



**Immigrant  
Genealogical  
Society**

# Newsletter

Number 336

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510

March 2012

**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!)

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**

**April 15, 2012 PSIG/IGS Meeting**

**Speaker: Jean Wilcox Hibben**

Topic: "Turning Genealogy into Family History"

### Norwegian Research (Part One)

From the December newsletter of the St. Louis Genealogical Society comes the tip that a "new" census has been made available in Norway -- the first to be released in fifty years. StLGS member Dorothy Norland spotted the announcement in the March e-news of *Nordmanns-Forbundets*, which in turn quotes the Norwegian newspaper *Aftenposten* from last January 31st. There are two web sites to check, the first with a tab for English translation, <<http://arkivverket.no/Digitalarkivet>>, and the second site only in Norwegian, <<http://www.slekt.no>>. Both address the 1910 census, but the second one also deals with other questions of genealogical importance, such as DNA studies. --Ed.

### Ahnenlisten Kartei

Because your editor found names of interest as a result of re-reading this old issue, the following is a reprint of an item from our January 2007 IGS Newsletter: "One additional book which arrived was Volume 18 of the Ahnenlisten Kartei Index set. This is the index to surnames being researched on Ancestor Pedigree Charts filed with the Leipzig Archive in Germany. It was 1996 when Index 17 was published. This new volume will put you in touch with persons likely still living in Germany, who are researching your surnames.

"The Indexes give the surname, tell where the ancestor being researched lived, and links it to the name and address of the submitter. IGS can supply a German-English letter for you to use to correspond with the submitter. The IGS research staff start with the most recent index and work backward to find your surname, send you the submitter's address, and the letter, for a fee of \$10.00 [\$9.00 now!] -- if you are not close enough to visit our library in person."

But there's a further recommendation that your editor has to make. If you can come to the library to do your own examination of these volumes, you might want to take some time to see what other names the researcher in question is searching. Your editor was searching variants of his surname in Saxony, where church books are not open to the public and research of 19th c. family is consequently made all the more difficult.

Previous work done in Salt Lake with the court records of Saxony revealed that there were two men of the same name in the small village in Saxony where his ancestor lived in the 1820s. These two men had different occupations that did distinguish them, but which one of these families (not thus far shown to be closely related) was the submitter

## KALENDER

March	
	Time Change on 11th- 2 AM
11	2PM Eric Siess
21	Mailing
April	
15	PSIG/General Meeting/Program 2PM Jean Hibben
18	Mailing
25	Board of Directors 7PM

to Volume 18 researching? The answer lay in examining the person's other surnames of interest, identified by village name in the index listing. And, wouldn't you know it? -- the researcher seemed to be tracking the other fellow, and not my ancestor!! --Ed.

### **Geburtsbriefe**

That January 2007 IGS Newsletter has another item of interest. "Geburtsbriefe," or Birth Documents, were noted by Arlene Eakle in her e-letter (Nov. 20, 2006) as differing from the church book records we've all used in our 19th c. and earlier German research. Here is what we said at the time: "They contain information about both birth and citizenship. They are particularly valuable if parish registers aren't available. A Geburtsbrief was often required instead of a birth certificate for securing a passport and emigration. They are a civil record, not a church record. The Geburtsbriefe required 3-4 witnesses who had to sign under oath. The names, date and place of the parents' marriage is usually required. The names of grandparents are often included, current residence of parents, trade or occupation, where settlement was planned are included. The Family History Center Library in SLC has films of these records--they might be a windfall for you on a problem family."

So your editor went to familysearch.org to check the FHL catalog, searching for "Geburtsbriefe" under "Titles." 24 results were returned, and these are the places cited: Münster, Naumburg Saale, Heilbronn, Potsdam, Dessau, Lissa, Saarburg, Tallinn (Estonia), Mittweida, Waldheim, Schwarzenberg, Zwickau, Rochlitz, Tennstedt, Fallersleben, Gräfenhainichen, Kleutsch, Plauen, Osterode, Warendorf, Klostergerings-walde, Wien (Austria), Cottbus, Göttinger, and Mühlberg a.d. Elbe.

Several of these are cities in Saxony! So now comes the personal testimonial. Your editor found three documents pertaining to his 2nd great-grandfather's move from his penultimate German residence to his last place of residence (in Saxony), all on FHL INTL Film 1456431, Heimatscheine (Zwickau), 1841-42 series.

The first was labelled "Heimathsschein fürs Innland" and showed (1) the spelling of his surname from church book records, which was an older variant, (2) his date of birth, and (3) his signature, showing the modern spelling of the surname as he wrote it in 1838. The second, a "Verhaltenschein," or Certificate of Conduct, certified his good standing in the previous town -- even citing some of the civic duties he performed (such as chopping wood for the poor as part of a town "committee"). The third showed that he had permission to emigrate from the first town to the second. Arlene was right!! --Ed.

### **Norwegian Research (Part Two)**

Nord-Trøndelag is a county of middle-Norway, with its capital at Trondheim. If this is a region that interests you, you'll want to see the 4-page summary of local history there in the twice-yearly publication *Norwegian Tracks* (Vol. 35, No. 2, Fall 2011), issued from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library, in Madison, WI.

In the same issue is a request for expressions of interest in a special genealogical tour of Norway tentatively slated for 2013. This tour would be led by Blaine Hedberg, "one of the world's leading experts on Norwegian and Norwegian-American genealogy," and would coincide with a regularly-scheduled luxury cruise. Possible stops might include: Oslo, Kristiansand, Bergen, Flam, Alesund, Stavanger, Geiranger, and Tromso. Day trips would be arranged to selected museums, archives and libraries. If interested, email Mr. Hedberg at: <bhedberg@nagcni.org>.

Finally, this issue announces the forthcoming publication of a new edition of the out-of-print *Norwegian Research Guide*, first produced in 1998 and updated through 2004.

### **Research in Poland**

The Fall 2011 issue of *Rodziny, The Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America*, has a translated report from correspondent Iwona Dakiniewicz of Łódź in regard to closings, repairs and new branches of the Polish State Archives. A bit of good news is that, upon completing a form, visiting researchers may now make non-flash digital copies of research materials with their own equipment -- for free.

In the same issue is a three-page article with table on Polish language sound equivalents, which yields alternate spellings of personal and place names. Finally, there is a nice six-page article on Lubiszewo (German Liebschau), south of today's Gdańsk, a translation from a Polish gazeteer. This is part of a continuing series in *Rodziny*, so be sure to check for other areas in past publications on file at your IGS.

### **"The Swiss Settlement of Vevay, Switzerland County, IN"**

Questing Heirs Genealogical Society (of Long Beach) in their *Newsletter* (Vol. 44, No. 12, Dec. 2011) reports that one man has a project underway to identify the origins of as many of the early settlers of this place as possible, and that he's succeeded in this for over 150 of them.

In an aside, your editor notes that the Questing Heirs group will in the future require their members to access the newsletter at their web site, unless special arrangements have been made with the Membership Chair for receipt of a mailed copy.

### **New Member Surnames-of-Interest**

Mary Gillies of Ocean Springs, MS researches these names: **Klemetti, Kahkola, Orava, Heikkinen, and Maki**. If you have one of these names, then she'd like to hear from you; send a SASE to your IGS office, and we'll respond.

### **Our Renewing Members**

Carolyn Flint - **Allen** (Scots-Irish?), **Zackmire, Appel, Hunt, Summers, Nowland/ Nolen/Nolan, Pettit, Poplett, Toler, Myers**; Janet Gall - **Schoenweiss** (to Hesse by 1846 from Karlsruhe), **Theissinger/Teisinger** (Kaiserslautern area); Betty Laurent - **Hippler, Kuhn, Leithman, Meder, Rhinehart, Staider, Knaur, Holzheimer, Westheimer, Goetz, Fall, Gunder, Brust, Borton, Oberlander, Peter** (She can do lookups in Louisiana.); Susan Mullins - **Böse, Hollmann, Wehmeyer, Hahn, Arter**; Mary Summers - **Ruffner, Besse**; Carol Norr - **Baer, Sanger, Hochstader/Hochstetter**.

### Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society's Der Kurier

President Diane M. Kuster has ambitious plans (which will benefit members soon) for this Maryland-based society. MAGS has a web site at <<http://www.magsgen.com>>, and the Board has been contemplating a "members only" area. Now it is close to reality, and it is anticipated that all newsletters dating from 1982 to the present, in .pdf format, will be uploaded for members' use by late March. There are certain indexes, currently in the compilation stages, to "some underused sources at the National Archives," which also are to be made available. Titles? They remain unnamed. All we are told is that "once it happens it's going to be a goldmine for our members." Society membership is a bargain at \$15/yr. for individuals and \$20/yr. for a family. The quarterly journal has a regular feature on Fraktur, for those with early Penn-sylvania German ancestry, and also publishes Ahnentafels of members. The Society maintains a lending library and hosts spring and fall meetings featuring expert speakers. Send your check or money order payable to "Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society" and mail to: Gunter Schanzenbacher, 725 Fir Spring Dr., Waynesboro, PA 17268-2914.

### Donations Received in 2012

We'd especially like to thank W.R. Diekmann and Eunice M. Limberg for generous donations received recently. We hope to merit your support in the coming year!!

### Historical Records Access

In Pennsylvania in December the Governor signed a bill into law to allow family researchers greater access to Pennsylvania vital records. This was in answer to citizen petitioners wanting "more reasonable and less antiquated access to PA vital records," augmented by the support of the genealogical community nationwide. Birth records will now be made public after 105 years, and death records after 50 years. These changes take effect in February, whereupon Ancestry.com will digitize and index records at no cost to the state. Thus by Spring it should be possible to obtain PA birth records for 1906 & 1907, PA death records for 1906 through 1962, and (of course) the 1940 Federal census records for Pennsylvania. This is one instance where the combined efforts of genealogists have made our research easier because -- united -- our voices can be heard. Thanks for this tip from Marilyn Deatherage and the web site of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania.

### A New Mexican Source

Many are aware that Ancestry.com has Mexican census records for review, but how would a person with Mexican ancestors find the descriptive sources that would tell something of how they lived? Thanks to an article in the "Arts & Books" section of the Christmas Day *L.A. Times*, it just so happens that the National Autonomous University of Mexico is planning on placing its entire collection of research materials on the internet, at "Toda la UNAM en Línea." This includes photos, newspapers, student theses, legal opinions, and other items that can be expected to name ancestors. Go to <<http://www.unamenlinea.unam.mx>> for an interactive web page introducing the project.

### German WWI Casualties

This may be too "recent" an event to be of much use to most of us who had 19th c. German immigrants, but the GenWiki folks have another database available for our use, this one called *Verlustlisten Erster Weltkrieg*. You may search on surname, given name, or place name. Go to: <<http://java.genealogy.net/eingabe-verlustlisten/search>>. --Ed.

### Save the Dates...

**March 10, 2012** - John Philip Colletta Ph.D. will present a one-day seminar to the Gen. Soc. of North Orange County, at the Brea United Methodist Church, on "U.S. Federal Records." Pre-registration is through March 3, and forms are available at your IGS Library. For more info, call 714-777-2379 or go to: <<http://www.gsnocc.org>>.

**March 17, 2012** - The Clark County Nevada Gen. Soc. presents their Spring Seminar, with speakers Kerry Bartels, Kory Meyerink, & Daniel S. Poffenberger on the UNLV campus. Info: CCNGS@clear.net or: <<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nvccngs/>>.

**March 24, 2012** - Dr. Colletta will also 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](mailto:cvgs2012seminar@aol.com)>.

### A Visit to Ancestral German Villages

A married couple who belong to the Germanic Genealogy Society of the Minnesota Genealogical Society have written a splendid account of their guided tour of four small communities in the former Bavarian Palatinate, now the State of Rheinland-Pfalz. If not speaking German is a barrier for you as you contemplate a trip to see ancestral homes, this article's definitely for you. Summer 2011 Issue of the *Germanic Genealogy Journal*. There's also an article on the *Kartei Quassowski* -- the Quassowski card catalog -- that's a finding aid for the former East Prussia, containing 350,000 genealogical entries!

### More Save the Date...

March 31st - Chula Vista G.S. Spring Seminar, with Leland Meitzler & Bill Dollarhide

April 21st - Sonoma Co. G.S. Spring Seminar featuring Connie Lenzen

### Irish Heritage

The Government of Ireland wants to honor your Irish heritage, if you have some. And nearly 40 million Americans do! 35 million have Irish ancestry, and another 5 million have their roots in Northern Ireland, and all are eligible. A "Certificate of Irish Heritage" is now available, and the details are at: <<http://www.heritagecertificate.ie>>. As part of the application process, you will need to provide a document which identifies the recipient's ancestor as Irish or as being born in Ireland. The cost of the certificate is €55 unframed, or €82.50 framed.

Immigrant Genealogical Society  
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### Gerda Haffner

We were mentioned -- sort of -- in the December issue of the Kern County Gen. Soc. newsletter, KERN-GEN. In an article by Betty (Weitze) Cook titled "How I Researched my German Heritage," she mentions how she learned more of how her grandfather and his birth family immigrated to New York in 1866. Part of the work "was done by a researcher who worked with the German Genealogical Society in Burbank, CA named Gerda Haffner who lived in Uslar, Germany near the Weitze home...." Well, we're the IGS, but at least we were acknowledged. And, guess what? Gerda Haffner's research files live on at the IGS Library, where they may be consulted by members. They can be found in boxes atop the shelves that hold family genealogies, in the back room.

### National Archives Workshops

Ann Archer sent an announcement from the Montgomery Chapter of the Ohio Gen. Soc., and it is copied here in part. "For the first time, the National Archives has launched online videos of its most popular genealogy "how to" workshops. These videos cover "hot topics" in genealogical research such as census, immigration and military records. Now, these popular workshops led by National Archives experts are available on the National Archives YouTube channel [[www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives](http://www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives)]. [Ed. Note: One of the offerings is an introduction to immigration records.] To read more about this lecture series and other information available online from the National Archives, go to <<http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2012/nr12-47.html>>.

### Spiegel Online International

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

### The Week in Germany

**Feb 10, 2011 Click here to view the Newsletter online** < [http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The\\_\\_Week\\_\\_in\\_\\_Germany/TWIG\\_\\_120210.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__120210.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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### Photo Essay: Euro Quotes

Throughout the current sovereign debt crisis, political and economic leaders in Germany and Europe have been steadfast in their commitment to fiscal discipline and to strengthening the euro.

Photo Essay: Euro Quotes: <[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/06\\_\\_Foreign\\_\\_Policy\\_\\_State/03\\_\\_Europe/QuotesEuro-BG.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/06__Foreign__Policy__State/03__Europe/QuotesEuro-BG.html)>

### Calls for a Friends of Democratic Syria Contact Group

It is now vital to continue working with our partners in the Security Council and the Arab League, said German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle. "We owe that to the people in Syria and to the reputation of the international community."

Spiraling Violence in Syria: <[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/\\_\\_pr/P\\_\\_Wash/2012/02/08Syria.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/02/08Syria.html)>