



PALATINE HERITAGE

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MAY MEETING REPORT

Ira W. Simons

The May conference of the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America was held May 13 at the Ohio Historical Center Auditorium at the State fairgrounds in Columbus. The meeting was very well attended with 142 persons on hand. The meeting started promptly at 9:30 AM when program Chairman, Ernest Thode introduced the guest speaker, Henning Schroeder, of Gummersbach, West Germany. Herr Schroeder has been a professional genealogist since 1977 specializing in the Rhineland, Westphalia, Hesse and Saxony areas. Herr Schroeder's first talk on German Professional Genealogists and Genealogical associations was accompanied by a two page "handout" listing the names and addresses of those professionals and societies. The "handout" will be most useful to our members wishing to contact those listed. His descriptions of the areas in which these people work and his detailing of their methods of work made this session all the more valuable to those attending.

Herr Schroeder's second session covered "German Script and Abbreviations. Accompanying "handouts" included eight pages of examples of German script, abbreviations, genealogical symbols, Latin words and words used in German genealogies. In his final session, the last of the afternoon Herr Schroeder discussed German Archives giving details of how to gain access to them, what you may expect to find in them. The session included a four page "handout" listing State and Church Archives for both West and East Germany. Included in the list are current publications on West German Research and other literature of interest to genealogists.

During the noon break many of the attendees had lunch at the Colonel Crawford Inn in the nearby Ohio Village. The food was delicious - ausgezeichnet!

After lunch the business meeting and election of officers was held. President Cunningham called the meeting to order and the recommendations of the nominating committee were given. There was one nominee for each of the Chapter offices and there were no nominations from the floor. The following officers were elected by unanimous vote: President, Robert F. Schnetzer. Vice President, Dorothy A. Limbach. Secretary, Eleanor Brucken. Treasurer, Clara H. Harsh. Registrar, Florence Beck. Board Members are: Mary E. Leppla, Dr. Paul Jones, and Alice M. Shaffer.

The new President, Robert F. Schnetzer then took

over the business meeting and addressed an item of importance. That is the "Tax exempt" status of the Chapter with the IRS. This has been an ongoing concern of the chapter. The revisions in our By-Laws required by the National Office did not meet approval with the IRS in regards to distribution of Chapter assets in the event of dissolution of the Chapter. Our Treasurer, Clara Harsh, and Robert Schnetzer have had extensive talks with the IRS and the Chapter has paid a \$300 application fee to the IRS to obtain this tax exempt status. This required a change in the By-Laws approved by the membership. As an emergency measure it was moved that Article Ten of the By-Laws requiring 30 days advanced publication of the change be suspended. There being no objection from the members in attendance this was done. A motion was then made to accept the revision which was accepted and unanimously approved. This necessary change should satisfy the IRS and we should receive our tax exemption.

President Schnetzer then proposed that an additional change in the By-Laws be made changing the number of Board Members at large from three to "not less than three nor more than nine". This proposal is intended to give the Chapter members better representation from various parts of the State. Some discussion followed and it was moved and seconded that this revision be made. The approval was unanimous. President Schnetzer then appointed four members; Margaret Dierenger, Greenfield; James M. Overhuls, Norwalk; Glenn R. Stanhope, Chillicothe; and Darrell D. Tussing of Weston to serve as a special committee until the membership can vote on them at our next meeting. These changes should give our chapter better geographic representation and growth in membership.

After the business meeting Frau Ilse Edse gave a moving talk on her personal experiences of leaving East Germany during the war and settling in West Germany. Her vivid description of the trauma of displaced persons, the life of some of her relatives in displaced persons camps, and the loss of family ties gave us all cause to think how lucky we are and to reflect that many of our ancestors went through comparable experiences that required much courage and fortitude. It was a most appropriate subject for a genealogical conference and was well received by those attending.

As you can see it was a most exciting and informative meeting. If you didn't attend you missed a great deal. Plan to attend our meeting next September in Mansfield.

"POSTHUMOUS" BAPTISMS

by Ken Smith

Let's suppose that you are diligently working a German church book. You find what is apparently the baptismal entry for your ancestor, but the notation "posthumous" appears beside the record. Does this mean that this child was posthumously (*i.e.* after death) baptized and hence cannot possibly be your ancestor? Not necessarily.

It is not uncommon today for dead children (especially stillbirths) to be baptized, and most genealogists are aware that the Mormons' interest in genealogy is tied to the fact that they believe people can be baptized long after death. But did this happen in German Protestant Churches? The answer is yes and no. It seems to have depended on the pastor. There are extant baptismal records in which it is actually stated that the child was baptized after death. Likewise there are records in which the pastor states that such-and-such child was not baptized since it was born dead.

Returning to the original question regarding the word "posthumous," it could have two meanings. There are examples in which it can be shown that the baptism was truly posthumous, in that the child had actually died. But there are other instances in which it can be proven that the child lived, despite the fact that the word "posthumous" appears beside the entry. So what did it mean? In these instances the child was baptized after the death of his/her father. I have never seen the word used in reference to the mother's death. Whatever our ideas of what is "meet and right," it must be noted that the father has always been the "key" parent in the baptismal record. In earlier baptismal records the father is often the only parent named. To carry this to an extreme, I have seen records such as "a child of Johannes Schmidt," where not only the name but even the sex of the child itself was not given.

So can this be the baptismal record of your ancestor? Sure. In order to explain the "posthumous" notation, you should check the death records for an entry for the father prior to the date of the child's baptism. If you find it, the notation need not stand in your way.

OUR "ISSN NUMBER"

Thanks to Robert Rudy we have been assigned an ISSN number by the Library of Congress's National Serials Data Program. This number has appeared on our issues since last August. The Library of Congress is responsible for the assignment of an "international Standard Serial Number" to every serial published in the United States. This is an internationally accepted eight digit number which serves as a unique identification code for serials. Our number is ISSN 0896-8721.

OVERSEAS MAIL

Herr Schroeder advises that the West German Postal Service raised its rates April 1st and that those wishing replies to their letters should include three International Postal coupons instead of two as in the past.

TOUR OF GERMANY

Leo and Phyllis Wastler of Wastler Escorted Travel Inc. are planning a tour of Holland, Germany, and Switzerland. The Wastlers' have escorted two previous tours for the Pennsylvania Chapter of PAL-AM. This year's tour will depart Friday, 8 September and return Saturday, 23 September. For a detailed brochure contact WASTLER ESCORTED TRAVEL, INC., P.O. Box 775, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055. Cost of the tour is \$2250 per person from JFK, New York.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, OHIO RECORDS

Champaign County, Ohio has a 3 x 5 card file with surnames and vital information on one side, with the name and address of the person searching that name on the other side. This file is kept by Sue Heatherly Hirt, Deputy Clerk of Probate Court, County Courthouse, Urbana, OH 43078. She gives the names and addresses to others researching the same name.

(*F.G.S. Newsletter, July-August 1988*) (PAL-AM III, Oct.88)

NEW MEMBERS

The Ohio Chapter Registrar, Florence Beck, reports the following new members in our PAL-AM chapter. New members from Ohio are: Gladys B. Carter, Berea, Pauline McNeal Ashelbaum, Fred E. Mayer, William H. Pickars, all from Columbus, Martha Marsh of Hudson, Deb Hegenderfer of Plain City, Howard L. & Margaret M. Brown of Springfield, Nancy R. Bletner of Worthington. Venice, Florida brings us Helen R. Blackmore and from West Germany, Reinhard Mayer. Willkommen!

EUROPEAN IMMIGRANTS OF 1878

ARRIVALS IN THIS COUNTRY DURING THE YEAR

GERMANY	51,958	NETHERLANDS	652
ENGLAND	19,581	PORTUGAL	648
IRELAND	17,113	HUNGARY	632
SWEDEN	6,176	POLAND	554
NORWAY	5,216	BELGIUM	454
ITALY	5,163	SPAIN	432
AUSTRIA	4,881	WALES	311
FRANCE	4,668	SICILY	228
RUSSIA	4,216	TURKEY	23
SCOTLAND	3,700	FINLAND	22
DENMARK	2,688	GREECE	13
SWITZERLAND	2,051		

FROM THE GIRARD ILLINOIS GAZETTE, 15 MARCH 1879, PAGE 3. (By way of Macoupin County Genealogical Society's "Searcher" VOL.IX, #2).

(*The above article from Illinois Chapter Palatine Newsletter Oct-Nov 1988*)

PERMISSION TO QUOTE

Other PAL-AM chapters may quote from "Palatine Heritage" provided that appropriate credit is given

LIBRARY DONATIONS

The library has been enhanced by a large collection of books and data on families through the generosity of Warren Ziegler of Pennsylvania. Warren has donated most of his genealogical library to the Pal-Am library. This was a most generous and thoughtful act on Warrens' part and we owe him our thanks. Books include: "The Formation of the Union", "Catholic Ministerial Acts", Xerox "Parts of 1884 History of Lehigh & Carbon County", "Pioneers of Pickaway County Ohio"*Reichelderfer*, "Cemetery Records Mahoning County Ohio", "Canfield Township Cemetery & Death Records, Mahoning Co. Ohio", "Pioneer Ohio Families", "Farmsteads And Their Buildings"*Amos Long Jr.*, "Lynn Township, Lehigh Co. Pa., Comprehensive Plan", "Lehigh Co., Pa. History 1914" (parts of), "Maryland Records Pastoral" *Rev. Jacob Lischy*, "English Pennsylvania Dutch Dictionary", "Pennsylvania-German Dictionary". This list is just a sample there are an additional 25 books on the list. In addition there are 8 compilations of Pennsylvania Church records done by Warren. Also included in Warrens' donation are 54 family histories in file folders with names ranging from Balesh to Yundt. It is not practical to print the entire list but you should know that additional valuable research data is in the Library that might be of interest to you. Additional acquisitions are: "The Householder Genealogy" *by Jane Farrell Burgess* contributed by Agnes Jenkins and a 1256 name Index To The Simonis/Simons Book.

REMEMBER THE LIBRARY

Our Library has been built largely through the contributions of members, Warren Zieglers' large contribution is an example. If you have genealogical books you are not using or wish to dispose of your library your books will find a welcome home in the Pal-Am library. You might think of making a bequest of your books to Pal-Am in your will.

LIBRARY DAYS EXTENDED

The Library in Renner Hall, Capital University is now open every Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4. (It was previously closed on the fifth Wednesday of the month). This was made possible by a new volunteer, Mr. Gene Reynolds. We thank Gene for his help. The opening of the Library on Saturday mornings is being looked into. More volunteers are always welcome. Help is needed to enter data into the computer, a knowledge of typing is helpful, if interested contact Jean Hall 181 Heischman Ave. Worthington, Ohio 43085, (614)885-4223.

MEMBERSHIP

Ohio Chapter members should encourage friends and acquaintances interested in German genealogy to become members of PAL-AM. In recent years there has been a downward trend nationwide genealogical society membership. Our total membership is now 505 as reported by Registrar Florence Beck. This includes 82 Family Memberships. This is down by 51 memberships. Let's see if we

can improve this number.

SEPTEMBER CONFERENCE

The next Conference of the Ohio Chapter PAL-AM will be held **Saturday, September 23, in Mansfield Ohio** at the LIEDERKRANZ, 1212 Silver Lane. This is near the new Ohio Genealogical Society library which will be kept open until 9PM Friday evening for the benefit of those wishing to do some research. Program chairman, Ernest Thode, is in the process of lining up speakers for the conference. Put this date on your calendar now and plan to attend. Complete details of the conference and registration form will be sent out later this summer. A block of rooms has been reserved at a nearby motel.

1989 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Palatines To America National Conference will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana June 22 through 24. The conference will be held on the Campus of Marian College and has a full two day schedule of excellent speakers on a variety of genealogical subjects.

"GERMAN ROOTS IN OHIO"

During April and May the Marietta, Ohio area is celebrating "German Roots In Ohio" This recognition of the impact of German immigration in the early growth of Ohio is partially funded by the OHIO HUMANITIES COUNCIL. The National PAL-AM has contributed \$100 to this celebration. Among the activities during this period are the photographing of historical documents, an interdenominational church service, partly in German, at a restored church, tours of cemeteries. Our own Ernest Thode spoke on "Finding German Roots". Other speakers are Leo Schelbert of the University of Illinois at Chicago speaking on the "History of German Immigration" and Hugh Wilhelm discussing "German Settlements in Ohio".

SHARE YOUR NEWS

If you have news, articles of genealogical interest or inquiries please submit them for possible publication to Ira W Simons, 975 Amberly Pl. Columbus, Ohio 43220. Letters to the editor are welcome.

PUBLICITY

Publicizing our chapters activities will help us grow. If you would like to place announcements of our activities in places such as your local library please write us stating the number of copies of meeting announcements you can use

NEW BOOKS

The Pennsylvania Chapter has undertaken the publication of two new books. "1833 Thru 1906, Palatine Emigrants from Edenkoben" by Herr Pfarrer Hans Kuby. \$8 plus \$2 shipping and handling. Pennsylvania Chapter PAL-AM, P.O. Box 535, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-0535. "Westerwald to America, Some 18th Century German Immigrants" by Annette K. Burgert and Henry Z. Jones Jr. A cooperative effort with Picton Press. Available this fall. \$29.95 plus \$2.00 Shipping. Order from Picton Press,

PALATINE HERITAGE NEWSLETTER is a publication of the **Ohio Chapter of Palatines To America**. A Non-Profit organization. It is published 4 times per Year. We are a genealogical society dedicated to finding the origins of German-speaking ancestors in Europe. Members also receive informative mailings from the National organization. Your communications and ideas are welcome.

Address correspondence to Ohio Chapter Palatines to America, Box 101, Capital University, Columbus, Ohio 43209-2394. The Ohio Chapter does not have a Phone there. If you do wish to phone the officers and Editor phones are listed below. Correspondence addressed to the National office at the same address and Box Number.

The telephone for the National Office is (614) 236-8281

CHAPTER OFFICERS FISCAL 1989-1990

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Library The library is located in Renner Hall at the SE corner of Main St. and College Ave. on Capital University Campus. Room #339 on the third floor. The library is open each Wednesday Hours 1 PM to 4 PM. Other times subject to advance confirmation with Jean Hall, Columbus (614)-885-4223.

MEMBERSHIP dues cover from Oct.1 to Sept 30. National and Ohio Chapter dues are included in the payment of \$19 INDIVIDUAL membership or \$21 FAMILY (2 persons-single address). Add \$3 per membership if outside the US. Include SASE with your check payable to PALATINES TO AMERICA, Box 101 Capital University, Columbus Ohio 43209-2394 Members receive both the National and Ohio publications and any member discounts for events.

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