



Penn Pal

Newsletter Sponsored by
the Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America

VOLUME 38 NUMBER 1 PAGE 1

ISSN 8756 811X

FEBRUARY 2018

18th Century PA German Naming Customs

by Charles F. Kerchner, Jr.

1. At baptism, if two given names were given to the child, the first given name was a spiritual, saint's name. The second given name was the secular or call name, i.e., "rufnamen", which is the name the person was known by, both within the family and to the rest of the world. This custom was originally adopted in Germanic and other regions in Europe from Roman Catholic tradition and continued by the Protestants in their baptismal naming customs. The immigrants from these areas brought the custom with them to Pennsylvania. The spiritual name, usually to honor a favorite saint, was used repeatedly and was usually given to all the children of that family of the same gender. Thus the boys would be Johan Adam Kerchner, Johan George Kerchner, etc., or Philip Peter Kerchner, Philip Jacob Kerchner, etc. Girls would be named Anna Barbara Kerchner, Anna Margaret Kerchner, etc., or Maria Elizabeth Kerchner, Maria Catherine Kerchner, etc. But after baptism, these people would not be known as John, Philip, Anna, or Maria, respectively. They would instead be known by what we would think of now as their middle name, which was their secular name. Thus these people would be known respectively as Adam, George, Peter, Jacob, Barbara, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Catherine in legal and secular records. For males, the saint's name Johan or John for Saint John was particularly heavily used by many German families, but also Saint George was used by some families for male children. The child's secular name was really John, if and only if, at baptism he was named only John, usually spelled as Johannes, with no second given name. The name John spelled as Johannes is rarely seen spelled as Johannes as a spiritual name, i.e., you rarely will see the name at baptism recorded as Johannes Adam Kerchner, etc. It is generally always found spelled as Johan or Johann when used as a spiritual name. Thus, you find the spiritual name of John recorded as Johan Adam Kerchner or Johann Adam Kerchner, not Johannes Adam Kerchner. Many researchers, new to German names, who find a baptism of an individual with a name such as Johan Adam Kerchner, thus mistakenly spend a lot of time looking for a John Kerchner, in legal and census records, when he was known after baptism, to the secular world, as Adam Kerchner. Also when reading county histories, etc., especially those written by individuals in the 20th century, and the author is referring to someone as John Kerchner, and you are not looking for a John Kerchner, but the history sounds otherwise familiar, further research may turn up that this person was really not a John Kerchner, but instead was someone else such as a Johan George Kerchner. You would thus find all his 18th century records recorded under the name George Kerchner and not John Kerchner and therefore after checking the data and correlating the facts you may find this is really a story about your missing George Kerchner.

As I said, the use of Saint John was the most common example of this custom, but Saint George was often used too. And thus one would find children in a family named George Heinrich, George Jacob, George Frederick, and of course simply George by itself. In these examples the secular or call names would respectively be Heinrich, Jacob, Frederick, and George.

This naming custom slowly died out in Pennsylvania during the later part of the 19th century, i.e. after the 1870's.

Classic examples of errors caused by not knowing of this naming custom are seen in a work titled "Genealogical and Biographical Annals of Northumberland County PA", It was published in 1911 by J.L.

Floyd & Company of Chicago IL. One specific example of this misnaming error in that work is on page 659 in the paragraph in the upper left column which begins, "John Wetzel ...". This person is not a Johannes or John Wetzel but is instead a Johan "George" Wetzel and is known secularly in all legal records as George Wetzel. He was married to Eva Elizabeth Kerchner. There are many more examples in this work and other county histories written by people unfamiliar with 18th Century PA German Naming Customs.

Modern computer programs which generate automatic reports and books from genealogical databases are compounding the confusion because these programs tend to generate paragraphs and sentences using the first given name only, which as I have explained was not the real call name of the person in the 18th century. Computer programs need to be modified to allow the user to select which given name of the full series of given names is the proper call name, i.e, the first or second given name. Or better yet, the program should have a setting whereby both given names are always used together in tandem in the computer generated text when referring to an individual. Oh well, one can only hope. :-)

2. The term "Senior" and "Junior" following a name did not necessarily imply a father and son relationship, as it does now. It could have been an uncle and nephew who had the same name and lived near each other. It could be a grandfather and a grandchild living together, where the father has died. It could even be two unrelated individuals with the same name but of different ages who lived near each other. So to help friends and business associates keep track of who-was-who in their discussions and records, they added on the "Sr." or "Jr." which merely meant the older and the younger, respectively.

3. The term cousin was widely used to mean an extended family, not the specific legal definition we understand it to be today.

4. It was a common practice in some German families to name the first born son after the child's paternal grandfather and the second born son after the maternal grandfather. Here are several more detailed naming patterns practiced by some families.

Pattern A

1st son after the father's father
2nd son after the mother's father
3rd son after the father
4th son after the father's father's father
5th son after the mother's father's father
6th son after the father's mother's father
7th son after the mother's mother's father

1st daughter after the mother's mother
2nd daughter after the father's mother
3rd daughter after the mother
4th daughter after the father's father's mother
5th daughter after the mother's father's mother
6th daughter after the father's mother's mother
7th daughter after the mother's mother's mother

Pattern B The pattern B for the sons is the same as the above but this pattern for daughters was different

1st daughter after the father's mother
2nd daughter after the mother's mother
3rd daughter after the mother
4th daughter after the mother's father's mother
5th daughter after the father's father's mother

Pattern C

1st son after the father's father
2nd son after the mother's father

3rd son after the father's oldest brother
4th son after the father

1st daughter after the father's mother
2nd daughter after the mother's mother
3rd daughter after the mother's oldest sister
4th daughter after the mother

Whenever a duplicate name occurred in these patterns, the next name in the series was used. If a child died in infancy the name was often reused for the next child of the same gender. A rare twist occurred sometimes. A child's name would be reused when a spouse died and the surviving spouse remarried and had more children with the next spouse. I found this happened when a spouse had children in Germany and then his spouse died. He left his children behind in Germany, possibly with the grandparents, and then emigrated to Pennsylvania. Sometime after arrival he remarried and named his eldest son born in Pennsylvania by his new spouse with the same name as the son still living in Germany. This results in two adult children with the same name.

If you are lucky enough to find a family with a lot of children, who strictly followed one of these naming patterns, then it may give you useful clues to determining the possible names of family members in earlier generations.

5. An "in", added to the end of a name, such as Anna Maria Kerchnerin, is a Germanic language name ending suffix denoting that the person is female. Thus the correct spelling of the last name in the example would be Kerchner, not Kerchnerin.

6. An "er" or "ner", added to a surname based on the name of something, denoted that the person worked with that object or at that occupation, if the main portion of the name was an object or an occupation, or that the person was from that geographic location or city, if the main portion of the name was a geographic location. Examples: Forst is German for a forest, thus Forster is one who worked in a forest or with woodlands or was from a forest. Berlin is a city in Germany, thus Berliner is one who is from Berlin. Since English is a Germanic rooted language we do the same thing in English, i.e., Paint(er), Garden(er), New York(er).

The suffixes mentioned in 5. and 6. above are compounded in many cases. The nouns Kirche and Kerche are German words for church. Thus for the surname spelled in an early record as Kerchnerin, i.e., Kerch(ner)(in) we have a family name which means a person who worked in or near a church, and this particular person is female.

7. Frequently the secular name given to the child was also the same as the secular given name of one of the baptismal sponsors for the child. Said baptismal sponsors frequently were close relatives but also could be close and trusted friends and neighbors.

8. In the last half of the 19th century after the first and middle name naming convention switched to the way it is today, some families gave all the children the same middle name, which was often the maiden name of the mother of the children. This same middle name, which if it was a surname, could also be that of a famous patriot, such as Benjamin Franklin or George Washington. But, if all the children had the same middle name, this could be a clue to the maiden name of their mother.

I hope that the above information will be of assistance to individuals researching 18th Century Pennsylvania-German names and records. Sorry, but I cannot give you specific advice or answer questions about individual German names. For information on specific names consult one of the following excellent books. For additional information on "German-American Names" consult the book by that name written by Professor George F. Jones. See link below. For additional information on German names, consult the 1967 book written by Hans Bahlow. The English version titled "Dictionary of German Names" was translated by Edda Gentry. It was published in 1993 by the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison WI. See link below.



What's in Your Name?

By Dennis Carroll

As infants you and I are in no position to tell the world our name. Newborn human babies are helpless and vulnerable, unable to walk or talk for months. Parents choose our name and it stays with us all our life unless we voluntarily change it. There is usually a reason why our parents choose the precise names given to us, and as we grow up and ask, they tell us the details.

For example, my full name is Dennis Jay Carroll. My father (John William Carroll) did not want me to be named John because so many of his school classmates were named John that it was confusing. Apparently, the “greatest generation” was no better at predictions than we are today. I never had a classmate named “John” until I was in college. There were three Dennis’ in my class all through elementary school. Now, in this country the name “Dennis” has not been in common use for decades.

Therefore, I was named after my grandfather (William Denney Carroll). I was very happy about that because he loved having my family and my Dad’s sister’s family living with them while post WWII housing was being built. He would read the newspaper to all four grandchildren in the house and three other cousins could join us and he would teach us numbers and letters and play ball with us.

Many years later it occurred to me that no one EVER called Grandpa “William” or “Bill” or “Billy” or “Willie”. All his friends and family called him “Doc”. For formal documents (like his paychecks) he was “W. D. Carroll”. This puzzled me because I was quite sure he was not technically a doctor of anything. He started working in a glass factory when he was 15 and then a cook for the Baltimore & Ohio RR at 20. He continued with the B&O for 50 years and 2 months.

About 25 years ago, while reading History of Washington County Pennsylvania, with Biographical Sketches; edited by Boyd Crumrine, 1872, on page 764 the very last biography for Donegal Twp is about Dr William Denney, who was a physician in Claysville. My grandfather’s parents and several of his siblings are buried in Claysville. It did not take much imagination to realize my grandfather was named after the local doctor who delivered him. Classmates could easily make the connection and “Doc” would be a fun nickname and an “inside joke”. This became the name he carried all his life. Ironically, his death at age 77 was the result of a medical error caused when a real doctor prescribed a medication which was noted on the chart as a known severe allergy.

My middle name, Jay, is my father’s nickname. My father’s twin brother was named “Tom” and their older sister was “Mary”. My father and his sister were raised in Washington, PA. Tom needed more care and was raised by Grandmother’s sisters in Indiana. Except for vacations, they were not reunited until the family moved back to Indiana for high school.

Because of genealogy, I now understand that my father’s paternal grandparents were named “Thomas” and “Mary”. His maternal grandparents were “John” and “Mary”. So now I am pretty sure where my grandparents got the names for their children.

I invite our members to submit stories of how you got your name. I love to hear these stories of people tying together names from the present and the past to express hope and love for the new generation. Let’s use PennPal to share your own precious (or strange!) stories.



Another Attic Treasure

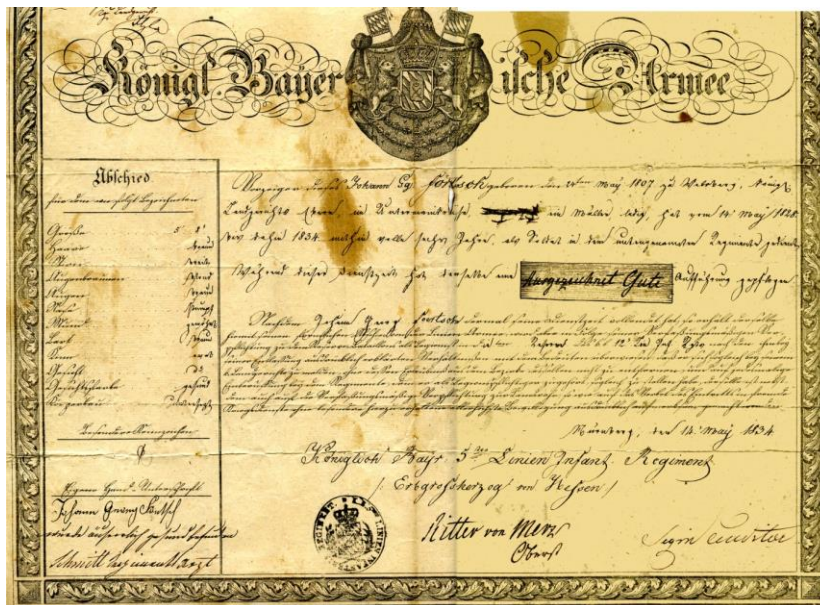
Bavarian Army Discharge for Georg Foertsch

By Janet E. Rupert

jerupert1@verizon.net

Last issue I wrote about a couple of the baptismal certificates unearthed from my mother-in-law's attic which provided documentation for several of my husband's lines. These ancestors were part of a Pennsylvania German community that established settlements in the valley where the modern day townships of Black Creek and Sugarloaf in Luzerne County adjoin Beaver and neighboring Main and Mifflin townships in Columbia County, and touch on Union, North Union and East Union townships in Schuylkill County.

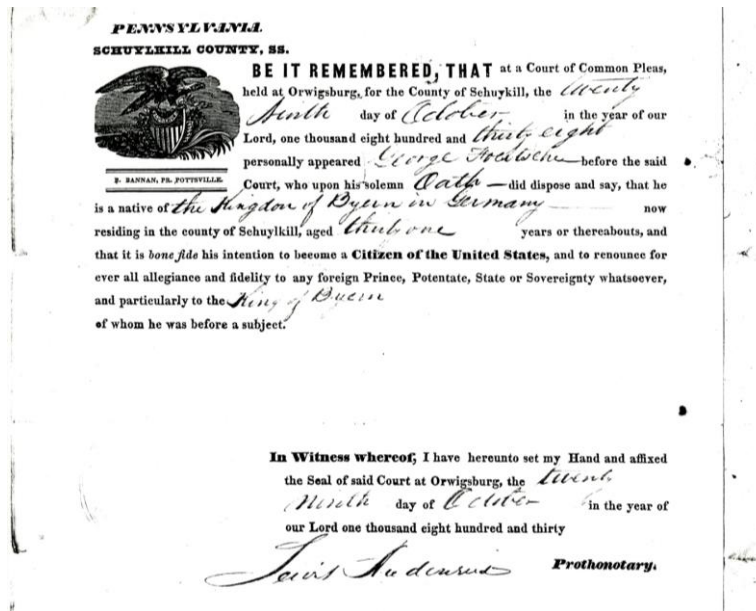
One of the most remarkable documents in the collection relates to a slightly later immigrant, who apparently had as yet unknown connections with these earlier settlers. Johann Georg Förtsch completed his mandatory military service in the Army of the King of Bavaria before emigrating. He brought his discharge paper with him, and somehow it has survived for 184 years, passing through the hands of various descendants.



The original document is about 16" by 12" and mostly handwritten in old German script, making it difficult to decipher. The following are the significant facts to the best of my reading:

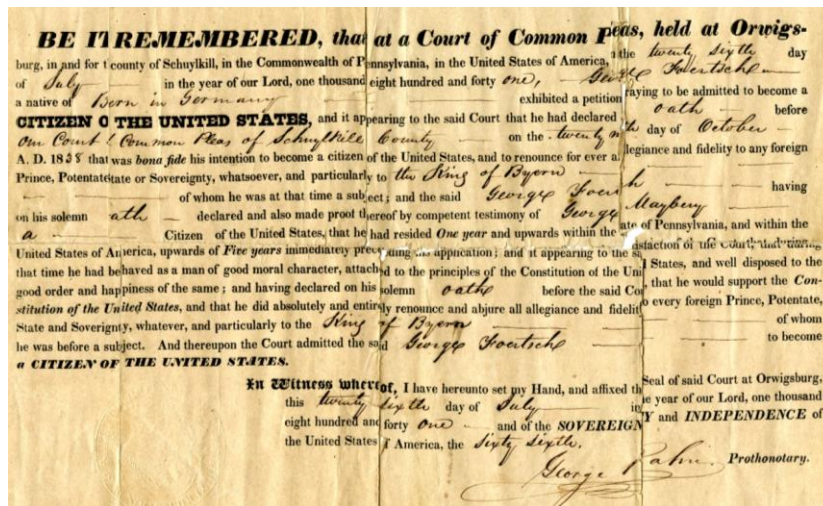
Johann Georg Förtsch was born 14 May 1807. His village of origin is perhaps Welsberg, in the Bavarian region of Ebern. He was a miller and single. He entered military service on 14 May 1828 [his 21st birthday] and was discharged at Nürnberg six years later on 14 May 1834. By today's roads, Welsberg is about 57 miles north of Nürnberg. The physical description indicates that he was 5'8" tall with brown hair. The certificate may include additional characteristics, but I have not yet deciphered the script, nor have I yet located records for Welsberg which might confirm my reading of his birthplace.

Georg apparently left Bavaria fairly soon after discharge. I have not yet determined his port of entry, but the fact that he settled in northern Schuylkill County among the German descendants already there, suggests he may have had a connection with someone already established in that community. Four and a half years after leaving the Bavarian Army, on 29 October 1838, he filed a petition at the Schuylkill County Court of Common Pleas in Orwigsburg declaring his intention to become a United States citizen and renouncing allegiance to the King of Bavaria:



According to the National Archives website, "As a general rule, naturalization was a two-step process that took a minimum of 5 years. After residing in the United States for 2 years, an alien could file a 'declaration of intent' (so-called 'first papers') to become a citizen. After 3 additional years, the alien could 'petition for naturalization.'"¹

This timeframe suggests arrival in Pennsylvania before October 1836. Georg finalized his naturalization on 26 July 1841, a few months earlier than three years after first papers as required by the statute. His original naturalization certificate, very old and fragile, and in multiple pieces where it fell apart along the fold lines, also came out of the box in the attic.



The certificate identifies George Maybery as attesting to Foertsch's presence in the U.S. for the required amount of time. He may be the Pennsylvania-born George Mabury, a 40-year-old blacksmith living in Schuylkill Haven in 1850.² A George Mabery appeared in the 1840 census in the same vicinity, then Manheim Township, Schuylkill County.³ Very possibly Mabery had a business association with Foertsch, and Mabery's closer proximity to the county seat (about 6 miles by today's roads) made it less burdensome

¹ <http://www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html> viewed on 26 January 2018

² 1850 U S Census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Borough of Schuylkill Haven, p. 212A, George Mabury; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 826, image 107.

³ 1840 U S Census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Manheim Township, p. 45, George Mabery, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing NARA microfilm M704, roll 492.

for him to accompany Foertsch to the courthouse than one of the neighbors in northern Schuylkill County, about 25 miles from the county seat; likely a day's journey in 1840.

Rev. Isaac Shellhammer, Reformed Minister in Luzerne, Columbia, and Schuylkill Counties, married George Foertsch "of Europe" to Lidia Nuss of Tomhicken on 9 June 1839.⁴ Interesting that half a year after he filed his first papers, Foertsch is still identified as European. The 1840 census records George Foertsch in Union Township, Schuylkill County in a household consisting a male and female aged 30 to 40 and a male and female child under five,⁵ so either the couple started a family very quickly, or one of them had a child or children from a prior relationship. Lydia did not survive long; she died 31 December 1844.⁶

George Foertsch remarried sometime after Lidia's death to Hannah Wolf, daughter of John Wolf and Sarah Huntzinger.⁷ She was about 20 years younger than him and bore him several children, including their oldest, Sarah who married Henry Mensinger. I included Henry's baptismal certificate in my last article.

In 1850 George, age 41, and Hannah, age 23, lived in the borough of Tamaqua with 8-year-old Elizabeth, presumably his daughter by Lydia, and baby Sarah. George worked as a teamster and owned real estate worth \$1,000.⁸ A decade later, George, age 53 and still working as a teamster, and Hannah, age 33, remained in Tamaqua, and reported real estate worth \$600 and personal property valued at \$400. The household was considerably more crowded, including 11-year-old Sarah and several of her presumed siblings: Mary, age 9; David, 6; Ellen, 4; and Abbie, 8 months. Also listed was Mrs. Sarah Wolf, age 54, likely Hannah's widowed mother.⁹

Four years later, George died on 11 October 1864,¹⁰ leaving his widow with debts that eventually forced her to sell the home in Tamaqua.¹¹

DO YOU HAVE AN ATTIC TREASURE - a story about your journey into Genealogy that you would like to share with us? Do you like to do research? Do you like to write short articles? Would you like to see them in print? We welcome members to submit items for consideration to be included in Penn Pal. Do you want a bigger challenge? We are looking for a full time editor for the newsletter which is published twice a year. Remember you will not be alone - board members are here to support you. Contact PA Chapter at PennPalam@gmail.com We would like to thank the members who submitted articles for this issue.

⁴ Dalice Fadden, transcriber. "Marriages and Burials, 1832-1872, Rev. Shellhammer, Reformed Church of Luzerne, Schuylkill & Columbia Counties," *Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, USGenWeb Archives Project* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/luzerne/church/shellham01.txt>: accessed 26 January 2018), Marriages June 9, 1839 George Foertsch of Europe to Lidia Nuss of Tomhicken, citing Records of Rev. Isaac Shellhammer.

⁵ 1840 U S Census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Union Township, p. 139, George Foertsch, digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing NARA microfilm M704, roll 492.

⁶ Glenn P. Schwalm, *St. Paul or "White" Church at Ringtown, Union Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania* (Apollo, PA: Closson Press, 1990), p. 106.

⁷ Death certificate for Anna Davis, 7 September 1907, File No. 91561; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission; Pennsylvania, USA; Certificate Number Range: 089771-093740.

⁸ 1850 U S Census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Borough of Tamaqua, p. 258A, George Foertch; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing NARA microfilm M432, roll 827, image 458.

⁹ 1860 U S Census, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, population schedule, Borough of Tamaqua, p. 1067, George Foertch; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018); citing NARA microfilm M653, roll 1181.

¹⁰ Church record of St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tamaqua, Pennsylvania; burial register of Fortsch, George, died 11 October, aged 57.4.17; microfilm image at Historical Society of Pennsylvania Library, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

¹¹ Pennsylvania, Wills and Probate Records, 1683-1993; Schuylkill County Register of Wills; estate of George Foertsch, Tamaqua 1865; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 26 January 2018).

As I See It –

A report from the PA Chapter President Dennis Carroll

Genealogy is a great hobby, or vocation, because it stimulates our curiosity about our ancestors and what kind of lives they led. We are surprised to discover adventures and accomplishments and disturbed by secrets which have been hidden for decades. We get frustrated by elusive facts but we persist in giving and sharing information and waiting for new revelations.

Our National PalAm President, Kent Robinson, has asked all chapter presidents to remind members that the Winter 2018 edition of Palatine Patter is available online at the PalAm website, www.palam.org. You will find detailed information and a registration form for the PalAm National Conference in Buffalo, NY, June 13 – 16. There are many speakers and topics and it is not a long trip – you would not want to miss it. (If you are using a Chrome browser and do not see “Winter 2018” issue on the PalAm homepage, you may need to manually “refresh” your browser page.)

Have you noticed that Palatines to America has clarified its name to “Palatines to America German Genealogy Society”? Some conference visitors did not understand what we mean by “Palatines” or assumed we are only interested in the Palatinate area.

Did you know that as a PalAm member you are automatically a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies?

German Life magazine has great articles and pictures. Another benefit of PalAm membership allows you a discount when you subscribe.

All of this information is in the Palatine Patter newsletter just waiting for you and me to discover it!

Our PA Chapter Spring Conference and Annual Meeting are scheduled for Saturday, May 5th at the Academic Forum at Kutztown University. You will receive a brochure with detailed information. The speakers are excellent and the topics are very interesting. Please plan to join us and support the efforts of members who have worked to organize this event. The business meeting will be brief but offices will require nominations and volunteer positions need help. I ask you to seriously consider helping the chapter with these responsibilities.

All six chapter presidents received an email from Grace Saatman, member of the National PalAm Board and Chair of the National Nominating Committee. She complimented all the chapters for having good programs, newsletters, and officers. She reminded us it may be a challenge to find enough experienced nominees for all of the positions on the slate. If any chapter members have previous experience on the National Board or a similar organization, and are willing to help, please contact me or Grace. It can be a very rewarding experience and it does not require as much travel as before. (I have been on the National Board for almost two years and only one meeting was held in Columbus – the others have been by conference call or video conference.)

We have a great PA Chapter! Many members do not live in PA and distances are a challenge. The members are great to work with and very knowledgeable. I am optimistic about our chapter. Finally, thank you for your support of the chapter.



GENEALOGY TERMS:

abeyance- A condition of undetermined ownership, as of an estate that has not yet been assigned

PA CHAPTER PALATINES TO AMERICA SPRING CONFERENCE – MAY 5, 2018 ACADEMIC FORUM, KUTZTOWN UNIVERSITY, KUTZTOWN, PA

Registration starts at 8:00am

\$45.00 members, \$50.00 for nonmembers of the Pennsylvania Chapter Palatines to America
Buffet lunch included

SPEAKERS:

Mr. Albert Dallao, who is with ARCPoin Labs will show us what DNA testing can tell us about our ancestry and what it cannot tell us.

Mr. Gerald Smith who is a full-time professional Certified Genealogist specializing in Pennsylvania research will show us how we can use the USGS Maps to determine our ancestor's property and what was on it at the time they lived there. We can determine if the old roads are same as the present day roads.

Mr. James C. Landis who is a genealogist and historian with over 35 years of experience in researching family history will address researching our grandfather's records from WWI. It will be the 100th Anniversary in 2018. It will be interesting to learn how to go about this research.

Mrs. Marcia Falconer who is familiar to us in her writing about early trades in Penn Pal will tell us about her adventures in researching and writing a book about her ancestor, Martin Dreisbach. She experienced a great deal of synchronicity in her searches for his history.

Please plan to attend our Spring Conference; we look forward to seeing you.
Mrs. Doris Glick, Conference Chairman

A link to the registration form is available on the Pa Chapter page of Palam.org



OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 28, 2018 Saturday 9:00 A.M to 4:00 P.M. Ohio Chapter Palatines to America Spring Seminar

Der Dutchman Restaurant, 445 Jefferson Avenue, U.S. Route 42, Plain City, Ohio

GERMAN HISTORY AND RECORDS

Featured Speaker: Roger P. Minert, PhD, AG. Topics: A Genealogist's Outline of German History Since 1517; Residential Registration in Germany; German Census Records; Communicating with Agencies and Individuals in Europe Annual Ohio Chapter Membership Meeting & Elections (12:45)

Registration: \$55, members \$45; Deadline April 13 - after April 13 \$65, members \$55 Fees include syllabus, seminar sessions, vendor showcase, Morning pastries with coffee and juice and a Buffet lunch.

Register: Pay Pal online at: <https://oh-palam.org/registernow.php> Or: make check payable to Ohio Chapter – Palam and mail to: Joe Stamm, 3930 Lander Road, Chagrin Falls, OH 44022-1329, questions? <lindabelle@lcs.net>

JUNE 13, 2018 the Palatines to America German Genealogical Society 2018 National Conference

Adams Mark Hotel & Conference Center, Buffalo, NY

WILLKOMMEN TO BUFFALO GATEWAY TO A NEW HEIMAT (home)

Speakers: John Colletta, Ph.D.; Baerbel K. Johnson, AG and many others

Registration Form and further details at PalAm.org

GENEALOGY RESEARCH TIPS:

Do you have a tip to share? Send it to us at pennpalam@gmail.com



The *Penn Pal* newsletter will be sent to your e-mail address and will also be available on the Pa Chapter page on the PALAM.org website. There is a \$4.00 per year fee for those requesting a first-class mailing of a paper copy of the newsletter. Please mail this fee directly to the
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Contributions to this newsletter are encouraged. Members may submit articles concerning family history and other genealogical or historical material and stories about your genealogical pursuits, problems or unusual happenings in your search for information on your families. If you submit material for publication, be sure there are no copyright laws restricting its use. If materials submitted are copyrighted, proof of authorization to publish must be provided; sources from other magazines must be cited so appropriate credit can be given. The editors reserve the right to edit all contributions submitted. We will edit (with the exception of original historical documents) for spelling, form, grammar, and obvious error. We may also shorten lengthy articles to fit available space. Contributors are responsible for the accuracy of their information and for their opinions. There is no compensation for unsolicited articles. The editors reserve the right to publish or not publish articles.

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