

Der Kurier

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 4 / DECEMBER 2018

On to Bavaria!: MAGS President Kenneth W. Heger continues to sift through the records held at the National Archives and Records Administration about the former consulates in the various states of Germany; this issue begins a seven-part series on the offices in the Kingdom of Bavaria, the largest and richest south German state – beginning with city of Augsburg, profiling what records exist and how materials on the MAGS website can help you access them. **Page 127.**



Why test the Y?: “DNA Discovery” columnist Andrew Hochreiter gives the science behind one of the first DNA tests to be used in genealogy: The Y

# of Markers	Genetic (Allelic) Distance										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	Related	Possibly Related	Probably Not Related	Probably Not Related	Not Related						
25	Related	Related	Probably Related	Probably Not Related	Not Related						
37	Very Tightly Related	Tightly Related	Related	Probably Related	Possibly Related	Not Related					
67	Very Tightly Related	Tightly Related	Related	Related	Probably Related	Possibly Related	Not Related				

chromosome is found only in males and its testing has been somewhat eclipsed by the more popular autosomal tests, but Hochreiter shows with text and charts that it still has a

variety of uses for family history researchers. **Page 142.**

DEPARTMENTS

From the Editor	123	Stick to the Script	146
From the President	124	Immigrant Connections	149
'19 German Partnership Conference	126	Translators: List and Contacts	156
Our Language Leaves	138	Der Kalender / The Calendar	157
From the Records	141	New Members: Names / Surnames	157
DNA Discoveries	142	MAGS Store	159

**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

Stumped Roots - Individualized research help

Lending Library – At Shenandoah County Library

Officers and Executive Board

President: Dr. Kenneth Heger

1st Vice President (Membership): Gunter Schanzenbacher

2nd Vice President (Programs, Webmaster): Carol Carman

Corresponding Secretary: Jackie Curro

Recording Secretary: Debra A. Hoffman

Treasurer: Robert Greiner

At-Large Board Member: John Frank

At-Large Board Member (Publicity): Roy Shiflet

Der Kurier Editor: James M. Beidler

Registrar: Cheyenne Cashin

Research Inquiries: Susannah E. Brooks

Sales Manager: Vacant

president@magsgen.com
membership@magsgen.com
programs@magsgen.com
corresponding@magsgen.com
recording@magsgen.com
treasurer@magsgen.com
atlarge@magsgen.com
publicity@magsgen.com
newsletter@magsgen.com
registration@magsgen.com
stumpedroots@magsgen.com
magsstore@magsgen.com

Der Kurier is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. It is indexed in the Periodical Source Index by the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana. A full name index for the previous year is included in each March edition.

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

VOM HERAUSGEBER**FROM THE EDITOR**

Pausing to Recall a Supporter, Lauding Content Providers

It's wonderful to be "in the know" with an organization such as the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society – and among the ways I'm able to keep up with things is kind of obvious: I get to read *Der Kurier* before the rest of you!

As hopefully nearly all of you either know or surmise, the content for *Der Kurier* does not come about by osmosis, especially this year as the Society ramped up the size of the publication dramatically. But in the decade-and-a-half that I've been the publication's editor, I always have been gratified by the number of people – both on the MAGS Board as well as rank-and-file members – who have stepped up to write one-shot articles or even become columnists for our journal.



James M. Beidler

This type of fond memory brings me to a bittersweet reminiscence. In June, Marilynne Ocando, who was Corresponding Secretary of MAGS for many years, passed away in Annapolis, MD, at the age of 84. Her obituary in Maryland newspapers noted the following:

“Service held June 23 in hometown Melvin, Iowa, with burial Baker Township Cemetery. She was a loving caring mother, survived by two daughters and grandchildren. As a young girl she grew up in Iowa/Minnesota on a farm with strong values and faith. Later, her passion was researching and sharing family German genealogy. Her kind soul will be missed. God bless her.”

Marilynne was no longer on the Board when I came on as editor but it was obvious that she always held MAGS in her heart from the many times she would reach out with an idea – sometimes even writing the article herself, as she did with “Translating or deciphering: A big difference” (*Der Kurier*, Vol. 23, No. 3, September 2005).

Other times, she would simply plant the seed with me. She was one of the people I specifically reached out to when we decided to expand *Der Kurier*, to get some of her good thoughts.

In addition to giving honor to the memory of this friend of the Society, it seems fitting to put in a word that many of you among the readership may have your own ideas to share. As was the case with Marilynne – who sometimes just gave me the “bullet points” – you don't need to feel the pressure of writing a finished product.

My credo is that what interests one member is likely to interest many others, and as a matter of fact, an article from member Nancy Mozeleski in this issue proves the point. In her case, tracking down her immigrant Schreibeis ancestor and the immigrants of his extended family required American records – as well as writing to the post office of her ancestral hometown!

In addition to Nancy's article, we have our now-regular columnists, ranging from President Kenneth W. Heger's update on the Society to using Y-DNA (Andrew Hochreiter) to tracking German immigrants forward (Bob Greiner), and that's to mention (just briefly) Ken Weaver on dictionaries and Katherine Schober writing on misspellings. That's a wrap for another issue!

VOM PRÄSIDENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Another Year of Growth

Our society has continued its march to becoming a significant player in the genealogy world during the year we are completing. As I happily reported in every President's Column this year, we added substantial new content to the Society's website. This last quarter was no exception. In this issue of *Der Kurier*, for example, you will note the first in a series of articles on the Kingdom of Bavaria. Throughout 2019 each DK issue will include an article about resources to research that south German state. At the end of 2019 we plan to upload visuals to the website to supplement the guides to records.

We continued to represent MAGS to outside organizations. MAGS members spoke at conferences, taught at institutes, and served on boards and committees of other organizations. In each case, we've spread the word about MAGS.

Don't forget about next year's International German Genealogy Partnership conference in Sacramento; it promises to be a great event. I'm delighted to report that the IGGP Speakers Committee selected four MAGS members to present at the conference: Fritz Juengling, James M. Beidler, Debra Hoffman, and I will all speak. We all plan to trumpet the benefits of MAGS membership.

Membership chair Gunter Schanzenbacher reports our outreach efforts are yielding fruit. Membership is up. In addition to adding new members from our core states, people living on the other side of the country and in Europe are joining the Society.

We had a successful fall conference in Lancaster this year. The attendees gave the speakers good reviews; we all thought the conference facilities Carol Carman found for us were great. Thanks, Carol!

Here's a brief reminder about our spring conference. We'll meet in Laurel, MD, at our traditional venue. The nationally known researcher Teresa Steinkamp McMillin will be our speaker. She is a dynamite presenter, one whom you shouldn't miss. See MAGS website for details and guidance on how to register for the event. Remember, the workshop fills up fast; a McMillin-led conference is likely to as well.

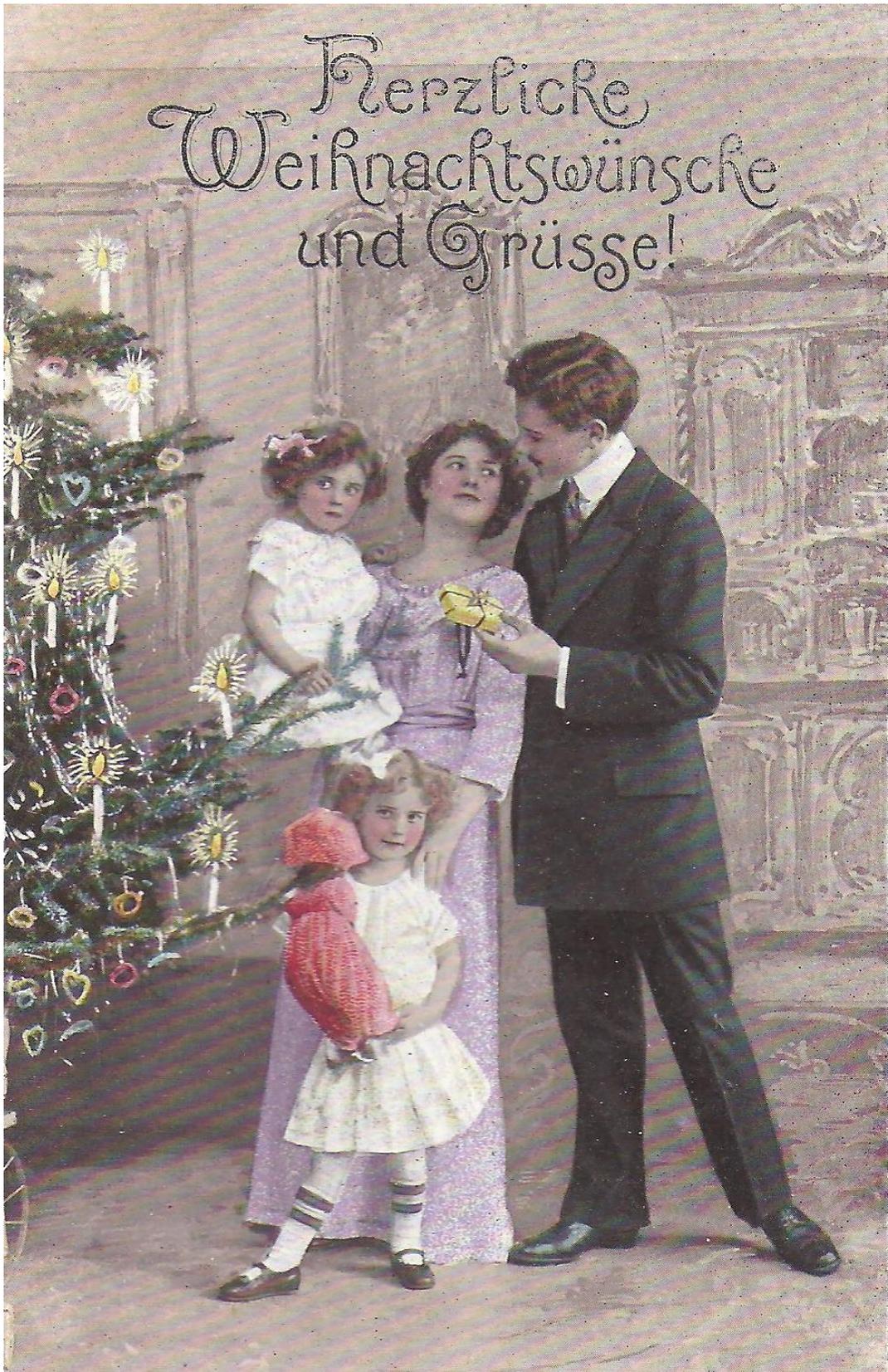
I urge you to access the Society's website. In addition to the databases and guides, there are high-quality scans of vintage postcards, maps, and bibliographies to help you find secondary sources. There is always information about meetings of other societies, as well as details about upcoming MAGS events. The web committee adds content to the website often; therefore, it is well worth your while to type www.magsgen.com into your browser and take a look to see what's new.

Finally, I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Kenneth W. Heger

Fröhliche Weihnachten Alle !!



Registration Open!

2019 INTERNATIONAL
German Genealogy Conference
INTERNATIONAL GERMAN GENEALOGY PARTNERSHIP

**STRIKE IT RICH! with
Connections 2 Discoveries**

15-17 June 2019
Saturday ■ Sunday ■ Monday
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Sacramento, California

Local Host:
Sacramento German Genealogy Society
<https://sggs-us/>
www.iggpartner.org
Hashtag: #IGGC19
Facebook: IGGPartnership

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN
Genealogy Partnership

Discount deadline 15 Jan 2019!

Researching Bavaria, Part I: Intro, Augsburg

BY KENNETH W. HEGER, PH.D.

With descriptions of sources for Baden, the Hesses, Nassau, and Württemberg well in hand, the time has come to turn our attention to Bavaria. The Kingdom of Bavaria was the largest, most populous, and richest state in southern Germany. It was important politically, with its own voice in the Diet of the German Confederation (1815-1866) and later in the upper house (*Reichsrat*) of the German Empire's *Reichstag* (1871-1918). Munich (in German, München) was one of Germany's largest cities, with a rich cultural life and vibrant economy. Bavaria was also the source of many emigrants who made the United States their home, a prime vacation spot for Americans traveling abroad, and boasted some of the finest art and music schools in Europe, schools that attracted many American students.

Due to Bavaria's size and importance, it should come as no surprise that the United States established many foreign service posts in the kingdom in the nineteenth century. Two of those posts were in the large Bavarian cities of Munich and Nuremberg (Nürnberg); those consulates produced a large volume of records and operated for a long time. The Department of State also operated three smaller, short-lived consulates in the cities of Augsburg, Bamberg, and Fürth. These posts produced and collected correspondence and reports, registered Americans in their consular district, assisted Americans facing problems with local authorities, facilitated settling estates, and performed other services for American citizens. These factors make records documenting Americans in Bavaria an important source for research.

This article is the first of a seven-part series discussing the resources the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society will post on the MAGS website to help you with your research. The first five articles will focus on records of individual American consulates. The sixth article will present strategies for finding documents relating to the Bavarian Palatinate. The final article will discuss visuals, fact sheets, and updates to MAGS databases the work on Bavaria produced. This first article focuses on the small consulate in Augsburg.

Augsburg

The Department of State established a consulate in Augsburg, Bavaria, in 1846. Augsburg had been an important city before the French Revolution, with the status of an Imperial Free City. Given that history, the department overlooked the fact that Augsburg was very close to Munich, Bavaria's capital. By the 1870s the State Department began to reconsider that decision and by the middle of the decade downgraded the post to an agency; after that time Augsburg operated primarily to take some of the workload from the larger consulate located in Munich. The department closed the post permanently in 1906, shifting all the post's duties to Munich.



Bürgermeister Fischer-Straße in Augsburg (Author's collection, scanned by Claralyn Burt, Katie Daughtry, and Amanda Scott)

LIST OF AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL IN AUGSBURG, 1855-1872

(For additional information see National Archives Microfilm Publication M587, *Lists of U.S. Consular Officers, 1789-1939*)

NAME	POSITION	DATE
Charles Obermayer	Consul	26 June 1846
C.O. Gerberding	Consul	11 March 1863
Frank Swan	Consul	16 January 1865 ¹
W. Colvin Brown	Consul	17 July 1865
Gustave Jarecki	Consul	4 October 1869 ²
Max Obermeyer	Vice Consul	26 April 1866
Max Obermeyer	Consular Agent	4 August 1877
G. Obendorf	Consular Agent	17 May 1886

This State Department list does not contain the names of any personnel after Obendorf.

¹ Swan declined the appointment

² Jarecki resigned 9 November 1872

THE RECORDS, 1847 – 1906

Compared to the records recent MAGS Guides have described, the records of the consulate in Augsburg seem insignificant. The recent *Der Kurier* article discussing the records of the consulate in Stuttgart, for example, reported the post produced 178 volumes of correspondence, fifteen volumes of financial records, nine volumes of documentation relating to American citizens, and three volumes of miscellaneous records.³

The post in Augsburg produced far fewer records. It always remained small and most of its work focused on local economic opportunities for American businesses. These factors affected the kinds of records its staff created. There is limited correspondence between the Department of State and Augsburg. In addition, there are very few extant records the post had kept onsite in Bavaria. There are only six extant volumes of records the State Department kept onsite in Augsburg, and two slim volumes of despatches Augsburg sent to the department bound and kept in Washington, D.C. Moreover, the records are complicated to use, and their documentation of the consulate's work is spotty. The writing in some volumes is faded to the point where the text is almost illegible. You should rely on the Guide on the MAGS website for greater detail on the remaining records and how to access them. The rest of this article offers highlights of the records.

**RECORDS SENT TO WASHINGTON, D.C.
THE DESPATCHES, 1846-1873⁴**

Often a consulate's despatches to the Department of State are the go-to records to start your research. Augsburg's despatches are less valuable than most and more complicated to use. The despatches for the years 1847-1873 still exist, but unlike most consulates, Augsburg's despatches are on two different microfilm publications. They are:

T361, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Augsburg, Germany, 1846-1857.* 1 roll.

This publication only contains despatches from Augsburg. The consulate's narrative despatches contain very few personal names mentioned among the documents; most of the despatches pertain to local politics and the local economy. There are a few quarterly statements of fees, noting some personal services, e.g., marriage contracts. While those statements mention a person's name, the supporting documents are not among the records.

T261, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Munich, Germany, 1833-1906.* 13 rolls. (Roll 7 Despatches from Augsburg 20 January 1858 – 5 January 1873 & from Munich 1 January 1881 – 30 June 1884.) The despatches from Augsburg are filmed on the first part of the microfilm. The despatches from Augsburg in this publication deal primarily with the post's administration. There are some short reports on the local economy. There are few documents pertaining to individual American citizens.

Please keep in mind, if records are available on microfilm, you will need to use the microfilm rather than the hard copies. The staff will not pull originals of microfilmed records.

³ Kenneth W. Heger. "Research Württemberg on the MAGS Website." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* September 2018 (Vol. 36, No. 3): 86-96.

⁴ These despatches form part of National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

CONTEXT & BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Several despatches provide detailed statistics about Bavaria's population, economy, and society. These statistical documents give you the data you need to place your ancestor's lives in context. The following despatches serve as examples.

Despatch 21 December 1846 (Unnumbered) from Augsburg

This 12-page despatch includes an overview of the Bavarian economy and society, with an informative two-page attachment. This attachment, pages 11 and 12 on the original document, is an essential document for researchers trying to understand the emigration process in the mid-nineteenth century. Although it pertained primarily to emigration from Le Havre, France, it provides valuable insight into the emigration process from Bavaria, touching on the emigrants, the people who arranged the trans-Atlantic trip, and the role of government officials. The following section is a transcription of that text. (The text is in italics to differentiate it from the body of the article. It does not carry any other special significance.)

Appendix

The Bavarian official "Kreis und Intelligenz Blätter" contain a caution from the Bavarian Consulate at Havre, addressed to German and particularly Bavarian emigrants, relative to the conclusion of agreements respecting passages to America. To the caution the following remarks are added by the Royal Provincial Government.

1) No passage-contract can be reorganized, which is not provided with the visa of the respective Bavarian Consuls at the place of embarkation, and therefore, no emigration passports can be granted on account of passage-contracts, which have not the said visas.

2) The aforesaid legal certificate cannot be given to any passage-contracts, except to those concluded with or by the appointed agents of the interior.

3) Care should be taken that in every passage-contract, the agreed ships and time of departure, and also the matter of victualling the emigrants in port, be completely settled and determined by the respective charterers of ships, in the event of departure not taking place at the exact time fixed by agreement.

4) In order that emigrants be not destitute of pecuniary resources on their arrival at the place of debarcation, they should be compelled to address not only the means of defraying their traveling expenses to the place of embarkation and the expenses of the passage, but also a sum corresponding with their circumstances, at least fifty florins, to meet the expenses of their first residence at the landing place.

5) Relative to the passage from Havre (France) in particular, the Post-ships of the American Packet-Ship-Society of that place, which sail on the 1st, 8th, 16th, and 24th of every month uninterruptedly from that port to New York, offer an established and regular means of conveyance whereas, such is not the case with the American merchant ships of this port, on

account of their uncertain departure and arrival. At the same time, it is to be observed, that the passage-contracts of the Agent, Washington Finlay, and of his fellow agents, are only valid for Post Ships, and not for Merchant or so-called Reserve ships, and therefore, are only to be recognized for the said Post Ships.

6) The intrusion of unqualified underagents is by all means to be withstood, as well as the extension of agencies in the interior, which is not to be permitted, - since appointment of an agent can only be applied for by ship-owners, or charterers of a sea port.

All the Police Authorities ought to observe these orders strictly to make special mention of them to the agents of Wash. Finlay and to intimate to the same that they are on no account to conclude passage-contracts to North America by the so-called Reserve ships and, that they are to procure the addition of the Visa of His Bav'n Maj's [His Bavarian Majesty's] Consulate at Havre to all their contracts; as in the contrary case, those contracts will not only be annulled but the contravening agents will be punished by the Police.

Despatch 24 February 1854

This despatch forwarded a 36-page report. The first 16 pages provided a detailed overview of Bavaria, listing statistics on the population, the economy, and an overview of larger cities and towns. Pages 17-36 were a report dated 1 July 1850 about emigrants from Bavaria.

INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUALS

Although the primary purpose of despatches was to provide the American government with information to support American businesses and foreign policy, there were occasions when despatches also documented American citizens in a consular district. The despatches from Augsburg are no exception; although, the consulate's small size and apparently limited activity resulted in very few despatches pertaining to people. For more information on people in the Augsburg consular district you should add the consulate's post files (described below) and the records of the larger consulate in Munich to your list of sources to consult.

Despatch 9 August 1849 – Christian Henry Brown⁵

This despatch mentioned Brown's death and pertains to his estate. The document stated that Brown was a 70-year-old shoemaker from Kentucky. He had died in 1826.

Despatch 5 September 1849 – Christian Henry Brown

This despatch continued the discussion about Brown's estate and his heirs in Germany.

Despatch 8 January 1854 – Martin Koszla (or Koszta)

The despatch refers to the Koszla Case, but it is not clear from a cursory reading of the document to what the matter pertained.

⁵ Best guess on surname.



St. Ulrichs-Kirche in Augsburg (Author's collection)

Despatch 8 June 1866 No. 9 – John Baptist Heiss

This despatch reports on the consulate's activities to help Heiss, a resident of Klammer, Bavaria, who had lost "everything in a fire" including U.S. obligations, i.e., Treasury bonds.

**THE EXTANT RECORDS KEPT ONSITE
IN AUGSBURG, 1867 - 1906⁶**

The records the post kept onsite in Germany consist of a mere six volumes: four volumes of copies of letters sent (1886-1896 and 1898-1906); and two volumes of financial records (1867-1906). The following text provides you with general information about the records. For more details, including data you need to request to examine individual volumes, you should consult the Guide on the MAGS website.

**A Great Find Among the Correspondence:
Francis H. Herrman and the Dupont Family**

Nineteenth-century letters sent can be difficult to use. The physical condition of the records and the often-quirky way consular staffs indexed records require dedication to your research, but you should not exclude these documents from your research plan. The following narrative illustrates that this dedication can pay dividends and points out a potential obstacle you may need to overcome.

The story's source is two letters the consulate in Augsburg sent relating to a Civil War veteran and his family. In November 1886, the consulate in Augsburg sent two letters relating to Civil War veteran Karl Dupont and his family.⁷ The two letters contain tremendous family information, as well as establishing connections among other people, in particular demonstrating the comradery many Civil War veterans felt with their fellow soldiers long after the conflict. (The letters are included in the first series of records described in the next section, as "Copies of Letters Sent.")

On 23 November 1886, the consul in Augsburg wrote to his colleague in Munich forwarding a letter from Francis H. Herrman of Philadelphia. Herrman, a Civil War veteran, had written to the mayor of Kaiserslautern in the Bavarian Palatinate, looking for a Mrs. Dupont. Dupont was a widow and mother of a deceased veteran, Karl Dupont. Herrman had written that Karl Dupont had served in Company D, 27th Pennsylvania Volunteers; Dupont was captured at Gettysburg and had died in a Confederate prison in Virginia. Herrman wanted to know if Mrs. Dupont were still alive. If she were, Herrman believed she could file a mother's claim for her son's pension and back pay; Herrman estimated Mrs. Dupont might be entitled to 4,000 florins.

The consul added his own information, telling his Munich colleague that Mrs. Dupont had lived with her daughter Elise and Elise's husband, Professor Thoma in Landau, in the Bavarian Palatinate, but had moved to the Augsburg area. The consul also wrote Thoma had informed the consulate that Mrs. Dupont had died three years earlier.

Seven days later, the consulate wrote to the Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, D.C. The letter forwarded Thoma's inquiry as to whether he and his wife Elise were entitled to Karl Dupont's back pay as the only surviving member of the immediate family. The result of that inquiry is not reflected in a cursory examination of the records, but the letter contains a mother lode of family information, and highlights the comradery among Civil War veterans that continued to exist long after the war.

⁶ These records form part of National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. (Hereafter cited as NARG 84)

⁷ 23 November 1886 to J.W. Harper, U.S. Consul in Munich, pp. 39-40; 30 November 1886 to the U.S. Commissioner of Pensions in Washington, D.C., pp. 811-812; Letters Sent, 1886-1888; Vol. 3; NAID 1323347; Records of the American Consulate in Augsburg, Germany; NARG 84.

23d Nov 1862

J W Harper U. S. Consul Munich
Dear Sir

I enclose, you herewith
 Copy of letter sent by one Francis
 H Herrman of Philadelphia, to the mayor
 of Kaiserslautern Bavaria, enquiring about
 a widows Sufout, whose daughter Else
 was married to a Professor Thoma, then of
 Landau but now living in Augsburg
 The mayor of Kaiserslautern sent the
 original ^{letter} to the burgomaster (mayor) here
 The latter informed Prof. Thoma, & who made
 the enclosed copy.

Writer of letter also inquires if the mother of
 Karl Sufout is still living & her whereabouts
 also if she has not drawn any pension
 that is due to her as mother of the said
 Karl Sufout who served as soldier in the
 Rebellion in Company F 27th Regiment
 Pennsylvania Volunteers, was captured at
 Gettysburg & taken as prisoner to Richmond
 Virginia, where he died

Writer of letter further states that there is about
 4000 florins due the widow, furthermore that
 he is prompted to take such interest in
 family because, his wife is somewhat related
 to them & also because, he was Captain

of Company I, wherein the soldier served

Now Prof. Thome, called on me
& stated that Mrs Dupont, the mother
of the late soldier, lived ⁱⁿ with his family
for about 12 years, that she died about
3 years ago at his house, that his wife
her daughter, is the only heir excepting
a brother who has not been heard from
for many many years, that he is of
course quite able to prove this & asks me
how he has to go about to get this pension
due to him or his wife, as next heir
to Mrs Dupont.

Please let us know how to proceed in
the matter, also please return me the
copy enclosed & accept thanks

Yours very truly
G. J. Conroy

Facing and this page: An example of a letter press copy (This style of letter can be difficult to read. Note the spots where the paper did not absorb the ink completely) relating to the Dupont pension case (Citation: Copies of Letters Sent 21 September 1886 - 6 December 1890, Vol. 3, NAID 1323347).

- We learn more details about Francis Herrman. Herrman had been a captain in the 27th Pennsylvania, the unit in which Karl Dupont had served. When he wrote to Augsburg, he lived at 205 E. Sommerset Street, Philadelphia.
- There is more information about Karl's family. Thoma may have included this data to support his request for backpay as the "only surviving members of the family."
 - Mrs. Dupont's given name was Josephine; her maiden name was Gabel. Josephine had married John Dupont, the deceased soldier's father, in Kaiserslautern; the marriage was legally dissolved in 1862. John had died in a Cologne (Köln) hospital in 1865.
 - John and Josephine Dupont had four children: Elise, married to Professor Thoma; Karl, the veteran; Heinrich, also a Civil War veteran who died in 1871 at his mother's house in Bebenhausen near Saarbrücken in the Bavarian Palatinate; and Emil, who had dropped out of sight six years ago.

The difficulty in finding these letters stems from the way the consulate indexed the records. These letters are not indexed under any of the names in the letters. Instead they are indexed by the name of the office to which the consulate sent the letters. In this case one letter is indexed under "Consulate at Munich" and the other under "Commissioner of Pensions." That is typical of consular indexes. It is a significant challenge, but as these two letters illustrate, it may be worth while to delve deeply into the records. You may find a treasure trove of family information.

RECORDS SERIES

Now that you have read an example of the information you might find among the records, you need to know what records exist and how to find them. The following section does that. It arranges the records into series, or types, of records; gives you the date the records cover; the number of volumes in each series; how the records are arranged; and a brief note on the records' content. Remember, you should consult the Guide on the MAGS website for additional data you need to access the original records.

COPIES OF LETTERS SENT, 1886-1896 and 1898-1906. 4 Volumes.

The letters are arranged chronologically by the date the post sent the letter. **Note:** There is considerable overlap in the dates of the volumes.

- These volumes contain press copies of letters the post sent; these letters are on thin ("onion skin") paper, making it difficult and time-consuming to turn pages. They are handwritten, in English and in German.
- The ink has faded; therefore, the letters can be difficult to read.
- The letters cover the entire gamut of the post's activities, including helping businessmen, providing information to people in America about the district and about relatives in the region, and aiding American citizens.
- Each volume has its own NARA catalog number, the NAID
 - 21 September 1886 – 6 December 1890 (Vol. 3 – NAID 1323347)
 - 6 January 1889 – 23 December 1896 (Vol. 2 – NAID 1323346)
 - 25 April 1898 – 10 May 1906 (Vol. 4 – NAID 1323348)
 - 8 September 1903 – 7 May 1904 (Vol. 6 – NAID 1323349)

INVOICE BOOK. 1867-1906⁸. 1 Volume.

The entries in the volume are arranged quarterly.

- The post used this volume to register invoices it issued to ship goods from the district to the United States. Each entry can include the following information: Date of Certificate; Name of Vessel or Party for Whom the Service is Rendered; Where Bound or Whither Sent; Kind and Character of the Goods or Merchandise; Where Produced; Value, including Costs and Charges.
 - March 1867 – June 1906 (Vol. 5 – NAID Not listed in Catalog as of May 2018)

RECORD OF INLAND FEES. January 3, 1867 – June 30, 1906. 1 Volume

The entries are arranged chronologically, first in quarterly sections and within each section generally by the way the post registered the fee.

- This volume recorded fees the consulate collected. Each page is arranged into several categories. Headings are: Transaction Number; Date; Name of Firm or Party for Whom Service is Rendered; Signer of the Oath Who Must be One of Firm; Nature of Service Rendered; Fee Charged; and Remarks. Not all records contain information in every field. The fees the post registered in this volume were for commercial services; there are very few personal services (such as certification of documents, oaths, powers of attorney, processing soldiers' and pension claims) registered.
 - January 3, 1867 – June 30, 1906 (Vol. 1 – NAID 1323345)

Accessing the Records

None of the records of these consulates are digitized or available online. You will need to visit the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) facility in College Park, MD, also known as Archives II, to examine the originals or their microfilmed surrogates. The Guide contains a section providing additional, detailed information about how to examine the records.

Microfilmed Records – The Despatches to Washington, D.C.

These records are available on two National Archives microfilm publications. Remember, when records are available on microfilm, you need to examine the film. You can do that in the National Archives Microfilm Research Room in Archives II, without an appointment; the microfilm is available in self-service cabinets in the Microfilm Research Room. The citation information is

- **T361, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Augsburg, Germany, 1846-1857.*** 1 roll. This publication only contains despatches from Augsburg.
- **T261, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Munich, Germany, 1833-1906.*** 13 rolls. Despatches from Augsburg 20 January 1858 – 5 January 1873 & from Munich 1 January 1881 – 30 June 1884 are on roll 7 of this publication. The despatches from Augsburg are filmed on the first part of the microfilm.

⁸ At this time (October 2018) this volume is not listed in NARA's on-line catalog. The staff is aware of the problem and working to remedy the situation.

Example of How to Request a Volume Kept Onsite in Augsburg

Be sure when you request a volume to examine (and when you cite it in your notes and writings) to include all of the information listed below. The descriptions of the records include all of that information. The following is an example of how to request and cite a single volume.

- *Records of the American Consulate in Augsburg; Copies of Letters Sent, 21 September 1886 – 6 December 1890; Vol. 3; NAID 1323347; Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the United States*

Future Articles in this Series

This series of articles will continue in upcoming issues of *Der Kurier* as we process and describe the records.

- Part II: The Consulate in Bamberg
- Part III: The Consulate in Fürth
- Part IV: The Consulate in Munich
- Part V: The Consulate in Nürnberg
- Part VI: The Bavarian Palatinate
- Part VII: Other Sources Available on the MAGS Website About Bavaria (This will include visuals, quick facts sheets, and additions to the searchable databases.)

UNSERE SPRACHBLÄTTER**OUR LANGUAGE LEAVES****Dates and Dictionaries**

One of the nice things about writing a column for each edition of a newsletter is the fact that if something was missed, one gets an opportunity to correct the mistake in the next issue. That all said, in my last column I discussed how German ordinal numbers are formed and unfortunately, didn't catch my omission until about week after the document went to press.

Ordinal numbers are formed by adding an ending, typically in English that would be *-th*, with a few exceptions. In my last column, I stated that the comparable German ending would be *-te* or *-ten*, depending on the type of expression in which the ordinal is used. That is indeed a true statement, as long as the number is less than 20! My omission is for that numbers from 20-99, the endings are *-ste* or *-sten*. In other words, if your ancestor was born on the fourth of October it would read *am vierten Oktober*. If he/she was born on the 24th of the same month, it would be *am*

**Ken Weaver**

vierundzwanzigsten Oktober. (Only digits in the ones or tens positions play a role here. In other words, if a person was born on the 104th day of the year, it would still have the ending *-ten*, and similarly, if he/she was born on the 254th day of the year, the ending would be *-sten*.)

Because dates play such an important part in a genealogy researcher's existence, I need to expand a bit on exactly what happens in German. Dates are **ALWAYS** expressed day, month, year, unlike the typical way American speakers of English might write a date. In the pictured example, notice that the day is followed by a period. This is standard German notation for the ordinal ending, in this case *-te*.



Notice the fancy character preceding the 14. It actually says *den*, the word for *the*. (Although not the focus of my columns, genealogists reviewing German documents will

notice that many when writing words ending with *-en* did so in a variety of creative ways, none of which really resemble the two letters *-en*!)

Anyway, the date phrase pictured would be read *den vierzehnten November 1825* – the fourteenth of November. As long as the writer used an alphabetic abbreviation for the month, it remains pretty obvious that the order is day-month-year. However, it is very common practice in German, and not just in old documents, to see the date expressed with nothing but numbers:

Not knowing that the day always precedes the month in German date expressions might lead the genealogist to ponder if the correct date is September 4 or April 9. Because the reader now knows that day always precedes month, it is the 9th of April.

d. 9. 4. 1758

One other unique thing about German dates that needs to be mentioned is the use of some special abbreviations:

7bris/7ber 8bris/8ber 9bris/9ber 10bris/10ber

Since many of the names of the months of the year in both German and English come directly from Latin and without expounding at any great length on the development of the modern calendar, suffice it to say, there were only 10 months in earlier versions. The name of the seventh month was derived from Latin for 7 – *septem*; the eighth month from Latin for 8 – *octo*; ninth month – from *novem*; and the tenth month – *decem*. Needless to say, the 7th month in our modern calendar is July, not September. But since the names of months were derived from Latin, genealogists deciphering German documents will often see the half numeral-half word abbreviations as shown above. So, 7bris or 7ber is September, 8bris or 8ber is October, 9bris or 9ber is November and 10bris or 10ber is December.

One of the things that obviously plagues non-German speaking genealogists is word meaning. How exactly can I translate the words I've been able to decode into English? Recently the editor of *Der Kurier* sent me a church record that he needed some assistance with. I've cleaned up the image here a bit, but the first letter of the word gave both of us some pause.

We knew that the word referred to a profession and I was relatively confident that the seven letters of the word were *-eißhirt*. I knew that a *Hirt* was the German word for herd, as in the ending of the word shepherd, but wasn't sure about the first syllable.

This is where knowing how to use an online German-English dictionary is important for the genealogist. Because this document was from the 18th century, I went first to the online compilation of 28 considerably older German dictionaries: <http://www.woerterbuchnetz.de>. Unfortunately, this site is all in German and most of it in outdated language and of not much

help to those who speak no German. However, doing a Boolean search with a wild card on this site netted me a list of words that ended in *-eißheit* and without much ado, came the word *Geißhirt*, a goatherd, certainly a common 18th century German occupation. (*Die Geiß* is actually a nanny-goat.)



But, for the person who doesn't speak German, even *Geißhirt* is a bit problematic, in that in modern German the typical word is *Ziegenhirt*, so not all online sources at your disposal are going to net you a good translation. I am not a big fan of Google Translate, so that is definitely not one of the first places I would direct anybody. Google Translate is getting better every day, but there are numerous other reputable German sites that will provide you accurate translations, maybe even of older words. (Google Translate simply returned the word *Geißhirt* as the translation!)

Many of the online dictionary sites are maintained by German universities and several by German publishers who have printed German-English dictionaries for many years. Only ONE of the online sources actually contained an entry for *Geißhirt* and that was <https://en.langenscheidt.com/>. Another reputable site <https://www.linguee.com/> provided definitions of the individual parts of this compound noun: *Geiß* and *Hirt*, as well an actual sample usage of the compound word itself. The other dictionary sites that I would recommend are

BEOLINGUS: <https://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/>

LEO: <https://dict.leo.org/german-english/>

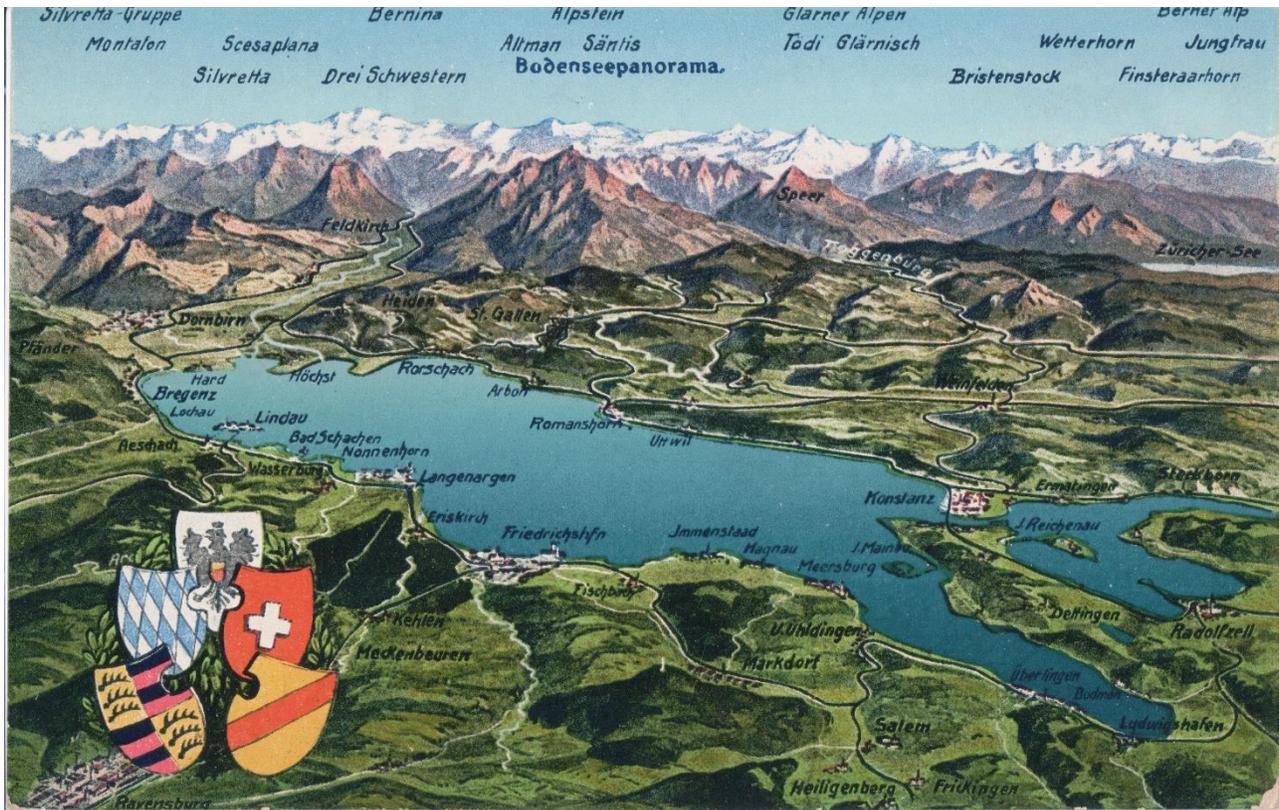
PONS: <https://en.pons.com/translate>

although none of these three provided an English translation of the older German word *Geißhirt*.

As a native Pennsylvania Dutchman, Weaver can trace most every line of ancestors to a German immigrant in the 18th century, so it was only natural that he learn to speak German and did so under the tutelage of a very inspiring immigrant high school German teacher. Majoring in German at Millersville University, he studied at Philipps-Universität as a junior and upon graduation began a career as a German teacher and later became a principal. Upon retirement from the public schools, he taught at the college level until moving to Florida. Feel free to e-mail suggestions for this column to kenneth.n.weaver@gmail.com

VON DEN AKTEN

FROM THE RECORDS



This map illustrates the area where several German-speaking areas converge. The lower left-hand corner displays the coats-of-arms for Baden, Württemberg, Bavaria, Austria, and Switzerland.

Notice how the map seems to have three dimensions, giving you a feel for the terrain. It also places the major towns on the lake and the mountains in the background, providing a sense of the lake's community. You can access a copy of this map on the MAGS website, www.magsgen.com

DNA-ENTDECKUNGEN

DNA DISCOVERIES

Focusing on the Surname

With Y-DNA Testing

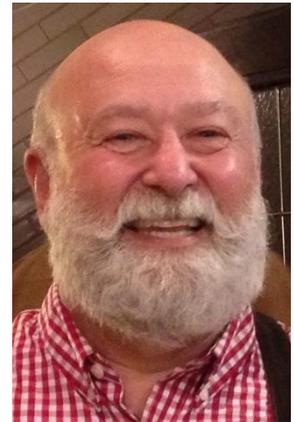
Testing of Y-DNA has a long track record as a powerful tool for genetic genealogy. Since only males inherit a Y-chromosome, the test can only be used to trace the paternal direct line. But its popularity is derived from the fact that Y-DNA follows the same inheritance pattern as surnames in many cultures. The surname and Y-DNA are commonly passed down from father to son. If a woman is interested in discovering more about her maiden surname, then a male of that surname from her family must be found.

Y-DNA is most useful if you want to prove a connection to a certain male ancestor. If you have a common surname, like Miller (Müller) or Smith (Schmidt), and want to know if you are related to someone else with the same surname, a Y-DNA test can prove (or disprove) the relationship. Y-DNA will allow a paternal line to be traced back for many generations. Testing of Y-DNA can reveal the ancient origins of a man's direct paternal line. Y-DNA test results will assign a Y-haplogroup, which is a genetic group of people with a common ancestor who lived in specific regions. There are paternal and maternal haplogroups, so both male and female sides can be traced back to origins in pre-historic times. But these are separate groups and do not refer to each other.

The Y chromosome is the sex-determining chromosome in humans. It has about 59 million base pairs (bps). The large number of bps provides plenty of locations that can be compared for uniformity and variation between testers. Also, the Y chromosome does not have matching chromosome, so it escapes recombination every generation. Y-DNA is passed down through the male line with only random mutational events. This allows for tracking the origins back to ancient roots. Y-DNA tests use two types of markers: **Short Tandem Repeats (STRs)** and **Single Nucleotide Polymorphisms (SNPs)**.

Y-DNA STR Tests

The STR test examines sections of the DNA according to how often a certain genetic pattern recurs. A STR is like a genetic stutter, where a pattern of bps repeats at a certain location. STRs are used for paternal line DNA testing and assigns a predicted Y-DNA haplogroup designation. STR tests can be reported for various quantities of markers, most commonly from 37 to 111 markers. Basically, markers are specific positions on the Y chromosome for which numerical values are assigned based on the tester's DNA pattern. So, a 37 marker Y-DNA test means you get a string of 37 numerical values. Matches are found by comparing this string of numbers to other results in the company's DNA database. Adding markers will not increase the number of matches but will increase the precision of results between matches, providing a greater degree of probability of their



Andrew Hochreiter

relationship. In the following example, the sequence (bases in order TATT) is repeated 13 times. The STR value at STR position DYS 393 = 13.

PANEL 1 (1-12)											
Marker	DYS393	DYS390	DYS19**	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DYS389I	DYS392	DYS389II
Value	13	25	13	10	17-19	11	12	12	13	11	32
PANEL 2 (13-25)											
Marker	DYS458	DYS459	DYS455	DYS454	DYS447	DYS437	DYS448	DYS449	DYS464		
Value	15	9-9	11	11	25	14	20	35	14-16-16-17		
PANEL 3 (26-37)											
Marker	DYS460	Y-GATA-H4	YCAII	DYS456	DYS607	DYS576	DYS570	CDY	DYS442	DYS438	
Value	9	11	19-21	15	12	18	19	29-33	11	10	

ACTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTTATTGT

The Relationship Estimate

A STR test is used to determine how closely two men are related, if at all. To determine relationships, look for matches and calculate the Genetic Distance (GD). The GD is the number of differences between two sets of Y-STR results. Comparison must be made for identical sets of markers (37 markers against 37 markers).

Person	393	390	19	391	385a	385b	426	388	439	389II	392	389I	458	459a	459b	455	454	447	437	448	449	464a	V	438
1	13	25	13	10	17	18	11	12	12	13	11	32	15	9	9	11	11	25	14	20	35	14		10
2	13	25	13	10	17	18	11	12	12	13	11	32	15	9	9	11	11	25	14	20	35	14		10
3	13	25	13	10	17	19	11	12	12	13	11	32	15	8	9	11	11	25	14	20	36	14		10

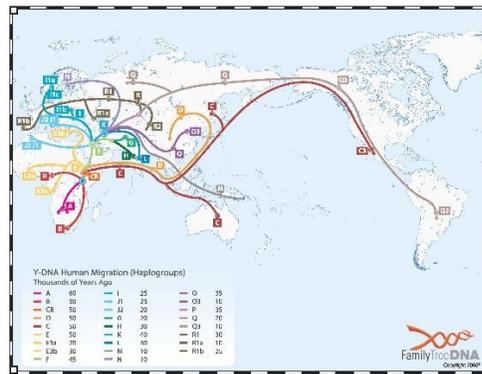
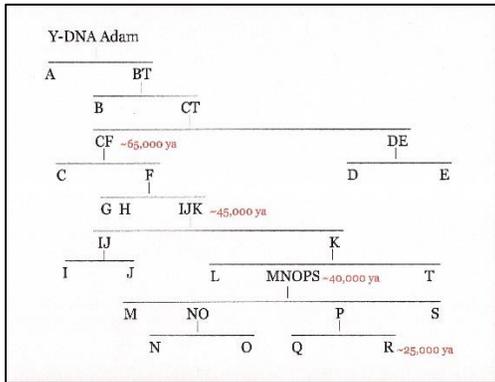
Man #1 and Man #2 match exactly: Genetic Distance = 0 (Very Tightly Related)

Man #1 and Man #3 differ by 1 at 3 locations: GD = 3 (Related)

# of Markers	Genetic (Allelic) Distance										
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12	Related	Possibly Related	Probably Not Related	Not Related							
25	Related	Related	Probably Related	Probably Not Related	Not Related						
37	Very Tightly Related	Tightly Related	Related	Probably Related	Possibly Related	Not Related					
67	Very Tightly Related	Tightly Related	Related	Related	Probably Related	Possibly Related	Probably Related	Possibly Related	Not Related		

Y-DNA SNP Tests

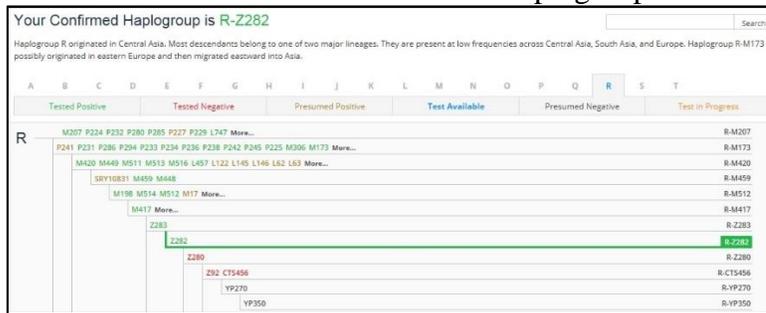
The other marker used in Y-DNA tests is the SNP. These represent mutations that occur in the genome that result in branching of the family tree. SNPs are used for patrilineal deep ancestry delineating various major branches called haplogroups and smaller twigs called subclades. Each is defined by its own SNP, such as a first mutation that split Haplogroup A into A and B. Major branches or haplogroups broke off from each other tens of thousands of years ago and spread around the world.



Recent research has uncovered new SNPs that have evolved in the last 100-500 years, called family SNPs because they may only be shared by men in a certain line or family. This research has provided the Y-DNA Tree with finer granularity of how branches evolved. These discoveries made the old naming convention cumbersome. Now a person's branch is referred to by its major haplogroup letter followed by the terminal (or farthest downstream) SNP. The following is an example of the old and new:

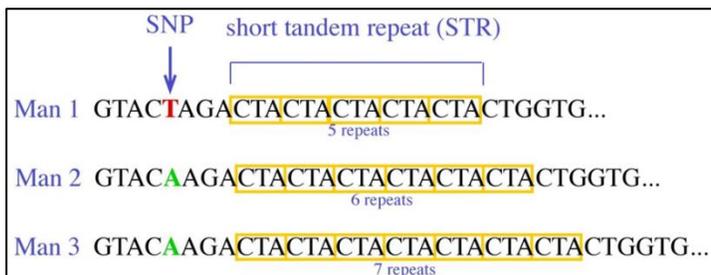
- 2007 = R1b1c7
- 2008 = R1b1b2a1b6b
- 2009 = R1b1b2a1a2f2
- 2010 = R1b1b2a1a2f2
- 2011 = R1b1a2a1a1b4b
- 2012 = R1b1a2a1a1b3a1a1
- Now: **R-M222**

The SNP test will confirm the Y-DNA haplogroup with the terminal SNP.



The difference between STRs and SNPs is shown below by the comparison of the DNA between three men. Man 1 has a value of 5 at this STR location, Man 2 has 6, and Man 3 has 7. Man 2 and 3 have the same SNP value of A but Man 1 differs with a value of T at this location on the Y-chromosome.

The characteristics of STRs and SNPs can be summed up as follows: STRs determine matches within recent times (past 500 years), STR changes happen often (can differ between father and son),



and STR comparisons can establish paternal relationships in genealogical timeframes. SNPs define Haplogroups (ancient origins - thousands of years), SNP changes happen infrequently (SNPs inherited from same ancestor), and everyone sharing a particular Y-SNP is related with a common ancestor (could be thousands of years).

Although Y-DNA has proven its genealogical benefits, testing companies are limited. 23andMe and Living DNA provide an estimated Y haplogroup based on targeted SNP testing using chip-based genotyping. There is no matching with other testers outside comparing haplogroups, which is of limited genealogical value.

The only company that offers comprehensive Y-DNA testing is Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) with both STR and SNP tests. But the single choice of a testing company is compensated by the variety of options. FTDNA has STR tests available from 37 to 111 markers. One can test at one level and upgrade later to more markers. They also offer a variety of SNP testing choices. These include tests for individual SNPs and SNP Packs (these contain 100+ targeted SNPs). Currently, the ultimate Y-DNA product is the Big Y 500. It examines 500 short tandem repeats and 100K SNPs on the Y chromosome.

A big benefit of testing at FTDNA is its Y-DNA analysis and matching tools. When considering the size of different company databases, it is rarely noted that FTDNA has the largest Y-DNA database with 690K records. Other noteworthy news about Y-DNA testing is that there are thousands of surname-specific DNA projects headed by volunteer genetic genealogists to help with Y-DNA research. Many projects been successful in determining the origin and lineage of their surnames. This allows new participants to benefit from the research already done.

As with all DNA tests, the Y test has both its advantages and disadvantages. It is a powerful tool to help break down paternal brick walls. It delineates genetic lines of families with common surnames and proves paternal kinship between related ones. And it can reveal ancient patrilineal origins.

Only males can take this test. Some families “daughter out,” so without sons the Y-DNA is lost. Since Y-DNA only traces the direct paternal line, the results are limited in scope to one single ancestral line of the family tree. A benefit or detriment can be proof of a non-paternal event. But the rewards of Y-DNA testing have been consistently proven in genetic genealogy research and will continue to be a popular tool.

Andrew Hochreiter, MEd, MIS, is a genetic genealogist who manages multiple DNA surname projects and has successfully applied DNA to trace several related family branches overseas. He is an experienced genealogist and has 12 years involved with genetic genealogy. He instructs continuing education courses in basic and advanced genetic genealogy at Howard Community College in Columbia, MD. He is a facilitator for the genetic genealogy module of the on-line Genealogical Research Course at Boston University.

VORSCHRIFT IST VORSCHRIFT

STICK TO THE SCRIPT

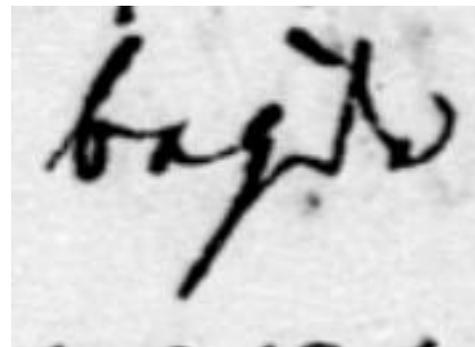
Common Spelling Mistakes

Most of our ancestors probably wouldn't have won any spelling bees. Now, before you get upset and tell me that you come from a long-line of spelling bee champions, certainly dating back to the time of Charlemagne himself, know that I am not insulting the intelligence of your ancestors. After all, it wasn't their fault – German spelling was not standardized until the late nineteenth century. This means that many of our ancestors – and even certain scribes – simply spelled words as they sounded to their own, German-language-influenced ears. Therefore, when transcribing old documents, it's important to be aware of what certain letters sounded like to German speakers – and what these letters could be mistaken for as well. But before we get into these normal letter swaps, there are some prevalent spelling patterns of the past with which you should familiarize yourself before transcribing German documents. For example, many words that are spelled with an “ei” today were spelled with an “ey” in the past – with two dots written over the “y.” One prime example of this is the word “beide/beyde,” which means “both” in English:



Katherine Schober

“beyde” – Today spelled “beide,” meaning “both” in English. Often seen in phrases such as “both from here,” “both Protestant,” etc. Here, the normal two dots above the “y” are written as a straight line – which goes to show that every scribe is different, and you should always base your letter key off your document at hand.



Another old-fashioned spelling pattern is the use of the letter “c” instead of “k” in certain words. One of the most common examples of this is the word “October,” which is spelled “Oktober” in German today.

Finally, you may see an extra “h” inserted into words where there is no “h” used today. Some common examples of this include the words:

- verheirthat (verheiratet) – married
- thun (tun) – to do
- Monath (Monat) – month

Therefore, if you aren't finding your transcribed word in the dictionary, try replacing “ey” with “ei,” the “c” with a “k”, and/or take out the “h” – and see if that gives you any new results. It very well should.

Now, as mentioned above, many Germans simply spelled words as they sounded to their own ears. In this case, it's important to know what our German ancestors may have pictured in their heads when envisioning a word. How is this possible, you ask? Well, lucky for us, many of the “mistakes”

our ancestors made are still letter pairs that sound the same to German speakers today – which can help us figure out what our ancestors may have meant in their writings.

For any linguists among our readers, you will know there is a such thing as “voiced” and “voiceless” consonants. For all you non-linguists, “voiced” simply means that our vocal cords vibrate when we say the letter, while “voiceless” means that they don’t. “B,” for example, is voiced, causing our vocal cords to vibrate, while the “P” is voiceless – although the letters are both made at the same place in our mouths (try pronouncing both sounds and see what I mean!).

While we as English speakers make big distinctions between these sounds (no one would be likely to confuse the words “bill” and “pill,” for example), in German, these two sounds sound almost exactly the same. They even have descriptive words to differentiate the two letters, calling them by the names “hard P” and “soft B” when spelling a word out loud.

Not being aware of these descriptions several years ago, I went into a bookstore in Salzburg, Austria, where I asked the salesman to place a book order for me. He then asked me my last name, upon which I gave him my maiden name, Portnoy. He replied “Portnoy. Is that with a hard P or soft B?” Having never heard these terms before, and confused why one letter in my last name would need to be either “hard” or “soft,” I looked at him strangely and said, “Um, it’s just a P.” And in case he was still confused, I thoughtfully added, “You know - Puh! Puh! Puh!”

While I’m sure he was thinking that Americans are a rather odd bunch as I stood there making “P” noises at him, I was having the same thought about German speakers – why couldn’t they tell the difference between those two very different letters? Well, ours is not to question why – (and, on the other side of the coin, there are many English speakers who can’t hear the difference between an “ü” with an umlaut and a “u” without - which the Germans think is just as crazy). So instead of judging each other’s sound-distinguishing abilities, it’s better to simply understand how a speaker of a language might hear a word – and, in the case of our ancestors, how they would have spelled that word.

Since “voiced” and “voiceless” letters made at the same place in the mouth as one another (like “P” and “B”) sound very similar to German speakers, many of our ancestors misspelled words by replacing the voiced version of a letter pair with the voiceless, and vice versa. Below is a table of these pairs – one voiced, one voiceless, but made at the same place in the mouth as its counterpart.

So if your transcribed word isn’t making sense with a “k,” try switching it with a “g,” and see if your word makes sense then. If it doesn’t make sense with a “d,” try switching with a “t,” and so on. I have found this trick to be most helpful when transcribing old German documents.

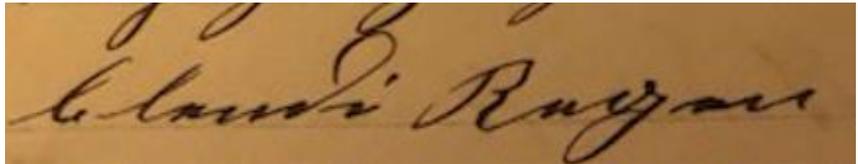
Voiced	Voiceless
B	P
G	K
D	T
V	F

Finally, the last spelling rule to be aware of is that your ancestor may have decided to try his hand at English in the middle of a German document – without giving you any warning whatsoever. I have translated multiple documents – otherwise completely in German – only to come across a word and have no idea what the writer could have meant, having never seen this “German” word before.



Here, the letter reads “fier Dage” – instead of the standard German spelling “vier Tage” (“four days”)

One example that comes to mind is a nineteenth century letter from a German father in Minnesota to his son in California. I was happily transcribing, thinking that the letter was rather easy, until I came across a word at the bottom of the page – V-a-r-m-e-r. I thought to myself, “Varmer. That’s not a German word that I know.” I looked it up in dictionaries, with no luck. Then I thought of my spelling tricks – switching the voiced and the voiceless letter – and swapped the “v” for an “f”. And what did I get? “Farmer!” – which made perfect sense in the context. The man had simply decided to throw an English word in his all German letter – likely to keep me on my toes, I’m sure – and spell it the way it sounded to his German-language ears (“v” is actually pronounced as an “f” sound in German).



“blendi Regen” = “plenty of rain”

Another example is an early twentieth century letter – again, all in German - in which a man in America wrote that they had “blendi Regen.” Well, I knew “Regen” was rain, but had never seen the word “blendi” before. Again, I thought of the common spelling mistakes, switched the “b” for a “p” and the “d” for a “t” – and ended up with “plenty [of] rain” – an English word in a German letter.

In conclusion, there are three main things to be aware of when dealing with German spelling:

1. Old spelling rules, such as “ey,” “h,” and “c”
2. Common spelling mistakes, such as switching “b” for “p”
3. English words written how a German speaker would envision them

Once you are aware of these, transcription should become much easier. Until next time, happy transcribing! Or should I say, habbÿ dranscribing!

Schober is the author of the book, *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting*. Her business is SK Translations, found on the web at www.SKTranslations.com

AUSWANDERER ZUSAMMEN IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS

Variety of Searches Clarifies Mecklenburg-Schwerin emigrant

I recently helped a patron at my local Family History Center search for his immigrant ancestor from Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The effort revealed several issues that required additional research to resolve. A variety of useful sources helped to clarify the issues. The sources and methodology could be instructive for your research.

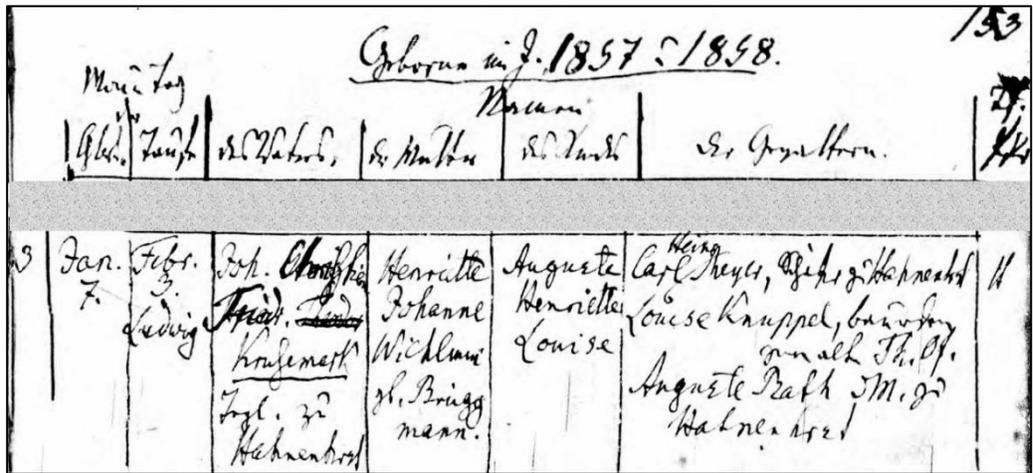


Bob Greiner

Augusta Krusemark Passo was born 7 January 1858, according to her tombstone in Yutan, Nebraska. The patron first used FamilySearch to look for her baptism record in Germany. Her name was entered as Augusta Krusemark (exact boxes unchecked), her birthplace Germany, and birth date between 1856 and 1860. One of the results returned from the German Births and Baptisms database was:

Auguste Henriette Louise Krusemark
Christened 7 Jan 1858, Gross u. Neu Poserin, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany
Father: Joh. Christian Friedr. Krusemark
Mother: Henriette Johanne Wilhelme Brüggmann

This appeared to be a correct match and corresponded to the patron's knowledge. There was no image associated with the record, but an icon indicated that the person was in the FamilySearch tree. The tree including Augusta was



Auguste Krusemark baptism image

quite extensive, showing her siblings and several earlier generations. The next step was to search for original documents to verify the dates given in the baptism record and family tree.

Since the German Births and Baptisms database did not have associated images, I decided to see if the Family History Library had a microfilm of church records for Gross u. Neu Poserin. My

initial search of the catalog using that name did not return a matching location. However, when I entered just Poserin, the match returned was:

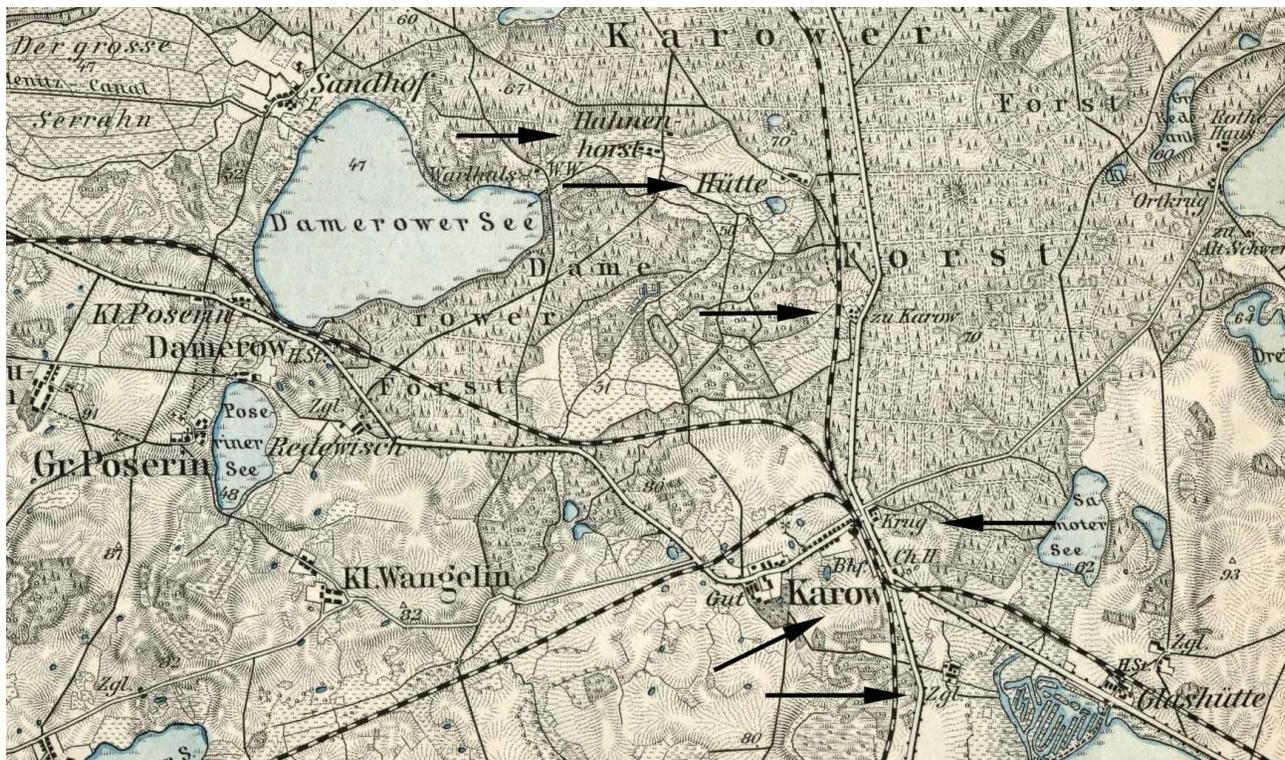
Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Poserin (Gross u. Neu)

After selecting that name and searching, one church record result was returned. It was a Kirchenbuch, 1660 – 1875. That certainly covered the time frame of the 1850s. When I selected the Kirchenbuch, three microfilms were displayed. The earliest records were not indexed (no magnifying glass symbol), but they were digitized (a camera icon). Unfortunately, you must be an LDS member to view the digital images. The film for 1831 – 1875 was both indexed and available for anybody to view online.

The index entries are not linked to individual images, so you must select the camera icon to view the entire microfilm of the church book. It took a while to look through the images for 1858 baptisms, but I eventually found Augusta's baptism entry. It revealed several clues, and the first problem.

Augusta was born 7 January 1858 and baptized 3 February. Her father, Joh.[ann] Christian Friedrich Krusemark, was a resident of Hahnenhorst. Was that Augusta's birthplace? It was time to check a contemporary map using the meyersgaz.org website.

A search for Hahnenhorst returned one place of that name in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. It was a Hof (farm) associated with the nearby allodial estate (An allodial estate was owned entirely by the landholder, and was not subject to any superior authority, such as a prince or knight) of Karow (also spelled Carow). The entry for Karow showed that its Standesamt (civil registry office) was Gross und Neu Poserin. Karow had one Protestant church, as did Gross Poserin.



Karow map image from MeyersGaz.org

Returning to the church book, I reviewed its organization more closely. I discovered the film contained multiple sections; the first was for the parish of Gross und Neu Poserin, and the second for the parish of Karow. Augusta's baptism entry was in the second section. It now became obvious that she was born in Hahnenhorst, where her parents lived, and was baptized at the church in Karow. I used the church book images to look for the baptism entries of Augusta's siblings, based on the information found in the FamilySearch tree. I verified their birthplace and dates and updated the information in the tree.

The lesson here is that FamilySearch indexes (or any index) may not be exactly correct. Many researchers would enter the baptism place as Gross u. Neu Poserin, which is the place name FamilySearch showed. In fact, it should be Karow. You must look closely at the entire film to understand its organization and to ensure your record was correctly indexed. In addition, you must carefully examine the record image itself to verify the facts and to find other clues, such as the actual birthplace.

At the start of the Karow church book was a handwritten title page, which listed the outlying locations of the parish.

The following villages belong to the parish of Carow:

1. The manor and village of Carow
2. The dairy farm Hahnenhorst
3. The kiln (furnace), formerly the glass works
4. By the old coal tar oven (3 farms, zu Karow on the map)
5. The Samoter public house
6. The brick works



Karow church book title page image

Compare this list to the map image and you will get an idea of the area surrounding Karow. The distance between Karow and Neu Poserin is about 5 miles, and from Karow to Hahnenhorst about 3.5 miles. From the map you can see that Karow has a train station (Bhf = Bahnhof), a public house (Krug), and a toll house (Ch. H. = Chaussee Haus). On the outskirts of the village were the dairy farm at Hahnenhorst, brick works Zgl.), former glass works (Glashütte), and coal tar oven (Theerofen = zu

Friedrich Krusemark, a Tagelöhner, is head of the household #40 in Karow. His wife and all children except Mina were living with him. A scan of other households nearby shows that outlying locations, such as Hahnenhorst, were enumerated separately. Thus, by 1867, Friedrich and his family lived in the village of Karow, rather than at the dairy farm Hahnenhorst.

Augusta Krusemark immigrated to the United States with other members of her family in 1876. Most of them settled in Saunders County, Nebraska. Augusta married a fellow immigrant Christian Passo from a nearby village in Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The sources presented here provided a wealth of facts about Augusta's life in Germany from her birth until her emigration. The key is to use the original sources, when possible, to verify all the facts and to discover everything you can about your ancestors. Don't implicitly trust indexed records if you can find the original.

You can find this family in the Family Tree section at FamilySearch.org. You will first need to login to FamilySearch. If you don't already have a free account, you should create one. Click on **Family Tree** in the top menu, then **Find**. Click on the **Find by ID** tab, then enter 9V6Z-J1B, which is the ID for Augusta Krusemark. Then click the **Find** button to get her record. When you click on her name, you can either view her person entry, or as the central person in the family tree. Alternatively, you can go directly to her person entry with the following link.

<https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9V6Z-J1B>

'Armchair genealogy' utilizes online information

In the spirit of full disclosure, I must explain something about the genealogical information I present in these columns. It is what I would call "armchair genealogy." That is, all the facts that I discover and use in my articles can be found online. With a high-speed Internet connection, I can do all the research for my articles from the comfort of my home.

We all know that genealogical research was not always this easy. Despite the plethora of online information, a conscientious genealogist knows that there is always much more knowledge to be found beyond what is online. It is in our best interest to dig deeper, to verify information found in online indexes with original documents, if that is possible. More and more information coming online is, in fact, as good as original. Digital images of original church records are just one example.

I generally do not research beyond the Internet for my articles, except for original documents from American consulates in Germany. But as a researcher, you should. Yet, I will argue that this level of research is sufficient to fulfill my purpose for this column. First, I introduce sources and methods I find useful to search for German ancestors. My intent is to be instructive about how to use these resources together to solve genealogical problems. Finally, by introducing immigrant German families as examples, someone may find the missing connection to their ancestor's village of origin. If any of these goals are met, then I would consider the knowledge I share to be of value.

— BOB GREINER

Variety of Records Puts Together Story of Immigrants

BY NANCY SCHREIBEIS MOZELESKI

According to the family register in the Gommersdorf (a village in present-day Baden-Württemberg) Roman Catholic Church, Dominicus Schreibeis left for America (“auf Amerika”) on 11 Jan 1868. He was the only son of Anton Schreibeis and Christina Wolpert. Christina had been the widow of Michael Kaiser with whom she had one son, Karl, who was 15 years older than Dominicus.

These two half-brothers both came separately as immigrants to western Pennsylvania, in addition to other extended family members. Their stories were revealed through a combination of American records then buttressed by contacts with a Schreibeis family in Gommersdorf.

Michael Kaiser died in 1840 and Christina married Anton Schreibeis in 1846. Anton died in 1867. Dominicus left for America the following January. He traveled about 300 miles to the port of Bremen and arrived in New York on 3 February 1868 on the ship *Union*. In the ship’s record, he lists his age as 19, even though he would not be 17 until the following April.

According to Dominicus’ son George Dominic (as told to George’s daughter Katherine Church), he was an only son and he left Germany to avoid being conscripted into the army. At that time young men were conscripted as soon as they were old enough. His mother was conflicted about his departure. She was afraid he would be conscripted but sad for him to go to America.

A 1937 letter from his sister Theresia reflects some of these hard feelings. His descendants believed he came through Ellis Island but it was not operating until the 1890s, so it is likely that he was processed at the Castle Garden Immigration Center in New York. According to Ann Schreibeis, daughter of Dominicus’ son Edward, Dominicus said he came to America with some cousins named Kaiser. This proved to be garbled. According to the ship’s record, Dominicus did not travel with anyone that could be identified as a relative or even a fellow villager.

In fact, Dominicus was following in the footsteps of relatives who previously emigrated to western Pennsylvania. The earliest immigrant from Dominicus’ extended family in Gommersdorf immigrated to western Pennsylvania in 1848. This was Barnhart Wohlper (Bernardus Wolpert), brother of Dominicus’ mother Christina. According to Dominicus’ half-brother Karl Kaiser’s descendants, he came with two young sons.

Simon, Bernardus’ first cousin, likely emigrated at the same time. (He is shown as being in Pennsylvania in the 1850 census.) He came from Gommersdorf with his wife, Juliana, who was Christina’s sister.

Bernardus first lived in Pittsburgh but later moved to Butler, where he was residing when his daughter was born in 1853. Karl Kaiser, son of Christina Wolpert and her first husband, Michael Kaiser, and half-brother of Dominicus, emigrated before 1859. He was living with his cousin Simon in Pittsburgh in the 1860 census but married Margaret Krebs from Butler in August 1860 and apparently moved there, because his first child, born in 1861 was born in Butler.

Simon and Juliana remained in Pittsburgh for the remainder of their lives. Dominicus arrived in February 1868 and immediately came to Butler where he was listed as baptismal sponsor for Karl Kaiser's child in June 1868. Simon was his sponsor for citizenship in 1872. Dominicus was subsequently sponsored for two more of Karl Kaiser's children born in 1877 and 1880.

His half-brother Karl may have left home to avoid the draft but he did serve in the 86th Pennsylvania Infantry during the Civil War. This fact adds weight to the concerns of Christina Wolpert regarding the departure of the only son she had left in Germany.

Simon Wolpert sponsored Dominicus for naturalization in September 1872, even though the latter was a few months shy of the required five-year residency in the U.S. Simon was listed on the naturalization papers as living in Pittsburgh's 4th ward. Dominicus carefully noted the date of his naturalization in his meticulously kept family Bible. In it he noted the births of each of his children in beautiful script.

Ann Schreibeis said Dominicus told her father that he and Elizabeth, his wife, left Freeport and tried briefly to move to a German settlement in Kentucky. This was likely between 1876 and 1878 because children were born to them in Freeport in 1875 and 1878. Elizabeth didn't like living there, particularly having blacks working for her, and according to the recollections of Charles, Joseph and Beatrice Schreibeis, Dominicus did not like farming and that is why they moved to Pittsburgh sometime in the late 1880s. (His half-brother Karl Kaiser moved there during that decade, as well.)

Another daughter of Edward (Eleanor) said Dominicus had some experience making barrels in Germany. He actually lists his occupation as "cooper" in the 1880 U.S. Census for Butler. He got a job as a cooper at Iron City Winter Brewery in Pittsburgh. He and Elizabeth lived at 344 Matilda St., Bloomfield, Pittsburgh after Sept 1887. He was a member of Branch 58, Coopers International Assn, No. 2.

He died of cancer of the stomach, according to his death certificate. He had been ill for four months according to his obituary. (His sister Margaretha had a heart condition and hardening of the arteries. His sister Theresa had an enlargement of the heart as did their father.)

According to his obituary in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette he died on Thursday, March 24, 1909. He was a member of the Coopers' International Association, Union No. 1 and of the C.M.B.A., Branch 58 (apparently a Catholic organization). He is buried in Calvary Cemetery Lot - No. 185, Section M, bought the Feb. 15, 1909, by his wife Elizabeth for \$100.

Records of Dominicus and his ancestors were obtained by MAGS member Nancy Schreibeis Mozeleski from the daughter of Otto Schreibeis. Nancy found Otto's daughter, Elizabeth, by writing to the post office in Gommersdorf and asking to be put in contact with anyone who was named Schreibeis. The post office forwarded her letter to Elizabeth, who was gracious enough to provide all of the genealogical research of her father Otto, who spent his retirement researching the family in the archives at Karlsruhe, Germany. The records of his research were written in Old German. Nancy was able to use them as guides to find many of the records in LDS microfilm of the Gommersdorf Catholic Church records.

ÜBERSETZER**TRANSLATORS**

This list of translators is offered as a service to MAGS members. It is not intended, however, as an endorsement or recommendation of any translator's work. When requesting a translation, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the translator's reply, along with a photocopy of a sample page from the text to be translated so that the translator may understand your needs and estimate the charge for the translation. Do not send original documents.

1. Uta Allers, 603 Scott St., Baltimore, MD 21230
 Email: Uta.Allers@gmail.com
 Website: www.utagermantranslation.com

2. Klaus F. Alt, 692 Carodon Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3138
 Phone: (434) 409-1582
 Email: klaus@kluustrans.com
 American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English, English into German

3. American Translators Association, 225 Reinekers Lane, Suite 590, Alexandria, VA 22314
 Phone: (703) 683-6100
 Website: www.atanet.org. (Directory for individual translators and area of specialization choices)

4. Gen Collins
 Phone: (301) 770-0683
 Email: glcipc@verizon.net
 Specialization: Translates German and German script into English and English to German.

5. Uwe Jacobsen, Wilhelm-Spiegel-Str. 30, D-24145 Kiel, Germany
 Email: uwejacobsen@gmx.de
 Specialization: Genealogical research in Schleswig-Holstein, Hamburg-Altona, Sonderjylland / Denmark. Transcription and translation of old documents.

6. Roger P. Minert, Ph.D., A.G., PO Box 1845, Provo, UT 84603-1845
 Phone: (801) 374-2587
 Email: qrtpublications@juno.com.
 Specialization: German-English, English-German, German script, French, Latin

7. Katherine Schober
 Phone: (314) 660-1061
 Email: language@sktranslations.com
 Website: www.sktranslations.com
 Specialization: Genealogy and old German script, translates German to English

8. Ann C. Sherwin
 Website: www.asherwin.com
 Specialization: Genealogy, history, old handwriting.
 American Translators Association Certified Translator: German into English

9. Andrew Witter, 2056 255th St., Donnellson, IA 52625-9679
 Phone: (319) 835-3960
 Email: andrewwitter@gmail.com

DER KALENDER

THE CALENDAR

2019

March 28-30. Lancaster Family History Conference, sponsor: Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society. Vendors, speakers, trips. More info: <https://www.lmhs.org/>

April 26-27. MAGS Spring Conference, Laurel, MD. Saturday program: Presentations by Teresa Steinkamp McMillin. <https://www.magsgen.com/>

May 1-4. Ohio Genealogical Society, Great Wolf Lodge in Mason, Ohio. "Building a Heritage." Speakers, vendors, workshops. More info: <http://www.ogsconference.org/>

May 8-11. National Genealogical Society, "Journey to Discovery," family history conference, St. Charles, MO. More info: <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

May 30-June 2. Southern California Genealogical Society's 50th Annual

Jamboree, Burbank, CA. Including: SCGS Genetic Genealogy Conference and Family History Writer's Conference, DNA Workshops, presentations, exhibits. More info: <http://www.genealogyjamboree.com/>

June 15-17. International German Genealogy Conference, Sacramento, CA, second-ever biennial conference being sponsored by the International German Genealogy Partnership (coordinated by Partner groups) with theme of "Strike It Rich: with Connections 2 Discoveries." Headlining presenters will include Fritz Juengling, Michael Lacopo and Roger P. Minert. There will be an exhibit hall and many special events. Registration expected to open Nov. 1, 2018. More info: <https://iggpartner.org/cpage.php?pt=73>

Aug. 21-24. Federation of Genealogical Societies, Annual Conference, Washington, DC. More info: <https://fqs.org>

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.

STEPHANIE BRADSHAW of San Diego, CA
(*Dotzauer, Meixner, Binder, Wunsch*)

REBECCA BRUNETTA of Greensburg, PA
(*Barley, Waggoner, Horner, Martin*)

ALEXA CORCORAN of Baltimore, MD
(*Herfurth, Messmer, Volz, Werthwein*)

LINDA FOLEY of Sunnyvale, CA
(*Berschens, Schidell, Schmidt, Kirsch*)

JOHN FRENIE of Pittsburgh, PA (*Frenie*)

JEANNE HOUCK of Ellicott City, MD
(*Schorr, Thiel, Smith, Zebelein/Zeberlein*)

LORI KUEHN of East Stroudsburg, PA
(*Kuhn, Schupp, Christman, Kleintob*)

MARGARET ELLEN MATTISON of Crofton, MD
(*Gluckart, Long, Ries, Homan*)

DOROTHY OLSEN of Fort Collins, CO
(*Linsenmeyer, Bunn, Weiler, Pfeifer*)

DELBERT RITCHHART of Windsor, CO
(*Ritchhart/Ritschard/Ritschhard, Feiertag, Schmidt*)

MARY SCHWARTZ of Baltimore, MD
(*Landahl, Wieser, Deckert, Schuster*)

SUZANNE-WASP SHASHA of Corona, CA
(*Knosp, Wasp*)

PAUL SIEGMUND of Banner Elk, NC
(*No Names*)

ELLEN WARD of New Freedom, PA
(*Ward, Myers, Lerew, Deal(e)*)

SUSAN ZABOLOTNY of Palmyra, PA
(*Ammons, Haught/Haut/Heyt, Ament*)

TODD ZEIGLER of Seven Valleys, PA
(*Ziegler, Shearer, Runk, Gentzler*)

JOAN ZELLER of Pittsford, NY
(*Haas, Michel, Goldschmitt, Zeller*)

✱ **Attention** ✱

MAGS is now accepting dues for the year

2019

Rates

Individual: \$20.00 with mailed publications

\$15.00 with emailed publications

Family: \$25.00 with mailed publications

\$20.00 with emailed publications

(Plus \$20.00 added for overseas postage mailings)

You may pay by PayPal through the website

Magsgen.com

or

Mail your check made payable to **MAGS** to:

Gunter Schanzenbacher
725 Fir Spring Dr
Waynesboro, Pennsylvania 17268

You do **not** need to complete a membership form,
if your name & correct mailing address are printed on you check

MAGS accepts payments for up to 5 years membership.

Questions: membership@magsgen.com

MAGS Bookstore – Limited supply of remaining titles

Title and Author	Member / Non-member Price
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Carbon, Monroe, Schuylkill Counties</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Dauphin County 1757-1825</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Delaware County 1682-1800</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$5.00 / \$5.00
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Lebanon County 1714-1800</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Set of 8 John Humphrey Books</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$50.00 / \$50.00
<i>A Genealogist's Refresher Course</i>	
Judy Jacobson	\$14.00 / \$17.00
<i>Ancestral Charts for Families of German Heritage</i>	
Corinne Earnest, ed.	\$13.50 / \$15.00
<i>Genealogy At a Glance: Ellis Island Research</i>	
Sharon DeBartolo Carmack	\$7.00 / \$8.95
<i>How to Read and Understand Meyers Orts</i>	
Wendy K. Uncapher	\$8.00 / \$11.95

Title and Author	Member / Non-member Price
<i>Pennsylvania Research: County and Township Records</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Philadelphia County 1644-1765</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Pennsylvania Births, Philadelphia County 1766-1780</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Pennsylvania Gravestones, Northampton County</i>	
John T. Humphrey	\$10.00 / \$10.00
<i>Understanding and Using Baptismal Records</i>	
John T. Humphrey	No charge
<i>Preserve Photographs at a Glance</i>	
Maureen A. Taylor	\$4.00 / \$6.00
<i>Spessart Roots</i>	
Mary E. Wuest	\$9.00 / \$14.00
<i>The Genealogist's Guide to Fraktur</i>	
Corrine Earnest/Beverly Repass Hoch	\$14.00 / \$19.95
<i>The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy</i>	
Val D. Greenwood	\$26.00 / \$39.95

Back issues of our quarterly newsletter *Der Kurier* are available at \$2.00 + \$.75 shipping for each copy. Please add shipping charges to your order: First item: \$3.50, each additional item \$.50. Humphrey set \$10.00.

Maryland residents please add 6% sales tax.

For more choices and information about the books, please visit our website at www.magsgen.com
 For more choices and information about the books, please visit our website at www.magsgen.com

ORDER FORM. Circle item(s) desired, calculate cost below, and mail to:

Bob Greiner, 10605 Johns Hopkins Rd., Laurel, MD 20723-1139

Checks payable to Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. Do not send cash.

NAME _____ Item cost _____

STREET ADDRESS _____ 6% sales tax _____

(MD addresses only)

CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 _____ Shipping _____

E-mail address _____ TOTAL _____



The Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WAYNESBORO, PA
PERMIT NO. 19

PO Box 241
New Windsor, MD 21776
ISSN 1059-9762

Address Service Requested

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society – Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Preferred method of contact: Phone _____ Email _____

Individual: \$15/year _____; \$20/year _____ with hardcopy *Der Kurier*

Family: \$20/year _____; \$25/year _____ with hardcopy *Der Kurier*

How did you hear about MAGS?

List four names you are researching.

Make checks or money order payable to
Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

Mail to: Gunter Schanzenbacher
725 Fir Spring Dr.

Waynesboro PA 17268-2914

New members joining anytime during the
calendar year receive all issues for the year.