



CAGGNI NEWSLETTER



Then ~1929 –
8143 S. Lincoln Street, Chicago, IL



Now ~2015 –
8143 S. Wolcott Avenue, Chicago, IL

Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History by Tina Beaird

If walls could talk was your home moved, damaged by fire or enlarged to accommodate a growing family? Tina will provide strategies for researching the history of your home using government records, newspapers, phone directories, maps and other resources. Every home tells a story – what does yours say?

Please join us Saturday, 20 January, at 10:30 a.m. for this event at the Schaumburg Township District Library, 130 S. Roselle Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60193

Upcoming CAGGNI Events

13 January 2018

10:30 a.m. DNA SIG
With Dr. David Stumpf
and Alan Wilson

12:45 p.m. Family Tree Maker SIG

With Nancy R. Thomas

20 January 2018

10:30 a.m. 3rd Saturday
Brick by Brick: Tracing
Your Home's History
by Tina Beaird

12:45 p.m. RM+TMG SIG
With Larry Olson

Events are held at Schaumburg
Township District Library unless
otherwise noted.





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RM + TMG tmg@caggni.org	Larry Olson

Volume 26, Number 1

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President's Message



by Alan Wilson

Happy New Year!!! CAGGNI has some big plans for 2018, including GeneaQuest and

more Special Interest Group meetings to keep up with the latest technology.

One event coming up at the end of February is RootsTech 2018 in Salt Lake City. The event will feature Henry Louis Gates Jr. as one of its keynote speakers. If you watch *Finding Your Roots* on PBS, then you will already be acquainted with Henry Louis Gates Jr. I was planning to attend RootsTech, along with others from CAGGNI, and this is just one more reason for me to be enthusiastic about the event.

RootsTech features presentations, lectures and demonstrations of the latest technologies for genealogy. Lately this



has featured announcements for DNA testing – with sale prices that keep coming down. It also was the place for new announcements about FamilyTreeMaker, RootsMagic, FindMyPast, MyHeritage and Ancestry. I can only imagine what will be announced in February. You can find out more here: <https://www.rootstech.org/why-attend>.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world continues to do genealogy research and lately this means an increased emphasis on DNA test results. December featured Christmas sales on DNA tests from all the major testing companies. I can report from my personal experience that the discovery of distant cousins from DNA matching is becoming easier than ever. I have found DNA cousins on Ancestry, Family Tree DNA and My Heritage. In some cases, the common ancestor has been several

generations in the past. For small communities, such as a parish in Norway, French Canada or Iceland, the common ancestor(s) could be from 1700. More recent matches for 1st or 2nd cousins can find previously unknown common ancestors for adoptees or orphans. The DNA test can sometimes penetrate brick walls in the paper records. One amazing thing from watching Henry Louis Gates Jr. on TV is finding those discoveries that defy any expectation.

This brings me to GeneaQuest 2018. An exciting feature this year is a lab for DNA test results led by Jane Haldeman. Participants in the



lab will get advice on how to analyze test results on Ancestry DNA. If you take advantage of this lab, you will need to have test results from Ancestry DNA, and you should have a pedigree tree on Ancestry linked to the test results. The lab will explain how to exploit the features of Ancestry DNA to find DNA cousins and common ancestors. Ancestry has many features to simplify this task and make it comparatively easy.

I have found that discovering DNA matches and common ancestors will corroborate some ancestral lines that were previously known. It will also confirm some speculative hypothesis to choose between two possible ancestral lines. I track the matches and the common ancestors by marking them in RootsMagic. RM has several ways to do this. I mark them with “Common Ancestor” facts. They could also be added to Groups or color coded. These help me to see which lines are confirmed with DNA evidence and which are not.

As a final reminder – it is time to renew CAGGNI membership. The easiest way is to [renew on the web page](#).

Alan L. Wilson

CALENDAR January – February

Saturday, 13 January Schaumburg Township District Library

Special Interest Group, **10:30 a.m.**

DNA with David Stumpf and Alan Wilson

This group focuses on learning the methods for analyzing DNA test results. We study topics such as autosomal DNA, mitochondrial DNA, Y-DNA and surname projects, X-DNA and ancestral admixture results.

Special Interest Group, **12:45 p.m.**

Family Tree Maker with Nancy R. Thomas

Family Tree Maker (FTM) is back, with tree sync to Ancestry in FTM2017. This interest group was formed to provide a forum in the Chicagoland area for FTM users to share their knowledge and build their expertise with the product.

Saturday, 20 January Schaumburg Township District Library

3rd Saturday Program Meeting, **10:30 a.m.**

*Brick by Brick: Tracing Your Home's History
by Tina Beaird*

If walls could talk was your home moved, damaged by fire or enlarged to accommodate a growing family? Tina will provide strategies for researching the history of your home using government records, newspapers, phone directories, maps and other resources. Every home tells a story – what does yours say?

Special Interest Group, **12:45 p.m.**

RM + TMG with Larry Olson

This group is interested in the operation and features of RootsMagic and The Master Genealogist. We discuss and share knowledge and experience in using the programs to research, record, display and share genealogical data.

Newsletter Deadline
4th Saturday each month
27 January

We would love to have you write an article for our newsletter! Members are invited and encouraged to submit material to the Newsletter, newsletter@caggni.org. You can write up whatever you think would be of interest to the group in 500-1,000 words (roughly) for the average-sized composition. Or send us smaller items, sites or tips.

Saturday, 10 February Schaumburg Township District Library

Special Interest Group, **10:30 a.m.**

Reunion with Bruce Christopher

Calling all Apple users! Reunion is genealogy software designed specifically for Macintosh and available as an app for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad. Learn the tips and tricks that will have you utilizing this highly regarded program to its fullest.

Saturday, 17 February Schaumburg Township District Library

3rd Saturday Program Meeting, **10:30 a.m.**

*Tracing Your WWI Immigrant Ancestors in "Alien
Papers" by Debra Dudek*

Learn what primary and secondary sources have become available and how to access them. Keep up to date on the constantly changing face of British Isles research by learning about recently released original records, new indexes, books and web sites.

Board Meeting, **12:45 p.m.**

All members of the Board of Directors are requested to be present for this meeting. This is an open meeting and regular members of CAGGNI are welcome to attend.

Newsletter Deadline
4th Saturday each month
24 February

We would love to have you write an article for our newsletter! Members are invited and encouraged to submit material to the Newsletter, newsletter@caggni.org. You can write up whatever you think would be of interest to the group in 500-1,000 words (roughly) for the average-sized composition. Or send us smaller items, sites or tips.

The Man Who Was (Not) John Phillip Sousa



by Larry Olson

Larry is a Minnesota native who lived on both coasts before settling in Chicagoland 30 years ago. He began his research in the 1970s when his grandmother told him he was related to John Philip Sousa. Larry currently serves as our RM + TMG SIG lead.

This is the story of how I knocked down a genealogical brick wall after 43 years, and how, once a brick or two was loose, it collapsed in a surprisingly short time. Along the way, I was reminded of several maxims of family research (especially German research), which might have helped me solve the problem many years earlier, had I paid attention to them.

I began my family research around 1973 in college, after picking up a copy of Gilbert Doane's *Searching for Your Ancestors* at the college bookstore. Following his advice to interview your oldest living relatives, I sat down with each one of my grandparents.

My father's mother (Alice Pederson Olson) was crystal clear on names and dates, even for people in her husband's family, and had kept in contact with her cousins in Norway. My mother's mother (Ann Hessburg Johnson), however, was a bit fuzzier on details.

Grandma Johnson was a first generation American. Her mother (Anna Mary Barsch) and grandparents (Joseph and Caroline Barsch) were born in Germany. They presumably arrived in the U.S. about 1877 when Anna was 8, where they went to St. Louis, MO, before moving to Minnesota. Grandma said they either

came from Leipzig or Breslau, Germany. I should have known this meant trouble, because these two cities are 233 miles apart and in different German states. Leipzig is in Lower Saxony/Sachsen Anhalt, and Breslau is in Silesia/Schlesien. Silesia became part of Poland after WWI.

After the vital information, she added (to my amazement!) that we were related to John Philip Sousa, the "March King." He was, supposedly, a cousin of her mother. Stranger still was that there was a bit of scandal, Sousa was supposedly a deserter from the German army, whose real name was Anton Zwillig!

Grandma provided a photograph, which showed a dark-haired, bearded man in a military uniform. On the back were two inscriptions.



01_Anton Zwillig

One read (in pencil, in an older hand):

"Anton Zwillig
Lampdorf"

The other, by a different writer, read:

"Anthony Zwillig,
went thru war of
1866 with Austria"

Anton/Anthony did vaguely resemble Sousa, but it was not what I would call a positive identification. Consulting various encyclopedias (yes, encyclopedias), I learned that Sousa was born in Washington, D.C., 1854, which I verified by obtaining his birth certificate. I located his autobiography, in which he described his parents. His mother, Elizabeth Trinkhaus, was from Bavaria, and his father, John Antonio, was Portuguese. So, Sousa could not have been a

deserter from the German Army, but there was still a possible German connection, although Bavaria was yet a different state from either Leipzig or Breslau.

Regarding the picture, I then consulted a source that stated the uniform was German, and something about the decoration indicated that he was a musician. Although I still have a file folder of notes from this early research, I failed to cite my source, which is now lost to history...

Lesson: Carefully take notes and copy the sources of your information. Keep a Research Log to show what you were looking for, what you found and, more importantly, what you didn't find so you don't have to repeat your research.

As a footnote, when Maureen Taylor spoke at CAGNI's GeneaQuest 2016 conference, I scheduled a consultation with her. She estimated that the photo dated from between 1860 and 1880 and that the man's age was 25 to 35, but could not give an opinion about his uniform, although she did recommend some books to consult.

I was drawn back to Sousa's autobiography. If there was not a family connection with Sousa's mother, what about Sousa's father? By Sousa's own words, his father had a mysterious background. He was a musician, with an extensive command of languages. Antonio is a Hispanic version of Anton. I learned that "Sousa" in Portugal is as common as "Smith" in the U.S. What better name to adopt if he had been the deserter and needed an alias? Unfortunately, the picture did not really look like him either, and Antonio was most likely living in Washington, D.C., in 1866, when John Philip was about 12.

Setting this somewhat fanciful legend aside, I continued my research with facts I could attempt to prove. My Barsch great-great-

grandparents had died within months of each other in Minneapolis, MN, in 1912. In March of 1980, I got their death certificates from Minnesota the old-fashioned way by writing for them. Their daughter, Anna Barsch Hessburg, was the informant. The certificates verified dates my grandmother gave me but were not terribly revealing

02_Joseph Barsch death cert_1912

- Joseph's birthplace: Germany
- Father's name: Joseph Barsch
- Mother's name: unknown
- Caroline's birthplace: Germany
- Father's name: Muche
- Mother's name: unknown

Then life intervened, and there was a longtime gap in this research.

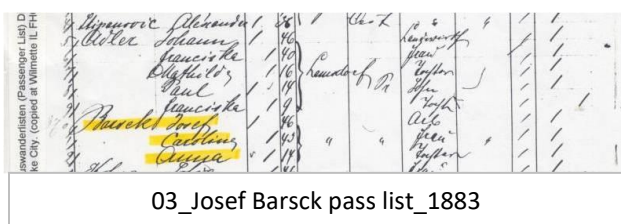
In 1994 I was looking up Barsch in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) and Ancestral File, but found nothing about Joseph and Caroline. I did have a research log by this

time, and it shows all the effort I took in looking in these various records.

I found naturalization papers for Joseph and his son Henry at the Minnesota History Center, which said they arrived “01 Nov 1880.” Thereafter, I spent a lot of time searching and copying info from the “Hamburg Auswanderlisten” (Hamburg Passenger Lists) and contacting Barsches then living in the United States, without finding a link to my family in either.

The 1900 and 1910 censuses were typically contradictory, stating that the Barsches had arrived in 1882 (1900 census) and 1880 (1910 census).

I finally had a breakthrough in October 1997. I attended a professional meeting in Salt Lake City and while there made my first trip to the Family History Library (FHL). I found the book *Germans to America* by Ira Glazier and William Filby, which listed “Josef, Caroline & Anna Barsck” arriving in 1883. I then accessed the “Hamburg Auswanderlisten,” which are on permanent loan at the Wilmette FHC, and made a copy of the list showing that “Josef, Caroline & Anna Barsck” departed in 6 September 1883 for New York on the steamship Polaria. Their residence appeared to me to read “Lemsdorf” and what I thought read “Pr” (Prussia). Finally, a place of origin!



Why did the naturalization documents say Joseph and Henry Barsch arrived in November 1880 when I found Joseph, Caroline and Anna arriving in 1883? Did Joseph and Henry arrive earlier but return to Germany? And note, Anna was 14 years old in 1883, not 8, as Grandma

had said, and although their destination was listed as “St. Luis,” I never found them in any city directories there, but they show up almost immediately in Minneapolis, MN, directories.

Lesson: Don’t trust immigration dates, especially the dates given in censuses, and even the ones in naturalization records may need to be taken with a grain of salt.

Through *Neumanns Orts* (one of a few German gazetteers), I located Lemsdorf in Saxony (Sachsen), not far from Magdeburg. However, I began a fruitless search of parish and civil records in the Magdeburg area. There were no records specifically for a Lemsdorf at the FHL.

Fast forward to 2015. In July at the McHenry County Genealogical Society (MCIGS) meeting, I heard an excellent talk by Maureen Brady on FamilySearch.com. It was about their FamilyTree feature, in which they were encouraging people to “plant” their family trees on the site. It differs from Ancestry, MyHeritage and other tree storage sites in that they encourage collaboration between users, so that each person’s tree only appears once. It allows you to search its website and those of its partners to find indexed documents and attach that information and sources directly to the tree. And The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) is saving the information entered for perpetuity.

I began inputting my tree starting with myself. When I got to Joseph Barsch and searched records available at the Search Records link, I found a second Minnesota death certificate, which listed his birthplace as “Lanesdorf, Germany.” This was puzzling, since the certificate I got from the state did not list a specific birthplace. The source of this was a FHL microfilm, so I resolved to consult it when the opportunity presented itself.

That moment occurred in February 2017, the 20th anniversary of my first trip to the FHL, when I decided to attend the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City.

On the morning of 9 Feb., I went to the FHL to kill a few hours before the conference began. At the head of my “to do” list was to consult Film #1,499,054 – Minnesota Death Records. To my very great surprise, on it I discovered the second death certificate for Joseph Barsch! The first I obtained had been from the state board of health. The new one turned out to be from the City of Minneapolis register and was apparently the original record, as it was referenced on the state version. They were identical in content EXCEPT the city copy listed: 1) the ward and 2) his birth place as “Lamsdorf, Germany,” which the indexer mis-transcribed as “Lanesdorf.” (It was an honest mistake, unless you know the area!)

STATE OF MINNESOTA **CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** Register No. 2576

PLACE OF DEATH
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS
WARD 12th

Place of Death 2432-29 Ave So
Full Name Jos Barsch

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS
SEX Male COLOR or RACE White MARRIAGE Widowed
DATE OF BIRTH Dec 1, 1837
AGE 74 yrs 10 mos 9 days

OCCUPATION Shoemaker
BIRTHPLACE (State or Country) Lamsdorf, Germany
NAME OF FATHER Jos Barsch
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Germany
MARRIAGE OF MOTHER Dont know
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Germany

THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE
Witness Mrs A Kohnstamm
Address 2432-29 Ave So

Medical Certificate of Death
I HEREBY CERTIFY That I attended deceased from 1912 to 1912
and that death occurred on the date stated above, at 10:00
The CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows:
Chronic nephritis
Contributory (accidents) None
Place of death Home
Date of death Oct 10, 1912
Place of burial St. Catherine's
Date of burial 10/12/12
Address 111 1/2 St. 9th

MARGIN RESERVED FOR BINDING. WRITE PLAINLY WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.

04_Joseph Barsch death cert_1912_02

Lesson: Do not only look for the original record. There may be a “better” or “best” original record! The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) recommends looking for every possible record

to prove a fact, anyway, not just the first one you come across.

Proceeding to the FHL catalog, I was overjoyed to discover there were six films containing Catholic church records for Lamsdorf from 1740 to 1949. Lamsdorf was then in Silesia, now Łambinowice, Poland, and it is only 63m/90 km from Breslau, now Wrocław, Poland.

Lesson: Beware of accepting family legends as gospel, but realize that each legend probably contains a kernel of truth, however distorted, like my grandmother’s mother might have come from Breslau or Leipzig.

I scoured the films, looking first for Joseph Barsch’s baptism or birth in 1837, which I did not find. I did, however, find Joseph and Caroline’s marriage in 1864. It says Joseph is from Tillovitz (a neighboring parish) and lists his father as Joseph Barsch (which I knew) and her father as the “late Michael Moche” (not Muche).

Then, in very short order, I located the:

- Baptism of their daughter, Anna Marie (my great-grandmother) in 1869.
- Baptism of her brother, Henry (Heinrich August Moche) in 1863. He was illegitimate by being born before his parent’s marriage in 1864, but a note to the far right explained that he became legitimate upon the marriage.
- Baptism of g-g-grandma Caroline, whose birth name was Theresia Carolina Moche, in 1840. Her father is listed as Michael Moche and mother as Johanna Harder (names I had not previously known).
- Baptisms of three of Caroline’s siblings between 1844 and 1867.
- Baptism of a Maria Magdalena Barsch, possible sibling of Joseph, in 1846.

The script was handwritten in German Gothic, and though beautiful, as difficult to read as Tolkein's runes. I could make out names and dates, but fortunately, some of the FHL staff were native German speakers, and were able to help me translate most of it.

This all happened hours before RootsTech even began (and I was almost tempted to stay at the library)! Fortunately, in the next couple of days, I had free time to continue at the library.

While finding the Barsches and Moches in these films, I noticed another name that kept popping up, "Zwillich." A witness for Anna Barsch's baptism was Maria Zwillich, and an August Zwillich was a witness for Henry Barsch's. For those who are not familiar with the German language, the "ich" has a pronunciation that could be translated as "ick" or "ig." A slap of the head moment, I should have been looking for Anton "Zwillich" all this time, as well as "Zwillig." More bricks tumble...

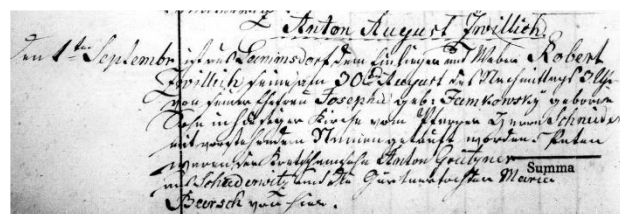
Lesson: Be aware that many letters can be substituted for each other, so try all alternate spellings for German place names and surnames:

- Lampdorf/Lemsdorf/Lamsdorf
- Muche/Moche
- Zwillig/Zwillich

One of the six Lamsdorf films was indexed on FamilySearch, Baptisms 1809-1849. A search of this index turned up six different Anton Zwillichs, either as a child being baptized, or the father of a child being baptized. As a possible match to the person in the picture (in the war with Austria in 1866, age 25-35), the most likely ones were three born in 1834, 1836 and 1844.

The most promising candidate seemed to be Anton August Zwillich, baptized in 1844,

because one of the witnesses was a Maria Barsch.



05_Anton A Zwillich baptism_1844

Whatever the relationship, with the proliferation of Zwillichs and Barsches in this parish, I figure they must be good friends or neighbors, if not actual relatives by blood or marriage.

Lesson: Witnesses to baptisms and marriages in Germany were often relatives.

For completeness' sake I decided to research all of the Antons, at least preliminarily. Because they were all indexed in FamilySearch, I was able to download the vital information into an Excel file.

Then, back in Chicago, I found each of the indexed Antons already had a three-person tree started by FamilySearch (parents and child) and sourced to the baptism event. I then used the FamilySearch Search Records links to find parents, children and/or siblings and was able to flesh out their trees further. This was fairly easy to do in just a couple of hours.

I had been working on the Antons in order of birth, and fate was apparently saving the best for last. Finally, I got to Anton August Zwillich. His baptism record listed his parents as Robert Zwillich and Josephina Jamkovsky, and one of the witnesses was Maria Barsch.

After exhausting the FamilySearch links under Search Records, I tried the Ancestry Search Hints link. I first discovered that he married Bertha Gebhardt in 1872 and they had an unnamed son in 1871.

[illegible]

	NAME	DATE	LOCATION
1	Zumstein Jacob	April 8	Ky West Fla
2	Zimmermann Louis	17	pross city A. J
3	Zimmerman Charles	Turne 16	Chicago. Ill
4	Zimmermann Charles	21	Commintell
5	Zwillich Anton August	27	A. Hornumitten Ky

08_Zwillich_USArmy 02

09_Zwillich_USArmy 03

What is his connection to the Barsch family? I noticed that Maria Barsch and Anton Zwillich's mothers are both named Jamovsky. Could they be sisters/cousins? Anton could be a first cousin to Joseph. He was most likely a relative or why would this picture have passed down in the family? And the connection must have been rather distant, because no one alive in 1973 knew the full story.

Much more yet to do:

- Find Joseph Barsch's baptism/parents in the parish films for Tillowitz.
- Look for baptisms of additional Barsch siblings.
- Look for baptisms of the Jamkovskys.
- Find out why Minnesota had a dual death registration system.
- Add Anton August Zwillich to my tree, if he turns out to be a relation.
- Try to find Anton in the U.S. after his 1874 desertion. He does not appear in the 1880 census index and may have changed his name to avoid prosecution/deportation back to Germany.

I was thrown off for years by not having the original Minnesota death certificate. What else steered me wrong? I went back to look at the 1883 Hamburg passenger list. I had interpreted the residence as "Lemsdorf, Pr." Having recently reviewed several texts on German Gothic script, I now realize that the "Pr" should have been interpreted as "Si" (for Silesia). Lemsdorf was in Lower Saxony (Sachsen-Anhalt), not Silesia (Schlesien), so I could have avoided taking that wrong turn.

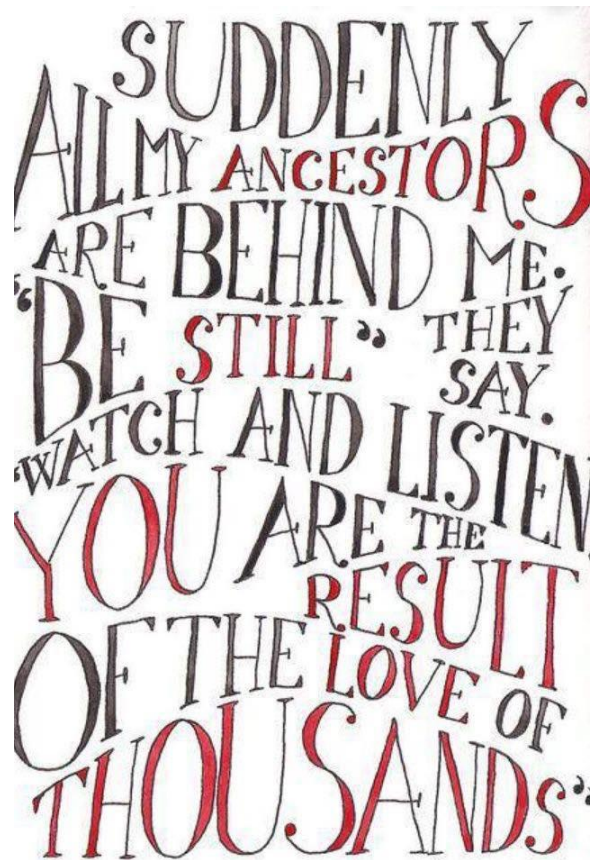
Lesson: Carefully read and transcribe records in old German script (numerous excellent references exist).

So, who was this man who was not John Philip Sousa? Apparently, he was Anton August Zwillich, a musician in the German Navy and the U.S. Army, who deserted from both. He was baptized in Lamsdorf, the same village as the Barsches and Moches. He arrived in the U.S. illegally in May 1873 and disappeared after May 1874. He was either a very close friend or

relative of the Barsch family, as his photograph passed down through the family, with a scrambled version of his story.

And although numerous questions still exist, I finally:

- Discovered where my grandmother's mother's family came from.
- Added several more relatives to the family tree.
- Proved that some information about the family was partially correct.
- Identified the mystery person in the picture.
- Was reminded of several useful rules for doing German (or any other) genealogy.



12/17/17 <https://www.facebook.com/TwistedTwigsGenealogy/>

Best of 101 Tips



submitted by Rose Messina Lehne

Rose manages the Best of 101 Tips column and currently serves as our newsletter editor. She is on the board of the DuPage County Genealogical Society

where she is web coordinator and conference chair.

TIP 15: Join a Historical Society

Genealogists and historians are kissing cousins, but they often keep to themselves without benefiting from the insights each other can bring to the understanding of our shared heritage. If you haven't yet discovered the joys of historical societies, now's the time to broaden your horizons. Historical societies offer a wide range of benefits for genealogists, from preservation and access to historical records, to scholarly publications and educational events. Many historical societies publish quarterly journals with articles on topics that should be of interest to any family historian, such as pioneer schooling, the working conditions of domestic servants and the development of religious organizations (to name but a few). Members of historical societies also often receive discounts on historical publications, which may include local histories, scholarly studies and transcripts of old manuscript records. And many societies are now creating online databases, record collections and photographic exhibits, all of which can be valuable for your research.

TIP 25: Get A Hold of Rare Books Through Inter-Library Loan

Inter-library loan is an absolute treasure for genealogists, as many of the publications we'd like to use are rare or so specialized that we can't find them at our local public library.

Fortunately, we don't have to. We can order the item through the inter-library loan system from whatever library or institution has it and have it delivered right to the library around the corner. In most cases, you won't be allowed to take the item home with you, but you can examine it at your leisure (usually for a period of a few weeks) and make as many photocopies as you like. I've even ordered books from the United Kingdom!

Selected from Janice Nickerson's 101 Best Genealogy Research Tips. Toronto, Ont., Moorshead Magazines, 2006. Reprinted with permission

Use Social History to Bring our Ancestors Alive



by Steve Szabados

Steve is a genealogy speaker, author and columnist. He has been researching his ancestors

for about 14 years and has traced ancestors back to 1600s New England and 1730s in Poland, Germany, Bohemia and Slovenia. Steve is an active member of CAGGNI's Storytellers group.

Genealogy is not just a collection of names and facts. Our ancestors were living human beings who interacted with the people and events around them. Our research should go beyond their documents and also look at the local history of where they lived and worked. Find and read first-person accounts about other people who lived and worked in the jobs of our ancestors to gain insights into their lives. Each document that we find is a snapshot of our families, and combining these facts with social history will bring our ancestors to life. Each

detail can be analyzed and used to help envision their lives.

Family members want to know why our ancestors did certain things in their lives. Researching history may answer why our ancestors immigrated, why they moved from one locale to another, how they met their spouses or why they settled in a certain area.

Expanding our family histories by adding an historical event should not mislead the reader. Be careful not to use historical events as a backdrop to family stories or attach an event to your ancestors when it has no impact on their lives. Use historical events that have affected the lives of our ancestors and use historical events to give context to their lives and help explain their actions.

We need to study the history of the times and places in which our ancestors lived to help understand their lives. Social history can help us understand the motivation and decisions of our ancestors. History may point to possible factors that influenced them. It can also help us fill in the gaps in their stories that are left by more traditional records. Breathe life into the ancestral stories with the help of these social history resources – newspapers, county histories, town histories, military unit histories, firsthand accounts and diaries of other immigrants and many more. Use the internet to its full capabilities. Use local history museums and the history shelves at local libraries to find histories and firsthand accounts.

Make your family history more interesting to read. Tell your family how social history impacted the lives of your ancestors. Help your grandparents and great-grandparents live again.

Have fun!

Members Helping Members

Have you hit a brick wall?
Would you like to find some fresh
research ideas?
Would you like help with research in
another country?
Or help with a new website?

CAGGNI has volunteers willing to
help. Just let us know!

Contact Jacquie Schattner,
secretary@caggni.org



From the Blogosphere



DNA SIG lead, Dave Stumpf, shared: I've started a blog at <http://stumpf.org/genealogy-blog> which might interest some. This includes a discussion of graph [databases](#), with more to come on this subject.



Caron Brennan shared a press release from the Illinois State Genealogical Society:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2017

Contact: Jaymie Middendorf
Marketing & Public Relations Chair
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Illinois State Genealogical Society Introduces:

Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate Program

SPRINGFIELD, IL, December 3, 2017 – The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) announces the introduction of the ***Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate*** program in conjunction with the statewide celebration.

Available only during the Bicentennial year, the Illinois State Genealogical Society will issue Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificates, to honor those who contributed to Illinois' rich history, to direct descendants of early pioneers who were living in Illinois in the year of Statehood (1818) and whose family has continued to be proud residents of our state for

each generation since that time, with the applicant being a current resident of Illinois.

The Illinois Bicentennial Family Certificate program supports part of the Society's purpose:

- To stimulate an interest in the people who contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois.
- To seek, preserve and make available all information pertaining to individuals, families and groups who lived in Illinois, recognizing the events that affected them.
- To inform people of the value of and the need for preserving family and local history for future generations.

Honor your Illinois ancestors and apply today. Visit the ISGS website at www.ilgensoc.org for more information, including the application and fees. Applications must be submitted to the Society by December 31, 2018.

About the Illinois State Genealogical Society: ISGS was founded in 1968 to stimulate a public interest in the people and families that contributed to the establishment and development of the State of Illinois. ISGS is a not-for-profit, nonsectarian, educational organization.



3rd GeneaQuest Conference

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, June 23, 2018

Northern Illinois University (NIU)
Conference Center (near the Sears Centre),
5555 Trillium Boulevard, Hoffman Estates, IL

Building Your Genealogy Skills



There will be two nationally known speakers:

Lisa Louise Cooke
James M. Baker.

Also four locally known speakers and CAGGNI members:

Marty Acks
Robert Allen
Liz Ross
Jacquie Schattner.

And something **new this year**: two hands-on computer **DNA labs** taught by **Jane Haldeman**.

The labs have prerequisites; most importantly you should have a DNA (autosomal) test by one of the testing companies (i.e. AncestryDNA, FTDNA, WeGene, MyHeritage or 23andMe) and should have received the results.

Watch upcoming newsletters as well as the website and Facebook for more detailed information!

GeneaQuest

Committee meets monthly.

2018 Schedule

- **27 Jan.** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **10 Feb.** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **10 March** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **TBD April**
- **12 May** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **9 June** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Gail Santroch, chair
geneaquest@caggni.org

Check the [CAGGNI Events calendar](#)
for dates, times and location.

2018 SIGs

Note: meeting locations can change, please check the website to confirm.

DNA Schedule for 2018

- **13 January** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **16 June** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **11 August** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **13 October** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

All members are welcome.
David Stumpf & Alan Wilson, leads
dna@caggni.org

Family Tree Maker Schedule for 2018

- **13 January** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **14 April** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **11 August** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **20 October** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM

All members are welcome.
Nancy R. Thomas, lead
ftm@caggni.org

RM + TMG Schedule for 2018

- **20 January** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **14 April** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **21 July** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **13 October** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM

All members are welcome.
Larry Olson, lead
tmg@caggni.org

Storytellers Schedule for 2018

- **10 March** 12:45 PM - 2:25 PM
- **12 May** 12:45 PM - 2:25 PM
- **21 July** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **8 September** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **10 November** 12:45 PM - 2:25 PM

All members are welcome.
Marti Swanson, lead
storyteller@caggni.org

Reunion Schedule for 2018

- **10 February** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **21 April** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **14 July** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **8 September** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM

All members are welcome.
Bruce Christopher, lead
reunion@caggni.org

Internet Schedule for 2018

- **17 March** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **14 July** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **15 September** 12:45 PM - 2:45 PM
- **10 November** 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

All members are welcome.
Alan Wilson, lead
internetsig@caggni.org

Special Events and Other Events



by Caron Brennan
events@caggni.org

Caron has been researching her family history since a 6th grade school project got her interested. She belongs to several local and regional genealogy groups as well as being a member of the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Special Events

Feb. 28-March 3, 2018 – Salt Lake City, UT

RootsTech 2018

<https://www.rootstech.org/>

March 10, 2018 — Naperville, IL

43rd Annual Conference

DuPage County Genealogical Society

<https://dcgs.org/>

May 2-5, 2018 — Grand Rapids, MI

NGS 2018 National Conference

National Genealogy Society (NGS)

<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Aug. 23-26, 2018 — Fort Wayne, IN

FGS 2018 National Conference

Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS)

<http://www.fgs.org>

Other Events

* CAGGNI member

Last Sunday each month — Chicago, IL

Brian Donovan

Find Your Roots

Irish American Heritage Center

<http://irish-american.org/tradition/genealogy/>

Jan. 6, 2018 – Arlington Heights, IL

Debra Dudek

Digitizing Photos and Slides

Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society

<http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>

Jan. 17, 2018 – Wheaton, IL

Tina Beaird

Reconstructing Your Soldier's WWI Experience

DuPage County Genealogical Society

<http://www.dcggs.org>

Feb. 3, 2018 – Arlington Heights, IL

Daniel Earl, webinar

Funeral Homes and Family History: They Are Dying to Meet You!

Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society

<http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>

Feb. 21, 2018 – Wheaton, IL

Kimberly Nagy

Untying the Knot: Divorce Records

DuPage County Genealogical Society

<http://www.dcggs.org>

March 3, 2018 – Arlington Heights, IL

Karen Stanbary, CGSM

Learning Your Way Around Ancestry DNA

Northwest Suburban Genealogy Society

<http://www.nwsgenealogy.org>