Kith and Kin

Official Newsletter of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

Four Tips for Finding German Ancestors

Not finding your ancestors in genealogical records? The name you've been searching for may be wrong. Your ancestor may have changed his surname after immigration, or English-speaking clerks may have translated it. In colonial America, Bentz evalve to Pentz and eventually Pence; Zimmermann became Zimmerman or was translated to Carpenter; and Schwarzwäider became Blackweider. As many as a hundred names could be derived from a single German surname. Here are some hot tips for fighting through German name changes and translations.

1. **Watch for regional customs.** If you have ancestors from northern Germany around Ostfriesland, you may find a pattern of changing last names. This area used patronymics-surnames taken from the father's given name. For example, Peter Hansen's offspring would have the last name Petersen. Ancestors from around Westphalia may have based their surname on farm ownership. A telltale sign is when a man's surname changed at marriage-his wife was heir to the farm.

2. **If an immigrant's name is different in US records than in those of his homeland, the changes happened after he immigrated.** Ellis Island officials didn't write names, they merely checked the passenger list that was created at the port of departure. Rather, your ancestor may have adopted an American-sounding name as a way to identify with his new home and avoid anti-German sentiments.

3. **Don't use census records alone to conclude an ancestor changed the spelling of his or her name.** People didn't write their own names on censuses. They (or a family member, or even a neighbor) stated their names to the census enumerator, who wrote them down. One census enumerator may write Muller, another Mueller and another Miller. Even within the same document, such as a will, you might find a name spelled different ways. Note all name variations you find and don't limit your research to the most common spelling.

4. **Northern Americans typically use our first names.** Looking at the name Johann Peter Schneider, we'd see Peter as just a middle name. But in Germany, people were often given saints' names (common ones were Johann, Maria and Anna) as first names and were called by their middle names. Your safest bet is to look for both Johann and Peter in records.

Dig into German records

Whether it's from difficult translation or hard-to-read fonts, we can all agree that trying to decode German records is a pain in the posterior Gothic typeface and crazy cursive handwriting can lead to hours of squinty suffering.

(Excerpted from the Taylor County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Vol. 18, Iss. 4, March 2014.)

Note: Continue gaining information on doing German research by reading the article written by James M. Beidler which starts on page six.

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had an enjoyable Christmas holiday surrounded by family, friends and good cheer. For Vickie and I the days were busy, maybe even exhausting, but we still had a good time.

Despite the good times, more than once we thought of a friend of the genealogy group who was missed this year, MAGG charter member, Lorraine Markee, who passed away in late September. Lorraine was an active member and volunteer of our group from its organization back in 1984. In many ways until just a few years ago I thought of Lorraine as the face of the genealogy group. She could often be found at her favorite microfilm reader in the Marshfield Library working on an indexing project, a personal research task, or someone's query from a distance. Regardless of the project or how busy Lorraine might have been she always had time to lend a hand to those interested in getting a start on their own family genealogy or direct an out of town researchers to specific holdings of the Marshfield Library. I will always remember Lorraine for her willingness to volunteer or lend a hand when the genealogy group and library partnered on a project.

During this new year the genealogy group and the library will partner on preserving Lorraine's fairly extensive collection of Central Wisconsin family history materials and photographs for others to use. Lorraine had many interests and her genealogy collections were saved so that her past effort can continue to benefit local family historians. Library staff \will begin to review and collate Lorraine's collection soon but they will depend on the group to help with that process. If you'd be willing to help out in any way, let Lori Belongia or me know.

When we last met, we had started to plan our 2016 programs. Details for the programs of our January, February and March meetings are included in this newsletter. There were additional suggestions, but to be sure we have programs planned to meet your needs, we'll take some time at the January meeting to develop the meeting's program schedule for April through October. If you have suggestions, be sure to send them to the genealogy group e-mail address at: < marshfieldareagenealogygroup@gmail.com > or bring them to the meeting on January 28th.

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes always,

Schnitz
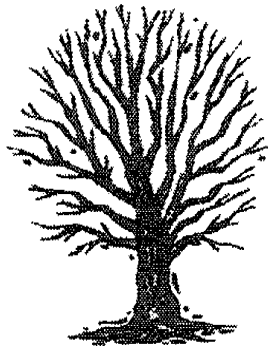
MAGG Officers and Committees

President: Don Schnitzler (2015)

Vice President: Jennifer Witzel (2016)

Secretary: Holly Schnitzler (2016)

Treasurer: Noreen Moen (2015)

Member at Large: Lorraine Rogers (2015)

Member at Large: (2016)

Newsletter Editor: Vickie Schnitzler

Program: Don Schnitzler

Membership: Jennifer Witzel

(Year office expires is in parentheses.)

The Marshfield Area Genealogy Group is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Our purpose is to provide meetings and programs of genealogical interest and to provide instruction in genealogical procedures. Also to collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical data found in the Marshfield area and/or relative to the people of the Marshfield Area.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December.

Membership Information

Our membership year is from May 1 to April 30. Individual membership per year is $12.00 and a Family membership is $15.00 per year. For hardcopy newsletter add $6.
Membership Forms can be downloaded from our website http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/ and returned with payment to us at: MAGG, P.O. Box 337, Marshfield, WI 54449.

Germany Census Records

Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census, 1890   <http://www.americanancestors.org/search/advanced-search/?database=Germany:%20Mecklenburg-Schwerin%20Census,%201890&full=true> and
Germany, Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census, 1900   <http://www.americanancestors.org/search/advanced-search/?database=Germany:%20Mecklenburg-Schwerin%20Census,%201900&full=true>

These twp collections contain more than 790,000 census records for the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, for the years 1890 and 1900. The census records each member of a household, providing information about an individual's name, gender, age, birthplace, marital status, occupation, and relationship to the head of household. Microfilm numbers noted in the records refer to FamilySearch microfilm, which may be ordered from FamilySearch.org.

Germany, Westfalen, Minden Citizen Lists, 1574-1902   <http://www.americanancestors.org/search/advanced-search/?database=Germany:%20Westfalen,%20Minden%20Citizen%20Lists,%201574-1902&full=true>

This collection contains more than 14,000 records of citizenship, naturalization, and censuses for the city of Minden, Westfalen, Germany. Heads of each household would annually report to civil authorities to record personal information. A subset of this collection includes records of citizens who moved away to another location. Microfilm numbers noted in the records refer to FamilySearch microfilm, which may be ordered from FamilySearch.org.
(from The Weekly Genealogist, Vol. 18, No. 43, Whole #768, December 2, 2015 at "NEHGS"

<weeklygenealogist@nehgs.org>)

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Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test Answers
(Last part of Answers)

Answers 75-100

75.▪ freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- ▪ saved (or preserved) the Union
- ▪ led the United States during the Civil War

76.▪ freed the slaves
- ▪ freed slaves in the Confederacy
- ▪ freed slaves in the Confederate states
- ▪ freed slaves in most Southern states

77.▪ fought for women's rights
- ▪ fought for civil rights

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

78.▪ World War I
- ▪ World War II
- ▪ Korean War
- ▪ Vietnam War
- ▪ (Persian) Gulf War

79.▪ (Woodrow) Wilson

80.▪ (Franklin) Roosevelt

81.▪ Japan, Germany, and Italy

82.▪ World War II

83.▪ Communism

(Continued from page 3)

84. ▪ civil rights (movement)

85. ▪ fought for civil rights
    ▪ worked for equality for all Americans

86. ▪ Terrorists attacked the United States.

87. [USCIS Officers will be supplied with a list of federally recognized American Indian tribes.]
- Cherokee
- Navajo
- Sioux
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Pueblo
- Apache
- Iroquois
- Creek
- Blackfeet
- Seminole
- Cheyenne
- Arawak
- Shawnee
- Mohegan
- Huron
- Oneida
- Lakota
- Crow
- Teton
- Hopi
- Inuit

INTEGRATED CIVICS
A: Geography

88. ▪ Missouri (River)
    ▪ Mississippi (River)

89. ▪ Pacific (Ocean)
90. ▪ Atlantic (Ocean)

91. ▪ Puerto Rico
    ▪ U.S. Virgin Islands
    ▪ American Samoa
    ▪ Northern Mariana Islands
    ▪ Guam

92. ▪ Maine
    ▪ New Hampshire
    ▪ Vermont
    ▪ New York

- Pennsylvania
- Ohio
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- North Dakota
- Montana
- Idaho
- Washington
- Alaska

93. ▪ California
    ▪ Arizona
    ▪ New Mexico
    ▪ Texas

94. ▪ Washington, D.C.

95. ▪ New York (Harbor)
    ▪ Liberty Island
    [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
    B: Symbols

96. ▪ because there were 13 original colonies
    ▪ because the stripes represent the original colonies

97. ▪ because there is one star for each state
    ▪ because each star represents a state
    ▪ because there are 50 states

98. ▪ The Star-Spangled Banner
    C: Holidays

99. ▪ July 4

100. ▪ New Year's Day
    ▪ Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
    ▪ Presidents' Day
    ▪ Memorial Day
    ▪ Independence Day
    ▪ Labor Day
    ▪ Columbus Day
    ▪ Veterans Day
    ▪ Thanksgiving
    ▪ Christmas

This concludes the answers.

(from http://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Office%20of%20Citizenship/Citizenship%20Resource%20Center%20Site/Publications/100q.pdf)

Root of All Things

Good Housekeeping magazine had an article on family history and story sharing in the December 2013 issue. It made reference to the following website: goodhousekeeping.com/20-questions

The Root of All Things: 20 Questions

To study how families pass on their history to succeeding generations, Emory University psychologists Robyn Fivush, Ph.D., and Marshall Duke, Ph.D., created a 20-question Do You Know (DYK) scale. Want to fill in the gaps in your own family history? Check out the questions below. Keep in mind that "it's not just knowing the information, but the process of sharing it that's important," says Fivush.

Please answer the following questions by circling "Y" for "yes" or "N" for "no." Even if you know the information we are asking about, you don't need to write it down.

1. Do you know how your parents met? Y N

2. Do you know where your mother grew up? Y N

3. Do you know where your father grew up? Y N

4. Do you know where some of your grandparents grew up? Y N

5. Do you know where some of your grandparents met? Y N

6. Do you know where your parents were married? Y N

7. Do you know what went on when you were being born? Y N

8. Do you know the source of your name? Y N

9. Do you know some things about what happened when your brothers or sisters were being born? Y N

10. Do you know which person in your family you look most like? Y N

11. Do you know which person in the family you act most like? Y N

12. Do you know some of the illnesses and injuries that your parents experienced when they were younger? Y N

13. Do you know some of the lessons that your parents learned from good or bad experiences? Y N

14. Do you know some things that happened to your mom or dad when they were in school? Y N

15. Do you know the national background or your family (such as English, German, Russian, etc.)? Y N

16. Do you know some of the jobs that your parents had when they were young? Y N

17. Do you know some awards that your parents received when they were young? Y N

18. Do you know the names of the schools that your mom went to? Y N

19. Do you know the names of the schools that your dad went to? Y N

20. Do you know about a relative whose face "froze" in a grumpy position because he or she did not smile enough? Y N

Source: Duke, M.P., Lazarus, A., & Fivush, R. (2008). Knowledge of family history as a clinically useful index of psychological well-being and prognosis: A brief report. Psychotherapy Theory, Research, Practice, Training, 45, 268-272.

Read more: 20 questions—Family History Questions—Good Housekeeping
Follow us: @goodhousekeeping on Twitter | GOODHOUSEKEEPING on Facebook
Visit us at GoodHousekeeping.com
(from Manitowoc County Genealogical Society Newsletter, "Family Vines", Spring 2014, Iss. 154, pg. 3.)

Understanding German Language and Surnames
By James M. Beidler, 12/18/2015
Family Tree Magazine, December 2015

***Deutsch nicht sprechen*? You're not alone. While many of us have German ancestors, few of us speak the same language as our forefathers. Check out this excerpt from *Family Tree Magazine*'s *German Genealogy Guide* to help you understand the basics of the German language and learn about some common naming practices that can help in researching your *Deutsch* ancestors.**

German Language Basics

It's been said that if you learn the complexities of English, such as the many spelling quirks and "rules that are exceptions to rules," you will find learning German is a breeze because its spelling and pronunciation rules are much more predictable. English and German share the same linguistic roots (both are Germanic tongues, as opposed to the Latin-based Romance languages such as French, Spanish and Italian), and many words have similar spellings and pronunciations.

If you can arm yourself with a basic vocabulary of a few dozen words (you might want to call this "tombstone German" because many of the words you'll need are found on the older, detailed German-language memorial markers, especially in America), you'll be able to read many of the genealogical records that are written in German.

You'll need some German language skills for: church records in both Europe and America; private certificates; courthouse documents such as wills and deeds; and newspapers and websites of German towns and archives. And if you can expand that knowledge to a few hundred words, you'll be able to make sense of fairly complicated records and even have some rudimentary conversations in the German language.

German grammar is somewhat more complicated than it is in English, but the amount of grammar you need to do your genealogy work is limited. A few key grammar principles to keep in mind:

- German is an "inflected" language, which means that its nouns carry suffixes determined by how the noun functions in a sentence (for instance, as the subject or the object of the sentence). The suffix changes the spelling of the noun (German nouns are also easy to pick out; they are always capitalized, even what we would call "common" nouns).

- Because of the inflections, the word order in German sentences may split a helping verb from the sentence's main verb; the latter often will be found at the very end of the sentence.

- There are many dialects of German, which causes many spelling variations and differences in idioms.

The German alphabet has relatively few differences from that of English. Two major ones are:

- There is a character called the "S-set" that is used for a "double s" and looks like this: ß (often mistaken for an upper case "B").

- More importantly, many German vowels carry an *Umlaut*, shown as a pair of dots written over the vowels *a*, *o*, *u* and *y*. The *Umlaut* takes the place of an *e* (recently, German language officials have decreed that the e should be written out instead of using the *Umlaut*, but this is only in the process of gaining acceptance and of course the hundreds of tears of records containing Umlauted words will not be affected). The major effect of the *Umlaut* is that it profoundly changes the pronunciation of the vowel and therefore may create radically different phonetic spellings of German names in America.

Another thing you'll note in German records is that those writing them used abbreviations liberally (even to the point of abbreviating names) and used hyphenations at the ends of lines of handwritten documents at any point in a word (not just between syllables, as is traditional in English).

Among the internet tools that will help you gain some language proficiency (or make up for what you're lacking) are **Google Translate** and the leading online German-English dictionary, *LEO Deutsch-Englisches Wörterbuch* (German-English Dictionary).

Google Translate has a toolbar that will pop up above a German-language website and allow you to click on it for a translation of that site. The caveat here is that not all sites translate completely; sometimes, entire blocks of text do not translate and often the Google translations will give only a rough sense of the meaning in English. You can copy and paste any untranslated blocks of text into the text box on the Google Translate site. The *LEO* dictionary online is great for translating individual words. You can attempt entire sentences with it, but it may not help if the sentence is not constructed in correct German.

Printed *Fraktur*/Gothic Font

Until the early 1940s, all German-language printed material was published in a font called Gothic, or *Fraktur*. In German-speaking areas, newspapers, journals, genealogy surname books and family collections, the *Meyers Gazetteer*, the printed "boilerplate" found in church and civil registers as well as on private certificates and most tombstone inscriptions all used this font.

You've likely seen this font before because many newspaper nameplates still are printed in it. But it's worth studying because it is a very difficult font to decipher with its many similar-looking letters. As a matter of fact, the font isn't just difficult for the human eye; only within the last couple of years has optical-character recognition software been developed to allow for the scanning of German-language newspapers printed in the *Fraktur*/Gothic.

In uppercase letters, the most confusing letters are the *S*, which is often mistaken for *C*, *E* and *G*, and the interchange of the following pairs of letters: the *V* and *B*; *I* and *J*; and *N* and *R*.

In lowercase letters, *h*, *n* and *y* are difficult to differentiate; *f* and *s* look alike, as do *c* and *e* and *i* and *j*. The lowercase *k* can also cause confusion because it looks like a Roman font letter *l* with a line through it.

It's helpful if you learn to differentiate the font's lookalike letters and practice a two-step process in working such a text:

- **Step 1:** Write or type out the original German in handwriting or typing to which you are accustomed.

- **Step 2:** Use your transliterated text to make a translation from German to English (do this either from the German vocabulary knowledge you've acquired or by using an online tool).

Here's an example of using the two-step process on a tombstone (slashes indicate the end of each line of inscription):

- **Step 1:** Transliterated from the Gothic font: Hier ruhet / Peter Kerschner / Sohn von / Phillip Kerschner und / Susanna eine geborne / Himmelberger. / Er war geboren / Den 11 Marz 1803, / Verheirathet sich am / 1 February 1824 mit / Catharina Bode. / Er starb / Den 30 January 1868 / und war alt / 64 Jahre, 10 Monate, 20 Tage / Leichen Text: 1 Buch Moses 48:20

- **Step 2:** Translated into English: Here rests / Peter Kerschner / Son of / Phillip Kerschner and / Susanna "a born" [nee] / Himmelberger. / He was born / the 11th of March 1803, / Married on / 1st February 1824 with / Catharina Bode. / He died / the 30th January 1868 / And was aged / 64 years, 10 months, 20 days / Funeral text: Genesis 48:20.

German Cursive Script

Reading handwritten records requires a few more degrees of skill. You must not only adjust from one individual's script to another but also deal with slips of the writing pen and just plain awful handwriting. The handwritten records that you'll deal with the most are church records, private certificates, wills, deeds and letters or diaries.

A good way to start learning German cursive script is to obtain a script key of a common "standard" handwritten script such as *Kurrent* or *Sütterlein*. The

Odds and Ends from the 1940's
Items Reprinted from the Marshfield News Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin

Oldest Pittsville Woman Dies Saturday Afternoon

Mrs. Jennie Houston Came in Early Days, Never Revealed Age

Pittsville– This city lost its oldest resident in the death of Mrs. Jennie Houston at 3:35 p.m. Saturday. No one - not even her children knew her exact age, but older residents of the city, who attended her school classes in the seventies, declare that she was between 85 and 90 years of age. She came to Wood County as a young woman, and was well known in Marshfield and Wisconsin Rapids.

Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday afternoon, when rites will be held at the Houston home at 1:30 o'clock and at the First Congregational Church at 2 o'clock. The Rev. D. J. Appleby will officiate and burial will take place in the family lot in Mound cemetery.

Mrs. Houston was a member of the Order of Eastern Star for many years and was an honorary member of the Congregational Ladies Aid Society.

She had been ill only a short time before her death.

Wrote Life Story

Two years ago, at the request of friends and relatives, she prepared a brief sketch of her life, which is reproduced here:

"I was born in Columbus, Wis. My parents, Jemima (Cross) and William Harland, and their 10 children moved to Glendale when I was a small child.

"My mother was born in Scotland and came to this country when 13 years of age, and settled in St. Lawrence County, N. Y. She was married to my father in 1835, and they came to Dane County in 1843. In 1862 we moved to Lemonweir, Juneau County. In 1881, mother moved to Dexterville, and lived until her death with my sister, Mrs. R. A. Kreuger. She passed away Nov. 25, 1899, age 87 years and 11 months.

"My father died in March 1873. They left 21 grand-

children and three great-great-grandchildren. Both my parents are buried in Mauston as are all the family, except my brother, John. I shall speak of him later.

Came in Covered Wagon

"My earliest recollections were of our moving in a covered wagon to Glendale. How we were packed in, and what fun it was for the children. We traveled through the virgin timber, and finally arrived at Madison where we had dinner and a short rest. We were interested in everything and continually peeked out from under the covered top.

"My father's health failed while at Glendale and later, after going to Juneau County, he passed away. Mother was left with the stupendous task of rearing her large family alone. How brave those pioneer mothers were; What hardships and sacrifices they faced unflinchingly for their loved ones! And how little the present generation appreciates their many luxuries.

"For a short time I lived with an aunt at Kendall. Later, I joined the family on the farm which my oldest brother had purchased.

Brothers in War

"My brother, John, who was studying to become a teacher, was called to war in 1865. I have a fragment of a letter written by him, while at the front. The ink is faded, but the few legible words tell of his longing to be home, and that what Sherman said about war was true. While carrying the colors, he was killed, and we never learned where his body lay. A great sorrow added to my mother's burden, but another was soon to follow.

"Another brother, William, went to serve his country, and was sent home months later, on sick leave. I can remember his blue coat and bright brass buttons. He never recovered his health, and was buried in Mauston after a few weeks lingering illness.

"My brother, Walter, died in 1935 and was given full Masonic honors. He had lived in Mauston his entire life and was greatly loved and respected by all.

"This is about all I can tell of my family. Now as to my own affairs—-

"While a young girl I decided to go with five of my friends to take the teacher's course offered at the Mauston High School. We obtained rooms over Teetwares store and brought our food from home. What fun we had along with our studying.

"After successfully passing the examinations for third grade teacher's certificate, I was bold enough at 18 to apply for a school between Germantown ad Necedah. I obtained the position.

"I remember taking the children up on a bluff which they called Sheep's pasture bluff. While back there on a visit a short time ago, I tried to locate my old school but learned it had been torn down years ago. But I did see the bluff.

"After finishing four terms there, I came to Wood County to live with my sister, Mrs. Kreuger, at Dexterville. I wrote for and obtained a certificate at Grand Rapids, and was given a school across the street from where the Charles Heuer home now stands. I boarded with Mrs. Rueben Ring, better known to her friends as Grandma Ring. I remember the box stove in my room Mr. and Mrs. Ring came here in 1860 and endured all the pioneer hardships. She was a true friend of every acquaintance, ever catering in the wants of those in need. She died in 1897.

Married in 1880
"In 1876, I went to teach the first grade established in Scranton It was on the last fork of the Black River. I taught her one year.

"On Nov. 21, 1880, I married Charles Houston. When our son, Robert, was a year old we moved to my present home. There were four children to our family. Two of the children died young, Liston Alexander, named after his grandfather, at 18 months, and Alex, who died at seven years. Our son. Ned was born April 15, 1895.

"Robert was with the Milwaukee branch of the Buick Company for many years, at present he is at Marshfield in business.

"Ned, who is at Anderson, Ind., with the Buick Company enlisted in the 32nd Division and served as munition truck driver during the entire war. He was never wounded.

Recalled Early Settlers
"My husband's father was the first white settler i Houston, Texas. I have several of his interesting letters written in a beautiful clear hand. My husband was born in Mount Vernon, Ohio, March 23, 1855. He was the son of Liston and Susan, (Kenmore) Houston. He came with his parents to Wood County in 1857. In 1879 he established a general store which included drugs and medicines. He thus became the first druggist of Pittsville.

"At the time of our coming to Pittsville, there were only a few families here. I remember the J. I Severns, Rings, Pitts, Douds, Mac Dougall, Bill Smith Dr. Wood. My husband passed away in 1925.

"I have always enjoyed excellent health, hard work and jolly social occasions. I enjoy a card party as much today as do any of my friends. It is a great pleasure to welcome my friends to this cozy little home, which I love so dearly, and have enjoyed so many years.

"January 1937."
(from MNH, Mar. 11, 1940, pg. 3, cols. 2-5.)

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White Oak School is Given Anti-TB Plaque

Wisconsin Rapids - Supt. S. G. Corey of the Wood County schools announced today that the pupils of the White Oak School in the Town of Auburndale, taught by Mrs. Katherine Whitney, were awarded the county school plaque which is the highest award given by the Wisconsin Anti-Tuberculosis Association for the sale of Christmas seals in 1939 Wood County schools which conducted seal sales have thus far been awarded 17 wall thermometers, 12 footballs, 10 volleyballs, 25 indoor baseballs, 10 junior crusader binders, and five dart games.
(from MNH, April 1, 1940, pg. 7, col. 1.)

(More 1940's articles to be continued in next issue)

Wood County Wisconsin Homesteaders
Homesteading Act of May 20, 1862: Homestead Entry Original (12 Stat. 392)
(Continued from last issue of "Kith N Kin")

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
MEACHAM, LA FAYETTE	9/14/1896	3555	023N - 004E	SW¼SE¼	6
MEACHAM, LA FAYETTE C	7/13/1885	1942	023N - 004E	SE¼SW¼	4
MERRITT, WILLIAM H	12/20/1904	4979	021N - 003E	SW¼NW¼	3
			021N - 003E	E½NE¼	4
MEYER, CONRAD	12/26/1895	3414	021N - 003E	SE¼SE¼	33
			021N - 003E	S½SW¼	34
			021N - 003E	SW¼SE¼	34
MILLER, AUSTIN R	8/17/1894	3279	021N - 006E	S½SE¼	25
			021N - 007E	W½SW¼	30
MITCHELL, ELIZABETH	4/22/1899	3826	021N - 003E	W½SW¼	13
			021N - 003E	E½SE¼	14
MOHAN, PATRICK	6/20/1884	1710	025N - 004E	S½NE¼	2
MORGAN, JAMES D	10/30/1877	919	025N - 003E	NW¼NW¼	36
			024N - 004E	N½NW¼	6
MULLEN, MARTIN	3/1/1904	4689	021N - 006E	W½SW¼	6
			021N - 006E	NE¼SW¼	6
			021N - 006E	NW¼SE¼	6
MYERS, ABRAM	12/15/1879	1187	021N - 005E	SW¼NE¼	1
NERBECK, SIDNEY	10/1/1869	29	022N - 006E	NE¼NW¼	5
NIELSON, HANS	9/9/1878	1023	022N - 005E	E½NE¼	28
NOBLES, FRANK	10/15/1892	3028	021N - 005E	SW¼NE¼	36
			021N - 005E	N½SE¼	36
			021N - 005E	SE¼SE¼	36
NOEL, PETER	10/1/1880	1241	022N - 005E	S½NE¼	8
			022N - 005E	NW¼NE¼	8
			022N - 005E	NE¼NW¼	8
OLESON, OLE	8/1/1874	398	025N - 004E	SE¼NE¼	18
OLSEN, NELS	6/10/1879	1065	022N - 005E	SE¼	28
OLSEN, PETTER	6/7/1883	1560	025N - 004E	N½NE¼	4
OSTROSCKE, BALTZER	4/10/1886	2045	022N - 005E	S½NW¼	8
			022N - 005E	N½SW¼	8

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
OSTROSKE, JOHN	1/8/1895	3244	022N - 005E	N½SE¼	8
OTTO, JULIUS	3/21/1893	3104	021N - 005E	SE¼	32
PACKARD, CHARLES C	6/28/1900	3968	022N - 003E	SE¼SW¼	34
			022N - 003E	SW¼SE¼	34
PAFF, HENRY G	8/1/1874	363	025N - 004E	W½NE¼	18
PAINE, CHARLES N	6/20/1884	1765	021N - 005E	NE¼NE¼	6
			021N - 005E	S½NE¼	6
PARKER, BENJAMIN F	5/24/1879	1036	025N - 004E	N½NW¼	4
PARKER, JOHN, PARKER, PARIANDER P	2/1/1873	223	021N - 005E	SE¼	33
PATTEE, JOSEPH R	6/10/1879	1086	025N - 004E	W½NE¼	6
			025N - 004E	N½NW¼	6
PAYNE, ELMER A	5/23/1906	5353	022N - 003E	E½SE¼	36
PAYNE, THOMAS	2/20/1883	1480	023N - 006E	SW¼SW¼	6
PERRY, ROBERT	8/3/1882	1439	024N - 004E	E½NW¼	22
PETERSEN, HANS	12/15/1879	1173	021N - 006E	SE¼SW¼	2
			021N - 006E	E½NW¼	11
PETERSON, JOHN	6/10/1879	1064	021N - 006E	SE¼	2
PIDERSON, JACOB P	7/25/1892	3016	021N - 006E	N½SW¼	11
PODEWELTZ, JOHN	6/20/1884	1759	021N - 006E	NE¼	12
POLZIN, WILLIAM	1/11/1892	2620	021N - 005E	SW¼	18
PRAUSA, JOSEF	1/8/1895	3288	025N - 005E	NE¼NW¼	12
PRIBBERNO, HERRMANN	11/20/1883	1658	022N - 006E	NW¼	34
RAMSEY, JOHN H	8/16/1906	5512	021N - 005E	NW¼NE¼	36
RASMUSSEN, ELLA	7/13/1904	4836	021N - 006E	SW¼SW¼	11
REED, STEPHEN	11/10/1875	686	022N - 004E	S½NE¼	2
			022N - 004E	N½SE¼	2
REILLY, BRIDGET, REILLY, JOHN	2/20/1883	1481	023N - 005E	NW¼SE¼	10
			023N - 005E	NE¼SW¼	10
REMINGTON, HENRY W	2/1/1873	158	021N - 003E	SE¼NE¼	10
			021N - 003E	W½NW¼	11
ROBBINETTE, JOHN	10/12/1907	5918	021N - 003E	SW¼NE¼	24
ROOD, LARS N	12/15/1879	1148	022N - 005E	SW¼SE¼	22
			022N - 005E	SE¼SW¼	22

(To be continued in next issue)

book *If I Can, You Can: Decipher Germanic Records* by Edna Bentz contains one of the best script keys. Bentz's key displays a dozen or more variants for each letter of the alphabet.

After you have a script key, write your own surname (or that of an ancestor you're seeking) as a guide for what to look for in handwritten records. You may need to write your name hangman style, constructing the word letter-by-letter, starting with those you know and then working to those letters that give you more difficulty. Some have likened the process to unraveling a code, only instead of using cipher substitutions, you're putting that old-style handwriting into one you can better understand.

After writing out the name you're seeking, the best way to learn how to decipher the script is to start with documents that use a limited vocabulary, such as church records or private certificates. As you gain more confidence in your work, you can gradually build toward more challenging records such as deeds and wills and eventually letters or diaries. But realize that even experts with years and years of experience will be uncertain at times because either the handwriting is ambiguous or the original records has deteriorated.

German Phonetics and the Spelling of Names

Vowels: Vowels with *Umlauts* (shown as a pair of dots written over *a*, *o*, *u* and *y*; it takes the place of an *e*) are responsible for many spelling variations. Here are a few examples for illustrations:

- The German vowel *a* is most often pronounced as an English "short" *a*, but when Umlauted, it is said more like a "long" *a* sound. This creates additional confusion because the German vowel *e* (as a single vowel) also is pronounced like an English "long" *a*.

- A German vowel *u* is ordinarily pronounced as an English "long" *u*, but when an *Umlaut* is added, it becomes a difficult-to-render-in-English cross between a "long" *u* and a "long" *e*. Many German names with Umlauted *u*'s came to be spelled with an *i*, *ie* or *ee* (and pronounced either with a "short" *i* or "long" *e* sound).

*(Thanks to MAGG member for sharing this article with us. The remainder of this article will be continued in the next issue of **Kith N Kin**.)*

Upcoming Meetings

January 28, 2016
Overview of Copyright Rules. *Barbara Bartkowiak, Reference Librarian for the George Magnin Medical Library, will give an overview of copyright laws, define characteristics of copyright material and discuss how you might obtain permission to use copyrighted material.*

February 25, 2016
Social Security Records: More to them than the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). *Don Schnitzler will talk about recent changes to the SSDI and the contents of the original Social Security application.*

March 24, 2016
Focus Your Family History Research Goals. *It is always good to review your genealogy successes and plan new research objectives in your ancestor hunt. In this round table discussion, open to everyone, we'll work through the process of creating an effective research strategy.*

April 28, 2016
Program to be announced.

Meetings of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group are regularly held at 7:00 p.m. (June & August at 6:30 p.m. and July at 6:00 p.m.) on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Marshfield Public Library downstairs in the Beebee Forum Room, except July (month of our family picnic) and November & December (no meetings) unless otherwise specified.