



MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Exploring Michigan's Germanic family history heritage

Willkommen

We have re-established our connection to the website and e-mail addresses. Please be patient with us while we get up to speed on editing our website.

We have several great programs lined up for the upcoming 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 March meeting of the society will be held Monday, March 10th, at 7:30 p.m. John Beatty will present "Germanic Resources at the Allen County Public Library."

NAME NEEDED

MIGGS newsletter is in need of a moniker. We are looking for suggestions for a name for our quarterly newsletter, rather than just "newsletter". If you have a suggestion, or two, please send them to either Julia or Loretta. The board will review all suggestions to choose a name for our newsletter.

QUESTIONS AND HELP

You can email MIGGS with questions about your German family research. Please use the CONTACT US on the website. We can't do extensive research on your ancestry, but will try to point you in the right direction so you can be successful in your genealogical endeavors. Thank you Ed for monitoring the site for questions!

THANKS

Thanks to those that provided articles. We would not have a newsletter without the help of those that provide articles to print.

Spring 2025
Volume 2, Issue 4

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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.



A Note from Your President

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Thank you for all who have officially joined MIGGS! Your dues pay for our speakers, and website. YOUR involvement is what makes MIGGS work!

In today's newsletter, there is an announcement about the demise of Die Pommern Leute. A genealogy group is only as strong as its members and their involvement. Please consider ways you can be in-

involved, whether by writing an article, or volunteering for a position.

On a positive note, we have almost 50 paid members! Look for our next meeting and presentation on March 10!

Also, welcome aboard to our new board member, Joan Cooper. We now have for the first time in a long time a complete filled board!

Other Germanic Genealogical Societies

It is with regret that the demise of Die Pommerschen Leute is announced.

Die Pommerschen Leute - "The Pomeranian People" was founded by Myron Gruenwald in 1982 to bring together and help people who are interested in Pomerania. With his dedicated commitment and unlimited enthusiasm, he devoted his talents to Die Pommerschen Leute newsletter until his death in 1998. Later, when the Immigrant Genealogical Society assumed the responsibility for publication of Die Pommerschen Leute, it took on this same dedication to provide our subscribers with excellent help and guidance in all things Pomeranian.

From DPL

It has been a long journey for the Pomeranian Special Interest Group (PSIG) as it worked to preserve the memory and heritage of the Pomeranian people. We published our first issue of Die Pommerschen Leute in the spring of 2000, over twenty-four years ago. Myron Gruenwald along with his wife Norma began the periodical in July of 1982, a bit over forty-two years ago. His family would help with reproducing and mailing the periodical and his daughter, Gayle, is our current treasurer.

We have faced two challenges during the last twenty-four years. One was a steadily declining subscriber base and the other was finding editors for the DPL as each left after many years of service. We tried many ways of attracting new subscribers. The latest idea

being to increase our area of interest from just Pomerania to the Germanic lands to the south of the Baltic Sea. We do not know if that would have worked. A majority of our subscribers are only interested in Pomerania even though adjacent provinces were similar. The other challenge was attracting new DPL editors. Over the years, one person has been responsible for writing articles, soliciting articles from others and putting it all together into a periodical which is a huge amount of work. We tried forming a small publishing group to distribute the effort but finding articles or writing them was still up to one person.

We are sad to say that the Pomeranian Special Interest Group is now ending its journey and is dissolving our society. The Winter Issue of Die Pommerschen Leute that you will receive shortly will be our last and we have no more webinars on the calendar. Our thanks to all of the subscribers, past and present, who have supported Die Pommerschen Leute the last forty-two years. If you have any remaining value in your subscription, if you paid by check, a check will be sent to you in the next few weeks. If you paid via PayPal, a refund will be made to your PayPal account.

Best wishes in your pursuit of your ancestral roots.

All of us at the Pomeranian Special Interest Group

LAZY CABBAGE ROLLS

Instead of rolling up in cabbage leaves, this fast and easy recipe uses shredded cabbage. Note: does not use tomato.

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons oil
 - 2 pounds lean ground beef
 - 1 large onion, chopped
 - 1 small green cabbage, shredded
 - 2 - 3 cups beef broth, divided (or water)
 - 2 teaspoons salt
 - 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 2 tablespoons cornstarch (dissolve in a little cold water)
- Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add ground beef and cook until no pink is visible.
- Add onions and continue frying until onions are slightly browned and translucent.
- Remove beef and onions to a bowl. Add part of the cabbage to the saucepan and fry for a few minutes to soften and brown. Add a bit more oil if needed. Add remainder of the cabbage, stir and continue frying for a few minutes.
- Return beef and onions to the cabbage. Stir in 2 cups of broth, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for about 15 minutes and up to 1 hour.
- If you'd like more sauce, add another cup of broth or water. Add cornstarch to thicken sauce.
- Season with salt and pepper and serve. Good with mashed potatoes or noodles.

Makes 4 servings



MIGGS Needs You!

Thanks to Brenda Leyndyke and Joan Cooper for offering to help out on the board. We have a full board of directors now !

We can always use volunteers to help with the website or to write articles for the newsletter. This is your chance to boast about a new find or grouse about a brick-wall you haven't been able to scale. Articles can be long or short, but should be about German genealogy.

Repurposed Churches

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Ever wonder what happened to the church your ancestors went to? A recent article in the Detroit Free Press on Feb 8 talked about turning an Indian Village church in Detroit into a home. Located at 1815 Seminole, the 400-seat Norman-Gothic style church was built in 1949 and used by St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church, an offshoot of St. Paul's Church founded in 1888.

It later became home to Mount Olive East Missionary Baptist Church, serving as a cherished landmark



before falling into the hands of the Detroit Land Bank Authority.

Rachel Nelson is CEO and principal designer of Concetti, a Detroit-based interior design strategy studio. She and her husband, Joe Trobaugh, a Roseville elementary school principal, are leading the adaptive reuse project known as Divinely Detroit.

It will be their dream home.

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: Julia Hanneman-
Schoenbach

Vice President: Joan
Cooper

Secretary: Tim Salatin

Treasurer: Ed Redmer

Director: Rodger Wolf

Director: Loretta Dunham

Director: Brenda Leyndyke

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: information@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



2025 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

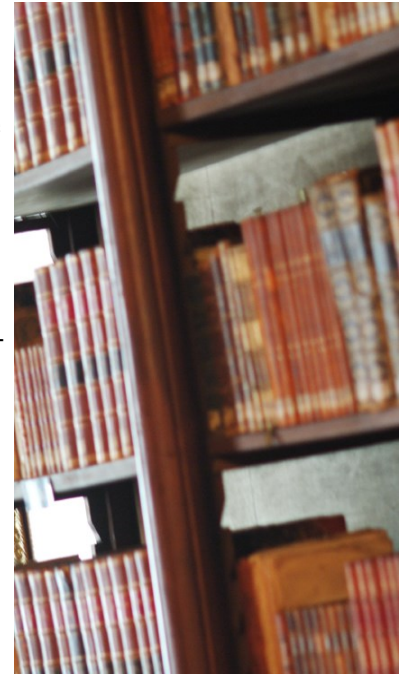
The following programs will be presented virtually via Zoom on the second Monday of September, November, March, and May, at 7:30 pm. **Please note that our meetings will be held on Monday nights until further notice.** Members will receive a Zoom invitation. Non-members will need to email information@miggs.org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

March 10: “Germanic Resources at the Allen County Public Library” with John Beatty, CG

The Allen County Public Library contains one of the largest genealogical collections in the United States. John will review some of the many resources available in the APCL collection for German genealogical research.

May 12: “Germans to America’s Mid-West, 1848-1900” with Scott Norrick

With over 30 years of family history research experience, he is familiar with all the latest and time-tested genealogical tools. Through his company Ancestral Past, he welcomes the opportunity to assist others on their genealogy journey. He has presented to dozens of genealogical societies, history centers, and libraries.



OTHER NON-MIGGS EVENTS OF INTEREST

June 13-15, 2025— IGGP Conference 2025 - Columbus, Ohio

<https://iggp.org/2025-iggp-conference/>

Registration is now open for the 2025 IGGP Conference in Columbus, Ohio. Be sure to reserve your room ASAP as they have a limited number available. When you register, please use Chrome as your browser.

March 8, 2025 1:30 PM (Eastern time zone)

Researching Germans from Poland: One Family’s Experience

Ohio Genealogical Society, Montgomery Chapter

Speaker Karla Huebner, has done extensive research in records from Poland and Prussia. Karla’s presentation will use what her family has learned in order to present resources and search methods that are specific to the Posen region but are applicable more broadly to Germans from Poland. For Zoom link, contact Publicity@MCC-OGS.org.

March 12, 2025 6:00 PM (Central time zone)

Building Bridges: Interactions between Plain and Non-Plain Communities

Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies

Amish, traditional Mennonite, and Hutterite (Plain) groups in North America are experiencing exponential growth – their numbers are doubling every 20 years – interactions between Plain communities and local and state institutions are increasing. Over the past 20+ years, speaker Mark Loudon has served as an interpreter and cultural mediator for Pennsylvania Dutch-speaking Plain people. In this presentation, he will draw on his experience to share examples of how efforts to foster mutual understanding and respect have resulted in successful interactions between Plain communities and non-Plain professionals. A link to the Zoom webinar will be sent to you after registration. <https://mki.wisc.edu/events/>

For other events see: <https://iggp.org/events-meetings/>

Using Meyersgaz.org in Your Research

by Ed Redmer

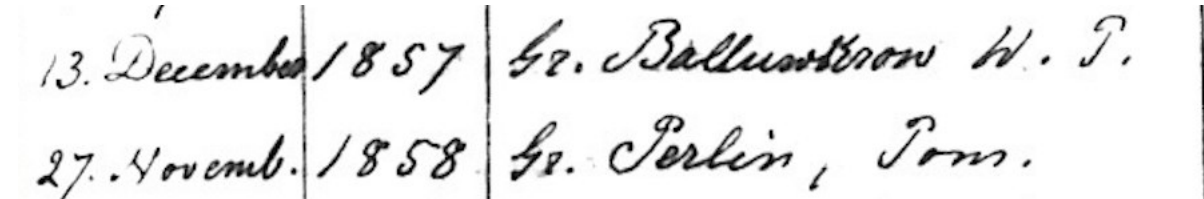
What is meyersgaz.org?

Meyersgaz.org is a genealogical website to assist you in discovering information about locations located in the German empire. It also includes information about the various governmental and ecclesiastical institutions that served these various locations. It is based on the *Meyers Orts- und Verkehr-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs* gazetteer which shows locations as they were during the second German empire which existed between 1871 and 1918. A major feature of the online version of the gazetteer is that it allows you to search the *Meyers Orts* using wildcards.

Why use meyersgaz.org.

Many times, when we find the locations where our ancestors were born or lived, the location may not be legible. Or the person recording the event may not know the correct spelling of the location or may not understand the pronunciation of the person who is providing the information. Meyersgaz.org allow the use of wildcards to assist us in finding the correct location. The website also includes information about the location of the various governmental offices that serve that area.

When I discovered the marriage record for my great grandparents in the Emmanuel German Lutheran Church in Detroit it included their birthplaces.



The birthplace for my great grandfather is listed as Gr. (Gross) Balluwkron W. P. (West Prussia.). However, I was unable to find any location in West Prussia with that spelling.

How to use meyersgaz.org.

To use meyersgaz.org you enter the website URL in your browser and you get the following screen.

At the top of the page are three buttons, “Gazetteer,” “Help” and “About.” The Gazetteer” button is the default selection and takes you to the search page. The “Help” button takes you to a page of information about the site and some helpful hints. It also has a search button which is just an extension of the search on the “Gazetteer” page. The “About” button takes you to a page with the copyright information for the website.

On this screen you enter the location of the place. Entering “Gross Balluwkron” produced no results. The instructions below the search box says you can use wild cards in your search and entering “Gross Ball*” produced the following result. (See top of next page.)

We appreciate your patience as we continue to improve this site and complete the geocoding and Nachtrag addendum.

Using Meyersgaz.org in Your Research

by Ed Redmer

GAZETTEER HELP

Search results for [gross ball*]

Gross Ballerstedt
D. (Village)
Gross Ballerstedt, Osterburg, Magdeburg, Sachsen, Preussen

Gross Ballhausen
D. u. 2 Rgr. (Grüner u. Roter Hof)
Gross Ballhausen, Weissensee, Erfurt, Sachsen, Preussen

Gross Ballowken ←
D. (Village)
Gross Ballowken, Löbau, Marienwerder, Westpreussen, Preussen

Gross Ballupönen
D. (Village)
Gross Ballupönen, Ragnit, Gumbinnen, Ostpreussen, Preussen


Can't find what you're looking for? Try viewing "sounds like" search results.

GAZETTEER HELP

Gross Ballowken
Gross Ballowken, Löbau, Marienwerder, Westpreussen, Preussen

Entry Map Ecclesiastical Related ←

Gross Ballowken, D., Wt., Westpr., NB.
Marienwerder, Kr. Lobau, NB. E. 8,8 km
Neumark Westpr., BKdo. Deutsch Eylau, P
Klein Ballowken Kr. Lobau; 446 E., StdA.,
N. — Dazu NB. Klein Ballowken 10 E.
Show previous and next entry
View entry on PDF of the original page




Volume	1
Page	629
Type	D.
Lvl I	Pr.
Prov	Westpr.
RB	Marienwerder
Kr	Löbau
AG	Neumark Westpr.
BKdo	Deutsch Eylau
StdA	Gross Ballowken [self]
A	Gross Ballowken [self]
Population	446

Detail

Type D. - Gross Ballowken is a Dorf (Village).

Gross Ballowken, D., Wt., Westpr., NB.
Marienwerder, Kr. Lobau, NB. E. 8,8 km
Neumark Westpr., BKdo. Deutsch Eylau, P
Klein Ballowken Kr. Lobau; 446 E., StdA.,
N. — Dazu NB. Klein Ballowken 10 E.
Show previous and next entry
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Volume	1
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Type	D.
Lvl I	Pr.
Prov	Westpr.
RB	Marienwerder
Kr	Löbau
AG	Neumark Westpr.
BKdo	Deutsch Eylau
StdA	Gross Ballowken [self]
A	Gross Ballowken [self]
Population	446

After reviewing the results that the site produced, I selected Gross Ballowken as the most likely answer. The spelling is the closest to that of the marriage record and it is the only one located in West Prussia.

If you click on the town name the site returns the following result. I will examine each section of the result in turn.

The name of the place you selected is given and then a listing of the place, the kreis, the regierungsbezirk, the province and the kingdom associated with the location. The kreis is roughly equivalent to a U.S. county, the regierungsbezirk is a district between the kreis and the state. The province is roughly equivalent to a state.

The next line gives you four choices for the information associated with the location. These are the 'ENTRY' in the Meyers Orts, an historical "Map" of the location, a listing of the "Ecclesiastical" parishes that serve the location and other locations that our location is "Related" to in the Meyers Orts Gazetteer.

The next section is a copy of the actual listing in the Meyers Orts Gazetteer" and a link to the previous and next entries in the gazetteer and a link to a PDF copy of the whole page for our location.

It also includes a current map showing where our place is located, the volume and page of the entry in the Meyers Orts. "Type D" tells us that this location is a Dorf (village), that the Level I or kingdom is Prussia, the Province is West Prussia, the Regierungsbezirk is Marienwerder, the Kreis is Lobau, the Amtsgericht (lower district court) is Neumark West Prussia, the Bezirkskommando (district military command) is Deutsch Eylau, the Standesamt is Gross Ballowken (self) and the Amtsbezirk (district office) is also Gross Ballowken (self.)

These are all of the locations that hold the records for the people living in this location.

Advanced features of meyersgaz.org will be covered in a future issue.



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