



LLCGS NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Whose Stories Will We Carry Forward?

October is Family History Month, and it seems like a good time to think not only about **who we research, but why we do it.**



Recently, I was reading *Obstinate Daughters* by Denise Kiernan when I came across a passage that made me stop. She wrote about how history tends to remember the people at the top—the leaders, decision-makers, and people considered important enough that their stories were recorded and retold. But history was also built by countless ordinary people whose names and experiences were rarely preserved.

I kept thinking about that.

Because those are our people.

They are the people we meet every time we open a census record, search an old newspaper, walk through a cemetery, or turn over a photograph hoping someone had the good sense to write a name on the back.

I think about this when I look at the tiny train cars that belonged to my father, now displayed in my china cabinet. To someone else, they are simply old train cars without value. To me, they are part of my father's story. I know whose hands held them and why I have kept them. Someday, unless I tell that story, they could become just objects again. **That is how easily a piece of someone's life can disappear.**

That is what we are trying to preserve.

Our ancestors were grandmothers and great-grandfathers, children who died young, immigrants who started over, farmers and laborers, soldiers who came home and those who did not, women whose names changed until they became difficult to trace, and relatives whose lives were complicated enough that perhaps nobody quite knew what story to tell about them

Most of them never expected anyone generations later to come looking for them. (continued on page 2)

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LLCGS LIBRARY CONTACT

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LLCGS LIBRARY CATALOGUE

<http://llcgs.info/libraryRecords.php>

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

newsletter@llcgs.info

LLCGS ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/LLCGSGenealogy>

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But we did.

That thought has changed the way I see my role as a family historian. I am not simply collecting records or filling empty spaces on a family tree. I am deciding, in some small way, whose lives will be carried forward.

And as president of our society, I have come to see that responsibility even more broadly. Together, we are helping preserve the memory of a community. The cemetery we document, the obituary we save, the photograph we identify, the family story we write down, and the records we make accessible may someday be the very things that allow another person to say, *There you are. I found you.*

We won't find every story. Some records are gone. Some questions will never be answered. Sometimes we will have only a name, a date, or a tantalizing sentence that leaves us wishing we knew more.

But a life does not become less worthy of remembering simply because the records are scarce.

Perhaps that is something worth carrying with us during Family History Month.

Look again at your family tree. Look beyond the ancestors with the fascinating stories and the thick research folders. Notice the people about whom you know almost nothing. Ask yourself whether there is someone waiting quietly in those branches for you to become curious about them.

Because our work isn't only about discovering the past.

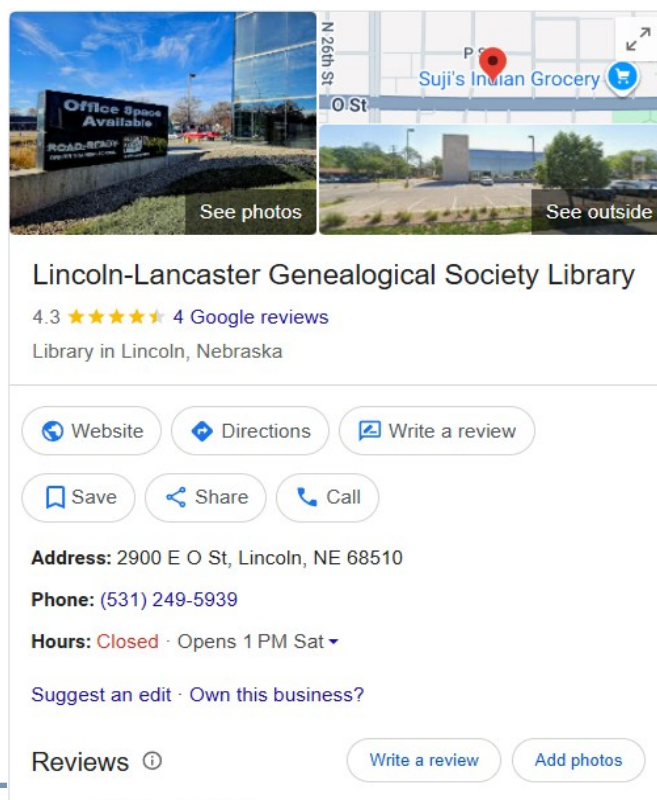
It is about deciding what—and whom—we will carry into the future.

And sometimes, the simple act of remembering someone is a powerful thing.

—Teresa

President

Did you know you can leave the Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society a review? It's easy! Just search for our society on the World Wide Web, find our listing, and click on "Review" to share your thoughts. We'd love to hear from you!
(submitted by Jenny Watton)



Beginning German Research

Introduction to Researching Your Germanic Ancestry

by

Gail S. Blankenau

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Researching our Germanic ancestry is both a challenge and a joy. As with other ethnicities, you will eventually need to know your ancestral place of origin to progress, including both town and parish, which are not always the same. Further, you will encounter German language as well as Latin. Lastly, most of these records are in old German script, which even some modern Germans have trouble reading. In fact, each aspect of research this article covers could be an essay, chapter, or even a book of its own. Still, the hope is that you will come away with ideas of what to check as a beginning researcher – or for those of you who are more experienced—what to check again.

As with all genealogy research, you start with what you know. Many of us have more than one Germanic lineage, so after your initial pass to identify which ancestors come from German-speaking regions, focus on one line at a time to leverage accumulated research and analyze the records with attention to detail.

Thorough home country research to determine place of origin;

Knowing the place of origin is vital to your research, but even if you know (or think you know) the place of origin, do not skip being thorough in your local research before “crossing the pond” to the Germanic states. You will save time and effort on German records and ensure accuracy. Knowing parents’ names and/or siblings’ names will help you navigate the records and climb the right branches of your family tree. As with all families, Germans often named children after parents, grandparents, and other relatives, so in your home parish you will have more than one person with the same name born around the same time. Do not skip the thorough research needed to succeed. (continued on page 3)

This is a quick source list, some of which I will explore a bit further in this article.

- Home sources
- Vital records
- German churches in America
- Clues from all censuses
- Obituaries
- County histories
- Arrival and departure records
- *Auswanderer* (German emigrant) lists online and in books
- Naturalization records
- Passport applications
- Newspaper articles
- Pensions
- Probates and wills
- Funeral cards
- Expanding to friends and neighbors
- Alien Registration
- Social Security applications
- Tombstones
- Funeral home records

270				September		1902	
Census of St. Boniface				Congregation, Monterey, Cum		Parents	
Parents	age	children	Place of birth	Parents	age	children	Place of birth
44 Henry Asselke	52	Henry	Wiedenbrück 160	56 Henry Schlüter	53	Anton	Wiedenbrück 160
Cath. Koch Feb. 2 - 1854		mag 20 - 45	Apr. 19 - 91	Maria Scharfen	38	Willel	Aug. 16 -
50. Johann Praest	62	Henry	martholte 320				
Cath. Paschedag	58	maus 12 - 75	Jan. 28 - 78				
		Gerhard	Apr. 4 - 43				
		Anna	Nov. 5 - 86				
51. Frank Ridder, Aug. 18 - 75		Henry Joh. Ridder, May 24 - 06	Monterey 240	57. John Schorn	42	Joseph	Jan. 11 - 18
Sophia Kreikemeier, March 7 - 79		Jan. 24 - 06	Monterey	Hana Kienert	41	John	Jan. 11 - 18
+ Henry Ridder	72		Watersloh b. Lippstadt	Henry Schorn		John	Jan. 11 - 18
+ Sophia Beckman	65					Ther. Anna	Feb. 10 - 18
						John	3 - 18
52. Wm Ritter	60	Ter. Hogg	maria Theresi Stadtlohn 160	58. Stephan Throener	65	Char	
Agnes Wüllner	46	William	Ther. Anna Schanai	Maria Kampm	65	Steph	
		John	June 1 - 87			Henr	
				59. Wm Throener	33	Tran	

St. Boniface Catholic church, Olean, Nebraska, 1902 membership list with birthplaces. Found at St. Mary's, West Point, Nebraska, archive.

If you are a member of the Germanic Genealogy Society, I did a webinar on this topic which is in their archive.

Major databases -- check early but be careful

Although it is important to do thorough research, you may want to check the major databases for your ancestors as one of your first steps, especially if you have a reliable birthdate for an immigrant ancestor. Be aware that other people's trees can contain important errors, but they may also have clues for you. More than once, a "newbie" will find someone of the same name in a database and graft that person onto the tree in error. But it is always worth a try. The databases you want to start with are FamilySearch.org, Ancestry.com, MyHeritage, and CompGen. Each of these merits its own article but learning how to search effectively and how to analyze what you find is important.

Start at home

You may have papers, photographs, Bibles, and other books that will point you in the right direction. Check with cousins, second cousins, etc., and expand from there. I have used original permissions to emigrate, copies of baptismal records, *Wanderbücher*, ship contracts, letters, and postcards in clients' possession, as well as some oral histories. In the absence of these records, concentrate on local records where they resided.

Your German ancestor may have attended a German-language church, and those church records are extremely important in determining place of origin as well as your ancestors' FAN (Friends, Associates, Neighbors) club. German church records are one of the best ways to break down that wall when other sources have failed or are no longer extant. Roger P. Minert produced a series of books titled "German Immigrants in American Church Records," drawing primarily on records from Protestant churches. Be aware that the listings are not comprehensive for each state; they represent records on microfilm in state archives. If your ancestor's parish is not on microfilm, then that parish will not be in the series. (continued on the next few pages)

BASIC GERMAN RESEARCH CONTINUED

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² Ancestors who were craftsmen, for instance a carpenter or silversmith, apprenticed with a "master," and they had to travel away from home as "journeymen" to study elsewhere. They carried identity books called *Wanderbücher*.

When I mention checking other types of books in private possession, I riffle through the pages of any old book owned by the ancestor. Many of them tucked keepsake papers into them, including baptismal records, newspaper items, funeral cards, photographs, postcards, and other items that meant something to them.

Vital Records Sometimes Overlooked

Collect all death and all marriage records. I am often surprised by how many people skip this step because they assume the information in them will be scant. Often it is, but sometimes it is not. Collect the collateral relatives' records as well if your initial research yields nothing. And collect ALL the marriages your ancestor may have had, even those for the spouse to whom you are not related. Again, each record keeper and time of recording had different standards, and the answer to the place of origin may be hiding in that other record

10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) <i>Nov 14 30</i>	11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation <i>48 yrs</i>
12. Birthplace { City or town... and State or country <i>Germany</i>	
13. Name of Father <i>Henry Koch</i>	
14. Birthplace { City or town... and State or country <i>Germany</i>	
15. Maiden name of Mother <i>Not known</i>	
16. Birthplace { City or town... and State or country <i>Germany</i>	
17. INFORMANT (Address) <i>Looney Rushkoff, Dodge Neb.</i>	
18. BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL Place <i>Monterey, Cal.</i> Date <i>Apr 6, 1931</i>	
19. UNDERTAKER (Address) <i>George Hummel, Dodge Neb.</i>	
20. Filed <i>April 4, 1931</i> <i>Richard K. Holman Local Registrar.</i>	

particular kind of work <i>journey</i>	
(b) General nature of industry business or establishment in which employed (or employer)	
9 BIRTHPLACE <i>Scherwiller Kreis, Schlettstadt, Elzas, Lotharingen</i>	
10 NAME OF FATHER <i>Martin Wintz</i>	
11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER <i>Same Place</i>	
12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER <i>Solame, Martin</i>	
13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER <i>Same Place</i>	
14 THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE	
(Informant) <i>Robt. Schubert</i>	
(Address) <i>Rock Port, Mo.</i>	
15 Filed <i>Dec 8, 1916</i> <i>Otto M. Volkman</i>	
	Registrar

Katharina (Koch) Oesselke's Nebraska death certificate gives little information except her father's name her birth in Germany. Martial Wintz's Missouri death certificate gives his exact birthplace in Alsace-Lorraine, which was part of the German Empire when he was born.

³ Genealogist and author Elizabeth Shown Mills is credited with coining this acronym. Other genealogists have long called it cluster or collateral research.

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Naturalization Records

Understand the changes and rules surrounding naturalization. In general, records dated from 1907 onward contain much more information about the person. There are ALWAYS exceptions, as each clerk decided on what to include. Remember to leverage collateral lineages and chain migration – so if your ancestor arrived in 1880 and the naturalization tells you a general place, but his cousin arrived in 1909, pull that cousin's record. You can find naturalization records at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, but you may also have to search at the nearest district court where your ancestor resided when he was naturalized. The Nebraska State Historical Society has an index to pre-1907 naturalizations for Nebraska and Western Iowa.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION
(Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof)

State of Nebraska } ss: In the District Court
Hall County } of Hall County Nebraska

I, Jurgen Knuth, aged 44 years,
 occupation farmer; do declare on oath that my personal
 description is: Color white, complexion Light, height 5 feet 6 inches,
 weight 160 pounds, color of hair Light Brown, color of eyes Blue,
 other visible distinctive marks First joint of 3rd finger of left hand lost
 ; I was born in Sueby, Holstein Germany
 , on the 24th day of January, anno
 Domini 1859; I now reside at Grand Island Nebraska
 I emigrated to the United States of America from Hamburg Germany
 on the vessel* Salacia; my last
 foreign residence was Angeln Germany
 It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
 prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to William II Emperor of
Germany, of which I am now a citizen subject: I

While researching Anna Knuth, I pulled her cousin's declaration of intention at the Nebraska State Historical Library and found her home parish (Hall Co. District Court, Naturalizations, Vol. 5:2). "Sueby" was a garbled form of Schuby and it was in Schleswig rather than Holstein. First cousins shared a grandparent, and Anna was from the same parish as her cousin.

Earlier Arrivals

Some of us, me included, have Germanic lines dating back to colonial times and soon after. The number of records available for us is fewer. For these families, passenger lists, oaths of allegiance, local church records, wills, probate records, and land records are all extremely important for building a lineage. The FAN club can provide clues or help you verify that you are on the right track. For Pennsylvanians, many of these families have been researched. Still, even in my own case, I had to correct the place of origin from a major published genealogy (as well as the mother's name—prior research assumed the last wife was the mother of all the children). As with other families, matching our ancestor to the right person in the Germanic states or places like Switzerland is key to your success.

DNA

This is another long and complex subject, but you may be able to break through using DNA or at least focus your research on the right group, especially if your family has been in the United States for several generations. In one of my own families, I confirmed third great-grandparents using DNA and then found the original immigrant using a combination of autosomal and Y-DNA. This was extremely important as some of these early comers migrated considerably from their initial landing spot.

Because of privacy concerns, present-day Germans are generally less likely to take DNA tests; when they do, they often choose MyHeritage. This does not mean they avoid other testing companies, but such trends can help us decide where to look first. A third cousin of my mother-in-law took a test, and although we already knew much about the family, we were able to reconnect and exchange old photographs of people and places. Both sides also had old letters between sisters, which we scanned and shared.

Once You Know the Place, Finding the Records

Villages and towns often "fed into" nearby larger parishes. Meyers Gazetteer is a starting point for finding your parish but be aware that the districts are from the German Empire period, 1871 to 1912, and are based on the printed book edition published 1912-1913. Those of us who have done research for many years used to rely on the online book in German, but the advent of www.meyersgaz.org has made this tool easier and more accessible to the average researcher.

I always check what is available at FamilySearch's ample collection of Germanic records. They also often have helpful Wikis for a particular village or region that can explain current districts as well as changes in boundaries and authorities that can affect where you look. Although most of us focus on church books, there are sometimes other extant records that can help you in your research.

It is also a good idea to consult maps and compile a list of nearby villages. This helps when you start to see intermarriages and godparents from other places, and to discern the handwriting from an established list of possibilities.

There are also important German websites. In addition to CompGen with its transcribed *Ortsfamilienbücher* and other sources including trees, we have Archion.de (mostly Protestant) and Matricula.eu (mostly Catholic). Archion is a subscription website, while Matricula is free to use. Their interfaces differ quite a bit, so learning to leverage the strengths of these websites is key to your success. Speaking this week (August 2026) with Thomas Aigner, one of the founders of Matricula, he said they will soon have indexes. This is a welcome development that will boost our efficient use of these sources. (continued on page 7)

GERMAN RESEARCH

October 2026

⁴ I have been taken to task on social media for saying this, but it is true. Most records at Matricula are Catholic, while Archion tends more to Protestant records. As with all aspects of Germanic genealogy, there are important exceptions, but it still helps you to prioritize your valuable research time.

Reading and Interpreting the Records

This is another branch of research too large to cover comprehensively in this introduction. However, a few tips are in order. Germanic handwriting can be difficult to discern, but there are plenty of resources to help decipher records. Start at FamilySearch, which has alphabet lists, online webinars, etc. There are Facebook groups where volunteers help.

Know that Germanic men and women often go by their middle names in records. For instance, Friedrich in one record might be Johann Friedrich in another. Many early records will have Latin forms of names; for instance, Lorenz will be Laurentius.

Be aware that there are original church records and duplicates. The original parish register was kept at the parish and may have been transferred to an archive. The duplicate was sent into a central district office for safekeeping. The practice of requiring duplicates, and when it started, depends on the part of Germany you are researching. In some cases, only one or the other is available for your parish. In others, both the original and the duplicate are extant. If so, check both. The original often has additional information not present in the duplicate. At the same time, duplicates can be in clearer handwriting and thus easier to read. Duplicates are also more likely to have complete indexes, although no index is perfect.

For those of you who have not studied German, you can quickly learn important terminology, including words for born, christened, married, died, and buried. When the records are in helpful columns, make it a goal to understand what each column heading asks for. Know that abbreviations are very common.

Other tips:

- Get to know the entire record, read every entry thoroughly.
- Collect ALL baptisms for a family, not just your ancestor.
- Collect ALL marriages for an ancestor, not only do they give more information on parents sometimes they say whether a parent is deceased which narrows down the period for that record.
- Learn how the records are organized; each parish and period might have a unique way to organize.
- Learn the pattern. When not using forms, different clerks put information in a certain order and once established they follow it.
- Also check confirmation records and membership lists. Do not skip this step.
- Collect the godparents/sponsors and analyze them.
- CITE EVERYTHING.

Newsletter Topics for November:

Two topics will be available for the month of November. November 11 is Veterans Day. How do you honor the veterans in your life who are still with us, or those who have passed away? If you don't have anything along those lines, here's another topic: How did your family celebrate Thanksgiving? Newsletter deadline is October 20, 2026.

1754	02.03.1754	Camert[redacted]ns Joann Christ.	et Anna Gertrud	02.03.1754	6	074
1755	31.08.1755	Cammert[redacted]ns Jacob bey	et Anna Maria	31.08.1755	6	085
1756	05.12.1756	Cammert[redacted]ns Christoph	et Gertrud Anfang conj.	05.12.1756	6	095
1757	11.11.1757	Camert[redacted]ns Jacob bey	et Anna Maria	11.11.1757	6	101
1760	27.05.1760	Camert[redacted]ns Christoph	et Gertrud	27.05.1760	6	119
1763	16.03.1763	Camert[redacted]ns Christoph	et Gertrud	16.03.1763	6	133

Only Christoph's 1756 baptism from the Verl Catholic Parish in Westphalia gives the mother's maiden name. Matricula now has this record set digitized. The black boxes were umlauts.

It has never been a better time to research Germanic ancestors. Digitization has opened collections that once required costly travel or correspondence, and new records continue to come online at a remarkable pace. But greater access has not changed the fundamentals of good research. Identifying the correct place, understanding the jurisdictions that governed it, and learning where its records were created and preserved remain essential.

Still, not everything is online—and "not online" does not mean "does not exist." Parish offices, local and regional archives, and other repositories still hold records that may never be digitized. The most successful German research combines the extraordinary resources now available from home with traditional, on-the-ground research when the trail leads there. (continued on page 9)

Ghost Stories (submitted by Jenny Watton)

Have you ever wondered about ghost stories that aren't located in Lancaster County? Well, I have one such story for you. This one takes place in Nemaha County, Nebraska, well before 1900. I visited the Nemaha County Courthouse in Auburn one morning in October of 2016 or 2017. I had to go up to the second floor, where the county court was located. The clerk working that morning told me about a man who was said to roam the countryside looking for his missing arm. She noticed the name A. J. Ritter on one of the court cases I was looking at, so she told me his story. A. J. Ritter was apparently trying to fish with dynamite when it exploded before he had a chance to throw it and stun the fish. The blast blew off one of his arms, although I'm not sure which one. They found the arm somewhere else and buried it where it landed. Ritter died on September 8, 1890, in Nemaha County and was buried at St. Derion Cemetery inside Indian Cave State Park near Shubert, Richardson County, Nebraska. According to local legend, after his death he could be seen roaming the countryside, still searching for his missing arm. I also have a couple of ghost stories from New Orleans, but I don't remember all the details of those.

Website List (**not comprehensive**):

- FamilySearch Free Website, millions of records:
<https://www.familysearch.org/en/home/portal/>
- Ancestry subscription website: <https://www.ancestry.com/>
- German-Language Major website: <https://www.compgen.de/>
- My Heritage Genealogy : <https://www.myheritage.com/>
- Ellis Island arrival records: <https://www.statueofliberty.org/arrival-search/>
- One Step "Crawler" for passenger lists & other records Stevemorse.org (One-Step)
- Matricula (majority of records Catholic) <https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/>
- Archion (majority of records Protestant) <https://www.archion.de/de/>
- Central Archive of Evangelical Churches in Berlin
<https://www.ezab.de/>
<https://www.online-ofb.de/>
- Polish State Archive <https://archiwa.gov.pl/en/>
- Czech State Archive: <https://digi.ceskearchivy.cz/Parish-registers-The-parish-registers-in-the-Czech-Republic>
- Swiss Cantonal archives, online or viewable at FamilySearch Centers: Appenzell Ausserrhoden; Basel-Landschaft; Basel-Stadt; Bern; Geneva; Graubünden; Jura; Luzern (will take you to FamilySearch); Neuchâtel (partial);
- Alsace-Lorraine: Too long, but Google these (websites in French, some records in German): Department of Archives of Moselle; Department Archives of Meurthe et Moselle; Department Archives of Haut-Rhin; Department Archives of Bas-Rhin; Department Archives of Vosges.
- My Pomerania: <https://mypomerania.com/inventory/>
- Meyers Gazetteer: <https://www.meyersgaz.org/>
- Kartenmeister.com maps and place names <https://www.kartenmeister.com/> All locations are EAST of the Oder and Neisse rivers, based on Spring 1918
- Baden-Wuerttemberg Auswanderer Records: https://www.leo-bw.de/web/guest/themenmodul/auswanderer?template=a_artikel&id=6591&
- Oldenburg Auswanderer Records: <http://www.auswanderer-oldenburg.de/>

Gail S. Blankenau is a professional historian, genealogist, author and speaker. Her book *Journey to Freedom: Uncovering the Grayson Sisters' Escape from Nebraska Territory* (University of Nebraska Press Bison Books, Spring, 2024) won the 2025 Nebraska Book Award in Nonfiction History and won Silver in the Midwest Book Awards in Nonfiction History. She was the editor and co-writer of the award-winning genealogy book *The Nickerson Family Part 5: Samuel*. She serves as on the board of the Germanic Genealogy Society, Nebraska's Advisory Board for Digitization of Newspapers, and is a life member of the Alden Kindred. |

Birth, Marriage, Death Records in Some European Countries (submitted by Jenny Watton)

Have you ever wondered why you can't find a certain family member's birth, marriage, or death record from overseas in Europe online? If you're like me and have multiple countries to research, it can be difficult to keep track of the different restrictions each country has in place. Well, there's a reason behind it! Some European countries have stricter rules about when these types of records can be accessed online. Germany, France, and the Czech Republic each have their own restrictions on when birth, marriage, and death records become available.

Let's start with Germany. Their civil records follow strict federal data protection guidelines. If you are looking for a birth record, they are generally restricted for 110 years or 100 years, depending on the regional archive. Marriage records are restricted for 80 years, while death records are restricted for 30 years. If you're hoping to access a record sooner, there are a few things to keep in mind. The newer the record, the more likely you will need to go through the local register office to obtain it. You may also need to prove your relationship to the person.

In France, the timeline is a little different for birth, marriage, and death records. Birth records generally won't appear online until 75 years after the person's birth, although some can take up to 100 years. In rare instances, it can even be 120 years. Marriage records in France follow a similar timeline, with records becoming available after 75 years, while name indexing is restricted for 100 years. Death records in France, however, are not restricted and can be accessed right away.

If you are researching in the Czech Republic, they also have restrictions on their records for privacy purposes. Birth records are restricted for 100 years, marriage records for 75 years, and death records for 30 years from the date of the event. One thing I've occasionally discovered is that there can be quite a few records in a single book, and sometimes the country may base the release date on the last entry in that book.

Remembering Beth Haring (submitted by Teresa Shane)

As we celebrate 50 years of our society, we also pause to remember Beth Haring, one of the people who helped make those fifty years possible.

Beth was among our society's founders—a group of genealogists who came together with an idea that has endured across generations. They created a place where people could learn from one another, share discoveries, preserve family histories, and help others find their own connections to the past.

With Beth's passing, we said goodbye to the last of that founding generation. It is a poignant moment, particularly during our anniversary year. I did not have the pleasure of meeting Beth. Her daughter-in-law told me the family was touched so many people from Beth's organizations attended her service. She was impressed at how LLCGS has grown, and continues to grow, continuing the legacy started in 1976.

I assured her that we will continue to grow, and keep Beth's legacy alive.

Those founders could not have known what genealogy would look like fifty years later. They worked in a world of courthouse visits, handwritten letters, microfilm readers, family group sheets, and long hours searching through books and records. Today, we carry smartphones into cemeteries, search millions of digitized records from home, compare DNA matches, and are beginning to explore how artificial intelligence can assist our research.

The tools have changed dramatically. The purpose has not.

We still gather to learn. We still help one another. We still believe that the lives of those who came before us are worth discovering, documenting, and remembering.

Beth and our other founders gave us that foundation. What we build upon it is now our responsibility.

As we remember Beth, we offer our gratitude for her part in beginning a society that has endured for half a century—and our commitment to carrying that work forward for the genealogists who will come after us.

October 2026

Was Your Ancestor in Trouble During the Civil War? (Submitted by Teresa Shane)

A newly available online Court Martial Index may help genealogists uncover an unexpected chapter in an ancestor's life.

Genealogist Brian Rhinehart has added an index of court-martial records covering 1800–1876 to his website. The records are held by the National Archives and may contain details about charges, testimony, proceedings, and the circumstances surrounding a case.

And don't search only for military ancestors. The indexes also include some civilians, making this resource worth checking even when an ancestor did not serve in the armed forces. The index can be searched here.

Cases range from offenses such as desertion and drunkenness on duty to serious accusations including murder and spying for the enemy. Researchers who locate an ancestor in the index can order copies of the original National Archives file through the website.

For genealogists, these files may offer much more than evidence of misconduct. Court-martial records can provide names, relationships, locations, testimony, and personal details that may not appear in more familiar military records. Sometimes an ancestor getting into trouble leaves genealogists exactly the records we need.

Tuesday, October 6 German Research Special Interest Group (LLCGS Event) 7:00 pm Online

Welcome German researchers! Join our discussion group via Zoom with your questions and experience. Our speaker will be Dennis Schulte. His talk will be about German and Nebraska Schuetzenfests and his 2024 family trip to Germany. This program will be in-person at the LLCGS Library and also via zoom. **Register here to attend via zoom:** [CLICK HERE](#)

Sunday, October 25 Family Search Discussion Group (Educational Opportunities) 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm LLCGS 2900 O Street Lower Level 2 LLCGS'

Corinne Jacox hosts a FamilySearch session, which will include a short presentation followed by discussion and questions. Program will be in-person and via zoom. Register for zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/>

FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF AUGUST 2026

Balance Forward	\$19,008.13
Current Month's Income	\$2,847.95
Current Month's Expenses	\$16,232.20
Checking Account Ending Balance	\$5,263.88
Savings Account Ending Balance	\$22,442.08
CD-22 Month; Matures 11/20/2027	\$9,382.62
CD-13 Month—Matures 6/4/2027	\$8,921.93
Total included in savings account balance	
Total Assets	\$46,010.51

LLCGS Library Committee Annual Report

9-01-2025 to 8-31-2026

The big event this year was a Genealogy Day celebration party for our society's 50th anniversary. City councilman Bennie Shobe addressed the gathering, we learned about AI for genealogy, and of course we had cake. The library was also used for LLCGS meetings and programs, committee meetings, genealogy research, and in April we gave a three-session genealogy class highlighting the library for OLLI members (Osher LifeLong Learning of UNL).

We usually have separate sign-ins for library use and programs, so the count I have is for library usage. This year our library visitor count was 202 people. Visitors came from various parts of Nebraska as well as Oklahoma, Colorado, Idaho, and Indiana. We participated in the Wander Nebraska program this summer, but did not receive any visitors from it.

We answered 73 e-mail and phone research questions. Although we don't always know where they originated, we know we assisted researchers in England, Australia, North Carolina, Vermont, Pennsylvania, Washington, Indiana, California, New York, and Michigan.

The library again received a large number of donations – 334 magazines and 940 books for a total of 1,274 items. Thank you to all donors, in alphabetical order: Gail Blankenau, Cindy Cochran, Judi Cook, Kathy and Mike Conroy, Jill Dolberg, Martha Grenzeback, Connie Jean Hulinsky, Corinne Jacox, Ron Kroon, Tom McFarland, Jim McKee, Bob McQuistan, Bill Macy, Gini Mansfield, Becky Martin, Connie Olson, Mark Olson, Owen Paulson, Shirley Ritter, Glen Rosenthal, Suzanne Schied, Diane Scholten, Carol Schroeder-Pfeifer, Teresa Shane, Lenore Spencer, Matt Steinhausen, Topeka Genealogical Society, Valery Wachter, Pat Wagner (and the Fullerton Public Library), Wenatchee Area Genealogy Society (Washington state) and Gary Zabokrtsky. We continued our ongoing used book sale at bargain prices using duplicates and other donations.

The memorial book "Banner County and its people" was purchased to remember Judith Beckler, David Burden, Robbi Ryan Lowe and Royann Schroeder. The highest subject use of books was Nebraska. New York was in second place and New England was third.

Our cookbook indexing project was continued by Sinda Dux. It has now reached 183 Nebraska cookbooks indexed with the names of the mostly female recipe contributors. Many small towns are represented. Tom Ryan continued to add photographs from various sources to Find-A-Grave. We updated the LLCGS archive scrapbooks and the society history write-up for the 50th anniversary celebration. Although the project is not quite finished, Judi Cook got the neighborhood oral history notebooks assembled and onto the library shelves. These are the written transcriptions of the tapes being digitized.

Many, many thanks go to our great library volunteers who put in the hours to keep the genealogy library open and available. We logged a total of 993 volunteer hours! Diane Hopmann kept the schedule filled each month and the volunteers who kindly gave of their time were: Judi Cook, Cynthia Didion, Sinda Dux, Nancy Eckles, Kathy Eidenmiller, Diane and Dan Hopmann, Mike George, Connie Jean Hulinsky, Diane Leikam, Tom, McFarland, Marian Malone, Becky Martin, Connie Olson, Tom Ryan, Prudence Sadler, Carol Schroeder-Pfeifer, Claudia Severin, Teresa Shane, Barb Smith, Marcia Stewart, Linda Taborek, Ruth Van Gerpen, and Jenny Watton.

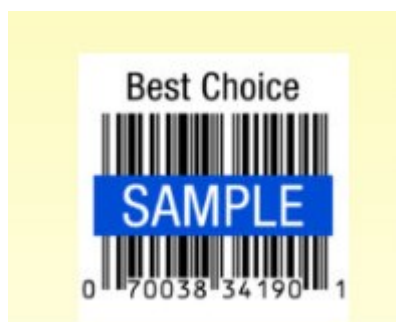
Submitted by Cindy Cochran, LLCGS Library Chair

As the coordinator of the Save the Best Choice UPC bar codes from all Best Choice products sold at Super Saver and Russ's in Lincoln, I would like to purpose a challenge to all our members and friends.

We receive \$30.00 for every 1,000 UPC bar codes submitted by the end of each calendar year. I would like to set a goal of obtaining \$300.00 by December 31, 2027, which mean collecting 10,000 UPC bar codes. It would even be GREATER if we could collect 20,000 and obtain \$600.00! There are many organizations that do collect thousands of dollars each year by participating in this fund raiser.

If you know of individuals who shop at Super Saver and Russ's, please encourage them to take only a few seconds to remove the entire label from the product or cut out the UPC bar code, which is what the cashiers scan when you check out. The number starts with 700. At the LLCGS library there is a container to drop off the UPC's, but if you are unable to get to the library and have hundreds of the UPC bar codes saved, contact me and I will stop by and pick them up from you.

This is such an easy way to obtain funds for our library with very little effort if you or your friends do buy Best Choice products. Let's get this challenge rolling.



Submitted by Connie Jean Hulinsky

November Newsletter Topics.

Since Veterans Day is in the month of November, how do you honor the veterans in your life? Have you written any bios for the veterans who have served? I would love to hear about those bios, including any photos you may have of your veteran in military uniform. Or, if you don't have a bio written up, what records have you been able to find about the military veterans in your family or in your life?

MEMBERSHIP**ANNUAL DUES:**

\$20.00 Individuals, \$25 Family.

Queries: Printed free for members; \$1.00 per surname for non-members.

A monthly publication of the
Lincoln-Lancaster County Genealogical Society
2900 O St., STE LL2
Lincoln, NE 68510-1485

Submissions for the newsletter must be received by the 20th of each month. Send items for the newsletter to newsletter@llcgs.info

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OUR VISION

- ◆ Discover, preserve, and share genealogical information for future generations.

OUR MISSION

- ◆ Utilize, demonstrate, and provide access to traditional and evolving resources and research methods for a diverse audience of varied ages, gender, and ethnicities.

OUR GOALS

- ◆ Promote genealogy.
- ◆ Preserve and share records.
- ◆ Engage members.
- ◆ Educate and inform members and non-members.

LLCGS Board of Directors

President – Teresa Shane

Vice President Programs & Education –
 Becky Martin

Vice President Membership - Sinda Dux

Secretary – Barb Smith

Treasurer – Linda Taborek

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Editor – Jenny Watton

Member of the Board Technology – Dan
 Hopmann

St Louis Library Genealogical Research (submitted by Jenny Watton)

Has anyone else wondered what other county libraries may hold outside of Lancaster County, Nebraska? Well, let's take a look at at least one of those counties with the St. Louis County Library. They have quite a few books in their genealogy collection, including the Ortssippenbücher. Ortssippenbücher, also known as Familienbücher, are great sources for genealogical information about families from a specific town, village, or parish. The information can cover many generations, and individuals are assigned a number for easy cross-referencing. The St. Louis Genealogical Department has a list of the books available through this link: [Ortssippenbucher](#)

The county library in St. Louis also offers lookup services if you are searching for something. There is no charge for these services, although they do accept donations. Lately, they average more than 6,000 requests a year. Lookup requests can be found through their link. [Lookup requests](#)

They also have many other collections worth exploring. It really is a wonderful service to have. I have used it several times and found it very helpful. They even have books that FamilySearch does not have in Salt Lake City, Utah, or they may have duplicate copies available. You can easily search their collections from home, in your pajamas, at any time of day, without having to get dressed up and travel there—unless, of course, you really want that hands-on experience! Just click on the links provide and it will take you there. Otherwise here is their website <https://www.slcl.org/research-learn/genealogy> Happy Hunting!!!