



# WHO are you?

## GENEALOGY ·N·E·W·S·



AUGUST 2017



### August 9<sup>th</sup> : Learn about some new places to search including the Wayback Machine, newspapers & such



There are many other sources for you to check out if you feel that you have exhausted the usual suspects, such as Ancestry or NEHGS. However, never disregard the chance that something new has been added to Ancestry or other sources. Always try your luck with a good solid GOOGLE search. Remember, the more searches you do on Google with the same or similar keywords, the better your chances to find information you seek -- always worth a quick try.

So, at the August get-together, we will explore some other ways that you can search for your relatives. When you read the article on how the gravesite was discovered for Ralph Mohr, you will see that information often comes in strange, exciting unexpected ways.

#### Upcoming Programs

**August 9 4:30PM**

WAYBACK MACHINE and other New to you Genealogical SOURCES: Grayce presentation

**September 13 4:30PM**

TRIP to the LDS Library in Warwick – THERE are many more sources here and Elaine and the staff are enormously gracious and helpful -

**October 11 4:30PM**

Jennifer Shaker: Making Memories Last, a how to program

#### LDS Center trip

Speaking about different databases, I would be remiss if I did not mention the trip on Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> to the Church of Latter Day Saints Library in Warwick. We will meet at 4:30, and speak with Elaine (she leaves at 5:30) for questions and an overview of the library. At LDS, you will learn about what is available -- specialized databases, and how to ask for more help. The library is open until 9pm if you need to catch up with us, or want to stay.



From the: Manitowoc Public Library, Wisconsin

#### Found! -- *Ralph Sigisimund Mohr*

Recently I have been "upping the ante" and broadening the circle of interest to find out where Ralph and Marian (Hohler) are buried. It was just un-imaginable to me that someone who was so concerned about the graves of others that he created in 1950, the very first Cemetery Commission here in Rhode Island, would NOT be concerned about his own legacy and his own final resting place. And that is the case! (continued)

**Mohr Library  
Genealogy Group**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, 4:30  
Special Program times vary

**Library Hours**  
Mon – Thurs 9-8/  
Friday 9 – 6// Saturday 9 -5

*"History is the essence of innumerable biographies."*

~ Thomas Carlyle

## *Ralph Sigismund Mohr* (cont.)

in the past few months I got a couple calls from **Lou McGowan**, *President of the Johnston Historical Society*, who provided more details to Ralph's life and genealogy. Then, such a surprise this week -- Lou called to ask me if I wanted the obituary for Ralph Mohr that he had "discovered" and that he knew where Ralph was buried. WOW!

After you read how Lou discovered the information, I expect it will give you hope for serendipitous happenings, that you never know what is around the next corner, that you will never give up!

So, here in Lou's words:

I found it [*the obituary*] in a copy of Ralph's book at a flea market. I asked the seller if he minded if I copied it. He said I could have the original.

The original will be kept at the Johnston Historical Society museum, but a copy is on a separate sheet at the end of this newsletter. At the meeting, I will have the story of Sigismund Mohr (Oct 21 1827 – Dec 15, 1893) who Lou discovered is the grandfather of Ralph. Beyond interest in the Mohrs, the story is a good example of an oral history that you might write.

*"... the pursuit of origins is a way of rescuing territory from death and oblivion, a reconquest that ought to be patient, devoted, relentless and faithful." ~ Amin Maalouf*

## *Ancestry Quest, if you have the time?*

I'd like to look into the genealogy of Ralph Mohr a bit more, and if you have the time, here are the following questions:

- ◆ Ralph was born November 25, 1894 and died March 27<sup>th</sup> 1980. The records -- probably microfilm -- need to be searched around the death date for the actual obituary date -- when it was posted in the Providence Journal. As the obit is calling for the graveside committal on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2pm, then the search will be limited to that single month.
- ◆ If someone with a personal version of Ancestry at home might be interested in making contact with some of the family trees and work on it with me, it would be terrific.
- ◆ I would like to see if we can contact some of the family members.



## *Victory Day, August 14<sup>th</sup>*

### **Rhode Island and its meaning**

About this time last year, Ted Nesi wrote a fascinating succinct article about why RI celebrates Victory Day. Nesi says it has never been VJ Day and he blames the media for trying to arouse controversy of an unenlightened past generation by using that term. Victory Day celebrates the end of WWII and RI is the only state that so commemorates -- always on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of August. Nesi notes the efforts to abandon the holiday, but he quotes Scott MacKay who described in 2010 the impact the war had on RIsers. "When Franklin Roosevelt said that the United States would become the arsenal of democracy, he could have been speaking about Rhode Island. A state that suffered through the Depression suddenly blossomed into an industrial powerhouse when war came. Liberty ships were made in Providence, torpedos in Newport, army blankets and uniforms in textile mills all over the state. The machine shops of the Blackstone Valley thrummed with parts of guns. Even the jewelry makers flourished, turning out medals for the armed forces." Nesi goes on to speak of the enormous impact and notes the almost unbelievable statistic that one in 10, more than 92,000 residents served in World War II.

*Ted Nesi: "Like Del's, Victory Day is a uniquely Rhode Island tradition", August 8, 2016.*



*"To be American is to long for whatever our parents fled."*

~ Colin Quinn,  
The Coloring Book: A Comedian Solves Race Relations in America

Image is from [www.gumshoogenealogy.com](http://www.gumshoogenealogy.com)



## *Marian J. Mohr Memorial Library*

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■ fax: 401-231-4984 ■ website: <http://www.mohrlibrary.org>

