



**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 279

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369

June 2007

TIME: Sunday, June 3, 2007 10:00 AM Cleaning the Library Bring sack lunch and help.
Lots of dust bunnies lurking among our books need removal. Sweepers with dusting brushes would help.

TIME: Sunday, June 3, 2007 2:00 pm Library Open, **12:00 to 5:00 pm**

New Sources and Prospects at the LARFHC

SPEAKER: Liz Austin Carlin, LARFHC Librarian, member Austin Soc. of America, DAR.

Liz is a regular volunteer at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center here in Los Angeles and knows its collection well. She'll explain some of the more recent acquisitions, and explain how they can help open doors for your research. With a life-long interest in genealogy, she may be able to suggest research materials that you did not know were available. She can also explain plans for expansion of the Library on Santa Monica Blvd., for which planning is underway.

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

NEWSLETTERS BY E-MAIL

President Ron Grider sent copies of the May *Newsletter* without warning to many members for whom he had e-mail addresses. He got back a sizeable number of responses, mostly very enthusiastic. Only a couple of persons did not have the software to read the pdf files. Once we are sure the pdf files are getting through successfully, we will discontinue mailed copies to those members, except for the two annual periodicals.

If you wish to try the online delivery, contact Ron Grider at <RONSWINDOW@aol.com> with your e-mail url to use to send you the file. We'll need a minimum of 200 non-e-mail copies to qualify for bulk mailing.

400th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

The April 26, 2007 just past was the four hundredth year anniversary of the first landing of a permanent colony of Englishmen on the North American continent. YES, the English colonists went ashore at Cape Henry, Virginia, to establish the first permanent English colony in the Western hemisphere in 1607. They later moved to Jamestown as their permanent place of residence.

Jamestown was not a healthful place to live. It was marshy, mosquito ridden, and without a clean water supply. Nearly three-fourths of the persons who emigrated between 1607 and 1624 died from disease or starvation. The fact that many immigrants were expecting to find gold, may have mis-directed their efforts.

The May 2007 issue of *National Geographic* gives a quite detailed and realistic account of the Jamestown settlement and its many problems and deaths.

FREE ON ANCESTRY

The website mentioned in the last *Newsletter* called "Free On Ancestry" in which they identified the programs that were available without paying the fee to use the Ancestry databases, apparently was cancelled. Seems

that they failed to get permission from Ancestry to establish the site and Ancestry considered it a hindrance to their business interests.

If you can work steadily on your genealogy, it would be worth the annual fee to join Ancestry. They have the databases of many basic records needed by genealogists. They have done considerable indexing to make those records really useable.

OUR JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

You will notice that our June Monthly Meeting is on the **first** Sunday of the month, instead of the second Sunday, which is our usual date. The shift to the first Sunday in June was due to the desire to make it possible for local genealogists to attend the Genealogical Jamboree, presented by Southern California Genealogical Society on June 8-10 this year. It is the largest and most comprehensive of genealogical events in this area, so attend if it is possible for you.

We'll return to Second Sundays for our meetings in July, and for the remainder of the year.

Our Library will be open on June 10, in case persons attending the Jamboree wish to also take advantage of our IGS collection of German records, while they are in this area from out-of-town.

KALENDER

May 20	May Monthly Meeting
May 23	Board of Directors' Meeting
May 26, 27	LIBRARY CLOSED, MEM'L DAY
June 3	Monthly Meeting
June 8-10	SCGS Jamboree
June 10	July Newsletter Mailed
June 27	Board of Directors' Meeting

WERE YOUR ANCESTORS SAXONS ???

The *Newsletter* of the American/Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Society has been running a series of articles about the cultural background of ancestors living in the north-western areas of Europe. Their March/April 2007 issue explains the meaning of "Saxon" heritage. Over the centuries there were so many different ways to describe groups of people that it is difficult to bridge the gap to the political entities that exist today.

The author says that the two previous issues covered "Viking" heritage. The issue for March/April '07 covers the "Saxon" heritage, May/June issue will cover "Frisian heritage" and Sept/Oct. will cover "Danish heritage."

If you have ancestors from those areas, you might like to look at those issues in our Library, or subscribe to the publication for yourself.

DIGITIZING NARA HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

In January this year the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) placed online the beginning 4.5 million pages of information digitized from their records. They are doing this with the cooperation of a company called Footnote, Inc., formerly known as "iArchives, Inc."

The types of records on the present site are Naturalizations from 1792-1966 for NY, PA, MA, PA Archives 1625-1880, Continental Congress papers, Civil War Pensions, Pictures of the Civil War, Southern Claims Commission, etc. More records will be added regularly.

The database can be found at <www.footnote.com/nara>. There seems to be a 5 yr. subscription required. (*WAGS Newsletter*, Apr. '07, and So. Bay Cities G.S. *Newsletter*, Mar./Apr. '07)

WORLD VITAL RECORDS ONLINE

The website WorldVitalRecords.com recently added 100 new databases to their website. Many of these records come from books located in Everton's Library which have now been scanned. They include data from Canada, England, Germany, Switzerland and the U.S. This collection of records includes all copies of the *Genealogical Helper*, which are now being indexed.

This website will be a huge collection of solid genealogical information to visit repeatedly as it grows.

(*WAGS Newsletter*, Apr. '07)

BRIDGE TO LINK DENMARK--HAMBURG

Danish planners are discussing building a bridge from Fehmarn to the island of Lolland. This one link is all that is missing from having a roadway via bridges from Copenhagen to Hamburg.

Presently, ferries bridge this section with roll-on and roll-off facilities, which depart every 30 minutes. The trip by ferry takes 45 minutes. A bridge would eliminate this disruption.

Being planned is a two-deck bridge--one deck for road traffic and the second for trains. Such a bridge would cost about \$7.2 billion, and take 7 years to build.

Denmark opened the Oresund Bridge linking Copenhagen to Sweden in the year 2000.

(*ASHHS Newsletter*, 19:2)

OMAHA'S GERMAN POPULATION

In 1900 there were about 62 organizations of German descendants in Omaha, NE. By 1940 those had declined considerably. After the end of World War II in 1945

there was another massive influx of Germans into the Omaha area.

In 1950 the various German societies decided it would be practical to combine into only one organization--The German-American Society of Omaha. In 1966 there were only 4 small German clubs outside of the Society in Omaha. By 1969 the various groups combined their assets and built one new building for all their activities at the edge of the city.

Today, the German-American Society has 1,400 members, 9 sub-organizations, 9 activities and a German-American Heritage Museum of Omaha. In the year 2007 they are hosting the Platt Deutsche Conference, named after the version of German many immigrants spoke--Low German, from the northern areas of Germany along the low-lying Baltic Sea coast.

(*ASHHS Newsletter*, 19:2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 8,9--Concordia, KS, National Orphan Train Celebration, e-mail: <othsa@msn.com>

June 8-10--So. CA Genealogical Society, 38th Annual Jamboree. <<http://www.scgsgenealogy.com>>

June 10-17--Am. Historical Society of Germans from Russia, Hayes, KS, <www.10/gagman.net/convention/2007/>

June 24--Pommerntag, Pommerscher Verein Freistadt, Mequon City Park, WI. <pommern@execpc.com>

June 24--Midsummer Festival, Swedish-Am. Central Asso., 9-6. Call Kristine Hofve, 310-782-7786

July 12-14--SLC FHLibrary, Feeffhs 13th Annual Conference, <<http://www.feeffhs.org>>

July 13-16--Platt Conf., Am. Schleswig-Holstein Heritage Soc., Omaha, NE. <m-olk@msn.com>

July 14--German Interest Group-Wisconsin, Univ. WI-Whitewater, <rootsweb.com/~wigig/index.html>

July 19-22--Germans from Russia Heritage Soc. Bismark, ND. <<http://www.grhs.com/>>

Aug. 11--Seminar by Polish Genea. Soc. of CA. Polish Research. <<http://miplonia.net>> (Ceil Jensen)

Aug. 15-18--FGS Nat'l Conference, Ft. Wayne, IN, - "Crossroads of America"--<<http://www.fgs.org>>

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

Because the network of Family History Libraries is losing the use of Ancestry.com from all its branches, they are now planning to make the 1900 and 1850 censuses available on their own website.

These 2 census records are the most important for beginning researchers. The LDS is hoping to be able to provide more accurate indexes to these censuses. Their on-line version will be correctable, so persons who find their family name misspelled or misread in the index can have it corrected immediately. By having the indexes on the Familysearch website, genealogists can access them from their home computer. Won't that save time for everyone! (Arlene Eakle, Apr.24, '07)

TERRESTRA FAMILY HERITAGE VACATIONS

Our Research Chair, Lura Perkins, took a vacation recently to Hawaii. There she encountered a company headed by Thomas Friese named "Terrestra Family Heritage Vacations." It offers customized tours to all German areas for persons of German ancestry.

This company will actually do research for you in

advance to prepare for a trip, as well as make necessary travel arrangements. It has a list of "German Genealogy Resources," where it intends to list our Society.

Examine this agency's site: <http://www.terrestra-tours.com/roots_research_germany.html#Regionallyspecificgroupsandresources>.

TWO FREE GENEALOGY MAGAZINES ONLINE

You may go online to read or download copies of two different genealogical magazines:

<www.internet-genealogy.com> *Internet Genealogy*

<www.familychronicle.com> *Family Chronicle*.

(*NGS News Magazine*, Jan-Mar. '97)

NEW YORK LANDINGS

Immigrants arriving at the port of New York City landed at different places at different times. Perhaps the following list will help you identify where to look for N.Y records.

Before 1855 people got off at whatever wharf the ship docked. There was no processing center. Beginning in 1820 persons were recorded on passenger lists.

Before Aug. 1855 immigrants arrived at wharves.

Aug. 1, 1885--Apr. 18, 1890 arrived at Castle Garden.

Apr. 19, 1890--Dec. 31, 1891 arrived at Barge Office.

Jan. 1, 1892 --June 13, 1897 arrived at Ellis Island.

June 14, 1897--Dec. 16, 1900 arrived at Barge Office.

Dec. 17, 1900--1924 they arrived at Ellis Island.

(German Genealogy Group, Feb. '06)

SURNAME AND PLACES DATABASES

A website called "Cinnamon Toast Genealogy" may be a place for exploring a random mention of one of your surnames or place names. It is a very large search engine, and might include a database you have not yet tried. Goto <<http://www.cinnamontoast.net/>>

(Napa Valley GBS *Winepress*, Apr. '07)

FIRST THANKSGIVING IN NORTH AMERICA?

Was the Thanksgiving celebration of the Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts the First Thanksgiving celebration in North America? Not if you know your history.

On April 30, 1598 a group of settlers led by Spanish nobleman, Don Juan de Onate, had a thanksgiving service in what became the southwestern United States. The group had traveled north from Zacatecas, Mexico, and reached the Rio Grande River. It was comprised of 400 persons including soldiers, families, servants, livestock, most of whom were from Spain, Portugal, the Canary Islands, one from Greece and one from Flanders. The remainder were Mexican Indians and persons of mixed blood. They were about 25 miles south of El Paso, Texas. You may read an account of their journey online: <<http://www.nmgs.org/art1stThanks.htm>>

(*Eastman Newsletter*, Nov. '06)

EARLY AMERICAN SETTLEMENTS

We often think of Jamestown or the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts as the first immigrants to the Americas. This is not true.

Most of you recall just a few years ago, 1991 to be exact, when the body of the Kennewick man was uncovered on the bank of the Kennewick River in Washington state. The man has now been identified as Caucasian, and dated by two different systems, to be 9,000 year old.

That means he was born about 7,000 B.C!

For some reason, archeologists and anthropologists in the past have steadfastly ignored there were any persons living in the Americas, or visiting them, prior to the Indians. Even for the Indians they had no estimate of when they arrived and settled in America.

Systems for dating artifacts have developed now to the point that many facts of past history are becoming undisputable. Here are some of more recent finds.

Early 1300's and following: Vikings driven out of Greenland by colder weather--to Minnesota, Arkansas, Montana, and British Columbia, where their Runic writings have been found.

In 1559: Tristan de Luna y Arellano led a group to Pensacola Bay, Florida. Lasted only 2 years.

1565: Pedro Menendez de Aviles, settled in St. Augustine, Florida.

1590: Spanish in western tip of TX and N. Mexico.

1604: Samuel de Champlain, Acadian settlement on Isle of St. Croix, near Calais, Maine.

1604: Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon were colonized by France, on tiny islands south of Newfoundland, Canada and still owned by France.

1607: English settled Jamestown, VA

1608: Samuel de Champlain established Quebec City.

(*Eastman Newsletter*, Nov. '06)

PATRONYMIC NAMING PATTERNS

Before the adoption of Surnames, the naming system was called the Patronymic Naming Pattern. This was simply because the children born to a family were given a personal name, usually made official at baptism, followed by the father's given name with either "son" or "daughter" attached. For example: John's children were called "Johnson" or "Johnstochter." Ole's children were called "Olesohn" or "Olestochter."

The patronymic naming pattern was adopted at different times in different areas. If the population was quite small and scattered, there was no need for a surname. As an area grew in population, there became too many "John"s to tell to whom a speaker was referring, so he would need to be identified by the addition of whose son he was, or on which farm he lived.

My husband's father emigrated from Norway in 1903. Because he came from a sparsely populated area of Norway, he was still known by his patronymic name-- Peder Lorentzen. He married and emigrated to the U.S., leaving his wife to live with her family until he could get established in the U. S. On the trip to the U.S. on the ship, he started thinking about what surname he would use in the U.S. On the inside of the lid of the hand-made wooden box he brought with him to hold his papers, etc., he wrote several possible surnames. His final choice was the name of the place where he was born--Nepsund (Nep Sound).

Other relatives who emigrated from the same area adopted the Nepsund surname, or the name of their farm (Wika) where the wife's family had lived, when they emigrated to the U.S.

JULY MONTHLY MEETING

This meeting, July 8, 2007, will be a joint meeting with the IGS Pommern Special Interest Group. The speaker will be Marilyn Markham Deatherage, IGS

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Board member and European traveler. Her topic will be: "Eastern Europe, After the Communists."

During a 26 day trip to Eastern Europe this past year Marilyn encountered very different ideas and attitudes. Communism has left its mark on the people of these areas after "soft" and "hard" revolutions. Petitioning for former property will be illustrated by the story of her cousin's family. There's nothing more helpful to researchers than personal observations and reports.

THE WEEK IN GERMANY

May 12 will see the first EU Open House in Washington, D.C. when 27 EU member embassies open their doors to the public. --- Germany intends to triple the number of openings for daycare so more mothers can work. -- Deutsche Welle has increased its broadcasts in Arabic from 3 to 8 hours. -- German researchers use experiments with mice to help understand how to treat human genetic problems. -- Underground bunkers and tunnels beneath Berlin are becoming tourist attractions. -- A new Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany will coordinate four Islamic groups representing ca 3.2 to 3.5 million Muslims in Germany. About 1.8 million of these are third or fourth generation Turks. -- CA governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and 10 officials visited Germany to share ideas for reducing greenhouse gases. An EU wide emissions trading system has been in place since 2005, based on California's "cap and trade" system, initiated in 1990. -- The German Historical Museum in Berlin has an exhibit of what everyday life was like in former Communist East Germany. -- A boxy plastic kiosk known as a K67, used in East Germany to house news-stands, parking attendants, chip fryers, and lottery ticket sales, has been resurrected for a Documenta 12 art event in Weimar this summer. -- Tickets for Euro 2008 Sports Championship events will be distributed by lottery. There were 30 times more requests than seats available. Early next year 399,000 tickets will be sold by 16 teams. -- After several years of cost, wage, and job cutting, Germany is again the world's leading export nation and soon budget deficits will be wiped out. -- East Germany has become the world's leader in use of solar energy. -- A 10th Anni-

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Immigrant Library Hours
Wednesdays . . . 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Saturdays 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
Sundays 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Closed for major holidays.

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versary Chemical Weapons Convention was held in Berlin, to assess progress of disarmament and non-proliferation efforts. A review will be held in The Hague in April 2008. Germany has been helping Russia with funds to meet their target. -- The EU summit in March set a goal of 20% of energy from renewables and a 20% increase in energy efficiency. -- Germany's fuels are now 4% from biofuels--top of the list. Clean diesel, spark-ignition technologies, hydrogen fuels and fuel-cell technology are being developed. -- The 6% of electricity generated by wind will increase to 20% by 2020. (TWIG Apr. 13,20,27, '07)