

October German Schrift



German Research Discussion Group

Review of the July 2021 Meeting:

The July 2021 quarterly meeting was held virtually. For the first time, it was broadcast from the MGC Oral History Room, which proved to be a good move and elevate this meeting to a better virtual experience (at least for me 🍷). The extra half hour contributed to the success, as well. Thank you for your attendance and participation!

Next meeting: October 16 | 2 p.m.

Let us know about your latest discovery. Did you hit a brick wall? Share it. Maybe somebody else can provide a helpful insight and ideas.

We started exploring the German GenWiki website and will continue a little every session. What will be revealed this time? Register and find out.

[REGISTER](#)

Watch the [Events section](#) of the MGC website for an extra Holiday Edition in December 2021.

Announcements

Dates and News

October 3 – [German Unity Day](#) (Tag der Deutschen Einheit) – as the only federal nationwide holiday.

October 6 – [National German American Day](#), commemorating 13 families from Krefeld, who landed in Philadelphia in 1683 (including Dutch and Swiss origin), and established Germantown in Pennsylvania (now part of Philadelphia).

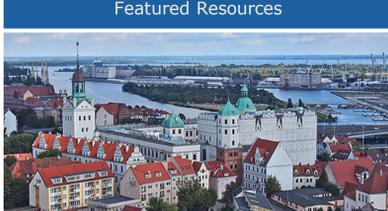
October 11–16 will be the virtual [Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International \(CGSI\) Conference](#). If you have a German Bohemian ancestor and plan to attend, visit MGC's virtual booth.



Read a [short report](#) on the July 2021 International German Genealogy Conference is on the front page of the IGGP newsletter.

Did you know that [Internet Archive](#) (Wayback Machine) has a genealogy section? This new feature narrows down your results to books specific to family genealogy or history of the specific region.

Featured Resources



MGC Periodicals

Die Pommerschen Leute – The Pomeranian People (For Descendants of the Baltic Duchy of Pomerania), March 2021, Vol. 44 Issue 1.

If your German ancestor came from the Stettin area, which was a capital of Pomerania (Pommern), now Szczecin in NW Poland, the records of interest may be in Poland. Szczecin is a capital of Zachodniopomorskie województwo (West Pomeranian Voivodeship or West Pomerania Province).

Visit MGC to read the article where are the records or email us at mgc@mymcpl.org and request a copy of the two pages.

MGC Books

From Herbstein into the Whole World, by Karl Mischler, 2002

The book is about emigration from Herbstein in Hesse, during the 18th and 19th centuries. Some travelled to Russia to settle in the Volga region (this was well planned and organized), others settled in other industrious regions in Prussia, and many left for America. The general trend of illegal emigration in the grand Duchy of Hesse, occurred in Herbstein, too. The main reason in Herbstein was to escape military service.

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Beiträge zur Westfälischen Familienforschung (Passenger List area)

In the July 2021 newsletter, we visited MGC's Oversize Room and gave tips to some Swiss and German books in there. This time we stop at the MGC Passenger List area.

Today's focus - emigration from Westphalia - Minden and Münster - [Beiträge zur westfälischen Familienforschung](#).

- *Westfälische Auswanderer*, Band 22-24
- *Westfälische Auswanderer aus dem Regirungsbezirk Minden*, Band 38/39
- *Westfälische Auswanderer aus dem Regirungsbezirk Minden II, Himliche Auswanderung*, Band 47/48
- *Beiträge zur Westfälische Familienforschung, Auswanderung aus dem Regierungsbezirk Münster, II. Teil*, Band 60 (Heimlich – secret, Band - volume).

These volumes reveal the most important information – place of origin – community, local place, where the records will be.

For more, check the homepage of the [Westphalian Society for Genealogy and Family Research](#).

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Research Tips



If the father is missing at the birth of his child, it might indicate he was out to work seasonally at some other places or even different country, such as seasonal German workers in Holland, called *Hollandgänger* (Holland goers). They primarily came from Westphalia. [Learn more](#) and see pictures.

Using Umlaut Characters

For searching of any German genealogy information online, it helps to use the special characters used in the German alphabet. The search results might be better tailored to your keyword search. Then use the translation tool of the article.

Here are helpful shortcuts for Umlauts:

ä (press Alt 132 or 0228)

Å (142 or 0196), å (148 or 0246)

Ö (153 or 0214)

Ü (129 or 0252), ü (154 or 0220)

ß (called Eszett, two s, Alt 225 or 0223)

Online resource tip:

If your German ancestor came from Russia, many immigrated first to Canada — or settled there.

Check the Canadian censuses, such as Census 1916 free online, including other databases at the [Library and Archives Canada](#) (some data can be also on Ancestry and FamilySearch).

The censuses 1901, 1906, 1911, 1916 and 1921 indicate year of immigration. Don't forget passenger lists 1865–1935.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Places to Visit



This month, we head just west of Missouri and visit even more places virtually.

Kansas received many German emigrants, some coming from other states, some straight from overseas – the latter primarily known as the 'Germans from Russia'.

[Read an article](#) by the Kansas Historical Society about the German heritage in the Sunflower State, also known as "America's breadbasket." Explore places where they settled and left a footprint in traditions, churches and customs.

Ellis County, KS, German Capital of Kansas includes numerous German churches, iron crosses at cemeteries, and a replica of the Volga German Haus.



If Kansas is too close to home, take a virtual visit to **Oberammergau, Werdenfels region, in Upper Bavaria**. The area is famous for *Lüftmalereien*, the village of the Passion Play, and glass-painting.

Do you know what the *Lüftmalerei* is? If not, I will reveal – the frescoes on the houses, dating back from 1700s. *Lüft*, or moving air, means paint should be put on the plaster very fast while it is still damp.

The only true *Lüftmaler* was Franz Seraph Zwinck. The family of Zwinck lived in the house called *Zum Lüftl* (Airy House). Note: *Maler* means painter.

"It is rewarding to hunt through Oberammergau to discover *Lüftmalereien*; no other place can offer such a variety from two centuries." (Excerpt from the MGC book *Oberammergau, Official Guide*, by prof. Johannes Goldner, 1980, page 30)

[Admire frescoes online](#) by clicking 'Explore the Town' and click the street names. Visit another website to [view more beautiful frescoes](#). Also, check [Lüftmalerei](#) in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, a prominent town for winter sports.

If you visit Oberammergau in 2022, the villagers promised to present the Passion Play for visitors from all over the world (which has happened every 10 years since 1634!).

If your ancestor came from this part of Germany, [check records at FHL](#). You will need to sign in or create a free account.

Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from our Books:

"The parish community naturally tried to hold to a minimum the number for whom they had to care... As conditions for granting a marriage license, the community representative could demand proof that the couple intending to marry was healthy, able to work, owned a cow and would be able to lease a cottage as tenants. In the year 1848 the community representative... denied granting a marriage license to a couple because the criteria could not be met. Shortly after that, his house was totally destroyed by fire; the family lost their house and home, goods and livestock, but managed to save their own lives."

"For couples wanting to marry and who were denied the license, emigration remained the only solution."

Excerpts from *The Venne in America, The 19th Century Mass Emigration to America of Tenants and Small Cottage Farmers from a Rural Village in the Region of Osnabrück*, by Udo Thörner, Osnabrück 2008 (page 45).

How many German words are there for farmer? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf and learn a few!

A _ k _ _ er (Farmer)
B _ u _ r (Farmer)
L _ n _ w i _ _ (h) (Farmer)
H u b _ _ (Farmer)
H _ _ b _ u _ r (Farmer on a half-sized farm)
H ü f _ e r (Farmer)
H o _ b e s _ t z _ r (Farmer)
A l _ _ n t _ _ l _ r (Retired farmer)

Christl's Proverb:
'Wo Rauch ist, da ist auch Feuer.'
"Where there is smoke, there is fire."

Thank you. Danke schön.
Iveta B.

