



**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 333

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510

December 2011

December 11, 2011- Pot Luck 1PM!

“Good King Wenceslas”

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

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Come for the fellowship!

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

Immigrant Genealogical Society

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

January 8, 2012 Joint PSIG/IGS Meeting

Speaker: Dr. Frank Benson IGS/PSIG Officer

Topic: Book Review
“Fleeing Pomerania” by Heinz Chinnow
(a Baltic Fisherman & His Trials)

February 12, 2012

Speaker: Dr. Eric Siess Over 25 years in Genealogy!

Topic: “Emigration: Where Did They Come From?
Bridge the gap with records from the Old Country”.
(Strategies and specific tips)

March 11, 2012

Speaker: Donie Nelson
30 years experience in Family History

Topic: “Family Stories, Secrets, Lies & Surprises”
(The longer you research the more you find!)

April 15, 2012 PSIG/IGS Meeting

Speaker: Jean Wilcox Hibben
Topic: “Turning Genealogy into Family History”

Der Blumenbaum

The October, November, December 2011 issue of this publication on all things Germanic from the good people of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society came just as the November newsletter was going to press. But it is so excellent that your editor just can't resist mentioning what's in it. First, an article of three pages on the surname of Meier; you'll just have to read it to appreciate it fully, and if you have a MEIER in your pedigree you'll want to copy it for your family! Next, “A Day in the Life of a 1930s German family.” Now, your ancestors had presumably left by this time, but there are still plenty of reasons you'll want to read about the life they left behind. This is followed by six pages of discussion of pronunciation, with special focus upon German home towns. Then, a table of the frequency of common German place-name suffixes, by region. And this is all before reaching the middle of this outstanding quarterly! We have many back issues at your IGS Library from which you may browse for similar gems. Come in and spend a few hours with us... --Ed.

KALENDAR

December		
11	POT-LUCK General Meeting/Program	2PM
14		Mailing
25-31	CLOSED	Christmas
January		
8	PSIG/General Meeting/Program	2PM
18		Mailing
25	Board of Directors	7PM

September's FGS meeting: "Demystifying Eastern European Research"

As previously noted, your editor attended the annual FGS meeting in Springfield, Illinois. One of the talks there concerned Eastern Europe. Presented by Lisa A. Alzo, M.F.A. <<http://www.lisaalzo.com>>, this talk is adequately "captured" by the syllabus provided, in tandem with the conference taping service producing Compact Discs for later reference. The IGS Library has both the syllabus and the CD available for your review. Here are but a few of the reasons for taking the time to come to your Library to benefit from this presentation:

"10 Myths about Eastern European Research" -- Hint: #1 is that "It's too difficult."

Her talk advises "Be Visible!" (meaning, use social media to advertise your search).

See the list of "Key Sources" & helps in "Locating the Ancestral Village" -- with URLs.

Be advised, however, that some URLs mentioned in the course of the talk may not be in the syllabus. An example of this is one source, <<http://www.iabsi.com/gen/public/>>, that provides a great overview on research of Slovakian ancestry. And, do go to Ms. Alzo's web site to read some of her articles for popular magazines in the field of genealogy. A final tip -- when it comes to maps, she recommends one of the Palgrave series: <<http://www.worldcat.org/title/palgrave-concise-historical-atlas-of-eastern-europe/oclc/47742048>> --Ed.

Murray's Handbook for Travellers: Northern Germany (1871)

One of a continuing series of interesting excerpts from this out-of-copyright source, this is the description of Elberfeld (and Barmen):

"This is one of the most important towns in the Prussian dominions, from its extensive manufactories. It has a population of 65,300 and is joined to another town, Barmen, with 65,000 Inhab., forming an uninterrupted street 6 miles long. Its situation in the pretty valley of the Wupper is picturesque, healthy, and advantageous to its manufactures, but the town itself is dirty and not prepossessing. It owes its rise to a settlement of industrious refugee Protestants, driven from the Netherlands 1527, who here found protection. It has rapidly risen to its actual height of prosperity within the present century. Its principal manufactures consist of cottons, silk ribbons, and Turkey red dyed goods, which are produced here of so excellent a colour as to beat those of Glasgow. Elberfeld shares these manufactures with the neighbouring villages, Gemark, Hechinghausen, Wupperfeld, Rottershausen, and Wechlinghausen, on the hills. The annual produce of the manufactures here is valued at 7 millions sterling.

"Few districts in Europe exceed the manufacturing enterprise, wealth, and population, that part of the Rhenish provinces of Prussia which anciently composed the Duchy of Berg. It may be nearly included within a triangle drawn from Cologne, along the Rhine to the mouth of the Ruhr, and from these two points to Hagen. The

valleys of the Wupper, and of the streams pouring into it, are scenes of the most active and intelligent industry, and their manufactures of cotton, iron, cutlery, and brass rival those of England, while they surpass them in cheapness. The prosperity of the country is visible at every step: coal, the source of all manufacturing prosperity, is found in abundance; water-power is furnished by the numerous streams; steam-engines have been erected everywhere, and the hills are covered with habitations even up to their summits....

"Elberfeld is united to Barmen by a bridge, so that they seem to form but one town, both animated by the same spirit of industry. Barmen is a long straggling street, with manufactories and human dwellings on either side. At every step the country displays signs of industrious prosperity,--indeed this portion of the Duchy of Berg may be looked on as one vast workshop. It is the most populous district of Prussia." --Ed

Calkins Family Association

We've received notification of the 6th International Reunion to be held May 3 - 6, 2012 at the Embassy Suites Airport North Hotel at Santa Ana, CA. This group descends from a family of founders of Norwich, CT who came from England. While we don't normally think of early New England ancestry as "immigrant genealogy," these folks have as their goal "the finding and uniting descendants of Hugh and Ann Calkins who immigrated to America in 1638." Hey, that works for me! Reunion details may be found at: <<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~calkinsfamilyassoc/reunionlinks.html>>. --Ed.

"A Russian Perspective of 19th-Century Volyn"

That's the title of an article "by P.N. Batiushkov" in the Vol. 19 No. 4 (Summer 2011) issue of *East European Genealogist*, the Journal of the East European Genealogical Society, Inc. It's a translation of excerpts from a Russian-language book published by Mr. Batiushkov in 1888. While the Journal editor acknowledges that these excerpts give a decidedly pro-Russian slant to this area of northwestern Ukraine, the material is still deemed to be extremely helpful in understanding the history of the area. In particular, and to quote Editor William F. Hoffman, "Batiushkov's comments reflect the official mindset of those who were in charge when your ancestors decided they had little to lose by emigrating." And so, from pages 14 through 21, there are over six full pages of description of this area together with a map from 1821. The original book, which probably requires a good knowledge of Russian, can be downloaded from: <<http://knigi.tr200.ru/v.php?id=445069>> The Society can be found at: <www.eegsociety.org> --Ed.

New Member Surnames-of-Interest

Udo Maecker: **Maecker, Mäcker, Bentschneider** Udo is a Van Nuys resident, and has roots in Leipzig; he is a native speaker and kindly assisted some of us at the IGS Library while visiting recently. Thanks, Udo!!

Barbara Cox: **Baer, Wankel, Milbaur** Barbara joined while visiting from Sacramento, where she belongs to the Sacramento German Genealogy Society. She has an interest in Hechingen in the old Prussian Province of Hohenzollern.

German Emigration Center Bremerhaven

One of the more interesting items we've received is a colorful and informative item that is labeled merely "news" and which comes from the Deutsches Auswandererhaus Bremerhaven <<http://www.dah-bremerhaven.de>>. In case you didn't know it, Bremen was one of two principal ports used by German immigrants to the Western Hemisphere, and in that respect it is the counterpart for many to Ellis Island. This newsletter is in both English and German and represents Germany's only migration museum. The current issue features the recent visit of the German Federal President, Christian Wolff, plus a pair of short features on immigrants from 1923 and 1929 who ultimately returned to Germany and then donated many of their personal documents and possessions to the Center.

Of further interest is a brief article on the new direction of the Center since its expansion to be completed next year. The original museum focused upon the stories of the "7.2 millions [of] Germans and East Europeans who emigrated or fled [via Bremen] between 1830 and 1974. New biographies to be housed in the new wing will feature the immigrants into Germany from 1685 until today who entered from Africa, Asia or other parts of Europe. The main museum and the new wing will be connected by a glass bridge, symbolizing (as the article concludes) "Two buildings, one subject: people on the move."

Another brief article -- all of them are brief, come to think of it! -- mentions winners at the 2011 European Museum of the Year ceremony. From that your editor learned that there is (no kidding!) a Museum of Broken Relationships in Zagreb, Croatia. What would that be, you ask? This unique museum "encourages people to collect personal objects and keepsakes from failed love relationships and to donate them to the museum." [Your editor reserves comment... (but has a smile on his face!).]

In a page of biographies of famous people whose lives intersected with Bremerhaven, one name stood out because of its relevance to Southern California: Carl Laemmle. After his 1884 emigration from his native Swabia via this port, Laemmle bought a movie theatre in Chicago in 1906. Within three years he became the largest film distributor in America, and in 1915 he began Universal City film studios -- and what grew into Hollywood. The Emigration Center traces his personal path to fame and fortune. --Ed.

Volhyń or Volhynia

And, while we're on that subject, here's another "Did You Know?" From the "Notes to the Financial Statements" from *The Journal* of this society (Vol. 13, No. 3, Sept. 2011), "The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe (SGGEE) is incorporated.... The purpose of SGGEE is to provide a forum for people interested in the ancestry, culture and history of Germans, particularly from Volhynia, in the western part of present-day Ukraine, and in general from present-day Poland, with special interest in West and East Prussia, Posen, and Silesia...." The SGGEE is located in Calgary, and they maintain a library, the additions to which are described in the Library Committee Reports published through *The Journal*. A Database Report describes the group's Master Pedigree Database (MPD) and an associated Alternate Surnames List that refers to "names...ancestors

might have used in Poland or Russia as the result of their original surnames being corrupted to change to the Polish or Russian equivalent of the German name." Note these pages: <<http://www.sggee.org/members/genealogy>> and <<http://www.sggee.org/AlternateSurnamesDatabaseSubstantiated.pdf>> This leads me to believe that many "goodies" are available to members. Yearly membership dues for US residents are \$40US by check or money order, and may be paid online by going to <www.sggee.org> -- with contact with the Membership Committee for further info at: <membership@sggee.org> Come view this publication at your IGS Library!! --Ed.

Tracing Your Galway Ancestors

Marge Golden Rossini of the Southern California Genealogical Society reviewed a book of this title for the Volume 48, No. 4 (Autumn 2011) issue of their publication, *The Searcher*. What struck me about her review was that she admitted that she anticipated boredom when asked to review it, as she had no one from the area amongst her Irish ancestors. And then she declared herself to be 100% wrong in her initial assessment. Ms. Rossini found that author Peadar O'Dowd had assembled in this Flyleaf Press book "a wealth of information on the resources that abound out there in repositories and online. Part of her enthusiasm derives from the fact that O'Dowd proceeds to describe in detail how the various resources were created and how they might be of use. She then came to the realization that what held for Galway might as well apply to the other counties of Ireland, such that the book could be used as a primer for someone seeking a good introduction to Irish records and their application. She thus recommends checking both the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library for the records that correspond to your county-of-interest, once you've read about the Galway versions. The ISBN is 978-0-9563624-2-1 if you wish to order it forthwith.... --Ed.

Baden's 900-Year Jubilee

If you read German and have ancestors from Baden, you won't want to miss the latest issue of *Archivnachrichten* (Nr. 43 / September 2011) published by the Landesarchiv Baden-Württemberg. It has plenty of well-illustrated articles on this important part of southern Germany, soon to celebrate its *Große Landesausstellung 2012 in Karlsruhe* (2012 Grand State Exhibition in Karlsruhe, the capitol). The exhibiton at Schloss Karlsruhe, running from June 16th through November 11th, 2012 is titled: *Baden! 900 Jahre Geschichten eines Landes*. Other Jubilee events have already started, or will soon begin. One of these, "*Friedrich Hecker, Leben und Mythos eines Revolutionärs*" (Life and Myth of a Revolutionary), began in late September at the Badisches Landesmuseum and closes a week into the new year so that it may open again in Berlin in March at the Landesvertretung Baden-Württemberg. Another, "*Volksleben im 19. Jahrhundert*" (Life of the Common People in the 19th c.), should be especially interesting to those with German emigrants from Baden in that time. It runs from July through November at the Keramikmuseum Staufen in Karlsruhe. For even more information, try: <www.baden2012.de> and <www.landesmuseum.de> --Ed.

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Friedrich Hecker

Your editor's maternal grandmother was born in St. Louis in 1884, the daughter of immigrants born in Brandenburg and West Prussia (but of families stemming from Mecklenburg and East Prussia). She probably studied with *Witter's Neues Viertes Lesebuch für Amerikanische Freischulen* (New German Fourth Reader for Public Schools), published in St. Louis in 1882. From it comes this short biography of Friedrich Hecker:

"Hecker, Friedrich, geb. 28. Sept. 1811 zu Eichersheim im Badischen, studierte die Rechte. Führer der republikanischen Partei in Deutschland bei der Erhebung von 1848. Seit September 1848 in Amerika, nahm er als Oberst activen Antheil am amerikanischen Bürgerkrieg und war stets durch Rede und Schrift bemüht, das amerikanische Deutschthum zu heben. Starb am 24. März 1881."

"Hecker, Friedrich, born 28th Sept. 1811 at Eichersheim in Baden, studied law. Leader of the Republican Party in Germany in the uprising of 1848. Since arriving September 1848 in America, he actively participated as a colonel in the American Civil War and constantly strove through speech and writing to exalt Germanness in America. Died on 24 March, 1881."

Hecker was first expelled from Prussia for his opposition to its 1845 claims on Schleswig-Holstein, and -- defeated in fighting for a German Republic in 1848 -- he fled first to Sweden and then to Illinois' St. Clair County, where he ultimately died. --Ed.

Spiegel Online International

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/0,1518,793296,00.html>> "Jewish American Families Reclaim German Roots"

The Week in Germany

Nov 11, 2011

Click here to view the Newsletter online <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG_111111.html>

November 9 – Historic Day

The date November 9 is often referred to as a fateful

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.

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day in German history. It is the anniversary of numerous momentous events—representing both highpoints and lowpoints. Here, we look at the 1918 Proclamation of the Republic, the 1938 Reichkristallnacht and the 1989 Fall of the Wall.

November 9: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/06__Foreign__Policy__State/04__Political__System/06__November9/9November__US.html>

American Jewish Committee Diplomatic Marathon

In honor of UN Day, the American Jewish Committee conducts an annual "diplomatic marathon" in US cities. German Consul General Onno Hückmann recently hosted AJC board members from Chicago, Cleveland, Cincinnati and St. Louis.

American Jewish Committee: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GKs/CHIC/2011/11/03__AJC.html>