



# Indiana Chapter Palatines to America

*German Genealogical Society*

**Spring Meeting**  
**Saturday, April 24, 2021**

9:45 AM – 4:00 PM

Virtual via Zoom

***Featured Speaker: James Beidler***

**Topic 1— Pennsylvania’s Launching Pads into the Midwest**

- Many Midwestern families spent a generation or more in Pennsylvania before migrating throughout the region as it grew in the 1800s. Hear details on major spots they came from in—and routes they took from—the Keystone State.

**Topic 2— Researching German Families in Pennsylvania**

- Applying genealogical basics to the peculiarity of searching for the rich records relating to America’s first large ethnic minority population – especially highlighting church registers and immigration documents – as well as the Second Wave Germans who joined them in Pennsylvania.

**Topic 3— Digging Pennsylvania Roots from Your Desktop**

- It’s estimated that one in four Americans has “Keystone State” roots. Much Pennsylvania research – from church records to land documents to courthouse filings – can be done remotely. Learn to get much of your genealogy done without setting foot in Pennsylvania by using FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, Pennsylvania State Archives and other sites

**Topic 4— Go with the Flow: Finding All the Newspapers You Need!**

- There’s been a huge increase in accessibility of newspapers to genealogists due to digitization but keeping up with the many services—ranging from free to paid to publisher-sponsored sites—offering content is difficult. Learn the ebb and flow of finding historical newspapers on- and offline, as well as finding and utilizing other newspaper resources such as abstracts and clipping files, and learn through a couple of case studies

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**INDIANA CHAPTER — PALATINES TO AMERICA — SPRING 2021 MEETING**

**Saturday, April 24, 2021 — Virtual via Zoom**

**Registration: \$25 (Pal-Am Member); \$35 (non-Pal-Am member or Pal-Am member after April 3)**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ # ATTENDING: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] LEU Certificate needed: \_\_\_\_\_ Library

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to: Indiana Chapter Pal-Am.

Questions: [indianapalam@gmail.com](mailto:indianapalam@gmail.com)

Mail registration form to: Kent Robinson, 6610 Latona Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46278

# Indiana Chapter — Palatines to America Spring Meeting – April 24, 2021

## AGENDA

**9:45 AM — 10:00 AM INTRODUCTION**

**10:00 AM — 11:00 AM SESSION 1 — Pennsylvania’s Launching Pads into the Midwest**

- Many Midwestern families spent a generation or more in Pennsylvania before migrating throughout the region as it grew in the 1800s. Hear the details on major spots they came from in—and routes they took from—the Keystone State.

**11:00 AM — 11:15 AM BREAK**

**11:15 AM — 12:15 PM SESSION 2 — Researching German Families in Pennsylvania**

- Applying genealogical basics to the peculiarity of searching for the rich records relating to America’s first large ethnic minority population – especially highlighting church registers and immigration documents – as well as the Second Wave Germans who joined them in Pennsylvania.

**12:15 PM — 1:15 PM LUNCH BREAK**

**1:15 PM — 1:45 PM Annual Meeting**

**1:45 PM — 2:45 PM SESSION 3 — Digging Pennsylvania Roots from Your Desktop**

- It’s estimated that one in four Americans has “Keystone State” roots. Much Pennsylvania research – from church records to land documents to courthouse filings – can be done remotely. Learn to get much of your genealogy done without setting foot in Pennsylvania by using FamilySearch, Ancestry.com, Pennsylvania State Archives and other sites

**2:45 PM — 3:00 PM BREAK**

**3:00 PM — 4:00 PM SESSION 4 — Go with the Flow: Finding All the Newspapers You Need!**

- There’s been a huge increase in accessibility of newspapers to genealogists due to digitization but keeping up with the many services—ranging from free to paid to publisher-sponsored sites—offering content is difficult. Learn the ebb and flow of finding historical newspapers on- and offline, as well as finding and utilizing other newspaper resources such as abstracts and clipping files, and learn through a couple of case studies.



James M. Beidler was born in Reading, PA, and raised in nearby Berks County, where he currently resides. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY, with a BA in Political Science in 1982.

He is the author of *The Family Tree Historical Newspapers Guide* and *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide* as well as writes *Roots & Branches*, an award-winning weekly newspaper column on genealogy. He is also a columnist for *German Life* magazine and is editor emeritus of *Der Kurier*, the quarterly journal of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. He is now an editor at Legacy Tree Genealogists, Inc.

He was the President of the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors from 2010 to 2012, and is the former Executive Director for the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. He served as national co-chairman for the 2008 Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Philadelphia.

Mr. Beidler is also a frequent contributor to other periodicals ranging from scholarly journals such as *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* to popular-interest magazines such as *Ancestry Magazine* and *Family Tree Magazine*. He also wrote the chapter on genealogy for *Pennsylvania: A History of the Commonwealth*, published jointly by the Penn State Press and the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission.

As a lecturer, he was a part of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council’s acclaimed Commonwealth Speakers program from 2002 to 2009, and has been a presenter at numerous conferences. In addition to being a member of numerous genealogical, historical, and lineage societies, he also sits on the Pennsylvania’s State Historic Records Advisory Board as well as the selection committee for the Pennsylvania Digital Newspaper Project.