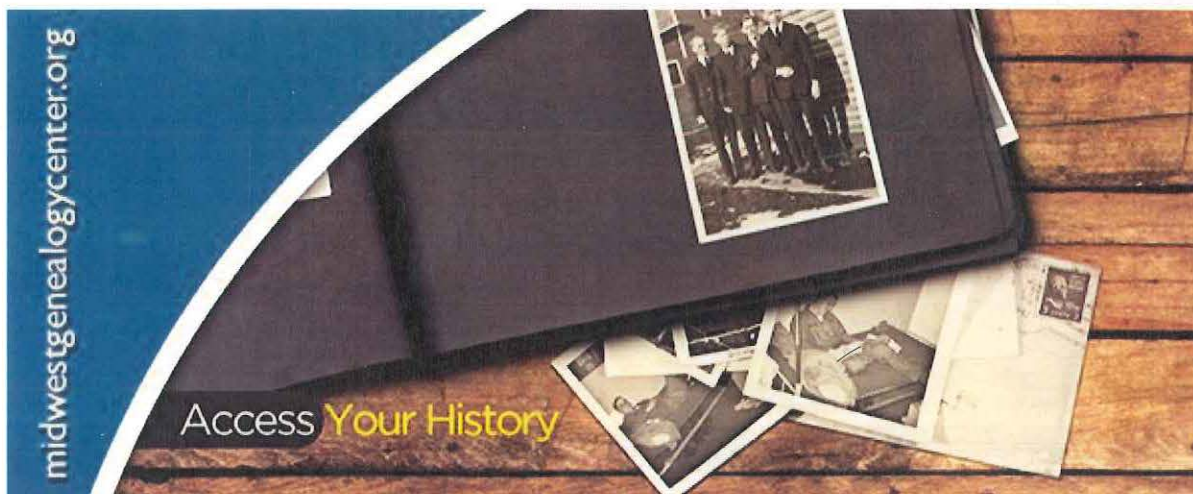
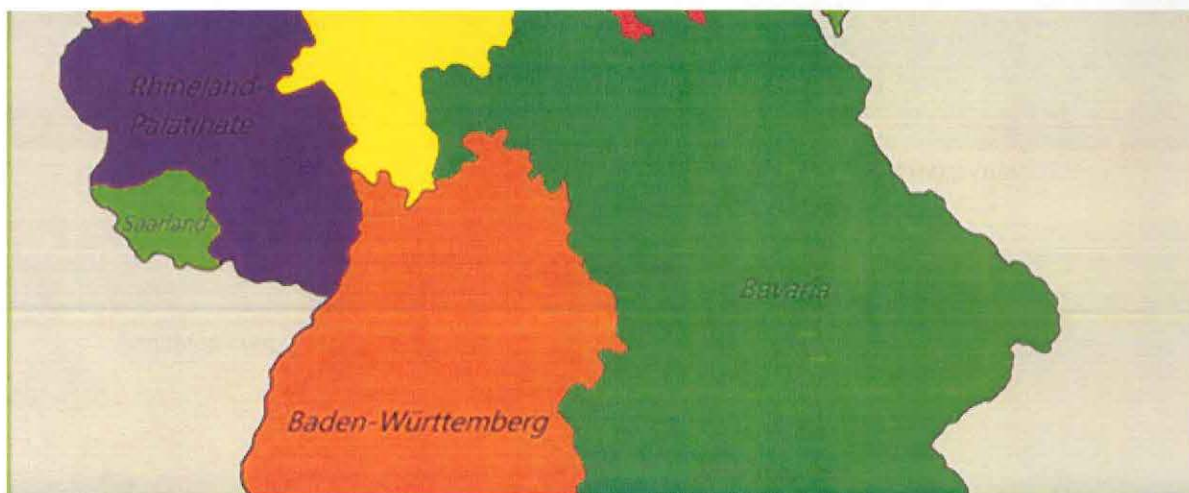


G.



Welcome to the new edition of the German Genealogy Quarterly eNewsletter—the German Schrift! This newsletter will highlight the Genealogy Discussion Group, featured German resources, research tips, and interesting places to visit.

Midwest Genealogy Center: May German SCHRIFT



German Research Discussion Group

Review of the April 2020 Meeting:

The Midwest Genealogy Center was and remains closed, and all events have been cancelled, but the virtual library is open 24/7.

We understand that not everybody is active on social media. However, for the time being, you can at least watch recordings of the previous German sessions online [here](#).

We also wanted to offer you a historical review of the once separate political entities within the German Empire. We will start with Württemberg (now in common state with Baden as Baden-Württemberg). The Christl's written presentation about Württemberg follows:

Württemberg: In the early Middle Ages, Württemberg was part of a region known as Swabia^[1]. The Württembergs (Württembergers), a local [dynasty](#) of counts, began to extend their control over large sections of Swabia in the mid-12th century.

In 1495 Württemberg became a duchy. In 1534, Duke Ulrich introduced Lutheranism, and the duchy subsequently became a bastion of German Protestantism. Württemberg was devastated in the [Thirty Years' War](#) (1618-1648). The duchy introduced compulsory education in 1649 and welcomed religious refugees from other countries.

As an ally of France during the Napoleonic Wars (1802-1813), Württemberg gained substantial territory and was made a kingdom in 1806. Although the kingdom was ruled constitutionally, its citizens demanded greater political rights and freedoms and staged repeated protests. Emigration reached its peak in the middle of the 19th-century. In 1871, the Kingdom of [Württemberg](#) became part of the newly established [German Empire](#).

Within the German Empire, Württemberg retained its independence in internal administration, such as ecclesiastical affairs, education, taxation, the armed forces, and in the management of the postal and railway services. Manufacturing industries prospered, especially machinery, motors, precision-engineering, textiles, watches and clocks, musical instruments, and book-production. The previously high rate of emigration declined.

This progress was halted by [World War I](#), and in 1918 the king was forced to [abdicate](#). A republican constitution was [promulgated](#) in 1919, but the state lost all the special privileges it had enjoyed under the former system.

Under the Nazi regime, a *Reichsstatthalter* [governor] for Württemberg was appointed in 1933, and the state's government completely subordinated to that of the Reich.

After World War II, Württemberg was divided into U.S. and French occupation zones. The three states created when the Federal Republic of Germany was established in 1949 were Baden, Württemberg-Baden, and Württemberg-Hohenzollern. They merged in 1952 to form [Baden-Württemberg](#)^[2].

A few facts about the state of Baden-Württemberg.

Capital: Stuttgart

Other notable cities: Karlsruhe, Mannheim, [Freiburg im Breisgau](#), [Heidelberg](#), [Heilbronn](#), [Pforzheim](#), [Reutlingen](#), [Tübingen](#) and [Ulm](#)

Religion: Northern and most of central Württemberg has been traditionally Protestant (particularly Lutheran) since the Reformation; the western and southern parts are mostly Catholic

Important industries: automobile/mechanical engineering, chemical, pharmaceutical, and optical industries

[1] Swabia [German "Schwaben"], a historic region in southwestern Germany

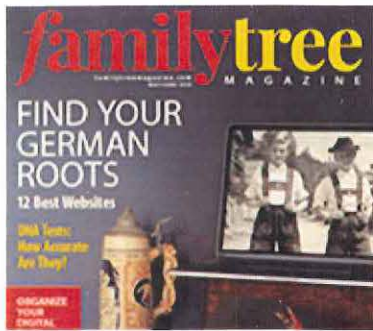
[1] The state of Baden-Württemberg shares borders with the German states of [Rhineland Palatinate](#), Hesse, and [Bavaria](#); it also shares borders with [France](#), and [Switzerland](#).

As for the next meeting (scheduled for July 18) – Please check our [website](#) for any updates or call MGC.

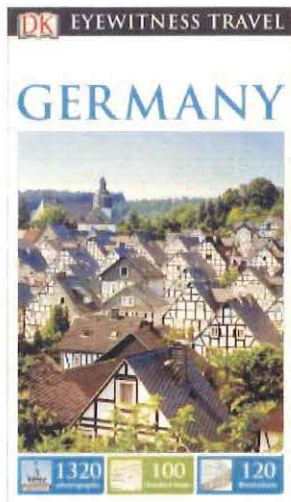
Featured Online Resource

Family Tree Magazine, May/June 2020

The article "Sturm und Drang" by James M. Beidler, talks about **12 German genealogy websites** that can help you in your research. This magazine is online through our Online Resources and [RBDigital Magazines](#), which you can access with your MCPL card.



Book Recommendations



[Germany](#)

by Joanna Egert-Romanowska

Right now, the easiest way to reach any interesting German book, periodical, or scholarly magazine is online. Please Note: For many of the Library's online resources, you will need your Access Pass (Library card) number.

I would like to connect this issue thematically at least partially together, so I chose the Baden-Württemberg as the vital part of this book. Click "Connect to this resource online", and type "Baden" into the "Search within Publication" box on the right side of the screen. Then click on the left to "Baden-Wuerttemberg."

You can immerse yourself in the history of many place;, for example, you can click at "Ludwigsburg" on the right, and learn that Ludwigsburg is the "Versailles of Swabia". This book is a truly interesting read. You don't even need to read—you can listen to the audiobook version, and work on your hobby at the same time.



[A Summer Holiday in Germany, 1914](#)

by Margaret B. Foote

This book contains a series of letters and diaries written by young Margaret, who is travelling with her mother. They visited Germany in 1914 (the year WWI started) and were advised to go to Switzerland for their safety. The letters are fully transcribed. You can compare the original letter with a transcript. By seeing the original, you feel more connected with the person who wrote the letters and how she perceived Germany and Switzerland as she experienced them in 1914.

Research Tips



Online Resource Tip:

Southwest Germany Emigration Website (Baden-Württemberg)

Let's tie the resource tip with the featured Wuerttemberg History above. Another helpful website for finding an immigrant's birthplace or last residence is Auswanderer-bw.de. Click "Suche nach Auswanderern" at the top of the page and run the "Standard" search. The Google Chrome web browser will give you the choice to switch to the English version.

Message for Del - Records for Detmold, North Germany:

FamilySearch.org has records, however most of these are not accessible from home (only at FHL centers or the FHL in Salt Lake City. If they were not Catholic but evangelisch (Lutheran, reformed), then the records are on the Archion.de website. You would need to buy an online subscription (cca \$ 23.00, you can pay by PayPal) and access these records from home. Currently, *Ancestry Library Edition* does not have birth, marriage, and death records for Detmold.

Places to Visit



This time, I would like to take you to historical Virginia! Right to the **Germanna Visitor Center** and nearby Salubria. First German families from Siegerland, Kraichgau, and the Palatinate came in 1714 and 1717. To learn more about this intriguing place and fascinating archeology research, explore this [website](#). Through their YouTube channel, you can watch the program '5 Minutes with Germanna' and listen to their Director of Archeology, Dr. Eric Larsen.

Are you curious if you are descendant of one of the German families tied to Germanna? Check this [link](#). However, the whole website is worth exploring.

If this is too close to home, visit the above mentioned Siegerland, Siegen Wittgenstein district in Germany. The mining communities in North Rhine Westphalia provided miners to develop the mining industry in America. You can visit mining museums, such as the Stahlberg museum and Stahlberg mine in Müsen/Siegerland.

Luckily, you don't actually need to travel to Germany and can explore this place, at least partially, online. Here is the [website](#). Use Google Chrome for English version. For those of you who are fascinated by old manuscripts like me, scroll down the first page and see the original certificate from May 4, 1313 as the first mention of the Stahlberg mine.

Fun and Learn



What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf. This time the words are from the medical field—illnesses found in church records:

1. S ch _ ä ch _ (Weakness)
2. A _ _ e _ s s ch _ ä ch _ (Weakness of the old age)
3. K _ _ b s (Cancer)
4. H u _ t _ n (Coughing)
5. D _ r ch _ _ _ l (Diarrhea)
6. W a s _ e r _ _ ch _ (Dropsy)
7. H _ l s _ n z ü _ d _ _ g (Throat infection)

Christl's Proverb:

“Du sollst den Tag nicht vor dem Abend loben!”

which means **“Don't praise the day before it has ended!”**

Thank you. Danke schön.

Mid-Continent Public Library

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