

LECTURE SUMMARY:

Title: Introduction to German Phonetics as it Applies to the Spelling of Personal Names: "How can Tiefendörfer & Diependerper be the same family?"

Level: All

Duration: 90 minutes

Description:

Most researchers in German-language family history identify numerous variant spellings of personal names over time and in different locations. Despite the apparently helter-skelter variations, basic rules of Germanic phonetics are at work here. This presentation will offer linguistic explanations for specific spelling changes. With emphasis on problem-solving throughout, the presenter uses names supplied by the audience to illustrate the application of phonetic rules to the spelling of personal names in Germany and among German immigrants in North America.