



# NEWSLETTER of the Ohio Chapter PALATINES TO AMERICA

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our THANKS and a hearty WELCOME to all of the 100 newly signed members of the officially formed Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America. We are, indeed, delighted with your early and prompt response in enrolling. We wish to assure you that your enrollment in no way changes the Ohio Chapter's Charter status with the National Society of Palatines to America.

The recent institution of Ohio Chapter dues of \$3.00 (single) and \$5.00 (family) is in addition to membership in our National society.

Hence, it is easily grasped that being a dues paying member in the Ohio Chapter emphasizes a more positive and definitive identification for the resident Ohio members, and aids the Ohio Chapter in providing its membership additional advantages after June 1, 1981.

Recently, various Ad Hoc meetings at the Chapter Executive Council level have been duly authorized to work on the establishment of a permanent headquarters which is considered to be essential to specific Chapter concerns. These include a greater success of communication to members through the providing of committee and newsletter work-space, as well as a place for the receiving of mail, answering of inquiries, storage of files, of 4-generation charts, membership records, library materials, etc.

With the opening of our Chapter headquarters in September and through the receipt of your Chapter dues, we will now be able to offer four newsletters annually and also offer a 25 % discount on Conference fees. In addition, your Chapter dues will enable us to seek a greater selection in Conference speakers, maintain our genealogical workshops and therefore strengthen and serve the National Organization.

While inviting many more Ohio resident National members to join the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America, and while still accepting gifts of office furniture and contributions of tables, chairs, typewriters, etc., we also encourage you to send your suggestions and journalistic contributions (or even excerpts not under copyrights) to the Newsletter. Your active participation is welcomed.

We hope your friends or relatives would like to enroll with the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America, but, especially, we give thanks to you for making possible the above enumerated advantages that we can now offer them.

Many of the people recently subscribing for membership in the Ohio Chapter of Palatines to America forgot to include a SASE. In order to save additional postage for the organization's activities, they should find their membership card included with this publication of the Newsletter.

Harold A. Betsch  
President

## 1981 NATIONAL CONVENTION REVIEW

Interesting lectures, tasty food and warm fellowship highlighted the 7th National Convention held at Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois, June 19 and 20.

The evening of the 19th, Kenneth Scott, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus of History, City College of New York City, and Fellow of the National Genealogical Society, related a fascinating tale of the exploits of Count Rumford, born Benjamin Thompson of New Hampshire. Thompson was spoken of in colonial times as the "third best brain" in the American colonies, after Franklin and Jefferson.

June 20th was an all-day session with several speakers. John Austin, an attorney and CG suggested sources for genealogical material in New York state. Ray Turnbaugh, Ph.D., from the Illinois archives depository system, discussed the location of records for the use of researchers. Arta Johnson, Ph.D., the editor of the IMMI-GRANT, talked of the many research and inquiry problems that many family tracers, as well as editors, experience.

After lunch, Merlin Finnell, President of the Indiana Chapter, showed slides taken during a trip to Switzerland and West Germany. Included were pictures of places where a number of our German ancestors originated.

A business session followed with a review and reports of the activities of the past year given by Rev. Harvey Harsh, President. This was followed by election of new officers for posts vacated this year. Terms are for two years. The new National President is Dr. John A. Fritchey, II (Pennsylvania); Vice-President, Montford Schaffner (Ohio); Treasurer, Robert Rudy (Ohio), and Member-at-large, Joyce Thompson (Illinois).

Under the leadership of Joyce Thompson, a new chapter is being formed in Illinois. An announcement will follow later.

Dr. Fritchey announced at an executive Board meeting that the resignation of Dorothy Paul, membership registrar, had been accepted with regret. Margaret

Robinson (Pennsylvania) was named to fill out the term of office until the elections in 1982.

The highlight of the Convention was the fellowship period. The chairman asked for a show of hands from members from the many different states, which included Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and California. Later, members in the different groups introduced themselves to one another. A number found members with common resource and family research problems.

### REPORTS ON PENNSYLVANIA AND INDIANA CHAPTER MEETINGS

The semi-annual seminar of the Pennsylvania Chapter, Palatines to America, was held at Messiah College, Grantham, Pa., on May 30th. Milton Rubicam was the principal speaker who described the Holy Roman Empire-Homeland of our ancestors. Other discussions included "The Hessians" and "The Development of the Counties of Pennsylvania". At the annual business meeting, Mr. Clyde Groff of Lancaster was elected President; Mr. Gary Hawbaker of Hershey, Vice-President; Mrs. Kathleen Trombino of Harrisburg, Secretary; Miss Ellen Robinson of Mechanicsburg, Membership Secretary. New members-at-large are Mrs. Raymond Broscious of Sunbury and Mrs. Kenneth King of Mt. Wolf. Mr. Gregory Wonders of Dillsburg was again selected to edit the newsletter.

On April 25th, the Indiana Chapter, Palatines to America, offered a most interesting program at the United Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana. The lead speaker was Dr. Arta Johnson (Ohio) who discussed "The Problems of Spelling and Pronouncing German Names". Richard Hathaway of Lansing, Michigan, spoke about genealogical resources in Michigan. New officers are: President, Mr. Merlin Finnell of Monticelle; Vice-President, Mrs. Hazel Kiger of Terre Haute; Secretary, Ruth Shelley of Indianapolis and Treasurer, Mrs. Florence Hermann of Danville. The next chapter workshop is set for October 17.

## TREES

(If Joyce Kilmer were a Genealogist)

I think that I shall never see  
the branches of my family tree  
complete with names and dates of immigration  
with absolute documentation  
of births, and deaths, and marriage rites,  
ancestral homes, and burial sites.

A tree whose roots spread far and wide  
traversing oceans, mountains, country side, --  
whose sturdy trunk is strong and tall,  
with limbs out-stretched to hold us all. --  
Should my research successful be,  
then, even I can make a tree.

(Written May 14, 1981, by Mrs. Florence Beck)

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OUR PALATINE HERITAGE

The Rev. Alvin F. Messersmith served as pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the town of Saugerties, New York, from 1956 - 1970. This church is the oldest in this town, having been organized in the year 1710 by a portion of the German Palatines.

Rev. Messersmith's wife is from Ohio and during a visit she came across an announcement of one of our Ohio Chapter workshops. Realizing that we would be interested in details of the Palatines' arrival in this country, he sent a booklet published by this church on the occasion of the 265th anniversary of its founding in 1975! Now, with the passage of a few more years, it is their 271st anniversary! We are indebted to Rev. Messersmith's interest in forwarding this booklet to Mrs. Jean Hall (whose name and address were in the newspaper), for the following excerpts of the account of "Why and How the Palatines came to West Camp".

"The readers of Sir Walter Scott will remember the word Paladin, which occurs in his writings. A Paladin is a ruler who lives in a palace. If he rules a country, he is called a Count Palatine, and the country is called Country Palatine or a Palatinate.

"Two such Palatinates existed in Germany. The upper Palatinate was in the north of Bavaria. The lower Palatinate was up the Rhine, with that river running through it. Its capital was the university town of Heidelberg. Its inhabitants and their kindred on the east called it in their German language the Pfalz or the Rhein Pfalz. The Netherlands on the north and west called it in their tongue the Paltz. Here the Reformed Church prospered, and here a temporary home was found by the Huguenots who afterwards came to America.

"In the year 1708 a dozen families, fleeing from the invasion of the Paltz by the French, reached London, having left all their possessions behind, but having certificates from the magistrates of their integrity of character. Amongst these was Joshua Kocherthal (born Harrsch, the reason for his change of name is still unclear). Joshua Kocherthal was born in 1669 at Fachsenfeld in Germany and came to America first in 1708 and again with the large migration in 1710. He had been ordained at Sindolsheim in Germany in 1696. In America he served as pastor to the German Lutherans who had

(continued from page 3)

settled along the Hudson River and did so until his death in 1719. He lived first at today's Newburgh and later at Newtown (West Camp). A Christian gentleman and a fine scholar, he had sufficient influence with the court of Queen Anne to induce that sovereign to send the little colony to her American dominions at government expense.

"Pastor Kocherthal was in the prime of life and was accompanied by his wife and three children. Several other families had joined the colony in London and the whole number increased to 41.

"They left England in the same fleet which brought back Lord Lovelace, the Governor of New York and New Jersey. It was Governor Lovelace, who on February 20, 1669, confirmed freedom of worship to the Lutherans. The "Globe" on which the Palatines had embarked was eleven weeks at sea, arriving in New York on New Year's day, 1709. The weather was very tempestuous, and the vessels were driven asunder and many suffered severely both from the cold and the scarcity of water.

"These families were located upon two thousand one hundred and ninety acres of land lying adjacent to Quaseck Kill, in the locality called by the Hollanders The Dans kammer on land now occupied by the city of Newburgh. But Lord Lovelace having died before the title to these lands had been secured, Dominie Kocherthal at once undertook a return voyage to England in behalf of his countrymen, leaving his family in New York, where his daughter was born during his absence.

"He was successful in securing for the newly appointed Governor Hunter instructions respecting the Palatines, similar to those which had been given to his predecessor, and came out in the same fleet with him, sailing from Portsmouth and landing at New York, June 14, 1710, a voyage of nearly six months!

"He had found abundant work during his absence. The refugees from the Palatinate had increased from tens to thousands, and nearly three thousand were sent to New York by the same fleet which brought back the Minister and the new Governor. Four hundred and seventy died from exposure and from want of food and water. Many were sick. But these speedily recovered at the encampment on the island in New York harbor, then called Nutten Island from the nut-trees which grew upon it, better known since as Governor's Island.

"From the documentary history of Ulster county, it appears that the number of Palatines who were residents at Newtown (West Camp) and the vicinity in the winter of 1710, was about two hundred and sixty, including men, women and children. Prominent amongst these were Hermann Scheuneman, Capt. John C. Garlack, the Maurers, Mullers, Spanhimers, Schaeffers, Kelmers, Overbachs, Dietrichs, Kieffers, Emerichs, Frolichs, Beckers, some names still preserved at West Camp to this day. Up to 1711 the three towns on the west bank of the Hudson, including West Camp, had a population of 614. In 1715, the number had increased to about 1500. These colonists understood that they were to be settled on the Mohawk and on the flats at Schoharie.

"These families were to have forty acres of land each, to cultivate for their own use, and were to make tar for the English navy, to compensate for the expense of sending them out. But the Mohawk and Schoharie Flats did not grow pines, and the Government was anxious about the tar. Besides, that region was not yet entirely safe from Indians, and there were pine lands along the Hudson. Moreover, Robert Livingston, from Scotland, who had been a Government contractor before, was ready to sell 6000 acres of his land on the east side of the river and to feed the colonists so long as the Government paid him to do so. (to be continued next issue)

NEW NEWSLETTER POLICY

With this issue of the Ohio Chapter Newsletter, we are beginning a 4-year cycle of newsletters in accord with the new membership policy. Only members of the Ohio Chapter will receive the newsletter. Other Ohio members of National Palatines to America will receive only information concerning the two annual conferences.

It might be appropriate to give the newsletter a name. Do you have a suggestion? Also, items of genealogical interest to the membership and queries are welcomed. Just send them to the Editor.

EDITOR JOHNSON RESIGNS

At a recent meeting of the Pal-Am National Executive Committee, Dr. Arta Johnson tendered her resignation as the editor of THE PALATINE IMMIGRANT. The resignation was accepted with deep regret since the periodical has been so very ably edited by Dr. Johnson. Any person interested in applying for the position should direct a letter of application and accompanying resume to: Dr. John A. Fritchey, II, National President, 106 November Dr., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011.

OHIO CHAPTER HEADQUARTERS  
BECOMING A REALITY

An Ohio Chapter headquarters will be established on the campus of Capital University in September. The president, Dr. Harvey Stegemoeller, has arranged for a room to be available in one of the campus buildings. Anyone having items such as a desk and chair, file cabinet, typewriter, clothes rack, long table, chairs, shelving, or bookcase, either as donation or loan; or reference materials which can become the beginning of a Chapter library or archives, should contact Ohio Chapter president, Harold Betsch, 603 Salisbury Road, Columbus 43227, or call 274-5007. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

EVENTS CALENDAR ---  
OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Events coming up in August and September have been announced by the Ohio Historical Society.

August 1-2 ZOAR HARVEST FESTIVAL  
Zoar Village, Ohio

Tours of Zoar Village homes, craft demonstrations, and German food are featured in a celebration sponsored by the Zoar Community Association.

August 29 ZOAR GARDEN PARTY  
Zoar Village, Ohio

A buffet meal, featuring authentic 19th century recipes of the Zoarites, is offered in the Zoar garden house and formal gardens, followed by a chamber concert in the Zoar Church. Call reservations to 614-466-1500, Extension 207. Fee.

September 12 SCHOENBRUNN LANTERN  
TOUR  
Schoenbrunn Village  
New Philadelphia, Ohio

Costumed guides lead tours of the 18th century Moravian mission community by lantern light. Reservations are necessary. Call 216-874-3011. Fee.

MINI-WORKSHOP PROGRAM  
EXPANDING

The popular mini-workshop program has several invitations for workshops which are being firmed for later in Crawford County and Highland County and, perhaps, Stark County.

A definite date is set for Tuscarawas County at New Philadelphia for August 15th. Dr. Geart Droeger will lead the discussion.

Chairman of these programs is Nova Weller.

A POSTCARD IS WELCOME! ...with your ideas and suggestions: Send to P.O. Box 28261, Columbus, Ohio 43228.

QUERIES, QUERIES, QUERIES...

The Newsletter is inaugurating a new query column which we hope to have in each issue. We will accept queries for publication provided they are printed or typed since we cannot be responsible for errors due to illegible handwriting. Send to Newsletter, Editor, 1672 Barrington Rd., Columbus, OH, 43221

Defi(n)baugh Abraham Defi(n)baugh and his wife Rebecca Croyle  
 Croyle had a son Solomon born 19 Nov 1833 in Bedford Co PA. Abraham was born ca 1806 in PA. Rebecca's parents were George Croyle and Barbara

Miller. Abraham and Barbara died in Wheeling WV in 1883 and 1896. Need ancestors of both.

Nova Weller, 1325 Cambridge Blvd., Cols., OH 43212.

Rudy Johan Conrad Rudy married Margaret Glanner in Philadelphia 27 Oct 1725. He probably immigrated from Palatinate in 1724 or 25. Would like to contact other descendants of Palatinate immigrants who came to Philadelphia during 1724-25.

R. S. Rudy, 1492 Guilford Rd., Cols., OH, 43221.

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