

G-SIG FORUM #48

...from the German Special Interest Group. G-SIG is an effort of the St. Louis Genealogical Society (www.stlgs.org/) and the German American Heritage Society, St. Louis, Mo. (www.gahs-stlouis.org).

This communication is a forum for genealogical, educational, and historical information with fresh insights and ideas on German traditions and ancestry. Gerald Perschbacher serves as *FORUM* compiler and coordinator.

If you would like to include a notice or request, please submit your information in condensed form for the *EXCHANGE!* section (limit 50 words). *EXCHANGE!* notices run only once, but you may resubmit. We reserve the privilege to shorten and edit. Send your *EXCHANGE!* submission to persch3@hotmail.com.

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MORE ON HERMANN

Remember the previous edition? As a result of the feature on Hermann (Roman name: Arminius) and the Battle of Teutoburg Forest (9 A.D.), Kathy Wurth offers an encouragement (kathyinwashington@hotmail.com). G-SIG participants may wish to learn more by examining the YouTube link to the History Channel's three-part recreation of that momentous event:

<http://www.blinkx.com/video/battle-of-the-teutoburg-forest-part-1-3/xe71K5TNz58aULqeYH2rDw>

Kathy adds, "It is incredibly interesting and gives a good history lesson on what happened in that forest." Since Kathy visited the location of the battle, her endorsement is especially meaningful.

As a counterpoint, there is debate in Germany over the exact location of the battle. Hard to tell if this is "revisionist" thinking for the sake of change, or if it is truly a scholarly theory. One of my contacts in Germany says there was little celebrating in most of the country, even though a 2,000th anniversary is monumental in itself!

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Got something to share in the next FORUM? See the last page!

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SEARCHING FOR HENRY

Chris Kampmeier (ckamps@yahoo.com) is on a search for Great-Grandfather Henry (Heinrich Albert) Kampmeier. Family lore indicates he may have been adopted! That, of course, compounds the matter. When Chris sent the e-mail asking for help, G-SIG members Pat von zur Muehlen and Kathy Wurth contributed ideas. Chris adds, "He appears in Burlington, Iowa, in the house of his parents in the 1880 U.S. Census. He is 14 at the time yet his parents were married in 1870. Census records indicate that he was born in 1866 in Prussia and that he emigrated in 1869 -- the same year as his father, also named Heinrich Kampmeier. Henry Sr. appears in the 1870 U.S. Census as a single man living in a boarding house in Burlington. There is no record of Henry Jr. that I've been able to locate prior to the 1880 U.S. Census."

Chris goes on: "I have two brick walls to address: 1) What was the origin of Henry Jr.? Was he adopted? If so when and where? Where did he come from in Germany? 2) What was the origin of Henry Sr.? Where did he reside in Germany?"

A family tree and some data Chris has collected are available at:
<http://kampmeier.com/genealogy/descend.php?personID=I7&tree=all&display=compact&generations=6>

Chris has been thorough and diligent in the search. "I've looked through U.S. and Iowa Census records, naturalization, marriage and death records in Burlington, probate material in Burlington, and passenger lists." The next step was to make contact with the First German Evangelical Church in Burlington for possible confirmation information.

Pat advised Chris to check the surname on the [verwandt.de](http://www.verwandt.de) map:
<http://www.verwandt.de/karten/absolut/kampmeier.html>.

Furthermore, Pat noted in her response that Osnabrück is one of the areas where the Kampmeier name is high in density. Her next suggestion was to check the Web site for the Osnabrücker Familienforschung: <http://www.osfa.de/>. More ideas followed, including that Kathy Wurth who heads the G-SIG Osnabrück Cluster has contacts in Germany who may have an inside track for information. Kathy responded with a specific offer to help Chris through her German contacts.

Now for a few additional observations.

Chris is on target with some pretty serious research. This alone does not guarantee success, but it can certainly help. Chris has done a significant amount of work with some good results. This is an example for others. Now Chris is setting another example by asking for assistance and "widening the circle" to get it.

When you are stuck on a genealogical limb, you can give up; set the matter aside and hope an answer drops from the heavens; or seek help.

G-SIG exists to augment your search and discovery. Don't hesitate to contact your fellow G-SIG participants for advice, ideas, and direction.

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READ THOSE OLD NEWSPAPERS

Marlene Olson informs us: “Nineteenth-Century U.S. Newspapers’ is one of the classes that is offered at the St. Louis County Library by Larry Franke. The classes run for two hours. They are free from the library and offered once or twice a month. Here is a sample:

“*Indiana Gazette* (Vincennes, Ind.) Tuesday, 7 August 1804, Issue 2; col. C Article GT3017238089.”

She quotes: "The emigrants who have arrived in the Aurora from Amsterdam are part of upwards of 200 families from the principality of Wirtemberg (sic), who have agreed to form a settlement in the new state of Ohio, where they are about to produce a large quantity of land." The article stated that about a thousand others were also on the way!

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ZOOMING IN FOR CLEAR PICTURES

Gordon Seyffert (gordonseyffert@mac.com) recently wrote: “For those who have roots in East Prussia, there's a must-see Web site” at

<http://www.ostpreussen.de/paz/startseite.html>

He explains: “The ‘paz’ part stands for *Preußische Allgemeine Zeitung*, a newspaper targeted at Germans whose home was in the east prior to 1945. But note the tabs at the top! Click on the one that says ‘Bildarchiv.’ Immediately one will see a picture of some early 20th century town or bucolic locale in the former East Prussia, followed then by others in a random slide show.

“This is most entertaining in and of itself. But wait, there’s more! Click on ‘Weiter zur Bildsuche’ to reach the search engine, which is keyed to a map of East Prussia.” He says in the upper left is an outlined box labeled “Suchergebnisse.”

There are 14,325 photo-postcards in this collection of which a smaller number will be indicated as pertaining to the map selection chosen to the right.

“Within the box are two search buttons labeled ‘Anzeigen.’ Click the top one if you wish to cycle through all 14,325 photos, alphabetically listed. I actually did this to look for my ancestral hamlet of Adlig Borken, but it was so small that there were no photos of it -- not too surprising!”

He continues: “Use the map to the right to click on your ‘Kreis’ (district) of choice, and you will be taken to a map specific to that Kreis. At this point you then click on a segment of the map that contains your town of interest.

“Note that the number of available photos keeps shrinking as you zoom in on the series of maps. But also note the scale in the upper left corner of each map. A Kreis map is at the ‘2’ level, but once you click on a square within the larger map, you’re taken to an actual color pre-1945 map and the scale now shows a ‘3.’ From here it’s important to use the arrow keys above the scale to center on your geographical point of interest, whereupon you click on the next larger number in the scale. Once you get to the ‘4’ level, you’ll be viewing one of the wonderful 1:100,000 scale pre-war maps that provides so much detail that you’ll see representations of some individual buildings.”

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‘OLD MOTHER OF COUNTIES’

That’s the way an atlas of St. Clair County, Illinois, explains the area in the 1870s. By that time, it already held an honorable position in the entire state—and far beyond.

German immigrants liked St. Clair County. Around 1825 in Belleville, the most populated town in the county, there were only “two German families here, and they were those of Conrad Bornmann and Jacob Mauer.” Both were blacksmiths, trades they probably carried to the New World. “Both are men of wealth and, as citizens, are men of sterling worth, too.” But times were a-changing, and fast! More Germans were coming!

“In 1829, German emigrants began to settle in the county in considerable numbers, attracted hither by the superior quality of the lands, their low price, and their proximity to the St. Louis market,” says the old and brittle atlas. In 1831 a larger influx of Germans settled in the county. Among those families were the Koerners, Hilgards, Englemanns, Scheels, Berchelmans, and Schots. In 1831 and 1832 came the Heberers and Knobelochs. “This new element was added to our population during the presidential term when General Jackson was in the chair of state; and their first lessons in American politics were learned from the agitation of the nullification schemes of Calhoun and others,” the story relates.

In the early 1830s, Vandalia was the state capital. Says the atlas, “A system of railroads through the state was then being vitalized and taking practical shape. Colleges and other institutions of learning were springing up on every hand. The lead mines of Galena had lost their once seductive influence over many, for it was evident, even then, that COAL would soon be king in St. Clair County.”

The population swelled as Germans settled in. Settlements became thriving villages and towns. Large sites became centers of commerce and wealth, throbbing “with the nervous forces of newly begotten industries.”

German societies were established for physical development, social enlightenment, education, and special interests.

Ten miles north of Belleville was “a place...then known as Mechanicsburg” which attracted settlers from “the Rhine-Pfalz in Bavaria.” Then came Pennsylvanians of German decent.

From 1836 to 1839, major changes were altering the demographics of the county. Recently I heard that Belleville was once 90 percent Germanic! As Teddy Roosevelt might say, “Bully, that!”

Soon the name Mechanicsburg was changed to Mascoutah in honor of the “Miscothin or Mascouten” Indians who had lived there. “That tribe numbered about 500 souls in 1764...and lived in scattered villages ranging between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi.”

By the mid-1870s, Mascoutah had grown to a town of about 3,000 inhabitants and boasted its own newspaper! Even then, it was mainly German.

Good information—and this history of the county was also printed in German! Take the opportunity to study old atlas books and maps from the 1800s. The information can be thoroughly enlightening.

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SPECIAL NOTE: Karl Daubel (KDAUBEL@aol.com) has found a marvelous online reference: the *Atlas des Deutschen Reichs of 1883*. It is worth checking! There is no charge, and you might enhance your understanding of Germany as your ancestor knew it! The site is:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/etext/ravenstein/home.html#Overview>

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EXCHANGE! *G-SIG comments, ideas, & requests:*

+ **Kathy Wurth** (kathyinwashington@hotmail.com) **wonders** if anyone in G-SIG is tracking down ancestors from the town of Mundelsheim (in Baden Wuerttemberg on the Neckar River). Here are a few names:

Caroline Christine Bäuerle, geb. 16 Dec. 1865, married Franz Theodor von Prusinowski; both living in St. Louis in 1895. Emigration year unknown.

Karl Adam Bäuerle, geb. 24 Dec 1859, single shoemaker, emigrated 1880, died 1 Dec 1884, in hospital in St. Louis (an Lungenentzündung).

Johannes Maier, geb. 3 Feb 1828, married FARMER, son of Johannes Maier already a long time in U.S.A. Emigrated 1866 to Lebanon, Ill.

Jacob Schöllkopf, geb. 23 July 1844, St. Louis, Mo., address in 1880.

+ **Karl Daubel** (KDAUBEL@aol.com) says: "Looking for census information in Maryland? With this link you can drill down into some old records. It takes a bit of know-how.... Some of this site is supposed to go back to 1790."

<http://www.censusfinder.com/maryland.htm>

+ **Anyone researching the HEILIG name?** Then please contact bettieboop1052@sbcglobal.net

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Want a printed copy of G-SIG FORUM by mail? Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: St. Louis Genealogical Society, Attn. Ed Schmidt; #4 Sunnen Dr., Suite 140; St. Louis, MO 63143. **Not yet on the e-mail list for the G-SIG FORUM?** Write to germansig@stlgs.org. (Note: All copyright privileges for this *FORUM* are reserved by the compiler; no item is to be duplicated or distributed without permission.)

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Have great ideas for the G-SIG FORUM? Submit your material to persch3@hotmail.com or mail it to: StLGS, Attn: G-SIG, #4 Sunnen Dr., Suite 140, St. Louis, MO 63143.