



**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 342

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510

September 2012

Immigrant Genealogical Society

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

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

Deutsch in Amerika: Episch=lyrische Poesie (Chicago, 1892)

This is a continuation from the last issue. It is an index of 19th century German-American poets with birthplaces in Europe.... **Carus**, Paul - Ilsenburg, im Harz; **Castelhun**, Friedrich Carl - Nordheim bei Worms; **Clemen**, Robert - in Schlesien; de **Haas**, Carl - im Wupperthal; **Diescher**, Wilhelm - Hamburg; **Dietsch**, Emil - Trippstadt bei Kaiserslautern, Rheinpfalz; **Dietz**, Johann W. - Köln; **Dilg**, Wilhelm ("Heinrich vom See") - Bingen am Rhein; **Dorsch**, Eduard - Würzburg, Baiern; **Dresel**, Friedrich Otto - Detmold; **Dresel**, Julius - Geisenheim im Rheingau; **Eben**, Carl Theodor - Ravensburg, Württemberg; **Eberhard**, Johann G. - Bern, Schweiz; **Eberhardt**, Max - Germersheim, Rheinpfalz; **Edgar**, Friedrich - Berlin; **Eisenlohr**, Gustav Wilhelm - Lörrach, Baden; **Ende**, Henrich - Bremen; **Färber**, Wilhelm - Sonneborn bei Elberfeld; **Feitkorn**, Wilhelm - Steimbke, Hannover; **Fick**, Heinrich H. - Lübeck; **Fiebing**, Bella geb. Dyckhoff - Warmenau bei St. Annen, Hannover; **Funcken**, Eugen - Wankum, Rheinprovinz; **Gonner**, Nikolaus - Luxemburg; **Grill**, Friedrich - Kusel, bairischen Rheinpfalz; **Gugler**, Julius - Stuttgart; **Gumpert**, Fanny - Bernburg, Anhalt=Bernburg.

New entries in the Mecklenburg-Kontakte Database

In the month of June the surnames below were added / changed to the Surname Database at: <http://www.Mecklenburg-Kontakte.de/>:

Baginski Bieck Böthge Düse Funk Garling Harnack Hintzpeter Jeske Junge Langpap Möller Niemann Pentzhorn Penzhorn Püstow Reißmann Rütz Scheewe Schlichting Schön Schultz Steck Steinhagen Syracg Treusein von Hundt Walter Wendt Wittenburg This information was submitted by Dieter Garling [<Dieter.Garling@gmx.de>](mailto:Dieter.Garling@gmx.de) to the Mecklenburg List (die Liste Mecklenburg-L, <http://list.genealogy.net/mm/listinfo/mecklenburg-l/>).

Irish Emigration Database

The National Genealogical Society's "Upfront with NGS" email today featured Irish databases, and one in particular stands out to me: the Irish Emigration Database! <http://www.dunbrody.com/database.php?level=1&id=3>

48 National Libraries of Europe!!

Hand it to the "Upfront with NGS" online announcements of the National Genealogical Society: They really let us know what's happening around the genealogical world. The latest arrival is a shout-out to "The European Library," which is an "online portal [that] offers quick and easy access to the collections of the 48 National Libraries of Europe and leading European Research Libraries. Users can cross-search and reuse over [9 and one-half million] digital items and [103 million] bibliographic records." I didn't use the actual numbers because they've obviously changed by now anyway. But the main point is that there's loads of information here that could help you better understand your European ancestors. Wow! See: <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4/>.

But wait, there's more. Try: <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/>. This one's more oriented towards arts, culture and museums, but they do have digitized books and the offerings come from 2200+ institutions in 33 countries. On the blog that appears on the home page I noticed an article posted by the Estonian Minister of Culture on the subject of traditional dress and the variations in national costume from the different regions. This article appeared--naturally--in both English and Estonian. What a find if your people were from there, as I've often said that it's hard to find material on the smaller countries of the continent unless you're on the internet. But where do you go? These two portals offer a start! --Ed.

Austrian Research

The OW-Preussen mailing list of July 17th announced that an additional 137,000 records from Austria have been added to an online database for countries from the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy. The records are provided by "GenTeam" from Catholic parish registers from six localities in Lower Austria and three in Upper Austria. See: <http://list.genteam.at/mailman/listinfo/austria> for further information. Overall, GenTeam has collected some 7 million entries from over 16,000 users. GenTeam is a coalition of historians and genealogists who work independently or in teams to provide this data free of charge. For questions, write to:

[<kontakt@GenTeam.at>](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at).

Blog: The Journey Home Genealogy

Professional genealogist Dwight Radford got a shout-out some weeks back from Leland & Patty Meitzler, who have their own "GenealogyBlog" which I follow from afar. The reference is at: <<http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=18127>>, and the blog of which they speak deals with Irish research. Among Mr. Radford's topics are these:

- I Can't Find My Ancestors in the Passenger Arrival Lists
- Those Hidden Irish Quaker Indexes
- Thinking About a Research Trip to Ireland
- Using "Surname Clusters" to Sort Through Common Irish Surnames
- The Scots-Irish in The Netherlands
- Palatine Germans In Ireland

You get the idea!! There's a wide range of topics, and you're bound to find one of interest even if Irish research isn't your main goal. --Ed.

British Convicts to Australia

"Upfront with NGS" has announced that the State Library of Queensland has now made available a new database compiled from British Home Office records -- "The British Convict Transportation Registers, 1787 to 1867." It does not list all convicts transported in that period, but still has about three-quarters of them. Two months ago the IGS Newsletter carried an item concerning a small database of Australian obituaries, and it was suggested then that a search might turn up someone with a surname of interest; the same applies here, especially if you have British roots. --Ed.

CA African American Gen. Soc.

Your editor had an interesting discussion with CAAGS president Ronald W. Higgins at the recent Jamboree, where this interesting society had a table not far from the IGS table. Most of our membership will not have ties to Africa, but many of us may know of someone who would benefit from knowing more about what is currently available in African-American research. The society meets at the Mayme A. Clayton Library & Museum (4130 Overland Ave. in Culver City, CA 90230) on the third Saturday of each month -- excluding July & August. The meeting time is 10 a.m. Write to them at: P.O. Box 8442, L.A., CA 90008, or go to: <<http://www.caags.org>>. --Ed.

Pommern Special Interest Group (PSIG)

Toni Perrone has announced that the Pommern Special Interest Group has asked Jean Wilcox Hibben to return and be a speaker for their October General Meeting. However, Jean will not be able to come on the scheduled date, so PSIG has changed the date of the meeting to Sunday, October 7th, in order to accommodate her schedule. Jean is a Board Certified genealogist and has been involved in family research for over 30 years. She is a member of the National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (where she serves as secretary),

various societies in the areas where she does research, the Association of Professional Genealogists (serving as president of the Southern California Chapter), and the Corona Genealogical Society (where she serves as president). The time of the meeting is 2 p.m. It combines with the IGS monthly meeting; the topic will be "The 1940 Census." As the California census is now readily available and indexed -- and most others are either likewise completed or nearing that goal, this will doubtless be an educational experience for "newbies" and advanced researchers alike.

National Genealogical Society Events Calendar

Thanks to the above at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/event_calendar> for the notice that the 18th Annual Conference of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa (Ontario, Canada) will be held September 14-16, 2012. Scotland will be featured this year, but all Anglo-Celtic backgrounds will be part of the program. Early bird savings on registrations are available through August 10th. See: <<http://www.bifhsgo.ca/>> for the conference program and further details.

Norwegian Emigration to America

The Family History Library Blog for July notes that they have recently acquired six volumes of *Fra Amerika til Norge*. And -- listed under "Locality = Canada, United States" there are two listings for *Norwegians in America: Their History and Record*. This is a work in translation from the Norwegian. But that's not all. In the International section they now have 12 volumes of farm histories from Ostfold, Norway. Here's the link for their blog: <<https://familysearch.org/blog>>. Of course, to actually see the books you'll probably need to start packing for Salt Lake City. But at least you'll know they're available to you! --Ed.

Lisa Ann Alzo

This experienced genealogist teaches online courses for Family Tree University and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She has written nine books, and in 2002 she won the Mary Zirin Prize from the Association for Women in Slavic Studies. She is appearing at The San Diego Genealogical Society on Saturday, September 8th from 9 to 3, during which time two of her topics will be immigrant cluster communities and Eastern European research. The seminar location is The Handlery Hotel & Resort, 950 Hotel Circle North, San Diego; the cost is \$40 for Society members and \$45 for non-members, with <<http://www.casdgs.org>> having further details.

Note to California Genealogists (& those visiting)

The Sutro Library reopened on August 1st!! The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County is planning a research trip there to start September 27th. Wendy Craft is reserving bus seats; see: <<http://www.cagenweb.com/lr/stanislaus/gssc.html>>.

Records of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

The word has gone out that a partnership has been formed between this church and the subscription service Archives.com <<http://Archives.com>> to digitize and index some thousand reels of microfilmed records to be made available online in the near future.

IGS ANNUAL MEETING 2012

The Annual Meeting of Immigrant Genealogical Society has been set by the Board of Directors for Sunday, November 13, 2012 at Society Headquarters, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA at 2:00 p.m. In addition to reports, two members will be elected to serve terms on the Board from January 2013 through December 2015.

The following two members have been nominated and have agreed to serve if elected: Lura Perkins and Eldon Kneuth

Continuing Board Members are: Ron Grider, Johannes Linning, Marilyn Deatherage, Eloise Haldeman and Gordon Seyffert

Lura Perkins

Lura Perkins

Secretary, Board of Directors

1983 German Genealogical Exchange Group

Last month I listed several surnames that were either researched by the IGS in its early years of existence, or that were listed by members of the society as surnames for which they were willing to share known information. Then I promised to continue with "a recap of a chain of research undertaken in 1983." Well, here it is, Case #35:

"Originally we received a simple request from Germany in June 1982 from someone looking for persons in the USA with the surname WIRSING. Elisabeth Sharp translated the letter into English and began to search the phone books (24) for WIRSING. She found 18 Wirsings listed in 9 different states (CA, CO, MI, MO, NJ, OH, PA, UT, VA). Four of these were in Cleveland and five in California. She telephoned one listing in Torrance and the woman gave her a lot of family information but she did not know where in Germany her ancestor had emigrated from. She did, however, give us the address of an aunt in Roanoke, VA whom she said had all the family data. Elisabeth made charts from the data she received and collected everything in the file for #35. Elisabeth then went to Europe, so Lola Olsen, our 2nd researcher, took over the case.

"Lola Olsen began her research by going to Filby's Passenger & Immigration Lists Index and finding six more immigrants coming into Philadelphia at various times. This seemed to be sufficient data so everything was assembled and sent off to Germany. We received a prompt thank you note with 8 Intern'l. Reply Coupons. A 2nd request letter was received from the same gentleman, dated Aug. 19, 1982 asking for information on the origin of the World Boxing Champion, MAX BAER. He wanted the normal vital record information on the fighter and wanted to know if there was any connection between Max Baer and two Baer brothers who emigrated to the USA between 1840 and 1850.

"Lola really went all out on this one and contacted:

1. Max Baer, Jr.'s production company in Los Angeles,
2. Los Angeles Times - Obituary,
3. Book - *Star Stats*, containing data on the son, Max Baer, Jr., &
4. Charles Baer, a cousin of Max Baer, living in Colorado.

"Following is the English version of the letter sent to Germany in response to the 2nd request:

Dear Sir,

We have researched your case and this is the information we have found.

ACHILL BAER was from ALSACE LORRAINE, and came to New York, where he lived a short time. While there he married FRANCES FISCHER from PRAGUE. They went to Cheyenne, Wyoming and lived there for a few years. While they were living there, there was a fire and most of the city

burned. There were two bad fires in January and September in the year 1870. ACHILL BAER lost most of his possessions from the fire. They then moved to Ashland, Wisconsin and lived there for a few years. CHARLES BAER was born to them in the year 1871 or 1872. He was their third child. They then moved to Denver, Colorado around the year 1873 or 1874 and lived there until death. They had nine children. JACOB BAER the father of MAX BAER, was born in Denver.

CHARLES A. BAER, the son of CHARLES BAER, gave us this information and he will give you any more information he may remember. You may write to him at his address in Colorado (enclosed).

We are enclosing the names and addresses of the BAER family and some newspaper articles on MAX BAER, the fighter.

Please enclose some international coupons.

Sincerely,

Lola Olsen, for the GPEG

"In January 1983 a 3rd request for information is received and the research is taken on by Arleen Fairchild. Our correspondent from Germany says the BAER information we sent is not related to his family and would we please try to find the descendants of Johann and Georg BAER. The descendants of a Georg SEIDEL, who emigrated with his son Johann Nicol SEIDEL, and Johann Adam SEIDEL, who emigrated with his son Georg Bernhard SEIDEL, is also requested. The SEIDEL families emigrated in 1847/1848. In the same period he would like data on the descendants of Andreas ZEH and his children: Johannes, Andreas, Joh. Wolfgang, Joh. Heinrich, and Kasper, and of a Johann WOLF b. 12-31-1825. He would also like descendants of the surname GEIPEL.

"Well, as you can see, Arleen has quite a task. She has found the name ZEH in the 1850 census in Ohio and Illinois. Lorain, Monroe and Hamilton counties in Ohio and Philadelphia, Monroe and Schuylkill counties in Pennsylvania. In searching the 1860 census in Ohio she now finds the surname ZEH and the surname BAER together in Ohio counties. She copied the page from the Cincinnati 1981 phone book with all the BAERs.

"Arleen has even gone into the 1850 census in Pennsylvania and found the ZEH family in Schuylkill County. Already a great deal of progress has been made. I think we can check a few more 1850 census indexes for Andreas ZEH and maybe the 1880 Soundex in a few states for the BAER brothers.

"Arleen has even found 1 ZEH in the local Los Angeles phone book. This ZEH may turn out to be the link we're looking for.

Immigrant Genealogical Society
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"We thought we'd show you a sample of the kind of response we try to give our German friends across the ocean."

...And so I've endeavored to show how research was conducted by your Society some thirty years ago -- before computers and the internet -- and how the IGS has a long tradition of researching specific genealogical problems. And, we still do it! Our book collection contains many volumes you won't find in the libraries you use, or on the internet (which, after all, doesn't have everything digitized -- even though that's clearly the wave of the future). Please contact your Society if YOU have a "brick wall" issue that you just can't seem to resolve.... --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__120810.html>

German Canoeing and Kayaking Teams Score Double Gold

The German duo of Peter Kretschmer and Kurt Kuschela won the C2 men's canoe event, while the competition could not best the showing of Germans Franziska Weber and Tina Dietze in the women's K2 kayaking event.

Gold on the Water: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/08/09KayakCanoeGold.html>

Bronze Knut Statue Destined for Berlin Zoo

A Nuremberg artist has cast the world famous polar bear in bronze for the Berlin zoo. The statue of a "dreaming and reflecting" Knut is to be delivered this month.

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
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Knut Statue: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2012/08/07Knut-Statue.html>

The Legacy of Hermann Hesse, 50 Years Later
Fifty years after his death on August 9, 1962, interest in the German-Swiss author Hermann Hesse, winner of the 1946 Literature Nobel Prize, remains high. What is it that makes the writer of "Siddhartha" and "Steppenwolf" so popular around the world?

Hermann Hesse: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/08__Culture__Sports__Events/05/07/HermannHesse.html>