

PAFINDER

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Future Events

March 5, 7 PM
General Meeting
Ellis Island Video

March 14 & 15
Computer show
Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg
10-3PM, \$6

March 28
Computer Show
York Fairgrounds
10-3PM, \$6

March 21
9 AM to 5 PM
Genealogy Fair
York Historical Society. FREE

April 2, 7 PM
General Meeting
DAR Library

May 7, 7 PM
General Meeting
German Genealogy holdings of the National Archives at College Park,

German Naming or "Rufnamen"

At baptism, if two given names were given to the child, the first given name was a spiritual, saint's name, originally developed from Roman Catholic tradition and continued by the Protestants in their baptismal naming customs. The second given name was the secular or call name, which is the name the person was known by, both within the family and to this rest of the world. The spiritual name, usually to honor a favorite saint, was usually repeatedly given to all the children of that family of the same sex. Thus the boys would be Johan Adam Kerchner, Johan George Kerchner, etc., or Philip Peter Kerchner, Philip Jacob Kerchner, etc. Girls would be named Anna Barbara Kerchner, Anna Margaret Kerchner, etc., or Maria Elizabeth Kerchner, Maria Catherine Kerchner, etc. But after baptism, these people would not be known as John, Philip, Anna, or Maria, respectively. They would instead be known by what we would think of now as their middle name, which was their secular name. Thus these people would be known respectively as Adam, George, Peter, Jacob, Barbara, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Catherine in legal and secular records. For males,

the saint's name Johan or John was particularly heavily used by many German families. The child's secular name was really John, if and only if, at baptism he was named only John, usually Johannes, with no second given name. Many researchers, new to German names, who find a baptism of an individual with a name such as Johan Adam Kerchner, thus mistakenly spend a lot of time looking for a John Kerchner, in legal and census records, when he was known after baptism, to the secular world, as Adam Kerchner. Also when reading county histories, etc., especially those written by individuals in the 20th century, and the author is referring to someone as John Kerchner, and you are not looking for a John Kerchner, but the history sounds otherwise familiar, further research may turn up that this person was really not a John Kerchner, but instead was someone else such as a Johan George Kerchner. You would thus find all his 18th century records recorded under the name George Kerchner and not

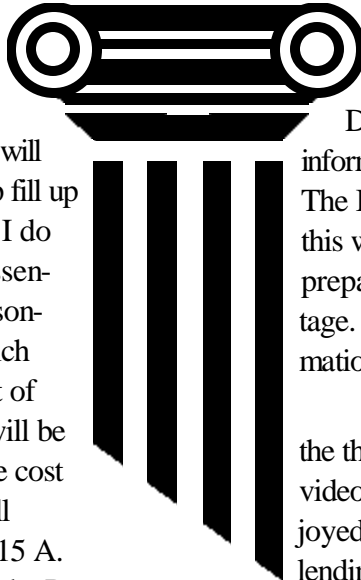
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President's Column

Those of you who were at the February Meeting will recall that I announced the availability of a bus trip to Washington to visit either the National Archives or the National Society DAR Library. The trip is being arranged by the South Central Pennsylvania Genealogical Society and I have told their president that I will try to get some of our members to go to help fill up the bus. It is an opportunity for us, because I do not think we could find the necessary 20 passengers needed to make the cost of the trip reasonable. I now have a firm date for that trip which will be Wednesday 29 April 1998. The cost of the trip, based on a total of 20 passengers, will be \$30.00 per person. If more than that go, the cost will be reduced proportionately. The bus will leave the Queensgate Shopping Center at 6:15 A. M. and will return at about the same hour in the P. M.

So far, eight of our members (including myself) have indicated an interest in the trip, which pleases me immensely, for I think you will find it rewarding. If any of you who were not at the meeting would like to be included, just give me a call at 717-235-2001, or send me



an e-mail at amlrobin@pipeline.com and I will put you on the list.

Our Secretary, Jerry Ellis, asked me at the meeting just what records were available at the NSDAR Library, and I was unable to give him an immediate answer. But, I later remembered that I had bought a book at the DAR, which gives complete and detailed information on the holdings of the Library. The Board, at its February Meeting, thought this would be a suitable program for April to prepare us to use the Library to its full advantage. So, I will enlighten you with the information at the April Meeting.

The upcoming March Meeting will be the third and final episode of the Ellis Island videos, which you all have apparently enjoyed. We are beholden to Gerry Melato for lending them to us. Like the name tags, it was an inspired suggestion of hers.

This will be your last written reminder to attend the Ancestral Fair on March 21st at the Historical Society of York Auditorium sponsored by the Society and the above mentioned South Central Pennsylvania Genea-

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Editor's Corner

Think SPRING! We have been enjoying one of the mildest winters in recent memory. Thank you El Nino! Let's hope it continues to hold and we have and early spring with no cold snap to kill the fruit tree blossoms. The crocuses are blooming and the daffodils are not far behind! I love the spring time - walking the yard every other day or so looking to see what has come back to visit for another year. Spring is also my busy time of year. Dee and I will be working weekends again April through May so May and June's newsletter might get a little short if time gets short. I'll try to schedule my time better but please get any articles to me no later than two weeks after the meeting. We have several interesting programs in the coming

months. The one I'm looking forward to is the one about the German records that Hitler had gathered during (or before?) World War II. Richard Konkel will be our speaker for that evening. He has personally used the records and will hopefully provide us with some fantastic information.

Are you ready for a seminar? Our club is sponsoring a genealogy seminar sometime this fall. Gene Livermore is chairing this committee and will be looking for your inputs for topics in the coming months. Please help him! Gene has done several of these before for the Church so is an old hand at running it. But he will need the club memberships help for some of the leg work. GIVE A HAND!

Se ya at the meeting,
Mark G.

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logical Society (they're in to

President's Column

everything this spring). STRAP will have its own table, I will be talking about PAF 3.0, there will be vendors of many kinds, lunch available, lectures throughout the day, and a good time to be had by all. Stop in, support your friends, and learn something new.

As usual, we had an excellent Board Meeting, and have planned a group of interesting programs for you coming this springtime. The Board Meetings are so fascinating I often wonder why members don't come in once and a while. You can, you know. There is another iron in the fire, but I am not at liberty to talk about that just yet. You will have to wait and see what it is.

The one thing that has to be done soon is to find a Publicity Chairman to get news of our meetings out to the public via newspapers, television, etc. We must do this to stay alive and healthy. Is there ANYONE who will accept this position? Please someone help us.

I hope to see you all on the 5th (that is, if we don't have an Onion Snow!), and at the Fair, and, yes, even on the bus to Washington.

Spring's coming, let's get busy.

Alice

The following people are sponsors for the March meeting. If you cannot attend please call Alice so we can make accommodations to cover your food.

Alice Robinson - a munchy of some sort

Phil Laucks - soda

Warren Bushey - soda

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**THIS IS YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU HAVE PAID YOUR**

(Continued from page 1)

John Kerchner and

**German Naming**

therefore after checking the data and correlating the facts you may find this is really a story about your missing George Kerchner.

The term "Senior" and "Junior" following a name did not necessarily imply a father and son relationship, as it does now. It could have been an uncle and nephew who had the same name and lived near each other. It could be a grandfather and a grandchild living together, where the father has died. It could even be two unrelated individuals with the same name but of different ages who lived near each other. So to help friends and business associates keep track of who-was-who in their discussions and records, they added on the "Sr." or "Jr." which merely meant the older and the younger, respectively.

The term cousin was widely used to mean an extended family, not the specific legal definition we understand it to be today.

It was a common practice in some German families to name the first born son after the child's paternal grandfather and the second born son after the maternal grandfather. Here are several more detailed naming patterns practiced by some families.

| FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY HOURS |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| TUESDAY                      | 9:00 TO 3:00<br>5:30 TO 8:30 |
| WEDNESDAY                    | 9:00 TO 3:00<br>5:30 TO 8:30 |
| THURSDAY                     | 9:00 TO 3:00<br>5:30 TO 8:30 |
| SATURDAY                     | 9:00 TO 3:00                 |

Library hours are subject to change due to staff availability and weather conditions. Please call the library to see if they are open when in doubt.

### Pattern A

- 1st son after the father's father
- 2nd son after the mother's father
- 3rd son after the father
- 4th son after the husband's father's father
- 5th son after the wife's father's father
- 6th son after the husband's mother's father
- 7th son after the wife's mother's father
  
- 1st daughter after the wife's mother
- 2nd daughter after the husband's mother
- 3rd daughter after the mother
- 4th daughter after the father's father's mother
- 5th daughter after the mother's father's mother
- 6th daughter after the father's mother's mother
- 7th daughter after the mother's mother's mother

### Pattern B

The pattern B for the sons is the same as the above but this pattern for daughters was different

- 1st daughter after the father's mother
- 2nd daughter after the mother's mother
- 3rd daughter after the mother
- 4th daughter after the mother's father's mother
- 5th daughter after the father's father's mother

### Pattern C

- 1st son after the father's father
- 2nd son after the mother's father
- 3rd son after the father's oldest brother
- 4th son after the father
  
- 1st daughter after the father's mother
- 2nd daughter after the mother's mother
- 3rd daughter after the mother's oldest sister
- 4th daughter after the mother

Whenever a duplicate name occurred in these patterns, the next name in the series was used. If a child died in infancy the name was often reused for the next child of the same gender.

If you are lucky enough to find a family with a lot of children, who strictly followed one of these naming patterns, then it may give you useful clues to determining the possible names of family members in earlier generations.

An "in" or "en", added to the end of a name, such as Anna Maria Kerchnerin, is a Germanic language name ending suffix denoting that the person is female. Thus the correct spelling of the last name in the example would be Kerchner, not Kerchnerin.

An "er" or "ner", added to a surname based on the name of something, denoted that the person worked with that object or at that occupation, if the main portion of the name was an object or an occupation, or that the person was from that geographic location or city, if the main portion of the name was a geographic location. Examples: Forst is German for a forest, thus Forster is one who worked in a forest or with woodlands or was from a forest. Berlin is a city in Germany, thus Berliner is one who is from Berlin. Since English is a Germanic rooted language we do the same thing in English, i.e., Paint(er), Garden(er), New York (er).

The suffixes mentioned in 5. and 6. above are compounded in many cases. The nouns Kirche and Kerche are German words for church. Thus for the surname Kerchnerin, i.e., Kerch(ner)(in) we thus have a person who worked in or near a church who is female.

I hope that the above information will be of assistance to individuals researching 18th Century Pennsylvania-German names and records.

Sorry, but I cannot give you specific advice or answer questions about individual German names. For information on specific names consult one of the following excellent books.

For additional information on "German-American Names" consult the book by that name written by Professor George F. Jones published by the Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD.

For additional information on German names, consult the 1967 book written by Hans Bahlow. The English

## A GLOSSARY OF GERMAN WORDS USED IN OFFICIAL

This list is based on the file GWORDS.TXT (Library X) submitted by Mary Winters. I have alphabetized the vocabulary for easier reference and corrected a few errors in the original list. In addition, I have appended many items missing from the original list which are found in German documents past and present. Some words, while no longer in general use in present day German, were not eliminated because they may be of importance to those genealogists reading older documents. These words have been marked with an asterisk and, where necessary, their modern day equivalent is referenced. Place names and occupations were eliminated from the list, but a separate and expanded list of common occupations will be uploaded sometime after Christmas. I will follow that up by a text concerning German family relationships and a list of the German words for these relationships. I hope you find the list useful.

Umlauts have been noted by ":" after the letter which is to receive the umlaut. For example, Bra:utigam. The umlaut should appear over the first "a".

Abschrift = copy, extract  
 Abstammungsurkunde = birth certificate  
 \*Advokat = see Rechtsanwalt  
 alphabetisch = alphabetical  
 Alter = age  
 angezeigt durch = registered by  
 Auszug = extract  
 Bekenntnis = religion  
 Beruf = occupation  
 Bescheinigung = certificate  
 Bestattung = funeral  
 Bra:utigam = bridegroom  
 Braut = bride  
 Bu:rger = citizen  
 \*Bu:rgereid = citizen's oath  
 Dom = cathedral  
 Ehefrau = wife  
 Ehegatte = spouse, husband  
 Ehegattin = spouse, wife  
 ehelich = legitimate  
 ehelich geboren am = born in lawful wedlock on  
 Ehemann = husband  
 Ehescheidung = divorce  
 Eheschlieuung = marriage ceremony, wedding  
 Eid = oath  
 eidesstattliche Erkl rung = affidavit  
 Eintrag, Eintragung = entry  
 Einwohner = resident

Familienbuch = entries for a family in the Standesamtregister  
 Familienname = last name, surname  
 Familienstand = marital status  
 Flitterwochen = honeymoon  
 Friedhof = cemetery  
 geborene, geb. = ne , maiden name  
 geboren am = born on  
 Geburtsdatum = birth date  
 Geburtshelfer = medical attendant at birth  
 Geburtsort = place of birth  
 Geburtsurkunde = birth certificate  
 Gemeindeverwaltung = municipal administration  
 geschieden = divorced  
 getauft = baptized  
 Gewerbe = trade, occupation  
 Hebamme = midwife  
 Heiratsdatum = date of marriage  
 Heiratsliste = list of marriages  
 Heiratsurkunde = marriage certificate  
 Junge = boy  
 Kind = child  
 Kinder = children  
 Kirchengemeinde = congregation  
 kirchlich getraut = married in church  
 \*Kirchspiel = parish  
 \*Kirchspengel = parish  
 \*Knabe = boy  
 Konfession = religion  
 ledig = single  
 Lfd.-Nr. = consecutive number  
 Ma:dchen = girl  
 Ma:dchenname = maiden name  
 Mutter = mother  
 Nationalita:t = nationality  
 \*Ordnungs-Nr. = see Lfd.-Nr.  
 Ort der Geburt = place of birth  
 Pfarramt = clergyman's office  
 Pfarrbezirk = parish  
 Pfarrbuch = parish register  
 Polterabend = eve-of-the wedding party  
 Rathaus = town hall  
 Rechtsanwalt = lawyer  
 Scheidung = divorce  
 So:hne = sons  
 Sohn von = son of  
 Staatsangeho:rigkeit = citizenship, nationality  
 Stammbaum = family tree, pedigree  
 Stammbuch = book given to couples at civil wedding ceremony to keep marriage, birth, and death certificates of family  
 Standesamt = registrar's office  
 standesamtlich getraut = married in a civil ceremony  
 Standesamtregister = register of births, deaths and marriages

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Standesbeamte(r) = registrar

Sterbeurkunde = death certificate

Taufdatum = christening date

Taufe = christening, baptism

To:chter = daughters

Tochter von = daughter of

Trauregister = wedding register

Trauung = wedding, marriage ceremony

unehelich = illegitimate, out of wedlock

Urkunde = document

Urkundsbeamte(r) = see Standesbeamte(r)

Vater = father

verheiratet = married

verlobt = engaged

Verlobung = engagement

verstorben am = died on

Verstorbene(r) = the deceased

verwitwet = widowed

Viertel = town quarter

Vorname = first name, Christian name

Witwe = widow

Witwer = widower

## The Elusive Ancestor by Merrell Kenworthy

I went searching for an ancestor, I cannot find him still.

He moved around from place to place and did not leave a will.

He married where a courthouse burned. He mended all his fences.

And avoided any man who came to take the U.S. Census

He always kept his luggage packed, this man who had no fame,

And every 20 years or so, this rascal changed his name.

His parents came from Europe. They should be on some list

of passengers to the U.S.A., but somehow they got missed.

And no one else in this whole world is searching for this man.

So, I play geneasolitaire to find him if I can.

I'm told he's buried in a plot, with tombstone he was blessed;

but weather took engraving, and some vandals took the rest.

He died before the county clerk decided to keep records.

No Family Bible has emerged, in spite of all my efforts,

To top it off, this ancestor, who caused me many groans,

just to give me one more pain betrothed a girl named Jones.

Mail to Sandy: [eternal3@SCIA.NET](mailto:eternal3@SCIA.NET)

