



SURVIVING THE HOLOCAUST

TIME: Sunday, March 9, 2008

2:00 pm

Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

SPEAKER: Jack Nierob

Come and learn about these Holocaust experiences, be prepared to ask questions, and see pictures of Jack's family. Those who did not survive, as their last wish, wanted their tale to be told.

PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

REMEMBER PENNY POSTCARDS?

It has been a long time since "Penny Postcards" were popular, but they may be of interest to genealogists in their research of family history. There is now a website that displays many of those old postcards, both black and white and in color.

Go to: <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~USgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>>

The opening page shows a link for each of the United States. Choose your state of interest and then the county in that state that you want to explore. The pictures are from earlier days in that county, and likely to be of churches, schools, well-known buildings, or historic or nature sites that will bring back memories of the county where you lived. You'll enjoy seeing the county where other branches of your various family-lines lived, too.

Give a look. Maybe you can add some pictures to some counties!

WALDSEEMÜLLER MAP

When German Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Washington, D.C. several months ago, she brought a very special gift to donate to the U.S. Library of Congress. It was a map drawn in 1507 by Martin Waldseemüller, a cartographer living in St. Deodatus in the Duchy of Lorraine (today Saint-Die-des-Vosges, France). This map is the first one discovered that designates a country named "America."

James Billington, Librarian of Congress, declared the map to be the "crown jewel" of the Library's collection and profusely thanked Germany for allowing such a treasure to be sold to the U.S. Library.

You can examine pictures of this wonderful map online at: <http://www.germany.info/relaunch/politics/new/pol_Waldseemueller>

This map was one panel of 12 in the original map which was titled "Drawing of the whole earth following the tradition of Ptolemy and the travels of Amerigo Vespucci and others." The name "America" was written across the part now recognized as South America.

The original Waldseemüller map was lost for many years, though there were printed copies available. Finally, the original was rediscovered in 1901 at the Waldburg Castle in Wolfegg, Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

The online story and pictures of the map can be manipulated to enlarge details of the map. It is no wonder that UNESCO added it to the "Memory of the World Register" in 2005.

We owe much thanks to Germany for giving the United States this first map that named our continent "America."

ALLEN COUNTY (IND.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Allen County Public Library is located in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. It was one of the earliest libraries founded in the Northwest Territory, and today has one of the most outstanding genealogical collections.

Can you believe??--it has over 50,000 compiled Family Histories, 5,000 genealogies on microfiche, ca. 50,000 City Directories, 10,000 periodical titles, many Family Newsletters, Passengerlists, National Archive films of military records, Local records--particularly for their surrounding area, records regarding Am-Indians, African-Americans, Canadians, British Isles, Germany, Videos and Audio-Cassettes, etc.

One thing that all of us can use without visiting in Indiana is their online databases. Check them out at: <<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/index.html>>

KALENDER

Feb. 10	February Monthly Meeting
Feb. 14	March Newsletter Mailed
March 9	Time Change for Clocks--2 A.M
	March Monthly Meeting
March 20	April Newsletter Mailed
March 22, 23	IGS Library Closed--Easter
April 13	PSIG/IGS Monthly Meeting

OLD GERMAN BIBLES

Luther's translation of the Bible into High German was not the first translation of the Bible into German. A translation into German from the Latin Vulgate was made as early as the 700's! Of course, this was well before the printing press came into use. How was it produced? It was hand-written with quill and ink onto parchment--the inner lining of animal skins. Such Bibles are known as "Manuscript Bibles." There were estimated to be up to 211 such copies, not all complete.

Many Manuscript Bible portions were made in the 1300's, probably in monasteries. The printing press with metal type was invented in the 1400's. There were 13 Bibles in High German (1470--1518) and 4 in Low German (1478--1522). Luther's translation is considered the best because he knew not only Latin, but also Hebrew and Greek, so he could translate from the original documents. Luther's first translation was of the New Testament in 1522.

(Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, July 2007)

A GERMAN TRADITION

"Walpurgisnacht" was an old German tradition from pre-Christian times tied to the idea of Spring overcoming the forces of Winter. It was celebrated on April 30 with bonfires, fireworks, and people dressed in witches' garb, with dancing and singing. The legend is that on the Brocken Summit of the Harz Mountains, witches rode on broomsticks, shovels or pigs to battle the Devil of Winter and drive him out so that they could greet Spring on May 1st.

We can perhaps understand their cause for rejoicing if we remember that the houses had only one fireplace and other rooms were unheated throughout the Winter. No wonder the arrival of Spring was "a big deal" to them! Hence, "May Day" was a real cause for joy.

(Der Blumenbaum, SGGs, 24:4--Apr-June '07)

CSGA--CA STATE GENEALOGICAL ALLIANCE

The California State Genealogical Alliance has a website that you might like to keep an eye on if you live in the Southwestern U.S. The website has been recently revamped and expanded. It has four main sections: Calendar, Societies, Projects and Members Corner.

This would be a good site to check for upcoming Seminars, Meetings, and Conferences. The URL is--
<<http://www.csga.com>>

LOST COLONY OF ROANOKE

Do you think you might be descended from someone in the Lost Colony of Roanoke? Do you have ancestors from early North or South Carolina or the coast of Virginia? The DNA Center for Science and Research is seeking to identify descendants of that "Lost Colony".

The "Lost Colony" was established by 112 English colonists who settled on the island of Roanoke, off the coast of North Carolina in 1587. The colony's governor went back to England for supplies and when he returned in 1590 he found no trace of the colony. It is concluded that the members of the colony may have assimilated with the surrounding Croatoan Indians, or have wandered inland elsewhere. They hope that DNA will help clarify what happened to the colony.

I suggest that you go to <<http://www.the-lost-colony.blogspot.com/>> to see the list of surnames that

interests them, or to check on any progress made.

(Pomona Valley G.S., Oct., 2007)

BALLINSTADT MUSEUM

Ballinstadt was the city on the Elbe River that housed the persons emigrating from the Hamburg area in early days. Three old barracks have been rebuilt and a large museum is open. The site rebuilding started in 1901 and progressed through 1907. About 5 million Germans emigrated through Hamburg from 1850 through 1934.

You may wish to check out their website at: <www.ballinstadt.de>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 23--WAGS 25th Annual Seminar, Lloyd Bockstruck, 7604 Greenleaf Ave., Whittier, CA. (<http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>)

Mar. 8--Genealogical Soc. of No. Orange Co., Seminar at the Brea United Methodist Church, Brea. <www.gsnocc.org>

Mar. 29--North San Diego Co. Genealogical Soc., Spring Seminar: Christine Rose, 9--4, at Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine Ave. For details go to: <<http://www.cagenweb.com/nsdcgs/springsem.html>>

Apr. 25, 26--Two Day Seminar to celebrate 25th Birthday of Sacramento German Genea. Soc. Speakers: Roger Minert & Marion Wolfert. Details from <Lorelei@softcom.net> or (916) 421-8032.

Apr. 26--Sonoma Co. Genealogical Soc. All day seminar featuring Rhonda McClure. Santa Rosa, CA. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mcclure.htm>>

Apr. 28--Sacramento German Genea. Soc., All-day Seminar with John Humphrey, 9-4, Carmichael Park Community Center. <<http://www.sacergensoc.org>>

June 27--29-- The Jamboree by So. CA Genealogical Soc. at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, <www.scsgenealogy.com>for details.

July 28--Aug. 3--Am. Hist. Soc. Germans fr. Russia, and Germans from Russia Heritage Soc. A Joint Convention. <<http://www.casperwyoming.info/>>

Aug. 7--9--"Sail Into Your Past Aboard the Queen Mary." British Isles Family History Soc. 20th Annual Seminar, at Long Beach, CA <www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/seminar>

NORDLAND, NORWAY PUBLICATIONS

For readers who might have a Norwegian ancestor, it is good to know that the Norwegian government encourages publication of local histories. In the July 2007 issue of *Norwegian Tracks*, Vol. 32, #1, there is a long list of every local history book published for the "state" of Nordland. This covers the western coastal area of Norway from its northern tip all the way down south to Nord-Trondelag, and east to Sweden and Russia.

The books listed cover many topics from history, to family sketches, indexes to vital records, farm histories, censuses, etc. If you have an ancestor from that area, send an e-mail to our research committee and they can check the article for a specific area.

FAMILY SEARCH INDEXING

Family Search Indexing is a group of persons who are volunteering to index and post on-line Indexes to the scanned books and films from the huge Mormon

Library collection in Salt Lake City. These generous volunteers are indexing those materials not already indexed. More volunteers are always needed.

If you would like to do indexing from your home computer to be posted online as part of this huge project, you may go to: <<http://familysearchindexing.org>> The more indexers there are, the faster new materials will be available for online use.

(San Fernando Valley Historical Society, Oct. '07)

WEST PRIGNITZ MARRIAGE ABSTRACTS

An e-mail to Georg Grüneberg, the compiler of the pre-1700 marriage indexes Vol. I, II for West Prignitz which our IGS Library has available, brought this further good news.

The next 3 volumes of indexes to marriages for 1700-1704 are completed and the indexing for 1705-1750 Marriages is underway. It is possible the printing of those new indexes may be done in 2008. The same author is also working on records in the Neumark area.

We all owe Mr. Grüneberg a huge amount of thanks for the many hours he has spent reading, typing and alphabetizing the indexes to these OLD, Valuable records. These indexes are the only major source of information for Americans to that area once called East Germany.

"71 NOTIONS FOR WHEN YOU ARE STUCK"

This is the idea behind an article in *Der Blumenbaum*, the publication of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society. Among that many "notions" there is bound to be several that "turn on a light in your mind" for further research. They are listed in the Oct.-Dec. 2007 issue of that periodical, which should be on the New Book Shelf of our IGS Library. Why not stop by some day when our Library is open? This article should spark ideas to many lines of research!

NEWSPAPERS ONLINE

In March 2007 the Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities announced their cooperation in making available online public-domain newspapers for the states of California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the District of Columbia from 1900 to 1910. This new project is being called "Chronicaling America". The project will be free to all users. This sounds like a very long-term ongoing project for many years, so you will wish to check which newspapers are included periodically.

Go online to <www.loc.gov/chronicalingamerica/> to browse through what has already been posted.

(FGS Forum, Fall 2007)

CALIFORNIA MISSION RECORDS ONLINE

The Huntington Library in San Marino, CA provides free online access to the baptismal, marriage and burial records for all 21 Missions in early California. You may search them at <<http://www.huntington.org/Information/ECPmain.htm>> The records cover 1769 through 1850. They include the Los Angeles Plaza Church and the Santa Barbara Presidio.

(Napa Valley Genea. & Biographical Soc., Oct. '07)

THE HOLOCAUST ARCHIVE

The upper chamber of the German Parliament unanimously agreed on March 30 to open the International

Tracing Service records (from the Holocaust) to survivors and scholars. Up until now, the Holocaust records were held under tight control because many of them involved living survivors whose privacy rights needed to be protected. Another factor in the tight controls was the fact that the records were sometimes many miscellaneous bits and pieces so that they were difficult to attribute to a certain individual. The International Tracing Service operates under the control of an International Treaty signed by 11 nations and daily operations are handled by the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Archive is located in Bad Arolsen, Germany.

The eleven nations who signed the Bonn Accord were Germany, Israel, the USA, Poland, Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Greece, Italy and Luxembourg.

Currently the records are being digitized and both survivors and scholars will be given access. The US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. is setting up a Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies to supervise use of the records in the U.S.

Tom Lantos, a Hungarian-born Democratic Representative from California is the only Holocaust survivor in the U.S. Congress. He chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Germany expects to be able to provide up to seven terabyte of electronic information to the 11 nations in the oversight body during the coming year.

Individuals may secure information from the files by contacting the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, asking for specific information about individuals' records. They usually receive a reply within two months.

One reason for pressing for more access to these records is that Pres. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of Iran denies that the Holocaust actually happened!

(*The Week In Germany*, March 30, '07)

APRIL IGS MONTHLY MEETING

The April Monthly meeting of Immigrant Genealogical Society will be held on Sunday, April 13 at our Library in Burbank, California. The speaker for this meeting will be George Unrine, our webmaster. His topic will be:

"A History of Pomerania--The Land By the Sea."

Join us for this meeting to learn about the initial peopling of the land, some of the political events leading to the Duchy of Pomerania, and some of the major historical events that would have affected your ancestors and caused them to emigrate to America.

THE WEEK IN GERMANY

During its EU Presidency in the first half of 2007, Germany led the European Union on reducing greenhouse gases, renewed the EU Reform Treaty and enhanced transatlantic trade. -- Europe celebrated the 50th anniversary of the European Union. The highlight was the Summit Meeting of the eight Heads of State in Heiligendamm from 6 to 8 June 2007. -- Over 40 million Americans claim German heritage. The German Information Center USA and the German National Tourist Office launched a celebration in 2007 which it called "GERMANORIGINality". -- Artist Gerhard

Immigrant Genealogical Society
P O. Box 7369
Burbank, CA, 91510-7369

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Richter created a stained-glass window in the Cologne Cathedral which was unveiled recently. -- A corporate tax reform bill has lowered corporate income tax (in Germany) from 39 percent to less than 30 percent. -- Dresden has attracted a \$100 million dollar investment in a new technology, the plastic semiconductor. -- Siemens and Norsk Hydro will float Windmills on the North Sea. -- Germany gave 350,000 Euros to the Darfur Fund. -- Germany and the EU are encouraging Kenyan officials to do a recount of votes instead of allowing violence. -- Slovenia will provide the EU president during the first half of 2008. -- German scientists discovered a new planet outside our Solar System and named it "TW Hydraeb". It is 10 times the size of Jupiter. -- Retired Professor Heinz Breuer is studying recycling plastic, and production of sustainable plastics. -- The real identity of the Mona Lisa, painted between 1503 and 1506, has now been revealed to be Lisa Gherardini, wife of a Florentine cloth merchant. -- In 2007 Germany managed to balance its budget for the first time in 40 years! -- German industry is developing a logo for products not genetically modified in processing. -- The Mercedes Benz Smart Car is now being sold in the U.S. You can park 2 of them in one parking space! They use a 3-cylinder engine, go 90 mph, and get 40 to 45 miles per gallon of gas. It was approved for sale in the U.S. in 2007. There are already 30,000 reservations. -- China, Mongolia, Russia, Belarus, Poland and Germany signed an agreement Jan. 9 to build a railroad from Beijing to Hamburg to speed up transport to only 18 days instead of the present 40 days by sea. -- A German company has developed a small "desalination" unit powered by a solar display to purify salty or brackish water into pure drinking water for communities not having electricity. -- The new bear cub at the Nuremberg Zoo has been named "Schneeflocke" -- Snowflake. -- A German archive said to have manuscripts of the Quran, believed them lost, but now rediscovered them. -- Sety Electronics, a German firm, has developed an earthquake warning device that gives hospitals, schools, and businesses a few seconds warning of an earthquake, so that they can turn off gas, electricity

Immigrant Genealogical Society
1310 W Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA
Mail to: P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369
(818) 848-3122
<http://www.immigrantgensoc.org>

Officers & Chairmen
Ron Grider, President (818) 363-0721
Lura Perkins, Secretary (818) 896-9685
Marilyn Deatherage, Treas. (818) 348-6444
Lura Perkins, Corr. Sec'y (818) 896-9685
Jean Nepsund, Publications (818) 991-9475

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

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Annual Membership, \$25, Family \$30
If publications desired by 1st Class mail, \$35.00

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and water to avoid damage in an approaching emergency. The advance P-waves give nearly a minute's warning before the S-waves arrive. This can prevent major damage where crowds are concerned. -- Schott Solar, Inc of Germany will build a 200,000 sq. ft. solar generating site in Albuquerque, NM to go online in 2009. -- There are 66,000 VW Beetles still registered today. There have been 21.5 million produced from 1935 to 2003. -- German engineers have developed software to "piece back together" documents which were shredded by East German Stasi to hide the record of Nazi acts of violence.
(*The Week in Germany*, Jan. 4,11,18,25).