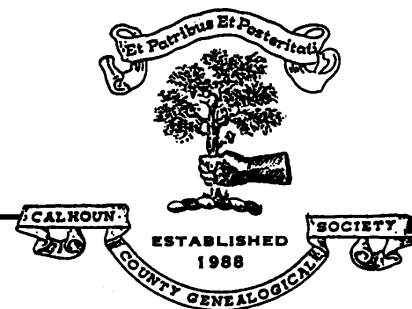


Generations

Vol. 14, No. 4 ■ March/April 2002 ■ the newsletter of the Calhoun County (Michigan) Genealogical Society



Learn how the Underground Railroad affected one man's family history

Rev. Richard Hawks has traced and traveled his family's migration route to Canada via the Underground Railroad. He'll share his roots in a presentation that will help us all learn to tell our family stories, putting flesh on the bones of genealogy. The program will be held April 23 at 7 p.m. in the B.E. Henry Building in Marshall.

Rev. Hawks has served as a minister for the Community of Christ for 30 years. He covers Michigan with emphasis on young adult and campus ministries, as well as administrative support staff. A Marshall native, he graduated from Marshall High School in 1965. ■

Volunteers needed for probate record microfilming

CCGS and the county Probate Court have formed a partnership that should help the county and genealogists alike. For every roll of microfilm that society volunteers help create, the court will give one roll to the society. CCGS plans to donate the rolls to Willard Library where researchers can gain free access.

The partnership came out of the society's desire for old probate records be more easily available to researchers, and a need for the court to have records microfilmed. CCGS worked with Cindy Rude, the county's new probate court registrar, to set it up.

Volunteers will learn how to microfilm records before starting on the project. Training and microfilming will be completed at the Probate Court office in Battle Creek. To learn more or to volunteer some time, contact Maureen Vire, CCGS vice president, at (616) 969-9737 or mvire53@aol.com. ■

FOCUS THIS ISSUE: *Germany*

In future issues we'll focus on **family reunions** and **military research**. Have a story, tip or idea to share? Contributions are always encouraged. Write to: Sue Stuever Battel, Editor, SueBattel@aol.com or 21174 F Dr. S., Marshall, MI 49068. ■



Finding your place in the 1930 census

by Sue Stuever Battel, editor

One of the most exciting genealogical events of the decade took place this month, but there is one caveat. While 1930 federal census was released to the public, it is not indexed except for 12 southern states. Researchers must know in which enumeration district their ancestor lived and which roll of microfilm to view. Here's help.

Locating the enumeration district

If you're lucky enough to seek an ancestor who lived in a rural township, just knowing the township name will allow you to read through the census until you find your person. But if your ancestor lived in a more heavily populated area, you need to narrow down the search. To do so, you must know the ancestor's address as of the census date.

First, check a city directory. Be sure to check multiple years, such as 1930 and 1931, in case the ancestor's address changed by the time the directory was printed. Most libraries have local directories.

Once you have the address, find it on a map. Assuming the address still exists, you can locate it on a contemporary map using a free Internet service. I like Maps On Us <<http://www.mapsonus.com>> or MapQuest <<http://www.mapquest.com>>. Type in the address and you'll get a map.

Now that you know the location, compare it to the 1930 enumeration district map.

Finding the right microfilm reel

With the enumeration district (ED) number handy, the next step is to determine which reel to borrow, buy or rent.

- Start at <<http://1930census.archives.gov/>>, a U.S. Census Bureau web site. Click on "continue."
- Enter the ancestors's state and press "continue."
- Enter a county name or a city name. Press "continue."

The resulting page will list each enumeration district in the city or county, along with the corresponding microfilm reel numbers.

While finding an ancestor this way certainly isn't as easy as checking the Soundex indexes available for other census years, it is not impossible and the rewards are great. ■

1877 History of Calhoun County. See page 48 for details.

Cemeteries of Eckford Twp., Calhoun County, MI. 110 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$10.

Clarence Township Cemeteries in Calhoun Co., MI. Clarence Center, Dyer, Hunt, Krenerick and Nichols, 66 pages, more than 2,100 names, \$8.

Transcriptions of Cemeteries of Convis Twp., Calhoun Co., MI. Austin and Porter. 35 pages, more than 1,000 names, \$6.

Every-Name Index for Generations, the newsletter of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society. August 1988–June 1995, 48 pages, more than 2,800 names, \$5.

Marriage Records of Calhoun County, MI, 1836–1890. 248 pages, indexed, \$18.50.

Clarendon Twp. Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI. Bentley Corners (East Clarendon), West Clarendon, St. Joseph and Cooks Prairie, 188 pages, \$15. Purchase Bentley only for \$3.

Lee Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI. Lee Center, Partello and Rice Creek, 75 pages, \$8.

Tekonsba Township Cemeteries, Calhoun Co., MI. Riverside, Windfall and MacFadden, more than 3,600 names, 221 pages, \$18.50.

To order, please send a check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. Prices include shipping. Michigan residents add 6 percent sales tax. ■

Calhoun County Genealogical Society

The purposes of the Calhoun County Genealogical Society (CCGS) are:

- to gather and preserve information of genealogical value.
- to encourage the deposit of such information in suitable depositories.
- to aid genealogists in the study of family history through the exchange of knowledge.
- to publish and promote Calhoun County and other genealogical materials.

The CCGS is a nonprofit, state-chartered organization. Individuals, libraries or societies may apply for membership. Annual dues for the year beginning Sept. 1 are \$12. Memberships are accepted year-round; dues received after May 1 will pay membership for the following year. Members receive the newsletter **Generations** six times per year. Meetings are held at 7 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of each month at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall, *unless otherwise specified*. No meetings are held in July, August or December. Programs are free and open to the public.

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All are invited to submit articles to the **Generations** newsletter editor, according to the editorial calendar.

Issue	Date	Articles due	Theme
Vol. 14, No. 5	May/June 2002	May 1	Family Reunion Season
Vol. 14, No. 6	July/August 2002	June 1	The U.S. Military and Conflicts

Permission is granted to reprint articles unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the source. Copies of individual pages from back issues of **Generations** are \$1 for the first page, 50 cents for each additional.

CCGS ■ P.O. Box 879 ■ Marshall, MI 49068 ■ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~micalhou/ccgs.htm>
CCGS e-mail list: Send a message to calhouncountys@onelist.com with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.
Member: **National Genealogical Society ■ Michigan Genealogical Council ■ Federation of Genealogical Societies**

Cemetery project plans for 2002

Editor's note: Ruth and other faithful sleuths have volunteered countless hours to transcribe Calhoun County cemeteries and publish the results. The society makes the information available to genealogists as part of its mission.

by Ruth Kaiser, CCGS cemetery project chair

We are about ready to shift gears from our winter process of checking our work to our fair-weather process of recording information in the cemeteries. Last year's transcriptions have been entered on the computer and volunteers are proofreading the work.

Cemetery transcriptions for many townships are almost complete and material from other sources will be added. These will be compared with the volunteers' readings so we

can recheck any variances. At the same time, we recheck the cemetery layout — the most difficult task in our older cemeteries.

The CCGS board has decided to make each booklet the same format and is helping your processor to make some changes. There is also an attempt to reduce the number of pages to make the material more affordable. Through two meetings in late fall, we worked out some details.

Soon it will be back to rechecking, along with volunteers, with an emphasis on the large Hicks Cemetery in Pennfield Township.

Volunteers needed

I am especially looking for one or more volunteers to schedule cemetery readings. One overseeing the process would be best, but each

township could have a supervisor. Please give this serious thought. It could be done from your home if you feel unable to do the stooping required for reading the markers.

Most small cemeteries have been done. Athens Township and some cemeteries in Battle Creek Township remain, which I have decided someone else will need to oversee. I hope to be able to continue with the computer input, but hope I can work with others to be familiar with the transcriptions input.

If you are interested in helping with any part of this work, please contact me. I will be at the April 23 CCGS meeting, or you can reach me by phone at (517) 857-2747, e-mail at ruthmary46@yahoo.com or by snail-mail at 16540 Devereaux Rd., Albion, MI 49224. ■

Member queries

If you can help, please respond directly to the writer and copy your reply to CCGS Research Committee, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068 or vpotts1548@aol.com.

Looking for information on the following: John Henry SCHULTZ, b. Aug. 18, 1903. Siblings: Leonard and Millard SCHULTZ. Parents: Jacob SCHULTZ and Mary.

Richard Schultz
2500 Westgate
Pendleton, OR 97801

■ ■ ■

My great grandmother Lucy Helen TAFT was b. Aug. 7, 1840 in Battle Creek. I am looking for confirmation of this. Does a Bible exist that shows this record? Her mother, Sarah Wheeler RISDON, was a schoolteacher from NY. Father Aaron (Aron) TAFT was a farmer. Sister Sarah was b. Nov. 1843 in MI, county unk. Lucy was married in IL and her parents in VT.

Joanne, bortniakjm@qwest.com
or send mail to CCGS, address above ■

Seats still available for Fort Wayne bus trip

Some seats are still available for the CCGS bus trip to the country's second-largest genealogical library. The trip to Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind., takes place Saturday, May 18.

The bus will leave the parking lot of Bill Knapp's Restaurant in Battle Creek (just off I-94 at the Capital Avenue exit) at 8 a.m. At 8:20 a.m. the bus will pick up passengers at the Kmart parking lot in Marshall (near the Michigan Avenue exit off I-69). Arrival time at the library is 9 a.m. Indiana time/10 a.m. Michigan time. Meals and snacks for the bus are on your own. We will depart the library at 6 p.m. sharp, Indiana time, and arrive back in Marshall at 8:40 p.m. — in Battle Creek at 9 p.m.

Cost is \$19 per person and reservations are first come, first served. ■



Bus trip reservation

Bus Trip to Allen County Public Library ■ May 18, 2002
reservation due April 31

Name(s) _____

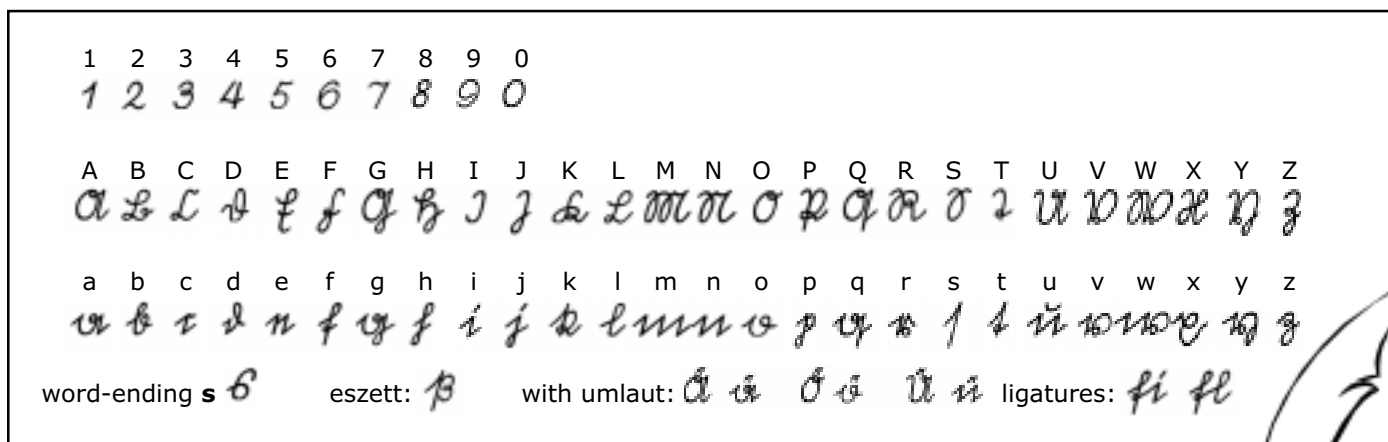
Address _____

Phone _____

Pickup location: ☐ Battle Creek ☐ Marshall

Number of people _____

Make check payable to Calhoun County Genealogical Society for \$19 per person. Mail to: Bus Trip, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068.



Reading old German script

by Anita Stuever, CCGS president

If you've been lucky enough to hold a sample of your ancestor's handwriting in your own hands, you know the thrill of connecting with someone who shared your bloodline and held the same thing in his or her hands. You also know that reading it presents a challenge.

Just as challenging are census, civil, church and Bible records. And the older the record, the more difficult to decipher. Until a century ago, spelling was phonetic. With no rules, people wrote what a word sounded like to them.

General tips

German script chart in hand, consider these tips as you pore over your handwritten documents.

- Create a handwriting chart with a complete alphabet based on the writer's style. Include uppercase (capital) and lowercase letters. When you can't decipher certain words, compare each letter to the created alphabet.
- Use a magnifying glass.
- If the record is flat and not too fragile, increase the size of the script using a photocopier.
- Try finding the same name, word, or letter elsewhere in the document.
- Look for the letters that are

most similar to their Latin script counterparts — usually capital A, I, L, O, R, U, Z, and lowercase b, f, j, l and z.

- Become familiar with various combinations of letters.
- Remember that all nouns are capitalized in German.
- Try breaking long words into smaller units, usually syllables.
- Learn to recognize the basic terms used that occur frequently in German genealogy.
- Compare the document to other documents in German script.
- Practice writing in German script until you can read word by word instead of letter by letter.

Specific tips

You may encounter German documents written or typeset in Gothic style (sometimes called Fraktur). But more likely you'll need to read some variation of Sütterlin or Kurrent handwriting, commonly referred to as Old German Script. Following are tips for reading that sometimes beautiful, but difficult to read, handwriting from the modern Latin characters we use.

Lowercase f f h/ mid-word s/ word-ending s6

An h has a looped tail, whereas an f does not. German script has one s for use within a word and a different one for use at the end of a word.

Lowercase e n r u o

A handwritten u usually has an ü-bogen above it, which looks like a smiley-mouth. An n does not. A straight line was often placed over an m or n as shorthand for a double letter, so n can be confused with u if the line is not very straight. An e is similar to a thin n, and an r has a little hook at the end. Lowercase o is often open at the top, as above, but don't mistake it for an e.

Lowercase g p q

The letters g, p and q all descend below the line, but the tail of a q generally is not looped. Above the line, the p sometimes lacks a closed loop (although it is closed in the above sample). The letter y is rarely used in German, so you're more likely to find a p.

Lowercase c i

A dot over the i is the only thing that distinguishes it from a c. Sometimes the c has a little extra hook at the top, as above. A lowercase c rarely appears alone; it usually appears in ch or ck.

Upper- and lowercase H h Y y Z z

The y is rarely used, in uppercase or lowercase. Sometimes a capital H appears as a thicker and more elaborate form of its lowercase version.

continued on p. 51

How to find your ancestors on a map

by Anita Stuever, CCGS president

If your ancestor said — at different times of her life — that she was from Prussia, Silesia, Brandenburg and Poland, she wasn't necessarily schizophrenic. She was probably right on all counts.

When you locate your ancestor's home, you'll probably also find the seat of the *kreis* (county), *oberamt* (subdivision of a *kreis*) or *regierungsbezirk* (larger administrative district). (Not all of the German Empire had the same subdivisions.) This may give you ideas about where records might be obtained.

Though boundaries, place names or both may have changed, such changes needn't stop your search in its tracks. Places may still be found on old maps. Knowing when your ancestor was in the place provides a clue.

Maps — especially topographical ones — can even give clues to patterns of settlement and movement. Mountains may have impeded migration or access to certain areas. A river may have impeded migration by preventing crossing — or aided it by providing easy transportation downstream.

So, once you've named your ancestor's place of origin, how can you locate it on a map?

Finding a village, town or city

Calle is a global gazetteer, a directory of nearly three million of the world's cities and towns, sorted by country and linked to a map for each town. Find the gazetteer for Germany, with maps of more than 83,000 towns and cities, at <<http://www.calle.com/world/germany/index.html>>. The alphabetical listing is easy to navigate. Click the town name and you'll get the place name, latitude, longitude, altitude and great maps, as well as links to more

information related to the village.

ShtetlSeeker Town Search

<<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/loctown.htm>> is an excellent way to find a village. This site includes 24 countries in Central and Eastern Europe, including Germany. It's especially useful for those who have a town name in former German areas now located in Poland, Russia or France. You can search using Soundex, precise spelling or the first few letters of the location name. First, type in the place name and narrow the geographic search if you wish. The results give you the present-day town name (likely several towns with the same name), even if no longer in Germany. It also gives the latitude and longitude, the current country and the distance from a reference location you can specify. Clicking on the latitude and longitude numbers gives you a MapQuest map.

Even if you can't find your tiny village on a modern map you can find nearby villages. You can search for all towns within a specified distance of map coordinates that you specify. The **ShtetlSeeker Radius Search** is found at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/ShtetlSeeker/locrad.htm>>.

If your ancestors were from Ostpreussen (East Prussia), Westpreussen (West Prussia), Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania (Pommern) or Schlesien (Silesia), their villages might not be in modern-day Germany. In that case, use Kartenmeister to locate the village. If the village is in modern-day Germany, use GEOserv. Try both if you aren't sure.

Kartenmeister <<http://www.kartenmeister.com>> can find nearly 60,000 towns east of the Oder and/or Neisse rivers, which bordered the eastern provinces of



the German Empire before World War I and form the eastern border of today's Germany. This database includes more than 20,000 place names that were changed at least once, and 5,500 changed thrice. It also lists places such as mills, battlefields and named trees. You can search the database by German name, an older German name, the *kreis* (county), the next larger city, or by today's Polish, Russian or Lithuanian name.

GEOserv is a German town locator at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~wggerman/resources/geoserv.htm>>. The service gives you place names, administrative divisions, latitude and longitude, postal codes, population and other information about towns in Germany today. The database of about 50,000 entries is based on the German *Postleitzahlenbuch* (postal code book). You can search using either the German or Polish name, by prefix, substring or Soundex. Follow instructions at the site explaining how to send an e-mail query to the GEOserv computer, which responds by e-mail automatically and instantly. Often several villages with the same name are returned, so descriptions are

continued

A German timeline

1200
Catholic
monastery
records begin
for monks
and nobility

1250
Surnames
established



1500
Limited Catholic
and Protestant
records kept

1545
Council of Trent mandates
start of Roman Catholic
Parish Registers (baptisms
and marriages)

Data from Washtenaw County, Michigan Relatives by Terry Stollsteimer, Ann Arbor: Braun-Brumfield, Inc.

Map, *continued from previous page* added to distinguish among places with the same or similar names. Returns give the county (*kreis*), the *regierungsbezirk* (or R.B., another administrative unit) and the land — one of the 16 federal states that make up the Federal Republic of Germany. Unfortunately, the database contains only about 15 percent of places. It does not include areas that were part of East Germany before 1945 that may now be in Poland, the Czech Republic or Russia. Likewise, Austria, Alsace-Lorraine and Switzerland are not in the database.

Post U <http://www.uniserv-online.de/OE/demo_e.html> is an address checker for German addresses. It's actually a software demonstration for a Uniserv product, but using the demo gives valuable information. Not all towns in Germany are represented, but it is worth checking. Once on the site, click on the German flag, then enter as much information as you can into fields for postcode, city, street and address number. Because I know a family address in 1927, I entered the town — Langendreer, and street address — 115 Oberstrasse. I didn't have a postcode. The return gave me postcode — 44892, city name — Bochum, city district — Langendreer, former city name — none, regional details — Nordrhein-Westfalen (current federal state) — current street address — Oberstr. 115.

Once you've found the modern-day village name and are ready to find it on a modern map, choose one of several Internet mapping sites, where you can find even the tiniest villages. All are similar, allowing you to copy, e-mail, customize, save, download and print maps. Before printing, be sure to click the "printer-friendly" button. A color printer results in maps far superior to those printed on black-and-white printers. Most mapping sites allow you to change the size of the map, re-center and zoom in. Although you can enter a complete address, you can get results with only the village name.

MultiMap <<http://www.multimap.com/map/places.cgi?client=europe&db=ap&overviewmap=ap>> With its large maps in bright, clear colors, MultiMap is my favorite mapping site, particularly for European maps.

Other mapping sites are:

Expedia <<http://www.expedia.com/pub/agent.dll?qscr=mmfn>> Besides regular political maps, you can get a topographic map by selecting World, although the top-ographic maps don't zoom in very close. Type a town name, administrative division or land feature, such as the name of a castle or river.

MapBlast <<http://www.mapblast.com/>> MapBlast maps are smaller than others, but its new feature, LineDrive Directions, is useful.

MapQuest <<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/>> This is a good mapping site, but the drop-down list of countries is cumbersome. Once you have a map, click on Big Map to get a better view.

How far is it?

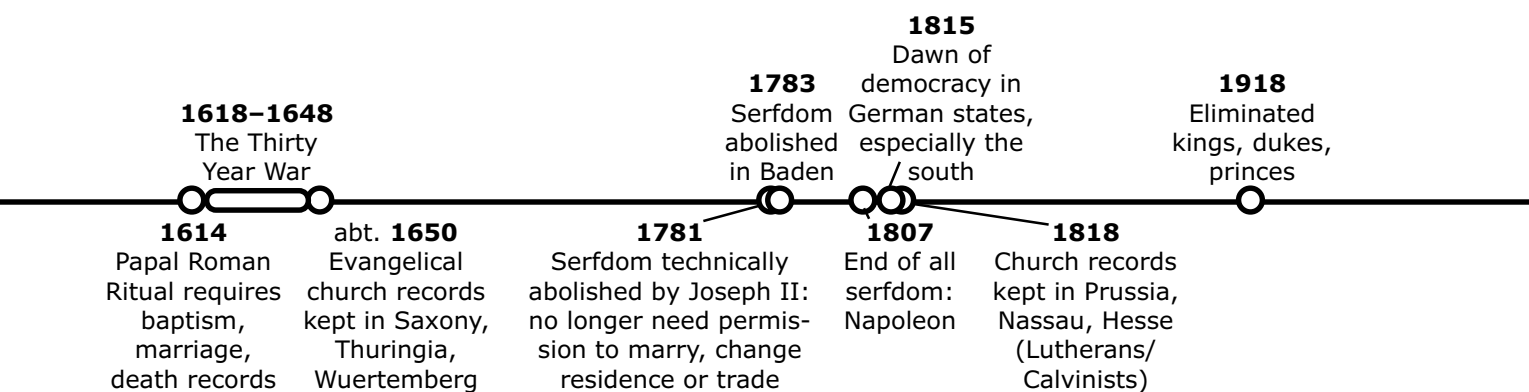
If you want to see a city's relationship to another, use the "driving directions" feature of your favorite mapping site. It will give you the distance, as well as directions and travel time.

For a quick and easy way to find the distance between two cities, use **How Far Is It** <<http://www.indo.com/distance/>>. This service takes the latitude and longitude of two places and calculates the distance between them (as the crow flies).

Finding old German maps

If you prefer printed maps, order one with an *ortsregister* — an index to villages, towns and cities — through your favorite bookstore. The **ADAC Maxi Atlas for Germany**, with its scale of 1:200,000, is recommended. **Falk** offers maps surrounding most major cities, with a scale of 1:20,000.

Antique and vintage maps may be found by searching online auction sites or used bookstores. Ancestry and the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation sell good map reproductions. Many web sites have maps, new and old.



Many Internet sites show old German maps, but it's unlikely that you'll be able to read the names of small villages — if they're even shown. The online mapping systems explained earlier are your best bet for locating small villages. My favorite sites for German maps follow.

<http://home.mmccable.com/bornagain/hessen/hesse.htm>
Nine maps are pictured on this page, along with links to dozens of other German historical and modern maps of varying quality. The site's organization leaves something to be desired, so perform searches for the place names you seek, remembering to check spelling variations.

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/~feefhs/maps/indexmap.html>
The Federation of East European Family History Societies (FEEFHS) has many good quality historical maps of Germany. This well-organized page is an index to myriad European maps.

<http://www8.informatik.uni-erlangen.de/html/wwp/deutschland1000.html>
This URL (Internet address) takes you to a historical map of Germany in the year 1000. These maps are not the highest quality, but you can see maps for several other years by replacing the year 1000 in the URL with 1190, 1378, 1547, 1648, 1789 or 1815.

<http://www.atsnotes.com/other/germany-1917.JPG>

A good map of the German Empire in 1917.

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/maps/posen.jpg>
A good, relatively quick-loading map of Posen and Prussia in the eastern German Empire of 1882.

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/maps/silesia.jpg>
Silesia in the eastern German Empire of 1882.

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/maps/alsace.jpg>
Alsace-Lorraine in the western German Empire of 1882.

<http://ihr.sas.ac.uk/maps/webimages.html#europe>
You can get through this daunting list of early map sites by using your Internet browser's search feature. The myriad links are arranged geographically, but are not indexed.

It's fun to superimpose maps from various time periods to help you see boundary changes over the years. Germany has unique coastline, islands and peninsulas to aid you in superimposing one map over another. Just resize one first to make them the same size. You can do this with image-editing software such as Adobe Photoshop — or with a copier that can reduce or enlarge. Hold the copies together against a window. Pinpoint the place of origin and you'll see why Great Aunt Auguste could have been from Prussia, Silesia, Brandenburg and Poland. ■

Reading script, *continued from p. 48*

Both uppercase **Z** and lowercase **z** are similar to the modern Latin forms.

Uppercase **K** **R**

The **K** is formed starting at the upper right, whereas the **R** starts at the upper left.

Uppercase **B** **C** **L**

Uppercase **B** has a little loop at the end that does not appear in the **L**. The **L**, with its loop, is more elaborate than the **C**.

Uppercase **O** **S**

Notice the curl at the top of the **O**. The line forming **S** crosses near its beginning and end.

Uppercase **A** **U**

The beginning of the **U** is curled downward. The **A** is closed at its top.

Uppercase **I** **J** **T**

In early records the **I** and **J** are identical; later records show the **J** as a longer form of the **I**. When followed by a vowel, the letter is **J** and when followed by a consonant, it is **I**. The bottom of the **T** is crossed or looped.

Eszett **ß**

The eszett, used only as lowercase, never appears at the beginning of a word. When transcribing, make it a double **s** (**ss**).

Numerals

Although the nine is rounder, most German numerals look like their modern Latin counterparts. The one and seven can be confused, but the one always has a sharply angled hook at the top. The seven is usually crossed European style. ■

Typing German characters on a computer

by Anita Stuever, CCGS president

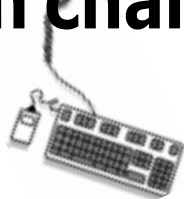
How do I get ö, Ä, é, or ß out of my English-language keyboard?

Macintosh operating system

The OPTION key allows you to easily create most foreign letters and symbols. The KEY CAPS feature makes it easy to see which keys produce which foreign symbols. To view KEY CAPS, click on your APPLE menu and select KEY CAPS. When the KEY CAPS window opens, press the OPTION key to see the special characters it produces. Pressing the SHIFT and OPTION keys simultaneously reveals another set of characters and symbols. The Macintosh operating system also includes a KEYBOARD option (under CONTROL PANELS in the APPLE menu) that allows you to select various foreign-language keyboards, including German and Swiss German.

PC running Windows operating system

It's not as easy to produce special characters with PCs, but it is possible if you know some special key-stroke combinations. The ALT key plus a four-digit code offers a way to type special characters. Always use the



numeric keypad at the right side of your extended keyboard.

These codes work with most fonts, but fonts do vary. Typing the new Euro monetary symbol may be especially troublesome.

German character	PC Code	Mac Code
ä	ALT +0228	OPTION+u, then a
Ä	ALT +0196	OPTION+u, then A
é	ALT +0233	OPTION+e
ö	ALT +0246	OPTION+u, then o
Ö	ALT +0214	OPTION+u, then O
ü	ALT +0252	OPTION+u, then u
Ü	ALT +0220	OPTION+u, then U
ß	ALT +0223	OPTION+S
€ (Euro)	ALT +0128	OPTION+shift+2
«	ALT +0171	OPTION+shift+\
»	ALT +0187	OPTION+\
„Xxxx...”	ALT +0132	OPTION+shift+W
...xxxx”	ALT +0147	OPTION+[
...xxxx”	ALT +0148	OPTION+shift+[

German translation

by Anita Stuever, CCGS president

If “wurde Witwe und kam nach Wdf zurück” means nothing to you, you may need some translation help. Help is available through several sources, some of which are free. You can opt for instant translation online, translation by real people through e-mail or personal contact the old-fashioned way.

Online translation

You can have your German documents translated by computer almost instantly. Just type or paste your text into a box provided at an online translation site. You can even have an entire web page translated by entering its URL (Internet address). Quality of the translation is limited, but often it is good enough for our purposes.

One such service, **Free**

Translation by SDL International, offers an easy way to insert characters with diacritical marks. The site is at <<http://www.freetranslation.com/>>.

AltaVista Translations at <<http://babelfish.altavista.com/translate.dyn>> uses Systran for your free translation. If you need a more powerful translator for better results, you can buy more powerful Systran software from this site.

By humans via e-mail

Genealogy.net provides this a German-English site for translating genealogy documents at <<http://www.genealogienetz.de/gene/misc/translation.html>>. Follow the instructions and you can have short items (fewer than 250 characters) translated by a volunteer free of charge. Send your plain-text item in the body of an e-mail message. Longer documents are referred to a

professional, who will contact you and advise you of the charges.

Multilingual Internet has a **FreeTranslation Corner** at <<http://w3.chiba-fjb.ac.jp/users/komei/komei-e.html>>. Use it to e-mail short phrases of up to 200 characters. Volunteers return the translated phrase by e-mail.

Professional translators

The Federation of East European Family History Societies has a list of professionals at <<http://feefhs.org/frg/frg-pt.html>>. Some list e-mail addresses. Perform a search for “translat” to find translator or translation.

Within Calhoun County we have a translator whose specialty is old German script. **Erika Bullmann Flores** of TransLanguage can be reached at ebflores@tir.com or P.O. Box 241, Albion, MI 49224, (517) 629-6790.

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The German language

by Anita Stuever, CCGS president

“A gifted person ought to learn English (barring spelling and pronouncing) in 30 hours, French in 30 days, and German in 30 years.”

— Mark Twain, in *The Awful German Language*, from his book, *A Tramp Abroad*

German is not an easy language to learn. Nouns and adjectives have three genders (masculine, feminine or neuter), four cases and a host of qualifying adjectives. Word endings vary depending on the way the word is used in the sentence. Some entire words change depending on how they are used. Plural words are usually formed by adding -er, -en, or -e, which may slightly change the vowel.

Germans apparently love compound words. “Some German words are so long that they have a perspective,” Twain wrote. “These things are not words, they are alphabetical processions.” Run across the word *Stadtverordnetenversammlungen* and you’ll probably have to look up each part separately. But Twain was not one to complain without suggesting a solution, “I would do away with those great long compounded words; or require the speaker to deliver them in sections, with intermissions for refreshments.”

Spelling

Spelling was not standardized until about a century ago, so you will undoubtedly find variations. Dialect affects spelling, as well. German dialects include High German, Low German and many others. Most of us have stories of family surname changes. Some changes were caused by American spelling of German pronunciation. Germans pronounce **w** as **v**, for example, and **v** as **f**.

German has three vowel sounds that English doesn’t have. Indeed, English speakers have trouble even

hearing the difference. The three sounds are represented by umlauts (ä, ö, ü). An umlaut is a diacritical mark, with two dots over a vowel, as in the word *schön*. The second vowel influences the pronunciation of the first vowel. Because modern typewriters do not have umlaut characters, an e is inserted after the vowel that had the umlaut. Thus *schön* becomes *schoen*. On tombstones or signs, one may see another way to designate umlaut characters — with the end of the o and the beginning of the e overlapped (œ).

Following are letters and groups of letters you may find interchanged, whether capitalized or lowercased.

German	English
Ä / ä	ae / AE
Ö / ö	oe / OE
Ü / ü	ue / UE
A	E
B	BH
C	G or K
CZ	SCH
D	DH or TH
F	PH or W
G	GH or K
IG	ISCH or ICH
K	H, CK, CH or KCH
P	B, PF, F or FF
ß	SS
S	Z or SS
SCH	TSCH
T	D, DT, TH
T	Z or SS
Ü	IE
V	W or F
W	FF
X	CHS
Y	I or J
Z	TZ

Also consider the possible misreading of the old German script, which may cause you to mistake an **s** for an **f**, as well as several other possible errors. (See related article, “Reading old German script.”)

Capitalization

In German, all the Nouns (a person, place or thing) begin with a capital letter. Don’t mistake the name of a thing for a surname or place name. German names often do mean something, and this helps deceive you. If you find Tannenbaum, for example, don’t assume it is a surname; it could be a reference to trees.

Alphabetical order

Umlauts and eszettts may be alphabetized in various ways, so if your surname contained one of those characters and you don’t see it on a list, look further. Ä (ä), Ö (ö), Ü (ü), and ß. may be alphabetized as if they are a, o, u, and ss. Many dictionaries and gazetteers, however, alphabetize these characters as if they were ae, oe, ue, and ss. ■

Translation, continued from p.52 Dictionaries

Several foreign-language dictionaries are available online. One is at <<http://dictionaries.travlang.com/GermanEnglish/>>. Another is at <<http://www.iee.et.tu-dresden.de/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/wernerr/search.sh>>. You can go from English to German or German to English.

Don’t overlook the possibility of sending a request to one of your German e-mail lists. You’ll likely find a list member willing to translate a short piece. Do not take advantage of people or clog up the listserv by sending long documents. And remember that most listservs cannot accept attachments, so put the text in the body of your message. If you have handwritten script that you can’t read, you may get a list member to volunteer to receive a scanned document privately and do the favor off-list.

So what does “*wurde Witwe und kam nach Wdf zurück*” mean? Became a widow and went to Walddorf, which applies to my gggg grandmother Barbara Walz. ■

Shareware program improves searching of Hamburg Emigration List

The **Emigration Lists of Hamburg** web site allows genealogists to search for people who emigrated through the port of Hamburg, Germany. By entering a last name, and optionally the first initial or name and gender, you can freely view some of the information from the massive Hamburg Emigration database. The Hamburg site <<http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>> then offers the ability to view the fully extracted information for a fee.

Eventually this database will contain data for 1850 through 1934.

However, searching the Hamburg site requires you to know how your ancestor spelled their name.

To help improve searching the Hamburg Emigration List, a new shareware program has been written for PCS only. This software generates a list of possible spelling permutations based upon the following:

- Alternate spellings based upon confusing letters like **i**, which could have been entered into the

database as an **l**, **j** or maybe even **y**.

- Alternate spellings based upon the American Soundex system.
- Spellings based upon the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system.

By simply clicking on the list of possible spellings of the surname you are interested in, you can quickly search the Hamburg database.

The program is available for download at <<http://erosenbaum.netfirms.com/hamburg.shtml>>. ■ *Edward Rosenbaum, the shareware creator, is an active genealogist from Bergenfield, NJ.*

German World War II military burials

If your ancestor died during World War II and is interred in a military cemetery, search <<http://www.Volksbund.de>>. It may give the site of the burial. ■

1877 History of Calhoun County being reprinted

The society is pleased to announce a second reprinting of the *1877 History of Calhoun County, Michigan*. CCGS reprinted the work in 1998 and sold out. Orders are being accepted now for \$60. Michigan residents add \$3.30 for sales tax.

Originally published by L.H. Everts, Philadelphia, the book details the settlement of Calhoun County from the early 1830s to 1877. With more than 350 pages, it contains 212 written pages plus 108 pages of illustrations “descriptive of its scenery, palatial residences and public buildings, fine blocks and important manufactories,” as well as portrait sketches of many early county residents. The book also includes detailed written histories of each township and biographies of early inhabitants. The republished volume will include an every-name index, printed with permission of the compilers, CCGS members Susan Udell and Marcia Udell. ■

1877 History book order

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Mail form and payment to: Book Sales, Calhoun County Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 879, Marshall, MI 49068. \$60 per book + \$3.30 sales tax for Michigan residents

How can an *ortssippenbuch* help you?

O*rtssippenbuch*/ *ortssippenbucher* book/books, sometimes called family books or kinship books, list the lineage of all family groups for a specific town or village. Usually compiled from church records, the earliest entries stem from the time church records were first available — generally the late 1600s to early 1700s. Most cover up to the year 1900, and were compiled to prove to Hitler’s army that the families were not Jewish. ■

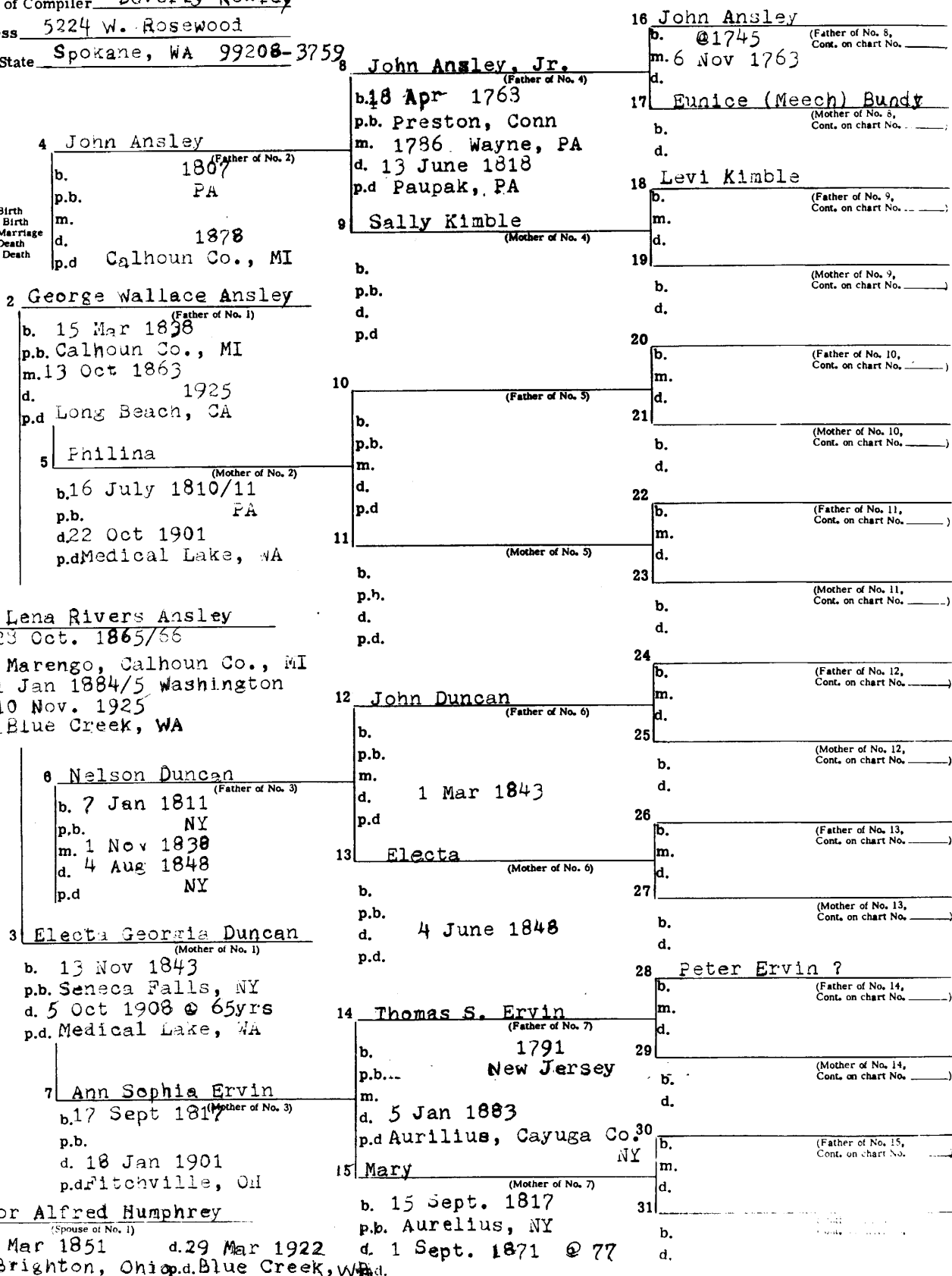
Why can’t I find a German obituary?

Obituaries in German newspapers do not exist like in the United States. Obits are published about locally famous or popular persons — not about “regular” people. In Germany, people publish *todesanzeigen*, that is, death announcements, with only basic data such as age, title, profession, the fact that he or she was a parent and about the family left behind. ■

A Member's Pedigree Chart: *Are you related?*

Name of Compiler Beverly Rowley
 Address 5224 W. Rosewood
 City, State Spokane, WA 99208-3759

b. Date of Birth
 p.b. Place of Birth
 m. Date of Marriage
 d. Date of Death
 p.d. Place of Death



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Generations

Calhoun County Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 879
Marshall, MI 49068

*Inside:
Researching German ancestors*

Calhoun County Genealogical Society **CALENDAR**

CCGS monthly meetings are typically held the fourth Tuesday of each month except July, August and December and are free and open to the public. Unless noted, meetings are held at 7 p.m. at the B.E. Henry Building, 615 S. Marshall St. in Marshall.

- April 23 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "The Underground Railroad — It's Impact on My Family History" with Rev. Richard Hawks, a former Marshall resident who traced and traveled the migration route to Canada via the Underground Railroad, 7 p.m.
- May 18 **CCGS bus trip:** Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Ind., *reservation form inside*
- May 28 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "The Grange, its Memorabilia and Records for Family Researchers" with Roland Winter.
- June 5 Willard Library: "Family History 101 — First Steps in Family History," Battle Creek, free for residents, 12–1 p.m., (616) 968-8166
- June 22 Library of Michigan Abrams Genealogy Series: "Genealogy and the Internet," Lansing, \$10, (517) 373-1300
- June 25 **CCGS monthly meeting:** "Calhoun County Civil War Soldiers at the Andersonville Prison" with Chris Czopek, a Civil War historian who visited the former Georgia prison to research soldiers from the Battle Creek-Marshall area.
- August 5 Willard Library: "Family History 101 — First Steps in Family History," Battle Creek, free for residents, 3–4 p.m., (616) 968-8166
- August 10 Library of Michigan Abrams Genealogy Series: "Military Records and Resources," Lansing, \$10, (517) 373-1300