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Welcome to the new edition of the German Genealogy Quarterly eNewsletter – the German Schrift! This newsletter will highlight the German Research Discussion Group, featured German resources, research tips, and interesting places to visit.

Midwest Genealogy Center: August German SCHRIFT



German Research Discussion Group

Review of the July 2019 Meeting:

The July 2019 meeting was special! We experienced the first ever live streaming of our session. Those of you who could not attend the meeting—or even if you did attend, but want to hear the speakers again—now have a chance to listen to them anytime. All future sessions (or almost all of them) will be broadcast live.

How can you watch them? Visit the [Midwest Genealogy Center Facebook page](#). Then click on the Videos link. You do not need to have a Facebook account to view the videos.

The **first hour** started with an introduction of first-time attendees. Kathy gave us an overview of the 2nd International Germanic Genealogy Conference (IGGC), which was held in June 2019 in Sacramento,

California. She prepared handouts (they will be distributed at the October session again) and little goodies for attendees, such as pencils, etc. The next IGGC will be in Cincinnati, Ohio in 2021, and the Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference in 2020 will be held in Kansas City, Missouri! Kathy's valuable notes from various genealogy conferences she attends are always very appreciated. Thank you, Kathy!

The first hour ended with Bruce's brief update of his genealogy journey, which led him to Alsace, now in France. As always, this was very interesting. We are looking forward for his future updates.

The **second hour** was focused on discoveries, genealogy travels, and experiences. We started with Pat who visited Germany with the Family Tree Tours organization in September 2018. Her presentation, Journey to Locate German Ancestors, Sasbach/Sasbachwalden, was accompanied with many pictures. They stopped in Freiburg and visited archives along with other interesting and beautiful places. Thank you, Pat!

Sylvia shared the website linking to many OFB, Ortsfamilienbücher, free online, primarily in Lower Saxony. [Here is the link](#). She also created a short handout, and it will be distributed at the October session. Thank you, Sylvia; it is very helpful.

The last presenter, Bob, took us to Switzerland and shared with us his travel experiences. His advice can be applied to German travels as well. If you intend to travel to Switzerland, you can watch his educational and humorous message again. Thank you, Bob!

The next meeting will be on October 12, 2019. This is one week earlier than usual! Mark your calendar for this change. The following sessions, after October 2019, should continue according to the regular schedule. In addition to our regular program, we have presenters from our audience, ready to give us an overview of their successes and failures on their genealogy journey. First, Scott, and then, Deanna. If you are planning to attend the next meeting, you can register [here](#).

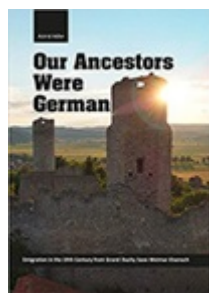
Featured Periodical



[Der Blumenbaum](#)

The latest issue is packed with the tools for German genealogy. The periodicals are not available for checkout but at least you can always find them on the shelves at MGC.

Book Recommendations



[Our Ancestors Were Germans: Emigration in the 19th Century from the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach](#)

by Astrid Adler

This book gives an overview of how life was in Germany, particularly in the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. The author describes the living conditions, prices, historical events, and what factors lead to massive emigration in the 19th Century. Traveling to the port is described vividly. For many, simply coming to the port felt like a foreign world. The book contains excerpts from newspapers, which also published rules on boarding the ship.

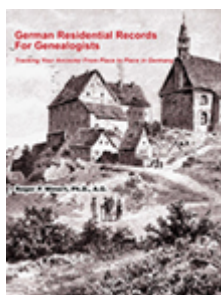
Many Germans saw emigration as a solution to their problems or a way to escape the military service and poverty. This book has the added value of insight from a German perspective.



Goodbye Forever. Life Beyond Germany: Emigration in the 19th Century

by Astrid Adler

This book was compiled primarily for the descendants of the emigrants from the town of Tiefenort. However, it can help other researchers who want to trace their roots to Germany and are curious why those people left, particularly from the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach. The book describes village houses, occupations, and gives stories of some particular emigrant families. If you cannot find your family there, it still enriches you because your family may have lived under similar conditions and circumstances. The book contains many illustrations and newspaper clippings, such as the Intents to Emigrate and many photographs.



German Residential Records for Genealogists: Tracking Your Ancestor from Place to Place in Germany

by Roger P. Minert

Germany (even before it became a country) began the practice of registering strangers, foreigners, and newcomers. Those arriving from any other German states or other countries were required to report to the police or government offices soon after their arrival (sometimes by the next day).

They provided documents to the officials, which were returned when they left the area. Many of those records have survived and are now located in archives. Divided by state, this book details the laws, includes examples, and provides information on accessing these residential records. In addition to the detailed information, this work contains a glossary, an index, and extensive notes. Minert's effort allows the genealogy researcher to understand this little-known German genealogical record.

Research Tips



Online resource tip:

First, I would recommend a website that Sylvia gave a review of, the Gen_Pluswin. It is a German website containing many village lineage books. Feel free to [explore it here](#). If you dare to 'tackle' the main page of this German resource, [the link is here](#).

For emigrants from the Grand Duchy of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (now in Thuringia), [check this website](#) (website of the author of the two books above).

Message for Linda: [Check this website](#) for emigrants from Bremen, particularly later years, 1900—1939. Click on Days of Departure, on the left.

Places to Visit



The 40th Ethnic Enrichment Festival in Swope Park in Kansas City is quickly approaching, and what would be better (and closer to home) to taste the German food and enjoy German dancers. The festival will be held **August 16 – 18, 2019**. German dancers are scheduled to take the stage on Friday evening. For a location, booth map, and program, check the [website](#). MGC will have a booth there, too, so if you walk by, stop and say Hi.

If this is too close to home, visit Quedlinburg, First Capital of Germany! Quedlinburg is located in Saxony-Anhalt state in Germany. It was mentioned as a town in a record from 922! This is a well preserved renaissance and medieval town, listed with UNESCO as the World Heritage Site. [Here is a link](#) if you want to learn more and possibly one day to visit.

Fun and Learn



What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf.

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. B – ch | (Book) |
| 2. B – r g | (Castle) |
| 3. B – r g | (Hill, mountain) |
| 4. G e – – l – e n | (Died in a battlefield, killed in action) |
| 5. G e – – o – – e n | (Died) |
| 6. B – g – – b – n | (Buried) |

Christ's Proverb:

“Wer nicht hören will muss fühlen!”
which means **“If you don't want to hear it,
you have to feel it!”** or
“That's what you get for not listening.”
Thank you! Danke schön!

Mid-Continent Public Library

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