

## July 2023 German Schrift



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

### German Research Discussion Group

**Review of the April 2023 Meeting:**  
The in-person meeting on Saturday, April 15, 2023, was great. We shared family stories, including European trip reviews. Since one of our attendees is planning to go back to Alsace, France, we will be excited to hear a review of their trip at a future meeting. At the online Sunday meeting, we heard other family stories from all of our online participants. We hope to see you all again soon!

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

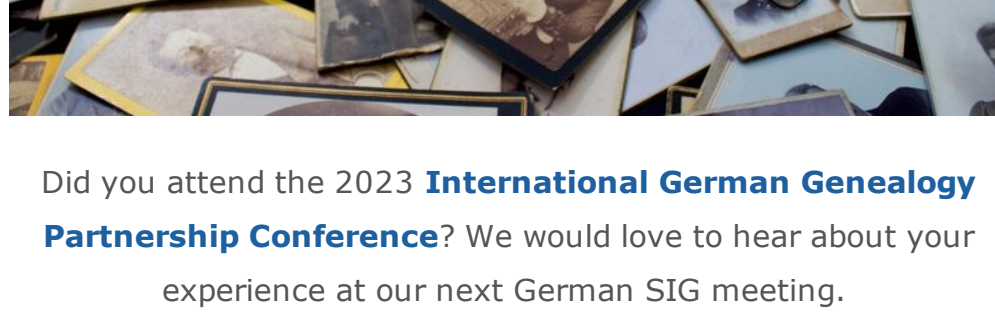
**German Special Interest Group | In Person**  
Saturday, July 15, 2023 | 2:00 p.m.  
(For adults)

**German Special Interest Group | Zoom**  
Sunday, July 16, 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. Have you hit a brick wall in your research of an elusive German predecessor? Other SIG attendees may have suggestions to help you in your search. Alternatively, just sit back, hear attendee stories, and enjoy your time!

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## What's Happening?



Did you attend the 2023 **International German Genealogy Partnership Conference**? We would love to hear about your experience at our next German SIG meeting.

Last month, Midwest Genealogy Center celebrated its 15th anniversary. In reference to the **Midwest Genealogy Center blog post "Happy Birthday, MGCI!"** we would like to quote a single sentence: "If these walls could talk, they would speak of the thousands of brick walls that were broken here." Have you experienced any breakthroughs or significant progress in your genealogical research at Midwest Genealogy Center? The chain of celebratory events was documented well on our **Facebook page**, including showing the oldest item in our archival collection, **the German bible from 1699**.

## Featured Resources



### Midwest Genealogy Center Periodicals

**The Heimatbrief, German-Bohemian Heritage Society, Vol. 34, Issue 1 & 2, 2023**

Join Wade Olsen, esteemed editor of the *Heimatbrief*, as he leads the highly anticipated 2024 Luxembourg to Bohemia Heritage Tour. Taking place June 3-17, 2024, this captivating journey will guide you through the enchanting landscapes of Luxembourg, Germany, and the Czech Republic. Discover the remarkable destinations and compelling stories highlighted in the latest issue of *Heimatbrief*, setting the stage for an unforgettable exploration of your ancestral heritage.

**The Western New York Genealogist, WNYGS, Vol 49, No. 4, March 2023**

The Society is cooperating on the project of reflecting funeral records of the early Trinity Old Lutheran Church (1837 – 1850). The records will be translated, and one of the examples included shows incredible details about the German deceased ancestor.

Another article caught our eye - *Achtung! Clues to Searching for German Ancestor Information in the WNY Area and Overseas*, by Larry Naukum. The article also serves as a compilation of various websites helpful in German research, with a short description of each. The last page of the article contains a list of German websites useful in emigrant and immigrant searches.

**Families, Quarterly Publication of the Ontario Gen. Society, Vol 62, No. 1, Feb 2023**

The article, *The Working Girl: A Tale of Domestic Service in Ontario*, by Robbie Gorr, details a study of female domestic servants. The findings showed that wealthy Anglo-Protestant families preferred German girls as domestic servants in Pembroke, Upper Ottawa Valley, for their strong work ethic and domestic skills. Visit us at Midwest Genealogy Center to read the whole article.

[PERIODICALS](#)

## Featured Books

**Germans in America**  
by **Walter D. Kamphoefner**

This book takes us on a rich tour of Germans in America and their experiences from colonial times to the modern day. Read about the causes of 19th-century emigration, as the emigrants were primarily *Heuerleute*, tenant farmers, or small artisans, rather than landowning farmers. Additionally, explore settlement patterns, German contributions to the American economy, women's roles, the political and military impact during the Civil War Era, and their experiences during World War I.

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**Zünftige und andere alte Berufe**  
by **Eike Pies**

Are you curious about the old German professions? How about the traditional arts and crafts? Can you read in German? This book takes you on a journey through the old professions that pique your interest. Some of these occupations might have been deeply rooted in your family for centuries, passing from one generation to the next. Feel free to use a dictionary or online translating tool. The book's illustrations are sourced from none other than Jost Amman's works in 1568.

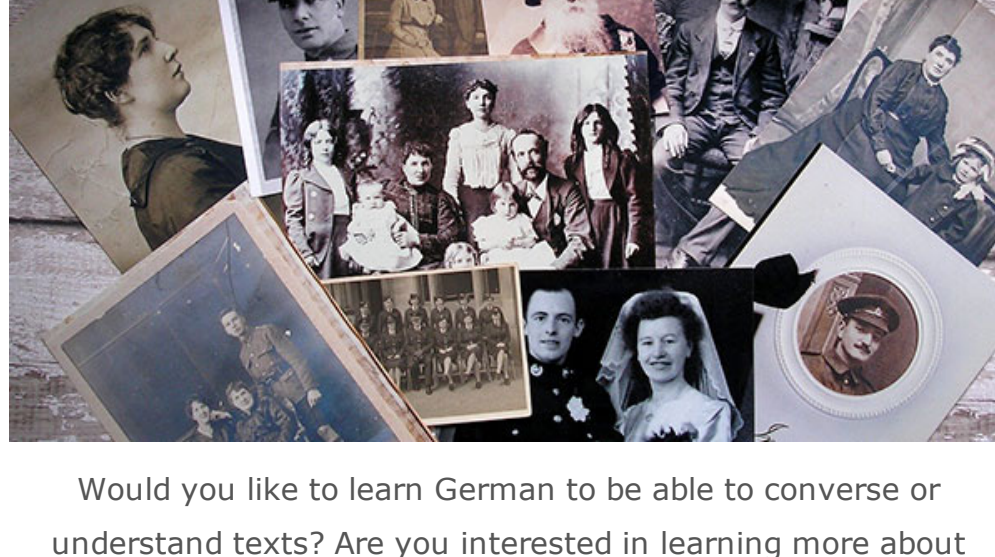
*This book is reserved exclusively for on-site use at the Midwest Genealogy Center.*

**German Professions of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries**  
by **Robert Rabe**

This book is a comprehensive exploration of various occupations that were prevalent in Germany during the 18th and 19th centuries. The book delves into the historical and cultural context of these professions, shedding light on their significance, development, and societal impact during that period. Readers can expect to gain insights into the working conditions, skills required, and the role of these professions in shaping the social fabric of German society at the time.

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## Research Tips



Would you like to learn German to be able to converse or understand texts? Are you interested in learning more about German culture? Do you want to stay updated on upcoming events, such as the Oktoberfest in September? Explore the resources provided by the **Germanic-American Institute** in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Are you interested in German peasant costumes for genealogy research? These costumes can provide valuable insights into the social status of individuals, their daily lives, and the seasonal events and celebrations they participated in. **This article** delves deeper into the subject of German costumes. Additionally, **Digital Commonwealth** provides incredible hand-drawn portraits of traditional German clothing.

If your German ancestor resided in Galicia (Galizien, under Austrian rule), which is now in Poland and Ukraine, please check **this index** of village lineage books for relevant names.

## Places to Visit



### Visit Us!

Consider visiting the Midwest Genealogy Center! The 15th anniversary presents a wonderful opportunity to pay homage to our remarkable institution, which happens to be the largest freestanding public genealogy library in the U.S. Plus, if you were captivated by the image of the German bible mentioned earlier and shared on MGC's Facebook page, there is a possibility that your family may be mentioned in our extensive **Family Bible Collection**. Feel free to explore our online **archival collection** or visit us in person.

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### Visit Museum Village in Hösseringen, Lower Saxony, Germany

This special place lies south of Hamburg, in an area known as Lüneburg Heath. Discover the intriguing characteristics and histories of the houses, which were relocated from the Uelzen district in the former duchy of Brunswick-Lüneburg. Immerse yourself in the enchanting sights of shepherds tending to their flocks and timber-framed open hall houses. The museum's centerpiece is the Brümmerhof Hall House, a singular farmhouse (Einzelhof) dating back to the early 17th century. Additionally, the museum boasts an archive that primarily focuses on the Lüneburg region. Even if your family's records are not found within the archives, you will gain valuable insights into their way of life by exploring the historical structures of the past.

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## Fun and Learning

**Little Pearls from the Books**  
*Germans in America* by Walter D. Kamphoefner, 2021  
(Chapter 5, Pages 115 – 116)

*"In April 1864, shortly before launching his Wilderness Campaign, General Ulysses S. Grant wrote a relative in the St. Louis area who was minding their children while his wife Julia was away. Missing his family, the indulgent father requested, "I wish you would urge [the children] all to join in letters to me every week....How do Buck and Nellie progress in their German? I hope they will place me in their debt, the fine gold watches I promised when they learned to speak the language." The children in question were aged nine and eleven.*

*On June 4, the day after the notoriously bloody, futile Union assault at Cold Harbor, Grant again broached the subject to "My Dear little Nelly... I expect be the end of the year you and Buck will be able to speak German and then I will have to buy you those nice gold watches I promised." It was not recorded whether the children ever collected their watches. But more significant is the fact that that a man of Grant's prominence, with a lot of other pressing matters on his mind, thought it valuable for his children to learn German."*

What is this German word? Dust off that German dictionary from your shelf. Some words deserve to be repeated as they constantly show up in the records. This time they start with "Ge"

Ge \_ o r e \_ (Born)  
Ge \_ a u \_ t (Christened, Baptized)  
Ge \_ e \_ t (Married)  
Ge \_ o r \_ e \_ n (Died)  
Ge f \_ \_ I e n (Killed in action, died in battle)  
Ge s c h \_ \_ \_ e n (Divorced)

Proverb:  
**"Merk auf die Stimme tief in dir; Sie ist des Menschen Kleinod hier."** – Matthias Claudius, German poet and journalist (1740 – 1815)

Listen to the voice deep within you; It is the jewel of mankind.

Thank you. Danke schön.

Iveta B.