

January 2023 German Schrift



Welcome to the newest edition of the German Genealogy Quarterly eNewsletter—the German Schrift! This newsletter will highlight the German Special Interest Group (SIG), featured German resources, research tips, and interesting places to visit.



German Special Interest Group

Review of the October 2022 Meeting:
The October in-person session was dedicated to Bob H. and his presentation *Introduction to German Civil Records*. We will continue with his series in January 2023, so do not forget to register for the upcoming [German Special Interest Group](#) events:

[German Special Interest Group | In Person](#)
Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.

[German Special Interest Group | Zoom](#)
Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.

Review of the December 2022 Holiday Edition:
On December 17, 2022, we carried out the festive Holiday Edition. We launched it in a new way – with the program *The Celebration of Hanukkah* which highlighted Jewish traditions, presented by Traci B. What an enriching experience with perfect timing! The next day was December 18 which was the beginning of Hanukkah, the eight-day festival of lights!

The presentation, featuring all the important German holiday dates and traditions, followed. The attendants were encouraged to take pictures of their baking art and send them to MGC, as those could be implemented into the collage for next year's holiday presentation (the Springerle, Stollen, Lebkuchen, and other cookies, it's up to you!).

Bob H. did not disappoint us! He brought his famous guitar and now I have to say: *I am sorry for those who planned to come but missed his performance!* It was an enjoyable 'music window' which added an extra festive value to this nice event. You don't want to miss this next year. If you are still in the holiday nostalgia mood, visit MGC and read the latest issue of [German Life](#) periodical, Dec/Jan 2023 (Germany, Austria, Switzerland). It's worth reading!

[LEARN MORE](#)

What's Happening?



If you are planning to attend the next SIG meeting in January 2023, you can register [here!](#)

On January 17, 2023, at 2:00 p.m., the [Researching Your German Ancestors](#) class will be presented. This is a great opportunity to learn basic methods for German genealogy research.

The 2023 [International German Genealogy Partnership Conference](#) will be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana, June 9 - 11, 2023.

[VIEW ALL EVENTS](#)

Featured Resources



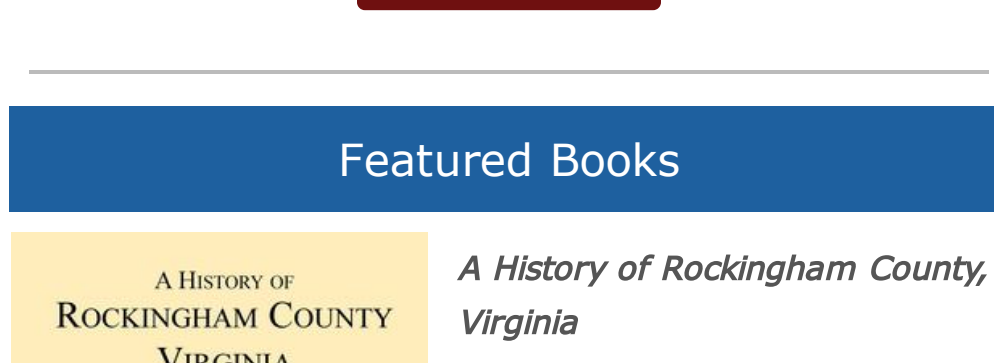
MGC Periodicals

The Genie, Louisiana, Vol. 56, No. 3, Sept. 30, 2022
The Genie is a quarterly publication of Ark-La-Tex Genealogical Association. Come to MGC and read the article 'Lost German Slave Girl', contributed by S. G. Hamer.

Our Heritage, San Antonio Genealogical & Historical Society, Vol. 63, No. 3-4
The two articles related to German immigrant caught my attention: the 'Homestead Files Offer Details to Your Ancestor's Story', by L. W. Luckett, and 'From Cheese to Sharecropping and Texas Drought', by D. Sharon.

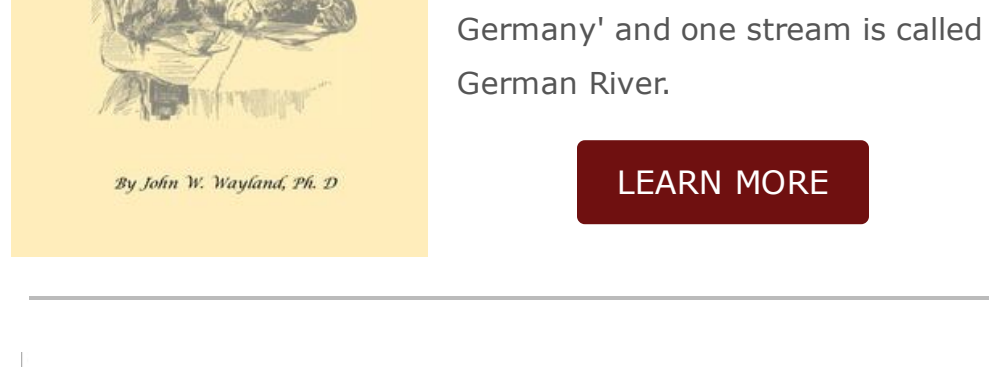
[PERIODICALS](#)

Featured Books



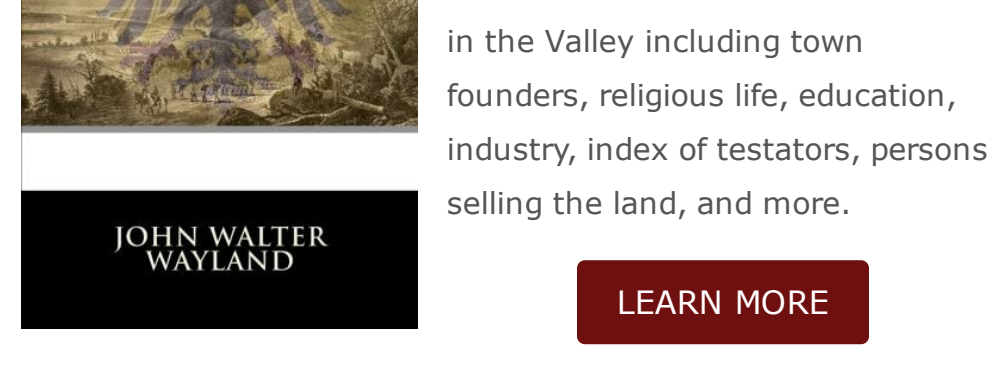
A History of Rockingham County, Virginia
by John W. Wayland
This book illustrates that in Rockingham County, Virginia, there was a strong German element. This area was once called 'Little Germany' and one stream is called German River.

[LEARN MORE](#)



The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia
by John W. Wayland
This book contains a wealth of information related to the Germans in the Valley including town founders, religious life, education, industry, index of testators, persons selling the land, and more.

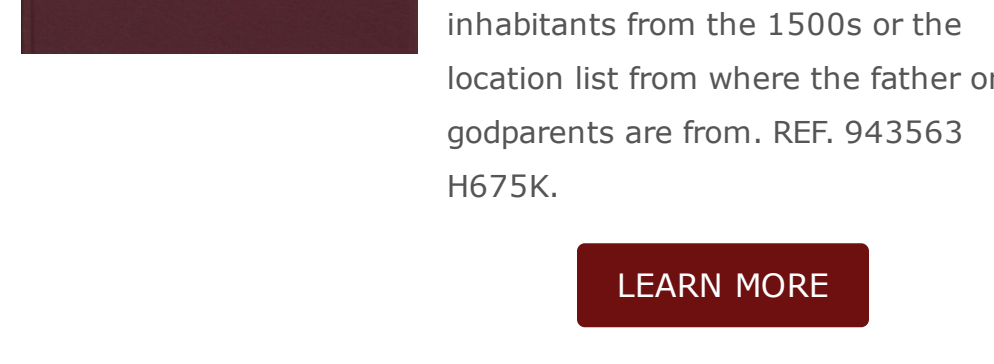
[LEARN MORE](#)



Ortsfamilienbuch Krumbach, 1461-1795
by Ansgar Hoffmann
Among the many German village lineage books (OFB/OSB) in MGC's collection, this time I will pick up this book. A part of Kreuztal, district Siegen-Wittgenstein, North Rhine – Westphalia. Read the index of inhabitants from the 1500s or the location list from where the father or godparents are from. REF. 943563 H675K.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Research Tips



Visit [German Digital Library – Archportal](#) to research data, access records of more than 200 participating archives, and use digitized materials online.

[Digital Library in Lübeck, Germany – The City Directories \(Adressbücher\)](#) - They start from 1798 and have 115 volumes. See also [Places to visit](#) in this Schrift.

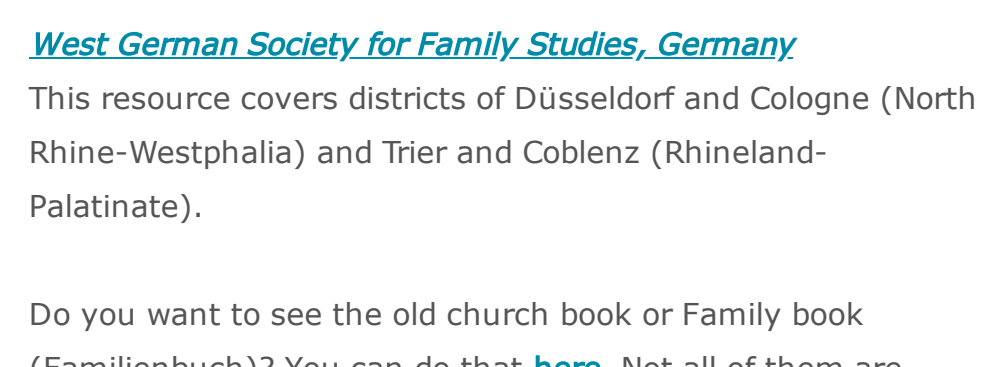
Be aware of **Farm Names in the records** – The man would marry a woman who inherited a farm (Hof) – he would take a farm's name (woman's surname). The large farms' names (estates' names) did not change – they were known by their original owners. The man would pass the farm's name to his children (not his own surname). This custom was practiced primarily in Westphalia, Saxony, some parts of Bohemia. I even recall in my ancestral villages that some people were still referred by the farm names they moved into after the marriage, or the farm houses were still called after their first original owners. So - How would you know the difference? Watch for these words in the church books and other record: *vuigo, alias, modo, oder, eigentlich, gennant (or their abbreviations)*. For example, Neuhof *modo* Frevert. The children could be in the records only by the farm name.

[West German Society for Family Studies, Germany](#)
This resource covers districts of Düsseldorf and Cologne (North Rhine-Westphalia) and Trier and Coblenz (Rhineland-Palatinate).

Do you want to see the old church book or Family book (Familienbuch)? You can do that [here](#). Not all of them are freely accessible, and for some you will need to be a member and create an account. The website has so much to offer. You will find the names of emigrants from specific places (under the List - in German: *Listen*) Learn more [here](#).

Note: Before exploring this source, it is good to learn a few words, such as Auswanderer = emigrant, Kirche = church, Buch = book (the right click to translate to English helps). Each Schrift offers a few words to learn. Check them at the end of each Schrift.

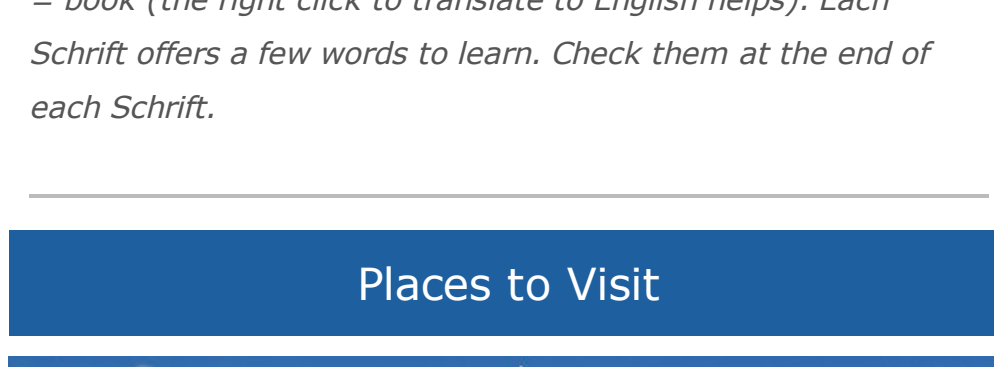
Places to Visit



Visit Perry County, Missouri

The [Perry County Lutheran Historical Society](#) (PCLHS) mission is to document, preserve, and interpret the 1839 German Lutheran Immigration history. Explore the state-of-the-art-museum and a research library in Altenburg, Missouri.

And don't miss the [Saxon Lutheran Genealogy website](#), which documents the genealogical history of the German-Lutheran immigration to the Perry County, Missouri, region.



Visit Lafayette, Louisiana

We will stay in the U.S. for one more place to visit – the [Center for Cultural & Eco-Tourism](#) in Lafayette, Louisiana. The Center established Fabacher and Robert's Cove communities in present-day Acadia Parish. You can still find remnants of the German culture.



Visit Lübeck, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany

Lübeck was the commercial place of the Holy Roman Empire. Among your first stops as a genealogist or historian would be probably the 400-years old library (with reading rooms from the 17th century). Their catalog holdings are [here](#). Browse old city directories (see also [Online Research Tip](#) above). The Hanseatic City of Lübeck is a cultural UNESCO World Heritage Site with medieval architecture and beautiful Town Hall.

Why not to look back again at the holiday times and taste the famous marzipan! Actually, if you visit Lübeck at any time of the year, you cannot leave without tasting or taking it home as a gift! After exploring the city and a possibly overwhelming experience in the archives, visit [Café Niederegger](#) and taste famous marzipan! Lübeck was a trading city, the capital of the Hanseatic League, and soon produced the best marzipan, filled with almond paste. The most famous marzipan factory was Niederegger, founded in 1806. Visit the museum [online](#).

Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from the Books
A few excerpts from *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*, by J. W. Wayland, 1918

"Their lack of familiarity with the English language and manners was against them for many years; but they went ahead, with a persistent energy and willingness, in the things they knew." (Page 84)

"In no phase of the early development of the country were the Germans more helpful and prominent than in the founding and building up of the towns." (Page 85) Note: Among the towns are Stephensburg, Strasburg (first called Staufferstadt), Woodstock (first called Muellerstadt), Sheperdstown, Martinsburg, Keezletown (first Keisell'sTown).

"The family would usually retire very early in the evening, especially in the spring, summer, and early autumn. Half-past eight or nine o'clock was late enough. But the German farmer and his household were consistent: if they went to bed early, they also got up early. Four o'clock – earlier sometimes, never later – was considered a good time." (Page 193)

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

K n _ _ f m a ch _ _ _ (Button maker)
K ö _ _ e r (Charcoal burner)
N a _ _ e r (Needle maker)
P a _ p _ e r m _ ch _ _ (Paper maker)
S ch _ o _ s e _ _ (Locksmith)
S ch _ l _ h _ _ ß (Village mayor)

Proverb:
Friedrich der Grosse: "Wer alles defendieren will, defendieret gar nichts!" which means "He who defends everything defends nothing".

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.

Midwest Genealogy Center

Mid-Century Public Library
15616 E. 24 Highway
Independence, MO 64050

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