



## USE OF DNA TESTING IN FAMILY RESEARCH

**TIME:** Sunday, May 20, 2007 2:00 pm Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

**SPEAKER:** Doug Miller--Past Pres. of SCGS, Founder of French-Canadian Heritage Soc., & Internat'l Soc. of Genetic Genea.

Genetic Genealogy--What is it all about? DNA testing is the latest tool for genealogists to break through brick walls in research. The DNA of two persons tells you whether or not those two persons carry the same DNA markers and thus are sure to be related, or carry different markers and thus are not from the same family line.

One of the most interesting revelation from DNA test results is where geographically earlier generations of a DNA line showed up. and thus where the family lived in earlier generations.

Doug is also involved in groups that offer DNA tests at reduced fees, and can provide interpretation of results.

**PLACE:** Immigrant Genealogical Society Library 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

### NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

For several months we have been "working out the bugs" of sending our monthly IGS *Newsletter* by e-mail to a few of our members. We think we have the system figured out. It will be sent as a pdf file. If you would like to be added to the list of those receiving it online, you may send your url and request to Pres. Ron Grider at <RONSWINDOW@aol.com> AND send a note to our office with your url/request, so we update office records.

Because of the size of the periodicals, we will continue to send them by regular mail. The switch to e-mail for the *Newsletter* will save us a bit of postage. We'll still send most by regular mail. Every penny counts these days.

### GERMAN WRITERS IN CALIFORNIA

In *The Week in Germany* for March 9, '07 an item mentioned Pacific Palisades. That got my attention. The article pointed out that in 1933, after the Nazis came to power in Germany, many intellectuals and writers left Germany and moved to Pacific Palisades, here in California. Some found employment in the entertainment industry and in the colleges of the Los Angeles area.

An exhibit of the works of 10 such persons has been set up in the new Emigration Center in Bremerhaven and the Buddenbrookhaus in Lübeck. The website of the Lion Feuchtwanger Library at USC (Univ. of Southern CA) has nice coverage on some of these writers.

### NEWSPAPERS ON FILM

There is a project going on in every state to get all the early newspapers, and those up to current times, micro-filmed. Newsprint paper is notorious for being poor quality that deteriorates rapidly. Each state, usually Librarians, seems to be organizing its own project.

If you wish to see what exists on film for a particular state, enter a search phrase into Google naming the desired state followed by "Newspaper Project."

If you find newspapers for a particular locality in your state of interest and wish to examine the film, write down the name of the newspaper, the dates, the city of publication and provide this information to your local public librarian. They should be able to borrow film copies to use in your local library, and probably even make copies of particular articles. The fee for borrowing a roll of film should be quite reasonable. Many states have not completed filming every old newspaper for their state, but many are well along in the project. Some Universities may have filmed newspapers for their area before the nationwide project started.

### ARE WE GETTING SPOILED?

I noticed in the last issue of the Newsletter of the California State Genealogical Alliance that they have problems in being able to get together the representatives from various districts of the state for a few meetings each year. When you look at a map, you realize that in CA, some representatives have to drive several hundred miles to such a meeting. Doing that more than once a year really IS quite a challenge. The CSGA President was suggesting having some of their meetings electronically--online.

### KALENDER

May 10	June Newsletter Mailed
May 13	LIBRARY CLOSED--Mother's Day
May 20	May Monthly Meeting
May 23	Board of Directors' Meeting
May 26, 27	LIBRARY CLOSED, MEM'L DAY
June 3	Monthly Meeting
June 8-10	SCGS Jamboree

Perhaps the Internet is spoiling us! This can also be a problem for many societies, especially in large metropolitan areas. Many societies are mentioning a decrease in membership and society meeting attendance.

Let's not get "lazy" and depend too much on the Internet. What about all those chances to "chew the fat" with friends, and share experiences at monthly meetings? We'll always need lots of that "rubbing shoulders" time, even if we do not pick up genealogical facts.

#### **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BRITTLE BOOKS**

The Sloan Foundation has donated \$2,000,000 to the Library of Congress to enable it to digitize thousands of its "Brittle Books" that are in danger of being lost to physical disintegration. These will include Regimental Histories and state and county histories.

The announcement of the Sloan Foundation Grant was publicized Jan. 31, 2007. This means that in future years many records will be available either online or by Inter-library Loan, that would otherwise become totally unavailable. This should keep genealogists busy for many more years.

(LeilandMeitzler--2/1/07-www.genealogyblog.com)

#### **PALATINES TO AMERICA**

Palatines to America is one of the leading societies dealing with German immigrants. It has established a NEW website, so you may wish to change your list of urls. The new url is: <http://www.palam.org>.

There are new urls for general information, their periodical, and various activities at the main headquarters as well as for the various state branches.

Even if you have never explored their website, do so at the new url. You might find some very interesting leads for your German research.

#### **CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The California Genealogical Society moved from 1611 Telegraph Ave, #100 to----2201 Broadway, Suite LL2, Oakland, CA 94612-3017. In that process, they found some books of which they wish to dispose. These of course are related to California records or history. You can find a list of those still available by going to their website: [www.calgensoc.org](http://www.calgensoc.org).

#### **WOLVES SEEN AGAIN IN GERMANY**

While wolves once roamed freely across Europe, no wolf has been seen in Germany for many years. A lone wolf was seen near the Polish border recently in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. The first wild wolf born in Germany in over a hundred years was born in 2001.

Although wolves previously roamed across Europe and Asia freely, their population has been limited in recent years to Scandinavia and Eastern Europe. In the mid-1990s two packs took up residence in Saxony. Hunting wolves is currently totally banned in Germany.

(ASHHS Newsletter, Jan/Feb. '07)

#### **UNUSUAL WEATHER IN GERMANY**

The weather in Germany in 2006 was unusual in enough ways to draw some comments from *The Week in Germany* staff. The 2005/2006 winter was unusually severe. The following summer, and especially the Fall, was warmer than ever recorded.

The year 2006 began with severe snow and ice throughout Germany, which caused airport congestion,

cancelled flights, electricity outages, road accidents and collapsed roofs. There was no relief until May, but even then severe windstorms added to the mix.

June and July '06 were the warmest on record in many places. August brought rain and cool weather in the south. Sept. brought temperatures into the 80's through October, then a hurricane swept through Schleswig-Holstein in November and there were generally warm temperatures throughout Germany.

(ASHHS Newsletter, Jan-Feb. '07)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

June 8,9--Concordia, KS, National Orphan Train Celebration, e-mail: <[othsa@msn.com](mailto:othsa@msn.com)>

June 8-10--So. CA Genealogical Society, 38th Annual Jamboree. <<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>>

June 10-17--Am. Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Hayes, KS, <[www.10/gagrman.net/convention/2007/](http://www.10/gagrman.net/convention/2007/)>

June 24--Pommerntag, Pommerscher Verein Freis-tadt, Mequon City Park, WI. <[pommern@execpc.com](mailto:pommern@execpc.com)>

July 12-14--SLC FHLibrary, Feeffhs 13th Annual Conference, <<http://www.feeffhs.org>>

July 13-15--Platt Conference, American Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Soc., Omaha, Neb.

July 14--German Interest Group-Wisconsin, Univ. WI-Whitewater, <[rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html](http://rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html)>

July 19-22--Germans from Russia Heritage Soc., Bismark, ND. <<http://www.grhs.com/>>

Aug. 15-18--FGS Nat'l Conference, Ft. Wayne, IN, --"Crossroads of America"--<<http://www.fgs.org>>

#### **ANCESTRY.COM AND ANCESTRY.DE**

Most of us have heard of Ancestry.com, a website to which you can subscribe for an annual fee. The Ancestry operators have now added a second site, Ancestry.de, which provides much of the same information to researchers in German.

When Ancestry.com posts new items online, some are often designated as "in the clear". That means--non-subscribers can use them before they are posted in the "subscription only" part of the database. Recently Clear Digital Media, Inc. created a new website that lists the new items free to public use on Ancestry.com. This makes it much easier to find which items are currently "in the clear".

Simply go to **FreeOnAncestry.com**. It will show what databases are currently available free.

([blogs.ancestry.com/circle](http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle), 9 Jan. '07)

#### **JAMESTOWN'S 400TH ANNIVERSARY**

The year 2007 is the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, in Virginia. Yes--it was founded in 1607. There has been lots of history created since that early settlement date. Even Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip of England will visit Jamestown in May 2007.

A website called "Virtual Jamestown" is being created with pictures and maps and lots of record-groups posted. There is a nice description of the website in *NGS News Magazine*, Jan-Mar. '07.

You will want to explore this website, just to refresh your memory and expand your understanding of that early settlement, even if you do not have ancestors who came to Jamestown or lived there later. Many history books are lacking in explanation of early life.

## VIRGINIA GENEALOGIST ENDING

With the 4th issue of Volume 50, John Frederick Dorman will end the publication of *Virginia Genealogist*. This periodical has been an outstanding published source for Virginia records for 50 years. There is a 2 volume index to Volumes 1--35, and an index to vols. 36-50 will become available Mar. 1, 2007. They may be purchased from Mr. John Frederick Dorman, 175 Hulls Chapel Rd., Falmouth, VA 22406.

(*NGS News*, Jan.-Mar.'07)

## HISTORICAL CHANGES IN CALENDARS

The Julian Calendar was adopted by Julius Caesar in 46 BC and the year started on (present) March 25.

The Gregorian Calendar was adopted by Pope Gregory XIII in Catholic countries in 1582 and the year began on January 1.

The French Republican Calendar adopted in 1789 and England's Regnal Calendar adopted in 1660 only help to confuse calendar dates. So, when you get back into early church records, there may be confusion as to exactly which date in our present calendar matches the records. There may also be some confusion in historical accounts, depending on the calendar used by each political entity at a given time. Several articles by Arlene Eakle in her *Newsletters* (Mar. 21, 29 '07) are helpful.

## ANCESTRY.COM

An announcement has been made at several recent genealogical events that the Ancestry.com website would **not** be available at local Family History Centers **free of charge** after April 1, 2007. Some U.S. censuses and other databases will still be available. Inquire at your local FHC when going there to use databases.

(Arlene Eakle, *News*, Apr. 2, '07)

## WE ALL HAVE A STORY TO TELL

*We All Have A Story To Tell* is a new set of books that should interest genealogists. Have you intended to write an account for your descendants of what life was like as you grew up before 1950? Haven't gotten to it yet? Maybe you would like to purchase Vol. I of *We All Have a Story to Tell*, by Robert H. Wells..

Mr. Wells, a neighbor of two IGS members, has published this 2 volume set. Vol. I contains articles by the author's acquaintances describing life before about 1950 - no indoor plumbing, coal oil lamps, wood/coal burning stoves, Aladdin lamps, cook-stove reservoirs, wash-tubs, weekly baths, cranking the car, milking, etc.

Vol. II of the same name contains accounts by various persons sharing their experiences in World War II and following. These eye-witness accounts give an exact "feel" for what life was like in the later 1900's.

These books are available in either soft cover or hard cover. You may obtain copies from Authorhouse by calling 1-888-280-7715 or online at <bkauthorhouse.com>. Mr. Wells also keeps some at his home in the Los Angeles area. You may call him at (818) 348-6387 or contact him by e-mail <Honybel@socal.rr.com>.

## ST. PATRICK

An interesting tidbit about St. Patrick is that he baptized 120,000 believers. Compare that to the fact that there were only 300,000 people in Ireland at that time!

(Coral Ridge Ministries, FL., "Impact", Mar. '07)

## HAMBURG PASSENGER LISTS

While answering requests for information from the 1819 Mecklenburg-Schwerin Census microfilms we have on permanent loan at the Los Angeles Regional FHC, I noticed a sizeable segment of film drawers labelled "Hamburg Passenger Lists." Talking to librarians showed that the collection is complete, including both Direct and Indirect Indexes, plus all the rolls of film of the actual passenger lists. If your ancestor lived in northern areas of what was Prussia/Germany and would have left between 1850-1934, your emigrant may have left through Hamburg.

If so, he/she no doubt had to file a "Permit to Emigrate" form while waiting to board a ship. These documents give a great deal of information. They always tell where they have been living before emigrating, who is with them, how much money they have paid, the date they left, and their destination, etc.

If you can identify your ancestor in the Hamburg Passenger Lists, there is a group at the Archive in Hamburg who can get copies of that permit for you, and translate it into English--for a fee. They are called "Link to Your Roots."

If you do not live close to the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center in Santa Monica, CA, you can probably borrow copies of the appropriate films for the Indexes through your local FHC Library, and follow the necessary process.

## RALPH'S CARD PROGRAM

Those of you who signed up for a Ralph's Card with IGS to receive a small percent of every purchase will be pleased to know that we received the first check from Ralphs--\$65.00. That is a tidy sum, when similar amounts come in regularly.

If you do not already have a Ralph's Card and sometimes shop there, please get a card at your local store, then go online to <www.ralphs.com>. Click on "Community Program", enter the NPO number of our Society (83796), then your card number. If you need help, ask someone at your Ralph's Market to help.

Thank you to all who signed up. It is a painless, great help to our bank account.

## E-SCRIP

Similar to the Ralph's Card program is e-Scrip, but it covers several companies. Club Cruize, Macy's, Pavilions, Pep Boys Auto, Eddie Bauer, Office Max, Big 5, Bristol Farms, Claim Jumper, and Direct America are companies listed as participating in e-Scrip.

To sign up, go online to <www.escrip.com>. Click on "sign-up", then follow instructions. Our group name is "Immigrant Genealogical Society" and the Group ID Number is: 500007044. Each company may have different limitations and rules.

Please sign up for e-Scrip with all companies you patronize. Every few cents a company donates helps.

## JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

The June monthly meeting will be a Special one. If possible, plan to arrive early, so you can help with one of those "Cleaning Day"s that must be held occasionally. Since we are all volunteers, please help if you live within driving range.

We will open at 10:00 am. Please bring a lunch, a

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May 2007

vacuum with dusting hose and floor brush if possible, dust cloths, etc. We always have coffee and sodas.

At our usual meeting time--2:00 p.m., Liz Austin Carlin will share with us "New Sources and Prospects at the L.A. Regional Family History Center." Liz is a regular volunteer at the LARFHC and knows its collection well. She'll explain some of the more recent acquisitions, and plans underway for expansion of the Library.

Liz is a member of the Austin Society of America, the D.A.R., and has had a life-long interest in genealogy.

**THE WEEK IN GERMANY**

Angela Merkel has led to an agreement to cut greenhouse emissions by 20% by 2020. She hopes other countries will follow suit. -- Retirement age has been raised from 65 to 67. -- Germany will launch a probe to circle and chart the moon's surface in 2013. -- Corporate taxes will be lowered to 29.8% from current 38.7%. To compensate the capital gains tax will be raised to 25% after 2009. -- Berlin is now being "Googled". Google Earth has begun mapping the city and 5 major buildings can be entered visually: the Reichstag, new Central Train Station, DZ Bank, Sony Center, and Olympic Stadium. Hamburg has already been completed. -- The U.S. sent congratulations to Germany in view of the upcoming 50th anniversary celebration of the European Union.-- The European Union is working to bring compliance by the Palestinian government with the "Quartet" (EU, US, UN, Russia). -- A smoking ban has been agreed on. Restaurants and pubs may have closed smoking rooms, separate from the general public.-- Three persons from the German Helmholtz Association, Germany's largest scientific research group, consulted with Washington regarding future plans related to energy, earth, environment, health, technologies, matter, transport and space. -- ThyssenKrupp is planning to build a steel plant in either Alabama or Louisiana to process steel from its mines in Brazil. -- The bowed glass for the Grand Canyon "Skywalk" was made by Döring Glas in Berlin. -- Environmental ministers met to plan for extending plans for biological diversity and climate protection beyond the Potsdam Initiative which ends in 2010. -- Europeans are hesitant to

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accept genetic modification of either plants or animals. -  
- Knut is a polar bear cub who survived the death of his twin last Dec. just after birth, and has been raised by Zoo personnel. -- This year marks the 50th birthday for the Bosphorus Bridge which links Germany and Turkey. -- The Bundesrat relaxed rules for access to materials in the Holocaust Archive in Bad Arolsen. The records are also being digitized so that other Holocaust Museums may make them available. -- German researchers are exploring use of stem cells to prevent and cure cancer. -- By 2008 China will replace Germany as the leading world exporter. (TWIG, Mar. 9,18,23,30 '07)