

Palatine heritage

OHIO CHAPTER, PALATINES TO AMERICA, NEWSLETTER

Published Quarterly - February - May - August - November



November 2003 Columbus, Ohio U.S.A.

ISSN 0896-8721 Volume XXVI

No. 4

From the President's Desk...

Members of the Ohio Chapter can look back over the past year with a sense of accomplishment. The chapter, under the very capable leadership of Mary Hess, hosted a successful and educational conference in Columbus for the national organization of Palatines to America this past June. We are still receiving compliments on the excellent job Mary and her committee did in presenting the program. For those who missed it, we had speakers on a wide variety of topics as well as a large group of vendors with materials of interest to genealogists.

The national conference in June was followed by a joint conference with the Indiana chapter held in Van Wert in October with seventy-five attendees. Plans have been made for our spring conference to be a workshop with Ernie Thode on 3 April 2004 in the public library in Canton. Jin Cassady has made the arrangements along with Ernie. You will be getting more information and registration material as the date approaches.

On a somber note, we have accepted the resignation of Bob Tieman as editor of *The Heritage*. Bob has served capably as editor for more years than we can count but has had to step away due to failing health. Bob, we can't thank you enough for your effort and expertise. You are already sorely missed. We wish you good health and a speedy recovery.

We have received the assistance of Joanne Ryder, a Pennsylvania chapter member and a resident of Florida to perform the duties of editor and for that we thank her. Joanne has been a contributor to *The Immigrant* and comes to us on the suggestion of Becky Thornton. The chapter has an opening for editor, so if you have a desire to help or want to become more involved, please contact any of the officers or board members listed in this issue.

Finally, enjoy the holidays and let's look forward to a year of growth and prosperity. Not only personally but as an organization as well.

Jerry Miller

The "New" Editor's Note...

Thank you for allowing me to be your *Palatine Heritage* Editor. I am delighted to do so... but should a volunteer in the Ohio Chapter come forward, I shall return *Heritage* to its rightful home. I am the outgoing President of the Charlotte County Genealogical Society (after 2 years) in Charlotte County, FL... Editor of their newsletter *Geneagram* for several years... and a relatively new Palatine member, PA Chapter. My additional activities include membership in the SW FL Genealogy Alliance and Chair of their GenFair 2004, teaching "Basic Genealogy" and "Genealogy on the Internet" at our Community College and working with the Homeless Coalition. I'm always on the go... and love it! Once in a while, I even do genealogy!

Merry Christmas and Happy 2004!

Joanne

Palatine Heritage Contents

President's Message	25
Wikommen	26
"Froehliche Weihnachten"	27
Ohio History Corner	28
Backup-Backup-Backup	
"Five Brothers..."	29
"German Genealogical Research"	30
PalAm Library	31
Ohio Chapter Publications	32

Wilkommen

The following new members have been added to the Ohio Chapter Membership Roster.

California	
Susan C. Lowe	San Jose
Bruce M. Smith	Bayside
Memedith A. Smith	Bayside
Arlene A. Zoumbos	San Bernadino
Illinois	
Barbara J. Walker	Naperville
Indiana	
Gretel Smith	Garrett
Kansas	
Eugene H. Caylor	Shawnee
Karen L. Caylor	Shawnee
Roy Menninger, MD	Topeka
Ohio	
Glenn Atwood	Wadsworth
Mary Ellen Atwood	Wadsworth
James B. Case	Kettering
Leona L. Gustafson	Hilliard
Paul F. Gustafson	Chillicothe
Gail Lindeman	Ashville
Keith Lindeman	Ashville
Donald L. Meyer	Columbus
Rhondi Serple	Dublin
Carol Stein	Columbus
Margaret Wigington	Columbus
Pennsylvania	
Ireie J. Dinning	Sewickley
Tennessee	
Mary L. Klink	Chattanooga
Robert M. Klink	Chattanooga
Texas	
Linda S. Effinger	New Braunfels
Virginia	
Gareth R. Habel	Alexandria
West Virginia	
Norma J. Davis	Pennsboro
Germany	
Michael S. Mowrer	Heidelberg
15	Llife Members
<u>822</u>	Individual Members
827	Total Members

Jean Hall, Ohio Chapter Membership Registrar

2003 FALL CONFERENCE

The combined fall conference with Indiana Chapter can be considered a success. The trees and weather lived up to a beautiful autumn day in Ohio.

There were 75 in attendance from Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Mr. Andy Hite, Mr. Jim Feit and Mr. Curt Witcher were outstanding speakers and we all came home with many ideas and information to work with in doing our research.

From what I saw the vendor tables were very busy.

VanWert went out of their way to make us feel at home and the Eagles Lodge fed us well. Thank you VanWert!

MANY THANKS

I would like to take time to thank all the members who helped to make the Fall Conference a success. Those folks passed out brochures to libraries and genealogy groups. Beth Kroehler, Sharon Kennedy, Eleanor Brucken, Ruth Brill, Karen Robinson, Karen Bennet and Doug Schmidt. Ted and Nancy Karchner, for their expertise in audio visual, Jean Hall for handling registration and filling all our goody bags, David Uhrick, helping whenever and wherever he sees a need, John Mangus for keeping the accounts straight and paying bills, transporting boxes of pamphlets and signs.

Mary Hess, Program Chairperson

The Inevitable Laws of Genealogy

The 4-volume, 4,800 page history of the county where your great grandfather lived is not indexed.

The only record you find for your great grandfather is that his property was sold at sheriff's sale for insolvency.

"Froehliche Weihnachten"

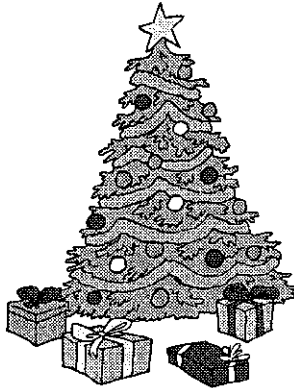
On Christmas Eve in Germany rivers turn to wine, animals speak to each other, tree blossoms bear fruit, mountains open up to reveal precious gems, and church bells can be heard ringing from the bottom of the sea... so say the legends. But only the pure in heart can witness this Christmas magic. Others must be satisfied with traditional German celebrating. And plenty of celebrating takes place... so much so that it begins a month early on December 6th, St. Nicholas Day.

On the eve of Dec. 6th children place a shoe by the fireplace. During the night, St. Nicholas hops house-to-house carrying a book of the children's deeds and misdeeds. Good children have their shoe filled with delicious holiday edibles. The not-so-good children receive twigs or coal.

In Sauerland, December 21st is St. Thomas Day. He who awakens late or arrives late to work is given a cardboard donkey and the title of "Thomas Donkey." Throughout the day they are the subjects of numerous jokes. But the gentle abuse ends deliciously with round, iced currant buns called "Thomasplitzchen."

All this is preliminary to the excitement of Christmas Eve. The Christmas Tree originated in Germany and has a mysterious magic for the young who aren't allowed to see it until its presentation on Christmas Eve. While the children are occupied elsewhere, the Tannenbaum is brought out and decorated with apples, candy, nuts, cookies, cars, trains, angels, tinsel, family treasures and candles or lights. Presents are placed under the tree. Somewhere, close to the bright display are laid brilliantly decorated plates for each family member, loaded with fruits, nuts, marzipan, chocolate and biscuits. When all is ready, a bell is rung as a signal for the children to enter this Christmas fantasy room. Carols are sung, sometimes sparklers are lit, the Christmas story is read and gifts are opened.

Gingerbread figures are another great tradition from Deutschland! As a charming Christmas treat, the famed construction cookie has survived many years in the form of Gingerbread people and their tasty gingerbread houses!



In joyous merriment, Germans celebrate the simple genius of their beautiful trees in "O Tannenbaum". Another masterpiece and steadfast Christmas tradition is "Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht!" created by Austrians Franz Gruber and Joseph Mohr in their native German language.

"Dickbauch" ("fat stomach") is the name given to the Christmas Eve. Tradition says those who do not eat well on Christmas Eve will be haunted by demons during the night. So, opportunity is given to enjoy dishes such as suckling pig, "reisbrei" (a sweet cinnamon), white sausage, macaroni salad, and many regional dishes. Christmas Day brings a banquet of plump roast goose, "Christstollen" (long loaves of bread bursting with nuts, raisins, citron and dried fruit), "Lebkuchen" (spice bars), marzipan, and "Dresden Stollen" (a moist, heavy bread filled with fruit).

In some parts of Germany, on the 26th of December visits are made to friends to praise their Christmas tree. This is "Christbaumloben". The doorbell is rung and when someone lets you in, you look at the tree and say "Ein schöner Baum!" ("A nice tree "). Those who praise the tree receive a little glass of brandy and some cookies. They talk a while... then move on. Often there are 10 or more homes to visit. Imagine the fun of the evening after about the 3rd home!

Germans are exceptional people. They hold tight to their traditions and enjoy the beauty of the family celebration of Christmas year after year.

"Froehliche Weihnachten"

The Ohio History Corner

In 1826 appears the first German newspaper, "Die Ohio Chronik". In 1834 the Germans formed a German society, that they might help each other and to assure them a better future, and to secure generally those charitable aims which are impossible for the individual. Among those who formed this group was **Heinrich Rodter**.

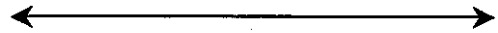
He was a journalist and lawyer. He was also the editor of the *Volksblatt*, founded in 1836 as a center of the Democrats. In 1847-48 he was a member of the Ohio Legislature where he helped pass a law that secured workingmen a lien on houses built by them. He also helped pass the law reducing the cost of naturalization. Although a Democrat, he voted against the black laws and was anti-slavery in his sentiments. At one time he was a law partner with the eminent **J. B. Stallo. Herr Rodter** died in 1957.

Karl Gustave Reemelin was born in Wurtemberg in 1814 and at the age of 18 years he came to America. This was on the eve of the election of Andrew Jackson, when he became attached to the Democratic Party. His studies and experience in Germany had already given him an enthusiasm for free trade and a prejudice against paper money and banking systems. He thought he was in the Whig party and had inclination toward Puritanism that was naturally repugnant to the genuine German nature. The name Democracy had a certain charm for the Germans; and as the wealthy classes mostly belonged to the Whig party, they classed them with the European aristocracy. **Reemelin** became one of the founders of the *Volksblatt*; he studied law but never practiced, instead entered politics. As a member of the Ohio Legislature he criticized sharply the defective method of taxation, and made a thorough study of political economy. He was a leading member of the Constitution Convention in 1850-51. An article in the constitution is due to his exertions, which prevents the legislature from making arbitrary division in the electoral

districts. Through this, abuses had arisen; minorities gained a majority legislature.

He visited the reform schools in Europe and guided by his report the legislature established the Reform School at Lancaster. Becoming tired of politics he eventually retired to his farm and vineyard near Cincinnati where he wrote agricultural journals. Some of his books are *The Climate of Ohio; The Wine Dresser's Manual, The Wine Maker's Manual and Politics as a Science*.

Excerpt taken from Henry Howe's *Historical Collections of Ohio*



Backup... Backup... Backup!

Do you have a backup of your genealogy database? If so, where is it stored? The reason I ask is that this morning I walked into my "computer room" at home and discovered that my primary computer was locked up with a message on the screen saying, "Hard drive failure, unable to boot." Trust me.... this is a heart-stopping message!

I quoted a few magic incantations ... rubbed my lucky rabbit's foot ... and powered off the PC. I waited a few seconds, turned the power on and everything has worked normally since then. I know computer problems never go away. They just hide for a while.

I began to think about backups. My computer automatically backs up everything to another computer on my in-home local area network at 2 am every morning. I have a 2nd backup copy on my laptop. And every 2-3 months I copy my database to a CD Rom and store it in the safe. Better yet would be a CD Rom off-premises!

Are you protected? What would you do if your computer displayed "Hard drive failure..."? Think about it. If not, how many hours would it take you to recover all that information?

Taken from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, copyright 2003 by Richard W. Eastman

Five Brothers Come to the United States

By Elinor Kline

In the early 1830s, five brothers, last name Thoma, came to the United States from the small village of Kappel in the Black Forest of Germany. There were 20 children in their family of whom only these five survived. Their mother died. The father remarried, had one child, a girl, then died. The stepmother remarried.

One momentous day, the brothers were out in their barn talking. They decided to emigrate to America. The oldest was 25, the youngest 13. They traveled separately except for the two youngest who journeyed together. By 1833, all five had arrived in America



The eldest, Albin, remained in New York and settled near Schenectady. The second Johan Baptist or John moved west to the Buffalo area. The third, Dominicus, chose to live in Cattaragus County in Southwest New York. The fourth brother, Baltazar (Baldus) got married in the state of New York. Later, he moved west with his wife and child to Wisconsin and became a farmer. The youngest brother, Augustine, visited Ohio, liked it and stayed. It's this brother we know the most about. He is our great-great-grandfather. Our research started with Augustine. He had settled in the small town of Piqua, just north of Dayton, Ohio. There he apprenticed to a watchmaker. After a short time, when he was only 18, Augustine bought the store. At 21, he married a young German immigrant, Wilhemina Souerman. Today, many of their descendants live in southwest Ohio. The Thoma Jewelry Store still remains in Piqua.

After learning about Augustine, we focused our curiosity on the other four brothers. What had happened to them? When we decided to search for them, we had no idea of their names, nor where they had settled. Our first contact came from a descendent of Baldus. She wrote to the Piqua library asking for

information on Augustine and the jewelry store. Having a contact in the local history or genealogy room of the library where your ancestor resided in invaluable. The contact was forwarded to us here in Florida. Internet contact was soon established. Later we visited her in Wisconsin. Together, we pursued more information about the other brothers. We found a reference to Dominicus in a census records that showed him living in Chatauqua County, NY in 1850. The whereabouts of Albin and John were discovered through their sons. Both the Ohio and Wisconsin families had news clippings pertaining to a Civil War doctor who had moved to Reno, NV. His obituary gave his parents names and his place of birth – son of Albin, born in Amsterdam, NY.

From more old clippings we learned that the family of John's son often visited their Piqua cousins and the Piqua cousins visited them in Hartland, NY near Buffalo. We agreed that a research visit to New York was truly in order. There, we photographed homes in which the brothers or their children had lived. More importantly, we met descendents of the other brothers and learned that all the families were aware of each other. For instance, all knew of the jewelry store in Ohio. Some had old photos of our great-grandfather; ones we didn't have. It became clear that the brothers and their children had kept in contact with each other despite the difficulties of the distances between them.

How did we find these other brothers and their descendents? A combination of Internet, contacts among relatives, cemeteries, courthouses and old scrapbooks. It was all a wonderful puzzle to be put together piece by piece.

Our author, Elinor Kline has been tracing genealogy for a long time. She and her husband cover a lot of territory in their airplane. Her articles always tell a family story ... and what it took to find that story.

Reprinted from the Punta Gorda Herald section, Charlotte Sun Herald, Port Charlotte, FL. Wednesday, April 24, 2002. Columnist – Tom Ryder

German Genealogical Research—Part I

By Bryan Mulcahy



In a recent survey, we discovered the largest bloc of patrons using our collection at the Fort Myers- Lee County Library were interested in our German research resources. While our other ethnic sources get more than their share of use, this survey illustrated the growing popularity of interest in German research. This pattern has also been observed at the Family History Center Library in Salt Lake City, the National Archives and at many of the large genealogical collections throughout the United States and Canada.

Statistically, Germans were the single largest population group to become part of the American melting pot. By 1900, nearly one-quarter of Americans identified themselves as being of German ancestry. In 1986, statistics from the US Census Bureau, the leading ancestral background of American citizenry was German, not British. In the next several issues, we will explore the historical reasons for this occurrence. I will also highlight various research strategies which patrons may consider to achieve the most rewarding results.

Before we begin any detailed analysis, we must agree on the definition of a German immigrant. Many of the German speaking immigrants who settled in America came from countries other than present day Germany. One of the main reasons involved the historical fact that until 1871, Germany was a collection of small states, duchies, kingdoms and principalities. Each had its own customs, language dialects and government structure. They spent most of their time attacking each other for numerous reasons.

In modern geographical terms, the correct term for German genealogical research would be the search for ancestors within the various "German speaking peoples." Your research may take you into some of the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Chile, the former Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Poland, Russia and Uruguay. Germans also were involved in numerous projects in various parts of the African continent. Today, German is the mother tongue of close to 200 million people.

Bryan Mulcahy is a Reference Librarian at Fort Myers- Lee County Library in Fort Myers, Florida

HELP WANTED!

Program Chairperson for Ohio Chapter for the year 2004. Heading up a committee to complete layout of a conference program, including topics, contacting speakers and arranging a complex for the conference. If interested, contact any officer or board member. This is not a one-person job, as you will have a committee to assist you.

SEE YOURSELF IN PRINT IN PALATINE HERITAGE!

- Write your family story (about 400 words)
- Share Ohio news
- Share a "how to" tip with others
- Member news
- Have a Query to put out?
- Share a great web site

I need your news! Send it to
joannagram@comcast.net

Thank you!

Joanne

Pal-Am 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 Sundays and Holidays

Open by appointment most weekends

Always call before you visit the Library!

The Librarian and Volunteers make up our support staff.
They are available to assist you during your visit.

When driving in Columbus, take I-71 to Weber Road. Get off at Exit # 113. Turn WEST at Weber Road just past the Speedway Gas Station. Turn left into our parking lot at 611 East Weber Road. The Library is a 2-story brick building with a green awning over the doorway. Enter through the EAST doorway.



Attention Central Ohio Members

The Palatine Library and Headquarters Office in Columbus is in need of volunteers.

We need Volunteers for...

- o Secretarial assistance... process books, stuff envelopes, and other duties.
- o Library hosts and co-hosts for an occasional four hour shift on the Wednesdays, Saturdays or Fridays the Library is open?

We also need someone to come in 2-4 times a month to handle some housekeeping duties... dusting, vacuuming, watering plants, emptying trash, etc.

Training provided for all tasks. Contact Ann or Martha at 614-267-4700 for more information

OHIO CHAPTER PAL-AM

Mail Order Price List for Publications & Other Sale Items
Effective Jul 1, 2003

National Conference Publications	Order #	Tot Cost
GEORGIA LANDS by Merle M. Baker.....	_____	_____
THE VERY BASICS OF GERMAN GENEALOGY by Kenneth L. Smith.....	_____	_____
GERMANS INTO AND OUT OF OHIO BEFORE 1850.....	_____	_____
BEGINNING GENEALOGY: START IT RIGHT! BY Dr. Arta F. Johnson.....	_____	_____
BEGINNING GENEALOGY—PATHS & PITFALLS by Kathleen Goodner Marine.....	_____	_____
1993 OHIO NATIONAL CONFERENCE SYLLABUS.....	_____	_____
1999 OHIO NATIONAL CONFERENCE SYLLABUS.....	_____	_____
2003 OHIO NATIONAL CONFERENCE SYLLABUS.....	_____	_____
 Dr. Arta F. Johnson Publications for German-American Research		
PEOPLE OF THE PALATINATE (REVISED EDITION) - A background book: what it was like in the German villages 1616-1815 ...	_____	_____
HOW TO READ GERMAN CHURCH RECORDS WITH 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.		
THE ORIGINS, DEVELOPMENT & MEANINGS OF GERMAN NAMES—Given names, nicknames, surnames	_____	_____
AIDS FOR RESEARCH IN GERMANY—Bibliography, Source Materials, Emigration.....	_____	_____
Immigration, Research Aids and 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.....	_____	_____
BEGIN WITH THE BEERSWIGGERS AND SLOSHWINES & WORSE.....	_____	_____
Two volumes, sold only as a set. A hilarious spoof on genealogy in general and German ancestry.		
 1999 National Conference Logo Sale Items		
Tee Shirts—M, L, XL in white only with logo on front.....	_____	_____
 Tote Bags with Pal-Am Logo		
Clipper Ship:		
Large Boat Tote: 15 oz, 17"x16"x4" with pocket & panel zipper, natural top & pocket with black base, hand-sewn—Black handles.....	_____	_____
Shoulder Tote: 10 oz, 16"x14.5"x3". Natural with 25" handles, Clipper Ship plus Palatines to America in Script.....	_____	_____
Clipper Ship/German-American Flags (1999 National Conference Logo): Flat Tote 10 oz, 14"x14", natural with 13" handles.....	_____	_____
 German-American Flag Sale Items		
German-American Flag Tee Shirts—M, L, XL, XXL in white only with design on front.....	_____	_____
German-American Flag Pins—enameled with military back	_____	_____
 Baseball Caps		
Clipper Ship Logo—tan, one size fits all with ship logo in black.....	_____	_____

All prices are post paid. Sales Tax of 6.75% for Ohio Residents only. To place an order, make checks payable to Ohio Chapter Pal-Am and mail to Ohio Chapter Pal-Am, c/o John M. Magnus—2106 Coach Road North—Columbus, OH 43220-2941

Credit Card Information: () Visa () MasterCard () Discover Your Zip Code: _____

Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____ Total Charged: _____

Ohio Chapter Officers

President Jerry Miller

jmille48@columbus.rr.com

V-President Mary Hess

mhess138@aol.com

Secretary Carol Swinehart

cshart@greenapple.com

Treasurer Jeannine Miller

jmille48@columbus.rr.com

Registrar Sophia Jean Hall

sjhall@aol.com

Trustees

Ira William Simons

Robert Gates

Edward C. Naber

Robert C. Rau

Nancy Karchner

Past President

Dr. Chester Winter, MD

cwinter1@columbus.rr.com

Editor

Joanne Daerr Ryder

joannagram@comcast.net

National Office

611 E. Weber Road

Columbus, OH 43211-1097

Pal-Am.Lib@juno.com

Phone 614-267-4700

Calendar of Events

22-24 January 2004 – NGS GenTech 2004 – St. Louis, MO

28 February 2004 – Germanic Genealogy Workshop – Speaker: Roger P. Minert – Sarasota, FL

19-22 May 2004 – National Genealogical Society Annual Conference – Sacramento, CA

23-26 June 2004 – Palatines to America 2004 National Conference - Albany, NY

Palatine Heritage Newsletter is published by the Ohio Chapter, Palatines to America a non-profit organization dedicated to finding the origins of German-speaking ancestors in Europe. Address correspondence to Heritage Editor, 611 E. Weber Road, Columbus, OH 43211-1097 or e-mail joannagram@comcast.net. Published four times a year in February, May, August and November. Membership dues per year (October 1 through September 30) USA residents \$35 individual, or \$40 family. Checks payable to Membership Registrar, Palatines to America. Payment included National and Chapter dues.

Palatine Heritage ISSN 0896-8721



Ohio Chapter Palatines to America
611 E. Weber Road
Columbus, OH 43211-1097

Non Profit Org
U.S. Postage Paid
Columbus, OH
Permit No. 2223

November 2003
VOL XXVI
ISSUE No 4

98*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 432
AA001 4
PALATINES TO AMERICA
611 E WEBER RD
COLUMBUS OH 43211-1097

