



### It's Newsletter time!

Welcome to the beginning of our new newsletter. We are attempting to publish on a more regular schedule from this day forward. We plan to send out the newsletter quarterly.

We are starting with content we have found and hope to add content you want to share with your fellow genealogists. We want to keep you up to date on all we do here at the Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society (MIGGS) so that we can continue providing information you can use. Our primary focus will be giving you what you need to dig up clues and break down the brick walls that often stand in our way as Germanic Genealogists.

Sometimes there can be a lot more in the way to resolving the mysteries in resolving our roots. We also would like to use the newsletter to add more socialization to our virtual society. If we can share what we do every day maybe we can help you out with new resources or just remind you of old resources that you haven't used in a while.

In each newsletter we will attempt to keep you up-to- date in the "President's Corner" while our Membership Committee will let you know:

- when it's time to renew,
- when we have opportunities to help grow the club,
- when we will have member to member programs,
- and keep you up on how we are growing as an organization.

Check each newsletter; there will be news on where our membership will be out representing us and where we can use your help.

On the last page of every issue will be a copy of our membership application - so if you meet someone who wants to join MIGGS you can just pass on that last page to them and they can complete and send in and join our society.

This issue is 8 pages long - that may increase or decrease based on your input. Please read and give us your feedback. Articles about your German ancestors or research would be greatly appreciated to include in future issues.

Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach  
(jhannesch1@att.net)

Loretta Dunham  
(germangenes@charter.net)

### Table of Contents

---

It's Newsletter Time!	1
President's Corner	2
Membership Committee Speaks/Listens	2
Recipe of the Month	3
MIGGS Needs You!	3
Program Upcoming Schedule	4
Resources of the Month	5
Introduce Our Volunteers	6
Committees	6-7
Contact Us	7
MIGGS Application	8

## Presidents Corner

This is the second page of the newsletter and will hold the President's Corner – where we will do a state of the society with every issue letting you know where we are headed and what help we need.

You ask what you can do to help – we have several opportunities that you can do that will help us out!

- First and foremost – just tell your friends that they can join us for the low rate of \$20. Word of mouth from a friend is the best referral.
- If you belong to a German Special Interest Group (GSIG) shoot us an email to [ed@miggs.org](mailto:ed@miggs.org) so that we can send them notifications of programs and club information.
- Represent us at a meeting by having member applications that you can hand out to anyone who might want one.
- Send in your ideas about how we can make MIGGS better to [ed@miggs.org](mailto:ed@miggs.org).
- Help us promote programs by sending us your review of our latest program so that we can improve or re-book speakers. It will allow us to list user reviews of our programs as well. Keep your comments short and to the point.

## Surveys

We understand that your time is limited so we will keep the surveys short to help keep us focused on providing services that you will find helpful. Look for a new survey in your email inbox coming soon! And look here in the newsletter for the results of the latest survey and what are we doing to follow-up on your suggestions. If there is a question you want asked – send it to us at [ed@miggs.org](mailto:ed@miggs.org).

If you missed the newsletter that had the results of the survey – all of our newsletters will be posted on the website under the Newsletter menu item.

## Membership Committee Speaks/Listens

This is where we tell you our thoughts and then we will report on what you have asked us. Our membership committee will let you know how we are doing as far as gaining new members and special programs that you can use to earn discounts on your next year's membership dues.

## Current Benefits

The following is a list of the benefits currently available to members of the society:

- Free 30 minute consultation with a skilled Germanic researcher
- Reduced rates for admission to Association workshops
- Preferred seating at our four (five starting in January 2025) informative virtual meetings
- Many programs being nationally recognized speakers every year
- Quarterly newsletter (paid members will get notified when available)
- Meetings, workshops, and event notices and first right to accept when programs become available
- Networking opportunities

Do you have any ideas used by other societies you belong to that have been successful in raising membership?

National reports indicate 22-29% of the US population is the descendant of a German immigrant. Come join our society and find out if you have German ancestry.

Affiliations:



## Recipes of the Month – Spaetzle

Spaetzle is a traditional German pasta based on flour, eggs, and milk and seasoned with nutmeg.

### Ingredients

2 cups flour  
1-1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg  
4 large eggs (room temperature)  
1/2 cup milk

### Instructions

1. In a bowl, whisk together the flour, eggs, milk, and salt. Stir until the batter is well combined and develops bubbles. You can also use a mixer. The batter should neither be too thin nor too thick or it will be difficult to make the spaetzle with your spaetzle maker. Let the batter sit for 5-10 min.
2. Put a colander into a bowl to drain the spaetzle once cooked and bring a large pot of water over high heat to a boil, add about 1 Tbsp. of salt to the water, and reduce temperature to a simmer.
3. Press batter through a spaetzle maker, a large holed sieve or colander into the simmering water.
4. Work in batches. After using about 1/3 of the batter stop adding new spaetzle and let them cook for about 2-3 minutes, or until they float to the top. Stir occasionally. Use a slotted spoon to transfer the spaetzle to the colander so that excess water can drip off.
5. Serve the spaetzle immediately or sauté them in butter to crisp them up a little. If you don't serve or sauté them right away, add 1 or 2 Tbsp. of butter to the hot spaetzle to prevent them from sticking together.

If you have a recipe for next month – send it to [Julia or Loretta](#).

## MIGGS Needs You!

Due to President Paul Roltsch's unexpected death, the Board has been working hard to try to pick up the pieces left by his death. As Paul was also our webmaster, there have been some issues with access to the MIGGS website. If you have sent information to the website, or an inquiry, and not received an answer, we are so sorry. Please send your request again to [ed@miggs.org](mailto:ed@miggs.org). We think we've got the glitches worked out, and can access the website now.

Of course any suggestions and articles are much appreciated!

Obviously, the board is looking for new members, and a president for MIGGS. The board meets via zoom. Your board of directors does send out email information, as well as our newsletter.

We expect to publish the newsletter quarterly now.

## Upcoming Program Schedule

**Note:** If you are currently a member of the Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society – you will be emailed an invitation within 10 days prior to the event from our Zoom coordinator. If you are not a member and wish to attend the event – email us at [ed@miggs.org](mailto:ed@miggs.org) to request an invitation before 7 days of the event.

**Date:** September 9, 2024

**Topic:** “They Joined, They Associated: Finding Records of Germanic Organizations and Other Collections”

**Speaker:** Paula Stuart-Warren, CG® FMGS, FUGA

**Description:** U. S. libraries, historical societies, archives, and university library special collections sections hold the records from many organizations that our Germanic ancestors joined. The organization may have been a German heritage, charitable, religious, resettlement, political, social, or other organization. Additionally, as our parts of our families migrated, so did the records. Frequently genealogists think that there may be no records for some of the family. However, there may be substantial information buried away in a manuscript collection. Finding these collections with records of membership, donations, necrologies, stories, activities, and more has become easier in recent years. Many finding aids online and off lead you to these research nuggets that represent hundreds of years of material.

**Date:** November 11, 2024

**Topic:** The Voyages of Our German Immigrants

**Speaker:** Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, Certified Genealogist®

**Description:**

Germans began immigrating to the United States in 1683, according to documented history. This talk will highlight significant aspects of the first four major waves of migration, through 1910. The areas from which they came and motivations that typified each wave will be detailed. Available immigration and emigration records help tell the immigrant's story. Laws changed over time and impacted various aspects of the immigration experience.

## Resources of the Month

### Arolsen Archives

#### Website:

<https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/>

#### About Them:

Database contains a comprehensive collection of documents from concentration camps, including prisoner cards and death notices on over 2.2 million people persecuted by the Nazi Regime and Germans of the Volga, Bessarabia, Kazakhstan, etc

The website <https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/> is about the Arolsen Archives, which is an international center on Nazi persecution that holds one of the largest collections of Holocaust-related documents in the world. The archives are located in Bad Arolsen, Germany and are dedicated to documenting and preserving the history of Nazi persecution and its victims.

The website provides access to the archives' extensive collections, which include millions of records related to Nazi concentration camps, forced labor, and the persecution and murder of Jews and other minorities during World War II. The collections include photographs, documents, personal letters, and other items that provide valuable insights into the experiences of victims and survivors of Nazi persecution.

The website also offers guidance on how to search and access the archives' collections, including information on fees, hours of operation, and how to make an appointment to view the records in person. Additionally, the website provides information on the archives' educational programs and research initiatives, as well as opportunities for individuals to contribute to the archives' efforts.

Overall, the website serves as a vital resource for those researching the history of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution, providing access to a wealth of historical documents and personal accounts that help to document this tragic period in world history.

## Catholic/ Military Church Records

#### Website:

<https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/akmb/militaerkirchenbuecher/>

#### About Them:

Their website <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de/deutschland/akmb/militaerkirchenbuecher/> is an online archive of military church books in Germany. The church books, also known as "Kirchenbücher" in German, are records of births, baptisms, marriages, and deaths that were kept by chaplains and other clergy members who served in the military.

The website is part of the larger Matricula Online project, which is a digital archive of historical church records from Germany, Austria, and other parts of Europe. The website provides access to military church books from various regions of Germany and includes records from the 18th century to the present day.

The records can be searched and browsed online and are available in digital format, making it easy for researchers and genealogists to access and use the records for their research. The website is free to use and is available in both German and English. Overall, the website <https://data.matricula-online.eu/de> is a valuable military history of Germany or tracing their ancestors who served in the military.

---

### Genealogy Humor

Murphy's Law of Genealogy: Your ancestor's maiden name will be recorded on the one record page that is missing.

If you think your family is normal, you probably aren't a genealogist!

A cemetery is a marble garden not to be taken for granite.



## Introduce our Volunteers



### Tim Salatin – Secretary

Tim has been interested in genealogy since his aunt gave him a family tree when he was a child. German roots are on both sides of the family, with ancestors from Westphalia and Berlin, as well as the German-speaking area of Switzerland, near Basel. Tim

has been active in the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County since retiring in 2011, he is currently active on the board. After graduating from Purdue University with a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry, he worked for many years in R&D for BASF in the Automotive Coatings area, living in Muenster, Germany, from 2000-2004.



### Ed Redmer – Treasurer

Ed has degrees in Engineering and Business Administration from the University of Michigan. He retired from the Michigan Bell Telephone Company as an Engineering Design

Manager, responsible for Detroit and the Downriver Detroit areas. His family has been rooted in the Detroit area for over 100 years. His interest in family history began with some chance discoveries in the Burton Historical Library in Detroit.

Ed has served in several capacities in the Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, the Michigan Genealogical Society, the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan and the Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society.



### Rodger Wolf – Director (expires 2024)

Rodger graduated from Western Michigan University in December 1972 and began working at the University of Michigan. He

needed to leave the University to obtain my Certified Public Accountant license. He returned to the University and continued working until his retirement in July 2010. He began his genealogical research that same year. He has many German brick walls, but was able to trace one line back to Kindenheim, Germany. He and the late Jan Tripp started the DNA Special Interest Group as part of the Genealogical

Society of Washtenaw County (GSWC) a few years ago. He has been on the board of GSWC for many years. He has been the Treasurer of the UM Retirees Association for many years.



### Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach – Director (expires 2025)

Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach has been exploring family history for over 40 years. She has Pommeranian and Saxony German roots, as well as Luxembourg, Norwegian, and Cornish (Cornwall, England)

Ancestors. She has also helped her husband with his Bavarian, Posen, and Hungarian ancestors. She is active in the Waterford Genealogical Society, where she is the second Tuesday evening of the month convenor (first 30 minutes for any Germanic questions); she also belongs to the Cornish Connection of Lower Michigan, and Southwest Wisconsin Cornish Society. She grew up around Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She is a speaker registered with the Michigan Genealogical Council. She continues working as a chaplain and lives in Waterford, MI with her husband.

## IN MEMORIAM



### Paul Roltsch- President

Paul Roltsch died unexpectedly at home on March 2nd, 2024. Paul was born in Salem, Massachusetts to Allan Emil Paul Roltsch and Viola Mae (Risteen) Roltsch.

He loved being involved with his family by becoming president of the PTA, coaching all sports his children played, and attending grandkids' sporting events. He was involved in tracing his family tree, even taking a genealogy vacation to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to see where his ancestors came from.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made in his honor to help with funeral costs. That information is found here: <https://everloved.com/life-of/paul-roltsch/>

## Committees

We all wear many hats – so the Board of Directors also performs the following tasks:

- Webmaster: Open
- Zoom Meeting Specialist: Rodger Wolf
- Facebook: Shannon Gordon
- Twitter (@MichiganGGS): Open
- Resource Librarian: Open
- Newsletter: Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach & Loretta Dunham
- Brochures/Publicity: Open
- Email list: Ed Redmer, Rodger Wolf & Tim Salatin
- Michigan Genealogical Council Delegate: Tim Salatin
- International Germanic Genealogical Partner: Ed Redmer

### Contact Us:

General Email:  
ed@miggs.org

Newsletter:

[jhannesch1@att.net](mailto:jhannesch1@att.net) or  
[germanges@charter.net](mailto:germanges@charter.net)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Michigan-Germanic-Genealogical-Society-104842025602301](https://www.facebook.com/Michigan-Germanic-Genealogical-Society-104842025602301)

Twitter/X: @MichiganGGS

Website: [miggs.org](http://miggs.org)



## Other non-MIGGS events of interest

- **June 23-28, 2024 or July 14-19, 2024**
  - GRIP Genealogy Institute
  - <https://grip.ngsgenealogy.org/>
  - In person or Virtual
- **July 21-26, 2024**
  - Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research
  - [ighr.gagensociety.org/](http://ighr.gagensociety.org/)
  - Virtual
- **August 5-9, 2024**
  - FEEFHS Annual Conference
  - <https://registration.feefhs.org>
  - In Person
- **September 20-21, 2024**
  - 2024 New York State Family History Conference
  - <https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/nysfhc/about>
  - Virtual and In Person
- **September 24-28, 2024**
  - 36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences
  - <https://www.americanancestors.org/event/s/36th-international-congress-genealogical-and-heraldic-sciences>
  - In Person

At the time of this newsletter's printing all information listed has been verified at each of the conference websites. Please be sure to check before assuming information is still correct. If you know of any conferences either local or national – please let us know and we will add to this list. This is not to be considered an all-encompassing list!

### More Genealogy Humor

You know you're a genealogist when you watch a movie that has a scene in a graveyard, and you're distracted from the plot by trying to transcribe the tombstones.



**MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MIGGS.ORG**

**DOMESTIC (U.S.) MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION FORM 2024-2025**

Please print

Last Name:		First Name:	
Mailing Address:			
City:		State:	Zip +4:
Home Phone:		Cell Phone:	
Email address*:			

\*We communicate often with email. We do not share contact information. It will not be published.

Our preferred method of sending meeting announcements is email. May we use email to communicate with you?

Yes  No

Membership Type:

\$20.00 Individual  \$30.00 Household

Membership is for one (1) year, July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025

New Membership  Renewal

Payment: Cash  Check No.

Make checks payable to: Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society

Mail to:

Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society  
c/o Ed Redmer  
7687 Nollar Rd.  
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189