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Der Kurier

**Volume 35, Number 2,
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Are You Familiar with MAGS Website?

By Debra A. Hoffman

In the December 2016 issue of *Der Kurier*, I wrote an article on the benefits of a MAGS membership.

One of those benefits is our enhanced website that can be accessed at <https://magsgen.com>.

To give you a better idea of the gems that can be found on the website, I am providing a detailed look at its contents.

Home Page

The “Home” page provides a login link. It also provides information on upcoming genealogical events that have been determined to be of interest to members. It also provides a timeline of “What’s New” items that detail the additions to the website, so check back on a regular basis to see what’s new. Another nice

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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

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). Add \$5 if you desire a printed copy of **Der Kurier** each quarter. 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:

Spring & Fall Conferences and Workshops

– Featuring expert speakers, member discounts

Der Kurier – Our award-winning quarterly journal

Members discount on items in our store

Outstanding members-only website

– German research aids, searchable databases

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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

FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dr. Kenneth Heger

Time for a Mid-Year Report!

This year your Society has kept on track offering quality instruction and adding content to the MAGS website. Our spring conference in Laurel provided attendees with an excellent workshop on using *Meyers Orts*- to find German towns and villages. The main conference day offered the audience information and research tips on using sources from federal, state, and local repositories to delve into researching your Maryland ancestors.

Our instruction will continue. In June we will host our first mid-year workshop. Bob Greiner will discuss church records, a useful source of information. That promises to be a good learning opportunity. Please note this workshop takes place on a Saturday so it is likely to fill up fast. See the website for more information.

In the fall we will meet in York, PA. Our conference will start with a workshop on how to find information about the Palatinate, including how to use new research tools on the MAGS website to start your research. The main conference day will focus on early German immigrants and Pennsylvania Germans. See the website and enclosed flier for addition information.

Hopefully by now you have accessed our website to look at the Guides and scanned images for Hesse-Darmstadt. As you will read in this issue of *Der Kurier*, MAGS has completed another, massive project creating detailed research Guides to six consular posts documenting three southwestern German states. These Guides are the culmination of hundreds of hours of research and writing. They also provide MAGS members with unique information to the records that is available nowhere else. There are also new Quick Fact Sheets for German Alsace-Lorraine, Baden, and the Palatinate. Let's all thank Carol Carman, Bob Greiner and Roy Schifflet (our dynamite web committee) for their speedy work getting these new products on-line.

You may note we have dropped the *Suchanzeigen* portion of *Der Kurier*. The Board decided it was more efficient to use the research name-listing function on the MAGS website. I thank Edythe Millar for her work on this feature, and welcome her input as we move to using the website to link MAGS members working on similar family names.

As we move ahead, the Board makes another appeal to the membership to participate in helping MAGS grow. Volunteer opportunities abound. You can help index records, transcribe documents, help with publicity, and assist at conferences and workshops.

If you want to learn more of what you can do to help MAGS grow and see your name in print, please feel free to ask any of the Board members. At the very least, tell folks about the growing amount of content on the MAGS website and what a bargain it is to join the Society. In the next issue of *Der Kurier* look for updates on on-going projects and how the products they create can aid you in your research.

Note: MAGS has benefited greatly from President Heger's retirement from NARA (and expertise with its records!) – he has spent loads of time spearheading the above projects involving NARA records.
- the Editor

Are You Familiar with MAGS Website?

(Continued from Cover)

feature is the “Gift from the Archives.” As I write this article, there is a postcard image displayed. As noted, the intent is to periodically display images of interest.

About Us Page

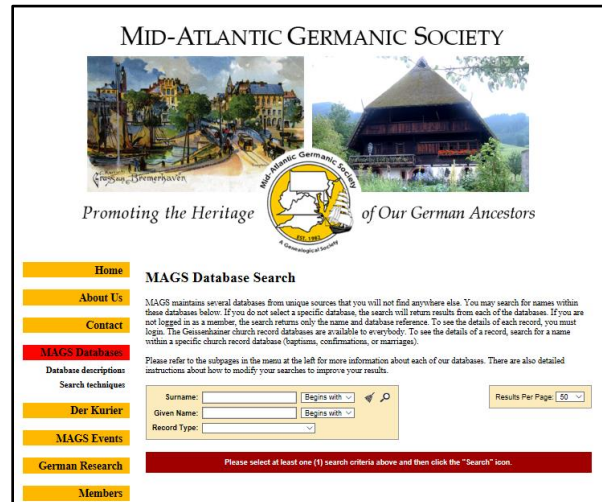
This page provides information on the Society as well as a link to the MAGS Membership page. On that page, you can find details on Members’ benefits, the categories and corresponding price for membership, and a link to the membership form. Additionally, the “About Us” page provides data on MAGS operating years and the points of contact for the Executive Board and the Committee Chairs. If you have any questions about the Society, this page will give you the right point of contact to address your issue.

Contact Page

The “Contact” page provides the various venues for sending an inquiry to MAGS. From the mailing address to the general inquiry e-mail to the web contact form, there should be a method that appeals to you for submitting your question. This page also provides the points of contact for the Executive Board and the Committee Chairs.

MAGS Databases

When you access the first page of this section, there is a search box that allows you to search for a surname across all of MAGS current databases. This capability is thanks to MAGS Treasurer Bob Greiner. If you click on the “Database descriptions” link, you access a page that provides a list of each database as well as a brief description. Clicking on the database title provides you with more detailed information on the database contents as well as source information. A page entitled “Search techniques” provides detailed instructions for searching MAGS databases. This is a good page to start with in order



to ensure your searches are as efficient and effective as possible.

Der Kurier

The “Der Kurier” page provides information on MAGS’ quarterly newsletter/journal and details the deadlines for providing submissions for publication. There is also a link to e-mail the editor, James M. Beidler. *Der Kurier* is indexed in the Periodical Source Index (PERSI) by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

MAGS Events

This page provides the latest information on upcoming MAGS events as well as a downloadable registration form. Check back often to see what exciting event is coming up!

German Research

The “German Research” page is organized and designed to be a resource for members to “find information about Germany, German-speaking countries, and genealogy.” You need to be a member in order to gain access to the pages under this section. Once you log in, you will see the following pages:

- Germany 1803-1871
- Germany 1871-1919
- Germany 1919-1945
- Germany after 1945
- German Speaking Countries
- Consulate Research Guides
- Language
- Maps
- Other Sources

Members

The “Members” page is your portal to accessing Members Only content. After you have logged in, you will see the following pages:

- Profile: Your profile contains information on your membership information, including your current member status and expiration date, your contact information, your surnames, and your member settings. You can add information on your surnames of interest. In “Member Settings,” you can change your login name and password.
- Recent *Der Kurier* Issues: This page allows you to access the current issues of *Der Kurier* from 2010 to the latest issue.
- Documents and Reports: Under this page, you can access:
 - German States – Fact Sheets
 - Consulates – Research Guides
 - Consulates – Despatches
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Membership Reports
 - Treasurer Reports
 - Meeting Handouts
 - Organizational Documents
 - Board Documents
- Logoff: This allows you to log out of your account.

Once you log in, you also have access to the “Historical Images” and to information on the “Lending Library.” The “Historical Images” page provides instructions on how to navigate the Library and the Gallery. The “Lending Library” page provides information on borrowing MAGS Library Books and Materials, a link to the MAGS Lending Library Book list, and, if you are interested, how to make donations to the library.

Public Documents

The Public Documents page has past issues of our award-winning newsletter/journal, *Der Kurier*. The issues cover from 1982 when MAGS was founded, to 2010. The more recent issues are found under the “Members” page. Four videos of past presentations by National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) speakers can also be accessed from this page. The lectures cover research at the National Archives, Civil War widows’ pensions, and the Digitization of Homestead Records Project.

Surname Research

One of the best reasons to join a genealogical society is the ability to network with other researchers and to connect with cousins. Covering surnames from A to Z, you can view details on the surname, such as the US State/Region, US County, the Country of Origin, and the beginning and ending year. It also provides the ability to submit an email query regarding the particular surname. Clicking the query icon allows you to submit a query to the person, who has submitted the information. What a great way to connect with another researcher with the same surname and/or geographic interests.

MAGS Store

The MAGS Store provides a list of books that are available for purchase, including books from a MAGS past president, John Humphrey. John published books on Pennsylvania church records covering many eastern counties. There are also some MAGS promotional items available, including a lapel pin, tote bag, and the ever-necessary 4GB thumb drive. The thumb drive is perfect for storing those genealogical documents you scan from archives and repositories.

I hope that this article has demonstrated the value of the MAGS website and that you will take some time to explore it and check back periodically to see what is new. Our goal is to make this website a valuable resource for researching your Germanic ancestors. We welcome any feedback you may have.

Glücklich forschen!



Some Miscellaneous Letters Sent volumes from the Kehl Consulate (RG 84)

Baden, Palatinate, Alsace-Lorraine Resources on MAGS Site

By Kenneth W. Heger

This article announces the completion of the second major records description project by MAGS, the Baden Project. The Project resulted in the identification of data-rich series of records and the creation of several extremely detailed guides to the documents. The Guides describe the records and provide suggestions on how to develop a research strategy to mine them; they can become a vital part of your research. This article provides an overview of the records the Baden Project targeted and the products the Project created. For more information, you should examine the Guides themselves. They are available on the members-only portion of the MAGS website, www.magsgen.org.

THE BADEN PROJECT

Tens of thousands of immigrants came to the United States from southwest Germany, in particular from the areas of the Grand Duchy of Baden and the Bavarian Palatinate. Many of these new Americans maintained ties with the old country; some of them returned to their homeland to visit relatives. Given the area's amenities and cultural institutions, German Americans, including those whose families came from other areas of Central Europe, also traveled to the area, to take cures at spas, experience tourist attractions, and attend university. The records of Department of State provide essential documentation on these people.

GEOGRAPHIC AREAS THE RECORDS COVER

When the Project began, the MAGS Board opted to concentrate on the consulates located in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The rationale was simple. Many Americans trace their ancestry to the Grand Duchy and it was an easily identifiable geographic areas. That decision put the project squarely on par with other MAGS State Department projects.¹

As the Project's research proceeded, however, the research team made a marvelous discovery. The consular records in the Project actually documented a much wider geographic area. The Guides the Baden Project created, therefore, provide vital keys as to where to look for information for the following areas:

- Baden (except for Pforzheim²)
- The Bavarian Palatinate
- German Alsace-Lorraine (1871-1917)
- The extreme southern section of Hesse-Darmstadt

TOPICS THE RECORDS COVER

The consular records the Baden Project describes are rich in information and cover a wide range of topics. They are an essential source of documentation for anyone whose family member came from or traveled to the area. This list provides an overview of the topics.

- Information on the local economy, society, political situation, and religion – Useful to put your ancestor's life in context and perhaps explain why he or she emigrated
- Characterization of emigrants, often including from which part of the state they emigrated, to which socio-economic class they belonged; there can be statistics providing the number of people who emigrated (often by age and gender)
- Extensive information on individuals, including
 - Birth and Death Reports
 - Marriage Contracts
 - Protection of Citizens in the District
 - Citizenship Matters, Including Issuance of Consular Passports
 - Estate Matters
 - Processing Pensions for Veterans Living Overseas
 - Whereabouts of Family Members
 - Registrations of Citizens Residing in the Consular District

¹ For a description of our first major project see Kenneth W. Heger, "Researching the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt on MAGS' Website," *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* March 2017 (Vol. 35, No. 1): 3-10.

² Oddly, the Pforzheim peninsula was in the Stuttgart consular district. Producing Guides for those records is a future MAGS project.



Picture postcard with aerial view of Konstanz (author's collection)

CHANGES IN CONSULAR POSTS

The Project also revealed that the Department of State operated numerous foreign service posts in and near the Grand Duchy of Baden. In 1854 the Department opened its first post in Karlsruhe, Baden's capital. At the same time, the Department opened a consular agency in Ludwigshafen-am-Rhein to represent the United States in the Bavarian Palatinate. Although belonging to a different German state, the Department made Ludwigshafen subordinate to the consulate in Karlsruhe, due in great part to the growing economic connection between the Palatinate and northern Baden in particular with the Baden city of Mannheim. The result is there is substantial documentation among the Karlsruhe records that does not relate to Baden, but to the Bavarian Palatinate.

In 1874, Baden's economy and political status in Germany had changed so much that the Department closed the post in Karlsruhe and moved the consulate to Mannheim. Shortly thereafter the Department gave the consulate in Mannheim responsibility for caring for American interests in the Bavarian Palatinate. By 1890, the Department had moved its consular agency from Ludwigshafen to Neustadt-an-der-Haardt. The result is that there is substantial documentation among the Mannheim records that relates to the Bavarian Palatinate.

When Germany annexed Alsace-Lorraine in 1871, it required all countries to close their consulates in the annexed area and move them into Germany, proper. Eventually the United States relocated its consulate in Strassburg directly across the Rhine River to the Baden town of Kehl. The new post became responsible for American interests in central Baden and German Alsace-Lorraine.

Consulate of the United States
for Rhenish Bavaria,

No. 11

Certificate of Marriage.

I Stephen M. Vail Consul of the United States at Ludwigschafen do hereby Certify that on this 8th day of August A.D. 1872. at Ludwigschafen in my office, S.W. Hanauer aged 33 years born in Birkhead Stadt and now residing in Philadelphia, and Malinda Pitts aged 30 years born in London England and now residing in London were united in Marriage by me, Authorized by me, ^{with} by the Laws of the United States to perform such Ceremony

Witnesses present,
Leopold Maunzer
Karolina Maunzer
Louisa R. Vail,
Melton S. Vail,

In witness whereof, I have here to
Subscribed my name and af-
fixed the Seal of the Consulate at
Ludwigschafen this 8th day of August
A.D. 1872 and of the independ. of the U.S. the 9th day

[S.S.]

Stephen M. Vail
U.S. Consul

To assist the Kehl consulate, the Department opened an agency in the southern Baden city of Freiburg-im-Breisgau, eventually elevating it to a consulate, and then demoting it to an agency subordinate to Kehl again. The post in Freiburg was responsible for extreme southern Baden and the southern portions of Alsace, such as the city of Mülhausen. Because of Freiburg's odd administrative history, there is a great deal of correspondence between Kehl and Freiburg among the records of both consulates.

Being aware of the evolution of American consular representation in Baden, the Bavarian Palatinate, and Alsace-Lorraine is important. It helps you identify where to start your research and alerts you to the fact that the records you seek might be among the documents of another consulate. Each of the Guides in the Baden Project includes a more detailed administrative history section to help you further, pointing out significant bodies of records that relate to geographic areas that seem to be outside of the consulate's district. They also point out significant bodies of records that relate to matters outside of that consulate's district.

HOW THE RECORDS ARE FILED

The records are in the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) in College Park, MD (Archives II). They are part of two NARA record groups: Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State; and Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. This section explains this records filing system and identifies which relevant records you can find in each record group. The Guides on the MAGS website provide extensive additional information, walking you through the documents in both record groups.

General Records of the Department of State (RG 59)

This record group (RG) contains the records the Department of State kept in Washington, D.C. These invaluable documents include despatches the consulate sent to Washington, documents that could include birth and death reports, marriage contracts, and information about problems Americans faced overseas. Despatches can contain exciting enclosures such as letters from Americans and their German relatives, copies of estate papers, and official German documents such as letters from German authorities and death reports (*Sterbekunde*). NARA microfilmed these records; they are available in NARA's Archives II microfilm research room. There are no despatches for the consular agency in Neustadt.

- T709, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Carlsruhe (Karlsruhe), Germany, May 1854 – July 1874*
- T569, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Freiburg, Germany, October 1892 – August 1906*
- T597, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Kehl, Germany, April 1882 – August 1906*
- T585, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Ludwigshafen-am-Rhein, Germany, June 1858 – June 1874*
- T582, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Mannheim, Germany, July 1874 – August 1906*

Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State (RG 84)

This record group (RG) contains the documents consulates created or kept on-site in order to conduct business. The records cover the entire gamut of a consulate's activities and are a treasure trove for family historians. **Note: The records are not available on microfilm or digitally on-line; they are unindexed. You must arrange to examine the originals in NARA's Archives II textual research room.**

There are incoming Instructions and Despatches from the Department of State; use them with the outgoing correspondence the consulate sent to Washington to craft a thorough picture of your ancestor's life. There is considerable correspondence with American and German state and local officials; German and American businessmen; and American citizens both in the United States and in Germany. This correspondence can include information about inheritances in the United States and Germany; whereabouts of Americans; actions the consulate took on behalf of American citizens vis-à-vis local governmental



Postcard of traditional Black Forest house (author's collection)

officials; processing pensions for veterans and their dependents in the district; and other matters not requiring input from Washington, D.C.

Each post has a unique National Archives Identifier (NAID); the NAID is an artificial number NARA assigned to the post to keep track of the records in its on-line catalog. From the search box on NARA's "Research Our Records" page you can enter that NAID and the search result will give you a list of the volumes and boxes comprising each consulate's records; however, the MAGS Guides are far more detailed and give you greater guidance on how to exploit the records. The following list provides an overview of the extant records.

Carlsruhe (Karlsruhe), 1862 - 1874 (NAID 1135626)

- 6 volumes; approximately 1 linear foot
- The instructions from the Department are of particular value
- The consular district encompassed the entire Grand Duchy of Baden, with responsibility for the Bavarian Palatinate

Freiburg, 1891 – 1910 (NAID 1110755)

- 47 volumes; approximately 10 linear feet

- This post's records are rich in correspondence with local authorities and citizens
- The instructions from the Department are noteworthy
- The consular district covered extreme southern Baden; there are references to southern Alsace as well

Kehl, 1882 – 1917 (NAID 1137459)

- 208 volumes & 1 box; approximately 39 linear feet
- This is the second largest post, with a wealth of information covering all of the topics listed above; it is especially noteworthy for its documentation of pensioners and death reports
- The instructions from the Department are a rich source of data
- The consular district covered the central part of Baden, including Karlsruhe, the spa town of Baden-Baden, and parts of the Black Forest
- **It is the post that documents German Alsace-Lorraine**

Ludwigshafen-am-Rhein, 1871 – 1874 (NAID 1134172)

- 7 volumes; approximately 2 linear feet
- Among these volumes is one containing correspondence with local people and copies of numerous marriage contracts
- Although the point of contact for the Bavarian Palatinate, most of the meaty correspondence is with other consulates, in particular Mannheim

Mannheim, 1874 – 1917 (NAID 1125804)

- 232 volumes and 12 boxes; approximately 48 linear feet
- This massive post also contains records covering all of the topics listed above
- It is noteworthy for instructions from the Department of State; local correspondence; death reports; registrations of American citizens; and consular passports
- This post was responsible for northern Baden, the Bavarian Palatinate, and a sliver of Hesse-Darmstadt

Neustadt-an-der-Hardt 1890-1916 (NAID 1133827)

- 2 volumes; approximately 6 linear inches; Only two fee books remain
- The post in Mannheim contains the extant correspondence files

CONCLUSION

The completion of the Baden Project is a significant achievement. There are now three new Quick Fact Sheets and sixteen guides to help you find names and other information among important, but underused records. The lists of names from the consular despatches (RG 59) and among the despatches and instructions from the Department of State to the consulate (RG 84) are fairly comprehensive;³ these lists alone make it worthwhile for you to examine the Guides.

Although the Guides are no substitute for undertaking your own research, they will help you develop research strategies and pin point which records series you want to examine first. Each Guide provides you with an administrative overview of the consulate; that information is crucial to place your ancestor in historical context and to understand the consulate's activities and geographic area of responsibility. In

³ Note – That list does not include a letter from the Department that merely indicated it had received a despatch from the consulate and did not include important new information. In addition, the Guides do not index every name on every page of all of the consular records; that level of work is not feasible for MAGS at this time.

addition to the consular despatches and consular instructions, there are lists of names from other records series throughout the Guides to help you identify records you might want to examine in greater detail.

Note: The visual image portion of the Baden Project is part of a major scanning project underway in conjunction with students from the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies. The scanning is on track to be completed by summer's end; the next issue of *Der Kurier* will update you on that sub-project.



Postcard of Konstanz and steamer ship on the Bodensee (author's collection)

BADEN PROJECT RESOURCES ON THE MAGS WEBSITE⁴

- *Quick Fact Sheets* for Baden, the Palatinate, and German Alsace-Lorraine
- Three Guides to records of the consulate in Freiburg
 - *Guide to Using the Despatches from the American Consulate in Freiburg, Germany, for Family History, 1892 – 1906*
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the Consulate of the American Consulate in Freiburg, Germany, for Family History, 1891 – 1910*

⁴ Keep in mind these products may contain spelling and formatting mistakes due to human error.

- *Guide to Using the Instructions and Despatches from the Department of State to the Consulate in Freiburg, Germany for Family History, 1895 – 1907*
- Two Guides to the records of the consulate in Karlsruhe
 - *Guide to Using the Despatches from the American Consulate in Karlsruhe, Germany for Family History, 1854 – 1874*
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the American Consulate in Karlsruhe, Germany for Family History, 1862 – 1874*
- Four Guides to the records of the consulate in Kehl
 - *Guide to Using the Despatches from the American Consulate in Kehl, Germany, for Family History, 1892 – 1906*
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the Consulate of the American Consulate in Kehl, Germany, for Family History, 1882 - 1917*
 - *Guide to Using the Instructions and Despatches from the Department of State to the Consulate in Kehl, Germany for Family History, 1886 – 1910*
 - *Guide to Using the Miscellaneous Records Books Among the Records of the American Consulate in Kehl, Germany for Family History, 1882 – 1917*
- Two Guides to the records of the consulate in Ludwigshafen-am-Rhein
 - *Guide to Using the Despatches from the American Consulate in Ludwigshafen, Germany, for Family History, 1858 – 1874*
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the Consulate of the American Consulate in Ludwigshafen, Germany, for Family History, 1871 – 1874*
- Four Guides to records of the consulate in Mannheim
 - *Guide to Using the Despatches from the American Consulate in Mannheim, Germany, for Family History, 1874 - 1906*
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the Consulate of the American Consulate in Mannheim, Germany, for Family History, 1874 - 1917*
 - *Guide to Using the Instructions and Despatches from the Department of State to the Consulate in Mannheim, Germany for Family History, 1862 - 1911*
 - *Guide to Using the Miscellaneous Records Books Among the Records of the American Consulate in Mannheim, Germany for Family History, 1874 – 1917*
- One Guide to the records of the consular agency in Neustadt-an-der-Haardt
 - *Guide to Using the Records of the American Consular Agency in Neustadt-an-der-Haardt for Family Research, 1890-1917*

Deaths of American Citizens Reported at Bremen, Germany, 1877 – 1901

By Bob Greiner

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) maintains historical records from United States consulates around the world. Among the documents from the consulate at Bremen, Germany, is a book containing death certificates for American citizens who died there or on board ships bound for the port of Bremerhaven.

The book contains 137 original certificates issued between the years of 1877 and 1901. It is stored at the National Archives II facility in College Park, Maryland.

The book contains several types of certificates, which are typical of German civil documents of that time period. Some of them are standard preprinted forms that were issued by the civil official (Standesamt) in the locality where the person died. Others were handwritten, using the same phrases found on the preprinted forms.

Many of the certificates were captains' logs of deaths that occurred at sea, which were registered with civil authorities upon landing at Bremerhaven. The consulate at Bremen was responsible for the welfare of American citizens arriving at the port.

Despite the title of the book, some of the certificates were actually birth registrations. One certificate was for a birth at sea and two documented children born at Bremen to Consul Albert Loening. The certificates are all in German. Some of the preprinted forms use the German Fraktur font, while others contain the Roman font familiar to Americans. The handwritten portions use a mixture of the old Gothic and Roman script, with names most often written in Roman.

The certificates themselves are arranged in the book by date. A handwritten index in the back of the book allows you to quickly determine whether a surname is contained among the records. However, I discovered at least one certificate that was not indexed.

It would appear that the volume was bound and indexed in early 1899, since the handwriting throughout the index is consistent until that time. A few entries were added to the index after that date in a different handwriting. The certificates are mostly glued at one edge into the binding of the book. Although the individual certificates cannot be extracted to copy or scan, you can take a digital photograph of the certificate at no cost.

Figure 1 is an example of a death register prepared by Captain H. Bruno of the steamer Crefeld. It states that Adolph Abendroth, single, age 21, died of phthisis pulmonum (tuberculosis) at sea on the evening of 3 December 1896. He was from Eagle Pass, Texas, and both his parents were dead. He was traveling to Germany to visit his uncle H. Bruggemann in Salzwedel.

The names and dates from the index will be added to the Consular Estates database on the MAGS website. The only information provided in the index is the full name and date of death (or birth) for the individual.

If you find a person of interest, you should definitely request a copy of the original certificate. It will always contain much more information of genealogical interest. German death certificates usually include the date and place of birth and death for the individual, as well as their normal residence. They will also frequently contain the names of the individual's parents or spouse, and one or more people who attest to the death.

Sterberegister.																		
Dampfer <i>Crefeld</i>		Capt. <i>H. Bruno</i>			7 ^{te} Reise 1896			Heimathshafen: Bremen.										
Laufende Nr.	Ort	Tag	Stunde	Vor- und Familienname	Religion	Alter	Stand oder Gewerbe	Wohnort	Geburtsort	Mathematische Todesursache	Vor- u. Familienname des Ehegatten des Verstorbenen od. Vermerk, dass der Verstorbene ledig gewesen	Vor- und Familienname der Eltern des Verstorbenen	Stand oder Gewerbe	Wohnort	Personen, welche den Tod angesetzt haben oder ihn aus eigener Wissenschaft bezogen können.	Angabe, wie die Persönlichkeit der Beteiligten festgestellt ist.	Eigenhändige Unterschrift des Schiffers, Steuermanns und der von ihm zugezogenen Personen.	
des Todes				des Verstorbenen														
II	47. 17. Abt. n. 89. 3. 1896	3ten	10 Uhr	Adolph Abendroth.	Luth. ev.	21 Jahre.	Messingdreher.	Engle Pass. Terao. Amueka. Muelkaant.	Polthraio pulmonum	Leiq.		Kolon Friedr. hoch. Familien-Beizler am 18. 12. 1878. Die Wirthin verstarb die Frau zu einem Oebel. H. Bruggemann. 40 Jahre alt.	Schiffocel St. J. Seiger			a. des Heilortens. Guoch. Seife und Farbe. 1896. 1. des Schiffocel. Seife. Seife. Seife.	93. H. Bruno. Kapitän. 1. des Schiffocel. Seife. Seife. Seife.	
<p>Bei Antritt der Reise mit dem Schiffplagetecke besetzt. Auf See am 4ten Dezember 1896.</p> <p>See letter from the Shipping Com. number 430 197. 1896.</p> <p>H. Bruno. Kapitän.</p>																		

Figure 1 - Adolph Abendroth death register

Following is the information you will need to request the Bremen death volume from the National Archives II at College Park, Maryland. You can either visit the Textual Research Room in person or request a copy of the document through their website at <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park>. You need to provide the information below, along with the name and date of death for the person of interest.

Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State:

United States Consular Records for Bremen, Germany, 1797 - 1940

Certificates of Death of American Citizens (Index in back), May 19, 1877 to March 19, 1901,

NAID 1280202

Index of Deaths Reported at Bremen, Germany

- Abendroth, Adolf – 3 Dec 1896
- Adams, George – 10 Feb 1890
- Alberti, Ella Minette – 8 Dec 1897
- Altmann, Louis – 4 Aug 1893
- Anthon, Chas. Ed. – 7 Jun 1883
- Barsanti, Efrem – 14 May 1878
- Bartels, Herman H. W. – 2 Mar 1880
- Bauer, Nicolas – 15 May 1877
- Beckert, Edward – 15 Dec 1877
- Behmann, August – 2 Aug 1889
- Behrmann, Heinr. F. – 24 Aug 1894
- Berger, Louis – 26 May 1900
- Bowmann, James – 27 Dec 1890
- Brundick, Johanna – 14 Jul 1880
- Brune, Emilie – 29 Apr 1890
- Brunken, Herman – 22 Oct 1879
- Burian, Katharina – 31 May 1878
- Buschel, Wilh. – 5 Jan 1898
- Cattus, Emil Wm. – 14 Mar 1879
- Colby, Caroline – 3 Mar 1879
- Collen, Johann Chr. – 24 Jun 1894
- Deike, Friedrich – 19 Dec 1896
- Derkheim, Wm. Oscar – 19 Dec 1877

- Dieckmann, Carl Friedr. – 22 Feb 1898
- Dillon, Jas. E. – 9 Sep 1878
- Dreyer, Edward – 22 Jul 1889
- Duesch, Joh. Heinr. – 3 Jun 1897
- Duntze, Emil – 26 Aug 1895
- Edwards, Ellen – 3 Jul 1877
- Ferg, Joh. Adam – 17 May 1890
- Fischbeck, Ludwig Christopher – 16 Jan 1899
- Fitschen, Jost – 15 Mar 1879
- Flaendern, Wally von – 3 Nov 1898
- Flamann, Zelia – 1 May 1878
- Gambal, Fredr. Wm. – 15 Jun 1900
- Gath, Jacob – 26 Apr 1896
- Gendert, Rheinhard A. – 8 Mar 1881
- Gerstenberger, Lorentz – 13 Sep 1881
- Gesiek, Caroline Julie – 10 Aug 1877
- Gieseke, Rudolph – 27 May 1881
- Goodwin, Samuel – 19 May 1880
- Gostre, Dorothea Johanna – 18 Mar 1901
- Gruner, Franz Julius – 10 Jan 1880
- Grüner, Regine – 3 Nov 1894
- Gundersheimer, Josef – 12 Jun 1879
- Haderer, Louis – 6 Mar 1891

- Hahnel, Joh. H. – 3 Dec 1889
Hannover, Heinrich – 30 Oct 1879
Harris, Harry – 6 Nov 1894
Hartmann, C. – 19 Mar 1878
Hasenfuss, Clara – 16 Jul 1879
Hedenkamp, Gerhard – 5 Aug 1896
Heide, Carl auf der – 23 May 1880
Heims, Carl W. – 4 Apr 1884
Hoppe, Catherine Sophie – 17 Jun 1884
Hufnagel, Johann – 19 Dec 1888
Irwin, Polly – 16 Jun 1900
- Keinath, Friedr. – 18 Mar 1878
Kjellen, Joh. Sanfried – 30 Jun 1890
Kliewer, Richd. – 19 Oct 1893
Klinkenberg, Peter Jacob – 26 Mar 1891
Kloppenber, Chr. Louise – 16 Apr 1892
Kompf, Heinrich – 13 Jul 1879
Koop, Elizabeth – 1 Dec 1893
Koop, Johann Carl – 16 Jun 1894
Koster, Friedrich – 2 Jul 1878
Kullmann, Margaretha – 22 Aug 1879
Kunz, Paul – 11 May 1878
Kushel, Doris – 7 Aug 1877
- Lange, Carl Henrich – 13 Feb 1889
Langhorn, Anna Rebecca – 15 May 1898
Lapp, Marie G. B. – 11 Aug 1890
Lauber, Jacob – 11 Jun 1889
Lehmann, Peter C. H. – 7 Dec 1893
Loening, Hermine – 15 Aug 1886
- Mahn, Johann Carl – 4 Mar 1899
Malton, –
Marckthaler, Wilhelm – 30 Nov 1897
Maul, Carl E. – 21 May 1878
Mayer, Bernard – 3 Oct 1877
Menke, Anton – 5 Jul 1877
Muller, Wilhelm – 4 Aug 1884
- Nau, Friedr. – 28 Dec 1877
Niemeyer, Albert – 5 Nov 1880
Nissen, Maria Valberg – 12 Oct 1880
- Ormstede, Johann – 2 Jun 1878
Peters, Adelheid Meta – 6 Aug 1892
Pittroff, Georg Bernhard – 17 Oct 1900
Pöhler, Anna Caroline – 25 Jul 1877
Primot, Eugene – 24 May 1878
Pröhl, Jonin – 25 Feb 1895
- Rapp, Benedict – 30 Nov 1893
Rascher, Catharina – 29 Jul 1877
Rassler, Jacob – 9 Mar 1888
Reiche, Henry – 16 Jun 1887
Reindl, Anton – 3 Apr 1878
Reinisch, Carl H. – 1 Aug 1895
Rohlfing, Bernard – 17 Aug 1895
Rudolph, Samuel W. – 7 Feb 1898
Rudy, Peter Paul – 16 Jun 1894
Runge, Anna A. – 25 Jun 1890
- Sackstorff, Emilie – 17 Jan 1879
Schade, Sida – 14 Jul 1877
Schäfer, Sophie Ph. – 23 Apr 1893
Schandain, Emil Eugen – 22 Jul 1888
Schaul, David – 15 Jun 1897
Schierhoh, – 10 Oct 1889
Schloss, Betty – 4 Mar 1892
Schmidt, Wilhm. – 23 Oct 1878
Seedorf, Henry – 26 Sep 1900
Seiffert, Hertha – 6 Jul 1877
Sewing, Peter – 1 Jun 1894
Sillcox, Gustava Anna – 23 May 1879
Smrek, Anna – 21 Aug 1890
Snay, Robert – 22 Aug 1899
Steil, Fredk. Richd. – 14 Jan 1893
Sturcke, Herman – 3 Dec 1878
Sunkenberg, Heinr. Wm. – 16 Nov 1889
- Teschmacher, Herm. – 19 Mar 1878
Thomä (Thomas), Ren (Roy) – 11 May 1898
Trattner, Adolph – 21 Jul 1896
Tremel, John – 9 May 1899
Trull, Jenny – 20 Jul 1885
Tuckermann, Louis – 18 Sep 1892
- Undt, Sophie Henriette – 17 Feb 1892
Unger, Wilhelm – 30 Nov 1897
- Wagner, Leonard – 5 Apr 1880
Wallis, Fredk. John R. – 9 May 1896
Wassermann, Hermann – 25 Sep 1885
Weigell, Otto Adolph – Nov 1897
Weinang, Friederike – 19 May 1885
Weissmann, Samuel – 16 Mar 1887
Werneth, Amalie Marie Math. – 3 Aug 1877
Williston, Anna Maria W. – 18 Sep 1886
Wolf, Christiane – 10 Jun 1877
Wolf, Elsie – 30 Dec 1889
Zimmermann, Adam Henry – 4 Jul 1900

Estate Cases from the United States Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany (1889 – 1905)

By Bob Greiner

How would you feel if you found a family chart more than a century old written by a German ancestor? What if you discovered a document that revealed the previously unknown maiden name of your immigrant ancestor? Such gems can be uncovered in the records of United States consulates in Germany.

These records are maintained by the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. You must visit the facility to research these records, and since they are not indexed, the work can be tedious. The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society has made the task easier for you by indexing the names found in consulate estate files. They can be searched in the database section of our society website (www.magsgen.com).

This is the second article about estate cases maintained by the United States consular posts in Germany. The first, published in December 2016, described cases from Brake, Königsberg, and Mainz. These posts contained 60 cases combined. In contrast, Frankfurt has over 200 cases.

Consulate Description

Frankfurt is a large metropolitan area on the Main River in the modern German state of Hesse. Until annexed by Prussia in 1866, Frankfurt had been an independent state. From 1866 until the end of World War II, it was part of the Prussian state of Hesse-Nassau.

At the turn of the 20th century, the city was a major financial center with a variety of local companies conducting trade with the United States. Several spas were within easy traveling distance



Figure 1- Seal of the Frankfurt Consulate General

from Frankfurt, bringing wealthy Americans to the area. American students came to take advantage of the universities in the region. These factors contributed to the importance and work load of the consulate.

The post at Frankfurt was a Consulate General, responsible for the supervision of 16 other consular posts in Germany. It was staffed by a consul general, a deputy consul general, and a vice consul general. Consular officers were responsible for the welfare of U.S. citizens residing in or visiting the consulate's district. In addition, they assisted U.S. citizens in interactions with German officials in

legal matters. The consul general was frequently asked to assist in the settlement of estates in which there were claimants in both countries.

Consular officers at this time in history were political appointees; their effectiveness was dependent on their personal dedication to the assignment. In 1905, Consul General Richard Guenther received a salary of \$3,000. The consul general was entitled to collect a fee for his services, typically five percent of whatever funds were recovered for his clients. The Frankfurt positions were held by several officers during the period covered by these records.

Officer	Position	Dates
Frank H. Mason	Consul General	1889 – 1897
Alvesto Hogue	Vice and Deputy CG	1885 – 1895
Dean Mason	Vice and Deputy CG	1895 – 1899
Richard W. Guenther	Consul General	1898 – 1910
Simon W. Hanauer	Deputy Consul General	1899 – 1911
Charles Vaugh	Vice and Deputy CG	1899 – 1900
George Murphy	Vice and Deputy CG	1900 – 1904

Records Description

The Frankfurt estate cases fill eight legal size archival storage boxes. Within each box the cases are stored separately in envelopes. Each envelope has the client name written on the outside. The contents include different kinds of papers, including letters, post cards, and official documents, each in a variety of sizes. Full page documents are usually folded in thirds, and multiple sheets of different sizes are often folded together. To evaluate the contents, one must carefully unfold each piece of paper to read it.

At least two of the boxes have been refiled by archivists. The contents of each envelope were unfolded and laid flat. Each file was covered with a folded piece of acid free white paper along with

its original envelope, which was frequently covered with notes. Several files were placed together into a legal size manila folder and the folders were all placed vertically into the archival boxes.

Many of the papers are bound with a variety of pins, paper clips, etc. In general, the pages are in some semblance of date order, but that is not always the case. The majority of the papers in the files are incoming correspondence. Copies of outgoing correspondence were generally kept in other volumes maintained by the consulate. Frequently, one can deduce the details of the case and the subsequent resolution from the papers in the file, without searching other correspondence.

There are 220 individual cases in this series. The majority of the cases involve a person who died in one country (the United States or Germany) with heirs or potential heirs in the other country. The consul general was contacted by an individual or lawyer to handle matters of communication with German clients and officials. If a case involved a monetary distribution from an estate, the consul general would frequently handle the financial transactions in Germany. In many cases, the files do not contain enough information to ascertain the final disposition of the request.

The remaining cases include client requests for a variety of services. These include handling widows' service pensions, taking depositions for lawsuits, insurance policy payments, and general assistance to United States citizens. It is unclear why they were filed with the estate cases.

One particular file in this series contains extensive correspondence about a relief fund for victims of the 1900 hurricane and flood in Galveston, Texas. Vice Consul General Simon Hanauer organized the fund and collected donations, which he eventually sent to the State Department. Hanauer also asked consuls at the subordinate posts to solicit contributions. The file contains lists of donors and the amounts they gave. Most donors were German businesses and American citizens living abroad.

Some of the files contain original documents of unique interest to genealogists. Sometimes clients in Germany would send the consul general a multi-

generation list of family members to document potential heirs. The most interesting of those are in the form of a hand-drawn family chart. Other files might have a list of heirs named in a will, or the name, residence, and amount paid to each heir. In other cases the consul general might receive official records of birth, marriage, and death from a German official to prove family relationships. These documents can be a rare find for a researcher looking for the family of their immigrant from Germany.

Names discovered in each file were extracted and entered into a fully searchable database on the MAGS website. Anybody can search the Consular Estates database to find a name and place of residence. MAGS members are able to see more detailed information about the case. A synopsis of each case is available on the database description page. These features give MAGS members the exclusive ability to search this unique National Archives resource that would otherwise not be nearly as accessible.

Example cases

It is instructive to show how one might use these case files for further research. Details in some of the files can provide facts previously unknown about an immigrant ancestor in the United States. I will provide a specific example of the techniques one might use to expand their knowledge about an individual family. The additional examples include cases that include original documents of genealogical interest.

Magdalena Mayer (Box 363)

This case is a good example of a person who died in the United States with heirs in Germany. The file includes several wills and family charts detailing the relatives of the deceased. There is a copy of a letter from a lawyer in St. Joseph, Missouri, to the New York City law firm that worked with the Frankfurt consulate. It described the estate case and named the heirs in Germany.

According to information in the file, Magdalena died testate about September 1895 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Her first husband, John Altmann, died in 1867, leaving a will that included his wife as well as his siblings. Magdalena's second husband, George Mayer, died in 1890. He also left a will. Copies of all three wills are in the file.

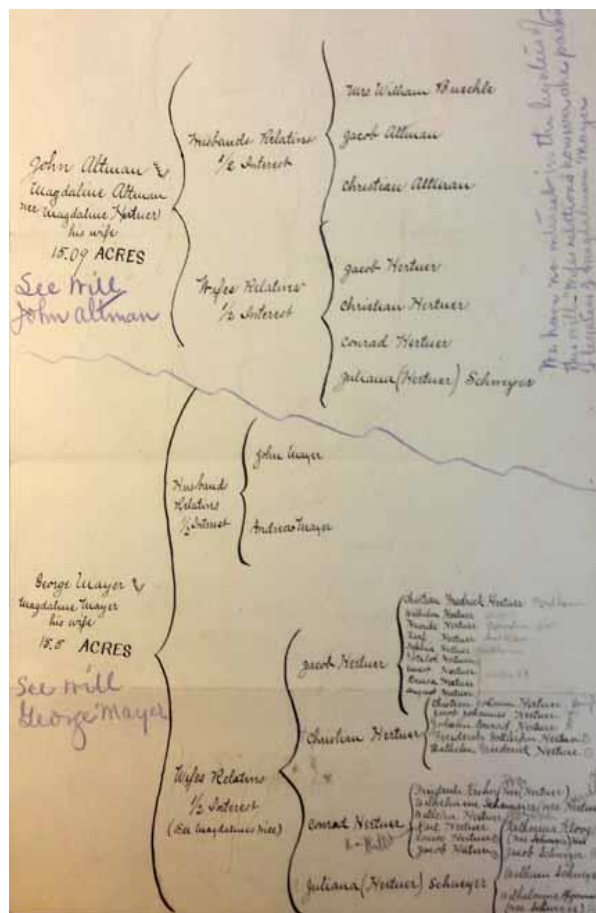


Figure 2- Altmann and Mayer family chart

Magdalena left a legacy of \$4,000 plus land. A document in the file describes the land in Buchanan County, Missouri. Her will stipulated that her legacy should be divided among the 24 children of her siblings. Her four siblings, named Hertner (Härtner), lived in Nordheim, Bönigheim, and Besigheim, all in Württemberg. One handwritten chart lists the siblings of Magdalena and both of her husbands. Another includes the names and residences of each of the 24 nieces and nephews.

To learn more about Magdalena, I first used Ancestry.com. On the Search page I entered the name Magdalena Mayer, specifying any event in Buchanan County, Missouri. I modified the name search to include "Sounds Like" and "Similar". The results showed a Find A Grave page for Magdalena Mayer. This page shows that she was born 31 March 1828 in Germany and died 28 September 1895. A search of the same cemetery found an entry for George Mayer, with a photograph of his

tombstone giving his birth and death dates. Ancestry also revealed an 1870 census entry for Magdelene Meyer, born in Württemberg about 1828, living with George Meyer. In the 1880 census there was a Magdaline and George Myers. These results certainly seemed to be the people I was looking for.

I then used Ancestry.com to search for John Altmann in Buchanan County. This search produced a Find A Grave entry with a photograph of his tombstone, giving his birth and death dates. It would appear that he shared the same tombstone with George and Magdalena Mayer. There was an 1860 census entry for John and M. Altman living in Buchanan County. I also found an index to probate records for John and his Civil War draft registration.

Next I used FamilySearch.org to look for George Mayer in Buchanan County. I found a marriage record for George Meier and Magdalena Altmann on 4 April 1867. I then searched for Magdalena Hertner, her maiden name, born in Germany about 1828. That search revealed her christening record in Bönningheim in 1828. Her parents were Friedrich Härtner and Christina Sibilla Hamm, the same names found on the charts in the case file.

Finally, I logged into Archion.de and found that the site has church records for Bönningheim online. There I found a baptism record for Gottlieb Johannes Altmann in 1826. I could not find a baptism record for Magdalena because the volume for 1828 was not digitized. I found a confirmation record for both of them, but no evidence of a marriage. As a bonus, this church book included a family register for both the Altmann and Härtner families. The parents and siblings for John and Magdalena were all named, with birth and confirmation dates. The register even stated that John Altmann left for America on 17 October 1854. I could find no passenger list that included John or Magdalena.

This is a good example of how one can use facts in an estate case file to expand their knowledge of the people mentioned in the

file. Easily discovered sources enabled me to build a much more robust story of the life of Magdalena Härtner Altmann Mayer. I discovered an Ancestry family tree that included Magdalena as a wife of John Altmann, but the author was not aware of her birth surname. This case file and subsequent research could fill in the rest of Magdalena's life story for that researcher.

Frederick Carl Schudt (Box 362)

This file contains well over 100 pages of extensive correspondence and other documents. There are letters to and from lawyers in New York City and clients in Germany. One from a parish pastor

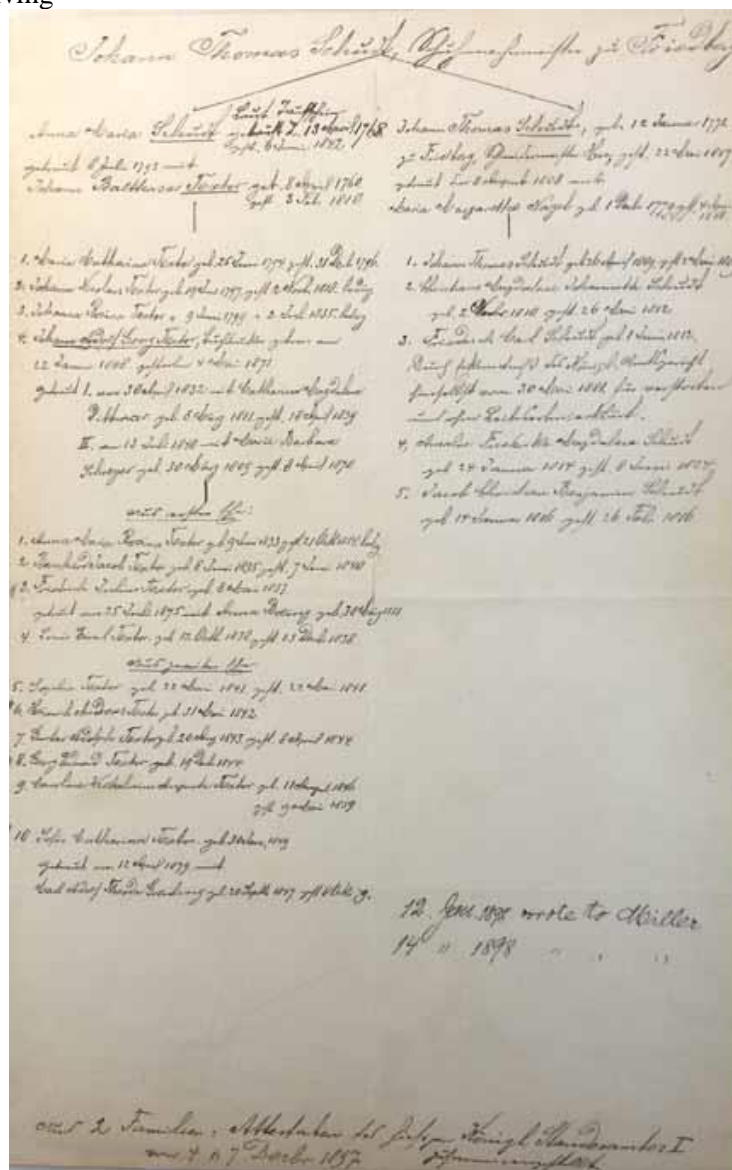


Figure 3 – Descendants of Johann Thomas Schudt

documents family entries in German church books. There are also documents from the Kings County Surrogate's Court, including a notice of settlement and supplemental account. Powers of attorney from the heirs to the New York lawyer are included. Another paper is a notice of settlement from the Royal Court at Frankfurt.

Schudt was born in June 1804 in Homburg vor der Höhe, Germany and died in March 1897 in Brooklyn, New York. He never married and his only relatives were cousins living in Homburg. Simon Friedrich Nagel and Anna Magdalena Barbara Dielman each received \$3,014 from the estate in October, 1900. Signed receipts are included in the file. Claims by numerous other cousins in Germany were denied.

The most important items for genealogists are several very detailed documents describing the Schudt family in Germany. One is a handwritten three generation family chart starting with Frederick's grandfather, Johann Thomas Schudt of Friedberg. Because the estate was contested by some of the cousins, there are two long depositions in the form of answers to questions about family relationships. Although they are in German, names and dates are legible. These documents contain a wealth of information about this family.

Philip Gruner (Box 365 and 366, 3 separate files)

Gruner died at Wahlershausen, Kassel, Germany on 5 June 1899. He was a resident of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where his estate was probated. He was a widower with no children. His estate, valued at over \$50,000, was divided among his eight siblings and two of his wife's siblings in Germany. Note that his estate papers are available on Ancestry.com.

The file contains a copy of Gruner's will and various powers of attorney from the heirs in Germany. There are also various lists containing the names and residences of the heirs, along with the amounts distributed to them. One of these is a copy of the original translated into German for the benefit of the heirs. It would appear that there were multiple distributions from the estate.

In the file are various letters from the United States lawyer and one from the German consulate in Philadelphia. A power of attorney from the Grand Ducal Hessian Court, signed by Consul General Guenther, is also in the file.

There was extensive correspondence regarding a minor heir in Germany, and the fact that the Philadelphia court was reluctant to appoint a foreign guardian. The court eventually relented, and Mr. Guenther sent a letter to the child's guardian (in German) regarding the settlement.

Henry William Schluckebier (Box 368)

Schluckebier died intestate and unmarried on 1 May 1902 in New York City. He owned a restaurant and saloon at 631 3rd Avenue in the city. Before his death he had inherited the estate of his father in Germany, including real estate. The proceeds of Henry's estate were to be shared among his siblings and their children in Germany, who lived in several villages in the principality of Waldeck, now in Hesse.

This case file contains a lot of information, filling an envelope over one inch thick. A handwritten family group sheet named the parents and siblings of the deceased.

A letter from Consul General Guenther to the New York estate lawyers explained that Schluckebier's father had married twice, and described the issue of each marriage. Another letter from Guenther, which was accompanied by powers of attorney that he obtained from the various heirs, detailed each of the father's children and grandchildren. A letter from the New York City lawyer explained the final settlement and the portions of nearly \$18,000 distributed to each of the heirs.

Charles L. Becker (Box 364)

This file contains a naturalization certificate issued to Becker in 1871 by the Allegheny County Court in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In addition there is a passport issued in 1883 for Mr. Becker (an actor) by the United States embassy to the German Empire in Berlin. Both documents are originals with embossed seals.

Carl A. Schneider (Box 365)

The file contains one item – an original certificate of registration of an American citizen. It was issued in May 1908 by William Dawson, the Vice Consul General at Frankfurt. The certificate contains the embossed red seal of the United States Consulate General at Frankfurt. It shows that Schneider was born on 4 August 1883 in Marion, Iowa. He was taking up temporary residence in Frankfurt to conduct business. The person to notify in case of death was Mrs. Mary Mentzer of Tacoma, Washington.

Accessing the records

The first step in researching the Frankfurt estate cases would be to search the MAGS database for a specific surname. To do that, navigate to the MAGS website (magsgen.com) and click on the MAGS Databases button in the left panel. Enter a surname (or partial name), select Consular Estates as the record type, and Anybody for the party. Then click on the magnifying glass to search.

The resulting names and their role will be displayed on the screen. To see the details of the record, you need to be a MAGS member and logged in. Clicking on the action icon will display the details of the record. The details will contain the National Archives ID (NAID number) and the box number where the case file will be found. (See below.)

You can also select Database descriptions under the MAGS Databases button to find more information about the consular estates. This page contains a link to a file with a brief synopsis of each of the estate case files, including a notation about documents of genealogical information included in each file. The Frankfurt estate cases are not digitized, so you must travel to the National Archives facility at College Park, Maryland, to view them. They can be retrieved from the Textual Reference research room on the second floor of the facility. You will need all of the following source information to access the records.

Give the information to the reference specialists, and they will show you how to look up the shelf reference and fill out the required form. You submit the form for a specific pull time and the records will be retrieved from storage, usually

in less than an hour. See the following website for information about visiting the facility in College Park, Maryland. Note the restrictions on what can be brought into the research room.

<https://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/>

Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State: United States Consular Records for Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1854 - 1917;

Closed Estate Cases, 1889 - 1893; Box 361; NAID 1326006

Closed Estate Cases, 1894 - 1895; Box 362; NAID 1326007

Closed Estate Cases, 1896 - 1897; Box 363; NAID 1326008

Closed Estate Cases, 1898 - 1899; Box 364; NAID 1326009

Closed Estate Cases, 1901 - 1902; Box 365; NAID 1326010

Closed Estate Cases, 1903 - 1903; Box 366; NAID 1326011

Closed Estate Cases, 1904 - 1904; Box 367; NAID 1326012

Closed Estate Cases, 1904 - 1905; Box 368; NAID 1326013

Hopefully this article gave you a better idea of the kind of genealogical information that can be found in consulate estate case files. You now know how to search the database on the MAGS website to find names of interest in these files. Once you find a name, you can use the techniques demonstrated here to search for more information about the people named in the file. If you are fortunate, you may find previously unknown facts about your ancestor. At minimum the information in the estate case file will add context to that person's life.



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www.ggemn.org
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Genealogy Partnership
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DER KALENDER / *The Calendar*

2017

June 17. MAGS Workshop, Laurel, MD. "Understanding German Church Records" presented by Bob Greiner. More info www.magsgen.com

July 28-30. International German Genealogy Partnership, Minneapolis, MN. International conference, "CONNECT - International. Cultural. Personal." MAGS is a Partner organization! President Kenneth Heger, Recording Secretary Debra A. Hoffman and *Der Kurier* editor James M. Beidler will be speaking! Info: www.iggpartner.org

Aug. 30-Sept. 2. Federation of Genealogical Societies National Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. "Building Bridges to the West." FGS and local host the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical

Society invite genealogists and family historians from throughout the More info: www.fgsconference.org/

Sept. 8-9. Pennsylvania German Cultural Heritage Center Genealogy Conference. Kutztown, PA, entitled "Landscapes of Faith in the Cocalico Valley" with speakers Michael Emery of Landis Valley, Jerry Clouse of the Perry Historians, and Patrick Donmoyer. Tour on Sept. 8 and conference on Sept. 9. Info: <https://www.kutztown.edu/about-ku/administrative-offices/pennsylvania-german-cultural-heritage-center.htm>

Oct. 13-14. MAGS Fall Conference, York, PA. More details to come. Info: www.magsgen.com

MAGS Welcomes New Members

A maximum of four surnames being researched by each new member appears in bold parentheses and italics following the new member's name. Space does not permit more than four surnames or most spelling variations.

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(*Buhler/Bühler, Beehler, Schwenk*)

DONALD BITTNER of WESTMINSTER, MD
(*Bittner, Staub, Walliser*)

ROBIN PARKER & JOHN CLARK of RESTON, VA

(*Bechtold, Rompel, Lehnhausen, Evers*)

OLIVER CLEMONS JR of TIMONIUM, MD
(*Baumgartner, Clemens,*

Hartline/Hartlein)

HOWARD L. DIXON JR. of THURMONT, MD
(*Schäfer, Eisenmann, Eckert, Harmuth*)

CAROL A. MacNAMARA of SILVER SPRING, MD

(*Hale, Hilagas/Hillegas, Koppenhoefer, Theilig*)

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VIRGINIA TAYLOR of CHULA VISTA, CA
(*Erdman/Artman, Bland, Dunlap, Kouns*)

DORIE, WILSNACK of BARRE, VT
(*Wilsnack, Nelson, Rupprecht, Gundlach*)

PAUL WINNER of COLUMBIA, MD
(*Winner, Zacharias*)

ELAINE OBBINK & KENNETH ZIMMERMAN of WOODSTOCK, MD

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1. Klaus F. Alt, 692 Carodon Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3138

Phone: (434) 409-1582

Email: klaus@klaustrans.com

American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English, English into German

2. American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314-2875

Phone: (703) 683-6100

Website: www.atanet.org.

They have an online directory for individual translators and area of specialization choices.

3. Gen Collins

Phone: (301) 770-0683

Email: glcjpc@verizon.net

Specialization: Translates German and German script into English and English to German.

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