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# Die Deutsche Gefe

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The German Corner: #8

Cranberry Prairie

David A. Hoying

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The German immigrants, as well as all immigrants, brought with them to the New World much more than we might expect or were led to believe. They brought with them riches from the Old World. Yes, some did come penniless with only the clothes on their backs, while others did come with fortunes. The priceless treasure they came here with was something not able to be held in the hand or stored in a trunk. This treasure was in their hearts. It was their faith and values, their culture and customs, their language, their history and heritage, and their relationships and friendships. For too long we have been led by some narrow-mindedness to believe that the immigrants had nothing until they arrived on the shores of America; that their real life did not begin until they were here. This is far from the truth. Their lives and their past were not some dark and mysterious nothingness from which they emerged. It was a centuries old Christian Civilization that had formed their lives and their heritage, and this they did not leave behind. It was an undeniable part of the themselves - of who they were. But in the name of conformity fueled by prejudice, they were forced to give up much of the culture that had made them what they were. Was the price of a new life in a new world too steep? Perhaps it was. A richness and depth of life was lost. A connectedness to history was given up. For most people history is something that happened somewhere else to some other people at some remote time. History is meaningless or boring. But the reality is this: these people who lived this history were actual living persons and were our ancestors; not somebody else's forebearers, but our very own. An advertisement for some college stated in bold lettering, "Discover a Lost Civilization!" Below that, in small lettering it said, "Your Own." And what is our civilization, our culture? It came to fruition at the time of Carl the Great (Charlemagne), being formed from three sources: the philosophical heritage of classical Greece and Rome, the faith of the Catholic Christian Church and its Judean foundations, and the tribal social structure of the Germanic peoples. The vitality of this Christian Civilization rests upon three legs, any one of which is absent will cause it to topple. They are faith, family, and farm; or to put it humorously - praying, playing, and plowing. As genealogists we need to be aware of the heritage of our Western Civilization, its culture and history, for it situates our ancestors in an actual reality and enables us to better understand who we are and to make sense of our world. Culture, religion, and history need to be part and parcel of one's interest in genealogy, for it puts meat on the bones of our ancestors and understanding in our minds.

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<i>A German - Latin Lexicon:</i>	LATIN	GERMAN	ENGLISH
	<i>Navitatis</i>	<b>Geburt</b>	birth
	<i>Natus/a</i>	<b>Geboren</b>	is born
	<i>Baptisma</i>	<b>Taufe</b>	baptism
	<i>Baptizatus/a</i>	<b>Getaufen</b>	is baptized
	<i>Baptizavi</i>		I baptized
	<i>Renatus/a</i>		is reborn

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## *From whence they came...* KINGDOM OF HANNOVER

<b>Oldendorf:</b>	Poppe
<b>Osnabrück:</b>	Balgenort, Böckmann, Brunegraff, Frierott, Hagemann, Helmkamp, Hülsmann, Kovermann, Meÿer, Möller, Niederwedberg, Osterfeld, Pohlmann, Rahe, Seeger, Wilke, Wöhrmeÿer
<b>Ostercappeln:</b>	Brinker, Düssing, Elbert, Heidacker, Mehring, Schröder, Trentmann, Wilshaus
<b>Plantelüne:</b>	Wappelhorst
<b>Remsede:</b>	Sautmann

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