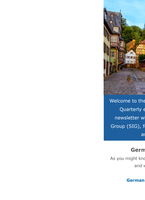
October 2025 German Schrift



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 Special Interest Group

As you might know, we did not have any July quarterly meeting, and we are very ready for October 2025!

German Special Interest Group (In-Person)
October 18 at 2:00 p.m.
Midwest Genealogy Center

Come hear Bob (MGC volunteer) present his case study! As a long-time researcher and expert in German genealogy and language, his presentation is one you won't want to miss.

German Special Interest Group (Zoom)
October 19 at 2:00 p.m.

Paul H. will be our presenter for the online session on October 19. He'll share a presentation similar to the one he gave in April. Join us to learn, share, and connect with others! Although MGC Archivist John M., who presented in April, is not available this October, he has graciously agreed to give a similar presentation for our virtual attendees next year—stay tuned!

Stay Tuned:

Mark your calendar for the virtual Coffee & Conversation on December 5, 2025. The theme is *German Holiday!* Come ready to share your memories, holiday stories, or treasured ornaments passed down from your grandparents' trees—share as much or as little as you'd like. Everyone is welcome! Registration will open on our website in November, or you can give us a call then to inquire. On the day of the event, brew a cup of coffee and join us with your favorite mug in hand!

ALL EVENTS

What's Happening?

The Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) Conference is coming to the Kansas City area! Join us in Overland Park, KS. The keynote address will be delivered remotely by Tamara Scheer, a native of Austria and professor at the University of Vienna. The program also includes sessions from many other presenters, including our very own MGC Director, Katie Smith, along with colleagues Mary and Sheri. Be sure to visit the Midwest Genealogy Center (MGC) table in the Exhibition Hall and let us know you heard about the conference from this Schrift!

LEARN MORE

Featured Resources

Midwest Genealogy Center Archives
(Provided by John, MGC Archivist)

Our Rare Books collection includes numerous German-language titles, such as *Kansas City und sein Deutschthum* from 1900. Written in German, this book highlights Kansas City's history along with notable German and German-American Kansas Citians. Pictured here are the book's cover and a photograph of "The Junction," a historic Kansas City landmark that no longer exists.

MGC ARCHIVES

Midwest Genealogy Center Periodicals

American Ancestors, Summer 2025, Vol. 26, No. 2
Stop by the Midwest Genealogy Center to read the article *"Bible Records, Family Registers & Much More: A New American Ancestors Database"* (pages 20-22).

Family Bibles are among the most requested manuscript records, often containing valuable data such as births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials. While they are considered secondary sources, they can provide leads to verify—or sometimes challenge—the information recorded by ancestors, such as your great-grandmother.

This September, American Ancestors launched a major project releasing hundreds of Bible records, with more to come. The new Bible Records and Family Registers can be searched by name, date, family relationship, and location. Over nearly 180 years, American Ancestors has collected about 4,200 Bible records, many including German and Swiss names along with places of origin.

Digital images of the originals are available through the Digital Library and Archives at Digital.AmericanAncestors.org. MGC provides **free access to this resource on-site**—so plan a visit and explore this database while at the center.

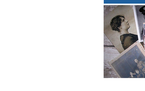
PERIODICALS

Featured Books

Beginner's Guide to Germanic Genealogy by Lois Hemmeter Edwards (Germanic Genealogy Society, 2005 & 2011) is a great starting point for anyone new to German ancestry research. This book covers essential techniques, including:

- How to get started with genealogy research
- Finding places of origin and understanding former German principalities
- Interpreting family names, emigration factors, German script, Gothic print
- Using church and civil vital records

Research Tips



Online Resource Tip:

This month, our colleague Twila shares two great finds:

German Newspapers Published in Europe
Explore free online historical newspapers from Germany. These can be a treasure trove for genealogy research! Read the blog here: The Arcadior Hunt – Germany Newspapers

Klassik Radio
Bring classical music into your home with this German radio site. As Germany is the birthplace of many great composers, it's a perfect way to add inspiration—especially with the holiday season approaching. Tune in here: Klassik Radio

Handy Tips for Traveling to Germany

If you see this sign, you may proceed to the parking garage. However, if the word **"Besetzt"** (meaning occupied or full) appears under the sign, the garage is full and you'll need to find another place to park.

Want to learn more about parking and transportation in Germany? Visit Brian H's helpful website: Getting Around Germany

Places to Visit

Colorado Springs, CO
Featured in a previous Schrift

I wanted to share some of my own photos from an authentic German restaurant I was finally able to experience firsthand this August—**Edelweiss**! From the live music and décor to the traditional costumes, everything contributed to such a unique atmosphere.

And the food? Absolutely delicious! I ordered the *Jäger Schnitzel* (Hunter's Fried Pork), and it was fantastic. My daughter chose the *Spaetzlraten* and my son the *Badische Platte*. As you can see from their plates, the red cabbage and other staples of German and Central European cuisine were not to be missed.

If you're traveling through Colorado, don't pass up a chance to stop at Edelweiss!

While you're on this side of Colorado, be sure to stop by the **National Archives in Denver** and the **Denver Public Library**. Both hold rich collections of genealogical materials and are excellent resources for research.

If this hits a little too close to home, here's a travel tip from MGC Volunteer Heidi P. – **Visit Bad Goisern, Austria**, the hometown of her father's side of the family! This charming spa and market town has a rich history and is especially famous for its handmade mountain shoes. Each pair is crafted uniquely to fit the customer, making them truly one of a kind. As a hiker, I find this tradition especially appealing! Learn more about the town's history, museum, and these special hiking shoes: https://www.hallstatt.net/about-hallstatt/weltkulturerbe-en-10/1bachstein-salzkammergut-en-sa3ad-golsern-history/

Fun and Learning

Little Pearls from the Books (or Periodicals)

The East Friesens in America, by Pastor George Schnucker, translated by Pastor Kenneth De Wall, 1986. *Original: Die Ostfriesen In Amerika*, 1917.

This excerpt shows how emigrants could change their minds while traveling, as to where to settle in America.

"Originally, it was the intention of our East Friesens, on their arrival in New York, to set out for St. Louis. But while still on the ocean they changed their destination. On the ship, they had come in contact with a high German named George Mengel, a carpenter, who after two years in America had gone back to Germany to bring back his bride who waited for him there. The young pair were on the return trip to America. On the ship Mengel went to our East Friesens with well-meant advice. He told them St. Louis was not a desirable place to live. It was often polluted and humid and as a result many were sick with the fever. He advised them to go with him to Northern Illinois, where the climatic conditions are excellent and one could amount to something much sooner. And should it not please them, they could easily make the trip to St. Louis from there. He also wanted to help them obtain appropriate work opportunities. After long consideration, the little group embraced the far-reaching decision to follow Mengel's advice. (p. 3-4)

Chapter: The Founding of the First East Friesen Congregation. "To the High Germans the East Friesens were known as Dutchmen." (p. 119-120)

And because we are mentioning the Klassik Radio above, let's attach a short excerpt of this juvenile title: **Johann Sebastian Bach**, by Eric Michael Summerer, 2006. Bach, who was born in 1685 in Thuringia, is cited in the chapter "Master of the Organ". *"Bach told others that playing the organ was easy. "There is nothing to it," he said. "You have only to hit the right notes at the right time and the instrument plays itself."* (p. 18)

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf! This time the words relate to parking and transportation:

E i n _ _ h _ t
Entry

A _ _ f a _ _ t
Exit

B e _ e _ _ t
Full

F r _ _
Open, free, available

P a _ _ sch e _ n
Parking Permit

Z a h _ _ _
Pay

Proverb:
Keiner weiss wo dem Andern der Schuh drückt.

Nobody knows where the shoe pinches, only the one who wears it.

Generally: Nobody can fully understand other person's suffering or hardship. In a broader meaning, nobody can fully understand the hardship, unless they go through the same hardship themselves.

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.