

## October 2023 German Schrifft



Welcome to the newest edition of the German Genealogy Quarterly eNewsletter—the German Schrifft! This newsletter will highlight the German Special Interest Group (SIG), featured German resources, research tips, and interesting places to visit.

### German Special Interest Group

**Review of the July 2023 Meeting:**  
Adding an extra layer of richness to our usual gatherings, the in-person meet-up was made all the more special thanks to Bruce, one of our enthusiastic attendees, who shared a fantastic collection of photos capturing the essence of Alsace, France, and Germany. Many have asked whether we'll have more of these captivating photo-sharing sessions in the future. To be honest, I don't have a definite answer just yet, but we'll certainly keep you posted on any updates.

Looking ahead, we've got some exciting plans in store. In each of our sessions, whether in-person or virtual, we're committed to shedding light on the history and records of one former principality, duchy, or kingdom within the former German Empire. We're all set to kick off this fascinating series next year, probably in July 2024. And don't forget to mark your calendars for our April 2024 session, which will be both in-person and virtual, and will delve into the intriguing history of Germans from Russia. It's going to be a must-see event!

Make sure to register for our upcoming **German Special Interest Group** events:

**German Special Interest Group | In Person**  
Saturday, October 28, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.  
(For adults)

**German Special Interest Group | Zoom**  
Sunday, October 29, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.  
(For adults)

You are welcome to attend either of these sessions – or both. Share your German ancestry, places of origin in Germany, or former German territories and communities.

Do you have a German ancestor in your family tree? Learn basic methods for German genealogy research at another upcoming program:

**Researching Your German Ancestors (Hybrid)**  
Tuesday, October 17, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.  
(For adults)

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Featured Resources



#### Midwest Genealogy Center Periodicals

##### **Mennonite Family History, July 2023, Vol. 42, No. 3**

Read the article "Departure Ports of Our Ancestors: Bremen, Germany," to learn about this major port of embarkation in Europe during the 19th century. It served not only Germans but also people of other nationalities (refer to the "Places to Visit" section for more details). Another article, *An Alternate Path: Solving the Puzzle of Nicolaus Zimmerman, 1733 Immigrant on the Ship Hope* by Larry Zimmerman, brings us closer to the author's Swiss ancestry. He recounts his journey to solve a family mystery through DNA testing, aiming to find connections in Germany and beyond.

##### **St. Charles County Heritage, The Journal of the St. Charles County Historical Society, Vol. 41, No. 3, July 2023.**

Discover inspiration for creating your family cookbook by exploring "The Hollrah Family Cookbook." This collection showcases recipes and stories from the extended Hollrah family, serving as a wonderful example for your own culinary project. On page 91, you'll find an article written by Ronald L. Hollrah, Ph.D. Get ready for a journey into the world of long German words with "Gaetta und Schnipplbohnsuppe aus dem Hollrah Familienkochbuch." While it may be short on recipes, it's rich in stories steeped in family history.

Visit the Midwest Genealogy Center (Midwest Genealogy Center), where you can unwind in a comfortable armchair and delve into tales of "Apple Butter Time," "Schnippled Bean Soup," "German Potato Salad" (which I also make), and many more delectable recipes. Given our geographical ties to Central Europe, it's no surprise that pork plays a significant role in our culinary traditions. Explore a photo capturing the scalding of a hog during hog butchering alongside other intriguing images, such as lard rendering. Some of you may even reminisce about the days of "Schmalzbrot mit Zwiebel" or simply "Schmalzbrot," enjoying these treats while running outside to play with fellow children, just as we did.

[PERIODICALS](#)

### Featured Books

##### **Hometown Beer: A History of Kansas City's Breweries** by H. James Maxwell and Bob Sullivan, Jr.

Were your ancestors involved in the brewery and soda business? This book, published in 1999, is much more than just a coffee table book. It brings to our attention the well-known and lesser-known breweries that made their mark on Kansas City and the art of brewing, a centuries-old tradition in the German lands. Many of these pioneering entrepreneurs had their roots in Germany.

The history of this industry in Kansas City dates back to the 1850s, with the listing of the oldest brewery, founded by Peter Schwitzgebel, a native of Germany. Following his legacy, other notable names emerged, such as Frank Hubbard Kumpf from Prussia, Otto Eyszel, a German immigrant known for bottling soda water and mineral water, J. H. Schultz, and Michael Karl Goetz, who hailed from Ingelheim, Alsace (now in France). Goetz is notable for being one of the few breweries that remained open during Prohibition, producing soda using a de-alcoholization process.

When you visit Midwest Genealogy Center next time, take the opportunity to delve into the history of each brewery and discover the stories behind that drink you might serve to your guests. The German beer purity law (Reinheitsgebot), dating back to 1516, celebrated its 500th anniversary in 2016, marking the first official food regulation decree. However, even before that, Munich city ordinances regulated beer production since the 1300s and 1400s.

*This book is reserved exclusively for on-site use at the Midwest Genealogy Center.*

##### **A Religious History of the American People** by Sydney E. Ahlstrom

If you're interested in learning about the history of various German groups as they gradually immigrated to America, starting with early Protestants and various religious movements, you might consider picking up this title. It provides an overview of religious history in America, highlighting the journeys of different German religious groups as they crossed the Atlantic.

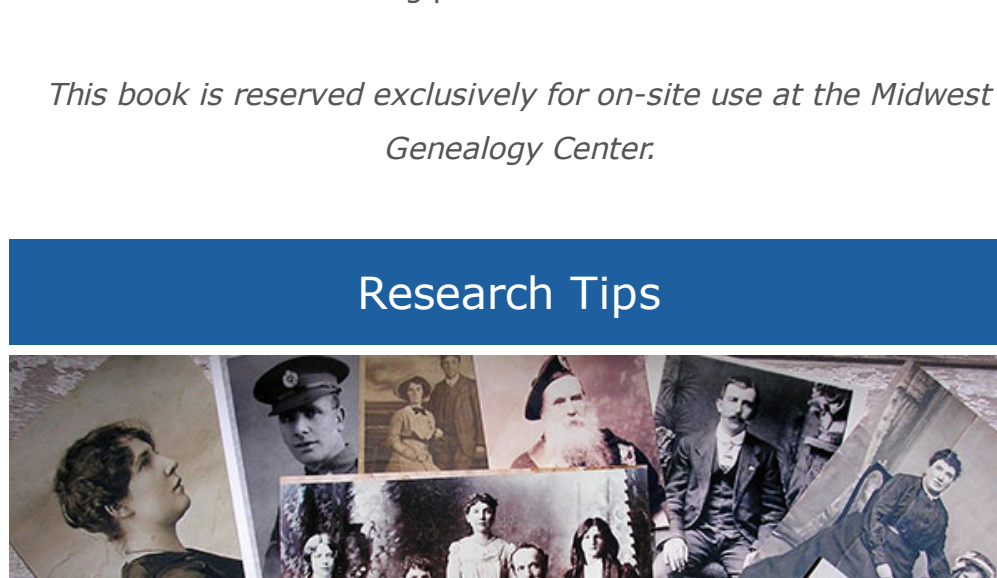
Chapter 5 delves into the Reformation and includes a subsection called "Quakers in PA, William Penn, and the Holy Experiment."

Chapter 15 covers the German Sects and the Rise of Pietism, featuring the Mennonites, Amish, Hutterian, Brethrens, Dunkers, and Schwenckfelders.

In Chapter 16, titled "The German Reformed and Lutheran Churches," you'll find the history of these churches and their enduring presence in America.

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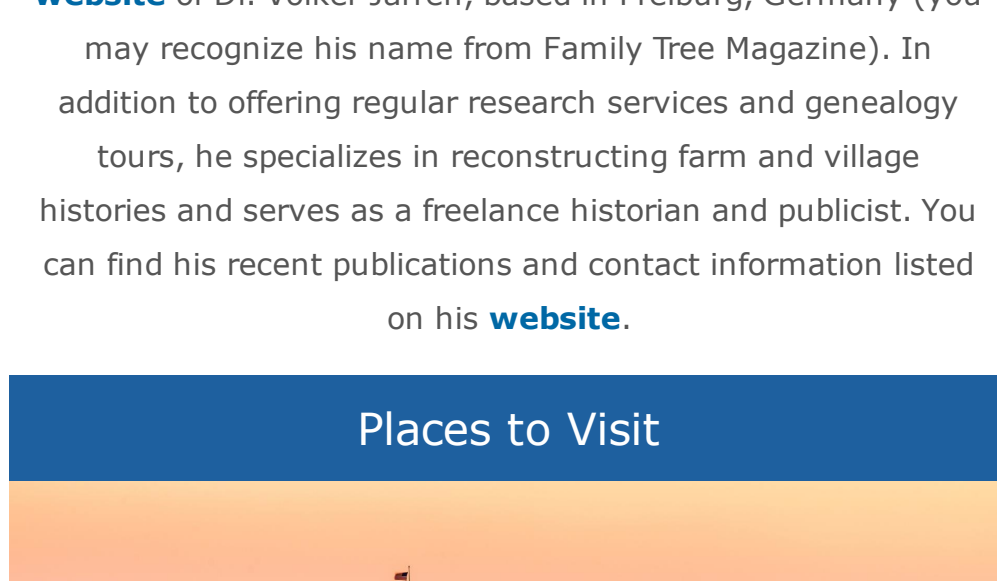
### Research Tips



If you're eager to discover great resource tips, look no further than our online program in December 2023 featuring Katherine Schober, the renowned name behind the website **Germanology Unlocked**. Katherine Schober will present exclusively online via Zoom for the Midwest Genealogy Center. Keep an eye out for the Winter Program Guide to find the exact date and time. Alternatively, feel free to reach out to us at **816-252-7228** or send an email to [mgc@mymcpl.org](mailto:mgc@mymcpl.org) for more information.

Furthermore, if you're interested in connecting with researchers in Germany, you might want to explore the **website** of Dr. Volker Jarren, based in Freiburg, Germany (you may recognize his name from Family Tree Magazine). In addition to offering regular research services and genealogy tours, he specializes in reconstructing farm and village histories and serves as a freelance historian and publicist. You can find his recent publications and contact information listed on his **website**.

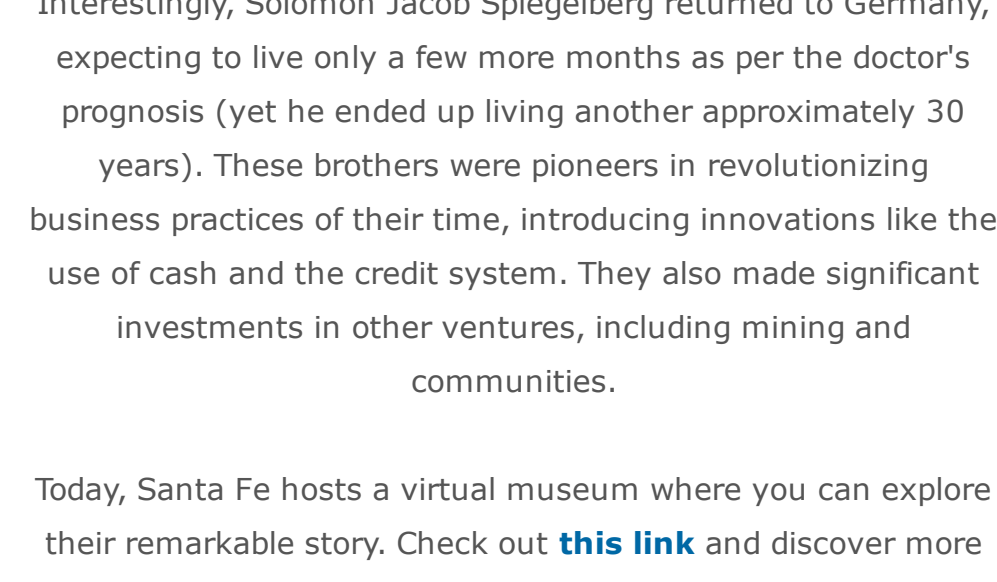
### Places to Visit



##### **Virtual Museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Have you heard about the Spiegelberg brothers? They hailed from Prussia and settled in Santa Fe, NM, where they established one of the first general merchandise stores. Interestingly, Solomon Jacob Spiegelberg returned to Germany, expecting to live only a few more months as per the doctor's prognosis (yet he ended up living another approximately 30 years). These brothers were pioneers in revolutionizing business practices of their time, introducing innovations like the use of cash and the credit system. They also made significant investments in other ventures, including mining and communities.

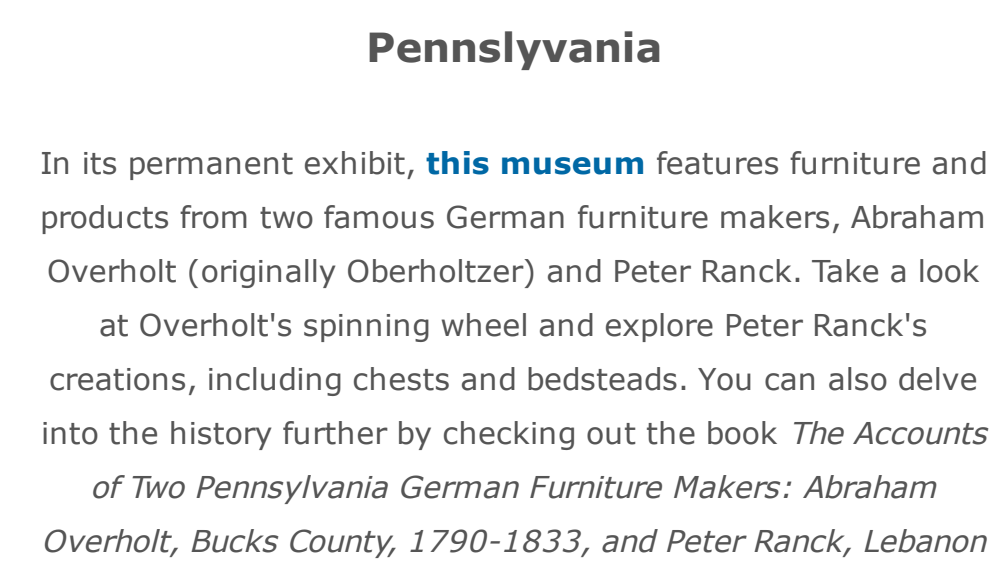
Today, Santa Fe hosts a virtual museum where you can explore their remarkable story. Check out [this link](#) and discover more about the Jewish emigrants from Germany, with their birthplaces listed. Read also *Entrepreneurs of the Old West*, by David Dary (call no. REF 338.04 D259).



##### **Visit Mercer Museum in Doylestown, Pennsylvania**

In its permanent exhibit, **this museum** features furniture and products from two famous German furniture makers, Abraham Overholt (originally Oberholtzer) and Peter Ranck. Take a look at Overholt's spinning wheel and explore Peter Ranck's creations, including chests and bedsteads. You can also delve into the history further by checking out the book *The Accounts of Two Pennsylvania German Furniture Makers: Abraham Overholt, Bucks County, 1790-1833, and Peter Ranck, Lebanon County, 1794-1817*. This book has been translated and edited by Alan. G. Keyser, Larry M. Neff, and Frederick S. Weiser in 1978.

With the winter holiday season approaching, be sure to mark your calendar for a visit to Mifflinburg, PA, where you can experience the **Christkindl Market**. It's the oldest authentic outdoor German Market in the U.S. and usually takes place at the beginning of December.



##### **Visit Bremen and Bremerhaven in Germany**

If those suggestions are too close to home, consider visiting **Bremen and Bremerhaven** in Germany (another Hanseatic city). Bremen served as a prominent trading port for years, engaging in trade with America. Ships carried tobacco and various goods to Europe, but they often sailed back empty on their return journey. As emigration began to pick up on a larger scale, the business of transporting people to America was born.

This arrangement, with goods traveling to Europe and emigrants setting sail for America, turned out to be a perfect match. You can view Bremen emigration records [here](#).

Bremen is a captivating city with numerous attractions to explore. If your ancestors set sail from Bremerhaven, it's a must-visit destination, even if it's only a virtual visit. You deserve to immerse yourself in the atmosphere of embarkation just by gazing at the exhibit ship and the oldest open waters. Don't forget to take a moment to visit the oldest part of town, the Schnoor Quarter, known for its 15th and 16th-century houses!

### Fun and Learning

##### **Little Pearls from the Books** *Three Hundred Years of German Immigrants in North America, 1683-1983 (Dreihundert Jahre Deutsche Einwanderer in Nordamerika)*, edited by Klaus Wust and Heinz Moos, 1983.

"On 6 October 1683, thirteen Mennonite families from Krefeld arrived at Philadelphia harbor on board the vessel Concord, and proceeded to found the settlement of Germantown. Their migration marks the start of the history of over seven million immigrants who, in the course of three centuries, left the German-speaking regions of Europe to head for the shores of North America. As the numerically largest single ethnic group, whose descendants currently comprise 28 percent of the total U.S. population according to a survey published in 1982, they played no small part in shaping the development of their new homeland in all phases of social and cultural life."

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf. This time (because we will not have another Schrifft published until January 2024), try to locate the German holiday recipes – to be ready for Christmas. I make these, too:

**N i k \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ g**  
(Hint: St. Nicholas Day on Dec 6th)

**M \_ r \_ i p \_ \_**  
(Almond paste, used for baking, see also Jan 2023 Schrifft featuring Lübeck)

**S p \_ \_ n \_ e \_ l e**  
(Anise-flavored cookies – various mold designs)

**S \_ o l \_ e n**  
(Fruit bread with nuts, spices, etc. Most famous is "Dresden S....")

**Z i \_ t s \_ e r \_ e**  
(Cinnamon cookies in the form of stars)

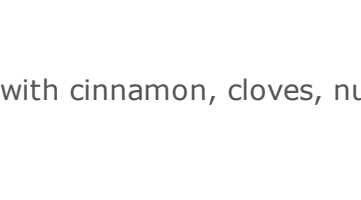
**G \_ ü h \_ e \_ n**  
(Heated wine spiced with cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg, allspice)

Proverb:  
"Liebe deinen Nachbar aber reiße den Zaun nicht ein!"

Love your neighbors, but don't put down the fence.

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.



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