

Past Tracks



A Publication of the Southern Arizona Genealogy Society

October 2025
Volume 32 Number 1

In This Issue

- October program
- President's message
- Volunteers needed
- Education Opportunities
- News from the Library
- Stories and articles from members
- And more!

Contributors



Mike Day
Pat Edwards
Mary Martin
Becky McCreary
Bob Pitcher
Lucy Redding

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society meeting

Thursday, October 23
1:00 - 3:00

Recreation Center at La Posada
(directions on page 20)

Hybrid Meeting (In-person and Zoom)



CHRIS ARUNDELL

The Cuban Missile Crisis

Chris Arundell will share his memories of the surprise call to 'active duty' in October 1962, as the two superpowers (at the time) were staring each other down over Russian missiles that were being installed in underground silos in Cuba, a mere ninety miles from the Florida Keys.

Second Presentation: SAGS SIGs panel

Break with Cookies

Activity: Speedy Genealogy
Conversations.

President's Message

Welcome to the 2025-2026 Season of the Southern Arizona Genealogy Society!



If you have been traveling last summer, I hope your travels were safe, enjoyable and productive. Mary and I mainly traveled for family and tourism. Our journeys were not focused on family history but rather on close family gatherings and regional history. We had a cruise on the Great Lakes and trips to Fargo, Kansas City and Southwestern Minnesota.

This season, we will try a new format for the Monthly meetings. The first half of the meeting will feature presentations from the Rec Center on Zoom, the second half of the meeting will be a workshop at the Rec Center based on the presentation topic. We will focus on member presentations of their research experiences, including less than totally successful results... I plan to talk about my Brick Wall in November. I have been working on this problem for at least a decade.

We encourage members to join us at the Rec Center for the full SAGS experience, however, we will continue to use Zoom for the first half of the meeting in a traditional lecture format. More focus will be on the SIGS as a way for members to get the help they may need to advance their family history research. We will help each other, learn from each other and grow together as family historians.

Genealogy is about understanding communities and we will improve our skills and knowledge by approaching challenges as a community.

Honoring members who joined in 2002

Lucy Redding	Flori McCluney
Darillyn & Bob Doss	Barbara & John Bird

And Marilyn West who joined in 2006. Let me know if you are a long-time member of SAGS that I have omitted from this list.

SAGS October Monthly Meeting

On October 23 there will be 2 topics featured at the meeting in person and on Zoom. The first will be a presentation by SAGS member Chris Arundell about the Cuban Missile Crisis. Chris had joined the U.S. Air Force Reserves upon his recent arrival from England and was assigned to the 349th Troop Carrier Wing stationed at Hamilton Air Force Base, Novato, California - just north of San Francisco. His Air Force Wing was called to 'active' duty by President Kennedy on October 22, 1962.

The second will be a presentation by the Special Interest Groups' leaders which SAGS offers to membership: Mike Day, Jon Otto, Becky McCreary, and Bob Pitcher.

After the break there will be a novel, in-person only, bonus activity called "Speedy Genealogy Conversations". This game, similar to Musical Chairs, will require moving from table to table. The tables will be numbered 1-6. 'Get-to-know-you conversation' ideas will be on cards on each table. Everyone will be given a number. Then for example: after a timed period of conversation those holding numbers 1,3,5 will move to the next table. Then, after another timed period, those holding numbers 2,4,6 will move to the next table etc. until everyone has moved 3-4 times and has talked with many others who attend.

Please, remember to wear your name tag.

SAGS December Monthly Meeting

Aunt Elsie often said “ I’ll have to put on her thinking cap”. It is not too soon for the SAGS members to start thinking and planning for the fun event “Dress Like Your Ancestor” for the December 18th meeting. Chose an ancestor and/or an event in his/her life. Cobble together your costume or outfit , with or without props, and tell us about him or her at the Holiday meeting. The more creative or unusual the better. You may write a paragraph to read to the audience or it can be read for you.

The SAGS President is looking for Bib Overalls to dress like his farm ancestors in Iowa. He has a number of leads and has engaged a shopper / stylist to help him.

Calling for Volunteers!

The **FAMILY SEARCH FAIR** will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the Family History Library in Sahuarita. Speakers will begin at 9 am: a former POW followed by genealogy experts. Lunch will be available. SAGS will have a booth for the day. The address of the Family History Library is :

17699 S. CAMINO DE LA QUINTA
SAHUARITA AZ 85620-9738

We are seeking 1- 2 volunteers to help us at the SAGS booth. We will have 2 shifts: 8:45 am to 11:15 am and 11:15 am to 2:00 pm, closing time. It will be an opportunity to share your knowledge about SAGS and genealogy for those who attend the Fair. We can use your help. Please reply at your earliest convenience to Janis Slaughter, janisjanisk@aol.com.

Safeway / Continental Plaza Sidewalk Sale OCT 25, 2025.

SAGS will have a table on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Sidewalk Sale from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. We could use 2 people to help for just a few hours- **9 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 4:00**. (The times are negotiable.) Please contact Janis Slaughter at janisjanisk@aol.com. We will not know where our table will be until that morning. Please help us promote SAGS in the Green Valley community.

SAGS needs volunteers to serve as:

- Past Tracks Editor
- SAGS Board Vice President
- Director of Membership

Please refer to the website for description of responsibilities and contact a member of the SAGS board if you would like to help.



Education Opportunities



*Please inform the facilitators/instructors if you will attend their session. Some classes require a Zoom link.
The latest SIG information is always on the [SAGS website calendar](#).*

Let's Talk Genealogy (SIG)

First Weds of each month: Oct 1; Nov 5; Dec 3

9:30 - 11:30

In-person Meeting

Genealogy can be confusing. Sometimes, you just need to be with some friends to talk about a research problem. Maybe you want to share a breakthrough you have been working on for years. That's the purpose of "Let's Talk Genealogy"— friends talking about genealogy and family history. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month. Meeting location: La Posada Pavilion, Building #670, 2nd Floor, Synergy Room.

Storytellers: Writing Family Stories

Second Tues of each Fall/Winter months: Oct 7; Nov 11; Dec 9

10 - noon

In-person Meeting

The Storytellers class for SAGS members meets on the second Tuesday of the month October through May at Friends in Deed. This is a class for those who want to write to preserve their personal stories and those of ancestors. **This is not a drop-in SIG; you must register in advance to join the class.** For more information, please contact the instructor, Becky McCreary: rebeccamccreary764@gmail.com

Family Tree Maker SIG

Second Weds of each month: Oct 8; Nov 12; Dec 10

9:30 - 11:30

Zoom meeting

Explore the features of FTM with a hands-on approach! An email with the Zoom meeting link will be sent out approximately 5 days prior to the meeting to those on the group email list. To have your name added to the group list, send an email to webmgr@azsags.org . Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month.

SIG Leader: Karen Feeney

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Beginning Genealogy SIG

Fourth Thurs of each month: Oct 23 (except holidays)

3:00 - 4:00

* Hybrid Meeting: Green Valley Genealogy Library, and Zoom.

This meeting is open to non-members & members. It is a great way to get started with researching your family tree. This group meets the 4th Thursday of the month. For more details, contact Jon Otto, Group Leader, at jonotto48@yahoo.com and check the SAGS Events Calendar for future meeting dates.

* In-Person Meeting location: Green Valley Genealogy Library, 665 S. Park Centre Ave., Green Valley.

DNA Special Interest Group

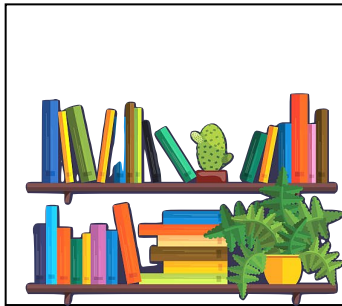
Fourth Friday of each month: Oct 24 (except holidays)

9:30 - 11:30

In-person Meeting

LaPosada Recreation Center, 685 S. LaPosada Circle, Bldg. #37, Green Valley, AZ

This SIG will start with the basics through the experience of its leader, Mike Day. Mike is a former teacher and technologist who brings a decade of experience as a user of DNA testing services and a career of understanding technologies. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Mike Day at michaelhday@me.com



News from the Green Valley - Sahuarita Genealogy Library

Becky McCreary, Library publicity

It takes a village

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an Igbo and Yoruba proverb that exists in many different African languages. It reflects the emphasis African cultures place on family and community. It explains well the active participation at the Green Valley-Sahuarita Genealogy Library.

The abbreviated hours of 9 a.m. to noon during July and August did not seem to lessen the number of visitors to the Library. Patrons adjusted, and as always, the staff accommodated everyone. “Thank you” to Lucy Redding, who schedules volunteers to work regular three-hour shifts and subs who are always ready to step into a vacant spot. You are all appreciated!

The Library in the La Posada Shoppes is open Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. - noon. We are a public library, and any current (membership paid for 2026) Southern Arizona Genealogy Society (SAGS) member may check out books and research materials for three weeks. Non-members may purchase a 2-year Library card for \$10.

Stop in to see who in your family might be hiding between the covers of our books!



*For
your
Reading
Pleasure*

The stories and articles written for *Past Tracks* are the property of the author and may not be used in any form without the written permission of the author.

Newspaper Reports on a Day Family Tragedy

Michael Day

On 27 August 1917, my grandaunt (my father's uncle's wife), Grace May Leas Day, poisoned herself and her three children. Only her 6-year old daughter Lois Annabelle, survived the poisoning. Grace was despondent because her husband, Park Louis Day, had contracted tuberculosis and was admitted to the Sand Beach Sanatorium in Lake Park, Minnesota for treatment. This was a small sanatorium west of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. The couple lived on a farm about 5 miles north of Frazee, MN which was east of Detroit Lakes. All of these locations are in Becker County, Minnesota. Park's brother James Wilbur Day had a farm about a mile south of the Park Day farm.

I found a newspaper article about these deaths in the Cook County News-Herald of Grand Marais, MN published on 26 September 1917, almost a month after the event and on the other side of the state. This article was a short summary of the tragedy and was reprinted in several other papers as well, however, the original reporting was done by The Detroit Record, in Detroit Lakes, MN and published on 31 August 1917. Subsequent reporting was in the Moorhead Daily News on 1 September 1917. The Cook County News-Herald is available on ancestry.com with a basic subscription, digitized and searchable. The Moorhead Daily News article is available on newspapers.com with a subscription, but the Detroit Record article is only available on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society Gale Family History Library in St. Paul, MN or the Otter Tail County Historical Society library in Fergus Falls, MN. The Detroit Record is neither digitized nor indexed, so you have to search the images of the paper, page by page. Even though Detroit Lakes is in Becker County, not in Otter Tail County, the library in Fergus Falls, had a complete set of microfilm files for the Detroit Record.

Detroit Record article (Published 31 August 1917)

KILLS CHILDREN AND HERSELF

Mrs. Park Day, Despondent Over Her Husband's Illness, Decides to End Existence of All

One of the most gruesome tragedies it has fallen to our lot to report occurred some time between Sunday and Monday, when Mrs. Park Day, residing with her three children on the old Schram place, five miles north of Frazee, administered a dose of poison to herself and three children, two of whom were found dead with their mother, while the third, aged 6, miraculously escaped, either because the poison was insufficient or else too strong.

Mr. Day, the husband, has been an inmate of the county sanitarium at Lake Park, and had been home on a visit, returning to the sanitarium the day before, to be treated for tuberculosis.

The details of the tragedy were learned after the little six-year-old girl had walked to the home of her uncle, James Day, who lives a mile south of the scene of the deaths, and told her uncle that "she could not get mamma up." Investigation then disclosed the dead woman and her two children, aged 12 years and 5 months.

According to the child who survived, she had gone to bed on Sunday evening after having been given a dose of medicine. She immediately went to sleep and did not wake up until morning, when she got up and dressed. As her mother and older sister were not yet up, she went out to play. Becoming hungry along toward noon, and still failing to arouse her mother, she walked to her uncle's and told her story as stated.

Mrs. Day had evidently planned the triple tragedy, for on Saturday she had purchased some carbolic acid and strychnine. The physician who was called to examine the bodies expressed the opinion that the mother had administered a dose of carbolic acid diluted in milk, but, for some reason not explained, the 6-year-old girl came through the ordeal apparently none the worse for her nearness to death.

Continued on next page

Continued from previous page

Mrs. Day left a note of farewell, but assigned not particular reason for her terrible act other than that she was despondent over Mr. Day's ill health and the fear of her inability to care for the children in case of death.

The deceased woman was born in Pennsylvania, and was 40 years of age. The family resided in Detroit for a short time, removing to Burlington township some time ago.

The tragedy was a great shock to the people of the eastern part of the county, and much sympathy is expressed for the unfortunate husband and the little motherless girl, who cannot as yet realize her condition.

Moorhead Daily News article (Published 1 September 1917)

KILLS CHILDREN AND THEN SELF

Frazee woman, despondent over husband's illness gives poison

Two of her children and she die— One poisoned child still lives

Mrs. Park Day, residing with her three children at the old Schram place, five miles north of Frazee, administered a dose of poison to herself and three children, two of whom were found dead with their mother while the third, aged 6, miraculously escaped.

Mr. Day, the husband, has been an inmate of the county sanatorium at Lake Park, and had been home on a visit, returning the sanatorium the day before, to be treated for tuberculosis.

A note was found on the dresser in the bed room, reading as follows:

Cowardly, Yes! But I see nothing but suffering and want and sorrow in the future. Park will have to leave us and with the prospect of another little one in the spring it makes it impossible for me to take care of them. Dear, good Park has always been a perfect husband and father to his children and always has tried to cheer me, but the future looks too dark for us now. Be good to Park. He belongs to the W. O. W., Omaha. Papers in the tin box upstairs.

The tragedy, which occurred last Monday, was a great shock to the people of both Clay and Becker counties, and much sympathy is expressed for the unfortunate husband and the little motherless girl, who can not as yet realize her condition

Cook County News-Herald article (Published 26 September 1917)

KILLS CHILDREN AND SELF

Despondent over her husband's ill health and fearing her inability to take care of them in the event of his death, Mrs. Park Day of Frazee killed two children and committed suicide by taking poison a short time ago. The husband was at a tuberculosis sanatorium. Mrs. Day gave her three girls, aged 12, six years and five months respectively carbolic acid mixed in milk, and then drink some herself. For some reason the six year old was not affected. The following morning she woke up and being unable to arouse her mother and sisters went out to play. When they did not get up she walked to her uncle's and told him she could not get mamma up. Investigation brought the tragedy to light.

Park Day and his daughter Lois lived long lives. Park did not remarry and moved back to Nebraska and later to Lewiston, Idaho and died in 1965, aged 93 years. Lois followed her father to Nebraska and married there. She had two children in the 1930s. She later moved to Lewiston, Idaho and died there in 1975.

Continued from previous page



Lois Annabelle Day and Park Louis Day in early 1920's (Photo posted by Shelly Baumeister on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com))



This research illustrates the importance of digging deeper into newspaper stories. The sensational deaths were summarized and syndicated all over the state of Minnesota in the weeks following the tragedy. But only two papers did original reporting and naturally they were geographically closer to the event. The easiest articles to find online are not as complete as the two local papers that did the reporting within days of the event

Cement Headstone for Grace M Day
and Children in Oak Grove
Cemetery, Detroit Lakes, MN
(Author's Photograph)

Grandma & the Birds

Bob Pitcher

I'm sometimes asked how I got into birdwatching. I answer that it was in my family -- and that leads me to my Grandma Work.

Ruth May Patterson was born March 5, 1878, in the farm town of Cresco, Iowa, in the northeastern part of the state. Her parents were James Freeman Patterson and Emmeline Darrow. Both were born in the East, both were descended from Scottish and English ancestors that had come to New England in the 1600s. Both their families came to Iowa during the 1850s when Iowa was the new frontier for farmers, and both families had prospered there. Grandma's father didn't farm; he was a bookkeeper, and Grandma's family lived in town. But aunts, uncles, and cousins still farmed nearby.

A Move to Chicago

Around the time she was ten, Grandma's family began to move as James looked for work, first to Burlington, Ottumwa, and Keokuk, larger Iowa towns, and then, about 1890, they took the big leap and moved to Chicago, where James found steady work downtown. The Pattersons lived on the South Side.

Chicago's South Side wasn't then what it is today. The Pattersons lived in those years close to 59th Street, west of Washington Park. The area was filling up quickly, but there were many patches of prairie and marshy spots still undrained. There were birds. Grandma hadn't left them all behind in Iowa.

For some of the early years in Chicago, Grandma kept diaries, but not of the line-a-day variety; her early diaries (which I have) were each on a special theme. In the first, from 1893, she put down what she saw on each of her many trips to the World's Fair, the Columbian Exposition. She and her friends walked there after school, through Washington Park to what is now Jackson Park, to the Great White City. Very occasionally, Grandma notes a bird seen along the way. She seems to know them all.

The next diary, from 1897, is all about the birds of that year, seen in Chicago's parks, at the lakeshore, or in the bits of Illinois prairie land still left. At the end, there's a list of the species Grandma saw that year -- there are some fifty of them.

Grandpa Work

Many of Grandma's recorded outings in 1897 were taken with "Rob." Rob was Robert Gilbert Work. My mother told me the two met at a church (Methodist) picnic in Washington Park, very soon after the Pattersons moved to the big city. Rob was from a poor immigrant family, whose parents, Lawrence and Susannah Goudie Work, had come to Chicago from the Shetland Islands

Continued on next page

away north of Scotland in 1873, the year before Rob was born. He and Grandma shared their birthday, March 5.

Ruth and Rob married on that day, in 1901, and went to live a little farther south and west, in the Englewood neighborhood. This was very much on the city's outskirts in those days; although there was streetcar service, not all the streets were paved, and the sewer system was still going in, block by block. It was half rural.

Grandma was now certified as a teacher, having attended Chicago Normal School, with its innovative education program. She taught third grade in Englewood for several years, and collected both natural and art objects to give her pupils a broader view of life. Rob – Grandpa – was an apprentice architect with the firm of Jenney & Mundie (William Jenney is credited with the invention of the skyscraper). Grandpa worked downtown.

One More Diary

Once she was married, Grandma quit teaching – perhaps the rules at the time required it. So 1902 was the first full year she would be at home, a housewife. She began a new diary. Though she doesn't say so, this one is modeled after two of Grandma's life-long favorite books, Thoreau's *Walden*, and *The Natural History of Selbourne*, by Gilbert White, both classics of natural history (though *Walden* is more than that).

In this diary, with an entry for most days of 1902, and on past the middle of 1903, Grandma notes the weather, the temperature, and any birds, wildflowers, or other natural phenomena she has seen or heard. She knows all the birds by ear as well as by sight. Although she mentions hardly anything else through these eighteen months or so – that is, the theme of the diary is successfully maintained – this was hardly a year without other incident. The entry for June 14, 1903, does mention the birth of her first child, June Roberta Work, my aunt June – and notes of the new baby somehow creep into the few remaining entries in this diary.

To the Suburbs

Grandma and Grandpa had three more children in the next seven years; Grandma had no time for more diaries until much later in life. In 1907, the Works made the move to the suburbs, to Barrington, Illinois, on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad some thirty miles northwest of the city. Barrington was a town of 1,300, a farm town, half German half English and Scottish, but it was a farm town with a difference.

When they can afford to, urban Americans have always tended to become suburban. In those years, Chicago's North Shore was already filling up with successful professionals, and those coming behind them were looking for other likely areas to settle. Barrington, far enough outside of town to have unsettled countryside but close enough to commute by train, was such a place. My grandparents bought a farm of forty acres a mile west of town. My mother, Edith Frances Work, was born there in the old farmhouse in 1909.

a Grandpa, whose architectural career progressed steadily, farmed the place for a few years, with hired help, but then the property was allowed to return slowly to nature. Nature in that part of Illinois is as the glaciers left it, low hills interspersed with marshes and small lakes – prairie vegetation and wildlife where the land it cleared, oak and hickory woods where the forest grows back. It's great for birds.

A Mystery

While Grandma lives the next forty years or so of her life – before I came along, that is – it's a good time to address the mystery: How did Grandma come to her fascination with and love of birds? How did she come to know the birds so well even in her teens? Who taught and encouraged her? The answer to all these is: I don't know.

It's true that those who live in the country tend to know the birds around them; hunters in particular know their gamebirds well. But distinguishing the dozens of warblers one sees in the East, or the tough sparrows and shorebirds? Birding is a thing now; there are sources galore available to birdwatchers both experienced and beginning. That wasn't so in the 1890s. Ornithologists had by that time described the birds of North America, but even the notion of amateur birdwatching was new, let alone the concept of field guides. Roger Tory Peterson's *A Field Guide to the Birds*, the first modern guide, didn't appear until 1934. Yes, Grandma had a copy of Frank Chapman's *Bird Life*, from 1897 (at least she had a well-used copy of it when I knew her), but Chapman is far from comprehensive and he employs an awkward key system for identification. Nor were there binoculars in those days designed for birding; one made do with opera glasses – or one's eyes.

As to who may have encouraged Grandma, once again I don't know. Grandpa, it's true, developed a liking for and knowledge of birds, but he pretty well had to. I know little of Grandma's parents personally. I have a few letters of James, her father, but they're unrevealing, and though I have nothing her mother wrote, I believe she was more likely Grandma's inspiration.

Memories of Grandma

I was born in 1950. Our house stood on five acres of my grandparents' original forty; they lived next door, in the house Grandpa had designed and built to replace the farmhouse. My mother and I, and my brother, after he was born the following year, were at "Grandma's house" nearly every day. In my earliest memories of Grandma, she could still get around fairly easily, but arthritis in her knees and ankles soon limited her severely. This also limited her birding. But Grandma's house was built and situated in such a way that she could see a many birds without much walking. There was woods, oak and locust, on two sides, and open country – fallow weedy fields – on the other two. And plenty of windows, with bird feeders placed to take

Continued from previous page



Grandma Work and the author, May 1950

advantage of them, including a shelf feeder built onto the window Grandma faced when she sat at her desk in the library. She kept binoculars – real ones now -- close at hand, and my Aunt Fern, who lived with her parents, shared the bird fever, and kept the feeders full.

Two other aspects of Grandma's life fed her interest in birds: She loved books at least as much as birds. And she was devoted to nature conservation. I haven't space here (or, in fact, the sources) to detail her work on the second, but Grandma grew up in the days of the early efforts to protect birds from the plume hunters and for the establishment of National Wildlife Refuge system. When I knew her, she was, among many other things, much involved in the effort to preserve the Indiana Dunes, now a National Park. And she served until well into her seventies as the secretary of the Chicago Conservation Council, an umbrella conservation organization for the Chicago area.

I have succeeded to Grandma's love of books – and to some (alas, too few!) of the books she had. Grandma's house was full of books, and it was a big house. Her books covered many subjects, but those on nature and natural history featured largely, with books on birds standing out. On most subjects, Grandma was more an accumulator of books than a collector, but she collected bird books, from Mark Catesby's *Natural History of Carolina*, and the second, octavo, edition of Audubon's *Birds*, to Thomas Bewick's *History of British Birds*, and W. H. Hudson's *Birds of La Plata*, Grandma had them all. And many others: I once attempted to count her books that touched significantly on birds, and stopped at three hundred. On the walls were framed prints of Audubon and John Gould.

So when I tell people that birdwatching was "in the family," I'm not kidding. How could I have avoided becoming interested in birds? Yet it might have been possible. John, my younger brother, instead of adopting birds, adopted wildflowers, Grandma's other great passion in nature, became an expert on the flowers of northern Illinois and quite a well-known flower photographer.

In 1947, when gas-rationing went off, Grandma and Grandpa took a tour by car of some of the western National Parks. Yes, birdwatching was involved, and Grandma took with her Peterson's second book, *A Field Guide to the Western Birds*. She put check marks beside those they saw, ??s beside those they might've, and where that was. But the closest they got to the wonderful birding spots of Southeast Arizona was the Grand Canyon.

A slightly different version of this article was published in Canyon Chatter, the newsletter of The Friends of Madera Canyon. It is reprinted here by permission.

Romancing the Stone:

Repairing a Gravestone 101

Mary Martin

Mike Day and I spent some time this summer unearthing and repairing the gravestone of one of my ancestors. I am sharing what we did to both inspire you and to share what we learned in case you want to do your own repairs on an ancestor's grave!

The stone in question marks the grave of my second great-grandmother, Dorothea Maria (Maria) Ellenberg Buhr Meyer (1824-1882). Maria is one of the earliest of my immigrant relatives. She is buried in a pioneer cemetery known as the Bauck Cemetery, near Perham, Minnesota. The cemetery is named after Maria's son-in-law, Fred Bauck Sr., who donated the land for the cemetery. Many members of the extended Buhr and Bauck family are buried in the Bauck Cemetery. This includes Maria, Maria's daughter Dorothea and her husband Fred Bauck Sr., her son Henry Buhr, her daughter Sophia Buhr Ebeling, her son Fred Buhr, her second husband John Meyer, and Johns' daughter, Sophia Meyer Lehmkuhl.

During a 2022 Bauck family reunion, I led a tour of the Bauck Cemetery, identifying various members of the Buhr and Bauck family who were buried there. While most of the stones are in relatively good condition, Maria's stone had fallen over, broken in two and was partially obscured by grass that had grown over the edges. Family members worked together that day to begin restoring the stone by removing dirt and debris, but could not expose the entire stone.

In July of 2025, Mike and I returned with tools to extract the two pieces of Maria's tombstone from the turf that had grown over it. Armed with a potato fork and a spade, we removed the turf that had grown over the edges of the marble stone and were able to extract the stone to expose the entire script, which is written in German. Below the names and dates is an inscription, which is a variation on the Biblical sentiment that from dust we come, and to dust we return.

In the first photo, the darker part of the stone near the center is what was visible before we extracted the stone; the lighter part of the stone had been protected from weathering by the overgrowth. We were able to turn the stone over to determine that there was no inscription on the back side of the stone. We then returned the stone to where it had been. Further repair would have to wait until our next visit.

Our next visit was in mid-September 2025. This time, we brought tools and a plan to repair the stone. Our tools included a 2' x 4' piece of plywood, two 4' lengths of 2 x 2, clamps, a plastic garbage bag, two ratchet straps, a knife, work gloves and stone-repair-grade epoxy.

Continued from previous page

Our strategy was to lay the plastic on the plywood and then place the stone on top of the plastic-covered plywood. We then positioned the stone between the 2 x 2s which served as rails along the long sides of the stone, and then strapped the stone, which weighs about 250 pounds, to the plywood. Then we moved the two main pieces apart just enough to apply the epoxy and then moved them back together, and inserted a smaller piece of stone that had also broken off; we then tightened the straps to hold the pieces together firmly while the epoxy dried. The pressure applied by the straps squeezed out the excess glue.

Once the glue had set up (about 30 minutes), we removed the straps and trimmed the excess glue with a knife. We then left the repaired stone on the plywood for the epoxy to cure overnight. We returned the following morning to set the stone upright. While a complete repair would have put the stone back on its base, we determined that nearly 1/3 of the bottom of the stone which fits in the slot in the base of the monument was missing. In addition, we did not have enough people or the right tools to lift the repaired stone up into the base. So we propped the stone up next to the base. It is now upright, more legible than before, and hopefully less vulnerable to further damage.

Should you be inclined to undertake a project like this of your own, here are a few of our observations:

1. Stone is heavy. The marble headstone we worked on was roughly 20" x 40" by 3". It probably weighed 250 pounds. That is a lot of weight to lift.
2. Bring people to help you. It would have been easier to move the stone with more hands.
3. Use heavy grade plastic. We used a garbage bag, and it kept moving out of place with even a slight breeze when we were trying to line things up.
4. Trim the excess glue earlier rather than later. We let ours set up too long, which made it difficult to trim.
5. Bring some dirt and grass seed to fill the depression. The hole was bigger than we expected, and we were not prepared to repair it. I estimate it would take four big bags of soil to fill the depression. Although the cemetery sexton has said we can use dirt from another cemetery to fill the depression, it will be easier to transport it in bags than to shovel loose dirt into a vehicle and then out of the vehicle and into the cemetery since we don't have a truck.
6. Allow plenty of time. Each of our visits took several hours.

Continued from previous page



Stone after being dug out of the ground.



Work in process, showing where the stone was and the first half on the plywood with plastic and straps underneath.



Repaired stone standing next to its base.

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society 2025-2026

Officers

President: Michael Day
Secretary: Mary Martin
Treasurer: John Kozma
Director of Education: Pat Edwards

Past Tracks Editor

Michael Day (Interim)

Website Manager

Karen Feeney

Visit the SAGS Website:

<https://azsags.org>

Mailing address:

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society

PO Box 1009

Green Valley, AZ 85622-1009

Green Valley-Sahuarita Genealogy Library

665 S. Park Centre Ave

Green Valley, AZ

520-648-4016

PLEASE NOTE

The Southern Arizona Genealogical Society (SAGS) is not affiliated with Green Valley Recreation (GVR) or with any religious organization. We are a non-profit educational organization, certified under IRC sec. 501(c) (3)

2025 - 2026 SAGS Membership Application

May be completed at azsags.org

Date _____

New/Renewal Individual (\$35)_____

Student (ages 12-21) (\$20)_____

Family (2 Adults, same address) (\$45)_____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

*Email _____

2nd Name (if Family) _____

2nd *Email _____

2nd Phone _____

Return with payment to:

Southern Arizona Genealogy Society
PO Box 1009
Green Valley, AZ 85622

or drop off at the Genealogy Library

* To receive the SAGS newsletter, you must include an email address



La Posada, 350 E. Morningside Road, Green Valley, AZ 85614