

**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 335

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510

February 2012

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)

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

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"

Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society - 21st annual Spring Seminar

Last month we reminded you that the Whittier Area Gen. Soc. was holding its 29th Annual Seminar on February 25th, featuring George Morgan, co-host of "The Genealogy Guys" podcast. Now I'm pleased to announce that those of you in Northern California haven't been left out! George is slated to appear with the same program in Fair Oaks on Sat., March 31st. For more information, contact seminar Chairperson Diane Maltase at <rootcellarsgs@gmail.com>. Or find more details in 2012 at <www.rootcellar.org> and <http://rootcellarramblings.blogspot.com>. And thanks to the National Genealogical Society (NGS) for bringing this to our attention!

Donations to our Library

Robert Seal of Pasadena has just donated volumes 13 and 14 of the Monroe County, Ohio genealogical records

to add to volumes 1 through 12. This makes the IGS Library the only facility in the L.A. area with all fourteen volumes. The last volume, No. 15, is at press, and Robert has pledged to buy that one for us, too. Thanks, Robert!!

But Robert has also benefitted from his IGS membership -- which we always like to hear! Coming into the Library on the first Saturday in December, he reported that he had seen the item about the periodical *East European Genealogist* that appeared in the November 2011 Newsletter. It identified a web site with Austro-Hungarian databases that was of interest to him, because sources on Austria aren't as plentiful as sources on Germany. Following the URL listed in our Newsletter took him, by coincidence (or serendity), to yet another database on Nuremberg, Bavaria -- where he found the 1890 marriage record of his great-grandparents! He's been searching for this for ten years, and finally found it because of this "tip." So, "what goes around comes around," and if you have Monroe County, Ohio family, you'll want to check this trove of information he's added for us. Remember, your IGS Library has many such valuable U.S. publications, in addition to our European holdings....
--Ed.

KALENDAR

February		
12	General Meeting/Program Dr. Eric Siess	2PM
15		Mailing
March		
	Time Change on 11th- 2 AM	
11		2PM Eric Siess
21		Mailing

German Schools, 100 years ago

Last month, after mentioning a textbook my grandmother probably used in St. Louis in the 1890s, I got to wondering about what school might have been like for her German relatives of the time. If you had an ancestor who came from Germany a century ago, this is what their schooling may have been like. This is taken directly from the notes to (Conversation) Chapter 6, *Die Kurse des Gymnasiums*, in: Paul Valentine Bacon, *Im Vaterland* (Boston and Chicago: Allyn and Bacon, 1910), pages 233-34.

“The Gymnasium is chosen here as the oldest and standard German school, but the Realgymnasium and the Oberrealschule do equivalent work. They correspond roughly to our Latin, English High, and Manual Training Schools, or to our Ancient Classical, Modern Classical, and Scientific [*Ed. note:* Vocational] courses, respectively.

[*Ed. note:* The numbers following are found under columns headed by the three respective schools, beginning with the Gymnasium itself. An explanation then begins on the next page.]

[Table:] “Religion...19/19/19. German...26/28/34. Latin...68/49/--. Greek...36/--/--. French...20/29/47. History...17/17/18. Geography...9/11/14. Mathematics...34/42/47. Sciences...18/29/36. English...(6)/18/25. Gymnastics...27/27/27. Writing...4/4/6. Drawing...8+(8)/16+(10)/16+(10). Singing...4/4/4. Hebrew...(6)/--/--.

“All studies are required except where figures are enclosed in parentheses. The numbers refer to the periods a week for the nine years’ course. For instance, Gymnastics (*Turnen*) is required three times a week for nine years in all three kinds of schools (3x9=27). To find the American equivalent in years, divide by five, the average number of recitations a week in America. But remember that the first five grades of the Gymnasium correspond to our lower grades, so that the time spent in these classes is not equivalent to our high school work. Thus the Gymnasium student does not accomplish the equivalent of (68÷5) 13.6 years’ work in Latin. To show exactly what he does, the Latin course of the Gymnasium is here given in detail.

[*Ed. note:* I’ll summarize by hours, but for those interested I can send the complete outline of the Latin curriculum. Email me, or send an SASE to the IGS.]

“4th through 8th grades: 8 hours a week each. 9th through 12th grades: 7 hours a week each.” --Your Editor.

Barr Ferree’s *Pennsylvania: A Primer* (1904)

Chapter V. The Elements of Population. §30. Germans. (Excerpts)

“...The earliest arrivals were Mennonites, members of the various German sects, such as Pietists, German Baptist Brethren (Tunkers), Schwenkfelders and others, many of whom were Sectarians and represented some of the strange phases of religious thought that was then very prevalent in Germany. Many Mennonites came from the parts of Germany adjacent to Holland, as well as from Switzerland. The emigration was sporadic and unimportant between 1683 and 1709, but in the latter year it began to develop rapidly. Many came from Alsace, Suabia, Saxony and other parts of the empire, and especially from the Palatinate, as the country was called adjacent to the Rhine. So numerous was the emigration from the latter region that all German emigrants were generally designated as *Palatines*. The chief periods of the German emigration have been classified as follows:

1. From 1683 to 1708: Mennonites and Pietists.
2. From 1708 to 1720. Largely of a religious character; towards the end of this period came the Tunkers, Mennonites, and other non-orthodox sects.
- 3 From 1720 to 1730. Large importations from the Palatinate, Württemberg, Hesse-Darmstadt, etc., with Germans from the Province of New York. Many of these people were in a state of extreme poverty.
4. From 1730 to 1740. Chiefly members of the regular churches; first the Reformed, then the Lutherans, then the Moravians.
5. Later emigration....

[Discussion of Penn’s pamphlets and unprincipled shippers as spurs to emigration, followed by brief paragraphs on the Tunkers, Seventh-Day Baptists, and Schwenkfelders]

“...A number of other sects were included in the German emigration, each having peculiar doctrines and customs of their own. Lancaster County alone is said at one time to have contained more than thirty sects. Many German hermits also established themselves near Philadelphia, almost the whole of the early German population being characterized by a mysticism that forms one of the most singular chapters in the religious history of Pennsylvania....”

Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society

“New Insights, New Records” is the subject of their upcoming spring conference, set for March 31st in Laurel, Maryland. The program includes sessions on German historical maps and territories, how to find sources on the lives of your ancestors, and examples of untapped records available for on-site research in German archives. The speaker for these sessions is Warren Bittner, FHL International Reference Consultant and a certified genealogist specializing in Germanic research. Registration runs \$40-\$50, and includes lunch. Call Diane Kuster at 252-281-5000 or 252-373-1684 for details, or write to <registration@magsgen.com>.

“Forced Departures From Bern, Switzerland”

You probably know, if you’ve studied German history at all, that part of your German heritage may actually be Swiss. In the 16th century the Bernese Swiss Brethren were persecuted for following their beliefs over the accepted state religion. Now you can read a good background summary of the resulting European migration through the above-titled article compiled by Lois Ann Mast, in the October 2011 issue (Vol. 30, No. 4) of *Mennonite Family History*. She in turn credits the Global Anabaptist Mennonite Encyclopedia Online, <<http://www.gameo.org/encyclopedia/contents/B476.html>> for many excerpts. --Ed.

Finding Your Ancestor’s Place of Origin

The National Genealogical Society Quarterly demonstrates research “best practices” through its journal, and the September 2011 issue has a thoroughly documented piece on how to compare various sources to obtain sufficient “detail to identify an ancestor, establish a relationship, [and] determine an origin.” The title of this article by Lynne Fisher of Chicago is self-explanatory: “Uncovering the Linkenheim, Baden, Origin of Ludwig Fischer of Cook County, Illinois.”

Skat

Most people have never heard of it, but a card game your 19th c. immigrant German family might well have known is Skat. The November/December 2011 issue of the *American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society Newsletter* has an entertaining little article about this game and how it bridges the Atlantic. This prompted your editor to return to his St. Louis "roots" and re-read the references to the game in the English translation by Don Heinrich Tolzmann of the 1893 history by Ernst D. Kargau, *St. Louis in früheren Jahren: ein Gedenkbuch für das deutsche Element*, which Tolzmann chose to abbreviate as "The German Element in St. Louis." It confirmed that the game had its origins in and around Saxony and Thuringia, but said that German immigrants from other regions were usually unacquainted with the game. How interesting, then, to learn that it has a healthy following today so close to Denmark. The newsletter claims that skat today still rivals such card games as poker in German popularity. --Ed.

February Program - "Celtic Roots Online"

Cath Madden Trindle, CG is the treasurer of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Projects chair for the California State Genealogical Alliance. She is the featured speaker of the Napa Valley Genealogical & Biographical Society at its February 16th meeting at the NVGBS Library, 1701 Menlo Ave. in Napa. She will "show the various records that are available online and the online finding aids and indexes [for Ireland & Scotland]. The program begins at 1:30 p.m., and attendees are encouraged to bring their family names to research.

Book Review

Max Egremont, a British writer of novels and biographies, has been traveling to the former East Prussia for two decades. Now he has chosen to share his travels and interviews with us -- intermixed with the history and character of this one-time outpost of German culture and military defense. *Forgotten Land: Journeys Among the Ghosts of East Prussia* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2011) was \$28.00 plus tax at my Pasadena bookstore, and contains 322 pages of text, thirteen of notes, a five-page bibliography, and a fifteen-page index. I had high hopes of new insights into matrilineal roots in several once-pagan (Old) Prussian villages west of Insterburg/Chernyakhovsk, coupled with a Protestant Polish identity to be found in, and closely south of, the border skirting city of Johannsburg/Pisz. It is with some regret, therefore, that I say that this book -- intriguing as it was -- left me thirsty for more. The book reflects strongly the author's previous experience of writing novels and biographies. Like a novel, it skips among numerous subplots, never choosing to give closure to any. In skipping from character to character, the book gives the appearance of a compendium of short biographies that should have been organized into discrete chapters. What the reader will obtain, however, is a sympathetic view of a part of Germany now lost in time. --Ed.

die Masurische Biene

While we're considering East Prussia, here's a tip regarding the Masurian Lakes region (roughly the SE quadrant) of

that former province. "The Masurian Bee" carries information for and about researchers of this now-Polish rural area. It's in German, but that's why you have Google Language Tools (or other translators) available on your computer's browser! Go to: <<http://www.historische-masurische-vereinigung.de>> to download issues. The latest (December) issue informed me that the films at NARAS' "Archives II" facility in College Park, MD of captured SS records -- including many Ahnentafels of members and their wives -- still do not have as many records as the Berlin Document Center, due to the addition of SS records gained from the DDR. --Ed.

Weeklong Course in Pittsburgh, PA in July

John T. Humphrey, CG, is past president of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and a past vice president of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania. He will be teaching a course on German Genealogical Research through the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh. His course is specifically aimed at assisting those who have searched for information on their German ancestors using the traditional American sources of census, probate and military records, etc. It aims to familiarize the researcher with German record groups, and to address the key barriers to research in German records -- language and handwriting. A full course description, with a link to registration and further details, is at: <http://www.gripitt.org/?page_id=54>. The course will be taught July 22-27, 2012 at the campus of LaRouche College with registration beginning in February. John reports that a similar course he taught at Samford University in Birmingham sold out in 9 minutes! The Institute (which exists to provide in-depth treatment of genealogical topics) confirms the need, stating: "the demand for in-depth genealogical education is so high that week-long courses sell out shortly after registration opens, disappointing many potential students. At the same time genealogists who have taken many courses want new content." True! --Ed.

"A Mennonite Legend of 1717"

Here's another bit of historical background that could be important if you have early Pennsylvania Anabaptist heritage. Andreas Mielke, an independent scholar, has written an intriguing article (of the title shown above) for the October 2011 issue (Vol. 34, No. 4) of *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage*. The entire piece is devoted to a careful dissection of "the legend that England's King George (I) invited German and Swiss Mennonites to America in 1717...." Was there any truth to it? Here's a hint -- Mielke reproduces British policy statements of the time with this commentary: "... some [who] made it to America in 1717... scattered throughout the province without being recorded by the Philadelphia officials--behavior atypical for people being invited by a king."

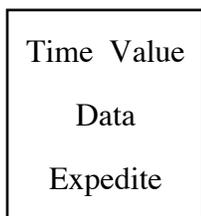
Save the Date...

March 24, 2012 - John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., will be the featured speaker at the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society Seminar in Thousand Oaks, CA. Topics: 1) Lesser Used Federal Records, 2) State Archives, 3) The County Courthouse, and 4) Breaking Through Brick Walls. Cost is \$40 if received by Feb. 29 or \$45 after that. Box lunch reservation is \$8.50. For reservation form and more info, visit: <<http://rootsweb.com/~cacvgs/>> or email: <cvgs2012seminar@aol.com>.

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Spiegel Online International

<<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/>>

The Week in Germany

Jan 156, 2011

Click here to view the Newsletter online

<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__120113.html>

Germany Dominates Oberhof, Neuner Collects Double Golds

After a disappointing start in the IBU World Cup Biathlon in Oberhof, the men and women of the German squad dominated from Friday to Sunday, taking gold in every remaining event and giving the home crowd a reason to celebrate in the snow.

Biathlon at Oberhof: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/01/09__oberhof__pr.html>

Film|NEU Festival Celebrates 20 Years

This 20th edition of Film|NEU, Washington's annual showcase of new cinema from Germany, Switzerland and Austria, features 13 recent German-language releases. The one-week festival opens on January 20 with the film "Westwind."

Film|NEU: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__events/Wash/2012/01/20__Film__Neu__2012.html>

Fellowship for Journalists: "Art and Craft - Manufacturing in Germany" (February 27 -- March 3, 2012)

The German Foreign Office is offering a trip to Germany centering on manufacturing in Germany for a small group of journalists from around the world. Participants will visit various manufacturing facilities

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
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of high-end products in Frankfurt , Nuremberg, Dresden and Berlin, and meet with business and government experts.

Fellowship for Journalists: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/01/09__Fellowship__PR.html>

Merkel & Sarkozy: Working Together to Solidify Euro, Create Growth and Employment

Good progress on the new fiscal treaty, ways to spur growth and employment in Europe, and increasing the efficiency of euro rescue measures were the topics as Chancellor Merkel and French President Sarkozy met in Berlin.

Solidifying the Euro: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/01/09__MerkelSarkozy__PR.html>