

Der Kurier

VOLUME 37, NUMBER 4 / DECEMBER 2019

The end of an era: Outgoing *Der Kurier* Editor James M. Beidler discusses his time as editor of the publication—everything from his “origin story” of sorts, to the improvements made and the many “thank yous” to be given—as well as his thoughts about the future of MAGS. **Page 123.**



Ich bin e Sächser, will e Sächser sein.

Ich bin e Sächser, sag' es unverhohlen,
Denn so ei Völkchen findt man nich so gleich,
Hat uns der Preiß ooch's halbe Land genommen,
Mer sein deswegen doch e Königreich
Und hab'n, ich sag's ganz trocken,
Mehr in die Milch zu brocken

Ich bin ein Sachse, will ein Sachse sein

Ich bin ein Sachse, sage es unverhohlen,
Denn so ein Völkchen findet man nicht sogleich,
Hat uns der Preuße auch das halbe Land genommen,
Wir sind deswegen doch ein Königreich
Und haben, ich sage es ganz trocken,
Mehr in die Milch zu brocken.

I am a Saxon, I want to be a Saxon.

I am a Saxon, say it blatantly,
For such a tiny people cannot be found so readily.
Even if Prussia has taken half the country from us,
We are nevertheless a kingdom.
And have, I say it very dryly, [without emotion]
More that we may cast into the milk. [to make it thicker]

Learning to know you: Gordon Seyffert takes us through the evolution of his understanding of the meaning of his family name and the Saxon poem at left, from the time his father first mentioned it to him as a boy until a recent chance occurrence at the IGGP conference. **Page 128.**

ABTEILUNGEN

From the Editor	123
From the President	125
Stick to the Script	132
Our Language Leaves	136

DEPARTMENTS

DNA Discoveries	138
Immigrant Connections	143
Der Kalender / The Calendar	157
New Members	158



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 40-page quarterly journal

Outstanding members-only website

– German research aids, searchable databases

Stumped Roots - Individualized research help

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

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

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**

Writing Finale to a Long Goodbye ... But, Honestly, I'm Not Going Anywhere!

I have told this story before: In 2003, I was in the process of transitioning out of my full-time employee job as the executive director of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania and pondering my first steps into being a full-time genealogy freelancer. A call came in from the late John T. Humphrey, then president of MAGS, saying that the Society's Board had recently decided it would free up money to pay the editor of *Der Kurier* a stipend. Did I know anyone who I thought might be a good fit for the job?



James M. Beidler

I never asked John whether or how many other calls he'd already made nor if he knew how fervently I was looking for freelance jobs that would not be just "one off" type of deals but rather pieces of work I could use as anchors—things like editing a journal—in the career I was planning.

And, therefore, I don't know if John had any agenda concerning me attached to his call.

But I do know that I told John, emphatically, that I was interested. We sealed the deal with a handshake when I traveled to his office at the National Genealogical Society in the Washington, D.C., suburbs that next week.

Even before his death seven years ago, John had moved on from the MAGS presidency, but he remained our guiding light for the rest of his life—and to some extent remains so today (as a result of all his lifetime of accomplishments, MAGS is nominating John for the National Genealogy Hall of Fame).

I tell this story for perhaps the final time in print since this is my "last ride" as Editor of *Der Kurier* as part of a well-planned succession in which I am becoming Editor Emeritus of the publication and Sean Kessler—a talented young professional genealogist who lives near Philadelphia, has scads of German roots, and has a real knack for research in land records—assumes the role of Editor for this journal.

Accomplishments of the Journal

So, what do I think we've accomplished in my fifteen years with *Der Kurier*? Well, as we've doubled the size of this journal, we've also increased the quality, having attracted articles from German genealogy superstars such as Roger P. Minert and Fritz Juengling.

In addition to John, who was a frequent contributor to the journal both during and after his presidency, I'm hit by a bit of a nostalgic wave as I think about other key contributors who have passed on: Corinne Earnest, who wrote her *Fraktur Forum* column as well as many other items; Marilynne Ocando, who always had an eye for an article that would teach the MAGS membership (her "Translating or deciphering: A big difference," September 2005, was a great example of this); and Edythe H. Millar, who faithfully collated queries for the publication for many years.

We've had scholarly cover articles, ones related to business of the Society, and even a poem! An essay contest sponsored by MAGS in conjunction with the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first Germans in America produced some excellent articles, too. The Society has enhanced the



All of Der Kurier's columnists were in attendance in Sacramento in June for the International German Genealogy Partnership conference, from left: Bob Greiner, Ken Weaver, Andrew Hochreiter, Editor James M. Beidler, and Katherine Schober.

German genealogy world's knowledge of consulate records and Susannah E. Brooks wrote about a document dating to 1475. So many of these articles have come from the membership itself.

A Supportive Board!

During my time as Editor, I could not have been blessed with a more supportive Board for MAGS. Many of these folks contributed articles themselves and the rock-solid backing for *Der Kurier* as a key membership benefit was unquestioned (the growth of the journal is a testament to this fact).

Your Society has a great bunch of team players who have kept MAGS together during a time period when many genealogy organizations have fallen apart. I thank each and every one of the current and former Board members for valuing *Der Kurier*!

MAGS and Its Future

In the first issue of *Der Kurier* that I edited in 2004, John wrote the cover article with the headline "Societies in Crisis." As was the case with nearly every genealogy membership organization, MAGS suffered from Internet competition. But unlike many societies, MAGS is again growing!

Thanks for the Memories!

The reaction to my slow-motion resignation was gratifying, and that has made me very comfortable in not "leaving" so much as transitioning to a new role in which I'll still write a column such as this one as Editor Emeritus and be available for anything that Sean needs going forward. This has been a wonderful, fifteen-year ride. Thank you, members and readers, for making it so rewarding!

And, oh yes, thanks again, John, for calling me about this opening!

VOM PRÄSIDENT

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Looking Forward to 2020

Here we are at the end of another year. *Die Zeit verfliegt, nicht wahr?* It was a good year for MAGS. Its members made well-received presentations at the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) conference in Sacramento and the national conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) in Washington, D.C. In fact, the IGGP folks told me one of the MAGS speakers had the best reviewed presentation at the conference. MAGS was represented at the Genealogical Institute on Federal Records, the teaching arm of the National Genealogical Society and FGS. Spreading the word helped grow our membership. We broke the 450 mark!

Before I continue, I thank those of you who voted in the recent Board elections. On behalf of the board, we thank you for having confidence in us for another two years. As the following narrative indicates, we have bold plans to grow MAGS.

So what's new on the horizon for MAGS? We have exciting conferences led by well-known speakers. Just a quick note here: both the spring and fall conferences will take place in Laurel, MD; be sure to check the MAGS website regularly for updates. We hope to provide members with more hands-on training at our three workshops in 2020; our experiments with that approach this year went over well with attendees.

Next, I want to remind you of the changing of the guard at *Der Kurier*. After years of service Jim Beidler is stepping down as editor. Please join me in thanking Jim for his service as he transitions to the role of "Editor Emeritus." At the same time, we are lucky to have Sean Kessler join us as the new editor. Many of you were at the spring conference in Laurel and had a chance to meet this energetic, intelligent young man. We look forward to working with him. He confirmed his commitment to ensure that *Der Kurier* continues to include color images, maps, and other eye-catching illustrations to support its articles and enhance its look.

We also have a great deal of new content in the pipeline to upload to the MAGS website in 2020. We plan to add information to existing databases, post searchable datasets to new records, upload more scans of visuals such as postcards and maps, and put new research guides online. Please remember, these new products will be available hopefully starting in March. That means if you don't renew your membership, you will not be able to access them. You can renew your membership online.

To keep MAGS a viable organization we need your help. First and foremost, you can help your Society by spreading the word about MAGS. Access the website. Our crackerjack web committee posted good material there, including some great scans of vintage postcards. What you find will help you tell potential members why they should join. Remind your research pals about our conferences and workshops. Remember, our goal is to make MAGS also stand for the *Major American Germanic Society*. It would be great if we could swell our membership total to at least 500 by next year this time.



Finally, I wish you a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season.



Kenneth W. Heger

Fröhliche Weihnachten, Alle !

MUSTERLAGER
 BERLIN. G.F. Hertzog & C^o Stallschreiberstr. 28
 Zur Messe in Leipzig: Grimmaische Strasse 6 1

TELEPHON N^o 79

FABRIK feiner Metall- u. Blech SPIELWAAREN
 SPECIALITÄTEN
 Eisenbahnen, Eisenbahnanlagen
 mechanische Artikel
 KINDERKOCHEHERDE

Telegramm-Adresse: **MÄRKLIN**

Gebrüder Märklin & Co
 INHABER: E. MÄRKLIN u. E. FRIZ

RECEIVED
 17. OKT. 1901
 U. S. CONSULATE,
 LEIPZIG.

GÖPPINGEN, DEN 15. Oktober 1901
 Württemberg

Wir nehmen Bezug auf Ihre Schreiben vom 12. d. t.

Konf. Konsulat der Vereinigten Staaten
 von Nordamerika
 Leipzig

Was ich Ihnen schon sagte, wie unangenehm
 mir die Sache ist, die allgemeine Verwirrung der
 Leipziger Weltausstellung zu sein, die auf ganz
 ungewöhnliche Weise durch die eigene Ausstellung in
 Leipzig geschehen ist.

Dieser Zustand ist unangenehm, da
 das die Ausstellung zu einem großen Verlust
 führt, wie in anderen Fällen, die fast die
 Ausstellung selbst durch den Schaden zu
 bringen vermögen ist, die allgemeine Verwirrung
 unangenehm, meine Güterlieferung herzustellen, die

Correspondence of a Württemberg company that made toys (NARA RG 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State; Records of the American Consulate in Leipzig, Saxony, Germany; Letters Received Relating to Leipzig Trade Fairs; Vol. 142)


Fabrik künstl. Blumen u. Blätter u. Christbaum-Schmuck

FRIEDRICH HILMANN

SEBNITZ ¹/₄ Sachsen.

Filiale in Niedereinsiedel ¹/₄ Böhmen.
Zimmerdecorations-Blumen
nach Naturmodellen.

Bunte Waffefiguren in
Nationaltrachten
als Kinderspielzeug und als Christbaumschmuck
und für andere Zwecke.



Zur Messe in Leipzig:
Kaufhaus III. Obergeschoss,
Stand 214.

Sebnitz, den 5. October 1901

RECEIVED
OCT. 7 1901
U. S. CONSULATE

7494 Au
das Consulat der Vereinigten Staaten v. Amerika
Leipzig

Ihre werthe gestrige Zuschrift beantworte ich ergebend
folgend:

Der Artikel „Kunstblumen“ kommt für die Leipziger Osterrmesse
ausschließlich lediglich für Zimmerdecorations-Blumen in Frage
& dann auch nur für das Inlandsgeschäft, das Ausland ist ganz
verschwindend am Absatz beteiligt, die Vereinigten Staaten
von Amerika ganz & gar nicht, der tägliche Artikel scheint für
Letztere überhaupt nicht in Betracht zu kommen, da amerik.
Blumeneinkäufer, die Sebnitzer alljährlich besuchen, auch hier
nichts anderes als Einzelblumen für Putszwecke einkaufen.

Hochachtungsvoll
Friedrich Hilmann

Briefe und Gelder werden ausschliesslich nach Sebnitz erbeten.

Correspondence of a Saxon company that made Christmas ornaments (NARA RG 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State; Records of the American Consulate in Leipzig, Saxony, Germany; Letters Received Relating to Leipzig Trade Fairs 142)

Learning to Know You

BY GORDON SEYFFERT

“met him” in the wee hours of Tuesday morning in my hotel room for the second International German Genealogy Partnership in Sacramento. Now, that only makes some sense if I reference a little German. To more than one German presenter or attendee I said upon our introduction, “*Schön, Sie kennen zu lernen.*” To us English speakers, this merely means “Nice to meet you.” But the literal German is saying something more like “Nice to learn to (or, get to) know you.” And so it was. In that moment of wakefulness came a late realization of the importance of something I’d heard from Fritz Juengling the previous morning — and in the bargain I really “got to know” my paternal-line ancestor for the first time.

As a boy, my father told me a few things about his great-grandfather:

1. He’d been in the ‘48er revolution against the king, in this case the King of Saxony.
2. He’d brought his family to America because he feared his sons might be drafted into the Prussian army.
3. He and successive generations were proud of the fact that our name did not change in spelling as a result of crossing the Atlantic.
4. The father had paid for the trans-Atlantic passage, but travel to St. Louis had to be funded by three of the sons performing on their violins as street musicians to earn money — one of those violins now being in his possession.

Point one was confirmed in later years by my discovery in the manuscript collection of the University of Missouri of a book of poetry given to him by a former comrade-in-arms upon his departure from Saxony (“to remember the Fatherland” and their friendship), and also by discovery in several family branches of the beginning portion of an autobiographical statement by his son, my father’s grandfather. It tells of his father coming home in defeat.

Points two and four were supported by some deductive logic. The revolution in Saxony took place in 1849, but the departure took place in 1854! Initially I had assumed that it had probably just taken a while to raise the passage money, but later I realized from church book baptisms of the later children that this man was a well-established guild member, and thus was unlikely to lack financial resources. No, the real answer seems to lie in the year 1853, when I discovered that the eldest son seems to have been sent ahead to St. Louis to make contact with another former revolutionary who might help make arrangements for trade employment of both father and son. 1853 was the key year of the Crimean War, and at that time Prussia was Russia’s key diplomatic ally — thus a potential source of soldiers if Russia needed them. But Prussia had its many borders to defend, and likely couldn’t have spared troops; the King of Saxony, however, owed his throne to the Prussian king for the loan of soldiers in 1849. Here we “connect some dots.” And Saxony’s lullabies, like Baden’s, underwent a political transformation after 1849 — becoming decidedly anti-Prussian! So even though Prussia was another country, my Saxon ancestor’s fear for his sons was decidedly possible, given the times.

All that was a significant step forward in understanding, and I have been proud of the fact that I could make such an educated guess as to why our family came to America. But why had it been so important, given all the possible facts and anecdotes my father could have conveyed to me, that he tell me that our name hadn't changed? It hadn't been just a matter of trivia as I think back on it. Instead, it seemed to be something of importance for me to know; that was transmitted not by word, but by his voice, his emotion. And I'd never looked closely at that.

Years ago, reading a beginning genealogical guide, the author suggested that family stories are important. They only survive to be passed down generation-to-generation if they convey a special moral or meaning. If not, they're not repeated, and they die. Now moving to a seemingly unrelated point, I was telling my friend a year or two ago that this one ancestor had been in the revolution in Saxony, that his father-in-law had been a corporal in the Prinz Clemens Saxon Line Infantry during the Napoleonic Wars, and that this corporal's brother-in-law had joined the Saxon volunteers in the 1813 War of Liberation. And my friend said to me, "Man, your family members were scrappers!" It was the nicest thing I heard that week; I almost cried.

Now to point three. In an 1834 deed in the Saxon court records (found at the FHL), I discovered that Friedrich Wilhelm Seyffert's father and brother were using a different spelling of the name: Seyferth. But he was using "Seyffert." Okay, we all know that spelling didn't standardize overnight, and took a while to reach that point in the course of the 19th century. No big deal, I thought. Then I went to Fritz Juengling's lecture on Monday morning. I had wanted to hear Daniel Jones, his colleague, but I'd been chosen to be Fritz's Host Presenter. Fate, I guess. At one point, Fritz was talking about various German words and spellings with examples, and one word he flashed on the screen started "dreÿ....". So I thought I'd ask about that "umlauted 'y' as I had seen the same in another version of my own surname. That wasn't an umlaut, he said, as only "a," "o" and "u" can be umlauted; no, it was simply a scribe's mark. It was needed, he added, to distinguish the script "y" from a script "g". "Huh?" I thought to myself, and put it aside.

Next morning it hit me, or should I say, washed over me! My surname is related to Siegfried because both are said in the name books to derive from Sigifrith — a di-thematic tribal name fusing together the words for Victory and Peace. Both Siegfried and Sigifrith have a "g" and not a "y." My mind raced ahead. Why two "f"s instead of one? A script "f" could easily be seen as an "h." Following a "g", an "h" might not be surprising. Sure "Seghert(h)" has no meaning unless it's a place name, but that could be possible. And already at the conference, I'd had someone speculating that my name might be a variant on Seefart(h) — ocean travel, or sailor? Well, no. But I could begin to see that one's name could easily be mistaken for something else. Then the final change — the dropping of the ending "h." It was happening all over at that time; "Thal" (valley) becomes "Tal" and so on. All three changes denote a push to be "modern", I think.

And that spurred still further thought! I'd been introduced some years ago to Mack Walker's scholarly work, *German Hometowns*. He shows how the Industrial Revolution threw the craft trades into turmoil and broke down the protections the Holy Roman Empire had bestowed upon towns to defend their home-rule authority and the livelihoods of their ruling councils, comprised of guild tradesmen. My second-great-grandfather and his eldest son had been Drechsler craftsmen — turners, particularly in the medium of horn, fashioning parasol handles, pipes, etc. So I already had a dim perception of the struggle they might have faced. Living south of Leipzig, the family had moved to

Zwickau a decade before leaving for America. Could industrialization pressure have been too keen near Leipzig, and the guilds a bit stronger in a city larger than Zwenkau but smaller than Leipzig? And in going to St. Louis, they would have been going to a boom town, but one in which presumably the capital had not yet been amassed to fund modern industry (my hunch).

So here's a guy fighting (and losing!) two battles simultaneously. Politically, he wanted to "feed his mind" with the new ideas that were lately being suppressed. [Anyone note that 2019 marks the 200th anniversary of the murder of August von Kotzebue by Karl Sand — and the repression that followed?] He wanted to be "modern," to see a united "Germany." But economically, he wanted to feed his family with the skilled craft in which he had attained master's status, and in which he had seen his son likewise succeed. And he was losing on both fronts. His eldest son and eldest daughter died of disease soon after the family was reunited in St. Louis, and he quickly moved to cheap lands in central Missouri (on the edge of German settlement) and became a farmer. He had sought to protect his sons from fighting wars, and saw two of them don a uniform. Two more children died in those Civil War years; of 13 original children, only four survived to marry and have children of their own. The one thing he had held onto was his name. Now, Dad, I get it.

Mr. Friedrich Wilhelm Seyffert, it's taken me over forty years of (off-and-on) research, but finally we meet. And it's a pleasure to learn to know you.

The Meaning of Seyffert

In the course of this trip someone said to me that the concept of being "German" only comes to someone from this country we call Germany when that person travels far from Central Europe. When explaining their identity in a place far from home, where familiar geographic references will not be understood, it only makes sense to speak of coming from "Germany." But, at home, one identifies with city and state first, and only lastly with national citizenship.

And so it was that in coming to Germany that my sense of identity underwent a subtle shift. I have not often had the experience of being asked "who I am" — or, if you will, how I choose to identify myself. But at the 70. *deutscher Genealogentag* I was recruited to join a panel discussing German American identity, and I had to quickly formulate a theme for the discussion. In coming to Laatzen, outside Hannover, I knew I would not have a chance to visit my Seyffert ancestral town in Saxony. The distance was too far. Yet still I had thought it wise to bring supporting documents on this paternal line with me on the off-chance I might encounter someone having an interest. Accordingly, I brought with me a photocopy of a brief poem my second-great-grandfather Seyffert had carried with him on coming to America in 1854. Below it on the same page were typed transcriptions and translations. The progression was from Saxon dialect to High German to English, and the theme was "I am a Saxon — A Saxon I Want to Be!"

Now in the course of introductions, it seemed somehow appropriate that I share this with the moderator, as my host had already conveyed to him my intense interest in this region of my paternal ancestors. What I did not intend, and what only dimly came into focus for me, was how this might be interpreted. Being a typical American "mutt", I'm always aware that I have many divergent lineages, traditions, and even identities upon which to draw. It is the difference between y-DNA and

autosomal DNA! Nevertheless, my moderator quickly seized upon this small document so that suddenly, the one-dimensional identity of an ancestor four generations back (one of sixteen!) had transferred completely and as a whole to me. Given the brief time I would have to introduce myself in front of an audience, I saw the necessity of embracing such an identity. Anything more would only introduce confusion and destroy any chance of projecting a clear theme.

Thus it was that I found myself trying to devise a brief and focused portrait of what it means to be a Seyffert. There were then two realizations I had experienced concerning this heritage which I felt important to

describe. The first came about over two decades ago, when in the course of my career I found it necessary to have my business card translated into Chinese. Now as my father had told me in my youth that our surname's spelling was unchanged in the migration from Saxony to Missouri, I had researched the name's meaning. It is of the type referenced as "di-thematic", a mash-up essentially of two words coming from Teutonic tribal times and usually reflecting at least one warlike theme. My name is, as it happens, a variant of "Siegfried", the first syllable of which means "Victory" and the second "Peace". Clearly, I wanted to preserve this meaning in any translation, as it has a heritage not found in, say, occupational surnames. However, my Chinese translator had insisted that for clarity my Chinese name begin with a syllable identical phonetically to the sound of my name in English. Thus, I needed a "sigh"-sounding word. To my good fortune, such a word was readily at hand and it fit in with the other two! That word, in English, was "struggle". Thus, for me, Seyffert became "Struggle, Victory, Peace", which becomes significant in connection with the second of the two realizations.

The second realization comes from the fruits of my research into the lives of my paternal immigrant great-great-grandfather and the male members of the family of his wife. My father had also told me when I was a boy that our Seyffert patriarch had fought against the Saxon king in the revolution of 1848-49 but had lost. Even more striking, when I finally researched the revolution in Saxony, I discovered that the organizers had put out a call to their countrymen to come to Dresden — the capital — to support the patriots. But few did. This makes my ancestor's answer to the call all the more significant, as he had to come from Zwickau — miles away. Now to his wife's family. Her father had been a Corporal in a line infantry regiment of the Saxon army in the Napoleonic War

Ich bin e Sächser, will e Sächser sein.

Ich bin e Sächser, sag' es unverhohlen,
Denn so ei Völkchen findt man nich so kleich,
Hat uns der Preiß ooch's halbe Land genommen,
Mer sein deswegen doch e Königreich
Und hab'n, ich sag's ganz trocken,
Mehr in die Milch zu brocken

Ich bin ein Sachse, will ein Sachse sein

Ich bin ein Sachse, sage es unverhohlen,
Denn so ein Völkchen findet man nicht sogleich,
Hat uns der Preuße auch das halbe Land genommen,
Wir sind deswegen doch ein Königreich
Und haben, ich sage es ganz trocken,
Mehr in die Milch zu brocken.

I am a Saxon, I want to be a Saxon.

I am a Saxon, say it blatantly,
For such a tiny people cannot be found so readily.
Even if Prussia has taken half the country from us,
We are nevertheless a kingdom.
And have, I say it very dryly,
More that we may cast into the milk.

[without emotion]
[to make it thicker]

period. I only recently discovered that his term of enlistment had been fourteen years, beginning in 1797, and that his military career had involved him in the resistance to the Prussian occupation of Saxony. On the other side of the house, this corporal had a younger brother-in-law who, as a student not far beyond twenty years of age, had enlisted in the Saxon War of Liberation volunteers to fight against Napoleon and his allies.

Now in relating all of this to a friend of mine whose interest was history, he listened carefully as I related my discoveries about these three men — two ancestors and one close relative. Attempting to summarize, he said the kindest words I could have heard:

“Boy, it looks like your people were SCRAPPERS!!”

And here it was again: Struggle — Victory — Peace. Sometimes we have all the information we need but fail to connect the dots. Yes, I do have other lines I may research. Yet I find myself drawn to this one as a moth is drawn to a flame. But I could not see the forest for the trees. For me, struggle is a defining characteristic of my identity. And I had to come to Germany — away from convenient, comfortable labels of identity — to discover its full importance. I even chose my life’s mate, from a first meeting, on the basis of a recognition in her of the same willingness.

Yes, to struggle for one’s values is the bedrock of my identity. It is for me what it means to be a Seyffert.

VORSCHRIFT IST VORSCHRIFT

STICK TO THE SCRIPT

The Letters We Love to Hate — and How to Love Them A Little More

Not all letters are created equal. In the old German script, some members of the alphabet are much easier to recognize than others — the u, for example, with its tell-tale swoop that looks like a smile, or the i and the t with their simple dots and crosses. For those of us transcribing German documents, these are the letters that ease our tired brains when we see them, giving us a free pass as we transcribe the words that will lead us to our ancestors.



Katherine Schober

But what about the letters that aren’t as clear? Those dreaded letters that drive us crazy and make us want to tear our hair out? The old German handwriting certainly doesn’t lack for those. Below, I’ve compiled five of my *least* favorite letters in the *Kurrentschrift* alphabet. But never fear! Even these less popular letters come with tips and tricks for recognizing them. Read on to find out what they are!

1. The Letter *c*

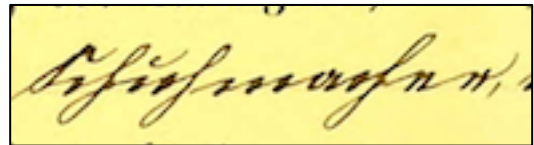


I'm not a fan of the letter *c*. Why not? It's too small! This letter is often written in such a miniscule way that you're often not sure if it's just an accidental stroke of a pen or an actual letter. So how can you tell if a *c* is really there or not?

The letter *c* consists of the same stroke as the letter *i*. It simply has no dot above it. If you can place a dot above it and make it an *i*, then it could very well be the letter *c*. It's also good to know where you can expect to find the letter *c* in German orthography — helping you to confirm if that tiny stroke is a letter or not. Three of the most common occurrences of the letter *c* are as follows:

- before the letter *k* (seen in words such as *Bäcker* [baker] and *Glück* [fortune, luck, happiness])
- before the letter *h* (seen in a word such as *Tochter* [daughter])
- as part of the letter combination *sch* (seen in words such as *Schuhmacher* [shoemaker] and *schön* [nice, beautiful])

So if you see the letter *h* (very easy to recognize as it has diagonal loops above and below the baseline) and a tiny little scribble before it, chances are it could be the letter *c*. Just remember that it will be small!



In the word *Schuhmacher* (shoemaker) above, the letter *c* kind of looks like a vertical line – but as we know, a *c* is to be expected between an *S* and an *h*, we know that “*Sch*” is the likely start of the word.

2. The Letter *e*



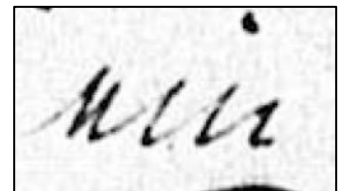
The letter *e* is also a challenge – for two reasons. One, this vowel strongly resembles the English cursive *n*, so it is very easy for our brains to get confused while transcribing, automatically reverting back to the cursive we learned in school. Two, the letter *e* looks very similar to the German script *n*.



The German script *n*

As I've mentioned in previous articles, the way to tell these two similar letters apart is as follows:

- The *e* is written with two strokes, while the *n* is written with one (the pen is not picked up).
- The *e* is much narrower and more rounded than the *n*, which is rather jagged and spread out. Can you see the difference in the word *ein* (meaning *one* or *a*) at right?



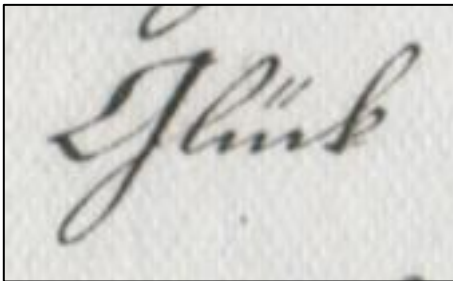
The letter *e* is first in the word *ein* – can you see how it is written much more narrowly than the final letter *n*?

3. The Letter *k*

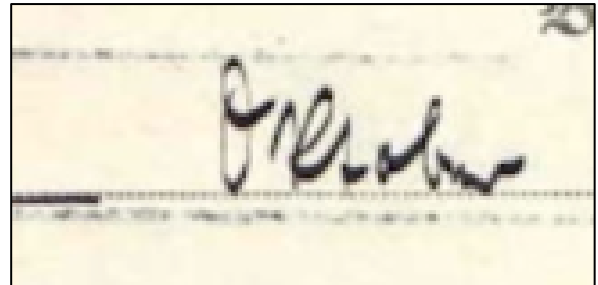


The letter *k* is a complicated one, as it can have a number of unique-looking variations. Usually, this consonant has a loop above the midline of the letter, and sometimes a loop on the lower half as well. Other times, the *k* can be crossed. So how to recognize it if it keeps changing?

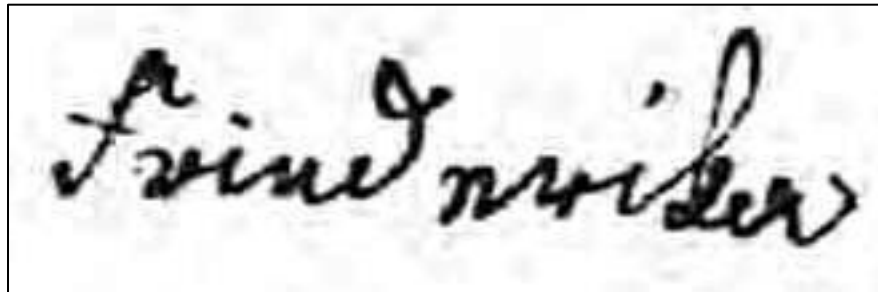
The *k* tends to at least resemble the sample letter above. But as you can see in the real-life examples below, every author wrote their *k* slightly differently. Sometimes, both the stem of the letter and its lower half will be looped (as seen in the word *Glück* [fortune, luck, happiness]), while other *k*'s may only have a loop on the lower part and not the stem (as seen in *Oktober* [October]). Still others may only have the stem looped and have a closed lower half (as seen in the name *Friederika*). You can see why it's a letter we love to hate!



Glück



Oktober



Friederika

So how to recognize this ever-changing consonant? Look for a tall, vertical left side, likely followed by some sort of loop or at least a rounded stroke to the right. The left part of the *k* is often taller than other letters, so that is a good clue as well.

4. The Letter *p*



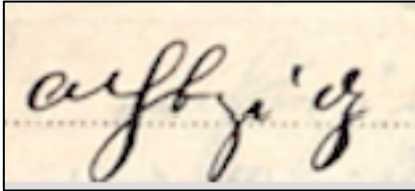
The *p* makes the list of least favorite letters because it so closely resembles the letter *g*. See these two similar consonants side by side below:



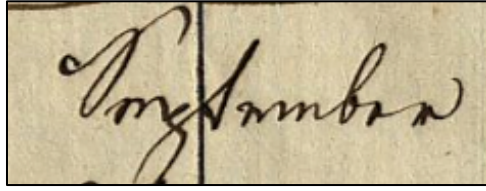
The *g* and the *p* have been known to throw off more than one genealogist in their quest to transcribe German documents. Knowing that these two letters look similar is a big help — if your word doesn't make sense with a *g*, replace it with a *p*, or vice versa. But what is the actual difference between the two?

While both letters have loops above and below the baseline, the upper loop of the *p* is backwards. This top loop is also more to the right of the loop below. Can you see above how the *p*'s upper loop is diagonally to the right of its lower? This is not true with the *g*, so this is a good distinguishing factor.

In the examples below, notice the difference between the loop on the *g* in the word *achtzig* (eighty) and the *p* in the word *September*. The top loop on the *p* is clearly to the right of its bottom loop, while this is not the case with the *g*.



achtzig



September

5. The Letter *x*



The letter *x* is very rare in German, so I can guarantee you that you won't see it a lot. But it's exactly for this reason that makes it so difficult to recognize when you do come across it. The *x* has a loop above the baseline, and then a forward looping tail that goes below the line of writing.

I wanted to be sure to include this letter because even I, who work with the German script on a daily basis, have been stumped by this rare consonant before. As it isn't a letter you'll see every day, the curly-cue tail is sure to throw you for a loop — whether it be forward or backward facing (sorry, couldn't resist!). So familiarizing yourself with this letter ahead of time will definitely save you some frustration when you do run into it. The letter *x* is most common in names, whether they be personal or town names. You may see it in first names such as *Maximilian*, or in town names such as *Cuxhaven*. So if you find yourself stumped when looking at a letter, ask yourself if it is the letter *x* — it very well could be!

I hope that this article has made you love these tricky letters a little bit more — or at least hate them a little bit less. And remember, the more you practice, the easier they get. As they say in German: *Übung macht der Meister* — practice makes the master. Or, as we say in English, practice makes perfect. Whichever language you want to say it in, the message is clear: practice, practice, practice!



Cuxhaven

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

UNSERE SPRACHBLÄTTER

OUR LANGUAGE LEAVES

What's in a Name?



Ken Weaver

When I began this journey several issues ago, little did I realize how difficult a task it would end up being! The study of names in Germany is definitely a complicated science and an area of very thorough historic and modern research. I am hopeful that I have been able to do the field some justice in these relatively short and concise journal articles.

In the last edition of *Der Kurier*, my column ended with a teaser to focus on one very thorough volume entitled *Studien über die Namengebung im deutschen seit dem Anfang des XVI. Jahrhunderts*. (Studies Regarding German Name-giving since the Beginning of the 16th Century). Dr. Karl Heinrichs published the 509-page volume in 1908 and it is quite the scholarly document. It contains eleven chapters beginning with one discussing the methods of research used, followed by a review of previous studies on the topic, the origin of double names as well as lengthier ones, a look at feminine names that are derived from masculine ones, and an extremely detailed 27-page index of every name mentioned in the book, beginning with Aaron and Abel and ending with Zacharias and Zimbrecht.

Heinrichs's work is focused on the names given in three locales: Frankfurt, Rüsselsheim, and Flörsheim, all three in the greater Frankfurt am Main area. He reviewed thousands of documents, both civil and religious, containing information on the births and the names given these children going back into the 1500s through to the early 1900s. Most of the data from the three municipalities he displays in hundreds of charts throughout the book, which resemble the cut and paste from Rüsselsheim provided below. This chart, representative of many in the book, displays the names given in ten-year intervals, beginning in 1586 and ending in 1905. Notice how popular the name Margaretha was during those 300+ years.

Until I began reviewing this book, I didn't realize how prevalent the practice of giving more than one name was in the German-speaking countries. We are very familiar with the practice of our German ancestors here in America adding the baptismal names Johann or Maria and using the 'middle' name as the name by which the child was called. Heinrichs cites multiple part names such as Catharina Rufina Susanna and Bonifatius Johann Georg and expands his discussion of multiple names in these three locations revealing some almost mindboggling information. In Rüsselsheim, for example, from as early as 1626, Heinrichs finds the following breakout: 389 three-part names, 40 four-part names, 8 five-part names, 4 six-part names and 2 seven-part names and then proceeds to count the number of times individual male and female names were used in those combinations in three time periods: 1626-1805, 1806-1845 and 1846-1905.

	1580	1590	1600	1610	1620	1630	1640	1650	1660	1670	1680	1690	1700	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750	1760	1770	1780	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870	1880	1890
51. Magdalena	2	3	5	1	3	3	2	.	1	3	2	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	2	2	5	12	16	18	22	13	20	16	
52. Margaretha	17	17	10	14	11	7	7	1	7	3	5	6	1	21	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	2	22	20	27	33	35	42	42	45
53. Maria	3	3	1	2	2	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	9	14	23	23	29	26	28
54. Marianna	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	2	4	6	2	3	3	1
55. Martha	.	.	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1
56. Mathilde	1	1	.	1
57. Mina	1	.
58. Nannetta	1
59. Ottilia	2	.	2	1	2	3	1	.	.	1	2	1	1	4	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	.	1

Counts of female names by decade in Rüsselsheim

Although the focus of the book is the three municipalities of Rüsselsheim, Flörsheim, and Frankfurt, the review of previous studies conducted provides some rather interesting information of German-speaking areas beyond the greater Frankfurt area. Heinrichs looks at previous name studies in Rufach (Upper Alsace), Ulm (Württemberg), Vienna (Austria), Brunswick (Lower Saxony), and Görlitz (Silesia). A focus on the religious impact on name giving is provided by these studies. Rufach and Vienna are predominately Catholic, Württemberg and Brunswick mostly Protestant, and Görlitz is a mix of both. While space prohibits a lengthier discussion, the reader is directed to an older research volume entitled *Encyclopedia of German American Genealogical Research* by Clifford Smith and Anna Smith, published by R. R. Bowker in 1976. The Smiths highlight Heinrichs’s review of the various trends in name giving in the various regions going back as far as 1598, as well as the frequency of double names throughout the centuries. Of interest is also the review of derivative names such as Michel from Michael, Grete or Gretel from Margarethe, Drews from Andreas and religion-focused ‘invented’ names such as Gottlieb (God Loving), Traugott (Trust God), Leberecht (Live Right) and Himmelreich (Kingdom of Heaven).

Needless to say, the art of name giving in German-speaking territories has been a fascinating focus of study for a very long time. Since the Heinrichs book is in German, readers who have a name, particularly of an ancestor from the greater Frankfurt area, should email it to me and I will be happy to check out the entry in the book. And as always, readers who have suggestions for German language related topics I should write about should contact me as well. Tschüss!

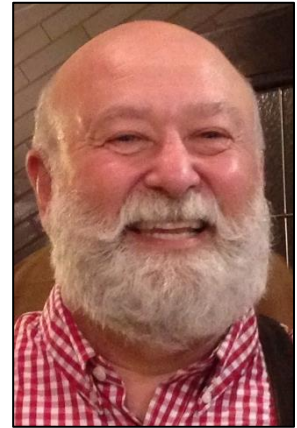
As a native Pennsylvania Dutchman, Weaver can trace most every line of ancestors to a German immigrant in the 18th century, so it was only natural that he learn to speak German and did so under the tutelage of a very inspiring immigrant high school German teacher. Majoring in German at Millersville University, 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.

DNA-ENTDECKUNGEN **DNA DISCOVERIES**

What to do with a DNA Match

Part 2

The first part of this article in the September issue of *Der Kurier* went over the basics of what to do with a DNA match. This second and final part will go into detail on the features available for analyzing your DNA and matches at each of the major testing companies.



Andrew Hochreiter

Ancestry

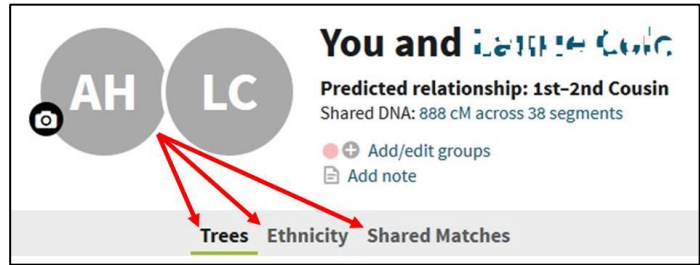
Features at Ancestry that provide functional and interactive capabilities with matches are DNA Matches, Shared Matches, and various aspects of the DNA match profile. Ancestry also offers multiple ways to sort, group, and compare matching data. These supplementary tools are accessed on the DNA Matches and Shared Matches pages:

The screenshot shows a list of DNA matches with various filter options on the left and match details on the right. The filters include: Sort, Groups, Filters, Matches name, Estimated Relationship, Shared DNA with amount in cMs and across X segments, Public, Private or No Tree, Add/edit Group associations, Search by Surnames in matches' trees, Search by birth locations in matches' trees, Other tools are also available to help analyze matches, ThruLines (uses Ancestry trees to suggest how you may be related to your DNA matches through common ancestors), Ethnicity, and Family Trees. The match details on the right show a profile picture, the relationship 'Close Family-1st Cousin', 'Shared DNA: 1,671 cM across 63 segments', '1,250 People' (with two red arrows pointing to it), and 'Common ancestor'. There is also an 'Add/edit groups' button.

If you click on your match, another box opens where you can add notes and groups, as well as directly compare trees, ethnicity and shared matches with your match. Another advantage at Ancestry is their wealth of family trees and the size of their database, which both increase your chance of finding a match and identifying your common ancestor. A key limitation is that Ancestry does not disclose segment information.

FamilyTreeDNA

At FamilyTreeDNA, your tools are listed on your home page under Family Finder, which is the name of their atDNA test kits. These selection buttons include Matches, Chromosome Browser, MyOrigins (your ethnicity estimates), AncientOrigins, and Linked Relationships. Additional tools are available if you select and view your Matches page. These features include:



- (Match's) Name
- Match Date
- Relationship Range
- Shared cM
- Longest Block X-Matc
- Linked Relationship
- Ancestral Surnames



Additionally, there are links to the Chromosome Browser, In Common With, Not in Common With, and a list of the Most Common Surnames. Search features allow various matches, common surnames and linked relationships (those confirmed by you on your tree). There are small icon links showing tagging for paternal/maternal/both if the specific relationship is confirmed. Also included are direct messaging, making notes and whether the match has attached a family tree. If you have attached your own tree and linked paternal and maternal relatives to it, there are tabs that will appear to help sort matches into the parental sides.

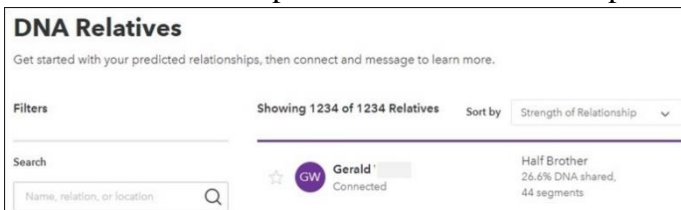
attached your own tree and linked paternal and maternal relatives to it, there are tabs that will appear to help sort matches into the parental sides.



23andMe

The list for your matches at 23andMe is accessed with the dropdown menu under DNA Relatives. The names of your matches are presented with the percentage of shared DNA and estimated relationship. The relationship can be changed to a more accurate description if known. Various options

Family Background		
	You	Gerald
Maternal grandmother's birthplace	Prince Edward, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada	Prince Edward, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada
Maternal grandfather's birthplace	Bristol, City of Bristol, England, United Kingdom	Bristol, City of Bristol, England, United Kingdom
Paternal grandmother's birthplace	Upper Palatinate, Bavaria, Germany	Prince Edward, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada
Paternal grandfather's birthplace	Upper Palatinate, Bavaria, Germany	Prince Edward, Prince Edward County, Ontario, Canada



for sorting, searching, and filtering are available. There are various access levels to a match's data, but they must accept sharing for you to see their results for comparison. When

matches are connected, various aspects can be compared side by side. This form of presentation makes it easy to identify similar family surnames, locations, DNA segments and ethnicities. The Relatives in Common chart displays other test takers with whom you and your match also share DNA, displaying the relationship and percentage of shared DNA.

You have 740 Relatives in Common™
Finding common relatives can help you piece together your family story.

Relative in common	You	Gerald	Shared DNA
JH Hochreiter	Nephew (24.2%)	1st Cousin (15.3%)	Yes

MyHeritage

MyHeritage offers many of the same types of matching products as the other test companies but also features several unique tools to help analyze your matches. From the DNA results page, you can select Ethnicities, DNA Matches or Tools. Useful information is presented on each match with additional details if you click on the match’s name.

Shared DNA Matches
Catherine and you share the following 281 DNA Matches

Estimated relationship to you	Shared match	Estimated relationship to Catherine
1st cousin once removed - 2nd cousin	5.8% (413.6 cM) Michelle	15.0% (1,066.1 cM) Great-granddaughter, great-niece, 1st cousin

The Review DNA Match displays the relationship, amount of DNA in cMs and percentage, the number of segments, and the size of the longest segment. An icon is displayed if a triangulated segment is detected and will open for further inspection. This is elegantly illustrated on the chromosome browser displaying the overlapping segments with triangulated portions circled. Up to eight people can be added and

Overview Ethnicity Estimate **DNA Matches** Tools

Showing 1–10 of 4,779 DNA Matches

Filters Sort by

Catherine
Age: 90 or above
DNA managed by you

Estimated relationships
Grandmother, half sister, aunt

DNA Match quality
Shared DNA: 25.9% (1,838.2 cM)
Shared segments: 44
Largest segment: 158.7 cM

Review DNA Match
View tree

Catherine Hochreiter appears in your family tree.

compared in this manner.

There are many tools that can be used to analyze your DNA matches. Start with those offered by your test company. Using the basic general rules for all new matches will develop your ability to recognize good matches and utilize them to solve issues and add fresh material to your family history.

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 for 12 years has been 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.

Records from Christ Church in Baltimore

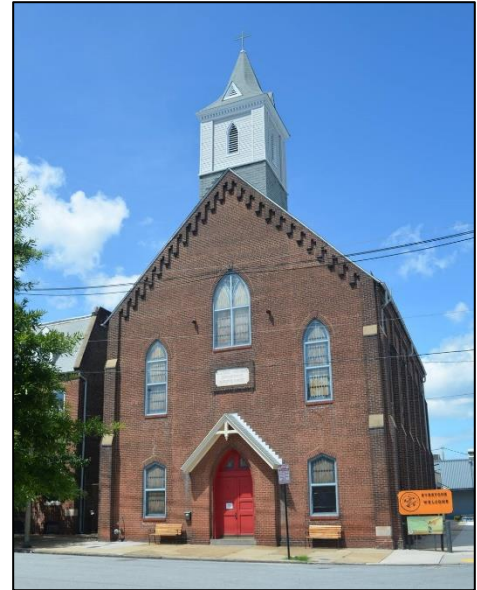
BY JOHN FRANK

Earlier this year, the Maryland State Archives photographed and made available online the Locust Point Community Church register. Founded in 1886, for most of the church's existence, it was known as the Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Maryland State Archives (<https://msa.maryland.gov/>) has provided the church records online in PDF format in Special Collection SC6192 under the church's current name, Locust Point Community Church. The church book contains 1,790 baptisms, 662 confirmations, 776 marriages, and 587 deaths, with few records in the first and last year. The archives made each record type a separate PDF file. MAGS has indexed these records on their website by record type, given name, surname, day, month, year, and page.

Christ Church, located in south Baltimore near Fort McHenry, was a short walk from the pier where the emigrant passenger ships docked. In 1916, the Baltimore German-language newspaper, *Der Deutsche Correspondent*, cited the church as the *Emigrantenhaus*, Pastor Otto Apitz, Nr 1312 Beason Strasse. In 1904, the church recognized the need for a temporary shelter for recent immigrants and built a small residence next to the church. This shelter reflects perhaps the name used in the German newspaper for the church. Presently, the former residence hosts a small immigration museum. (www.immigrationbaltimore.org)

The church recorded religious events for both the residents and the newly arrived immigrants. A written record of the church's involvement is most evident in the records of the marriages, which will be cited later. A typical single record entry spans consecutive pages. It is not unusual for a word beginning on one page to be continued onto the next. The page numbers are written at the top of each page. The pages show the wear of extensive use. The bottoms of many pages were not intact causing incomplete records. Since each page is a separate image, close attention must be paid to relate the correct line of information between pages.

In the index, the umlaut in names was recorded as "ae," "oe" or "ue." When surnames were unreadable, the corresponding line on the second page was examined for a similar name. If a similar clear surname was found, it was used. On several occasions, the beginning of a name was missing; in this instance a space character was used, and the rest of the name was written in lower case. Initially, a dash was used to denote missing characters in a place name; however, Microsoft Excel expects a math operation with a dash, and this was an accommodation to work around that feature. Besides the data required for the event, the additional data recorded varied according to the interests of the pastor. Individual distinct handwriting of the recorder and the occasional use of German script called for interpretation. Surnames in particular were subject to more scrutiny. When difficult-to-read surnames occurred in a marriage record, the list of witnesses was examined to see if the same



A view of the church from across Beason St

surname appeared as a witness in clearer handwriting. A similar process was followed for baptism records. In additional marriages and baptisms, surnames were compared for consistent spelling interpretation.

After the first five baptism records, the baptism entries span two consecutive pages. The date of birth and baptism name of the child appear on the left-hand page followed by the name of the child and the father's given and surname. The opposite page usually contains the mother's given and maiden name followed by the names of witnesses and the minister's name. The data was extracted to an Excel spreadsheet including the page number, day, month and year. It is assumed that this will be enough for others to reach the original record. The arrangement of spreading across two consecutive pages failed on page 48 whose corresponding page is 50, and page 49 with a corresponding page of 51. In the first case, the minister's child baptism was record on page 50. The child's sponsors were two other ministers. Doubtless, on that day, Pastor Apritz had other things on his mind.



The sign above the entrance to the church. The inscription translates to "United German

There is one major difference in the marriage records of Christ Church which sets it apart from other churches. In the years from 1894 to 1898, the listed witness to marriages was H.L. Robinson or Hahn for over 90 marriage records. These two individuals and others were somehow associated with the immigration process since the word "Pier" or "Insp" was frequently noted after their names in the witness column. 1894 was the peak year where at least 38 marriages took place with these two names as witnesses whereas only eight marriages have been presumed to have had local witnesses given the

absence of either of the names Robinson or Hahn.

Attention was drawn to five marriages performed on April 24, 1894, since the church typically had a dozen marriages in a year. An examination of the passenger lists for the SS America which docked in Baltimore on April 23, 1894 disclosed that three of the couples' names appear on the passenger list on consecutive lines. The names of the brides appear as the next entry in the passenger list after the groom's entry. The fourth recorded marriage couple had their names on different pages but appear to be from the same town in Germany. For the fifth marriage, the passenger list contains only the woman's name and said that she would be meeting her bridegroom. It should be noted that pastor Otto Apitz for a period used the full German script and at other times used a combination of English and German scripts. He also had the endearing habit of dotting the next letter after an "i" in a name rather than the letter "i" itself. As with all indexes, the researcher should consult the original records to examine them themselves to confirm the interpretation and obtain any additional information in the record.

These indexes are our interpretation of fragile records. In addition to the records mentioned already, the online manuscript at the Maryland State Archive contains a list of voting members of the Christ Church parish, miscellaneous accounting records and articles of incorporation. Also, various sources have mentioned that there are records for the emigration house; however, a search by the church's officials failed to find a book containing those who might have stayed. The pages that the archive made into electronic form were copies of the original. The original records were "lent" to a college or university whose name has been lost to time.

AUSWANDERER ZUSAMMEN

IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS

Finding an Ancestral Village Using Associated Sources

Adam Zimmer and Elizabeth Petrie emigrated from the Palatinate (*Pfalz*) region of Germany in 1831. They married and eventually settled in Steuben County, Indiana after several intermediate stops along the way. Based on several sources, Elizabeth was born in the village of Thaleischweiler, near Zweibrücken to Wilhelm and Frederika (Licht) Faulhaber. There she married Jacob Petrie and they had several children before they emigrated. However, no records indicated where Adam Zimmer had been born. A bit of genealogical detective work was needed to discover that information.



Bob Greiner

Biographies of two of Elizabeth's sons (one from each marriage) appeared in a book entitled *History of Steuben County, Indiana*, published in 1885. One was for Christopher Petrie, born in Germany and the other for Peter Zimmer, born in Ohio. Here are some excerpts.

Christopher Petre was born in Germany, Jan. 8, 1820, a son of Jacob and Elizabeth Petre. [...] When Christopher Petre was ten years of age his parents embarked from Havre de Gras for the United States, and when in mid-ocean his father died. Within a year after landing in New York his mother married Adam Zimmer, and thus was enabled to keep her family together. She had six children, three of whom are now living -- Christopher, Jacob, Jr., and Mrs. Rachel Ketre [Kettering]. Two years after their marriage they moved to Lehigh County, Pa., thence to Mahoning County, Ohio, and in 1837 to Portage County, Ohio. In 1854 they came to Steuben County, Ind., and settled in Otsego Township, where Mr. Zimmer died in April, 1862, aged seventy-three years, and Mrs. Zimmer in June, 1864, aged sixty-four years.¹

Peter Zimmer was born in Portage County, Ohio, June 7, 1839, a son of Adam and Elizabeth Zimmer, who came to Steuben County in 1854. [...] The parents were natives of Germany and came to the United States in March, 1831, landing in New York the same day from different vessels. Mrs. Zimmer left Germany the wife of Jacob Petre, who died on the ocean, leaving six children. She became acquainted with Mr. Zimmer in New York and early in 1832 they were married. They went to Lehigh County, Pa., and three years later to Mahoning County, Ohio, and in 1837 moved to Portage County, where they lived till 1854.²

A few pertinent facts can be gleaned from these articles. When Adam and Elizabeth arrived in New York City, she was a widow with several young children, and he was apparently unmarried.

¹ Anonymous, *History of Steuben County, Indiana* (Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1885); in possession of Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/details/historyofsteuben00inte/page/n8>; accessed 20 Sep 2019), Christopher Petrie entry, pp. 838 - 839.

² *ibid.*, Peter Zimmer entry, pp. 849 - 850.

From earlier research I knew that Elizabeth and Jacob Petrie were part of a group of emigrants from the villages of Thaleischweiler and Herschberg in the Palatinate. Many families in this group settled in northern Stark County and southern Portage County, Ohio. Records from the church they established verify their connection to the German villages. Several of the Zimmer children were baptized in that church before the family moved to Indiana.

Other records from Portage County stated that the group sailed from Le Havre on the Ship South Carolina, arriving in April 1831. There is no surviving passenger list for that ship. A search of the 1831 passenger lists in Ancestry for Adam Zimmer revealed a person of that name, age 40, who arrived on the Ship Francois I on 22 June 1831.³ With him were Peter Zimmer (24) and Ottilia Kettenring (20). The Kettenring surname was prominent in both Herschberg and Portage County.

<i>Zeit 1829</i>	<i>Namen von Stein</i>	<i>Namen von Zimmer</i>	<i>Taufzeugen</i>
<i>Epochen am 26. October 1829; von Kaufmann 1^{er} Novem- ber 1829.</i>	<i>Elisabetha</i>	<i>Georg Schäfer und Anna Maria Zimmer</i>	<i>1. Peter Zimmer, lat. Sohn von ad. Adam Zimmer 2. Elisabetha Stein, lat. Tochter von ad. F. Friedrich Stein</i>
1829	Names of the children	Names of the parents	Baptism sponsors
Born the 26 th October 1829 and baptized the 1 st November	Elisabetha	Georg Schäfer and Anna Maria Zimmer	1. Peter Zimmer, single son of the deceased Adam Zimmer from Oberarnbach 2. Elisabetha Stein, single daughter of the deceased Friedrich Stein

Baptism record for Elisabetha Schäfer, Evangelische Kirche Herschberg

I decided the church books of Thaleischweiler and Herschberg would be a good place to start looking for Adam Zimmer. There were only a few Zimmer names in the Herschberg book and none in Thaleischweiler. One that caught my eye was an 1829 baptism of a child of Georg Schäfer and Anna Maria Zimmer. One of the sponsors was Peter Zimmer, son of Adam, from Oberarnbach.⁴

Oberarnbach is in the district of Homburg, just a few miles north of Herschberg. The FamilySearch catalog for Oberarnbach does not include any church records. To locate the nearest Protestant parish, you can use meyersgaz.org to look for parishes near the village.

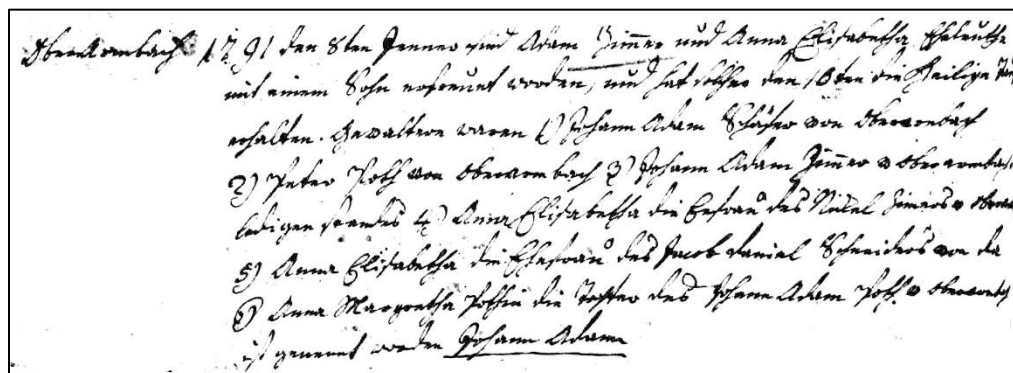
The nearest churches are in Mittelbrunn and Landstuhl. Another method is to search of the village name on archion.de (no account required). In this case the results show that for the appropriate time frame Oberarnbach records would be found in the parish of Mittelbrunn.

³ "New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", database with images, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/nypl/>; accessed 20 Sep 2019), entry for Adam Zammere (Adam Zimmer), age 40, arrived on Ship Francois I from Le Havre, 22 Jun 1831, image 952; citing National Archives microfilm M237, 1820-1897, roll 14.

⁴ "Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1558-1898", Evangelisch, Herschberg, Pfalz, Bavaria, baptism of Elisabetha Schäfer, online database, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/fs1germanybirthsandbaptisms/>; accessed 20 Sep 2019).

FamilySearch has digitized church records for Mittelbrunn. They are searchable, but the images are restricted to LDS church members. *Ancestry* has the same films available with images in its **Germany Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500 – 1971** collection. Finally, Archion has an extensive collection of the Mittelbrunn church records, though a subscription is required to view them.

A search of these records revealed several interesting facts. Between 1790 and 1810 Adam and Elisabetha (Poth) Zimmer had several children baptized. Among them were Johann Adam (b. 1791), Anna Maria (b. 1806), and Peter Jacob (b. 1808). In 1826 Anna Maria married Georg Schäfer.⁵ The ages of Adam and Peter match closely with their ages on the passenger list. The baptism record in Herschberg establishes the connection between Anna Maria Schäfer and her brother Peter Zimmer.



Oberarnbach
1791 the 8th
January, Adam
Zimmer and Anna
Elisabetha a son
named Johann
Adam, baptized
the 10th January.

Adam Zimmer baptism, Evangelische Kirche Mittelbrunn (image enhanced)

On the *FamilySearch* results for Oberarnbach I found an entry for the Zivilstandregister, a civil register of births, marriages, and death. It covered the years 1799 – 1800 and 1818 – 1875. The digital images are available to view. Adam Zimmer's birth record would not be found, but the marriage of Anna Maria Zimmer and Johann Georg Schäfer was.

It was the only marriage recorded for 1826. It was a preprinted form in German that was filled with handwritten information about the married couple.

Attached to the printed page were two handwritten pages that are transcriptions of the birth records for Johann Georg and Anna Maria from the original Oberarnbach civil register. His was in German (1797) and hers in French (1806). The difference is due to the influence of the French rule in the Pfalz during that period. This was truly an unusual find.⁶

For further confirmation that I had found the correct family, I attempted to follow Peter Zimmer after his arrival. A search on *Ancestry* revealed a marriage record for Peter and Ottilia Kettenring in the Northern Liberties of Philadelphia in January 1833. In June 1833 they had a son

⁵ "Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1500-1971", Bayern, Mittelbrunn, Taufen, Heiraten, Tote u Konfirmationen 1669-1802, database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/glutherangermany/>: accessed 20 Sep 2019), baptism records for Zimmer children, images 178 (Adam); 282 (Anna Maria); 292 (Peter Jacob); and marriage entry for Anna Maria Zimmer and Georg Schäfer, image 441.

⁶ The images can be found in *FamilySearch* at the following link: <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSP3-F3P1-B?i=78> and the following image.

Peter baptized there in the German (Salem) Reformed Church.⁷ I discovered an unexpected bonus when I examined these records. On the same page as the Zimmer marriage was also the marriage of Valentine Volz and Eva Abert. I immediately recognized them as fellow immigrants from Herschberg. They eventually settled in Carroll County, Ohio.

Two more of Peter and Otilia Zimmer's children were baptized in the German Church of Atwater Township, Portage County, Ohio, in 1839 and 1841.⁸ The 1840 census of this township enumerated Peter Cimmer (sic) adjacent to Jacob Ketteing (sic).⁹

Jacob Kettenring and his wife Otilia Schneider were known immigrants from Herschberg. It is most likely that Otilia Zimmer was their daughter, although church records are not available for the year of her birth.

Atwater Township was the area where the group of German immigrants settled. The proximity of the Adam and Peter Zimmer families to this community strengthens the argument that they were all part of the same migration group.

From these facts and the published family history, it would seem probable that Adam Zimmer was born in Oberarnbach in 1791. He arrived in New York City in June 1831 and early the following year married the widow Elizabeth Petrie.

It is not unusual that the details in the published family histories differ somewhat from those found in the records. The Zimmer family lived at several places in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and finally Steuben County, Indiana, where they died. This family can be found in the FamilySearch family tree. Elisabetha Faulhaber's ID is 9SXG-WB3.

Adam's brother Peter Jacob Zimmer and his wife Otilia remained in Portage County for a few years, but by 1850 they moved to Clay Township, St. Joseph County, Indiana. The birth date from his tombstone (calculated) matches that of his baptism in Oberarnbach in 1808. Peter's ID is G333-DMR in FamilySearch.

On initial inspection it appeared that no reliable sources in the United States pointed to Adam Zimmer's birthplace. However, using information and known sources for other associated people and family, I was able to piece together evidence that eventually led to the discovery of his birth. This is another example of the F-A-N club (family, associates, and neighbors).

Even if it seems as if you have no starting point to locate your ancestor in Germany, look at the other people and places that person interacted with during his lifetime. You may be surprised at what you find.

⁷ "Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Church and Town Records, 1708-1985," *German Reformed Church, Philadelphia*, database with images, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/pachurchtownrecords/>; accessed 20 Sep 2019), marriage entry for Peter Zimmer and Otelia Kettenring, image 462, and baptism entry for Peter Zimmer, image 107; citing Historical Society of Pennsylvania; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, *Historic Pennsylvania Church and Town Records*; Reel: 166.

⁸ Alliance Genealogical Society. *The German Church of Atwater Township, Portage County, Ohio; Surviving Records and History, 1836 – 1889*, Alliance, Ohio: Alliance Genealogical Society, 2006, p. 21.

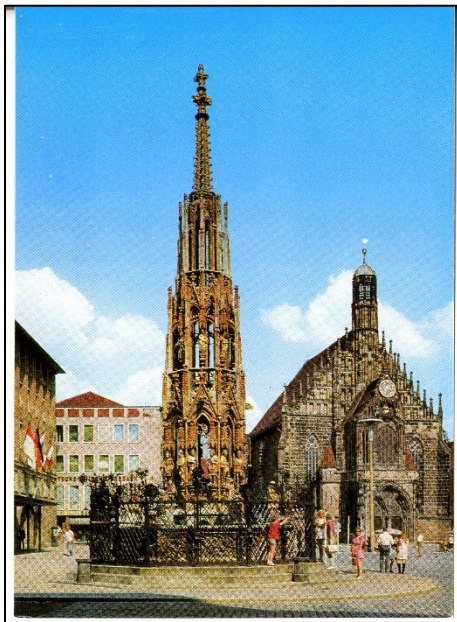
⁹ 1840 U.S. census, Portage County, Ohio, population schedule, Atwater Township, p. 260 (back, stamped), image 9 of 10, unnumbered list, Peter Cimmer and Jacob Kettring families, *Ancestry.com* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/categories/usfedcen/>; accessed 20 Sep 2019); citing National Archives microfilm M704, roll 422.

Researching Bavaria, Part V: The American Consulate in Nuremberg, 1833 - 1912

BY KENNETH W. HEGER, PH.D.

The Kingdom of Bavaria (*Bayern*) was the largest, most populous, and richest state in southern Germany. Bavaria was also the source of many immigrants who made the United States their home, a prime vacation spot for Americans traveling abroad, and the site of some of the finest art and music schools in Europe, schools that attracted many American students. With so many factors connecting the people of the United States with Bavaria, records documenting Americans in Bavaria are an important source of research material. This article focuses on the records of the American Consulate in Nuremberg; it is the fifth¹⁰ of a seven-part series discussing the sources at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), that the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society (MAGS) will describe and index on the Society's website.

THE CONSULATE IN NUREMBERG



The Frauenkirche and a fountain in the foreground (from the author's collection)

Nuremberg (*Nürnberg* in German) is in the northern portion of the Kingdom of Bavaria, in the province of Franconia (*Franken*). It was Bavaria's second largest city, an important economic center and located at the intersection of several major railroad lines, helping the city's goods to move quickly to all parts of the world. The 1911 *Encyclopedia Britannica* entry for the city lists Nuremberg's population in the German 1905 census as 294,344¹¹. Unlike the southern part of Bavaria, Nürnberg's population was majority Protestant. The *Britannica* entry lists the city as home to 196,907 Protestants (*Evangelisch*); 86,939 Roman Catholics; and 6,819 Jews. Cities in Nuremberg's consular district included Bayreuth, Eichstadt, and Regensburg. After the closure of the consulate in Fürth in 1898 that city became part of the district, and after the consulate in Bamberg closed in 1908 the city of Würzburg became part of the district.

Nuremberg was an inland post. As such, its principal duties consisted of certifying invoices for German goods

¹⁰ You can find the first four articles: Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part I: Introduction and Augsburg." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* December 2018 (Vol. 36, No. 4): 127-137; Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part II: The American Consulate in Bamberg, 1890-1908." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* March 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 1): 6-14.; and Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part III: The American Consulate in Fürth, 1872-1898." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* June 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 2): 67-73; Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part IV: The American Consulate in Nuremberg, 1833-1912." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* September 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 3): 111-117.

¹¹ The 1911 *Encyclopedia Britannica* is available on-line at several sites; e.g. onlinebooks.library.upen.edu.

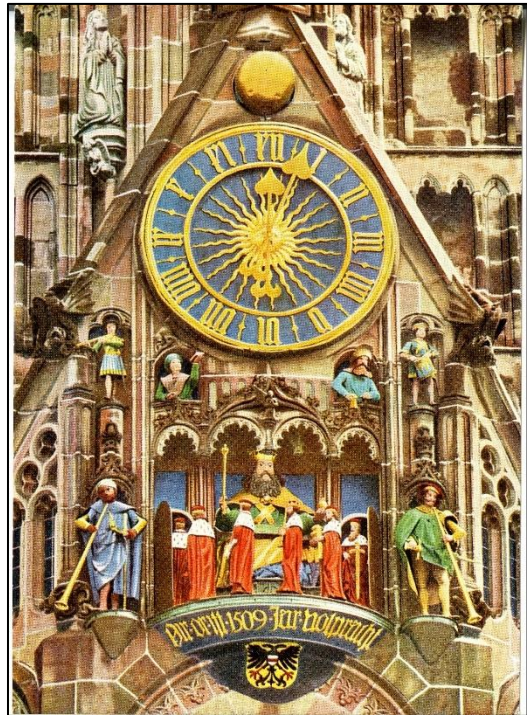
exported to the United States and looking out for the interests of private American citizens in the district. The latter is of prime importance to genealogists. You can find extensive reports on Bavaria's social, political and economic conditions, the kind of data you need to put your ancestor's life in context. Perhaps of greater value are the thousands of records relating to individual people. These documents include reports on deaths of Americans in Bavaria; requests for information; protection of American citizens; birth reports; and assistance to American pensioners living in the district.

The Nuremberg consulate's records are voluminous and a gold mine for family historians. The extant records total 27 linear feet covering the years 1846 – 1912 and consist of 185 bound volumes and 1 box. In addition, there are 9 rolls of microfilm on which are reproduced the despatches the consulate sent to the Department of State in Washington, D.C.; those records cover the years 1846 – 1906.¹²

THE MAGS GUIDE TO THE NUREMBERG CONSULAR RECORDS

Before giving some examples of the information you can find among the documents, a few words about the new MAGS Guide to the Nuremberg consulate records, which your Society posted in the members-only portion of the MAGS website, is in order. If you have an ancestor whom you think might have interacted with the consulate in Nuremberg, you should make time to access and read through the document. In fact, *Using the Records of the American Consulate in Nuremberg for Family History, 1846 – 1912* might be your best friend as you begin your research.

The nearly 60-page Guide is divided into five parts: An introduction to the consulate to put the records in context; A section discussing the records the Department of State filed in its office in Washington, D.C. (these are the aforementioned despatches); a section discussing the records the Consulate kept on site in Nuremberg; how to access the records at NARA; and six appendices. The Guide includes the information you need if you want to request copies from or examine the documents at NARA; you should also use this filing data when you cite the records in your research notes. Be sure to note that information as you do your work.



A close-up of the clock on the Frauenkirche, showing the clock and the Kaiser circled by the Imperial electors (from the author's collection)

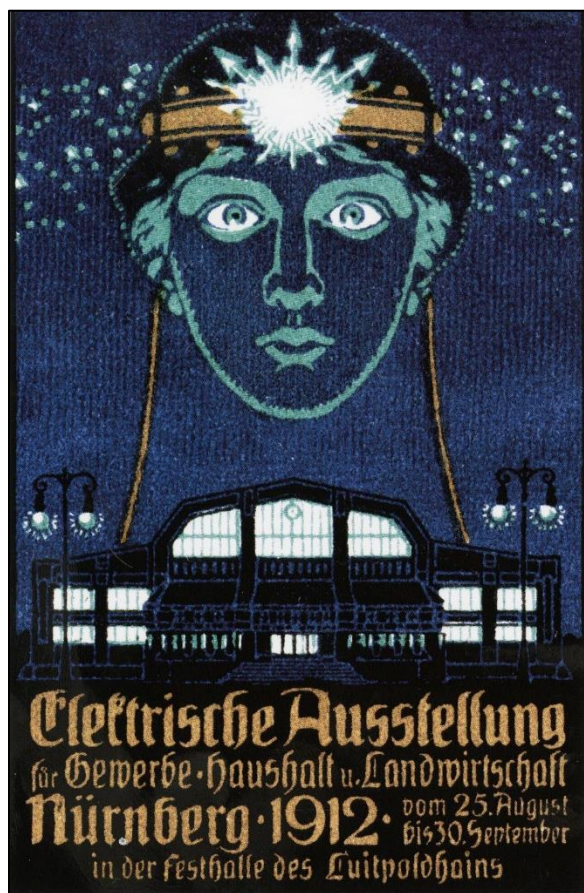
¹² The bound volumes and box are part of National Archives Record Group 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State. The microfilmed despatches are part of National Archives Record Group 59, General Records of the Department of State.

You should pay attention to the appendices. Each one delves deeply into a discreet series of records, extracting names of individuals documented among the records, thereby creating a rudimentary index. These lists make your research a snap. The appendices are:

- Appendix A – Guide to Instructions and Despatches from the Department of State 1907 - 1912
- Appendix B – Guide to Official Letters Sent, 1862 - 1909
- Appendix C – Guide to Official Letters Received, 1878 - 1912
- Appendix D – Selected List of Miscellaneous Letters Sent in Volume 69, 1894 - 1903
- Appendix E – Records of Unofficial Fees, 1885 – 1905
- Appendix F – Eleven Births, 1872 – 1884, Registered in the Miscellaneous Records Book

Remember, this research tool is available only to MAGS members at www.magsgen.com.

DEATH OF AMERICANS



A poster of the 1912 Electrical Exhibition in Nuremberg
(from the author's collection)

Death reports are a key record type for genealogists; fortunately, reporting the deaths of American citizens abroad was a key duty of American foreign service posts giving consular records unique value. Most of the reports include the deceased's age, date and place of death, and sometimes the cause of death. Occasionally, reports contain residences and names of relatives in Germany, names of family members traveling with the deceased, and next-of-kin in the United States; although, this information is inconsistent and depended upon the details the consulate received from relatives of the deceased or from local German authorities. In addition, many reports include official death notice documents, such as the German *Sterbekunde* or the Department of State's standard form 192, *Report of the Death of an American Citizen*.

As is the case with most large consulates, Nuremberg's records are noticeably rich in documentation about Americans from all over the United States who died in Bavaria. A few examples to give you a sense of the reports this consulate sent to Washington is in order. Keep in mind that the Guide on the MAGS website contains many other reports. All the reports in the

following section are reproduced in chronological order and available as **T418, Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Nuremberg, Germany, 1846-1906**.

Death Reports for Americans from the Mid-Atlantic

Salomon Jammer of Philadelphia, PA, died on 14 March 1883 in Burghaslach. The despatch included a list of his possessions on hand when he died, and the name of his deceased parents – Larzarus and Elka Jammer. (Despatch No. 65, 11 April 1883)

Joh. Adam Kögler, a former resident of Pittsburgh, PA, died on 11 March 1888. The 54-year old man was in Krichenlamtiz visiting family when he died. The 9-page file includes a *Sterbekunde*. (Despatch 103, 14 April 1888)

Leonard Hofer, a native of New Jersey, died on 30 July 1889 in Gunzenhause. (Despatch No. 156, 13 August 1889)

Konrad Maier, a former resident of Baltimore, MD, died on 6 June 1895 in Grossdechendorf. (Despatch No. 330, 8 June 1896). See the section below for a reference to Barbara Maier.

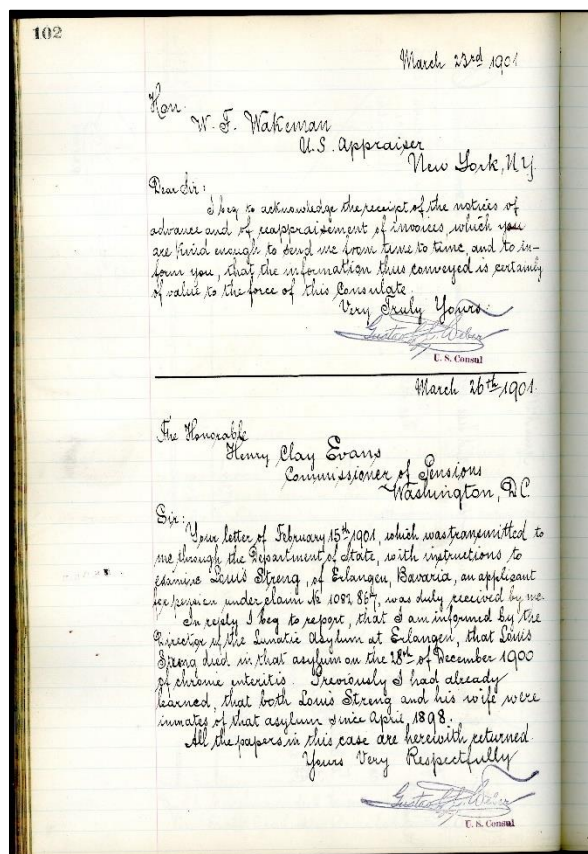
Lorenz Wacker of Philadelphia, PA, died on 1 January 1900 in Holzberndorf. The document mentioned his childrens' names but does not include a *Sterbekunde*.¹³ (Despatch No. 46, 27 January 1900)

Magarethe B.C. Grobe of Philadelphia, PA, died on 25 June 1903 in Nuremberg. The 6-page file includes State Department standard form 192 reporting her death. (Despatch No. 27, 13 July 1903)

Early Records About Baltimoreans

Nuremberg's despatches to the Department of State include quite a few documents predating the Civil War pertaining to Baltimoreans. See for example:

John Philip Sommers of Baltimore required the consulate's intervention after local Bavarian authorities arrested him for alleged evasion of military service, the term German governments often used to characterize the state of men who emigrated before having performed their mandatory military service. The file is large (approximately 15 pages) and includes documents pertaining to Sommers' naturalization, his emigration from Bavaria, and other matters. Some documents are in



Official Letters Sent, 1890-1908, Vol. 014, NAID 1327913 p. 102. 26 March 1901 Letter to the Pension Bureau in DC reporting Streng's death and mentioning that both he and his wife had been in the asylum in Erlangen for years.

¹³ The Guide on the MAGS website includes information on Wacker's estate in the Estates Section of the discussion of Despatches from Nuremberg to the Department of State.

German. (Despatch 30 June 1854; Number unclear¹⁴) The files include a second 5-page despatch with additional information on Sommers' case. (Despatch 20 December 1854; Number unclear).

A 5-page despatch pertained to **Bernhard Sahlmann's** intention to renounce his American citizenship; he naturalized in Baltimore, MD. It includes a letter from Sahlmann. (Despatch No. 2, 10 March 1858)

DON'T FORGET THE OTHER RECORDS

While official correspondence, especially despatches a consulate sent to the Department of State, are the most-used source for researchers, other consular records often include gems. Nuremberg's records are no exception and the following section gives a few examples. Please remember to use the Guide on the MAGS website to find additional examples.

Miscellaneous Letters Sent

Miscellaneous letters sent are outgoing letters the consulate sent to recipients other than the Department of State. While they rarely have indexes, there are often registers to help you find letters. The Guide on the MAGS website has an appendix (Appendix D) devoted to examples from one volume of miscellaneous letters sent for the period 1894 – 1903 (Vol. 69, NAID 1327968). To whet your appetite here are a few examples; see the Guide for detailed citations.

There are almost a dozen letters the consulate sent to the office of the Fidelity Insurance Trust and Safe Deposit Company of Philadelphia, PA, about expenses **Mrs. Geisse** of Philadelphia incurred during 1894 – 1895 while she was an inmate at the Erlangen Asylum. The most striking part of each letter is a detailed account, often in the form of a table, of those expenses.

There are two letters to **E.W. Spanger** of York, PA, replying to Spanger's request for information on his family lineage. The second one, dated 10 October 1895 is three pages and contains solid genealogical information.

There is a short letter dated 23 September 1896 to **Barbara Maier** of Baltimore, MD, now of Roettenbach, Bavaria, concerning fees for certification of documents. Note in the section above there is a death report for Konrad Maier, also of Baltimore, MD.

Unofficial Fees

Every consulate collected fees and recorded them in volumes designed to record those transactions. Usually, consulates kept commercial fees and fees for personal services in the same volumes; that is, fees for certifying invoices to ship goods to the United States and fees for services such as establishing powers of attorney are interspersed. That makes it difficult to locate actions relating to your ancestor.

In Nuremberg's case the consulate kept two separate volumes devoted specifically for recording fees for personal services. Although adding fee books to your research always requires time and effort, it might be worthwhile. Given how many records were lost or destroyed by fires, floods, war, etc, sometimes a note in a fee book is the only evidence placing your ancestor at a particular place at a particular time or that an activity took place at all. The Guide provides

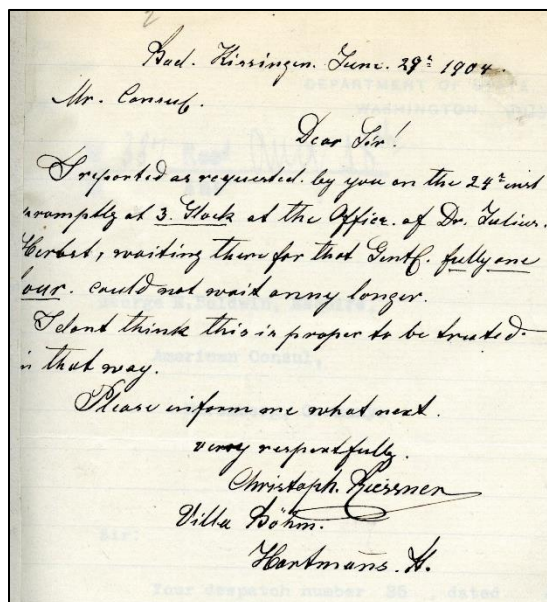
¹⁴ This despatch also includes information on Michael Hahn, including a copy of Hahn's naturalization papers.

additional information on those two volumes and cites a few examples. Looking at a few examples, however, will give you the flavor of that you might find.¹⁵

On 11 August 1902 the consulate helped **Adam Lebert** of Newark, NJ, get a copy of the marriage certificate of George Eger and Katharina Unbehauen, from the Mayor of Rothenburg. The notation reads that Lebert sent a postal order for 10.41 Marks for the service; the consulate sent 50 Pf to the Mayor of Rothenburg to cover the cost of the copy. The consulate charge \$2.25 for the service. (Vol. 3, NAID 1327902, p. 102)

On 21 January 1904 the consulate assisted **Charles J. Ettlinger** of Baltimore, MD, to collect his share of an inheritance. This service must have required a great deal of effort; the fee was \$10. (Vol. 3, NAID 1327902, Service No. 651, p. 145)

A FAMILIAR NAME AMONG THE RECORDS: CHRISTOPH RIESSNER



A letter from Christoph Riessner to the consulate complaining about a long wait at the examining physician's office, adding that he got tired of waiting and left. Letter 29 June 1904, Official LR 1904, Vol. 120, NAID 1328019

All experienced researchers know it is often necessary to look at more than one source of records to find your ancestor's complete story. The case of Christoph Riessner illustrates that point. Riessner was an immigrant from Germany and wounded veteran who had served during the Civil War in Company G, 41st New York Volunteer Infantry. Other records tell us that after the war the injured veteran left the United States to live at 26 Alexander Straße in Fürth, Bavaria. You may remember, for example, the article on the records of the consulate in Fürth pointed out that you can find documentation relating to Riessner in the Overseas Pension database on the MAGS website and among the Fürth consular records.¹⁶

When the consulate in Fürth closed, the consulate in Nuremberg assumed responsibility for looking out for American interests in Fürth. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that documentation relating to Riessner shows up Nuremberg's records. The Official Letters Received volumes include several packets of documents pertaining to Riessner relating to actions he needed to take to

¹⁵ Note: There are two databases on the MAGS website indexing similar records: The Consular Fees and Wiesbaden Consular Services databases. The MAGS Board hopes to produce another dataset in the next 2 years indexing these two fee volumes in Nuremberg records and several volumes among records of other consulates. It is a labor-intensive process so please be patient.

¹⁶ Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part III: The American Consulate in Fürth, 1872-1898." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* June 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 2): 67-73. The records the Overseas Pension database indexes are filed in several correspondence files in NARA RG 48, Records of the Office of the Secretary of the Interior; Fürth's consular records are part of RG 84, Records of Foreign Service Posts of the Department of State.

continue to receive his pension. A 27 January 1902 packet includes six pages of documents, including the handwritten notes the German doctor who examined him made. (Vol. 118, NAID 1328017). Two years later the Department of State forwarded nine pages of documents about Riessner's need to undergo another medical exam to process his pension. Among these documents is a letter from Dr. Julius Herbst, the German physician who examined Riessner, that includes the letterhead of Herbst's business. Further documentation exists in the consulate's unofficial fee volumes dated 4 September 1901 where the consular staff noted that they had certified Riessner's pension voucher to forward to the Pension Bureau in United States; there was no charge for the service. (No. 39, page 79, Vol. 3, NAID 1327902).

As a bonus, the Nuremberg records also include information on Frederick Riessner, Christoph's brother. Frederick was also a Civil War veteran, having served in the 46th New York Volunteer Infantry. There is documentation of steps Frederick needed to take to process his pension; several documents clearly indicated that both Riessner brothers lived at the same address: 26 Alexander Straße in Fürth. For family historians, this kind of documentation is a great find. Once again Christoph Riessner's records illustrate the value of searching in several records series for documents.

ACCESSING THE RECORDS

Because the records of the consulate in Nuremberg are not digitized, you 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. Consult NARA's website www.archives.gov for additional information on hours of operation and research room rules prior to your visit.

For additional details and guidance, you should consult the Guide to the Records of the American Consulate in Nuremberg on the members-only section of the MAGS website. The Guide provides additional information about the consulate, more details about the records, and supplement lists of names.

FUTURE ARTICLES IN THIS SERIES

This series of articles will continue in upcoming issues of *Der Kurier*.

- 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).

Previous articles have been:

- Part I: Introduction and the Consulate in Augsburg
- Part II: The Consulate in Bamberg
- Part III: The Consulate in Fürth
- Part IV: The Consulate in Munich

CONSULAR SERVICE, U. S. A.
Nuremberg, Bavaria.

den 19. März 1901.

Königl. Verwaltung der Kreisirrenanstalt
Erlangen.

Würden Sie die Güte haben, mir mitzuteilen, ob Louis Streng, der seit einigen Jahren in Ihrer Anstalt sich befinden soll, noch lebt, und wenn so, was dessen Geisteskrankheit ist und ob sie unheilbar ist, und auch wer sich um denselben und seine Frau, die ja auch in Ihrer Anstalt untergebracht sein soll, kümmert, resp. wer die vierteljährigen Beiträge bezahlt. Indem ich Ihnen im Voraus für Ihre Güte danke, verbleibe ich

Mit vorzüglicher Hochachtung

Gustav F. Weber

U. S. Consul

Wie Sie aus einliegender Postkarte ersehen, konnte ich die Adresse der Angehörigen des Louis Streng nicht ermitteln. Wenn Sie verschiedene Verpfleg Klassen haben, dann bitte sagen Sie mir auch in welcher Klasse Herr & Frau Streng untergebracht sind.

Official Letters Received 1901, Vol.117, NAID 1328019 file of letters March 1901 regarding Louis Streng, letter in German to the Director of the Erlangen Asylum about Streng, mentions his wife.

present time. In my despatch No 126 dated October 6th 1888 are detailed the causes which compelled me to remove to my present quarters which, I may add are located in one of the most desirable parts of the City and at the junction of the street car lines.

A translated copy of my Lease I enclose herewith.

I am, Sir,

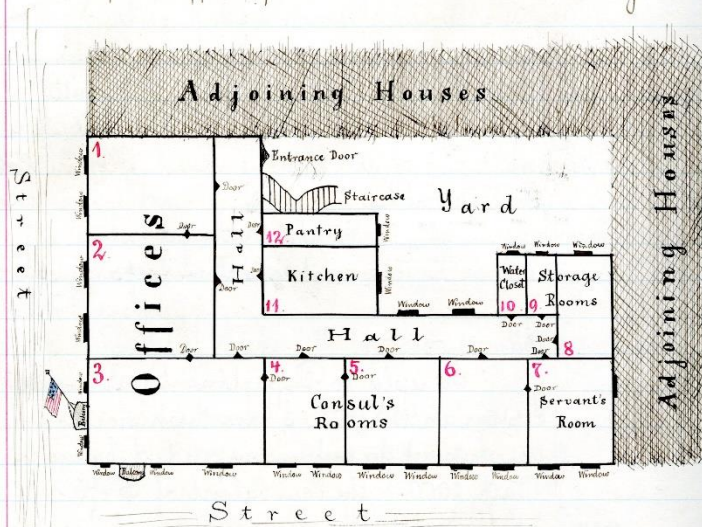
Your obedient servant

M. M. Mace
United States Consul.

Enclosures:

1. Diagram with Dimensions of rooms.
2. Translated Copy of Lease.

Diagram
of the Offices of the U. S. Consulate Nuremberg.




Dimensions of the Rooms:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 18 ft 10 in. x 13 ft 1 in | 7. 11 ft 6 in x 13 ft 10 in |
| 2. 18, 10, x 16, 4 | 8. 7, 10, x 13, 1, |
| 3. 25, 4, x 13, 10, | 9. 8, 10, x 5, 3, |
| 4. 10, 8, x 13, 10, | 10. 8, 10, x 4, 1, |
| 5. 11, 6, x 13, 10, | 11. 16, 4, x 9, 2, |
| 6. 11, 6, x 13, 10 " | 12. 16, 4, x 3, 3 " |

The second page of a 12 Oct 1893 letter to the Asst Sec of State showing a drawing of the consulate's floor plan. page 300 Official LS, 1891-1896, Vol. 139, NAID 1328038

Speaking Of Nuremberg...

Many thanks to MAGS member John Foertschbeck for providing this excerpt from his book *Foertschbeck Family History*. Fitting nicely with President Heger’s article about the records of the Nuremberg consulate, this is a Christmas postcard from Nuremberg from 1963. John will gladly send a link to anyone who is interested in downloading and reading the PDF copy of the entire book. Just send him an email at jhf7130@comcast.net or mgermanjohnsworld@gmail.com.




Abs. F. Eckstein 85 Nürnberg, Gibitzenhöfestr.

mit den herzlichsten Grüßen wünscht Ihnen

Familie Friederich Eckstein

Viele Grüße auch an Familie Siller



From F. Eckstein, 85 Nürnberg, Gibitzenhöfestr.

with cordial greetings Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Family Friederich Eckstein

Cordial greetings also to Family Siller

1963 Christmas Postcard from Nuremberg

This card was written in Christmas 1963 from Friedrich Eckstein, Christmas 1963. Herr Eckstein was a friend of my father's friend, Georg Siller, who was born in Nürnberg. I visited Herr Eckstein and his son and daughter-in-law in Sept. 1963.

Translated by John(1940) H. Foertschbeck, Sr., Woodbine, MD, 11 April 2016

Appendix C-4

© 2019 by John H. Foertschbeck, Sr., please direct any corrections, comments, or suggestions to John at 7130 John Pickett Road, Woodbine, MD, 21797, USA, or email: GermanJohnsWorld@gmail.com.

DER KALENDER

THE CALENDAR

2019

December 7. Maryland Genealogical Society 2019 Holiday Luncheon, Matthew's 1600, Catonsville, MD, guest speaker Dr. Kenneth W. Heger presenting "A World-Traveling Wounded Warrior: The Journeys of Henry Müller."

<https://mdgensoc.org/eventListings.php?nm=92>

December 7. Bucks County Genealogical Society, David Library of the American Revolution, Washington Crossing, PA, 10 a.m., guest speaker Debra Hoffman presenting "The Quest to Find the Heimat: German Research Basics."

http://www.bucksgen.org/images/pdffiles/Hoffman_German_Gen.pdf

2020

February 26-29. RootsTech 2020, Salt Lake City, UT, celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the conference. Registration is now open.

<https://www.rootstech.org/salt-lake>

April 24-25. 2020 MAGS 2020 Spring Workshop and Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton, Laurel, MD. The Friday workshop run by *DNA Entdeckungen* columnist Andy Hochreiter will be a hands-on experience to become familiar with the tools at AncestryDNA. Saturday's conference will feature a full day of presentations by Dr. Roger Minert of Brigham Young University, author of many German genealogy research aids.

<https://magsgen.com/eventListings.php?nm=19>

April 29-May 2. 2020 Ohio Genealogical Society Annual Conference, Kalahari

Resorts and Convention Center, Sandusky, OH.

May 20-23. 2020 NGS Family History Conference – Echoes of our Ancestors, Salt Lake City, UT.

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

June 17-20. 2020 Palatines to America National Conference, Cincinnati, OH, including a Thursday tour of Over-the-Rhine district led by Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann.

https://www.palam.org/palam_update/resources/conferenceflyer2020lkp1.pdf

July 8-12. Botetourt Genealogy Fair 2020, Breckinridge Elementary School, Fincastle, VA, Fincastle was incorporated in 1772 and has been the county seat for Botetourt County since that time.

http://www.botetourtva.gov/documents/librariy/genealogy_fair_brochure.pdf

September 2-5. 2020 FGS Family History Conference – Blazing Trails in the Heart of America, Kansas City, MO, more than 30 years after the last FGS conference held in Kansas City, FGS returns to the home of the Mid-Continent Library and the Midwest Genealogy Center.

<https://fgs.org/conferences/>

September 10-12. New York State Family History Conference, Albany, NY.

<https://nysfhc.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/>

2021

July 16-18. 2021 International German Genealogy Conference, Sharonville Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH, hosted by the Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society.

<https://iggpartner.org/cpage.php?pt=145>

MAGS Welcomes these 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.

RANDY BAKER of IDABEL, OK
(*Baker/Becker/Backer*)

SYLVESTER BIELER of CATONSVILLE, MD
(*No Names*)

SIGMUND BOBERG of GAMBRILLS, MD
(*No Names*)

M. A. KIEFER BUCKINGHAM of
WASHINGTON, DC
(*Keifer/Kiefer, Heinz/Hines*)

DEBORAH S. BUSSERT of WILLIAMSBURG,
VA
(*Hoffman, Wiegance, Heimroth, Kaiser*)

MARLENE CALLAHAN of PORT ST LUCIE, FL
(*Lengerhuis*)

CLAUDIA DEAN of SLINGERLANDS, NY
(*Dein, Ullrich*)

KELLEIGH DECKER of TOLEDO, OH
(*No Names*)

TERRI DESKINS of SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO,
CA
(*Schmucki, Schmuckhin, Liese, Sien*)

ADRIAN KARSCH of JENKINTOWN, PA
(*Schmauss, Karsch*)

B. SUSANNE KAUFFMAN of
LAWRENCEBURG, KY
(*Kaltenbrunn, Baier*)

RUSSELL KRUEGER of ARLINGTON, VA
(*No Names*)

LEILANI MAGNINO of SOUTH HADLEY, MA
(*No Names*)

THOMAS MAYER of SEAFORD, NY
(*Mayer, Neher, Haubrich, Wagner*)

LAURA McAULIFFE of ALEXANDRIA, VA
(*Aretz, Friske, Schillings, Guettlich*)

MARTHA McINTYRE of TOLEDO, OH
(*Wiegand, Preusse, Koester, Steinert*)

JODIE MILLER of CHESTERFIELD, VA
(*Lauer, Ungewitter, Buchner, Schurtz*)

JEFF RAU of CHESAPEAKE, VA
(*No Names*)

MARY REICHARDT of SAINT PAUL, MN
(*Recharadt, Kammerer, Durrweiler,
Werthwein*)

BOYCE RENSBERGER of KEYMAR, MD
(*No Names*)

DANIEL SOLLER of SPRINGFIELD, VA
(*Soller, Roll*)

KARLA von FUMETTI STAUDT of FLORENCE,
SC
(*VonFumetti, Gerding, V. Rossing V., Adami*)

STEPHEN WALLACE of APO, AE
(*Rehm, Spielman, Bez, Hofe*)

CHARLES D.A. WILSON of Camp Hill, PA
(*No Names*)

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. 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.

4. 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.

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

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

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

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



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.