

July 10, 2011- Joint IGS/PSIG Day Kerry Bartels

Wide experience as an archivist now with the National Archives in CA
"My Pommeranian research & Military Records"

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m.

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

Immigrant Genealogical Society

Library open 12 noon-5pm
1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

SUNDAY'S 2 PM/Program

August 14, 2011 Warren Weimer

IGS Board member and South Bay Cities G.S. Board member whose primary interest is in "computerizing" data for online databases. [Find Your Living Cousins](#)

September 11, 2011 Pam Wiedenbeck

Project Management Professional; Past President of SCGS

[Researching Your Catholic Ancestors](#)

[The evolution of church records for the sacraments including Catholic, German Lutheran, & Church of England](#)

October 9, 2011 Joint IGS/PSIG Meeting

Tom Underhill

Publisher

[How to interview and be interviewed](#)

November 13, 2011-Annual Meeting

Kathleen Roe Trevena

Retired computer document writer; 30 year genealogist

[Crossing a Continent: Migration Between the Revolution and the Civil War \(1783-1861\)](#)

December 11, 2011- Pot Luck 1PM!

"Good King Wenceslas"

Bring an entrée, salad, or desert, drinks, paper goods etc. provided

NEW IGS SEARCH

Online Now! (over 18,500 entries)!

[Index of Emigrant Names listed in 200+ German Ortssippenbuecher that say "Went to America!"](#)

Online index includes surname, first name, German state & town and year of emigration.

There is usually more family data; ancestors, children, maiden names and all the dates.

A search of the books will be \$6 and will include up to 3 pages of copies; you will be notified if there is more.

Look for it at <www.immigrantgensoc.org>.

Use link under Resarch Services to access NEW Searche.

I am signing off here as the Editor of the IGS newsletter.

June 7 I was diagnosed as having leukemia and began chemotherapy two days later. This is my second bout with cancer, April was my 24th anniversary with my first encounter. I will have seven days straight chemo and stay in the hospital a month. I have enjoyed my time as Editor and wish my successor Good Luck, whoever you are!

Linda Stone

KALENDAR

July		
2-3	CLOSED	4th of July
10	PSIG/General Meeting/Program	2PM
12		Mailing
27	Board of Directors	7PM
August		
14	General Meeting/Program	2PM
16		Mailing

For anyone who needs a translation of a document in German, member Robert Seal passed along this information. Mr. Roger P. Minert, who some of you know from his books and speaking engagements here, and around California, will do a translation taking him approximately one hour for \$40.00, after a deposit of \$20.00 that will count as part of the \$40.00. Mr. Seal told me that he has sent two documents in the past month, and Mr. Minert has returned each of them in about a week each time. It would probably be advisable to contact Minert by e-mail about sending any translation work you have. The e-mail address is at the end of this paragraph. Seal also says that Minert has an excellent book that will help you, titled "Deciphering Handwriting in German Documents: Analyzing German, Latin and French in Vital Records Written in Germany." If you are interested in buying a copy of this book for yourself, contact: <grtpublications@jubo.com> Ed.

An interesting article that you will enjoy as much as I did, I'm quite sure, concerns the assignment of Social Security Numbers. You may already know that the first three numbers represent "the state and U.S. possessions in which the Social Security card was secured beginning in 1936. Since 1972, the SSA has issued...cards centrally and the area number reflects the state, as determined by the Zip code in the mailing address of the application. Any number beginning with 000 will NEVER be a valid SSN." The way to know about the entire number is this: "Since the beginning, the SSN always has been comprised of the three-digit area number, followed by the two-digit group number, and ending with the four-digit serial number." Currently, the SSA "website says that there are currently 435 million numbers available for assignment." Now here is where it gets interesting for us genealogists. The SSA is changing the way SS numbers are issued. "On June 25, 2011, SSA will change the SSN assignment process. Numbers issued after this date will not adhere to these rules. This change is referred to as 'randomization'. The SSA is developing this new method to help protect the integrity of the SSN." It is said the 'randomization' will also extend the longevity of the nine-digit SSN nationwide. I can visualize someone wanting to do "skulduggery" would be able to figure out where someone might live by his number now, but be "put-off" with the new method. "SSN randomization will affect the SSN assignment process in the following ways: It will eliminate the geographical significance of the first three digits of the SSN, currently referred to as the area number, by no longer allocating the area numbers for assignment to individuals in specific states. It will eliminate the significance of the highest group number, and as a result, the High Group List will be frozen in time and can be used by validation of a SSN issued prior to the randomization implementation date. Previously unassigned area numbers will be introduced for assignment excluding area numbers, 000, 666 and 900,999. For genealogists this means that the area code will no longer be a clue to a person's location." The nice thing is, if you are using a Social Security number now for locating someone in the past, it is still valid. *German Interest Group*—Wisconsin Vol. 18 No. 01, May 2011

Another tip I received today from Robert Seal concerns a set of books we have in the library on "Monroe County, Ohio". Seal says this library is the only one he knows of in America with this set of 11 volumes. We were missing book number seven, and it was republished lately, and Seal bought a copy for the library. Here is the description of the set in Vol. 1, "Compiled by Catharine Foreaker Fedorchak... Gary, Ind. 1960-1961. Monroe County, Ohio. Genealogical Records; Cemetery Inscriptions, Court Records, Land Records, Newspaper Records, Pension Applications of Revolutionary & Civil War Soldiers". Don't we have to bless people, such as Catharine, who devote their time to putting together such a comprehensive list of information. Volume Seven is on the new book shelf. Ed.

I am writing this at the IGS library, and can't pull myself away from so many interesting articles in the journals we receive from other societies. An article by Cynthia Jacobson, titled, "The Legacy of German Immigrants", is one of them. "In the 2000 U.S. census, 42,885,162 Americans, 15.2 percent of the population, reported they were of Germanic descent." I tell all genealogists I talk with at conferences, such as the Jamboree, that we all have some German in us! "If so many Americans claim that their ancestors were German, what contributions have these German-Americans made? The earliest German immigrants came to America for religious reasons. The next group came for economic and political reasons. [Unfortunately, Jacobson lists no dates for us to know what these periods were.] Later, Germans still came for economic reasons, but they were recruited by various states and industries and encouraged to come by other immigrants. By the mid-19th century, Germans had become the largest and most influential non-English speaking immigrant group in America....Some examples of German contributions to American culture include: Christmas and Easter customs; educational and agricultural techniques; gymnastics and health care; musical life; interest in social and labor legislation; societies for the prevention of cruelty to children and animals; and teaching of the German language." Teaching the language was, of course, in their own self-interest. "Some authors believe that Germans kept more to themselves than other immigrant groups." This I think would have been especially true during WWI. When you hear about name changes, I bet a lot of them can be pointed to in that same period. Ed.

Germany is speeding up their plans to drop nuclear energy. "Abandonment of all 17 plants projected over the next 11 years". The fallout from the Japanese Fukushima disaster continues. The news on the radio yesterday was that the fallout there was twice what had been thought. "Chancellor Angela Merkel said she hopes the transformation to more solar, wind and hydroelectric power serves as a roadmap for other countries. We believe that we can show those countries who decide to abandon nuclear power—or not to start using it—how it is possible to achieve growth, creating jobs and economic prosperity while shifting the energy supply toward renewable energies". Merkel's government said it will shut down all 17 nuclear power plants in Germany—the world's fourth-largest economy and Europe's biggest—by 2022. <DAILYNEWS.COM>

The 1940 Census is Coming!

By: Carolyn L. Barkley

Even as I type, there are 299 days, 3 hours, 14 minutes, 31 seconds (and counting) to the release of the 1940 federal census on April 2, 2012. (Census day was April 1, 1940, but because April 1, 2011 falls on a Sunday, the release date is one day later than the legally required seventy-two years). We have had ten years to learn about our ancestors and family members from the 1930 census. The release of the 1940 census offers an opportunity to study even more recent ones.

The 1940 census, however, will offer challenges as well as opportunities for our research. Some of the more significant of these are:

This census will be released digitally only. This decision by the National Archives means that no microfilm will be created. Initially, the 1940 census will be available only at the National Archives facilities as well as online at its web site. There will be no index available at the time of the release. It can be expected that resources such as Ancestry and HeritageQuest will make this census available on their sites and that they will create an online index, but they have not received the digital files in advance in order to have images or indexes available on the day of release. A spokesperson for ancestry.com could state only that "Ancestry is looking forward to the release of the 1940 Federal Census and how to incorporate that into our existing database." Look for blog and press statements to learn more about such plans when they are available.

This census is inclusive of the continental United States, Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, military and consular services abroad, and naval services abroad or in American waters, but not at a fixed station. Individuals in the armed services were enumerated as residents of the states and counties in which their duty was located. Merchant marine crews were enumerated as part of the population of the port from which the vessel operated. These last two enumeration specifications may cause some difficulty in locating an individual, particularly prior to the development of an index to this census.

The 1940 agricultural/farming and housing schedules no longer exist. The loss of the housing schedule, in particular, is unfortunate as it asked questions about building construction, heating, plumbing, value of the home, ownership of a radio, principle lighting source, and other such interesting questions that could have added much detail to the lives of our family members.

The 1940 census was the first to employ sampling techniques. Each page of the census includes an additional sixteen questions for individuals who appeared on lines 14 and 29 (5% of the population). You can only hope that one of your family members was enumerated on one of these two lines. If so, you will learn the birthplace of the individual's mother and father; language spoken in the home in earliest childhood; if the person was a veteran or the wife, widow or child (under the age of 18) of a veteran, and if a child, whether the veteran was deceased; war or military service; if the individual had a social security number; and whether deductions for federal old age insurance or a railroad pension were taken from their wages in 1939.

If an individual indicated that he or she had a social security number, you will be able to request a copy of the SS-5 application form. Knowing that the individual had a social security number is particularly important for those individuals who may not appear in the Social Security Death Index (which indicates only those individuals for whom a death benefit was paid, not all deceased holders of a social security number).

You will be able to learn where the individual resided on April 1, 1935. This information may be very important given the effects of the Depression on the mobility of the nation's population. The enumerator was asked to specify if the individual lived "in the same house" if there was no change in residence; "in the same place" if they were in the same city, but a different address; or the exact city/town, county and state in which they lived in 1935 if they had moved elsewhere. The enumerator was also asked to indicate if the place was a farm or if it was located in a rural area (population of 2,500 or less).

You will be able to identify the householder who provided the enumerator with the household's information, as signified by an "x" placed next to his or her name.

Pay particular attention to the citizenship status of married women. Even if a woman was born in the United States, if she married a foreign-born man who had not become a citizen before September 22, 1922, her status would be listed as NA (naturalized) or AL (alien). After the 1922 date, she would have had to submit her own application for naturalization or continue to be listed as an alien.

The 1940 census will require some homework to insure its successful use:

Make a list of individuals from your family line who you believe should be enumerated in this census, based on their birth date and/or their enumeration in the 1930 census.

Use other resources such as family documents, city directories, telephone books, etc. to determine an address for each individual.

Consult any of the following to place that address in its corresponding enumeration district:

Steve Morse's online project to convert street addresses to enumeration districts. You can also volunteer to help make this project complete by the 1940 census release date in April 2012.

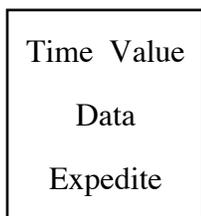
National Archives microfilm publication T1224, Descriptions of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830-1950 – text descriptions of the enumeration districts.

National Archives microfilm publication A3378, Enumeration Districts (ED) Maps for the Twelfth through the

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Sixteenth Censuses of the United States, 1900-1940 – boundary maps for each enumeration districts.

Note: these descriptions and maps are being digitized by the National Archives and will be available later this year (2011).

Read enumerator instructions for the 1940 census to understand what the enumerator was being asked to do, and to decipher codes and symbols. These instructions are available online. Also available is an on-line version of the video used to train enumerators for the 1940 census.

Become familiar with the 1940 census form. You can view and print out forms/templates online including a fillable online 1940 census form.

Read articles about researching the 1940 census that are available at the National Archives web site and at other sites, such as the 1940 U.S. Federal Census web site, as well as current and ongoing blog articles and press releases.

If you are in frantic need of 1940 census information prior to the release date in April 2012, for a price you can request a transcript now.

As the days, hours and minutes countdown to April 2, 2012, you can prepare yourself by learning all you can about the 1940 census, its contents, and its oddities, so that when the clock runs down, you will be ready.

The week in Germany

To view the Newsletter online use this URL <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__110617.html>

Take the Embassy's World Cup Quiz on Facebook

You could win this prize package if you enter the German Embassy's 2011 World Cup Facebook Quiz. Visit our Facebook page to enter, test your knowledge of women's soccer and you might win some fun stuff, including a pair of Germany.info flip flops. German Embassy on Facebook: <<http://www.facebook.com/GermanEmbassyWashington>>

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Immigrant Library Hours

Wednesdays . 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
1st & 3rd Saturdays .. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
2nd & 4th 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 jubilant Dirk Nowitzki holds his Most Valuable Player trophy as his Dallas Mavericks team returns home after winning the 2011 NBA Finals. For Nowitzki this not only seals his legacy as an all-time great in the annals of professional basketball, but it is yet another step in his promotion of basketball between his hometown of Würzburg and his basketball home of Dallas. NBA Finals 2011: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2011/06/14__Nowitzki__Finals__PR.html>