January 2025 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 Research Discussion Group

Review of the December Special Holiday Meeting:

This meeting took place on December 6, 2024, St. Nicholas Day in Germany. While it wasn't strictly a genealogy meeting, it was filled with memories, reminiscences, and discussions about traditional holidays and how our ancestors may have celebrated them. My colleague Andrea, from another branch and born and raised in Germany, graciously accepted our invitation to join as our special guest. Her presentation, along with mine (Iveta's), showcased the customs and traditions of the old continent and, Aufleitich, delighted everyone's senses.

And yes, we concluded the meeting with the song "O Tannenbaum" playing in the background—it has become our signature way of wrapping up this special event.

We'd love to hear from you! Let us know if you'd like to see this extra meeting return in December 2025. Write to us at **mgc@mymcpl.org** and leave a comment for Iveta (Subject: German SIG).

Upcoming Meetings:

Don't miss the presentation of Mike B., who will be sharing his genealogy journey and his methods of approaching his German ancestry. We are also aware that the Kansas City Chiefs will be playing their divisional round playoff game against the Houston Texans at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday. To accommodate our fellow Chiefs fans, Mike will present first, ensuring everyone who wants to catch the game can make it home in time to cheer the Chiefs to victory!

German Special Interest Group (In-Person)
Saturday, January 18 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

German Special Interest Group (Zoom)
Sunday, January 19 | 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

LEARN MORE

What's Happening?

Make plans and mark your calendar for the April 2025 sessions as well! Our archivist, John M., who lived in Germany and gained firsthand experience with German archives from an archivist's perspective, will be presenting on both Saturday and Sunday. He may also be able to answer your questions related to German archives.

In July 2025, we look forward to welcoming Jerry, a representative of the local AHSGR, as our presenter.

Featured Resources

Midwest Genealogy Center Periodicals

Die Pommerschen Leute (The Pomeranian People), For Descendants of the Baltic Duchy of Pomerania, Sept 2024, Vol 47, Issue 3.

Visit MGC, settle into a comfortable chair, and take the time to read the entire issue—it's worth it! Check out the articles *Family Research: Finding a Village* and *Researching Pomeranian Ancestors: An Overview*, both written by Donna Schilling, as well as articles exploring customs surrounding various life events.

PERIODICALS

Featured Books

Immigrants and Politics, The Germans of Nebraska, 1880-1900, by Frederick C. Luebke, 1969.

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

A German Bohemian Immigration, the Population Shift From Western Bohemia to Calumet County, Wisconsin, by Joan Naomi Steiner, 2023.

A simple family history research project evolved into a detailed examination of a significant German Bohemian immigration to Calumet County in eastern Wisconsin for author Joan Naomi Steiner, PhD. Highlighted by scores of family names that populate northeastern Wisconsin to this day. A German Bohemian Immigration provides context to a wealth of information compiled from sources in Germany and the Czech Republic.

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

Research Tips

New Year, new plans! Why not start working on a new family line? Go back to basics: work backwards from the present to the past. Be sure not to skip generations, verify everything you find online or in other people's family trees, and always remember to cite your sources.

Online Resource Tip:
Archion.de has added many new church records. From what I've seen, they are currently focusing on records from the state of Thuringia. You can explore their newest additions **here**.

Handy Tips for Traveling to Germany

It's often worth **purchasing a city pass** when visiting a city in Germany, especially if you plan to explore museums and galleries. You might also want to visit archives, including churches and their collections of church books (if available). A city pass can simplify your experience by covering tickets for various attractions and providing access to the city's excellent transportation network, eliminating any concerns about managing individual fares.

Places to Visit

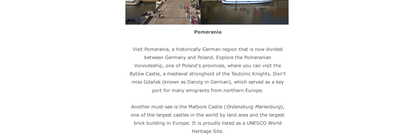
Platte County, Missouri

St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church
This Riverside church, located in Platte County, MO, was founded by German immigrants in 1844 and celebrated 180 years of existence in September 2024! It is one of the oldest churches in northwest Missouri and the oldest institution in Riverside. At one time, it was even known as St. Matthew's German Evangelical Church. Today, the church also serves as a community center, bringing people together through various activities.

Originally, the congregation was managed by a circuit rider minister (*read more about circuit riders in my blog here*).

Ben Ferrel Platte County Museum
Situated in a beautiful historic mansion, the Ben Ferrel Platte County Museum is operated by the Platte County Historical Society (PCHS). This stunning building was constructed by Frederic Krause, a Prussian immigrant, who drew inspiration from the Governor's Mansion in Jefferson City, MO.

Take a tour, browse the bookstore inside, and perhaps pick up a book about the county's history. You can learn more by visiting the PCHS website here. A visit to this museum is well worth it—it will inspire you with even more great tips for exploring this area!



Pomerania

Visit Pomerania, a historically German region that is now divided between Germany and Poland. Explore the Pomeranian Voivodeship, one of Poland's provinces, where you can visit the Bytów Castle, a medieval stronghold of the Teutonic Knights. Don't miss Gdańsk (known as Danzig in German), which served as a key port for many emigrants from northern Europe.

Another must-see is the Malbork Castle (*Ordensburg Marienburg*), one of the largest castles in the world by land area and the largest brick building in Europe. It is proudly listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Cross the border into northeastern Germany to explore the western part of former Pomerania. To learn more about this fascinating region, visit this link. While there, be sure to check out the *Genealogische Quellen* (Genealogy Resources) for additional information.

Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from the Books (or Periodicals)

This time, we're highlighting a few excerpts from the *Platte County Missouri Historical & Genealogical Society BULLETIN, Vol. 77, No. 3* (Sep-Dec 2024). One featured article is titled *Rebirth of "Two" Family Headstones* by Kenneth Klamm.

Visit MGC to read the full, unabridged article and explore more from this fascinating publication!

"Simon Klamm, my great-great grandfather, and his wife Anna Margarethe (nee Frie) immigrated to Platte County from near Mannheim Germany in 1852. They both died and are buried at St. Matthews Church Cemetery, in what is now Riverside, and are listed as charter members of the church." "When I revisited the gravesites sometime in the early 2000s, I was shocked to find the two gravestones in such a state of disrepair." "I soon realized the best solution was to replace and combine the markers into a new, single headstone that could indefinitely mark my/our immigrant ancestors… We were even able to replicate the "finger pointing upward" symbol that had appeared on the original headstones. I also added the words "Immigrated 1852" to further identify my ancestors… If your immigrant ancestor stones are in disrepair, I strongly urge you to make an effort to restore or replace their gravestones as a lasting tribute to their courage. And your immigrants' descendants will appreciate it for many years to come!"

Editors' Note: Information on Restoration of Headstones will be included in a Future Bulletin.

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf! Now, all the words start with 'E'.

R e _ _ e
(Travels)

G u _ e R e _ _ e
(Have a good trip!)

F _ v _ k _ w g
(Airplane)

F l _ g k _ _ t e
(Airplane ticket)

G e _ e a l _ _ i e
(Genealogy)

A h _ e _ f _ _ sch u n g
(Genealogy)

Proverb:
"Weihnachten im Klee, Ostern im Schnee," which means Christmas in green, Easter in the snow. The green Christmas is followed by an Easter snow.

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.

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