



Connecting the Norwegian Dots

(from her Father's 1962 notes.)

TIME: Sunday, October 14, 2007 2:00 pm Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm
Joint meeting with Pommern Special Interest Group (PSIG).

SPEAKER: Carolyn Casperson, Publicity Chair for PSIG

Carolyn has always known her name was Norwegian, but just recently learned she could have been Susie Solum or Helen Helmersdatter. Thank goodness for computers and Norwegian phone books!

How different from Pommern records are Norwegian ones? Let Carolyn enlighten you.

Her recent trip to Norway for the sights and to visit relatives will be share, including some handouts.

PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

IGS ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the fact that the number of members of the Society living close to our Library is decreasing, the Board of Directors have concluded that we should reduce the size of our Board of Directors. Please read carefully the notice on page 3, and if you live in the Los Angeles area, be sure you attend the November 11 Annual Meeting to elect Directors for 2008--2010. To suggest an additional nominee, contact Ron Grider, Pres.

BALLINSTADT MUSEUM

The port of Hamburg was a major port for embarkation of emigrants in the early 20th century. On July 4th, 2007, the City of Hamburg dedicated a new \$6,000,000 Museum called "BallinStadt--Port of Dreams."

The Museum is located in and named for the 1901 village where emigrants lived while they waited to board a ship to America. Most emigrants through the port of Hamburg were from eastern Germany, Russia, and other East European countries. The Museum is housed in the only surviving residence hall and two reconstructed ones of the original 30 residences. There are audiovisual displays, historic reports and artifacts to show what life was like as families waited for a ship to sail.

The new Museum includes a BallinStadt Family Research Center which has the ship passenger lists for 1850 to 1934. Staff members can help visitors research in the Center's materials.

We can thank Barbara Freshwater for sending us this info. You may wish to visit the new Museum's website at <ballinstadt.de/en>. (*Westways Magazine*, July / Aug. '07)

LOS ANGELES ARCHIVES BAZAAR

If you investigate immediately, you may be able to participate in the second annual "Bazaar" being planned by the Huntington Library in San Marino. It occurs on Sept. 29 from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm and will give info about libraries and archives throughout L.A. County. The

So. Calif. Genealogical Society will be making presentations, as well as several other groups. Check out the details as <<http://www.usc.edu/libraries/archives/arc/lasubject/>>

GERMAN LANGUAGE REFORM 2007

An article in the *L.A. Times*, 8/22/'07 describes the adoption of a new set of rules for writing German--but not necessarily for speaking it! The new rules are supposed to simplify some of the worst complexities of the German language.

Planning this latest reform began in the early 1990's, and has been argued about ever since. Three government education ministries finally agreed on details in 1996, but even then, several state and regional newspapers refused to use the new rules. The German Supreme Court approved them in 1998, and the rules were instituted in 2006 with a 1 year "grace period." They do not dare ask average Germans to adopt the new rules for speaking German! School children will be required to adhere to the new rules starting in 2007, at least for written matters.

Do you want to bet that this will make any difference in the spoken language? It will be a cold day in July before most Germans do it. (*L.A. Times* 8/22/'07)

KALENDER

Sept. 20	Oct. Newsletter Mailed
Sept. 26	IGS Board of Directors' Meeting
Oct. 14	IGS Monthly Meeting
Oct. 18	Fall Periodical & Nov. Newsletter Mailed
Oct. 24	IGS Board of Directors' Meeting
Nov. 11	IGS Monthly Meeting
Nov. 15	Dec. Newsletter Mailed

AMISH IMMIGRANTS TO AMERICA

The Mastof Press of Morgantown, PA has announced release of the 1st volume of *Amish and Amish Mennonite Genealogies* by Hugh Gingerich and Rachel Kreider. This volume lists all known Amish immigrants up to the mid-1850's, and tells of their European roots, if known. A second volume is expected to be necessary to publish all known information. Volume 1 was due to be shipped on March 7, 2007. This edition updates an earlier 1986 version by Pequea Bruderschaft Library.

Vol. I, (Revised and Indexed) contains 955 pages (8 1/2" X 11") and costs \$90 plus \$7 shipping. PA sales tax must be added by PA residents. Masthof Press is at 219 Mill Road, Morgantown, PA, 19543-9516.

AN OLD FRIEND

Many genealogists in the Los Angeles area knew Oscar Bergman. He volunteered at many activities, particularly at the SCGS annual Jamborees. We are informed by his daughter that he passed away in May of 2007 at the age of 89. He is no doubt "filling in the holes" in his genealogical records, now person-to-person.

EARLY SEA MAPS

You have probably heard of the ancient Stonehenge in England which acted as a chart of the sun and stars' annual rotation. Now some "diagrams" with stones in Scotland reveal "sea charts" used by very early sailors to explore the world and to return home again.

Located on the plains along the Thurso River near Caithness in northeastern Scotland are diagrams made with rocks. From a common point, rows of stones stretch out in straight lines pointing the direction to specific geographic points, settlements, etc. across the Atlantic Ocean. They could also be used by sailors to return from distant points back to their home port.

That's mind-boggling! This must have been plotted before use of paper and pen. (*Ancient American*, 12:74)

HOLOCAUST RECORDS

In Washington, D.C. the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is digitizing its records, millions per month, to place online. Israel's Yad Veshem Holocaust Memorial is preparing its library records for posting online.

The largest collection of Holocaust records, at Bad Arolsen, Germany, is closed to the public. It is estimated that they have papers regarding 17.5 million persons, at least 1/4 of them Jewish. The Tracing Service, which manages the Bad Arolsen facility, was created by the International Committee of the Red Cross after WW II to track missing persons and help reunite families when possible. In May 2006 the Tracing Service agreed to make electronic copies available to the National Archives of the 11 nations that govern the Tracing Service.

With so many records from various countries involved, there are many problems. Sensitive personal info contained in the records must be protected, many original records are hand-written or in Gothic Script, so not machine-readable. There are 40 million name-index cards, many of which duplicate names with variations in spellings, or written phonetically. In addition, there is a huge backlog of requests.

In September 2007 the Tracing Service expects to release the first batch of Concentration Camp Records--on 8,000 CDs. It will take until 2009 to complete that project.

Additional records are still being identified and added to the collection, particularly from the Soviet areas.

The Tracing Service has 380 staff members who have responded to 11 million requests, many from before the computer age. This is a mind-boggling project, even with the aid of computers and digitization.

(*The Ventura County Star*, Aug. 5, '07)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept. 29--2nd L.A. Archives Bazaar, at Huntington Library, 10:30 --4:00, Huntington Library, San Marino.

Oct. 11-14--Creole Heritage Celebration, Natchitoches, LA, <<http://www.nsula.edu/creole>>

Oct. 20--Ventura Genealogical Soc. Annual Seminar. Colonial Genealogy-- Linda Jonas. 8:00--4:00 p.m. <bisbeenme2@aol.com>

Oct 27--Nov. 3--Seminar at Sea (Caribbean), by Fly Away Travel <flyawayinc@aol.com>

Jan. 12, 2007--San Diego Genealogical Society Seminar, 9--4, Arlene Eakle. (619-298-2447)

Febr. 2, 2008--SaddleBrooke AZ, All-Day Seminar & Fair, (25 mi. no. of Tucson, AZ) <rimac@wbhsi.net>.

June 2008--Roots Tour V, Pommerscher Verein Central WI. P.O. Box 103, Wausau, WI 54402-0103

Sept. 2008--German-Am. Steuben Parade, Philadelphia, PA.

AUGUSTAN SOCIETY

Many researchers in the Los Angeles area will recall the library of the Augustan Society. They published a journal called "The Augustan," and maintained a library in Torrance, CA in the Los Angeles area for many years. They had an excellent German collection, a specialty in Heraldry.

The Library in Los Angeles closed and for a time was maintained east of Los Angeles in Daggett, CA. Rodney Hartwell has been the person who assembled and protected the genealogical collections for years.

After a couple years of silence, we have now received information from Bruce & Marta Metcalf, from Orlando, Florida. They have been designated "Augustan Consuls" to manage the office and publishing activities of the Society. The book collection has been packed and transported to Orlando, Florida. The facility in Daggett is being sold and a new facility in Orlando is being "hoped for."

A future obituary for "Sir Rodney" is mentioned for a future issue of *The Augustan*. The Metcalfs will continue the periodical, and try to maintain fund raising activities to house the Library. You may stay in touch with activities on their website--<augustansociety.org>

(*Augustan Society Newsletter*, June 28, 2007)

HANNOVER CHURCH RECORDS

Member Anna Grey informs us that an index to all the church records for the city of Hannover is available from the Family History Library in Salt Lake, as well as the films of the actual Lutheran churchbooks for the 1600's through the 1800's.

However, when I checked the Family History Library website, for their catalog of holdings for Hannover, I could not identify a city-wide churchbook index on film. There were many kinds of records listed under "Hannover", including some Census, many Military, some Genealogies, Emigration and Immigration, Land & Property, Obituaries, Probate Records,

IGS Annual Meeting, 2007

The Annual Meeting of the Immigrant Genealogical Society will be held on November 11, 2007 at 2:00 pm. at the Society Headquarters for election of 5 Directors to the Board of Directors to serve from 2008 to 2010. The nominees are:

Ronald Grider - President, Membership List, Computers
John Linning- Vice President
Marilyn Deatherage - Treasurer, Programs, Staffing
Eloise Haldeman - Research Team, Germantranslation
Linda Stone - Mailing Committee, Helps with Publications
Elisabeth Sharp--Director Emeritus



Lura Perkins
IGS Secretary of Board of Directors

and Tax Records.

The FHL online catalog divides the records between simply Hannover (the city), the Electorate (Kurfürst-entum), and Kingdom (Königreich) Hannover.

The Kingdom of Hannover included the areas around the city plus a strip of land directly west from the city to nearly the Rhine River, as well as a similar strip to the south from the city of Hannover that included Göttingen, at that point in time. The Kingdom of Hannover was later folded into the present state of Niedersachsen.

The Lutheran churchbooks for the majority of present Niedersachsen are not available in the Salt Lake LDS Library. There seems to be no one agency holding all films of later Niedersachsen church records. Those historical changes in boundaries really made mincemeat of the Archive system!

NAT'L ARCHIVES/RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

The staff of the Nat'l Archives has already been reduced by 7%, due to reductions in funding starting last year. They have already cut research hours considerably, and are planning to increase copying fees.

The 2008 budget plans a \$39.6 million increase in NARA's budget, but it will cover only preparation for operation of the George Bush and Richard M. Nixon presidential libraries. Fifteen percent of the 2008 budget will go to Electronic Records Archives programs--to preserve records of government agencies. NARA will have no funds for grants.

I have read that some legislators diverted Archive-budget funds last year for "earmarks" for their states! More accountability seems to be needed.

PEDIGREE RESOURCE FILES

One of the major services of the Family History Center in Salt Lake City is their collection of Family Pedigree Resource Files -- charts submitted by genealogists over many years. The best part of the plan is that an index of persons named on those charts is posted on their website at <familysearch.org>

This is an ongoing collection, so that present genealogists may submit their charts for inclusion, and all past charts are available for purchase on CDs. You can go online to the Index, and enter your ancestor's name. It will list for you all the charts that include that name, followed by the number of the CD on which it is available for purchase. The index also gives considerable information regarding who submitted the info, and where the family was located, etc.

Our IGS Library has the CDs for 1 through 40. You may use them in our Library any time it is open.

What better way to find other genealogists researching your surname, and perhaps even your direct family? If you have not already checked that Index--do it soon!

To search the Index, go to <familysearch.org>, click on "Search" along the top border, then enter your ancestor's info in the main blank to search all their databases, OR click on "Family Resource File" along the left edge to narrow the search. Have fun!

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY RESOURCES

Several types of records are available online for genealogists tracing family histories at USGS.

Historical maps: <<http://mac.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs15499.html>>

These might help you identify the location of early settlements which have changed names.

Unfamiliar names of towns and places:

<<http://geonames.usgs.gov/>> This might include places named after members of your family.

Other: <<http://erg.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/factsheets/fs09902.html>> or <http://education.usgs.gov/common/resources/genealogy_usgs.pdf>

(*San Jose Mercury News*, 7/9/2007)

NOVEMBER IGS MEETING

The November meeting will be preceded by a brief Annual Meeting to elect members to the Board of Directors for the coming 2 year period. The program will follow.

Eloise Haldeman, will lead the program, "Around the World at IGS, Revisiting Our Resources."

This meeting will point out and explain some of the major sets of books dedicated to different topics or areas of research. Many of these resources were published by genealogical societies in Germany and other specific areas of Europe. These are usually the early records that might include one on emigrant families. Some of these sets are on-going and we have received recent volumes that you have not yet examined.

There are also many indexes compiled by genealogical groups or individuals here in the U.S. that are only now being indexed with the aid of computers. Various members knowledgeable in our holdings will try to point out special sets that would be helpful to you.

Bring your "hang-ups". Eloise is fluent in German and has travelled extensively there. Other volunteers will help, even with Old Gothic Script, too.

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October 2007

THE WEEK IN GERMANY

German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Greenland with Danish Prime Minister Rasmussen to see the effects of global warming. -- Aug. 13 was the 46th anniversary of construction of the Berlin Wall. It fell in 1989, after 28 years. -- German scientists can now use body heat to generate electricity. -- Volkswagen is planning a "New Beetle" for 2009. -- Many Germans prefer old bicycles to newer, lightweight ones. -- Berlin is one of the best cycling cities in the world. It is flatland, not too hot in summer, with red brick bike paths that criss-cross the city. -- Alan Greenspan has now been hired by the Deutsche Bank in Germany. -- Thousands of seals are frolicing on the Baltic beaches after several years of decline. -- An English version of a children's book about Knut, the baby polar bear in Germany, will become available in the U.S. this Fall. -- Chancellor Merkel is the most popular Chancellor since World War II. -- A new \$8.2 million Jewish Synagogue and community center in Berlin will serve the fastest growing center of Jewish life in the world. -- In the first half of 2007 Germany had the first budget surplus since Unification. -- SolarWorld will begin operating a large solar plant in Hillsboro, Oregon, the largest in North America. -- Klaus Kleinfeld of Siemens' U.S. will become president of Alcoa. -- Thomas Gaehtgens, a Berlin based art historian, has been chosen as the new Director of Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles. -- A new book, "The Most Noble Adventure: The Marshal Plan and the Time When America Helped Save Europe", has now been published, and says America's help got Europe back on its feet after WWII. -- Germany plans to reduce CO2 emissions by 40% from 1990 to 2020. -- At least 1.2 million Iraqis have sought refuge in Syria, with 2,000 more arriving each day. Syria needs assistance providing education and health care. -- Using "dirty silicon" in solar panels will greatly reduce the cost of producing solar energy. -- The 173 year old Holy Ghost Church in St. Louis, MO, founded by German immigrants in 1834, held its final service in August. It presented the Univ. of St. Louis Library with a copy of the Bible donated to it 101 years ago by Emperor Wilhelm II.

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<http://www.ImmigrantGenSoc.org>

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Immigrant Library Hours

Wednesdays 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sundays 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Closed for major holidays.

Permission to quote if appropriate credit is given.
Annual Membership, \$25, Family \$30
If publications desired by 1st Class mail, \$35.00

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-- A new stained glass window for the Cologne Cathedral designed by Gerhard Richter, has been installed to replace the transparent piece of glass that replaced the original window destroyed in WWII. The new window contains 1,184 sq. ft. of brightly tinted pieces of glass. The \$505,000 cost of the window was paid by private donations. Herr Richter donated his time. -- "Car-sharing" is popular in Germany. A group of cars are parked in a busy area, and a person can rent one by the hour for short trips or errands. -- The Osnabrück Symphony and Iran's Tehran Symphony Orchestra have exchanged performances in one another's capital this summer. (TWIG Aug. 10,17,24,31, '07)