Family Errors Corrected by Using Records at the IGS and in Salt Lake City

TIME: Sunday, August 12, 2007  2:00 pm  Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

SPEAKER: Linda Stone:  Past President of IGS and current Board Member

Linda will speak about the perils of believing information received from relatives. A letter about the place of origin of great-great-grandparents from a daughter in a 60th anniversary letter did not match with the census info regarding the place of origin in Germany! Even a trip to Germany failed to confirm either place of origin! The obituary and death certificate of a great-grandfather did the same thing. Even a trip to Germany did not produce the truth.

But—Research in IGS Library and the LDS Library in Salt Lake City uncovered the “truth”! Learn how Linda did it!

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

TERJUNG PEDIGREE

We recently received from the Genealogical Society of Utah a set of original family records of the Terjung family for 6-7 generations backward. After the Society had completed filming them for preservation, they offered the originals to Immigrant Genealogical Society, since the GS of Utah did not wish to store the originals.

These papers are the result of a legal suit in 1906 regarding an inheritance dispute handled in Hannover, Germany. Some documents are of course in Old Gothic Script. There are also 2 pages of typed charts of the ancestry of Emma Terjung, born 1893 in Dusseldorf, tracing ancestors back into the 1600s.

The Terjung Family in the later generations is identified as from Mülheim, Ruhr. The charts are so crowded that in the earlier generations only the names are included—no dates and few places.

Members are welcome to come to our Library to view these priceless documents during hours when the Library is open. We will attempt to list the inter-related families in earlier generations in an article in the Fall periodical for your information.

What appears to be the original handwritten charts, from which the typed copies were made, are also included on an 18” high roll of pages pasted together and rolled carefully. These pages are very old and fragile, and the leading edges are very tattered. They do not seem to be like our current types of paper.

TWO EARLY GERMAN SETTLEMENTS

Even before our U.S. government was first established, a group of German-speaking colonists who had first settled in Bethlehem, PA, decided to move farther south in 1766. They went to what is now Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Most of these colonists were Moravians.

In 1837 a German Settlement Society of Philadelphia was formed. They decided to establish a new settlement in what is now Gasconade County, Missouri. They called their town “Hermann,” in honor of the German hero, Hermann, who defeated three Roman Legions in 9 A.D. True to their German ancestry, they planted vineyards and still today are producing outstanding wines.

One of our long-time members, Marlene Nolte, grew up in Hermann, Missouri, and returns to visit there often.

IMMIGRANTS FROM 1830 TO 1892

Have you checked the passenger lists for your arriving immigrant at Ellis Island without success? Not all immigrants arrived at Ellis Island! It did not open until 1892.

If your immigrants came between 1830 and 1892, they would have arrived at Castle Garden—not Ellis Island. You can check the passenger/immigrant arrival lists for Castle Garden online for free at—the website!

There are about 10 million immigration records on this site now.

There are 2 million more records on ship manifests from 1820 to 1830 remaining to be digitized and added to this database.

(Der Ahnenforscher, Feb. ’06)
GERMAN EMIGRATION LIST INDEXES

How are Emigration Lists different from Immigration Lists? These are lists of persons DEPARTING Germany! Some of these lists are free, and some are marked, “Requires Payment.” It may be possible that some lists will tell the place of birth or residence before emigrating, and names of spouses and children of the head-of-household. Go to: <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/emigration.html>

(Der Ahnenforscher, Fe b. ’06)

FREDERICK COUNTY, VIRGINIA

If you are researching the source of someone who settled from 1725 to 1744 in Frederick Co., VA, keep in mind that nearly 85% of the early settlers of Frederick Co. came from William Penn’s area in Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and northern Maryland. The old standard publication, “Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia” by Cecil O’Dell is still the best source of records for that area. (Arlene Eakle, May 11, 2007)

IMPORTANT DATES IN POMMERANIA

If you have Pommeranian ancestors, you may wish to look at the publications of the Pommerscher Verein Freistadt in Mequon, Wisconsin. Their periodical has been publishing segments of a calendar of important dates in the history of Pommerania. It will give you a very helpful list of what was going on at the time your ancestor lived or emigrated from Pommern. The Sept. ’06 issue covered 1199 A.D. to 1472 A.D.

PALATINE RESOURCES

One of the most confusing problems in German research is the ever changing boundaries. This is important because the shifting political rulers and boundaries might cause the records to be archived in different places. This is particularly true in the Palatinate—or Pfalz.

There was an excellent article about “19th Century Palatine Resources” published in the Germanic Genealogical Journal, Summer 2006, periodical of the German special interest group of Minnesota Genealogical Society.

GERMAN OCCUPATIONS & ILLNESSES

There is an online website which provided an English translation of various occupations, professions, illnesses and causes of death that you may encounter in your search of German records. It is free, and located at the url—<http://worldroots.com/brigitte/occupat.htm>

(Der Ahnenforscher, Feb r. ’06)

FAMILY HISTORY CLASS ONLINE

If you or a friend needs information about doing certain types of genealogical research, you might like to check online at a website that presents Genealogy and Family History classes. There are printed materials, powerpoint presentations, and web links.

Go to: <http://www.bobcatsworld.com/genclass/>

HELP IN LEARNING TO USE THE INTERNET

If you need help learning to use the Internet for doing your genealogical research, you might like to use ---<www.learnwebskills.com/family/module1.html>.

There are step-by-step instructions to get you started. For persons more familiar with the web, there are also some useful forms on this site you might wish to copy. The steps given are very easy to follow.

(CA Genealogical Soc., CGS News, 38:3)

AN ONLINE LIBRARY

Google Books is a website where hundreds of thousands of books are posted online. Those that are past copyright dates have the entire text posted. Those that are still under copyright have limited portions posted. For those still under copyright, the website can give the address of a library near you that has a copy.

This is a particularly valuable source for early county histories, which were written some years after the county was formed, but which are now beyond copyright restrictions. They should cover many counties where you had ancestors, but which you probably cannot visit in person. What a God-send !!!!

Dick Eastman pointed out this treasure of books in his June 12, ’07 column. He says that among the hundreds of thousands of books posted, about 10,000 would be genealogical or local history books. That is a sizeable number to explore.

A new ongoing addition to this site is that 12 major universities have agreed to have sizeable portions of their libraries included in this project. Such libraries may even have old histories of German areas and political subdivisions that might be included. This will be one website to return to search frequently. One url is <http://books.google.com/intl/en/googlebooks/about.html>. You also perhaps should try this one—<http://books.google.com/advanced_book_search>

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 11—Polish Genealogical Soc. of CA--Family History Seminar, Speaker Ceil Jensen, Lakewood, CA, <www.pgsca.org> or e-mail: President@pgsca.org.


August 25—British Isles FHS, Culver City, CA, Dr. Arlene Eakle & others, 8-4, Vets Mem’l Complex, Culver City, CA. <www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa>

Sept. 16—Scandinavian Autumn-Fest and Marknad, Vasa Park Asso., 9:00-6:00, Agoura Hills, CA, (805) 491-8231. Nordic Genea. Society of Southern CA.

DIGITAL RECONSTRUCTION

Another way in which web technology is developing is its use of digital capabilities to reconstruct buildings which have long since been destroyed or rebuilt. Computer experts have digitally reconstructed Rome as it would have appeared at the peak of its power in 320 A.D.! By visiting their website, you can crawl through the bowels of the Colosseum, look at the lion cages and primitive elevators, or go outside to take a detailed look at the bas-reliefs and inscriptions at the top of triumphal arches!

Scientists can use the simulation to calculate the crowd capacity of various rooms. There are 7,000 buildings that existed at the time of Emperor Constantine that have been reconstructed digitally. They have digitally “rebuild” almost the entire city of Rome within its 13 miles of walls, plus the interiors of about 30 buildings, including the Senate, the Colosseum, and the basilica built by Emperor Maxentius complete with their frescoes and decorations.

You are welcome to take a look for yourself at: <http://www.romereborn.virginia.edu>

(The Star, June 12, ’07)
MICKEY MOUSE LOOK-ALIKE

The Islamic Terrorist group Hamas has produced a “look-alike” of Mickey Mouse to teach Islamic children viewing Hamas TV how to fight “Zionist Occupation.” It also teaches hatred of the United States and how to “resist” (kill) us. Mickey Mouse’s mirror image is named “Farfur” and his female companion is “Saraa”! Of course the programs are not just to entertain children, they teach Arab children to wipe out every person in the world who does not submit to Allah.

(<news@israelnationalnews.com> May 8, ’07)

CHECK FOR ILLICITTE BIRTHS

If you are having difficulty locating the birth of your ancestor in German Church records, don’t ignore the Illicit births/baptisms. Because of the fees charged, church membership requirements, or other requirements to register the baptism, your ancestor’s birth may be labelled “Illegitimate.”

From 1701 to 1750, about 13.3% of births were labelled illegitimate. From 1751 to 1800, 26.9% are illegitimate--because fees were increased! From 1801-1850, 35.9% of births were illegitimate. From 1851 - 1900, up to 44.7% of births were illegitimate!

By law, the illegitimate child was listed under the mother’s maiden name. Only after 1826 could the father’s surname also be listed. (Arlene Eakle, June 12, ’07)

STONEHENGE STILL LIVES

On the 2007 Summer Solstice, June 21, people in England were celebrating the day as they have for centuries. There was a crowd of about 24,000 persons who travelled to Stonehenge to celebrate this year’s event. In case you do not understand why the Solstice is celebrated, it is the longest day of each year.

While Solstice celebrations are a pre-Christian celebration, many persons still celebrate this event each year with bonfires, maypole dances, and courtship rituals from Europe’s pagan past.

What is “Stonehenge?” It is a cluster of stone pillars arranged in a circle, somewhat in the form of a clock, erected by our prehistoric ancestors to help them calculate the seasons of the year. Its remnants still stand near Wiltshire, England. Nobody knows how many thousands of years ago it was erected. Those early ancestors had figured out how the sun and moon and stars rotated annually, all without the benefit of any of our modern instruments!

You may look at its website online at--- <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.876>

FINDING PLACE OF ORIGIN

One often overlooked source for finding the place in Europe from which an ancestor may have emigrated is Bounty Land Certificates. These would be recorded in the county where the family first purchased land. They sometimes give the place of birth as well as place of residence at the time of filing.

Another place to look is in DAR records submitted by some earlier applicant. These might show any shift of residence from one generation to the next. In this case, someone else has researched all this and saves you from having to do the entire process yourself.

(Arlene Eakle, May 8, ’07)

CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The CA Genealogical Society has moved into its new and larger quarters at 2201 Broadway in Oakland, CA. They now have expanded their team of researchers who can provide information to requestors nationwide. The expanded team should be able to secure information from the San Francisco Public Library, Sutro Library and the State Library at Sacramento.

(CGS News, 38:2)

COPIES OF SPEECHES AT CONVENTIONS

All the new technologies associated with the Internet and Cell phones has changed how genealogists can get copies of talks at seminars!

Speeches at the 2006 FGS Conference in Boston were recorded as digital files, which are posted online. You may go to <www.lulu.com> (Search for FGS). You may download a speaker’s talk for only $1.99. It costs only $45.00 for the full 30 sessions!

Are Cassette tapes and CDs being swept off the scene by MP3 players and iPods? It appears so-----

(FGS Forum, Spring ‘07, p. 21)

WHITE STAR LINE

A newly uncovered treasure is 200 books of records of the White Star Line steamship company from the late 1880’s. Why are these a new resource? They were recently discovered inside the walls of a house built about 1896 that was being renovated. The steamship line books were placed within the walls of the original building to serve as insulation!! The story was published in the March 19, 2007 issue of the New Jersey Star-Ledger newspaper!

This discovery will hopefully pose a challenge to some New Jersey genealogical society to do some indexing—we hope!!!

EARLY, REALLY EARLY MAPS

Some months ago I purchased a book called, “Maps of the Ancient Sea Kings,” by Charles H. Hapgood published in 1996. Dr. Hapgood is a Professor at Keene State College, Keene, N.H. The book is based on seven years of research by the Dr. and his advanced students into all ancient maps they could find in archives worldwide.

Dr. Hapgood and his students analyzed each map to tell how it had been constructed, whether it used the Magnetic pole or the true North Pole in its calculations, and what level of geometry or trigonometry the map drawer had used, etc.

Of course, they examined Ptolemy’s map, and from it worked their way backward to every earlier map they could uncover. After seven years of analysis and comparison, Dr. Hapgood came up with an astonishing statement—"the maps were derived from prototypes drawn in pre-Hellenic times (perhaps even as early as the last Ice Age)" . . . by persons who showed more knowledge of trigonometry, than any civilization in recorded history!

Even the landmass of Antarctica was shown by one, earlier than the Orontes Finaeus Map of 1531, or the map of China carved on a rock in 1137 A.D.

But what about an Egyptian double-calendar used in 4241 B.C.? Then—an unknown culture earlier than THAT???? Intriguing!
SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING
Our September meeting will be a combined Workshop and Workday on Sept. 9. Bring your charts, family group sheets, and a list of your “holes to fill”. Someone may have a suggestion for you--Maybe you can “open the door” for someone else.

We did not get all the Library’s books “dusted” in May, so if possible, come at 10 a.m. and help “chase a few dust bunnies” before the meeting.

THE WEEK IN GERMANY
World leaders met in Heiligendamm on the Baltic Coast on June 6-8 to discuss global warming. -- The German Tall ship Gorch Fock sailed to Norfolk on June 7 for a 6 day celebration of Jamestown’s founding 400 years ago. It took the crew of 220 working 4 hour shifts from May 12 to June 7 to complete the trip. Forty-nine other ships participated. -- Lowering the corporate income tax in Germany from 39 to 3 percent is hoped to encourage industry growth. -- A college in Hesse plans to establish a university in Vietnam to train students for business. -- Germany is helping Egypt use windpower. Rural areas in Africa, Asia and Latin America need help developing new energy systems and electricty. The Germany Agency for Technical Cooperation is working on 132 energy projects worldwide. -- Eight films from Germany participated in the American Film Institute's 5th annual “Silverdocs” documentary film festival in the U.S. -- Hamburg’s old Jewish Center came home to the Grindel quarter with the dedication of a new Talmud-Torah Synagogue, with 280 invited guests for the dedication. -- A new storage facility for CO2 from power generation is being established at Ketzin. The CO2 will be stored in a saline aquifer 1,800 meters underground -- Experiments are being planned for X-rays that can peer into atoms. An ultra-short flash of x-ray light will be installed into a tunnel to take flash photos of chemical reactions. -- Both Germany and France are building high-speed Inter-City Express trains. The German one will travel 320 kilometers per hour. -- Munich suburb of Neuhausen now has Germany’s first automatic underground parking system in service. Drivers stop in the parking lane at the entrance, get out and insert a card into the telling machine. A chip in the card tells the car’s dimensions and the machine loads the car and delivers it to a parking slot. The driver’s card tells the machine to find and return the car when he is ready to go home. -- German investors are flocking to renewable energy projects. -- Malta and Cyprus are being welcomed into the Eurozone. -- Deutsche Bahn AG, Germany’s railway giant, is expanding worldwide. -- Hamburg’s new Ballinstad Emigrant World museum depicts German emigration. - - Summer festivals in Rheingau, Bayreuth, Schleswig-Holstein, and Stocksee fill the 2 month vacation of state-salaried musicians. (TWIG June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 07)