

The

Rear View Mirror

"DRIVEN FORWARD, YET LOOKING TO OUR PAST"

FORD GENEALOGY CLUB VOLUME 15 NUMBER 4

4TH QUARTER DECEMBER 2009

Can you believe it's nearly 2010 already? It doesn't seem that long ago that we ushered in the 21st century. And now we're getting into the double digit years my how time does fly. Looking back, I marvel at some of the changes in our world, just in my lifetime. There were no cell phones, VCR's, DVD's, let alone computers & the internet when I was a child. What vast changes we deal with and now feel we can't live without. I recall my grandmother telling me she felt lucky to have lived when she did. She had seen so many changes in her life span such as automobiles, televisions & telephones becoming household items. She saw air planes become a common way of travel. She even saw the introduction of computers in our homes. She was content with all the changes she witnessed first hand and felt blessed to have experienced them.

Our ancestors endured changes in their lives too. A biggie that comes to mind so easily is crossing that huge ocean and starting a new life in a new country, perhaps with a new language. Talk about a challenging change. Wow!

As I sit here in my comfy house, typing on my personal computer, looking out at the fall foliage while dinner warms in the oven, I'm thankful I was born when I don't have to spend most of the day cleaning, washing and cooking. I'm thankful I can just pick up the phone, call a loved one, and speak to them in a matter of seconds. I'm thankful I have photographs by the dozens to remind me of the good times we shared and the good people in our lives. I'm thankful for the hardships my ancestors and others endured to make a better life for me. I'm even thankful for the simple things in life, like a warm smile and a friendly hello. So when I'm confronted with change I try to welcome it and find the good it will do in my life. It's not always easy. It's not always fun. But without change in the past, our way of life would not be as it is today. Without change, life would become stale. Our children

and grandchildren would have nothing new and exciting to challenge them. So embrace change even when you don't think you'll like it. You never know, it just might be the best change of all.

By the time you read this note, Thanksgiving will be behind us but as I type this, it's still before me so this is a good time to be thankful for our ancestors and the hard work they endured. For the inventions they created. For their love that trickled down to us. I challenge each of you to find a specific ancestor to be thankful was part of your life as you enjoy this holiday season with current family and friends. In the coming year I challenge you to look in one more place, look at one more document, visit one more cemetery in an effort to find what you are seeking.

Chuck & I would like to wish you all a healthy and happy holiday season. May your Christmas be merry and may the New Year be a brick wall breaking one.

Happy 2010 everybody!

By the way is that two thousand and ten or twenty ten?

Your prezz,

Diane Oslund



The Ford Genealogy Club

Serving Ford Motor Company Employees and Family since 1995

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CLUB NOTES

We will be having our Christmas Dinner at Kiernan's/Silky Sullivan's Restaurant located at 21931 Michigan Ave. Dearborn. We should all plan on being there by 5:30 pm.

FGC website has moved to:

<http://dianesgenealogy.com/fgc/index.html>

Our January Meeting will see Karen Krugman giving a talk on "Color Your Ancestor Alive".

February Comparing Genealogy Software by Chuck Oslund: *Legacy* on Windows XP, *Reunion 9* on Mac OS X, *Mac Family Tree* on Mac OS X; *GRAMPS* on Ubuntu 9.10

This past October our speaker was Alan Wakenhut, who spoke on "Confessions of a Pro". He touched on what a pro can do, such as:

- What they can't and shouldn't guarantee
- Aid you in research you don't have time for
- Help break down your brick wall
- Research various records
- Take digital pictures of tombstones
- Visit funeral homes, churches
- Locate school records



Member Club of FERA

(Ford Employees Recreation Association)

Ford Genealogy Club
P.O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Michigan 48121-1652
<http://www.fgc.miprofgenie.com>

Newsletter archives
http://www.teamfordfirst.org/JWT/Ford_Genealogy_Club-Rear_View_Mirror-Archive

Meetings: 2nd Thursday each month
5:00pm Regular Meeting

Location:
Ford WHQ Conference Room 5A-East
1 American Rd
Dearborn, MI 48126-2701

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Queries Free For Members

Dues \$12 per year, includes our newsletter.

Alan also touched on genealogy specialties, certified genealogists, what are your obligations, how not to hire a pro, what info should you provide if you are beginning your research, tombstone pictures, etc.



Dearborn Genealogical Society is going to Ft. Wayne the second Tuesday of May 2010. If interested, contact Linus Drogs.

CLUB REMINDER

The 2010 dues are due. You may pay at the Christmas Dinner or at the January meeting.

You can also mail a check to:
Ford Genealogy Club
P. O. Box 1652
Dearborn, Mi. 48121-1652

ITEMS FROM OUR LAST MEETING

At our November 12th meeting we all gathered at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts. Most brought their laptops and we spent two hours assisting each other by sharing websites we have found useful.

Such websites as;
<http://archives.nd.edu/latgramm.htm> (This site has a Latin dictionary and translator),
www.blog.eogn.com, www.usgenweb.com,
www.deathindexes.com, www.findagrave.com,
www.genealogyframeofmind.blogspot.com,
www.jewishgen.org, www.stevemorse.org,
www.seekingmichigan.org, www.ancestry.com,
www.familysearch.org

History of Muskegon Co., MI "A Proud Legacy" Vol. 1

Available at www.genealogymuskegon.com.

The book contains the history of Muskegon Co.'s lumbering era & Great Lakes shipping. Personal, military, church & business histories. Family & historical photos are featured. The book is 9 x 12' hard bound, 336 pages, 516 photos. Completely indexed.



FINDING JOSEPH SOEST

I am a relative newcomer to genealogy; joining generations of people who have happily (most of the time) labored to research and record the lineage of their family. I wish just *one* of my forebears had done some of the labor. Since they did not, and full of enthusiasm, I decided to start with the person in my family who was the earliest to immigrate to America in 1850 from Germany: my great-grandfather, Joseph Soest, my mother's paternal grandfather. I knew his wife was named Theresa. They had three children, and he was buried in Mt. Elliott Cemetery. I also knew my mother's father did not "keep in touch" with his relatives.

To find Joseph Soest's birthplace, I started with Census Records. I was astonished to eventually find Joseph and Theresa were the parents of not three, but eight children! A lucky guess found their marriage record from St. Mary's Church at the Burton Library. Unfortunately, "Prussia" was the only legible part of their birthplaces. The ship's manifest was found at the Library of Michigan in Lansing in "Germans Coming to America". I travelled to the Salt Lake City Family History Library. I thought a whole week in this world class library would yield Joseph's birthplace and the names of his parents. I found Joseph's naturalization papers. Birthplace? You guessed it, "Prussia". I found Joseph's burial date at the cemetery, and located his death record at St. Joseph's Church. Joseph's birthplace was listed as – are you ready for this? "Prussia".

I searched Wayne County's Death Records, Civil War Records, and Detroit newspapers for an obituary with no luck. Two years ago, I saw the Soest name in a death notice and decided to go to the funeral home. I finally met a living member of the Soest family, a third cousin who knows less than I do now about Joseph Soest.

I may never know where Joseph was born, and therefore will never find *his* parents and forebears. However, the search has brought me far more knowledge of him and his family than I ever thought possible. It has also enriched my life with new friendships and travel and experiences, and it has provided my children and grandchildren with a glimpse into their heritage which they never had before. And for all of this, I am grateful.

By the way, if anyone has any other suggestions for finding Joseph Soest the Shoemaker from Prussia or Germany, please let me know. We genealogists are eternally hopeful!

Sheila Hutchison D'Onofrio

GENEALOGY AND THE COMPUTER

Many people may not realize that there are other ways of using the computer to find relatives other than the most popular websites.

For instance, did you know there are genealogy "blogs"? Below are the top 25 most popular blogs for your perusal.

1. [About.com Genealogy](#) (Kimberly Powell)
2. [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*](#) (Dick Eastman)
3. [Genea-Musings](#) (Randy Seaver)
4. [Creative Gene](#) (Jasia)
5. [DearMYRTLE](#) (Pat Richley)
6. [AnceStories](#) (Miriam Midkiff)
7. [Genealogue](#) (Chris Dunham)
8. [footnoteMaven](#) (Anonymous)
9. [Genetic Genealogist](#) (Blaine Bettinger)
10. [Tracing The Tribe: Jewish Genealogy Blog](#) (Schelly Talalay)
11. [GenaBlogie](#) (Craig Manson)
12. [Olive Tree Genealogy Blog](#) (Lorine McGinnis Schulze)
13. [Steve's Genealogy Blog](#) (Stephen J. Danko)
14. [24-7 Family History Circle](#) (Juliana Smith)
15. [TransylvanianDutch](#) (John Newmark)
16. [GenDisasters](#) (Stu Beitler)
17. [Genealogy Insider @ FamilyTree](#) (Diane Haddad)
18. [Think Genealogy](#) (Mark Tucker)
19. [California Genealogical Society and Library Blog](#) (California Genealogical Society)
20. [The Genealogy Guys](#) (George G. Morgan and Drew Smith)
21. [CanadaGenealogy](#), or, 'Jane's Your Aunt' (Diane Rogers)
22. [Ancestry Insider](#) (Anonymous)
23. [GenealogyBlog](#) (Leland Meitzler)
24. [Ancestor Search Blog](#) (Kathi)
25. [Genealogue](#) (Hugh Watkins)

NEW FREE SOFTWARE FOR GENEALOGISTS

Google has introduced Collaborative Picasa Web Albums. Now, every album on Picasa Web Albums allows multiple people to add photos to the same album. This is a great way for family members to share ancestors and old family photos.

The more photos that are placed in one web album, the better job Picasa can do with its photo recognition. This can help families better identify people in old photos.

Picasa Web Album contributors' photos will be attributed to the contributor, and they can rotate, delete, and add captions to the pictures they have uploaded.

To make your own Picasa Web Album collaborative:

- Click the "Share" button in Picasa Web Albums
- Select the people you want to share with
- Select the "Let people I share with contribute photos" check box.

Those whom you have invited to collaborate will receive an email with an invitation to contribute photos. When your family members visit your album, they just need to sign in and click the "Add Photos" button to start uploading their photos.

Google Picasa Web Albums has face recognition software that can help name the unknown people who are in your old family photos.

This free software even recognizes the same person at different ages.

AncestorSearchBlog submitted by Kathi



FAMILY TREE MAKER UPDATES **CHANGES TO FTM 2010**

- You can view new statistical information about your tree, including the average life span of individuals in your tree, the earliest birth date, and the most recent birth date.
- You can see more information about individuals in the pedigree view and information about the parents of the selected couple.
- When adding facts to an individual on the Person tab, you now have the ability to quickly add basic facts from a drop-down list.
- A new relationship window gives access to relationship facts, notes, and media items.
- Source citations can be replaced by an existing source citation - without losing any links to individuals.
- The Relationship Calculator has the ability to display multiple relationships for an individual.
- There is an enhanced spell-check.
- You can now include source information with a chart.
- You can change the order in which items in your book appear by dragging and dropping them in the book outline.
- You can select a group of individuals in a chart and then export them as a separate tree or delete them as a group.
- You can scan images directly into FTM.
- Create slide show presentations using images you have included in your tree.
- Select multiple media items at the same time; choose categories for media items as a group.
- In the Places workspace, you can access and modify GPS coordinates. You can also select your own locations on the map and store their GPS coordinates.
- Show the locations of an individual's life events on a map.

CHURCH RECORDS

Church records rank among the most promising of genealogical records available. For periods before the advent of civil registration of vital statistics, church records rank as the best available sources for information on specific vital events.

They are also among the most under-used records in American genealogy. Part of the reason lies in the number of denominations.

Church records vary in content and emphasis according to the basic theology and social role of each denomination. A useful distinction is the difference between "state" and so-called "free" churches. State churches in Europe considered every Christian in the state or kingdom to be a member. Free, or "gathered", churches rejected this inclusive view of belonging from birth. Rather, only those who had been "born again" could be considered true members of his church. The sign of this rebirth in Christ was another baptism that took precedence over the person's baptism as an infant. For this practice, they were called Anabaptists - from the Latin for "rebaptizers". The descendants of the Anabaptists include Mennonites, Hutterites, smaller groups associated with the Pennsylvania Germans, and their British cousins, the Baptists.

Because Anabaptists saw the most important event in a person's life as a rebirth in Christ, their records reflect the difference. Baptist records contain valuable historical information about the activities of members, but they do not always deliver accurate birth information. In contrast, Lutherans meticulously recorded infant births and subsequent parish baptisms.

In Scandinavia and many German states, the Lutheran church was the established church. Thus, the pastor was a quasi-public official who was the official recorder. In England, a 1538 Act of Parliament required all ministers of the Church of England to record baptisms, marriages, and burials in their parishes. In 1597, another act reinforced the law requiring that duplicates of parish records be sent annually to the bishop of the pertinent diocese.

In Scotland, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and certain German states where Calvinism became the established faith, pastors were also official record keepers. In many German states, such

as in Prussia, the state church combined Lutheran and Calvinist elements.

In areas where Roman Catholicism was the established faith, parish priests were the official recorders. In 1563, the church's Council of Trent issued a decree requiring proof of baptism before marriage. This background is relevant to discussion of American church records because habits, attitudes, and ecclesiastical edicts crossed oceans with the emigrants. The immigrant churches, including those that developed in Plymouth Colony in the 1620s, reflected European philosophy and practices. Most of the American colonies established state churches. In New England, the Congregational Church generally held preferred status. In the southern colonies (Virginia, Georgia, and South Carolina), the Church of England (Protestant Episcopal) became the established church, as it was in Maryland for a time, even though that colony was originally founded as a haven for Roman Catholics. As long as the Dutch controlled New Netherland (now New York), the Dutch Reformed Church served as the established church.

Found on About.com

CLASSES YOU CAN TAKE FROM YOUR ARMCHAIR

I would like to acquaint everyone with something the Mormon Church has been offering online. Did you know you can go to FamilySearch.Org and click on Library, then Education and take classes?

There is listed Beginning English research, German research, Italian research (which I have watched and found very informative), Mexico research, Russian research and U.S.

English sessions have five classes ranging from an overview, church records, civil records and handouts.

German research is basic research as is Italian.

Mexican research has family histories and both church and civil records.

Russian research is history and geography.

US research has videos that include Civil War and Revolutionary War information.

All offerings have how long the class will take; if it is a video or not; what type of software you may need to run. The people teaching on the videos are actually those people who work at the Family Center Library in Salt Lake City. They are teaching their area of expertise.

PHOTOS OF GERMAN TOWNS

If you are interested in obtaining photos of your ancestral village, you may be able to do so by contacting NARA. In 1945, the US government flew over Germany and took aerial photos of towns. You will need to tell them the name of the town or the closest large town, what county (Kreis) and what state. Give them as much information as you can.

Following is the contact information:

Aerial Photographs Team
Cartographic and Architectural Reference (NWCS-Cartographic)
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

You may now also email this information to NARA: carto@nara.gov. You must include your regular physical home address with your email request.

For all the information, please go to this website and read it over carefully and follow their suggestions.

<http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/photos.html>

NEW TO GENEALOGY?

If you are new to genealogy and not sure what to do the Brigham Young University website may be just what you need. You will have to register but it is free and they only want to know who is using their site.

<http://ce.byu.edu/courses/pe/999015068001/public/start.htm>

This website asks you questions and at the same time tells you what types of information you will need to do your research.

Listed are many websites that you can go to for information.

It really seems to be a good source if you are just starting out because it leads you and tells you in order what you should do and what you need and how to keep track of what you find.



ODD GENEALOGY STORIES

In the next edition of the newsletter, I would like to put a few unusual occurrences you may have experienced while doing your genealogy. A friend of mine calls it “serendipity”.

An example of what I am looking for is as follows:

I went to a cemetery looking for a child’s tombstone. When I walked into the cemetery, I put my purse, pad of paper and a camera down under a tree. After doing this, I began my search walking through the small cemetery. I had no luck. On returning to retrieve my things from under the tree, I tripped and almost fell. I stopped to see what I had stumbled over. It was something white sticking out of the ground. I went to the car and got a shovel and went back and began digging. Unbelievable, there was the tombstone I had been searching for in the cemetery.

Do you have any stories like this that you would like to share? If so, please send them to me at lane819@wowway.com. Thank you.



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