



Der Kurier

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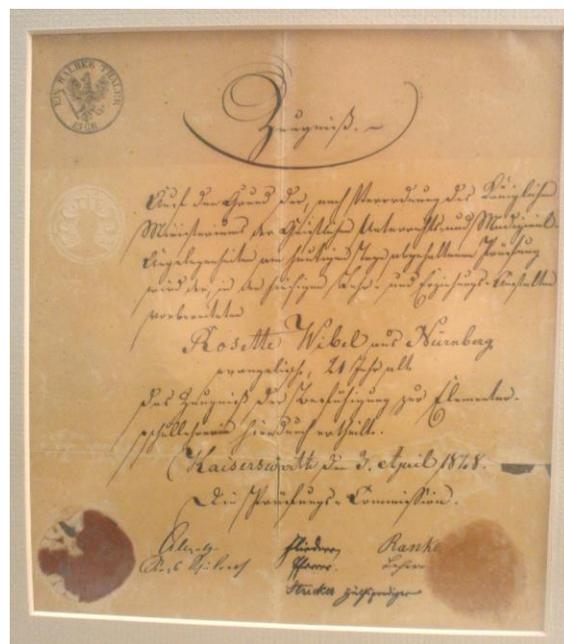
Seven Framed Documents - and Florence Nightingale, Too

By James M. Beidler and Fritz Juengling

Family legends are a dime a dozen. And if most genealogists had a dime for every one that was proved wrong, they'd be rich many times over. But when you have a family that preserves and cherishes old documents, there's always a chance that some will turn out to be true.

That is the case with Roseanne Adams of South Carolina, who has no less than seven documents relating to her ancestors Rosetta and Joseph Dorpath.

She saw a German Life column that highlighted the same early 1800s passport that was written about in *Der Kurier's* December 2014 issue. But what Adams has is a framed collection of her family's documents, ranging from a passport to citizenship certifications to graduation certificates and a letter of recommendation – all of which add up to a gold mine of family history that few can boast
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This *Zeugniß* (certificate) was signed by the Rev. Theodor Fliedner, mentor to Florence Nightingale.

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MID-ATLANTIC GERMANIC SOCIETY

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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

The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) is a non-profit genealogical society founded in 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. A membership application appears on the back cover and on our website. Benefits include:

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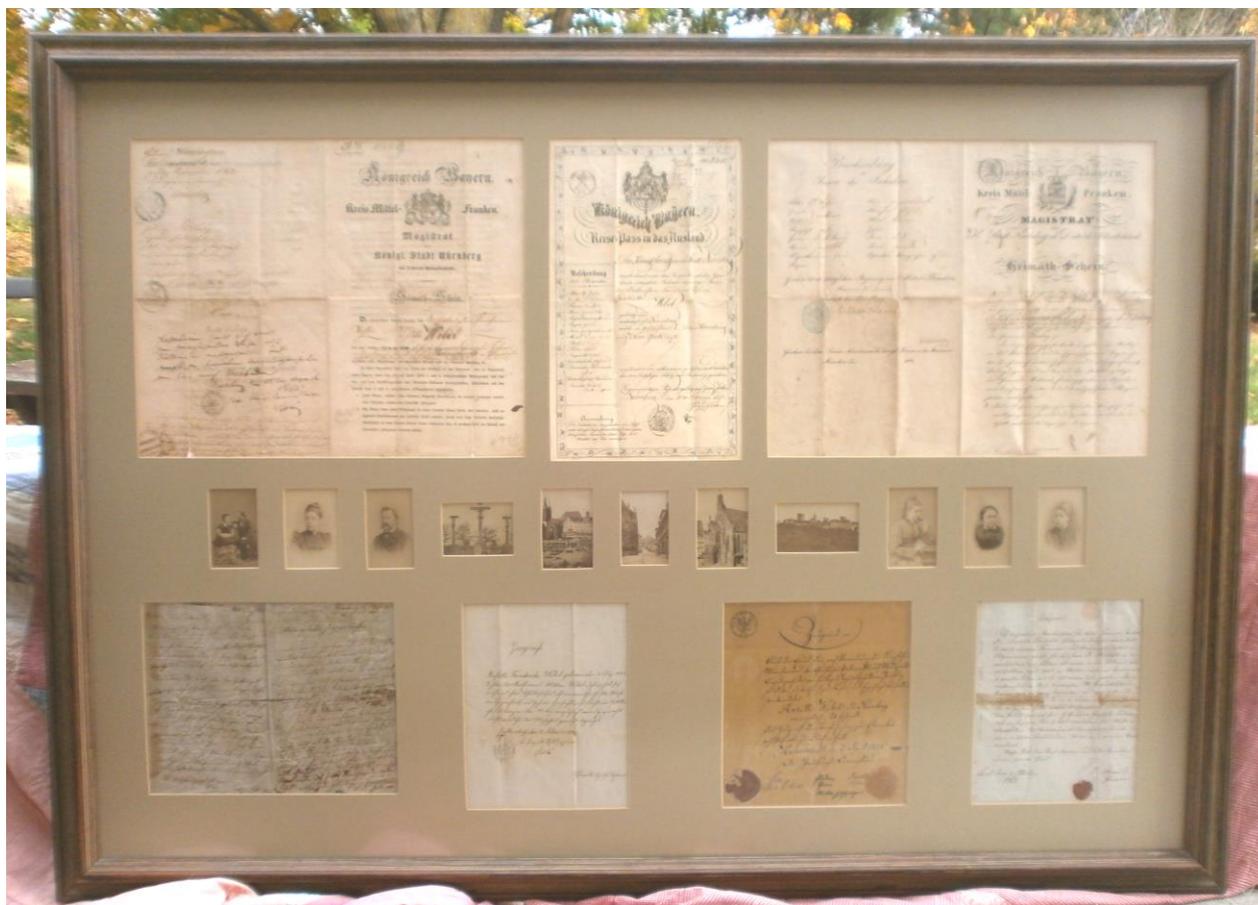
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Submissions to Der Kurier: Articles concerning Germanic genealogy and heritage in the Mid-Atlantic region are welcome, as are "Letters to the Editor." Research articles should document conclusions with appropriate citation of primary sources.

MAGS reserves the right to edit submissions for length and style. Unless previous arrangements are made with the editor, 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: newsletter@magsgen.com



Roseanne Adams has framed seven documents and numerous photos from her ahead-of-their times ancestors, Rosetta and Joseph Dorpath.

Frame Holds Trove of Family History

(Continued from cover)

having. And then there's proof of one humdinger of a family story: That her ancestor had gone to the same school where Florence Nightingale learned about nursing.

The seven documents give key snapshots from the lives of the Dorpaths, especially the wife, who was born in 1827 as Rosina Friederika Regina Maria Wibel into a Protestant merchant family in the Bavarian city of Nürnberg (Nuremberg in English) but later is usually identified as Rosetta.

The first document, chronologically, is Rosetta's 1841 graduation from the equivalent of a junior high school, which would have been the point that studies would have ended for most girls of this era. Her school was in the Gostenhof section

of Nürnberg. Because she obviously showed such promise – the certificate said she achieved the mark of “Excellent” – she continued her schooling at Rev. Theodor Fliedner's school for “deaconesses” – who in this context were the forerunners of nurses – in Kaiserswerth (then in the Prussian Rhineland, now part of the German state Rhineland-Palatinate). The other documents are:

- *Heimath-Schein* (“citizenship paper”) for Rosetta, which was her original citizenship document when she first went to study in Kaiserswerth in 1844. Even though these are both areas that are Germany today, at the time Prussia and Bavaria were separate

kingdoms so it was like she was going to a foreign country.

- Rosetta's graduation certificate or diploma from Kaiserswerth in 1848, signed by the Rev. Fliedner, Florence Nightingale's associate at Kaiserswerth. Nightingale's biography shows that she was at the Kaiserwerth school during this time period, suggesting but not proving that she and Rosetta may have interacted. Rosetta's certificate notes that she is now qualified as a *Schulherrin* (= "school mistress"), which is consistent with her later work in America as a teacher.
- Another *Heimath-Schein* for Rosetta, which was needed by her in 1851 to continue her stay in Kaiserswerth.
- *Reise-Pass* ("passport") for Rosina / Rosetta Wibel dated 10 Feb 1857, just a few weeks before she departed for America from Hamburg, and then stamped by the Bavarian consulate in Hamburg on 27 Feb – the day before she left.
- Letters written in March 1860 to Rosetta from her mother and sister in Germany,

also mentioning Rosetta's brother Wilhelm.

- A letter of recommendation for Dr. Joseph Dorbath written in 1862 by Pastor Schmidt of Sauk, Wisconsin, gives a lot of insight into his reputation.

Backing up the framed documents are the embarkation and arrival records for Rosetta. She is found as "Rosine Wibel" in the Hamburg Embarkation Lists as departing 28 Feb 1857 aboard the ship *Hammonia*, bound for New York, and noted as 29-year-old single female with a residence of Nürnberg, Bayern.

Likewise, she is found in the American Passenger Lists for New York, arriving on 26 Mar 1857, 29-year-old female from Germany. The ship is called the *Harmonia* here, but likely that is a transcription error.

Rosetta's baptism as Rosina Friederika Regina Maria (these multiple names were common in the German states beginning in the 19th century – as was the adoption of a nickname such as "Rosetta" that combined parts of the names into one).

She was the daughter of Georg Heinrich Franz Wibel and his wife Helena Maria, born Ammon.

Family History Library expert to speak at conference

The MAGS Fall Conference will feature three presentations by Dr. Fritz Juengling, a European Research Specialist at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, who is emerging as one of the leading speakers on German genealogy.

The speaker is a member of MAGS and has contributed to *Der Kurier*, including helping with the translations of the documents in this issue's cover story.

Juengling has taught all levels of German, including Medieval German literature, and Old English (Anglo-Saxon) at the college level. He has also taught German, English, and Latin at the high school level. He is an Accredited Genealogist® for Germany and the Netherlands through the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists.

He received his two Bachelor's degrees in Secondary Education and International Studies German Emphasis, both with Honors, at Western Oregon University. He attended the University of Minnesota where he received his Master's and Ph.D. in Germanic Philology with minors in both English and Linguistics.

Juengling's specialties at the world's largest genealogical library include German, Dutch, and Scandinavian research.



Juengling



The Bahnhof at the northern German port of Kiel.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dr. Kenneth Heger

Content, Conferences Among the Bywords as Society Continues Its Momentum

As we reach the halfway point in 2016, I am happy to report that our Society is making great strides toward providing ever more training, information, and materials to the membership.

At our spring conference, we had a successful workshop providing an overview of maps and how to incorporate them into your research. On the main conference day our speakers presented on conditions immigrants endured while crossing the Atlantic, what they encountered when

they arrived in New York, introduced us to sources at the National Agricultural Library, and gave us an overview of the holdings of the Maryland Historical Society.

Our fall workshop in York promises to be informative and fun. Please be sure to consult the information on the website for our fall conference in York, Pennsylvania, and register early. It promises to be a great event.

At the spring conference the Board announced to the attendees that beginning in

January 2017, MAGS will no longer be mailing out paper copies of *Der Kurier*.

After careful consideration and substantial discussion, the Board decided that due to the costs of mailing *Der Kurier* (in terms of printing, postage and the time of Board members involved) that it was time to make a change. To continue to mail members a paper copy would have required an immediate increase in membership dues.

Our award-winning journal will be available in color, on-line to all members for the current membership fee of \$15 per year. If you want *Der Kurier* mailed to you, you still have that option but for an additional \$5 per year per household. Please note, at this time membership dues remain the same. However, for membership and a paper copy of *Der Kurier* you will need to pay \$20 per year.

Also at the spring conference we polled the attendees asking them if they would like to have a third workshop offered mid-year on a Saturday. The response was overwhelmingly positive. Before we begin making preparations for a workshop in mid-2017 we would still like to hear from more members. Are you interested? If so what topics are you interested in? Please feel free to email the Board through the MAGS website with your thoughts.

Even more website content is on the horizon. I mentioned in my last column that a group of students in the College of Information Studies (the iSchool) at the University of Maryland were working on records of the American Consular Agency in Kiel and would be digitizing vintage postcards illustrating the state of Schleswig-Holstein.

The class project was a great success. The students digitized approximately 80 postcards showing cities, landscapes, the Kiel Canal, and a few maps of Schleswig-Holstein. The class voted unanimously to provide MAGS with those digital images to make available on our website.

The web committee will have those images by the end of July and begin making them available on the website in the coming months.

I want to acknowledge Jessica Ault, Pamela Baster, Scott Harkless, Conal Huetter, Sarah Jones, Katherine Piano, Maya Riser-Kositsky, and Jennifer Wachtel for their fine work on this project and for providing MAGS with this valuable product.

To whet your appetite for these and other images on the members-only portion of the website, a few of these images are reproduced in this issue of *Der Kurier*.



Opening of the Kiel Canal gave Germany a shortcut between the North and Baltic seas.

DEUTSCHE AUSSPRACHE

By Ken Weaver

Wie sagt man...? (How do you say ...?), Part 2

This article is part two of the series to help you better pronounce your ancestor's German name by finishing up with the consonant sounds. The series will conclude in the next issue with a discussion of German long and short vowel sounds, including the vowels with an Umlaut, as well as word stress.

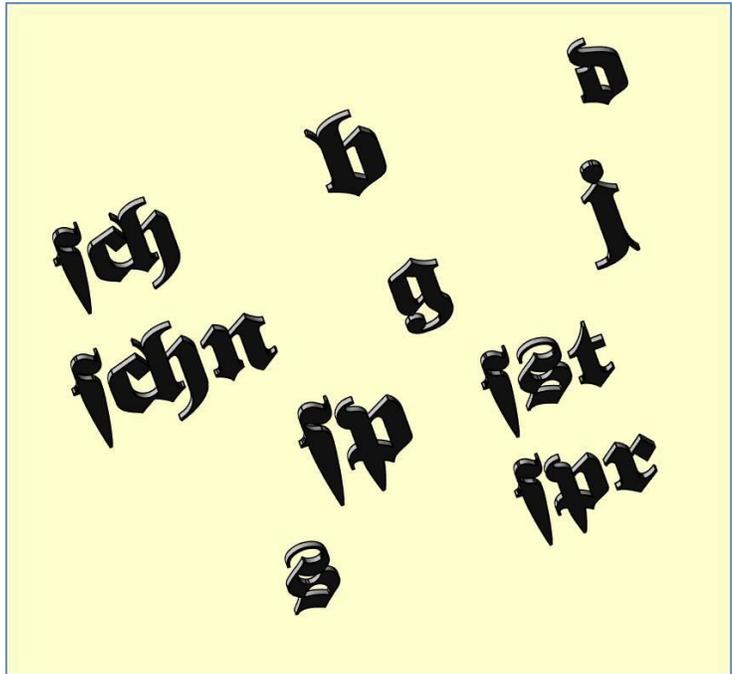
For the most part, the consonant sounds remaining have English equivalents and are not typically a problem for English speakers to produce.

The one remaining consonant sound that has no direct English match is for the letter *r*. Most Germans produce this sound in the back of the mouth by allowing air to slightly vibrate the uvula, the small piece of flesh that hangs from the roof of the mouth. The *r* is not overly trilled or rolled as it is in Spanish and is almost just 'swallowed,' particularly in a word that ends in *-er*. Although not very common, the German *r* can be produced with a tongue roll, but this is limited to very few German speakers. Needless to say, like the hard *ch*, this sound is a troublesome, but not impossible, one for English speakers to articulate.

Most of remaining consonant sounds all have English equivalents and it's just a matter of knowing which letters 'say' which sounds when:

- *j* always sounds like an English *y* as in the word *you*.
- *v* always sounds like an *f* as in *fear*.
- *w* always sounds like a *v* as in *verse*.
- *ng* always sounds like the English *ng* in *sing*.

The location of certain letters in German words can dictate how they are pronounced. In both English and German there are three related consonant pairs: *b* and *p*, *d* and *t*, *g* and *k*. The *b* sound is produced similarly to the *p* sound; the only difference is whether the vocal chords are vibrating or not. (And you do that without even thinking about it!) To articulate a *b* sound, the vocal chords vibrate; in the production of the *p* sound, they do not. The same applies to *d* and *t* as well as *g* and *k*. And while these sounds are easily made by English



speakers, the issue is one of where the letter is located in the word. The letters *b*, *d*, and *g* will all be said as their paired counterparts *p*, *t*, and *k* **when at the end of a syllable or before an *s* or *t*** (but not -ng). In all other locations, *b*, *d*, *g* are said just as they are in English. Some common German words to practice on: *Kalb* (calf), *und* (and), and *Tag* (day). The combination -ng is always said like it is in the English word *sing* and another unique pronunciation for the letter *g* is if it follows an *i* – *ig*. Then it is said with a German soft *ch* sound: *ich*. *G* in all other locations is pronounced like the *g* in the English word *good*.

One of the German sounds that has a variety of spellings is the equivalent of the English *sh* sound. One thing, however, is certain: if the letters *s* and *h* come together in a German word, the *s* belongs to the first syllable and the *h* belongs to the second. An easily remembered example would be the German word for household: *Haushalt*.

Primarily, the *sh* sound in German is spelled *sch*. It is not uncommon to see German names beginning with *Schl*, *Schm*, *Schn* or even *Schr*. But the *sh* sound is also used in the combinations *st*, *sp*, *str*, *spr*, **as long as these combinations begin the syllable**. For example, the composer Strauss would be pronounced *Shtrauss*. Of these four combinations, only *st* can occur at the end of a German word or syllable. When in this position, *st* is pronounced just like the end of the English word *last*.

But, what makes this a bit more difficult is that there are regional differences in how those four combinations are articulated. In northern Germany, they are pronounced very similarly to our English pronunciations, whereas in Bavaria all would contain the *sh* sound. Adding to the difficulty is *st* you might find in the middle of the word. Unfortunately, some knowledge of German would definitely help. Two examples that come to mind are the German word for birthday – *Geburtstag* and a common last name – *Fenstermacher*. In both cases the syllables are divided between the *s* and the *t* and would **not** be pronounced with the *sh* sound.

When the letter *s* occurs in a German word before or between vowels it sounds like an English *z* as in the word *zoo*. The uniquely German letter *ß* is always pronounced like the *ss* at the end of *hiss*.

And finally, two other German consonants that need to be discussed are *l* and *c*. When an English speaker produces an *l* sound, the tip of the tongue usually touches the upper teeth. A good German *l*, however, has the tongue flatten out on the roof of the mouth behind the teeth without touching them. Luckily, using an English *l* in pronouncing German words is readily understood.

The letter *c* in modern German rarely stands by itself; it has been replaced by a *k* or even an *s* or *z*. However, in older German names, you may encounter a single *c* and it would be pronounced by the same guidelines you would use in English. A *hard c* (*k-sound*) is followed by vowels such as *a*, *o*, or *u*. A *soft c* (*s-sound*) would occur in all other locations.

Stay tuned for vowel sounds and stress in the next edition of *Der Kurier*.

Ken Weaver has had a focus on language most of his life. He holds a B.S. in German from Millersville (PA) University, earned as a result of living and studying in Marburg, Germany, at Philipps-Universität. He has also earned further degrees and certifications as an English as a Second Language teacher and in school administration. He has taught hundreds of students how to master German sounds to become native-like speakers of the language.

DEUTSCHE UNTERRICHTSFORSCHUNG By Debra A. Hoffman

3 Dead Germans in Baltimore City and County

In the March and June 2014 issues of *Der Kurier*, John H. Foertschbeck Sr. provided a two-part article, entitled “German Baltimore, through the centuries.” In that article, he stated that the earliest indication of Germans in Baltimore was from a 1732 map. By 1776, “a sizable German community existed” and, by 1850, “Germans represented 60 percent of the foreign born population in the city.”¹

Even though Germans had been in Baltimore for over 100 years, in 1845, they were still being identified by their ethnicity as evidenced by the three inquests extracted below:

“State of Maryland, Baltimore County City, To wit: An inquisition taken *on the wharf, at Carey’s Foundry, Canton* in the County and State aforesaid, on the *ninth* day of *September*, in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and *forty five*, before me, *Rufus B. Gallup*, one of the Coroners of the State for the *County City* aforesaid, upon the body of *John Weaver, a German*, then and there lying dead; upon the oaths of

<i>George Carey,</i>	<i>Thomas Wilson,</i>	<i>W^m Irving</i>
<i>George Stubbs,</i>	<i>Samuel Turner,</i>	<i>Thomas Green,</i>
<i>Josiah Holt,</i>	<i>Walter S. Wilson,</i>	<i>Patrick Cullen, and</i>
<i>H. Geo. Claussen,</i>	<i>Benjamin Ficke,</i>	<i>Littleton Nock,</i>

good and lawful men of the State and *County City* aforesaid; who, upon, being sworn upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, and charged to enquire when, where, how and after what manner the said *John Weaver* came to his death, do say upon their oaths, or affirmation, that *John Weaver, came to his death by accidental drowning, by falling overboard from Carey’s wharf, Canton.*

In Witness hereof, As well the aforesaid Coroner as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their hands and seals on the day and year aforesaid, and at the place aforesaid.

[Signed] *Rufus B. Gallup*, Coroner. (SEAL.)

[Signatures or the marks of Jurors named above]”²

“State of Maryland. BALTIMORE COUNTY, TO WIT: AN INQUISITION, taken at *Donald Warf Lower end of Fell st* in the County and State aforesaid, on the *9th* day of *July* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and *45* before me, *J H Mullen* one of the Coroners of the State, for the County aforesaid, upon the body of *William Eicks a*

¹ John H. Foertschbeck Sr., “German Baltimore, through the centuries,” *Der Kurier* 32 (March 2014): 3.

² Baltimore City, Maryland, Baltimore City Archives (Health Department), HRS Records, 1798-1907, BRG19 S1, Box 16, 1845 HRS 1175, inquest of John Weaver; Baltimore City Archives, Baltimore, Maryland. The inquests are on preprinted forms. The words in italics indicate the handwritten portion.

german aged about 30 years then and there lying dead,—upon the oaths of

*John B. M. Laturnew
James Ganby
George W. Bennett
B. S. Woolert
F. Marmelstine
Jonathan Weil*

*Robt Downie
Joseph Cotton
John McNeal
James Gibson
Jame[s] W. Dulin [or Doulin]
Alex^r Waller*

good and lawful men of the State and County aforesaid; who upon being sworn upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, and charged to enquire when, where, how, and after what manner the said *W^m Eicks* came to his death, do say upon their oaths, that *his death was caused by accidental Drowning*

In Witness whereof, as well the aforesaid Coroner, as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year aforesaid, and at the place aforesaid.

[Signed] *J H Mullen*[,] Coroner. (SEAL.)

[Signatures of Jurors named above]”³

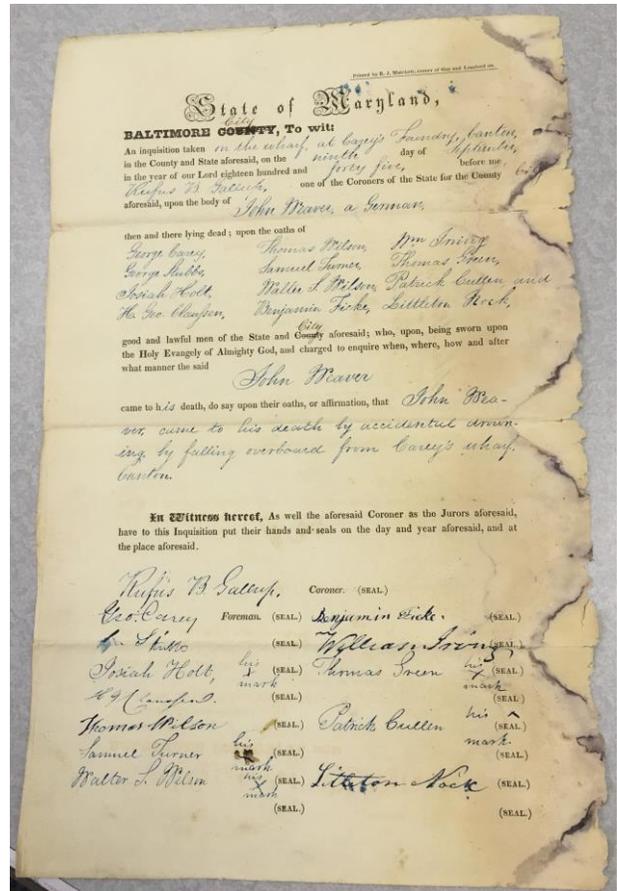
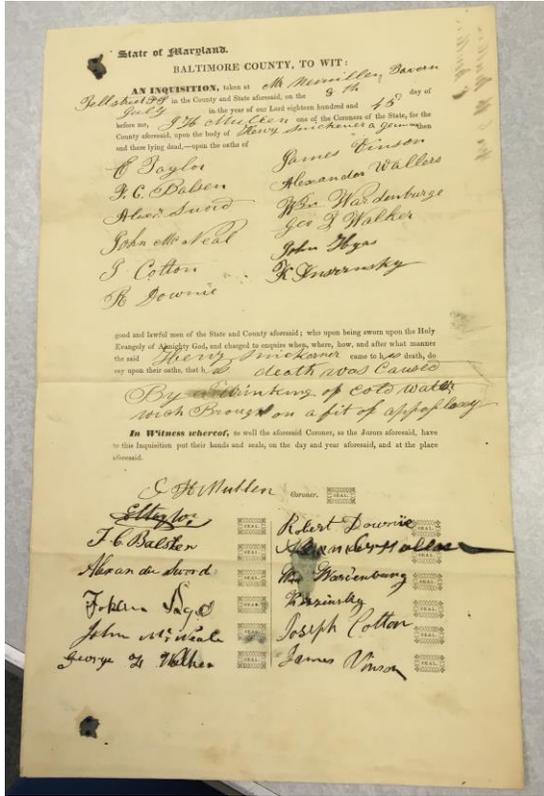
“State of Maryland. BALTIMORE COUNTY, TO WIT: AN INQUISITION, taken at *Mr Nemiller Tavern Fell street FP* in the County and State aforesaid, on the 8th day of *July* in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred and 45 before me, *J H Mullen* one of the Coroners of the State, for the County aforesaid, upon the body of *Henry Snickener a german* then and there lying dead,—upon the oaths of

*E Taylor
F. C. Balsen [or Balsten]
Alex^r Sword
John McNeal
J[oseph] Cotton
R[obert] Downie*

*James Vinsen [or Vinson]
Alexander Wallers
W^m Wardenburge [or Wardenburg]
Geo T Walker
John [Johan] Hyas
K Knorrnsky*

good and lawful men of the State and County aforesaid; who upon being sworn upon the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, and charged to enquire when, where, how, and after what manner the said *Henry Snickener* came to his death, do say upon their oaths, that *his death was caused By drinking of cold water wich Brought on a fit of appoplexy*

³ Baltimore City, Maryland, Baltimore City Archives (Health Department), HRS Records, 1798-1907, BRG19 S1, Box 16, 1845 HRS 1180, inquest of William Eicks; Baltimore City Archives, Baltimore, Maryland.



Inquest papers of Henry Snickerner, left, and John Weaver.

In Witness whereof, as well the aforesaid Coroner, as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition put their hands and seals, on the day and year aforesaid, and at the place aforesaid.

[Signed] J H Mullen[,] Coroner. (SEAL.)

[Signatures of Jurors named above]⁴

These inquests are valuable as the City of Baltimore did not start civil registration of deaths prior to 1875 and, for Baltimore County, death registration did not begin until 1898. Another valuable element of these documents is that they contain the signatures of the individuals who served as the Jurors assisting who the Coroner in the inquest.

The inquests can be accessed at the Baltimore City Archives located at 2615 Mathews Street in Baltimore, Maryland. They can be located through the WPA index by the name of the individual or by year when searching the WPA Card Index by Subject for "Health Department" and then looking by year for available inquests.

⁴ Baltimore City, Maryland, Baltimore City Archives (Health Department), HRS Records, 1798-1907, BRG19 S1, Box 16, 1845 HRS 1181, inquest of Henry Snickener or Snickerner; Baltimore City Archives, Baltimore, Maryland.

FAMILY REGISTERS

By Corinne Earnest

Fraktur Artists, Scriveners Create Bible Records

Fraktur artists, such as the anonymous Rockhill Township Artist (active c. 1830-48), and scriveners, such as Martin Wetzler (active c. 1854-88) and William Gross (active c. 1861-86), who wrote genealogy data on birth and baptism certificates, frequently created Bible records.

FRETZ Bible Record

Most entries in one such record are attributed to the “Rockhill Township Artist” of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It was made for Jonas and Elisabeth (ALDERFER) FRETZ, who married on October 19, 1819. Jonas FRETZ was born March 8, 1795, and Elisabeth ALDERFER was born February 22, 1800.

They had eight children. Barbara FRETZ was born February 19, 1821. Elisabeth FRETZ was born October 1, 1823, and died September 5, 1825. Maria FRETZ was born October 25, 1825. Isaac FRETZ was born March 31, 1828. Catharina FRETZ was born January 18, 1831. Hanna FRETZ was born September 20, 1833. Levi FRETZ was born April 29, 1836. And Sara FRETZ was born January 27, 1839.

Deaths in this family as written in the record say that Jonas FRETZ died July 25, 1852, at the age of 57 years, 4 months, and 17 days. His wife, Elisabeth, died July 30, 1872 at the age of 72 years, 5 months, and 8 days. Catharina FRETZ died December 4, 1852, at the age of 21 years, 10 months, and 17 days. Isaac FRETZ died July 27, 1888 at the age of 60 years, 3 months, and 26 days. And a woman named Anna FRETZ, whose maiden name was MEYER, died February 13, 1899 at the age of 73 years, 2 months, and 11 days.

ALLEM Bible Record

Many entries in a Bible record made for the ALLEM family of Bedminster Township, Bucks County, are attributed to Martin Wetzler. This record says Johannes ALLEM and Catharina WIEAND were married by William B. KEMMER[ER] on February 9, 1856. Johannes ALLEM was born June 10, 1831, in Bedminster Township. His parents were William and Anna (OTT) ALLEM. Johannes’ wife, Catharina WIEAND, was born August 24, 1834, in Milford Township, Bucks County. She was a daughter of Samuel and Lidia (FRIES) WIEAND.

Johannes and Catharina (WIEAND) ALLEM had nine children. William Heinrich ALLEM was born November 19, 1856. Sovilla ALLEM as born December 1, 1857, in Bedminster Township, Bucks County. Martin Wetzler recorded the above information, but the next entry is attributed to William Gross, a prolific scrivener who created numerous Bible records and was inclined to include baptismal data (excluding dates of baptism). Mary Ann ALLEM was born November 5, 1860, and baptized by S. HESS. The parents sponsored Mary Ann’s baptism.

Martin Wetzler appears to have penned the next entry, but then Gross took over again. Aron ALLEM was born July 15, 1863, in Bedminster Township. Samuel was born March 22, 1866. He was baptized by R. B. KISTLER. The parents sponsored Samuel’s baptism. Anna ALLEM was born February 16, 1868, and baptized by R. B. KISTLER. The parents sponsored Anna’s baptism. Esra ALLEM was born February 13, 1871, and baptized by George LAZARUS. Esra and Elisabeth ALLEM sponsored Esra’s baptism. John ALLEM was born January 19, 1874, and baptized by J. OHL. The parents sponsored John’s baptism. Carrie ALLEM was born September 19, 1876, and baptized by J. F. OHL. Carrie’s parents sponsored her baptism.

Bookplate, Register Might Relate to Same Family

In January 2016, Pook & Pook Auctions in Downingtown held an on-line sale that included books and

ephemera along with furniture and small items. Offered in that sale was a German-language bookplate belonging to Jacob Ebÿ in 1803 and 1804. The bookplate, which included no decoration as Pennsylvania German bookplates often did, was separated from the book, but it might have come from a New Testament printed by Benjamin Mayer in Harrisburg in 1799.

This bookplate might identify the father or grandfather of the “Eabey” children listed in an English-language family register, which sold at the same sale. It also appears to have been removed from its bible.

No location was listed for the Eabey children, nor for Jacob Ebÿ. The children include:

Mary Eabey, born September 1, 1822.
Martin J. Eabey, born September 11, 1824.
Rebecah Eabey, born January 12, 1828.
Hannah E. Eabey, born April 18, 1830.
Barbara L. Eabey, born November 24, 1832.
Phares Meizel Eaby [sic], born June 15, 1835.
Alpheus H.Eaby [sic], born November 10, 1839.
Christian P. Eaby [sic], born August 28, 1842.

Snippets of Information About Pensioners Living Overseas, Part I

By Rose Anne Ullrich

The American Civil War resulted in an explosion in the number of pensioners on the roll. Due to the war’s horrific new weapons, many soldiers suffered injuries preventing them from earning a living farming or in some other manual profession, injuries that entitled them to pensions. People other than the soldier himself were also eligible for pensions. When soldiers died during their military service, their widows, parents, and minor children were able to file a claim for pensions for their deceased relative’s service expanding the number of pensioners.

Although not widely discussed, not all of those soldiers and dependents spent their entire lives in the United States. This kind of information can be invaluable for family historians, but identifying those pensioners and finding where they moved overseas can be a challenge. This small series of records provides helpful

information understanding the process of paying pensions overseas and in finding documentation on fifteen pensioners who left the United States. This article will provide an overview of the records, look at three pensions as case studies, and include a list of pensioners the series documents. An article in a future issue of *Der Kurier* will discuss a related set of records as the second part of this series.

THE RECORDS

The United States Pension Bureau was responsible for administering pensions. Rather than being located in the War, Navy or Treasury Departments, the Pension Bureau was part of the Department of the Interior, operating out of the Department’s Patents and Miscellaneous Division. The Patents and Miscellaneous Division served as a catch all

organization, overseeing a hodgepodge of government agencies, such as the Bureau of Pensions, the Office of Education, and the Bureau of Mines. As such, the Division created dozens of large series of correspondence or special report files documenting multiple Interior Department programs.

While there is information about the pension payment process included among these large series, there are a few series that pertain exclusively to pensions. One such series is a small, single box series entitled *Letters Received from the Department of State Relating to Pensions, 1860-1875*.⁵ This little-used series holds clues to the process of paying pensions abroad. It contains two kinds of documentation. The first kind of documentation reflects the Bureau's general work administering the pension rolls, in particular gathering information about how foreign governments processed pensions. The second kind of file relates to the Bureau's work paying pensions of individual pensioners.

General Files

Roughly thirty percent of the series documents the Bureau's administrative work. These files consist of general information the Bureau gathered with the help of American consulates and the Department of State regarding the protocol, legal distinctions, and application issues for foreign countries paying pensions. The Bureau used this information to help it improve its own pension payment process, determine payment levels and extent of coverage for veterans and their dependents. This information may be of use to researchers interested in the details of the pension payment process applied in a broader context.

⁵ The complete archival citation is -- Letters Received from the Department of State Relating to Pensions, 1860-1875, Entry 213, National Archives ID Number (NAID) 1102182, Records relating to the Pension

Files on Pensioners

Of greater value to family historians are the fifteen files on pensioners. These records reflect military service and pension application requests due to death or disability of a soldier. In addition to male veterans the records document a number of widows. The series' geographic range is broad. Looking at a few case studies illustrates the records' value and how they can supplement information found among other records.

The Series' Limitations

The series has shortcomings. First, it only contains incoming correspondence to the Pension Bureau. Due to idiosyncrasies in the way the Pension Bureau filed its records, the series only contains correspondence the Pension Bureau received. The location of outgoing correspondence is not covered in this article.

Second, researchers need to look carefully at the names of the pensioners. Names of people and places often have multiple spellings or are misspelled over the course of the pension payment history. While the misspellings are bothersome, they can be helpful. Surprisingly, using a variety of name spellings might help alert the researcher about an otherwise overlooked file. If the name is spelled incorrectly among these records, then it might be misspelled among others. In the following case studies alternative spellings are represented in parentheses.

Third, the records might also contain confusion about geographic locations. The largest issue is archaic spelling of place names. In the files you will find *Rumania* rather than the modern Romania and *Buenos Ayeres* rather than the current Buenos Aires. Finding these

Bureau, Patents and Miscellaneous Division, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior, National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 48. Hereafter cited as NARA RG 48, E 213.

alternative spellings reminds you that place names change over time, and that you need to account for that in your research.

THREE CASE STUDIES

Sophia Dunca⁶

Sophia Dunca, a dependent mother, is the most documented person in this series. There are five letters totaling eighteen pages. One letter is dated 1871; the other four are from 1875. The 1871 letter⁷ concerned the status of the pension application for Sophia Dunca. Dunca's documentation reflects the confusion a researcher might encounter when a clerk miswrote a pensioner's surname. There are actually several files with similar names (Dunca and Duncan) for this pensioner. Further research on the name at FamilySearch.org and close comparison of the documents in this series revealed the files refer to the same woman. The file clerk's handwritten designations were not always correct. This is a prime example of the importance of considering multiple spellings when searching for a particular person. In this case, some genealogy resources, such as Fold3.com, did not specifically reveal her record until several spellings were attempted (Dunka, Duncan, Dunca). Likewise, the first name of her son was found only after multiple spelling attempts (Nicholas, Nicholai, Nicholae).⁸ Indeed, in a 1937 letter received by the War Department from an interested

relative the deceased soldier is referred to as both Nicholas Duncan and Nicholai Dunka.⁹

Dunca's file also demonstrates obstacles researchers might encounter with geographic references. Country names changed over time. Dunca is listed as living in Romania, rather than the modern spelling of Rumania. There is also a major geographic error in her files. In one letter, the writer referred to her residence as Budapest, Austria, when the appropriate consulate should have been Bucharest, Rumania.

Sophia Dunca was residing in Bucharest, Romania, when her son, Captain Nicholas Dunca, 12th Infantry Regiment, US Volunteers, New York, was killed in the Battle of Cross Keys on June 8, 1862 as noted at the website Fold3. Documents in this small series help explain a problem Dunca encountered in getting her payment. According to the series file, her documents proving her pension entitlement were lost aboard a ship. Fortunately, subsequent documents indicate she was eventually able to provide verification via an affidavit and received her pension.

Franziska Buchele¹⁰

Franziska Buchele is the second most documented pensioner in the series. Unlike Dunca, the letters relating to Buchele are all consolidated into a single ten page file and enclosed in a letter dated 9 August 1869. The letters relate to the pension for Franziska

⁶ This series contains several letters relating to Dunca. Consult the table accompanying this article for dates and citation information. NARA RG 48, E 213.

⁷ 29 November 1871, NARA RG 48, E 213.

⁸ United States Civil War Widows and Other Dependents Pension Files, 1861-1934," database, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VKJ2-4HN> : accessed 19 March 2016), Sophia Dunca, 1861 - 1934; from "Case Files of Approved Pension Applications of Widows and Other Dependents of Civil War Veterans, ca. 1861- ca. 1934," database, *Fold3.com*

(<http://www.fold3.com> : 2008); citing military unit US Vols, company F&S, application number WC82849, Record Group 15, NAID identifier 300020, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, D.C.

⁹ United States Civil War Widows and other Dependents Pension Files, 1861-1934, *Family Search*, National Archives Identification Number 300020, *Ibid*.

¹⁰ All of the references in this section come from a 10 page file of correspondence relating to Buchele; the primary document is dated 9 August 1869. NARA RG 48, E 213.

(Frances) Buchele and her two children. Her husband was an Infantry soldier in the 26th Regiment, Company K of New Jersey. According to FamilySearch.org, Franziska Buchele was residing in Mindelheim, Bavaria in Germany when her husband Johann (John) Buchele died in the Battle of Fredericksburg in 1863.¹¹ As noted in her files in this series, she received monies from the Mindelheim Poor Fund during the years 1864-1867 while waiting for her pension. The Bavarian government requested that she pay back the monies as a widow of a US veteran and a US citizen receiving a military pension.

This file is a good example of the experiences of women immigrants married to Civil War soldiers. It might also be helpful to researchers considering the protocols utilized to address legal and language barriers at the Consulate level. According to correspondence and her affidavit it seems that when Buchele still had not received her pension, the US Minister at Berlin requested the Pension Bureau to intervene because she had no other income source. The Pension Bureau was requested to consider also that she was returning to the US to reside with relatives in Newark, New Jersey. Finally, note the fantastic geographic information this small file contains. It links Buchele to Mindenheim, Bavaria, and Newark, New Jersey. Finding that level of migration detail can be extremely helpful.

Joseph Riddle¹²

Documentation on Riddle is far scantier than the documentation for Dunca and Buchele. There is a single file consisting of only four pages. Nevertheless, that file holds great potential for Riddle's descendants. The file makes it clear that Joseph Riddle was not the veteran; the document pertains to his brother

William's military service. In addition, the main value of the file is a letter in Joseph's hand writing, a letter that given the technology of the day exists nowhere else. Having such a document is always useful in reconstructing your family's history.

ACCESSING THE RECORDS

This small series is part of National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) Record Group (RG) 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior. The records are arranged in reverse chronological order. While most files are small, consisting of only two or three pages, a few are quite large; one of the pages is usually a transmittal/cover sheet. The transmittal page has useful information, such as the date the Pension Bureau received and date stamped the letter, the file subject and file designation number. Consult the table that accompanies this article for an alphabetical list of pensioners' names, the documents' dates, the number of pages of each letter, and key geographic areas the letters include.

NARA plans to digitize and put this series on its website in the coming months. You can check on the status of that work by accessing www.archives.gov and going to the Search Our Records portion of the website. If you enter the series' National Archives ID Number (NAID) it will take you to the online images. **The NAID is 1102182.**

In the meantime, you can examine the originals. Those records are housed at NARA's facility in College Park, MD (Archives II). To request the records you will need the following information: **RG 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the**

¹¹ "United States General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934", database with images, *FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:KDBN-H27>; accessed 19 March 2016), Frances Buchele in entry for John Buchele, 1863.

¹² All of the references in this section come from a 4 page file of correspondence relating to Riddle; the primary document is dated 29 August 1874. NARA RG 48, E 213.

Interior, Letters Received from the Department of State Relating to Pensions, 1860-1873, Entry 213, NAID 1102182.**CONCLUSION**

Family historians understand the value of looking in odd places for any records pertaining to their ancestors. Many of the documents in this series are unique, original records that are not duplicated elsewhere.

Furthermore, the records contain information about a number of women, a demographic very difficult to document in the nineteenth-century. The documents may even hold the key to answering questions that other pension records raise. At the very least they will give you valuable insight into your ancestor's struggle to obtain a pension at a particular point in time.

FILES ON INDIVIDUAL PENSIONERS		
NAME	DATES OF FILES	KEY GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCES¹³
Angus, Bridget	26 December 1871 (2 pp)	None Listed
Audernach, Florence	25 September 1875 (3 pp) 25 October 1875 (3 pp)	Buenos Aires, Argentina
Barnard, Francis	4 November 1875 (7 pp)	London, Canada; Port Savina, Canada
Brunello, Pietro	8 March 1873 (5 pp)	Vincenza, Italy
Buchele, Franziska	9 August 1869 (10 pp)	Mindelheim, Bavaria (Germany); Newark, New Jersey
Caldwell, J.W.	5 April 1875 (2 pp)	None Listed
Chavanne, Clement	7 May 1873 (5 pp)	Lyons, France
Dunca, Sophia	29 November 1871 (3 pp) 1 July 1875 (3 pp) 10 July 1875 (4 pp) 7 October 1875 (5 pp) 11 October 1875 (3 pp)	Bucharest, Rumania; Jassy, Rumania
Geutsch, Edward	1 December 1871 (3 pp) 16 October 1871 (4 pp)	Hamburg, Germany
Kennett, L.M.	9 November 1868 (2 pp)	Paris, France
Martens, Carl	25 August 1869 (2 pp)	Magdeburg, Prussia (Germany)
Miller, Andrew	25 February 1875 (7 pp) 29 April 1875 (4 pp) 5 May 1875 (5 pp) 11 May 1875 (3 pp)	Barcelona, Spain
Osboli, Giuseppe	27 November 1874 (7 pp) 1 December 1874 (3 pp)	Venice, Italy
Plimpton (Mrs.)	11 November 1861 (3 pp)	None Listed
Riddle, Joseph	29 August 1874 (4 pp)	Manchester, England

¹³The geographic references refer to the pensioner in general. The list does not indicate in which letter the geographic reference appears.



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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.

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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.

Lynda Davis of Annapolis, MD

(Voedisch, Correll, Korel)

John S. Diefenbach of South Pasadena, CA

(Bauer, Huber, Schott, Lemmer)

Elaine L. Fisher of Naperville, IL

(Fisher/Fischer, Meads)

Valerie Lund & Fritz Fleming of Vesuvius,
VA

(No Names)

Gilbert W. Franz of Fallston, MD

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(Wise, Weiss)

BUCHBESPRECHUNG / Book Review

Trace Your German Roots Online: A Complete Guide to German Genealogy Websites.

By James M. Beidler

Published by Family Tree Books; Cincinnati, Ohio, 2016; 207 pp. Appendixes, illustrations, index, maps, photographs. Softback. \$21.99 (shipping additional).

There are many challenges in researching your German ancestors; a foreign language and German script are but two. Finding records online used to be another. Only recently are more resources coming online to assist researchers in exploring their German ancestry. Author James Beidler has written a beginner's guide for those wanting to explore their Germanic roots online. His latest book begins by providing a brief primer on German genealogy basics.

For those needing more information, his earlier book entitled *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide*, published in 2014, can provide more thorough coverage. After that brief overview, *Trace Your German Roots Online* covers the top German genealogy websites and then, based on targeted research questions, covers specialized sites that may assist in answering those questions. The book concludes with relevant maps, a website index, and an overall index.

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

While all books about online resources are out of date as soon as they are published, the concepts that Beidler presents in this book are timeless. He details the challenges while providing "keys to success" and "tips" to assist the reader. Additionally, worksheets, checklists and flowcharts are provided throughout the chapters

that will assist the reader in effectively using the online resources he covers. These can even be adapted for other uses. An added bonus is that some are available as Word downloads, which will make it easier for the reader to use and adapt for their own purposes.

As mentioned, there are specific challenges with researching German-speaking ancestors. In the first part of the book, Beidler covers the unique challenges, such as the language barrier, and then provides information on online sources that can assist in overcoming each barrier.

For instance, online resources are provided for assistance in translation, dictionaries for current and archaic words, learning German and for tackling the printed Fraktur font and handwritten script. While there are books and resources that cover these topics in much greater detail, this book provides a strong foundation of the topics.

The second part of the book covers the top German genealogy websites, two of which are *FamilySearch.org* and *Ancestry.com*. For each site, Beidler covers the specific tools and information that are of most interest to the German researcher.

The screen shots and step-by-step examples provided for each of the sites are especially helpful to the reader. Of particular help for the *FamilySearch* website is the "FamilySearch Records Checklist" that provides a helpful organizational tool for using the site. For *Ancestry.com*, the book provides a guide to the site's immigration sources. These additional aids will help users of these sites maximize their success for websites that can be daunting in both their depth and breadth of information available.

The six chapters of the third part of the book cover German-specific questions that most researchers will encounter. Due to a lack of countrywide resources, such as a census (Germany was not unified until 1871), finding an ancestor's place of origin is paramount in accessing the all-important church records and other sources that provide family information. Each chapter provides information on topic-specific online resources that will help answer the question being covered (e.g., Chapter 9 covers "How Do I Identify My Ancestor's Place of Origin?").

The appendix material provides relevant reference maps and an overall index. Of particular value is the website index, which provides a list of all the websites covered by topic with a cross reference to the chapter where they are covered as well as whether the website is in English, German, or can be translated. Another valuable tool is the flow chart provided in the website index. Based on a reader's answer to the question, it leads the researcher through the steps to successfully research your German ancestor. This tool is not specific to online sources and will assist any researcher in furthering their goals.

In 207 pages, it would not be possible for the author to thoroughly cover all the nuances that a German researcher will need to know pertaining to their specific situation. However, this book provides a solid grounding in the basic online resources that will provide a springboard for the reader to further explore and enhance their knowledge later. The appendixes provide useful information on the civil and church archives in Europe and Germany as well as those important to German research in the United States.

While Beidler organized the material in a way that is particularly helpful to beginners, this resource has the potential be helpful to researchers of all levels. His aim was to "help family history researchers who are seeking German-speaking ancestors (pre- and post-immigration) through websites with records and information from both sides of the Atlantic." His book accomplishes that goal while adding content, tips, and tools that make it valuable long after some of these online sources change their website address or disappear.

Reviewed by Debra A. Hoffman

DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2016

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. 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. 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. More info: <http://www.nysfhc.org/>

Oct. 21-22. MAGS Fall Conference, York PA. FHL specialist Fritz Juengling and *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler speaking.

2017

July 27-29. German-American Genealogical Partnership, Minneapolis, MN. International conference, "CONNECT - International. Cultural. Personal" More information on this issue's Page 42.

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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.

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E-Mail: ajwitter@iowatelecom.net

2. Gen Collins
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Specialization: Translates German and German script and English to German.

3. Global Accents, 15011 Hunter Mountain Lane, Silver Spring, MD 20906-6216
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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
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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.
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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
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<i>How to Read and Understand Meyers Orts</i> Wendy K. Uncapher	\$10.75 / \$11.95	<i>Where to Look for ... German-Speaking Ancestors</i> Bruce Brandt/Edward Reimer Brandt	\$21.25 / \$23.00

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