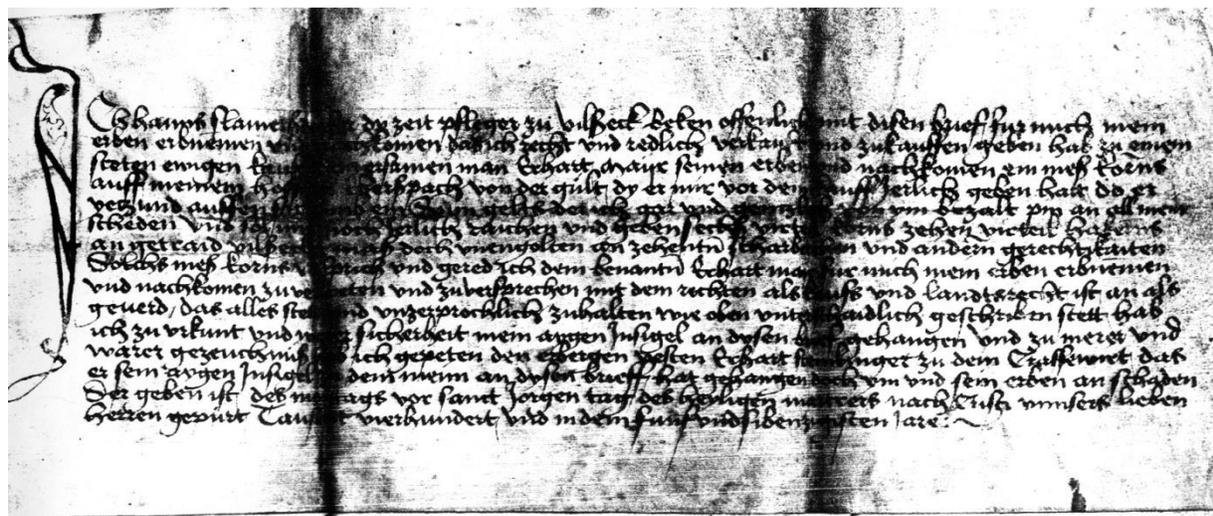




Der Kurier

Volume 33, Number 4, December 2015



Document dating to 1475 was wrapped in oilcloth among other family papers.

Don't Forget to Look in Your Aunt's Closet

By Susannah E. Brooks

Unless your relatives or ancestors suffered a devastating fire, flood, or other natural disaster, someone in your extended family probably has one or more documents that would help you with your genealogical research. There is a good chance that you or your relatives may not even be

aware of what you have. Great-grandma died and one or more of her children cleaned out her house, keeping and possibly dividing papers, photos or other small items, which had no monetary value, but which they thought might be important.

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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*

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

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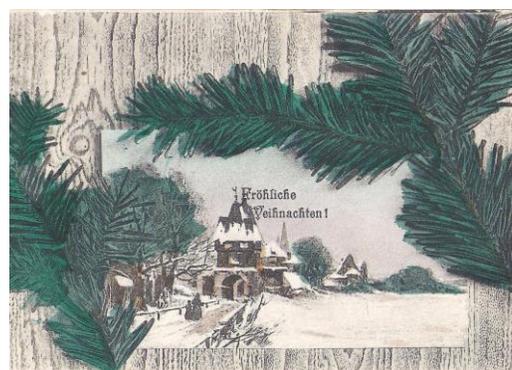
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Submissions to Der Kurier. Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

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 Dr. Kenneth Heger

Website Keys Exciting New Year for MAGS!

As MAGS prepares to enter a new year, your society has launched an exciting new website. For those of you who attended the Fall conference in Hagerstown, you were treated to Carol Carman’s excellent overview of the site and got to hear ideas for the site’s future from other Board members. The new site is user friendly and includes an ever-growing amount of information to help you expand your research.

You may want to take special note of the Quick Fact Sheets. These sheets are one-page (front and back) documents providing you with a time line of events for some German states, as well as listing the constituent states of the German Confederation, 1815-1866; the German Empire, 1871-1919; the Weimar Republic, 1919-1933; as well as the provinces of the Kingdom of Prussia and the Austrian Empire. Currently there are sixteen of these sheets; we will be adding more early in the new year (As an example, the sheet on the Principality of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt appears in this issue starting on page 82).

Be sure to explore the other areas of the website as well. We have a section providing an overview of series of records to introduce you to the records and to provide enough highlights for you to decide if you want to explore the records in greater detail. Those of you with ancestors from Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Darmstadt, or Hesse-Homburg might want to take a couple of minutes to look over the guides to State Department despatches from those three German states.

There are several searchable databases. The website provides a brief description of each database as well as a thumbnail image of what a typical document from the original records might look like (On page 91 of this issue, you’ll find an update on the completion of one of our databases!)

Best of all there is a universal search, too, allowing you to search all databases at once. While anyone finding the MAGS website can perform this universal search, only MAGS members have access to all of the information the databases contain. There are more visual images. You might want to take a quick look at our searchable library of visual images. Both the number of searchable names and the number of visual images will grow considerably next year.

You can also find issues of *Der Kurier* on-line. There is an advantage to looking at *Der Kurier* on-line. During the conference we announced that it is our intention to include more color images in our journal, which will make *Der Kurier* more visually appealing and exciting to read. Because of the cost of printing in color, the images will only appear in color on the MAGS website; the version of *Der Kurier* you receive in the mail will remain black and white.

As an early present, please take a minute to look at the images of the holiday included in this issue of *Der Kurier*. Remember, the images are in color on our website.

On behalf of the Board I wish you all a Merry Christmas, *Fröhliche Weihnachten* !

Don't Forget to Look in Your Aunt's Closet

(Continued from cover)

They put them in a box and placed the box in their own attic, basement, or back of a closet. When they died one of their children took the box to their home. You are now looking for family papers, photos, etc. and the only things that one or more relatives can find are a few more modern photos and some obituaries cut from newspapers that no longer have a date.

Someone might remember getting a box of papers from their mother, but they are not certain where it is and can no longer climb the ladder to their attic. Part of the job being the family historian is offering your services to clean the attic or at least bring unlabeled boxes from the attic so your relative can see what is in them and you can label them (most probably have no relationship to genealogy). If you do find documents or photos do not ask the person for these items, instead ask if you can scan or photograph them.

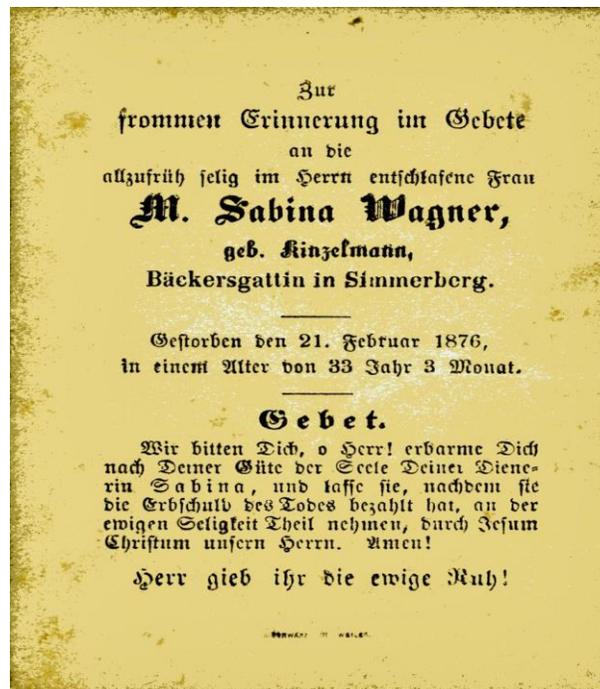
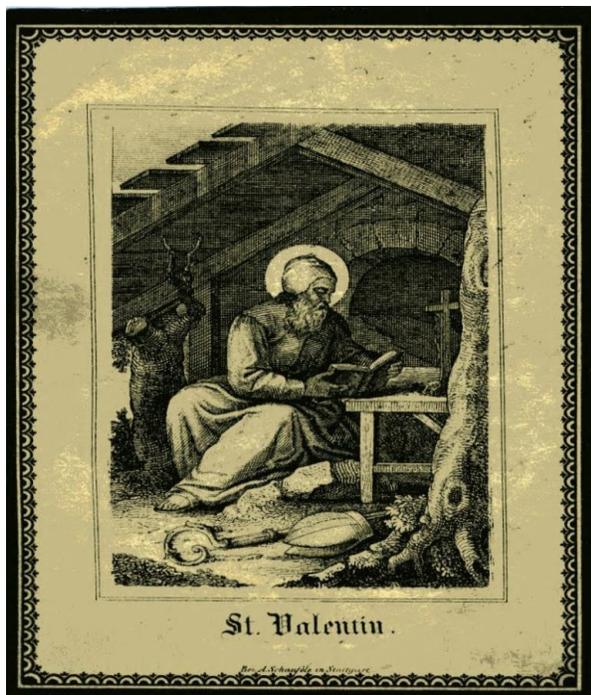
When I began researching my great-grandparents who emigrated from Germany in 1869 and 1871 the only thing I knew was that she was definitely from Bavaria and he was from either Bavaria or Prussia. Using censuses and other American records I quickly determined that both were Bavarian. More than twenty years later I still have not found any U.S. record that is more specific about their birthplace.

Maria Valentina (who used "Valentina" as her *Rufname* or "call name") Kinzelmann, my great-grandmother, was born 20 January 1845. My mother remembered her yodeling and saying that as a child she always wondered what was on the other side of the mountains, so I assumed she was probably from southern Bavaria. I discovered through additional general research that Kinzelmann is a regional variation of the surname Kunselmann and was originally limited to the Allgäu region of Germany and the Voralberg region of Austria. Since German civil and church records are town specific this was not limiting enough to attempt research in Germany.

Joseph Franz (call name of Franz) Maier was born in Bavaria 18 September 1840. Maier and other spelling variations of the surname are universal throughout all of German-speaking Europe. My second-cousin, Jan, who actually was the person who began researching our common great-grandparents, repeatedly asked her father (just as I was repeatedly asking my mother) if they knew anything more about their grandparents' lives before their arrival in the U.S. Nothing. Finally Jan's father remembered corresponding with an elderly relative in Austria during the 1930s in order to improve his German in preparation for attending medical school.

He told Jan that if the letters still existed they would be in his storage bin in the basement of his apartment complex. She assumed the task of organizing his storage bin and found the letters. There were nine letters from Resi (Therese Maier born April 1864 - died after May 1939) who lived in Altlangbach, Austria.

In one of the letters she wrote: ... *unser Stammhaus das Weissgerberhaus in Vilseck war schon sehr alt und baufällig. Ich weiss nicht mehr war es vor oder anfangs des Krieges, wurde es von der Regierung unter Denkmalschutz gestellt es wurde demoliert und musste genau so wieder aufgebaut werden, wie es fruher war. Ich muss Dir ehrlich sagen, ich hab nichts besonderes an die Haus gefunden, ... es wird der Stil eines echten oberpfalzischen Bauerhauses sein.* [... our ancestral home, the white tanner's house, in Vilseck was already very old and dilapidated. I don't know any more whether it was before or at the beginning of the war that it was placed under landmark protection by the government and had to be rebuilt



Front and back of a funeral prayer card found in a family Bible.

exactly the way it had been formerly. I must tell you honestly that I never saw anything special in that house ... It has the style of a genuine farm house of the Oberpfalz.]

With this knowledge, a map, and gazetteer we found the small town (the only town in Germany with that name) and wrote to the Bürgermeister of Vilseck asking if anyone in the town knew anything about the Weissgerbershaus and/or the Maier family that had once owned the house. He gave our letter to the unofficial town historian, who replied with the names; birth, marriage and death dates; and their spouses' names of five generations of Maier owners of the house; which began our research of our ancestors in Bavaria. Roman Catholic church records for this area of Bavaria are only available at Bischöfliche Zentralarchiv, where I eventually went.

At this point we started to look at every piece of paper that either of us had been told came from our grandparents or great-grandparents. I have Valentina's Bible (I was told it had belonged to her -- her name appears nowhere in it), which contained several funeral prayer cards, including the one pictured (front and back) on this page.

I made the assumption that Sabina Wagner nee Kinzelmann, the baker's wife in Simmerberg was a close relative of Valentina's and based on age, maybe her sister. Going back to the maps and gazetteer, I found that Simmerberg was in the Allgäu and checking the Family History Library Catalog discovered that the Catholic records from Simmerberg and nearby churches were available.

About a week later Jan found in the back of an old German prayer book that she owned that someone had written *Maria Valentina Kinzelmann von Oberreute*. Oberreute is a very tiny village not far from Simmerberg and the Catholic church records were available through the FHL. Eventually I was able to trace her ancestors back to the mid-17th century.

At some point I realized that I had no idea what the names of my first cousin's wife or children were. He did not respond to several requests for that information so I sent a letter addressed to both Mr.

and Mrs. Maier, in hopes she would respond. As with any letter that I wrote to a relative I offered to pay for copies of any old photos or documents that the person might have from or about our ancestors.

My cousin's wife immediately sent me the data regarding herself and her sons and she must have contacted her mother-in-law, my aunt by marriage, in Pennsylvania, who wrote me to say that my grandfather had given her younger son, who had died several years prior, a packet of Maier family papers when he graduated from high school and that she was holding them for her older son, who lived in California, to pick them up.

She told me that I could come to Pennsylvania to see the "packet." I emphasize this term, since in my mind a packet is anywhere between 10-20 documents. I was totally overwhelmed when I saw the "packet" -- in a folder were approximately 100 letters from the relatives in Germany to Franz and Valentina and in addition there was a somewhat smashed tin box the size of a standard archival document box full of obviously older documents, many of which were on parchment, not paper.

Although I certainly could not translate most of the documents, it was obvious that they were family papers due to the names on them (contracts, receipts from the Bishop of Bamberg, deeds, a list of previous owners of land from 1472 to 1820, what appeared to be rough drafts of lengthy legal records, documents with wax seals and ribbons, several photographs from the mid- to late 19th century, etc.).

I nearly fell over when I unfolded what looked like a thick piece of oilcloth and found written on the inside the document pictured on this issue's cover dated 1475. To put this in context, I had to realize that this predates Columbus and Martin Luther and that this is the year that Michelangelo was born.

This is a contract between an administrator for the Bishop of Bamberg and Erhard Maÿre in Vilseck. Unfortunately this was the best copy I could make on the small photocopier available in my aunt's retirement community and she would not allow me to take any of documents to copy elsewhere.

Although I could photocopy most of the letters, I could not make copies of at least two thirds of the old documents, which had dates ranging from the mid-16th century to the mid-19th century., because the ink had faded to brown and the paper or parchment had darkened to light brown, which copied as plain gray with no letters. My access to these documents was pre-digital cameras. We have had most of the letters at least partially translated and as well as some of the old documents that I could photocopy. Repeated requests to my cousin in California, who now has the documents, to have them scanned at my expense, have gone unheeded.

When you start rooting around in your relatives' attics, basements, or closets you never know what you might find. Most families, especially in the U.S., do not have original documents that have been passed down and added to for 14 generations; but almost every family has at least a few documents that they were not aware they have.

They may not be in your immediate household, but that of your extended family. Family heirlooms and papers are divided among family members. For example, when Valentina died in 1936 one son got her Bible and another son received her prayer book.

A MAGS member told me that when her mother died and she was cleaning out her house, she found several *Taufscheine* of ancestors, that her mother never told her existed, although she had shared other documents with her. Her mother probably did not realize that they had been face down for many years in a drawer.

The moral to the story is to perform "whole-family genealogy" – that is, researching siblings of your direct-line ancestors and their descendants, your sometimes-distant cousins – to ensure that you do not miss medieval gems relating to an ancestor in common.



**Top: A postcard showing the view of the Bavarian city of Bamberg, including the Rathaus (front), river and Michaelsberg Abbey (left background).
Below: Photograph of Michaelsberg Abbey, once the resident of the Bishop of Bamberg.**



DEUTSCH UNTERRICHTSFORSCHUNG

By Debra A. Hoffman

Die Grundlagen or 'The Basics'

For those of German descent, some basic information and concepts are necessary to be successful in researching German immigrants. It is necessary to thoroughly research the immigrant in their new country before moving back to their German origin. The more information you have to identify your ancestor, the better success you will have researching in the church books and other available German records.

Can you identify your German immigrant(s)? Do you know their complete name or do you just know their *Rufname* (call name)? For example, is your ancestor Caspar Weaver or Johan Kaspar Weber? Once you identify your immigrant ancestor, then you need to determine where in Germany they came from.

The minimum identification needed before proceeding with German research is their complete full name, preferably an exact birthdate, some members of their "FAN" club (family/friends, associates, and neighbors), and their town of origin.

To locate a date, preferably the birthdate for the immigrant, a cemetery inscription and death or burial records are good sources for this information. Other sources can be a biography, pension records, and family Bibles. While the 1900 U.S. Federal census provides the month and year of birth, this information is not always reliable. Thorough research will usually yield this date.

Finding the information to uniquely identify your ancestor is the goal of conducting thorough research before attempting to research the immigrant in Germany. Knowing an immigrant ancestor's family relationships can differentiate him or her from others of the same name as foreign records often identify the father.

The most difficult piece of information to find is the immigrant's hometown. Since there are no nationwide lists and only a few sources at the state level, most records are at the town or parish level.

There are times when a name and complete birthdate will be sufficient, but if the name is common or if there are other men of the same name, having more information will help sort them out. If your German immigrant arrived during the Colonial era, more identifiers are better. Listed below are some of the better identifiers to find:

- **Immigration information:** Departure records in Germany can be searched when the date an immigrant departed is known.
- **Other family members:** Knowing other family members provides more information to correlate when researching in German records.
- **Religion:** Knowing an immigrant's religion can narrow down which parishes to focus on.
- **Immigrant's "FAN" club:** Immigrants either traveled with some they knew or were traveling to someone they knew. An associate might have the information necessary to locate the town of origin.
- **Geography:** Sometimes research will provide an indication to a nearby town or state. Sometimes surname distributions (if the name is unusual) or an occupation can help narrow down the location. An immigrant's religion may also help with localizing the immigrant's origin to a specific region.

There are many sources that may provide information on an immigrant's place of birth. For instance, beginning in 1850, the federal census recorded where a person was born. Unfortunately, a generic "Germany" entry is not helpful.

1659	2120	Casper Weaver	50 m	Furniture Dealer	3000	Germany
		Elizabeth "	48 f			"
		Henry "	13 m			Md.
		Casper " jr.	11 m			"
		Katharine "	8 f			"
		George "	7 m			"

Other types of records include death certificates, obituaries, and church records. Sometimes even naturalization records will provide this information. In Caspar's case, it provided the name of the German state; Hesse-Darmstadt.

Family name WEAVER	Given name or names CASPAR
Address BALTIMORE, MD.	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page)	Title and location of court
Country of birth or allegiance HESSE-DARMSTADT	When born (or age)
Date and port of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization
Names and addresses of witnesses	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form N-35 (Old I-1P) 16-17303	

If they are extant, passenger lists may provide the best documentation including naming the German town of origin. In this case, the passenger list was the key to identifying Caspar Weber's *Heimat* or town of origin.

33	Webb, John	Shoemaker	d.	1	1	2	4
34	Weber, Caspar	Carpenter	Walden	2	2	2	8
35	Schniew, Chr. jr.	Tanner	Gera	1	1	3	7
36	Bliger, Henry	Shoemaker	Leest	1	1		2

As can be seen, it may take dedication and perseverance to locate all known records of an immigrant ancestor to find the record that will indicate the *Heimat*. It may also take researching an ancestor's collateral relatives in an ever-widening circle to locate an associate that may provide the information needed to trace your ancestor back to Germany. One of my favorite quotes from Elizabeth Shown Mills is that research "is not about looking up an ancestor, but about tracking them down."

Note: This is one of the Quick Fact Sheets available on the new MAGS website about German-speaking historical states and empires.



The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

THE PRINCIPALITY OF SCHWARZBURG-RUDOLSTADT

County (Principality) of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
Grafschaft (Fürstentum) Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt

SCHWARZBURG-RUDOLSTADT was a principality of Germany, an independent member of the German empire, and one of the Thuringian states. It shared with Schwarzburg-Sondershausen the possessions of the old house of Schwarzburg, which was one of the oldest noble families of Thuringia with their seat at the Schwarzburg Castle.

Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt consisted of three separated land areas;

- Rudolstadt und Lautenberg was the upper barony (*Oberherrschaft*) in Thuringia. The *Oberherrschaft* contained a total area of 283 sq. miles (735 km²)
- On the Gera, Ilm and Saale rivers, Frankenhausen was the lower barony (*Unterberrschaft*). The *Unterberrschaft* contained 80 sq. miles (206 km²).
- An isolated district on the Wipper and Helme rivers, about 25 m. to the north, surrounded by the Prussian province of Saxony.
- There also were several small Exclaves

98.5 % of the population belonged to the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Historical Timeline:

1195 to 1595

- The County of Schwarzburg was a state of the Holy Roman Empire, after which it was partitioned into Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt and Schwarzburg-Sondershausen.

1599 to 1806

- Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt was established under the sovereign rule of the Schwarzburg family within the Holy Roman Empire. It became a Principality in 1711.

1807 to 1814

- Was a member of the Confederation of the Rhine formed by Napoleon.

1815 – 1866

- Member of the German Confederation (German: Deutscher Bund) which was established by the Congress of Vienna in 1815.

1867 – 1870

- Under Prussia it became part of the North German Confederation.

1871 – 1919

- It was one of 27 territories which became the German Empire (German: *Deutsches Kaiserreich*). It became a “Free State” in 1919 and merged into the new state of Thuringia in 1920.

**Names of Localities Within All Land Masses of Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt
(In alphabetical order)**

Allendorf, Allersdorf, Alsbach, Angelroda, Arnsbach, Aschau, Barigau, Bechstedt, Blankenburg, Blumenau, Böhlen, Böhlscheiben, Braunsdorf, Breternitz, Bucha, Bücheloh, Burglemnitz, Burkersdorf, Cordobang, Cottendorf, Cumbach, Cursdorf, Deesbach, Dittersdorf, Dittrichshütte, Döhlen, Döllstedt, Dorfilm, Dörnfeld, Döschnitz, Dröbischau, Egelsdorf, Ehrenstein, Eichfeld, Eichicht, Ellichleben, Elxleben, Eschdorf, Eyba, Fischersdorf, Friedersdorf, Fröbitz, Geiersthal, Geilsdorf, Geitersdorf, Glasbach, Gleima, Goldisthal, Gösselborn, Gräfinau, Griesheim, Großgölitz, Großhettstedt, Großliebringen, Hammer, Hammersfeld, Heberndorf, Hengelbach, Herschdorf bei Königsee, Herschdorf bei Leutenberg, Hirzbach, Hockeroda, Hockerodaer Hohenwarte, Horba, Katzhütte, Keilhau, Kirchhasel, Kleingeschwenda, Kleingölitz, Kleinhettstedt, Kleinliebringen, Knobelsdorf, Königsee, Könitz, Laasen, Landsendorf, Leibis, Leutenberg, Leutnitz, Lichstedt, Lichta, Lichte, Lichtenhain, Löhma, Mankenbach, Mellenbach, Meura, Meuselbach, Milbitz, Mörla, Munschwitz, Nahwinden, Neuhaus am Rennweg, Oberhain, Oberhammer, Oberilm, Oberköditz, Oberschöbling, Oberweißbach, Oberwirbach, Obstfelderschmiede, Oesteröda, Paulinzella, Pflanzwirbach, Preßwitz, Quelitz, Quittelsdorf, Reschwitz, Roda, Rohrbach, Rosenthal, Rottenbach, Rudolstadt, Schaala, Scheibe, Schmalenbuche, Schwarzza, Schwarzburg, Schweinbach, Singen, Sitzendorf, Solsdorf, Stadtilm, Steinsdorf, Storchsdorf, Tauschwitz, Teichel, Teichröda, Teichweiden, Thälendorf, Unterhain, Unterköditz, Unterloquitz, Unterschöbling, Unterweißbach, Unterwirbach, Volkstedt, Watzdorf, Weißbach, Weitisberga, Wildenspring, Wittgendorf, Wüllersleben, Zeigerheim.

FRAKTUR FORUM

By Corinne Earnest

Kapp Examples Found in Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania

This article was prompted by well-known genealogist, Beverly Repass Hoch, whom I am privileged to call a friend and co-author on several of our publications.

Several years ago, Bev and I discussed the surname, KAPP, on fraktur. Below is an update of examples with that name. Although most fraktur were made in Pennsylvania for Pennsylvania families, several that show the name KAPP were made for Southern families. Bev is most interested in southern examples, so they are listed here along with a handful of Pennsylvania examples. Family names are spelled as they appear on the fraktur.

Bev published data from two Taufscheine (baptism certificates) that mention the name, KAPP, in the July 1999 issue of Wythe County Historical Review. One was made for Elizabeth NEFF, a daughter of Michael and Christina (KAPP) NEFF. Elizabeth was born December 21, 1777. No information concerning the date of baptism was given, nor the preacher's name, but Elizabeth's grandmother, Elizabeth NEFF, sponsored the baptism. No location was recorded on this Taufschein, but the artist is referred to as the Wild Turkey Artist, who worked in Wythe County, Virginia.

The other listed by Bev Hoch was made for Leonhard NEFF, son of Michael and Christina (KAPP) NEFF. Leonhard NEFF was born October 1, 1786. Leonhard's certificate is also attributed to the Wild Turkey Artist, who again omitted the mother's maiden name and most data concerning baptism. He did, however, note that the baptismal sponsors were Leonhardt LITZ and Catharina PHILLIPPI, both single.

Of interest, the same surnames – NEFF and KAPP – appear on another certificate, but the father was a KAPP and the mother a NEF. The current location is unknown of this Taufschein. It was made for Michael KAPP, son of Michael and Catharina (NEF) KAPP. Michael KAPP, Jr. was born July 15, 1787, in Hagerstown, Washington

County, Maryland. He was baptized on August 14, 1787 by Pastor JUNG, Lutheran. The baptismal sponsors were Jacob and Barbara NEF.

June Burk Lloyd, Librarian Emerita at the York County Heritage Trust in York, shared data from a Taufschein made for Sewilla SHOFF, which says Sewilla's mother was Anna KOPP, a daughter of A. KOPP. Sewilla's father was Jacob SHOFF. Sewilla was born December 21, 1850, in Chanceford Township, York County. No information concerning baptism was recorded on Sewilla's baptism certificate.

Together with Jon Acker of the University of Alabama, Lloyd shared data from another York County Taufschein that mentions the surname, KAPP. It was made for John Wilson SLOTHOWER, a son of George SLOTHOWER and his wife, Louise, a daughter of John KAPP. John Wilson SLOTHOWER was born on September 13, 1861, and baptized by Solomon DESHER on February 12, but the year of baptism is illegible. John Wilson was born in Warrington Township, York County. His parents sponsored his baptism.

In *Faith and Family: Pennsylvania German Heritage in York County Area Fraktur*, Lloyd pictured a Taufschein made for Peter BECKER, a son of Peter and Eva (KAP) BECKER. Peter BECKER, Jr. was born in Codorus Township, York County, on May 6, 1813. He was baptized by Pastor HELFENSTEIN, but no date of baptism was recorded. Georg and Elisabeth FOCKENROTH sponsored Peter's baptism.

Lloyd shared data from a related example. This Taufschein was made for Elisabeth KAP, a daughter of Georg and Elisabeth (BENTZ) KAP. Elisabeth KAP was born on April 10, 1813, in Paradise Township, York County. She was



Taufschein for Daniel Dieffenbach, son of Johann George and Eva Magdalena (Kap) was printed in Ohio.

baptized by Pastor HELFENSTEIN, but no date of baptism was recorded on this certificate. The sponsors at Elisabeth's baptism were Johannes and Maria FOCKENROTH.

On June 26, 2008, Green Valley Auctions in Mount Crawford, Virginia, sold a Taufschein

made for Jacob WITTMER, son of Jacob and Maria (KAPP) WITTMER. Jacob WITTMER, Jr. was born February 10, 1804, in Rockingham County, Virginia. He was baptized, but no information concerning baptism was recorded

other than to say Jacob's parents sponsored his baptism.

The second volume of *German-American Family Records in the Fraktur Tradition* gives data from a Taufschein made for Andareas [Andreas] KAPP, son of Friederich and Maria Katharina (STRIKLER) KAPP. Andareas was born in Heidelberg Township, Lebanon County, on February 25, 1782. He was baptized by [Christopher Emanuel] SCHULTZ, but no date of baptism was recorded. Andareas and Katharina STRIKLER sponsored the baptism. The original of this certificate is at the Franklin and Marshall College Archives in Lancaster.

On October 5, 2012, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown sold a Taufschein made for Eva KAPP, daughter of Andreas and Elisabeth KAPP. Eva KAPP was born October 6, 1783, probably in Virginia. No further information about this fraktur is available, although the sponsor appears to have been Henrich HOTTEL.

A confirmation certificate made for Eva KAPP is known. According to this certificate, Eva KAPP was confirmed in Shenandoah County, Virginia, by Christian STREIT on November 14, 1801.

A Taufschein in a private collection was made for Johannes CAPP, a son of J. Georg and Susanna CAPP. Johannes was born January 14, 1798, in Shenandoah County, Virginia. He was baptized by [Christian] STREIT, but no date of baptism was recorded. The only sponsor at Johannes's baptism was Jacob CAPP. This certificate is pictured in *Folk and Decorative Art of the Shenandoah Valley*, published in 1993 by the Shenandoah Valley Folklore Society.

In *Equal in Goodness: Ohio Decorative Arts 1788-1860*, Andrew Richmond pictured a Taufschein made for Elisabeth COP, a daughter of Johannes and Maria (LOWESTEIN) COP. Elisabeth was born May 17, 1812. No location was given for her birth, but the artist who penned her certificate made fraktur for families in Tuscarawas and other counties of northeastern Ohio, as well as western Pennsylvania.

A religious text in a private collection was made for Joseph KAPP. Dated March 13, 1811, no other information, including a location, was given on this piece.

The current location is unknown of a Taufschein made for Eva Maria KAPP, a daughter of Michael and Maria KAPP. Eva Maria was born about four o'clock in the afternoon on February 4, 1777, in Heidelberg Township, Lancaster [today's Lebanon] County. She was baptized by Pastor BADER, but no date of baptism was recorded. Georg and Maria KAP sponsored Eva Maria's baptism.

Klaus Stopp, author of six of the seven volumes of *The Printed Birth and Baptismal Certificates of the German Americans*, shared data from a Taufschein made for Joel (?) SPIEGEL, son of Michael and Maria (CAPP) SPIEGEL. Joel SPIEGEL was born March 3, 1824, in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and he was baptized by J.N. SCHMUCKER (?) on April 4, 1824. The parents sponsored Joel's baptism.

In his fifth volume, Stopp pictured a certificate made for Daniel DIEFENBACH, son of Johan Georg and Eva Magdalena (KAP) DIEFENBACH. Daniel was born December 19, 1786 in Upper Paxton Township, Dauphin County. He was baptized, but no information concerning his baptism was given other than the names of the sponsors. They were Johan Georg RETTIG and his wife. Daniel's certificate was printed in 1817 in Ohio, so the family must have moved there between 1786 and 1817. It is not uncommon that a Taufschein was made long after the date of birth and baptism. Daniel DIEFENBACH was 31 when his Taufschein was made

A booklet called *Valley Pioneer Artists and Those Who Continue*, published in 1986 by Shenandoah College and Conservatory in Winchester, Virginia, mentioned a fraktur made for Jacob COPP, a son of George and Susanna COPP. Jacob COPP was born in Shenandoah County, Virginia, on September 11, 1791. The names of his baptismal sponsors, Friedrich and Anna Elizabeth SACHSMAN, were listed, but no other information concerning baptism was recorded.

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

FAMILY REGISTERS

John and Sarah (Hartman) Henry

By Corinne Earnest

An English-language family register that was removed from its Bible is in a private collection. This register gives no location for the Henry family, but I am hoping readers familiar with this family can help me determine where they resided.

The register begins with the marriage of John Henry to Sarah Hartman, who married on February 2, 1843. According to the register, John Henry was born November 17, 1818 and his wife, Sarah Hartman, was born October 2, 1816.

Their children were: Maria Elizabeth Henry, born October 13, 1843; Christian Calvin Henry, born October 10, 1847; Sarah Ann Henry, born March 9, 1849; and Clara Louisa Henry, born October 9, 1857.

Of interest, a page written separately from the register is titled, "A List of my Parents Family October 20, 1850." This record continues, "The age of my Father, Mother, Brothers, & Sisters." Unfortunately, it does not name the writer's father and mother, but the father was born April 21, 1791, and the mother was born April 14, 1795. This record is signed John Henry.

A list of siblings include:

- George, born May 31, 1814
- Christian, born May 20, 1816
- Sarah Ann, born April 24, 1821
- Maria, born March 13, 1824
- Joseph, born August 12, 1825
- Amos, born September 23, 1828
- Marry [sic], born February 11, 1831
- Reuben, born August 2, 1833
- David, born March 23, 1837

The above brothers and sisters were probably siblings of John Henry, but the record does not make that clear. The list does not include an entry for John Henry, who ended with, "This is to be put in my Bible that I may see at any time the age of my parents and family. John Henry."

As an added request from readers, I am trying to locate a man named John Henry, who was born March 1, 1771, perhaps in Lancaster or today's Lebanon County. I do not know the names of his parents. If you can help with information about John Henry or the Henry family, please drop me a line at rdearnest@aol.com.

Hiram B. Miller Bible

An English-language Bible record made for Hiram B. MILLER and his family (no location given) says Hiram B. MILLER was a son of John R. and Catharine MILLER. Hiram B. MILLER was born October 3, 1862. His wife was Susan H. REINHOLD, a daughter of John B. and Mary REINHOLD. Susan H. REINHOLD was born December 6, 1865 and she died June 2, 1927.

Hiram B. and Susan H. (REINHOLD) MILLER had the following six children:

- Lillie R. MILLER, born August 15, 1883
- Bertha R. MILLER, born October 17, 1884
- Katie R. MILLER, born March 20, 1886 and died January 20, 1888
- John R. MILLER, born July 26, 1890
- Norman R. MILLER, born December 5, 1897
- Clarence R. MILLER, born March 14, 1900

John Miller Bible

Various English-language notes found loose in a Bible were made for the John MILLER family. No location for this family was noted. John MILLER was born February 29, 1772. On September 23, 1803, he married Mary KURTZ, who was born July 10, 1785. John MILLER died December 13, 1851.

Entries then record data for another family. They were John GLOWNER, born November 25, 1805. On March 2 (?), 1831, he married Barbara RESER, who was born July 23, 1811.

The record returns to the surname MILLER, saying Isaac K. MILLER was born June 21, 1830. On September 22, 1853, he married Catharin [*sic*] E. GLOWNER, who was born January 1, 1835.

Other random notes say Mary Eleanor MILLER was born June 27, 1854 and Anna Survilla MILLER was born August 22, 1855. Information concerning the above people is repeated and a note penciled in following the death of John GLOWNER says "Barber" GLOWNER died September 6, 1889. Undoubtedly, this refers to John GLOWNER's wife, Barbara (RESER) GLOWNER.

The record then turns to Millward G. MILLER, who was born April 8, 1857. This entry is followed by what appear to be Millward's siblings. They were Oscar K. MILLER, born August 30, 1858; Catharine Melozine MILLER, born June 9, 1860; Clara Florance [*sic*] MILLER, born January 21, 1862; John Elsworth MILLER, born January 17, 1864; Isaac N. MILLER, born August 20, 1867; and a daughter, Grace MILLER, born May 5, 1873.

Other notes say "mother" Mary MILLER died January 30, 1875 and "sister" Mary MILLER died September 2, 1875. Also, a note on the same scrap says Barton L. MILLER was born April 21, 1879.

Another scrap of paper says Anna S. MILLER died May 12, 1873, Grace M. MILLER died March 24, 1874, and Bertie M. MILLER died April 8, 1877.

Bernd family register

An English-language Bible record is in a private collection. It says John BERND married Catharine SOWER on October 28, 1810. John BERND was born May 7, 1787 in Upper Salford Township, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. He was baptized, but no information was given about his baptism except to say the sponsors were John MERKEL and his wife.

John BERND's wife, Catharine SOWER, was born October 17, 1788 in Towamencin Township, Montgomery County. Catharine was baptized by Anthony HECHT, but no date of baptism was recorded. Jacob SOWER and his wife sponsored Catharine's baptism.

This register lists five sons born to this couple:

- David BERND was born March 9, 1812, and baptized April 26, 1812, by George ROELLER. David SOWER and his wife were sponsors.
- Elias BERND was born October 26, 1813, in Upper Salford Township. He was baptized in 1813 by George ROELLER, with John and Rachel BERND serving as sponsors.
- Aaron BERND was born November 26, 1816, and baptized, but no other data concerning baptism was recorded other than the name of one sponsor, John BERND Sen.
- Levi BERND was born December 7, 1819. Jacob BERND and his wife sponsored Levi's baptism.
- Samuel BERND was born December 3, 1820. Andrew BERND and his wife sponsored Samuel's baptism.

They family register

An English-language Bible record was made for the John and Barbra SHEY family, probably from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania. John SHEY was born May 26, 1774 and his wife, Barbra, was born April 18, 1775. Barbra's maiden name was not recorded. John SHAY [sic] died July 16, 1846 at the age of 72 years, 1 month, and 20 days. Barbra SHEY died October 24, 1857 at the age of 82 years, 6 months, and 6 days.

The children of John and Barbra SHEY were:

- Thomas SHEY, born October 23, 1795, and died August 11, 1862
- William SHEY, born August 7, 1797, and died January 8, 1798
- John SHEY, born April 24, 1799, and died January 16, 1871 at the age of 71 years, 8 months, and 23 days
- Elizabeth SHEY, born November 2, 1801
- Samuel Jones SHEY, born August 22, 1804, and died in April 1861
- Mary SHEY, born September 13, 1806
- Charles Wesley SHEY, born November 30, 1808, and died February 16, 1810
- William Coleman SHEY, born August 2, 1811, and died December 28, 1878 at the age of 67 years, 4 months, and 26 days. He was buried at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.
- Ann SHEY, born September 14, 1813, and died August 21, 1834
- Sarah SHEY, born September 18, 1816
- Cyrus SHAY [sic], born April 28, 1821, and died August 18, 1822

Other recorded deaths say Mary CLARK died September 5, 1850. No family relationship was listed for Mary, but she might have been Mary SHEY mentioned above as being born on September 13, 1806.

The age at death helps identify Mary's sisters under their married names.

Also, Elizabeth FRIEL (formerly Elizabeth SHEY) died in Philadelphia at 113 S. 13th Street, on August 9, 1884 at the age of 82 years, 9 months, and 7 days. She is buried in Odd Fellows Cemetery, Section R, no. 206.

Sarah ATKINS (formerly Sarah SHEY) died February 25, 1904 at Asbury Park, New Jersey. She died at the age of 88 years, 5 months, and 7 days, and was buried at Mount Lebanon Cemetery in Lebanon, Pennsylvania.

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.

John E. Allen of Rumney, NH
(Peters, Drewes, Appell, Schwicker(t))
Eric M. Bender of Albuquerque, NM
(Bender, Stroh, Rank, Spatz)
Jack M. Ebersole of Hagerstown, MD
(Ebersole, Siemer)
Lynn Harris Eggleston of Fort Washington, MD
(Nehren, Wickline, Rightmeyer, Ubhoff)
Laura Hawley Jarvis of Silver Spring, MD
(Trexler, Drexel)
Nancy L. Lemich of Columbia, MD
(Stup, Stupp, Wetzel, Hevener)
Karen Ridgeway of St Louis, MO
(Humbarger, Henricks)
Dayna Kinnard Shah of Potomac, MD
***(Keinert/Kinard/Kinnard, Keinat(h),
Eisenhauer/Eisenhower, Sauter)***

Deborah Shell of Fairview Park, OH
***(Eisennagel/Icenogle, Springer, Miller,
Schrader/Schroder)***
Richard A. Smallwood Sr. of Huntsville, AL
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Sharyn Sponar of Westminster, MD
(Spornauer, Redeman, Kleilein, Kauhof)
Renee M. Tatro of Oakdale, PA
(Smith, Silliman)

Alice Ackerman Uddin of Crofton, MD
***(Ackermann, Hartmuss/Hartmüss, Bernet,
Haehn)***
Dee Ann Wojdylak of Mechanicsburg, PA
(Hartman, Urich, Spahr, Gentzler)
Lisa Wolfson of Littlestown, PA
(Karg/Kirk, Euler)

Geissenhainer Pastoral Records Database Complete!

As of November 2015 the database of Geissenhainer pastoral records on the MAGS web site is complete. The Rev. Frederick W. Geissenhainer Jr. documented his pastoral acts during his tenure at St. Matthew's and St. Paul's Lutheran Churches in New York City between 1827 and his death in 1879. The five large volumes are maintained in the Klingenstein Library at the New-York Historical Society (NYHS).

These were German Lutheran Churches that primarily served the German population of New York City in the mid-1800s, during the height of German immigration. Many immigrants worshipped here first before deciding to migrate to other parts of the United States. This is a good source to find marriages of couples and baptisms or confirmations of children between the time a family immigrated and before they moved on.

In 2011 MAGS began transcribing the baptism, marriage, and confirmation entries from the Geissenhainer records.

Entries for confirmations stopped in 1860, while those for marriages continued through 1870. Baptisms spanned the entire timeframe.

All of these records – with an every name index - are now available in the database section of the MAGS web site. Images for these records are available from the NYHS library (<https://www.nyhistory.org/library>).

The Geissenhainer database contains 1,180 confirmation records; 5,663 marriages; and 11,698 baptisms, for a total of over 18,000 records. There are almost 52,000 unique names contained in the index. All the MAGS databases combined include over 32,000 records with more than 62,000 unique names.

MEMBER AT LARGE: Monument to Civil War Prisoners

Der Kurier is your MAGS journal and contributions are invited! The following report comes from member Jack Knee of Nocatee, FL:

“Since more than 40 percent of all American Caucasians have some German blood and a sizable number resided in Pennsylvania at the outbreak of the Civil War the following may be of interest.

“On a visit to my son, John, in Charlotte, North Carolina, we took a short trip to the Salisbury National Cemetery about thirty miles northeast.

“I knew a great uncle was interred there when the site was a Confederate Prison along with 11,700 others, the majority of which are unknown except through family lore. Henry Knee Jr. died at age 20 from wounds received in a battle at Petersburg, Virginia, after being transported to a Salisbury Hospital next door to this cemetery.

“At the entrance to the thirteen acre cemetery is a huge monument with the name "Pennsylvania" engraved on its base. This suggests a vast proportion of those interred are from Pennsylvania. Disheveled records assembled after the war have more than 3,000 names available on the Internet.

“These grounds have the same standing as Arlington National Cemetery and other such locations across the nation. It is in current use with veterans from all wars interred there including some from Afghanistan and Iraq. You will see from the pictures the grounds are in magnificent condition and it is very peaceful and well landscaped.”



Pennsylvania marker at Salisbury National Cemetery

DER KALENDER

The Calendar

2015

Dec. 5. Maryland Genealogical Society's 2015 Holiday Luncheon, 12 noon, Matthew's 1600 Restaurant, 1600 Frederick Road, Catonsville, MD, with guest speaker MAGS *Der Kurier* editor, columnist and author James M. Beidler

presenting "A Success Story: Finding a European Village of Origin," a case study about his immigrant ancestor Johannes Dinius of Steinwenden in the Palatinate. More info: www.mdgensoc.org

2016

Jan. 23. German Community Forum Sessions, sponsored by Palatines to America. Former Whitehall Branch Library, 4371 E. Broad St., Columbus OH. Carol Swinehart will lead a discussion on Fleshing-in Your Family History from 10 a.m. to noon. More info: www.palam.org

Sponsored by Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. More info: www.lmhs.org/events/history-conference/#

Feb. 3-6. RootsTech 2016, Salt Lake City, UT. Dubbed the largest family history event in the world; a place to discover, preserve, and share family stories and connections across generations. There's something for everyone, no matter the age and skill level. Held in the Salt Palace convention center near the Family History Library. More info: www.rootstech.org

April 28-30. Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Great Wolf Lodge, Mason, OH. Includes approximately 86 lectures and several workshops scheduled every day covering all phases of genealogical study, discussions, lineage society inductions, a vendor hall, the OGS annual meeting, special evening events and plenty of genealogical fellowship and fun events. *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler among the speakers. More info: www.ogs.org/conference2016/index.php

March 18-19. Historical Society of Pennsylvania "Family History Days," 1300 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA. Lectures, vendors and consultations at the largest mid-Atlantic repository for genealogical research. More info: www.hsp.org.

May 4-7. National Genealogical Society Conference, Fort Lauderdale, FL. a four-day conference with more than 150 lectures on a wide range of topics. Topics will include federal records, the law and genealogy, methodology, analysis and problem solving, military and land records, DNA, BCG Skillbuilding, and the use of technology. *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler among the speakers. More info: www.ngsgenealogy.org

April 8-9. MAGS Spring Meeting, Doubletree Hotel (in process of changing over from Holiday Inn), Laurel, MD More info upcoming at the website: www.magsgen.com

April 14-16. Lancaster Family History Conference, Lancaster, PA. Theme of "Forget Me Not: Opening the Doors for the Ladies in your Ancestry" along with other lectures, vendors, trips and workshops over three days.

June 2-5. Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, Burbank, CA. Sponsored by the Southern California Genealogical Society and starts with day devoted to DNA on June 2.

Speakers, vendors, special events abound.
More info:

www.genealogyjamboree.com/

June 22-25. Palatines to America National Conference, Fort Wayne, IN. More info: www.palam.org

Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference, Springfield, IL. "Time Travel: Centuries of Memories." FGS and local host the Illinois State Genealogical Society invite genealogists and family historians from throughout the world for some innovative time traveling experiences in Springfield, IL! Learn from exceptional speakers, network with other researchers,

stroll through a large exhibit hall filled to the brim with vendors, and take in the amazing sites and sounds of Illinois' capital city. More info: <https://www.fgsconference.org/>

Sept. 15-17. New York State Family History Conference, Syracuse, NY, hosted by the Central New York Genealogical Society and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and running concurrently with the annual conference of the Association for Public Historians of New York State. More info: <http://www.nysfhc.org/>

Oct. 21. MAGS Fall meeting. More info to come.

Door prizes from Fall Meeting

<i>PA Dutch Cookies</i>	Edith Millar
<i>PA Dutch Cookies</i>	Dee Wodjdylak
<i>Understanding & Using Baptismal Records</i> by John Humphrey	Gary Frick
<i>Understanding & Using Baptismal Records</i> by John Humphrey	Christa Singer
<i>Understanding & Using Baptismal Records</i> by John Humphrey	Kathy Rock
<i>Understanding & Using Baptismal Records</i> by John Humphrey	Kathy Kenna
<i>Life in Germany During WWII</i>	Marilyn Mantz
<i>Citing Online Historical Resources</i>	Philip Deters
<i>Researching in German</i>	Don Koetsch
<i>German-American Names</i>	John Foertschback
Map of Germany	Peg Walz
Map of Germany	Cindy Scharf
Map of Germany	Damon Kletzien
Map of Germany	Jill Stephens
Map of Germany	Richard Daniels
Jigsaw Genealogy Photo Kit	Susannah Brooks

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Phone: (319) 835-3960
E-Mail: ajwitter@iowatelecom.net

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

3. Global Accents, 15011 Hunter Mountain Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906-6216
Phone: (301) 438-0020
E-Mail: globlakcnt@aol.com
Website (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
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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@klausstrans.com

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