

Deduction vs. Induction in Genealogical Research: Applying Logic to Family History

TIME: Sunday, August 10, 2008

2:00 pm.

Library Open 12:00 to 5:00 pm

SPEAKER: Jean Wilcox Hibben, Family Historian, Troubador, & Folklorist

Jean will present the types of proof used to assess the validity of findings in research. The differences between original (primary) and hearsay (secondary) sources will be clarified. Family stories and legends and how to weigh them against documented evidence will also be covered.

PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

DIE POMMERSCHEN LEUTE--NEW EDITOR

Toni Perroni, president of the Pommern Special Interest Group, informs us that their periodical, *Die Pommerschen Leute*, now has a new editor. It is Karen Anderson of Moorhead, Minnesota. Her first issue will be mailed Oct. 15, a month later than usual. Ken Jahn, who handles the mailing, will be on vacation at the usual mail time. This will give Karen extra time to get her first issue planned and set up to be sent to George Unrine, who will continue to provide the DV entries. This sounds like a very adequate solution to Gwen's departure as Editor. DPL's usual high quality will soon be in members' hands.

Our abundant thanks are extended to Gwen Christiansen who has served as editor since the Pommern Special Interest Group was formed at our Immigrant Genealogical Society headquarters. She got it off to a great start and it promises to remain an excellent center for Pommeranian research. In this age of computers and the Internet, such a group is still needed to provide the human interchange of advice and experience to make such specialized research possible.

Another change in PSIG, involves Beth and Mark Marshall's plans to move to Utah later this year. Beth will continue her position as PSIG Membership Chairperson, since they will be spending their winters back here in California. I wonder WHY?

MICROSOFT STOPPING BOOK SCANNING

Microsoft jumped into the book scanning effort, trying to get ahead of Google in that business. They have now decided to shut down their scanning of entire libraries to make their contents searchable online. They will concentrate on "verticals with high commercial intent", they now report. There are now many other groups digitizing archival collections with federal and state grants, so that there is little profit to be made in that field now.

(Ventura County Star, May 27, '08)

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

The FGS will be holding this year's convention in Philadelphia, PA on Sept. 3-6. This should be a very rewarding convention due to being surrounded by the buildings, streets, archives and museums that hold much of the earliest records of our nation's founding. The records of the Pennsylvania State Archive are being digitized and placed on Footnote.com. While those are convenient for our research by computer, this seminar might be an opportunity to walk the streets and smell the scents of the actual places in Philadelphia, where many of our early emigrants entered the future U.S. If you can attend, why not share the experience in an article for our fall periodical?

For e-mail info and contact regarding the Convention, go to : <www.fgsconference.org>

SILESIAN ANCESTRY ??????

Silesian research today is subject to the same problems as many other Germanic areas--the boundaries of countries and their rulers changed so drastically and so often that it is sometimes difficult to pinpoint the exact area from which our ancestors emigrated.

There is an excellent article about Silesian re-

KALENDER	
July 15	Aug. Newsletter Mailed
July 23	IGS Board of Directors Meeting
August 10	IGS Monthly Meeting
August 19	Sept. Newsletter Mailed
Aug. 30, 31	IGS Library Closed/Labor Day
Sept. 14	IGS Monthly Meeting

search in the Spring '08 issue of *Forum*, published by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Best of all, it has an excellent map showing the area of Silesia on the modern map of Poland, where Silesia lies today. In the 18th century it was part of Prussia, and prior to that under Austrian Hapsburg rule--and also known as Bohemia at an earlier point.

The key to research in any Central European area is knowing the name of the church where the family's children were baptized and married. You are most likely to find that information in the records of the family's emigration or in those local records where the family first settled here in America. Perhaps an old studio photo of a member of the family will tell where the studio was located. This narrows the search a bit.

MAKING OF AMERICA WEBSITES

The Making of America websites may be confusing to some researchers because there are actually two sites involved. Funding for this project was provided by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. It involves the digitizing of historical records and posting them online from both Cornell University and the University of Michigan. Cornell includes 5,000 volumes, over 3.5 million images and the University of Michigan has more than 10,000 volumes with 3.5 million images. These are mostly the early records held by both libraries.

The Making of America documents from Cornell are at <http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/>.

The Making of America documents from the Univ. of Michigan are at <http://quod.lib.umich.edu:80/m/moagrp/>.

(*CA State Genealog. Alliance Newslet.*, May-June '08)

USE OF THE WORD "INFANT" IN RECORDS

To our American eyes the use of the word "infant" in old records may be a bit confusing. Of course it applied, even in earlier days, to a child just born or probably not yet able to walk. However, Webster's *Revised Unabridged Dictionary* (1828) gives a second definition with which we modern day researchers may not be familiar.

"2. In law, a person under the age of twenty-one years, who is incapable of making valid contracts."

(Federation of Genealog. Societies, *Forum*, Spr. '08)

FINDING MAPS OF OLD COUNTRIES

When researching in a country now under a different jurisdiction than it was under when your ancestor lived there, it is very helpful to find old maps showing the area at a specific time in history. For this reason, scan current publications of societies that deal with your area of interest. Also helpful, are publications that deal with larger areas, that may include one that interests you.

FEEFHS--Federation of East European Family History Societies is such an over-all society. They routinely publish excellent maps from many countries, particularly during earlier time periods. Their Vol. 15, 2007 issue contains good maps of Pommerania showing Kreises (counties) in 1913, a map of the Austrian Provinces as they existed about 1900, another of Hungary before World War I, one of The States of the German Empire which show several city-areas in Poland. An unusual feature is an extensive index to a list of marriage banns for a Swedish church in St. Petersburg, 1884--1900 totaling 60 pages, with more for later years promised.

GERMAN GENEALOGY GROUP

It is helpful when you are researching a particular country or nationality to read all the periodicals available for societies dealing with that subject. For that reason, I suggest you look for or subscribe to the publication of the German Genealogy Group, Inc. in Kings Park, NY. They are the largest such group in the NY area and have many experienced researchers who can lend valuable advice and suggestions for persons researching German ancestry.

They have indexes to many local N.Y. records. If your immigrants entered through the New York port these indexes should be very helpful.

You can take a look at their website online at: www.GermanGenealogyGroup.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 28-Aug. 3--Am. Hist. Soc. Germans from Russia, see www.germansfromrussia.net

Aug. 1-3--FEEFHS 14th Internat'l Convention. Pittsburgh: "The E. European Magnet." FEEFHS.org

Aug. 7-9, British Isles Family History Soc. Seminar: on the Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA.

www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/seminar

Aug. 15-17--Soc. for German Genealogy in E. Europe Convention, Kelowna, BC V1Y 6E8, Canada, www.sggee.org

Sept. 3-6--Fed. of Genealogical Societies Nat'l Conference, Philadelphia, PA www.fgs.org/2008conf/FGS-2008.htm

Sept. 19-20--Polish Genealogical Soc., 30th Annual Conference, "Honoring Our Ancestors," at Schaumburg, IL, www.pgsa.org

Oct. 18--Elgin, IL, State Genealogical Society, 40th Anniversary of its founding. www.rootsweb.com/~ilsgs

Oct. 18--Ventura Co. (CA) Genealogical Society, Seminar featuring Hank Jones.

Nov. 8--Arizona State Genealogical Soc., Annual Seminar, Featuring John Philip Coletta. Tucson, AZ <http://www.rootsweb.com/~asgs>

STONEHENGE

We have all heard mention of Stonehenge in southern England which is very obviously a remnant of pre-historic England. All that archeologists have been able to tell us thus far regarding when the huge stones were erected as some kind of clock in pre-historic time, is that there are no written explanations of them.

Archeologists have finally found one way to give a clue as to the stones' origin. Some of the oldest stones are what are known as "blue stones". When they are wet, they take on a bluish color. These are not local stones! The nearest place such rock is found is in Wales---250 miles away!

How could persons 4,500 years ago have moved those 3-4 ton rocks across the sea and assembled them as they still stand today? ? ? How could they place the flat rock on top of the 2 standing "legs" as present ruins show? ? ? Modern research tools help a bit.

One human skeleton has been identified as having been born in Switzerland. Perhaps scientists will be able to answer more questions in coming years.

(*National Geographic*, June 2008, pp. 34-59)

THE GENEALOGICAL HELPER ONLINE

If you are a regular subscriber to *The Genealogical Helper* in printed form, and have given them your e-mail url, you have probably received a copy of the July-Aug. issue by e-mail as well as in a hard copy. This is the first issue prepared for online delivery. Since it is a very sizeable file, they suggest that you download it (about a 5 minute project) for reading at your leisure later.

The *Helper* is probably the best known and longest printed magazine for U.S. genealogists. If you wish to subscribe, you can do so for \$12 per issue (every two months) in comparison to the usual price for the printed edition of at least twice that price.

One of the most helpful features of the online issue is that where a society or product or reference is made, the link to their website is included. On a list of the book series, *Map Guide to German Parish Registers Series*, 21 of the 45 volumes already completed, for each volume there is a url where you can check the index to find your village church, and of which parish it was a part.

Only subscribers will have access to the *Helper* website and to the resources a click away on its webpages. You may find answers to questions at <<http://www.everton.com>> or phone 800-443-6325.

WERE PAWNEE INDIANS CELTIC?

The Pawnee Indians lived along the Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Ohio and Wabash Rivers. These Indians were not traditional Mongoloid Indians. They were called "long heads" and considered to be from either the white or Negroid races. They seem to have been remnants of the Tallegwi of Ohio.

Coronado visited the Pawnee tribesmen north of Quivira in 1541. The Pawnee built mounds, and "ground-house" structures and mined copper in Upper Michigan. There are records of various other contacts by explorers from Europe.

There are numerous traits that suggest a Celtic ancestry for the Pawnee and several other tribes. "Celtic" could indicate descent from Norwegian or Irish sailors! (*Ancient American*, # 79)

CAUCASIAN MUMMIES IN CHINA ???

Records from Mesopotamia tell of fierce, light-skinned nomads who descended on them from the north and settled in their surrounding areas. These Nordics spread out across Russia, Central Asia, Siberia, and even as far as Japan! There is one province in western China called the "Tarim Basin." It is a dry, desolate area where artifacts have been well preserved. That area is now the Takla Makan Desert.

There in the city of Niya in northwestern China, the population was not Chinese, nor Mongolian, nor Siberian nor Turkic! Instead, they were tall with blond hair, with deep-set eyes--unlike any of their neighbors. The Chinese placed a curtain-of-silence around the finds.

Finally, American researchers were allowed to visit the site in the 1990's. The body of a woman with long blond hair revealed an Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic background. There were also Celtic wool tartans associated with the burial sites. There were men with blond and red hair, parted in the middle, with blue or green eyes and pink skin! Similar finds have also been made along the Old Silk Road, a trade route from the eastern Medi-

teranean to eastern China in earlier centuries.

(*Ancient America*, #79)

ANCIENT WORDS

A recent note from former president Barbara Freshwater includes some archaic words used in old history books that she came across in her personal family research. Perhaps some of them are ones you may encounter. The list below came from documents about the English and French in their battles in 1417.

Trebuchets: rock throwing catapults.

Sows & Bastilles: armoured shelters for attacking walls & towers.

Pavises: standing shields for protecting archers.

Supernumeraries: miners, engineers, armourers, farriers, gunners & masons (to make gunstones, etc.)

Pipes: Quivers for holding arrows.

LOS ANGELES CITY & STREET DIRECTORIES

Selected years of Los Angeles City Directories are online at the Los Angeles Public Library's website--www.lapl.org. These include the years 1929, 1936, 1938, 1939, 1942.

On this same website are also some later directories: May 1956, March 1960, October 1961, July 1962, July 1963, April 1964, April 1965, July 1965, April 1967, April 1968, January 1969, July 1973, and July 1987.

(LAWGS, Vol. 26,#9)

SCANNING FRAGILE BOOKS

There are new, speedy digitizing programs for scanning modern printed books, but can the old, fragile books and miscellaneous sized documents be scanned in that process? Hardly, without destroying them.

In the University of Michigan's Library at Ann Arbor, MI's book-shelving department, and at dozens of other libraries across the U.S., individual librarians are using giant desktop machines to digitize fragile, non-standard sized books and documents which cannot be trusted to the faster digitizers.

These rare book digitizers can do only about 600 pages a day. It requires special attention to each page regarding the size of the document, the tightness of the binding, the fragility of the paper, and the condition of the ink or print. Of course, these old items must be beyond copyright restrictions.

Google is funding some of this digitizing of fragile materials. Their part of the project is called "Book Search". One 16th century polyglot Bible is believed to be the oldest Bible in the world--with Arabic type.

There have been more than a million rare or fragile books digitized since 2004, but there are an estimated 6 million more to do. If you wish to take a look at what has already been posted online, go to:

<<http://books.google.com>>

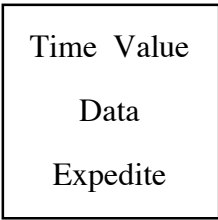
SEPTEMBER MEETING PROGRAM

The September 14 meeting will be a bit more informal than most. It will be a Workday & Workshop! It will run from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

The Board of Directors will be in charge. Be prepared to dust books and shelves, clean the kitchen and bath, and wash the front windows of the Library.

Bring your research too, so that you can examine the new materials and additions to our Library.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2008

THE WEEK IN GERMANY

The Speicherstadt, a part of Hamburg harbor where duty-free goods were processed, is being upgraded to include a UNESCO World Heritage Site, change its name to HafenCity, include apartments, offices, cultural and leisure attractions. -- Over 350 young Americans have finished their exchange year in the German Bundestag. About 18,000 young persons have participated in the exchange program since it began. -- The Ersol Solar Energy AG has 4 production plants in Arnstadt, Erfurt, and Camarillo in CA. -- Frankfurt is home to the European Central Bank. -- Hamburg is the leader in Art Galleries. -- A 5-story reconstructed Nazi-era bunker close to the Friedrichstadt Palast contains Europe's largest art collection. -- Germany is building cultural exchange facilities in Haifa (Israel), Istanbul (Turkey), and Abu Dhabi (Persian Gulf). -- A new "Zeppelin" built in Germany travels 125 mph, is quiet, does not need a runway to land. -- Colombia, (S. Am.) has more planted land mines than any other country. About 1,000 persons are killed by them every year. Germany contributed \$306,860 on June 5 to help clean up this danger. -- Naples, Italy, has no place to dispose of trash, so sends it by freight train to Hamburg, Germany for incineration. Heat from the incinerators is sold. -- Wolves are successfully breeding in the wild in Germany again. -- The Berlin Airlift is memorialized in a new book, "The Candy Bombers" by Andrei Cherny. -- A new temporary art center called the "White Cube" in Berlin's central Schlossplatz (Palace Square) should be finished in Fall 2008. -- An underground freight network of automated railroads is being considered in Germany. -- An European Union Agreement (Treaty of Lisbon) failed to be approved by Ireland. Another vote must be taken before the EU can progress. -- A wireless bionic eyeball has been invented to stimulate a blind person's retina. -- Germany's first driverless mass-transit train is now in service in Nuremberg. -- Eicke Weber left UC Berkeley to head Germany's Solar Energy Systems project in Freiburg. He brought the new technology back to San Francisco on July 15 this year. -- Turkish Ahmet Ari will feature Turkish literature at the

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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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Frankfurt Book Fair this year. -- Jack O. Bennett was the 1st American pilot to land at Templehof Airport in the Berlin Airlift (June 26, 1948-- Aug. 27, 1949). It delivered 2.34 million tons of supplies to Berlin's 2.2 million citizens. -- Germany currently has up to 4,500 troops in northern Afghanistan, authorized until Dec. 2009. Germany also furnishes troops to South Africa. -- A solar field at Waldpolenz, east of Leipzig, can power 10,000 homes. -- Volkswagen has unveiled a "plug-in" hybrid car. -- Marburg law requires solar panels on new buildings. -- Germany is home to over 2.3 million persons who are still Turkish citizens. (TWIG June 6,13,20,27)