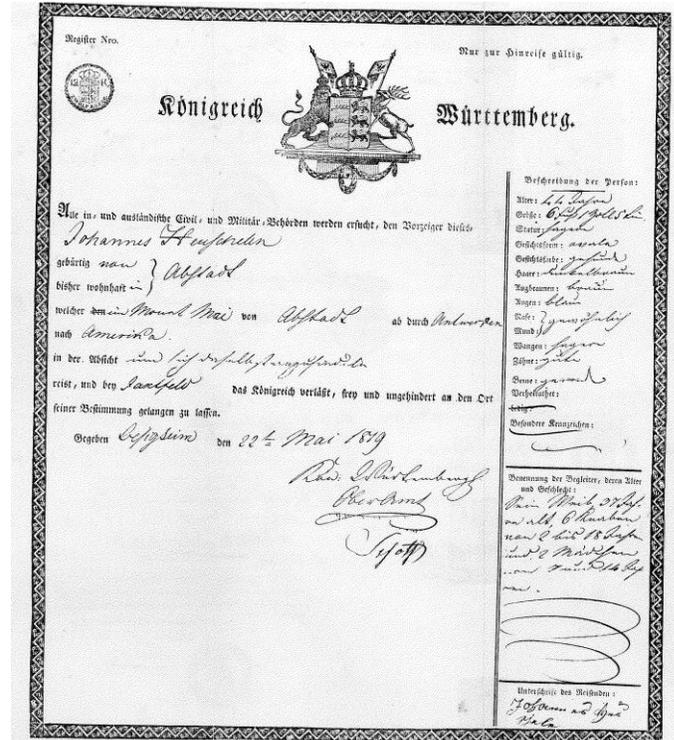
By Fritz Juengling

A passport for Württemberg native Johannes Heuschelen, who ended up in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, has been preserved by one of his descendants.

Around 1818 Johannes Heuschelen, a resident of Abstatt, was struck by the idea to emigrate from the Kingdom of Württemberg to the “Land of Opportunity.”

Like so many of his countrymen, he must have been impressed by the seemingly unlimited opportunities that America had to offer: religious and political freedom, economic mobility, and perhaps most important of all, the ability to own land.

Although we will probably never know exactly why Johannes emigrated, we can guess that it was one of these things. Family lore



Front of passport (translation, page 77)

might offer the best explanation. But, so many generations have passed and Johannes' story slips further into the ranks of those forgotten.

The decision to leave hearth and home could not have been an easy one. The exhilaration of a new adventure and opportunity must have been tempered by the knowledge that he would probably never see

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

**PO Box 241
New Windsor, MD 21776**

<http://www.magsgen.com/>

Our mission: To stimulate and facilitate research on Germanic genealogy and heritage in the mid-Atlantic region

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded 10 July 1982. Annual dues are only \$15 (individual) or \$20 (family). Membership is open to all interested persons without regard to place of residence, nationality, or ethnicity. Benefits of membership include:

Spring and Fall Meetings featuring expert speakers
Quarterly journal, *Der Kurier*

MAGS Lending Library
Ahnentafels published in *Der Kurier*
Queries

A membership application appears on the back cover of *Der Kurier*.

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Submissions to *Der Kurier*. Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Any material published becomes the property of MAGS. Deadline for submissions: the first of January, April, July and October. Submit to: James M. Beidler, *Der Kurier* Editor, MAGS, PO Box 241, New Windsor, MD 21776. E-mail: james@beidler.us

FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year has come and gone and that means it is time to renew your MAGS membership. To see if your membership is due for renewal, look at the address label on the back cover of this copy of *Der Kurier*. If your membership number ends in a "-14," then your membership expires at the end of this year. Any other number indicates your membership is not due.

To quickly renew your membership, cut out the address label and mail it with your payment to the address on the bottom of the back page. You do not have to fill out any forms unless you have changes to your address or e-mail information. To report changes, please complete the short form at the bottom of the same page.

Our fall meeting, held at the Sheraton-Wilmington South, in New Castle, Delaware, was an excellent program and was enjoyed by all the attendees. In honor of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I and because many MAGS's members had someone in their family involved in that Great War, the program was intended to provide new insight into WWI records. Connie Potter and Patrick Osborn covered many types of WWI records, their location, the information they contain, and how they can be used in genealogical research. Both presenters received excellent reviews for their lectures.

On the previous day, Dr. Kenneth Heger presented a workshop entitled "Selling the War at Home." This was an interactive lecture on how the United States and Germany used posters to raise morale and money for the WWI war effort. Dr. Heger's presentations are always entertaining, informative and thought-provoking and this one was no exception. The handouts were one of the highlights of the workshop.

The registration flyer for our spring meeting is enclosed in this issue. The meeting

By Gunter Schanzenbacher,
Interim President

will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015, at the Holiday Inn-Laurel West, Laurel, Maryland. The speaker, Rebecca Whitman Koford, will present four excellent lectures that will benefit anyone conducting family research. Her last lecture will discuss how to expertly include social history to bring your ancestors to life. Seating is limited, so be sure to register early for this meeting.

There will also be a workshop on the Friday before the meeting. In what promises to be a popular topic, Angela Packer McGhie will guide attendees through the development of an effective research plan by covering a step-by-step case study. Using her approach, attendees will be able to work through the development of a research plan for their own projects. Again, with limited seating, be sure to register early!

As a final note, I would like to remind everyone about the Geissenhainer database on our website. It is located outside the membership area and is accessible by all. Robert Greiner, a MAGS Board Member and Treasurer, is indexing this database and has just added another ten years of information. The database now consists of 6,774 baptisms; 4,035 marriages; and 1,181 confirmation records. The name index is now complete for the years 1827 to 1861.

Pastor Geissenhainer kept records through April 1879, so there will be additions to this database in the future. There are MAGS members who have been fortunate to find their ancestors in this database and obtain copies of the actual records from the New York Historical Society. If you had anyone living or visiting the New York City area during that time period, investigate this database.

In conclusion, with this the final issue for 2014:

*"Ich wünsche euch eine frohe
Weinachten und ein glückliches neues Jahr."*

19th century immigrant's journey, step by step

(Continued from cover)

his friends and family members again. What an agonizing decision this must have been. Nevertheless, the call of the adventure triumphed and Johannes made his decision and subsequent plans.

But what do we know about Johannes and his trek through Europe on his way to America? The family today was able to produce a passport with a number of stamps from various entities. The fact that Johannes had a passport tells a lot about him. First, all emigrants from Württemberg were required to apply for permission to leave. Given that many did not apply for or receive permission to leave,¹ that Johannes did so is a testament to his respect for the law. More importantly, it shows that he spent a fair amount of time considering this venture before he set out. This was not a fly-by-night decision. Much thought went into it.

First, he applied for his exit papers in the town of Besigheim² on 22 May 1819 and stated that he would be leaving the Kingdom of Württemberg at Jaxtfeld (Jagstfeld, today part of Bad Friedrichshall). He next went to Stuttgart, where he “made the rounds” of several offices and embassies over a period of three days to gain the permission stamps needed to both exit Württemberg and then cross the Grand Duchy of Baden and the Prussian Rhine provinces en route to his departure port of Antwerp. Stamps on the passport show he visited:

- The Württemberg Interior and Foreign Affairs ministries (26 May)
- The Prussian Royal Embassy to prove that he had enough funds for his trip (26 May) and not become a “ward of the state” when he crossed the Rhine provinces

- The Legation of his Britannic Majesty (27 May) (probably because his ship would touch in England after leaving Antwerp)
- The Embassy of the Grand Duchy of Baden (28 May)

One might wonder why Johannes even needed these stamps at all. Today, one does not need a visa or any sort of stamp when touching port in many countries. For example, when flying from the United States to Germany and one's plane lands in London, one does not need any visa or permission stamp to stay the short time in the United Kingdom. However, given that Johannes would have been traveling *through* these various countries and perhaps spending some time there would have necessitated such permission. Passport regulations were established by the French revolutionaries in 1792 for political reasons, primarily to control the movement of potential counter-revolutionaries. As time went on, the movement of other groups was watched and ostensibly controlled, e.g. vagabonds, criminals, beggars, or anyone else deemed undesirable. Johannes did not fit into any of these categories, as we surmise from the care he took to obtain the passport.

When Johannes actually left Württemberg is unknown. He might have waited for some time in his hometown. That is unlikely, however, as his approval stamps were in May and he would have wanted to travel in the spring or summer when the weather was conducive to travel. The next entry on the passport shows him in Arnhem, a Dutch town, on 29 Sept, where he was charged by the police and told to report to police upon his arrival in Antwerp. Whether he went by foot, carriage or boat from his home to Arnhem is also unknown. A trip down the

¹ It has been estimated that about half of the young men of military age emigrated illegally. See *Genealoger*, “German Genealogy: German Emigration Records.” Accessed 20 November 2014.

² As a point of interest, Barack Obama's mother's family came to America in 1750 from the village of Besigheim.

Rhine would have been quick and easy on a traveler (besides being a scenic wonderland!).

Although Hamburg and Bremen were the primary emigration ports for Germans, Belgian and Dutch ports were easier for southern Germans to reach, especially if one floated the Rhine.

He may have tarried in towns along the way, perhaps to work for a while. This is also unlikely, as he showed that he had the monetary means to travel when he got permission from the Prussian authorities to traverse their lands. There seems to be no logical reason for the long period of time between the first stamps and his appearance in Arnhem. One would think that Johannes would have wanted to make the trip as quickly as possible. In any event, he would have had to show his passport to various officials, including the police, along the way. His southwestern Germany accent would have betrayed him as being a foreigner almost the minute he left Württemberg.

His final stamp is from the Maritime Office, clearing Johannes to sail aboard the American ship Isabell (under command of Capt. Moliere) on 15 October 1819. At this point, Johannes' dream to go the America was coming true. It should be pointed out that since this is before the U.S. required passenger arrival lists, Johannes' date of emigration likely would have been "lost to history" without this passport. This document is a valuable piece of family history.

The author, floor manager at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, acknowledges

Left-hand side of text of front of passport:

(Only valid for the outward journey)

Kingdom of Wurttemberg

All domestic and foreign civil and military authorities are requested the presenter this

Johannes Heuschelen

Born in)
Residing in) **Abstadt**

When he goes in the month of May from Abstadt via Antwerp to America to allow him to find his way in his travels, and at Jaxtfeld [Jagstfeld] leave the Kingdom to have free and unhindered access to his destination

Given at Besigheim on 22nd May 1819

assistance from the following in compiling the article and the accompanying translation of the back of the passport: Bärbel Johnson, Josiane Lazeras, Pierre Lazeras and Daniel Jones; as well as James M. Beidler and Niels Witkamp.

References:

FamilySearch Wiki. "Germany Emigration and Immigration."

https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Germany_Emigration_and_Immigration

Gale U.S. History in Context. "German Immigration."

<http://ic.galegroup.com/ic/uhic/ReferenceDetailsPage/ReferenceDetailsWindow?zid=a1bdd01f59dacbddab4e6bea68b2a54e&action=2&documentId=GALE%7CCX3436800018&userGroupName=gray02935&jsid=f6ef0c62ec142c368bfc2a12c90b49ea>

Genealoger. "German Genealogy: German Emigration Records."

http://www.genealoger.com/german/ger_emigrati_on_records.htm

Wikipedia. "German American."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_American

Back of passport translation (left-hand side has original German, Dutch and French, right-hand side shows English translation). Numbers match with document on facing page.

<p>[1] Nro 357 Gesehen, Stuttgart d. 26 Mai 1819 Minister des Innern v. Otto</p>	<p>Nr. 357 Seen in Stuttgart on 26 May, 1819. Minister of the Interior von Otto</p>
<p>[2] No 386 Gesehen Stuttgart den 26 May 1819 Der Minister der auswärtigen Angelegenheiten Aus Auftrag des Ministers der Kanzlei Director Roser</p>	<p>Nr. 386 Seen in Stuttgart 26 May 1819 The Minister of the Foreign Affairs by order of the Minister of the Chancellery Director Roser</p>
<p>[3] Gesehen zur durchreise durch die königl. Preussischen Rheinpro- vinzen, nachdem Ersatzzinhaber sich wegen seiner Geldmittel zur Reise ausgewiesen Stuttgart 26 Mai 1819 Königl. Preussische Gesandtschaft v. Kuster ?/?/?/</p>	<p>Seen by the Royal Prussian Rhine provinces, after the holder of this document proved to have enough funds for his trip. Royal Prussian embassy Von Kuster Some title</p>
<p>[4] Vu à Stutgard le 27 Mai 1819 ?/?/? de sa par la legation Majeste Britannique Barnard Attaché la legn</p>	<p>Seen at Stuttgart 27 May 1819 By the legation of his Britannic Majesty Attache of the Legation</p>
<p>[5] Gesehen bey der Großherzoglichen Badischen Gesandtschaft Am königl. Wirtembergischen Hofe Stuttgart den 28. May 1819 Ring, Geheimer Referendier Gesandtschaftsrath</p>	<p>Seen by the Grandduchy of Baden Embassy On the royal Württemberg court, Stuttgart 28 May 1819 Ring, Clerk at the Embassy</p>
<p>[6] Reg la No 429 Regestratum te Arnhem Den 29 Sept 1819 om, gelet [?] op de bekamen [?] premissen van den Heer procureur C van enade belast met het toezigt der politie in deze provincie Zich te begeven naar Antwerpen niets bij de aankomst aldaar Zich dadeljik aan die Directie van politie adresseerende De Comm van politie</p>	<p>No. 429 Registration at Arnhem 29 Sept. 1819 to, ? on the ? Premises of the Sir solicitor C van Enade [?] charged with supervision of the police in this province him to proceed to Antwerp on the condition that on arrival there he immediately at the management of police reports The chief of police</p>
<p>[7] Vu par nous consul ?/?/ Stuttgart ?/? 1819 ? Westerhoff: Pelz</p>	<p>Seen by us the consul ? Stuttgart ?/? 1819 ? Westerhoff: Pelz</p>
<p>[8] Re 2 N 210 Vu à Bailliage Maritime !???? S'embarquer à bord du navire americaine Isabelle Capitaine Moliere se randant !???/?/ !???????????? Anvers le 15 oct 1819 Le Baille Maritime</p>	<p>Re 2 N 210 Seen by the Maritime Office To embark on board the American ship Isabell, Captain Moliere [who will sail ...] Antwerp 15 Oct 1819 The Maritime Office.</p>

[1]

N^o 557. Grafen von Hallyard d. 26. Mai 1819.
Minister des Innern,
in Wien

[3]

Grafen von Hallyard's Brief
an den König, betreffend die
einige, unrichtig angelegte
sonstigen für den Galizischen
Kreis vordringend.
Wien den 26. Mai 1819.
Königl. Hoheitliche Grafen v. Hallyard
in Wien
Luz. Graf

[2]

N^o 586.
Grafen von Hallyard den 26. Mai 1819
In Wien
Die Minister des Innern
und des Aeußern
des Königl. Reichs
in Wien
Luz. Graf



[4]



Paris le 27. Mai 1819
Majesté Britannique
G. de Hallyard
attaché à la lég.

[5]

Grafen von Hallyard's Brief
an den König, betreffend die
einige, unrichtig angelegte
sonstigen für den Galizischen
Kreis vordringend.
Wien den 26. Mai 1819.
Königl. Hoheitliche Grafen v. Hallyard
in Wien
Luz. Graf



[6]

Paris le 27. Mai 1819
Majesté Britannique
G. de Hallyard
attaché à la lég.

[7]

Westerhoff, P. H.

[8]

Paris le 27. Mai 1819
Majesté Britannique
G. de Hallyard
attaché à la lég.



Back of Heuschelen's passport (transcription / translation, page 78)

Date of registry	Name	Place of birth	Date of birth	Court where naturalized
1904 Augt. 29	Kiper, David	Bloomington, Douglas Co., W. V.	1861 June 25	—
" " "	" Auguste Sabine, born Schumetz	Langen Lehwalde, Germany	1874 July 20	—
1904 Augt. 29	Kiper, Herbert	Wiesbaden, Germany	1897 April 17	—
1904 Sept. 21	Charles Meyer and wife. —	Hannover	1849 Oct. 18	New York, court of com. pleas
1904 Oct. 21	Charles Ad. Fack	Wiesbaden	1846 June 6	Southern District of New York
1904 Oct. 22	Andr. H. Coellen and wife Mrs. Elizabeth Coellen.	E. Obernforde, Schleswig Holstein)	8 th Febr. 54	Newark, New Jersey

Pages 1A (above) and 1B (right, facing page) are from the registration volume.

Records of American Consular Agency at Wiesbaden: Registration of American Citizens, 1904-1907

By Kenneth W. Heger

This is the third 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 will provide 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 Registration of American Citizens book. Heger wrote this article.

Caring for the well-being of American citizens is one of a foreign service post's primary functions.

Date of Naturalization	Date & Place of last residence in the U. S.		Present place of residence		Signature	Remarks, etc.
			Berlin, Germany	Potsdamer Str 29		Harriet at Wiesbaden 16 May '96
						Son of Kasper, re. 2 registered under # 1.
1892	April	1902	New York	Wiesbaden	Gutenbergpl. 1.	Charles Kasper Consul of passport 53616 dated 7-Apr-02
1874	Feb.	1902	Brooklyn	Wiesbaden	Kersthal 28	Mrs. J. Fack Consul of passport 14
L. Becken	1874	1875-1898	Newark N. Y.	Wiesbaden	15. Bibersteint	Andrew H. Becken

Americans visiting consulates, consular agencies, embassies and other posts often turned to their American representatives to protect their persons and their possessions from harm, to renew passports, to find relatives, etc. It was not, however, a requirement for American citizens to register with local foreign services posts when they were abroad.

The result is that many Americans traveled overseas leaving little documentation for us to prove that they had done so; therefore, finding such documentation is a great discovery for researchers.

Luckily the records of the American Consular Agency at Wiesbaden contain such documentation in the form of a unique volume the Agency customized for this purpose.

CITIZEN REGISTRATION IN WIESBADEN

The Agency attempted to keep track of American citizens in one place for approximately three years. The Agency chose an oddly shaped volume and customized it specifically for this purpose. The staff simply affixed a label on the front and wrote "Book of Registration American Citizens" on it. The volume covers the period August 1904 – December 1905 and March – November 1907. There are no records for 1906. It is a small volume, consisting of a mere ten pages. All of the contents are handwritten and can be difficult to read.

The entries are long, in lines that cover two pages. The Agency made several columns for each person's entry spanning two pages in which to enter information. Those columns are titled:

Date of Registry

Name
 Place of Birth
 Date of Birth
 Court Where Naturalized
 Date of Naturalization
 Date and Place of Last Residence in the
 US
 Present Place of Residence
 Signature
 Remarks

number and the NAID number handy to expedite your request. In addition, because this is a bound volume you will not be able to make an electrostatic (“Xerox”) copy. You may, however, use a digital camera without a flash.

Note on Pagination of Scanned Images: Although the volume contains ten pages of information, because the information for each entry spans two pages the scanned images are numbered 1A through 5B. Keep in mind that since each entry spans two pages you will need to look at both the A and B pages. For example, to see all of the information for the Freise family you will need to look at pages 4A and 4B.

As one might expect, there is not information in each column for each entry. In addition, information is inconsistent. In most, but not all cases, the register lists both the husband’s and wife’s name of married couples. People came from all over the country and their birth places were scattered throughout western and southern Germany. While most registrants were single names or the names of a husband and wife, in January 1905 six members of the Freise family of Cook County, Illinois, visited the agency.

As a further finding aid, the author compiled a list of names of registrants in the volume. Please keep in mind, due to the fact that some of the handwriting is difficult to read, the names might be a best guess. If the name looks close, however, it may be worth your while to check the images. The final name on page 2 is an excellent example. The surname is illegible. It might be possible to identify this man from the other information on the page. His first name, Hans, is legible. The register reads he was born in Hanau; born on November 26, 1848; naturalized in a court in New York in February 1883; and had resided in New York since 1904. His address in Wiesbaden was Uhlandstrasse 14.

USING THE VOLUME

This volume is part of National Archives and Records Administration Record Group (RG) 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. It is Volume 13 among the records of the Consular Agency at Wiesbaden; the National Archives ID (NAID) is 1328637. The students scanned the entire volume. At some point the National Archives will post the volume on its website; you can use the NAID number to access those images. In addition, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society plans to post the images on the Society’s website. In the meantime you can examine the original volume at the National Archives facility in College Park MD. You should have the RG number, the name of the foreign service post (Wiesbaden), the volume

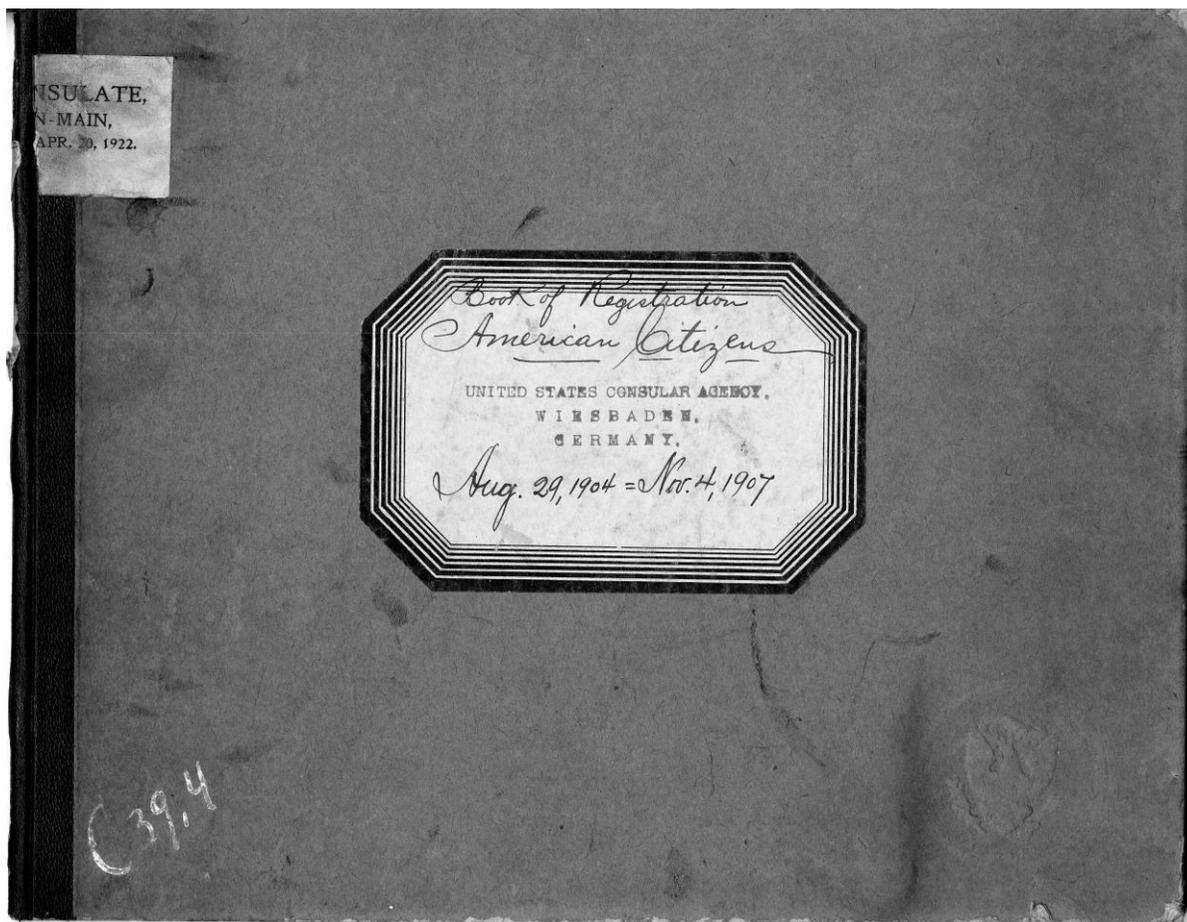
PART IV OF THE SERIES

The next article in this series will be an overview of the financial record books the Agency maintained. It will describe the contents of the Agency’s Fee Book and Invoice Books and suggest how you can use them to enhance your family’s history.

List of Names in Registration Volume

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ahlborn, Louis – Page 2 | Callicot, T.C. – Page 5 | Dieudonne, Charles – Page 3 |
| Archenhold, M. – Page 4 | Clausen, Edward – Page 4 | Dieudonne, Charles Herbert – |
| Blume, Carlos August – Page | Crabites, Pierre – Page 5 | Page 3 |
| 3 | Cropp, Anton – Page 5 | |

Dieudonne, Hortense Louise – Page 3	Kaltwasser, Pauline (nee Strittmatter, wife of Philipp) – Page 3	Peuser, Otto – Page 3
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Fach, Charles A. – Page 1	Kiper, Herbert – Page 1	Schaverling, Hermann (Mrs) – Page 2
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Freise, Thea – Page 4	Palme T.O. – Page 2	Yunker, Bernard – Page 4
		Zang, Wilhelm – Page 5



The cover of the registration volume as it appears today.

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Reeds, Rieths sought by correspondents

Several correspondents mentioned they have REEDs/RIETHs in their families. I began researching this name on fraktur several years ago and even published data I found in four issues of an antiques publication in 1999. The following includes some of what was published, plus additions, but many more examples exist. I have yet to finish updating Reeds on Fraktur, but am continuing to add to data, so please stay tuned. As always, unless otherwise noted, locations mentioned below are in Pennsylvania.

A Taufschein (birth and baptism certificate) in a private collection made for Heinrich Granton FENSTERMACHER mentions that his mother was a REED. Heinrich's parents were Heinrich W. and Susanna (REED) FENSTERMACHER. Heinrich Granton was born November 2, 1872 in Wayne Township, Schuylkill County. He was baptized by J. P. STEIN on November 28, 1872. The parents sponsored Heinrich Granton's baptism.

In 1983, the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland, held a fraktur exhibit. One Taufschein in the exhibit was made for Maria Barbara RIETH, daughter of Johann Jacob and Maria Magdalena (FISHER) RIETH. Maria Barbara was born in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, on May 24, 1774. She was baptized by Emanuel SCHULTZ on June 5, 1774. No sponsors were listed on Maria Magdalena's certificate.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Joseph RIETH, son of Johnnes [Johannes] RIEHTH and his wife, Mattalena [Magdalena], a daughter of Joh. SCHEFFER. Joseph RIETH was born about ten o'clock in the morning on December 20, 1789. He was born in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County, and baptized by Emanuel SCHULTZE on January 4, 1790. Caspar and Magdalena RIETH sponsored Joseph's baptism.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Mary Elizabeth, a daughter of George Edward REED and his wife, Susanna, whose parents were B. and M. FOLK. Mary Elizabeth was born March 13, 1886 in Rockland Township, Berks County. She was baptized on April 15, 1886 by Alfred HERMAN. Mary Elizabeth's parents sponsored her baptism.

On November 11, 2011, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a watercolor drawing of a young girl. Although stylistically unlike fraktur, the text below the picture of the girl has the same biographical data that a Taufschein would have. It says Rael [Rachel] RIETH was born on August 19, 1831 in "Stouchstown" [Stouchburg], Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. Rael's parents were Johannes and Catharina (RIETH) RIETH. Rael was baptized by Pastor ULLERICH on September 30, 1831. George and Maria (RIETH) PFEIFER sponsored Rael's baptism. This watercolor is attributed to folk artist, Jacob MAENTEL (1763-1863). [Pook, Breiningersale, no. 67; Maentel]

On October 2, 1980, Sotheby's Auctions in New York sold another MAENTEL watercolor, this one made for Rael RIETH's older sister, Henriette. Henriette RIETH, daughter of Johannes and Catharina (RIETH) RIETH, was born on June 17, 1828 in Tulpehocken Township. She was baptized on July 20, 1828 by Pastor ULLERICH. The only sponsor at Henriette's baptism was Margretha Elisabeth RIETH.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Rebekka GASSERT, daughter of Michael and Margaretha (RIETH) GASSERT. Rebekka was born August 27, 1836 in Tulpehocken Township, Berks County. She was baptized by D. ULRICH, but no date of baptism was given. Jakob and Katharina SCHLESSMANN sponsored Rebekka's baptism.

In the third volume of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German*



Taufschein of Joseph Rieth, born in 1789.

Americans, Klaus Stopp pictured a Taufschein that is possibly related to the above. It was made for Johanna Rebecca GASSERT, a daughter of William and Maria (RIETIE [RIETH]) GASSERT. Johanna Rebecca was born in Bethel Township, Berks County, on May 18, 1858. She was baptized by Johannes STEIN on August 7, 1858. Samuel and Rebecca HINCKEL sponsored Johanna Rebecca's baptism.

In his second volume, Stopp pictured a Taufschein that says Georg and Catharina RIED sponsored the baptism of Johannes SCHERMAN, a son of Georg and Anna Maria (JERGER) SCHERMAN. Johannes was born July 25, 1805 in Bethel Township, Berks County. He was baptized October 6, presumably in the same year, but the name of the preacher who baptized Johannes was not recorded on his certificate.

On June 11, 1994, Christie's Auctions in New York sold a Taufschein made for Esther RIETH, daughter of Thomas and Elisabeth (BEYERLI) RIETH. Esther was born about one o'clock in the afternoon on January 14, 1815. She was born in Manheim Township, Schuylkill County. Esther was baptized by George MENNIG, Lutheran, on April 26, 1815. Her parents sponsored Esther's baptism. This Taufschein is pictured on LDS Microfilm #1293515.

The Northumberland County Historical Society in Sunbury has a broadside-type family register made for the family of John MAYER and his wife Catharine REED. According to this register, John MAYER was born November 24, 1794. He and Catharine REED (born May 6, 1800-died December 27, 1852) married on July 30, 1815. They had thirteen children. Many dates of marriage

were recorded for them, but not the names of their spouses. Susanna MAYER was born November 17, 1815. She married on September 18, 1842. Catharine MAYER was born August 25, 1817. She married on July 24, 1849 and died March 22, 1881. Daniel MAYER was born March 28, 1819. He married on June 9, 1844 and died January 7, 1883. Elias MAYER was born July 12, 1820 and married November 4, 1845. Märy MAYER was born December 13, 1821 and died August 4, 1823. Johann MAYER was born January 27, 1825 and married December 30, 1851. Elisabeth MAYER was born December 29, 1826 and married February 8, 1857. She died July 21, 1878. Lidia MAYER was born April 24, 1829 and died March 18, 1833. Enoch MAYER was born May 21, 1831 and married March 5, 1854. Sara MAYER was born June 3, 1833 and married January 26, 1851. Emily MAYER was born August 21, 1834 and married April 22, 1851. Rahel [Rachel] MAYER was born

October 30, 1835 and married February 15, 1852. She died March 8, 1865. Annette MAYER was born July 15, 1839 and married November 7, 1858.

In the History and Genealogy of the Reed Family (1929), author Johann Philip Ried pictured a Taufschein made for Michael, son of Andreas REED and his wife, Mary, a daughter of Henry HARTMAN. Michael REED was born on October 24, 1809 in New Britain Township, Bucks County. He was baptized on January 10, 1810 by George WACK. Michael and Elizabeth HARTMAN sponsored Michael REED's baptism.

These are but a few of the known fraktur having the name REED/RIETH.

If you have names you wish me to research on fraktur, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Corinne Earnest, P.O. Box 1132, Clayton, DE 19938. I research fraktur at no charge for MAGS members.

DEUTSCH UNTERRICHTSFORSCHUNG

By Debra A. Hoffman

Case study: Using *Meyers Orts-*

What is the next step once you find the German town where your immigrant ancestor hailed from? I recently found that one of my immigrant ancestors, Caspar Weber, originated from Wahlen in Hesse-Darmstadt. Using Wahlen as an example will illustrate the usefulness of one of German genealogy's most important reference works.

One of the best resources to give you more information on German towns is the *Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* also known as the "Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire" or abbreviated as "Meyers Orts-." It covers the names of places in Germany as they existed from 1871 to 1912.

The gazetteer can be accessed in the following ways:

1. Searchable online at *Ancestry.com*.
2. Located on *FamilySearch.org*. FamilySearch also has a "Step-by-step guide: Using Meyers Gazetteer" online. It can be found at http://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Step-by-step_guide:_Using_Meyers_Gazetteer_Online. The site also offers an abbreviation guide at https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Abbreviation_Table_for_Meyers_Orts_und_Verkehrs_Lexikon_Des_Deutschen_Reichs.
3. Located on *Hathitrust.org*. The volumes can be downloaded as PDF versions.

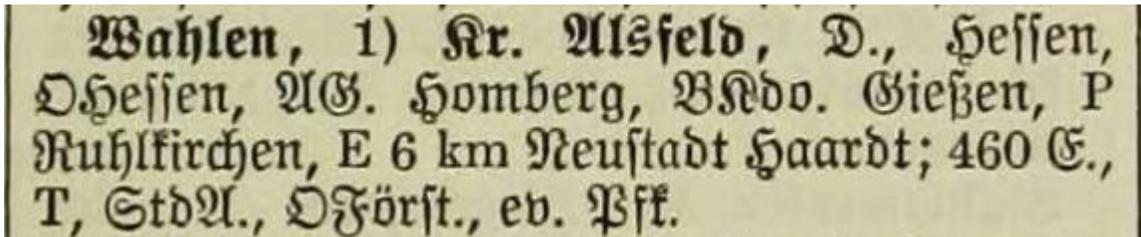
There are two challenges in using the gazetteer. The first is that it is written in Gothic print, which can be difficult to read if you are unfamiliar with that typeface. The second is the extensive use of abbreviations. The first volume contains an explanation of the abbreviations. As noted above, *FamilySearch.org* also has an abbreviation guide. Additionally, two published guides can assist users in effectively utilizing the gazetteer:

Deardon, Fay S., compiler. *Understanding Meyers Orts – Translating Guide for the Directory of the Towns and Places of the German Empire*. Payson, Arizona: Family Tree Press, 2000.

Uncapher, Wendy K. *How to Read & Understand Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs (Meyers Geographical and Commercial Gazetteer of the German Empire)*. Janesville, Wisconsin: Origins, 2003.

Step One: Locate the entry in Meyers Orts

There are four entries for Wahlen; however, the relevant one for this example is located in the kreis of Alsfeld. Here is the entry from the image found at *Ancestry.com*.



Step Two: Decipher the information

Abbreviation	Translation	Meaning
1) Kr. Alsfeld,	1) Kreis Alsfeld	A kreis is a district similar to a U.S. county; Wahlen is located in Kreis Alsfeld.
D.,	Dorf	A dorf is a village.
Hessen,	Hessen	Hessen is a German state.
OHessen,	Ober-Hessen	Hessen consisted of separate areas and Kreis Alsfeld was located in the upper part of Hessen.
AG. Homberg,	Amtsgericht Homberg	The lower district court (Amtsgericht) for Wahlen was located in Homberg.
Bkdo. Giessen,	Bezirkskommando Giessen	The district military command (Bezirkskommando) for Wahlen was located in Giessen.
P Ruhlkirchen,	Postanstalt Ruhlkirchen	The post office (Postanstalt) for Wahlen was located in Ruhlkirchen.
E 6 km Neustadt Haardt;	Eisenbahnstation 6 km Neustadt Haardt	The nearest train station (Eisenbahnstation) was located 6 kilometers at Neustadt Haardt. The abbreviation indicated it was a full service train station for passenger and freight service.
460 E.,	460 Einwohner	The population (Einwohner) of Wahlen was 460 people. This number was derived from the 1910 census.
T,	T	Wahlen had postal telegraph service.
StdA.,	Standesamt	There was a civil registration office (Standesamt) located in Wahlen.
OFörst.,	Oberförsterei	Wahlen had a head forester's office (Oberförsterei).
ev. Pfk.	evangelische Pfarrkirche	There was an evangelical (Protestant) parish church located in Wahlen.

Step Three: Determine the next steps

Now that you know more about your ancestor's hometown, the next step is to determine how to access records for the town. Looking at the information for Wahlen, you can locate the town on a map because you know where in Hessen-Darmstadt it is located. You can also see from the population in 1910 that it was a very small village.

Church records are usually one of the first sources that researchers consult. Wahlen had an evangelical parish church. With that information you could search for church records in the catalog of the Family History Library. The catalog yielded the following search results:

▼ **Germany, Hessen, Wahlen (Kr. Alsfeld) - Church records (2)**

[Kirchenbuch, 1646-1875](#)

Author: Evangelische Kirche Wahlen (Kr. Alsfeld)

[Kirchenbuchduplikat, 1808-1875](#)

Author: Evangelische Kirche Wahlen (Kr. Alsfeld)

These records are available on microfilm that can be borrowed and sent to your nearest Family History Center. Now you can begin your research in German records! Once you have exhausted those sources, from the information in the gazetteer, you could identify where to begin looking for civil records, court records, and other sources for your Wahlen ancestors.

Give this a try with your own ancestor's German town and good luck beginning to research your ancestors in Germany!

Reconstructing Rev. Miesse

By James M. Beidler

The Rev. Isaac Miesse was a fairly prolific German Reformed minister who was active in the Berks County, Pennsylvania, area for a quarter century up to his death on 1 February 1864.

Unfortunately, while he was “prolific” in the sense of handling a charge that usually consisted of half a dozen churches, he was equally “unprolific” in recording his pastoral acts in congregational registers.

As a matter of fact, for many of Miesse's congregations, no registers exist at all for the time period he was their pastor.

He also didn't keep a register of his own unlike a fair number of his pastoral colleagues of the time period.

This doesn't mean, however, that documentation of Miesse's pastoral acts doesn't exist; it's just that genealogists have to work a little harder – OK, in many instances, a lot harder! – to

track down records of the baptisms and marriages that he performed.

Miesse was a colorful character in his time. His ordination into the ministry was performed in Ohio, to where a number of his siblings had moved, by a group called the “Free Synod,” that like its name portrayed an independent streak.

In reading between the lines about meetings at which Miesse attended and was reprimanded, it appears that the pastor had a drinking problem.

I’ll admit to having a special interest in Miesse. That’s because he was the pastor of my home church – Bern Reformed United Church of Christ in Bern Township, Berks County – from 1840 to 1864. As a matter of fact, he’s the congregation’s only minister to be buried in the church’s old graveyard.

Not completely coincidentally is the fact that there is no congregational record for Bern from 1835 to 1875 (Miesse can’t be blamed completely because the “gap” also includes a few short pastorates before and after his 24 years in the Bern pulpit).

Miesse was also the pastor for similar periods at these other Berks County churches: Salem (Bellemans) in Centre Township, Trinity in the village of Rehrersburg (Tulpehocken

Township), Friedens in Oley Township, St. John’s in the village of Pricetown (Ruscumbmanor Township) and St. Luke’s in the borough of Shoemakersville.

While Miesse didn’t record his pastoral acts in congregational registers, by and large, he did report the marriages he performed to newspapers such as the German-language *Reading Adler*. Many baptisms he performed are found in family Bibles and on private baptismal certificates created for family members.

When I remarked to Corinne Earnest that I was interested in reconstructing information about Miesse, she took the initiative and sent me a listing of pastoral acts found on certificates and registers that her family has inventoried. For the list below, I also added a few references that have run in previous issues of *Der Kurier*.

This is just a starting point for research – the many issues of the *Reading Adler* should be inventoried for his marriages and other collections of family registers mined; however, for researchers with ancestors in this time period and area, such a reconstruction might yield much data that previously has been “hidden in plain sight” by the fact that the information can’t be accessed through traditional church records.

Pastoral acts of the Rev. Isaac Miesse

The following were compiled by Corinne Earnest from single-surname fraktur publications that she and her husband Russell have put together, along with a few additional records found in back issues of *Der Kurier*. An asterisk indicates that the minister was identified only by his last name but is inferred to be Isaac Miesse since he was the only Miesse pastor active in Berks County (Isaac Miesse did have a brother Samuel who was in the ministry in Ohio).

Minda (also written as Manda) Bär, d/o Isaac and Anna (Gücker) Bär. Born 19 Feb 1860. Bp 8 Apr 1860. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

Catharina Elles [Alice] Brown, d/o Henry and Rebecca (Batdorf) Brown. Born 6 Mar (no year recorded). Bp 4 Apr 1858. Tulpehocken Twp., Berks Co.

Isaac Noecker, s/o Petrus and Maria (Nafzinger) Noecker. Born 25 Mar 1841. Bp 25 Aug 1841. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

*Reuben W. Frey, s/o Carl and Rebecca (Weitzel) Frey. Born 26 Dec 1841. Bp 19 Mar 1842. Ruscombmanor Twp., Berks Co.

Sara Anna Giker, d/o John and Katharina (Hetrich) Giker. Born 1 Jun 1845. Bp 10 Aug 1845. Penn Twp., Berks Co. Isaac Miesse also confirmed Sara Anna Gicker [*sic*] in 1860.

*William Reili Hetrich, s/o William and Rebecca (Säman) Hetrich. Born 9 Apr 1853. Bp 19 Jun 1853. Penn Twp., Berks Co.

(No given name recorded) Binkley, s/o Beneville and Ann Eliza (Klein) Binkley. Born 18 Aug 1848. Bp 1848. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

Emma Barbaray [Barbara] Binkley, d/o Jeremiah and Maryann (Kline) Binkley. Born 20 Nov 1844. Bp (no date recorded). Bern Twp., Berks Co.

Jacob Haag of Tulpehocken Twp., Berks Co., and Elisabetha (Christ) Haag of Bern Twp., Berks Co., were married by Isaac Miesse on February 28, 1842.

Elisabeth Jane Schell, d/o Johannes and Catharina (Bohn) Schell. Born 15 Aug 1840. Bp 16 Sep 1840. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

Georg Loos, s/o Abraham and Susanna Loos. Born 18 Jun 1855. Bp 12 Aug 1855. Center Twp., Berks Co.

*Emma Bauer, d/o George R. and Sarah Anna (Loos) Bauer. Born 30 Dec 1862. Bp 22 Mar 1863. Center Twp., Berks Co.

Maria Anna Hassler, d/o Ruben and Maria Anna (Ettinger) Hassler. Born 26 Jul 1856. Bp 6 Jul 1862. Oley Twp., Berks Co.

Allen Hassler, s/o Ruben and Maria Anna (Ettinger) Hassler. Born 9 May 1858. Bp 6 Jul 1862. Oley Twp., Berks Co.

Francklin Schmatz, s/o Johanes and Margarth [*sic*] Schmatz. Born 10 Jan 1842. Bp 9 Jun 1842. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

Ruben S. Ludwig, s/o Benjamin and Catharine (Schrack) Ludwig. Confirmed by Isaac Mease, No date of confirmation was recorded, but Ruben S. Ludwig was born 20 Sep 1832. Center Twp., Berks Co.

*Maria Ann Millia [Amelia] Eirich, d/o Johannes and Maria (Seidel) Eirich. Born 9 Feb 1838. Bp 1 Jul 1838. Bern Twp., Berks Co.

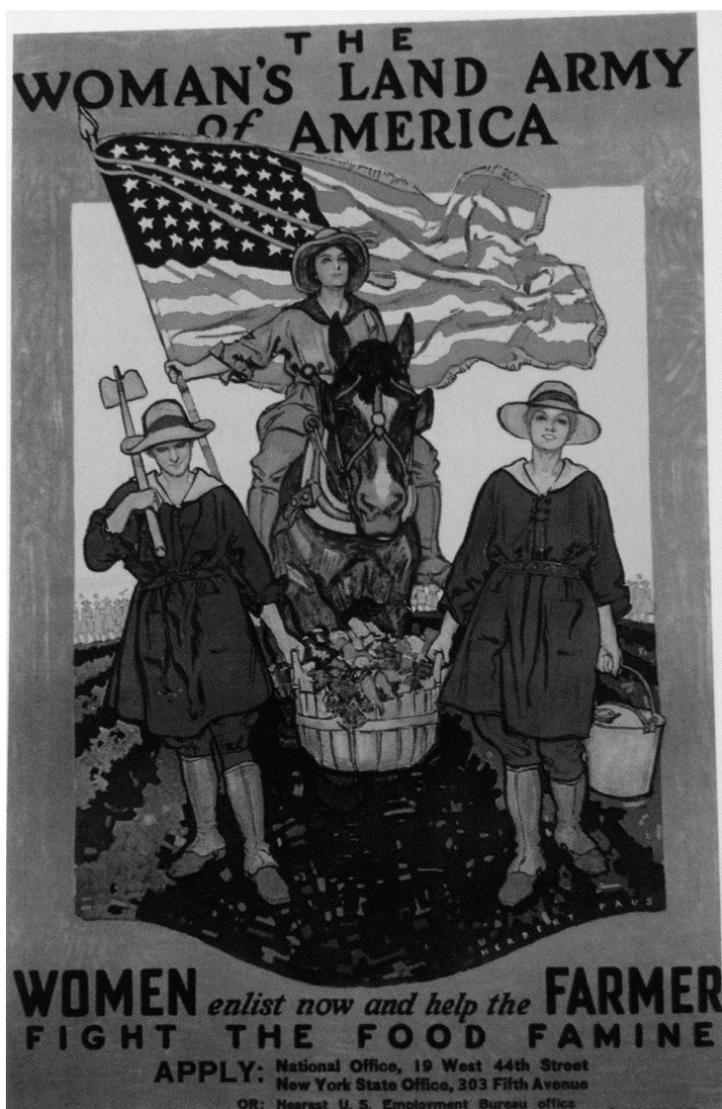
Benj'm. Guildin, s/o Amos and Magdalena (Clauser) Guldin. Born 18 Nov 1842. Bp 20 Feb 1843. Windsor Twp., Berks Co. Confirmed by I. Miese in 1857.

Johann Peter Gerhardt, s/o Elogius and Mary Ann (Heck) Gerhardt. Born 18 Nov 1857. Bp 17 Apr 1858. North Heidelberg Twp., Berks Co.

Barbara Gelsinger, d/o Daniel and Saara (Kittelman) Gelsinger. Born 18 Mar 1838. Bp 29 Apr 1838. Heidelberg Twp., Berks Co.

*Maria Anna H. Seÿfert, d/o Michael and Esther (Hix) Seÿfert. Born 14 Nov 1842. Bp 8 Mar 1843. This is from a Bible record. No location for Maria Anna's birth and baptism was recorded, but she and her husband (Joseph Renstschler) had five daughters, four of whom were born in Upper Bern Twp., Berks Co. No location was recorded for the first daughter.

Franklin Braumiller [*sic*, likely "Braunmiller" was meant], s/o George and Anna Braunmiller. Born 20 Sep 1843. Bp 24 Oct 1843. Bern Twp., Berks Co.



World War I workshop takeaways

Did your ancestor serve in the Great War or World War I? Did they grow a Victory Garden? Or perhaps they contributed to the war effort by buying bonds.

At the MAGS workshop held on October 24, 2014, Dr. Ken Heger presented a fascinating glimpse into what your ancestor may have experienced by providing a visual tour of American, German and Austrian posters. Examples covered posters used to raise morale and money for the war effort.

As seen in the example above, there were often organizations that published these posters, which may lead to more sources on your ancestors. An internet search of the Woman's Land Army of America finds a Wikipedia entry, which describes them as a "civilian organization created during the First and Second World Wars to work in agriculture replacing men called up to the military. Women who worked for the WLAA were sometimes known as farmerettes."³

The article also provides references to other resources for finding even more information. You never know, but you may find out that your ancestor was a farmerette!

³ *Wikipedia.org* (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woman's_Land_Army_of_America : accessed 16 November 2014).

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.

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

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)

STEINBRECHER ADRIAN

#33-1 Seek par George "Geo" STEINBRECHER b 2 Nov 1860 Fellsburg, Germ; m Dora ADRIAN 2 Nov 1884 Grand Rapids, MI; d 19 May 1915 Grand Rapids, MI. Ar USA, New York 14 Jun 1876. F nm on b cert -Georg STEINBRECHER. Jonmarie Pearson 17005 Islip Loop Apt. 102, Dumfries, VA 22026

ADRIAN STEINBRECHER

#33-2 Seek fam Dorothea "Dora" ADRIAN b 13 Oct 1856 Peterzell, Germ; m Geo STEINBRECHER 2 Nov 1884, Grand Rapids, MI; d 1 May 1920 Grand Rapids, MI. F nm on b cert – Andrew ADRIAN. Jonmarie Pearson 17005 Islip Loop Apt. 102, Dumfries, VA 22026

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.

Jeanne Chappell-Kingsbury of Pleasant Hill, TN

(Berge, Geiger, Hilderbrandt, Schlote)

Steven M. Ehrler of Crofton, MD

(Ehrler)

Scott McKendrick of Bayport, NY

(Von Aesch, Rückenbrod, Scheibele, Leonhard)

Jonmarie Pearson of Dumfries, VA

(Steinbrecher, Greiner, Adrian)

Theodore J. Potthast of Towson, MD

(Potthast, Leib, Gutberlet, Hirsch)

Carol M. Sheaffer of Lawrenceville, NJ

(Scheaffer, Grau, Rudy, Hanschuch)

Jill Vanlandengham Fallin of Henrico, VA

(Besch, Faust, Myers)

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

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/>

March 7. Pennsylvania German Zammelaaf, Mund Hall, Lebanon Valley College, East Sheridan Avenue, Annville, PA. Pennsylvania Dutch Food, history, language, music, traditional crafts, artists and activities for the

children will be featured. More info, e-mail zammelaaf@hotmail.com

March 21. MAGS Spring Meeting, Holiday Inn-Laurel West, Laurel, Maryland. Four presentations by Rebecca Whitman Koford. More info, www.magsgen.com

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.

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"Genealogy at a Glance: Family History Center Research" - Donated by Genealogical.com - Bernard Graf winner

One Year subscription to "Family Tree Magazine" - Donated by Charles Hessler - Margie Greiner winner

"Crimes & Mercies: The Fate of German Civilians under Allied Occupation" - Donated by Roy Shiflet - Nancy Wahlend winner

"Researching in Germany" by R Minert - Donated by MAGS - Stephan Hoover winner

2 copies "World War I: The War to End all Wars" dvd - Donated by Kenneth Heger - Judy Dohner & Anne Hardman winners

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