

The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://facebook.com/Livermore.Amador.Genealogical.Society/>

Membership Report

October, 2017

New Member Information

Jeanette Antaki

Thanks to the generosity of the following L-AGS members:

Patrons

Sandy & DeLynn Clark, Dick & Jean Lerche, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Annette Breingan, Marilyn A Cutting, Linda & Walt Driver
Dick & Wanda Finn, Barbara Hempill, Arnold & Nancy Koslow, Cindy McKenna,
Patricia Moore, Anna Siig, Marelene & Bill Silver, Peggy Weber & Bob Whitlock

Total L-AGS Members as of October 9, 2017; 114 Memberships and 138 Members

Meeting News

General Meetings — are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map: <http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

The L-AGS Writing Group — Meets monthly in Livermore. The encouragement to write your ancestors' stories and your own comes from this enthusiastic group. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Writing Group list" in the subject line.

Let's Talk Genealogy — Meets monthly in Livermore. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Let's Talk Genealogy list" in the subject line.

The Master Genealogist Group — usually meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks) tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org; TV-TMG Forum tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org

Pleasanton Genealogy Center — is jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library. A L-AGS docent is available each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California. Or by appointment, e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org.

Livermore Family History Center — Several L-AGS members, both LDS and non-LDS, volunteer as docents at the Livermore FHC. They are available to assist you in your genealogy research. The FHC has several subscription research sites not readily available elsewhere and is open Mondays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday evenings 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. If the parking in front of the building is full, there is a large parking lot in the rear of the building. [Map](#).

L-AGS Leadership for 2017

President	president@L-AGS.org	Tom Mathews
First VP and Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Kay Speaks
Second VP & Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	George Fulton
Corresponding Secretary		Susan Davis
Recording Secretary		Leora Frise
Business Manager	business.manager@L-AGS.org	Duncan Tanner

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President's Message

Grandma Parkinson

Genealogy is a lot more than just names and dates. The study of family history is about telling a family's story. An important part of every family's story is the traditions it observes. Few traditions are more key to bringing a family together than those defining how we celebrate our holidays. In Mexico, families visit the graves of their family members bringing food and offerings. Other traditions, like decorating a house with holly and evergreens predate even the religions that they commemorate. Other traditions don't even predate the people who observe them. I suspect that the *Good Cheer Candle*, that remained lit only as long as nobody was arguing, was the invention of parents desperate to manufacture a little merriment by any means possible.

One Christmas tradition that extends even to this day in our family is the baking of Grandma Parkinson's Hermit Cookies. The whole family would get together to bake and decorate delicious thin sugar cookies flavored with currants and cloves. Everyone joined in to cut the cookie dough into a variety of holiday shapes and sprinkle them with colored jimmies and red hots. After baking, undecorated cookies were frosted with red, white, green or blue frosting. It was messy, but we all loved it. The funny thing was, while these cookies were an important family tradition, there was nobody in our family named Parkinson. Who in the heck was this mysterious 'Grandma Parkinson'?

Street	Household	Dwelling	Visit	Name	Relation	Age	Mar	Sex	Race
Wals	401	216	337	Parkinson Daniel	Head	10	5	M	W
				Mary A	Wife			F	W 63
				Raymond F	Son			M	W 33

As with many genealogical discoveries, the answer came rather serendipitously earlier this year. While scanning a 1920 census record for my mother's family I did what every good genealogist should do and looked to see who lived near your family members. At the top of the page, in a house that was right across the street, there lived a Mary Parkinson, age 63. With my grandmother, a young mother with a toddler daughter and a young son in her arms who never knew her own mother, a matronly neighbor who knew about mothering and was good at baking to boot makes perfect sense. She may not have been a literal member of the family but she was there for my mother and grandmother when she was needed and for that, her place in our family narrative is assured.

In closing, since I know you will ask, the recipe for Grandma Parkinson's Hermits can be found at the bottom of page 13.

Tom Mathews, President, L-AGS

The Livermore Roots Tracer

The Roots Tracer is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Roots Tracer is: **"Instruct. Inspire. Inform."**

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to: rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

The Roots Tracer Staff

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When you reach the Green Hills stop the wagon. We Stopped the Wagon!

By Frank Geasa

In May of this year my wife, Sonia, and I travelled to the East coast for the college graduations of 2 of our granddaughters. The first was for Bailey Powell who graduated from the University of North Carolina School of the Arts in Winston-Salem. The second was for Annie Geasa at Boston University almost 800 miles northeast. Since the graduations were 2 weeks apart and we wanted to visit family in both areas, we decided to make the trip an extended vacation rather than making two separate short trips. For this we planned out a car trip which would give us a chance to visit the Gettysburg Battleground, the Brandywine Art Museum with the Wyeth Family collections, the New Jersey seashore and connect with family and friends in New York.

Before leaving North Carolina however, we drove by way of Rutherford County in western North Carolina. Sonia's maternal colonial ancestry traces to the small town of Rutherfordton. For many years she and I have worked on the family histories of several Rutherford County families there including those of her Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) ancestor Benjamin Hyder. We had previously seen references to and even a picture of a cemetery headstone for Benjamin and his wife Catherine Heslep that names their children: Catherine, Mary (Polly), Susannah, Benjamin D. Jr., Nancy, John Wallis and Adam. Engraved on the headstone below their names is the phrase "When you reach the Green Hills stop the wagon this is home." Sonia wanted to visit this stone in the Green Hill Cemetery and see what the area around Rutherfordton looked like.

Another of Sonia's colonial ancestors is Warner Metcalf, a Revolutionary War soldier from a family in which his father and at least 2 brothers also served. Warner's daughter Isabella married Benjamin Hyder Jr., Sonia's 3rd great grandfather. Warner's request for a war pension in 1832 when he was 70 years old contains a line describing his service as a young man: "I lay many nights with my gun for my pillar the Earth my bed and the Bow of the forest my covering." He goes on to indicate he is now old and being unable to work would like a small pension to support him and his wife. Warner's story so resonated with Sonia that

she would like to have him recognized as a DAR patriot. Although there are many modern stories by descendants in various lines of the family which recognize Isabella as the oldest of Warner's daughters, we have been unable to find any timely document definitively proving the connection.

A stop at a local real estate office in downtown Rutherfordton provided directions to the cemetery about 2 miles away. There we found many Hyder headstones along with those of several other local families with surnames which we recognized from past researches. One thing we had wondered about was that Benjamin's stone appeared modern rather than old and worn. The answer became somewhat apparent when we found a similar stone next to it for John Wallis Hyder, one of Benjamin and Catherine's sons. We surmise that descendants of John erected both stones. Across the road from the cemetery is the Green Hill Baptist Church which the family attended.

The next day, hoping to find information linking



Sonia Rae (née Hershberger) Geasa at Green Hills Cemetery

Warner and Isabella Metcalf, we visited the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County in nearby Forest City, North Carolina. Rutherford County was formed from Tryon County in 1779. The society has its own building and very extensive collections for Rutherford and several neighboring counties. Since it is staffed by volunteers, the library's hours are somewhat limited. The day we visited there was a single volunteer, a lady who was extremely helpful. While we did not find anything directly connecting Warner and Isabella, we did find an index reference to 2 land transfers, the first from Isabella's mother Elizabeth to Benjamin Hyder Jr. and a the second transferring the same land back to Elizabeth. We are hoping to find the full descriptions of those transactions. The society also keeps folders by family name which contains all correspondence they have received for that name. We perused the folders for the Hyder and Metcalf names. Perhaps the most significant item we found in the society's material was one stating that the Green Hill cemetery was originally the Hyder family cemetery. The advice on Benjamin and Catherine's stone to stop the wagon this is home suddenly had a much more personal meaning. Before leaving town we had to make one more stop at the cemetery to allow Sonia another chance to walk her ancestral land and feel that strange sensation that comes with such an experience.



Sonia Rae (née Hershberger) Geasa at Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County

Hyder (Hider) Lineage

Hans Michael Heider

m. (?)

Katherine Chasteen

Benjamin (Hider) Hyder

b. 16 Oct 1745 Old Fields, Hampshire Co., Virginia

d. 16 Dec 1826 Rutherford Co., North Carolina

m. 15 Feb 1768 Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina

Catherine Heslep daughter of Andrew Heslep and Catherine Wallace.

b. 10 Nov 1747 Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina

d. 15 Jan 1830 in Mecklenburg Co., North Carolina

Benjamin Hyder Jr.

b. 23 Jun 1780 Rutherford Co., North Carolina

d. 04 Mar 1842 in Rutherford Co., North Carolina

m. 12 Dec 1808 Rutherford Co., North Carolina.

Isabella Metcalf daughter of Warner Metcalf and Elizabeth Kilpatrick.

b. about 1790 in Rutherford Co., North Carolina

d. bef. 1860 census

Warner Jackson Hyder

b. about 1817 Rutherford Co., North Carolina

d. after 1880

m. 24 Nov 1838 Rutherford Co. North Carolina

Mildred M Simmons daughter of Moses Simmons and Mary Lewis

b. 18 Mar 1818, North Carolina.

d. 3 Oct 1885 in Lula, Hall Co, Georgia

Charles Richard Hyder

b. 11 Jul 1851 Lula, Hall Co., Georgia

d. 20 Jan 1932 in Logan, Quay Co., New Mexico

m. 16 Dec 1872 Prentiss Co., Mississippi

Louisa Belle Holley daughter of Absolom Jackson (Jape) Holley and Mary Jane Rogers

b. 15 Dec 1854 Browns Creek, Prentiss Co., Mississippi

d. 30 Sep 1929 in Logan, Quay Co., New Mexico

James Jackson Hyder

b. 08 Dec 1873 Booneville, Prentiss Co., Mississippi

d. 16 Mar 1950 Tucumcari, Quay Co., New Mexico

m. 15 Dec 1895 Prentiss Co., Mississippi

Virginia (Jennie) Murray Henson daughter of James Hamilton Henson and Sarah Caroline Duncan

b. 01 Jul 1875 Marietta, Prentiss Co., Mississippi

d. 15 Oct 1958 Albuquerque, New Mexico

Vena Lee Hyder

b. 16 Aug 1898 Cooper, Delta Co., Texas

d. 09 May 1974 Albuquerque, Bernalillo Co., New Mexico.

m. 05 May 1923 Abeline, Taylor Co., Texas

John Gurney Hershberger son of Cyrus Lincoln Hershberger and Pauline Burcher

b. 17 Dec 1891 in Ghana. Illinois

d. 20 Dec 1958 in Belleville, Kansas

Sonia Rae Hershberger daughter of John Gurney Hershberger and Vena Lee Hyder

Michael Ryan - Was he really a Shanahan?

Julie Liu

This article supplements my article in the May 2016 *Roots Tracer*¹: “Did Richard Shanahan have a Brother or a Nephew named Michael?”

While researching my great-grand-uncle, Richard Shanahan, I came upon a Michael Shanahan. On the 1880 census² he was living with Richard Shanahan, age 50; his wife, Mary Ryan Shanahan, age 28 and Richard’s mother, Johanna, age 73. Johanna’s surname was listed as Shanahan. Michael Shanahan’s stated age is 22 and he is listed as the brother of Richard.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10								
11	196	196	Shanahan Richard	W	M	52	-	
12			Mary R	W	F	28	-	Wife
13			Johanna	W	F	73	-	Mother
14	197	197	Michael	W	M	22	-	Brother

Shanahan family on 1880 census]

I was perplexed by the difference of 28 years between the brothers’ ages but especially the age at which Johanna would have given birth. As I continued studying this family and getting additional detail, some things didn’t quite add up. Why in the 1880 census is Michael listed as **Michael Shanahan**, brother, and in the 1900 census³ listed as **Michael Ryan**, half-brother.

	1	2	3	4
47	14	14	Shanahan Richard	75
48			Mary	45
49			Michael	27
50			Johanna	80

Shanahan family on 1900 census

the age at which Johanna would have given birth

Are they two different people or is one census taker more accurate in obtaining information. In the 1880 census, Michael is 22 years old so his approximate birth year is 1858, in the 1885 Nebraska census⁴, Michael is listed as Michael Ryan and the age is now 27, so 5 more years have been added. Johanna, Richard and Michael’s mother, is now 80. She has gained an additional 3 years to her age so now her year of birth could be 1805. So if either of these dates are accurate, we are back to Johanna giving birth at either 51 or 53.

This subject of Johanna’s birth year is a whole different item that seems to continually jump around. Meanwhile, I sent my May 2016 *Roots*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
45								
46	110	115	Shanahan Richard	50	45			
47			Mary	28	23			Wife
48			Johanna	73	73			Mother
49			Michael	22	22			Brother
50			Richard	22	22			Brother

Shanahan family on 1885 census]

Tracer article to my Ryan relatives. In that article, I had speculated that Michael Shanahan/Ryan may be a nephew. I stated this based on the age that Johanna would need to be when giving birth to Michael. They insisted that Michael was a brother. Richard Shanahan’s obituary⁵ states that he leaves behind a brother Mike and in Mary’s obituary⁶; Michael is listed as her brother-in-law. So clearly, everyone thought of him as Richard’s brother.

So off I go investigating Michael Shanahan/Ryan. Is he Michael Ryan or Michael Shanahan? Initially by using FindAGrave.com, I couldn’t find where he was buried as Michael Ryan or Michael Shanahan. I finally found him by doing an extensive search of the Pleasant Hill Cemetery where all of the other Shanahans and Ryans who lived in that area were buried. Looking exclusively for Michael(s) I found a grave marker with a life range 1858 – 1934. He was listed on FindAGrave.com⁷ as Michael Ryan Shanahan but his headstone clearly reads Michael Ryan. I messaged the person in charge of Michael Ryan’s memorial and asked him to correct the listing so it reflected how the headstone read and how he was called.

But was this really the correct one? His year of birth certainly matched. So I went back to my Ryan relatives and queried them. Who was Michael’s father? No one knew. So obtaining a death certificate on Michael Ryan was now in or-



His headstone clearly reads Michael Ryan.]

Richard Shanahan is the husband of 1st great-grand-aunt of Julia Ann Gilliland	
Michael Ryan b. 29 Sep 1817 Co. Tipperary, Ireland d. 06 Dec 1904 Kearney Co., Nebraska m. 20 Feb 1844 Mary Brazil b. 06 May 1831 Ireland d. 01 Sep 1913 Blaine, Kearney Co., Nebraska	
Hanora Ryan b. Buffanoky, Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland d. 02 Feb 1942 Phelps Co., Nebraska m. 25 January 1896 Blaine Township, Kearney Co., Nebraska Thomas E. Shanahan b. 27 Mar 1872 Iowa d. 31 Aug 1907 Hastings, Adams Co., Nebraska	Mary Ryan b. 06 May 1852 Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland d. 25 Jul 1931 Axtell, Kearney Co., Nebraska m. 21 Feb 1871 Mendota, LaSalle Co., Illinois Richard Shanahan b. 24 Jan 1839 Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland d. 07 Mar 1924 Anderson, Phelps Co., Nebraska
Margaret Madeline Shanahan b. 02 Feb 1906 Coburg, Montgomery Co., Iowa d. 08 Apr 2001 Heartwell, Kearney Co., Nebraska m. 12 Jan 1927 Minden, Kearney Co., Nebraska Richard Robert Filbin b. 12 Jun 1904 Heartwell, Kearney Co., Nebraska d. 6 Jun 1992, Kearney, Buffalo Co., Nebraska	<p>As stated on the 1900 census² Michael came into the United States in 1879. Presumably with Johanna. I have not yet found them entering the US on any passenger lists. One can only assume that they came without Patrick, Johanna's husband, as he doesn't appear in any of the Nebraska censuses with them. The assumption that I am making until it is disproven: Patrick died in Ireland. That has yet to be confirmed. What happened to Patrick? And what happened to Richard's father, Johanna's first husband? That also has yet to be confirmed. Also, was the baby baptized in 1856 the same young man that came to the United States or possibly a baby who died as an infant or toddler?</p>
Mary Phyllis Filbin b. 16 May 1931 Axtell, Kearney Co., Nebraska d. 08 May 2007 Lee's Summit, Jackson Co., Missouri m. 2 Sep 1950 Heartwell, Kearney Co., Nebraska Carl Stewart Gilliland b. 30 Jun 1952 Wakenda, Carroll Co., Missouri d. 9 Oct 2002 Warrensburg, Johnson Co., Missouri	
Julia Ann Gilliland b. Kansas City, Jackson Co., Missouri	

der. From the death certificate⁸ I learned that Johanna Root Shanahan had married Patrick Ryan. Patrick Ryan is Michael's father. So same mother and different father. So this was how there was such a wide difference in the age between Richard Shanahan and Michael Ryan. This was new information to me and my online Ryan family group. Armed with this information, I now went to FindMyPast.com and found a parish baptismal transcription⁹ with the father listed as Patrick Ryan and Mother listed as Johanna Rooth. That was close enough for me. It also occurred in Limerick where I knew that the two older brothers were also born. But wait, Michael was baptized in 1856 that would have shaved off 2 years from when Johanna gave birth making her 49 instead of 51. That seemed more reasonable.

¹Livermore Roots Tracer, vol. 36, no. 2, May 2016, pages 12-13

²US Census 1880; Census Place: Divide, Phelps, Nebraska; Roll: 753; Family History Film: 1254753; Page: 110B; Enumeration District: 015; line 10-13.

³US Census 1900; Census Place: Anderson, Phelps, Nebraska; Roll: 936; Page: 1A; Enumeration District: 0144; FHL microfilm: 1240936; line 47-49.

⁴NARA; Nebraska State Census; Year: 1885; Series/record Group: M352; County: Phelps; Township: Divide; Page 11; Line 45-48.

⁵Obituary Richard Shanahan, in the Ryan book, privately held by Julie Gilliland Liu.

⁶Obituary Mary Ryan Shanahan, in the Ryan book, privately held by Julie Gilliland Liu.

⁷FindAGrave.com. #71500697 Burial: Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Axtell, Kearney County, Nebraska

⁸State of Nebraska: Bureau of Health—Division of Vital Statistics; Certificate of Death # E12601

⁹www.findmypast.com: Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Baptisms transcription; Michael Ryan/Patrick Ryan/ Johanna Rooth.

Discovering Meidenbauer's Ancestral Bavarian Village

By Patrick M. Lofft

My late wife, Joan Marie (née Heckman) was the daughter of Mildred Barbara (née Meidenbauer) Heckman, and granddaughter of Frank George Meidenbauer and Theresa Meier. The following picture shows Joan with her grandmother, Teresa Meier, mother Mildred Barbara and Joan's two children, Paula and Brian.



Four generations of Meidenbauer family: standing: Joan Marie (née Heckmann) Lofft; seated: Theresa Margaret (née Meyer) Meidenbauer, Paula Marie (née Lofft) Tanabe, Brian Thomas Lofft and Mildred Barbara (née Meidenbauer) Heckmann, circa 1965

For over 20 years Joan yearned to learn the location of the ancestral village from which her mother, Mildred Barbara Meidenbauer's ancestors migrated to Buffalo, Erie Co., New York. Before Joan's death in 1995, she and her Meidenbauer cousins frequently interviewed their parents and collateral relatives for documents preserved by the immigrant

family although none were located.

As you read this article consider making marginal notes for each genealogy resource consulted.

Joan's maternal grandfather, Frank George Meidenbauer, was the first son born in America to his immigrant parents, George and Margaret Daut Meidenbauer. By 1915 Frank George, born 1889, was listed in the Buffalo city directory as a photo



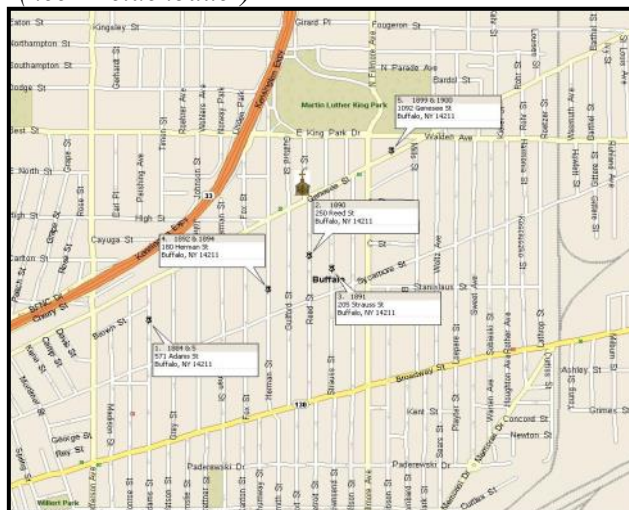
International Bottle Wallopers Convention, Buffalo, New York, September 1940, by Frank George Meidenbauer

engraver. In September 1940, five months after Joan's birth in April, her grandfather made a collage featuring Joan,

the fifth infant from the lower left corner, with her cousins. I have not yet been able to associate any of the other faces with individuals alive in 1940.

Our joint genealogy investigation through multiple

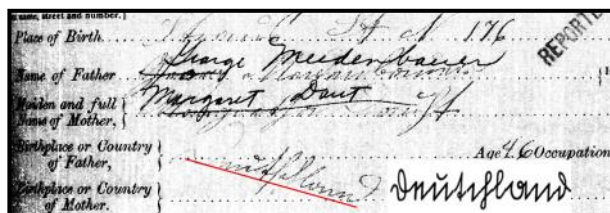
Meidenbauer family addresses from 1884 to 1900



Buffalo City Directories¹ disclosed that the Meidenbauer family moved frequently from one rental address to another. Over the span of 30 years the family lived at 8 different addresses clustered near the Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Parish Church. We were not surprised to learn that family history artifacts had probably been discarded.

An exploration through the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library genealogy microfilms disclosed 'Birth Reports' filed by the midwives who assisted Margaret (née Daut) in delivering four children born between 1885 and 1890, (John, Anna M, Frank G. and Marie C.). One hopeful document emerged. In 1886; two years after the Declaration of Intent and four years after the stated date of immigration, a 'Birth Reports' stated 10 previous children with only 4 living. Three of those four are the three immigrant sons. Could there be older children in Bavaria or infant deaths?

The 'Birth Reports' form requested the parental birth places. Two reports clearly stated Germany, but something else was written on the other two. Had this midwife provided the name of the Bavarian village? She wrote in the antique gothic script. I located a web site - <http://www.suetterlinschrift.de/Englisch/Titel.htm> "Suetterlin writing ("old german hand") as a handwriting" that offered to convert my keyboard entry characters to the equivalent gothic script. By referring to the site's "Tips and tricks for deciphering old scripts" I made several efforts seeking a probable equivalent. Following each iteration, I searched current day maps at MapQuest and Expedia for a Bavarian community by that name. Slowly, I came to realize that she had written "Deutschland."



Suetterlin writing ("old german hand")]

The family of George and Margaret (née Daut) Meidenbauer are enumerated on the 1900 census² with their seven children: Jacob, 28; George, 26;

¹Ancestry.com. *U.S. City Directories*, New York, Erie Co., Buffalo, *The Courier Co., 1884-1906* [database on-line].

²Census 1900; U.S. New York, Erie Co., Buffalo, population schedule; Roll T623-1030, Page: 36B; Enumeration District: 150

Meidenbauer Lineage	
Jakob MEIDENBAUER	b. say 1820 at (?) d. 26 May 1898 at (?) m. say 1840 Bavaria, Germany
Gertraud ROSSBACHER	b. say 1820 at (?) d. 20 June 1886 Welkendorf, Hollfeld, Bayreuth, Bavaria, Germany
George MEIDENBAUER	b. 8 July 1849 Neuhaus (?), Bavaria, Germany d. 16 September 1919 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York m. 30 October 1871 Welkendorf, Hollfeld, Bayreuth, Bavaria, Germany Margaretha DAUT daughter of Johann DAUT and Katharina DUNGFELD
	b. 3 March 1849 Stechendorf, Hollfeld, Bayreuth, Bavaria, Germany d. 19 September 1911 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Frank George MEIDENBAUER	b. 11 July 1888 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York d. 3 May 1952 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York m. 8 August 1911 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York Theresa Margaret MEYER daughter of Martin MEIER and Theresia S. FESTNER
	b. 11 September 1885 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York d. 20 May 1969 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York
Mildred Barbara MEIDENBAUER	b. 11 October 1915 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York d. 7 July 1992 Gates, Monroe Co., New York m. 15 June 1937 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York Harry Francis HECKMANN son of Eugene Anthony HECKMANN and Eleanora FROMMEL
	b. 18 November 1910 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York d. 24 December 1989 Cheektowaga, Erie Co., New York
Joan Marie HECKMANN	b. 15 April 1940 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York d. 5 May 1995 Columbia, Howard Co., Maryland, USA m. 19 January 1963 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York Patrick Michael LOFFT

John, 23; Annie, 15; Catherine, 13; Frank, 10 and Mary, 8. The census stated that the Meidenbauers were married in 1871, 29 years earlier. Margaret was the mother of 7 children and all 7 of them were living. The three older boys (Jacob, George and John) were born in Germany while the 4

younger children (Annie, Catherine, Frank (Joan's grandfather), and Mary) were born in New York. George, Sr., a tailor, was naturalized in 1882 and had been in the United States for 18 years as had his wife and 3 sons. George's Declaration of Intent is dated October 13, 1884 at Erie County Court, Buffalo, New York.

On the subsequent **1910 census**³ the date of naturalization is revised to 1884 and Margaret is reportedly the mother of 15 children with only 7 of them living. Apparently the couple grieved the deaths of several children before leaving Germany.

Both Margaret and George died before the **1920 census** but neither obituary disclosed their ancestral village.

Checking all the usual documents on Family History Center microforms such as Declaration of Intent, Census, Obituaries, and Cemeteries failed to produce the name of a specific village that we sought.

On the **1920 census**⁴ John, a widower, (son of George and Margaret Daut) was living with his son, John Jr.. The entry stating that he along with his parents were born in Bavaria narrowed our inquiry, somewhat. Also on the **1920 census**⁵ the entry for the family of George Jr.(brother of John) confirms that he as well as his parents were born in Bavaria. On the **1930 census**^{6,7} both John and George list their place of birth as Germany.

Probing the parish church records on Family History Library Microfilm 1292740⁸ of original records at Saint Mary of Sorrows Parish, Buffalo, New York for baptisms 1874-1912, and marriages 1874-1910 failed to disclose the much sought after information. Considerably later we would learn what lay beyond the cutoff of 1910 for the marriage records.

³Census 1910; U.S. Buffalo Ward 16, Erie Co., New York; Roll: T624_945; Page: 22A; Enumeration District: 0159

⁴Census 1920; U.S. Buffalo Ward 19, Erie, New York; Roll: T625_1106; Page: 4B; Enumeration District: 165

⁵Census 1920; U.S. Buffalo Ward 15, Erie, New York; Roll: T625_1103; Page: 3A; Enumeration District: 120

⁶Census 1930; U.S. Buffalo, Erie, New York; Roll: 1428; Page: 16A; Enumeration District: 0193

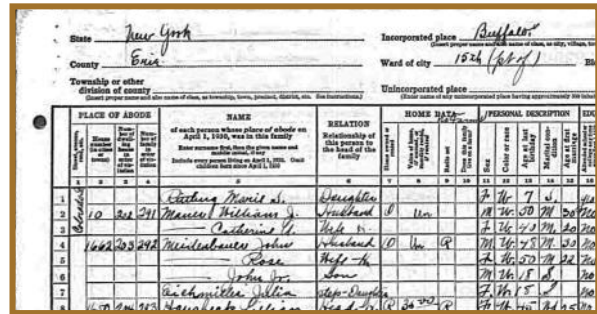
⁷Census 1930; U.S. Buffalo, Erie, New York; Roll: 1431; Page: 15B; Enumeration District: 0211

⁸St. Mary of Sorrows Buffalo, Erie, New York, United States, FHL microfilm 1,292,740.

⁹1920; ; U.S. Buffalo Ward 19, Erie, New York; Roll: T625_1106; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 163

¹⁰The Grosvenor [pronounced Grove-ner] Room is the premiere genealogical destination in Western New York and holds a wealth of information on all things Buffalo and Erie County.

Many years intervened with nary a chink appearing in this brick wall. After Joan's death we re-



Segment of Page: 16A; Enumeration District: 0193; 1930 Meidenbauer, John

visited the previous records with a determination to reread every mark on every page.

Name	Relation	Age	Date of Birth	Marital condition	Age at first marriage
Meidenbauer, John	Husband	48	c1882	M	30=c1912
Meidenbauer, Rose	Wife	50	c1880	M	22=c1902
Meidenbauer, John Jr.	Son	18		S	
Eichmiller, Julia	Step-daughter	18		S	

Fortunately the **1930 census** of John's family had some previously overlooked information on lines 4 through 7:

Well, well, this enumerator discloses that both John and Rose had prior marriages. As John and Rose were first married in about 1912 and 1902 respectively they were not previously married to each other. The listing of a step-daughter, Julia, also suggests the probability that Rose was previously married to Eichmiller. Indeed the **1920 census**⁹ enumerates Juliana Hens with Rose and Julia Eichmiller living on Nevada Avenue a block and a half from John's residence on Genesee Street.

Name	Age	Relation
Juliana Hens	66	Head
Rose M Eichmiller	38	Daughter
Julia U Eichmiller	8	Granddaughter

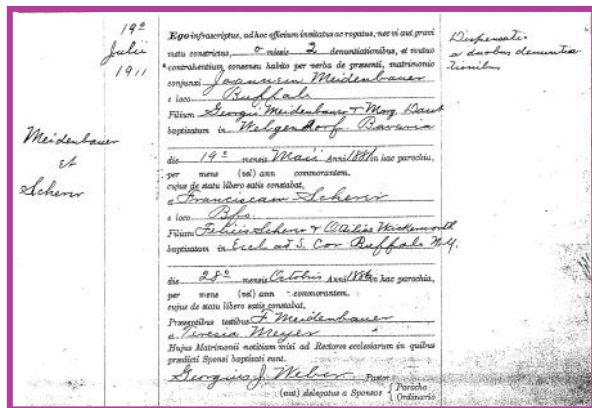
To whom and when was John previously married circa 1912 according to the above cited 1930 census?

During a summer visit to the Grosvenor¹⁰ geneal-

ogy room in the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library the librarian directed my investigation towards the microfilm cabinet containing the 1911 marriage license for John and Francis Scherer. The completed license stated that their marriage had been solemnized at the family's parish church. I called the parish office and offered to come by and thumb through their records. My offer was rejected. I was advised to furnish a letter specifying my needs. On my return to California I hastily composed and mailed that letter on July 5, 2007.

Three months later, September 14, 2007, my languishing mailbox held a response from the parish office with a photocopy of the 'Sacramental' marriage record rather than the 'civil' record signed by the witnesses. The usual expectation is that during the prenuptial interview the couple will name their places of Baptism. John was merely 2 years old when he traveled to Buffalo in 1884. Fortunately for our research effort, both of John's parents are living on 19 July 1911 so as to provide him with the information that he was baptized in Welgendorf, Bavaria. John's mother died two months later on 19 September 1911. Do you recall that the cutoff for marriage records on the Family History Library Microfilm 1292740 was 1910?

Where is Welgendorf, Bavaria? From searching Google, Mapquest and Expedia I found three possible candidates for the probably misspelled "Welgendorf:" Wölkendorf, Stadelhofen; Welkendorf, Ebern; Welkendorf, Hollfeld. Using probable gestation periods I calculated and concurred with



19 July 1911 Sacramental Record of Marriage:
John Meidenbauer and Francis Scherer

the entry on the 1900 census that the parents, George Meidenbauer and Margaret Daut may have married around January 1871, 9 months prior to the birth of their oldest son. At the Pleasanton

Library I consulted the 'Meyers Orts¹¹.' I learned that the specific spelling and location was 'Welkendorf, Hollfeld, Bayreuth, Bayern.' Should I purchase an airline ticket or hire a Bavarian researcher?

Google also helped me locate **Robert Müller**. **Biography:** "Born in Munich in 1974 I attended school in Italy. I studied history and ethnology at Augsburg-University in Germany. I do genealogical researches since about 10 years. Currently I work for different estate-curators as a heir researcher."

Herr Müller and I negotiated a satisfactory agreement via email at a considerable saving from the costs of airfare, hotel, rental car, etc. Besides Herr Müller already had experience with contacting the various archives in Bavaria. After Herr Müller located the appropriate records; he sent me an accounting of his expenses and requested that I forward the funds via Western Union. "Researches conducted in the archive at Bamberg plus translation and Pedigree photocopies, fee at Bamberg archive, fee at city-record Hollfeld, phone, rail ticket to Bamberg. Total: Euros 90.76: USD \$123.71."

In February 2009, I received the detailed records stating that Margaret and George were married on October 30, 1871 and that a child named George was born on September 9, 1872. Another record stated that a son named John was born on May 23, 1881 rather than the 19th as stated in his marriage record. Further records confirmed what we had, previously deduced from the birth and census records in Buffalo that six of their infants had died in Bavaria.

The following summer, July 2010, I packed my European edition of the Garmin navigator (GPS) and traveled to Welkendorf with my wife, Charlotte Eleanora (née) Heckmann (Joan's first cousin). Driving along the narrow rural roads between Bamberg and Welkendorf was a revealing journey.

As is the practice in much of Europe gravesites from the 1800's have been recycled. Under German law, families lease grave sites for a specific period of time, usually from 15 to 30 years. The

¹¹Meyers Orts- und Verkehrs-Lexikon des Deutschen Reichs / with researcher's guide and translations of the introduction, instruction for the use of the gazetteer, and abbreviations by Raymond S. Wright III; 914.3003 MEYERS



Patrick among many Meidenbauer grave markers.

remove/reuse practice continues today in parts of Europe where, after two world wars, overcrowding is an even more pressing issue.

With many years of genealogy research at multiple archives; the location of the ancestral village of Welkendorf, Hollfeld, Bayreuth, Bayern has been discovered for Joan and her Meidenbauer

relatives.

To summarize, the information that we sought was already there. We had to return to the community of origin, read every entry on each census and other documents.

My future mission is to track backwards from the 1940's land records until I reach the colonial land records that prove or disprove the legend that my wife's ancestor limited his purchase of land out of fear that King George would object to his acquisition of even greater holdings. We doubt the validity of this claim as at age 21 Michael is listed as a laborer.

Our earliest record for Michael Stoller [Staller] is:

Michael StallerStaller, aged 21, b. Germany, laborer, was noted on a muster roll of Capt. Stephen Schuyler's Company taken in Albany Co. on 3 May 1760 (*Muster Rolls of New York Provincial Troops 1755-1764*, Edward F De Lancey, editor; New-York Historical Society. p. 276).

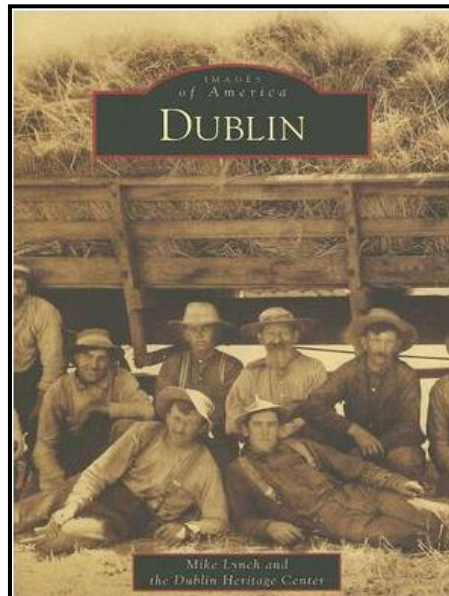
Source: Even More Palatine Families, vol. 1, page 676, @ DAR Library, Washington DC

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Photograph Taken at Flanagan Residence, c. 1914

By Mary Caroline Chunn

On page 70 of the Dublin book¹ by Mike Lynch there's a photo that makes the viewer want to walk right into the picture and join the individuals who are entirely at ease, and obviously happy to be in each other's company. Even the dog is smiling. The caption begins, "Photograph Taken at Flanagan Residence, c. 1914," and then proceeds to identify everyone from left to right. The names in the front row are spelled correctly and in the right order: "Laddie the dog, Genevieve Nevin-Hackett and Rod Fallon". Genevieve would not acquire the extra surname until many years later when she married Gerald Hackett.



Dublin book by Mike Lynch

The caption goes haywire in the back row through no fault of Mike Lynch. It should say: "Dan Tehan, Everett Nevin, James 'Babe' Nevin, Elisabeth Flanagan Nevin, Dennis Nevin and Cornelius 'Con' Nevin."² I looked at the 1920 census to see who lived near them. Except for Con's brothers (Babe and Dennis), all of the above are on the very same page: sheet number 9A³,

¹Dublin (Images of America: California) by Mike Lynch with Dublin Heritage Center Paperback, 127 pages, Published July 5th 2007 by Arcadia Publishing (SC)

² Nevin Hackett aka Jim, son of Genevieve Nevin Hackett. I have his permission to use his name.

to be precise. The location is Pleasanton Township Dublin Precinct, and the only address is County Road Dublin to Sunol. The Nevin family (consisting of Elisabeth and Con and their children, Everett and Genevieve) is immediately followed by Elisabeth's sister, Eva Flanagan. She may have been the one who took the picture. Eva is immediately followed by Daniel and Margaret Murray. This couple is on my research list. I don't know if Daniel is related to Eleanor Murray Fallon and her brother, Michael Murray. I also don't know if Margaret, whose maiden name is Dunnigan⁴, is related to Ann Dunnigan who was the bridesmaid of Ellen Fallon Tehan, according to the Foxworthy-Fallon Saga.

Further down the same census page Dan Tehan is living with his mother, Ellen Fallon Tehan, and his siblings, Kate and Rodger Tehan, and his uncle, Rod Fallon. The very next household includes Dan Tehan's sister, Mary Tehan Nerton. Her daughter, Ida Nerton, wrote a letter in 1981 (when she was Ida Rabello) in which she states that John Flanagan (Elisabeth's father) was a second cousin to Eleanor Murray Fallon. This connection is another item on my research list. Dennis Nevin is on a different page of the 1920 census. He is living in Murray Township with his mother, Margaret Donahue Nevin. She is one of



Photograph taken at Flanagan Residence, c. 1914

four Donahue sisters who married four Nevin brothers. All eight of them were born in County Galway. Two of Dennis and Margaret's neighbors are Mary Donlon Croak and Margaret Donlon Croak. Mary and Margaret were the maternal aunts of Elisabeth and Eva and their sister, Katherine Flanagan Murphy.

I cannot locate James 'Babe' Nevin in the 1920 census, at least not yet. In 1922 he married Genevieve Cardoso in Livermore⁵. Babe was the last of the thirteen children of Martin and Margaret Donahue Nevin. Even though Laddie the dog is not in the census, he was still a cherished member of the family. He did an excellent job posing for the photograph, and so did all the humans.

³1920 Census: Pleasanton, Alameda, California; Roll: T625_92; Page: 9A; Enumeration District: 205

⁴Ancestry.com. *California, Death Index, 1940-1997* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2000; Date: 1945-06-25. California death index record for Clara Murray uses this spelling of her mother's maiden name.

⁵Ancestry.com. *California, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1850-1941* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Original Data: Marriage records, select counties and years. California State Archives, Sacramento, California.

Grandma Parkinson's Hermits

(con't from page 3)

2 c. sugar
1 c. shortening
2 eggs
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. water
1 c. currants
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. cloves
4 c. flour
1/2 tsp salt

- ◆ Cream sugar and shortening.
- ◆ Add currants, beaten eggs and water and vanilla.
- ◆ Add dry ingredients to above.
- ◆ Roll dough into chubs with wax or butcher paper. Chill several hours at least. Better overnight.
- ◆ Roll very thin, working with a small part of dough at a time. It may be necessary to add some flour as you roll cookies to prevent sticking.
- ◆ Cut with cookie cutters or use the rim of a glass.
- ◆ Sprinkle sugar lightly on each cookie before baking. Bake short time only at 375°. Watch carefully as they can brown too fast.
- ◆ Remove soon from cookie sheet to prevent breaking. Mom always frosted and decorated many of the cookies, with "help" from the kids.

John Howland: A Thanksgiving Tale

Recounted by George Fulton

When I think of Thanksgiving, the Pilgrims always come to mind, as this is fundamental to the story of America. But when it comes to things to be thankful for, the story of John Howland always comes to the fore.

John Howland was a member of the Mayflower company¹, and a manservant (or indentured servant) to John Carver. John Carver was a principal in organizing the Mayflower voyage, is credited with writing the Mayflower Compact, and was the first governor of Plymouth Colony. He died in the Spring of 1621.

John Howland's age when the Mayflower left England is uncertain; he is believed to have been one of the younger men but old enough to sign the Mayflower Compact. William Bradford, in his history "Of Plymouth Plantation," refers to him as a "strong young man".

The voyage across the Atlantic in late Fall and early Winter was difficult. At some point during the voyage, and during a particular bad storm, John Howland decides to go on deck. Why is not known, but perhaps the conditions below deck were so bad he just had to get fresh air.

Bradford relates² that he was thrown overboard by the storm, and was several fathoms under water, but managed to grab onto a line in the water. He was then hauled back on board by the crew or other passengers and survived the voyage.

John Howland also survived the first winter when so many of his fellow Pilgrims died, and later married Elizabeth Tilly, the daughter of Edward Tilly who died that winter. John and Elizabeth had a large family and lived to old age.

The Howland family eventually became very large, and has numerous notable descendants such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the presidents Bush. He also has many "ordinary" descendants, such as the writer of this story.

Even though John Howland did an unwise act, he had friends that came to his aid, something truly to be thankful for.

¹White, *John Howland of the Mayflower*, volumes 1-4; Lainhart et al, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Volume 23, parts 1, 2 and 3.

²Bradford, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, p. 63.

John Howland's descendants to George Fulton
Pilgrim John HOWLAND ca 1592-1672 married ca 1623 Pilgrim Elizabeth TILLEY 1607-1687
Hope HOWLAND 1629-1683 married ca 1646 John CHIPMAN 1620-1708
Honorable John CHIPMAN 1669-1756 married 1691 Mary (Marcy) SKIFFE 1671-1711
James CHIPMAN 1694-1749/ married 1717 Mary MINOR 1699-
Mary CHIPMAN 1722-1784/ married ca 1746 John SHIELDS 1709/1719-ca 1756
Reuben SHIELDS 1750-/1837 married Mary MOORE ca 1755-ca 1818
Abel SHIELDS †1862 married Sarah SANDERS 1794-1878
Mary SHIELDS 1817-1879 married John ROBERTS 1811-1895
Sarah A. ROBERTS 1840-1887 married Sylvanus Barden ATWATER 1835-1908
Clio ATWATER 1868-1951 married 1895 Edward J. FULTON 1861-1929
Thompson R. FULTON 1905-1979 married Helga I. R. SCHATT 1914-1976
George FULTON 1950

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Ann Smith Lainhart and Robert S. Wakefield, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, Volume 23: Family of John Howland* (part 1), 2006. ("Silver Book," in print.)

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Elizabeth Pearson White, *John Howland of the Mayflower*, volumes 1-4, various dates (out of print).

Pilgrim John Howland Society,
www.pilgrimjohnhowlandsociety.org



G. R. O. W.

Genealogy Resources On the Web

The Page That Helps Genealogy Grow!

Compiled by Kay Speaks



Search Engines:

www.cyndislist.com/search-engines

#Genealogy

FamilySearch Wiki: Search Engines for Genealogical Research

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Search_Engines_for_Genealogical_Research

This is a good read to educate yourself on the different types of online search engines for genealogy research. It lists specialized genealogy search engines, major search engines that include genealogy related results, compiled search engines that search multiple search engines at one time. Test each with your most unusual surname!

Lists of Villages in China, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_villages_in_China

A village is a clustered human settlement or community, larger than a hamlet but smaller than a town, with a population ranging from a few hundred to a few thousand. Replace villages with “town” and your country.

Leo Baeck Institute: New York|Berlin, <https://archive.org/details/aufbau>

The library of Leo Baeck Institute of New York digitized all issues of Aufbau published from inception of the newspaper 1934-2004 via Internet Archives. A few issues from the New York Public Library. View the original digitized documents. Publisher New York: German-Jewish Club, 1934-2004. Language: English; German.

New York, Jewish Holocaust Survivor Names printed in Aufbau Newspaper, 1944-1946.

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1517>

Source Information: JewishGen, Volunteers of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, comp.

FamilySearch Site Map: <https://family.search.org/site-map>

Under News & Information > Get Help (click link), select “Family History Centers,” use the search bar if you know the name of the location/Family History Center, click the link, <https://familysearch.org/catalog/search>.

Search by: Place, Surnames, Titles, Author, Subjects, Keywords

Search for: Call Number, Film/Fiche Number

Search these family history centers: Any, Family History Library, Online

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Tip: To change the language within a FamilySearch.org website, scroll to the very bottom of the page, find and click the “Language” link next to the image of the world globe. Select your preferred language. Note: These Mexican documents have not been translated. FamilySearch.org websites are actively being translated. Keep checking back for updates. <https://archive.org/details/aufbau>

Ancestry Academy Learning, <https://www.ancestry.com/academy/course/cemetery-research>.

Ancestry has a learning website which requires an Ancestry.com account to access (suggested free locations, some public libraries and Family History Centers). You will need ear phones in public environments. There is a Mobile App available for download on their website. National instructors are listed online along with the number of courses by each presenter. See the video tour for an overview of the website. New courses added monthly. **Free education!**

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