



# Kansas Council of Genealogical Societies

Newsletter

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Good morning,

Oops! I almost forgot that February is a short month. The weather we have been having is conducive to doing some work in a library or online, at least at our computers. Now, is a great time to actually organize your genealogy research and get it put together into an integrated format which can be understood by the rest of our families. A computer program is the easiest way to accomplish this. There are several which will help you compile your information in books, pedigree charts, photo albums, maps, lots of formats. ;Those who do not use a computer are at a great disadvantage, having to copy records and family information by hand. I doubt I would ever have embarked on this great endeavor with only a pen and paper at hand.

Even so there are still some documents and photos in my collection which have not yet been digitized into my computer records. Must get at it. I am reminding those of you in this same situation not to put off your computer work any longer. One never knows when the time will come that your family members will be going through your left-behind documents and will not know what to do with all your hard work that is still in those file folders and envelopes on small scraps of paper. I know you are understanding me.

Put it all into hard copy books, and also back it up digitally in more than one location. We never know when a flood or some other disaster will wipe out all our work. You should also offer hard copies to your local genealogical societies and/or public libraries.

The KCGS Board is working hard on putting together an enjoyable conference for you that will be held in Salina in June this year. Several speakers will be there and they have helpful and interesting things to teach us. We will be getting out the brochures soon.

I have been reading as usual and came across this article that might interest you as much as it did me.

## Doctors and Folk Practitioners Alike Once Swore by the Healing Properties of Bathing in Meat Broth.

BY SUSANNA FORREST



Therapeutic bathing in 1571 (although this was likely plain water — not soup broth).

According to “the informed opinion of an experienced physician,” the brief news item from Berlin recounted, bouillon bathing had proved itself in medical applications, especially in pediatrics. It wouldn’t be just the wealthy who could indulge, the article went on, implying that baths of broth would be affordable for the lower classes, too.



A (likely fictional) kingship ritual that calls for bathing in a stew of mare’s meat.

It turns out that Europeans have a long history of steeping themselves in meat soup, although

In the Middle Ages, the Upper Class Went Nuts for Almond Milk

The Curious Case of August Engelhardt, Leader of a Coconut-Obsessed Cult

Less luridly, broth bathing appears to share a tandem history with “hydrotherapy,” the therapeutic immersion of the body in warm mineral water. Classical writers such as Pliny the Elder believed that different natural springs had distinct mineral properties that cured diverse ailments. While therapeutic bathing fell into disrepute after Roman baths became associated with sexual licence, the rediscovery of classical texts in the Renaissance led to renewed interest. The Swiss doctor Theophrastus von Hohenheim (or “Paracelsus”) prescribed bathing in spring water to remove mercury from the body. Physicians believed that skin was permeable, so if mercury could seep out, then surely the hearty properties of spring water or bouillon could seep in.

In 1782, the wonderfully named Dr. Rhodomonte Dominiceti opened a bath house in Panton Square near Haymarket in London, where customers could experience not only “artificial baths” in his own recipe mineral water, but also wallow in “veal or other broths” for the princely sum of three to five guineas. Just four years later, the Scottish anatomist William Cruickshank was claiming that Paracelsus himself had kept men alive for several days by sitting them in broth or milk baths. (Cruickshank thought they absorbed the nutrients via their rectums. They did not.)

While broth bathing does not seem to have been on the menu at the grand spa resorts of the 19th century, it remained a folk and medical custom across a wide geographic region. In 1856, a traveling Englishwoman staying with an aristocrat in the Italian town of Macerata was informed by her local maid that babies were often soaked in a *brodo lugo*: a light broth of lean veal with all the fat skimmed off. She recommended it for the English lady’s complexion, because “it softens and yet nourishes the skin.” A German medical text from the same year

records typhus patients in Russia taking bouillon baths as part of their recuperation. A later German medical handbook, meanwhile, contains recipes for a sheep-foot broth bath and dissolved *Thierleim*, a brownish, gluey jelly made from boiled hoofs, bone, skin, and tendons. The handbook does not specify which ailments they were meant to treat.

Broth baths came to America, too. An early settler in 1850s Texas named Mary Ann Maverick recorded in her diary that when her newborn daughter didn't fatten up, "Mrs. Salsmon, an experienced German nurse" recommended boiling beef bones for four hours before cooling them to "one hundred" and settling the baby in the broth. The baby should then be removed and wrapped in a blanket without being dried, and set to sleep. Maverick did so, and, within days, the little girl was putting on weight.

As the medical establishment increasingly relied on better science, however, doctors turned skeptical. In Dr. Hermann Eichhorst's 1887 *Handbook of Special Pathology and Therapy for Practical Doctors and Students*, meat-broth baths are described as "without benefit."



A "soup noodle spa" at the Hakone Yunessun Spa on April 19, 2008 in Hakone, Japan. The spa has previously offered customers spa baths filled with chocolate and Beaujolais wine.

Not that everyone listened. The notion of a nourishing bath is still irresistible. Magical thinkers of the 21st century bathe in milk, caviar, olive oil, wine, and even coffee at wellness spas, and one Japanese firm makes miso-soup  
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bath sachets for the ultimate comfort experience. For those who enjoy the unmistakable cognitive dissonance of realizing that any bath, whether you're tipping in Epsom salts to season or not, is a sort of human soup, a hotel in the Philippines offers the chance to bathe among floating coconut leaves with a fire going under the pot, like old comic-book images of clueless cannibal victims.

Definitively calculating how popular or widespread broth bathing was throughout history would be a major research project that has, alas, not yet been conducted. But it was an established-enough practice to appear in medical textbooks and spa menus. There may have also been long folk traditions that the written record barely reveals.

One last, modern story. A linguist told the story that on a research trip in rural Armenia, she met an Assyrian woman who followed local practice and bathed her baby boy in beef broth "to strengthen his bones." The baby thrived.

*On another note, have you gotten your copy of the Kansas Traveler's Guide? It has lots and lots of interesting things and places to see that are located in our state and can be reached in those not too long trips here and there. I got mine at our historical museum. They are available at the book store in the Kansas State Historical Museum in Topeka.*

*From the Genealogy in Time Magazine:  
New Genealogy Record Sets*

We continue to look around the world for new genealogy record sets. This week, we have [new genealogy record sets](#) from several countries, including the United States, Sweden, England, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, India, Turkey, Panama and Russia.

Included in these new record sets, we have some incredibly important news for anyone with Swedish ancestors. We also have some poten-

tially great news for anyone with Armenian ancestors.

## 7 Facts About Your Ancestors Found in Obituaries and Death Notices:

1. Date of death, name of cemetery, date and place of the funeral and burial
2. Name, place, and year of birth
3. Names of children, where they lived, and their position in the family's birth order
4. Names of the towns and how long they lived in each one
5. Age of spouse at death and how long ago that was
6. Details on the longevity of parents and grandparents
7. Count of descendants, by generation

*Check out My Genealogy Hound a Free Service provided by the Hearthstone Legacy Publications:*

**More family biographies have recently been added** and cross linked by surname. Recent additions include biographies from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, Seneca County, New York; Schuyler County, New York; Chautauqua County, New York; Oakland County, Michigan, Independence County, Arkansas and Hampshire County, Massachusetts. Next to be added will be biographies in Clark and Greene Counties, Ohio and Berrien and Cass Counties, Michigan. All of the surnames shown here plus more than 12,500 additional surnames are included in our Browse By Surname section. This important feature makes it possible to browse all the biographies currently on site for a particular surname. These nearly 33,000 biogra-

phies make direct reference to more than 400,000 individuals.

*<[mygenealogyhound.com](http://mygenealogyhound.com)> takes you to a website that allows growing among their records by surname, by state, and by county.*



**View the tombstones and graves of the famous, infamous and otherwise:** The My Genealogy Hound website features photos of the graves of Louisa May Alcott (Little Women), Michael Landon, Dan Blocker (Hoss Cartwright), Jimmy Stewart, Chuck Connors, Don Knotts, John Wayne, Gene Autry, Mary Tyler Moore, James Dean, Laura Ingalls Wilder, Daniel Boone, Benjamin Franklin, Jesse James, the victims of the Boston Massacre, Curly, Moe and Shemp Howard (Three Stooges), L. Frank Baum (Wizard of OZ), Fess Parker (Davy Crockett), "Wild Bill" Hickok, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Paul Revere, Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby, Dean Martin, Roy Orbison, Clifton Clowers (Wolverton Mountain), the world's smallest tombstone, "Bloody Bill" Anderson, Bob Ford (assassin of Jesse James), Clayton Moore (The Lone Ranger), Frank James, Lawrence Welk, plus unusual graves such as the mystery woman buried inside a boulder; and unusual engraved colonial era tombstones:

### Graves and Tombstones of the Famous, Infamous and Otherwise

*Now I have run out of space and my farewell til next time has to go here.*

*Janeice*