



MICHIGAN GERMANIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Michigan Germanic Connections

Exploring Michigan's Germanic family history heritage

Spring 2026
Volume 3, Issue 4

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 March meeting of the society will be held Monday, March 9th, at 7:30 p.m. (EDT). James M. Beidler will present "Pennsylvania's German Waves".

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

Hello! Thank you being a part of MIGGS! You will see a couple of great upcoming programs, thanks to your membership!. Hope you all had a Paczki, Berliner, Krapfen, Pfannkuchen, Kreppel, fastnacht or other jelly-filled donut to celebrate Fat Tuesday. Lots of different names for that donut, but whatever you call it, it's a delicious treat. Looking forward to seeing you online in March at our program. Julia

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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.



Using Matricula for German Genealogy Research

by Brenda Leyndyke

[Matricula Online](#) is one of the most important websites for researching German and Austrian ancestry. It provides free access to digitized church records from Catholic and some Protestant parishes across Central Europe. For many researchers, Matricula is the key to locating baptisms, marriages, and burials that are not available anywhere else online.

What Is Matricula?

Matricula Online is a digital portal created by the International Centre for Archival Research (ICARUS). Its purpose is to make historical church records accessible while keeping them organized by archive and parish. Records are arranged geographically rather than alphabetically, so knowing the exact town or parish of origin is essential before beginning your search.

Matricula by the Numbers and Countries

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Austria | 2832 |
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | 2 |
| Germany | 9042 |
| Italy | 106 |
| Luxemburg | 277 |
| Poland | 5 |
| Private Archives | 3 |
| Serbia | 5 |
| Slovenia | 652 |

What Records Are Available?

Most collections on Matricula consist of Catholic parish registers, though some Protestant records are included depending on the region. Common record types include:

- Baptismal registers (Taufen)
- Marriage registers (Trauungen)
- Burial registers (Begräbnisse)

Coverage varies by archive. Some parishes begin in the 1600s, while others start later. Not all parishes are digitized, and gaps in records are common.

How to Navigate the Site

Deutsch | English

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR ARCHIVAL RESEARCH ICARUS

About ICARUS Cooperation Activities ICARUS4all Q

Press

Matricula

Welcome to Matricula – the online church registers database!

The church registers of individual religious communities are among the most used and most

- Matricula
- To the archive
- Support us!
- About us
- Collaboration
- Reference aids
- Contact
- FAQ
- Terms of use

Go to [Matricula Online](#)
Click on “To the archive”

The “Welcome” page provides three options for searching:



Book Icon

Map Icon

Magnifying Glass Icon

Book Icon-leads to a map that shows areas where books are available. The number of parishes is listed in white on a red circle. The countries are listed to right of the map. Either the circle or country list can be used to access parishes.

Map Icon-shows all the regions for which records are available. Zooming in will allow one to see the individual parishes.

Magnifying Glass Icon- is a built-in gazetteer that locates specific parishes.

Detailed explanations for each icon can be found at [the Matricula Online Church Record Portal](#) on the Family Search Wiki.

Matricula does not use a name index. Researchers must browse the records page by page. To get started:

1. Select a country.
2. Choose an archive.
3. Select a parish.
4. Open the desired register and scroll through the images.

Once inside a register, look for internal indexes. Many German parish books include handwritten name indexes at the front or back of the volume. These can save a great deal of time.

Tips for Successful Research

- Learn basic German and Latin genealogical terms before searching.
- Pay attention to sponsors and witnesses, as they are often relatives.
- Track house numbers and occupations, which can help distinguish families with the same surname.

Using Matricula for German Genealogy Research

by Brenda Leyndyke

Always record the full citation, including archive, parish, and register title.

Strengths and Limitations

Matricula is free and provides high quality images, often in color. It is especially valuable for regions not well covered by other genealogy websites. However, it requires patience and preparation. Without a known place of origin, searching Matricula is difficult and often unproductive.

Why Matricula Matters

For Germanic researchers, Matricula opens doors to original

records that were once accessible only through on-site archive visits. With careful preparation and methodical research, it can provide rich details about ancestors and their communities.

Matricula Online reminds us that successful German genealogy begins with location, careful reading, and an understanding of historical records.

Images are courtesy of the Matricula website at <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>

EVENTS OF INTEREST

Hudson Valley Palatine Loyalists in the Revolutionary War

Presenter Garry Finkell examines the Loyalists of the American Revolutionary War and those among the Palatine Germans, whose parents and grandparents settled in the Hudson River Valley of New York beginning in 1710. He explains the reasons for their position and how they became the founders of English-speaking Canada. Register at:

<https://dallasgenealogy.org/event/german-genealogy-group-27/>

March 14 @ 10:30 AM Central time zone | hybrid | English

What's in a German Name?

*This is a partner event. Have you ever wondered whether a German surname in your lineage has some significance or meaning? What about how your ancestors named their children? This presentation will explore German naming customs of both forenames and surnames to help you better understand how your ancestors got their names, the importance of naming customs, and how names evolved over time. Presenter: Ken Weaver. Register at https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uh9VrR3xTc-HgfDnK-k_2g#/registration

March 17 @ 7:00 PM Eastern time zone | online | English

Family Research in Schleswig-Holstein: the Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Presenter: Dr. Klaus Kohrt. This webinar will summarize the history of Schleswig-Holstein to provide a basic understanding of how to find records in various archives. How and where to find records on the internet and/or how to contact organizations holding the original records will also be discussed. The focus of the presentation will be on Protestant church books, civil registers and Danish census records. The organizational structures of the Protestant church and the civil administration in Schleswig-Holstein will be explained. Register at <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8359819355055726687>

March 26 @ 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM Central time zone | online | English

CONTACT US

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germangenes@charter.net

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/
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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 – Tom Koselka

Zoom Meeting Specialist – Rodger Wolf

Facebook – Shannon Gordon

Twitter/X—(@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
- Many of our programs will have nationally recognized speakers
- Quarterly newsletter
- Meetings, workshops, and event notices
- 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



2026 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 9, 2026: “Pennsylvania’s German Waves” with James M. Beidler
Applying genealogical basics to the peculiarity of searching for the rich records relating to America’s first large ethnic minority population – especially highlighting church registers and immigration documents – as well as the Second Wave Germans who joined them in Pennsylvania.
James M. Beidler, a Pennsylvania German expert, has authored four books, writes the weekly column/blog “Roots & Branches,” and is a German Life magazine columnist.

May 11, 2026: “German Directories” with Luana Darby
In Germany, more and more directories are online. This presentation will tell you where to find them, how to work with them and how to interpret the information typical for German directories.

AMERICA 250

Resources for Revolutionary War Research with a German connection can be found on the IGGP website at:
<https://iggp.org/america-250/>

German Vegan Lentil Soup – Oma's vegane Linsensuppe

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 stalks celery, chopped
- 1 leek, finely chopped (optional)
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 - 4 potatoes, chopped
- 2 cups red lentils (dried) or other lentils, but may take slightly longer to cook
- 10 cups vegetable stock
- 2 bay leaves

Instructions:

Heat the oil in a large soup pot. Add onions, celery and leeks. Cook over high heat for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add remaining ingredients. Bring to boil, reduce heat, cover and simmer for about 20 minutes or until vegetables are tender. Remove bay leaves. If you wish, use an immersion blender to mash up the veggies. Season with salt and pepper.

Adapted from "Just Like Oma's" website



Unlocking Catholic History: A Closer Look at The Catholic News Archive

by Kate McKenzie

In the digital age, access to historic newspapers transforms how researchers explore faith, immigration, and local community narratives. Among these, “The Catholic News Archive” stands out as a powerful resource, offering free, full-text access to decades of Catholic newspaper coverage across the United States. Developed through partnerships with diocesan archives and scholarly organizations, it’s a vital bridge between ecclesiastical recordkeeping and public historical research.

“The Catholic News Archive” is available at thecatholicnewsarchive.org and it is a digital repository that gathers historical Catholic newspapers from U.S. dioceses and religious publishers into a searchable online collection. It was launched in 2016 by the Catholic Research Resources Alliance (CRRA) and is now maintained through Atla’s CRRA Program.

Its scope spans more than a century and a half, with materials dating from 1831 to 2024 (and growing). The archive is fully text-searchable, meaning that you can search not only headlines but editorial content, advertisements, parish notices, and announcements.

For genealogists, “The Catholic News Archive” offers a wealth of material that goes far beyond traditional record sources. Many diocesan newspapers published parish notices, death announcements, confirmations, and transfer records—details that can sometimes provide the only surviving evidence for individuals not otherwise documented in municipal or civil archives. Catholic newspapers also capture the broader cultural landscape of immigrant life, reflecting language transitions, parish disputes, and community celebrations in ways secular papers rarely did. For example, German-speaking parishes and other ethnic Catholic communities often appear more vividly and consistent-

ly in diocesan publications than in general local press.

In addition, the archive helps bridge gaps where parish registers or diocesan archives may be incomplete or inaccessible. When newspapers have survived and been digitized, they offer a complementary layer of evidence that can fill in missing chapters of family or parish history. Perhaps most valuable of all, the archive’s full-text search makes discovery remarkably efficient—allowing researchers to locate names, places, or topics across multiple dioceses in seconds, without the need to travel between repositories or sift through reels of microfilm.

Currently, more than fifteen dioceses are represented, including Atlanta, Georgia; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minnesota, among others. You can search by keyword or browse by title or date. While exploring “The Catholic Telegraph,” a publication of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, I came across a mention of my 2nd great-aunt, Josephine Minten, participating as a cast member in a play at St. Paul’s Church. The drama, titled *Remember*, was performed in the church hall. You never know what fascinating details you might uncover!

“The Catholic News Archive” fills an important niche between church archives and public historical resources. For genealogists researching Catholic ancestors it provides a searchable glimpse into aspects of religious and community life that are often hard to find in other records.

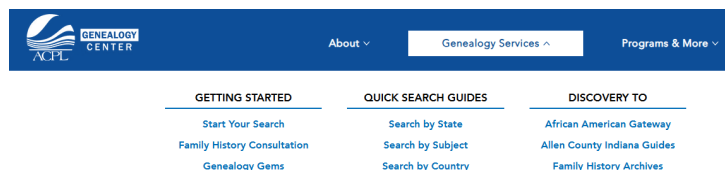
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Genealogy Gems

by Julia Hanneman-Schoenbach

Genealogy Gems is truly a gem of a newsletter. Put out by the Allen County Public Library, this free monthly newsletter has many interesting tips, and two of their articles have been reprinted with permission in our newsletter. Go to the Allen County Public Library Ge-

nealogy Center website (<https://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy>). Click on "Genealogy Services", and in the left column under "Getting Started" click on "Genealogy Gems" and you can subscribe and read past issues.



Newly Released Records

The Archives of Michigan has a signed agreement between the Department of Health and Human Services and DTMB, which includes mental health patient case files and youth records. The newly signed agreement replaces and opens access to many records that were previously closed.

For patient case files, any mental health records transferred to the archives prior to August 6, 1975, are considered open. Any mental health records transferred to the archives after August 6, 1975, are closed for 75 years from the date the record was created. Once they hit that 75-year window, they would become open as well. This would include all state owned/run asylums, including Kalamazoo and Ionia.

The Archives of Michigan is still ironing out the procedure for accessing these records, but we should be hearing from them soon with information regarding how to access these previously unavailable resources.

Detroit Archdiocese Records

The Archdiocese of Detroit Archives collects, arranges, preserves, and makes available for scholarly research the historic records of the Archdiocese of Detroit and related Catholic institutions and individuals. They will make searches in the records of closed parishes for a fee. See their website for more information.

<https://www.cognitiforms.com/ArchdioceseOfDetroit2/GenealogyRequestForm>

The Burton Collection of the Detroit Public Library has microfilmed copies of many of the Catholic Church records for Detroit and surrounding areas. They have a map of the area showing the location of Catholic Churches at

<https://d2qp1eesgvzzix.cloudfront.net/uploads/files/Map-of-Catholic-Church-in-Detroit.pdf>

There is a PDF listing the Catholic Church records that they hold. The Catholic Churches listed as German with the earliest year of records found are:

- St. Joseph (Wyandotte) 1871 BHC#1286
- St. Alphonsus (Dearborn) 1852 BHC#1286
- St. Boniface (Detroit) 1869 BHC#1286
- St. Mary's (Detroit) 1835 BHC#1286
- Sacred Heart (Dearborn) 1876 BHC#1286
- St. Joseph (Detroit) 1856 BHC#1286
- St. Albertus (Detroit) 1870 BHC#1024
- St. Elizabeth (Detroit) 1884 BHC#1286
- St. Anthony (Detroit) 1857 BHC#1286

The records for St. Joseph in Wyandotte are also available on microfilm at the Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer Rd, Monroe, MI.

Ellis Library has microfilmed copies of several of the Monroe County Catholic Churches, including:

St. Michael's (German) which started in 1852

St. Antoine/St. Mary which started in 1794

St. Patrick in Carleton which started in 1859

St. Joseph in Maybee which started in 1890

St. Charles in Newport which started in 1852

Saginaw Archdiocese Archives

The Sacramental records are kept at the parishes in which the Sacrament was performed and a Baptismal Register copy is in the Archives. To obtain a certified copy of your Sacramental record, please contact the parish in which the Sacrament was performed. If the parish has been closed, then please see Parish Record Location listing at the website:

<https://saginaw.org/sacramental-records>

Information is open for genealogists for the following Sacramental Records:

Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation – pre-1922

Marriage – pre-1952

Death/Funeral – pre-1977

Catholic Cemeteries in Detroit

The burials of Mt. Elliott, Mt. Olivet, Resurrection, All Saints and Guardian Angel Cemeteries can be searched to find a death/burial date and plot/grave number for individuals at:

<https://www.mtelliott.com/locate-a-loved-one/>

For older burials at Mt. Elliott, starting in 1845, visit your local Family History Center of the LDS to view the records of that cemetery.

Check the other Diocese in Michigan for information on sacramental records for those areas:

- Diocese of Gaylord
- Diocese of Grand Rapids
- Diocese of Kalamazoo
- Diocese of Lansing
- Diocese of Marquette



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 _____