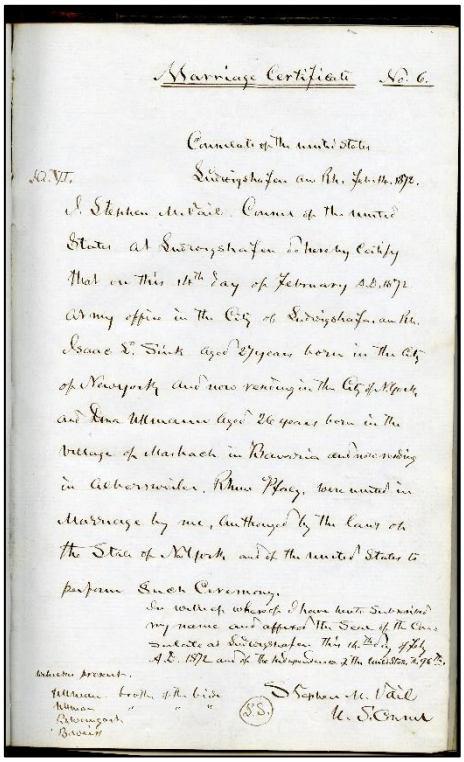
Der Kurier

Volume 38, Number 1 / March 2020

What's your name?: *Stick to the Script* columnist Katherine Schober teaches us how to read our names (it's not as easy as it sounds!) (**Page 10**) and has an exciting announcement (**Page 15**).



Marriage Certificate No. 6.

Consulate of the United States

Ludwigshafen am Rh. Feb. 14th, 1872.

I, Stephen M. Vail, Consul of the United States at Ludwigshafen do hereby Certify that on this 14th Day of February A.D. 1872 at my office in the City of Ludwigshafen am Rh. Isaac L. Silsh aged 27 years, born in the City of Newyork, and now residing in the City of Newyork and Anna Ullmann aged 26 years born in the Village of Mairbach in Bavaria and now residing in Ackermühle, Rhein Pfalz, were united in Marriage by me, Authorized by the Laws of the State of Newyork and of the United States to perform Such Ceremony.

In witness whereof I have hereto Subscribed my name and affixed the Seal of the Consulate at Ludwigshafen this 14th Day of Feby A.D. 1872 and of the Independence of the United States the 96th.

Witnesses present:
William Hoffman
Hermann Rosengart
Bavaria

Stephen M. Vail
U. S. Consul

The western exclave: MAGS President Dr. Kenneth W. Heger introduces us to the records of the Bavarian Palatinate (like the marriage certificate at left from Ludwigshafen) with many contemporary, colorful images to go along (**Page 5**) and welcomes the membership to 2020 (**Page 4**).

What an honor!: Incoming *Der Kurier* editor Sean Kessler introduces himself to the readership and tells a little bit of the story of how he got here. **Page 3**.

ABTEILUNGEN / DEPARTMENTS

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

Outstanding members-only website
– German research aids, searchable databases

Der Kurier – Our award-winning 40-page quarterly journal

Stumped Roots - Individualized research help

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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 Sean Kessler, *Der Kurier* Editor, MAGS, 400 S Manoa Rd, Havertown, PA 19083. E-mail: newsletter@magsgen.com

VOM HERAUSGEBER FROM THE EDITOR

Was für eine Ehre!

Sean Kessler

What an honor it is for me to be chosen by the Board of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society to be the next editor of *Der Kurier*, the exceptional quarterly publication of this historic organization! Reading through the issues available on the MAGS website, outgoing editor Jim Beidler has done an exceptional job over the past sixteen years expanding the journal to its current 40-page format and giving it a wonderful look and feel; I have a lot to live up to!

My journey here began about eight years ago, smack dab in the middle of the most recent surge in public interest in genealogy. I initiated a trial membership on Ancestry because I was curious about my father's heritage. I was aware that he had Pennsylvania German roots and I had a sneaking suspicion some of their names were Kessler, but that was about all I knew going in. My progress was slow and steady; I remember telling my dad at one point before I had learned to use probate and land records in my research that I thought I had gone as far as I could on the Kessler line, that the records just weren't there. I've since added four generations further back. I can honestly say that my perspective on where I fit into this amazing country was fundamentally altered when I found out that I had dozens of family lines whose immigrant ancestors first stepped foot in Pennsylvania when it was still a colony of Great Britain in the early 1700s. I had absolutely no idea about this growing up; I was so proud, I decided to start learning German (*mein Deutsch ist jetzt zwischenstufe*).

I knew enough about genealogy at this point to be dangerous (i.e., way too confident!), and I reached out to Editor Emeritus Jim Beidler to find out if he was in need of an understudy that could help him with research. Lucky for me, he was, as that happened to be the part of the year during which his steady tax preparation business took up much of his time. He gave me some research tasks to perform and, from what I can tell, he liked what he saw. As Jim was ready to move on to other challenges, he initiated his slow-motion resignation (as he called it) and suggested my name to the MAGS Board. For this and for helping me grow as a professional genealogist, I am forever grateful to him.

In addition to being incoming editor of *Der Kurier* and managing my part-time genealogical research business, I am also a full-time professional pursuing a Master's degree in the supply chain field and father of a young family. Suffice it to say, I don't get to too many genealogy conferences! One of the things about which I was most apprehensive in taking on this new role was that I wouldn't be able to bring the full industry perspective that Jim has been able to over the years. When I mentioned this to Jim, he allayed my fears by agreeing to continue to write a column as Editor Emeritus. I really appreciate that he will still be contributing to the publication; I'll also chime in when, like now, I have something to say to the readership.

I've been working with Jim, our esteemed Board of Directors, and excellent regular columnists over the past year to hone my skills in the editing process, from proofreading submissions to making sure the formatting is (hopefully) perfect. I greatly look forward to guiding *Der Kurier* through 2020 and beyond. I welcome and encourage all of you to reach out to me with ideas and suggestions (email me at newsletter@magsgen.com). *Bis zum nächsten Mal*!

VOM PRÄSIDENT FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to 2020

Kenneth W. Heger

It's a big year in American history. In 1920 the country added two amendments to the federal constitution. The 18th Amendment prohibited the sale and manufacture of alcoholic beverages in the United States. The 19th Amendment gave female citizens the right to vote in federal elections. Those were two big changes and with major impacts on German Americans.

This year will introduce changes to your Society as well. As many of you know, your Board and a group of volunteers have been busy finding new records sources, explaining how you might use those records in your research, and indexing the records to facilitate access. This has been a slow process; there are a lot of potential new sources and only a small cadre of worker bees. We are, however, now at the point where we have several, sizeable new datasets in edit form, and new data to add to existing ones. We plan to upload them to our website this year.

We face a challenge as we prepare to do so. Don't worry. The website committee is on top of it. To undertake this effort, we needed a new way to host and access these databases; the current system is no longer tenable. After thought and discussion, the Board decided to partner with the University of Maryland's College of Information Studies to help us design a new, more agile database platform, and to help us produce a standard set of procedures to help us all use the same techniques, terms, formats, etc. when we make a new database. This is an exciting venture. We will keep the membership informed as we proceed. In the meantime, please take a minute to thank Bob Greiner the next time you see him for his clever work-around that allowed us to continue to provide you with access to our datasets as we searched for a more permanent solution.

I also want to update you on our membership. I'm happy to report that the Society's membership is almost at 500. You may recall as part of our goal to grow the Society; 500 members was our first target. It's exciting that we are on the cusp of reaching that number so early in the year. Keep spreading the word. Let's see if we can have another 50 members by year's end.

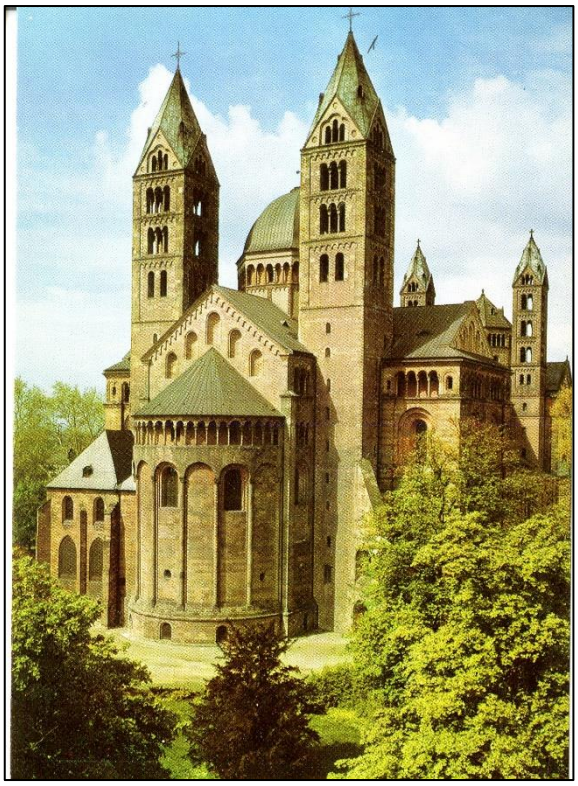
Please remember that MAGS will hold both of our 2020 conferences and all three of our 2020 workshops at the Doubletree Hotel in Laurel, Maryland. By now you have likely seen a blast email from MAGS or noticed on the Society's website that Roger Minert from Salt Lake City will be the speaker at the spring conference. If you've not signed up yet, do so now; Minert's events generally sell out fast.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Der Kurier*. We continue to try making the Society's periodical informative and attractive. If you received *Der Kurier* by mail, try accessing it online as well. Remember, the illustrations are in color online and some of them are well worth the few computer keystrokes it takes to look at them in color.

Researching Bavaria, Part VI: The Bavarian Palatinate, 1815-1914

BY KENNETH W. HEGER, PH.D.

Almost every German American knows navigating the changes in German political geography is a serious hurdle. If you researched ancestors who came from the Palatinate (*Pfalz*) that assertion certainly resonates with you. The first problem for modern researchers is that the entity your ancestors called the Palatinate did not survive the French Revolution. In its place, the geographic term "Palatinate" came to refer primarily to a new territory called the Bavarian Palatinate, which sprang into existence at the Conference of Vienna, the meeting of Europe's leaders that established the post-Napoleonic order in 1815. Even once you wrap your mind around that, finding American records is no easy task, because the records the American government created to keep track of American interests and to help American citizens in this new version of the Palatinate are almost all filed among American consulates located outside the boundaries of the Bavarian Palatinate.



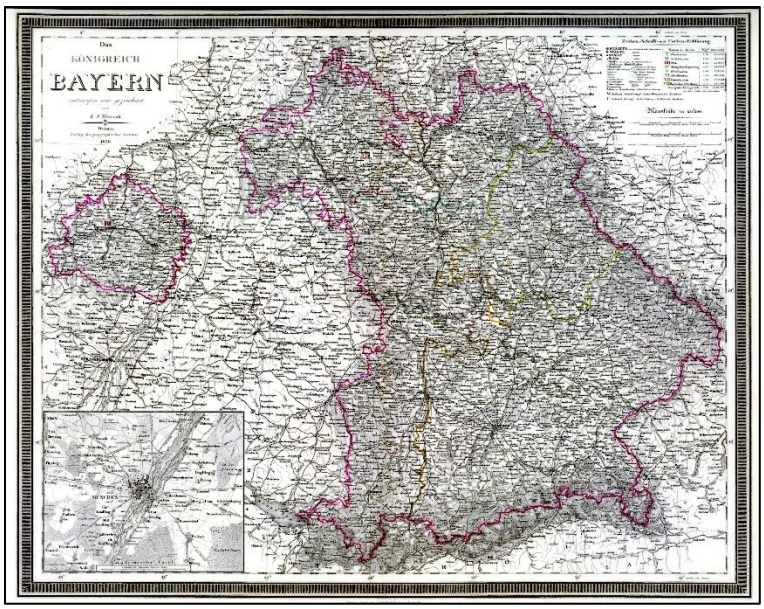
A postcard from Speyer showing its cathedral (from the author's collection)

This article helps you start your research by focusing on the records the Department of State created to document activities of the American government in the Bavarian Palatinate; it is the sixth[1] 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. Be sure to note the images of postcards, maps, and documents throughout the article; they help illustrate things you need to know.

[1] You can find the first five articles in earlier issues of *Der Kurier*: 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 Munich, 1833-1912." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* September 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 3): 111-117; Kenneth W. Heger. "Researching Bavaria, Part V: The American Consulate in Nuremberg, 1833-1912." *Der Kurier: Quarterly of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society* December 2019 (Vol. 37, No. 4): 147-155.

WHAT WAS THE BAVARIAN PALATINATE?

Prior to the French Revolution, the Palatinate was an important state in the Holy Roman Empire. It was an Electorate (*Kurfürstentum*), whose ruler was one of the few men who could elect and certify each new Emperor. So, what happened to this important state and where did the name Bavarian Palatinate come from? In the eighteenth-century, the Wittelsbach family ruled both the Electorate of the Palatinate and the much larger and wealthier Duchy, later Electorate, of Bavaria. Just prior to the French Revolution, the Bavarian line of the family died out. Naturally, there were arguments between Austria and Prussia about what should happen to the Wittelsbach lands, which resulted in the brief War of Bavarian Succession. The war had no clear winner. Austria obtained a sliver of Bavarian territory on the Austrian border and the other German states permitted a union of the Palatinate and Bavaria. The Protestant Elector of the Palatinate relocated to Munich, converted to Catholicism and became the Elector of Bavaria. The Electorate of the Palatinate ceased to exist.



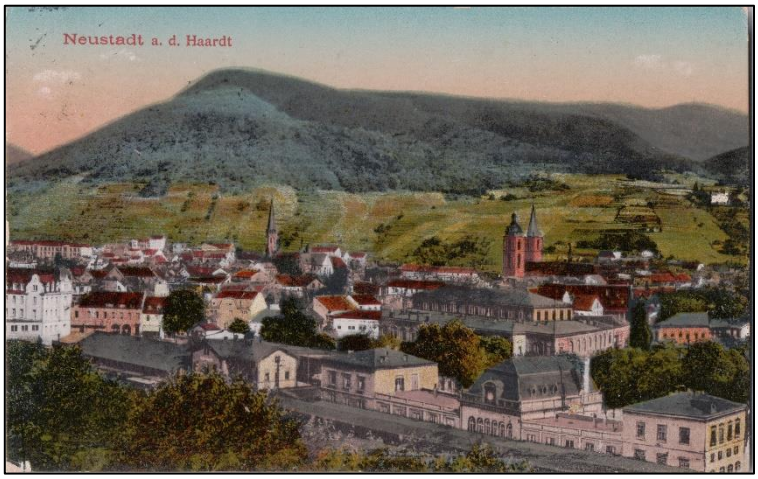
A map of Bavaria (*Bayern*) from 1858 showing how far away the Bavarian Palatinate (exclave on the left side) was from the rest of Bavaria.

In 1803 after several losses to French forces, all German lands west of the Rhine River ended up as part of France, including a large portion of the Palatinate. After Napoleon's defeat, Germany regained its former territories west of the Rhine. Determining who should now rule these lands was a major topic of discussion at the Congress of Vienna. Bavaria cited the pre-Napoleonic union of the Palatinate and Bavaria under a single ruler upon which to claim part of that territory. The Congress accepted Bavaria's claim, and the resultant settlement placed a sizeable territory under Munich's control.

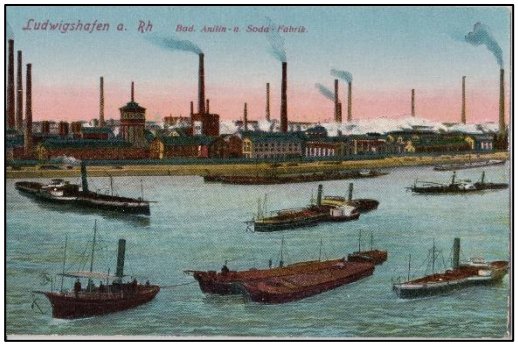
That sounds clear cut, but the new Bavarian Palatinate did not occupy the same geographic area as the former Palatinate from which so many German immigrants arrived prior to the American Revolution. This presents researchers with a problem. The old Palatinate straddled the Rhine River, along the Main River. Both the cities of Heidelberg and Mannheim had been the Palatinate's capital; both of those cities are east of the Rhine River. After 1815, the territories east of the Rhine became part of the Grand Duchy of Baden. Bavaria only retained the scattered territories west of the Rhine, but not even all the former Electorate's territories. The town of Alzey, for example, became part of the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt after 1815.

The loss of territory former belonging to the Palatinate is not your only geographic problem. Much of the new Bavarian Palatinate had been part of other German states, a fact you should keep in mind as you do your research. The new Palatinate included territories of the former Prince Bishoprics of Worms and Speyer, as well as the former Imperial Free City of Speyer. It included swaths of territory that had belonged to the former Duchy of Zweibrücken, as well as Nassau, and Baden. It included territories of numerous former imperial knights, counts, and princes (for example, the Principality of Leiningen and the County of Sickingen). Even this list has caveats. While the territories of the former Prince Bishopric of Speyer west of the Rhine became part of the Palatinate, those east of the Rhine, including the bishop's magnificent palace in Bruchsal, were now part of the Grand Duchy of Baden. While most of the territories of the former Prince Bishopric of Worms belonged to the Bavarian Palatinate, the former Imperial Free City of Worms did not; it was part of the Grand Duchy of Hesse-Darmstadt. Looking at some of the historical maps you can access on the Society's website will help you navigate this morass.

A postcard from Speyer (from the author's collection)



A postcard from Neustadt an der Haardt (from the author's collection)



A postcard from Ludwigshafen showing a BASF factory (from the author's collection)

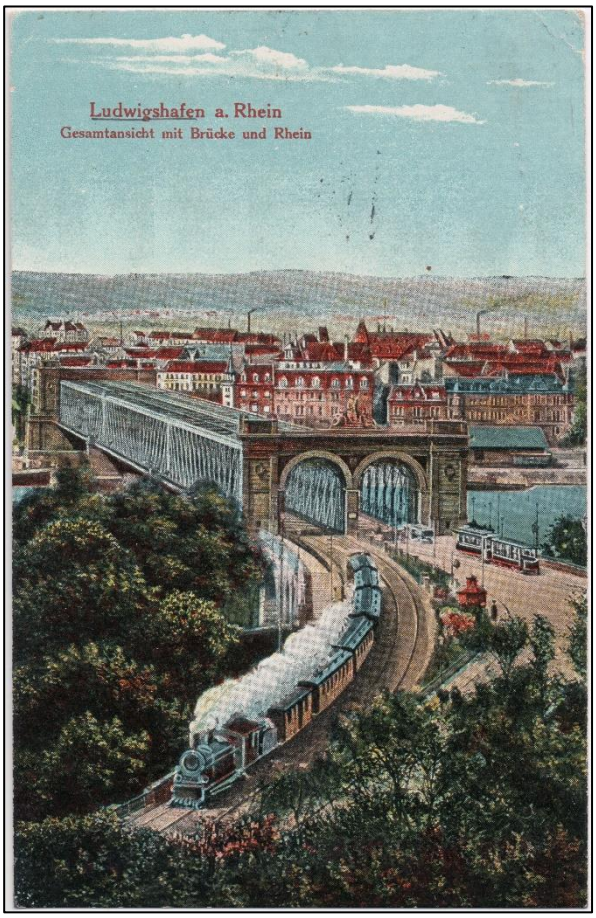
Listing important cities in the Bavarian Palatinate that resonate with American genealogists is an easier task. They include Landau, Neustadt-an-der-Haardt, Kaiserslautern, Pirmasens, Speyer, and Zweibrücken. In the 1820s, King Ludwig I of Bavaria founded the new city of Ludwigshafen, naming it after himself. Ludwigshafen is situated on the Rhine across from the Baden city of Mannheim near the confluence of the Neckar and Rhine Rivers. The new city soon became the Bavarian Palatinate's economic hub, and the home to some of Germany's major industrial concerns, especially gigantic chemical companies, most notably Bayer and the *Badische Analin- und Soda-Fabrik* (better known to us today as BASF).

Alternate Name

Throughout the nineteenth century, American foreign service officers frequently referred to the Bavarian Palatinate as Rhenish Bavaria. You should keep this in mind as you do your research.

WHERE ARE THE AMERICAN RECORDS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT THE BAVARIAN PALATINATE?

Finding American records relating to the Palatine can be just as perplexing. Luckily your Society has prepared several Guides to relevant records and indexed significant files in the Society's online datasets to help you find records. The following text provides a short overview of the records.



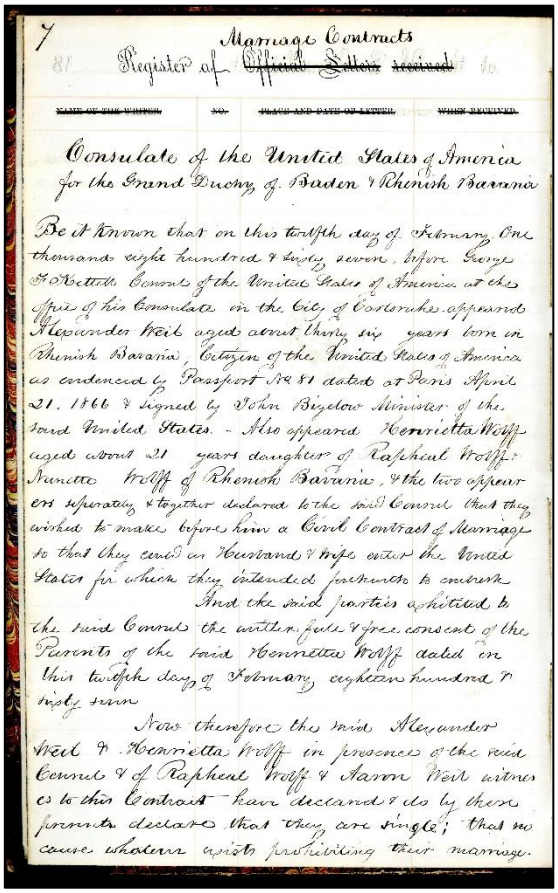
A postcard from Ludwigshafen showing the bridge to the city of Mannheim (from the author's collection)

Consulates in Bavaria

The United States briefly operated two small consulates in the Bavarian Palatinate. The first was in Ludwigshafen, existing between 1858 and 1874. Later, the State Department opened a small post in Neustadt-an-der-Haardt that existed between 1890 and 1916. The documentation for neither of these posts is large. Ludwigshafen's two most notable records are a volume with copies of marriage contracts, mostly between American citizens who married German women; and a volume of miscellaneous records, including letters sent. Neustadt's extant volumes consist of a few volumes in which the consular staff entered information about fees the consulate charged for various services.

The records of the consulate in Munich have more substantial information on the Palatinate than the two small posts in that territory. Located in Bavaria's capital, the consulate was ideally situated to facilitate close work with Bavaria's central government. Such close work was often necessary when a citizen fell afoul of the local government, or when the consulate needed assistance settling an estate matter. The consulate in Munich also relied on authorities in Bavaria to inform the consulate about the death of an American citizen throughout the Kingdom, including the Palatinate. The Munich consulate's records cover the years 1833–1917.

Consulates in Baden



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Marriage Contracts

Register of ~~Official Letters~~ received

~~NAME OF THE WRITER~~ ~~No.~~ ~~PLACE AND DATE OF LETTER~~ ~~WHEN RECEIVED~~

Consulate of the United States of America
for the Grand Duchy of Baden & Rhenish Bavaria

Be it known that on this twelfth day of February One thousand eight hundred & sixty seven before George F. Bettle Consul of the United States of America at the Office of his Consulate in the City of Carlsruhe appeared Alexander Weil aged about thirty six years born in Rhenish Bavaria, Citizen of the United States of America as evidenced by Passport No 81 dated at Paris April 21. 1866 & signed by John Bigelow Minister of the said United States. - Also appeared Henrietta Wolff aged about 21 years daughter of Raphael Wolff & Nanette Wolff of Rhenish Bavaria, & the two appearers separately & together declared to the said Consul that they wished to make before him a Civil Contract of Marriage so that they could as Husband & Wife enter the United States for which they intended forthwith to embark.

And the said parties exhibited to the said Consul the written full & free consent of the Parents of the said Henrietta Wolff dated on this twelfth day of February eighteen hundred & sixty seven

Now therefore the said Alexander Weil & Henrietta Wolff in presence of the said Consul & of Raphael Wolff & Aaron Weil witness to this Contract have declared & do by these presents declare that they are single; that no cause whatever exists prohibiting their marriage.

The first page of a marriage contract from the Consulate at Mannheim Registration of Births and Marriage (RG 84, Vol. 217, Page 7, NAID 1327577)

Given the Palatinate's proximity to the Grand Duchy of Baden, it should come as no surprise that American consulates across the Rhine from the Palatinate often contain information on people in the Palatinate. The consulate in Karlsruhe, Baden's capital, was a small post that only existed for about twenty years, 1854–1874. Since it served the entire Grand Duchy, including the ever-increasing economic powerhouse city of Mannheim, located directly across the Rhine from the Palatinate, those records include some information on the Bavarian Palatinate.

The consulate in Mannheim, on the other hand, is a treasure trove of data on Americans in the Bavarian Palatinate. The bond between the twin cities of Mannheim in Baden and Ludwigshafen in the Palatinate resulted in the Mannheim consulate concerning itself with American interests throughout northern Baden and the Palatinate. The records of the Mannheim consulate are voluminous and cover the years 1874–1917. They are an essential source of information for family historians focusing on the Bavarian Palatinate.

Frankfurt-am-Main

The massive consulate-general in Frankfurt-am-Main was the mother post of all southern Germany, including the Bavarian Palatinate. This article's author is currently researching the consulate-general's records and nearing completion of that aspect of the work. This process uncovered a substantial amount of documentation relating to the Palatinate. Often the official State Department communications cycled through Frankfurt. In addition, consulates such as Mannheim and Munich, consulted their colleagues in Frankfurt for guidance on a variety of matters. The author's goal is to have the Guide to the records of the consulate-general in Frankfurt complete by the end of 2020.

ACCESSING THE RECORDS & THE MAGS GUIDES

Because the records of these consulates 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 Guides to the relevant consulates on the members-only section of the MAGS website. The Guides provide additional information about the consulate, more details about the records, and numerous lists of names.

FUTURE ARTICLES IN THIS SERIES

The final article in this series will appear in an upcoming issue of *Der Kurier*.

- Part VII: Sources Available on the MAGS Website about Bavaria (this will include visuals, quick facts sheets, and additions to the searchable databases.)

VORSCHRIFT IST VORSCHRIFT STICK TO THE SCRIPT

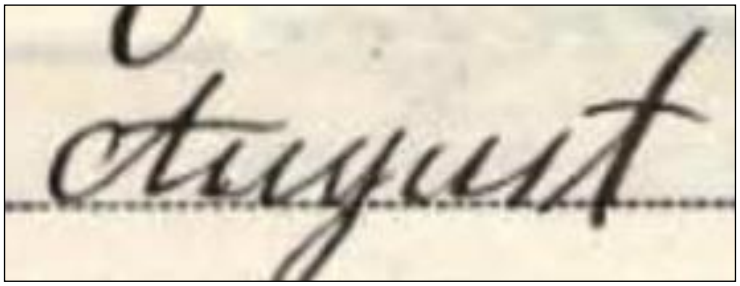
What's Your Name? Ten Tips for Understanding Names in German Genealogy Documents

Katherine Schober

What's one thing you need to fill in your family tree? A name, of course! These words represent our ancestors themselves, making it so important to be able to find — and understand — these words in genealogical documents.

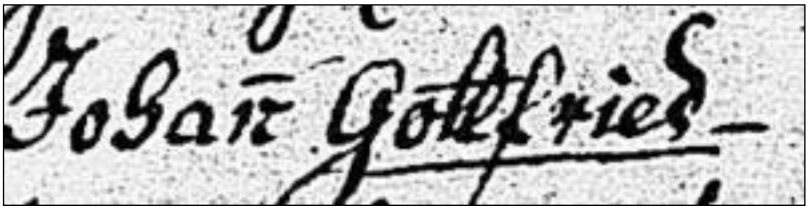
For that reason, I've gathered ten of the most important facts on German names that you should know. Keep these tips in mind as you work through the records and your family tree should start to fill up in no time.

1. **Names were sometimes written in the "normal" Latin script (similar to modern cursive) instead of the old German handwriting**. It is very important to be aware of this practice. Why? For instance, you may easily recognize your ancestor's name in a document (such as "August" at right) and automatically assume that all instances of certain letters will look exactly as they appear in the name. However, this is not the case — while names may have been written in the Latin script, the rest of the document was usually not. That means you will still need to familiarize yourself with the old German handwriting. Don't let these easy-to-read names trick you into a sense of comfort.

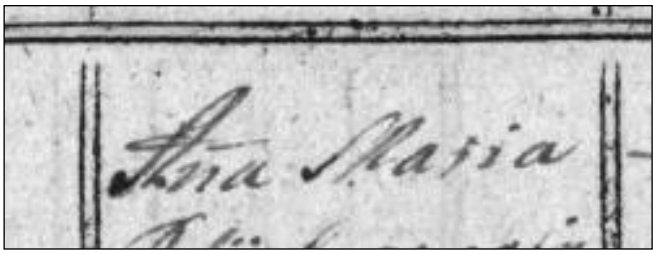


Here, the name August is written in the normal Latin script instead of the more complicated old German handwriting. You wouldn't want to think that all "st"s, for example, look like they do in this name. It is the exception rather than the rule.

2. **If you see a name underlined in your document, that means that this name was the *Rufname*, or the name your ancestor was called.** At right, the child listed is "Johann Gottfried." As "Gottfried" is underlined, this would have been the name his family called him.



The *Rufname* Gottfried is underlined to show that this was the name he was called.



Here, we see the name "Anna Maria". The single "n" in "Anna" has a line over it, which means we should double it.

3. **If a letter in a name has a straight line over it, this will usually mean that the letter below is an "n" or an "m," and that this letter should be doubled**. You may see this feature on names such as "Anna" and "Johann," and in last names as well.

4. **In older documents, you may see the Latin suffix "us" on a male name, such as *Jakobus* instead of *Jakob*.** This is the same name, so it is important to recognize both variations in your records.

5. **Spelling was not always the same from record to record.** You may see the name Jakob in one record, Jacob in the next, and Jakobus in the third. Knowing the different variations of names and spelling can be very helpful, as it allows you to broaden your search for your ancestor. It may also be beneficial for you to make a list of all name variations you find.

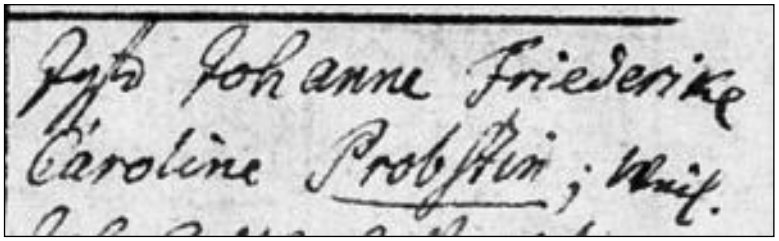
6. **Sometimes you will see two children who have exactly the same set of names, such as two *Anna Sophias*.** This repeat-naming practice may have occurred if one of the older children had died before the second child was born.

7. **Children were often named after their godparent or baptismal sponsor.** This knowledge can be helpful to you if you can't read the child's name. How? Since they were often named after their godparent or sponsor, you could then look to the sponsor's column to see if the name is easier to read there (just try to verify it is the same name first, of course!).

8. **"chen," "lein," "l," "el," "erl" are diminutive suffixes in German** (the final three are more common in Bavaria and Austria). A young Barbara, for example, may have been called "Barbchen." This would be the English equivalent of writing "Danny" for "Daniel," and is not a different name.

9. **If you see an *-in* at the end of a last name, this signifies that the person with the last name is a female**. For example, my last name, *Schober*, may have been written *Schober**in*** in church records. This is not a different last name; it simply signifies that I am a female with the last name of Schober.

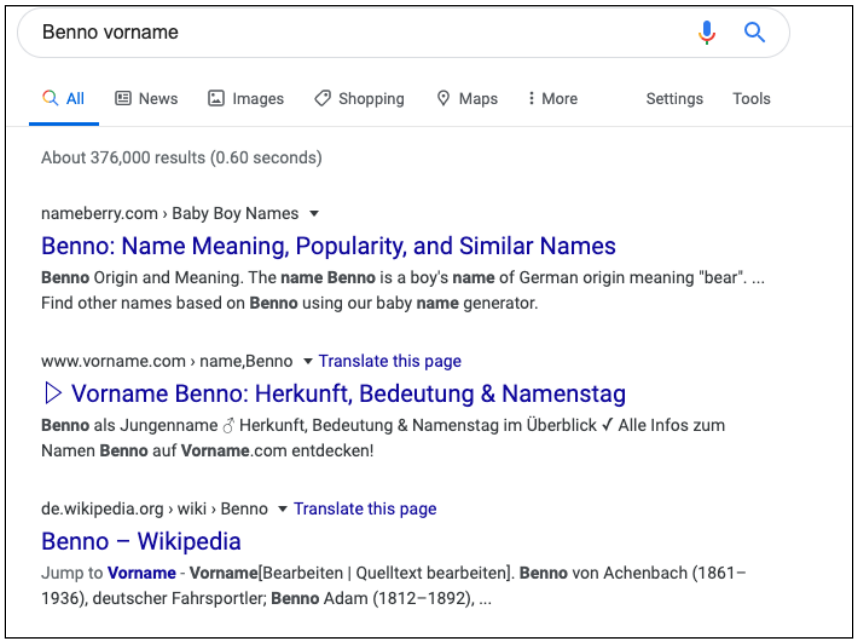
Every once in a while, however, you may see a last name that actually does end in an *-in*. The method for deciding if the *-in* is the female grammatical marker or an actual part of the last name is to look at the males listed in the record. Does the last name end in an *-in* for Friedrich or Johann? If so, this ending is a part of the last name; if not, it is simply the female marker and you don't need to include it in your English translation (unless you prefer to!).



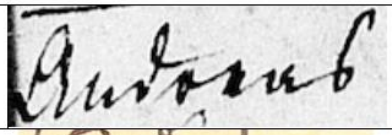
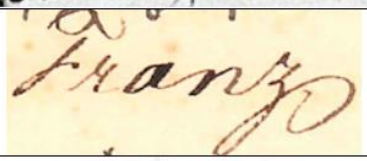
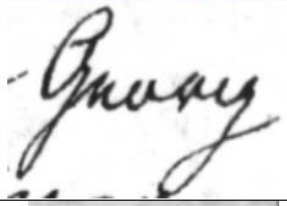
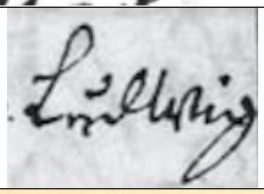
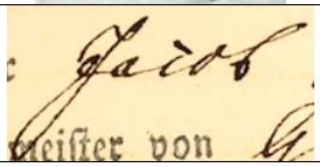
This record reads "Jgfr (Jungfrau – Miss) Johanne Friederike Caroline Probstin." The "in" signifies that she is female. Her actual last name would be Probst.

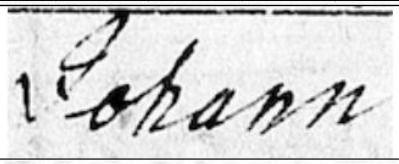
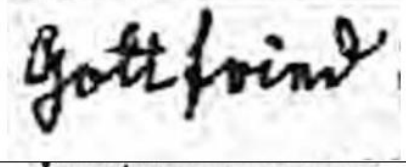
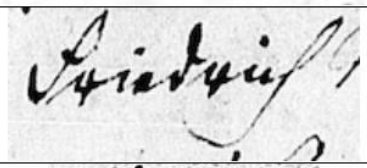
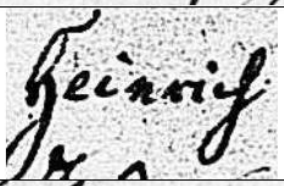
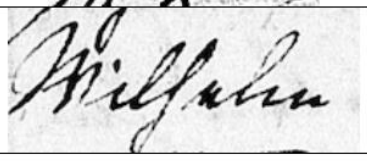
10. **If you aren't sure if a first or last name exists, google "name guess + Vorname" or "name guess + Nachname" and see if any results come up.** *Vorname* means "first name," and *Nachname* means "last name." This will show you if your transcription guess exists in German.

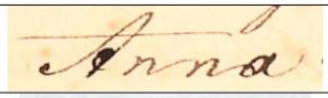
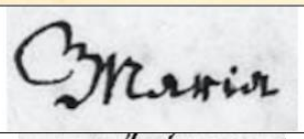
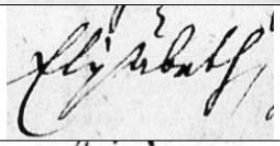
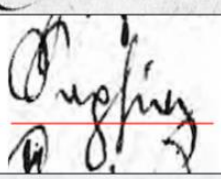
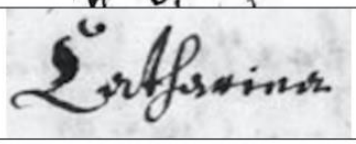
If names aren't written in the Latin script, it is important to be able to recognize them in their German handwriting equivalent. After all, that is what will help you fill in your family tree. I have therefore provided you with tables of some of the most common boys' names and most common girls' names in German genealogy, with real-life examples of these names included. Happy transcribing!

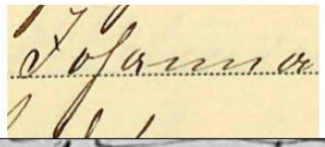
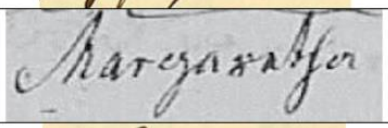
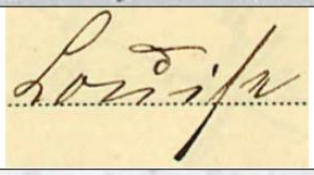
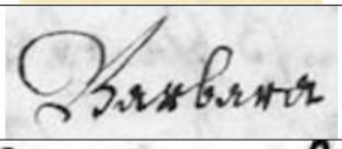
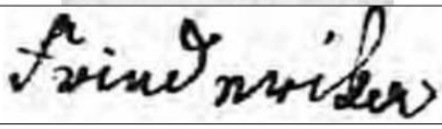


Above, I typed in "Benno + Vorname" to see if Benno is a name in German. The results proved to me that it was.

Andreas	
Franz	
Georg	
Ludwig	
Jacob	

Johann	
Gottfried	
Friedrich	
Heinrich	
Wilhelm	

Anna	
Maria	
Elisabeth	
Sophia	
Catharina	

Johanna	
Margaretha	
Louise	
Barbara	
Friederika	

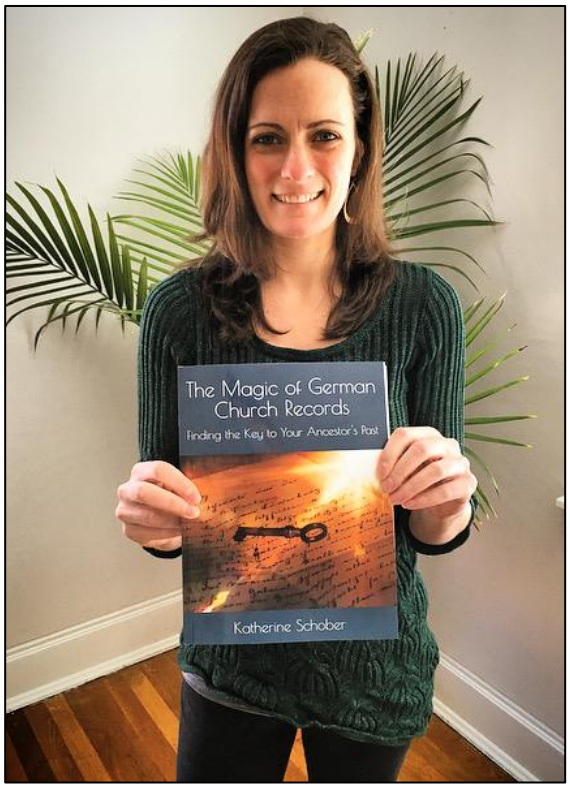
Schober is the author of the book, *Tips and Tricks of Deciphering German Handwriting,* and creator of the online course, *Reading the Old German Handwriting*. Her business is SK Translations, found on the web at www.SKTranslations.com.

The Magic of German Church Records: Finding the Key to Your Ancestor's Past

Have German church records, but can't read them? In Katherine Schober's newest book, *The Magic of German Church Records: Finding the Key to Your Ancestor's Past,* learn how to extract your ancestor's information from German church records – without needing to speak German!

In this how-to guide, discover how you can get the information you need from German church records — without having to decipher every word on the page. Complete with handpicked examples from real German church records, this book teaches you to:

- Locate those valuable church records for your German ancestor
- Take yourself step-by-step through baptismal records, marriage records, death records – in both column and paragraph format – to pick out the details of your ancestor's life
- Recognize the different spelling variations of your ancestor's name and hometown
- Understand what church record phrases, symbols, and abbreviations mean and how these can help your genealogy research
- Convert names of commonly seen feast dates into actual dates of birth, marriage, and death for your ancestor
- Work with the best technological tools and resources to make your genealogy journey easier – and more fun!



Best yet, the book includes the German transcriptions and English translations of multiple sample records — as well as comprehensive German vocabulary lists with handwritten examples of these important genealogy words.

Whether you are just starting out in the field or have worked with church records for years, this book will teach you the must-know methods to unlock the mysteries of your ancestor's past. Are you ready to get started?

UNSERE SPRACHBLÄTTER OUR LANGUAGE LEAVES

What's in a German Name?

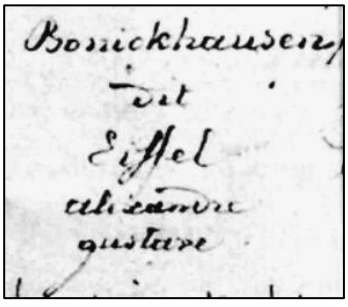
Ken Weaver

After I submitted my last column, I thought I was finished with the topic of German names. And as is typically the case with genealogy issues, I came upon something new and different related to the topic that I had not ever seen before. In fact, the former editor of this publication with considerably more German research experience than I hadn't seen it before either. Thanks to the extremely knowledgeable staff in the Family History Center in Salt Lake City, Baerbel Johnson and Dr. Fritz Juengling, I learned about what the Family Search wiki refers to as *alias surnames*.

I spend considerable time reading, transcribing, and translating the German records of people here in Southwest Florida and I was recently given a set of baptismal and marriage records from a small Catholic parish in Austria. I have included at left the image of the column where the parents' names were recorded in the record of baptism. In the column under the header Vatter (more commonly spelled Vater), one sees the use of the word *vulgo*. Although the text of the document is written for the most part in Kurrentschrift, this one word has been written in a more Latin font.

The last entry on the page is the one that I was to be focused on and the word appearing after *vulgo* is a very clearly written *Rauch*, which means smoke. Believe it or not, the first entry on the page has the same *Rauch* appearing after *vulgo*. At first, we speculated that it might be a farm name, which was a naming custom several centuries earlier when surnames were just emerging (this document came from the 1780s).

At any rate, with the help of Baerbel and Fritz, I discovered that the word translates to '*genannt'* in German, '*called'* in English, and is equivalent to what the French call a *dit* (pronounced "dee"). The practice of adopting this kind of a second name it appears is more common in Catholic regions of Europe, as well as in Canada. Some subsequent research also revealed that one of the world's more famous civil engineers and architects Gustave Alexandre Eiffel really wasn't named Eiffel at all! His actual surname was Bonickhausen and his ancestors had emigrated to France from the Eifel section of Germany several decades earlier. Eiffel was indeed his *dit*, which he officially adopted as his surname in 1880.



As I leafed through the pages of this baptismal register, the practice of using an alias surname was the village norm. Virtually every male listed in the book had an alias indicated after the word *vulgo* or its abbreviation *v.* In the example provided here of one of the female baptismal witnesses, the practice wasn't just limited to males. Records from other localities where the practice was in place indicate that the *dit* may also follow the word *dictus, sive,* or *qui et.* Obviously, the use of such alias surnames poses issues for genealogists seeking family members who may have simply adopted the *dit* without an official paper trail to confirm the action.

The other issue that this list of parents from this Austrian parish points to is the use of the suffix *-in* with surnames of females. When you look at the names under the *Mütter* column, *-in* is used in every entry, even though the scribe who produced the document didn't always properly divide words into syllables. In the last entry on the page the woman's name should have been written *Greiner -in,* with just the *-in* on the last line, not *-rin.*

Adding *-in* to masculine surnames is a concept that sometimes eludes English-speaking genealogists. Since English is not the gender-driven language that German is, people have determined that this surname with an *-in* must be a new name in the family — even people who have been doing German genealogy research for quite some time. Believe me, it is not!

Because of the German gender issue, a teacher in German is a *Lehrer* or *Lehrerin*; a doctor is an *Arzt* or *Ärztin*. Those nouns ending in *-in* are the females, but the word would most likely just be translated as teacher or doctor. The practice of adding *-in* to German surnames has since died out, but even early church records of German churches in America contain many examples of the practice.

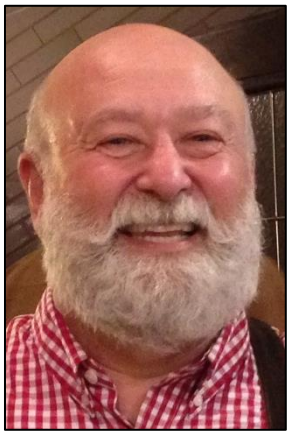
When you look at the image above of the female baptism witness, you will notice that her last name is Rassin. Having looked at a variety of records from this family, I can tell you that her brother is recorded as Valentin Rassi. (Since the name already ends in the vowel *i*, no extra *i* is needed to add the suffix.)

Just one last piece of advice: use the German FamilySearch Wiki! You'll find it at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Germany_Genealogy. Had I followed that piece of advice that I give to all those I work with on their German genealogy, I wouldn't have had to bother three other people with my question: "What's *vulgo*?" The answer was there in the wiki on the page entitled: Germany Names, Personal. I don't believe Baerbel, Fritz or Jim minded that I posed the question and I am most appreciative of their help, but the answer was out there for the taking all along! *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

Why Family Trees Are Important



Andrew Hochreiter

This article may appear to be a departure from the focus of this column on DNA, but it actually isn't. Genetic genealogy is a valuable tool for researching family history. But it is only one of many tools required by a genealogist. Many experts emphasize the need to combine DNA with traditional research methods to fully achieve success. As the saying goes, "DNA can tell you that you are related to someone but not how." It is especially true with autosomal DNA (atDNA). Y-DNA and mitochondrial DNA provide a direct line back for patrilineal and matrilineal ancestral lines. But atDNA is more complex because it covers many more degrees of relationship. Once you determine that you share DNA with someone, the quest for the precise relationship begins. This is when family trees become a critical part of genetic genealogy research.

A Familial and Historical Record

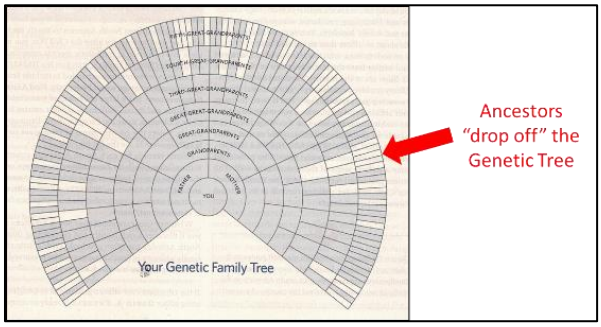
Simply put, a family tree is a record of a family's lineage as well as its past, which helps establish descendancy from common ancestors and interconnections between families. It depicts networks of relationships and linked kinship between individuals. Historically, family pedigrees established inheritance, nobility titles, and legal rank. Today, family trees are used to document family histories and preserve facts and memories. As a generation passes, important information can be forgotten, obscured, or lost. Scientific mysteries can be studied such as genetic diseases using pedigrees. Family trees used in medicine and social work are known as genograms. The success of using DNA tests in genealogical research depends a great deal on the quality of family trees to find relationships.

We would all enjoy seeing a historical manuscript of our pedigree introduced by a family coat-of-arm. Most of us are not descended from landed gentry but have more modest origins. However, technology has made documenting and sourcing our family history ever easier. Home computer software such as **Family Tree Maker**, **RootsMagic**, **Legacy Family Tree**, **The Master Genealogist**, and many other products offer increasingly sophisticated means of creating trees, recording facts, printing charts, and researching records. Both computer-based and cloud versions exist, as well as web-hosted programs. Family trees can be created and maintained at specific collaborative sites and most DNA test companies. A hugely beneficial common file format called

a GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communication created by the LDS Church) facilitates exchange between different programs to share family information.

Several efforts are ongoing to create a shared "worldwide" family tree. These sites are collaborative, stitching together trees from various participants with the goal of forming a universal record where anyone can find their ancestors and relatives. Well known sites include **WikiTree** (with 22m+ profiles), **Geni World Family Tree** (141m+ profiles), and **FamilySearch Shared Family Tree** (1.2b ancestors). Other sites include **MyTrees.com** and **Onegreatfamily.com**. Both Ancestry and MyHeritage boast large numbers of family trees with 100 million and 41 million respectively. **Family Tree Searcher** is a useful, free site to search existing family trees at eleven online family tree databases. Keeping family trees at multiple sites can be a valuable but time-consuming effort. Collaborative family trees have both advantages and disadvantages. Potential obstacles include mistakes, editing differences, privacy concerns and questions about ownership of data. But the potential benefits are preventing duplication of effort, shared control of ancestors, and crowd-sourced research. Now DNA plus collaboration helps prove or disprove the genealogical record.

Two Types of Family Trees: Genealogical vs Genetic



It is important to realize that everyone has two types of family trees: one's genealogical family tree and one's genetic family tree. Your genealogical family tree is made up of *all* your ancestors. Whether you can name them or not, these people existed and composed your pedigree of past ancestors. Your genetic family tree is a subset of your genealogical family tree because not all your ancestors passed their DNA down to you. The characteristic of most DNA, especially autosomal DNA, is that it recombines randomly at each generation. Over time, some DNA gets passed down and some dissipates and disappears. You do not inherit DNA from each of your ancestors. Two siblings will share the same exact genealogical family tree and ancestors, but they will have different genetic family trees because they randomly inherited different segments of DNA from their ancestors. This is an important consideration when you use family trees to analyze your relationship to a DNA match.

Other considerations are the completeness and correctness of family trees. The quality of online family trees varies significantly. Research and fact-checking are essential before incorporating information into your tree. Citing sources for names, dates, events and locations from official records helps to ensure accuracy. Avoid using another person's family tree as the source for information in your own family tree. Despite shortcomings, family trees can be a great resource by providing hints to individual and family brick walls. Look for trees with source information and documentation that support their conclusions.

Combining Family Trees with DNA Research

A family tree is a critical requirement at your DNA test company site. DNA and family trees are powerful partners that work together in supporting roles. Each can provide validation of conclusions developed using the other. DNA can prove or disprove a relationship when evaluating documentary evidence. On the other hand, records may need to be reviewed to determine why an unknown DNA match appears. Discoveries and surprises do occur. But pairing DNA and a family tree can maximize the research process with fact revealing results. Uniting these tools can help overcome the shortcomings of each, determining relationships based on common ancestors and/or matching DNA segments, and ultimately uncovering additional family knowledge to fill in missing family history.

A tandem approach increases the effectiveness of joining these tools, which integrates the strongest elements of each. Generally, this includes the following steps:

- Build your family tree.
- Check the family trees of genetic cousins.
- Test your parents, or if this is not possible, test known paternal and maternal cousins to phase your results. (Phasing means to attribute what DNA segments came from which parent. This assists relationship analysis by aligning a match to one parent or the other.)
- Determine possible genetic relationship based on total shared cM.
- Look for common ancestors in the family trees.
- Compare the genetic evidence with family tree information.

A family tree can be created in several ways in your DNA results account. These include building one from scratch, creating each individual one by one. An easier way is to transfer a GEDCOM file from an existing program. If you want to limit the number of generations or individuals, genealogy programs have features that will create a new file for transfer based on specific family lines or branches. If you use a "skeleton tree," build the tree back between four and seven generations. Living individuals should always be labeled "Living" to protect their privacy. Sometimes you find deceased ancestors labeled as living; in these cases, the tree owner probably didn't change the profile setting from living to deceased. Sites also offer the option to make your tree public, private, or private but searchable. Some people keep their tree private for reasons ranging from privacy concerns to perhaps a proprietary feeling based on expenditure of research time and money.

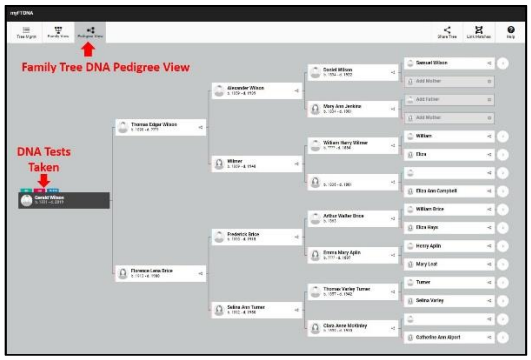
It is worth considering that rewards are directly related to what is shared. How can a common ancestor be identified if they are not included in the family tree? Matching features are activated by the overlap of data entered by the test taker and tree owner with others in the database. An important thing to do is to link your DNA results to yourself in the tree. The family tree linked to your test is used to find people in your tree and your matches' trees. Many people like to list

ancestors as far back as possible. Six generations may be all you need for autosomal matches so going wide is more important. The inclusion of collateral relatives such as wives, siblings, and cousins will help the DNA matching to identify a connection. Including birth and death dates and locations, multiple spouses, and their descendants will refine the results.

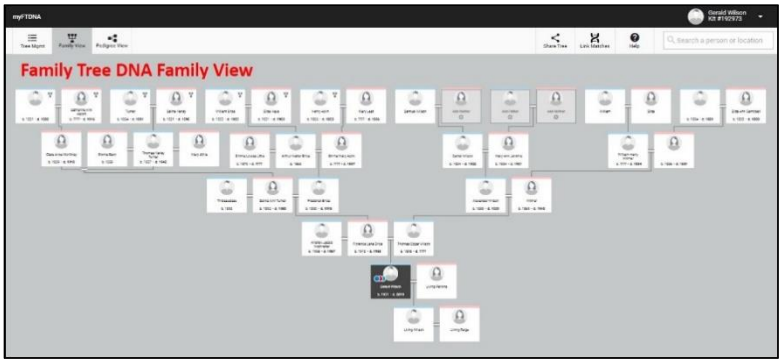
You can grow your family tree using DNA matches. Test companies' sites will find common surnames and locations in your match's tree. Collaboration can result in new discoveries such as earlier generations and collateral relatives. Remember that the more complete the tree, the better the chance of overlapping information. If your tree is accessible, a match may be in "research mode" when he discovers it and be anxious to share. They may even know something about your family that you don't.

Test Companies' Family Tree Features

Each of the test companies offer tools to fuse analysis using your DNA matches and family trees.

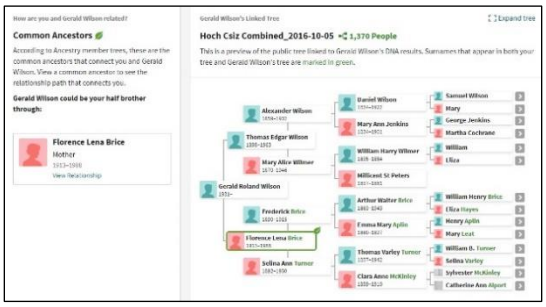


Family Tree DNA: You can add your DNA matches to your family tree with the myFamilyTree tool. The Family Matching feature allows you to view your confirmed maternal and paternal Family Finder (atDNA) matches. This feature assigns maternal or paternal icons to a customer's Family Finder. To use this feature, you must have created a family tree and have at least one maternal or paternal Family Finder match linked to your family tree. The Family Matching system is not based on the In-Common With/Not-In-Common With feature which is entirely based on the match list. Instead, Family Matching is based on phased blocks detected between relations. It assigns maternal and paternal icons based on linked kits, the phased matching algorithm, and the Family Matching threshold. The system does not compare your tree to others. Suggestions come from your matches' names with a Soundex system to identify similar sounding names between the entries in your tree and your matches' names for possible links to explore.

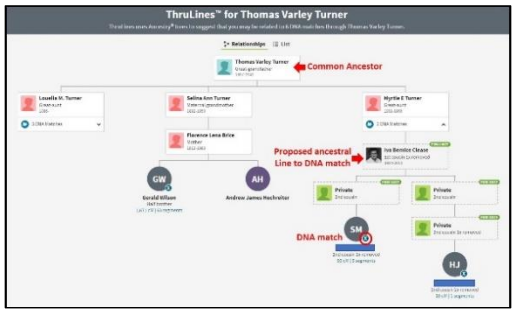


MyHeritage offers integrated tools to build a family tree and provide clues to DNA relationships. When reviewing a DNA match, you can easily view their tree. Smart Matches find matches between people in your family tree and people in other family trees. With the DNA

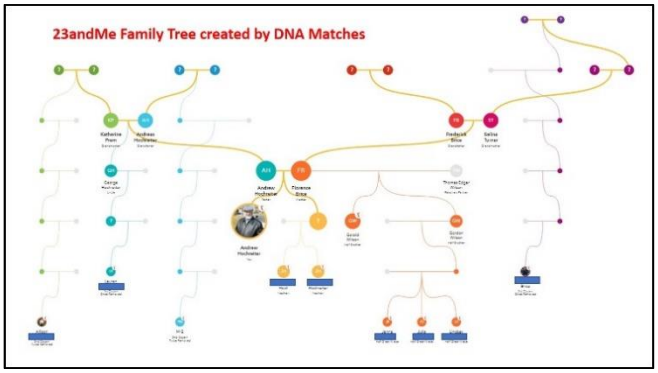
Matching results, you can get information about people who share DNA with you and see information about the matching family tree, get Smart Matches, and contact the DNA owner to collaborate. When the match is confirmed, you are taken to a page where you can extract specific information to your tree. A unique feature developed by MyHeritage is the Theory of Family Relativity. It incorporates genealogical information with DNA matches to suggest theories on how you are related. When the estimated relationship based on shared DNA is extensive, the theory will assist in reducing the possibilities. The theories are derived by connecting millions of data points from MyHeritage's databases for family trees and historical records. The number of theories depends on the size and detail of your family tree, which means more is better.



Ancestry: One of the most powerful tools is Ancestry's ThruLines. It shows the common ancestors who likely connect you to your DNA matches. The system compares several aspects of a potential common ancestor and generates a Common Ancestor hint with your match. You can click on the match to see a comparison page with the Common Ancestors identified and review the details in a pedigree chart. You can see more DNA matches you may be related to through that ancestor by clicking on "View ThruLines." It is very helpful for visualizing how your genetic tree and your genealogical tree relate. ThruLines present ancestors in your tree as solid boxes. You can view the matches that descend through each branch of the family using dropdown menus. Potential common ancestors, which are implied by tree overlaps, appear in dotted-line boxes. These can be evaluated and added to your tree if validated.



23andMe: Previously, 23andMe did not offer a tree building feature on its site. You could provide a link to your tree wherever it was published such as on Ancestry, FamilySearch, or WikiTree. But this changed recently with their introduction of a unique tree building tool. 23andMe automatically generates a family tree for you that includes a visualization of your genetic relatives that have opted in to 23andMe's DNA Relatives feature. 23andMe compares your DNA and ages to predict genetic relationships in a tree format. You can manually write in family members and ancestors. Living relatives can only be viewed by you, whereas deceased ancestors can be seen by DNA relatives. Additional features are being added.



Family trees validated by record sources can greatly elucidate genetic results. DNA cannot provide a specific relationship answer; it must be combined with other sources as evidence to support the relationship premise. The following statement by genetic genealogist Blaine Bettinger is noteworthy:

> "…DNA is a record type, similar to a census record, land record, vital record, or tax record. All of these record types provide evidence that — when combined with other types of evidence — support, weigh against, or reject a genealogical hypothesis. However, DNA alone cannot prove anything; DNA evidence must be combined with other types of evidence in order to arrive at a solid genealogical conclusion."
>
> *What Is a Genetic Genealogist?* by Blaine Bettinger
> https://thegeneticgenealogist.com/2016/12/27/what-is-a-genetic-genealogist/

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

AUSWANDERER ZUSAMMEN IMMIGRANT CONNECTIONS

Constructing Family Relationships from U.S. Consulate Files

Bob Greiner

In the records of the U. S. Consulate-General at Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, is an estate case file for Katharina Vetter (nee Schmidt). She died in Gackenbach, Hesse-Nassau around 1900. Her heirs were the children of Anton Schmidt, who had immigrated to the United States and settled in Grant County, Wisconsin. Anton was a brother of Katharina. Richard Guenther, the consul general in Frankfurt, coordinated communication between the court in Germany and the lawyer for the heirs.

File in Frankfurt consulate records for the Katharina Vetter estate

The file noted that Anton was born on 9 August 1819 in Horbach and died on 4 March 1896 in Platteville, Wisconsin. His wife and surviving children were named, as well as his parents. The children received several small distributions from Katharina's estate between 1903 and 1906. Given the information in the file, what can we discover about the family in Germany and America?

I was able to find Anton and his family in the U.S. federal census of Grant County, Wisconsin, from 1850 through 1900, except for 1860. The names of the children matched those in the estate file. Their surname was alternately spelled Schmidt and Smith.[1]

Ancestry and FamilySearch each have at least one family tree for Anton Schmidt.[2] Those gave me a bit more information to help in the search, including the village of origin for Anton's wife, Katharina Paul. On Ancestry, a database of Lutheran church records from Platteville included baptisms of several of the Schmidt children and verified Katharina's maiden name.[3] One of the sources indicated that the couple married in April 1849 in Iowa County, Wisconsin.

I attempted to locate Anton Schmidt on a passenger list before 1849. There are several possibilities, but without any other corroborating evidence, it is impossible to be certain which is the correct person.

Using the information from the estate file, I searched for Horbach and Gackenbach on meyersgaz.org. There are nearly a dozen villages named Horbach, but only a few within the jurisdiction of the consulate-general in Frankfurt. There is only one village named Gackenbach, located in the county (*Kreis*) of Unterwesterwald in Hesse-Nassau. A quick glance at the map on the website shows a village of Horbach no more than a few hundred meters from Gackenbach. That was probably the home of Anton Schmidt.

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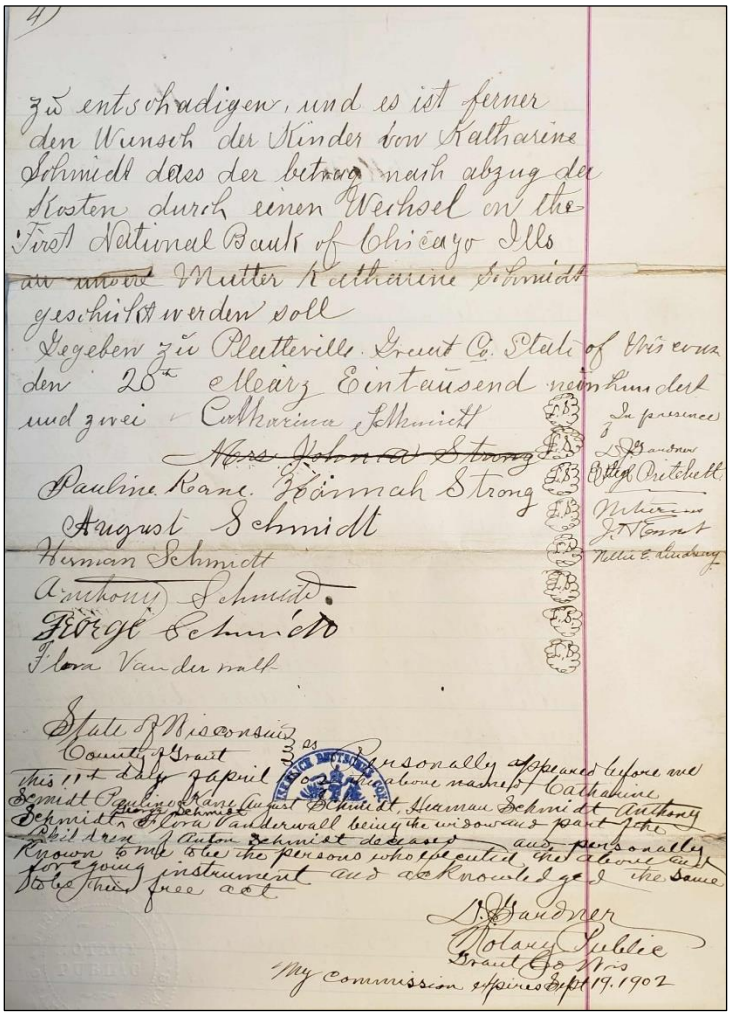
[1] 1870 U.S. Census, Grant County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Harrison, p. 165A (stamped), dwelling 112, family 114, Anton Schmidt family; image, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/7163/4268461_00334: accessed 2 Jan 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1716.

[2] As one example see https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/11510667/person/110046578982/facts. The FamilySearch tree ID for Anton Schmidt is MX3H-JQD.

[3] Ancestry.com, "U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969", database, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60722/41742_315066-00000 : accessed 2 Jan 2020), baptism record for Schmidt children, Congregational Records, Wisconsin, Platteville, Peace, baptisms, 1860 #4, image 21 of 502.

A search of the FamilySearch catalog for both villages revealed that they only have Catholic Church records. Presumably, the family was Protestant since their children were baptized in the Lutheran Church. The Ecclesiastical tab of Meyersgaz shows that the nearest Protestant parish for both villages was Holzappel, although several more parishes are located within three miles. FamilySearch has Protestant records for Holzappel beginning in 1817, which would cover the birth of Anton Schmidt. However, a search of those records found nothing. I was not able to find Anton's baptism record in any of the other surrounding villages either.



Signatures of Schmidt heirs on power of attorney sent to Richard Guenther, Consul General at Frankfurt. It was written in German and certified by the German consulate in Chicago.

According to one of the family trees, Anton's wife, Katharina Paul was born in the village of Hirschhausen, Hesse-Nassau in 1830. It is located about 30 miles northeast of Gackenbach. Both FamilySearch and Archion.de have records for Hirschhausen beginning in 1817. A search of the church books on Archion.de found the marriage of Katharina's parents — Philipp Ludwig Paul and Louisa Margaretha Bürger — as well as baptisms for Katharina and all of her siblings.[4]

Subsequent investigation uncovered a ship passenger list for the Paul family. They arrived in New York from Antwerp on 21 June 1847 aboard the ship *Rovers Bride*.[5] While the names and ages of the people are a bit different than expected, it is obvious that this was the same family.

Katharina Paul and Anton Schmidt married two years later in Grant County, Wisconsin. Her sister Philippina married Jacob Kramer in nearby Jo Daviess County, Illinois, in 1851.

[4] Archion, "Hessen-Nassau: Zentralarchiv der Evangelischen Kirche", database, Archion.de (www.archion.de: accessed 2 January 2020), baptism record for Philippina Paul, Dekanat Weilburg, Kubach, Taufregister 1817-1836, image 121.

[5] Ancestry.com, " New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957", database, Ancestry.com (https://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?indiv=1&dbid=7488&h=1023165719: accessed 2 Jan 2020), Lud Paul and family, arrived 21 Jun 1847 on Ship Rovers Bride.

Baptisms of several of the Kramer children were also found in the Lutheran church records of Platteville.[6] One might expect to find evidence that the rest of the Paul family settled in the same area. However, I was only able to find one instance of them in census records. The mother, Louisa Paul, was living with her daughter Philippina (Phoebe) Kramer in the 1880 census of Grant County.[7] Otherwise, the Paul family has been elusive.

This case is a good example of the difficulties one might encounter when searching for German ancestors. We had a few bits of solid evidence from the estate file that pinpointed the location of the Schmidt family in Germany and the United States. However, the lack of available online German records stymied an attempt to trace Anton Schmidt's origins. On the other hand, Katharina Paul's family was easy to reconstruct using the Hirschhausen church records.

Not all church records from the Evangelische Kirche in Hessen und Nassau (EKHN) are available on Archion.de. A paragraph on the Archion.de website explains the situation.

> *The EKHN supports the church book portal and offers its communities the opportunity to participate through the central archive. Due to the ownership of the church records, however, a decision must be taken by each individual parish within the EKHN. This leads to the fact that the church books of the churches of the EKHN are not yet comprehensively present in the church book portal.*

It may be for this reason that the church records documenting the Schmidt family are not yet online.

Most of the regional Protestant churches in Germany have some kind of parish finder on their websites. A good place to start is the website of the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland (www.ekd.de). Under the tab for Kirche (churches) is a link to "Gliedkirchen der EKD," which will take you to a clickable map of the twenty state churches. Simply click in the appropriate state to link to their regional website. Note that you can use the translation feature of your browser or Google Translate to see most of the text on these pages in English.

As an example, the parish finder for the EKHN is at the URL below. There is a search box on the right of the screen where you can enter the name of a village. The results for each parish include their address, phone number, email address, and website address (if available). At the bottom of the screen is a link to download a map of all the parishes in EKHN. The link is labeled "Gemeinden, Dekanate, Propsteien und Verwaltungregionen" ("Parishes, Deaneries, Provosties, and Administrative Regions"). Using this map in conjunction with a more detailed map of villages (such as meyersgaz.org) can help you to find the current Protestant parish for any village.

www.ekhn.de/ueber-uns/aufbau-der-landeskirche/kirchengemeinden.html

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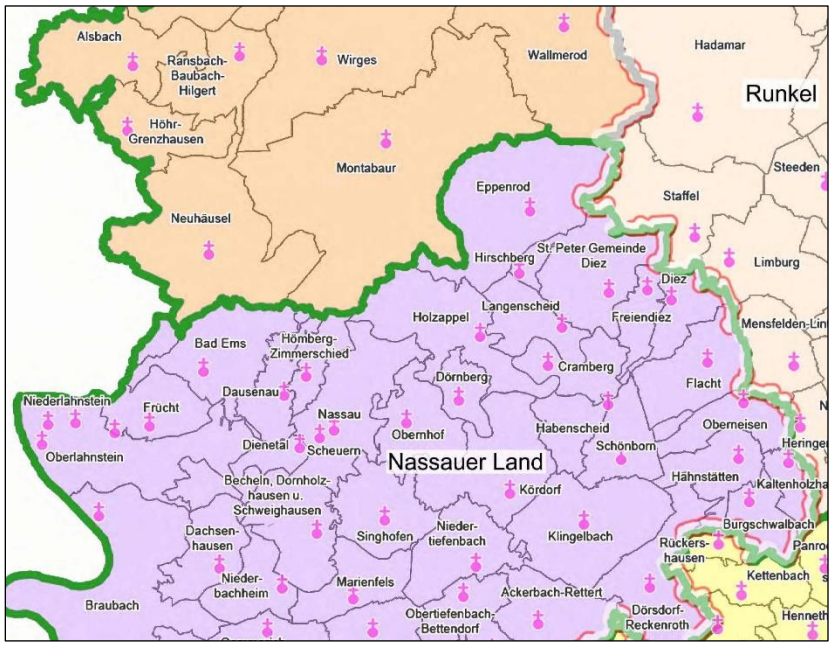
[6] Ancestry.com, "U.S., Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Church Records, 1781-1969", database, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/60722/41742_315066-00000 : accessed 2 Jan 2020), baptism record for Bertha Katharina Kraemer, Congregational Records, Wisconsin, Platteville, Peace, baptisms, 1861 #25, image 25 of 502.

[7] 1880 U.S. Census, Grant County, Wisconsin, population schedule, Platteville, p. 324D (stamped), dwelling 76, family 76, Jacob Kramer family; image, Ancestry.com (https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/6742/4244712-00434: accessed 2 Jan 2020); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1427.



Map on EKHN website showing parishes in Hesse-Nassau. Horbach and Gackenbach are included in the parish of Holzappel.

It is also instructive to understand the geography of the region. The villages of Horbach and Gackenbach are located in the Westerwald region of Germany. For centuries, the *Kurfürstentum* (Electorate) of Trier owned much of the area until it was secularized in 1803 under Napoleon. In 1806 the Duchy of Nassau was formed from the church land and several other small princedoms. Prussia annexed Nassau and Hesse-Cassel after the Seven Weeks War, merging the two former states into a new Prussian province, Hesse-Nassau. After World War II the province was split between the states of Hesse (*Hessen*) and Rhineland-Palatinate (*Rheinland-Pfalz*).

At the time Anton Schmidt was born, he lived in the Duchy of Nassau. When the consulate estate record was created, the former duchy was the Province of Hesse-Nassau. Today Horbach and Gackenbach are in the Westerwaldkreis of the Rhineland-Palatinate. Hirschhausen is in the Limburg-Weilburg *Kreis* of Hesse. Regardless of the political boundaries, the Protestant churches in the region are still part of the Evangelische Kirche in Hessen und Nassau (EKHN). The archives are located in Darmstadt.

Various types of documents found in U.S. Consulate-General records from Germany can yield clues to help find family connections of German immigrants to the United States. The estate file for Katharina Vetter provided facts that connected Anton Schmidt and his extended family to their original homes in the Duchy of Nassau.

Church records are one of the primary sources used to trace the history of families in Germany. While they can sometimes help us discover several generations of ancestors, the lack of access to some records can prove to be very frustrating. The good news is that many more records are appearing online as a result the cooperation between the Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland and Archion.de. For those that are not yet on the website, we must be a bit more patient.

Index for Volume 37 of *Der Kurier*

As has been the case for many years now, MAGS is indebted to Emily Andrews for compiling an every-name index to the issues of *Der Kurier* published in 2019. The index gives surnames, first names, date of issue and page number.

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STEER		Jun	79
STEEVER		Jun	79
STEIN	Elisabetha	Dec	144
STEIN	Friedrich	Dec	144
STEINERT		Dec	158
STEINKAMP		Jun	79
STELLJES		Sep	119
STEREN		Jun	79
STERNBERG	Arthur	Jun	70
STEVENS	Walter E.	Sep	117
STIER		Jun	79
STRENG	Louis	Dec	154
STRENG	Theodore	Jun	70
STROH		Mar	38
STROHMEIER		Mar	38

T

TAMM		Sep	119
TAMMEUS		Sep	119
THEIS		Mar	38

TEHIS	Dora Schmidt	Jun	70
TIEMANN		Jun	79
TIET	Johanna Maria	Mar	27
TIPP	Julius	Jun	69
TRAUB		Jun	79
TRAUB	Moses	Mar	10

U

ULLMAN	Emma Karoline	Mar	10
ULLMAN	Rosalie	Mar	10
ULLMAN	S. C.	Mar	9
ULLMAN	Samson Carl	Mar	10
ULLRICH		Dec	158
UNBEHAUEN	Katharina	Dec	152
UNGEWITTER		Dec	158
UPHAUSE		Mar	38
UPHOUSE		Mar	38

V

VAWTER		Sep	119
VOGELOR		Jun	79
VOGT		Sep	119
VOLZ	Valentine	Dec	146
VON BODECKER	Friedrich Bernard	Jun	45
VON BODECKER	Walter	Jun	45
VON BODECKER	Walter	Jun	46
VON BODECKER	Walter	Jun	47
VON KOTZEBUE	August	Dec	130
VON FUMETTI		Dec	158
VON ROSSING		Dec	158
VON THAR		Sep	119

W

WACKER	Lorenz	Dec	150
WAGNER		Sep	119
WAGNER		Jun	79
WAGNER		Dec	158
WALTER		Mar	38
WARNS		Sep	118
WEAVER	Gasper	Mar	18
WEBER		Sep	118
WEBER	Caspar	Mar	18
WEBER	Frederick	Sep	114
WEDDEL		Sep	119
WEIBEL		Sep	119
WEILER		Mar	38
WEISKOPF	Victor	Mar	13
WERTHWEIN		Dec	158
WIEGANCE		Dec	158
WIEGAND		Dec	158
WITKIEWICZ	Anna	Jun	70
WOHLFARTH	Johanna Margaretha	Sep	107
WOHLFARTH	Johanna Margaretha	Sep	108
WOHLFARTH	Johanna Margaretha	Sep	110
WOHLFARTH	Maria Elisabetha	Sep	107
WOHLFARTH	Maria Elisabetha	Sep	108
WOHNSEIDLER		Sep	118
WOLF		Jun	79
WOLF	Josepha	Sep	115
WOLF	Rev. Sebastian	Sep	115
WOLFART	Johann Christoph	Sep	108
WOLFE		Sep	118
WOLLENWEBER		Sep	119

X Y Z

YBACH		Sep	119
YOUNG	Julian	Jun	71
ZEITLER		Sep	119
ZERBE		Sep	119
ZERRLAUT		Jun	79
ZIMMER		Sep	119
ZIMMER	Adam	Dec	143
ZIMMER	Adam	Dec	144
ZIMMER	Adam	Dec	145

ZIMMER	Adam	Dec	146	ZIMMER	Peter	Dec	144
ZIMMER	Anna Maria	Dec	144	ZIMMER	Peter	Dec	146
ZIMMER	Anna Maria	Dec	145	ZIMMER	Peter Jacob	Dec	145
ZIMMER	Johann Adam	Dec	145	ZIMMER	Peter Jacob	Dec	146
ZIMMER	Ottilia	Dec	146	ZIMMERMANN		Sep	119
ZIMMER	Peter	Dec	143				

A postcard from Mannheim showing the confluence of the Rhine and Neckar Rivers. Ludwigshafen is on the left across the Rhine and the Neckarstadt district of Mannheim on the right across the Neckar, with the main part of Mannheim in the center.

DER KALENDER THE CALENDAR

2020

April 24-25. 2020 MAGS 2020 Spring Workshop and Meeting, DoubleTree by Hilton, Laurel, MD. The Friday workshop run by *DNA Entdeckungen* columnist Andy Hochreieter will be a hands-on experience to become familiar with the tools at AncestryDNA to analyze and use DNA test results.

A full slate of presentations by Dr. Roger Minert on topics such as census records in Germany and keeping the many areas named Hesse straight follows on Saturday.

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, learn new strategies, resources, and techniques to sharpen your family history skills at the NGS 2020 Family History Conference.
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/library/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.

JOSEPH & KATHLEEN BARNEY of SEVERNA PARK, MD
(Holtschulte, Heildelbach, Hensmann, Ludwig)
DOROTHY BERG of PARKVILLE, MD
(Strehlen, Winkler, Berg, Meyer)
BARBARA BOMBACI of OAK CREEK, WI
(Anspach, Knapp/Napp, Stiehly, Batz)
LYNNE BRICK of MEDFORD, NJ
(Schmidt, Landenberger, Fratz/Fritz)
ARTHUR BUCK of FAIRFAX, VA
(Laskowski, Null, Nol, Lubs)
KAREN COOPER of WOODSTOCK, VA
(No Names)
MELISSA DAVIS of FALLING WATERS, WV
(Knode, Hess, Bowser)
SANDIE DEIGHTON of CHEVY CHASE, MD
(Leidecker, Kuntz, Roesli, Blaser)
JOAN FARLEY of KING GEORGE, VA
(Miller/Muller/Mueller, Sapp/Seip, Kettenbach, Meier)
JOANNE GHIO of CHESTERTOWN, MD
(Strohmer, Ritter, Hergenroeder, Kroeger)
MARGARET HARDMAN-MUYE of HOUSTON, TX
(Hardman, Schadel, Lehman, Heisey)
BARBARA HOPKINS of SILVER SPRING, MD
(Dismer, Heine, Berger)
SARAH HUDSON of ESSEX, MD
(Silverman, Hutzler, Herschovitz/Hurvitz, Sonneborn)
GREG & JAN NIEHOFF of SPRINGFIELD, VA
(Axt, Heberer, Weyrauch, Schmidt)
DRUSCILLA NULL of SEABROOK, MD
(No Names)
JOHN PEGRAM of BROOKLYN, NY
(No Names)
ERNEST PHILIPP of WESTMINSTER, MD
(Philipp, Lentz, Salm)
JILL SCHRALLA-STEPHENS of ALLENTOWN, PA
(Rosenberg, Sauerborn, Schutte)
ANDREW SHEMO of GLENOLDEN, PA
(Bothner, Autenreith/Auntenrieth, Stoppel Shulz/Schultz)
KATHERINE SORCI of ARNOLD, MD
(No Names)
PAMELA TRONCATTI of HAGERSTOWN, MD
(Miller, Hardman, Mountain)
DONALD VOLLMER of JEFFERSON, MD
(No Names)

A black and white map of the Starnbergersee, southwest of Munich, which has a three-dimensional look. The major towns on the lake are marked. At the bottom left is a detailed drawing of the town of Starnberg. Of particular note on this small map is how the designers captured local transportation. Here too, the black lines running around the lake are railroad lines. Be sure to notice the vessels on the lake.

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
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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

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