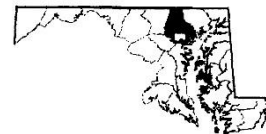


The Baltimore County Genealogical Society



THE NOTEBOOK



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Spring 2023

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- (1) **Genealogy Tip of the Quarter** by Yvette Hoitink – provided by Kenneth Zimmerman

Genealogy Tip of the Quarter

Quick tip – Search finding aids as well as indexes

1 FEBRUARY 2023 BY YVETTE HOITINK

Archives have different types of information on their website. The genealogical indexes are often found in a different section than the finding aids with the archival descriptions or catalogs. These descripts are often quite generic and describe whole series, like minutes of court records, incoming correspondence, or tax records. If you are lucky, the archival descriptions in the finding aids will also include names of people. Some archivists have made the effort to add the names of parties to finding aids of court records, for example, or to include abstracts of medieval charters.

If you are doing research, do not just search the indexes, but also make sure to search the finding aids.

About Yvette Hoitink

Yvette Hoitink, CG® is a professional genealogist in the Netherlands. She holds the Certified Genealogist credential from the Board for Certification of Genealogists and has a post-graduate certificate in Family and Local History from the University of Dundee. She has been doing genealogy for over 30 years and helps people from across the world find their ancestors in the Netherlands. [Read about Yvette's professional genealogy services.](#)

Need help finding your Dutch ancestors?

All articles in this newsletter are written by Yvette Hoitink, CG®, a board-certified genealogist, writer, and lecturer in the Netherlands and owner of Dutch Genealogy Services.

(2) Case Study – by Kenneth Zimmerman

Case Study: The research project was to find an obituary notice for Frances EMGE Redel who died on January 19, 1970 (Source: death certificate Baltimore County, Maryland).

1. I used the website for Newspapers.com and Genealogybank.com and I found no hits. Then I used Enoch Pratt Library online newspaper search through ProQuest and found no hits. I searched the period January 20, 1970 through January 27, 1970 and even when I used the words “Smith” and then “John” there were no hits.
2. I contacted the Enoch Pratt Central Library to request a search for the Baltimore Sun and News American on microfilm.

The Periodicals Department at Enoch Pratt Free Library Responded and I discovered why the January 19, 1970 date did not appear in the *Baltimore Sun* database--there was a 10 week newspaper strike during that time. Their microfilm holdings for the *Baltimore Sun*, *Evening Sun*, and *News American* ended on January 2 and resumed on March 17, 1970. So, it's possible an obituary was never published.

Lesson to be Learned: If you get no hits on researching for an obituary in the newspaper, find out if the newspaper was printed that day. It could be a holiday or the newspaper is only printed weekly, bi-weekly, or just on weekends (frequency of printing). Check for multiple newspapers printed in a city.

Prepared by Kenneth E Zimmerman 2/28/2023.

(3) Death Index Project – by Greg Burton

Death Index Project:

While working on the Baltimore City Death Index we have learned reasons why it may be difficult to find certain records. There are errors in the index; names spelled wrong, certificate numbers could be either the wrong number or the numbers are transposed, the name is not included in the index, pages are ripped or torn, images are blurred or hard to read.

Barrett, Susan	Apr. 12th	E-67705
Brandenberg, John	Apr. 12th	E-67716
Braxton, Annie	Apr. 13th	E-67754
Bannes, Peter	Apr. 14th	E-67791

The Image above is from the 1931 Baltimore City index. Once the 1931 index was transcribed from this index, we sorted out the index by certificate number and if there was a gap in certificate numbers we reviewed each certificate to correct or add missing records. For reviewed records Race, Sex, Age, Cemetery, correct Certificate number, and PDF and Page number were added to the transcription.

Susan Baret, 4/12/1931 Female, Black, 68, E-67705, PDF 180, Page 1431, New Cathedral

John Brandenberg, 4/12/1931, Male, White, 14, E-67716, PDF 180, Page 1442, Cedar Hill

Annie Braxton, 4/13/1931, Female, Black, 54, E-67754, PDF 180 Page 1480, Asbury

Peter Banes 4/14/1931, Male, White, 52, E-67791, PDF 180 Page 1517, Russian

Our dedicated team of transcribers are working on Baltimore City 1875 – 1972. For 1875 – 1903 there are 264,771 death certificates in our index. We have 192,356 records for this time frame, about 72% complete as of 6 March 2023. For Baltimore City 1875 – 1972, there are 1,070,744 death certificates. In our index we have 833,106 records so are now about 77% complete. We may have multiple records for some reported deaths for persons with AKA names or known spelling errors so the record can be found.

For 1875 – 1903 there are 80 files to transcribe, 59 are done, 15 files are in progress, and 6 files are waiting for a transcriber.

The total records indexed are 2,618,902 as of March 5, 2023. This index is the result of thousands of hours by many dedicated volunteers. Our index is also including information on missing records. The certificate files have notes of missing certificate numbers. We review the index file and are able to fill in the names and other fields for the database. We also refer to other sources such as online newspapers, U.S., Find a Grave®, or Ancestry. Some of the records that are hard to read get a second review by Elaine Zimmerman who has expertise in reading medical records and has been successful in deciphering many of the hard to read certificates.

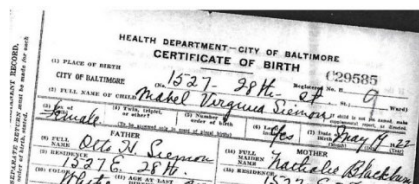
The index is on the Society's website:

<https://www.baltimoregenealogysociety.org/BCGShome/resources/maryland-death-index/>

We can use help transcribing these records.

Greg Burton

(4) Baltimore City Birth Certificates Now Online – provided by Kenneth Zimmerman



**Baltimore City
Birth Certificates
Now Online
(1875-1922)**

Great news! The Maryland State Archives has just made Baltimore City Birth Certificates

from 1875 to Sep 1922 available online from home.

These were previously only available at the Archives. Here is a link to the birth records Finding Aid <http://guide.msa.maryland.gov/pages/viewer.aspx?page=birth>.

Scroll down the Finding Aid page and click on “View Baltimore City (1875+).” They have a link to Instructions if you want to view that. It is best to first find a person (and certificate number) in the birth record indexes (Series CM1134). Click on the link to CM1134 on the Finding Aid page. Indexes are organized by year and then the father’s name (grouped by the first vowel in the surname). The baby’s name is not in the indexes.

Once you have a certificate number, look for the certificate in Series CM1135 (link is on the Finding Aid Page). The certificates can only be viewed as individual images (as opposed to the large multi-page pdf files MSA has for other records). Follow the link for the scanned film that has your certificate number. Then click, “View Images Individually.”

Tips if you need them: The Electronic Document Viewer that opens looks different and is a little tricky when you first use it. Page images do not open on that screen but in a separate pdf viewer (like Adobe Reader). (On my computer, I have to keep going back and forth between my browser and Adobe Reader.) You can select the next page you want to see by clicking in the “Viewing” box at the top of the Electronic Document Viewer. It works differently than looking at the large pdf files, but it works.

Happy Hunting!

Source: MGS News -January 2023 *Maryland Genealogical Society*, *MGS News is the newsletter of the Maryland Genealogical Society*.

(5) International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana – provided by Kenneth Zimmerman

International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) conference to be held in Fort Wayne, Indiana FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 03 May 2022 – Fort Wayne, Indiana Fort Wayne, Indiana has recently been chosen as the host of the [International German Genealogy Partnership](#) (IGGP) conference in 2023. This conference, which is expected to draw upward of 500 attendees, focuses on the history and genealogy of those with German ancestry, wherever they live in the world. Fort Wayne has

long been known as “a most German town,” with about 50% of its residents claiming German ancestry. The acclaimed [Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library](#) (ACPL) is more than pleased to be the local host for the 2023 event, with support from local German societies, genealogical societies, and [Visit Fort Wayne](#). The 2023 IGGP International Conference will be held in downtown Fort Wayne at the [Grand Wayne Conference Center](#) and will offer three days of German-centric presentations in multiple tracks. Attendees will learn from top presenters with advanced proficiency in their fields of study, including genealogists, authors, historians and archivists. Those attending the conference will also have the opportunity to utilize the ACPL’s Genealogy Center’s historical and genealogical materials that number more than 1.2 million items in the physical collection. The library further offers access to dozens of major databases and thousands of smaller specialty data files. Researchers will have access to the expert staff who can assist them with finding their families’ histories and stories. Join us 9 June – 11 June 2023 for this exciting conference. Partnership leadership day will be 8 June 2023. We look forward to seeing you there! **Learn More and Stay Connected:** Visit the IGGP website at <https://iggp.org/> Read the IGGP newsletter at <https://iggp.org/cpage.php?pt=89> Like IGGP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IGGPartnership/> Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center: www.GenealogyCenter.org

About the International German Genealogy Partnership IGGP comprises more than 100 organizations around the world. IGGP’s mission is “to facilitate German genealogy research globally as the internationally-recognized federation of German genealogy organizations.” IGGP held its first international conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2017. Participants traveled from Europe, North America, South America and Australia. The 2023 conference is hosted by the Allen County Public Library with its acclaimed Genealogy Center and supported by a local German societies, local genealogical societies, and Visit Fort Wayne. Details of the Fort Wayne conference will be posted when available on the IGGP website. Germans arrived in America as early as Jamestown in 1607. In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that almost 50 million people in the United States have German roots – the largest ethnic minority in the country at that time. The 2010-2014 American Community Survey found almost 15 percent of the U.S. population can claim German ancestry. ##### Contact: International German Genealogy Partnership P.O. Box 16312 Saint Paul, Minnesota 55116-0312 info@iggp.org

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(6) German Immigration: 1830 – 1860 – by Lisa Woolfson

From the 1830s to the 1860s, more than one and one half million Germans immigrated to United States of America. German immigrants to America were typically struggling farmers, political refugees, religious refugees, or men avoiding conscription in the German military. These German immigrants settled throughout the United States, in both urban and rural communities; however, the majority settled in the mid- western states. German immigrants acquired a reputation for being hardworking, thrifty, and law-abiding people. Germans made numerous contributions to American culture, including inventions, traditions, sports, and food. The flooding of German immigrants to America was the result of long-term

social, religious, and economic changes occurring throughout the German states.



Many of the farmers who came to America were troubled by the collapse of the Industrial Revolution in Germany, agricultural reform, overpopulation, crop failure, and lack of land in Germany. During the time period of 1830-1860, most German immigrants came from the southwestern states of Germany, where many of the people were farmers. Investors in Germany looked towards more profitable fields of work such as railroad building or artisan work, as opposed to loaning money to farmers. Many farmers, fearing a loss of their land, opted to sell their land and move to America, where land was cheaper and more abundant. Along with the immigration of farmers from 1830-1860 came shopkeepers, craftsmen and artisans, who were also struggling in Germany.

Lisa Gaye Nelson Peregoy Woolfson's Gr Gr

Grandmother Margaret Reining

Another reason that Germans came to America was for the freedom that they did not possess in Germany. In coming to America, Germans sought political refuge, religious refuge, and refuge from the German army. German intellectuals came to the United States as Liberal Political Refugees. This group of political refugees came after taking part in the Hambacher Fest, a liberal demonstration that was held in May of 1832, at Hambach in the Bavarian Palatinate. Another political refugee group known as the Forty-Eighters, came to the United States after the collapse of the Democratic Revolutions of 1848. In the United States they sought a democratic government, where they would be able to preach as they wished. Forty-Eighters worked primarily in the fields of journalism, medicine, music, and education, all in which they made tremendous contributions to America. The immigrants who came to the United States seeking religious freedoms were known as the Old Lutherans. The Old Lutherans desired a homeland where they held the freedom to practice their own religion. A large number of German immigrants to the United States were young men who wanted to avoid conscription in the German Army. These men chose to immigrate to America instead of being forced to serve in the German army for an extended period of time.

Political unrest was also a contributing factor to the immigration in the 1830's. Many Lutherans came to the United States in the late 1830's and early 1840's in protest against Prussia's forced unification of the Lutheran and Reformed churches. The Carlsbad Decree of 1819 sent German students and German liberals to America in the early 1830's, but fugitives from the abortive democratic revolutions of 1848 were more numerous. All together; however, political refugees were of the minority of Germans who immigrated to the United States in the 1830's and 1840's.

Transportation improvements also played a significant role in the rise of German immigrants. The spread of steamboats in the 1830's and of railroads in the 1850's simplified international travel, as well as made it quicker. Frequent transatlantic sailing and the lowering of fares both made the journey more appealing.

Although the German immigrants dispersed themselves across the United States, the mid-west was the most popular region for the Germans to settle in. Germans migrated to the limestone floored valleys, such as the Mississippi Valley and the Ohio Valley.

The German element is the largest ethnic group in the United States. It has been estimated that one-fifth of America's population

can trace their ancestry back to Germany. Germans came over to the United States between the 1830's and 1860's for many reasons, including political oppression, religious persecution, and poor economic conditions. Germans, although concentrated in certain areas, have settled across the United States. Germans have become successful, prosperous and devoted citizens of the United States of America. Through their numerous contributions, they have helped create America into the world's most powerful nation.

-Chad, Karen, Ingrid

Democratic Revolutions in Germany

Forty-Eighters began to immigrate for political freedom.

1830 – Mass immigration of Germans to America began

1832 – Steamboats invented – Hambachfest

1836 – Lutherans began to immigrate for religious freedom

1848 – Germania Orchestra started in New York

1850 – Railroads were invented – Germans formed unions

1853 – Germans introduced Kindergarten

Source of information: Mitten in Europa Deutsche Geschichte, Page:254

The following article permits us to get a glimpse of what life was like for most people in Germany around 1830's – 1860's.

Poverty in most of the German States could be compared with the third world nations of today. A rigid class structure had prevented the common people from improving their living standard; overpopulation had plagued the heard of Europe for many years. Between the years 1815-1848 the population had grown from "twenty-two-million to thirty-five-million". Many people found themselves without work. Reasons for this dilemma varied. Some blamed the industrial revolution, which caused labor to be taken over by machinery; some claimed the reduction in Military service for the exploding labor market. Most of the laborers had no skills to speak of which aggravated the situation. In any event, farmers and the land they plowed could not support such vast numbers of people.

To prevent total chaos from happening, people were organized into groups to go begging in designated villages. People living in the large cities were even worse off. In 1831 Berlin suffered a cholera epidemic. A Doctor described the situation in the slums as follows: "Families are cramped together without beds or furniture, with no food to speak of and dressed in rags, surrounded by dirt. Families in the small living quarters are divided by ropes to give them the elusion of privacy." These were the conditions in which the majority of the German people lived.

Cities, such as Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Milwaukee became urban centers for German immigrants. German immigrants who lived in these cities were mostly skilled artisans and craftsmen. Also, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, and Ohio had similar climate and geographical conditions to that of Central Europe, therefore making these states appealing to the German farmers.

German immigrants introduced and brought to America valuable ideas and important products. Both the Conestoga Wagon and the Kentucky rifle were invented by German-Americans. Germans were also strong supporters of public education. In 1853, Kindergarten, was introduced to the public schools by German immigrants. When Americans saw the superior schools being established by the Germans, it made the Americans raise their educational standards. Germans also started the first paper mill in the United States, made important contributions in printing, and were the first people to work with iron and glass in America. German farmers were among the first American farmers to preserve their land by rotating their crops. Germans also formed labor unions in America as early as 1850.

Germans also made immense contributions to music and sports in America. The first American symphony organization was the Germania Orchestra, started in New York, in 1848. Songfests, inspired by Germans have become popular throughout the United States as well. Germans also are credited as being the first people to found gymnastic societies. At one point, these societies grew so elaborate that competitions included parades, pageants, concerts, public addresses, and theatrical performances, in addition to bowling matches and competitions on the parallel bars and tumbling mats. German gymnastic societies led to the incorporation of physical education into the schooling system.



Many German customs evolved into American customs by the large number of Germans who came to America. Germans drank bier (beer), in large quantities on Sundays, to celebrate the Sabbath. They also enjoyed swimming, target shooting, and bowling; all of which went on to be associated with American culture.

Germans also contributed many American foods to America. Cole slaw, deli meats, oatmeal, frankfurters, and hamburgers all came to America through the German immigrants.

Baltimore County Genealogical Society
PO Box 10085
Towson, MD 21285-0085

Library Hours:

Open 12:00 Noon to 2:00 P.M. for research before meeting

Our Research Days are:

2nd Tuesday of the Month 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

2nd Thursday of the Month 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

2nd Saturday of the Month 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

4th Thursday of the Month 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

4th Sunday Meeting Dates 12:00 Noon - 2:00 p.m.