



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

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

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

**Crossing a Continent: Migration Between the
Revolution and the Civil War (1783-1861)**

Kathleen Roe Trevena

Retired computer document writer; 30 year genealogist

December 11, 2011- Pot Luck 1PM!

"Good King Wenceslas"

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

NEW IGS SEARCH

Coming Very Soon!!

NEW IGS SEARCH

Online Now! (over 18,500 entries!)
Index of Emigrant Names listed in 200+ German
Ortssippenbucher 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 Research Services to access NEW Search.

Research Offer – We had many visitors at our booth at
Jamboree last month. After a few minutes of chatting with a
lady one day, she made an offer. She owns a three-volume
set of books for the town of Roden in the Saarland. She has
generously offered to do searches in these "Ortssippen"
books for those with family from that town. You may contact
Mieke Hawner at <ahawner@yahoo.com> . This is an offer
you might find hard to refuse!

KALENDAR

August

14 General Meeting/Program 2PM
17 Mailing

September

3-4 CLOSED Labor Day
11 General Meeting/Program 2PM
14 Mailing

Doing Bulk Submittals to <FindAGrave.com>

I hope all of you who attended the lecture presented by Cheri Mello on FindAGrave.com earlier in the year enjoyed it. She certainly inspired me to see if I could help in the purpose of this website. For those of you who are not familiar with this website, it allows people to create a memorial for an ancestor or relative who they can sponsor on the website. And it is basically free. Adding extra photos and removing the advertising on the memorial page costs \$5. A lot of information can be entered on the particular memorial for the person. Some of the information that can be added includes: birth dates, death dates, birth location, death location, biography of the person, obituary, family linkages, etc. In this way it is also a genealogy website. It is completely searchable, by name, known cemetery location, or memorial number. Also, putting the surname and first name in Google.com will find the name on the FindAGrave website.

After listening to Cheri Mello's talk, I decided to volunteer to take pictures for the FindAGrave website. The photo taking portion of the website works like this. People go to the website and request that a photo be taken of the grave site of their ancestor or relative. FindAGrave.com sends a photo request to the nearest people who live close to that cemetery, because we volunteers have given them our zip code. Upon receiving a request, we can choose to fulfill it or not if we have the time. When we fulfill a request, we go take a photo of the gravesite and post it to the memorial that the person has requested a photo for on the FindAGrave website. Normally, a nice Thank You comes to our own home page and we feel good about that.

Another aspect of the FindAGrave website is that you can do bulk submittals of memorials. An idea occurred to me that I could do a bulk submittal of memorials to FindAGrave.com of the Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verdes which is near my home. Green Hills has a website already in place where a person can go and search for a person interred in that cemetery. I concluded that there must be a database driving that website. After conferring with the director at Green Hills, he gave me permission to convert the Green Hills database into a format that would be compatible with the FindAGrave database format and post it on the FindAGrave website. It was a somewhat complex task, but not impossible. After two months of working in my spare time on the computer, massaging the databases, I was able to complete the task. To give you an idea of the task, there are over 92,000 interments at Green Hills. However, 17,000 plus memorials have already been sent into FindAGrave over the years. I needed a way to eliminate those names out of the database I was submitting so that there would not be duplicate names in the overall database. I came up with some clever ideas to simplify this task because I did not trust the computer to do a good job of this task and had to do it by hand.

So if you want to try to do a bulk submittal task to the FindAGrave website and provide a lot of names for people searching their ancestors try this type of project. As a matter of interest, there are presently 63,000,000 memorial names that have been submitted to FindAGrave

as of the end of May 2011. There are also approximately 100,000 volunteers taking photos for FindAGrave.

Warren Weimer

SPIEGEL ONLINE INTERNATIONAL reports that a Bavarian village, Oberstaufer, will now offer tourists a choice in how they wish to be addressed and to speak to others at the tourist office. This summer there will be two counters available -- one for those who prefer to use the formal "Sie" and another for those who are more at home using "du." The thought is that in conservative Bavaria the preference for formality in dealings with strangers and casual acquaintances will be strongest, but that elsewhere in Germany (such as Berlin?) this has been giving way to more relaxed usage, even beyond the younger set. By custom, "du" is used only between adults who are either closely related or on very close terms of friendship, and as well for children, animals and God. Addressing a policeman as "du" in times past was, therefore, a serious matter. But times change, and now (to quote Cole Porter) it seems that "Anything Goes!" Oberstaufer tourism director Bianca Keybach had this to say, as quoted by SPIEGEL ONLINE: "I'm excited to see how people react and what the majority decides. Depending on the outcome, we will consider whether to address our guests generally by 'du' in the future." But we wonder where this might end; will they also have a counter for English and American tourists who have a preference for "you"? Gordon Seyffert

GERMAN PULSE. There's a new web site available to German-Americans on the internet that's dedicated to "Bringing New Life to the German American Community." Quoting from the home page, this site proclaims to be "hard at work creating an interactive network for German Americans to find the latest news, reviews, events, businesses, and so much more." Chief among the vehicles for accomplishing this ambitious goal is the blog, which is accessed by a single page-click. Editor Stephen Fuchs -- who also runs the "Forum" for DANK (Deutsch Amerikanischer National Kongress - German American National Congress, out of Chicago) -- is the person whose love of all things Germanic provides this new resource. Be assured, though, that contributions from others are greatly appreciated and responses to all postings are also welcomed and encouraged. Try out "German Pulse" by going to <<http://www.germanpulse.com>> and be sure to look for the link to the blog in the lower right-hand corner. You won't be disappointed!! Gordon Seyffert

GERMANS FROM RUSSIA

Two items from the *American Historical Society of Germans from Russia* are worthy of mention. One comes from their newsletter and the other from their Journal. The AHSGR is an organization based in Lincoln, Nebraska that publishes both of these, as well as a surname exchange publication, and also sells items through a bookstore, conducts "search[es] of Societal records for historical and genealogical research purposes," and offers translation services. To learn more about

this valuable genealogical organization, visit their web site at www.ahsgr.org, email them at ahsgr@ahsgr.org, or call them at 402-474-3363.

The newsletter item mentions their 2011 convention, to be held August 1-7 in Salt Lake City. Pre-convention materials are available at: http://ahsgr.org/Conventions/2011Convention/2011_Convention.htm. The convention will feature Village Area Discussion Groups meeting under Village Coordinators or Group Leaders during concurrent sessions. This is a more formalized approach to sharing connections than has occurred at past conventions, so those of you who have this heritage may want to consider this as a prime opportunity for some good old-fashioned networking. The organization recommends that participants “pack a (genealogical) toolbox” that contains family notes in either paper or electronic format, notepad or computer for recording new information, research aids (such as a magnifying glass, coins for the photocopiers, highlighters or sticky notes), and a research plan for research at the Family History Library (FHL).

But the current newsletter (Number 142, Summer 2011) also contains a two-page article on “‘Foreign Passports’ Issued from the Russian Empire and Polish Kingdom before 1917,” written by Yulia Tsybal. This concerns individuals who were traveling abroad, and the article states that “many German Russian families have in their archives the original ‘Foreign Passports’ of their ancestors,” and that these contain a wealth of information on the families but also provide a window into the experiences of travelers through the several pages of fine-print regulations included in the back of each “Foreign Passport.” Just the listing of duty-free items that a passenger could carry for their journey tells much about such travel at the turn of the century. If you have Germans from Russia, you might want to come into the IGS Library to read this entertaining item.

Also of value to some readers may be the Summer 2011 issue of the *Journal of the American Historical Society of Germans from Russia* (Volume 34, No. 2). This issue features four articles on Germans from Russia who settled in Mexico and in South America -- specifically in Paraguay and Uruguay. A general article that opens the issue begins with a thorough recounting of the first “manifesto” issued by Catherine the Great in 1763 that began the exodus of poor German peasants to the “Promised Land” that was Russia, in this period that extended into the mid-19th century. If you’ve wondered what may have attracted your ancestor to leave Germany for foreign soil, you’ll surely want to start with a review of Catherine’s guarantees! Articles on Paraguay and Uruguay that follow the general article provide important historical details that you’ll want to understand if your ancestor(s) passed through either of these countries. The first is a reprint of an article that first appeared in *Heimatbuch* in 1963, while the second is a distillation from the *Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online*, with permission.

The article on Mexico, like that on Paraguay, is taken from the 1963 *Heimatbuch*, but it contains an account of how those who came to the country by way of Canada had worked to remain in Canada. What forced them to leave? As in Russia, the host country ultimately sought to turn these very religious and culturally-dedicated settlers into model citizens of their new nation through a surrendering of their language and schools. Much as we ask our Hispanic immigrants to “Learn English,” so the Canadian government pressured these stalwart Germans to abandon that which distinguished them as a people in order to be better citizens of their adopted land. And these Germans from Russia responded by moving to Mexico!! ...but only after exhausting all possible appeals. It’s certainly an interesting twist, and we recommend the article to those with a general interest in history as well as to those with a personal-familial interest. Spend some time at your IGS Library; you’ll be glad you did. G. S.

In reading the April, May, June 2011 issue of *Der Blumenbaum*, the quarterly of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, we noticed a page on the Map Guide to German Parish Registers series by Kevan M. Hansen. Here is a resource that continues to grow at your Immigrant Genealogical Society library as each new volume is published. And what a resource it is!

Have you ever tried to locate a marriage record for an ancestor in Germany, but didn’t know quite where to look because the marriage didn’t show up in the parish register for your person-of-interest’s home town? The likeliest place to look is a neighboring parish, as local boys often found their bride in a neighboring village. That’s where the Map Guide series comes in so handy.

Each volume breaks down a former German state into its major constituent parts (such as a Landgericht or Regierungsbezirk -- to take examples from Mecklenburg and Bavaria), and then further down to the more local level (such as an Amtsgericht or a Bezirksamt). At this latter level one finds a map depicting the various parishes, accompanied by a list of towns and villages keyed to each parish. The maps are schematic only and thus not true representations of topography, but they will show you which parishes would have bordered on the parish where you know your person was born. Then it’s a matter of finding copies of the parish records or any available Ortssippenbücher. Soon you may have that elusive marriage record within your grasp!

Your IGS Library has a standing order for each new volume in this series, and to date we have received every one of them -- currently 38 volumes. Here they are (with the number of volumes per state/area in parentheses):

Alsace-Lorraine (6 of 8 planned); Baden (1); Bavaria (10); Hannover (3); Hessen (1); Hessen-Nassau (2); Mecklenburg (1); Rhineland/Palatinate (3); Kingdom of Saxony (2); Province of Saxony (3); Schleswig-Holstein/Oldenburg (1); Thuringia (1); Württemberg (4)

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Still to come are the last two volumes in the Alsace-Lorraine set, plus: Brandenburg, East Prussia, Pomerania, Posen, Silesia, West Prussia, Westphalia, and the remaining free cities. These final volumes should number 18 when everything is finally in print and the series comes to a conclusion. But the back covers of these volumes state clearly what they purport to do, and so we reproduce those bullet points here:

Identifies the parish where your ancestor went to church based on where they lived.

Gives the Family History Library microfilm number for your family's parish records.

Identifies every city, town, and place that included residents.

Visually identifies church parishes for Lutherans and Catholics within each district.

Identifies neighboring parishes, just in case your ancestor may have gone to an alternate parish.

Aids in conducting area searches, particularly across district or regional borders.

Provides visual identification of search areas in which to look for your family.

Helps in determining proximity of one area to another.

Aids in determination of reasonable travel distances from one area to another.

Identifies population centers in each church parish.

Identifies archives, repositories, and other resources.

Aids in identifying the location of minority religions.

Truly this is a resource to be consulted the next time you visit your Society's library. AND, volunteers are here to assist you should you welcome a helping hand.
Gordon Seyffert

The Week in Germany

Jul 15, 2011

Click here to view the Newsletter online <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG_110715.html>

Immigrant Genealogical Society

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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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Germany's Largest Airport Turns 75

In the 1920s, civil aviation was booming Germany, and Frankfurt became a major air traffic hub. A new major airport was planned, and on July 8, 1936, the first aircraft landed at the new airport grounds in Frankfurt. Frankfurt Airport: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/GIC/2011/07/14__Frankfurt__Airport__PR.html>