Dane County Area Genealogical Society News

President's Message from Bob Rettammel

As the weather has warmed up and kids are out of school, I hope that you have had a chance to be with family, celebrate memories, create new ones, and just have time to enjoy outside activities. The DCAGS Board and committees have been busy with ongoing activities to continue the quality structure that past members started over ten years ago. We also have been busy trying new and revisiting old activities that will maintain and grow the organization for the immediate future and hopefully beyond.

As most of you know the use of technology in genealogy has grown in the last several years and will continue to be a presence. Whether we are a hobbyist or professional genealogists we notice the impact that these technical influences have on research and the shared stories that are more accessible to various distant cousins. Of course, not all of us have the same experience with technology or even have enough knowledge to take advantage of what is available to capture (sources), cite properly, and make good judgements about the information that may be a fact or be a complete fiction of what we see on a website, database,

or electronic print. We also must be patient, consider the source and keep learning together.

Learning together is why DCAGS and many other societies exist - share a passion and be of assistance to each other. Many of you should know that we have a DCAGS Website for members (www.dcags.wildapricot.org), a Facebook page (www.facebook.com/dcags/).

To grow upon these foundations the DCAGS leadership is in the early stages of learning how to use these technical software tools to our advantage, while also maintaining the same core principles of genealogy that are important to many of you that have done family history for decades, without use of technology. To enhance all members and future members experiences, we hope in the next few months to develop a DCAGS Blog and other ideas that the Technology Committee is proposing for review.

The DCAGS website is now managed by members Melodee Patterson with assistance from Nick Brinsko. Melodee has a background in computer programming and website development. Nick has experience with web handling, hosting and domain/email management for businesses. He also works in software support for secure file transfer software which includes working

Regular DCAGS meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 11:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI.

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The DCAGS Governing Board meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 9:00 am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints located at 4505 Regent, Madison, WI. For more information, see:
www.dcags.wildapricot.org

with website security certificates and secure protocols to protect company data. Nick has volunteered to assist with the setup at our speaker program meetings on Saturdays.

Both Melodee and Nick are great people to work with and can help members in areas where technology is important to DCAGS now and in future. Other local, national genealogical societies, archives, and other vested parties in genealogy use technology as a benefit and not as a replacement for hands-on genealogy.

If you have technology ideas please share them with Melodee Patterson (deekae99@gmail.com) or Bob Rettammel (brettammel@gmail.com).

Upcoming Membership Meetings/Speaker Programs

August 12

DCAGS member Sherry Lloyd will speak on "Webinars and On-Line Genealogy Websites". This program will show you where to find education and training to help you do genealogy.

September 9

Emil Hoelter, Wisconsin Historical Society Processing Archivist, Library, Archives, and Museum Collections will speak about the Commission records and how they could be useful in genealogical research.

October 14

Richard Pifer, PhD. Will speak on this Title: "Oh no! Grandad's World War I service record burned in a fire. What do I do now?"

Two kinds of knowledge are needed to do genealogical research or write a family history: knowledge of sources and knowledge of context. In the first half of the program, Dr. Pifer will talk about strategies for World War I era genealogy -- what records are available and how to find them. In the second half of the program, he will focus on what life was like during the war, on the home front and in the trenches.

Rick Pifer is the retired Director of Public Services for the Library-Archives Division of the Wisconsin Historical Society. As an archivist and librarian, he spent 35 years helping genealogists identify and use the records they needed to trace their ancestry. He has taught a wide array of classes and workshops on topics ranging from courthouse research to mapping metes and bounds. As a historian, Dr. Pifer's research interest has always been the Wisconsin home front during the world wars. He is the author of A City at War: Milwaukee Labor During World War II (published 2003) and The Great War Comes to Wisconsin: Sacrifice, Patriotism and Free Speech in a Time of Crisis (due out in October 2017).

2017 Programs

August	12	Sherry Lloyd, *Webinars and Online Genealogy Websites* This program will show you where to find education and training to help you pursue genealogy.
September	9	Emil Hoelter, *WHS-War History Commission Records*
October	14	Richard L. Pifer, PhD, *Family History and Genealogy during the* *Great War*
November	11	Thomas MacEntee, Webinar - Live Speaker
December	9	Show and Tell

Recent Meeting Highlights

June

At the June 10th program Genealogist Ute Brandenburg, from Iowa, demonstrated strategies for finding your family's hometown, and introduced record sources for research in Germany.

Major steps in researching your German ancestors has 3 key elements: 1) Hometown and Faith, 2) Understand German history and geography and 3) Reading German Kurrent Script, Fraktur type face and often Latin.

Knowing the hometown and faith is vital given Germany did not become unified as one country until 1871 and civil records started in 1874. So parish records are the key especially before that time. Birth, marriage and death records were maintained by the nearest local parish in the area of your ancestors. To find your hometown you should do an exhaustive search here in the US. Census records list emigration dates as early as 1900 with pre-1871 census lists offering individual German states.

German history and geography is important due to unified Germany history, not being one country until later in its history. Geography can affect the nearest and easiest travel to the "local" parish which could be in another country.

Reading German text can be difficult to learn and Google Translate is only somewhat accurate, best to use as hints. It is important to have German documents translated by a person with expertise in that variation of the text. This is due to the common problem with most transcribed documents that not all information has been transcribed.

Our speaker offered the participants German Genealogy Links by Ute Brandenburg, Genealogists, Translator, germanscriptexperts.com and German-American Resources for Genealogist by Antje Petty with the Max Kade Institute. We thank her for her visit to Madison to speak with us.

July

On Saturday, July 8 our society had a beautiful day giving a tour of Forest Hill
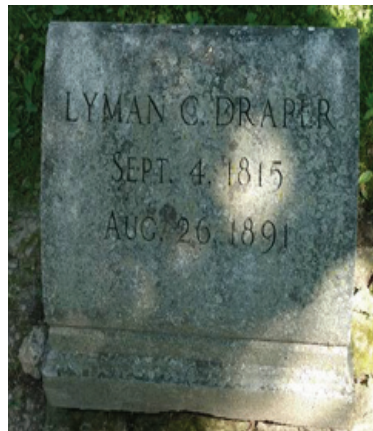
Cemetery in Madison, WI. We had 20 attendees and saw some historic grave sites, such as Lyman C Draper and family. Mr. Draper was a Corresponding Secretary for the Wisconsin State Historical Society from 1854-1887. He is known for traveling extensively gathering manuscripts and reminiscences from old pioneers in the early American Republic.

Riley, James John Adam 'Snowball' (Aug 5, 1902 - Oct 11, 1975) - Section 9-G.

For decades, Snowball was one of Madison's 'street people', a hard-working window cleaner and kitchen helper who was a familiar sight on State Street and University Avenue. He wore white bunny boots and overalls crammed with pens. Art students sketched him and journalists interviewed him. He had a smile for everyone and many friends. He revealed little about his early life, except that he had traveled the country hopping freight trains. He spent his last four years at the Madison Convalescent Center, where at times he pushed other patients in their wheelchairs and swept the floors.

The cemetery tour provided time for group discussion on what we saw, including how to take care of tombstones, whether the markers on stones were new or not, and sharing our knowledge about www.findagrave.com. We also found the burial location of a local community member, John Riley, in State Street area near UW-Madison. He was known as "Snowball" in the 1960s. Mr. Riley is listed in Find a Grave with about 2/3 of the people in the Forest Hill Cemetery.

Society Program Meeting Survey

The Board Meeting on March 11, 2017 voted to continue DCAGS Program meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month, from April 2017 through March 2018, at 11:00am at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 4505 Regent St., Madison, WI.

In April/May 2017 Newsletter I mentioned that the Board would develop a membership survey asking current members whether they prefer weekdays or weekend programs, or a combination of those two approaches, a Winter Schedule and Spring to Fall Schedule option.

I can report that preliminary steps at the survey are happening now and my hope is to have this short survey out in early October 2017. For those who need a paper version of survey we will have that available. Otherwise the survey will be in electronic form for easy access and tabulation of responses. Thereafter, the Board will discuss and I will report back to you in early December 2017.

More details will be forthcoming through the website after details are

worked on. In the meantime, I thank you for your patience and understanding this matter. We still will continue Saturday programs through March 2018 for sure. We have enough time to assess and

Register for Society Programs on Our Website

As we make improvements in outreach, we also are trying to get our DCAGS Members to indicate their interest in coming to our Saturday Programs. One reason is so we can plan for the number of handouts, inform the speakers of the interest in the forthcoming program and to learn overtime on many members participated in our Genealogy Programs. So how do you register on the DCAGS website?

Instructions:
How To Register (https://dcags.wildapricot.org/How-to-Register) – see dropdown under Events. In the event description we've added "Not sure how to register? Click here." which goes to that page. For those wanting a printout of instructions there is a link for a PDF of the instructions on the How To Register page.

Ask DCAGS   *We are hoping to help members who are experiencing a problem or "dead end" in their research. At the next membership meeting, stop at the Name Tags table where you can provide us with a description of your problem, with your name and phone number/email address. Joyce Nigbor and helpers will respond with suggestions about how your situation might be approached. They will not do the genealogical work, but will offer ideas.*

What's Been Done: Using Someone Else's Genealogy Research

Thomas MacEntee, of High-Definition Genealogy
http://hidefgen.com   hidefgen@gmail.com

The "Outside Research" Problem

Here is a typical scenario encountered by genealogists of every skill level: you are given a box of "stuff" from a relative and told "this is our family history." While you may be delighted at this sudden treasure trove, you should also be concerned about incorporating potentially misleading data into your current research.

How do you effectively review and incorporate information you've inherited including notes, family stories and more? How do you do so in such a way that honors and respects the contributions of other family members? And what about extracting "clues" from data that could prove unreliable?

Inherited Research Action Plan

- Perform a basic inventory.
- Track content.
- Evaluate research content.
- Incorporate proven information.
- Look at unproven information for possible clues.
- Share information with others responsibly.

Evaluating Research Content: A Step-by-Step Approach

Break down the information you have received into "data points." Example: a typewritten family history from the 1970s contains a birth location for your great-grandfather and this is "new" information in terms of what you currently have in your research. Evaluate the source of the information and determine whether it supports the fact or not.

Evidence Evaluation Fields

The following fields can be used when working with The Board for Certification of Genealogists' Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources (

) by Linda Geiger. They offer an exellent way to help analyze research data.

- *Source Type*: A source is Original if it is the first written statement, photograph, or recording of an event. Subsequent copies are Derivative and may be reproduced by hand, machine, camera or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, in microform, as photographs or digital images, or in any other medium that records the image whether transcribed by hand or technology.
- *Clarity*: Use Clear if the information can easily be read. Use Marginal if information is not clear, is partially obscured and researcher must "guess" at words or letters.
- *Information Type*: Use Primary if a piece of information is recorded by a knowledgeable eyewitness or participant in that event, or by an official whose duties require him or her to make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use Secondary if information is supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors caused by memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional stress.
- *Evidence Type*: Direct evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. Indirect evidence is inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

Working with Other Researchers

When working with other family historians, you may encounter situations where there is disagreement as to facts about a common ancestor or relative. Also keep in

mind that while we all have a similar goal of documenting our family history, our journeys can be very different and you may have more or fewer skills than another researcher.

Correcting Information in a Collaborative Environment

We all started somewhere right? And if like me, you believe the genealogy journey is a learning process, you then understand that people make mistakes. Even you. But with genealogy we also need to understand that very often what seems like facts and academic research are also filled with lore, legend, family stories and emotion. There is a personal sense of ownership for many genealogists and correcting information can sometimes be a difficult process.

- *Understand the capabilities of the platform*. When dealing with websites that display family trees and or indexed and transcribed records, do your homework and determine what can and what can't be done. This may include having to read the Terms of Service agreement to understand who owns user data once it is uploaded.
- *Ask and ask nicely*. When dealing with other researchers onlne, a "virtual" smile goes a

long way. Let the other person know that you've found other information related to a specific person, place or event and ask them if they'd like the data for their own research. Also ask them to update any online postings not to prove that your research is "correct" or "better," but to help all genealogists who come upon the research in the future.

- *Avoid "right" and "wrong" statements*. The easiest way to alienate a fellow genealogist is to tell them that their research is wrong. Even if the research is incorrect, your goal should be to improve the current research and to help future researchers.
- *If necessary, publish your own research*. Sometimes either you can't contact the other genealogist or they refuse to update their information. Remember that you have at your disposal a variety of tools to make sure your research is just as visible as any other genealogist.

Giving and Receiving Proper Credit

Thanks to social media and education initiatives, there is more awareness of the need to credit researchers especially when narrative

content is involved. While this section is not intended as a lesson on copyright law, it is an area of growing importance in the genealogy community which needs to be addressed.

First, realize that facts cannot be copyrighted (meaning birth dates, death dates, names, etc.) But narrative text, say in a genealogy report that you put together, is protected by copyright. Even so, if you get a great lead on your own research from what someone else has posted, here's some advice:

- Contact the researcher, if possible. State how you want to use the research (especially if you intend to publish the information in print or online in a blog or website), show how you will credit the researcher and then thank them for their hard work.
- Build a relationship. Briefly mention how you are related to the research, or if representing a client, how your client is related.

So what do you do if a researcher is overly possessive of the information and doesn't want to share?

- *Stick to the facts and cite your sources*. Again, if it is facts, then technically you can use the information. However, if it is sourced, I would do

the research myself and then use the facts as I wanted. Make sure your source citations states when you found the record!

- *Write your own narrative*. If the person refuses to give permission to use their narrative, realize that they have that right. You'll need to do your own narrative; sorry, there is no shortcut here!
- *Reference, but don't plagiarize.* For research, you can reference that person's research with a footnote as long as you don't reproduce the entire text.

And what about getting credit for your own work? Well, if you do find that someone has used your research and published it without giving you credit (and, again, we're talking narrative content), then you have several options:

- Advocate and educate. Often, these situations occur with new genealogists who don't understand copyright or the need to give credit. Be courteous and let them know that you need attribution and why.

- Be steadfast. Occasionally you will find a person

who knew what they were doing and didn't care. Hold your ground. Research your options and also remember to pick your battles. Is a confrontation – either online or in person – really worth it?

Tips and Tricks for Incorporating Research

- Take inventory. Remember, you can't put together an action plan if you don't know what you've received in terms of outside research. Carefully review the content – both paper and digital – and sort into folders or groups. Create a tracking list or spreadsheet and mark off items that have been reviewed, the source of the information, and whether it or not it has been added to your research.
- Evaluate. Evaluate. Evaluate. The most important step in the incorporation process is to thoroughly evaluate each data point – such as a birth date or death location – and ensure that it is valid. Remember to use the Genealogy Proof Standard as a guide and if any data seems "iffy," err on the side of NOT adding it to your research.
- Never import outside data directly into your

genealogy database. Whether the data is in a GEDCOM file or some other format, always know what you are bringing into your genealogy database. Remember that is not always easy to remove data once it has been incorporated into your research.

- Focus on data preservation. If you've received printed genealogy research, make sure you have scanned the pages and converted to digital format. For GEDCOM and other files, ensure there is one or more backups of the data. For data imported from websites and online family trees, create a "holding folder" on your computer and make sure there is a backup copy.
- Share and share responsibly. Once you've added new data from others, determine the benefits of sharing your finds with others. For living persons, always ask permission first, and for stories and narratives, remember that copyright issues might be involved. When sharing, including a source citation to assist other researchers.

Resource List

Choosing History   *by Eleanor Brinsko*

I just returned from a two-week genealogical trek across Norway with my father. He went over there in 2000 with my grandmother and now he wanted to take me. I think it's really neat to see the beginning of a family tradition!

As I traveled, one thing I made sure to do is to journal every day. There was so much to remember and to take in that I hoped I remembered everything that happened by the time I wrote before bed. Good thing I did because as I reread the journal on the last day, I had already forgotten!

But as I look back on my journaling, I am reminded of a conversation my parents and I had at supper one fall night in 2006. I remember it distinctly because it was my first semester of music history (my favorite subject of all time) and our professor assigned us to write a paragraph about what makes history history. My dad, an archivist for the state of Minnesota, and my mother, a public librarian with two history degrees, and I sat around and had a deep conversation about this question. That is when my dad said, "It's the historians that choose what is important to remember and what can be overlooked." That quotation has stayed with me all these years. It was the driving force for my college and graduate work, evaluating what has been remembered and what has not. It is the driving force behind my genealogy business, helping families be remembered. And it was subconsciously the driving force behind my journaling.

My journal has the important information that I need to remember in it, such as places we visited, food we tried, and people we met. I had some reflection about the lessons I learned over there. The thing it left out were most of the terrible things that happened, such as two bus drivers not knowing where our first hotel was because it was too new or that we almost missed the plane back home because the Iceland airport had posted misinformation.

Those obstacles make the story exciting! It gives light to the decisions that we made. Why did I subconsciously leave these details out? Maybe I was too tired to write a novel about a single day. Maybe I was afraid of expressing my true feelings in case people I encountered read my journal someday. Maybe I felt that those things were not important enough to leave in and be counted as history.

Instead, I did my best to be as accurate as possible about the information I felt was important to preserve for future generations. I wanted to remember the good times instead of the hair-pulling frustrating times. I deliberately chose how I wanted my trip to be known to the people who did not go along.

As I continue with my genealogical work, I am going to evaluate the stories and journals. Ranging from my great-grandfather's travel journal from Sweden to personal histories that are written, I am going to learn about the person through what they kept and wonder what was left out.

How to Organize Inherited Family Genealogy Research
http://practicalarchivist.com/inherited-genealogy-research-guest-post/

I just inherited a huge pile of genealogy. Now what?
http://genealogysstar.blogspot.com/2015/03/i-just-inherited-huge-pile-of-genealogy.html

Skillbuilding: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources
http://www.bcgcertification.org/skillbuilders/skbld085.html

The 3 Cs: Organizing Research Inherited from a Relative
https://blog.myheritage.com/2016/06/the-3-cs-organizing-research-inherited-from-a-relative/

Where to Start When You Inherit Genealogy
http://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1028&context=byufamilyhistorian

Searching the Unknown   *by Joyce Hasselman Nigbor*

For fifty plus years, I have been investigating my family lines with no pressure, and no expectations from anyone but myself. However, about four years ago, I said yes to a Norwegian friend when he asked me to look for two Norwegian women relatives, Anna Jorgine and Paulinna, who came to Minnesota between 1881 and 1886. This was not the first time that he had made this request, and I don't know why I said yes this time. It was like fate stepped in, and said, "You can make a person/family happy, so just do it."

I didn't promise any results, but I said, "I'll try." I asked for any information he might have about this 130 year old family mystery, and he sent me a letter with some first names, birthdates, dates of immigration, and destinations. He also told me that the immigrants had the last name of Sandhaug – a name derived from the farm in Norway where they were born.

I began my search into a culture and people that I knew peripherally from my childhood experiences in Rock County, WI where "Norwegians Ruled," but my genealogical experience had all been previously with German ancestors. I soon found there were differences. I began & I found a few Sandhaug names, but the few listed on various sites were the wrong people. I knew that they had come to America so I wondered if they were going by another last name. My first educated guess was Johnson because the women's father's name was Peter Johnson, but this was wrong. They were using Peterson as a last name because the father's first name was Peter, and they were sons and daughters of Peter. This was the way names were formed in those days in Norway. All the name fluctuations caused me to take a few detours, but my Norwegian friend was patient with me and encouraged me all the time.

My friend's family seemed to put more emphasis on finding Anna, so I started with her. I was told that she had come to America with a two year old illegitimate son named Ingvold. It was suspected by the family in Norway that Anna had never married the father, and it was not known if this man, Kristian Kristoffersen Hindbergsvean, came to America.

I pursued Anna, but when I hit road blocks, I began including collateral lines in my search. Though the family's main interest was in the two above mentioned women, there were sisters Kristine and Greta Marie who also came plus brothers

Anton and Ingibrigt. I stumbled around in the jungle of collateral lines for some time without solving the original problem of what happened to Anna and Paulianna. Kristine had married a Jacobsen in Norway; joined him in America; had 10 children; and died in 1899. The family already knew about Kristine from previous research. Greta/ Grethe is an ongoing project.

Ancestry.com is really a fabulous internet site, and I just kept playing around until one day I called up the 1900 Federal census, put in the name Anna, her birth date, the date she immigrated, and her son's name, Ingvold, and eureka!! Up popped Anna J, husband Christian Hindberg, with children Ingvard and Carl. It took some mental gymnastics to tie this entry to my Anna, but the fact that I had been given the biological father's name did help. The father had just shortened his last name to Americanize it. However, Ingvold had now become Ingvard – why I have no idea? Anyway, I now had a toe hold into the mystery of what happened to Anna. She had ended up in Stearns Co. MN as we thought with the father of her child listed as her husband. He had come to America, and they had a second child.

I next found them on the 1910 Federal Census, but this time under the name of Christ Kindberg – a bit of a stretch, but there, also, was

Anna, Ingvard and Carl. In the 1920 Federal Census, I again found the family, but by this time, Christian was 78 years old so Ingvard was listed as head of the family. This census said that three members, Christian, Anna and Ingvald had been naturalized in 1902. On the 1920 census, Christian, Anna and Carl disappeared, and Ingvard was listed as an inmate. Inmate, I thought?? Where was the rest of the family? Had they died? A lot of scenarios came to my mind. Up to this point my searching had been done by technical means, but now I began the old fashioned leg work. I called the Minnesota Historical Society, and they gave me birth, death & marriage web sites to search. I called several County Court Houses, the Wadena County, MN Historical Society, the St. Cloud Minnesota Newspaper, and even the jail house in Wadena County, MN. It's the principal that "you need to kiss a lot of frogs before you find prince charming." You have to touch a lot of bases in genealogical researching before you find the answers you need.

I have learned over the years, however, that the individual you talk to in the organizations that you call can make all the difference in the world. I struck the jackpot when

I got a Darrell in the Hubbard Co. MN Court House. He looked up Carl Hindberg's death date on the Minnesota Death Records (which I had been unable to find), and not only told me the date of his death, but the name of his wife, and the names of his children. This was another eureka moment for with the name of Carl's son, Larry Hindberg, I had my first living descendent.

I continue to work on this family, and the Norwegians in Norway are thrilled with my success. I am very glad that I chose to do this. In the process, I have learned a few things:

1. Keep asking questions, and asking questions, and asking questions of yourself, your client, and your sources.
2. Call on knowledge and intuition built up from years of experience.
3. Keep searching for new web sites and sources of information.
4. Use both modern technology and old fashioned methods to achieve your goal.
5. Use good people skills, and always be truthful. People can sense if you are honest,
6.
7. and then will talk willingly with you.
8. Be thankful if luck is on your side

Top 25 Milestone Words for Finding Your German Ancestor

from **Katherine Schober** of SK Translations
German-English Genealogy Translator   www.sktranslations.com

Birthdays. Weddings. Funerals. While our German ancestors may have lived hundreds of years ago, the life milestones we deem important today held similar significance to our relatives in the past. For us family historians, using these milestones can be extremely helpful in piecing together our ancestors' life stories. But what if you don't speak German?

Below, I've gathered together a list of 25 of the most important milestone words in German genealogy. The German word is on the left, followed by the English translation on the right. An example of the word in the old German handwriting (Kurrentschrift) is also provided.* Knowing these German words, along with a bit of the old German handwriting, can be a great help in deciphering German records and discovering the mysteries of the past (and if you would like a professional genealogy translation, you can always contact me at www.sktranslations.com).

* Keep in mind that handwriting varied by person, place and time, so the handwriting sample is only provided to give you an idea of how the word might look. See Twenty Tips for Deciphering Old German Handwriting on my website above for more information.

	German	English
1.	Geburt:	birth
2.	geboren:	born; also means née when before a last name
3.	Kinder:	children
4.	ehelich:	legitimate
5.	unehelich:	illegitimate
6.	getauft:	baptized
7.	Taufe:	baptism
8.	konfirmiert:	confirmed
9.	ledig (led.):	single, unmarried
10.	verlobt:	engaged
11.	Ehe:	marriage
12.	Hochzeit/Trauung:	wedding
13.	geheiratet/verehelicht/getraut:	married (as in the action "The man married the woman.")
14.	verheiratet:	married (as in the state of being married, as in "He is married")
15.	Frau/Ehefrau/Gattin/Weib*:	wife *This word is related etymologically to our English word "wife."
16.	Mann/Ehemann/Gatte:	husband
17.	Zeugen:	witnesses
18.	Eltern:	parents
19.	Wohnort:	place of residence
20.	geschieden:	divorced
21.	Witwe:	widow
22.	Witwer:	widower
23.	gestorben:	died
24.	Tod:	death
25.	Begräbnis/Beerdigung:	funeral or burial

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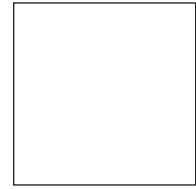
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