



Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

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URL: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/kcgs/index.html>

Newsletter

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Here we go again. ;-) Wonderful warm days and suddenly rain and snow, then back to spring again. I suppose my memory is faulty, but I cannot remember an earlier peculiar winter like this one has been. Oh, well, we take what we get, don't we?

I hope those of you who do the publications for your societies have passed on Darren's media announcement of our coming June conference. We hope to have a nice crowd to hear our speaker. Go to the new website to find a registration form and more information.

Please take the time to visit our new URL (<http://www.kcgs.us/>) That is so much easier to remember and input, isn't it? ;-)

Do contact Helen if you are interested in her setting up a free website for you. She tells me she has done this for those she handled anyway, but others will have to get in touch. Blue skyways is shutting down in June.

Maybe you can use this info:

Uncover German Heritage With Surnames

. German surnames can be divided into four different groups according to their origin.

Patronymic German Surnames

The first group is patronymic surnames which originated as a way to distinguish between peo-

ple bearing the same given name by also specifying the name of their parent, usually their father. Grammatically, German patronymic surnames are usually an unchanged form of the respective given name, for instance Werner, Walter, Herrmann, or Konrad, stemming from the same given names Werner, Walter, Herrmann, and Konrad. In other instances, the suffix -s would be added to the father's given name, for example, Peters implies Peter's son.

Occupational German Surnames

The second, and most prominent, group of German surnames is occupational surnames. These surnames often feature the suffix -er, to denote the "doer" of an action: for instance, Schneider, which is German for "tailor" comes from the verb "schneiden" - to cut. Occupational surnames may also feature the root "-man(n)", German for "man", as in, "a man of a certain trade": for instance, Zimmermann - "a man who deals with timber", a carpenter. The most widespread occupational surnames come from the professions that were popular in the middle ages, such Schmidt – a blacksmith, Mueller, a miller; or Baecker, a baker.

Geographical German Surnames

The third group of surnames is geographical pointing to a location a person is from. Sometimes geographical surnames are quite specific, for example, Bayer (or Bayer in American pronunciation) refers to somebody who came from Bavaria, or Bayern in German. Other geographical surnames are less specific; they simply point to generic landscape features. They may include roots such as:wald (forest), thal (valley), berg (hill), eck/egg (corner or mountain peak) and so on.

Descriptive German Surnames

Now, the final group of German surnames is descriptive surnames. These started as nicknames given to people based on their physical attributes or behaviors. Examples are Gross from gross – large, Klein from "klein" - small, and Schwarz – from "schwarz" – black, implying dark-haired or dark-skinned. Surnames that referred to people's behaviors include Hahn meaning "rooster", used to describe a cocky individual, and Fuchs meaning "fox" most likely referring to a cunning person. A very interesting group of German descriptive surnames has to do with taxes. Officials who collected taxes for the feudal landlords often gave people nicknames. This resulted in surnames such as Schilling, which is a monetary unit; Fuenfstueck, literally meaning 5 pieces, or 5 coins. It is argued that calendar surnames, such as Freitag (Friday) or Mai (May) may also have been nicknames referring to the dates when the tax was due.

As you can see, German surnames can provide a wealth of helpful information about your ancestors.

[What Did Our Ancestors Face? Settler's & Emigrant's Guides](#)

Emigrant and settler's guides were produced by everyone from individual authors wanting to share their personal knowledge, to government officials and transportation companies hoping to encourage either emigration or immigration. While it is important to keep in mind the purpose for which such guides were written, they can be a wonderful source for insight into the situations faced by our ancestors as they left behind the life they knew and worked to make a new life for themselves and their families.

Arlington National Cemetery Goes Digital

An article published several articles a year or two ago (at <http://goo.gl/vl8Q1>) described Arlington National Cemetery's difficulties with record keeping. Burial records were lost and/or misfiled, dozens of burial plots appear on maps as occupied but have no headstone, and some graves that have a headstone are recorded as vacant. The cemetery's administrative staff was fired or re-assigned and a new team was brought in to clean up the mess. Not everything is perfect just yet, but the new team appears to have made a lot of progress.

Among other things, the old paper burial records have been computerized and even a new smartphone app due out in the fall will tap into the power of GPS technology and help visitors navigate through the more than 250,000 graves at Arlington, providing military-grade accuracy. The new app will give the public access to photos and maps with plus or minus 3-inch accuracy for each of more than 300,000 individuals buried at Arlington. The system is a first for any federal cemetery and more accurate and up-to-date than anything in the private sector. It is a byproduct of Arlington's effort to move on from the mismanagement scandal.

Only one thing is missing: cell phone signals aren't very strong in the cemetery, making it difficult to use an iPhone or Android phone to retrieve information about locations of the graves.

Before I forget to include it? Here is the announcement of some helpful webinars from North Carolina. It is a pdf so I cannot do anything but print it the way it came. Get out your magnifying glass.

North Carolina Genealogical Society Webinars

Free Viewing: 21-23 March 2014 - New NCGS Webinar by **Helen F. M. Leary**, CG (Emeritus), F.A.S.G.

PROVING PARENTAGE WITH PROBATE RECORDS: NORTH CAROLINA INHERITANCE LAWS AND CUSTOMS

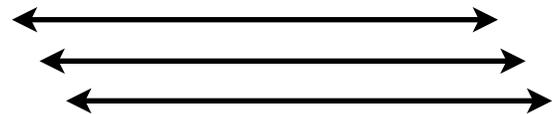
In this webinar, Helen F. M. Leary, CG (Emeritus), FASG, details where to look for land records and why they are important. North Carolina inheritance law and probate are explained. Ms. Leary also discusses the process of land acquisition and transfer including the interpretation of deeds and grants. Analysis of the evidence found in these documents can yield clues to your ancestor's prior location and familial relationships. These may be the solution you have been looking for to solve your genealogical brick wall.



This webinar may be viewed freely from 21 to 23 March on the NCGS website: www.ncgenealogy.org. A video clip, the beginning of the land series, is also available on the website under the webinar tab.

After the 23rd of March **Proving Parentage With Probate Records: North Carolina Inheritance Laws and Customs** will only be available on the website to NCGS members as a member benefit. It may also be purchased as a CD from the NCGS online bookstore. Handouts are included in the member section of the website and with the purchased CD. Handouts are not included with the free webinars.

Additional information on probate and land records can be found in chapters 2, 12, and 13, *North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History*, which is available in the NCGS online store.



New Enhanced Irish Genealogy Service Now Available

The following news should be very exciting for anyone researching Irish ancestry. The announcement was written by Eneclann:

The joint consortium of Eneclann and Ancestor Network are delighted to announce that they will provide genealogy services in the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland in the coming year, following a competitive tendering process. The consortium has increased the number of genealogy experts delivering the service, to provide a wide and comprehensive range of expertise to anyone looking for help and advice in tracing their family history.

“We look forward to assisting Irish people and overseas visitors alike in tracing their roots especially in the coming year of the Gathering,” said Fiona Fitzsimons, Research Director of Eneclann. “We are delighted to partner with Ancestor Network, in our new role - promoting Irish genealogy from within the national cultural institutions.” Aiden Feerick, Head of Research at Ancestor Network added, “It is a great privilege to have been selected with Eneclann by the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland. We can provide a world class genealogy advisory service and we will share our expertise and knowledge to those tracing their Irish ancestors. We also look forward to working with the staff of the archives and library in adding value to their genealogical services.”

Approximately half of the project team in the consortium are members of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (A.P.G.I.). The remainder of the team are graduates of the U.C.D. certificate/diploma in genealogy and/or graduates of the University of Limerick’s M.A. in the History of the Family.

Fiona Ross, Director of the National Library of Ireland responded to the news saying: “We are delighted to announce that Eneclann and Ancestor Network have been awarded the contract for providing the genealogy advisory service. They offer an enhanced family history service at a significantly reduced cost to the taxpayer. We look forward to working with them in the coming year.”

The new genealogy service will be available to all visitors to the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland.

19th-Century Beauty Tips

It is amazing how hard great-grandmother worked at being beautiful. When Barkham Burroughs wrote his *Encyclopaedia of Astounding Facts and Useful Information* in 1889, he devoted a full chapter to the “secrets of beauty.” Here are some excerpts:

Bathe often: At least once a week, but if possible, a lady should “take a plunge or sponge bath three times a week.”

Don’t wash your hair: Water is “injurious” to the hair. Instead, wipe “the dust of the previous day” away on a towel. You can also brush your hair during any long, idle breaks in the day. 30 minutes is a good hair-brushing session.

And never, ever wash your face: Simply rub the skin with “an ointment of glycerine” and “dry with a chamois-skin or cotton flannel.” One “beautiful lady” is admired who had “not washed her face for three years, yet it is always clean, rosy, sweet and kissable.”

You can read more 1889 beauty "hints" at <http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/140115>

Have you explored this?

Gale Genealogy Connect, an online tool for genealogical research. Focusing on the "how to" of genealogical research along with unique source materials,

Sourced from the publications of Genealogical.com, parent company for Genealogical Publishing Company and Clearfield Company, *Gale Genealogy Connect* features over 550 reference works at release (formerly only available by print or CD-ROM) on a standalone ebook platform, with a goal of growing the collection to nearly 1,500 works. The content covers a wide range of topics such as genealogy research basics, genealogy methods and sources, colonial genealogy, immigration, royal and Native American ancestry. *Gale Genealogy Connect* serves both novice and advanced researchers – beginners will learn proper research methods and how to define and organize goals, while powerful search features help advanced researchers make connections among data to uncover a meaningful story behind their family tree.

For more information on *Gale Genealogy Connect*, please visit www.gale.cengage.com/genealogy.

Earning a Living in the 18th-19th Centuries

Think your job is terrible? Then spare a thought for our ancestors for whom working as a toad doctor and leech bait were legitimate ways to pay the rent.

Lying in a pond, waiting for leeches to latch onto your bare legs was one way to earn a crust in the early 1800s

Or if you were really strapped for cash in the 1900s, you could offer to “eat” the mortal sins of the recently deceased by dining off the body of a corpse.

John Pickard raised his pennies by becoming the official “dog whipper of Exeter Cathedral”, a role which saw him charged with keeping unruly pets away from Sunday services.

According to the Western Times in 1901, Pickard’s enthusiasm for his job meant he “did not confine himself to dogs alone”, and would pay “special attention” to dozing youths with “a crack on the head with the silver mitred end of his staff.”

Pickard’s unofficial role was somewhat similar to a job advert placed in the Illustrated Police News in 1886, which announced that prison commissioners in Scotland were seeking a “whipper of juvenile offenders.” The position was not filled however, due to strong local opposition to the punishment.

A 'toad doctor' would treat ailments with, yes, toads. If leeches did not cure one’s ailments, the afflicted were also able to turn to the skills of the “toad doctor”. Treatment entailed simply applying toads to the affected areas, the Western Gazette revealed.

In 1903 The Evening Telegraph announced that a Royal rat catcher was wanted at Windsor because the royal farms were swarming with rats that would go "uninvited into the castle!" The role was a busy one, as demonstrated by former royal rat catcher, John Newton, who began rat catching in 1860 and could catch up to 340 rats in one night.

In the North, "knocking-up" was an institution created by the working class. A designated man or woman would tap on workers’ windows with a spindly wire attached to a lengthy bamboo stave to prevent them from oversleeping and losing earnings.

In the course of a lifetime a “knocker-up” would be expected to cover thousands of miles, frequently in treacherous conditions. Failure to wake their clients would bring with it untold shame, non-payment and instant dismissal.

In time our descendants will surely find the notion of a chimney sweep as strange as we find the idea of a toad doctor.

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Til Next Time Janeice

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DIGGING DEEPER

40th Annual
Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

Genealogy Conference

featuring



*Valerie Eichler Lair
Professional Genealogist & Nationally
Renowned Educator & Author*

June 14, 2014

McPherson, Kansas

Co-Hosted By McPherson County Genealogical Society

Registration Is Now Open!

www.KCGS.us