



MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Michigan Germanic Connections

Exploring Michigan's Germanic family history heritage

Fall 2025
Volume 3, Issue 2

Willkommen

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 September meeting of the society will be held Monday, September 8th, at 7:30 p.m. Katherine Willson will present "Resources for Genealogical Research in Foreign Countries."

We have a name for our newsletter! Thanks to Brenda Leyndyke for suggesting several names.

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!

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Hope you've been enjoying the summer! As an attendee at the International Germanic Genealogy Partnership conference in Columbus, Ohio this summer, I can only say how great it was! Lots of great speakers on topics all over Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and beyond! I especially enjoyed the opportunity to network with others searching in the same areas. It was well worth the money. Start saving your dollars for the next one, so you can go too.

THANKS

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

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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.



The Importance of Cluster Research in Genealogy

by Brenda Leyndyke

Cluster research involves researching your extended family, friends, neighbors, and other associates, often referred to as your ancestor's FAN club. By tracing these connections, researchers can sometimes link ancestors to others in their family tree, providing insights into the ancestor's life.

I was trying to trace J. August Fredrick, my maternal great-grandfather, who immigrated to the United States around 1871, back to his family. Unfortunately, little is known about his relatives, and he has been a source of frustration for me. Since I was not making any progress with him, I decided to focus on his sisters. I knew he had three sisters who came to the United States, as they were mentioned in his obituary: Mrs. John Zobel, Mrs. August Guske, and Mrs. Leo Engelhuber. I hoped that researching them would lead me to information about the region in Prussia where J. August was from.

I hit a genealogical jackpot when I searched the 1880 Manistee, Michigan census for the Guske family. I found the August Guske family (August, Otilie, Otto, Emma, and Mary) listed. In addition, there was a mother-in-law, Susan King. A mother-in-law? I did a double take. Had I just found my 2nd great-grandmother? I remained cautious, as I had previously seen 'mother-in-law' listed on another census record, only to find it was not accurate. Still, I could not help but feel excited.

I continued my census searching and found the Guhse family in the 1900 Census for Manistee, Michigan. This time the August Guhse family included August, Otella, Otto, Emma, Mary, Alma, Albert, AND Susie Frederick. Susie Frederick was listed as grandmother this time.

Next, I did census research for Mrs. John Zobel and Mrs. Leo Engelhuber. I found that Mrs. John Zobel's first name was Henriette and Mrs. Leo Engelhuber was Amalia. The census research did not lead me to a place in Posen (Poznan).

I decided to try the Poznan Project (<https://poznan-project.psn.pl/search.php>), which is an index of marriages from 1800 to 1899 in Poznan (Posen). Here I found two marriages: one, John Zobel and Henriette Fredrich, which listed her father as Christoph Fredrich and two, Christoph Fredrich with a marriage to Susanna Konig. Christoph and Susanna's parents were listed too. From this one resource I was able to confirm that Henriette Fredrich's parents

were Christoph and Susanna, making the Susanna King/Fredrick in the Census information correct.

But was this J. August Fredrick's parents? There is an eleven-year age difference in Henriette and J. August's birth dates with Henriette being the oldest. I knew I needed to conduct further research to prove if Christoph and Susanna were his parents. I headed to Ancestry and looked in the Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1567-1945 database. This database had the actual church register pages for viewing. I was able to find J. August's baptismal record and confirm that Christoph and Susanna Fredrich were J. August's parents. (Source: entry for Johann August Fredrich, Author: Evangelische Kirche Nakel (Kr. Wirsitz), City or District: Sadki u Wyrzysk, FHL Film Number: 245495).

I conducted more research on Susanna Konig/King Fredrich and found a passenger list for Susanna Fredrich, Amelia Fredrich, and Otelia Fredrich. They traveled from the port of Liverpool, England; Londonderry, Ireland to Quebec arriving 21 October 1872. Manistee, Michigan was listed as their destination to which ticketed. (Source: Susanna Fredrich; Scandinavian passenger manifest, 21 October 1872, p107; in Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935; C-4511 to C-4542 (Ottawa, Ontario, Canada: Library and Archives Canada), Roll C-4527). I have never found a passenger list for Christoph nor a death record. Susanna's death record can be found at Michiganology (<https://michiganology.org/>). Further research will be needed on Christoph.

The above research proved that J. August's parents were Christoph and Susanna (Konig) Fredrich. Did I find the place of birth for J. August? Yes, I did. His baptismal register showed he was born in Gorsin, Bromberg, Posen, Preussen and baptized in the Evangelisch church in Nakel, Wirsitz, Bromberg, Posen, Preussen, the place names at the time of his birth and baptism. Today, the area is in Poland.

I did further cluster research on J. August's siblings and connected with a descendant of another sister, Wilhelmine, who stayed in Prussia, and he was able to share more family history. I think this shows the importance of researching brothers and sisters of your ancestors. I never thought I would find my second great grandmother in a United States census, but I did, and that one record led me to research siblings and expand my family tree.

WEBSITES AND EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Eva Nest is a native German and a German teacher, and recently started a free YouTube channel aimed at supporting learners of German (from intermediate to advanced level) and sharing aspects of European history and culture along the way.

She publishes a new video every other week. Each episode includes German subtitles, explanatory visuals, and a downloadable PDF of the full script to support the learning process.

<https://www.youtube.com/@evanest6824>

- There are societies that allow non-members to participate in their SIG's at no charge. One is the Eastside Genealogical Society (<https://eastsidegenealogicalsociety.org/>) out of Bellevue, WA. Their German Interest Group meets on the 1st Friday of each month, except July, and August, from 12:30 to 2:30 pm Pacific time. Currently, they are meeting virtually, and REGISTRATION is REQUIRED to attend their meetings. Visitors are always welcome at their meetings. For more information about our meetings, please visit their website at: <https://egsgermangroup.wordpress.com/>.



Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society Board members Brenda Leyndyke, Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach and Ed Redmer at the IGGP Conference in Columbus.

Aldi History

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Did you know that Aldi's grocery store is German-owned? You can often find German specialty items like spaetzle, sauerkraut, pickles, bratwurst, liverwurst, bean soup, schnitzel and more. There is also a German week in September or October with other special items. There are 114 stores in Michigan, with a few more being planned, and 2474 nationwide. According to a Detroit Free Press article Feb 21 2025, four more stores are planned for Michigan.

What does the word Aldi mean in German? In 1962, they introduced the name Aldi—short for Albrecht-Diskont, which translates into English as

Albrecht Discount, which became their formal corporate name in 1975. The chain was founded by brothers Karl and Theo Albrecht in 1946, when they took over their mother's store in Essen. The business was split into two separate groups in 1960 that later became Aldi Nord (initially Northern West Germany), headquartered in Essen, and Aldi Süd (initially Southern West Germany), headquartered in neighboring Mulheim. Aldi Nord operates stores in the European Union, and Aldi Süd operates stores in the US, United Kingdom, Australia, and some other countries. Aldi Nord also operates the Trader Joe's chain in the US.

CONTACT US

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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 – Tom Koselka

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
Tim Salatin

Program Coordinator – Joan
Cooper

**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.

Sep 8: “Resources for Genealogical Research in Foreign Countries ” with Katherine R. Willson
Katherine is the founder and past President of the Virtual Genealogical Association, past President of the Michigan Genealogical Council, and past board member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. She is an engaging and dynamic genealogy lecturer at regional and national events; a full-time researcher for clients; and a genealogy educator for 25+ years, including courses for the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy and the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh.

Nov 10: “German Census Records, 1816-1910: The Where, When and How of a Valuable Genealogical Resource ” with Dr. Roger Minert
Roger is a professional genealogist and an emeritus AG (Accredited Genealogist). He has a background in German language study and has published reference books for genealogy work on German immigrants, guides on performing German genealogy research, and books about the history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Germany. He frequently presents on German family history topics at genealogy conferences.

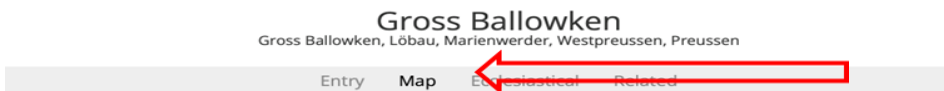
Using Meyersgaz.org in Your Research

by Ed Redmer

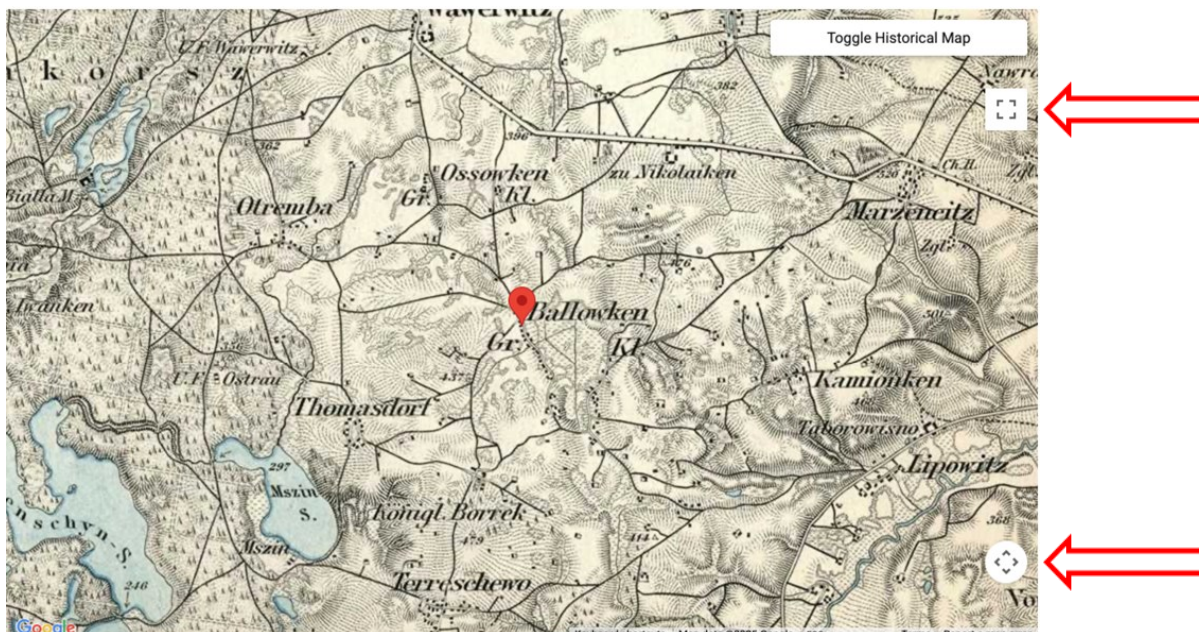
Continued from last issue of this publication

Advanced features of meyersgaz.org.

The next section in the Meyer Gaz listing is the “Map” section.



Clicking on this section brings up a copy of the historical map of the region with your village or town in the center.



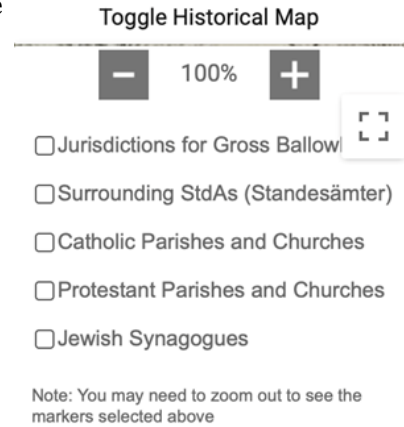
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Using Meyersgaz.org in Your Research

by Ed Redmer

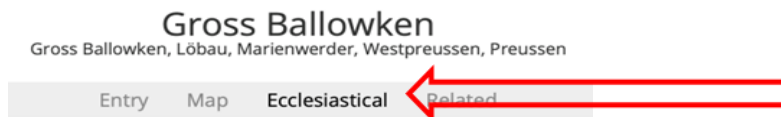
The two symbols on the right of the map (marked with arrows) are: on the top this enables you to make the map cover the full screen and the one on the bottom brings up the controls for zooming in and out and also to move the map up and down and right and left.

If you click on the box “Toggle Historical Map” it should bring up a Google Map image corresponding to the geographic area shown. Apparently the link to Google Maps is broken and instead it brings up a Google Map that just shows the current name of most of the locations on the historic map. Clicking on the “Toggle Historical Map” box brings up the box to the right:



Clicking on each of the boxes brings up the civil or ecclesiastical location that has authority over our village or town. The first box “Jurisdictions for Gross Ballowken” places markers with a “J” in the center on the map. Likewise, the “Surrounding StdAs” places markers with a “R”, the “Catholic Parishes and Churches” places markers with a “C”, “Protestant Parishes and Churches” places a marker with a “P” and the “Jewish Synagogues” places a marker with a “J”. This information can help you find the location where records relating to your village or town can be found.

The next section in the Meyersgaz.org listing is the “Ecclesiastical” section.



It brings up a listing of the Catholic churches or parishes, the Protestant churches or parishes, the local Synagogue and any other church that serves the area in question.

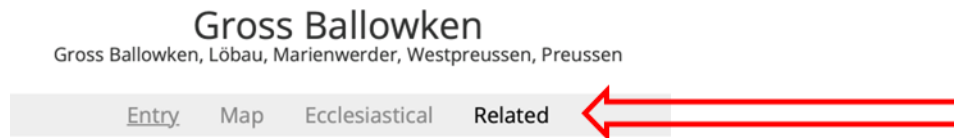
The Catholic Parish is Neumark
 The Protestant Parish is Neumark
 *Source: Family Search

The list below are those places from the Meyers Gazetteer that are nearby to Gross Ballowken (which may include itself) and are listed as containing a Catholic Church or Parish, a Protestant Church or Parish, a Synagogue, or Other Church.

Place	Distance (~miles)	Catholic ParishesChurches	Protestant ParishesChurches	Jewish Synagogues	Other
Skarlin	4	1			
Kauernik	4	1			
Neumark	5	1	1	1	
Lonkorsz	6	1			
Pokrzydowo	6	1			
Deutsch Brzozie	6	1			

This shows that the Catholic Parish is Neumark as is the Protestant Parish. It then continues to list the all of the churches, parishes or synagogues by distance from the village or town that you are researching. This is just a partial list that I copied from the site. The complete list extend out to 20 miles from Gross Ballowken. This list can be very helpful when you are trying to find church records for your ancestors. I found my great-grandfather’s baptism record as well as his brothers in the Protestant church record for Neumark.

The last section in the listing is the “Related” section.



This section is a list of other towns that refer to your town in their listing as having jurisdiction over them such as Amtsgericht, Standesamt, Landgericht, etc.

Entries where Gross Ballowken is referenced as A ▼

Biedaszekmühle*

Gross Ossowken

Kamionken 4)

Klein Ballowken Kr. Löbau Westpr.

Otremba

Schluska*

Wawerwitz 1)

Entries where Gross Ballowken is referenced as StdA ▼

Biedaszekmühle*

Gross Ossowken

Kamionken 4)

Klein Ballowken Kr. Löbau Westpr.

The list is longer but this should illustrate what you will find.

Conclusion

Using Meyersgaz.org will help you locate your ancestral village during the period 1871 to 1918. It will help you find the correct village or town even if the spelling in the record that you have found is less than perfect. It will also help you know where to look for additional records in their home country. It is definitely a tool that you want to have in your online genealogical toolbox.



MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY MIGGS.ORG

MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL APPLICATION 2025 - 2026

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, 2025 to June 30, 2026.

New Membership Renewal

Payment: Cash Check Check Number: _____

Make checks payable to: **Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society**

Please mail to:

**Michigan Germanic Genealogical Society
c/o Ed Redmer
7687 Nollar Road
Whitmore Lake, MI 48189-7209**

Office Use: Cash M.O. Check # _____ Amount _____ Date _____