

## Kolping Genealogy

Prior to the civil government issuing Birth, Marriage and Death records, churches recorded information about christenings, baptisms, marriages, and burials. Vast numbers of parish registers have been microfilmed from throughout the world and are being added to online collections at sites and are labeled *Church Records*.

These ecclesiastical records can extend your family history research further back before civil registrations in many areas. Church records were usually of:

- baptisms (Taufen), not births,
- marriages (Heiraten),
- and burial services (Begrabnisse), not a death record.

*Baptisms* records would usually indicate the date of birth, but if not, you could assume that the baptism took place just a few days after birth. *Burial services* records which give the age of the person, date of death, place of death, and if an alter service was given. Other types of records the church might have kept were confirmations (Konfirmationen) which was done about the age of 14, communions, family registers (Familienbucher) or lists of its members, account records (such as for fees for special masses), and pastor lists.

Our next genealogy session on **January 21**, will cover **Church Records, 2:00 pm, Clubhouse**.

<http://www.kolpingcincinnati.com/Genealogy.html>

Dr. Tom Montgomery, Kolping Member