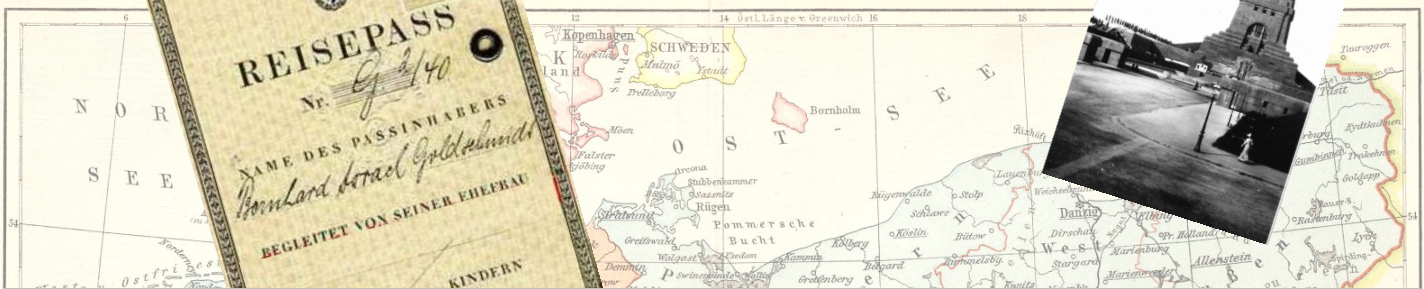
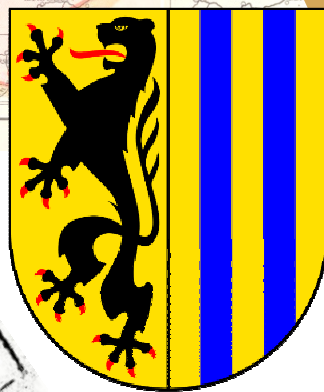




*Gefährliche Reise! Auf der Glückseligkeit in Leipzig
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WANDERVÖGEL



**A Prussian Family's
Passage through Leipzig**



A Wandervogel is a migratory bird, such as a stork. From 1896 it was also the name of a popular German youth movement whose ethos was to shake off the restrictions of society, to get back to nature and to enjoy the freedom of movement (their logo is shown above). Migration has in fact "been a central feature of German history since the population movements that first brought the German people into Central Europe," writes Guinnane in his contribution to Ogilvie & Overly's; *Germany: A New Social and Economic History*. Indeed, in 1907, this characteristic gave rise to nearly half the German population living somewhere other than the place of their birth and this astonishing figure (in a country whose population was then almost 60 million) included my grandmother's father, uncle, maternal grandfather and grandmother (both maternal and paternal). They lived at that time in the Kingdom of Saxony's mercantile city of Leipzig. Yet my grandmother, her sister, a cousin, her daughters and three grandchildren eventually saw out their lives in a place other than that of their birth too. This book charts that family's movements – just one of whom was a member of the Wandervogel – over nearly two centuries and marries them to Leipzig's own vivid history, as the author (a 'wandervogel' himself) seeks to understand 'why?' Finally, because there were seven generations of wandervogels, it seems only right to speak about them in the German plural. Thus the book's title is; Wandervögel.



About the Author

Born and raised in the UK in 1971, Jerome Simpson holds a BSc degree in Information Science which was obtained from Leeds Metropolitan University before graduating the International Space University. Fascinated by the turn of European events in 1989 and a desire to understand his roots, a twenty plus year-long endeavour to document his Prussian origins got underway in 1992. A keen traveler, he has lived in Budapest, Hungary since 1994, putting his knowledge management skills to noble use since 1995 for the benefit of civil society, cleaner and safer cities and the environment. He is a husband-to-be and proud father of two and takes a special interest in space science, human rights and West Ham United. Besides authoring *Wandervögel*, his first book outside of his professional line of work, he has written travelogues, lyrics and has also been involved in establishing a number of websites including www.wandervogel.org.



WANDERVÖGEL:

A Prussian Family's Passage through Leipzig

Born two months premature into a wealthy Prussian family in 1907, Erdmuthe Alice Nannj Tyralla grew up in the Kingdom of Saxony's mercantile city of Leipzig. But like her family, her tenure was brief and by the twenties she and her sister were modest stars of the US vaudeville scene. Together they became part of an acrobat troupe called 'The Six Rockets' that travelled as far afield as Canada, Cuba and the UK. Was her migration on account of losing her father at the Western Front in 1915 or the result of an austere Prussian upbringing? Was she fleeing Leipzig or simply a 'Wandervogel' - a migratory bird who passed her adult life in a land other than that of their birth?

This is the story of that Prussian family and their fortunes as they waxed and waned in tandem with Leipzig's growth - and destruction. Having migrated from the Kingdom of Prussia in 1879, it recounts their trials and tribulations against a backdrop of conflict, social turmoil and forever changing borders until 1990 when Leipzig became part of a reunited Germany (and Nannj herself passed away). The result is an endearing and thrilling retelling of the city (and its country's) turbulent history, tinged with family anecdotes, Faustian analogies and its frequent interactions with the Jewish diaspora. At the same time it seeks to understand whether the family's migrations over successive generations was (and still is) an inherent German trait or whether its arrival to and departure from the Kingdom of Saxony was borne out of economic, political and social need and opportunity alone.

Unlike Nannj's aristocratic mother who favoured the heady highs of Berlin and Hamburg during the twenties and thirties, she and her sister, Margot, settled in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. But as the Second World War broke out, the German Wehrmacht followed in their wake. Yet Margot never gave up her 'American Dream,' journeying to San Francisco through England and then Canada, as the Cold War reached its peak. The resulting political divisions brought threat besides opportunity and as Leipzig grew isolated, two of Nannj's daughters made England the family's next home. Yet even before the Iron Curtain was lifted across Europe, one grandson grew curious to know 'What lay beyond?' while its removal permitted the next generation not only to return to Leipzig and discover that not all within that Prussian family had migrated - or worse, perished - but to put down his own roots in Budapest, twin capital of Prussia's one-time rival empire..

This then is their family's story. The result of many years research and enquiry combined with one individual's quest for self-discovery and a desire to unravel the facts, figures and lost memories, that belonged to a bunch of characters that originally appeared in a scrapbook full of old photographs...



"A fine job of research. Congratulations."

*Frank Cullen, Founder,
American Vaudeville Museum*

*"This project will clearly make
a significant contribution to scholarship in
the field."*

*Anne Routon,
International and Global History series,
Columbia University Press*

*"Some readers appreciate stories about
'ordinary' people rather than those about the
famous - they can relate better to them.
Yours is a story that brought tears to my
eyes. Being from Armenian and German
immigrants I would love to be able to read a
similar story about my family."*

*Adriana Craciun, Senior Adviser,
Oak Foundation*



*"Your research and book have good
promise for catching the interest of the
academic community. There are excellent
resources and narrative found there."*

*James Retallack, Professor of History
and German Studies, University of
Toronto*

