

Introduction

This index is based on information extracted from the original hardbound copies of the German Methodist newspaper, *Der Christliche Apologete*, that are stored at the Cincinnati History Library and Archives (CHLA) located in the Cincinnati Museum Center. CHLA has the most complete and comprehensive collection of this historic newspaper which was published for over 100 years, as a weekly newspaper in order to promote the Methodist religion for the newly arriving German immigrants. Articles typically contained sermons, current events both local, national, and in Europe, notices of upcoming religious conferences, advertisements, articles of advice to help in daily life, and most important to researchers today, death notices reported from fellow Methodist ministers from around the various German Methodist congregations in the United States.

Since German Methodism was introduced in the United States by Reverend Wilhelm Nast, the early members were converts once they arrived in the United States, and were typically previously members of the Roman Catholic, German Evangelical or German Lutheran churches and were typically originally baptized there. Over 85% of the death notices reported on a weekly basis in this newspaper contain the date and town of birth, typically in Germany, as well as a small biography of the individual and their family.

Der Christliche Apologete, or The Christian Apologist in English, was begun in 1839 by Rev. Wilhelm Nast, who was a minister in the Cincinnati, Ohio and mid-western area, and was the founder of the German Methodist religious movement in the United States. He was born in 1807 in Stuttgart, Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and immigrated to the United States in 1828. He began his work organizing German Methodist churches in 1837 in the Cincinnati and surrounding areas. His first church was located on Race Street in Cincinnati, Ohio. The present building was designed and built in 1881 by architect Samuel Hannaford on the original site, and still stands today, and is known today as the

Nast Trinity United Methodist Church
1310 Race Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

The issues used for this index are the hardbound original newspapers located at the Cincinnati History Library and Archives. These copies have never been microfilmed, and are currently only available from the library in paper, hardbound format. Copies of individual death notices can be requested. The current address and contact information for this repository is:

Cincinnati Historical Library and Archives
Address: 1301 Western Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45203
Phone: (513) 287-7030
Email: library@cincymuseum.org
Website: www.cincymuseum.org/library

The original hardbound newspapers are part of the Nippert manuscript collection. The call number for this collection is **MSS 873**, and the newspaper collection runs from Box 5-70 (Volume 1 – 1839) through Box 5-125 (Volume 103 – 1941). There are occasional missing issues, but for the most part, the issues are intact and complete for the years 1839 through 1941 with no major gaps in the collection. CHLA also has a finding aid as part of their collection that provides more detailed information of what is part of the collection. It also provides a detailed list by year as to what is included in each box. This index contains death notice extractions from the first issue in January 1839 through December 1899. An index of the subsequent years from 1900 through 1941 may be a future project. Please contact CHLA for more information on obtaining copies of the death notices and the current costs. The name of the deceased, publication date and page number should be included with any request for copies.

This index has over 26,800 deaths, which were reported and published before 1899 throughout the United States, with the majority of them from the Midwest area. As Reverend Nast's influence in the Cincinnati area spread, he recruited many more ministers to support the German Methodist movement, and the founding of many more local churches in the area, which eventually expanded to include most of the United States and Europe. The death notices contained in this index therefore include people that lived in all parts of the United States in the 19th and early 20th century, and also include approximately 85% of the towns of birth in the death notice. This makes the index of benefit to researchers throughout the United States looking for the place of birth of their German ancestors, as well as researchers in Germany trying to find what happened to relatives that left the area and settled in the United States in the 19th century.

The original paper started life in January 1839 as a 4 page newspaper, and by 1840 had over 100 subscribers. In 1847, the paper was resized to a 12" x 17" format and counted 1700 subscribers. In 1852, the format was enlarged to a 14" x 19" format to allow for more news content. In 1861 the news coverage and topics were expanded to an 8 page format. The typical format was 4 pages were devoted to religious content, 2 pages for political items and commentary, and 2 pages for news items from the United States and Europe. At this point, more detail was now typically provided in the obituaries, and in some instances there were also details given on the date and place of their conversion to Methodism and by whom. It also might list other places of residence once the deceased person and their family arrived in America, place of marriage and to whom, and any surviving family members. In 1887 the format was again changed. The paper now was a much smaller, more readable 11" x 17" page format, and enlarged to 16 pages per week. At this point there was a standardization of the obituary content and a limit of 20 lines or 120 words for each death notice. This new format only lasted for a few years, and then reverted back to a larger format with additional information about the deceased, their family and survivors, and their journeys in America, and continued through 1899.

The original text of the newspaper is in German and also uses the old German or Gothic script letters. To facilitate finding the correct name, the original German letters and names have been extracted. The unique German letters and their usual English equivalents are listed below as an aid to the reader.

ä translated into English as 'ae'
ö translated into English as 'oe'

ü translated into English as 'ue'
ß translated into English as 'ss'

In the original death notices that were published, there could be a wide variety of information given on the individual. All of this valuable information could not be included in this index, and much more information could be provided by reading and translating the death notice. The information that has been extracted and provided in this index is: full name of the deceased, date when the notice was published in the newspaper, date of death, age of the deceased, page number where the death notices appears, maiden name (if a married woman), reported place of death, and place of birth. More details on each of the fields is listed below.

Name of Deceased - In many cases individuals had 2, 3 or sometimes even 4 given names in the 19th century. They might be known by any of these given or baptismal names or sometimes even went by a nick name that was totally different from their baptismal name. Last or family names were extracted in their original German spelling and sorted alphabetically according to this spelling.

Age - The age was extracted or calculated as given in the death notice. A simple number would indicate age in years. If a full age was provided, it is displayed in year, month and day format (YY-MM-DD). In many cases an exact date of birth was given in the death notice, but a simple subtraction of the year of death from the year of birth was used as a calculation for an age in years in this index.

In the 1840s when the newspaper first began, there were sometimes inquiries published on persons who came to the United States, but whose whereabouts were lost. In some cases, they stopped sending letters back to Germany, or they had ventured on to another city farther west, and their family members published an inquiry to see if anyone knew what happened to them. These are denoted by the word "Inquiry" in the age column, and do not indicate that the person died on that date, but merely that someone was looking for them and published an inquiry, usually with relevant family information and their original place of birth to help identify them. The place of death in this case is the last place where the individual was known to have lived.

Place of Death – The place of death is the reported place of death given in the obituary. Since this index comprises obituaries from all over the United States, both the town where the pastor reported the death is listed, as well as the two letter abbreviation for the specific state. It is usually given as the town where the church or minister was located, and the actual place of death was most likely on a nearby farm or if in a city, in a nearby neighborhood. In rare cases, the individual may have died in another location, and the death notice was written and reported by the local minister and that place of death was extracted. A few examples could be the death of a soldier in battle, the death of a person suffering from tuberculosis, and they were recently sent to a warmer southern state and they died there, or someone died while travelling or visiting family members in another state. The two letter abbreviation for the state is the official code used by the United States Post Office. The list of the 50 states and their abbreviations are listed below as a convenience for the researcher.

AL	Alabama	LA	Louisiana	OH	Ohio
AK	Alaska	ME	Maine	OK	Oklahoma
AZ	Arizona	MD	Maryland	OR	Oregon
AR	Arkansas	MA	Massachusetts	PA	Pennsylvania
CA	California	MI	Michigan	RI	Rhode Island
CO	Colorado	MN	Minnesota	SC	South Carolina
CT	Connecticut	MS	Mississippi	SD	South Dakota
DE	Delaware	MO	Missouri	TN	Tennessee
FL	Florida	MT	Montana	TX	Texas
GA	Georgia	NE	Nebraska	UT	Utah
HI	Hawaii	NV	Nevada	VT	Vermont
ID	Idaho	NH	New Hampshire	VA	Virginia
IL	Illinois	NJ	New Jersey	WA	Washington
IN	Indiana	NM	New Mexico	WV	West Virginia
IA	Iowa	NY	New York	WI	Wisconsin
KS	Kansas	NC	North Carolina	WY	Wyoming
KY	Kentucky	ND	North Dakota		

And there were also a few notices from other countries. The 2-digit abbreviation codes used for these five countries are listed below.

CD	Canada	GE	Germany	SW	Switzerland
CN	China	TK	Turkey		

Of the reported places of death listed in the various states in the obituaries, the top seven states are listed below in Figure 1 for reference. They collectively represent over two-thirds of the obituaries reported, and are contained within what is commonly known as the “German Triangle”, with vertices at St. Louis, Missouri, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Cincinnati, Ohio. The remaining 30% are spread over 27 states as well as locations in Canada, Germany and Switzerland.

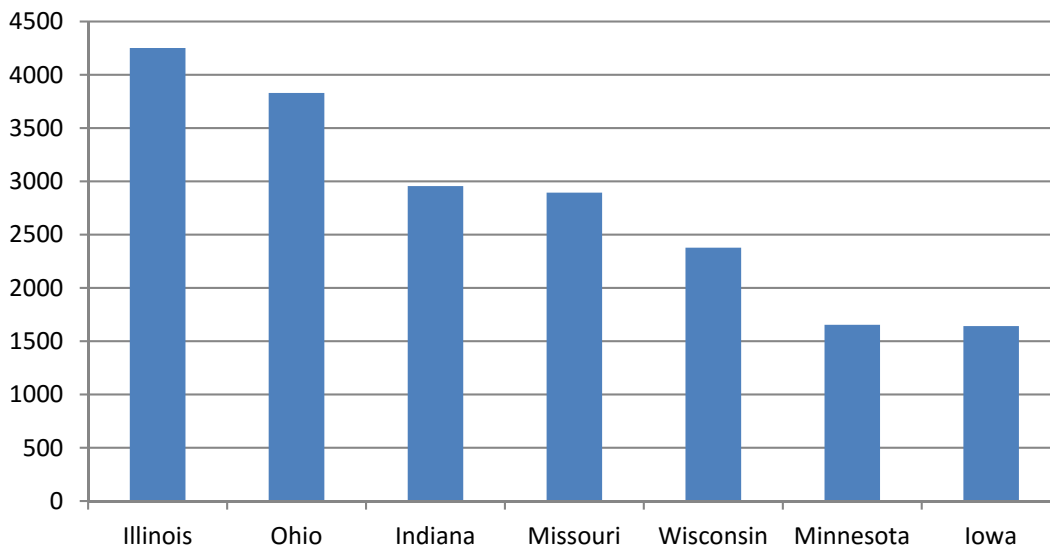


Figure 1

Place of Birth – If the place of birth was mentioned in the death notice, these were extracted and listed as part of the index. The information is recorded as the smallest town or village where the birth or church of baptism occurred, followed by the next largest administrative district, and then by the state, kingdom or province that the town belonged to at the time of death. In the case where the name of a town is popular, and could occur in many states the town is sometimes referred to by the name of the river it is near. Some examples are: Neustadt an der Haardt, Neustadt an der Donau, Neustadt an der Orla, or Frankfurt am Main, Frankfurt an der Oder. In these cases to save space on the page, this is sometimes abbreviated as “a. d. Haardt”, “a. d. Donau”, or “a. d. Oder”, for example, and these abbreviations are quite common in Germany.

Obviously over the time span of 100 years, there were many different states or provinces for a given town, and the information was recorded exactly as was written in the death notice at the time. There were large administrative changes and reorganizations in 1871 when the German Empire was formed and acquired most of present day Germany and Poland, and later after World War I ended. In some cases, the place of birth is no longer within the present borders of modern Germany, and could now reside within the borders of France, Austria, Poland, Denmark, or the Czech Republic.

Of the places of birth listed in Europe in the death notices, the top eight kingdoms, states, provinces, duchies, etc. are listed below in the Figure 2 graph for reference. They collectively represent over half of the places of birth mentioned in the death notices. The remaining 50% are spread over 120 provinces, duchies, smaller kingdoms, and various states in America. Of the various states listed for place of birth, most are in the Midwestern area (i.e. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin) and are for children of the original emigrants.

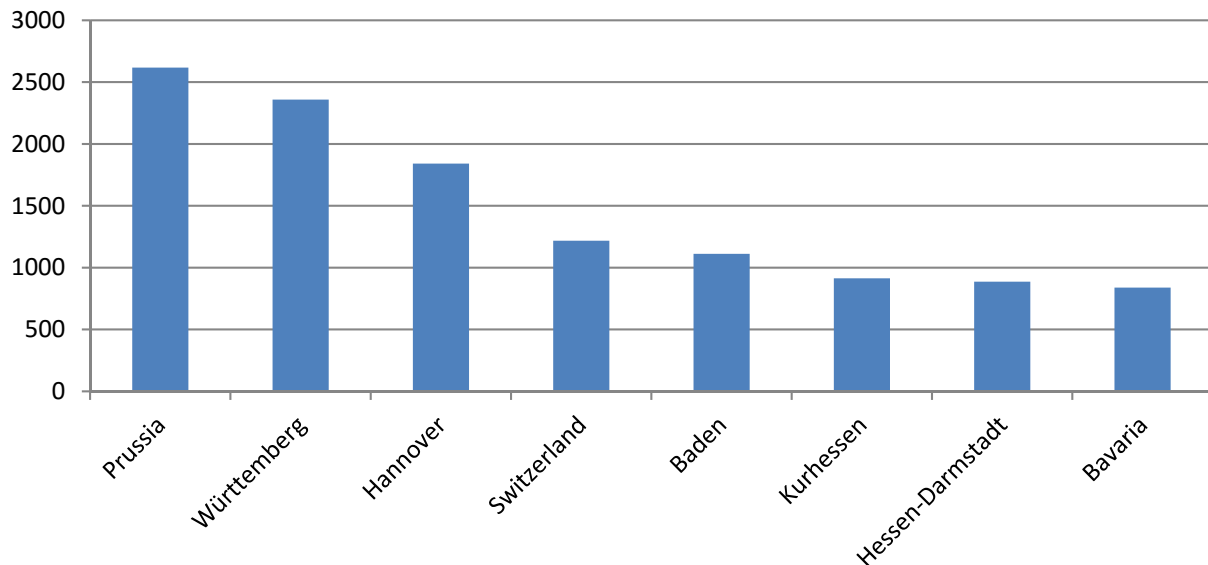


Figure 2

The 16 Bundesländer (federal states) in present day Germany are listed below in English (and German in parenthesis if a different name) are:

Baden-Württemberg	Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen)
Bavaria (Bayern)	North Rhine-Westphalia (Nordrhein-Westfalen)
Berlin – city-state	Rhineland-Palatinate (Rheinland-Pfalz)
Brandenburg	Saarland
Bremen – city-state	Saxony (Sachsen)
Hamburg – city-state	Saxony-Anhalt (Sachsen-Anhalt)
Hesse (Hessen)	Schleswig-Holstein
Mecklenburg-Vorpommern	Thuringia (Thüringen)

The following is a sample list of locations of birth given in obituaries, and a rough equivalent of where these previous duchies, kingdoms, fürstdoms, and principalities were located. Some of these areas which were previously considered part of the German-speaking confederation of states are now located in neighboring countries.

<u>Province</u>	<u>Modern State</u>
Baden	Baden-Württemberg
Baiern	Bavaria
Böhmen	Bohemia, Czech Republic
Brandenburg	Brandenburg
Braunschweig	Lower Saxony
Elsaß	Alsace-Lorraine, France
Frankreich	France
Hannover	Lower Saxony
Hessen	Hesse
Hinterpommern	Pomerania, Poland
Holstein	Schleswig-Holstein
Kurhessen	Hesse
Lippe-Detmold	Westphalia
Lippe-Schaumburg	Westphalia
Mecklenburg-Schwerin	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Mecklenburg-Strelitz	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Oldenburg	Oldenburg
Ostfriesland	Lower Saxony
Ost Preußen	Russia
Osterreich	Austria
Pommern	Pomerania, Poland
Preußen	Prussia
Reuß	Thüringia
Rheinkreis Baiern	Bavaria
Rheinpfalz Baiern	Rhineland-Palatinate

Rußland	Russia
Sachsen	Saxony
Sachsen-Gotha	Thüringia
Sachsen-Weimar	Thüringia
Schwarzburg-Rudolstadt	Thüringia
Schwarzburg-Sondershausen	Thüringia
Schweiz	Switzerland
Silesien	Silesia, Poland
Thüringen	Thüringia
Ungarn	Hungary
VorPommern	Mecklenburg-Vorpommern
Waldeck	Hesse
West Preußen	Poland
Westphalen	Westphalia
Württemberg	Baden-Württemberg

Some typical examples of obituaries that were placed in this newspaper are given below as well as an approximate translation of the original text. Only the name of the deceased, maiden name if a married woman, the death date, the obituary date, place of death, and place of birth have been extracted and included in this index, but as these few examples show, there may be much more valuable information contained in the original texts.

The following are some typical examples of the death notices that are reported in various issues of the newspaper.

Example Obituary #1

Schönebaum – Henriette Schönebaum, nee Meierford, was born in Stemmen, Lippe-Detmold on 30, March 1833. In 1855 she married Ernst Schönebaum, who died suddenly 8 year ago. The Lord blessed this marriage with 4 children, of which 3 are alive and cared for their mother during her 8 month illness. Under the leadership of Brother M. Röder, both her and her husband joined the church, and found peace with God. She died on 29, November 1888 at the age of 55 years, 7 months, and 29 days of pneumonia.

Warrenton, MO

G. Enzeroth

Christliche Apologete 27, December, 1888 pg. 330

Schönebaum — Henriette Schönebaum, geb. Meierford, wurde geboren zu Stemmen, Lippe-Detmold, den 30. März 1833. 1855 verheiratete sie sich mit Ernst Schönebaum, der ihr vor 8 Jahren durch einen schnellen Tod voranging. Der Herr segnete diese Ehe mit 4 Kinder; 3 noch lebende Kinder pflegte die Mutter während ihrem 8 Monate langem Leiden auf das Härtlichste. Unter der Anführung von Br. M. Röder schloß sie sich mit ihrem Gatten der Kirche an, und fanden bald hernach Frieden mit Gott. Sie starb den 29. November 1888, im Alter von 55 J., 7 M. und 29 T. an der Wassersucht. Bereit und fertig, ging sie im seligen Bewußtsein heim zu Jesu.
Warrenton, Mo. G. Enzeroth.

Example Obituary #2

Pahl – Henry Pahl was born at Alt Waldmoden, Hannover on 7, February 1844, and died in peace with his heavenly father on the 19, January 1895. He came to this land as a 9 year old boy. He was the oldest of seven children in his family. Three are still living: August, William, and Christian Pahl, all living in St. Louis. As a 17 year old he lost his pious mother; soon after her death, he arose, searched, and found his salvation in the forgiveness of his sins, and remained true until he was called home. On 2, July 1865, he was married with Barbara Baumgarten, his now grieving wife. Four children were born to them, of which two died in childhood, and the others, Mrs. Emma Schlagenhauf and Harry Pahl, along with their mother are mourning their father's too early death. Brother Pahl was converted under the work of Brother Böshenz, in the church on the corner of 8th and Soulard Streets, remained a true and active member of the church, and served the last four years as a trustee. Our loss is his gain, he was ready.

St. Louis, MO, Memorial Parish J. L. J. Barth

Christliche Apologete 21, February 1895 pg. 126

P a h l — Henry Pahl wurde geboren zu Alt Waldmoden, Hannover, den 7. Februar 1844, und starb im Frieden mit seinem himmlischen Vater am 19. Januar 1895. Schon als neunjähriger Knabe kam er in dieses Land. Von den sieben Geschwistern seiner Familie war er der Älteste. Drei sind noch am Leben: August, William und Christian Pahl, alle wohnhaft in St. Louis. Als 17jähriger Jüngling verlor er seine fromme Mutter; bald nach ihrem Tode machte er sich auf, suchte und fand seinen Heiland in der Vergebung seiner Sünden, und blieb ihm treu, bis er ihn zu sich rief. Am 2. Juli 1865 verehelichte er sich mit Barbara Baumgarten, seiner nun trauernden Gattin. Es wurden ihnen vier Kinder geboren, wovon zwei in früher Kindheit starben, und die Andern, Frau Emma Schlagenhauf und Harry Pahl, mit der Mutter den allzufrühen Tod des Vaters beweinen. Hr. Pahl war seit seiner Bekehrung unter der Arbeit von Br. Böshenz, in der Kirche an der Achten und Soulard Str., ein treues, zuverlässiges Glied der Kirche und diente derselben seit vielen Jahren als Beamter. Unser Verlust ist sein Gewinn, denn er war bereit.
St. Louis, Mo., Memorial Gemeinde.
J. L. J. Barth.

Example Obituary # 3
Death Reports

Blessed are they, who die in the Lord.

Memoir of Sister Rosine Schneider

Sister Rosine Schneider entered into the rest of God's people at the age of 76 years and 8 days. She was born on 17, August 1823 in Rümelingen, Kanton Baselland, Switzerland. In 1840 she entered into marriage with Ed. Schneider. In 1844 they emigrated to Texas, and four years later joined the German Episcopal Methodist Church. In 1849 Brother Schneider entered the ministry and was sent to Fredericksburg, (Texas). For many years Mrs. Schneider shared the joys and sorrows of a travelling minister. In the 80s Brother Schneider joined the list of retired ministers, and in 1890 preceded his wife in death. Sister Schneider survived her husband by almost nine years, and on 25, August 1899 followed him into eternal rest. At our last camp meeting in July she was still quite well, indeed she remarked, she must participate in this meeting, but it would be her last. And so it has become. On 26, August we laid her body in the bowels of the earth amidst a large gathering. She leaves behind eight children, 55 grandchildren, and 29 great-grandchildren, along with three sisters in Texas, as well as a brother and a sister living in Switzerland.

Perry, Texas

Th. Havekost

Der Christliche Apologete 28, September 1899
pg. 623

Todesberichte.

Selig sind, die in dem Herrn sterben.

Memorie von Schw. Rosine Schneider.

Schw. Rosine Schneider ging im Alter von 76 Jahren und acht Tagen zur Ruhe des Volkes Gottes ein. Sie wurde geboren am 17. August 1823 in Rümelingen, Kanton Baselland, Schweiz. In 1840 schloß sie den Ehebund mit Ed. Schneider. In 1844 wanderten sie aus nach Texas, und vier Jahre später schlossen sie sich der Deutschen Bisch. Methodistenskirche an. In 1849 trat Br. Schneider in das Predigtamt und wurde nach Fredericksburg gesandt. Manches Jahr teilte Schw. Schneider mit ihrem Gatten die Freuden und Leiden des Reisepredigtamts. In den 80er Jahren ließ Br. Schneider sich auf die Liste der altersschwachen Prediger setzen und ging in 1890 seiner Gattin im Tode voran. Schw. Schneider überlebte ihren Gatten noch beinahe neun Jahre, um dann am 25. August 1899 ihm in die ewige Ruhe zu folgen. Auf unserer letzten Lagerversammlung im Juli war sie noch recht wohl, doch meinte sie, sie müsse diese Lagerversammlung noch mitmachen, es möchte die letzte sein. Und so ist es geworden. Am 26. August beteten wir ihren Leib unter großer Beteiligung in den Schoß der Erde. Sie hinterläßt acht Kinder, 55 Enkel und 29 Urnenkel, nebst diesen noch drei Schwestern in Texas, sowie einen Bruder und eine Schwester in der Schweiz.

Perry, Tex. Th. Havekost.

Example Obituary # 4

Klebs – Brother Johann Christian Klebs was born on 22, April 1850 at Sydowswyse, Lebuser County, in the Province of Brandenburg, Prussia, and died in the hope of eternal life on 9, September 1884 in the town of Germania, Todd County, Minnesota. He was converted to God by the work of W. H. Träger in Clingo, Minnesota. He has been sick since last year, and endured difficult pain. He suffered in particular in his head and stomach. Since the past six months, he has been blind; indeed he carried his sufferings with patience and offered them up to God. He leaves behind his wife and four children, and other close relatives to mourn his too early death.
Wadena, Minn L. J. Brenner

Klebs—Br. Johann Christian Klebs wurde den 22. April 1850 zu Sydowswyse, Lebuser Kreis, Provinz Brandenburg, Preußen, geboren und starb in der Hoffnung des ewigen Lebens den 9. Sept. 1884 in Town Germania, Todd Co., Minn. Unter der Arbeit von W. H. Träger wurde er in Clingo, Minn., zu Gott bekehrt. Seit einem Jahre war er krank und hatte schwer und beständig zu leiden. Er litt besonders im Kopf und Magen. Seit einem halben Jahre war er auch blind; doch er trug sein Leiden mit vieler Geduld und war immer Gott ergeben, so lange er seinen Verstand hatte. Er hinterläßt seine Gattin und vier Kinder, nebst andern nahen Anverwandten, seinen frühen Tod zu betrauern.
Wadena, Minn. L. J. Brenner.

Der Christliche Apologete 29, September 1884
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Suggested further reading on the topic of the history of the German Methodist Church in America

----, Nast-Trinity United Methodist Church, The Mother of German Methodism – 150th Anniversary 1835 – 1985, ----, 1985

Dixon, Barbara, A Forgotten Heritage – The German Methodist Church, Little Miami Publishing Co., Milford, Ohio, 2011

Overton, Julie M., Ministers and Churches of the Central German Methodist Conference 1835 – 1907, Jennings & Graham, Cincinnati, OH 1975

Riemenschneider, Edwin A., translated by, Engelhardt Riemenschneider – Memoirs of a German Methodist Pioneer, Little Miami Publishing Co., Milford, Ohio, 2015

Wittke, Carl Frederick, William Nast, Patriarch of German Methodism, Wayne State University Press, Detroit, MI, 1959

All of these books are available at the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County in the Genealogy and Local History Department.

