

**Our  
Polish**

# ANCESTORS

**The Quarterly Publication of The Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland**  
APRIL/JUNE 1993 - VOL. 1, NO.1 906 College Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44113

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Ben Kman has worked hard to arrange the following speakers for our next three meetings:

**APRIL 6:** Franck Korosec, an expert on surnames, will lecture on surnames and their use in Poland. He will also explore the meanings behind 25 of our members' family names.

**MAY 4:** Keith McGregor of Videographics at 1760 Snow Road in Parma (44134) will talk on how to do a film to videotape transfer in your home. He will also discuss how to do videotape editing that will produce an effective and entertaining presentation.

**JUNE 1:** James Walton, an excellent genealogy teacher, will discuss Birth Records and their usefulness in searching for our ancestors. He will also speak about immigration - a topic of interest to all of us.

## WELCOME!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members. Having joined our Society since January. They are:

Lynn Vizdos, Parma, OH  
Edmund & Dorothy Wientczak, Garfield Hts., OH  
Bruno & Phyllis Syzdek, Las Vegas, NV  
John Kanieski, Medina, OH  
Helen Tusick, Lakewood, OH  
Mary Ann Vizdos, Cleveland Hts., OH  
Gilbert & Magda Laskowski, Alexandria, PA  
George & Carolyn Bannon, Pittsburgh, PA  
Carolyn Corcoran, Bay Village, OH

We hope to see you often at our meetings and become familiar faces. Please note that *Charles and Joyce Bivens, Dillonvale, OH*, members since 6/92, were inadvertently missing from our latest membership list.

## COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD

**NOTES:** By Ralph Lysyk

The Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) based in Chicago now offers a new computer bulletin board system (BBS) dedicated to Polish Genealogy. You do not have to be a PGSA member to use the system, but you do need a computer and modem.

You can exchange messages with other Polish genealogists and have access to a large and rapidly growing archive of Polish genealogical material. For instance, you can download a file which allows sending and receiving Polish alphabet text!

The Polish BBS uses 8-bit words, no parity, and 1-stop bit with transmission rates of 300 to 2400 baud. *The access number is:*

**(312) 769-3149**

and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. First time users will be asked a few questions, but in a remarkably short time, your screen will display the main menu allowing exploration of this new world of technology.

Although the BBS is free, long distance charges from Cleveland are about ten cents a minute (after 11 PM), so you may want to gain some experience on a local BBS such as Cleveland Freenet to make your time more productive.

## IN MEMORIAM

The father of Christine Mata, Treasurer of this society, passed away on March 8th. The P.G.S. of G.C. and its officers would like to extend its condolences to Chris and her family on their loss.

Barbara A. Musselman, 55, genealogy librarian for the Cuyahoga County Public Library system (Fairview Park branch) passed away March 6, 1993 after a five-year illness with cancer.

Mrs. Musselman established the genealogy collection at Fairview Park Regional Branch that has been used extensively by people from all over the county. Many of our members used the collection and knew Mrs. Musselman, who will be missed by all.

**"OUR POLISH ANCESTORS "**  
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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: June 10th

**NEWSLETTER NAME CONTEST!!**

The name of this newsletter is NOT etched in stone! It is a temporary name .... the permanent name is up to you, the members. Please send any and all suggestions for names to:

**Sarah Evanko, Editor**

**1422 Wyandotte Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107**

by June 1st. Or you may give me your suggestions at the monthly meetings *before* that date. The winner won't receive any material reward, but just imagine the fame and fortune you'll enjoy when we publicize who submitted the winning name!

Remember ... this is YOUR newsletter! Help give it a name! (Of course, if you LIKE the temporary name, you can do that, too.) Thanks!

**POLISH SURNAME RESEARCH**

The Editor would like to list during the course of 1993, ALL the polish surnames our members are researching. We have many members out of state, and there isn't any other way to communicate with each other than with this newsletter. Who knows? Maybe an out-of-state member holds the key to your research, or even a piece of the puzzle! Some of you submitted this information to the Society when you joined, but some did not. I will list all that I can find. However, if you want to make SURE yours is published, please send your surnames to your Editor along with your name and address.

The first listing is as follows:

<u>NAME &amp; ADDRESS:</u>	<u>SURNAMES:</u>
Joe & Sarah Evanko 1422 Wyandotte Ave. Lakewood, OH 44107	Klimkiewicz Sroka Iwanko, Ivanko
Joe & Gloria Hadbavny 3889 Edgepark Road North Olmsted, OH 44070	Domrowski Piatkiewicz Hadbavny Pikos, Pykos, Pkyosz
Christine Mata 26450 Forestview Ave. Euclid, OH 44113	Gumowski Matwejew Pajk

**COŚ SMACZNEGO**

The above name translates into English as approximately "Something Tasty". This column was suggested some time ago by Ed Mendyka, and the Editor would like to incorporate one or two Polish recipes into each newsletter. You can send your submissions to the Editor, or give them to her at the monthly meetings.

Appropriately, the first recipe submission ( Oxtail Soup) is from Ed Mendyka. Many people remember Grandma making Oxtail Soup on a chilly day, but didn't get her recipe. A flavorful but disappearing cut of meat, oxtails make some of the most flavorful soups and stews when browned, then combined step-by-step with vegetables.

**OXTAIL SOUP (8 servings)**

- 1/4 pound salt pork, minced
- 3 pounds oxtails
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1/2 cup pearl barley
- 1/2 small head of cabbage, shredded
- 2 medium tomatoes, peeled, seeded, chopped
- 1 package (10 oz.) frozen mixed vegetables
- 1/4 cup chopped parsley

Brown salt pork in large saucepot; remove and set aside. Add oxtails and brown well in drippings; remove oxtails. Add onion and garlic; saute until browned.. Return oxtails and salt pork to saucepot. Add 4 quarts of water, salt, and pepper. Heat to boiling; reduce heat and simmer for 2 hours. Skim off any foam. Add barley (helps thicken the liquid); simmer 1 hour. Add cabbage, tomatoes, and mixed vegetables; simmer 30 minutes. Stir in parsley. Serve in large bowls with plenty of bread and butter, and a fruit salad. ENJOY!

(Submitted by Ed Mendyka)

## SOLVING THE PAPER-COLLECTING PROBLEM

Suggestions from the book, "*Managing a Genealogical Project*"

by William Dollarhide

When genealogists first become interested in their family history their collection of notes and documents is small and easy to handle. It will probably never get larger than a packet of papers unless they proceed with the next steps in research. Taking these steps is when a researcher discovers the wealth of information that is available, and the notes and documents begin to build rapidly.

After just a year or so a diligent genealogist may have collected hundreds of pages of notes, representing many hours of library research, correspondence, or extracted information. If the stack of paper continues to grow without some control, as is typical with many genealogists, he will have to bring the research to a stand-still and devise a method of controlling the paper. The cause of this typical problem is due to the nature of the project.

For example, one of the problems that hinders a genealogical project is the strange urge many researchers have acquired: they *must* create *families*. Nearly every genealogy teacher will stress the importance of the "family-group sheet" as the basic method of organizing records. Yet the information that goes on a family-group sheet was first compiled from notes and documents. If a reference in a tax list to a person living alone in 1779 in North Carolina is all that is known about that person, it is impossible to learn anything more by filling out a family-group sheet, particularly if there is no information on the sheet except perhaps one person's name and approximate date of birth. The importance of the notes and documentation cannot be overstated. Therefore, a means of collecting the source material into a retrievable form is essential. This all happens before family sheets can be prepared.

This leads to another problem universal to genealogists, again, partly because of the nature of the project itself. Genealogists collect references for people who are relatives as well as for non-relatives - or for those who are *suspected* to be relatives. This creates organizational questions: Should non-relatives be filed separately? Or, should ancestors be treated differently than collateral's? If research is conducted in such a way as to have the notes and documents well organized first, the problem of "who is who" need not be a hindrance.

### What's in the Pile?

If you were to stack all of your genealogical papers in

one pile, you could probably sort every sheet of paper into three smaller piles (categories):

**1. Notes and documents.** These are the photocopies or handwritten extracts from certificates, census records, obituaries, etc., or written notes taken from books and other sources. This category is the *genealogical evidence* and comprises the heart of your research materials.

**2. Compiled sheets.** These are the family-group sheets, pedigree charts, and other compiled narratives, descendancies, etc., which were all compiled from the notes and documents.

**3. Research aids.** This is your personal library, containing books on how to do research, reference-finding sources, or other references such as maps, lists of libraries, addresses, and so on.

Perhaps the first step in solving the paper crunch is to separate the notes and documents and treat them as a separate group of papers. If you are sifting through maps, address lists, family-group sheets and other papers to find a *marriage certificate*, the job is easier if the notes and documents are kept in a stand-alone collection free from the other two categories.

Organizing family-group sheets and pedigree charts is not a difficult problem - they can be kept in one notebook as a group. In addition, your personal library materials can be organized easily as well, because books can go on a bookshelf, maps can go in manila file folders, and most of these items can be filed and retrieved quickly.

The real problem lies with category 1, the **Notes and Documents**, and by separating them from the other materials, there is a chance that you can organize them. Hang on ... there is hope!

### Identify the Notes and Documents

Genealogical notes and documents are those extracts, photocopies, abstracts, and other handwritten notations acquired in research. The research collection system also includes documents received through the mail, and correspondence in which genealogical information has been revealed. The collection is for making sense of what is known about the family lines, and every single piece of information that has ever been collected should be included.

However, there will always be archival materials, such as old photos, precious family documents, certificates, etc., that should not be part of the note files as originals. These originals should be stored in some safe place. The note-document collection should include copies of the originals if the originals are too fragile to keep in a 3-hole notebook. The important thing about this note collection is that it

is the heart of a genealogist's research; it contains everything that is known about the families and individuals of interest to the project.

This collection should also contain written narratives drawn from the memory of the researcher or his immediate family. These invaluable memories should be treated no differently than the documents collected. They should be written up on standard note paper and incorporated into the note collection. To bring all of these notes and documents together requires some work, and therefore will make the work easier to manage.

## Basic Rules in Taking Notes

Here are Dollarhide's four basic rules in taking notes for any genealogical project. These rules are based on standard historical research practices, but because of the special needs of genealogists, the rules apply specifically to family research techniques.

### Rule 1: Control the Sheet Size

Nearly every student may have learned how to prepare for a written essay in high school. We were taught to use 3"x5" index cards, noting such things as the author's name, publisher, date of publication, etc., followed by a brief quote or two from the source we had found in the library. This method worked well because the cards sorted easily and provided a bibliography once the report had been written.

However, genealogical researchers attempting to use this system will quickly discover that they rarely will have enough room on a 3"x5" index card to write all the notes they may want to capture. Not only that, genealogists are fond of copying whole pages of text from books, not just a few notes here and there. To make matters ever worse, genealogists receive information from a variety of sources - letters from relatives, documents from vital statistics offices, interview notes, phone notes, or information from other genealogists. The nature of genealogical research does not allow the use of 3"x5" cards effectively, because a separate collection of the full-size documents would then be necessary.

We have also been known to go to the library without a note pad, using whatever paper we could beg, borrow or steal to write down the latest census data we found. If the little sheet of paper is covered with a larger sheet of paper in the file box at home, the little sheet of paper will probably be in the "lost" category in the near future.

Standardizing the sheet size using 8 1/2" X 11" paper solves this problem. If every note were taken on this sheet size, the notes can be well organized at the time they are created. The little pieces of paper can be taped or pasted to standard sheets to bring them into conformity, and if a researcher follows this simple rule faithfully, the ability to find notes and documents for later analysis will be enhanced immediately. Genealogists can adapt the 3"x5" system into

an 8 1/2" x 11" system quite easily. The rewards are great.

To make this technique even better, using a pre-printed form to take all written notes has several advantages. First, the sheet size will be controlled at the time the note is taken. Pre-punched 3-hole paper saves having to punch holes later, and the sheet has a place to be filed when taken home.

### Rule 2: Separate Sheets by Surname

Many genealogists are already separating documents by the surname of the family to which it pertains. "Surname books", that is, standard 3-hole notebooks, are commonly used by genealogists. One book would contain everything that is known about one surname, including those people who married into the family or the collateral families to the main surname. At this level of collection, it is not necessary to separate known ancestors from "suspected" ancestors. The important thing is that the person has the right surname and could be important to the project.

As the notes are gathered, write the surname at the top of the page and devote that page only to the surname or names connected with that surname.

Typically, genealogists find themselves sitting in front of a microfilm reader copying down notes from original records. Even if a genealogist were careful to copy all of the Johnson family records from one county, what happens often is that another surname besides Johnson pops up - something that was not expected. This happens frequently in the course of collecting genealogical records. The serious mistake is to mix these surnames on the same sheet of paper. If the Brown family is on the same sheet as the Johnson family, even though these two families were not related to each other, the only recourse later may be to use a pair of scissors to get the notes separated by the surname. Therefore, simply turning the page when another surname is found will separate the surnames as the notes are taken.

Separating documents into surname books limits what is stored in the books to just the notes and documents and does not admit such things as lists of libraries, genealogical societies, or other material notes directly related to a certain surname. The goal is to create a collection of reference material relating to a certain surname in such a way that family sheets can be prepared later - but with assurances that all of the known facts are easy to find.

A family record mentioning several other surnames that married into the family, could all be saved as part of the main surname. But, if the reference mentions more than one pedigree/ancestral family, copies should be made of the reference for each applicable surname book. Or, save the document in

one surname book, then make reference to that record in other surname books to the location of a document. A surname book should be a stand-alone collection that contains everything you know about that surname and the families.

The problem of what to do with non-relatives has been solved as well: treat them equal to the relatives at this level of collection. Even though a family group sheet may never be made, the references stored in the same surname book allow for possible future connection to known persons with the same name.

Even with just the first two rules, if the same sheet size is used - 3-hole, 8 1/2" x 11" notepaper - and all surnames are separated on different sheets, a system of collecting notes will begin to pay off. With these two rules only, the note doesn't need to be stacked on top of a pile at home - a new sheet can go into a surname book as another page.

There will always be documents that don't fit into the 8 1/2" x 11" format, but those sheets smaller can be affixed to a standard sheet easily. Larger sheets and bulky, fold-out papers need special attention. For folded documents, pocket pages can be added to the 3-hole binder. And for tape recordings, photo albums, wall hangings, large charts, etc., the *genealogical information* can be abstracted onto standard sheet sizes for inclusion in the surname notebooks. The goal is to have notebooks with ALL genealogical notes and documents relating to a particular surname available in one place for review and analysis ... and the ability to produce family sheets, descendancies, or narrative histories is enhanced. More importantly, the "compiled" sheets can be documented systematically.

### Rule 3: Separate by Place

Once the notes and documents have been brought together on the same sheet sizes and placed in the appropriate book for the surname, the next step is to break down the sheets by the place, or origin, of the record to be saved. The logic behind this concept needs to be explained.

To advance your genealogy beyond what Mom and Dad told you, there are three vital pieces of information you must know: (1) a name, (2) a date, and (3) a place. With these three things known, a treasure chest of information will be made available for further research. Of these three, the *place* is the one that tells you *where* to look for further information. The place of the event, such as the birth, marriage, residence, death, etc., is what a genealogist *must* know before a copy of that record can be obtained.

We live in a record-keeping society. The jurisdiction that created the record is the *place*. That jurisdiction must be known before we can learn anything new. If

this fact is clear, then the idea of separating source material by the place is a logical step to take. Therefore, the many sheets of notes and documents pertaining to one family surname in one notebook can be further separated by the origin of the records. Experienced genealogists know that once the county of residence has been established, an avalanche of information awaits in the courthouse, the local library, the funeral homes, the cemeteries, the local genealogical societies, etc., all of which can provide much information about a family that lived in the locality. That information cannot be found without first knowing where to look. A place designation can be placed on a sheet of paper as part of a sheet number.

### Rule 4: Give Every Sheet a Place/Sheet Number

Separating the sheets by the states or countries where the records were originated is an easy task to control because virtually every single genealogical reference item will have a place (such as the state or country) attached to it. So, the top of the sheet can first show the surname for the record, followed by a designator for the place of origin, then a sheet number within that state/country section.

Here are some examples of place/sheet numbers for various reference sheets:

#### Surname-Place-Page (example of type of record)

- Johnson IA-1 (a deed for William Johnson of Iowa)
- Johnson IN-24 (a census record for John Johnson of Indiana)
- Brown MA-32 (a photograph of Willard Brown of Massachusetts)
- Schmidt GER-14 (christening record of Johann Schmidt of Germany)
- Windsor ENG-125 (English census record showing Edward Windsor)

The codes for the states are the two-letter postal codes, such as MA for Massachusetts. Three-letter codes can be used for countries, such as ENG for England. Within each surname book, the page number for each reference becomes both a place designator and sheet number. Together, they become a "source code" for that particular reference. The place designation can be broken down further. If there were many Johnsons in Ohio, it may be worthwhile to separate this section by Ohio counties, for example.

A surname book could contain all of the notes for the Johnsons in Iowa in one state section and Ohio Johnsons in another state section. If the Johnson family of interest started out with an immigrant to New Jersey, followed by migrations later to Ohio, then Indiana, then Iowa, etc., these state sections could be arranged in that particular order - which

would tend to put the family reference material in a loose chronological order for the time periods they were in a particular state.

But sheets within each section should receive a sheet number on a "first-come, first-served" basis, and a page number can be assigned in consecutive order as the records are added within state/country section of the surname book. There is no need to get 1790 records before 1870 records, because we rarely find references in any time order.

The advantage to this method of organizing notes is that when a piece of information is found, a genealogist knows where to look for what is known about the family in that geographic area. It should be easy to determine if the information is something related or is indeed new information. A new sheet of information can be added to any state/country section by just adding the next consecutive page number.

A *place orientation* for the notes and documents allows more flexibility for saving the paper, because any document and any relationship can be saved, including ancestors, collateral's, or "suspicious" relatives. What ties them all together is the surname and place they lived.

### Indexing the References

If the genealogical notes and documents are of the same size, all in notebooks for retrieval, a sheet number can be assigned to each sheet based on the geographic place of the original record - which means an index can be used to locate records in the collection.

The place/sheet number becomes a "source code" which is an abbreviated method of citing a full bibliographic source. For example, a reference to a Dollarhide family can be found in a book by B. R. Sulgrove, *History of Indianapolis and Marion County, Indiana*, (L.H. Everts & Co., Philadelphia, 1884), pp 512-7. Five photocopied pages from that book are stored in my Dollarhide notebook in the Indiana section, and a page number of "IN-2" has been assigned to all of them. (The five sheets are listed as "IN-2, sheet 1 of 5", "IN-2, sheet 2 of 5", and so on).

On any family group sheets where the Sulgrove book is the source for a genealogical event, such as a residence, marriage, birth, etc., instead of writing out the full bibliographic source, I need only write "IN-2" as the source code for that particular reference. My family group sheets are called "Compiled Family Data Sheets" (see page 45). Since the back of the family sheet has a place to itemize every reference source for that particular family, source codes can be used. Each different source is then listed as a single line, giving an overview of every genealogical reference for

every member of a family. Any particular indexed source should be easy to locate again by the source code. This type of source list demonstrates your thoroughness as a genealogist when other people read it.

### RFDS Forms and Labels

The majority of the papers genealogists collect are already 8 1/2" x 11" in size, and because of that, the four rules shown above can be followed easily. The need for a preprinted collection sheet for notes or documents can be lessened if the top of each document page is identified with a surname, place, and sheet number. The *Reference Family Data Sheet* (RFDS) does the job nicely, but a plain sheet of paper can be used as well. The advantage to the pre-printed forms is the convenience of already having three holes punched for 3-ring binders, plus the form acts as a reminder to capture the full source citation for each reference gathered in the research project.

NOTE: The pre-printed forms referred to in this article can be ordered from Dollarhide Systems at: 203 W. Holly St. - M4, Bellingham, WA 98225. We have several of Dollarhide's Genealogy Bulletins in our library.

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## CHOOSING A "HOW TO" GENEALOGY BOOK

Since each person's problems are unique, a "How To" book should be selected with care. If you find several books on a subject (such as the VA 1790 census) that you are interested in, compare them for the subject covered.

A book with the VA 1790 census, indexed by counties and townships would be a better choice than others not so indexed. Some books may offer a comprehensive study of each topic, while others may provide only a brief comment. To be of the most value to you, the book should be easy to read and one that you'll refer to again and again as you progress.

### A suggested criteria for selecting a genealogy book:

1. A preference or introduction of what is included.
2. Indexed or detailed table of contents.
3. Sources listed; indexes cited; address given of hard to find items; reading list; etc.
4. Follows step-by-step instructions.

## Tangling the Branches of a Family Tree

Proof that a man can be his own grandfather: There was a widow and her daughter-in-law, and a man and his son. The widow married the son, and the daughter married the old man. The widow was therefore mother to her husband's father; consequently, grandmother to her own husband. They had a son, to whom she was great-grandmother. Now, as the son of a great-grandmother must be either a grandfather or a great uncle, this boy was therefore his own grandfather. "

- *Louisiana Herald*, 4 May 1822 -

## Genealogical Libraries and Societies

*Everton's Genealogical Helper* printed the following listings for Poland in their 1992 *Directory of Genealogical Libraries and Societies*:

Genealogical Society of Poland  
c/o Rafal T. Prinke  
60-115 Poznan  
Leszczynska 25  
POLAND

Houston Polish Genealogical Society  
3606 Maroneal  
Houston, TX 77025

Polish Archives  
St. Mary's College  
Orchard Lake, MI 48033

Polish Genealogical Society  
984 Milwaukee Avenue  
Chicago, IL 60622

Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut, Inc.  
c/o Jonathan D. Shea, Pres.  
8 Lyle Road  
New Britain, CT 06053

Polish Genealogical Society of Michigan  
c/o Burton Historical Collection  
5201 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

Polish Genealogical Society of Texas  
218 Beaver Bend  
Houston, TX 77037

Polish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin  
P.O. Box 37476  
Milwaukee, WI 53237

## Hamburg Passenger Lists At The L.D.S. Church

Almost one out of three central and eastern European emigrants is found on the Hamburg passenger lists. Most who departed through Hamburg went to the United States. Other Europeans embarked from Bremen, LeHavre, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, or Antwerp because those ports were easier to reach. The records of those ports no longer exist or are not available for research.

The Hamburg passenger lists have been preserved and are one of the finest sources of information for locating an immigrant ancestor's place of origin in central or eastern Europe. The lists include such information as the passenger's name, home town, (or last town of residence), age, other family members, and occupation.

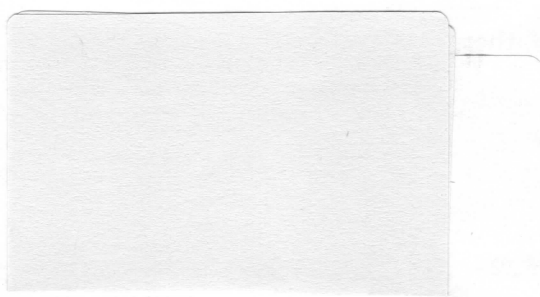
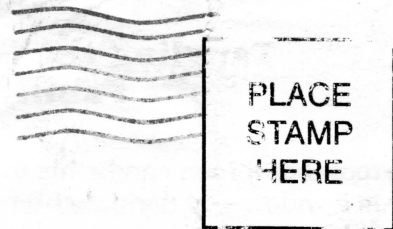
The original Hamburg records are stored in the State Archives at Hamburg. In 1984, the Museum for Hamburg History opened an Historic Emigration Office. That office will search microfilm copies of the passenger lists for you for a fee of approximately \$30 per year searched. The address is:

Hamburg-Information  
GmbH, Museum fur Hamburgische  
Geschichte Holstenwall 24  
D-2000 Hamburg 36  
Federal Republic of Germany

In 1964 and 1975, the Family History Library of the Church of Latter-Day Saints obtained copies of the same lists and indexes. You can personally search for your ancestor in the Hamburg passenger lists using microfilmed records at the Family History Library. They are listed in the Family History Library Catalog under the heading "Germany, Hamburg, Hamburg - Emigration and Immigration." The library's collection consists of the following lists and indexes:

**Direct Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1850-1934.** Most of those who embarked at Hamburg sailed directly to New York City or other ports of final destination. For 1850-1854, these lists are alphabetical by the first letter of the surname. For 1855-1934, the lists are arranged chronologically by ship. Separate indexes are available for 1855 to 1934. Each index covers a

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year or part of a year. Surnames of heads of households are alphabetized by first letter only.

**Fifteen-Year Index, Direct Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1856-1871.**

This index, prepared by members of the LDS Church in Hamburg, includes the names of passengers sailing from Hamburg from 1856 to 1871 in one alphabetical card index. It is convenient to use, but it is not complete.

**Indirect Hamburg Passenger Lists, 1854-1910.**

Some emigrants did not sail directly to their destinations, but chose less expensive, indirect routes. Many emigrants departed Hamburg for England, where they traveled overland to a British port such as Liverpool, South Hampton, or Glasgow. Other indirect routes took emigrants through LeHavre and Antwerp. For June to December 1854, these lists are alphabetical by the first letter of the surname. For 1855 to 1910, the lists are arranged chronologically by ship. Separate indexes are available for 1855 to 1910. Each index covers a period of one to several years, and surnames of heads of households are alphabetized by first letter only.

*The information for this column was taken from News of the Family History Library, Vol. 2, No. 2 (March/April 1990), published by the Family History Department of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and from The NGS Newsletter, Vol. 17, No. 2 (1991)*

**Record Names As You Find Them...**

If it hasn't happened to you yet, it will. You'll be plodding along, researching a particular ancestor, and it'll seem like no one could get the spelling of his surname right! His marriage record will list one spelling, deeds will refer to him as any one of three different ~~yet spellings, and then you find out that he himself spelled his name two different ways!~~ So just what is going on?

The first thing you need to remember is that back then (just as today), people who were not totally illiterate still weren't too good about standard spelling practices. This even includes those that should have known better (or so we think). The most popular example is that of the publisher of the Declaration of Independence, who changed the word "inalienable" to "unalienable". It's still spelled that way, even though everyone knows that Thomas Jefferson spelled it wrong.

But back to our original problem. What do you write down as the "right" spelling? For use on Pedigree Sheets or Family Group Records, use the spelling that appears on his birth certificate, or the most common spelling of the name. DO NOT change the spellings that occur on documents. These should be transcribed exactly as found, with a notation that other documents contain other spelling variations. These different spellings will usually be readily understandable. For example, "Johann" may also be "Johan" or "John". In any case, make notes of where each spelling was found. Good luck!

*(Information for this column was found in The Genealogical Helper, Jan.-Feb. 1990)*