



Ask a Genealogist

Chatham Community Library

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Reference Librarian Dana Haven

Overseas in Bavaria!

- How can one connect with a genealogist in Bavaria, Germany to do family research?
- How do most charge for this type of service: hourly?

The approach outlined here will work for nearly any location.

We'll show the ideas and provide example links.

Rates are unknown, but most professionals will give you a quote. One local genealogist (with a national reputation) charges about \$40/ hour.

Overseas research ideas, pg1

- Go to the Family Search Research Wiki at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page
 - Enter the location in the search box. Select from the choices that appear, such as [location] genealogy, [location] Societies and so on.
 - Selecting Societies brings up a list. Some have websites and some are likely to be in the United States.
 - The web sites will sometimes have English-language versions
 - [https://www.historisches-lexikon-bayerns.de/Lexikon/Bayerischer Landesverein f%C3%BCr Familienkunde e. V.](https://www.historisches-lexikon-bayerns.de/Lexikon/Bayerischer_Landesverein_f%C3%BCr_Familienkunde_e._V.)
 - Societies will sometimes have resources that include genealogy service providers.
 - <https://ggsmn.org/cpage.php?pt=74>

Overseas research ideas, pg2

- Go to the Search section of Ancestry to view the collections for that particular area. Example:
 - <https://www.ancestry.com/search/places/europe/germany/bavaria/>
- Find on this page the message boards and member directory.
 - Search the message boards for someone researching the same person as yourself.
 - Do a Member Search by research interest.
 - <https://www.ancestry.com/community/membersearch/interests?researchSurname=&researchLocation=Bavaria%2C%20Germany&researchYear=&queryId=b9ae83be-7d66-4375-b0af-d8d3ede958bc>
 - Explore the results through Ancestry's messaging engine.

Overseas research ideas, pg3

- Do an online search for something like “[location] genealogy services.”
 - Somewhere in the list will be links to professional genealogist who cover your desired locations.
 - <https://www.trace.com/genealogists/german/>
 - <https://www.progenealogists.com/>
- Join a Facebook [location] group and ask for help.
 - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/412807372178231/>
- Check the Association of Professional Genealogists for someone living in your research location.
 - Home page is <https://www.apgen.org/cpages/home>.
 - [Here's a link to APGen Germany-based researchers.](#)

Where'd they come from?

- How to find towns where your ancestors lived in Europe, Great Britain and Scotland?
- *The key is border-crossing records of any type!*
- Ideas:
 - Use the Family Search research wiki to find out what records are available for the locations of interest.
 - Census records in the USA point to overseas origins.
 - Passenger records/ immigration records give a great deal of detail.
 - Naturalization records have specific information.
 - Excellent records exist for the UK and Ireland.

Example for Scotland

- Family lore said gg'ma was from Scotland.
- Married name was Caravas; this also was the last name g'ma carried through her life.
 - Husband Caravas was Greek; immigration record and naturalization record prove so.
 - Mom's and my DNA tests reveal no Greek DNA.
- Three persons of approx. right age and name cross the borders at the right time.
 - Use a disambiguation process, such as a complex timeline or comparison chart.
 - I developed trees for all three, eliminating one.
- Family photo album provides names and relationships.
- Mother's birth cert places g'ma and mom at a particular place and time.
- Passenger record for ggg'pa includes note that he intended to visit gg'ma at mom's birth location. This verified which family was in play!
- Scottish vital records nailed down the family's origin.

Difficulties abound!

- Some communities are very difficult to trace, e.g., Jewish genealogy.
 - Contact a society that can give you help with the process.
- Records may not exist, have been lost, may not be online or may be extremely difficult to find.
 - Visit locations and manually search records where only paper records exist.
 - Verify all information you get from other family trees.
- All family lines end up in a brick wall at some point.
 - Names might have been changed.
 - Adoptions and out-of-wedlock births may not have been documented.
 - The paper trail runs out when one reaches the limit of documentation.

Early Virginia commerce

- Daniel Regan received a land grant in Surry County Virginia in 1640, having previously been an indentured servant. His father was Ira Regan of County Corke, Ireland. The television series “*Jamestown*” referred to the Virginia Company. Surry County is across the James River from Jamestown.
- Do you have any suggestions as to how I might contact the Virginia Company to determine the records they may have?

Online search results:

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Virginia_Company shows that the Virginia Company failed in 1624. It is unlikely that their records exist.
- Databases for indentured servants are available to trace your ancestors.
 - See the excellent article at <https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/indentured-servants/>.
 - Put your ancestor's name into the Price Genealogy [Immigrant Services Database](#).
 - Search Virtual Jamestown [Labor Contracts](#), which includes 17th century indentured servants.
 - Search <http://earlysettlers.msa.maryland.gov/> for Maryland settlers.
 - Search for "indenture" at <https://www.cyndislist.com/>.
 - Search the [Old Bailey criminal records](#) where your ancestor might have been involuntarily transported.

Chatham County yearbooks

- I was adopted in 1946 and through DNA tests have traced my biological mother to Chatham County. Biological mother died in 1992 and I would love to see her picture. Would the library have school year books dating back to late 30's early 40's?
- The Chatham County Community Library has made many yearbooks available online at Digital NC and others are being added over time.
 - Available yearbooks are described at <https://chathamhistory.org/pdfs/ChathamCountyYearbooks.pdf>.
 - <https://www.digitalnc.org/collections/yearbooks/?type=highschool>
- Depending on which high school is of interest, there may be a yearbook available.
- Additional yearbooks are online, e.g., <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1265/>.

Incorrect facts

- There are so many things to research, do you have ideas how to fix an issue when someone posted the wrong person/or document on Ancestry information?
- The best thing to do is to maintain a pristine, authoritative copy of your family history information. Verify every fact you find, citing sources, so that you know your data is correct.
 - I recommend keeping your authoritative data in a desktop genealogy program and not solely online.
- If you feel someone has an online error, you can approach them and provide them the source you believe correctly represents the item.
 - Done respectfully, this can be a source of learning for both parties.
- On Family Search (where anyone can change anything), you can set a “watch” on anyone in your tree to be notified if there is a change and who made it.

Naming names

- Do you index all family names alphabetically or personalize one side of "the tree" by last name for records?
- Genealogy best practice is to associate persons with their birth name and note additional names as alternates.
 - Additional names include married names, nicknames, assumed names, adoptive names and so on.
 - Having these additional names in your genealogy software makes searching easier and helps prevent duplication.
- My hard disk filing system includes my genealogy program reference ID in the folder name and in many media file names.

- ▼ 03-People
 - > ABC
 - > DEFG
 - > HIJK
 - > LMN
 - ▼ OPQR
 - Page Robert Morris
 - > Rickey
 - > Ridgley
 - ▼ Ritchie
 - Ritchie Andrew 2764
 - Ritchie Donald McLean 1275
 - Ritchie Jemima 125
 - Ritchie Jemima T 2755
 - Ritchie Jemima Tasket 2750
 - Ritchie Jessie Ann 2981
 - Ritchie Jessie D 1273
 - Ritchie Mary Masson 1274
 - Ritchie Sarah Charleton 3028
 - Ritchie Thomas A F 1272

The topic of genealogy organization was covered in class “Going Digital, Part 1.”
Slides are available.

Cremation record

- How would you locate a legal record of cremation for someone?
- The answer depends on cremation location.
 - Many states require crematories to maintain records of every cremation, so first find the funeral home/crematory, then approach them for a record.
 - Generally, a certificate of cremation is provided by the crematory to the person arranging the cremation.
- There are several associations serving crematories, so additional information may be available through them.
 - [International Cremation Federation](#)
 - [Cremation Association of North America](#)

Ancestry Library Edition

- Will CCL continue the Ancestry Edition for patrons accessing the website on personal devices or discontinue it now that our Library is open?
- Answer: Ancestry Library Edition is currently scheduled to be available remotely through June 30th, though it's possible access may be extended again.

Questions?

Contact Jim at

genealogy@creeksidefarm.org

Schedule individual sessions at

[this link](#)