

moderately well off and cannot profit from the 1961/68 BEA legislation which is designed to assist economically backward minorities. Kloss concludes "It would mean a new step forward if Americans realized that discrimination against those minorities who never requested or even needed governmental aid is not fully compatible with the American Dream." All German-American researchers should read this book.

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GERMAN-AMERICAN GENEALOGICAL NOTES

ON GERMAN SURNAMES

The use of surnames began in Köln (Cologne) in the year 1106, in Strassburg in 1129, in Basel in 1168, in Zürich in 1145 and in Hamburg in 1260. The first record of surnames in Bremen was made in 1303. Normally, persons from the lower classes were not called by surnames until the 15th and 16th centuries. In North Germany the clergy often wrote the surnames of a church member in the Standard German rather than the Low German form, e.g. *Hoopmann* became *Hoffmann*, or misspelled the name all together, e.g. *Kleucke* became *Glocke* or *Klöcke*. Frequently landowners were known not by their real last name but rather by the name of the previous landowner of the farm or estate on which they resided. (See Rolf Hillmer, "Gedanken zur Einführung in die Genealogie," *Mitteilungen der Gruppe Familien- und Wappenkunde im Bundesbahn-Sozialwerk*, Jahrgang 4, Folge 7, Mai 1977, p. 130.)

GERMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH REGISTERS

Since 1563 Germany's Catholic churches have been required to keep church registers.

HELPFUL BOOK ON RESEARCH IN LOWER SAXONY

Helmut Jäger, *Methodisches Handbuch für Heimatforschung in Niedersachsen* (Hildesheim 1965).