

Kith and Kin

Official Newsletter of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group

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Volume 32 Issue 6

March—April 2016

Anniversary of City's Founding Recalls Tales of First Citizen

Louis Rivers Was First to Build Home Here

Little has been recorded concerning the personal history of Louis Rivers, who came from Necedah on April 1, 1872, with his brother Frank and Gabriel Lupient to make the first permanent settlement on land now included in the city of Marshfield, and to many he has become a legendary figure.

Only the comparatively few survivors of Marshfield's early days know that his life was filled with adventure, romance, and financial success before he yielded to unrestrained drinking, gambling, and debauchery, which left him penniless and friendless.

For those who may care to know more of Rivers, the following facts have been gathered over a period of seven years, and most of them are presented today for the first time.

Became Pilot

Louis Rivers was born in Vercheres, province of Quebec, of French parents, more than a century ago, and at the age of 14 left home because of trouble with his father. He spent several years in the State of Maine, where he learned to speak English, and then drifted westward, eventually becoming a pilot on the Wisconsin River. Fearless and quick-witted, he became skilled in running the rapids, and earned wages considered exceptionally good in those days.

Piloting on the drives was seasonal, how-

ever, and during the winters Rivers found work in lumber camps, where he shaved shingles, in the days before machines took this task out of the handwork class.

Foreman at one of those camps was Robert L. Manes, a native of Ireland, who also had come to Wisconsin from Maine. His wife was the former Mary Redmond, and one of their daughters was Mina, who fell in love with the tall, handsome young French-Canadian at her father's camp and was married to him at the age of 17 in 1860.

Lived in Clark County

Whether their marriage took place at Neillsville has not been established but a census of Clark County in 1860 list Robert L. Manes, wife, and three children as residents of the town of Weston. They continued to make their home in that township, and three more children were born to them, the family consisting of four sons and two daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. Rivers had two children, Cloey and Della (or Delia). Cloey died while the family lived in Necedah, where Rivers and his brother conducted a boarding house and tavern, which they sold when they came here. The building, known as the Juneau House, was a landmark at Necedah until quite recently, when it was torn down.

The reputation of Louis Rivers led the Fox and Wisconsin Central Improvement Company, later known as the Fox River Company, to offer him land if he would come to this vicinity and build and operate a boarding house for the construction crew which was
(continued on page 3)

President's Message

Dear Friends,

I need to keep this short. Our newsletter, Kith and Kin is late getting out this month, and the fault is mine. My apologies! Just too many things going on and they all seem to be happening now. The good news though, it looks like spring has arrived so we can add spring yard work to the list of things to do. That's Ok though. It's a good thing.

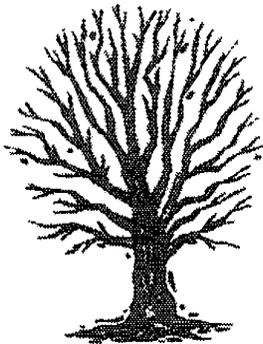
I want to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped with the recent informational table at the Marshfield Area Cultural Fair, as well as the Genealogy 101 Beginner's session held at the library on March 4th. They were both enthusiastically received by our guests as we shared our enthusiasm for family history.

Those of you who have been helping to sort and organize some of Lorraine Markee's papers deserve a great big thank you. Lorraine was a lifetime collector so being able to get her collection of genealogy and local history materials into an organized and usable state will be a great tribute to her lifelong efforts. She spent a great deal of time helping others in their pursuit of family history, and once the materials she left us are organized, her legacy of sharing both time and talent will continue to live on at the Marshfield Public Library.

The 2016 program schedule will be completed by our next group meeting on March 24th. I look forward to seeing you and sharing those details with you then.

Best wishes always,

Schnitz



MAGG Officers and Committees

President: Don Schnitzler (2017)
 Vice President: Jennifer Witzel (2016)
 Secretary: Holly Schnitzler (2016)
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 Member at Large: Lorraine Rogers (2017)
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 (Year office expires is in parentheses.)

The Marshfield Area Genealogy Group is an affiliate of the Wisconsin State Genealogical Society.

Our purpose is to provide meetings and programs of genealogical interest and to provide instruction in genealogical procedures. Also to collect, preserve, and disseminate genealogical data found in the Marshfield area and/or relative to the people of the Marshfield Area.

Meetings are held the fourth Thursday of the month except November and December.

Membership Information

Our membership year is from May 1 to April 30. Individual membership per year is \$12.00 and a Family membership is \$15.00 per year. For hardcopy newsletter add \$6. Membership Forms can be downloaded from our website <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/> and returned with payment to us at: MAGG, P.O. Box 337, Marshfield, WI 54449.

(continued from front page)

to extend the Wisconsin Central railway from Stevens Point toward Ashland.

Accepted Offer

Accepting the offer, he constructed a two-story building which served for several years as hotel, post office, tavern, and general store. Mrs. Rivers had charge of the board and lodging facilities, and during the first year here was assisted by Mrs. Pete Johnson, whose husband was employed by Mr. Rivers. Frank Rivers served as clerk for his brother, who was unable to read or write.

Delia Rivers was sent to a church school at Stevens Point and after coming to Marshfield to live with her parents conducted classes in catechism t her home. Here Father July of Stevens Point also read masses on his occasional visits before the first Catholic Church was built (in 1879).

The death of Miss Rivers, who has been described as a beautiful and charming young woman, occurred in 1878 or 1879, after a brief illness (typhoid fever) and she was buried in a dove-colored dress which she had planned to wear for her wedding to Francois Biron.

Buried at Neillsville

Burial was made in the Neillsville Cemetery, next to the grave of Mrs. River's brother, Robert Manes, but when their mother died in 1886 the body of Miss Rivers was removed to another lot so that Grandmother Manes could be buried beside her son.

During Louis Rivers' first few years in Marshfield, then known as 32, he apparently led a fairly respectable life, judged by the standards of those days, and acquired several tracts of timberland besides enough money to build a large 3-story frame hotel on lots 10 and 11, Block C, in 1880.

This hotel had no bar, and the third floor was a large hall, used for dances and by traveling theatrical companies.

Was Distinguished Looking

Dressed in his frock coat and high silk hat, and wearing the long gold chain which was one of his most prized possessions, Rivers was a distinguished looking figure, and seemed a fit mate for the attractive, reserved, yet gracious woman who bore his name.

But when it became evident that his baser nature was *(continued on page 8)*

Clippings from Exchange Newsletters

Thanks to TCGS member Linda Marcinowski for sharing these two websites.

Free Norwegian Website

It is a web map that allows you to search and view the boundaries of all the parishes in Norway along with county and municipal boundaries. Also included is a farm search tool that allows you to search farms by name and zoom to their location.

The site is located at: <http://norwayparishes.com> and is a very useful tool for seeing not only the parishes that are so critical in Norwegian genealogy research, but all the bordering parishes - and the municipality!

(from the Taylor County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 20, Issue 4, March 2016, page 5.)

Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy

CCC Legacy is a non-profit membership organization established to promote the heritage of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The Site is available at: www.ccclegacy.org

The website has a wealth of information including a list of camps, location of museums, brief history of the CCC and more. The records are stored in the National Archives in St. Louis. You can write to the archives to obtain copies. Go to www.archives.gov for the Archives website.

(from the Taylor County Genealogical Society Newsletter, Volume 20, Issue 4, March 2016, page 5.)

Remembering Pets in Your Family History

From: AncestralFindings.com via Out on a Limb, Feb. 2016, Vol. 31, #1, Newsletter of the Dodge/Jefferson Co. Gen. Soc.

Pets are important parts of our lives and families, and they were just as important to our ancestors. Just look at the *Little House on the Prairie* book series by *Laura Ingalls Wilder*; in her early books, which cover her young childhood years, she talks a lot about the family dog Jack, the brindle bulldog. This was in the early 1870's that the stories with Jack took place, and she talks about how Jack would walk for hundreds of miles across the prairie under their covered wagon as he accompanied the family on their various moves as pioneers. Even in the old age, when she wrote the books, Wilder still thought fondly of her childhood dog. Pets are essentially furry, four-legged family members, and they should be remembered in our family histories for the important parts they played in our lives, just as Wilder remembered Jack (and now countless generations of people know about Jack, too). Here's how to do it:

First of all, you should record information about your own pets in your family tree. Make notes about them, tell stories, and include photos. Tell about how you felt about them, how you interacted with them, and why they were important to you and/or your family. If you have any relics of your pets, such as things that belonged to them, start a memory box of heirlooms for that pet, just as you would for a human relative and store it with your other heirloom collections. This way, future generations will know about your pets and how they were part of your family.

Next, do the same thing with your relatives of all ages. Ask them about their pets, their fondest memories of them, funny or meaningful or cute stories they have to tell about them, and get copies of photos of the pets. Include these in your family tree narrative.

You will also want to discover details about the pets of your ancestors who you never met. You can do this by asking older relatives. For generations where there are no people living who remember those ancestors, you will have to do a little more research.



*This is one of my favorite photos of living out on the farm and one of my play mates. I'm holding Pussyfoot, a golden tabby with six toes, who is wearing a dolly dress, a bonnet and little mittens. I can't imagine what they must of thought every time I dressed them up, but they sat there and had tea parties with me or rode in the doll buggy while I pushed them all over the farm.
(Summer 1961, Vickie Hasz)*

You can use several different sources to find out about your ancestors' pets. Some good resources include:

- **Old Photos:** Your ancestors may have taken photos with their pets. If you're lucky, they labeled the photos with the pets' names. Even if the names aren't there, you can get an idea of who had what type of pet and how they interacted with them by looking at the photos.
- **Old Letters and Diaries:** If you have any old letters or diaries that belonged to your ancestors, or know where to find them, look through them carefully for any mention of pets and how your ancestors interacted with and felt about the pet.
- **Old Newspaper Articles:** It's not something you usually find, but every now and then, you may come across a story about your ancestor and their pet, especially if the pet was special in some way or did something extraordinary, or if the bond between pet and person was so strong it was noted by the community.

Gather this evidence together, and you will have a much richer family history narrative by including information about the lives you and your ancestors have shared with your pets. The pets themselves will get the recognition, honor, and memory for future generations they deserve, too.

Why Oral Histories are so Crucial to Good Genealogy, Part 1

From AncestralFindings.com

Oral histories are a crucial part of your genealogy research. Whether you are conducting them or reading them, you will get invaluable information from them that you almost certainly won't find anywhere else. The details from oral histories can help guide you to new avenues of research, fill in personal details and information gaps in your family tree, and bring long forgotten events and people back to virtual life again (and preserve them for future generations).



Most conventional genealogical research advice recommends that you start your family history journey with yourself, then work backward in time through all the people you know personally or know about with certainty. Along the way, one of the first steps you should take as you begin connecting one generation to another is to interview the oldest members of your family. They have information and memories that no one else does, and can bring your family history to life in amazing and unexpected ways. You may even solve some long-standing family mysteries just by talking to your older relatives. Maybe they never talked about these mysteries before because no one asked them. You can be the first, and get your genealogy research off to a powerful start.

When we neglect to ask the older members of our family questions about their past, their childhoods, the experiences they had, and the people they knew, this information can be lost forever when they leave this world. You may be able to get some of the facts, like names, dates, and places that they would have given you, by using other sources. However, you will miss out on the personal details only they can provide.

Genealogy is about so much more than just facts. It is about putting together a complete picture of your

family history, including filling in the gaps about what type of people your ancestors were, what they were like, and how they lived. It is about making them into real people again, not just names and dates on a piece of paper or computer program. Oral histories are instrumental in re-building long gone people and the times in which they lived.

Don't just interview older relatives who are in your direct line, either. To get the fullest picture of your family history, you need to interview everyone you know who is older than you. This includes aunts, uncles, and cousins of all degrees of relation. You should also interview older relatives who are only related by marriage, as the stories they have to tell will naturally tie into your own family history, as well... and the parts that don't include your family will be interesting tales of the local history of the places where they grew up, and should be recorded for posterity, possibly by donation to local archival repositories in those areas.

Anyone who is still living who is older than you has a story to tell about your family history, whether they realize it or not. Each person's story will be unique, and when you've interviewed everyone you can get to talk to you, you will have pieces to a puzzle that should all fit together nicely to form a highly detailed portrait of your family history. You will get some of the same stories, but from different points of view, as well as very different tales from people who knew different people and lived in different places. You will also likely get some information on your ancestors whom you've only read about in census and other old records. Your oral history interviews will give you personal details on what these people were like through the stories told by the people who knew and interacted with them personally.

You can find all sorts of sample oral history interview questions online that you can use when you talk to your older relatives. You may choose to use any of these, or come up with your own set of questions based on what you personally want to discover about your family tree. Or, just ask an older relative to tell you about their childhood or their life story, let them *(Continued on page 12, "Oral Histories")*

Understanding German Language and Surnames (Cont.)

By James M. Beidler, 12/18/2015

Family Tree Magazine, December 2015

(http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Understanding-German-language-and-surnames?utm_source=newsletter&utm)

In cases of vowel combinations that did not include *Umlauts*, it was generally the second letter of the vowel combination that "spoke"; for example:

- *ie*, pronounced as a "long" *e*
- *ei*, pronounced with a "long" *i*
- *eu*, pronounced as a "long" *u*

Because of these pronunciations, a speller unacquainted with German phonetics would reverse the letters when writing out the name. In addition, persons of Jewish origin with such German names usually pronounced their names by using the sound of the first vowel.

Consonants: In German, a number of consonants are either pronounced differently than in English or can be confused unless heard distinctly. Some examples include:

- *b* and *p*
- *d* and *t* and *th*
- *g* and *k* and *c*
- the German *w* is pronounced like an English *c*
- the German *v* is pronounced like an English *f*
- the German *v* and *f* can be interchangeable
- the German *s* (especially one beginning a word) is pronounced more like an English *z*
- the German *z* is pronounced like an English *ts*
- the *sch* found in many German words is pronounced as *sh* in English

German Surnames

Most German commoners acquired their surnames in the Middle Ages, sometime around the 1300s, and for most areas (with the conspicuous exceptions noted later in this section) those surnames were fixed from one generation to another, disturbed only by variations in phonetics. Most of the surnames adopted came from occupations, geography, characteristics or patronymics:

- **Occupational Surnames:** Occupational names, most of which are distinguished by the endings *-er* or *-mann*, are very common in German and therefore are often more difficult to trace (the joke among German genealogists is that everyone has at least one "Johannes Mueller"/John Miller ancestor). A few examples of this type of surname are Schneider (tailor), Schmidt (smith) or Fenstermacher (window maker).
- **Geographic Surnames:** Geographic names can be fairly specific or general. A Marburger probably has an ancestor who was living in the German city of Marburg when surnames were adopted. A Schweitzer either was living in or a descendant of a family from Switzerland. Dieffenbach simply means "deep creek," of which there are many in Germany.
- **Characteristic Surnames:** Characteristic names run the gamut from presumably complimentary to, well, not so complimentary. They include names such as Lang (long), Schwartzkopf (black head), Weiss (white), Klein (short), Altmann (old man) and Dick (fat).
- **Patronymic Surnames:** Many Germans have patronymic names--surnames derived by combining the father's given name with some form of *Sohn* (the German word for "son"). Examples are Hansen and Jacobsohn. Some areas of Germany used changing patronymic surnames into the nineteenth century. This means the surname could change with each generation as the children of the new generation took the name of their father as their surnames. For example, Jacob's son, Robert, has the surname Jacobsohn and Robert's son, Johannes, has the surname Robertsohn, even though Robert's surname is Jacobsohn. The areas that used changing patronymic surnames were Ostfriesland and Schleswig-Holstein, which is not surprising because these are the areas of Germany closest to Scandinavia, where patronymics also survived into the 1800s.

Another complication to be aware of are so-called *Hofname* (translated as either "farm names" or "house names"). This happened most often when a farm owner's daughter inherited the land and her husband took on the farm name as his own. Children born prior to the inheritance were baptized under the father's original surname, then changed their names later; those born after the inheritance used the farm name from birth. The *Hofname* surnames were most common in the border area between the German states of Niedersachsen (Lower Saxony) and Nordrhein-Westfalen (North Rhine-Westphalia) though they've been found in other place, too.

Evolution of a Surname

Many German surnames had *Umlauts* that affected the pronunciation of vowels in ways that confused English-speaking record keepers. The spellings found in documents from the mid-1700s through the nineteenth century are filled with attempts at reconciling German phonetics with English spelling rules, which results in several "standardized" spellings for descendants today.

A Swiss-German name that was usually spelled in Europe as Schürch and was pronounced roughly as "Shoo-air-k" evolved in the following way:

Original Spelling in Europe	Early American Variants	Modern-Day Common Spellings
Schürch	Scherrick	Shirk
Schuerch	Sherrick	Sherk
	Tsherrk	Sherick
	Shurrick	
	Scherich	
	Shurg	
	Scheerg	
	Sherrig	
	Schurck	

German Given Names Traditions

There are two German naming traditions genealogists should know.

The first is that German children were given two names, and the second name--not the first--is what you will find in records. This is because German boys almost always were baptized with the first name Johannes (or Johann, abbreviated Joh). German girls were baptized Maria, Anna or Anna Maria. (This tradition started in the Middle Ages.) This means a family could (and commonly did) have five boys with the first name Johann.

You can see the high potential for confusion until you understand that the first name doesn't mean a thing. The second name, known as the *Rufname*, and surname would be used in marriage, tax, land and death records. So in a family with boys Johann Friedrich, Johann Peter, Johann Daniel, etc., the children would be called by (and recorded as) Friedrich, Peter and Daniel. Usually, the name Johannes marked a "true John" who would continue to be so identified.

By the 19th century, more families gave children three names. Again, it was typical that only one of the "middle" names was used throughout the individual's life. Roman Catholics typically named their children using only the names of people declared saints, while most Protestant groups expanded the canon of names to include names from the Old Testament or even non-Christian mythology.

The second meaning tradition involves nicknames, often called *Kurzformen*, meaning "short forms." In English, most nicknames are created by dropping the last syllable of the given name (for example, Christopher and Christine become "Chris"). Germans, however, often shorten a given name by dropping the first part of it. Some of the many examples (using more authentic but understandable German spellings) are: Nicklaus becoming Klaus, Sebastian becoming Bastian, Christophel becoming Stophel (and Christina becoming Stin or Stina), Katharina becoming Trin. It's important to note that these familiar forms are used in church or other records, even though by today's standards we might expect full or formal names to be used.

Naming Patterns

Researchers often hope that a naming pattern will provide clues about the given names of previous
(Continued on page 12, "Understanding German")

Odds and Ends from the 1940's

Items Reprinted from the Marshfield News Herald, Marshfield, Wisconsin

(continued from page 3)

gaining the mastery, Mrs. Rivers felt that she could no longer live with him and maintain her self respect, so she left him in 1882 and returned to her father's home near Neillsville.

The hotel, whose management Rivers had relinquished, was sold for a nominal sum to Mrs. Rivers' brother, Nathan Manes, and her cousin, Dudley Manes, both of Neillsville, who agreed to quit-claim the property to her on demand.

The building was destroyed by fire Jan. 23, 1883, and with the insurance money Mrs. Rivers had a brick house built on her father's farm. The lots on which the hotel stood were sold in 1886 to Adam Hafer, and the house which he built, and which escaped the fire of June, 1887 is now the home of Mrs. Louis Uthmeier.

Died in Marshfield

In 1883 Mrs. Rivers obtained a divorce and July 23 1884, she was married to Durlin McTaggart of Stirling, Ontario, one of three young Canadians who helped build the house on the Manes' farm. Mr. and Mrs. McTaggart continued to live on the farm after the death of her parents, and in 1900 sold it and bought a home in Neillsville.

On June 10, 1913, Mrs. McTaggart returned to Marshfield to become a patient at the Wood County Hospital, where she died Nov. 15, 1915. She was buried in Neillsville beside her daughter.

Mr. McTaggart returned to Stirling after his wife's death and died at the home of a niece on Dec. 19, 1933. Two letters written by Mr. McTaggart, one on August 20, 1933, and the other on the following Oct. 3, supplied the greater part of the information contained in this sketch.

Taken out West?

Louis Rivers, rapidly went from bad to worse after his wife left him, and the files of the Marshfield Times contain numerous stories concerning his escapades. He was taken to the county poor farm in 1885, but left one night and it was rumored that he was taken to Kansas or Nebraska by relatives.

Reports published from time to time said that he had been seen in Chadron and Oshkosh, Neb., and that he had again become prosperous, but old-timers here who knew him were inclined to doubt these stories.

Mr. McTaggart, however, wrote that Rivers had been taken "out West," but said he had never heard anything further about him. He also stated that Frank Rivers, who left Marshfield before Louis and Mina separated, died in New Lisbon about 1898.

Among those who contributed to these biographical facts, besides Mr. McTaggart, and local pioneers, were Mrs. Rivers' cousin, Mrs. Ann Robinson, who died at Neillsville last November, and Miss Katherine Kountz, Neillsville, who helped establish Mr. McTaggart's address.

(Mr. McTaggart gives the date of Della Rivers' death as September, 1879. Others, among them Mrs. Simon Cournoyer of Gillett, the former Annie Wilcott and an intimate friend of Miss Rivers at the time of her death, say it was 1878.)

(from the Marshfield News Herald, April 1, 1940, page 7, column 2, 3, 4, and 5.)

Editor's Note:

Additional research shows that Louis Rivers homesteaded just over 162 acres of land in Box Butte Co., Nebraska in July of 1894. Louis sold this homesteaded land in June of 1897 for \$1,000.

In March of 1900, Louis married again, this time to Miss Minnie Rogers in Oshkosh, Deuel Co., Nebraska. On the 1900 Federal Census, Minnie Rivers is living alone as head of household in Lost Creek Precinct, Deuel Co., Nebraska. On the 1910 Federal Census, Louis Rivers is living with his wife in Lost Creek Precinct, Deuel Co., Nebraska as head of household.

Louis Rivers homesteaded another 480 acres of land in 1913, this time in Garden Co., Nebraska. His wife Minnie died January of 1916 in Marion, Christian Co., Missouri. Louis sells his 480 acres May 1916 and isn't found again. If you know additional information on Louis Rivers, please contact editor, Vickie Schnitzler.

CCC Arranges to Hold Open House

City Point - (Special)-The seventh anniversary of the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps will be observed by means of a special program to be conducted by the City Point CCC Sunday, April 14, it was announced today.

All interested persons are invited to attend the dedication of the Robert Fechtner memorial tract a mile north of Dexterville at 10 a.m. Sunday and the open house program at the camp here during the rest of the day.

The Dexterville tract, which is to be planted to trees, will be dedicated to the memory of the late Robert Fechtner, director of the Civilian Conservation Corps until his death recently.

The time from 10 a.m. until noon will be taken up with project instructions, lunch will be served at the camp at noon, and camp inspection will follow. A program is also being arranged for the dedication of the new chapel at the camp at 2 p.m., and a band concert is scheduled at 3 p.m.

Roads to the camp are still expected to be in good condition by Sunday, camp officers said. Many Central Wisconsin people attended a similar open house program at the camp last year, although road conditions were bad at the time.

(from the Marshfield News Herald, April 8, 1940, page 2, column 2.)

Golden Wedding Anniversary of Herbert W. Burts Occurs Today

Cut spring flowers, yellow tapers and other decorations in yellow added a festive appearance to the dinner table last night when Mr. and Mrs. Herbert W. Burt, whose golden wedding anniversary occurs today, were honored at a 6:30 o'clock family dinner at the Burt home, 700 S. Oak street.

For the occasion Mrs. Burt was attired in a turquoise blue crepe dress complemented by a shoulder corsage of sweet peas and daisies tied with a gold ribbon. Mrs. Harley Oligney and Mrs. Herbert Akioka served the dinner waited on table, wearing white

suits with boutonnieres of yellow roses.

Dinner Guests

Guests at the dinner were Mrs. Henry Kasten and Mrs. Dewey Kasten, Manitowoc, nieces of the Burts, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Corey Burt, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Trossen, the Rev. and Mrs. Arthur R. Oates, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Breseman and children, Robert and Lois.

Mrs. Burt, the former Miss Lottie Walsworth, was born Dec. 27, 1869, in Hollandtown, Brown County and Mr. Burt was born at Gibson, Manitowoc County, on May 2, 1869. They were married at Cato, Manitowoc County, April 9, 1890, by the Rev. J. H. Tippet, Manitowoc.

They lived on a farm at Clarke Mills for seven years and then moved to the town of Gibson, where they resided for two years before coming to Marshfield in June, 1898.

Mr. Burt was employed by the Upham Manufacturing Company for nine years. He bought the Hosterman and Son Hardware Store and continued in that business with Max Wegner and Louis Trossen as partners until 1910, when they built the present Ford Garage and organized the Marshfield hardware and Auto Company, with Mr. Burt as president.

Receive Many Gifts

Mr. Burt continued in the hardware business until 1935 when he retired and leased the property to William J. Weiler.

Mrs. Burt has been an invalid for the past 17 years and previous to that time was superintendent of the primary department of the Presbyterian Sunday School for 20 years. Mr. Burt has been an elder in the elder in the church for the past 30 years.

The Burts have one daughter, Mrs. Robert J. Breseman, Marshfield and two grandchildren, Robert and Lois Breseman.

The couple have received many gifts and cut flowers. Pen house was held this afternoon, and tonight friends and neighbors are invited to the Burt home.

(from the Marshfield News Herald, April 9, 1940, page 7, column 1.)

(More 1940's articles to be continued in next issue)

Wood County Wisconsin Homesteaders
Homesteading Act of May 20, 1862: Homestead Entry Original (12 Stat. 392)

(Continued from last issue of "Kith N Kin")

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
ROST, FREDERICK	6/1/1870	90	021N - 005E	S½NE¼	26
			021N - 005E	NW¼SE¼	26
ROZELL, CHARLES H	12/30/1905	5213	021N - 006E	W½NW¼	30
			021N - 006E	W½SW¼	30
ROZELL, W H	8/1/1874	424	022N - 004E	NW¼	12
RYAN, JAMES C	7/10/1883	1610	021N - 003E	SW¼NW¼	27
			021N - 003E	W½SW¼	27
			021N - 003E	NE¼SE¼	28
SAEGER, CHARLEY	6/8/1903	4477	021N - 006E	NE¼NE¼	25
SCHULTZ, HERMAN	4/5/1877	896	023N - 005E	NE¼NW¼	34
SEEGER, CHARLES	1/15/1896	3444	021N - 005E	SW¼	20
SENGER, KARL	4/27/1894	3231	021N - 003E	NE¼NE¼	33
SHEIBE, FREDERICK J	3/23/1892	2952	021N - 004E	NE¼	25
SHULTZ, FERDINAND	2/20/1883	1506	025N - 004E	SE¼NE¼	20
SMITH, ALANSON	2/1/1873	110	023N - 003E	S½NW¼	23
			023N - 003E	NW¼SW¼	23
SMITH, BARBER	10/10/1888	2119	025N - 005E	SW¼SE¼	36
SMITH, ISAAC M	8/3/1882	935	023N - 003E	W½NW¼	14
SMITH, JOSEPH	6/1/1870	89	021N - 005E	E½SW¼	35
			021N - 005E	W½SE¼	35
SMITH, PATRICK	7/3/1890	2334	021N - 003E	N½SE¼	23
SMITH, SAMUEL	2/20/1883	1465	025N - 004E	N½SE¼	14
SNYDER, STEPHEN H	8/17/1896	3503	021N - 005E	NW¼NW¼	12
SNYDER, WILLIAM	8/1/1874	214	021N - 006E	S½NE¼	4
SPAHPNY, JOSEPH	9/15/1875	707	025N - 005E	S½NW¼	18
			025N - 005E	SW¼	18
SPESCHA, JAKOB	12/1/1898	3756	021N - 005E	NE¼	31
ST THOMAS, WILLIAM	9/9/1878	1002	025N - 004E	SE¼SW¼	22
			025N - 004E	SW¼SE¼	22
STANDING WATER, JAMES	9/8/1908	3705	022N - 003E	NW¼NE¼	26

(Continued on next page)

Names	Date	Doc #	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #
STEDMAN, WALLACE J	4/10/1882	1304	022N - 003E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	35
			022N - 003E	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	35
			022N - 003E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	36
STEINERT, REINHARD	8/14/1899	3863	021N - 005E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	30
STRIGL, ADAM	6/20/1884	1681	025N - 004E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	2
STRINGER, HENRY	5/5/1883	1553	023N - 004E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	26
SURDICK, FRANK	8/12/1896	3462	021N - 003E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	28
			021N - 003E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	28
SWENSON, PETER	6/11/1895	3345	022N - 005E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$	34
SYMS, PETER P	6/1/1882	1400	025N - 004E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$	14
THORP, ARTHUR E	9/9/1878	986	025N - 002E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	30
THORP, ELIHU S	8/14/1889	2265	025N - 005E	E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	2
			025N - 005E	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	2
TUTTLE, WILLIAM B	4/10/1882	1368	025N - 004E	S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	14
VAN GORDER, SAMUEL	10/30/1877	939	029N - 002E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	18
			025N - 005E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	18
VAN HOOSER, JOHN P	5/1/1878	975	022N - 004E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$	2
VAN RUTH, BERTHA, NICOLAUS, BERTHA	9/4/1896	3539	021N - 004E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	24
			021N - 004E	N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	24
			021N - 004E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	24
VARNEY, JAMES J	11/1/1904	4865	021N - 003E	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	13
			021N - 003E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	13
			021N - 003E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	24
VERVOORT, ALBERT	5/19/1903	4500	021N - 005E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$	19
VERWORT, THEODORE	8/6/1918	03318	021N - 002E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	26
VLIET, GIDEON B	11/10/1903	4656	021N - 003E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	12
VOGEL, JULIUS E	3/20/1875	567	024N - 005E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	20
VOGL, FRANZ	11/1/1897	3677	021N - 006E	N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	4
VOIGHT, CHARLES	3/23/1892	2921	022N - 006E	NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	12
VOIGT, CARL O	9/26/1906	5151	021N - 006E	SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	22
VON RUTH, HUBERT	4/23/1891	2541	021N - 005E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$	19
VOYER, OSWALD	1/5/1876	709	023N - 005E	SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$	25
			023N - 005E	E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	25
			023N - 005E	NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$	25

(To be concluded in next issue)

("Oral Histories", continued from page 5.)

talk, and ask questions as they come to you during the tale.

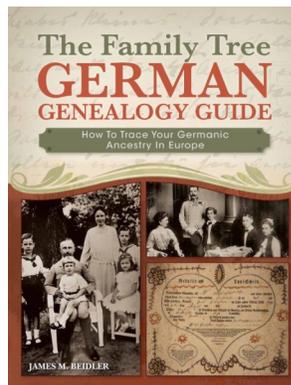
Be sure to use a voice recorder when conducting these interviews, so you can be sure you're getting all of the information. You may miss some things if you just take notes while the interview subject is talking, and you're scrambling to keep up with them with your pen or pencil. With a voice recorder, you can enjoy the interview as it's happening, giving it your full attention, and go back and transcribe it in full and accurately later.

Don't discount the wealth of genealogical information your older relatives have to give you. While some may be reluctant to talk, especially if they don't know you well, chances are strong that most of them will be delighted to tell their tales. Almost everyone likes it when someone is interested in them as a person and takes the time to talk to them about themselves. Just do it now, since you never know when it will be too late and that information will be lost. Capture it for future generations while it's still available to you. You'll really regret it as the family historian if you don't.

(Watch for Part 2 of this article in the next issue of Kith & Kin.)

("Understanding German", continued from page 7.)

generations. In German-speaking areas, children were almost always named for one or more of their baptismal sponsors. The most common pattern would be for sons to be named in this order: first born, for father's father; second born, mother's father; third born, father of the child; fourth born and on, uncles of the child. The same pattern applies to daughters but using the mothers' names (father's mother, mother's mother, mother of child, aunts). Given names for children who died young (a common occurrence in centuries gone by) were reused by the family for children born after the deaths. There are even some documented instances where families used the same name for two children who both survived.



For more tips for researching German ancestors, consult Family Tree Magazine's **The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide**, available at Shop-FamilyTree.com.

(Thanks to MAGG member, Jennifer Witzel, for sharing this article with us.)

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Upcoming Meetings

March 24, 2016

Focus Your Family History Research Goals. *It is always good to review your genealogy successes and plan new research objectives in your ancestor hunt. In this discussion we'll work through the process of creating an effective research strategy.*

April 28, 2016

What is Blogging All About. *MAGG member, Mary Anne Arendt will share her knowledge and experiences of creating and maintaining a blog.*

May 26, 2016

Overview of How to Use FamilySearch.org Website Effectively. *Kathy Engelbretson will share her expertise for successfully searching and accessing records maintained by the Latter-Day Saints at Familysearch.org.*

June 23, 2016

Program to be announced.

July 28, 2016

MAGG Annual Picnic at the Breden's.

Meetings of the Marshfield Area Genealogy Group are regularly held at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Marshfield Public Library downstairs in the Beebe Forum Room, except July (month of our family picnic) and November & December (no meetings) unless otherwise specified.