Introduction and Use of This Book

   Please refer to the Preface for a brief account of the origins of this book. Our collection of information about the Vornkahl name is presented in four different ways. These are:

   - Name lists
   - Charts
   - Historical accounts
   - Sources

Each of these is described briefly below. At the end of this section, we include a list of the abbreviations used in this book.

   The Name Lists. We have compiled alphabetical listings of all the Vornkahls found in our collected data. There are three lists. The first, and largest, list is of Vornkahls from Nettlingen and several neighboring villages. The second list is of Vornkahls from Berel and neighboring villages. The third list is of Vornkahls from the United States. The separation of names into these three lists reflects the fact that distinct, although ancestrally related, Vornkahl families are found in these different areas.

   The lists are alphabetical by given names. When there is more than one individual with the same given name, for example, Johann Heinrich, the listing is by chronological date of birth. Just as with the Vornkahl surname, there are different spellings of given names. One example is in the spelling of the name Cord that also is found spelled Cordt, Curdt, or Curd. When the given name is found with different spellings, the list is ordered by date of birth rather than by the spelling of the names. In later years, names such as Carl, Caroline, etc., often were spelled with K in place of C. These names have been changed to begin with "C".

   The entry in the list for each individual Vornkahl person is intended to summarize all the data found in the sources for that person with the exception of entries for god-parents of newborn children or witnesses to births, weddings, or deaths. An example is outlined below:

1	**Johann Berend Christian** (bap. 8 Jan 1778) **C6**	[647]
2	(d. 18 May 1850)	[1926]
3	f. Johann Hinr. Vornekahlen (auf Tönnies Hoffe)	
4	m. Regine Catharine Magdalena Winter	[744]
5	mar. (1 Jul 1802) Johanne Marie Sophie Vornkahl (Dingelbe)	[1506]
6	(bap. 7 Sep 1782)	[1919]
7	(d. 23 Mar 1846)	[1919]
8	children: Johann Friedrich (1802-1865)	[833]
9	Johann Christian Andreas (1805)	[848]
10	Johanne Marie Elisabeth Friederike (1809)	[878][2121]
11	Johanne Marie Caroline Elisabeth (1812-1850)	[912][2163]
12	Johanne Marie Sophie Dorothee (1816)	[947]

In this listing, line 1 has the given name of the Vornkahl followed by date of birth and/or baptism, chart (**C6**) in which the person may be found, and the source reference [647]. Line 2 gives the date of death and source reference. Line 3 gives the name of his or her father. Line 4 gives the name of his or her mother. Line 5 gives the date of marriage and name of person married (in this example, because the spouse also is a Vornkahl, there is a separate entry for her in the list). Line 6 gives the date of birth or baptism for the spouse. Line 7 gives the date of death of the spouse. Lines 8-12 give the names of the couple's children with years of birth and death (when known) in parentheses (there are separate entries for all Vornkahl children having complete dates of birth, death,

etc.; the year of birth can be used to identify the entry for the child when there is more than one person having the same given names).

A word of caution about our assignments of children to parents. In most cases, we have found adequate data to be confident that we have assigned a child to the proper parent and also to have made the correct assignment of spouses. However, in data that give the name of only the father of a child and when there is more than one person (father) with the same given name, for example Hans Heinrich, it may be difficult to make the assignment of the father/child relationship. In some cases, the time frame of events may allow an educated guess as to these relationships and we have done so. In other cases, we have not assigned a child to a father (family). In later records, the names of the mothers also were recorded making assignments easier. Nevertheless, it is entirely possible that we have made some incorrect assignments of children and their parents.

Charts. We have prepared a series of charts showing family relationships among Vornkahls as they existed in the time period of our study (1649-1902/7). Many, but not all, of the persons in the three lists will be found in one of the charts. The letter-number combination in bold type (*e.g.*, **C3A**) found after a person's name in the lists tells in which chart to find the person; **C3A** is an abbreviation for **Chart 3A**. If there is no such bold letter-number after a name, the person will not be found in a chart. Data used in the charts is derived from the lists.

Two symbols are used in the charts to help the reader know that a person has no further descendents. The symbols are † and ‡ and are found below the boxes in the charts. The symbol † signifies that the person died, often in infancy or childhood, but at least before marriage and reproduction. The symbol ‡ signifies that no further information about the person has been found in the sources we have used.

Historical Accounts. We have identified thirteen Vornkahl emigrants from Germany to the United States and have written accounts of each based on the information available to us. The length of these accounts varies greatly reflecting the amount of information we have had to work with. While the main focus of the book is the time period 1649 – 1902/7 (these dates are based primarily on years for which parish records were available to us), there is considerable information about the Vornkahl name from earlier times. This information is summarized in an account titled "Vornkahls in History, 1406-1906." This section also contains other miscellaneous information of Vornkahls that we have gathered during our research. We also include several sections devoted to specific Vornkahl families of Germany.

Sources and References. The primary sources of information, or data, for this book are the original registers, or record books, of the parish churches of Nettlingen, Berel, Dingelbe, Hoheneggelsen, Nordassel, Bruchmachtersen, Hackenstedt, and others as listed in the Sources section. These registers, or Kirchenbücher, contain hand-written entries for the births, marriages, and deaths of parish members in these villages.

Our most extensive set of data comes from the parish registers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nettlingen. From photographic copies of these books, we have abstracted all entries in which the name Vornkahl, or spelling variations thereof, is recorded. In addition to the birth, marriage, and death records of Vornkahls, we have abstracted all entries wherein a Vornkahl is named as a god-parent, a witness, or in any other context. (An exception is that starting in 1853, we did not record entries where the Vornkahl name appears only as taufzeugen in the birth record.) We abstracted a total of 2,073 entries from the parish register books of Nettlingen covering the time period of 1649 to 1902/7. We also have obtained extensive data from the parish records of Berel, Dingelbe, and Hoheneggelsen for this same period of time.

Another source of data is found in the civil records kept in these villages in the years 1808-1815. These handwritten records, kept by the parish pastors, have been microfilmed by the Family History Center of the Mormon Church (Church of the Latter Day Saints). We have abstracted all information about Vornkahls from these records. Although this information often duplicates the information found in the parish register books, we have included these sources since they provide separate confirmation of the data. In the cases of Dingelbe, Nordassel, and Hoheneggelsen, these microfilmed records are our primary sources of data.

Data from many other sources are also included in this book.

Each source is given a number. A word of caution to the reader: please be careful not to confuse source numbers with dates. Source numbers are always enclosed with square brackets, *i.e.*, [1234] whereas dates (years) will be in curved brackets or without brackets. The sequence of source numbers follows development of the contents of this book, *e.g.,* the 2,073 sources abstracted from the Nettlingen Kirchenbücher are numbered [001] through [2073].

Numerous variations in spelling of the name Vornkahl are found through the decades. Some, but by no means all, of the variations are: Vornkohl, Vornekahl, Vornkal, Fornkahl, Fornkohl, Vornekail, Vornkahlt, Vornekall, Vernekahl, Fornikale, and Vorenkahl. In transcription of the parish records, we have kept the original spellings. However, for our master lists of Vornkahls, we have converted the spellings in most cases to a standardized Vornkahl.

We identify each of our sources by the page number of the book from which it was transcribed. The pages of some of the parish Kirchenbücher have been re-numbered with stamped numbers. Where the book pages are re-numbered, we use these new numbers. In some of the earlier books with stamped page numbers, only one side of the page is numbered. We identify the two sides of the page using the descriptions "r" and "v" where a page number such as 21r refers to the front side of the page and 21v refers to the reverse, or verso, side of the page. Where the book pages have not been re-numbered, we use the original numbering system found in the book – usually handwritten page numbers.

Language. The transcriptions from the original sources are written in a mixture of German and English. Generally, birth and marriage records retain German spelling while death records have been converted into English. The transcriptions from the parish records into sources, for example [001]-[2073], retain in most cases the original spellings of names, places, and occupations/positions, etc. When the lists were compiled from these sources, some corrections of these spellings were made. There are exceptions to these guidelines; for example, the causes of death are transcribed in German with the English equivalent sometimes in parentheses.

In the transcriptions, blanks (underlined spaces) will denote where the original record could not be read. Words or letters enclosed in parentheses denote where transcription of the original record is not certain.

Abbreviations. The following is a key to the abbreviations adopted for use in this book. There often are differences between abbreviations used in the United States and those used in Europe. In this key, the abbreviation used in this book is given first followed by any alternate abbreviations. These are followed by the definitions of the abbreviations in English and German.

b. = * = birth date; geborne
bap. = date of baptism; getauften
bg. = fiancé; bridegroom; bräutigam
br. = fiancée; bride; braut
bur. = burial; beerdigt
d. = + = date of death; gestorben
f = father; Vater (of child in a birth record; of fiancée or fiancé in a marriage record)
geb = geboren; nee; maiden name
gev = gevattern; gefattern; godparent
J = Jahre; year (age)
m = mother; Mutter (of child in a birth record; of fiancée or fiancé in a marriage record)
mar. = ∞ = date of marriage
tz = taufzeuge; baptismal sponsor or witness
z = zeuge; witness

Glossary. Please consult the short glossary found at the end of this book for German and English equivalents of some frequently encountered words.

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