

Palatine heritage

OHIO CHAPTER, PALATINES TO AMERICA, NEWSLETTER

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Number 1

OHIO CHAPTER PALATINES TO AMERICA

MAKING YOUR RESEARCH WORK FOR YOU

April 8, 2006

Der Dutchman Restaurant

445 S. Jefferson Avenue—US Rte 42—Plain City, OH 43064

Registration opens at 8:30 am

Fee: \$32 for member \$37 for non members /

Note: Late registrations, add \$5

(Continental breakfast, lunch and gratuity included)

Vendors will be available for purchasing and browsing



Guest Speakers

James Beidler

Elisabeth Kelly Kerstens CG, CGL



"THERE'S NO TITLE HALF SO FINE
AS THIS SIMPLE 'KIN OF MINE'
DOCTOR, GENERAL, OR EARL OR KING
SOME HOW DOESN'T MEAN A THING,
BUT MY EYES BEGIN TO SHINE
AT THAT TITLE, 'KIN OF MINE.'"
_____ GUEST

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Ohio History Corner

By Mary Hess

Martin Baum was born at Hagenau on July 16, 1761. He died in Cincinnati on December 14, 1831. Mr. Baum, a wealthy man, did much to promote the Ohio Valley among German immigrants. Early in 1803, he opened the first bank in the West, "Miami Exporting Company." Through this company he promoted navigation on the rivers.

With an active spirit and a restless mind, Baum's list of accomplishments were many. He began the first sugar refinery, the first iron foundry, the first woolen factory and the first steam flouring mill in addition to other industrial businesses. Because of his endeavors he enlisted immigrants and brought them to the new Ohio settlement.

His taste for art, science and literature attracted men accomplished in those arts to settle in the area. A first in the area were Baum's ornamental gardens and vineyards. They were designed for him by Johannes Staebler. In February of 1802, Baum was one of the original founders of the first public library of the West. Politically inclined, he was an early mayor of Cincinnati. The house that is now the Taft Museum, once the home of William Howard Taft, was originally built by Baum.

No other man can claim so many accomplishments in those early years. Today, the dreams of Martin Baum live on in Hamilton County Ohio.

WILKOMMEN!

By Jean Hall, Membership Registrar



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

AL—Welch, Caryl	Enterprise
HI—Brown, Patricia A.	Honolulu
IN—Morton-Rohrbach, Mildred Stahly, John	Fort Wayne Nappanee
MA—Zopf, David	Belmont
MI—Winemiller, William G.	Ann Arbor
NC—Busam, James C. Heltman, Robert F.	Wake Forest Hendersonville
OH—Ayers, Cynthia	Columbus
Breitmeir, Jane	Columbus
Bright, Jeff	Hilliard
Cloppert, Jr., Frederick G.	Upper Arlington
Davis, Jayne	Columbus
deVries, Kathy	Columbus
Deisler, Joan	Columbus
Denius-Gillam, Pamela	Columbus
Gillam, Van	Columbus
Gustafson, Leona L.	Hilliard
Hines, Rita J.	Columbus
Hoffman, Dean A.	Columbus
Liebschner, Janet	Carroll
Lore, David	Newark
Losekamp, Bernard	Columbus
Mercer, John	Worthington

Pence, David	Columbus
Pence, Louise	Columbus
Rauch, William J.	Newark
Wilson, Kenneth	Cincinnati
Wilson, Betty	Cincinnati
Yeager-Torre, Darlene	Columbus

TX—Overlander, III, Rufus M. Georgetown

VA—Critzler, Edward L. Richmond

TOTAL INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS: 575

Palatines to America was notified of the following deceased Ohio Chapter members from June 2005 through November 2005.

AZ—Abel, John R.	Sun City	23 Jun 2004
FL—Snyder, Jean	Merritt Island	2004
OH—Acker, Mary	Wooster	2004
Boyer, Clyde V.	Cleveland Hts.	17 Aug 2005
Catron, Wm. B.	Chillicothe	24 Mar 2005
Gates, Robert	Wooster	28 Aug 2005
Herrold, Russell P	Columbus	Jul 2004
Klender, Margaret E.	Antwerp	2004
Little, Thompson M.	Columbus	2004
Makee, Barbara	New Philadelphia	2004
Tieman, Robert J.	Columbus	23 Mar 2004
MI—Merriman, George	Battle Creek	2004

Dear Members of the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America,

Once again I find my business travel needs have impacted my ability to support meeting attendance and other duties associated with the Ohio Chapter of Pal Am. As you both were aware, my company was notified in September by our parent corporation that they were exiting the Life Sciences business sector and that they would seek a new owner for our operations.

In response to this change of ownership opportunity, several of my business associates and I formed a team to buy our operations. We assumed the name that our company had used for over 50 years as Electrol Specialties Company. This business transaction closed on December 16, 2005 and I am now actively notifying previous clients and additionally we have been blessed with several new orders for equipment and engineering services. It is for this reason that I am submitting this resignation with my regrets and hope that it is received with an understanding that I had planned to be present tomorrow to share this direction in person.

It has been a distinct pleasure to be a part of the Ohio Chapter and the Palatines to America organization. I will plan to maintain my membership and hope that you both will share my regards and regrets to our team. There are only so many discretionary hours available and my business priorities need to be addressed at this time. Hopefully once our operations have achieved new stability, I can find the time to be more active in our association.

Sincerely yours,

Lyle W. Clem

TO: OUR OHIO CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP:

FROM: YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

IT IS WITH REGRET THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OHIO CHAPTER OF THE PALATINES TO AMERICA ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF LYLE W. CLEM AS ITS PRESIDENT. YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAS MET AND HAS HELD INTERIM ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE CONTINUITY TO THE WORKINGS OF OUR CHAPTER. THE FOLLOWING OFFICERS HAVE BEEN ELECTED TO COMPLETE THE CURRENT TERMS.

**MARY HESS
ACTING PRESIDENT**

**IRA "BILL" SIMONS
VICE PRESIDENT**

**JOAN LITTLE
TRUSTEE
(REPLACING TRUSTEE BILL SIMONS)**

Hamburg and Bremen—Gateways to America—Part II

By Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian
Ft. Myers-Lee County Public Library, Ft. Myers, Florida

In part two of our discussion on immigration from Germany, we now turn our attention to the port of Bremen. Bremen is similar to Hamburg in a number of ways: it was founded in the 9th century; served as a critical link of the HANSA; developed into an independent city-state; and is located on the banks of the major river in Germany which flows into the North Sea. Bremen, however, became a major embarkation point for millions of emigrants



from central and eastern Europe seeking to leave Germany for the New World much earlier than Hamburg. A significant number of Russians who were attempting to hide their national origin also

chose to leave from Bremen/Bremerhaven after becoming citizens of Bremen and Germany once unification later took place.

Bremen is situated on the banks of the Weser River, some 60 miles southwest of Hamburg and 30 miles south of Bremerhaven at the mouth of the Weser River. The development of this "sister city" was partially caused by silt building on the bed of the Weser River which began to inhibit access to the Port of Bremen. The mayor and senate of Bremen purchased land near the mouth of the Weser River from the King of Hannover in 1825. This purchase would facilitate a new access port for Bremen's ships and merchants. By 1830, the newly constructed harbor, Bremerhaven, was now in business. The first to utilize its harbor was the American ship Draper. Bremerhaven soon became the main port of departure for most emigrants leaving Germany through Bremen. Although a massive re-routing of the

Weser above Bremerhaven eventually solved the silt problem and restored normal access to the actual port in Bremen, most ships bearing emigrant traffic continued to leave from Bremerhaven while the merchants used the original port in Bremen. While the ports of Bremen and Bremerhaven today are smaller than Hamburg in terms of ship traffic and commerce, the number of emigrants using Bremen and Bremerhaven was always consistently higher than those leaving from Hamburg.

Statistics taken at various times from a variety of sources tracing emigration of German speaking peoples indicate that approximately 38% of ships legally arriving at Atlantic and Gulf ports in North America from Germany originated in Bremen/Bremerhaven while only 17% came from Hamburg.

In comparison to these two figures, Southampton/Liverpool accounted for 16%, and Le Havre (France) checks in with 11%. The remaining 18% were scattered among various other ports such as Rotterdam, Antwerp, Copenhagen and others.

The city council of Bremen passed ordinances in 1832 that required ship companies which transported emigrants to file a list of all passengers with the civil registrar's emigration section. The information contained in these lists would normally include the following information: emigrants names, ages, occupations, and places of origin. Between 1875 and 1909, the passenger lists dating from 1832 were destroyed by city officials due to storage problems. The lists covering the years 1910-1920 were destroyed during Allied bombing raids in the Second World War. Passenger lists for 1921-1939 have

(Continued on Page 5)

Hamburg and Bremen Continued

have survived and are available at the Handelskammer Archiv in Bremen.

The loss of these lists has made research using Bremen difficult but not impossible. The civil registrar's archives of both Bremen and Bremerhaven house records which may fill in gaps caused by the loss of the passenger lists. If you discover ancestors who were born or died on board an emigrant ship, the Bremen Seemannsamt maintained records which could be useful. They recorded births and deaths occurring on ships, including the place of origin of the children's parents or of deceased persons. This information covered ships originating from Bremen or Bremerhaven. Information is also available for ancestors who worked their way to America by serving as crew members on the various ships. Another important collection of records in the Civil Registrar's archives in Bremen is lists of people who applied for

citizenship in Bremen area. Many potential emigrants applied for citizenship to gain the right to work. Once they had saved up enough money for passage, they had to apply for a release from citizenship. Both record types would contain information on their place of origin.

The civil registrar's archives would always be the first place to contact. However, some of these records may also be available at the Bremen State Archives. A second option for researchers with Internet access is utilizing tools such as Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet and entering the term "Germany or Deutschland" as your keyword search term or utilizing the German GenWeb Project at the following web address: <www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman/>. Should the address fail to bring up the site, simply use Google or any other search engine and type the following phrase in quotation marks: "Germany GenWeb."

COMING EVENTS

8 April 2006—OH Pal Am Spring Conference—Der Dutchman, Plain City, OH. Guest speakers are: **James M. Beidler** and **Elisabeth Kelley Kerstens CGRS**. (See Pages 8-9 and 15)

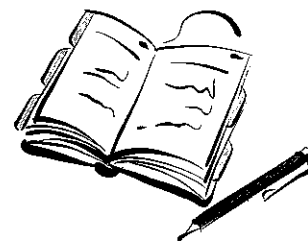
22 April 2006—PA Chapter Pal Am Spring Conference—Yoder's Banquet Room in New Holland, PA. Speaker: John Humphrey of Washington, D.C.

27-29 April 2006—OGS Annual Conference—Radisson Hotel/Seagate Center, Toledo—"Planting the Seed: Tools for Growing Your Family Tree" - Information www.ogs.org/2006conf.php.

07 May 2006—New York Chapter Pal Am Spring Conference—Trinity Lutheran Church Hall in Stone Arabia, Montgomery County, NY. Speakers: Ken Johnson (author of "Bloody Mohawk") and Kelly Yacobucci (Montgomery Department of History and Archives).

23-25 June 2006—Pal Am Annual Conference and National Annual Meeting—Marriott Hotel in Richmond, VA . (See Page 10)

29-30 September 2006—Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania state-wide genealogical conference in Pittsburgh. Watch the Societies' websites for information: www.wpgs.org and www.genpa.org.



The "Dreissigers"

By Chester C. Winter

German immigrants flowed into Ohio in increasing numbers for a century beginning in the 1830's. As a consequence, they became the largest ethnic group in the state. Their growth in Ohio reached 235,700 by 1890.

Many were farmers and often lived in groups such as the German pietist sect of Amish in Holmes County. A larger portion settled into the three leading cities in Ohio: Cincinnati, Columbus and Cleveland. German enclaves occupied smaller towns such as Lancaster.

The new immigrants clung to each other by organizing German language churches, schools, newspapers, saloons, singing groups and athletic clubs. Politics was not their most prominent interest, nor did they boast of political clout. In the cities, many were occupied as skilled artisans, retail store owners and brewery workers, but a few became bankers and insurance executives.

Politically, most Ohio Germans were conservative Protestants in the Whig Party that later became the Republican Party. Contrariwise, the majority of Ohio German Catholics, the minority in Ohio religious groups at this time, voted for Democratic candidates.

Periodically, revolutions swept over Germany in the 1800's. They were fueled by religious and political upheaval. One such revolt occurred in 1830 following riots in Leipzig and Dresden. Many intellectuals fled the country, some coming to seek their future in America.

Among the best educated and most prosperous German immigrants were the *Dreissigers*.

(They came to Cincinnati during a short period in the 1830's, thus the use of the German word for thirty, *dreissig*). Very interested in cultural and political matters., they had a liberal bent in their opinions and a strong belief in democracy and stood for downsizing the importance of church, aristocracy and government. Their activities made the conservative Germans uncomfortable.

In Cincinnati, the most prominent leaders in this liberal group were Karl Reemelin, Heinrich Rodter, Stephen Molitor and Johann Stallo. Reemelin arrived in Cincinnati in 1833 and made a fortune as a merchant. He was elected to the Ohio legislature as a Democrat and was a delegate to the state Constitutional Convention in 1850.

Both Rodter and Molitor were editors of a Democratic newspaper and Molitor served in the Ohio legislature.

Stallo was a lawyer and professor and authored *The General Principles of the Philosophy of Nature*, espousing that nature was an evolutionary process involving constant deductive reasoning.

These men formed and led societies dedicated to the principles of equality and justice in helping the German immigrants improve themselves.

The author obtained much of his information from reading Ohio: The History of a People by Andrew Cayton and the Encyclopedia Britannica. His fourth history book, Concise Biographies of Notable Ohioans, was published in 2005.

When Conversing online... Remember the Golden Rule...

“DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU.”

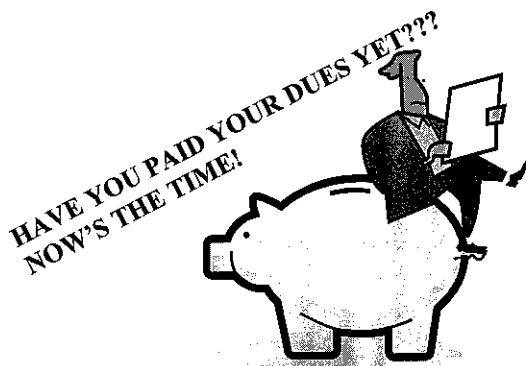
What is Germany?

Prior to its unification in 1871, Germany consisted of a loose association of kingdoms (Bavaria, Prussia, Saxony, Wurttemberg...), duchies (Baden...), free cities (Hamburg, Bremen, Lubeck...), and even personal estates - each with its own laws and record keeping systems. After a brief period as a unified nation (1871-1945), Germany was again divided following World War II, with parts of it given to Czechoslovakia, Poland and the USSR.

What this means for people researching German roots, is that the records of their ancestors may or may not even be found in Germany. Some may be found among the records of the six countries which have received portions of former Germany territory (Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Poland, and the USSR). Once you take your research prior to 1871, you may also be dealing with records from some of the original German states.

What and Where was Prussia?

Many people assume that Prussian ancestors were German, but this isn't necessarily the case. Prussia was actually the name of a geographical region, which originated in the area between Lithuania and Poland, and later grew to encompass the southern Baltic coast and northern Germany. Prussia existed as an independent state from the 17th century until 1871, when it became the largest territory of the new German empire. Prussia as a state was officially abolished in 1947, and now the term only exists in reference to the former province.



WEB News

After ears of searching the Internet for lost ancestors, it is refreshing to learn of a new website. In the February 2006 issue of the Family Chronicle magazine, Lisa A. Atzo critiqued the Linkpendium.com, a website being developed by Karen Isaacson and Brian Leverich. If the names some familiar, it is because they are the founders of RootsWeb, a must for all genealogists.

It almost sounded too good to be true when the article described the Linkpendium collection as being updated several times a week and containing more than 2.8 million direct generation links already. While other search engines give you many websites that do not pertain to genealogy, this website gets right to useful information either by locality or surname without trying several different searches. Users are encouraged to submit links and they can expect to see them appear within a week from the time they are submitted.

The building of this index for genealogy links is the 1st phase of this program and two more are in the planning stage. The second stage is described as "Google specialized for genealogists" and the 3rd stage, according to Leverich, "... will advance genealogical research at least as much as our creation of RootsWeb advanced the ability of the genealogist to communicate with other genealogists."

My first visit to Linkpendium was exciting and I really found some answers to brickwalls! This is truly an outstanding website.

www.linkpendium.com

Try it... and let me know how you make out!

Joanne Ryder
joannagram@comcast.net

**OHIO CHAPTER PALATINES TO AMERICA
SPRING SEMINAR — APRIL 8, 2006**

At

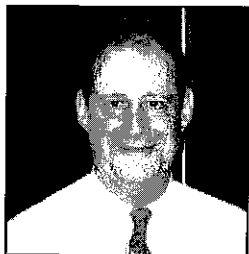
Der Dutchman Restaurant
445 S. Jefferson Avenue - Plain City, Ohio
614-873-3414

MAKING YOUR RESEARCH WORK FOR YOU

The Ohio Chapter wishes to welcome you to its annual Spring Conference of 2006. We have put together workshops with speakers that are tops in their field of genealogy research. As our theme expresses it will be one you won't want to miss. The internet is fine, but the sharing of information and meeting fellow genealogists and picking up tips cannot be matched.

Our Speakers and their Lectures

James M. Beidler writes "Roots & Branches," an award-winning weekly newspaper column on genealogy, the only syndicated feature on that topic in Pennsylvania. He is also a columnist for *Pennsylvania Heritage* and *German Life* magazines as well as the *Association of Professional Genealogist Quarterly*. He is the editor of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and is a contributor to several scholarly journals and magazines.



Mr. Beidler is Vice President for Development for the Federation of Genealogical Societies and a member of Pennsylvania Chapter Pal-Am. A member of numerous genealogical, historical and lineage societies, Mr. Beidler sits on Pennsylvania State Historic Records Advisory Board as well as committee for the Pennsylvania Newspaper Project.

A well known lecturer, he has been a presenter at many conferences. Born in Reading, Pennsylvania, he was raised in nearby Berks County. He was graduated from Hofstra University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science in 1982.

"Tips for Beginning Genealogists"

This presentation gives beginners all the basics and is useful for those who have already started but might like some reinforcement on basic principles. It will cover what to do when starting out, primary vs. secondary sources, family traditions, spelling variations, importance of time and place and perspectives on internet genealogy.

"Hunting a Homestead Using Land Records"

Genealogists love to get "the lay of the land"- whether it is tracking down an ancestor's homestead or tracing the history of their own home. This presentation goes over the basics of land research in the so-called "state land", states such as PA, including terminology; use of maps; a handout on how to draw surveys from a written description; and a case study putting together all the concepts.

Elizabeth Kelley Kerstens, C.G., C.G.L. is a certified genealogist and certified genealogical lecturer. She is the creator of the software program CLOOZ, the electronic filing cabinet for genealogical records, and co-creator of the software program GENEWEAVER for your family health history.



Ms. Kerstens is managing editor of both Genealogical Computing and the National Genealogical Society News Magazine. Author of the books "Plymouth's First Century," a "Photo History of Plymouth Michigan" and "Plymouth in Vintage Postcards" she has also written many articles for various genealogical publications.

Ms. Kerstens is one of the directors of Celtic Quest, LLC a company that leads genealogical research trips to Dublin Ireland. At present, she is head archivist of the Plymouth Michigan Historical Society.

"Genealogical Filing System Work for You"

Take control of the paper in our lives. This lecture focuses on effective methods of time management so genealogists can spend more productive time researching.

"Collecting Data from the Internet"

Guidelines for determining the credibility of information found on the internet, a sample internet Research Calendar, and examples of good and bad information available on the web.

PROGRAM FOR THE DAY

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 8:30 am | REGISTRATION and continental breakfast! Browse the vendors. |
| 9:15 am | Welcome |
| 9:30 am | JAMES BEIDLER |
| | Lecture: Tips for Beginning Genealogists |
| 10:30 am | Break |
| 10:45 am | ELIZABETH KELLEY KERSTENS |
| | Lecture: Genealogical Filing Systems Work for You |
| NOON | LUNCH (Der Dutchman's famous family style meal) |
| 1:15 pm | Membership Meeting—nominations and election of officers |
| 1:30 pm | JAMES BEIDLER |
| | Lecture: Hunting a Honessatead Using Land Records |
| 2:30 pm | Break |
| 2:45 pm | ELIZABETH KELLEY KERSTENS |
| | Lecture: Collecting Data from the Internet: Finding and Evaluating and Documenting It |

Note: Vendors are available for browsing and buying during the breaks and at Noon time.

**PALATINES TO AMERICA
2006 NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL MEETING**

June 23-25, 2006

**Marriott Hotel
Richmond, Virginia**

TOPICS INCLUDE



Blocked Lines
Researching Female Ancestors
Manuscript Collections
Schleswig-Holstein
Shenandoah Valley Germans

Saxon Chronicles
Identifying, dating, preserving and reading
clues in family photographs
Ways to prove who your ancestor was...
standards of proof

Watch for more information on the Pal Am Website... www.palam.org.

The Query Corner



Johann Wilhelm Stumpf, b. 05 Apr. 1725 in Graffschafft, Theuberg, Germany. Migrated to America, arriving 03 Oct. 1751. Wife's name Anna Magdalena. Lived in Albany Twp., Berks Co., PA. He died 28 June 1805. Buried at Jacob's Union

Church in Lehigh Co., PA. Can anyone help me locate where "Graffschafft, Theuberg, Germany" was or is? Karen Feisel, 2190 N. Glenn Dr., Lancaster, OH 43130.
E-mail: gfeisel@greenapple.com

We're always glad to print your queries. We hope you great some very good, helpful answers. Send your Query by e-mail to joannagram@comcast.net.

Library Volunteers Needed!



If you live close enough to Columbus to volunteer with us a few hours at least one day a month, please consider doing so.

We especially need seasoned researchers to train for assisting patrons during our extended hours on Thursdays and most Fridays.

We also need more help with

shelving materials and "reading" shelves (maintaining the books in correct order on the shelves by call number).

Occasional, temporary or off-site volunteers handle special projects such as our document files and indexing jobs. Give the Library a call (614-267-4700) and . . .

BE A PAL AM VOLUNTEER!



“The Genealogy Guys Podcast”

So... what's a “podcast?” A podcast is like a radio show you can download from the Internet and play on your desktop PC, your notebook computer or your MP3 player whenever it's most convenient for you to listen.

A podcast program can last anywhere from a few minutes to well over an hour. There are tens of thousands of different podcasts available on a wide variety of subjects.

The Genealogy Guys Podcast is a weekly 30-minute discussion about genealogy news, events, people, issues, resources, tips, techniques, technology and any other genealogy-related ideas currently on the minds of The Genealogy Guys.

Who are The Genealogy Guys? They are two avid and enthusiastic genealogists who want to discuss all facets of genealogical research. George Morgan is an internationally-recognized genealogy expert, author and lecturer. His “Along Those Lines...” online column at Ancestry.com is read by up to 2 million people each Friday. His most recent book is *How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy*.

Drew Smith, MLS, is an instructor at the School of Library and Information Science at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He, too, is a nationally-recognized genealogical author and lecturer. He is the “Cybrarian” columnist for MyFamily.com's quarterly magazine *Genealogical Computing*.

Visit www.genealogyguys.com to download the most recent shows as well as earlier shows.

It's fun... it's interesting... and it's well worth your listening and learning time. Check it out!

10 Commandments for Genealogists

IV

*Thou shalt handle all records
is such a way that the next users
will find them in the same
condition*

By Malcolm Stern

Housekeeping Hints for Genealogists

Musty Books...

To remove the musty smell from old books make sure they are dry. Then put them in a cool, dry space for a few days or put outside on a table in the sun on a dry, breezy day for a few hours. If the musty smell still remains, put them in an open container inside a larger container with an open box of baking soda or a potpourri. Do not allow the deodorizer to touch the books. Leave for a few days in a cool place, checking once a day to make sure no mold is growing.

Old Paperclips...

To remove old paperclips from documents, especially if they are rusty, slide a piece of stiff plastic under the fastener on both sides of the document. Slide the paperclip off the plastic.

Old Staples

Use a pair of tweezers or a thin knife to bend the ends of staples up and then pry them out. Staple pullers will frequently tear the paper.

From the Clinton County Newsletter, Vol. IX, 84 as read in Palatines to Maerica Illinois Chapter, January 2006, Vol XXV, Issue 3.

HOW MUCH IS THAT WORTH???

HOW MUCH IS THAT? What was the value of a U.S. dollar in 1895? Worth of the UK pound from 1830 to 2004? Genealogists will have fun playing with the "Relative Value" options available here. For example, if great-great-grandpa's U.S. estate was worth \$300 in 1832, what is it worth in 2003 dollars (the most recent year available)?

Check it out at <http://www.eh.net/hmit/>

Answer: In 2003, \$300 from 1832 is worth:

- \$6,409.63 using the Consumer Price Index
- \$6,672.88 using the GDP deflator
- \$67,354.24 using the unskilled wage
- \$124,932.02 using the GDP per capita
- \$3,316,130.48 using the relative share of GDP

RootsWeb Review: RootsWeb's Weekly E-zine, 14 December 2005, Vol. 8, No. 50, (c) 1998-2005 RootsWeb.com, Inc. <http://www.rootsweb.com/>



Have you signed up for the Ohio Chapter Spring Seminar at Der Dutchman yet??? See Page 15!

**Can't think of a way to say thanks
to some who helped in your research?**

Need a gift for someone who has everything?

**LOOKING FOR THAT SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR SOMEONE
RESEARCHING THEIR GERMAN-SPEAKING ANCESTORS?**

SEND

An Ohio Chapter Pal-Am gift certificate.

Copy and fill out the form below and send it with your request and \$35 to Palatines to America—611 East Weber Road—Columbus, OH 43211-1097. A gift card will be sent to the new member with a note of welcome from you.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP IN OHIO CHAPTER (Please Print)

TO: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip+4: _____

FROM: Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip+4: _____

Kevan Hansen's Map Guide to German Parish Registers

By John D. Beatty

One of the vexing challenges for every genealogist doing research in Germany is dealing with geography. One may have the name of a village or town from a family Bible, passport, or other record, and may even be well-practiced using the Meyers Orts und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs to identify whether a town has a church. The town can then be searched in the Family History Library catalog for the availability of church and civil records.

Invariably, however, a good genealogist will want to know more. What are the other parishes located near the primary ancestral parish? What are their boundaries? What villages were located within them? Did my ancestor have family connections in those parishes?

These are important questions, and when using microfilmed parish records, a thorough researcher will want to have a good handle on the geography of an ancestral area in order to look for clues in the records of other nearby churches. It is not at all uncommon to find German families spread out over more than one parish, particularly if they were agricultural laborers. Couples often found their future spouses in neighboring towns. A useful new research tool to address these questions is Kevan Hansen's Map Guide to German Parish Registers series, published by Heritage Creations of North Salt Lake, Utah. Each of these volumes are devoted to particular German

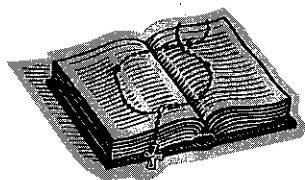
states and offer outline maps of parishes located within a particular Kreis or county. Thus, they are useful for determining the proximity of towns to other parishes in the area. In addition to offering clues about other possible records, they can "empower the researcher when confronted with the necessity of a radius search."

Regrettably, they are not useful for identifying tiny villages located within the boundaries of a particular parish, because the maps are simply not sufficiently detailed. A more careful search of Meyers and the Karte des Deutsches Reiches map series (available on film from the Family History Library) may still be worthwhile.

At this writing, 10 volumes of the Map Guide are now in print, covering the Grand Duchies of Hessen, Baden, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Oldenburg and Schleswig-Holstein, the province of Hessen-Nassau and the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg. Additional volumes are planned for the rest of the German Empire, with the Rhineland expected soon.

Few German families lived in the isolation of a single village. Knowing what towns were located nearby will almost certainly help a researcher locate additional family connections in nearby churches

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Beatitudes of a Family Genealogist
Blessed are the great grandmothers,
who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,
For they tell the story of their time.

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