



Past and Present

Newsletter of The Southern Genealogist's Exchange Society
August 2019
www.sgesjax.org

Quote of the month

"Your life is made of two dates and a dash. Make the most of the dash."--Anonymous

Genealogy detectives at the SGES Library

Our society has file cabinets with loose papers on various subjects. Come check them out! Included are Duval County cemeteries data & transcripts; Subject ie, 1/Handwriting/Penmanship 2/Railroads 3/Slave Research 4/Yellow Fever/Jax, etc; Miscellaneous Florida counties and other States.

Announcements

The SGES Library is staffed by volunteers. It is our intent to be open the specified days and times indicated in this newsletter. Issues do occasional arise, so we ask that you call ahead 904-778-1000 to make sure library will be open the specific day you wish to visit.

Story of the month

They called him "Slaughterhouse" Ick
By Ilse L. Bell

In the process of researching my husband, Jon Bell's ancestors, my attention was directed to his great- great grandfather, John Icke or Johannes Icke, 1834-1873. It held great interest to me as he was an immigrant from Germany, like me.

He came to America with his brother Friedrich and his mother Anna Christina Drescher Icke on the Ship "Emerald " under Master Charles W. Buck, with 207 other passengers and a baby born on board during their voyage, from Bremen, Germany . They arrived in New York August 1, 1846, with 200 Thalers to their name. (Many monetary units of today, including the dollar, are based on the thaler, a silver coin used throughout Europe for almost four hundred years.) (From Inge Auerbach's book. "Hessen Immigrants 1840-1850 ")

The manifest list them as:
Cristina Icken, widow, servant, age 38 from Reide
Frederick Icken, son, age 15, from Reide
Johans Icken, age 12 from Reide.

It took me quite a while to find them under the name Icken and the place of birth, which should be Riede, not Reide. Riede is in the state of Hessen, Germany and a very small place.

After I got the place of his birth I contacted the archives of Hessen and found his parent's names. Johans was born in Riede on April 15, 1834, in the evening at 9pm, and baptized, April 20, 1834 in the Lutheran Church. His sponsor at baptism was Johannes Günther, local pub

owner. His father was listed as Johann Heinrich Icke, a day laborer (1797- 1837). Johans was only three years old when his father died.

Mother was Anna Christina Drescher, born 1808. She died in Newark, Essex County, NJ in 1887 under the name of Christina Eck. I don't know why they came to America. May be they had relatives or friends here. She had lost her husband so young and might have sought a better life for her and the two boys. Another reason might have been the failed potato crop, which not only affected Ireland, but Germany too. It was a very hard life and a lot of Germans left at that time.

Upon arrival in the US they went to Hudson County, New Jersey and settled there. Johannes now called John, married Catherina Platt 22 December 1851 in Hudson County, New Jersey. She was born 19 August 1833 in Germany and died 24 Sept 1904 in Passaic, New Jersey.

They became parents of 8 Children:

Henry Dec. 1852- 1852; Catherine Louisa 1854-1915; John Friedrich 1856- 1860; Marie Jennie 1858- 1937; Anna Christina 1861- 1928; Anna Elisabeth 1866-1867; Wilhelmine 1869-1872 and John William 1871-1943.

John Icke was naturalized in Paterson, NJ on November 2, 1858.

Now came the Civil War and John Icke joined the Union Army. He signed up under Captain Hugh Irish. Irish was killed in Antietam, just 17 days after leaving home, while leading his men into battle for the first time. A statue of Capt. Hugh Irish is on top of the New Jersey Monument in Antietam.

A review of the Volunteer enlistment documents located in the National Archives disclosed that John enlisted in the New Jersey Volunteers on August 15, 1862 at Paterson, NJ. He was age 28, a shoemaker, born in Germany.

He was to serve for three years in the Army of the United States. His physical exam states that, Icke had blue eyes, light complexion, light hair, and was 5'6" tall. Icke was assigned to the 13th Regiment, Company K, as a private. Records indicate he was discharged from military service at Washington, D.C. on June 8, 1865. Some of the Battles he was in were: Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Resaca, Dallas, New Hope Church, Atlanta and Bentonville, among others.

Towards the end he was detached with the Pioneer corps. Hence his roll call listed him absent. ("The Picket Post "of Chancellorsville, VA, April 2009, published an article about the Pioneers of the Union Army, by Dale E. Floyd).

John owed for half a tent from the fall of 1864 until he was discharged. I don't know if the army deducted his pay for that.

The death notice of his son stated that his father, John Icke, Sr., was a Civil war veteran, who enlisted in the New Jersey Volunteer Infantry at Paterson in Captain Hugh Irish's Company. The late Joseph Crowell, many years editor of the "Paterson Morning Call" and himself a veteran of Captain Irish's company, related many amusing incidents of camp life in Maryland and Virginia in his auto-biographical war book, in many of which the John Icke figured.

That made me look for this book on the Internet, where I found and purchased it. It was published in 1906 and titled: "The Young Volunteer ". He was also mentioned in "The Bivouac", by Sgt. E Livingston Allen, Co. K, 13th New Jersey Volunteers.

Now I was able to get some idea about this man Icke. The book had many sketches and stories of him. His name appears on about 40 pages. Crowell's book details Company K's service in the Civil War from 1862 until the end.

A major character written about in Company K was John Icke, who spoke very broken English with heavy German accent. "Ick" as he was called in this book, frequently got into trouble with officers and soldiers due to language differences. During a parade Icke stated that they were going to a slaughterhouse, which created a laugh. After that remark he was known as "Slaughter-house Ick", among his comrades.

When General Hooker increased their rations and other supplies Icke said: "See vat Hooker feeds us mit; he is fattenen uns up fur de schlauter-haus". He got into lots of disagreements with an Irish man named Reddy Mahar, who had his own troubles to be understood. Reddy called Icke a Dutchman, (Deutschman) who "did nothing but eat sour kraut and blood pudding and fatty sausages".

Website

Noted Genealogist researcher/author Thomas MacEntee has made available to the public, free access to his "Genealogy Do-Over" program. This is a project-based initiative to improve genealogy research skills while having fun too. Although started in 2018, it is still applicable in 2019.

Topics: 1) Conducting Collateral Research and 2) Reviewing Offline Education Options

Conducting Collateral Research

Many people confuse collateral research with cluster research or they tend to lump them together. For me, collateral research involves the collateral lines connected to your direct line ancestors. Most times this would mean focusing on the relatives of someone who married into the family – the wife or husband's parents, siblings etc. It also can mean distant cousins along your direct line. Also, don't forget those second and third marriages and step-children.

My definition of Collateral Research: A search for those who are not direct line ancestors, but who are considered part of the same family. These include siblings, half-siblings, in-laws and others through marriage. Example: take time to look at the siblings of a woman's husband or her husband's parents and who they married, as well as their children.

1. Start out with a direct line ancestor.
2. Spend time researching that person's spouse, including parents and siblings.
3. Record as much information as possible, no matter how insignificant it may seem. Include occupation, address and other details.
4. If needed, branch out with research on the siblings and other non-direct relatives.

Reviewing Offline Education Options

You have likely heard the term "not everything can be found online" when it comes to records and genealogy research. The same holds true for genealogy education. There are several large genealogy conferences as well as week-long intensives better known as "institutes" offering a chance to learn from nationally known educators and genealogists.

Over the past five years, several new institutes have popped up and I believe this will continue over the next few years in the genealogy field. Genealogists realize the value of working in a

collaborative environment with other researchers and being able to network with others in person. There are some aspects of the institute concept that just can't be replicated online!

Review the list of large genealogy conferences and institutes in the United States at <https://abundantgenealogy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/RESOURCE-Offline-Genealogy-Education-US.pdf>



<https://abundantgenealogy.com/genealogy-do-over-month-8-august-2018/>

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New additions to the SGES Library

- EF364 The Norman People and Their Existing Descendants in the British Dominions and the USA—Genealogy Publishing Co.
- TN101 Ramsey's Annals of Tennessee—East Tennessee Historical Society
- FH1308 Contentment and the Pursuit of Ambition: The Grattons and the Remarkable Women –John T Foster, Jr
- FH1307 Defining moments: A Cuban Exile's Story about Discovery & the search for a better Life—Jose I Ramirez