

## December 12, 2010-Holiday Pot-Luck

Non-Profit 25 Year Anniversary

Bring an entrée, salad or sides such as pickles, olives or bread etc. All paper goods, utensils, drinks and dessert will be provided.

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m.

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

### JOINT IGS-PSIG MEETING

January 9, 2011

Origin of our Baltic Coast Ancestors- Gene Maas

**Gene Maas** is a retired Plant Scientist. His Ph D was earned at Oregon State University in 1966 after a BS from Jamestown ND, and his MS from the University of Arizona.

He started his Pommern genealogy in 1987 in church records traveling there and to Germany four times. The research has been very successful and taking the quest back to 1540 he feels that it has been beyond his expectations.

**More information about DNA**—seems it is everywhere in newspapers and magazines these days. The newest twist I was reading about is testing to see what ailments could be the cause of a person's death. An article in *Women's Health* by Gretchen Voss talked about the results of her test done by "23andMe, a California-based personal genetics company." The company sells their kits online. Gretchen revealed some fairly personal things that were sent to her from her test. The test seemed a little pricey to me, but I may think of getting it done if I ever hit the lottery—oh, yeah, ya gotta buy a ticket don't you? The thing that would make me do it is the fact that I have already had cancer. Lurking in the back of my mind is the fear that someday it could happen again in a different form. "Liz Kearney, president of the National Society of Genetic Counselors" says "It's information some experts believe the average person might not be able to contextualize or be emotionally prepared to handle. There are lot of repercussions to finding out, adds Sofia Merajver,

M.D., Ph.D., director of the breast and ovarian cancer risk and evaluation program at the University of Michigan. "These results are potentially harmful if not interpreted by a genetic counselor" Merajver says. Raju Kucherlapati, Ph.D., a member of the Presidential Commission for the Study of Bioethical Issues, argues, "I think these companies are providing a great service. If you know you might be susceptible to an illness, you might really change your lifestyle". Or, like me, you might be married to someone with multiple health issues who, along with their doctor, help to stay well there. *Women's Health*, October 2010. <WomensHealthMag.com>

## KALENDER

<u>December</u>		
12	POT-LUCK	1PM
	General Meeting/Program	2PM
14		Mailing
25-31	CLOSED	Christmas
<u>January</u>		
9	PSIG/General Meeting/Program	
	2PM WORKSHOP	
18		Mailing
26	Board of Directors	7PM

**This is just a wonderful story** that has nothing to do with genealogy, unless you consider that this child may live to become a mother, and pass on her genes to her children. “A 15-month-old baby girl survived a fall from a seventh-floor window in Paris when she bounced off a café awning and landed in the arms of an alert passer-by.” THE WEEK November 12, 2010

**Here’s some news from Germany that doesn’t sound good.** “The fat years are over,” said Winand von Petersdorff in Germany’s *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. It seems we are not alone with financial troubles. “The financial crisis has hit Europe so hard that by the end of this year, the collective debt of EU countries will equal their combined gross domestic product. Even Germany, ‘which by some miracle has so far been blessed,’ is projected to amass as much debt next year as struggling Spain has now. Elsewhere, the situation is equally bleak. The last time the continent was this debt-ridden was after WWII. This time around, the debt will be shouldered by ‘aging, tired societies.’ So it seems the only solution is massive cuts in government spending.” Von Petersdorff added, “Austerity is the word of the day.” It is said that Germany will be cutting 15,000 government jobs “by not replacing retiring bureaucrats. THE WEEK November 12, 2010

**Here’s news to use!** “The Family History Library has put some instructional videos online” and here are some that may be just what “The Genealogist Ordered”. Okay, that’s kind of corny! Germany Research- New! U.S. Research-New! Ireland Research New! Research Principles and Tools – New!” The following are not new but still may be something you need. Russia Research, Italy Research, England Beginning Research, Principios básicos para la investigación genealógica en Hispanoamerica (Mexico). *Family Tree*, Montgomery County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Vol. 30, Issue 4

**Good News is Just Around the Corner!** “The 1940 Census will be released digitally on April 2, 2012.” Yeah, I know, it’s not eminent, but it’s soon. The digital images will be accessible at NARA facilities nationwide through our public access computers, as well as, on personal computers via the Internet.” You may know that there is “a statutory 72-year restriction on access for privacy reasons (92 Stat. 914; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978)”. But if you should “need information about yourself or a deceased person from the 1940, or later, censuses for legal or other purposed, fill out Form BCC-600 from the Bureau of the Census Age Search Service or write to: U.S. Census Bureau, National Processing Center, 1201 East 10th St., Jeffersonville, IN 47132.” I worked for the Bureau of the Census for three years and never knew this! *Family Tree*, Montgomery County Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Vol. 30, Issue 4

**As usual, I haven’t a clue when it comes to computers, but this sounds good!** “For a really good German ancestry genealogy search, try searching <<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/default.asp>> Click ‘Family Search Pilot’ from the drop-down list under ‘Search Records’ to find German relatives.” Remember that the information you have about an ancestor can be wrong, so “Keep trying different name combinations and birth dates....As you know, many (that may be carrying it a bit far, Ed.) of our ancestors changed their name spellings a bit, or a lot...The numbers on the microfilm rolls can be ordered and viewed by going to your local Family History Center. German Genealogy Group, *Der Ahnenforscher*, November 2010, Issue 146

**Here’s something that I think we all would enjoy!** Two videos on You Tube, each just a little over five minutes long, will be very interesting. Part 1, shows “the creation of the vaults in Granite Mountain and gives you a tour of the microfilm storage facility...where the millions of rolls of microfilm are stored” by the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Go to: <<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwpyERKWVK8>> Part 2, “shows you the conversion project of microfilm to digital images <[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFKUo37R\\_DQ&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZFKUo37R_DQ&feature=related)> “Many of these digital images are already available on your computer at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) German Genealogy Group, *Der Ahnenforscher*, November 2010, Issue 146

**Did you watch the** the family history and genealogy television series on PBS? If you did, you may be interested in this website. It covers “topics that will get you started on immigration, military, vital records, probate” and more. Go to: <<http://www.byub.org/ancestors/>> German Genealogy Group, *Der Ahnenforscher*, November 2010, Issue 146

**You may have already used some of the following websites**, but some may be new to you. If you are looking for someone who is living, not an ancestor, try: <http://www.phonebookoftheworld.com/germany/white-pages.asp> Here are some more: <<http://www.whitepages.com/>> <<http://www.peopledate.com>> <<http://www.peoplefinders.com/>> <<http://ssdi.rootsweb.ancestry.com/>> German Genealogy Group, *Der Ahnenforscher*, November, 2010, Issue 146

**A new book from Touchstone Books**, a Division of Simon & Schuster, is, SHAKING THE FAMILY TREE, Blue Bloods, Black Sheep, and Other Obsessions of an Accidental Genealogist by author Buzzy Jackson. Buzzy is a female and the book is a good read, interesting, entertaining, and informative. Here is a quote from Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, that kinda tells it all! “It’s as if Tony Horwitz or Sarah Vowell invaded the hallowed halls of genealogy and exposed our past-adoring, source-citing, ancestor-worshipping underworld.” One of her tips is dear to us at IGS: “Ask for help....by joining a local genealogical society (believe me, there’s one near you), you’ll end up meeting a lot of other people with similar interests and helpful strategies. One of the hallmarks of genealogy is the

sense of mutual support. Genealogists live to share information—and they may need your help, too!” The ISBN # is 978-1-4391-1299-1.

**I Need Your Help!** I have a campaign to “Stamp Out the Use of AT, At the End of Sentences”, such as, “Where’s It At”. If I don’t accomplish anything else in this lifetime, I want to know I did my bit to let Everyone Know all they need to say is, “Where Is It.” Thank you for your help! Ed.

**If you have ever heard Steve Morse** speak as I did at the Jamboree in Burbank in 2009, you know this man “knows his stuff!” Here is an explanation of what his website can do for you. “Steve Morse’s One-Step Webpages—<[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)> “Steve Morse’s site allows the researcher more flexibility by adding more fields and options to the standard searches. The site has links to many databases, but perhaps where it really shines is in its ability to search immigration records.” *INTERNET Genealogy* – June/July 2010

**Just an observation**—Everyone has lived in Chicago sometime! My husband can say, anywhere we are, that he is from Chicago, and someone will say they are from there, too! Outrageous! Ed.

**Posted: 11/11/2010 05:42:09 AM PST**

RICHMOND, Va.—What’s black and white and read all over? Not the white pages, which is why regulators have begun granting telecommunications companies the go-ahead to stop mass-printing residential phone books. In the past month alone, New York, Florida and Pennsylvania approved Verizon Communications Inc.’s request to quit distributing residential white pages. Residents in Virginia have until Nov. 19 to provide comments on a similar request pending with state regulators. Telephone companies argue that most consumers now check the Internet rather than flip through pages. Phone companies note that eliminating residential white pages would reduce environmental impact by using less paper and ink. It also can’t hurt their bottom lines to cut out the cost of a service that rarely gets used and generates little beyond nostalgia. The first telephone directory was issued in February 1878—a single page that covered 50 customers in New Haven, Conn. That sheet grew into a book that became virtually a household appliance, listing numbers for neighbors, friends and colleagues, not to mention countless potential victims of prank calls. Fewer people rely on paper directories for a variety of reasons: more people rely solely on cell phones, whose numbers typically aren’t included in the listings; more listings are available online; and mobile phones and caller ID systems on land lines can store a large number of frequently called numbers. The number of traditional land lines has been declining for the better part of the decade, and now are being disconnected at a rate

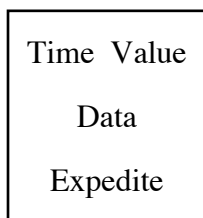
of nearly 10 percent each year, according to company financial reports. New York City’s phone book weighs in at around 3 pounds, 9 ounces, or a little more than a dozen iPhones. While New York and other cities still have stand-alone white pages, many of the thousands of phone directories across the country include residential white pages, yellow business listings and blue government pages. Verizon and AT&T Inc. and others have requested exemptions from state requirements to distribute residential phone books in paper form. The directories would be available on the Internet, printed upon request or provided on CD. Since 2007, states that have granted permission to quit printing residential listings or that have requests pending include: Alabama, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin. New York-based Verizon’s plan is to seek regulatory approval in all 12 states where it operates land line telephone service. In total, the savings could top 17,000 tons of paper annually throughout Verizon’s service areas, the company said. Regulators in New York approved Verizon’s request Oct. 14. There, the company estimates it will save about 3,575 tons of paper per year and conserve the energy associated with printing, binding and distributing the directories. The company’s August request with Virginia regulators is estimated to save about 1,640 tons of paper annually. Verizon plans to continue to deliver directories that contain business and governmental listings along with the consumer guide information provided in white pages directories, but the residential listings would only be available by request. According to filings with state regulators, AT&T said in places where it has been permitted to provide the white pages on demand, only about 2 percent of customers have requested a copy. “If the white pages are nearing their end, then Emily Goodmann hopes the directories would be archived for historical, genealogical or sociological purposes. “The telephone directory stands as the original sort of information network” said Goodmann, a doctoral student at Northwestern University who is writing her dissertation on the history of phone books as information technology. “It’s sort of heartbreaking ... even though these books are essentially made to be destroyed.” Associated Press writers Samantha Gross and Peter Svensson in New York contributed to this report.

**Our General Meeting** yesterday brought many old friends from out of town. Past-President Barbara Freshwater and her friend of many years, Pat Marcy came from Northern California near Eureka. Erv Thuerk, a past Board Member and his beautiful wife, Shirley, came from near Bakersfield, CA. It is always wonderful to get to talk with people we shared pleasant times. Elyse Coerflinger, our Speaker, imparted some valuable ideas about Organizing Records, impressing on us that it is vital! Elyse also told us that her mother had died in February, so very sad as Elyse is so young. Ed.

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## The Week in Germany 12.11.2010

Click here to view the Newsletter online  
<[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/  
The\\_Week\\_in\\_Germany/TWIG\\_\\_101112,  
variant=issue.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG__101112,variant=issue.html)>

**The date November 9** is often referred to as a fateful 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/09\\_\\_Press\\_\\_InFocus\\_\\_Interviews/  
03\\_\\_Infocus/10\\_\\_9November/9November\\_\\_US.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/09__Press__InFocus__Interviews/03__Infocus/10__9November/9November__US.html)>

**Lost Sculptures Ridiculed by Nazis** Re-Discovered in Eleven sculptures mocked as “degenerate” by the Nazis have been rediscovered in a hole in the ground in the heart of Berlin, Mayor Klaus Wowereit said on November 8. Art in Germany: <[http://www.germany.info/  
Vertretung/usa/en/\\_\\_pr/GIC/2010/11/11\\_\\_Sculptures  
\\_\\_DPA\\_\\_PM.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/2010/11/11__Sculptures__DPA__PM.html)>

**Historians Share Work on “The Office and the Past”** at Ambassador’s Residence. The Independent Commission of Historians that researched the role of the Foreign Office in the Third Reich and after presented their work for the first time abroad at a panel discussion hosted by Ambassador Scharioth in Washington, DC. Historians Share Work: <[http://www.germany.info/  
Vertretung/usa/en/\\_\\_pr/P\\_\\_Wash/2010/11/12\\_\\_Historians\\_\\_  
Forum\\_\\_PR.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2010/11/12__Historians__Forum__PR.html)>

**Young Journalists Experience Germany.** Ten graduates from five of the best journalism schools in the United States share their experience discovering Germany for a week, on a trip organized by the German

### 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.  
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Foreign Office and the Goethe Institut. Young Journalists in Germany: <[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/  
09\\_\\_Press\\_\\_InFocus\\_\\_Interviews/01/03\\_\\_Trips/  
\\_\\_Journalist\\_\\_Trips\\_\\_PA.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/09__Press__InFocus__Interviews/01/03__Trips/__Journalist__Trips__PA.html)>

**Germany’s First Eco-Friendly Taxis in Hamburg.** The northern German port city of Hamburg has introduced a new environmentally-friendly way to get around - a fleet of “Eco Taxis” that run on hybrid electric or natural gas motors. Eco-Friendly Taxis: <[http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/  
usa/en/\\_\\_pr/GIC/2010/11/08\\_\\_HamburgEmissions\\_\\_PM.html](http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GIC/2010/11/08__HamburgEmissions__PM.html)>