

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

October 2016

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President's Message

I am sitting at the computer watching the falling rain and the blowing trees—it is October 14th, and when they said expect some storms I believe them, well it is the fall after all. Every little noise outside and the dogs react like there is an intruder, keeps one on their toes. I do expect the power to fail at any time as I live in that part of our region where it happens on a frequent basis---we really do rely on electricity.

I am looking forward to assessing the ability of creating a website for our group. Just possibly it will attract future members and a wide viewing audience. Plus there is the excitement of doing something new.

Jean Martyn

I trace my family history so I will know who to blame.
Every family tree has some sap in it. -unknown

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

AHSGR <http://www.ahsgr.org/>
American Historical Society of Germans from Russia

EEGS <http://www.eegsociety.org/>
East European Genealogical Society

SGGEE <http://www.sggee.org>
Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe

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Meetings are held:

Usually the 3rd Monday of each month at 1:00pm
In January, February, March, April, May
September, October and November

**Please contact our email address
vic.grhs@gmail.com
to confirm place and time**

Sobey – (Thrifty Foods)

The **Smile Card Program** has made it possible for us to purchase many books, journals, DVDs, CDs, etc. for our library. Please continue to shop at Thrifty Foods.

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Sobey's/Thrifty Foods Flyer

Check out their flyer online and see their daily specials.

<http://www.thriftyfoods.com/EN/minor/flyer.html>

3 Tips for Using Google for Genealogy

June 16, 2016 By Tyler S. Stahle

It's likely that we've all turned to Google at some point in our genealogical research. After all, simply typing in our search topic, hitting "Enter," and hoping for the best is one of easiest ways to be led to heaps of helpful (and sometimes not-so-helpful) sources. But there's a better way to use Google for family history research says Lisa Louise Cooke, host of *The Genealogy Gems Podcast*.

"I've discovered that there actually is a methodology to using Google for genealogy," said Cooke in her presentation at Roots Tech 2016. "There really is a science to it."

While there are many ways you can use Google to aid your research, here are three of the most beneficial:

1. Formulate Specific Queries

The first and most important step to using Google successfully is identifying what you want to find. That may sound simple, says Cooke, but many people will simply pull up Google and search "Johnson." Instantly, the searcher will be overwhelmed with results that likely aren't relevant due to the commonality of the name "Johnson."

"We've been a little too global in what we're requesting," says Cooke. "So don't throw your genealogy brain out the window just because it's going to Google.com. Structure a question about what you want in really specific terms. Are you looking for a particular record collection? Are you looking for a particular ancestor in a family? Are you just trying to figure out how to upload your family tree?"

Cooke says it's a good idea to formulate your question to Google just as you would to a reference librarian. "How would I describe it to a reference librarian? Ask yourself that. That will help you in doing this."

2. Use Quotation Marks and Minus Signs to Narrow Search Results

One of the best ways to get relevant results from a Google search is to use quotation marks in your search query. Quotation marks tell Google to display only an exact keyword or phrase in all results.

"If I'm doing newspaper research in the San Francisco area, I put 'newspapers' in quotes and also 'San Francisco.' I'm telling Google something very specific about—it's got to have 'newspapers,' and it's got to have 'San Francisco,'" said Cooke.

To further refine search results, you can also use the minus sign (-) to get rid of keywords that you know have nothing to do with your family.

3. Set-Up Google Alerts

After you've flushed out the perfect search query for your ancestors, turn to Google Alerts. Google Alerts will take the keywords or phrase you've developed and will run it across the internet every hour of every day until you tell it to stop.

"Setting up Google Alerts is like getting your own genealogy personal assistant, somebody who's going to do this for you in the background," says Cooke. To create a customized Google Alert, go to www.google.com/alerts. In the search bar near the top of the page, insert your query or the keyword you want to search. In the box below that, type the email address you wish to have results sent to, and click "Create Alert."

Your customized Google Alert will then send you links to web pages that match your query.

After you set up the alert, Google will email you updates on new and updated web pages. Cooke also said, "You can have up to a thousand [alerts]. You're going to sign in, make one query after another, and in your sleep, Google will be searching and finding ancestors. And you will wake up, and it's just like Christmas every day. I love it

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROMANIA

By Tim Lambert

Early Romania

The earliest inhabitants of Romania were Stone Age hunters who lived about 8,000 BC. In time the people of Romania learned to farm and then they learned to make bronze tools. Eventually they learned to use iron. From about 600 BC the ancient Greeks traded with the people they called Getae. They founded settlements on the coast of Romania.

The Romans called the people of Romania Dacians. In 101-102 AD the Roman Emperor Trajan led a campaign against the Dacians. A further campaign was fought in 105-106 AD and the Romans crushed the Dacians at the battle of Sarmizegetusa. Afterwards Dacia became a Roman province. Settlers from other parts of the Roman Empire were brought in and the local people became 'Romanized'. They began to speak Latin. However Roman rule was short lived. In the 3rd century the cost of defending Dacia from 'barbarians' became too great. In 271 Emperor Aurelian withdrew the Roman Empire south of the Danube.

Waves of migrants then came to Romania. In the 5th century came the Huns. In the 6th century they were followed by the Avars and in the 7th century Slavs. Romania then gradually settled down and a feudal order was emerged.

Meanwhile in the 10th century a fierce people called the Magyars (ancestors of modern Hungarians) arrived in Transylvania. By the 13th century the Hungarians ruled Transylvania although it was allowed some autonomy and the Hungarian kings persuaded Germans to go and live there. However although of the inhabitants of Transylvania were Magyars or Germans most of the population were Romanian peasants.

Then in the 14th century Radu Negru (1310-1352) united some Romanians and formed the first Romanian principality, Wallachia. Later in the 14th century another principality, Moldavia was formed. Most of the peasants became serfs (halfway between slaves and freemen). They were ruled over by aristocrats called boyars.

Then during the 15th century a new threat came from south of Romania - the Turks. Both Wallachia and Moldavia fought the Turks and the notorious Vlad the Impaler lived at that time.

In the 16th century Transylvania became part of the Turkish Empire (although it was still allowed some autonomy). However for a time Wallachia and Moldavia managed to remain independent of Turkey.

In 1593 Michael the Brave became ruler of Wallachia. In 1595 he fought and defeated the Turks. In 1599 he defeated the Transylvanians and became prince of Transylvania. In 1600 he conquered Moldavia and made himself its prince. However Michael was killed in 1601 and the union ended.

In the 17th century Wallachia and Moldavia came to be dominated by the Turkish Empire. In the 18th century they had puppet rulers under Turkish control.

In 1683 the Turks were defeated at Vienna and in 1687 the Hapsburgs (rulers of Austria) took Transylvania. Although some of its people were Magyars or Germans most were Romanian peasants. Their harsh treatment led to a rebellion headed by three serfs called Horea, Cloxa and Crisan. The rebellion failed but in 1785 the Hapsburg Emperor abolished serfdom in Transylvania.

During the early 19th century Turkey continued to dominate Wallachia and Moldavia. However Turkish power was weakening. In 1859 the two principalities were united under a single prince called Alexander Ioan Cuza. In 1862 the new state was named Romania. Finally in 1877 Romania declared its independence from Turkey.

Cuza carried out reforms in Romania including abolishing serfdom. However he was unpopular with conservatives and in 1866 he was overthrown. Prince Carol replaced him. In 1881 Romania became a kingdom with Carol I its king.

Modern Romania

In 1916 Romania joined Britain and France and Russia against Germany and Austria-Hungary. In 1918

Romania took Transylvania from Hungary. Bessarabia, which was taken by the Russians in 1812 became part of Romania again. As a result Romania increased greatly in size and its population increased from about 7.5 million to about 12 million. In 1920 the Western powers recognized the changes by the Treaty of Trianon.

In 1927 the right-wing Legion of the Archangel Michael, better known as the Iron Guard was formed in Romania. The 1930s were an era of political instability in Romania with many different governments. Finally in 1938 the king banned political parties and introduced a royal dictatorship in Romania.

In 1940 Stalin forced Romania to surrender the eastern province of Bessarabia to Russia. Furthermore Hitler forced the Romanians to give Northern Transylvania to Hungary and to give other territory to Bulgaria. As a result of giving away so much territory King Carol became very unpopular and he was forced to abdicate in favor of his son Michael. However Michael had little power. Marshall Ion Anontescu made himself fascist dictator of Romania and he called himself Conducator or leader. In June 1941 under Antonescu Romania joined the German invasion of Russia, partly to regain Bessarabia.

During the Second World War Jews and Gypsies from Romania were deported and murdered.

However from 1943 Germany was losing the war. Finally on 23 August 1944 Antonescu was removed in a coup. Romania then changed sides and declared war on Germany. By the end of October 1944 Germans and Hungarians were driven out of Transylvania, which became part of Romania again.

However after the war Russian troops were stationed in Romania, which made a Communist takeover inevitable. (The Russians also took Bessarabia again).

In November 1946 elections were held in Romania and the left wing parties did well. The Communists took key posts and in December 1947 the king was forced to abdicate. In February 1948 other left wing parties merged with the Communist Party and a

totalitarian regime was introduced in Romania. Industry was nationalized.

Meanwhile Antonescu was shot as a war criminal in 1946. Thousands of other Romanians met the same fate.

Russian troops withdrew from Rumania in 1958 and after 1960 Romania adopted an independent foreign policy. In 1965 Nicolae Ceausescu became ruler of Romania.

Although Ceausescu had an independent foreign policy he ruled Romania with a rod of iron. Ceausescu was determined to increase heavy industry in Romania but ordinary people suffered abject poverty. They also suffered terrible repression.

The Communist regime in Romania suddenly collapsed in 1989. In December demonstrations took place in Timisoara. On 21 December Ceausescu was booed by a crowd in Bucharest and demonstrations followed. The next day Ceausescu appeared on the balcony of the Central Committee Building but he was forced to escape by helicopter. Ceausescu's fellow Communists deserted him and he was arrested. He and his wife were shot on 25 December 1989.

Romania then faced a difficult transition from Communism to democracy and a market economy. A body called the National Salvation Front took control and in May 1990 it won elections. It won further elections in 1992. However in 1996 Emil Constantinescu, head of the right-wing Democratic Convention of Romania won the presidential elections. He was replaced by Ion Iliescu in 2000.

Romania joined NATO in 2004. Romania also joined the EU in 2007. Romania suffered badly in the recession of 2009. However Romania recovered in 2011. Today the population of Romania is 21.8 million.

HOW MANY ANCESTORS DO WE HAVE????

© Lorine McGinnis Schulze

<http://olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml>

While the idea of the Diamond Theory of Ancestors is not new, I've taken notes from different sources, compiled my own data, and written up what I hope is an interesting and understandable explanation.

If we double the number of ancestors in each generation, 2 parents, 4 grandparents, and so on, we can see that by the time we are back 10 generations, we have the potential for 1024 ancestors. But is this true? If we were to go back to the time of Charlemagne, we would find we had the potential for 281 trillion (YES!) ancestors all living at that one moment in history. This is statistically impossible! So where did our ancestors go?

It is estimated that 80% of the marriages in history were between second cousins. Why? Because the population base was smaller, people lived in small communities and migrated within those same small communities. The theory in genealogical research is that our family trees are actually shaped like a diamond, not a pyramid as shown below. Tracing back a few generations gives a wider shape. Keep going and you find the shape narrowing, eventually, the theory holds, converging to only a few ancestors.

This may sound mind-boggling but I've seen the truth of it. I am back a total of 14 generations which takes me to the last half of the 1500s. I've found that in two cases so far, I am descended from more than one child of one specific couple. Need an example? Pieter Uziele and his wife Cornelia Damen were my 8th great grandparents. I descend from two of their children: Sophia Uziele and her sister Maria Uziele. Remember, they are my 7th great-grandmothers and are in my 10th generation. I also descend from two children of Jochem Lambertse Van Valkenburg and his wife Eva Hendrickse Vrooman, who were my 8th great-grandparents. Their son Isaac and his sister Jannetie are my 7th great-grandparents and are in my 10th generation. So we see the gene pool narrowing in my 11th generation!

How? In the pyramid theory of doubling ancestors each generation, these **four** 7th great-grandparents would give me **eight** distinct individuals as ancestors

for my 8th great-grandparents - but they don't. Because they are sets of siblings, I have only **four** new distinct individuals as ancestors for my 8th great-grandparents - half the number I should have if the doubling theory held true. Assuming I have double sets of siblings at least three times on that 10th generation, I've lost six individuals from my 11th generation. That carries over to my 12th generation, but doubles the number I lose for a total of 12 ancestors. If I had three more double sets of siblings in my 11th generation, I've lost another six individuals in my 12th - for a total of 18 fewer individuals. Keep doing this for a few more generations and you'll see the shape your ancestral tree is taking.

Luckily for the human race, this tendency to marry cousins reversed itself in more recent years, due to larger population bases and easier access to possible mates. Otherwise, our search for the missing link might prove to be just that!

One very interesting probability model created by a demographer for genealogists, is that a child born in 1947 in England tracing back to 1492 would have 60,000 ancestors. Going back further to 1215, this child would find that 80% of the entire population of England at that time would be on his/her family tree! So anyone living in present-day England who traces his/her lineage back through English history would theoretically be related. This is why genealogists find so many people searching for the same families in the 1600s and earlier, and why we find so many "cousins" out there in our search. I've found hundreds of cousins in the last year while searching via the Internet.

Genealogy is fascinating, and becomes even more so when we make those human contacts in present-day times with folks as far away as Norway who are descended from the same immigrant ancestor of 1624. I've become almost blasé about new cousins - I expect to find them, and I do!

Pyramid Theory of Doubling Ancestors

SELF
2 PARENTS
4 GRANDPARENTS
8 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
16 GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
32 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
64 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
128 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
256 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
512 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
1024 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

In this theory the number of ancestors double each generation. I can't represent the rest of the generations on this page, so following is the number of theoretical ancestors in each generation, starting at Generation 12 where the figure above leaves off.

Gen. 12: 2048
Gen. 13: 4096
Gen. 14: 8192
Gen. 15: 16384
Gen. 16: 32768

Diamond Theory of Ancestors

In this theory the pyramid begins to narrow beyond the 10th generation. I can't represent this with numbers as they would be unknown, so I am representing the basic shape with x representing the number of individuals in each generation. I will, however make some assumptions about the number of parents and grandparents back to the 10th generation.

SELF
2 PARENTS
4 GRANDPARENTS
8 GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
16 GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
32 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
64 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
128 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
256 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
512 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
1024 GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
x G-G-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
x G-G-G-G-G-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
x G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS
x-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-G-GREAT-GRANDPARENTS

This article was researched by Lorine McGinnis Schulze of The Olive Tree Genealogy

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