



MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Exploring Michigan's Germanic family history heritage

Summer 2024
Volume 2, Issue 2

Willkommen

We have re-established our connection to the website and e-mail addresses after the untimely death of our president and webmaster, Paul Roltsch. Please be patient with us while we get up to speed on editing our website and responding to e-mail.

We have several great programs lined up for the remainder of the year. Members will automatically receive Zoom invitations for their use. If non members would like to attend our virtual meetings they need to email information@miggs.org for an invitation.

IMPORTANT NEWS

The September meeting of the society will be held Monday, September 9th, at 7:30 p.m. Paula Stuart-Warren will present "They Joined, They Associated: Finding Records of Germanic Organizations and Other Collections".

WRITERS WANTED

MiGGS newsletter editor is inviting you to share your story with other readers who have an interest in Germanic genealogy. Ideas to consider include, but are not limited to, a research success story, how to use Germanic resources, tips for reading German script, DNA, how you made a cousin connection, a favorite website or book, a family story, a family recipe, or an item you think would be of interest to MiGGS's members. Submit your article at germangenes@charter.net or jhannesch1@att.net. Articles can be from a half page long to four pages. If you have an idea for a longer article, consider breaking it up into parts.

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ABOUT MiGGS

The purpose of the Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society is:

1. To promote the study of and interest in the immigration of people of Germanic heritage to America.
2. To exchange cultural information relating to the times, life, and society of Germanic immigrants and their descendants.
3. To encourage and provide the means for members to share their genealogical findings through meeting and newsletters and to promote the collection and preservation of such materials.



CHARLES WAGNER

by Loretta Dunham

Charles Wagner was born ca. 1824 in Baden, Germany. He married Magdalena Rupp in Manchester, New Hampshire in Jan of 1857 and they moved to Monroe County by April of that year because he purchased land in Monroe County. Charles and Magdalena had two children, both baptized in the Holy Ghost Lutheran Church in Raisinville Twp. The first born was Charles Rudolph in 1859 and in 1861 Wilhelmina was born. Charles enlisted to serve in the Michigan 15th Infantry in December of 1861. His enlistment papers give some information about his appearance; 5 feet 3 inches tall, light complexion, grey eyes and light hair. His occupation was given as weaver. He was wounded at the Battle of Pittsburg Landing in April of 1862 and died a few months later. His military records provided a few dates for his death, 24 May 1862 near Shiloh, and 30 September or 5 October 1862 in the hospital at Corinth, Mississippi. But there was nothing to really help me find him in Germany.

This was all I knew about Charles Wagner until just a few weeks ago. With a name like Wagner, I figured that I would not have any luck narrowing his place of birth, especially given that I did not have an exact birth date for him.

Thanks to a couple of DNA matches and the availability of church records on-line, I now have MUCH more information about Charles Wagner's ancestry.

Since I knew he arrived in the US prior to January of 1857 (when he married my 3 great grandmother) I checked the immigration records for all men named Charles or Carl/Karl Wagner who arrived in the US between 1850 and 1857 and were born ca 1824. There were a handful, but since Charles was from Baden, he most likely left from a port other than Hamburg or Bremen, which narrowed my possible candidates significantly. One Karl Wagner arrived with a woman named Magdalena Wagner who was two years older than he was. The ship record did not indicate relationships, so she could have been his wife, sister, cousin, or no relation, at all.

My DNA matches for Wagner relatives provided a vital clue. A descendant of Magdalena Wagner who was born about 1822 according to the ship's log, was a match in my DNA results! And there was a tree associated with her. That tree included a photo of her tombstone which had complete dates of birth and death engraved on it. The tree on Ancestry gave her birth place as Hohenwet-

tersbach, Baden. This piqued my interest because several families in Monroe County came from that very town, one of which was the Muehleisens. Andrew Muehleisen was the sponsor for Charles' son and Margaret Muehleisen was the sponsor for his daughter.

The Ancestry tree for Magdalena had more information further back, but did not include Carl. Now that I had the town, I could check the Hohenwettersbach church records for more information.

An index of the church records for Hohenwettersbach is available on Ancestry, but in order to view the pages of the ledgers, I subscribed to Archion. Those records proved to be a gold mine for me!

I quickly found the baptism entry for Karl Wagner born 6 Jan 1824 and baptized on 8 Jan. His parents were Andreas Wagner and Magdalena Keller. Andreas' occupation was weaver. Andreas and Magdalena also had 2 daughters, Magdalena and Katherine. The Wagner family lived in Grünwettersbach, but attended services in Hohenwettersbach. Ancestry gives both towns depending on which index you check.

Using the church records on Archion, I was able to trace the Wagner line back five generations to a Conrad Wagner, born in 1645 in Pfalzgrafeweiler.

Charles' sister, Katherine, also immigrated to the U.S. She married in Germany to a man named Christian Kuppinger and later married Ferdinand Fischer. They lived near St. Louis, Missouri where she died. Her tombstone in Affton contains her full dates of birth and death, which matched the information I found in the church records for her on Archion. And her descendant was a DNA match!

Charles Wagner had been a mystery to me for decades, so I was skeptical that I had found the right family, but with all of the little puzzle pieces matching up so nicely I am confident that I am barking up the right tree! From the names of the sponsors here in Monroe County to the occupations of Charles and his father, everything works. Using Archion's records, DNA, and reviewing my old research, I was able to break down a brick wall that had me stumped for a very long time. I encourage everyone to review your data, look at those baptismal sponsors, and do a DNA test. I am glad I did!

RECIPE– GERMAN RED CABBAGE

Rotkohl- pronounced rote-coal

Prep Time 10 minutes mins

Cook Time 1 hour hr 15 minutes mins

Total Time 1 hour hr 25 minutes mins

Servings 6 -8 servings

This delicious German Red Cabbage (also known as Rotkohl or Blaukraut depending on which part of Germany you are in) is a fantastic sweet and sour recipe that is served with many traditional German dishes.

Equipment:

Adjustable mandoline Slicer

Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons butter
- 1 yellow onion chopped
- 1 large Granny Smith apple peeled and chopped, you may just core it
- 1 head red cabbage sliced very thin
- 3 Tablespoons red wine vinegar
- 1 cup apple cider or apple juice, or water
- 1 Tablespoon granulated sugar
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 whole cloves
- 2 juniper berries
- ½ teaspoon salt

Instructions

Melt butter in large Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Add the chopped onion and apples and sauté for 7-10 minutes until soft.

Add the cabbage to the onions and apples, and cook 5 minutes, stirring frequently.

Add the red wine vinegar, apple cider, sugar, bay leaf, cloves, juniper berries, and salt. Bring the liquids to a boil, then cover and reduce heat to a simmer.

Simmer for 1 hour until cabbage is soft but not mushy. Check taste, add more sugar or vinegar if necessary. Serve warm or cold.

Notes

Many traditional recipes also called for 2 tablespoons of cherry preserves or red currant jam, which can be hard to find, so that was left out.

A mandoline makes slicing an entire head of cabbage quick and easy. Just be careful of your fingers!

If you have a recipe for future issues – send 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 information@miggs.org. We have the glitches worked out, and can access the website now.

Of course any suggestions and articles for the newsletter 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 e-mail information, as well as our newsletter.

We expect to publish the newsletter quarterly now.

CONTACT US

information@miggs.org

Newsletter:

jhannesch1@att.net or
germanges@charter.net

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
Michigan-Germanic-
Genealogical-Society-
104842025602301

Twitter/X: @MichiganGGS

Website: miggs.org



Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society

President: Open

Vice President: Open

Secretary: Tim Salatin

Treasurer: Ed Redmer

Director: Rodger Wolf

Director: Julia Hanneman-
Schoenbach

Director: Open

Complete bios are available
at our website: [https://
miggs.org/board-bios/](https://miggs.org/board-bios/)

COMMITTEES

We all wear many hats – the Board of Directors do the following tasks and are looking for volunteers.

Webmaster – Open

Zoom Meeting Specialist – Rodger Wolf

Facebook – Shannon Gordon

Twitter—(@MichiganGGS): Open

Resource Librarian – Open

Newsletter – Julia Hanneman-
Schoenbach & Loretta Dunham

Brochures/Publicity – Brenda
Leyndyke

Email list – Ed Redmer & Rodger
Wolf

**Michigan Genealogical Council
Delegates** – Brenda Leyndyke and
Ed Redmer

**International Germanic Genea-
logical Partners Representative**
– Ed Redmer & Loretta Dunham

Contact Us: infomation@miggs.org

If you would like to join our team in
any of these capacities, please email
information@miggs.org.

WHY JOIN MIGGS?

If you have ancestors in Germanic areas of Europe, joining a society that specializes in Germanic genealogy can be helpful to your research. Joining MiGGS has the following benefits:

- Free 30 minute consultation with a skilled Germanic researcher
- Reduced rates for admission to Association workshops
- Preferred seating at our informative virtual meetings
- Many of our programs will have nationally recognized speakers
- 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

All this for the cost of \$20 Individual and \$30 Household membership. A membership form is on the last page of this newsletter. If you are already a member, thank you!

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:



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN
Genealogy Partnership



2024 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

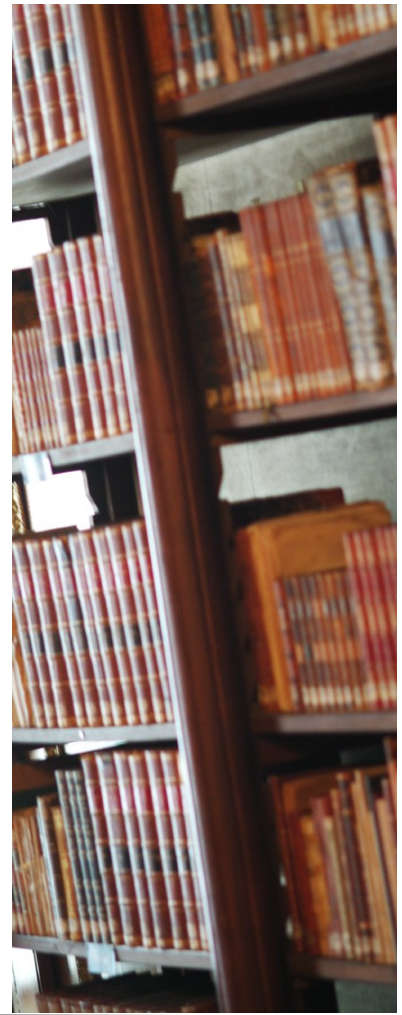
The following programs will be presented virtually via Zoom on the second Monday of September, November, March, and May, at 7:30 pm. **Please note that our meetings will be held on Monday nights until further notice.** Members will receive a Zoom invitation. Nonmembers will need to email info@miggs.org for Zoom information.

September 9: “They Joined, They Associated: Finding Records of Germanic Organizations and Other Collections” with Paula Stuart-Warren, CG® FMGS, FUGA

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.

November 11: The Voyages of Our German Immigrants with Teresa Steinkamp McMillin, Certified Genealogist®

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.



Other non-MIGGS Events of Interest

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/events/36th-international-congress-genealogical-and-heraldic-sciences>

In Person

June 13-15, 2025

IGGP Conference 2025 - Columbus, Ohio

<https://iggp.org/2024/01/iggp-conference-2025-columbus-ohio/>

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!

MICHIGAN RECORDS

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

As we are a Michigan-based genealogy group, we are starting this new column about records, and Germanic records, in Michigan.

This is an unusual collection here in Michigan

German Auxiliaries muster rolls, 1776-1786 (majority within 1781-1783)

This collection is comprised of seventy muster rolls and 15 additional letters and documents of the German regiments employed by the British to fight in the American Revolutionary War. Think Hessians. It is at the University of Michigan William L Clements Library in Ann Arbor. The finding aid website tells how to register for free and make an appointment to see the records.

For more information go the finding aid website: [German Auxiliaries muster rolls, 1776-1786 \(majority within 1781-1783\) - University of Michigan William L. Clements Library - University of Michigan Finding Aids](#)



[University of Michigan William L. Clements Library](#)
[See More About This Repository](#)

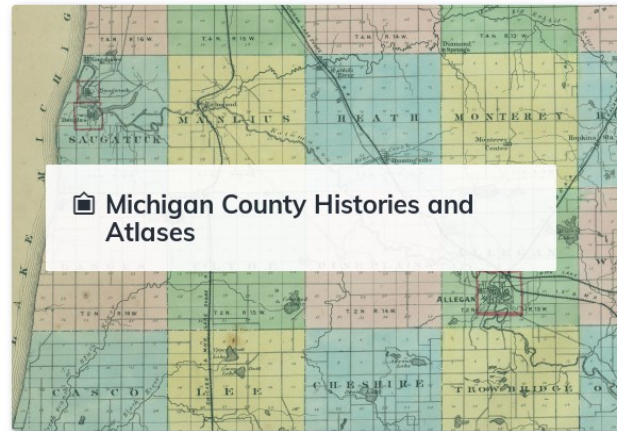
Address:
909 South University Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI 48109, USA
clements-reference@umich.edu

German Auxiliaries muster rolls, 1776-1786 (majority within 1781-1783)

Familysearch.org also has a great wiki on Hessian Soldiers.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN LIBRARY

M LIBRARY DIGITAL COLLECTIONS



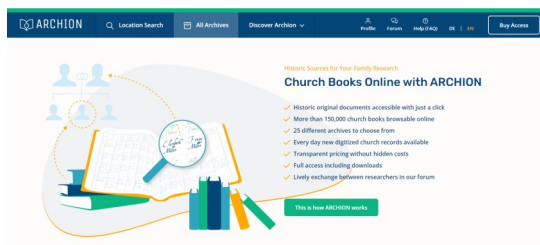
The University of Michigan also offers a large free collection of online, readable county and city histories: The Michigan Counties Histories and Atlases collection. There are 428 titles, mainly published before 1923 (and thus in the public domain). These are especially helpful in finding the Germanic speaking church that your ancestors may have attended. [Index | Michigan County Histories and Atlases | University of Michigan Library Digital Collections](#)

If you have used these records, would you consider writing a short review? What other records in Michigan have you found helpful?

GERMAN RECORDS

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Our last newsletter talked about Matricula as a resource for Catholic records. In this issue we will discuss Archion, for Evangelische/Lutheran records. An English version is available for searching: <https://www.archion.de/en/search/>



When you go the website, click on EN on the bar along the top to get English instructions. Your records however will be in German, as they are church-book (kirchenbuch) records. There are nice detailed, in English, instructions on how to use the site. You may search to find out if the church records are available. To see the actual record, you will need to pay a small fee. New records are coming online constantly.

You may also want to check at Familysearch.org to see if the records are available for free at familysearch.org.

German Ortschaftsbücher

by John D. Beatty, CG

A useful type of secondary source for researching German families is the Ortschaftsbuch, sometimes also called the Ortschaftfamilienbuch. These German words are best translated as “town lineage book” and “town family book.” For many communities across the former German empire, historians and genealogists have extracted births, marriages, and deaths of residents from church records and compiled them into printed books, usually under an alphabetical arrangement. Knowing the ancestral town of interest, a researcher can sometimes find a volume where all the data from hard-to-read church records are extracted and arranged for convenient use. Another format is the so-called “house book,” organized by address, which lists the owners over time who have lived at a particular house number. The majority of Ortschaftsbücher have been compiled for the western parts of Germany. Fewer volumes exist for states in the east, such as East and West Prussia, Posen, Pomerania, and Brandenburg, where many church registers are either lost or their German populations were displaced after World War II.

Researchers should also bear in mind that since these are secondary sources, they can be subject to errors and omissions. If church records exist, it is always a good idea to examine digital versions of the handwritten records if available to make certain an ancestor was not missed. I have seen one volume for an ancestral town in Rheinland-Pfalz that missed my early 18th century ancestor, so I was glad to have examined the handwritten records on FamilySearch.

The Genealogy Center has begun collecting Ortschaftsbücher from German book vendors as part of a larger effort to expand our offerings for continental Europe. We have added hundreds of these books to our shelves in the last year. Search our online catalog under the German town to see if we have one for your place of interest.

Our collection is still a work in progress. These volumes have been published in Germany for many decades, and many older ones have become quite scarce and hard to purchase. We are actively work-



ing to expand our collection. The St. Louis County Public Library, which has been collecting German volumes longer than we have, has amassed a vast collection, and its catalog is definitely worth checking. <https://www.slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy>. Moreover, there is also an online portal of digitized Ortschaftsbücher compiled by genealogy.net that should also be searched: <https://www.online-ofb.de/>. Finally, FamilySearch has an excellent online guide to these sources that contains other links to bibliographic lists for specific German states.

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Germany_Town_Genealogies_and_Parish_Register_Inventories_on_the_Internet

With websites such as Ancestry, FamilySearch, Archion (archion.de), Matricula Online (<https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>) and Metryki Genbaza (<https://metryki.genbaza.pl/>), researchers now have a variety of places to go online in search of German ancestral records. Even so, they can still encounter challenges from lost or destroyed records or having ancestors from places where records have not been digitized or extracted. Ortschaftsbücher are another tool in the genealogists' research arsenal. Be sure to check these various links to see if a volume exists for your ancestral town.

Reprinted with permission from Genealogy Gems: News from the Allen County Public Library at Fort Wayne, No. 243, May 31, 2024



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