

**July 12, 2009—A Joint Meeting IGS & The Pommern
Group will be held at 2PM**

“Mystery” Letter & Pomeranian House on the Lake - Speaker: Carolyn Casperson will recount her trip in May to Pomerania and hopefully solve the mystery of the letter in the four days they have with a guide. There will be archive information as well as personal searches.

Program starts at 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd. Burbank, CA

**IGS WORKSHOPS-2009 Sundays 12 noon to 5 PM
How to use the IGS Library**

This year we are having a series of workshops at the Library to acquaint our patrons with various resources, how to use them, and what can be expected from them. These Workshops are YOUR time to research. Presentations and handouts, if any, are to be given at 2 P.M. PLEASE bring YOUR information (charts, clues, brick walls, & all those questions) for our Leader and Staffers to help you.

August 9, 2009 -WORKSHOP #4 -12-5

How to use the IGS Library-Foreign Sources Organization of our foreign collection by German State and time period, then other countries in alphabetical order
A presentation at 2pm about the work of Franz Schubert, our unique indexes of marriages, census, and other sources given by Eldon Knuth.

**SEPTEMBER 13, 2009 WORKSHOP # 5 -12-5
How to use the IGS Library-U. S. Sources**

Where did your immigrant arrive? New York, Boston, Philadelphia, New Jersey, Maryland or other ports? We have many sources for these and other states. Has Annette Burgert traced your ancestor from Pennsylvania to Germany ? Have you seen your immigrant’s signature? Does a U. S. source give you the place of origin?

OCTOBER 11, 2009 JOINT MEETING/IGS & POMMERN GROUP -12-5 SLAVIC PEOPLES WHO SETTLED POMERANIA Speaker: George Unrine, “Die Vorfahren” Editor for Die Pommerchen Leute. George will tell us about the archaeological and historical accounts of the Slavic peoples who appeared in Eastern Europe during the middle ages. **Speaker: George Unrine, “Die Vorfahren” Editor for Die Pommerchen Leute.**

**NOVEMBER 8, 2009 WORKSHOP #6 - 12-5
How to use the IGS Library- SUMMARY**

Bringing the resources together to evaluate where your personal research stands: names, places, U. S. and foreign sources; library and personal finding aids; experience and common sense are all important.

**DECEMBER 13, 2009 -1 P.M. -Program at 2
ANNUAL SHARING & POT-LUCK**

Please bring yourself and guests, your finds, your brick walls PLUS an entrée, salad, or dessert to share; utensils, drinks and paper goods will be provided-ethnic foods are welcome.

**You can Help Our Library by
VOLUNTEERING just FIVE TO SEVEN HOURS per
MONTH?** That’s ONLY five to seven hours per month! We are OPEN on Wednesday’s noon to 5; Sunday’s noon to 5; and Saturday’s 10 a.m. to 5. **JUST THINK HOW MUCH SATISFACTION YOU CAN GET HELPING YOUR LIBRARY!** You Don’t do patrons research. **JUST BE THERE!** Enjoy seeing new people and joining our volunteer staff of good people!

KALENDER

June 26-28	SCGS Jamboree
July 4-5	CLOSED 4th of July
July 12	PSIG/General Meeting/Program 2PM
July 21	Mailing
August 9-	Meeting & Program

CLOSURES

The Los Angeles Family History Center on Santa Monica Blvd. has closed for renovation, there is no opening date set. Other branch LDS Family History Centers are open, IGS has some addresses and we have the Catalog on our computer as well as Family Search etc.; the Southern California Genealogical Soc. is working on getting access for some collections.

The National Archives Record Center in Laguna Niguel is closing in the spring of 2010 for good. If you need records go soon; Passenger Lists, Los Angeles Superior Court Naturalizations etc. Records will be moved to Arizona . They said partly for lack of use.

In his column, Curt B. Witcher, in the FGS FORUM, mentions "Arguably the best known and certainly the largest of the memory projects on the Internet is the Library of Congress' 'American Memory' at <http://memory.loc.gov.ammem.index.html> It provides free access to more than nine million items. The collection continues to grow, so if you visited it before, go back again! You may just browse but another approach Witcher suggests is to engage the site search feature. There is an image zoom feature and he gives the example of searching under "Maryland Maps" which is rather large. One map is "Map of the Practicable Routes of a Canal from Baltimore to the Potomak". I will probably give this a try as I lived 11 years in Rockville, MD in the 60's and 70's. Another example for anyone interested in the Civil War can go to the Mary-land Civil War Campaign of September 1862. You can search by geographic location, subject, crator, and title. FGS FORUM, Spring 2009, V. 21, No. 1.

For those of you researching Missouri, this web site may be helpful. Go to <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~mosurname/L/html> The purpose is the help you find anyone looking for the same name. If you find a name you are interested in, click on it and you will find the researcher(s) and you can add your address. You can, of course, submit a new surname as well. Some will have ahnentafels with multi-generations. FGS FORUM, Spring 2009, V. 21, No.1. www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm

For a fun and educational time try:

<http://www.luffthansa-usa.com/useugame2007/html/play.html>

See if you can fly to European cities within about 10 miles and what score you can achieve-three levels. Adictive!

Sacramento German Genealogy Society (SGGS) P. O. Box 660061 Sacramento, CA 95866-0061 <http://www.sacgergensoc.org>

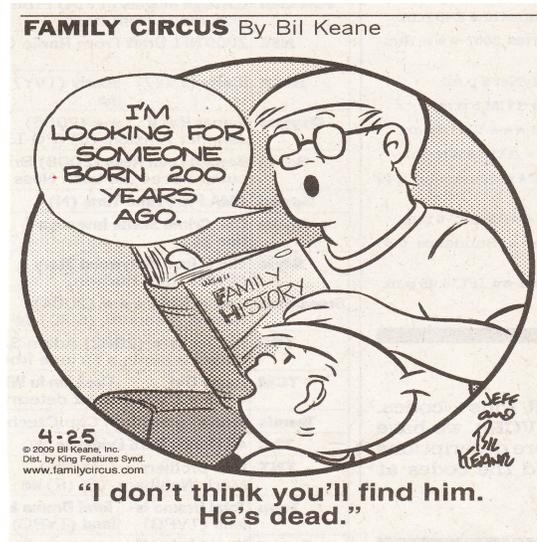
Following is a press release for the Sacramento German Genealogy Society's monthly meeting. The meetings are held at 1 pm in St. Mark's Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at Lusk Dr. & St. Marks Way . St Mark's is located directly behind Country Club Plaza near Watt and El Camino Avenues. Submitted by: Joan Gray-Fuson (916) 487-2563

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2009

Topic: "Effects of the Feudal System on Our Family History Research"

Presenter: Roger P. Minert, PhD, AG We make sure every year to arrange a visit with the ever-popular Dr. Roger Minert. This year we're luckier than usual – we'll hear him speak twice! In this presentation, he will show us how the "rules of life" in feudal times, mostly obscure to the modern mind, give strong clues to our interpretations of our ancestors' lives.

Our collection of German books for research are Among the Most Important in the United States. Who could imagine that a library small in size but huge in the research community would need to beg for people to devote only as few as five hours or as many as seven hours per to keep our library open. You may come in on Wednesday from noon to 5; Saturday from 10 to 5; or Sunday from noon to 5. You Do Not do patrons research for them. All you need to do is Be Here. We have a wonderful research staff of volunteers who do



In the April, May, June 2009, Volume 26, Number 4 issue of Der Blumenbaum, page 186, has the news a man named William Addams Reitwiesner has found that Barack Obama has a great-great-great-great-great grandfather, that makes Obama 4.6875% German. Now I don't do any form of math if I can avoid it (it even governed my major in college) but for any of you who like that sort of thing to while away your time, go figure! The name of his ancestor is Christian Gutknecht, born in 1722 in Bischweiler in Alsace. Even today, the inhabitants speak German. When Christian Gutknecht was 24 he married Maria Magdalena Grunholtz. Three years later, in 1749, they came to America. He first changed his name to Goodknight and later to Goodnight. He died in 1795 in Germantown. More German forebears of Obama from the Watzle family go back to 1616 in Heilbronn and still others to the Kraichgau area. This information was in the Indiana German Heritage Society & IUPUI Max Kade German-American Center Newsletter, V. 25, No. 1, Winter 2008.

If you have plans to be in southwestern Germany near Lake Constance any time soon, you may want to visit the oldest castle in Germany, Meersburg. Tradition says that the ruler of Austrasia, Dagobert I, laid the cornerstone for Meersburg in 628. It is not only oldest but continuously occupied, and though privately owned, has a museum open to the public. Lake Constance or Bodensee has a steep hill on the north shore and the location that Dagobert selected for his fortress. An interesting history, too long to compress here, followed. But the first use of firearms in Germany was supposedly used in a battle at this castle around 1322. There was a conflict with Prince-Bishop Nicholas von Kreuzlingen and Pope John XXII against the emperor Louis the Bavarian. Louis laid siege to Meersburg where won Kreuz-linger took refuge but eventually Louis lifted the siege. In 1805 the castle became the property of Baden. In 1838, Baron Joseph von Lassberg made it his residence and his sister-in-law Annette von Droste-Heulshoff, who became after death, known as one of the greatest poets of Germany, lived there for six years until she died in 1848. You may see, on a self-guided tour, where she lived and worked. There is a newer castle, Neues Schloss, completed in 1750, that may also be visited, that houses several museums. The Journal— German-Texan Heritage Society, V. XXXI, No. 1, Spring, 2009.

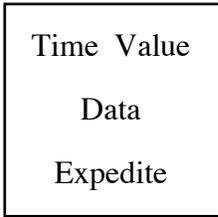
For you in the Midwest, what is believed to be one of the nation's largest libraries dedicated to family history research, The Midwest Genealogy Center, opened a year ago in June 2008. At 52,000 square feet and a cost of eight million dollars, the facility has classrooms, computer stations, and video-conference space. Most of the holdings are in open stacks. For directions and hours of operation go to: www.mcpl.lib.mo.us/genlh/mgc.htm

In the FGS FORUM, Sandra H. Luebking, reminds us that there were newspapers for nearly every religious denomination in America. Subscribers could receive either weekly or monthly mailings and they could follow a family as they migrated across the country. Because of this, use not their locale but their denomination in searching. These papers of religion or denomination can be called a universal source, offering information that is far more detailed. They can cover a wide geographic area, both the U.S. and Canada over the mid-nineteenth through the twentieth centuries. Content will not be limited to death notices. Well known and widely-circulated are the following under the Christian Advocate umbrella. These include California, Central, Southern, Texan and Western, to which you add Christian Advocate before the area. Methodists are the main denomination, but Presbyterians and Baptists are included. The largest collection is at Drew University. Also, extend a search for an event beyond the date because delays can be common with weeks or months intervening before the notice. The Library at Earlham College has "The American Friend Obituary Index, 1894-1960", with more than three decades of death information in Quaker newspapers. Go to www.earlham.edu/libr/content/friends/obituaries/index.html FGS FORUM, Spring 2009, V. 21, No. 1.

Do you know the meaning of "empire"? It comes from imperium, Latin for "command and power to issue it" as well as "the area subjected to this power". The German term is Reich, related to the Latin regnum: "rule, government over county and people". For a look at more information see Dictionary of the Middle Ages, Vol. 5; ed. Joseph R. Stayer; Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1985. If you ever wondered, as I have, why it was a Holy Roman Empire, here is the reason. In the 11th through the 13th centuries, under the Hohenstaufen dynasty, the adjective "holy" was added to reflect the claim of a sacrum imperium or divinely instituted ruling independent of church and pope. During the late Middle Ages, this was further qualified to be "of the German nation". As the Heilige romische Reich deutscher Nation, both empire and imperial persevered until their official dissolution. Now here is one of those long German words that never seems to end: Reichs-deputationshauptschluss of 1806. The medieval western empire began officially on Christmas day of 800 in Rome when Pope Leo II crowned Charles, king of the Franks, or Charlemagne, as a Deo coronatus magnus et pacificus imperator romanum gubernans imperium (great and peace-bringing emperor crowned by God and governing the Roman Empire. Die Blumenbaum, SGGS, V. 26, No. 4: April, May, June 2009.

For free online searching, FamilySearch International finished digitizing its 25,000th publication. These include published family, society, county and town histories. As always, go to www.FamilySearch.org then click Search Records on the top toolbar and click Historical Books on the dropdown menu. You will find texts in German, French, Russian and Spanish. Their goal is ambitious. They want to have the largest digital collection on the web of published histories. Importantly, the collections have "every-word" search capability that are linked to high quality digital images of the original. FGS FORUM, Spring 2009, V. 21, No. 1.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



IGS Newsletter July 2009

Week in German 6/13/09

Top Stories -President Obama in Germany -

President Barack Obama visited Germany for the second time since taking office. This time, the stopovers were in Dresden, Buchenwald, and Landstuhl. President Obama in Germany: [http://www.germany.info/ Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/P __Wash/2009/06/04 __Obama __PR.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__PR/P__Wash/2009/06/04__Obama__PR.html) **Pedal Power! Film Reception for Climate Ride 2009 -** Join Team Transatlantic Climate Bridge on June 11 to raise funds for the environmental nonprofits Focus the Nation; Clean-Air, Cool-Planet; and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. Pedal Power: [http://www.germany.info/ Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/GIC/2009/05/28 __CyclingEvent __S.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/GIC/2009/05/28 __CyclingEvent __S.html)

Current Affairs- 27 Countries, One Election

Voters head to the polls in all 27 EU member states from June 4 to 7 to elect their representatives to the European Parliament. A total of 736 Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) will be elected to represent some 492 million EU citizens, making these the biggest transnational elections in history. European Elections: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/GIC/2009/06/03 __Europawahl __S.html **Interview: Baden Württemberg Environment Minister Tanja Gönner -** Baden Württemberg is home to many renewable energy firms and experimental sustainable communities, as well as a major center for the automobile industry, which means that Environment Minister Tanja Gönner has her hands full. We spoke to her during a visit to Washington about protecting the Environment during an economic crisis. Tanja Gönner: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/GIC/2009/06/04 __Goenner __PM.html **International Parliamentary Scholarships**

Are you interested in politics? Would you like to gain insight into the workings of our democracy? Every year, 120 young people from 28 countries take part in the International Parliamentary Scholarship (IPS) program in Berlin. The application deadline is June 30, 2009. IPS Program: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/K __Wash/2009/02/25 __IPS __Program __PR.html

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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.

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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Business, Technology and the Environment Collecting Drinking Water from Air Humidity

Research scientists at the Fraunhofer Institute for Interfacial Engineering and Biotechnology IGB in Stuttgart have found a way of obtaining drinking water from air humidity. Collecting Drinking Water from Air Humidity : http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ __PR/P __Wash/2009/06/04 __Humidity __Harvesting __PR.html