



**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 338

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510

May 2012

Immigrant Genealogical Society

May 6th:

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

Kathleen Roe Trevena

Retired Computer document writer, 30 Year Genealogist

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**

June 3rd:

Researching Mormon Family History Center On-line
Historical Records

Lorna Rice

Renowned Genealogist in the South Bay Area of Los
Angeles and Director of the Torrance Family History
Center

**July 8, 2012 JOINT MEETING IGS/PSIG
Karl L. Weiler**

Director for 11 years at a Fresno, CA LDS Family History
Center, now a volunteer at the Murrieta, CA Family
History Center

"Recent Changes to the Family Search WebPages"

FREE programs- please attend!!!

Palatines to America National Conference

"German Research Meets Methodology & Technology" is the title of this two-and-a-half day event at the Indianapolis Marriott East Hotel, June 14-16, 2012. Six sessions running 8:30 am to 4 pm on Friday, and continuing Saturday morning, will offer you the choice of hearing either Certified Genealogist Warren Bittner or weekly newsletter *CasefileClues* distributor Michael John Neill. A brochure containing conference info and a registration form may be viewed at your IGS Library, or you may seek details from the "Pal-Am" organization directly.

Central & Eastern European Genealogy Conference

John Philip Colletta, Ph.D., will be the featured speaker at three plenary sessions at Inver Grove Heights, MN on Friday-Sat., April 27-28. Fifteen additional breakout sessions with other speakers will be held in three "rounds" that Saturday, from 9 am through 3 pm. Polish and Romanian researchers will be particularly attracted to this event. Go to <http://www.mngs.org> for descriptions and speaker bios, etc

SCGS Genealogy Jamboree

Pre-Jamboree events for this annual event begin on Thursday, June 6th. General sessions are scheduled Friday, June 7th through Sunday, June 10th at the Burbank Marriott and Convention Center. For those researching outside of the United States, "Genealogy World Roundtable Discussions" will be held Friday morning. This year's Jamboree Premier is a "Hollywood Gala" set for Friday evening. Register at: <http://www.genealogyjamboree.com>.

**Max Kade Inst. -- Watertown, WI -- Sat., May 5
Germanic Gen. Soc. -- St. Paul, MN -- May 11-12**

KALENDER

May		
6	General Meeting/Program Kathleen Roe Trevena	2PM
13	CLOSED	Mother's Day
16		Mailing
26-27	CLOSED	Memorial Day
June		
3	General Meeting/Program	2PM
8-10		Jamboree
13		Mailing
17	CLOSED	Father's Day

Finding Your Immigrant in Early City Directories

Most of you who have a subscription to Ancestry.com (or access to it through your public library) know that it is often possible to locate mentions of your immigrant ancestors in city directories that Ancestry has digitized. But did you know that there may be others available elsewhere as well? Janice Brown, of the Napa Valley Genealogical & Biographical Society, followed a tip she found in *Family Tree Magazine* and discovered several additional sites that carry old city directories in "ebook" format. Her "Jabber from Janice" column in her society's *Winepress Newsletter* (Mar, Apr 2012) talks about how helpful this could be, especially since users are often able to download these ebooks for free to their own computer. Otherwise, they may be read online. She advises: "Do a search using the words: *ebooks free* to see the options." Here are five sites she recommends:

World Library Catalog (WorldCat) - <<http://www.worldcat.org>>

Amazon - <http://www.amazon.com/Kindle-eBooks/b/ref=sa_menu_kbo8/192-5382989-3838369?_encoding=UTF8&node=1286228011>

Free-eBooks - <<http://www.free-ebooks.net/>>

Project Gutenberg - <<http://www.gutenberg.org/>>

Google Books - <http://books.google.com/ebooks?as_brr=5&q=free+ebooks&as_sub=&oq=free>

[Funny how the two commercial sites have the longest URL's!!]

Ships from Ireland to Early America, 1623-1828, by David Dobson

This book received a favorable review in the *Winepress Newsletter* (Mar, Apr 2012) of the Napa Valley Genealogical & Biographical Society. The utility of this book lies in the fact that, despite the general absence of US passenger records pre-1820, "if the researcher can establish that an immigrant ancestor lived in or near a certain port of entry at a particular time, he may be able to 'jump' the Atlantic by utilizing the records of the very vessels known to or likely to have transported passengers from Ireland to North America between 1623 and 1850." For each of some 1,500 vessels there are listed the dates and ports of embarkation and arrival, together with a code to the source of the actual passenger record (which you, the researcher, will then have to locate - perhaps through the help of a reference librarian!). It will not be an easy search, but perhaps with enough supporting evidence one will finally be able to pin down an ancestor's most likely passage to The New World. Finally, the review notes that the Dobson volume (and also an earlier publication covering Scottish vessels of the period) is available at Genealogy Publishing Company, <<http://www.Genealogy.com>> or by calling 1-800-296-6687.

News of Interest to Irish Researchers, from the National Genealogical Society

"Upfront with NGS" posted these announcements on 14 Mar 2012 05:00 AM PDT, just in time for St. Pat's Day:

* Clare County Library has launched a superb new online maps viewer called GMaps. The county's GMaps are

based on the Google Map system, allowing Google Maps to be overlaid with historical maps dating from 1842. Read the full article at <<http://irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.com/>>.

* The National Archives (of Ireland) has just given their website a welcome facelift with expanded guides to collections, digital resources and genealogy. Read the full article at <<http://www.IrishTimes.com>>.

* A U.S. newspaper, the *Irish American* (New York City, New York), routinely published thousands of Irish marriage and death records from 1849 to 1914. GenealogyBank has added these Irish vital records to the Historical Newspaper Archive. Read the full article at <<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk>>.

If you don't belong to the NGS, perhaps you should consider it. They have a lot of member services, of which eMail announcements are but one. You can find them at <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>> or by calling 1-800-473-0060, ext. 116.

Herder-Institut, Marburg

We recently received issue Nr. 32/33 (Januar-Dezember 2011) of *HERDER aktuell, Informationen aus dem Herder-Institut in Marburg*. Comprised mostly of conference reports and news of exhibitions, this German-language publication may be beyond the reach of our English-only members. Still, those of you with heavy "Roots" in East Central Europe might not want to ignore this important source of news about recent developments in historical research encompassing this broad region. And, for those of you close to Chicago, you might wish to check out this item from their calendar of upcoming events: April 26-28, Chicago, The 23rd Association for Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS) Conference: "The Global Baltics: The Next Twenty Years." Hint: English-speaking members of the Herder-Institut will undoubtedly be attending this conference, and you might be able to pose your questions to them during breaks. --Ed.

"Stuck with German Research? Try New Avenues"

The German Interest Group - Wisconsin will present its Annual Workshop (with the above title) on Saturday, July 14th at the UW-Whitewater campus. The featured speaker is Barbara Bell, a reference consultant at FamilySearch and at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. She will address the history (& geography) of Germany; legal, land and court records as alternatives to church records; family names; and German compiled genealogies. For more info, Email <gig.wi@hotmail.com>, visit the web at <<http://www.gig-wi.com>>, or write to GIG, PO Box 762, Janesville, WI 53547-0762.

Our Renewing Members (& research names)

Herbert K. Hapke - **Hapke, Deeke, Linneman, Fasse, Scheidemann, Wirtz, Hacker, Grever, Meyer, Geweke, Langhorst, Leseberg, Arndt, Reese, Kurtz, Pitzing**. Geo. C. Pirch, Jr. - **Pirch & Wetzel** (Hinterpommern), **Bartels & Poppen** (Ostfriesland), **Droege & Gornikowski** (West Prussia), **Lilly & McGregor** (Scotland), **McGranahan & Stevenson** (County Down, Ireland). Robyn Robison - **Nebeck, Nüssle, Nissley, Lange, Schroeder**.

Joan Vogel - **Vogel, Aspel, Schneider, Greher, Hirst.**
Helen Oehrlein Davidson - **Oehrlein, Mager,**
Preusse, Tanterl, Wotke, Scholl. Howard Winsauer
- **Winsauer, Junek, Schiebe/ Scheibe, Winkler.**

Surname Tip (with a special focus on Pommern!)

It would be so easy to rely on the names submitted by renewing (& new) members in the search for others who may share your interest in a family name, but why stop there? The German Interest Group - Wisconsin has for some time published in their newsletter "Member Surnames" -- usually with reference to a specific place. Back issues may be found in your IGS Library in Stack No. 3, on the next-to-the-bottom shelf. For example, the February 2012 newsletter lists these surnames of interest with a clear tie to Pommern: **Helke, Maas, Stelter, Schultz, Burmeister, Kortbein, Schuster, Kuthlow, Kummer, Liedtke, Harmel, Otto, Braasch, Zander, Albrecht, Papke, Prochnow, Speck, Granzow, Loewenau, Zuehlsdorf, Soyke, Lemke, Sontag, Blaske/Blaschke, Karschnick, Petsch, Wachlin, Karnuth, Brusberg.** And that's only for one area of Germany, as reflected in a single issue of this valuable publication! --Ed.

"The Family of Abraham Kieffer" (immigrant of 1748).

We receive, among other family periodicals, the *Keefer Family Association Newsletter*. The March 2012 issue contains an article with the above-cited title, which will be continued in forthcoming issues. Aside from any family tie you, the reader, may have to a Keefer, Kieffer, Kiefer, Keffer, Keifer, etc., this article is interesting for two additional reasons. First, it considers in detail the possible reasons for confusion over the place of origin of this family -- generally listed as Hessen-Darmstadt, Breitenbach, or Zweibrücken. That is an interesting discussion in and of itself, and could be food-for-thought for more than a few of you struggling with German geography and history. But secondly, Tom Durkin, the author of this piece, has one of the better warnings about use of the internet as a source that I have encountered, and I'll quote him in full on this topic:

"I know that certain 'sources' on the internet purport to have more details about various families than I am willing to accept in my own research and records or to discuss here. I also know that many of the internet 'sources' are flat wrong and that many others do not provide enough documentary evidence to be satisfactory to me as a reliable source. As far as I am concerned, the internet is a source mostly for suggestions where to look, and not for the 'information' it purports to report, unless it is documented (which happens all too infrequently). We all need to help with the review and vetting of these internet 'sources,' an important project for the future."

Now, I especially like how Mr. Durkin ends on a challenge of responsibility. We are all willing accomplices (my words) to shoddy research if we make the slightest use of such undocumented or poorly documented "sources" without at least making note of that which is open to question. At the very least, I cite (as a "research note") where I found the assertion by giving the name of the author, date of posting, and the URL where it may be (or was) found.

And if I have the time, I will follow it with my own analysis and why it may still intrigue me, skeptical though I may be. That way, others who follow may trace these items back to whence they came... --Ed.

"Gleaning facts about ancestors from historical German legal notices"

That is the title of a four-page article by Bob Greiner in the March 2012 issue of *Der Kurier*, the newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society. I'll repeat his first two paragraphs verbatim, and if interested you can visit your IGS Library to read the example.

"In a previous article I mentioned that Google Books has digitized 19th century German newspapers containing legal notices into fully searchable files that can be automatically translated to some extent.

"By entering an ancestor's name and the name of their village you might discover interesting facts about them that you cannot easily find elsewhere. This article will present another example of information discovered in these notices. Using two legal notices published four years apart I will show how the facts found in them can supplement existing knowledge about an immigrant family." Bravo, Mr. Greiner! --Ed.

Münch or Minnick Family Name

The same newsletter of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society contains a brief review of a book by William Brooke Fetters, "Mathias Münch/Minnick (1776-1860) of Rockingham County, Virginia Ancestors and Descendants." MAGS members may borrow the book from the MAGS Library collection, or it may be purchased from the author by writing to <fetters@cccconline.net> or to 10450 Lottsford Road, #5017, Mitchellville, MD 20721. Personally, I always find books about German families who left Pennsylvania to travel to newer and cheaper lands along The Great Wagon Road to be fascinating. --Ed.

How Did Your Ancestors Live in NYC's "Kleindeutschland"?

To find out, read Jo Ann Schmidt's "From the Heart" column in the March 2012 issue of the German Genealogy Group Newsletter (Kings Park, NY), *Der Ahnenforscher*. She notes that German immigrants to New York City in the 1830s began to congregate near swampy, relatively worthless areas on the Lower East Side when, at about the same time, a park was established from land acquired from a Stuyvesant descendant. The Germans called this park the Weiss Garten, and it became the focal point of the entire Kleindeutschland neighborhood. Today it is known as Tompkins Square Park, and although many residents left for homes in the Yorkville neighborhood before WWI, it may have been where your own German ancestors walked in the 19th c. See the picture at: <<http://ephemeralnewyork.wordpress.com/tag/kleindeutschland/>>.

Programs of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles

Upcoming meetings of interest are: Monday, April 23rd @ 7:30 pm at the Toyota Auto Museum in Torrance, CA - "Jews in the News: Historical Newspaper Research";

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Sunday, May 6th from 1:30-4:30 pm at the Wilshire Blvd. Temple in West Los Angeles - "Forensic Genealogy: CSI Meets Roots and The Database Detective"; and Monday, June 18th @ 7:30 pm at Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue in Encino, CA - "We Are Here: Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust."

"Letter from an SCHRC [Sheboygan County Historical Research Center] friend in California - What a Small World!!"

The letter being referenced is from, ahem, your IGS newsletter editor. It was my way of sharing with these folks in Wisconsin the ancestry of one of their native daughters, the former Bertha Brückl/Brueckel born in Sheboygan County on 3 August 1899. She was born to parents who had both (but separately) immigrated in the prior year. Some 83 years later, this woman (now Mrs. Bertha Bothe) was admitted to a retirement home in Altadena, CA -- which was within easy walking distance from my current home. My research was conducted using the digitized records of Ancestry.com, as well as other data found at FamilySearch.org and Rootsweb, and the letter is my record of what was found, plus my account of how it was accomplished. Find it on page 6 of the February 2012 issue of the Center's newsletter, *The Researcher*. --Ed.

Spiegel Online International

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

The Week in Germany

Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__120413.html>

Foreign Minister Westerwelle in Washington, DC,

for G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting on April 11 & 12 German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle has arrived in Washington, DC, to take part in the G8 Foreign Ministers Meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11 and 12. G8 Foreign Ministers:
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/04/10WesterwelleDC.html>

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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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Annual Membership, \$25, Family \$30
If publications desired by 1st Class mail \$35.00

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Chicago to open Tourism Office in Germany

Chicago strives to achieve 50 million visitors annually by 2020 by opening three new tourism offices abroad, including one in Germany.

Chicago Tourism: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GKs/CHIC/2012/04/05__Tourism__Chicago.html>

New German Honorary Consul in Honolulu

After a vacancy of more than six years, Germany is again being represented by an Honorary Consul in the State of Hawaii. Consul General Peter Rothen took the oath of office from Honorary Consul Denis Salle on April 4 during a festive inauguration ceremony at the Pacific Club in Honolulu. Inauguration ceremony: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GKs/SANF/2012/04/04__New__honorary__consul__hawaii.html>