

## Notes from our President

### What Good Can Come of a Year Like the Last One?

At our upcoming FORG Member Meeting on February 6, we will focus on the Fellowship aspect of our group. We want to give members an opportunity to connect with one another, in our Zoom format. But we thought it would be helpful to have a unifying theme for our discussions. The theme was suggested by one of our fellow Rotarian Genealogists, Alan Okinaka of the Rotary Club of Hilo Bay in Hawaii:

*“There’s a lot of focus on how bad 2020 was in everything that happened. I think there were good things like the kindness demonstrated for others, innovation and imagination of people finding new ways of doing something, facing our vulnerabilities to change the way we think, say, and do, having a glimpse of what our environment can look like without pollution, and the list goes on. I’d like to suggest that we gather stories from members, anecdotes, that describes a special good that happened because of the pandemic.”*

This beautiful thought will form the basis for our discussion. I have asked Alan to help lead our discussion with a story of his own, and we would like to invite each of you to bring stories of positive things that came out of the last year, particularly related to genealogy, family, or family history, but any positive story is welcomed.

If you have a positive story you would like to bring to the group, please let me know by emailing me at [paulharrisrocks@gmail.com](mailto:paulharrisrocks@gmail.com) so that we will be sure to make time for it at the meeting. If you have a photograph or other image to illustrate your story, please email it to me ahead of the meeting so we can share it on screen with everyone at the meeting. Other members will have a chance to add their own thoughts about each story in the chat. I am looking forward to a lively discussion!

I encourage all of you to join us on February 6, and feel free to invite other Rotarians, family, and friends (including non-Rotarians) who might have an interest in our Fellowship. *(See page 4 for link to meeting.)*

Yours in Rotary Service,

Bill Harvey, RC of Omaha, Nebraska  
President, FORG

## Beginners’ Guides

Jenny Kendrick, Newsletter Editor

[Family History Daily](#) is offering this Family History Starter Guide “[How to Find Your Ancestors and Build a Family Tree](#)” for those just starting out in genealogy. It is pretty comprehensive, but I found that it still might be confusing to new genealogists (especially trying to judge family tree programs before you really understand what you are collecting). My advice would be to start with #2. Find out everything you can about family members. Write down full names, birthdates and birth places, marriage dates and places, death dates and places, burial site, if known. Start with yourself, your spouse, and your children; your parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews. Gather all your legal papers: birth certificates, marriage licenses, etc. Make a note of what you might be missing. Call relatives and gather any information they have. Transfer the information you have gathered for each family to a [Family Group Record](#) such as the one I have linked. In the next issue, we will talk more about online family tree resources.

## FORG Calendar—UK Times

6 Feb 2021 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (UTC+0)  
15 April 2021  
17 Apr 2021 5:30 pm (UTC+1)  
May 2021  
15 May 2021 7:30 pm—8:30 pm (UTC+1)

General Member Meeting  
Deadline for newsletter articles  
Board Meeting  
Newsletter published  
Annual Member Meeting



### Fellowship Officers

President [Bill Harvey](#), Omaha, Nebraska, USA

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### LINKS

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## Genealogy Organizing Tips



January's "[First Friday Genealogy with Sassy Jane](#)" issue comes from the site [Sassy Jane Genealogy](#), hosted by Nancy Loe. It offers tips on organizing bookmarks, desktop folders, password management, and simplifying genealogy sources & citations.



## FORG Pins

FORG magnetic pins are included with a life membership (\$100) and are available to other members for a \$12 (free shipping) donation. Contact Sue Beety at [secretary@RotarianGenealogist.org](mailto:secretary@RotarianGenealogist.org)

## U.S. State Research Guides

[Family Tree Magazine](#) offers 4-page U.S. State Research Guides for \$3.00 per state or \$49.95 for a set of all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and Washington D.C. [To order, click here.](#)

## Genealogy Do-Over 2021

*Thomas MacEntee, reprinted with his permission*



Back in December 2014, I made a big announcement online and in social media; Genealogy and I are parting ways. Done. Finished. Game over.

Have you ever said to yourself, "That's it! I've had it and it just isn't worth it anymore!" Well, have you? Sort of like the character Howard Beale in the movie *Network* when he said, live on air, "I'm mad as hell and I'm not going to take it anymore!"

By the end of 2014, after more than 25 years of researching my own family history, that is how I felt.

While many who read my post thought that I was leaving the genealogy community or closing down my genealogy business, I had to clarify what I meant by "leaving:" Starting in

2015, I planned on setting my 30+ years of genealogy research aside and starting over. From scratch.

Seriously. How many times have you thought about doing the same thing? Did you start your research the same way I did, by just collecting names, grabbing stuff from other online trees, or pasting text into your genealogy software? Lately, has the prospect of going back and citing sources or proving facts and evidence brought you down and ruined your genealogy buzz? Do you throw up your hands and say, "I give up!" only to return to the same review and edit process days or weeks later?

If you are like me, you need a genealogy makeover. Better yet, a Genealogical Do-Over. That is what I decided to call the journey upon which I embarked in early 2015. Now, I want you to come along... [more](#)

To get started, [click here for January 1 2021 kick off video and additional information and free resources.](#)

## The 15 Minute Plan for Achieving Your Genealogy Goals in 2021

*Patricia Hartley, [Family History Daily](#)*



It's every family historian's dream to one day devote all of our waking hours to our personal genealogy. Imagine waking up, pouring a hot cup of coffee, logging on to your computer, opening up ten tabs and just digging in the next eight hours, starting where you left off the night before. Or maybe you take the day to visit family cemeteries or travel to a distant library or courthouse to continue your research.

Unfortunately, many of us don't have the luxury of unlimited time for genealogy—at least not yet. Work, family, school, and other obligations often leave little time for hobbies, even those as precious to us as family history research. One of the many reasons genealogy becomes a lifetime pursuit is because the number of places, records, and people to discover outnumber the number of hours available to find them... [more](#)

## Use Your Critical Thinking Skills

George G Morgan, [Your Genealogy Today/Internet Genealogy](#) Author



Quality genealogical research involves much more than simply gathering document copies and entering names, dates, and places into a database program. It also means treating each piece of information as if it is evidence in a criminal investigation. You have to combine all of your knowledge and experience with critical thought processes to reach scholarly, plausible hypotheses. You then have to weigh all the evidence you have in order to prove your theory to be fact—or to refute the theory. The critical evaluations you perform will involve examination of a number of criteria:

What type of evidence is it?

- ⇒ Where did it originate and when?
- ⇒ Who created it and why?
- ⇒ Is the evidence primary or secondary, original or derivative?
- ⇒ Was the originator or creator an authority? How do you know?
- ⇒ Is there any bias or hidden agenda that influences the quality or truth of the evidence?
- ⇒ Is there any reason to doubt the authenticity of the evidence?
- ⇒ Can you corroborate or refute the evidence with other independent sources?
- ⇒ How does the evidence relate to or with other facts already proved or disproved?
- ⇒ How will you record the information and create a source citation?

## German Joke

M Gordon Seyffert, FORG Member

While using the Holidays for some genealogical personal enjoyment time — don't we all need some? — I was playing with the Library of Congress newspaper site, "Chronicling America." After spending hours plugging in surnames as search terms, I finally decided to try using a place name for a search term, but with emphasis upon some of my towns of interest in Germany (while specifying German-American newspapers, and thus the German-language press!).

One result just blew me away! It's a 19th century joke that uses one of those towns in the modern state of Saxony as the setting. But, if one knows enough about the culture, the joke has an interesting twist — actually two of them, I would claim. First, my town of Zwenkau is now a commuter suburb for the city of Leipzig. So I was expecting the joke to be making fun of the country bumpkin in Zwenkau as compared to the worldly Leipziger.

But it was the opposite, and so the subtle twist of the joke is that it's making fun of all of "remote" Saxony the way we make fun of "hillbillies!" One would only grasp that subtlety if one stopped to think that the readers of the 19th c. German-American press were most likely to be tracing their "roots" back to the "more worldly" Rhenish west and Hanseatic north of Germany.

Yes, the joke is pretty darned lame by our standards of humor today. But the second level to the sophistication of the gag makes it a prime example, IMHO, of the richness of German humor — when a lot of folks actually think of Germans as humorless. Another subtle insight into the joke comes from understanding that hard-working 19th c. farmers everywhere might have risen before dawn without thinking a thing about it, while city people are generally oblivious to that fact. So I'm figuratively dancing about still for having discovered this little diamond in the rough....

Note that the set-up is in high German, while the dialog is in the Saxon dialect of that time (Pferd/Färd/horse); my amateur translation appears on the second page, and the joke as it actually appeared in print is above. [To read the joke in German and translation in English, click here.](#)

**Mir Sachsen sein helle!**

Bei Leipzig ist ein Dorf, Namens Zwenkau, die Leipziger nennen es natürlich einfach Zwenke. Wohnt da in Leipzig ein biederer Handelsmann, der wöchentlich zwei Mal nach Zibente fährt und bisher immer Fahrgelegenheit benützt hat. Das Geschäft geht aber gut, und der biedere Leipziger geht mit der Absicht um, sich selbst Fuhrwerk anzuschaffen. Im „Leipziger Tageblatt“ liest er, daß bei einem Bügger ein Pferd zum Verkauf steht. Er geht hin und erkundigt sich des Näheren. Es entspinnt sich nun folgendes Zwiegespräch: A.: „Hären Se, Se haben ä Färd zu verkooften?“ — B.: „Ja.“ — A.: „Was sollt Se denn das Färd kooften?“ — B.: „300 Mart.“ — A.: „Na ja, fäh'n Se, das is Se ooch der Preis, den ich Se anlegen möchte; was hat'n das Färd for äne Farbe?“ — B.: „'s is Se Fuchs.“ — A.: „Gi herrkemersch, fäh'n Se, de Fichse sein mer gerade die liebsten Diere; wie alt is 'n das Färd?“ — B.: „'s is Se fimp Jahr gewest.“ — A.: „Säh'n Se, so was wünsch ich mer trade, wull'n Se mer das Färd nich mal zeichen?“ Beide gehen nun auf den Hof, das Pferd wird vorgeführt und gefällt dem Käufer ganz

Färd?“ — B.: „'s is Se fimp Jahr gewest.“ — A.: „Säh'n Se, so was wünsch ich mer trade, wull'n Se mer das Färd nich mal zeichen?“ Beide gehen nun auf den Hof, das Pferd wird vorgeführt und gefällt dem Käufer ganz ausgezeichnet. A.: „Ja, aber sag'n Se mal, kann das Färd ooch recht scheene loofen? Ich fahre Se nämlich in der Woche immer zweemal nach Zwenke.“ — B.: „Gi herrkemersch, das kann ich Se sag'n, wenn Se früh um a finge anspannen, da sein Se um a halb 6 in Zwenke, da heißt Se gene Maus 'n Faden weg (heißt: da schilt nichts daran).“ Der Käufer hört still zu und wird ganz verstimmt, er liert vor sich auf den Erdboden und ohne ein Wort zu sagen, wendet er sich um und will fortgehen. — B.: „Nanu? Ich denke, das Färd gefällt Ihnen, warum loofen Se denn fort, wulla Se's denn nich loofen?“ — A.: „Nee, zu deier is es nich, es is ä scheenes Färd.“ — B.: „Na aber, da versteh ich Se wärflich nich, 's Färd is Se nich zu deier, 's gefällt Se woch, 's is gefund und hat geenen Fähler, warum wulln Se's denn nich loofen?“ — A.: „Ja mei Gu'ter, sag'n Se mer bloß, was — was — full ich Se denn schon immer um a halb 6 in Zwenke?“



FORG Members Meeting—February 6, 2021 7:30—8:30 UK Time (UTC+0)  
Positive Happenings in 2020

*We will gather on February 6 for fellowship and to hear about positive experiences our members had in 2020. Please try to join and get to know your fellow members better.*

*Submit your stories to President Bill Harvey prior to the meeting (see his article on page 1).*

#### Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83792758142?pwd=anE5YTIaU2hQTDhPaHRwL2VPczlFQT09>  
Meeting ID: 837 9275 8142  
Passcode: 679344

## Conferences/Classes

[Conference Keeper](#) is an amazing site to find genealogical conferences, webinars, etc. It lists itself as “the most complete collection of Genealogy events online!” Sign up for their newsletter, and you will always have up-to-date on virtual conferences both free and paid.

[Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree](#), University of Strathclyde, Glasgow for beginners to experienced researchers (free)

[Reading Old Handwriting](#), National Genealogical Society (NGS Member \$75; Non-Member \$100)

2020 Feb 25-27 [RootsTech Connect](#) (free)

2021 May 19-22 National Genealogical Society 2021 Family History Conference [Deep Roots of a Nation](#), Richmond or Virtual [Click here for Brochure](#)

2021 Nov 5-7 [London RootsTech](#)

2022 May 25-28, National Genealogical Society Family History Conference, Sacramento, CA—[Call for Proposals From Individuals](#)

## Portals to the World Website

George C Morgan, [Your Genealogy Today/Internet Genealogy](#) Author, [from eNewsletter](#)

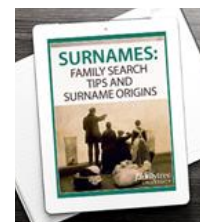


[Portals to the World](#) is a Library of Congress website that contains selective links providing authoritative, in-depth information about a number of nations and other areas of the world. They are arranged by country or area with the links for each sorted into a wide range of broad categories. The links were selected by Area Specialists and other Library staff using Library of Congress selection criteria. When completed, the project will include all the nations of the world. In the meantime, [the site](#) can provide you with an impressive set of historical, geographical, statistical, and other data to expand your knowledge of the places of origin of your ancestors.

## Free Ebook: Family Search Tips and Surname Origins

[Family Tree Magazine](#)

Try searching for common names such as Smith, Brown, and James, and you’ll find yourself buried in search results. For the females in our family tree, tracking down maiden names can be a constant struggle. That’s why we’ve done our best to help out by providing you with this [free e-book](#) full of hints and strategies for searching family surnames.



## Wayback Machine—Internet Archive Website

Diane Richard, [Your Genealogy Today/Internet Genealogy](#) Author, [from eNewsletter](#)



Sometimes, we visit a website and find that something once there is now missing. This happens often. Several websites recently pointed to what “used” to be an archive of the publication Confederate Veteran on the NC Sons of Confederate Veterans website. It is no longer there. [The Wayback](#) Machine can take you to the no-longer working landing page for the archive, and then you were stuck. For something like the archive of a publication, especially in this case, one that is not specific to a particular locale, there is an excellent chance that the archive has been

relocated or put online by others. In this case, searching on “Confederate Veteran” + archive led me to [this archive listing](#), part of The Online Books Page edited by John Mark Ockerbloom, Digital Library Strategist & Metadata Architect, Penn Libraries, University of Pennsylvania. This list then provides links to individual issues available via Internet Archive. So, the archive was not really unavailable, just housed elsewhere.

## Poem of the Ancestors

Joao Castro, FORG Member, South America

A cousin, reading a book written by a friend “Retalhos de nossa Vida,” came across the poem in honor of the ancestors:



Photo from Library of Congress

Be proud of your humble ancestors.  
They are the humble people I look for,  
The salt of the earth for whom I look  
Those who tamed the rough soil  
And they made the seeds blossom in it.  
These are the ones I like to find,  
When immersed in the genealogy road.  
And it's just out of pride that I let myself go,  
Redoing your steps to immortalize them.  
Those who seek the past with dreams of glory,  
From finding educated heroes in each story,  
You should never be disappointed  
Even though they discover that the humble great-grandparents or  
great-grandparents  
They only had the stars to behold.

G. McCoy. In: The Sunny Side of Genealogy.

## Rotary and Genealogy Combine for Family Discovery

Mary Fran Hodson, FORG Member, Champaign Urbana Sunrise Rotary

I've been in Rotary since 1992 and my husband Tom since 1985. We are both very interested in history, genealogy, and related travel. I joined FORG at the Rotary Convention in Toronto.

In 1992, we hosted a Rotary Short Term Exchange student, Peter Reipen, from Neuss, Germany. When Peter left, I wrote a letter to his parents. In it, I mentioned that two of my mother's grandparents came from a German village called Ernzen; however, it was so small that we had not been able to locate it on a map.

Peter read the letter and wrote back, “Why didn't you tell me your family was from Ernzen? I went to altar boy camp there!”

Peter's parents, Wolfgang and Inge, had a weekend house in nearby Prum. They subsequently visited Ernzen, met some of my relatives, and visited the church where the family records were kept. Herr Reipen made a donation to the church in order to copy my family's records, going back to the 1700s.

I have since shared copies of the church records with family members around the country and even with cousins in Germany. They were amazed that I was able to access the records.

It was all thanks to the serendipitous connections that one can make through Rotary!



Photo from TripAdvisor

## Did Any Weird or Just Plain Bizarre Foods Grace Your Family's Table During the Holidays?

Thomas MacEntee, reprinted with his permission



Just the other day, I was thinking about some of the very non-traditional and bizarre foods my family would serve for Christmas. And then along comes December 17, 2020, which is National Ambrosia Day.

For those of you unfamiliar with the dish, I guess you could call it a fruit salad. To me, it is more of a dessert. There's fruit cocktail, coconut, marshmallows, and perhaps sour cream. Cool Whip or even mayonnaise. I never understood why it was served during a holiday meal and not afterwards. Other families served ambrosia or some type of Jell-O mold with similar ingredients... [more](#)

## Family Recipes

### Corned Beef and Onions *As the locals say, "So ono!" (so delicious!)*

#### Ingredients

- 1 can corned beef (Libby's)
- 1 large round onion
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup shoyu sauce
- 1/2 tablespoon ground pepper
- Sticky Rice

#### Instructions

1. Prepare the onion by cutting it in half, then slicing it across so it looks like the shape of a rainbow.
2. In a large pan, sauté (at level 5) the corned beef, breaking it down into small pieces. If the corned beef is on the drier side (less fat), add some olive oil.
3. Gather all the corned beef into the middle of the pan and layer the onion over the corned beef in a mound.
4. Add sugar, shoyu, and pepper.
5. Lower heat to 2 and cover for about 10 minutes.
6. When the onions are translucent, mix everything together and serve on warm sticky rice.



*Alan Okinaka, FORG Member*

*Attending college, we found a bakery that made this dish, Mori's Bakery in Moiliili (Oahu, Hawaii). Our late studying always turned into a hunger for comfort food, and we would make our early morning trek (around 5 am) to Mori's Bakery. There, we would sit with a room filled with construction workers who were having the same dish: corned beef and onions! Although I don't eat meat anymore, I salivate uncontrollably remembering this special part of growing up.*

### Crab Dip *Warm Crab Dip that will knock your socks off*

#### Ingredients

- 8 ounce cream cheese, softened
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup of cheddar cheese, grated (save a little to put on the top)
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon paprika
- 1 Tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1 Tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1/4 teaspoon of pepper
- 1 pound of lump crab meat (fresh preferred, canned if in a pinch; imitation - NEVER!)

#### Instructions

1. Combine all the above ingredients in a casserole dish.
2. Top with shredded cheese.
3. Heat at 325 degrees til heated



*Sue Weber, FORG Vice-President*

*My parents and I spent a lot of time on the water. It could have been racing our sailboat three times a week in Long Island Sound. Or the annual two week vacation as we cruised up the east coast from Connecticut with other boats and good friends. Regardless, there was always cocktail hour. Friends and crew always requested this crab dip so we had no choice but to serve it consistently. No one ever tired of it. This crab dip was served warm and loved by all ages. It could also be considered a good luck charm, because we crossed the line to get the gun or our times corrected up. Trophies were collected and family, crew and friends were happy! Enjoy!!*