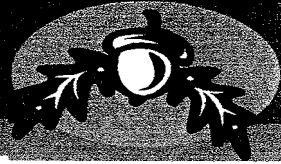


# Kith and Kin



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## President's Message

Dear Friends,

This message arrives in your mailbox after our last general meeting for 2008 has already occurred. Over the course of the year, we had some very interesting presentations and discussions during those meetings. The gathering at the Thomas House for the Great Depression Display during September will remain one of my favorite meetings for the year. I enjoyed each of the stories you shared that evening, and greatly appreciated the memories of my own family that hearing your stories triggered for me. As the holiday season approaches try to include some of your family history stories in the gifts you give to your family and friends. I'm sure they'll be greatly appreciated.

I'd like to extend my congratulations again to the Marshfield Public Library on their selection as the 2008 Governor's Archival Achievement Award recipient. A five-member panel of representatives from the Wisconsin Historical Records Advisory Board and the Wisconsin Historical Society recognized "the library's effort to raise awareness and increase use of historical resources as well as their collaborative efforts with many community organizations." We should be proud of our long history of collaborative efforts with the Marshfield Public Library and the part our members play to help promote the historical resources available at the library. We've heard many times that "the Marshfield Public Library genealogy and local history collection is wonderful." Now it's nice to see the library receiving this much deserved distinction.

I'd also like to identify two individuals who were recently recognized by Marshfield Main Street Inc. during their 18th Annual Business Development and Volunteer Recognition Awards Reception. First, Dr. Russ Lewis, a past member of our group, was

awarded the 5th Annual John Christner Local History Award for his efforts at preserving the history of the Marshfield Clinic. Many of us have enjoyed Dr. Lewis' talks on the history and development of the Clinic, as well as stories of our local physicians. He has done a wonderful job preserving and sharing these stories and this recognition is well deserved. And the second individual is Lori Belongia who received this year's Main Street Volunteer of the Year Award. We all know of Lori's enthusiastic support of our group, but this Main Street recognition reminds us that she willingly shares her time and talents in many ways with other organizations as well. Her numerous contributions help make Marshfield the great community in which we live. If you have the opportunity be sure to congratulate Russ and Lori on their awards.

As mentioned above, see if you can find means to share your family history with family during the upcoming Holidays. When we meet next in January of 2009, we will share ideas of what you came up with others in the group. Good luck with all your genealogical pursuits.

As Always,

Schnitz

## Meeting Schedule

November and December NO Meetings

January 22

February 26

March 26

Next Newsletter should be out in January 2009.  
Looking for contributions for publication.



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Marshfield News Herald 15 Nov. 1928 P. 9

### **27 Names on Purdy School Honor Roll**

Verna Wagner and Dorothy Koch Head List With Highest Number of Points.

Twenty-seven pupils of Willard D. Purdy high school have earned places on the honor roll for scholastic excellence during the past six weeks.

Miss Verna Wegner and Miss Dorothy Koch have the highest number of honor points, their records of 75 equaling each other. Mason Atwood with 63 points ranks highest among the boys whose names appear on the roll.

The complete list of those whose names appear on the roll, together with their honor points and school citizenship grade follows:

Dorothy Steffan 50 B; Lorraine Pinion 50 B, Emma Reich 50 B; Dorothy Dankemeyer 70 A; Genevieve Pflum 70 A; John Lundgren 51 A; Albert Oertel 50 A; Leona Dagenforde 50 A; Norma Frankland 50 B; Lynette Winch 50 A; Doris Berg 50 A; Lucille Hanson 50 B; Karl Kamps 50 A; Ruth Lautenbach 70 A; Verna Wagner 75 A; Dorothy Koch 75 A; Christine Wood 56 B; Margaret Hegglund 50 A; Mason Atwood 63 A; Ruth Cliff 51 A; Genevieve Forseth 65 A; Dick Laird 56 B; Elaine Schrieber 54 A; Lorraine Lathrop 59 A; Augusta Roddis 58 A; Allen Trudeau 58 B; Joan O'Dell 59 B.

(Same page)

### **GROCERY BARGAINS**

Post Bran Flakes 2 for \$0.23  
Jello--All Flavors 4 for \$0.31  
Chocolate Walter Baker ½ lb. Cake \$0.22  
Washing Powder Star Naptha Large size \$0.21  
Mince Meat ukgs. \$0,23  
Phone 666-W

**J. M. Berg We deliver** 304 N. Central

## Wisconsin Library Heritage Center website now online

The Wisconsin Library Heritage Center (WLHC) website is now fully operational, so check it out at <http://heritage.wisconsinlibraries.org/>. The website is an integral component of the WLHC concept, and the WLHC Steering Committee is appreciative of the assistance provided by Rick Krumwiede and Beth Carpenter of the Outagamie Waupaca Library System in designing and hosting the website. The WLHC is a program of the WLA Foundation.

## Old German Script

**Here is a site that helps read old German script.**

[http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Old\\_German\\_handwritten\\_scripts](http://wiki-en.genealogy.net/Old_German_handwritten_scripts)

## Polish Genealogy Society of America

If this is of interest to anyone...  
<http://www.pgsa.org/>

## Irish Genealogy

Griffith's Valuation, a list of Irish landowners and tenants from the mid-19th century, is now available online and free of charge, thanks to An Chomhairle Leabharlanna, the Library Council. The lists are widely used by people trying to trace their ancestors. [http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv\\_start.php](http://griffiths.askaboutireland.ie/gv4/gv_start.php)  
**Please note - this is currently a prototype/test site, and is still under development.**

## German Telephone Search

The site below is a neat little gadget if you have German ancestry. Just enter a surname in the box and click 'suchen.'

The information compiled here comes via the German telephone directory to indicate just where in present Germany, this surname is listed.

I would assume this list to be only land based phones and not cell/mobile phones, similar to online telephone white pages in the US.

<http://www.verwandt.de/karten/>  
Not listed but supposedly, this information (via the same site) also has Polish and Austrian numbers but could not find the URL for those.

## Google Language Tools

One useful website that I've found is the "[Google Language Tools](#)" where there is a feature that can translate the webpage for you. Just copy the page's web address into the space indicated on the Language Tools page. [http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en)  
The page comes in handy at times...

## Golda Meir Library

The naturalizations and declarations of intention are housed at the Golda Meir Library Archives on the UW-Milwaukee Campus. Here is a link to their website, which will give not only a contact, but also a listing of their holdings.

<http://www.uwm.edu/Libraries/arch/>

**Common Research Traps To Avoid**  
(Summarized from "Discovering Family History" Sept./Oct. 2008 P. 20)

- 1-Worrying about Spelling of Names
- 2-Trusting Published and Online Family Trees
- 3-Relying entirely on the internet
- 4- Not Keeping Track of Sources
- 5-Assuming That A Man's Wife is the Mother of (All) His Children
- 6-Assuming All Couples Were Legally Married
- 7-"Family" Coats of Arms
- 8-"The Book Of Smiths" and Other Genealogical Scams
- 9-Trusting Women's Ages
- 10-Inflexibility Concerning the Religious Affiliations of Ancestors

Each of these is expanded upon by Janice Nickerson, a professional Canadian genealogist. Her web site is:  
<http://UpperCanadaGenealogy.com>

## **MAKING OF AMERICA**

**Here are two must see web sites:**

**University of Michigan Making of America**

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moagrp>

This site is searchable in several ways and contains 10,281 books and 2,457 journal issues. They are searchable by Basic, Boolean, Proximity or Bibliographic searches

**Cornell University Making of America**

<http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/moa/>

This site may be searched in the same manner. It has its focus on Journals..

I did a search for a relative of mine, James Gilpatrick Blunt who was a Civil War General in Kansas and returned 10 hits in the UM site including such as  
**Title: Condition of the Indian tribes.: Report of the joint special committee, appointed under joint resolution of March 3, 1865. With an appendix. Author: United States. Congress. Publication Info: Washington,: Govt. print. off., 1867. and Title: Report of the adjutant general of the state of Kansas ...1861-1865. Author: Kansas. Adjutant general's office. Publication Info: Leavenworth, Kan.,: Bulletin co-operative printing company [etc.], 1867-70.**

And from the Cornell site I had 15 books and 3 journals for a total of 179 hits, including:

**Title: Harper's new monthly magazine. / Volume 33, Issue 193  
Publisher: Harper & Bros.  
Publication Date: June 1866 City: New York Pages: 826**

Which was a portrait.

I tried Schnitzler and got 35 hits in 18 works at Cornell and 48 at MU.

## **LINKPENDIUM**

<http://www.linkpendium.com/genealogy/USA>

Linkpendium is not a site of original data but a gateway to over 6 million US genealogy sites.

It has two main sections, Localities: USA and Surnames: World Wide  
First, Surnames. Close the first letter of the surname of interest. Then, you identify the first three letters and get a

list of names that match-click on the ones of interest and you will have a list of referenced material.

Next Localities. Click on a state and you are taken to a page that includes statewide resources, independent cities, renamed counties, discontinued counties and a list of modern counties.

Again I tried the surname Blunt and got 64 hits including Virginia Bible records. Schnitzler got 38 hits.

It seems to be an interesting site, but like any site of this type all references have to be carefully checked out. Remember, they are mostly based on other people's research so you really have to try and verify the information..

### **Illinois Research**

The Cook County Clerk's Office in online

<http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com>

Birth certificates pre 1933, marriage certificates pre 1958, death certificates pre 1988. Remember that the Chicago Fire of 1871 destroyed all Cook County records prior to that date. The records are not free; each record costs \$15 plus a credit card fee of \$1.75 will be charged per order. The original images will be viewable on your computer and saved or down loaded to your computer.

### **Cemetery Iconology**

These are some of the common engravings on gravestones. All must be considered in their historical context, not the symbolism of today.

**Anchor** hope (Hope is the anchor of the soul)

**Angel** messenger between God and man

**Angel flying** rebirth

**Angel trumpeting** a call to resurrection

**Angel weeping** grief

**Arrows or darts** mortality, the dart of Death

**Birds** the soul

**Clock** passage of time

**Coffins** mortality

**Column broken** sorrow, life cut short

**Cross** salvation

**Dove** Holy Ghost

**Effigies** the soul

**Father Time** mortality

**Flame** burning life

**Flower** frailty of life

**Flower broken** death

**Garland** victory in death

**Gourds** the mortal body; coming to be and passing away of earthly matters

**Hand pointing upwards** ascension into heaven

**Hand pointing downward** calling the earth to witness

**Handshake** farewell to earthly existence

**Heart** the abode of the soul; love of Christ; the soul in bliss

**Ivy** memory and fidelity

**Lamb** Christ; the Redeemer; meekness; sacrifice; innocence

**Lamp** truth; knowledge

**Laurel** victory

**Lily** Resurrection; purity

**Palls/drapery** mortality

**Picks and shovels** mortality

**Pomegranate** immortality

**Poppy** a symbol of sleep, and therefore, death (Victorian)

**Portals** passageways to the eternal journey

**Rose** sorrow

**Scallop shell** the resurrection; a pilgrims journey; the baptism of Christ

**Scythe** time or time cut short  
**Skeletons** mortality  
**Skull** winged the flight of the soul from the mortal body  
**Skull and Crossbones** death  
**Sun rising** renewed life  
**Sun setting** eternal death  
**Sword** martyrdom; courage  
**Torch inverted** life has been extinguished  
**Torch burning** immortality; truth; wisdom  
**Urn** mortality (a receptacle for the bodily remains)  
**Wheat** time; the divine harvest (often used to denote old age)  
**Willow** grief

### **English Court Records**

Records of trial in London between 1674 and 1913 can be searched at <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org>

Very interesting reading of the old court proceedings.

### **News Article From April 11, 1929 Page 3**

### **Tried To Make Marshfield County Seat 32 Years Ago**

Thirty-two years ago this month, the citizens of Marshfield were bestirring themselves in a concerted movement to bring sufficient pressure upon the state legislature to enact a measure that would enable the northern end of Wood county to combine with the adjacent territory of Clark and Marathon counties for the purpose of forming what was proposed to be called Rivers county, with

Marshfield as the county seat.

Active soliciting was carried on, not alone by the public spirited men, but many influential men of both Marathon and Clark counties spent much time canvassing their respective localities, soliciting funds and signatures to well prepare petitions, urgently asking the legislators to act favorably upon this, "a most reasonable and meritorious appeal," which, if carried would have meant more than mere words on paper could explain.

### **Some Can Recall Event**

There are some citizens still living here, who will recall the big event of journeying to Madison by a special train over the Omaha road, all buoyant with optimism and confidence in the string hope that their project would be "put over" without much parleying, after the law-makers had listened to sound oratory and had seen the sketches that displayed fittingly, the proposed new territorial lines.

Upon visiting the state capitol and mixing with those adroit politicians the contingent of boosters from Marshfield were given every encouragement by word and act that their position granted; but when those same lawmakers sat in session and discussed the embodied good points and should be problem, the large body of Marshfield boosters became aware of the fact that opposition to their plans had been working quietly and effectively.

### **Came Home Disappointed**

Thus, after having secured pledges for thousands of dollars to carry out what they considered a merited project, the three coaches of optimistic rustlers returned to Marshfield with feelings of disappointment.

The petition of signers were as follows: "we the undersigned citizens of Marshfield hereby agree to and with each other and for a valuable consideration hereby subscribe and agree to pay the sum set opposite our names to in part defray the expense of circulating petitions in the various towns of the proposed County of Rivers, and to such other expenses as may be necessary in bringing the matter before the legislature of Wisconsin--Dated March 8, 1897."

#### Signers of Petition

Philip Adler, W. D. Conner, Fred Vollmar, Adam Paulus, E. L. Reese, John P. Hume, John F. Cole, P. J. Kraus, Louis Laemle, Edwin J. Hahn, Tiffault-Kamps Mercantile company, E. M. Deming, E. E. Ames, W. J. Pankow, M. J. Kraus, W. S. Albright, L. Hese, Henry Ramke, W. H. Brown, C. S. Vedder, W. T. Poad, J. W. Vaughn, Henry Horn, John Decker, J. H. White, W. A. Sexton, Robert L. Kraus, C. Jacobson, H. C. Eiche, W. A. Pors, Upham Manufacturing company, M. O. Fleckensyein, William Noll Hardware company, Elmer Bulham, William Uthmeier, Allen and Wing, A. Kleinheinz, E. E. Winch, Lang and Scharmann, Thomas Wright, T. F. Roessler, Lorenz Hartl, Louis Rembs, F. Hirzy, Dr. Lonergan, L. Nick, E. V. Kautzky, Hatteburg Veneer company, Philip Eckel, L. Goldammer, C. H. Grundy, Fred Doll, John G. Hoelz, E. A. Upham, A.M. Griesinger, H. A. Lathrop, C. E. Blodgett, C. H. Doern, A. Bartmann, G. H. Welton, Wisconsin Hoof factory, Hans Bille, L. E. Williams, George W. Upham, Peter Rasmussen, A. W. Moerke, Joseph Donhard, Stierle Brothers, Joseph Maurer, P. H. Harkin,

L. Kohl, P. A. Williams, John Anderson, F. H. Ward, George Seubert, William Bartels, August Furstenburg, H. C. Koenig, G. R. Gustufson, M. Berg, Henry Blumer, L. Mangold, P. P. Klock, C. Schmirler, J. E. Lindsley, A. F. Gerwig, Henry Icke, P. J. Lyons, L. Wolleson, James Rasmussen, William Springborn, George W. Seubert, A. C. Loucks, K. Thompson.

#### Original Homestead Applications

If you haven't already, go to [http://www.glorecor ds.blm.gov/Logon/Logon\\_Form.asp](http://www.glorecor.ds.blm.gov/Logon/Logon_Form.asp)

Enter your zip code to get in and then click on "search land patents" at the top. Search by Cowen and Wisconsin. You will find a record for Marvilla Cowen in Marathon County. I think this is your ancestor. If you click on Marvilla some info will come up. I would print of the patent description and the land entry description in case you need this info when you fill out the form for the archives. There is also an imaged copy of a document. You can also order a copy of the document but that is not what you want.

If this person is your ancestor, I would then request the file of Marvilla Cowen from the Archives.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/land/index.html> I don't recall how much info they asked for but name, state, county and approximate date might be enough.

The file I got from the archives included copies of various documents. One case had citizenship papers, they all had an affidavit by the person and two witnesses. The \$40 fee is hefty, but for

me I figured it would drive me nuts until I knew what was in the file.

Hope this helps.

Linda

Clark County History Buffs

**Who Says Genealogy Research Can't Be Funny? Look at Some of these Wild, Weird, and Wacky Names.**

Robert Ragan

Many years ago, a friend of mine told me about his

cousin with the last name, Lear.

He swore to me that one of his cousins was actually

named "Crystal Shanda Lear." After seeing some of the things I am going to share with you, I finally believe him.

Shake your head along with me as you wonder what in the world some people are thinking when they name their dear children...

I've got a little mini-book by Michael Sherrod and Matthew Rayback called:

"Bad Baby Names: The worst true names parents saddled their kids with - and you can too."

It's a fun read and I recommend it.

Here are a few of the names that are mentioned in the book. They mostly came from U.S. Federal Censuses. The commentary is mine (I just could not resist):

When the time comes, I plan to advise my sons on the right kind of woman to marry. For example, these ladies might be a good choice:

- Amanda Hold
- Amanda Love
- Amanda Treasure

However, they might want to avoid

these:

- Amanda Boss

- Amanda Slay

- Amanda Bury

Here's where sports fans go too far:

- Bowling Lane

- Hockey Starr

- Sport Favors

This kid would never let you sleep in:

- Early Bird

I wonder what kind of hair style they wore?

- Hair Braids

Never, ever trust her with a secret:

- Gossip Anderson

Started a fast food seafood franchise?

- Long John Long

This kid must have hated Halloween with a passion:

- Pumpkin Rotten

Speaking of spooky things - Why would parents do this?

Were the children born with horns and a pitchfork?

- Terror Rogue

- Horror Blanford

- Monster Moor

I'll bet she got a lot of Valentines in school:

- Valentine Day

All the girls had a crush on:

- Super Mann

Children tease each other. I got off easy because all they ever said to me is, "Hey, is your brother's name Ronald Reagan?"

My response, "Yes, it is." And I do have a brother name Ron - of course the last name is spelled Ragan.

He's the one who really got teased. But he is so cool that they wound up calling him, "The Prez." Things work out okay if you are cool.

However, it is hard to be cool with these



names. The parents should have known better:

- Ima Pigg
- Ima Hogg
- Ima Butt
- Wanna French
- Wanna Marry

And never give a credit card to:

- Wanna Shopp

I hope that this was a girl. If not, this poor fellow got beat up every day.

- Pretty Boy

Even Pretty Boy Floyd despised his nickname.

Our son, Michael, who is Star Wars crazy, would love to be called:

- Darth Stewart or
- Young Vader

There are hundreds of names in this interesting book, but not all of them are terribly bad. I liked:

- Golden Day
- Golden Summer
- Pleasant Day
- Young Love
- Lush Rose
- Pine Woods

One of the worst of the worst, I believe, is:

- Good Dog

The poor child was probably scarred for life.

September 2008 Issue - Treasure Maps Genealogy Newsletter

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TREASURE MAPS Genealogy E-mail Newsletter

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## Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative [pdf]

Based at the University of California , Berkeley , the Electronic Cultural Atlas Initiative (ECAI) is a "global consortium of people who share the vision of creating a distributed virtual library of cultural information with a time and place interface." While visitors can elect to read about the technical aspects of working on such ambitious efforts, many will want to look at the "Cultural Atlas Portal" to get a start on things. Visitors will find that the Portal contains an interactive map of the world which can be used to look for materials from Australia to North America . These cultural atlases include projects like "The Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive and Transcription Project" and "Mapping St. Petersburg". After looking over a few of these projects, visitors may wish to click on the "Community" area. Here they can learn how to contribute their own projects to ECAI or how to work with partner institutions to create a new piece of work, visitors can also find out about ongoing projects around the globe. [KMG] - The Scout Report -- July 4, 2008

## Colorado History Homepage

Our Colorado History project has a new URL. We obtained our own domain name for all of our projects - Genealogy Along the Rockies. Colorado is the first one to get up on line. Some of the links may not work yet, and for some screwed up reason my query season has lost its queries. Don't you just love computers! Anyway, here is the URL for Colorado - <http://www.genealogyalongtherockies.com/colorado/colorado.htm> Wyoming and our Nebraska counties will be up soon, along with our personal family sites and all my projects. The URL for the main site is <http://www.genealogyalongtherockies.com/index.htm>

### **Oral Tradition Journal [pdf] -**

<http://journal.oraltradition.org/>

Stretching back thousands of years, the oral traditions that have enriched and documented human existence remain a subject of much fascination. The Oral Tradition Journal was founded in 1986 in order to "serve as an international and interdisciplinary forum for discussion of worldwide oral traditions and related forms." The journal is based at the University of Missouri, and visitors to the site can search the entire run of the journal on this site by keyword or author. Clicking over to the "Browse the Journal" area, visitors can look over back issues that include special issues on the Serbo-Croatian oral tradition, performance literature, and the performance artistry of Bob Dylan. The site is a real treat for anyone interested in the subject, and visitors can also learn how to submit their own work for possible inclusion in a forthcoming volume. [KMG] - The Scout Report -- June 20, 2008

### **Central Wisconsin Digital Project (CWDP) Is Now On the Web**

The Central Wisconsin Digital Project (CWDP) is a consortium of libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies, and museums committed to preserving and disseminating the history of Marathon and Lincoln Counties through the digitization of original sources and artifacts and their subsequent publication on the internet. There are ten founding collaborating partners of this consortium:

- Marathon County Historical Society
- Marathon County Public Library
- Marathon County Genealogical Society
- Leigh Yawkey Woodson Art Museum
- T.B. Scott Free Library, Merrill
- Merrill Historical Society
- North Pines Genealogy Society, Lincoln County
- University of Wisconsin Marathon County
- Tomahawk Public Library
- Wisconsin Valley Library Service

The organizing theme of the CWDP's digital collection is "Community Life", construed broadly to include all aspects of community life, past and present, in these two counties. Under this broad theme, the collection will be organized into smaller topics such as education, industry, transportation, work, home, and family.

The website is located at this address:

[http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cwdp/cw\\_about.asp](http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cwdp/cw_about.asp)

### **Wisconsin Heritage Online**

The Wisconsin Heritage Online (WHO) project is an expanding digital collection featuring documentary sources and material culture from Wisconsin libraries, archives and museums. The Central Wisconsin Digital Project (CWDP) is one of the collections from the Wisconsin Historical Society's website known as Wisconsin Heritage Online, and can be found at this address:

<http://www.wisconsinheritage.org>

Once you are at this website click on "Topic list" to search by a large variety of historical subjects.

The University of Wisconsin Digital Collection includes both the WHO and CWDP sites with digital collections that feature historical and scientific information.

This website is at

<http://uwdc.library.wisc.edu/>

### **The Nineteenth Century in Print: The Making of America in Periodicals -**

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlcoop/moahtml/snchome.html>

In the 19th century, Americans flocked to periodicals in a fashion that would have been almost unimaginable a few decades earlier. They had many to choose from, including Atlantic Monthly, Harper's New Monthly Magazine, Scientific American, and the American Missionary. This rather fine collection brings select issues from these magazines (and nineteen others) together in one place, courtesy of the American Memory project at the Library of Congress and the Cornell University Library. Visitors

to the site can search through the entire archive, or just browse through individual periodicals at their leisure. Some of the articles reflect popular pursuits of the day, but others take on more weighty matters, such as the November 1884 issue of the "New Englander and Yale Review", which offers up pieces like "An Analysis of Consciousness in its Relation to Eschatology" and "Virtue, from a Scientific Standpoint". Finally, visitors should not miss the project's special presentation, found near the bottom of the homepage, which provides historical background and essays on the periodical "Garden and Forest".  
[KMG] - The Scout Report -- May 30, 2008

### Free Tools for Family Historians

*by Juliana Smith*

Most of the records we utilize in our research weren't really created with family historians in mind. Similarly many tools are available online now that weren't specifically created for us, but they sure can be helpful as we seek information about our ancestors. Today I thought I'd share a list of some of my favorite non-genealogy tools.

#### Babelfish

**[babelfish.altavista.com](http://babelfish.altavista.com)**

Having trouble interpreting a record for one of your non-English speaking ancestors? AltaVista's Babelfish translator will translate text or entire Web pages for you in many languages.

#### WorldCat

**[www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)**

Looking for more information about a battle in which your ancestor fought during the Civil War? Or perhaps your ancestor was a Philadelphia policeman and you'd like to learn more about the history of that police force. What were the working conditions of the industry in which your ancestors were engaged? The answers to these and many other questions can often be found in publications not found in your local bookstore. WorldCat will not only alert you to their existence, but when you enter your zip code it will give you a list of libraries that have those publications in their collection.

**Census Enumerator Instructions (IPUMS)**  
**[usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml](http://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/tEnumInstr.shtml)**

Census enumerators were given very specific instructions when it came to recording the answers your ancestors gave. Reading these instructions can be very helpful in more fully understanding the records. This site includes the original instructions for the years 1850-1950.

#### Wikipedia

**[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)**

Ever wondered whether a historic event prompted your ancestors to pick up and leave the country they had called home for generations? Wikipedia can give you some ideas. Search for a year and you'll get a chronology of world events from that year. This free online encyclopedia is a great first step, but you should verify your findings with more authoritative sources. Although much of what you see will be correct, I have found numerous errors such as events listed under the wrong year.

#### Census Abbreviations

**[www.searchforancestors.com/records/censusabbreviations.html](http://www.searchforancestors.com/records/censusabbreviations.html)**

Have you ever found a census record written by a guy who clearly had writers' cramp? Beyond really messy handwriting, you may find that enumerators used confusing abbreviations. This website will help you sort out some of the more common abbreviations you'll find.

#### Soundex Converter

**[resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter](http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/soundexconverter)**

Many databases allow you the option of Soundex searches so that you can grab more phonetically similar variations of the surnames you are researching. Use the Soundex converter to find out the Soundex codes for your family surname variations. That way if one of the variations you have found in your research has a different Soundex code, you'll know you need to search it separately.

#### Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)

**[geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic](http://geonames.usgs.gov/pls/gnispublic)**

Ever wondered in what county a town was located? Or what cemeteries were in the county in which your ancestors lived? The

Geographic Names Information System can help. Enter a town name and its state and you'll be presented with a list of features associated with that town—and the name of the county it falls within. Click on a name for geographic coordinates and links to various maps and satellite views of the area.

Google Maps

[maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com)

Another cool mapping site, Google Maps allows you to view a standard map view, a satellite view, or a view of the terrain. How tall was that mountain that great-grandpa had to traverse to visit the nearest town? Zoom in on the terrain view and it will tell you. Going to visit a library or courthouse for the first time? Google Maps has “street view” available for a growing number of cities. You can zoom in on an address and see the actual building. Using the rotation arrows you can turn around and look at the other side of the street, move down the street and see landmarks you will be able to use as you navigate your way to the repository. Street view can also enable you to see buildings in your ancestors’ neighborhoods that are still standing.

Glossary of Ancient Diseases

[www.olivetreeregenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml](http://www.olivetreeregenealogy.com/misc/disease.shtml)

OK, this one really was created with us in mind, but it's still handy for finding out what disease Great-grandma Sue died from—in today's terms.

Epidemic Timeline

[hawkshome.net/misc\\_items/events/epidemic\\_timeline.htm](http://hawkshome.net/misc_items/events/epidemic_timeline.htm)

Here's another one created for us, but just the same, it's helpful to see what epidemics may have impacted our ancestors and their families. Often you'll find that people moved away—sometimes permanently, sometimes temporarily—when severe epidemics struck in their area.

What Are Your Favorites?

Is there something I missed? Please share your favorites with me.

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Starting with *Meyers Orts* and

## the German Topographic Maps

by Michael John Neill

Knowledge about the places in which your ancestors lived is key to genealogy research. With it you can fit the ancestor in appropriate historical context and search for the correct locations for additional records. Ancestry has two guides that will assist researchers with Germanic origins, particularly in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although clues found in the materials will also help researchers of other time periods. The guides, available to Ancestry members with World Deluxe or Ancestry.de memberships, are:

- [Meyers Gazetteer of the German Empire \(or Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs in German\)](#)
- [Germany, Topographic Maps, 1860-1965](#)

Getting the most from any database requires the user to become more familiar with the database, particularly the purpose and organization of the original record.

*Meyers Orts*

Let's start with *Meyers Gazetteer*, or *Meyers Orts* as it is commonly called. Gazetteers are geographical directories, and you won't find a map in *Meyers Orts*. Read [its description on the database](#) to help you to use the gazetteer. [A more detailed usage guide](#) is also available through FamilySearch.org. This reference provides information on the gazetteer's original format and assistance in reading the Gothic script.

*Meyers Orts* on Ancestry can be searched for place names appearing in the book and some of the names in its place descriptions. I searched for the village of Wiesens, which is in the north of Germany. A keyword search for “wiesens” quickly located the entry. There is [only one matching result](#) that appears to be the village of interest.

The actual entry in *Meyers Orts* reads:

“Wiesens, D., Pr., Hann., RB. Kr. AG. Bkdo. P Aurich, E 3 km Holtrop; 549 E., StdA., ev. Pfk., MI. -- Dazu Kohn. Neu Blockhaus 32, Wiesenser Mooraecker 64 E.”

Using the abbreviation guide that can be found at the beginning of Volume I, and in

the FamilySearch guide, the abbreviations are filled out:

*“Wiesens, Dorf, Preussen, Hannover, Regierungsbezirk, Kreis, Amtsgericht, Bezirkskommando, Postanstalt Aurich, Eisenbahnstation 3km Holtrop; 549 Einwohner, Standesamt, evangelische Pfarrkirche, Muehle – Dazu Koln, Neu Blockhaus 32, Wiesenser Mooraecker 64 Einwohner”*

Loosely translated:

*“Wiesens, a village in Prussia, Hannover, the government district, Kreis (akin to United States counties), court, district military office and post office are in Aurich, the railroad is 3km away in Holtrop; the population is 549; it has its own civil registration office and an evangelical parish and a mill; it also includes the colony of Neu Blockhaus with 32 inhabitants and Wiesenser Mooraecker with 64 inhabitants.”*

German Topographical Maps

The other resource I mentioned, the German topographic maps on Ancestry cannot be searched by place names--at least not completely.

The German Empire is broken into a grid in this database. First time users of the German topographical maps are encouraged to view the Übersichtsblatt. (Overview information sheet--There is a link to it at the very bottom of the database description.) It provides a map of the entire region covered with the grid. Each box in the grid has a name and a number. The only place names that come up under keyword searches on the topographic maps are those places that are used as titles on this overview. For this reason, searches of many places names in the topographic maps will be unsuccessful. A search for Wiesens on the German topographical maps database brought up no results because it does not appear on one of the grid squares.

*Note: These maps are large files and may take some time to load.*

Before I can use the German topographical maps at Ancestry, I really need to have a

good idea of actually where Wiesens is located, as it will not appear on the Übersichtsblatt. I can choose from a modern map site such as Mapquest or Google Maps. Having used these maps to find Wiesens' relative location in Germany, I then decide where Wiesens likely falls on the Übersichtsblatt. I will start with map number 173, which is titled Aurich. This choice is supported by the fact that Aurich is listed as the post office for Wiesens in *Meyers Orts*. If Wiesens is not on map 173, I will search on adjacent maps. If Wiesens is not on map 173, I will search on adjacent maps.

Going back to the main page for the German Topographical Maps, I choose the sheet number range to get to map 173. In the case of Aurich, there are maps from 1901, 1919, 1925, and 1941. A little looking on the map and I have found Wiesens. (Click through to the blog to see a portion of this map.)

Some General Comments

What does a search of the *Meyers Orts* actually do? First of all the location search is not a full-text search of every word in every entry in *Meyers Orts*. For those not convinced, a search for the location Holtrop resulted in two hits. The entry for Wiesens is not one of them even though Holtrop is mentioned in the entry for Wiesens (as a nearby town with a railstop). The search in *Meyers Orts* for a location is a search for the main headings and the listed jurisdictions. It does not search for names of nearby towns for the railstop, records office, etc.

Michael John Neill is a genealogical writer and speaker who has been researching his or his children's genealogy for more than twenty years. A math instructor in his "other life," Michael taught at the former Genealogical Institute of Mid-America and has served on the FGS Board. He also lectures on a variety of genealogical topics and gives seminars across the country. He maintains a personal website at RootDig.com.

**Tips from the Pros: Who Served in the Civil War?**  
*from Mary Penner*

Are you trying to discover if your relatives served in the Civil War? First, check the index on the [Civil War Soldiers and Sailors website](#) sponsored by the National Park Service. This index, compiled from the general index cards of Compiled Military Service Records, lists more than 6 million names of Union and Confederate servicemen. Why 6 million names when roughly 3 million served? Because separate CMSRs were created if the soldier served in more than one unit or if his name was spelled differently on different records. Each CMSR merits a separate entry in the database.

Then, surf to [the Civil War Collection on Ancestry](#) to search various Civil War related databases including the General Index to Pension Files. More than 2 million pension applications are indexed in this database. You can also spot veterans on census records. The [1890 Special Veteran's census](#) still exists for states beginning with the letters K through W. (Actually, only half of the Kentucky records are still available.) For your long-lived veterans, check the [1910 census](#). Look under column 30. Here you might find a check, indicating the person served in the Civil War, or a scribbled "ua" for Union army or "ca" for Confederate army. For really long-lived veterans, scan the 1930 census. Columns 30 and 31 posed questions about military service. You'll see "Civ" written for Civil War veterans.

Ancestry Weekly Journal 6 October 2008

[Marshfield News](#) Thurs. 4 Dec. 1902 P. 1

### DOES CARPENTRY WORK

#### Andrew Donhard is Skilled With Tools Though Totally Blind

Andrew Donhard, the blind music teacher, is as skillful in the use of tools as he is manipulating the keys of a piano. With practically no assistance he has just completed the construction of a hen house

build them a warm home for the winter. The completed structure is in the form of a house with windows, swinging door, floor, and covered with tar paper and drop siding. When twelve years of age Mr. Donhard had a severe attack of scarlet fever which destroyed his sight. His parents gave him a good musical education and for years he has given lessons on the violin and piano.

### INJURED WHILE HUNTING

#### Cal. Jones Had Several Fingers Lacerated by Bursting Gun Barrel.

What was perhaps the only accident during the hunting season in this immediate vicinity occurred last Friday a few miles northwest of Marshfield on the Becker road. The unlucky victim was Cal. Jones, 17 years of age, son of Mr. And Mrs. Fred Jones, who had several fingers of his left hand badly lacerated, one of which may have to be amputated. He was out hunting alone and when about 3 1/2 miles from the city, spied a deer. A blinding flash followed the discharge of his gun, the barrel bursting open several inches from the stock, and his left hand was injured as above stated. With torn and bleeding fingers he walked back to the city and at once sought the services of a surgeon. It was found upon examination that an old charge had been left in the gun, and overlooked when the weapon was cleaned the day before.

[Marshfield News](#) 21 May, 1896 P. 1

### CENSUS STATISTICS

#### Information and Comparisons Taken From the Census Reports

The state census report for 1895, just published, shows the population of Wood county at that time to be 21,637, of which number 14,980 are American born, 2 colored, 4,108 German, 169 Great Britain, 139 Irish, 11 French, 535 British Americans, 2 Danish, 800 Scandinavian, 26 Dutch, 170

of improved land, 68,005 woodland 63,087 acres of unimproved land. There are 11 cheese factories in the county and 3 creameries. The manufacturing industries of the county have invested in real estate, machinery, stock and fixtures \$2,768,143, which employed 2,303 men who received \$868,080 in wages in 1895. The value of manufactured product was \$1,799,710. There are 1694 farmers in the county and the value of agricultural products was \$699,769.

The population of Clark county was 21,342, of which 15798 are American born, 12 colored, 3,236 German, 211 Great Britain, 211 Irish, 98 French, 340 British American, 132 Danish, 1,017 Scandinavian, 26 Dutch, 4 Polanders, 2 Bohemians, and 370 all other countries. 82,370 acres improved land, 106,716 acres woodland, 39,223 unimproved land. There are 7 cheese factories and 8 creameries.. Invested in manufacturing \$718,846 which employed 794 men who received \$247,344 in wages. Value of manufactured products \$786,691. There are 2,560 farms and the value of their products \$1,538,333. The density of population is 17 to the square mile.

Marathon county has a population of 36,598 of which 24,200 are native Americans, 243 Indians, 9,496 Germans, 183 Great Britain, 74 French, 115 Irish, 483 British Americans, 5 Danes, 833 Scandinavians, 28 Dutch, 294 Polanders, 1 Bohemian, and 638 all other nations. Density of population 23 to the square mile. 103,543 acres of improved lands, 153,863 acres of woodland, 123,088 acres unimproved. 10 cheese factories, and 5 creameries. Invested in manufacturing \$1,914,917 which employed 2,887 men who received \$798,520 in wages. Value of manufactured stock \$3,362,521. There are 3,143 farms in Marathon county and value of their products in 1895 was \$1,584,896.

The best agricultural county in the state was Dane with Dodge county next. (British Americans were Canadians. Salaries per year per man were Wood \$376.93, Clark \$311.52 and Marathon \$276.59. Figuring 312 working days per year--6 day weeks--Wood \$1.20 per day, Clark \$0.998 per day, Marathon \$0.89 per

day. Editor)

## History Of Our City School System

By

L. H. Dressendorfer

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of articles dealing with the history of the Marshfield schools, which will appear daily on the editorial page of the News-Herald. The entire series was prepared by L. H. Dressendorfer, principal of the Purdy junior high school, and constituted a thesis submitted by Mr. Dressendorfer to the University of Wisconsin for a degree of bachelors of arts.

Marshfield News Herald

16 April 1929 Page 6

It was in the month of April, 1871, that two brothers, Louis and Frank Rivers migrated from Necedah, Wisconsin to Section 8, Town 25, Range 3 East, the present site of the city of Marshfield. These men bought a tract of land from J. J. Marsh of New York, after whom the town was named. They immediately erected a log house on North Depot street across the street from the present filling station of the Standard Oil company. In June 1871 Peter McGingan came and opened a small store and saloon. Many settlers came and the place began to boom. The Wisconsin Central Railway extended its line as far as Marshfield in September 1871. With the advent of the railway the locality began to fill up rapidly. A year later the government established a post office in the village.

The earliest settlers were mostly English. It was not until 10 years after the city started that German born and those of German descent came to this locality. Today it can be said that approximately two-thirds of the people of Marshfield are of German descent and the remaining third about evenly divided between those of English and Irish extraction.

### First School Established in 1873

Relative to the first school many conflicting stories have been written and told. The strongest proof and evidence proves that the first school was established in the summer of 1873 with a Miss Clara Davis as teacher. This

school was conducted during the summer for a period of two months and was supported by the parents of children who attended. This school occupied the front room of one of the residences.

Nothing further was done for the education of the young until the summer of 1877 when a summer school was conducted by Miss Madge Mahoney in one of the homes. This school had an enrollment of 10 pupils. The first district board, A. Kunz, clerk; Mr. Bronson, director, and J. Walterbach, treasurer, was formed in the summer of 1877. A school was built at a cost of \$2,259, on Lots Numbers 1, 2 and 3 in block L where Dr. Hayward's residence now is, which had, at the time of the survey, been set aside for school purposes. The school was completed and occupied in the fall of 1877. It had to be approached from North Depot street by means of boards laid from log to log. Otherwise it would have been impossible to get to the building on account of the deep mud. D. Walterbach built it out of lumber and shingles he had sawed on his farm. Miss Mahoney was the first teacher and for her services she was paid \$20 a month. In the spring she resigned and was succeeded by Miss Fanny Baker

### Teachers Had To Wait For Money

The total receipts for the school purposes the first year were \$1,476.92 and the total expenditures were \$1,471.95 leaving a balance of \$4.97. The expenditures were high as the new school had to be paid for and equipped. Early in 1878 the teachers had to wait for their pay as there was no money in the treasury. As soon as the town tax was paid to the board the teachers received their pay. The total school expenditures for the year 1878-1879 were \$418. Of this amount \$338 was raised by the town and \$50 was received in the form of state aid.

Charles Coon was the first male teacher. He was employed to teach the school for the year 1878-1879 at a salary of \$20 per month. The school now boasted of an enrollment of 40 pupils.

**More to follow**

**KITH AND KIN**  
**Marshfield Genealogy Group**  
**PO Box 337**  
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