

Palatine heritage

OHIO CHAPTER, PALATINES TO AMERICA, NEWSLETTER



August, 2001

Columbus, Ohio

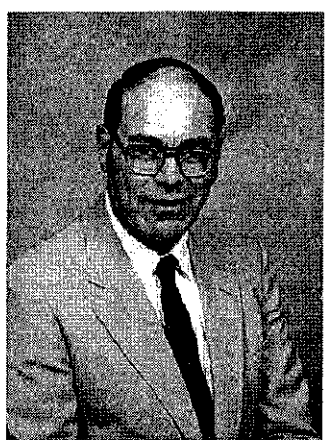
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No. 3

FALL CONFERENCE OCTOBER 20, 2001



Mr. Tim Ostwald was born grandson of German immigrants, in the San Juan Basin of southwestern Colorado. He attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, receiving a BS Degree in Engineering Physics, in 1951 and MS degree in Physics in 1960. He retired in 1989 after a career in aerospace engineering. He has been a family

genealogist for 29 years. He first visited eastern Europe in 1975 and since then has made several trips to Europe, visiting villages, archives, and churches in Germany and Poland while tracing his own family heritage and accompanying others to help with their research.

He has conducted seminars and classes and written several articles on basic and intermediate German Genealogical Research, Reading German Script, Interpreting Church Records, German for Genealogists, Researching Passengers Lists, Calendars, Genealogical Dating and Genealogical Writing. For the past 15 years he has performed translations and helped dozens of other researchers in the Denver area with their German genealogical research problems.

Mr. Ostwald was formerly president of the Colorado Chapter of Palatines to America, and is now Chapter genealogist and author of the German "Research Help" Forschungshilfe column published in the Colorado Chapter Newsletter.

Learning A Little German: (Alphabet and pronunciation principles.) Elementary patterns of the German language using samples from street language, genealogical records, correspondence. Introduction to verb conjugation and noun/adjective declension.

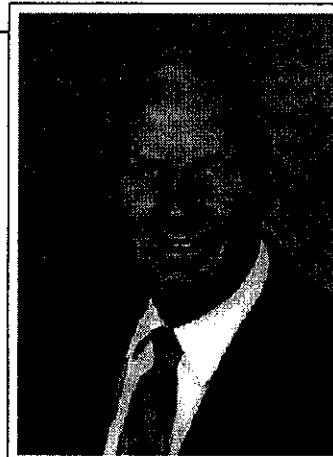
Geographical Aspects of German Genealogical Research: Unscrambling the name of the village of origin. Finding and using detailed gazetteers and maps to locate the village of origin. Locating filmed primary records in the Family History Library. Locating uncataloged records in the Family History Library. Straightens out often confusing historic and geographical details about earlier Germanic areas. Should enable serious recipients to find available resources about their ancestral village/city locations.

The Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America, is announcing its Fall Conference, to be held on October 20, 2001 at Der Dutchman Restaurant in **Waynesville, Ohio**. Registration and directions will be mailed to all members around the first of September. Nonmembers are also invited. Bring along a friend that is interested in genealogy. There will be a Question & Answer Session at the end of the conference.

Mr. Robert (Bob) Rau, is a retired crystallographer and X-ray diffraction analytical consultant. He became interested in genealogy twenty years ago when an uncle from Germany visited and gave him a Rau family tree. Since then he has been researching all of his own, and his wife's ancestral lines, all of which go back into Germany or

Alsace-Lorraine. He has done extensive research in the microfilmed LDS records, and has been a non-member librarian, specializing in German research, at the LDS Family History Center in Cincinnati for fifteen years. He has made numerous trips to Germany and to Salt Lake City to further his research, and has made many presentations on various aspects of German genealogy and Cincinnati German church history to adult education classes and local, state and national genealogical societies. He was active in the microfilming of German Lutheran and Evangelical church records from the Cincinnati and Southeastern Indiana area by the LDS, and is a member of the Palatines to America, the Hamilton County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, The Tri-County (Indiana) Genealogical Society, and the Hessische Familiengeschichtliche Vereinigung. Mr Rau's, topic will be;

Reading German Church and Civil Records



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Willkommen

The following new members have been added;

California

Hause, Carl.....Vista
 Hause, Martha W.....Vista
 Kienzle, Robert D.....Long Beach

District of Columbia

Field, Al.....Washington

Illinois

Barth, Peggy.....Chrisman

Georgia

Creamer, Herb.....Hiram

Maryland

Wolf, Carol L.....Bethesda
 Wolf, Robert O.....Bethesda

Mississippi

Ralph, Debra.....Potts Camp

Ohio

Averbach, Roy A.....Cincinnati
 Baumert, John.....Columbus
 Baumert, Sandra.....Columbus
 Combs, Carol M.....Dayton
 Combs, Townsel.....Dayton
 Dible, Barbara M.....W Worthington
 Harsh, Claudia E.....Cincinnati
 Hite, Richard.....Columbus
 Lora, Alice C.....Bluffton
 Lora, Ronald G.....Bluffton
 Shough, Jim.....Pickerington
 Stocker, Ann H.....Pickerington
 Thornton, Robert.....Hamilton

Oregon

Patterson, Lynn.....Warrington
 Patterson, Michael.....Warrington

Ohio Chapter Membership roster.

12 Life Members
874 Individual Memberships

Ohio Chapter's New Totes 100% American Made

Tote bags sold by The Ohio Chapter of Pal-Am are now supplied by Enviro Tote Incorporated of Bedford, New Hampshire. Previously, totes purchased by the Ohio Chapter were made in Sri Lanka and passed through several middle men before being printed and sold in Ohio. Our totes are now manufactured and printed by one company, Enviro Tote, thus eliminating several middle men and providing a quality product with quick and efficient ordering service and a much better price structure and profit margin for the Chapter.

In the Mailbox



Dear Editor,

You have my address wrong on the list of board members. The correct address is;

Darrell D. Tussing
 13210 Silver St
 Weston, Oh. 43569-9648

My name is also incorrect on the list of board members on the Ohio Chapter Officers you have it listed as David D. Tussing instead of Darrell D Tussing

Thank you

Darrell D Tussing

The current address of the National President, Clara Harsh, recently moved from Georgia, is;

Clara Harsh, President
 3435 Golden Avenue #802
 Cincinnati, OH 45226

E-mail address: ehharsh@fuse.net

Continued from column 1

Since 1990, Enviro Tote has been producing tote bags that are 100% American made. They are hand stitched and a screen printed with nontoxic inks at their plant in tax free Bedford, New Hampshire. One bag at a time production insures a quality product with custom sizes and configurations. The Chapter's current stock of tote bags is made from cotton, but in the future, all totes purchased by the Ohio Chapter will be made from Fortrel's EcoSpun, Wellman's premium polyester fiber. This material is made though a state-of-the art process using your recycled plastic soda, water, and food bottles. EcoSpun fabrics provide comfort, easy care, durability, softness, a rich-looking appearance, and help preserve the earth. Enviro Tote produces tote bags for various companies, organizations and universities, including Battelle, Fornlica, Borders, NCR, AAA, George Washington University, and Harvard University.

Three styles of bags are available from the Ohio Chapter: (1) The Shoulder Tote, the Company's most popular tote, with 25 " handles in 10oz cotton. This tote measures 16" wide, 14.5" high and three inch gusset or depth. The shoulder tote carries the Pal-Am Clipper Ship Logo with Palatines to America in script. This is a most practical yet elegant tote bag. The sale price for this bag is \$10.50, post paid. (2) The Large Boat Bag measures 17" wide, a 14" high and 4" gusset. The handles are 25". This bag has a zipper top closure, a front pocket and carries the Pal-Am Clipper Ship Logo. The sale price for this bag is \$15.50, post paid. (3) The Flat Tote is the smallest bag offered, measuring 14" wide and 14" high. The handles are 13" cotton. The 1999 Columbus National Conference Logo, minus "Auswanderer Aus... Columbus, Ohio 1999," appears on this bag and it is priced at \$10.50, post paid.

Excerpts from Pal-Am Trip to Germany

by Marian Huber Deitrich

My daughter and I joined thirty-eight other genealogists on a tour arranged by Palatines to America. We met at Washington/Dulles Airport and flew to Frankfurt, Germany, arriving at 11:30 A.M. April 30. Our guide and motor coach were waiting to take us to Rudesheim on the Rhine River for our first night in Germany. Dinner at the hotel was an occasion to become acquainted with our traveling companions.

The next day was spent sightseeing while cruising on the Rhine, with its hillside vineyards and numerous castles along the way. Our motor coach awaited us at the end of the cruise for our drive to Speyer. Three days in Speyer provided the opportunity to visit civil and religious archives. The professional genealogist in our group had previously made these appointments for us. My big find here was the military registration of my husband's great-grandfather. There was a notation that he did not serve because he could not be found. This was 1855 and he was

on his way to America, where he later served in the 9th Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. On Saturday, May 5, our tour took us to Kaiserslautern by way of Heidelberg, where a tour of the castle was on the schedule. Linda had arranged for a rental car in Heidelberg, so she and I left the group at this point and headed toward Weilerbach. We wanted to find the church there and learn the time of Mass on Sunday, and we wanted to arrive at the hotel in Kaiserslautern in time to keep a dinner date with distant relatives. Several years ago, after finding that my husband's ancestors lived in Schwedelbach in the Rhineland-Pfalz area of Germany, I was able to contact relatives who still lived there by using the on-line German telephone directory. We have corresponded since then, and now we would be able to meet. We enjoyed dinner with Klaus, who is my daughter's fifth cousin, his wife Birgit, and their daughter Kerstin. Our gifts from them included a packet of information put together by a professional genealogist regarding the early Dietrichs, who were schoolteachers in many of the small villages west of Kaiserslautern during the 1600's through the 1800's.

On Sunday morning Linda and I drove to Weilerbach to meet Klaus and his family and to attend Mass at Holy Cross Church, where my husband's great-grandfather was baptized. Afterwards, we drove from village to village to see where the Dietrichs lived and taught ---- Kottweiler, Kirchmohr, Glan-Munchweiler, Nanzdietschweder and Schwedelbach. Klaus and Birgit took us to their home and to his mother's home. We had a wonderful day. Monday was another day of sightseeing. Linda turned in the rental car and we joined the rest of the group for a trip to Trier, then on to Luxembourg for a visit to the WW II American Cemetery, with a stop at the Cathedral at Metz, France before returning to the Dorint Hotel in Kaiserslautern.

It was back to research on Tuesday. We went to the Institute for Pfalz History and Genealogy and had the privilege of meeting Roland Paul Author of the book "Palatines in America." His colleague, Jakob Lill, whose mother was a Dietrich, came to the Institute to meet my daughter and me and to take us to his home in Kottweiler to meet his wife, Gertrud, and to enjoy coffee and kuchen with them. He returned us to the hotel in time to meet another distant cousin, who came with his wife and two children to visit with us.

Wednesday found us on the way to Koblenz, or rather the Dorint Hotel in Lahnstein near Koblenz, but first a stop at Marksburg Castle for lunch and a tour of the castle. The next day was another day of research at the Archives and Library in Ludwigshafen and a tour of villages of interest to some in our group. On Friday the schedule called for our motor coach to take us to more villages, but nine of us opted to take a walking tour of Koblenz instead. Our driver took us there and dropped us off, before



going on with the rest of the group. We walked around, took pictures, shopped and had lunch. Taxies took us back to the hotel for a leisurely afternoon. This was the last day of our organized tour.

Saturday, May 12, we drove from Koblenz to the Frankfurt airport. My daughter had previously arranged for another rental car at the airport, and while the others flew home, Linda and I drove to Augsburg, Bavaria, doing some sightseeing along the way. We stopped in Rothenburg and Dinkelsbuhl along the Romantic Road and arrived at our hotel in Augsburg.

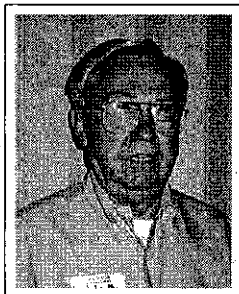
Saturday evening, I learned from earlier research that my great grandparents came from villages southwest of Augsburg. Sunday morning we attended Mass in the church where my great-grandmother was baptized and where she married my great-grandfather ---- it was Mother's Day and this was very special for me. We drove to the village where they lived before coming to America and where my grandfather was born. We had an appointment for the next day at the Catholic Archives in Augsburg, arranged by E-mail before leaving on our trip. We viewed church records on film and were able to fill in the siblings in three of my ancestor's families. We were surprised to see a typewritten letter show up on the screen. It was superimposed on the handwritten church records and was written in 1967 by someone inquiring about Bavarian schoolteachers named Huber. There, handwritten across the bottom of the letter, was information about my ancestors I had not yet found ---- birth, marriage and death dates for my great great grandparents. This surely was a great way to top off our genealogy tour to Germany. Tuesday morning, May 15, found us on the autobahn headed for the Frankfurt airport and home.

Chet Winter, MD Resigns

Today I mailed my letter of resignation as President of the Ohio Chapter of Pal-Am due to heavy personal commitments and the need to slow down and relax as approach my 80th birthday. Also, I'm working hard to get my book finished and published this year. Jerry Miller, our vice-president has been handed the gavel. I have enjoyed the duties and the many acquaintances made during the one and one-third year tenure. The Chapter is strong and flourishing and should continue to do so. All the officers and board members have been most cooperative and enjoyable to work with. I have never had an unpleasant moment. In my letter to Jerry Miller, I listed a number of business matters that need to be addressed. My best wishes to the organization, its officers and board members and thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Chet Winter May 23, 2001

Treasurer, John Mangus Resigns



John Mangus, Treasurer has resigned as Treasurer of the Ohio Chapter, due to health reasons. John has stated that he will continue to work with all persons involved in the treasurer's duties. John will take over as Office Manager. John has done an outstanding job for quite a few years. Thanks for your involvement John.

National Library

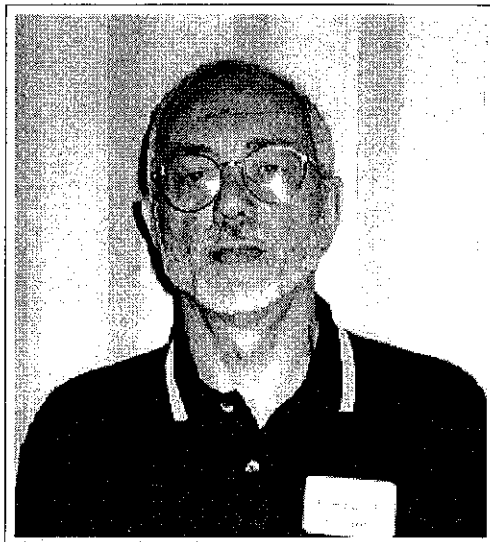
Ann Scott, Librarian for the National Pal-Am Library on Weber Avenue, is in need of an electric typewriter. Anyone wishing to donate one please contact Ann Scott. She is also looking for help in locating the donor of the book *Silixer Ahnenbuch*. We hope to smoke out the person that donated the book to be able to give him or her credit.

Dues Reminder

Jean Hall, asked that the Palatine Heritage remind everyone that shortly dues' reminders will be in the mail. So don't forget to send in you dues when you receive your notice.

Fall Conference - Waynesville, Ohio

President Jerry Miller's Message



By now you should have notice from Dr. Winter that he has resigned the presidency of Ohio Chapter of Pal-Am While his reasons are certainly understandable, it was with both surprise and regret that I received the notice. The chapter will greatly miss his leadership, organization and ideas.

A check with Virginia Cassady of the by law's committee verifies Chet's statement that the vice president succeeds to the office of president upon a vacancy. With that, I will make every attempt to continue to move this organization forward in the tradition established by Chet, Barb, Bob, Pat and all of the others that have so ably served. There is no way to name all of the others but some of you are receiving copies of this. There is great responsibility involved and I hope to honor the trust that the office entails.

The most difficult will be to find a person to take the treasurer's office. We will never be able to replace John Mangus so I won't use the term "replacement." We will sorely miss you in that position, John, but I am certain we will continue to see your smiling countenance. According to the current by-laws, it will take a majority of the board to elect a new treasurer with a quorum of five (5) present. At our last Borad Meeting Jeannine Miller was elected Treasurer and will succeed John Mangus until the next election.

Since I have escalated to the Presidents chair, I have appointed Mary Hess, Program Chairperson. Mary will begin planning the Spring Conference and the Quinn Workshops. During the month of August every member will receive a copy of the new recommendation of the by-laws approved by the Board at our last meeting. Included with the copy of the by-laws will be a ballot for all members. Make sure that you mail the ballot into our secretary.

Jerry Miller, President

Journeys End

Dr. Kathryn E. Utz died at Fairhaven in Whitewater, WI. Monday, June 25, 2001. Dr. Utz was born September 1, 1910 in Seneca County, the late George F. and Lorena B., (Cook) Utz. A resident of Whitewater since 1952, Dr. Utz was retired after 25 years as an English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. After graduation from high school at age 16, Kathryn attended Tiffin Business University, and worked at various jobs before deciding to attend Capital University, Columbus where she received a Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science in Education degree. She taught English, Mathematics and Business Courses at high schools in Butler and Crawford Counties and Shaker Heights, Ohio. In 1943 Kathryn joined the Womens Auxiliary Army Corp. (later Women's Army Corp.) where she attained the rank of Tech/Sgt. Before her honorable discharge in 1946. Dr. Utz attended The Ohio State University in Columbus and received Master of Arts and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. During her tenure at University of Wisconsin, Dr. Utz received a scholarship under the Smith-Mundt Act (later Fulbright) and taught English for a year in Recife and Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Dr. Utz was a past president of AAUW, AAUP, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. After her retirement Kathryn became immersed in Genealogy. She maintained membership in various Genealogy Societies and was a charter member and first national secretary of Palatines to America, a society headquartered in Columbus, Ohio. Kathryn also was a member of National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and the National Society United States Daughters of 1812. Kathryn was preceded in death by her parents; Sister Christabel and Marguerite, sister and brother-in-law Mildred and Harold John and nephew George John. She is survived by sister and brother-in-law, Pauline and Eugene Dahnke and nephew, Mark Dahnke, all of Columbus. Kathryn was an active member of First English Lutheran Church in Whitewater. A service of celebration of her life was held at the church on Sunday' July 1, 2001 with the Pastor Jerald Wendt officiating. Graveside services was held on Saturday, July 7, 2001 at the Attica-Venice Twp. Cemetery. Attica, Ohio. Military rites at the grave was provided by the Attica American Legion Post #260. The *Palatine Heritage* had an article on the donation of her books to the National Library in the May 2001 issue.

David Allen Berry, of Dublin, Ohio, died Thursday, June 7, 2001 at Riverside Hospital. Mr. Berry leaves his wife, Ellen; son, David Allen II and daughter-in-law, Chris, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania and two grandchildren, Jason and Julie. Mr. Berry was born January 13, 1922 in Marietta, Ohio the son of Grace Louise Suder and Loren Selby Berry. He attended Marietta public schools and was a 1947 graduate of Marietta College. During the years of World War II, he was employed as a chemist for what was then the Marietta Dyestuffs. During that time, Mr. Berry was in charge of a unit that produced picric acid, a substance the Navy used as the explosive charge for torpedoes, then developed a process for making DDT, and a novel method of producing sulfothiozle, one of the first "wonder drugs." After graduating from Marietta College, Mr.



Berry accepted a position as a research chemist at Diamond Alkali Corporation, Painesville, Ohio where he received an US patents in several areas. Then Mr. Berry moved to Columbus, Ohio to accept the position of Program Engineer at Battelle Memorial Institute. During this time, Mr. Berry attended graduate school on a part-time basis studying chemistry and economics. Here, he met Lucy Ellen Thomas of Huntington West Virginia, and they were married in April 1953. Mr. Berry received 48 US patents and more than 100 foreign patents from

such countries as England, France, Netherlands, Germany, Canada, and Denmark. At one time, he belonged to the college fraternity Alpha Sigma Phi, the honorary science fraternity Sigma Xi, American Chemical Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Paint, Varnish and Lacquer Association. After Mr. Berry's retirement in 1983, he completed the research necessary to write and publish a book on the history of Athletics at Marietta High School. Mr. Berry and his wife Ellen, were Board Certified Genealogists, onlyt he second husband and wife team to pass the necessary rigorous requirements and examinations and have been involved in doing professional work in this field. At the age of 68, Mr. Berry returned to Ohio State University and two years later received a Master's Degree in Philosophy. Mr. and Mrs. Berry have published four books on Quaker research and Ohio lands plus several articles in the field of genealogy and the use of computers by genealogists. Mr. Berry and his wife have lectured extensively on Quaker records and how Ohio land was originally divided beginning in 1788. A committal service was held 12:00 noon Saturday, June 23, 2001 at Eastlawn Cemetery Mausoleum, Reno Pike, Marietta, Ohio.

OHIO CHAPTER - PALATINES TO AMERICA

Mail Order Price List for Publications & Other Sale Items

Effective September 1, 2000

| | |
|--|--------|
| Georgia Lands by M. Merle Baker..... | \$2.50 |
| Ancestral Migration Routes Contest Booklet 1993. . . . | \$2.50 |
| Beginning Genealogy: Start It Right! | |
| by Dr. A. F. Johnson | \$5.50 |
| The Very Basics of German Genealogy by K. Smith..... | \$5.50 |
| Germans Into & Out of Ohio Before 1850 | |
| by Ernest Thode .. | \$4.50 |
| Beginning Genealogy: Start It Right; | |
| by Dr. Arta F. Johnson..... | \$5.50 |
| Beginning Genealogy Paths & Pitfalls | |
| by Kathleen Goodner Marine..... | \$6.50 |
| 1993 Ohio National Conference Syllabus. | \$5.50 |
| 1999 Ohio National Conference Syllabus | \$6.50 |
| 1999 National Conference Logo Sale Items | |

| | |
|--|---------|
| Sweat Shirts - S,M,L,XL in gray only w/logo on front include size with order..... | \$10.50 |
| Tee Shirts - S,M,L,XL in white only w/logo on front include size with order..... | \$10.50 |
| Tote Bag with PAL-AM Ship Logo | |
| #2 White/Navy, 600 denier polyester | |
| (b) 23¼" x15½"x5½"..... | \$10.50 |

Publications For German-American Research by Dr. Arta F. Johnson

Aids for Research in Europe: Germany

Bibliography, Source Materials, Emigration, Immigration,
Research Aids & Maps, Published in 1988 with some items out
of date, originally \$5.00 now.....

Migrations West & Backtracking East

With Merlin C & Eva M. Finnell, Two articles, maps, book
lists.....

People of the Palatinate (revised edition)

A background book: what it was like in the German
villages 1616-1815.....

Begin With The Beeswiggers Sloshwines & Worse

two volumes, sold as a set only. A hilarious spoof on genealogy
in general & German ancestry in particular.....

The Origins, Development & Meanings of German Names

Given names, nicknames, surnames.....

How To Read German Church Records

Without Knowing Much German

Patterns of records, vocabularies, examples of script.....

A Guide to The Spelling & Pronunciation of German Names:

How to arrive at the German spelling of misspelled and garbled
personal names, surnames, place names.....

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2106 Coach Road North

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See our publication list & other sales items on our web site

www.oh-palam.org

National Pal-Am Library

Normal Library Hours

Wednesdays 12:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

1st Saturdays 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

3rd Fridays 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Closed - Holidays

Open by appointment most weekends.

Always call before you visit the Library!

The Librarian and volunteers make up the support
staff. The Librarian and staff are available to assist
you during your visit.

From I-71 Take the Weber Road exit (# 113)

Turn WEST onto Weber Road just past the Speedway
Gas Station turn left into our parking lot. 611 East
Weber Road it is a two story, brick building, with a
green awning over the doorway, Enter through the
EAST doorway

Feeling Overwhelmed With Research

Why not join us at the

PAL-AM LIBRARY

on Saturday, August 4, 2001

For a LIBRARY LOCK-IN?

Hours: 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. following our regular
open hours (1st Saturday) 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All proceeds to benefit the Library.

for a donation of \$5*

Space Limited -- Registration required beginning
Monday, July 2, 2001, Call (614/ 267-4700) or
E-mail (pal-am.lib@juno.com) the Librarian To
reserve a spot.

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PAL-AM**

LIBRARY IN RECENT MONTHS.

*Members pay only for the 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
hours. Nonmembers attending the fall-day will be
charged \$10.00 (\$5.00 for the regular hours plus \$5.00
for the Lock-In). Participants are invited to bring a
labeled bag lunch and drink and may use our kitchen
facilities (refrigerator, a microwave, sinks, etc.). No
food/drink in carpeted areas, please.

Three Familie Geschichte

Mary G Hess

Every genealogists worst nightmare is that their years of researching, documenting, filing and storing will go to waste once they've left this earth. Shivers tingle the spine at the prospect of all those pedigree charts, family group sheets, and marriage certificates birth and death, all that and more being dumped into the trash. Or going up in flames, reduced to ashes because no one knew what to do with the pieces of paper that probably required at least a small grove of trees to produce. To ensure this nightmare doesn't become a reality, consider writing a book or two, turning those facts and figures into a chat about your ancestors that your descendants will want to read. Not a work of fiction, but a readable, well-documented history of their lives.

Such a project might seem initially horrifying, writing your ancestors' stories individually can be far less intimidating than creating one huge surname book. I suggest beginning with your four grandparents and telling their stories individually, eventually joining them collectively. Writing one grandparent's history, a year seems like a reasonable goal. Before taking a pen to paper, however, you need to determine if your book is going to be a chronological essay or if you'll take a more "novel" approach with the basic conflicts of man and women. Decades of research and findings evolve into "Flesh and Bones," a historical, scholarly, well-documented account that reads like a novel. But still, using the same principles and research techniques, we can create a fuller, richer story of our ancestors' lives than we otherwise would have. To do justice to your story, you need to dig into the social history of your grandparents - events of what were happening when they walked this earth. After all, the world around us helps fashion who we are, no matter what era we live in. In a perfect genealogical world, each ancestor would have left a detailed diary, making our jobs as family historians much easier. But, since most did not, look to finding diaries of others that were written in the same time and place to help you understand your ancestors' daily lives. The best place to learn about your grandparents' time and surroundings might be to read any published histories of their town or county. If you're lucky, your family will be included within the covers of such a book and, if you are really lucky, there will be photographs of them.

It's not possible to do a credible job of genealogy without knowing the history in which your ancestors lived. Genealogy without history is to know only half the story. By reading the early editions of history of your area and theirs you can become well versed on their lives and community. You can have a much greater appreciation for what attracted the earlier generations to move there. Before writing their books you will want to learn how wars affected the community. Ask questions! Did artillery begin falling in Europe the year your parents immigrated from Germany? Did your dad become exempt from enlisting because he was a farmer? You'll have to find out. All of that social history will make such an impact in

telling your stories. Among varied details to consider helping make your book come alive you might even include description in detail of unpleasant events found in their letters or your own experiences during your childhood. Document actual weather conditions from old newspapers of the day. Newspaper also tell pertinent stories that took place during the years just before and after the Civil War. Before you throw out what might appear to be trivia, consider the importance it played in their lives. Family folklore says my ancestors left Germany for America because of revolution and starvation. Also, you need to research such details as the words your ancestors spoke. When writing about the ancestors' in our past, one ought to know from which end of the horse a singletree swings before embarrassing oneself forever in print by offering inaccurate explanations. Details! details! details!

Personalize your ancestors' story with artifacts. You might determine an ancestor's character or temperament through letters, or appreciate their labor by learning about a singletree a contraption a farmer used to plow his field with a single horse. Learn what kinds of home your ancestors' owned, find the legal description of the house and land and work the information into your narrative. What type of food did Grandma cook? Have any of her recipes survived? Little details will go a long way to bring your story to life. Include portraits of your subjects and historical photos of the countryside. Use old dated maps to locate their exact homestead for your reader or to show historical and boundary changes. Railroad maps could detail the direction the tracks

Handwritten text from a document, likely a legal or historical record, mentioning names and dates.



took if they migrated after the days of wagon trains. One of the first things authors need to determine is write for your family those who are here now and those who will come after. A readership will determine the tone of your book, and since your readers will be kin, be comfortable using your conversational style, which would not be appropriate for a scholarly publication. Still, a footnote fact will show where you found the information and that you didn't make it up. Even when family stories are related, you can footnote them, giving their sources. Your motivation is to leave more than just loose pieces of paper filled with names and dates with a potential premise at the business end of a match or even computer programs and disks that might well outlive the capability of having them translated on paper.

I'm hoping your book will entice your family to learn about whom their ancestors were and what their lives was like. Start with an outline. The better the outline, the better the book. The outlines tend to become the table of contents of a book. And, if you're having trouble with motivation to begin, consider workshops and conferences, where the subject will be offered.

**Don't forget the Fall Conference in
Waynesville
October 20, 2001**

Bring Guests

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Upcoming Events

Aug 4, 2001 - Regular First Saturday at Pal-Am Library - Plus additional 8 hr Lock-In

Aug 26 - Sept 8, 2001 - National Genealogical Society - North.Germany Tour

Sept. 12 - 15 - Federation of Genealogical Societies Annual Conference

Quad Cities Moline & Rock Island IL additional info <http://fgs.org>

Sept 28 - Oct 1, 2001 - 2001 Fall Mohawk Valley Millenium Tour, New York

George Anderson (613)226-6348 E-mail andrew1@magma.com

Sept 30, 2001 - Due date for ballots on changes in By-Laws

Oct. 6 - New York Fall Conference St Johns Reformed Church Dutchess County NY

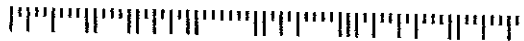
Oct 20 - Ohio Chapter Fall Conference Der Dutchman Waynesville, Ohio

Ohio Chapter Board Meeting following conference

Oct 27 - Pennsylvania Chapter Fall Conference - Holiday Inn Gettsburg PA

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