



Immigrant Genealogical Society

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First Immigrant Database of Toledo Poles

In the Fall 2012 issue of *Rodziny*, the Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, Rosemary A. Chorzempa has written a two-and-one-half page history of the Toledo (Ohio) Polish Genealogical Society. It was formed only in 2002, but it has a research library and a newsletter and other publications. Of particular interest to those who are trying to find a Polish ancestral village, this society has created a database of first-generation Polish-Americans in Toledo. In it are the names of these immigrants, their dates and places of birth, and the names of spouses and parents (where known). Also recorded may be information on their immigration, residences, and local church attendance. The database currently includes 686 separate surnames for 1449 adults.

Research in Austria

The *Immigrant Library Newsletter* of December 1983 contained an interesting half-page description of a microfilmed manuscript collection of the Finanz-und-Hofkammerarchiv in Vienna. This particular collection pertains to the German immigration into, and settlement of, the Austro-Hungarian Province of Banat in the period 1766-1804. The names of settlers in 49 towns in the Banat region, along with the names of their homeowner hosts, are provided in what are termed "Banater Akten." It is beyond the scope of this newsletter to go into detail, but if you had an ancestor who settled in this region in this period, you may wish to write for a copy of this article and a "mirrored" article that appeared in the March 1986 issue of this newsletter. --Ed.

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

This important contributor to German-American genealogy has a newsletter, *Der Kurier*, that frequently summarizes "Family Registers" from Pennsylvania and other states. The December issue (Vol. 30, No. 4) had an exceptional number of these, and the several surnames are mentioned here: Shoff/Warfel, Dietrich/Kohler, Burkhart, Hartman/Mellinger, Marks/Kieser, Funk/Kronrath, Van Antwerp.

MAGS welcomes new members by publishing up to four surnames they are researching, and in the December issue these combinations were listed (the associated new member names being here omitted):

Morgenroth/Hiltz/Barnhouse/Everhart
Barham/Kilder/McFillen/Pope
Allnecht/Breher/Rahter/Zeiller
Fr(e)y/Hollenbach/E(a)rnest/Sitler
Diehl/Heffelfinger/Hursh/Seidel
Kibler/Barham/Popp/Pope
Herron/Braitinger/Rehfeld/Hagmeyer
Herzog/Schoenewald
Sachs/Wiegand/Keim/Neidlinger
Dillehunt/Rebbert/Henneberger/Neff
Klein/Schipbower/Spaid/Reece
Lammers/Schifferer/Seidle/Sprengel
Mansch/Schweinert/Bajor/Lashinski
Huber/Hoffman/Boehnlein/Sturm
Stine/Davis/Harclerode
Meisberger/Gunther/Strausser/Mumma
Spangler/Spengler/Hauenstein/Rapp
Shrell/Schutle/Sauerborn/Rosenberg
Troppmann/Riedhammer/Dressell/Neumeister
and just: Warner/Woerner

Geschichte Masurens/History of Masuria

William F. Hoffman, editor of *Rodziny*, the Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America, has translated a portion of a book written by Max Pollux Toeppen and published in Danzig in 1870. It pertains to that part of the former East Prussia that now is known by the Polish name, Mazury. The translation requires almost eight pages of space in the Fall 2012 issue of this respected journal, and it reports a description of the land and culture of the area in the late 1860s.

National Gen. Soc. 2013 Family History Conference

Here's a brief reminder: you can still go to Las Vegas for the NGS convention, May 8-11! For more info, see: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Ortssippenbücher and Ortsfamilienbücher

Dr. Fritz Juengling of the Family History Library in Salt Lake (where he serves as a German Research Consultant) has contributed an article on the above topic to the December 2012 issue of *Der Kurier*, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society newsletter. In it one finds a clear explanation of how such books are organized, and how they may differ from one another. The FHL has more than 800 of these works, and there's a Family Search wiki on the topic at: <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Main_Page>.

As many of you know, we at your IGS can research many of these resources from our own collection, which is nowhere near as large as can be found in Salt Lake, but which still represents an impressive collection. --Ed.

Finnish-American Historical Archives

This collection is located on the campus of Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan. Or was, at the time of our October 1986 IGS newsletter. Apparently the college had by that date amassed a trove of "approximately 400 linear feet of manuscript materials and photographs, some 6,500 books and other printed materials including 186 periodicals and 107 newspaper titles, and approximately 600 tapes and transcripts of oral history interviews." Also, this archival collection "is the primary repository for documents of the Finnish-American church and temperance movements." This information came, according to the brief newsletter article, from the July 1986 issue of *Roots Digest*.

Italian-American Collection

From the December 1986 issue of our newsletter (which passed on an item from the Napa Valley Gen. and Biog. Soc.) it is noted that the San Francisco Public Library established a collection of materials in 1975 "dedicated to materials concerning the history of Italians in California and the West, and [it] is [...or was in 1986...] the nation's only regional archive of the Italian-American History."

However, your editor shamelessly wishes to point out that -- with our own set of the *Italians to America* series of passenger lists -- your Immigrant Genealogical Society is a good place to start in fixing the exact date (and vessel!) of your Italian ancestor's arrival in the United States. Further, we have an experienced researcher in Italian immigration waiting to assist you should you wish to delve into further research. --Ed.

A Surprise in German-American Church Records in New York City, 1830-79

The December 2012 issue of *Der Kurier*, the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society newsletter, contains a brief article about the records of the Rev. Frederick Geissenhainer, Jr. of (first) St. Matthew's and (secondly) St. Paul's Lutheran churches in New York City. He discusses at some length the grooms' occupations and the ages at marriage of those being wed in this time period. To me, the "surprise" was in reading that over half of the grooms worked at one of these trades: grocer, shoemaker, tailor, cabinet maker, baker, carpenter, and farmer. The last is especially interesting, because it is hard for us today to visualize much

farming occurring in and around New York City. Yet it is important to remember that cities did not encompass such large areas as we now take for granted until after the development of modern transportation -- including the automobile! Mr. Greiner's table of occupations named does not include those with under ten mentions, but the forty that are named comprise 82.5% of the almost 1,900 occupations in the sample. It is a most interesting window into the lives of urban immigrants. --Ed.

May 2013 Tour to Pomerania

Pommerscher Verein Freistadt Rundschreiben, the Pomeranian Society of Freistadt (Germantown, WI) Newsletter, has announced another organized tour running from May 19 through May 31, 2013. For a brochure and information, write: Pommern Tour, PO Box 204, Germantown, WI 53022. This tour is offered by Kettle Moraine Tours of Hartford, WI and it is priced for departure from the Hartford area at \$2,855 per person on a double occupancy basis. Air travel will be from Chicago via Lufthansa. Cities visited will be: Hamburg, Schwerin, Wismar, Rostock, Klockenhagen, Stralsund (with Island of Rugen/Gohren excursion), Griefswald, Kamien (Cammin), Hoff--near today's Rewa, Kolobrzeg (Kolberg), Koszalin (Koslin), Slupsk (Stolp), Bytow (Bütow), Gdansk (Danzig), Malbork (Marienburg), Szczecin (Stettin), Berlin, Erfurt, and Frankfurt/Main.

Austrian Germans

"Germans From The South" is the theme of the conference of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society to be held on Saturday, 6 April 2013 in Laurel, MD. The featured speaker is Dr. Kenneth W. Heger, a senior manager in the National Archives with a doctorate in history. He will present two hour-long talks. The first is an introduction to the Hapsburg Empire, while the second focuses upon Austrian Germans in Bohemia. Other speakers will present programs on Wikipedia for family historians, and on documenting army service in the War of 1812. The conference will be held at the Holiday Inn-Laurel West, and registration before March 23rd is \$40 for MAGS members and \$45 for nonmembers. After March 23rd registration will entail an extra \$5. Registrants receive lunch, and may list four surnames being researched. See: <www.magsgen.com> or write to: <registration@magsgen.com>. [A related meeting would be the Lancaster Family History Conference with keynoter John Paul Colleta, May 10-11 in Lancaster, PA. Call: 717-393-9745. Of course, that conflicts with the National Gen. Soc. Conference, from May 8-11 in Las Vegas!]

Jewish History

The December 2012 issue of *Der Ahnenforscher*, the newsletter of the German Genealogy Group of King's Park, NY, has observed that the Leo Baeck Institute has now digitized its entire archive devoted to German-speaking Jewry of Central Europe. "See highlights of what is contained in the archive here: <<http://www.lbi.org/digibaeck/digibaeck-highlights/>>. Begin your searching here: <<http://www.lbi.org/digibaeck/>>.

Seminar Announcement

The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society in Thousand Oaks is pleased to announce that Paula Stuart-Warren will be their speaker at a seminar on March 23, 2013. She has presented seminars to enthusiastic audiences across the U.S. and Canada. For further details and registration, see: www.conejovalleygenealogicalsociety.org

“Spelling Issues in German Research,” by Fred Held

Fred Held (fhheld@netzero.net) is librarian at the St. Louis North Family History Center in Hazelwood [St. Louis Co., MO]. Used by permission of the author and of Gerald Perschbacher, compiler and coordinator of the “G-SIG Forum” of the German Special Interest Group associated with the St. Louis Genealogical Society.

“At a [German Special Interest Group -- St. Louis Gen. Soc.] event we had a great deal of levity about the fact that many were researching families by the same name: **Meyer**.

One person was concerned about how their **Meyer** family spelled their name.

“Keep in mind that ‘correct’ spelling is a 20th century phenomenon. Prior to that the spelling is whatever the scribe thought they heard that day. In Edna Bentz’ handbook, *If I Can You Can Decipher Germanic Records* she makes note that surnames will be spelled the way the preacher spelled the name. It is possible: new preacher, new spelling. If the family moved it may be spelled in a different way in another village. Most of our ancestors were illiterate. They could neither read nor write and relied on a local scribe, usually the pastor, to write their name.

“Coincidentally, Edna states in her book that in her Bavarian family she found **Meyer** also spelled **Meier**, **Mayer**, and **Meÿer** in four consecutive generations. However, there are other possibilities, such as **Maier**, **Mejer**, **Majer**, **Meijer**, and **Maijer** and maybe even **Maher**. (Please note: the letter ‘j’ is pronounced as a ‘y’ in German.) In my own home region of western Pennsylvania all the **Meyer** families changed the spelling to **Myers**.

“I’ve had a similar experience with my grandmother’s family name of **Riggle**. It is spelled **Reigle**, **Riegle**, **Reigel**, **Riegel**, and **Riegell**. Even in the church records in The Pfalz it was spelled **Reihell**.

“My wife’s family name is **Dreistadt**, and we’ve had a similar experience: **Dreystadt**, **Dreistatt**, and **Dreystatt**, among others. In addition, in the village very near the French border where we’ve been able trace the family, there was an Anton Troisville. Anton turns out to be the brother of Paul Dreistadt in the same village. **Troisville** is French for ‘three villages/cities,’ the same meaning as **Dreistadt**. To further confuse the modern genealogists, one branch of the **Dreistadt** family immigrated to the New Orleans area, and there they changed their surname to be **Threeton**.

“In research I did for a friend, the German name **Durrang** was spelled **Dorang** in America. But one of the son’s Civil War records has the surname **Dorn**. Another son took the surname **Doran**, and still another **Durrant**.

“The fact is that many of our Germany ancestors changed their surname by either simply Anglicizing it (**Schneider** to **Snyder**) or by translating it (**Schneider** to **Tailor**). The amateur genealogist must always have an open mind about the spelling of their family’s name.”

New Entries in the Mecklenburg-Kontakte Database

These are surnames being researched by German or American genealogists, and the specifics and contact info may be found at: www.Mecklenburg-Kontakte.de courtesy of Herr Dieter Garling. This list is updated monthly....

Bade Borchardt Bossing Crawack Crawak Ehlers Fitzer Hagemeister Harms Heiden Hoff Keebe Keil Köster Koeve Kohns Krawack Krawak Kruse Milatz Oldenburg Paschen Piehl Piel Poirrot Scharenberg Schwenn Stern Stolt Tessmer Zaselowski

TinyURL.com

Sometimes we forget things we once knew that still might be useful to us. I was reminded of this recently while reading the St. Louis Genealogical Society’s newsletter for December, *News ‘n Notes*. There was an article describing how it’s possible to make briefer references to web sites than we often see -- your *IGS Newsletter* being a prime offender in posting long URL’s, I’m sorry to report! [Note: URL stands for Universal Resource Locator] Anyway, to make a long story short, by going to [http:// TinyURL.com](http://TinyURL.com) you can exchange a long URL for a shorter one. All you have to do is copy the address given in the long box at the top of a web page, then at the TinyURL site just paste that address you copied into the new box provided, and click on “MakeTinyURL.” Simple, huh? Now you can use the result in your references to others. Will I do that in the future? Probably not, because I want you to see how the page I’m sending you to is organized, and how it might suggest the possibility of other pages to explore. Nevertheless, **You** might wish to take less space on your own. --Ed.

Little-used Resources

Our IGS Library has a lot of materials in it that could be used profitably by someone, but which technology has passed by to a large degree. I was reminded of this while perusing our newsletter back issues. In December, 1990 we announced that through the generosity of at least 22 IGS members, we were able to purchase over 400 microfiche covering (to whatever degree) 8 of 31 parishes of Schaumburg-Lippe. Each parish was comprised of several villages, of course, and for those who had an ancestor who hailed from one of these villages the microfiche would have been invaluable. An “Old Script Working Group” was then just beginning to index confirmations for the parish of Hattendorf for the years 1745 to 1766. I suppose all of this is still around -- certainly I know that we have maintained a lot of microfiche and a reader with which to view them. It’s too bad that more of us don’t “poke around” to see what might be available to open new vistas on our genealogical journeys. --Ed.

German Terms for Grandparents

The April 1997 issue of our newsletter contains a brief item listing the “proper generational terms to use in referring in German to earlier generations.” Moving from parents through grandparents to 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th great-grandparents, the terms are as follows: Eltern, Großeltern, Urgroßeltern, Alteltern, Altgroßeltern, Alturgroßeltern. There is a pattern here; do you see it? If not, here’s the next level describing 5th to 7th great-grandparents: Obereltern, Obergroßeltern,

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Oberurgroßeltern. In other words, our parents, grandparents and (1st) great-grandparents are the foundation, linguistically, for two more "rounds" of ancestors -- the first "round" having the prefix of Alt- (old) while the second is awarded the prefix of Ober- (upper). These nine generations all lead to what is called the Proband (the propositus) -- namely, the one whose ancestors are being listed (--You!). And the 11th generation in this chain is referred to as the Stammeltern, but following that comes Generation XII and further generations carrying a Roman numeral designation. And guess what? This all has a name; it's called "Das Kekulé-System" or the "System Kekulé," after genealogist Stephan Kekulé von Stradonitz (1863-1933). And it's a much easier way to express the generations with accuracy than referencing, for example, your Ur-ur-ur-ur-ur-großeltern. Don't you think?

Ulster-American Folk Park

Did you know that this year represents the fifteenth anniversary of the establishment of a park dedicated to Irish-American emigration? It's located in Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. It contains the Hupp House brought from Greene County, PA and a Lancaster Co. (PA) pioneer cabin as well. There's even an emigration database plus many other features. A multi-purpose web site incorporates information related to this park, and <www.folkpark.com> will take you to it. Why do I say multi-purpose? Only because there's been so much more added over the years. The site is now a part of the National Museums - Northern Ireland. You'll see tabs for the Ulster Museum, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum and the Armagh County Museum -- in addition to the Omagh facility.

Personal Note

Your editor now serves as Genealogical Officer for the Sons of Union Veterans in the Civil War for Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Spiegel Online International

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/>>

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Immigrant Library Hours

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The Week in Germany

Click here to view the Newsletter online <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG_130111.html>

The Élysée Treaty at 50: Franco-German Partnership in Washington, DC

Staff members of the Embassies of Germany and France in Washington, DC, came together to celebrate and mark the semicentennial of Franco-German Partnership by taking a colorful group photo at the Charles de Gaulle Square of the Embassy of France.

Franco-German Partnership in DC:
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P_Wash/2013/01/11-Elysee50-Photo-rel.html>