# How I Used my DNA Results to Expand my Research



### This Presentation will ....

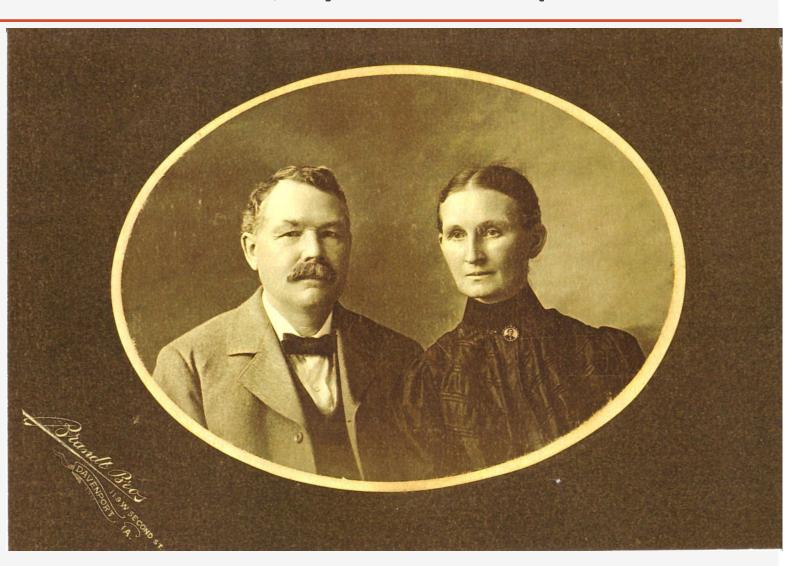
• not be technical because I am not a DNA expert

 hopefully inspire you to take a closer look at your DNA results

 and I go down some rabbit trails to give you some research tips

### George Wolters and Anna Christina Hinrichs, my Great Grandparents





# 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



# George and Anna's Home in Davenport, Iowa



I wrote a book about George Wolters' life in the U.S.

# The Wolters and Hinrichs Families Davenport, Iowa and St. Louis, Missouri

by Pamela A. Kelley Williams willipam@icloud.com 19 Jun 2018 revised 19 Jul 2018

## George's Brother-in-Law

John G. Hinrichs wrote a book titled:

<u>Hinrichs, John G.</u>

<u>Travels Abroad and Family History</u>



# From John Hinrichs' book, I gathered the following clues:

### Hometown of the Wolters:

Dalum, Landkreis Emsland, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen), Germany

All of my research documents (censuses, marriage/death certificates and obituaries) said George's birthplace was "Germany."



"The Wolters family had a tavern and a small farm in Dalum, Germany. There was one daughter and two boys: Henry and George."

I knew the names of Henry and George's parents from their death certificates:

J.B. Wolters and Margaretha Tieben

"After the death of the mother and father, the girl married and took over the home and farm and George made up his mind to go to America."

I did not know about George's sister.

I did not know that George delayed emigration until the death of his parents.

### Clue #4

"George had relatives in southern Illinois that were pretty well-to-do. So he came to America."

George eventually settled in Davenport, Iowa. His descendants (the next three generations) were all born in Davenport (including me).

I did not know about any relatives in southern Illinois.

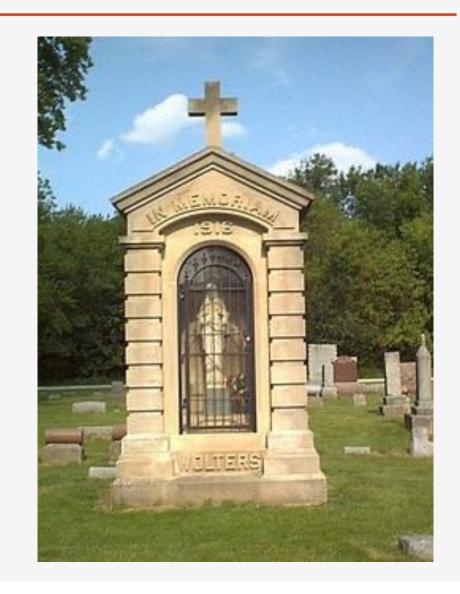
"Henry stayed at home with his folks. A few years later he had a love disappointment with one of the wealthy farmer's daughters. Her parents made the girl break her arrangement with Henry and marry another man. Henry decided to follow his brother George to America. Henry never married."

As the eldest, why did Henry relinquish the farm and tavern to his sister? Was it because he was unmarried and had no heirs to help him or to inherit?

## Another Clue from my Mother

There was an unknown person with the last name "Wolters" buried in the family plot in Holy Family Cemetery in Davenport, lowa.

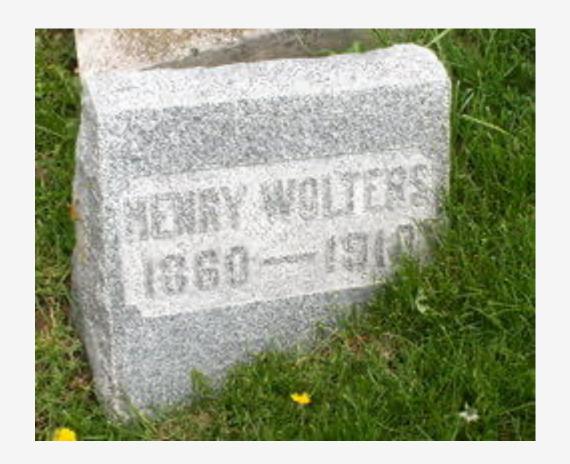
My mother said it was "out of the goodness of George's heart" that he donated the plot because the man could not afford one.



### **Henry Wolters**

Who was this person? It was NOT George's brother Henry.

Iowa Wills & Probate Records for Henry Wolters (Ancestry.com) lists George Wolters as administrator and guardian of his two minor children. Probate records say he was born in Clinton County, Illinois in 1862 and that he lived in Davenport, Iowa at the time of his death.



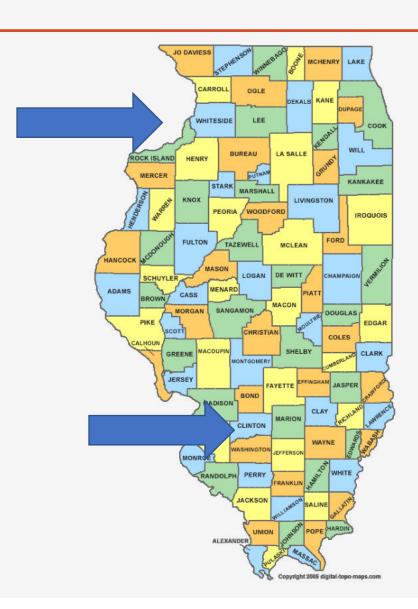
# Clinton County, Illinois???

Was Henry one of my southern Illinois relatives that John G. Hinrichs referred to in his book?

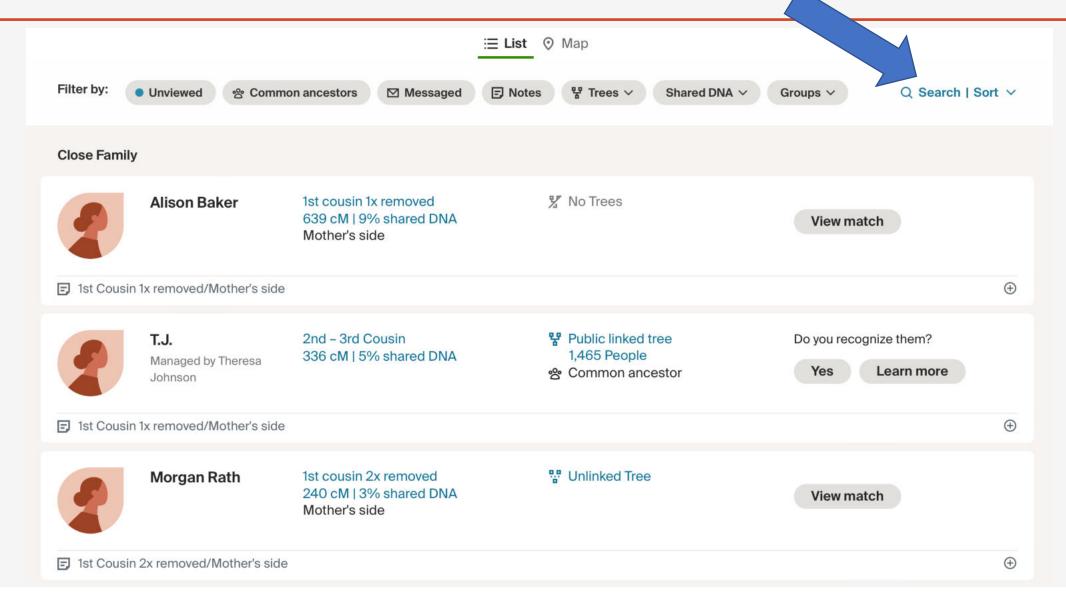
## **Not That Close**

Davenport, Iowa

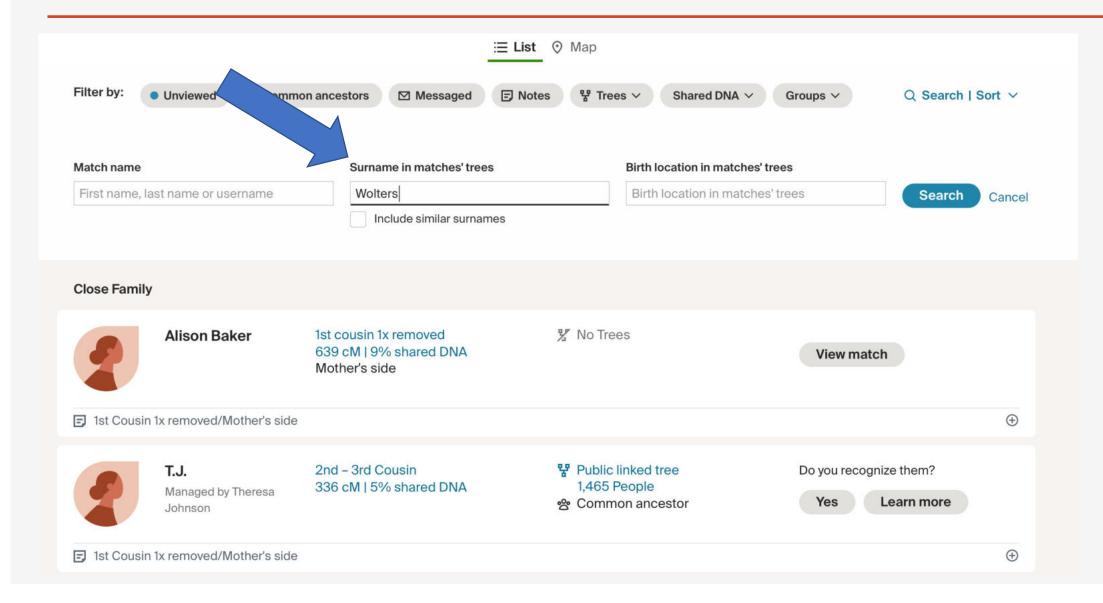
Clinton County, Illinois



# Are there Clues on my Ancestry DNA Results?



# Search for Wolters' Surname on my DNA Results



## I found nine 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> Cousins with Ancestors in So. Illinois

#### **Distant Family** Janice Hoh 4th - 6th Cousin ₩ Public linked tree Do you recognize them? 46 cM I < 1% shared DNA 16 People Yes Learn more % Common ancestor (<del>+</del>) Hoh/Wolters Clinton County, Illinois 4th Cousin 4th - 6th Cousin Matt Budde ₩ Public linked tree Do you recognize them? 489 People 39 cM | < 1% shared DNA Learn more % Common ancestor Wolters Damiansville, Illinois ₩ Public linked tree Joseph Hoh 4th - 6th Cousin Do you recognize them? 34 cM | < 1% shared DNA 68 People Learn more Yes % Common ancestor Hoh/Wolters Clinton County, Illinois (+)

# **Ancestry DNA**

 I started exploring the trees of my Ancestry DNA matches and discovered many Wolters in Damiansville, Clinton County, Illinois.

• Based on U.S. 2022 Census data, the population of Damiansville was 563.

• In 1880, the population was 96. This made it very easy to research census records!

# **Ancestry DNA**

• I found that some of the more complete trees showed ancestors born in **Dalum, Germany**, the same as my Wolters.

• Dalum's 2011 population was 3,050. I couldn't find the population in the 1800s.

 Two small towns. I was definitely related to the Southern Illinois Wolters. But how?

# I did not share a common ancestor with any of my Wolters DNA matches.

# Tracking the Southern Illinois Wolters

I made an "island" on my Reunion software program and began to research the Clinton County, Illinois DNA matches.



An "island" on my software program is an unattached group of people. Once a relationship is found, the island can be attached to the main family tree.



# Tracking the Southern Illinois Wolters

 I built their trees using Ancestry, Find-A-Grave and Newspapers.com.

I was careful not to accept any unsourced info because
 I was finding significant errors and guesses.

# Born in Dalum; died in Damiansville, Illinois



# Joannes Bernard Albertus "Albert" Wolters

BIRTH 10 May 1819

Dalum, Landkreis Emsland, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen),

Germany

**DEATH** 6 Mar 1890 (aged 70)

Clinton County, Illinois, USA

BURIAL Saint Damians Cemetery

Damiansville, Clinton County, Illinois, USA 💡 Show Map

MEMORIAL ID 60521579 · View Source

Albert appeared to be the patriarch of the Southern Illinois Wolters

# Second Page of the Find-A-Grave Memorial

Shows lots of relatives -- including parents with graves in Germany



#### **Family Members**

#### **Parents**



Henrich Lucas Adams sive Wolters

1778-1865



Maria Gesina *Schulten* Wolters

1781-1855

#### Siblings



Susanna Maria Wolters Hoffmann

1810-1891



Maria Gesina Wolters Imming

1815-1873



Johann Herman Theodor Wolters

1822-1894



Gerard Heinrich Wolters 1825–1888



Bernard Herman Wolters

1827-1866

#### Spouses



Margaretha Adelheid *Weecamp* Wolters 1822–1883 (m. 1846)



Anna Gertrude *Hundmann* Hoffmann

1840-1922 (m. 1886)

#### Children



Gerhard Wolters 1855–1907



Bernard Wolters 1855–1933



Elizabeth Wolters Santel 1858–1940



Lucas Wolters 1866–1941

### Scrolling Down ... on the same Memorial: Four Pictures



Added by: Denise Shelton Innes on 8 Sep 2015



Added by: Denise Shelton Innes on 8 Sep 2015



Added by: Myron Mugele on 17 Oct 2014



https://data.matriculaonline.eu/en/deutschland/osnabrueck /gro-hesepe-st-n...

Added by: Methuria on 31 Oct 2021

### What is this???

### It was all about the link in the citation

https://data.matricula-online.eu/en/deutschland/osnabrueck/gro-hesepe-st-nikolaus/0059/?pg=22

### Matricula-online What is that?

### matricula

#### noun

- 1. A roll or register.
- 2. In the *Roman Catholic Church*, the roll containing the names of the clergy permanently attached to a cathedral, a collegiate, or a parish church.

### Free Site

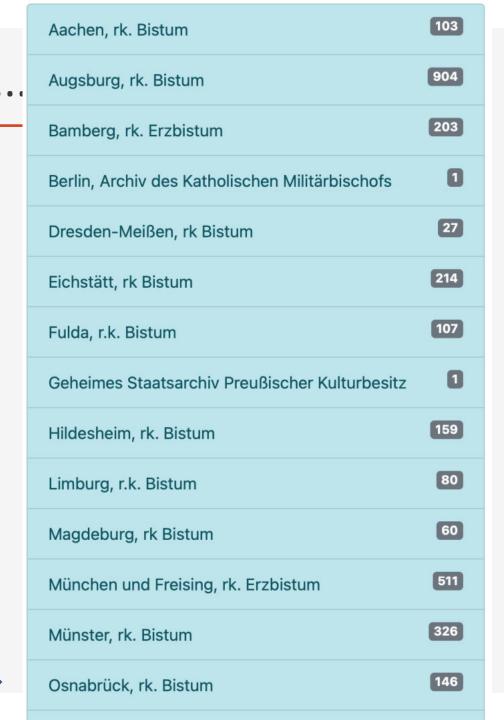
Matricula Online Fonds Map Search for Places



Welcome to Matricula!

## Clicking further into the website .....





# Third click brought me to the church

- Gellenbeck Mariä Himmelfahrt
- Georgsmarienhütte Herz Jesu
- Gesmold St. Petrus
- Glandorf St. Johannis
- Glane St. Jakobus der Ältere
- Grafeld Herz Jesu
- ♀ Groß Hesepe (Geeste) St. Nikolaus
- P Hagen a.T.W. St. Martinus
- Haren St. Martinus
- Hasbergen St. Josef

### The text was in German

### Groß Hesepe (Geeste) St. Nikolaus

Fonds / Deutschland / Osnabrück, rk. Bistum / Groß Hesepe (Geeste) St. Nikolaus

#### Gründung:

vor 1543 Pfarrrechte

#### Abpfarrungen:

1798 Hesepertwist an Twist St. Georg

1912 Schwartenpohl und Teile von Dalum an Wietmarschen St. Johann

1938 Dalum (Geeste) Christus König

1955 Wachendorf-Mühlengraben an Dalum (Geeste) Christus König

#### Pfarreiengemeinschaft:

Pfarreiengemeinschaft Geeste

mit Dalum (Geeste) Christus König, Geeste St. Antonius und Osterbrock St. Isidor

#### Heutige kommunale Zugehörigkeit:

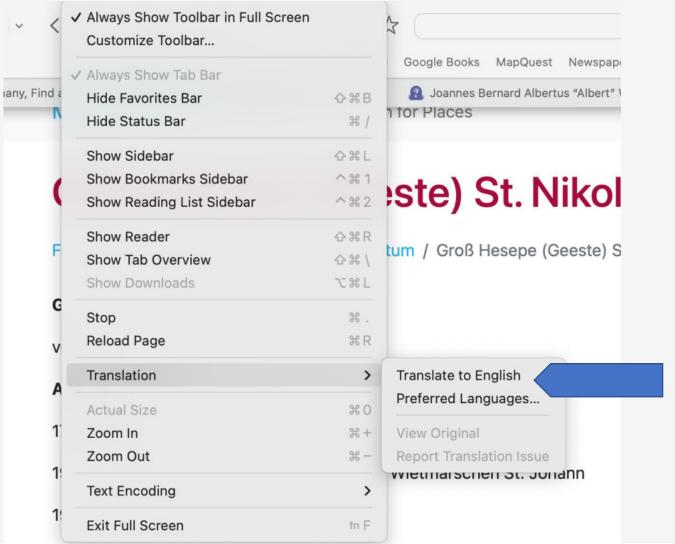
Groß Hesepe ist ein Ortsteil der Gemeinde Geeste im Landkreis Emsland (Niedersachsen)

#### Ortsteile des Kirchspiels:

Dalum, Groß Hesepe, Klein Hesepe, Mühlengraben, Rull, Schwartenpohl, Wachendorf



# Translate to English



This is a feature on my Internet Browser Safari

1055 Machandarf Milhlangrahan an Dalum (Casata) Christica Känis

#### **Translation**

#### Great Hesepe (Geeste) St. Nicholas

Fund / GERMANY / Osnabrück, rk. Diocese / Great Hesepe (Geeste) St. Nicholas

#### Foundation:

before 1543 parish rights

#### Abbotage:

1798 Hesepertwist to Twist St. Georg

1912 Schwartenpohl and parts of Dalum at Wietmarschen St. Johann

1938 Dalum (Geeste) Christ King

1955 Wachendorf-Mühlengraben at Dalum (Geeste) Christ King

#### Parish community:

Parish community Geeste

with Dalum (Geeste) Christ King, Geeste St. Antonius and Osterbrock St. Isidore

#### Today's municipal affiliation:

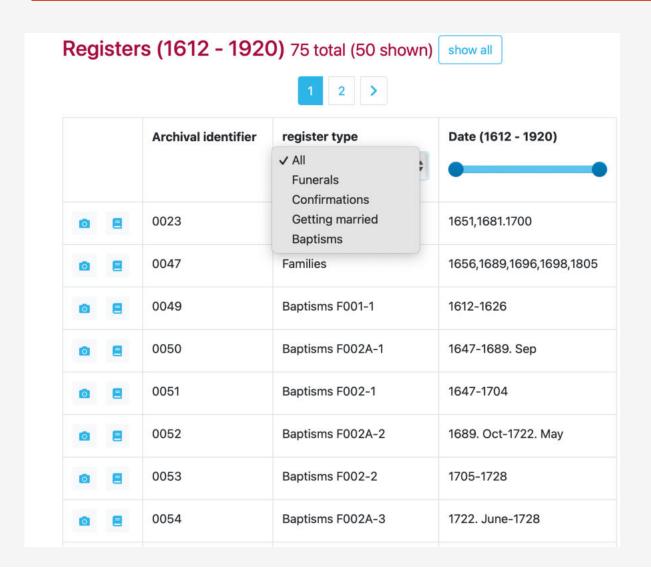
Groß Hesepe is a district of the municipality of Geeste in the district of Emsland (Lower Saxony)

#### Districts of the parish:

Dalum, Groß Hesepe, Klein Hesepe, Mühlengraben, Rull, Schwartenpohl, Wachendorf



#### Scrolling Down .....



St. Nikolaus Catholic Church was founded before 1543 and is still an active Catholic Church. They have shared their sacramental records with Matricula Online from 1612 to 1920.

# Types of Records

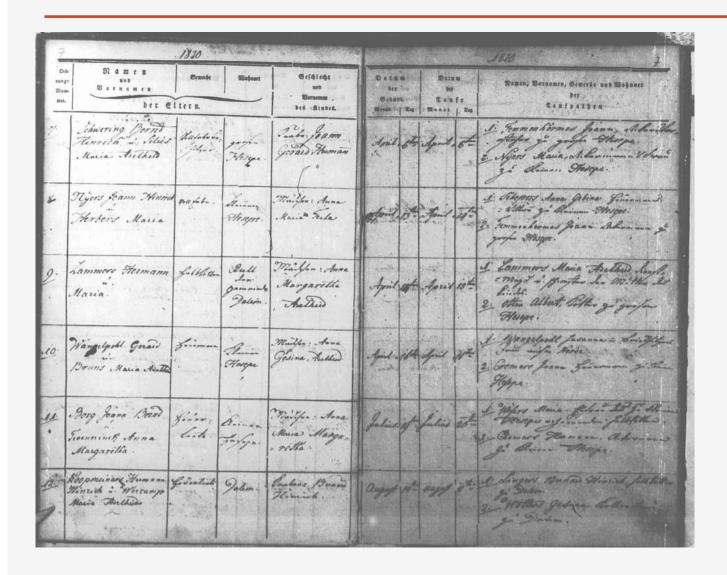
Baptisms

Confirmations

Marriages

**Funerals** 

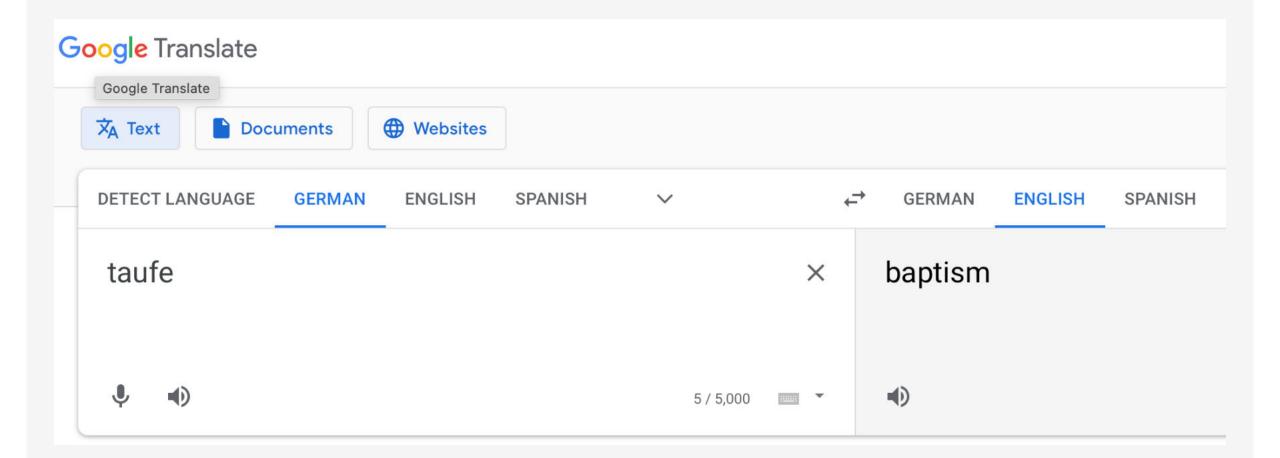
### Baptism from 1820



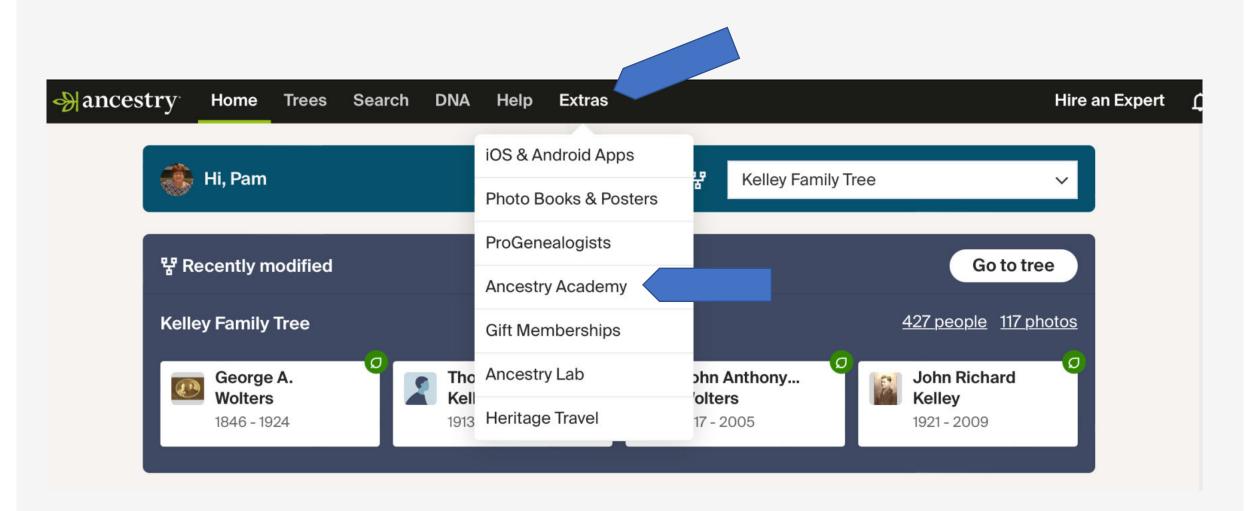
The Catholic Sacramental log books were written in German. The really old ones were in Latin.

I attempted to translate the column titles before I started searching for my ancestors.

# Google Translate



### **Ancestry Academy**



#### Lots of Videos! Scroll Down.....

#### Researching A State



The Old Dominion State: Virginia Gene... 12 videos



The Green Mountain State: Vermont R...



Texas: Researching the Lone Star State 10 videos



View all

The Buckeye State: Researching Your ... 14 videos

#### Researching Outside the United States



Exploring Your English Roots on Ance... 9 videos



Tesoro! Finding Your Italian Roots 14 videos



Beginning Your Search for Irish Ancest...
12 videos



German Genealogy: The Basics

## Basic German Vocabulary and Handwriting



What Does It Mean When I Say My Ancestor Was German?



German History: A Brief Overview



German Migration to the United States



Finding the Town of Birth for Your German Ancestor



I Can?t Find a German Town With This Name!



Some Pitfalls in Germanic Research



Finding German Records on Ancestry



German Record Collections on Ancestry



German Record Collections on FamilySearch



Finding and Using German Church Records



Basic German Vocabulary and Handwriting

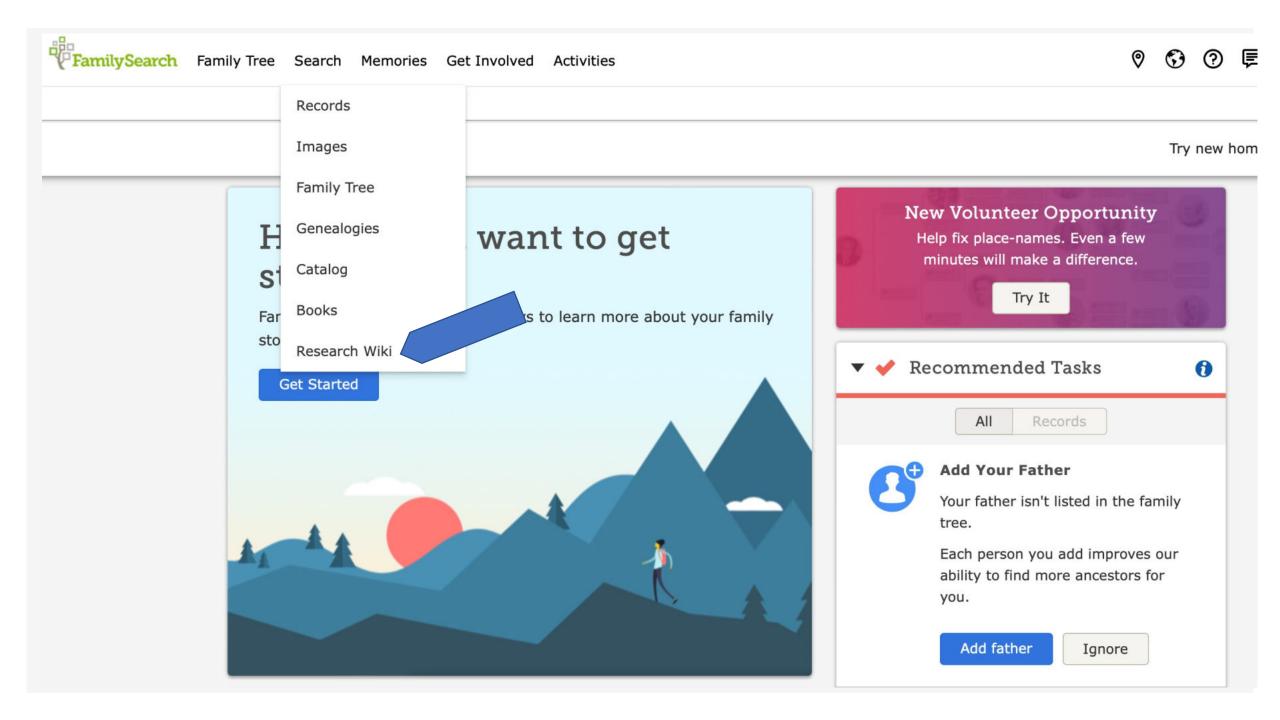


# German Handwriting Issues

- Most German records created prior to the 20th century in Germany are written in German gothic script (Deutsche Schrift).
- German schools stopped teaching this handwriting in the early part of the 20th century.
- Most people alive today in Germany cannot read this handwriting.
- Many tools exist to help researchers today.

#### Resources

- FamilySearch "German Genealogical Word List"
- FamilySearch Learning Center
- Ancestry's Research Center for researching German Documents
- German-English Genealogical Dictionary by Ernest Thode
- German-English Dictionaries
- Beolingus modern online German-English dictionary



#### FamilySearch Research Wiki

A Genealogy Resource Guide
103,049 articles

Find the birth, death, marriage, census records, and other genealogy resources for your ancestor by selecting the region and country below.





Read View source View history







Research Wiki Wiki Home

> About the Wiki Online Genealogy Records

Guided Research Research

Resources Wiki Policies

Centers/Libraries

Family History Library Family History Centers

FS Affiliate Libraries

Give Feedback

Submit Wiki Content Report a Problem

Edit the Wiki

Become an Editor
Upload

Upload File/Image

Personal Sandbox

Wiki Projects
Wiki University

Translate

Page Talk

#### German Genealogical Word List

Genealogical Word Lists → German Genealogical Word List

#### Contents [hide]

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Language Characteristics
  - 2.1 Variant Forms of Words
  - 2.2 Dialects
- 3 Diacritic Marks
- 4 Alphabetical Order
- 5 Spelling
- 6 Transcription
- 7 Transliteration
- 8 Additional Resources
- 9 Key Words
- 10 Dates/Time
  - 10.1 Months
- 10.2 Days of the Week
- 10.3 Times of the Day

#### Introduction [edit | edit | source]

This list contains German words with their English translations. On most computers, simultaneously pressing CTRL and F (Command and F, if on a Mac) will search this page for the word you wish to translate. The words included here are those that you are likely to find in genealogical sources. If the word you are looking for is not on this list, please consult a German-English dictionary, the online Grimm Deutsches Wörterbuch (one of the best sources), or other regional online dictionaries found at woerterbuchnetz.de. Latin words are often found in German records, and a few are included in this list. See the Latin Genealogical Word List (34077).

German is spoken in Germany, Switzerland, and Austria. Records written in German may be found in these countries and also in parts of Poland, Denmark, Luxembourg, Czechia, Hungary, and wherever German people settled. There are several different dialects in the German language. For example, in the province of Westfalen and other areas of Germany that border the Netherlands, you may notice words that are closely related to Dutch. You may find the Dutch Genealogical Word List useful when working with these records.

In addition, German is found in some early records of the United States, such as in Pennsylvania, Texas, Wisconsin, and other states where Germans lived.

English	German
birth	Geburten, Geburtsregister, Geborene, geboren
burial	Beerdigungen, begraben, Begräbnisse, bestattet, beerdigt
Catholic	katholisch
census	Volkszählung
child	Kind, Kinder
christening	Taufe, Taufen, Getaufte
confirmations	Konfirmationen, Firmungen
civil registry	Standesamt
death	Tote, Tod, sterben, starb, verstorben, gestorben, Sterbefall
father	Vater
husband	Mann, Ehemann, Gatte
index	Verzeichnis, Register
Jewish	jüdisch, Jude(n), israelitisch
marriage banns	Proklamationen, Aufgebote, Verkündigungen
marriage	Heiraten, Trauungen, Getraute, Ehe, Kopulation, kopulieren, verheiratet, Verehelichungen, Eheschliessungen
month	Monat
mother	Mutter
name, given	Vorname, Name
name, surname	Zuname, Familienname, Geschlechtsname, Name
parents	Eltern
parish	Pfarrei, Kirchspiel, Gemeinde
Protestant	evangelisch, lutherisch, Protestant
Reformed	reformiert
wife	Frau, Ehefrau, Hausfrau, Weib, Eheweib, Gattin, Ehegattin
year	Jahr

### **Translation Worksheet**

German¶

Taufen¶

⊕Year:¶

Ordnung← ¤	Namen und Vornamen ¤	Gewerbe	Wohnort	Geschlecht und Vornaman ver ?????¤	Datum <u>ver</u>	Vorn Geue Wohr Tauf		Namen, Vornament, Geue?se unb Wohnort ver Taufpathen	Ħ
Num- mer¤	Ver <u>eltern</u> ¤		¤	Monat¤	Tag¤	Monat¤	Tag¤	¤	Ħ

English¶

Baptism¶

Year:

Order	First-and- Surnames¤	Occupation	Place of Residence	Gender and first name of ???????¤	Date of Birth¤		Date of Baptism¤		Surnames, ????? and place of residence of Godparents¤	
Num- ber¤		of parents¤		¤	Month¤	Day¤	Month¤	Day¤	¤	¤
д		¤		й	¤	Ħ	¤	¤	¤	¤

• I started looking for Baptisms, Marriages and Funerals of Wolters.

 Some I found by specific dates and others I found by scrolling through the records.

• It became **slightly** easier to read the documents the more I searched. I found a lot!

# My Results

• I knew the father of George Wolters was J. B. Wolters (my 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Grandfather).

• I discovered that "J.B." was Johannes Bernard.

• Johannes Bernard was the oldest of nine children. Seven of his siblings moved to Damiansville, Illinois in 1849.

These were the people in my software island. I had found the connection to the Clinton County, Illinois relatives!



• Johannes Bernard died in 1859; his wife in 1872

• His son George emigrated in 1868; son Henry in 1872

Who was his daughter and what happened to her?

#### I could not read the married name of Maria Gesina

P.	·9-494.	1		Jahrgang	1877	light.			Pag. 94.
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# Funeral Record of Maria Gesina

# Facebook Page: Genealogical Translations





1. GERMAN TO ENGLISH please

- 2. Church Funeral Record
- 3.1879
- 4. Maria Gesina Wolters, deceased. Parents: Johann Bernard Wolters and Margaretha Thyben
- 5. Record is from St. Nikolus Catholic Church, Groß Heseppe (Geeste) Osnubruck, Germany

Maria Gesina Wolters died in Dalum, Landkreis Emsland, Lower Saxony (Niedersachsen)

6. Entry on page is #14 (the last entry)

https://data.matricula-online.eu/.../gro-hesepe.../0016/...

7. This is the sister of my Great-Grandfather, George Wolters. Her two brothers, George and Gerhard Henry immigrated to Davenport, Iowa. Maria Gesina inherited the family farm in Dalum, Germany. I would like to know Maria Gesina's married name and I can't decipher it from this record. I would also like to know if she had any children although I'm not sure this record would show that.

# My post requesting translation

I wanted to know her married name, I could not decipher it.

...

#### Translation Received!



Brigitte Eggerstedt Admin

17

Maria Gesina Korfage called after the ......(?) Wolters, wife in Dalum

aged 38 years 10 months 20 days

parents: 1/3 farmer (Beerbter) Johann Bernard Wolters and his

wife Margaretha nee Thyben death: June 30, 1879 at 3 p.m. cause of death: tuberculosis

buried on July 3, 1879

last column: name of the churchbook writer and the date

15

Hermann Hinrich Georg Korfage a child from Dalum

aged: 9 years 14 days

1/3 farmer Bernard Korfage and his wife Maria Gesina nee

Wolters

death on June 17, 1879 at 6 p.m. cause of death: brain inflammation

buried on June 20, 1879

last column: name of the churchbook writer and the date

11

Johann Bernard Alexander a child from Dalum

aged: 12 years 9 months

1/3 farmer Bernard Korfage and his wife Maria Gesina nee

Wolters

death on May 12, 1879 at 4 p.m. cause of death: internal disease

buried on May 15, 1879

last column: name of the churchbook writer and the date

Like Reply 5m

I received a translation and the translator saw two more entries of the same page.

Maria Gesina died 3 Jul 1879, age 38

Her two sons (ages 9 and 12) died 12 May 1879 and 17 Jun 1879

Maria Gesina's spouse's name: Bernard Korfage

When George stopped in Southern Illinois, he was visiting his aunts, uncles and first cousins.

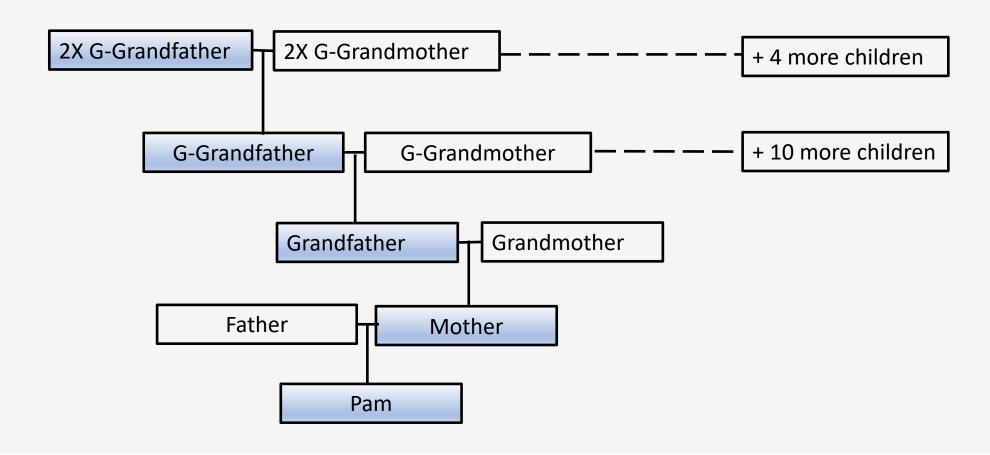
The Henry Wolters buried in Holy Family Cemetery in Davenport was George's first cousin.

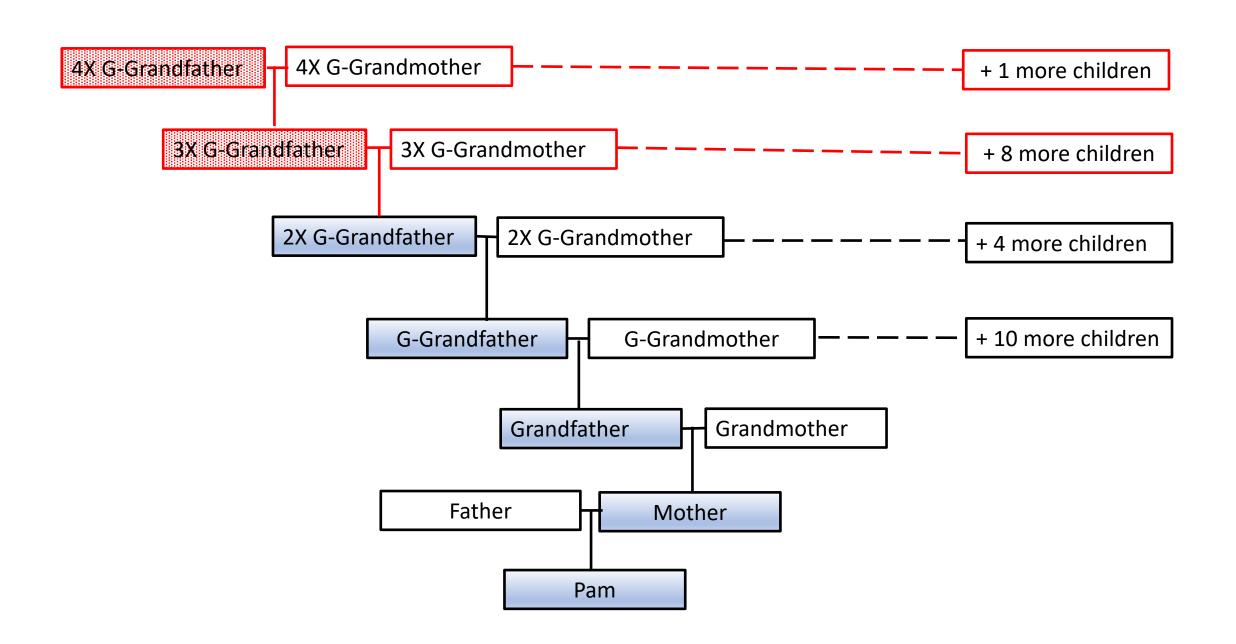
I was able to document the names, birth, and death dates of my third- and fourth-great-grandparents (going back to around 1750 in Dalum, Germany).

My success came from the document citation on Find-A-Grave.

I may have found this eventually but the DNA link gave me the certainty that I was on the right track

## Pedigree Chart I Started With





# Other Websites and Organizations

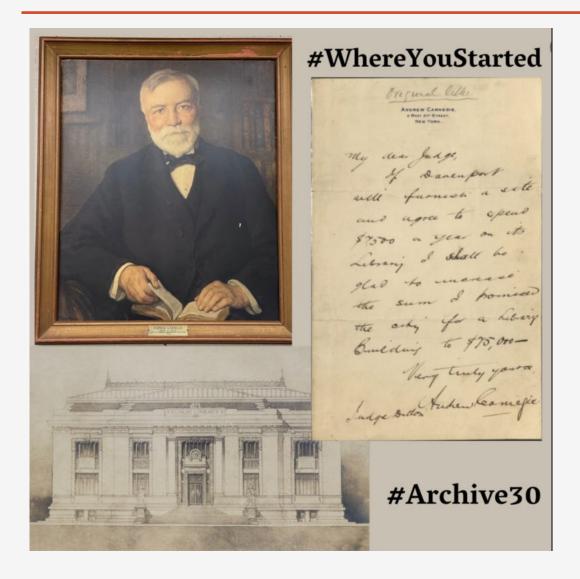
#### German American Heritage Center & Museum



Located in Davenport, Iowa

They have in-person and virtual presentations and events.

### Davenport Public Library

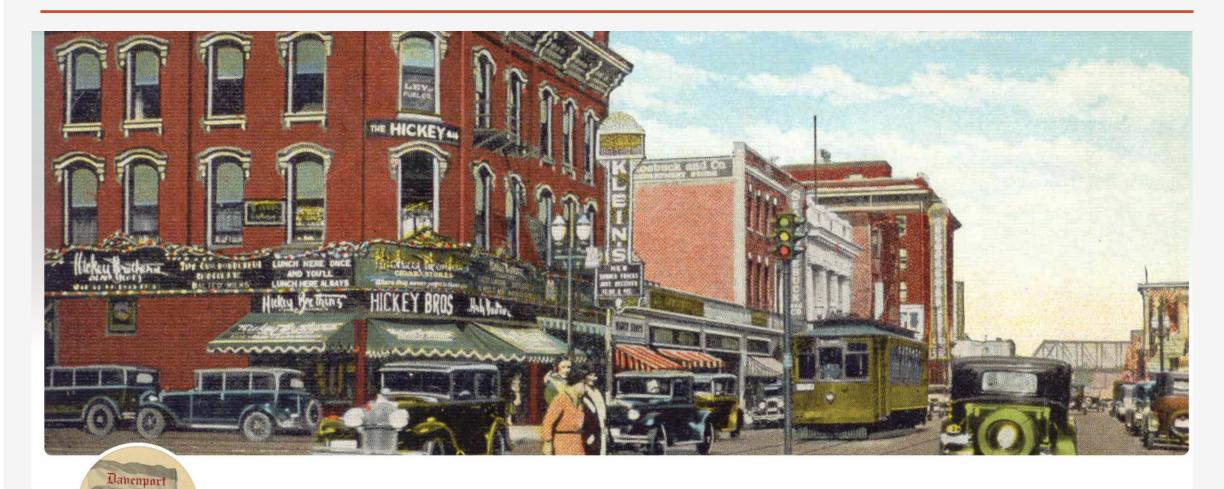


Opened on May 11, 1904

George Wolters was on the first library board

The current building opened October 6, 1968

# **Another Facebook Group**

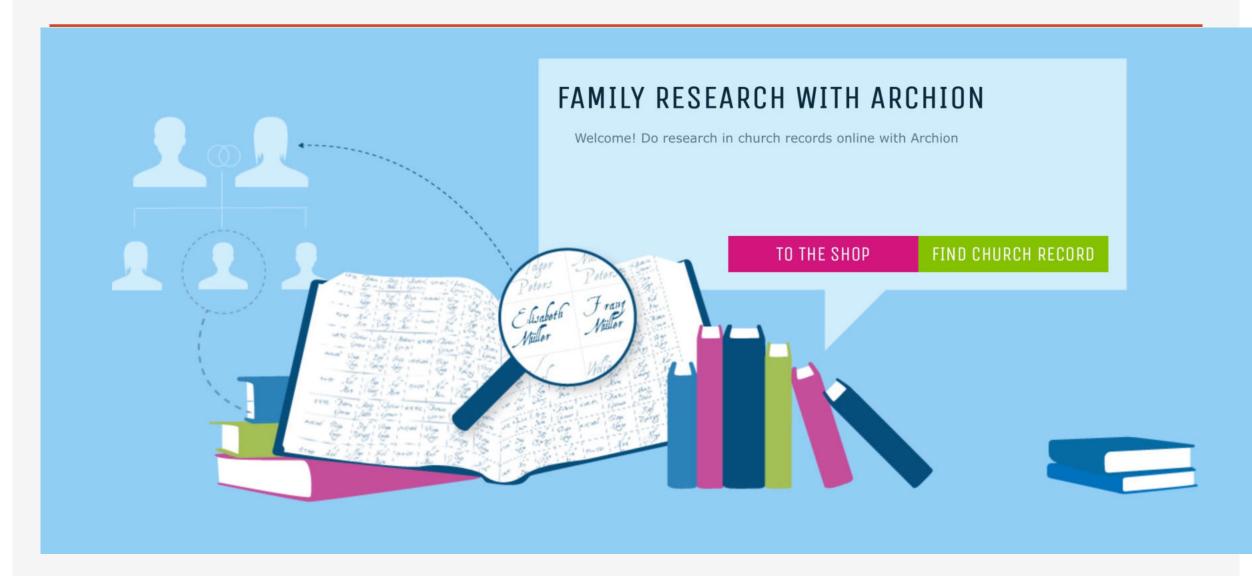


**Davenport Iowa History** 

@HistoryDougSmith · Community

Send message

#### Another Site for German Research



# Finishing up my Project

• I connected the research island in my genealogy software to my main family tree

I entered my research findings into Ancestry

# Finishing up my Project, continued

• I wrote an article for the Southern Arizona Genealogical Society's newsletter

 I chose the article's title to include "Wolters" and "Damiansville, Illinois"  The Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana indexes genealogical societies' newsletters

The Periodical Source Index (PERSI) is a free website

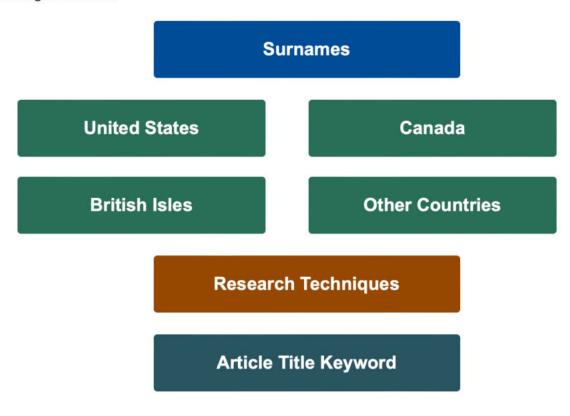
Articles can be ordered for \$7.50 each

## **PERSI**

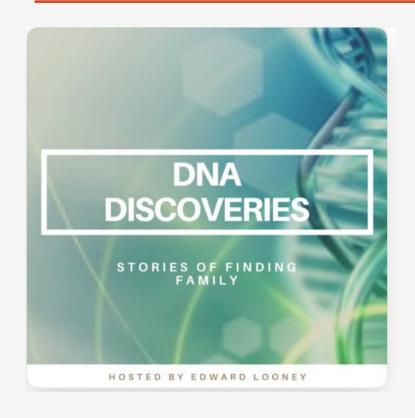
#### **Periodical Source Index**

PERSI is the premier subject index for genealogy and local history periodicals, and is produced by the staff of The Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library. This valuable resource provides more than 3 million citations to readily-available periodical sources.

Click a button below to start searching for articles.



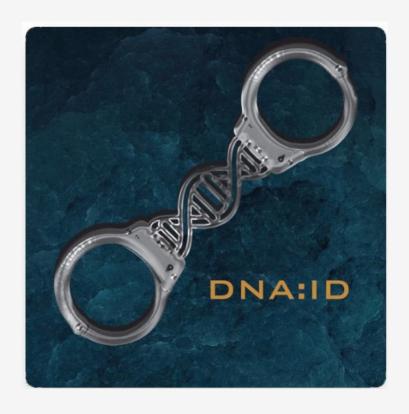
## Podcasts about DNA Stories







# Podcast about Cold Cases Solved using DNA



## Tons of DNA Videos!

YouTube

Ancestry.com

Legacy Family Tree Webinars

George did not want to be a farmer; he did not stay in southern Illinois.

He settled in Davenport and opened a tavern/grocery store.

# George's Store in Davenport, Iowa

#### Diefes ift der Laden für Gie.

Gin allgemeiner Baren = Borrat - irgendetwas, das Sie mahrend diefer "Clean=Up" : Rampagne gebrauchen mögen.

Farben, Firnisse, Samen, Garten - Bertzeuge, Fliegendraht für Türen und Feuster. Geben Sie uns Ihre Bestellung.

#### WOLTERS & HINRICHS,

Groceries und Beifmaren.

729 Marquette Str.

Telephon Dav. 323.



# George Wolters' Life in Davenport, Iowa

George was a board member of a bank, the first Davenport library, a TB sanitarium, the German American Citizen Association, an anti-Prohibition organization, a life insurance company and the Holy Family Cemetery.

### George Wolters, Pioneer Resident of Davenport, Dies After Long Illness

George Wolters, pioneer resident of Davenport, and for many years business man, bank director and a member of the original board of public library trustees, passed away at his home, 803 Marquette street, at 11:15 o'clock this morning following an illness extending over the past four years. Mr Wolters was 78 years old and had been a regident of Davenport for the past 57 years.

For many years Mr Wolters was engaged in the grocery business at Eighth and Marquette streets, the business being known as Wolters & Hinrichs. He retired from active business life about 16 years ago.

Mr Wolters was born at Hanover, Germany, May 31, 1846, coming to America and directly to Davenport when he was about 21 years old. On Oct. 7, 1873, he was united in marriage to Miss Christine Hinrichs, the ceremony being performed by the late Monsignor A. Niermann, at St. Joseph's church. Mr and Mrs Wolters celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Oct. 7, 1923.

He was one of the organizers and directors of the Farmers & Mechanics Savings bank which a number of years ago merged with the American Commercial & Savings bank. He was also for many years



GEORGE WOLTERS



## From the Pew Research Center

- About 38% say they were surprised by what their DNA test results showed about what countries or continents their ancestors came from.
- About 27% express surprise at what these results indicated about their ancestors' racial or ethnic background.
- Roughly 27% say they learned about close relatives they didn't know about previously.

## **DNA Surprise Categories**

- Shocking region on an ethnicity estimate
- Discovery of a new half-sibling
- Surprise discovery of new extended family (i.e. half-aunt, uncle, first cousins)
- One parent is not their biological parent (usually the father)
- Discovery that the DNA tester, their parent, or their grandparent did not grow up with their biological family (i.e. adoption was kept secret)

## Next QCGC Education Meeting: February 23, 2023

- Mary-Lynn Dubray will give a short demonstration on using DNA matches to find relatives and connections.
- Followed by a hands-on workshop for members.
- Bring your own computer, iPad, etc. so that we can assist you with your DNA matches and/or research.
- Mesquite Room 1:00 pm

## Next QCGC General Meeting: March 1, 2023

Mark Hester's presentation will be a more personal story about his DNA results

I hope this presentation will inspire you to investigate your DNA matches in more detail

# Your DNA successes, surprises, frustrations, validations?