



January 2024 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 2023 Meeting:

Both the in-person and online meetings were informative. Additionally, we held a special meeting during the Lock-In event on Friday, November 10, 2023. I hope all of you who attended enjoyed it.

Looking ahead, our next meeting is scheduled for January 2024. If you plan to attend, kindly register [here](#).

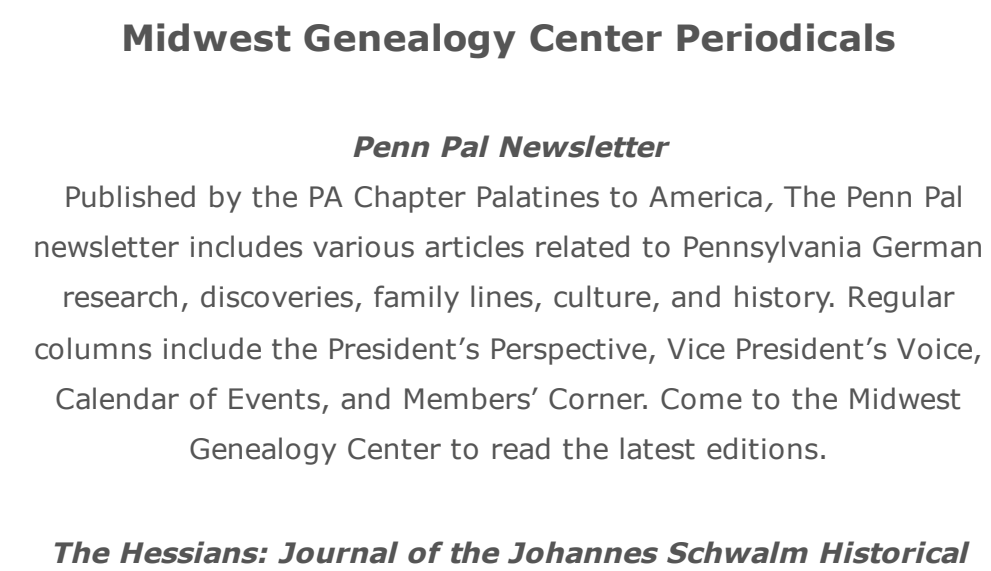
Also, be sure to make arrangements for the April 2024 session, which will be dedicated to Germans from Russia. Your participation is greatly encouraged!

What Else is Going On?

I trust you enjoyed Katherine Schober's online presentation, specially broadcasted for the Midwest Genealogy Center, on December 6, 2023 (incidentally, the Nicholaustag in Germany). This event was promoted in the preceding Schrift (October 2023, under Learning Tips). In case you missed it and wish to learn more about Katherine and her valuable website, [click here](#).

[LEARN MORE](#)

Featured Resources



Midwest Genealogy Center Periodicals

Penn Pal Newsletter

Published by the PA Chapter Palatines to America, The Penn Pal newsletter includes various articles related to Pennsylvania German research, discoveries, family lines, culture, and history. Regular columns include the President's Perspective, Vice President's Voice, Calendar of Events, and Members' Corner. Come to the Midwest Genealogy Center to read the latest editions.

The Hessians: Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association

The latest issue, Volume 26, 2023, delves into the history of recruitment for participation in the American Revolutionary War. Although commonly known as Hessian soldiers, they were recruited from various locations. For instance, there was a written agreement stipulating that almost 4,000 Brunswick infantrymen from Brunswick-Lüneburg would be provided for British service. Additional subsidy treaties were signed in Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Hanau, Waldeck, Ansbach-Bayreuth, and Anhalt-Zerbst (incidentally, Catherine the Great, Russian Empress, hailed from Anhalt-Zerbst, born as Princess Sophia). To explore these treaties and understand the conditions secured within them, visit the Midwest Genealogy Center and begin reading from page 34. As you flip through the following pages, you'll encounter vibrant images showcasing some of the soldiers' uniforms.

[PERIODICALS](#)

Featured Books

A History of Modern Germany

by Hajo Holborn

Explore the formation of the German Empire starting from the times of the Peace of Westphalia. Gain insights into the economic and social conditions encompassing Austria, Prussia, the Reign of Maria Theresa, The Seven Years' War, the Reign of Frederick the Great, the Polish Partition, and other pivotal events and developments in these central European territories. Immerse yourself in a comprehensive understanding of the historical tapestry that shaped this significant period.

This book is reserved exclusively for on-site use at the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Pennsylvania Dutch Country, A Pictorial History

by Gary R. and Elizabeth L. Hovinen

The photos in this book are accompanied by rich text describing the photos and the history behind the captured moments of life. For example, explore the tobacco industry and cigar-making in Lancaster.

This book is reserved exclusively for on-site use at the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Diary of Johann Gottfried Arends

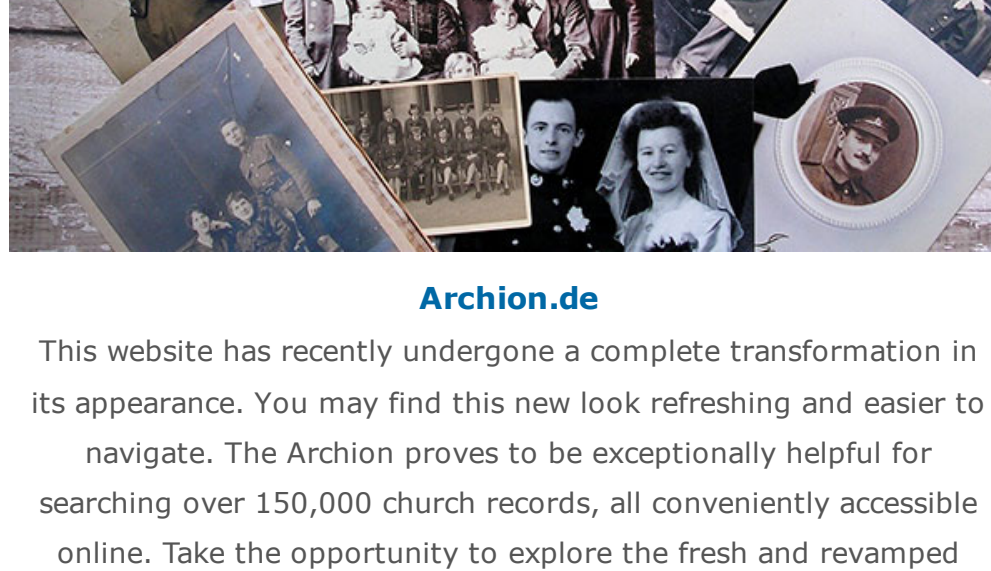
by J. G. Arends and Jo White Linn

Arends, the founder and inaugural president of the NC Synod, played a pivotal role as a pioneer teacher, preacher, and Revolutionary War patriot. Born in Göttingen, Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) in 1740, he passed away in 1807 in Lincoln Co., NC. In 1772, he arrived in America, as documented in his diary, under the command of the King of England, who was then the Elector of Hannover, Göttingen's home. Notably, Göttingen boasted the oldest university in Lower Saxony at that time, with figures like the Grimm brothers and Otto von Bismarck associated with it.

Arends meticulously maintained first communion and other records, likely the sole preserved records from the areas he served. His diary identifies German settlers, including a unique list of children taking their first communion, information that might not be found elsewhere. Engaging in missionary tours and baptizing children across vast distances, he exemplified the itinerant ministers described in my [Midwest Genealogy Center blog](#).

This book is reserved exclusively for on-site use at the Midwest Genealogy Center.

Research Tips



Archion.de

This website has recently undergone a complete transformation in its appearance. You may find this new look refreshing and easier to navigate. The Archion proves to be exceptionally helpful for searching over 150,000 church records, all conveniently accessible online. Take the opportunity to explore the fresh and revamped interface.

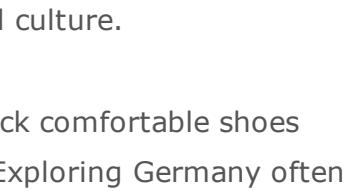
For a comprehensive collection of useful ideas compiled in one document, which includes the Archion website, be sure to explore the [Midwest Genealogy Center German Research Topical Guide](#). It's a valuable resource that provides a wealth of information in a single, convenient document.

For researchers focusing on Silesia, [this website](#), along with the assistance of researcher Klaus Langner, might prove invaluable.

Klaus Langner, who is proficient in both German and English, occasionally visits the U.S. and could offer valuable support. Explore this resource for potential assistance in your Silesia research endeavors.

Handy Tips for Traveling to Germany

Tourist Information Office: Make it a habit to stop at the Tourist Information Office, typically identified by a prominent lowercase letter – 'i' (standing for Info). These offices are often found in every town, either close to the Bahnhof (railroad station) or near the City Hall at the town square.



Heimatmuseum Exploration: The Heimatmuseum (Hometown Museum) is another valuable place to explore. This can offer unique insights into the local history and culture.

Comfortable Footwear: Ensure you pack comfortable shoes tested for walking comfort beforehand. Exploring Germany often involves a fair amount of walking, so comfortable shoes can make your journey more enjoyable.

Places to Visit



John P. Sites Gun Shop at Arrow Rock

Experience the rich history of pioneers heading west along the Oregon and Santa Fe trails, who often made a crucial stop at Arrow Rock to replenish supplies and continue their journey, armed with Sites' guns. During my recent visit to this place, I received a captivating explanation from the Friends of Arrow Rock guide, and I highly recommend it as a worthwhile stop on your holiday travels, whether heading west or east.

The Sites family, originally from Germany, later settled in Missouri. John Sites, who moved to Arrow Rock in 1844, established a gun business. Having learned the art of gunsmithing from his father, John became one of the most skilled artisans in the field.

Remarkably, the Arrow Rock Gun Shop stands as the sole known restoration of a gunsmith's shop in its original location across the entire United States. Today, Sites guns are highly prized for their craftsmanship and historical significance.



The Book Loft of German Village in Columbus, Ohio

Embark on a unique experience by visiting the Book Loft of German Village in Columbus, Ohio – not just a bookstore, but a destination in itself! With an astonishing 32 rooms of books to explore, it's easy to lose track of time in this little piece of Germany. The Book Loft welcomes visitors until 11:00 p.m. daily, offering a haven for book enthusiasts. Plan a leisurely day or even an entire weekend indulging in the literary wonders within its walls. Discover more about this iconic place [here](#) or on [Wikipedia](#).

While in the German Village, Columbus, take advantage of the opportunity to explore the rich German heritage. Wander through the neighborhood and witness how German immigrants built their homes close to each other, creating a community steeped in shared culture and traditional values. After your exploration, treat yourself to a genuine German meal at Schmidt's Sausage House. Be prepared to place your order [here](#). If your stay allows, explore other authentic German restaurants in the area, such as Valters at the Maennerchor for Schnitzel and Spaetzle [here](#) and Alpine Restaurant and Bar for another serving of Schnitzel or sausage [here](#). Your visit promises a delightful blend of literature and German culinary delights.



Visit Bamberg in Bavaria

Ensure you don't miss the fascinating Old City Hall, uniquely built in the middle of a bridge above the water, during your visit. If you have an affinity for classical music, consider purchasing tickets to the Bamberg Symphony. What makes it particularly intriguing is that this orchestra originated from the former German Philharmonic of Prague, Czechoslovakia, and relocated to Germany after World War II.

For those interested in genealogy, explore the Catholic records of Bamberg [here](#) and discover FamilySearch genealogy records [here](#). These resources provide valuable insights into the historical and genealogical aspects of Bamberg, allowing you to delve into its rich past.

Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from the Books

The Hessians: Journal of the Johannes Schwalm Historical Association, Vol 26, 2023, *The Role of "Foreign Muster-Master Generals" in British Acceptance, if not "Certification," of German Auxiliaries, Prior to and During the American Revolution*, by Michael R. Gadue.

See for yourself that soldiers were not only from Hesse!

"Col. Fausitt was a very busy man in negotiating the treaties. Besides some eight German princely States, including several failed attempts with other countries..." (p. 34).

"Hessen-Cassel. The Treaty leased some 22,000 "Hessians," and contained both a subsidy payment as well as a "Treaty of Alliance and Protection," signed January 31, but backdated to 15 January 1776. The Hessen-Cassel military force comprised 15 régiments, each with five companies, four grenadier battalions, two Jäger or chasseur companies, and some artillery. A unique provision of the negotiated treaty was the promise that George III would not deploy these Hessian troops to the Caribbean of West Indies." (p. 36).

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf. This time the helpful records of various kind for tracking your ancestor.

K__ch__n b ù ch__r
Church books (I know – again, it is never enough of this word)

G_e__ch_t__a_k__n
Court records

S_t_e__r__n_t_e__l__g_e_n
Tax documents, tax records

V_e__k_a_u__s_u__t_e__l_a_g__n
Sales document, sales documentation

A__t__e_n
Documents

U_r__n__d_e_n
Documents

U__t_e__l__a__e_n
Documents

Proverb:
"Eile mit Weile!"

Slow and steady wins the race, or literally, "Hurry up slowly,"

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.

