

Yorker Palatine



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Fall 2023

Ellis Island

Palatines to America German Genealogy Society New York Chapter Newsletter



Fall NY Chapter membership meeting

Tom Shannon

Despite heavy rain throughout, we had a great Saturday (October 7) touring Fort Klock, Palatine Church, and Nellis Tavern in St. Johnsville, NY! No less than three past presidents of the New York Chapter were present.

The great Les Stewart led us through **Fort Klock**, the heavily fortified 1750 homestead of **Johannes Klock**. The fort is located about 3/4 of a mile east of where the Battle of Klock's Field occurred on October 19, 1780. All the rain gave attendees a first-hand look at the small rivulet that was intentionally incorporated into the foundation of the fort.



Fort Klock, wikicommon



Palatine Church: provided by Garry Finkell

Pastor Elisabeth Aurand of the Lutheran Churches in nearby Canajoharie and Stone Arabia gave us an excellent history of the **Palatine Church** in St. Johnsville. Built of limestone from a nearby creek in 1770, it was spared from destruction during the Revolutionary War.

For lunch, some attendees went to Parkside Diner, and some went to Eisenadler Brauhaus, the first - and we dare say best - microbrewery in Montgomery County.

We then regrouped at **Nellis Tavern**, built in 1747 by **Christian**

Nellis, Sr. The tour included a look at the exceptional stencil restoration, recently completed throughout most of the house. We also had a look at a section of a wattle and daub wall, and relatively rare split lath in one of the upstairs rooms.



Nellis Tavern: provided by Garry Finkell

The day finished up with a brief PalAm NY Chapter meeting, where we shared exceptional news about the 2024 National Conference! Look for that on social media soon. We owe a huge thank you to Sandy Lane for helping to organize the day and to the Palatine Settlement Society, Nellis Tavern, Palatine Church, Eisenadler Brauhaus, and Fort Klock Restoration !



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Calendar of Events

June 6—9, 2024: National Palatines to America meeting hosted by our NY chapter in Albany, NY. The keynote speaker will be Phillip Otterness, PhD.



Philip Otterness is professor emeritus of history and political science at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, North Carolina. He has degrees in history from the University of Pennsylvania (BA), Cambridge University (MA) and the University of Iowa (PhD). He is the author of ***Becoming German: The 1709 Palatine Migration to New York*** (Cornell University Press, 2004) His research has been supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities, and *Becoming German* won the Dixon Ryan Fox Award for the best manuscript on New York state history in 2003. He has appeared on several episodes of ***Who Do You Think You Are?***, including one episode with Tim McGraw where he explained the country singer and actor's Palatine roots. Otterness continues his research on all aspects of the 1709 Palatine migration and is currently working on a book about the Palatine and Swiss migrants who founded the settlement of New Bern, North Carolina in 1710.

There will be additional speakers and events, more details to be announced. Hotel reservations can be made at: Albany Hilton <https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/palatines-to-america-2024/>

Save the Dates!

International Germanic Genealogic Conference

June 13 – 15, 2025

Columbus, Ohio

Hosted by Palatines to America

2025 marks a special year of celebration. Palatines to America will be celebrating the 50th anniversary and IGGP the 10th anniversary of their founding. This will be a special conference with much to celebrate! Stay tuned for more information.

- ◆ Palatines to America has many upcoming events and presentations. Visit our webpage for additional information and to register: [German Genealogy Society - Palatines to America \(palam.org\)](https://www.palam.org)
- ◆ Family Search has an extensive list of educational opportunities. Click here to view their website: [Family History Library Classes and Webinars • FamilySearch](https://www.familysearch.org)
- ◆ Legacy Family Tree webinars offers a library of free webinars. Click here to view the menu of videos: [Legacy Family Tree Webinars - live and recorded genealogy webinars](https://www.legacyfamilytree.com/webinars)
- ◆ [International German Genealogy Partnership - Genealogie Kalender \(iggp.org\)](https://www.iggp.org)
- ◆ Family Tree webinars — <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars/>
- ◆ [Kirchenbücher online mit ARCHION](https://www.kirchenbuecher.de), the German website that has digitized German church books just revamped their entire website. If you use it already or want to, learn how to navigate it in this [Upcoming Webinars - Germanology Unlocked](#) **free webinar December 13. You must pre-register!**



Membership News

Congratulations !

New York Chapter President, **Tom Shannon**, was recently awarded the title of **Registered Historian by the Association of Public Historians of New York State**. The title is awarded to just a few municipal historians across NYS each year. Criteria for the award includes four areas: research and writing, teaching and public presentation, historic advocacy, and organization and advocacy. In Tom's capacity as Town Historian of Germantown, NY, he has researched and written extensively for social media (@germantownhistory, @nypalam), given several lectures on local history (<https://www.youtube.com/@germantownlibrary1470>), and protected cemeteries and historic sites from metal detecting with only the second, and by far the strongest, such law in NYS.



Congratulations to **Garry Finkell** for being elected as a **Director of the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP)**. Garry is past President and VP of our NY PalAm Chapter and is currently our Treasurer. He also serves as the IGGP / Social Media Committee leader on the national PalAm leadership team and the PalAm liaison to IGGP for the IGGP 2025 conference being hosted by PalAm and manages the IGGP YouTube channel.

Welcome new NY Chapter member Peter Wybron:

I have been researching my family history for over 17 years. On my paternal side, two of my German ancestors surnames I am researching are **Nellis** and **Klock**. Both families were part of the Palatine German migration of 1709 - 1710 from Germany to the America Colonies. They both ended up living in New York's Mohawk Valley.

Christian Nellis (1697-1771), son of **Maria Elizabeth Nellesin**, was my 7th great-grandfather. He married **Barvalis "Barbara" Elizabeth Klock** (1697-1771) daughter of **Hendrick Klock**.

So, as you can see, I have a connection to the **Nellis Tavern and Fort Klock**. I look forward to the Fall meeting and tour of the Tavern and Fort.

Peter Wybron
York, New York

email; prwybron@rochester.rr.com



The **Henry Z. Jones Jr. Palatine Research Center** is comprised of the research library amassed over a lifetime by renowned genealogist, Henry Z "Hank" Jones Jr. The New York Chapter has used monies previously donated toward the effort of getting the collection from California to New York, purchasing a scanner to digitize the letters, and funding a look up service. Click here: <https://bit.ly/3oPu3zX> to view a list of publications available. The **New York Chapter of Palatines to America and the Germantown (NY) Library** are happy to announce a pilot program of a **look up service** available to those searching their Palatine ancestors. Interested researchers may email inquiries to palatines@germantownlibrary.org Please keep inquiries as specific as possible. Please allow up to seven days for an answer.

If you find the look up service useful and want it to continue further, please consider making a tax deductible donation to the New York Chapter of Palatines to America earmarked for the Hank Jones collection. You can email palamny@gmail.com for more information.

Why join a genealogy society?

Linda Schmieder - Wopperer

As we all recently renewed our membership in Palatines to America (PalAm) one needs to reflect on why we belong to a genealogy society. I first heard about PalAm in the late 1970's while attending a genealogy program given by the Niagara County (NY) Genealogical Society that was advertised in a local newspaper. The instructor mentioned she had heard about a German specific society that had recently formed. I searched, found PalAm and joined for the obvious reasons that anyone joins a genealogy organization, to receive information and develop skills. I received the informative newsletters and journals from PalAm until I attended graduate school (while working more than full time) and I overlooked renewing my membership. After graduating, I rejoined and eventually attended NY State chapter and national meetings. I have never let my membership lapse since!

Once I started networking and developing friendships with others who shared the same interests as me my genealogy world opened beyond knowledge and skills. I became more involved and joined my new friends in many activities such as planning conferences, writing, editing, road trips, sharing stories, the most interesting conversations, socializing and zoom calls.

One of the first PalAm conferences I attended was in Fort Wayne, Indiana, sometime in the 1990's. At the library, I wrote my name and email address in the library guest register book. About a year later, I received an email from a gentleman who said he saw my name in the register and has my surname in his family tree. We shared information and concluded that indeed there is a family link. So, I have a new cousin.

My friend Elaine Timm has a story to tell. This past spring, an elderly Buffalo, NY, area woman came to the Das Haus Museum where she is a curator, to donate old German language religious books. She was initially turned away, as they had many such books already. A Collections Committee member happened to be coming in, reviewed the books and decided to take them. They had inscriptions in the old Kurrentschrift. Upon review, they deciphered many surnames, and dates. The primary surname was **Koberstein**, and there were also maiden names. About the same time, Elaine was preparing to travel to the **International German Genealogy Conference (IGGP)** in Indiana this year. A website preview of registered attendees showed the name of Terry Koberstein! At the conference she kept an eye out for a name tag with his name. While a few of the attendees were talking to a presenter before one of

the sessions began, she saw the nametag right next to her!!! She explained the books they received, would he like the genealogical information of the inscriptions? Yes, in fact he would like all the books! After she got home, she shipped them off to Terry in northern California. She then sent a note to the Buffalo area lady to describe what happened to her books, and how happy Terry was to have them. She replied that she had relatives that lived in northern California. Using Google maps, Elaine determined they live about an hour away from Terry. Terry advises that one of the books was for Hubert Koberstein whose father was Carl August Koberstein born in **Landsberg an der Warthe, Brandenburg, Prussia** which is now **Gorzow Wielkopolski, Poland**. Elaine says, "For genealogists, stories of great timing like this one keeps us making connections and pursuing our hobby!"

I often take my genealogy on the road hosting a table at German festivals and genealogy events. My goal is to inspire others to pursue their family search, provide them with some tools, give them information about the benefits of belonging to PalAm and help them solve some specific brick walls they have. It has given me great joy to successfully help others and I have learned from each person I speak with; they force me to search out of my genealogical comfort zone. So, it's a double success! One gentleman came to my table, we talked, and he asked if I could find information about a specific family in Buffalo. I searched and found them in a census record. I noticed that the street they lived on was the same street my husband's family had lived on. I turned the page back one and found my husband's family, living next door. Each family had 10+ children. There's no doubt my father-in-law played with this gentleman's ancestors. There were only 4 houses on the street. So, using the FAN club theory, could they have had a connection back in Germany that they built houses on the same street? As I research my husband's family, I will keep the **Schultz** family in mind. I can write on and on with more examples of how belonging to a genealogy society and networking can be beneficial, one never knows who you might meet. I am thankful for and appreciate all my genealogy friends I have met over the years and look forward to many more years of friendship.

**See you in Albany,
Linda**

Hessian soldiers

It is well known that the British Crown hired auxiliary / mercenary troops (the troops called themselves *Hilfstruppen* which means help troops) to fight in the **War for Independence** (Revolutionary War) for them. It is estimated that about one-third of the troops that served in the war were German auxiliaries. These troops came from six independent German states: Hesse-Cassel, Hesse-Hanau, Brunswick, Waldeck, Ansbach-Bayreuth and Anhalt-Zerbst. During the war, over 30,000 were sent to the colonies and Canada. The majority, 18,970, came from Hesse-Cassel thus they were all collectively called "**Hessians**". Those from Anhalt-Zerbst went to fight in Canada. Of these 30,000, approximately 17,000 returned to Europe after the war. When they joined the army, the Hessian officers and some enlisted men were allowed to bring their families with them. Other civilians such as: surgeons, chaplains, commissary officers, tradesmen also joined. These soldiers and accompanying civilians, including hundreds of women and children, spent extended periods of time in locations as dispersed and varied as Canada in the North and West Florida in the South.



Site of Prison Camp where Continental Troops guarded Hessian prisoners captured in the Battle of Trenton December 25, 1776

The Hessians were highly trained soldiers and had a take no prisoners attitude. The Americans feared and ran from them. Realizing the Germans were excellent soldiers who were also skilled craftsmen with a strong work ethic, the Americans sought to turn the Germans and persuade them to stay in the colonies. The Americans offered incentives (i.e.

free land and livestock), as well as officer positions in the Continental Army to encourage the Hessians to defect. Those who became Prisoners of War, were separated from the British prisoners, and sent to areas with predominately German settlers i.e.: Frederick, Maryland and Lancaster, Pennsyl-

vania. The prisoners could bond out or indenture themselves, take up jobs with local tradesmen or farmers. They were often given citizenship and set free.

Many established themselves and opted not to return to Europe but instead stayed in America or took offers of free land in Canada.

Not all German troops fought for the British Crown. Those from Zweibrücken in the Palatinate, near the French border, were recruited into a French foreign legion known as the **French Royal Deux-Ponts**. They fought in Yorktown, but sources say that more lives were lost during the transatlantic crossing.

Where can you search to find a Hessian soldier in your family tree? This is a very fascinating topic with many sources available online and in libraries. Below are a few online sources that can get you started looking for your German War of Independence soldier:

["Hessian" Soldiers of the American Revolution \(amrev"Hessian".org\)](http://amrev.Hessian.org) claims to be the largest online source for information about Hessian soldiers

William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. This collection is comprised of seventy muster rolls and fifteen additional letters and documents of the German regiments employed by the British to fight in the American Revolutionary War. **[German Auxiliaries Muster Rolls, 1776-1786 \(umich.edu\)](http://umich.edu)**

[Johannes Schwalm Historical Association HomePage \(jsha.org\)](http://jsha.org) has a wealth of information and other resources about the Hessian soldiers.

The Hessian State Archive of Marburg an der Lahn (Hessische Staatsarchiv Marburg) has online access to its holdings on the Hessische Truppen in Amerika: **www.lagis-hessen.de/en/subjects/index/sn/hetrina**

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Hessian soldiers continued:

For further reading about the Royal Deux-Ponts: [A German Soldier in America, 1780-1783: The Journal of Georg Daniel Flohr on JSTOR](#)

Also, a recent book was released that I have not read yet but it is on my list: *Hessians: German Soldiers in the American Revolutionary War* (Oxford University Press, 2022) by Friederike Baer takes a look at the thirty thousand German soldiers that Great Britain hired to fight in its war against the American rebels between 1776 and 1783. Friederike Baer presents a study of Britain's war against the American rebels from the perspective of the German soldiers, a people uniquely positioned both during the war. ■

The First Christmas Tree

There are different schools of thought about the origin of the Christmas tree tradition. It is known that tree worship was common among pagan Europeans, especially the Vikings and Saxons, and continued after their conversion to Christianity. The story of St. Boniface cutting down Donar's Oak illustrates the pagan practices in the 8th century among the Germans. A later folk version of the story adds the detail that an evergreen tree grew in place of the felled oak, telling them about how its triangular shape reminds humanity of the Trinity and how it points to heaven.

It is agreed that the modern Christmas tree originated in Central Europe and the Baltic states. The Christmas tree was recorded to be used by German Lutherans in the 16th century, sometimes associated with Protestant reformer **Martin Luther**, who is said to have first added lighted candles to an evergreen tree. Records indicate that in 1539, a Christmas tree was placed in the Cathedral of Strasbourg, under the leadership of the Protestant Reformer **Martin Bucer**. A **Bremen** guild chronicle of 1570 reports that a small tree decorated with "apples, nuts, dates, pretzels, and paper flowers" was erected in the guild-house for the benefit of the guild members' children, who collected the dainties on Christmas Day. Another dated representation of a Christmas tree is on the keystone sculpture of a private home in **Turckheim, Alsace** (then part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation), with the date 1576. In 1584, the pastor and chronicler **Balthasar Russow** in his *Chronica der Provinz Lyfflandt* described an established tradition of setting up a decorated spruce at the market square, where the



young men "went with a flock of maidens and women, first sang and danced there and then set the tree aflame". After the Protestant Reformation, upper-class Protestant families put up Christmas trees in their houses as a protest to the Catholic Christmas cribs. This transition from the guild hall to the bourgeois family homes in the Protestant parts of Germany ultimately gives rise to the modern tradition as it developed in the 18th and 19th centuries.

By the early 18th century, the Christmas tree tradition had become common in towns of the upper Rhineland but still was not a common practice in rural areas. Along the lower Rhine, an area of Roman Catholic majority, the Christmas tree was largely regarded as a Protestant custom. As a result, it remained confined to the upper Rhineland.

The custom did eventually gain wider acceptance beginning around 1815 by way of Prussian officials who emigrated there following the **Congress of Vienna**. It became a broader practice when the German army placed Christmas trees in its barracks and military hospitals during the Franco-Prussian War (1870 – 1871).

It is agreed that the Christmas tree tradition in the U.S. was brought by immigrants from Germanic areas. Several cities lay claim to the country's first Christmas tree. In particular, **Windsor Locks, Connecticut**, claims to have had the first Christmas tree in Connecticut. They state that a **Hessian soldier who was taken prisoner of war after the Battle of Bennington, Hendrick Roddemore**, put up a Christmas tree in 1777 while imprisoned at the **Noden-Reed House**. Read more about this: [Noden-Reed Museum | Windsor Locks Historical Society](#) ■

The Headless Hessian Horseman

Washington Irving (1783-1859) is considered by many to be the first true American writer. He is best known for the short stories “**The Legend of Sleepy Hollow**” and “**Rip Van Winkle**.” Irving's 1820 tale of a headless horseman who terrorizes the real-life village of Sleepy Hollow is considered one of America's first ghost stories—and one of its scariest.

The Legend of Sleepy Hollow tells the tale of Ichabod Crane, a gangly Yankee schoolteacher who finds himself in a small hamlet just north of NYC. There, Crane is enchanted by the wealthy heiress Katrina van Tassel and the scary stories told by locals, mostly Dutch superstition, and lore. Of all the town's scary stories, the most terrifying involves a Headless Hessian Horseman. It was believed that the Hessian would arise at night in search of his head, and anyone who was ill-fated enough to come across his apparition was condemned to death. The image of the Headless Horseman haunts Ichabod's imagination until one fateful autumn night, when he has an actual encounter with the terrifying apparition, a harrowing ordeal that leaves his exact fate uncertain.

The question is, where did Irving's idea for a Headless Hessian Horseman come from? Irving didn't invent the idea of a headless rider. Historians agree, *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and its iconic headless horseman were inspired by a mix of real history and spooky folklore.

Tales of headless horsemen can be traced to the Middle Ages, including stories from the German **Brothers Grimm** and the Dutch and Irish legend of the “Dullahan” or “Gan Ceann,” a Grim Reaper-like rider who carries his head. The headless horseman supposedly seeks revenge for the loss of his head, which he thinks was unfairly taken from him. This injustice demands that he continually search for a substitute.

Most famous perhaps of these folklore tales are **The Wild Huntsman or Der wilde Jäger** by German poet **Gottfried August Bürger** and the German fairytales of writer **Johann Karl Musäus**, which depict ghostly riders as bad omens. Well-read and bred Irving certainly would have been exposed to such tales, especially when he went on a European tour and subsequently wrote a collection of short stories including *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

In addition to lore, Irving was inspired by history. During the War for Independence, after defeat at the Battle of Brooklyn Heights (August 1776) on Long Island, Washington retreated the Continental Army north to Manhattan. Earlier, British General Wm. Howe with his thousands of troops, including several brigades from Germany landed. Under his command, Colonel von Donop with a regiment of Hessian Jaegers and grenadiers marched up to Manhattan. Gunfire ensued with the colonist rebels dropping their arms and running in horror from the dreaded Hessians. One

description is “Our Hessians...gave no quarter, and it was a fine sight to see with what alacrity they dispatched the rebels with their bayonets.” Washington retreated farther north, establishing a position in White Plains, NY. On October 28, 14,000 British and Hessian troops assembled at White Plains. During the conflict, the Americans, commanded by Alexander Hamilton, gave a significant defense using cannons, mostly 12 pounders. An account indicates that the Americans heat up their shot orange hot so it would scatter better. One of the orange shots, took off the head of a Hessian artillery man and killed one horse. Thus, evolved the tale that a Hessian soldier was decapitated by a pumpkinlike glowing cannon ball, and his spirit received a ghost horse to ride. This is a description of the ghostly apparition: “Gigantic in height, and muffled in a cloak, Ichabod was horror-struck on perceiving that he was headless! But his horror was still more increased on observing that the head [pumpkin], which should have rested on his shoulders, was carried before him on the pommel of his saddle! We are haunted by the past which stalks us so that we never forget it.”

As the story goes, the corpse of the beheaded Hessian was buried at the **Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow**, near Tarrytown, NY. Why would the towns people bury him in their cemetery? A local tale is that cousins, Peter and Cornelius van Tassel, killed several Redcoats near their farms. In retaliation, the British were directed to punish them. Fire was set to their farms and houses, resulting in their surrender. A baby was trapped in the fire. A Hessian soldier ran back into the burning fire, to rescued the baby and then rode off. The van Tassel family is said to have retrieved the bones of the headless Hessian from the battlefield and buried them in an unmarked grave in recognition to the other Hessian soldier who rescued their baby. Thus, the headless Hessian soldier lies in the Old Dutch Cemetery in Sleepy Hollow, in an unmarked grave, with other spirits from the lore of the Hudson Valley to forever haunt. ■



Wikicommons: *The Headless Horseman pursuing Ichabod Crane, Sleepy Hollow, NY*

Schlegel's German Americans of New York by Joe Lieby

In 1916, Carl Schlegel published a book providing details on the family histories of a large number of German Americans connected with the State of New York. In format, it is similar to many "mug books" that were produced in that era. Families who could afford to be published in the two volumes provided information on their family history. It isn't known whether any of the details were verified by Mr. Schlegel. They probably were not. Some of the individuals included are historical figures such as Jacob Leisler, Nicholas Herkimer and Carl Shurz. Whether the biographical data was provided by descendants of these individuals is also not known. The descendance charts published in this newsletter are taken from the material included in Schlegel's volumes. No attempt has been made to modify or verify the details published by Mr. Schlegel. Therefore, be cautious when utilizing the information. Independent verification would be the prudent approach for any researcher. In some cases, corrected information found by me has been included in footnotes.

Descendants of Peter Fritz

[1] **Peter FRITZ** was born on 19 April 1826 in Unterbleichfeld, Würzburg, Bavaria. He was Catholic. He worked as a tailor until 1847 when he emigrated to NYC, NY. In 1850, Peter married **Elizabeth BILL [2]**, daughter of **Mathias BILL* [13]** and **Rosina SCHWERER [14]**. Elizabeth was born on 27 May 1825 in Oberhausen, Kenzingen, Baden, Germany. Peter and Elizabeth had several residences: 1850 on Sheriff St., NYC, NY., in 1855 on the corner of Johnson Ave. and Leonard St in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and after 1855 in 28 Graham Ave., Brooklyn. Peter worked as a tailor until 1872 in Brooklyn, NY. He was a member of Holy Trinity RC Church on Montrose Ave, Brooklyn. Peter died on 14 Feb 1905 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 78. Elizabeth died on 26 Nov 1889 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 64. They had six children:

[3] **Theodore FRITZ** was born about 1851 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and died in Nov 1851 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn.

[4] **Theodore Peter FRITZ** was born on 10 Nov 1853 in Williamsburg, Brooklyn. He studied art and sculpture and in 1872 was employed as an interior decorator at the firm of Horning & Epting in NYC, NY. In 1898, he was a member of Grand Street Improvement Association in Brooklyn, Kings, NY. In 1904 he left the partnership and operated his own business in building construction. Theodore married **Elizabeth GABRIEL [9]**, daughter of **Jacob GABRIEL** [22]** and **Catherine DOCWEILER [23]**, on 30 May 1876 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY. Elizabeth was born on 1 Jan 1855 in Brooklyn, NY. They had three children:

[10] **Theodore Francis FRITZ** was born on 7 May 1877. He was Catholic at Most Holy Trinity in Williamsburg, NYC. He worked as a clerk and a furniture salesman at his father's furniture store: Fritz and Hummel, Brooklyn. Theodore was also a member of the Order of American Magicians.

[11] **Henry Albert FRITZ** was born on 4 Jul 1879. He was employed as a clerk at his Father's Furniture Store and later he was employed at Westinghouse Electrical Works in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

[12] **Edmund John FRITZ** was born on 11 Apr 1884 and died on 13 Jul 1884.

[5] **Francis Xavier FRITZ** was born on 2 Oct 1856 on Graham Ave., Brooklyn.

[6] **Henry Otto FRITZ** was born on 10 Apr 1861 on Graham Ave., Brooklyn.

[7] **Elizabeth FRITZ** was born on 3 Nov 1863 on Graham Ave., Brooklyn, NY. Elizabeth was married.

[8] **Edward FRITZ** was born on 29 Dec 1867 on Graham Ave., Brooklyn, Kings, NY and died on 1 Jun 1871, at age 3.

(continued page 9)

Schlegel's continued from pg. 8

*Bill Family Line

*[13] **Mathias BILL** was born in Feb 1790 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany. He worked as a shoemaker in Oberhausen until he emigrated to Brooklyn NY in 1847. Mathias married **Rosina SCHWERER [14]** who was born on 10 May 1799 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany. She also emigrated to NYC in 1847. Mathias died on 13 Jan 1868 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 77 and Rosina died on 21 Sep 1872 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 73. They had eight children:

[15] **Francis Xavier BILL** was born in 1816 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died in 1877 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 61. He emigrated to NY in 1840.

[16] **Mathias BILL** was born on 4 Apr 1821 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died on 19 Apr 1876 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 55. He emigrated in 1847 to NY.

*[2] **Elizabeth BILL** was born on 27 May 1825 in Oberhausen, Kenzingen, Baden, Germany and died on 26 Nov 1889 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 64. See above for more information.

[17] **Achatz BILL** was born on 4 Jun 1827 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died on 30 Nov 1915 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 88.

[18] **Theodore BILL** was born in 1829 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died in Apr 1870 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 41.

[19] **Barbara BILL** was born on 4 Dec 1831 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died on 20 Feb 1907 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 75. She emigrated in 1847 to NY.

[20] **Sophia BILL** was born on 10 May 1833 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died on 18 Dec 1865 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 32. She emigrated to NY in 1847.

[21] **Theresa BILL** was born on 4 Sep 1835 in Oberhausen, Baden, Germany and died on 27 Jan 1870 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 34. She emigrated to NY in 1847.

**Gabriel Family Line

[22] **Jacob GABRIEL, the only son of **Johannes GABRIEL [24]** (d. 1820) was born on 18 Dec 1811 in Schmittshausen, Bavaria, Germany. He worked as a linen weaver in Bavaria, Germany until he emigrated to NY Harbor in 1832. He resided in Brooklyn, NY and was employed after 1832 at Thursby & Waterbury Rope Works. Jacob married **Catherine DOCWEILER [23]** on 5 Sep 1839 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY. Catherine was born on 25 May 1819 in Contwig, Bavaria, Germany. She emigrated to NYC in 1837. Jacob opened his own dry goods and millinery store in Brooklyn in 1851. He retired from his business in 1867. Jacob died on 27 May 1890 in Brooklyn, Kings, NY, at age 78. They had 12 children:

[25] **Katherine GABRIEL** was born on 30 May 1840 in NY and died on 14 May 1870 in NY, at age 29.

[26] **Jacob GABRIEL Jr.** was born on 1 Jan 1842 in NY and died on 16 Jan 1870 in NY, at age 28.

[27] **Elizabeth GABRIEL** was born in 1844 in NY and died in 1844 in NY.

[28] **Frank GABRIEL** was born on 4 Apr 1846 in NY and died on 20 Jul 1888 in NY, at age 42.

[29] **Mary GABRIEL** was born about 1847 and died about 1847.

[30] **Joseph GABRIEL** was born on 5 May 1848 in NY and died on 11 Jan 1910 in NY, at age 61.

[31] **Christian GABRIEL** was born in 1850 and died on 27 May 1900, at age 50.

[32] **Barbara GABRIEL** was born on 15 Dec 1852 in NY and died on 26 Oct 1908 in NY, at age 55.

[9] **Elizabeth GABRIEL was born on 1 Jan 1855. See above for additional information.

[33] **Mary GABRIEL** was born on 23 Jan 1857 in NY and died on 21 Nov 1887 in NY, at age 30.

[34] **Magdalena GABRIEL** was born in 1859 and died in 1862, at age 3.

[35] **Magdalena GABRIEL** was born in 1862 and was christened about 1862.

Board of Directors

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Frohe Weihnachten und einen guten Rutsch ins neue Jahr !



Join us on YouTube to view presentations you may have missed or want to view again:

[Palatines to America German Genealogy Organization - YouTube](#)

On June 7th [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) released the "*Palatine German Immigration to Ireland and US, Hank Z Jones Collection 1654-1878*" on their worldwide site. Ancestry spent almost two years putting together a sophisticated search engine to make all the material even more user-friendly. The link to the collection of every one of my Palatine books, 10 Volumes (5,990 pages of documented data) is: <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/62327/>

Revolutionary War Pension Files

Revolutionary War pension files are archived in the National Archives. Together with the National Parks Service they have embarked on a project to transcribe them with the goal of transcribing them for our nation's 250th birthday in 2026.

The [Revolutionary War Pension File Transcription Project](#) includes over 83,000 pension files from Revolutionary War veterans. They are looking for citizen archivists to assist them with this project. What a great opportunity to be part of making the information in the files available to the public. Click on the link above for additional information.

Do you have any news, articles, resources or anything you would like to share with other chapter members? Send your submission to me at: nypalameditor@gmail.com

Submission timeline:

Winter newsletter - January 15
Summer newsletter - April 15
Summer newsletter - July 15
Fall newsletter - October 15

