



## HOLIDAY POTLUCK !! AND PROGRAM

**TIME:** Sunday, December 9, 2007      1:00 pm Potluck      2:00 pm Program      Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

**POTLUCK:** Bring Entree, salad, dessert or ??? preferably a traditional German or other ethnic item.  
Paper items and utensils as well as drinks will be provided.      Be Creative!

### BY-PRODUCTS of BATTLE: War-Inspired Christmas Songs & Their Stories

**Speaker: Jean Wilcox Hibben**--professional genealogist, troubadour, & folklorist, 30 years in family research, working on her doctorate in folklore, was professor of Speech Communication after moving to CA from Chicago.

Many of today's holiday songs originated during or because of War. Audience participation is encouraged during the presentation of some of these songs and their stories.      Emotions are touched, so-o-o-o      Bring Your Tissues.

**PLACE:** Immigrant Genealogical Society Library

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

### ACQUISITIONS

Our office helpers have been working at processing the books donated by John Movius. Quite a few of them are on the New Book Shelf, but the volunteers have not yet mastered the process of applying labels. You may take a look at them at the Library. We will try to have a list of them by the January *Newsletter* for you. We still need extra hands for this book processing job.

Some of the books John Movius donated duplicate ones we already have. The extra copy will be on the book sales table for a reasonable price. You might want to purchase a good standard reference for German research.

### SNICKELFRITZ

We received an interesting reply to the question in the last *Newsletter* regarding the term "Snickelfritz."

"Boy, I haven't heard that word in 40+ years! My Granddaddy Charles Christian John Frederick Jacobs used to call me 'Snickelfritz' when I was being an imp or smart aleck. He always said it with a wink and smile."

That sums the meaning up quite nicely. Perhaps we can include more of Charline K. Grundmann's comments in the next periodical. It is such a typical German "term of endearment" that I'm sure you'll enjoy the entire comment from Charline, since there simply isn't space for all of it here.

### SURNAMES

The time when families adopted surnames varied according to the area where the family lived. In most areas in Europe in early centuries a person had only one given name. If there were 2 or 3 persons with the same given name, they would be identified as the "son of -----" their father's given name. For example John would be John Henrich's sohn, or Mary, Henrich's tochter. This

was somewhat complicated by the custom of naming children for the grandfather, the father, the father's brothers (the child's uncles) etc. This system worked fairly well in small villages. As villages grew in number and size, adoption of surnames became more important.

If there were too many Johns and Henrichs, the person's trade might be added--Bäcker or Becker (baker), zimmermann (carpenter), Eisenhauer (ore miner), Schröder or Schneider (tailor), Fischer (fisherman), Schmidt, (blacksmith), Weber (weaver), Müller (miller), Schäfer (shepherd), Bauer (farmer), Meier (estate supervisor), Richter (judge).

Schleswig started requiring surnames in 1771, and Ostfriesland did likewise in 1811. Peter Nepsund did not have to adopt a surname until he was on his way to America in 1903 from Norway.

### SMOKING IN GERMANY

If you have traveled in Europe, you know that Germans are heavy smokers. Efforts are now being made to discourage it. The 16 states of Germany

### KALENDER

Nov. 21,24,25	IGS LIBRARY CLOSED
Nov. 28	IGS Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 9	IGS Monthly Meeting
Dec. 19	IGS Board of Directors Meeting
Dec. 20	Jan. Newsletter Mailed
Dec. 22,23,26,29,30	IGS Library Closed
Jan 13, '08	Jan. Monthly Meeting

have agreed to limit smoking in restaurants and cafes, nightclubs, theaters, museums, children's play areas, and public buildings. There are of course some loopholes, but the German Federal Drug Commissioner hopes to be able to say "smoke free" by the beginning of 2008. (Der Blumenbaum, 24:4:2007)

### **BERLIN'S UNDERGROUND CITY**

Most of us had little information on what was going on in Germany during the Allies attacks in World War II. Now that the animosities of those days are gone, the networks of underground bunkers, tunnels, and shelters build underneath the city of Berlin to provide survival for officials and inhabitants are coming to light. About 1,000 bunkers were built, and about 1/3 of them survived. Now a non-profit group calling themselves the Berlin Underworlds' Association is conducting tours of the bunkers for tourists. This includes Hitler's Bunker.

### **TENNESSEE RESEARCH**

Arlene Eakle does much research in Tennessee and makes an interesting observation in one of her weekly newsletters. One reason Tennessee research is difficult is that it was being settled when there was such a surge of immigration that persons might stop in eastern Tennessee, but then move west through central and western Tennessee, and even end up in Texas, Missouri, Indiana and Illinois within their lifetime. It is the tracing of all these moves westward that make following their trail a challenge. This may be true of other inland states.

### **INDEXING OF RECORDS**

One of the encouraging trends in this computer age is that local genealogists are using the availability of the Internet to index many of their local records in order to put them online. This may include some of the less common records available, where you may find your ancestor's name by doing a broad Google search.

Usually, only a few sets of land, estate, and tax records were published and available earlier. Now local societies are trying to make less common records available by indexing them. These might include survey records, military service, lawsuits, school, churches, clubs, newspapers, cemeteries, funeral homes, etc.

Since indexes are time consuming to make, you will need to recheck regularly the website of the local county in the area where your ancestors lived. Just the record you need might pop up when you least expect it.

Of course, it is even more fun to visit the area where your families lived, and check the holdings of all the city halls, churches, libraries, historical societies and wander through those old abandoned cemeteries for yourself---

### **SEARCH ENGINE TIPS**

Some of you have learned all the tricks to using the Internet by now--maybe others need a few tips.

When you type in a 2 or 3 word phrase for which to be searched, if you put quote marks around them, it will search for them as a phrase. Otherwise, it will look for each of the words as a separate search item. So, use quote marks to eliminate irrelevant items.

If you want to exclude a word, put a minus sign directly next to the word you want excluded.

If you want to give special emphasis to a word (such as in a special state or country, etc.) put a plus sign against the word you want emphasized.

Most search engines have an advanced search page which will explain the fine points of using its webpages. Google for example: [http://www.google.com/advanced\\_search?hl=en](http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en)

### **WHITTIER AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society, WAGS, as most of us know it, has been given notice that its collection of books in the Santa Fe Springs Public Library will have to find a new home. The local library needs more room for its own collection. I'm sure the officers of WAGS are scouring their area for a new place. They would appreciate any suggestions you could make. WAGS has lots of German research materials from its long association with Gladys Mueller. In fact, Gladys was probably the main force in WAGS' founding. This is too valuable a collection not to be available to the public. (CSGA Newsletter, Sept-Oct. '07)

### **PRESERVATION OF CEMETERIES IN CA**

The San Diego Genealogical Society has compiled and is publishing a 348 page book of burials in the El Cajon Cemetery. This is a huge project, encompassing 9,500 entries, plus some history of the area. What a tremendous asset the San Diego GS is giving to the genealogical world!

The Sonora County Historical Society discovered and has been refurbishing the old Chanate Historic Cemetery in Santa Rosa, CA for the past five years. It has been back-renting work to resurrect the gravesites and identify them for preservation. Work is still underway and more funds are needed. This cemetery began at the County "Poor Farm" --the home for indigent persons in the county. Many graves did not have headstones, or even markers of any kind. Identification has been a huge challenge.

(CSGA Newsletter, Sept-Oct. '07)

### **INTERNET TUTORIALS**

Some of you, like me, may need some help in learning how to use some of the wonderful resources that are continually becoming available on the Internet. This new way of "doing genealogy" is changing so rapidly that most of us have difficulty adapting to the new computer based facilities. Here is a list of websites that provide tutorials on genealogical subjects:

<http://rwguide.rootsweb.com>

<http://www.genealogy.com/university.html>

<http://genealogy.about.com>

(Questing Heirs GS Newsletter, Sept. '07)

### **PROBLEMS FACING GENEALOGICAL SOC.S**

I'm sure there is no genealogical society in the United States that has not been feeling the effects of the development of the Internet. Memberships are declining because so many persons are browsing the Internet for genealogical information that they do not maintain membership in their local society. The decline of memberships means decline of funds to support the society's activities, and particularly, money to pay the rent to house a valuable genealogical library collection.

The decline of membership also means there are usually fewer volunteers to do the basic office work, publicity, program planning, etc. that keep a society active and productive.

Does this mean that genealogical societies are no longer needed???

NO-O-O-O, not at all. Perhaps it actually means that local societies are needed more than ever!

Why ???

Unless a genealogist has a thorough training in how to do genealogy, and particularly how to evaluate the truthfulness and accuracy of information found, the person is likely to find themselves putting together a mish-mash of facts that are not based on primary sources and are doubtful as to accuracy or relevance.

No genealogist is likely to learn all the basics of proof of genealogical facts without "rubbing shoulders with knowledgeable, experienced genealogists." You cannot accept as TRUTH everything you find on just any website on the Internet.

Another thing to remember, is that if you have a solid grounding in doing genealogy, you have a responsibility to help other less experienced genealogists "learn the ropes." You need to be active in and contribute to a local society to help others, as you have been helped. Join your local Society, and be ACTIVE in it to help other upcoming genealogists.

There are many records that cannot be put on the Internet for free searching. They are books already copyrighted now sitting on the shelves of various local libraries. Most authors of books copyright them and will not allow others to put that book online, thus ending sales of their book. Use them at your local library.

Keep in mind, that most of the original records where your ancestors and relatives lived are sitting in local county offices, libraries, historical societies, and genealogical society collections. The majority of these for the places where your ancestors lived will NEVER be placed online. You will need to travel to the source to see and copy them.

#### **VIRGINIA REVOLUTIONARY WAR GRAVES**

Arlene Eakle has been on a research trip to the East Coast, and in-between. In Virginia she discovered that the state plans to identify and mark every Revolutionary War Veterans' grave in their state. A survey showed that there are 560 sites with 750 grave markers identified so far. The state has made lists of those found, and plans are underway for markers and maintenance. The records are listed in House Document #42, Commonwealth of Virginia, 2001.

(Arlene Eakle's Newsletter, 10/25/'07)

#### **ARLENE EAKLE'S WEEKLY NEWSLETTERS**

If you wish to keep up-to-date on what is going on in Genealogy, from one of the most experienced researchers still active, subscribe to Arlene Eakle's Weekly e-mail Newsletter. She travels throughout the eastern U.S. every year and details what she finds in local civil offices, libraries, archives etc. as she researches for clients. Try doing a Google search for Arlene Eakle. On her Genealogy Library Center page you'll find a place to e-mail her.

#### **BORROWING BOOKS BY MAIL**

In the past genealogy books, particularly family histories, were shelved in most libraries in the general reference sections. When this was done, you could often borrow them by mail or Inter-Library Loan.

With the growth of genealogical collections, these

collections are now more likely than not in the library's Special Collections section. This means that they cannot be borrowed by mail---You have to go to that library to use that book!

Maybe you'll find lots of other local records at the time you visit the Library for the one book you wish to see! !  
(Arlene Eakle Newsletter, Nov. 1, '07)

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Feb. 2, 2008--SaddleBrooke G. S. Seminar, (north of Tucson AZ), All day Seminar. <rimac@wbhsi.net>

Feb. 23, 2008--Whittier Area Gene. Soc. presents Lloyd Bockstruck (Migrations, Church Records, Newspaper Genea., Maiden Names) 7604 Greenleaf Ave. Whittier, CA. <www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>

Mar. 2-8--Salt Lake City Research Trip by Conejo Valley G.S. (CA). e-mail <patthomas1@verizon.net>

#### **PUBLISH IN LOCAL PERIODICALS**

I belong to the Union Co., OH Genealogical Society because some of my Brown families lived there for a time. In a recent issue of their periodical they published a list of surnames being researched by members who contacted them. To my amazement, someone listed the surname Schifferli--my mother's maiden name. None of my early Schifferli families lived in Union County, OH, and I did not recognize the name of the person who had submitted the Schifferli surname. You can bet I found time to write a letter to the man in Maine who submitted that surname.

Every year when I was a child living in Ohio, we had a Schifferli reunion across the state line in Decatur, Adams Co., Indiana. I remember that every year we would see Albert Schifferli and his wife at that reunion. Albert Schifferli was the grandfather of the man living now in Maine!

What a way to connect to a fellow "cousin"---, through a county in which our common ancestors never lived! He was a member of the Union Co. Society because of some other surname on his family chart--just as I was! You never know-----JN

#### **MALCOLM H. STERN NARA Gift Fund**

The end of 2007 is a good time to send a gift to the National Archives to help with their projects to microfilm and index valuable sets of their records so that they are easily available for public use. The present technology may be to digitize records to make them available via the Internet.

The Malcolm H. Stern Fund is named in honor of a Rabbi who lived 1915--1994 and contribute greatly to the progress of Genealogy. The Fund is supervised by the Federation of Genealogical Societies. Each year special NARA projects are chosen for financing.

Two projects are approved for 2008. First is the War of 1812 Pensions and Bountyland Warrants which include the Veterans of the War of 182 and some Revolutionary War Vets. The second project is filming the U.S. Colored Troops Compiled Service Records.

Individuals may donate to either of these special projects, or to the Fund in general. Gifts may be made through local societies, or to -- NARA Gift Fund, via the Federation of Genealogical Societies, P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78920-0940. Donations may also be made on their website: <www.fgs.org>.

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December 2007

**JANUARY MONTHLY MEETING**

January 13, 2008-- Marilyn Markham Deatherage will present the program "Finding The Living" at our general meeting.

How and why should we find our "near and far", in genealogical time, "KIN" and others to facilitate our family history ? ? ? What is "pedigree collapse", or a "paternity surprise", and who knows what!

**THE WEEK IN GERMANY**

This year is the 400th anniversary of Germans coming to America. The German Government agencies will make a 4-part series for TV in 2008 honoring this event. - The website <www.germanoriginality.com> profiles Germans who have contributed greatly to American society. It also provides suggestions for visiting Germany. - Germany arrested 3 Terrorist plotters in Sept. and prevented damage to numerous facilities used by both Germans and Americans. -- Oct. 3 is the Day of German Unity, when East and West Germany reunited and the Berlin Wall fell. -- Forty-two million Americans have German roots. -- Weimar's Anna Amalia Library, nearly destroyed by fire in '04, was due to re-open on Oct. 24, '07. -- Mannheim's largest collection of Mummies went on display on Sept. 30. -- Internat'l competitors are building 20 solar houses in Washington D.C. -- German police are testing a machine to distinguish explosives from shampoo for travelers' security checks. -- Sales of beer at Oktoberfest in Munich this year hit an all-time high. --- Sixty thousand people converged in Hannover to celebrate the Volkswagen Bus' 60th birthday. -- BMW has produced its first prototype hydrogen-powered car. -- A 3-story tall watch tower from the Berlin Wall is being preserved in the Checkpoint Charlie Museum in Berlin, and a similar section of the Wall is in the Newseum in Washington, D.C. -- Archaeologists have discovered interesting artifacts in the Arendsee, a large lake in northern Germany. A dugout canoe used in the 14th century for fishing by Benedictine Monks at a Convent there, a 43 foot long "pram" used for transporting people and goods dates from the 13th century. There was also a fence apparently for catching fish from 2500-2700 B.C. -- Germany col-

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Jean Nepsund, Publications . . . . . (818) 991-9475

**Immigrant Library Hours**

Wednesdays . . . . . 1:00 pm 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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Annual Membership, \$25, Family \$30  
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lected stories about "Where I was when the Wall came down." --- A plane brought 59 Afghan children to Hamburg for needed surgery. Some 30 hospitals treated them free. -- Halloween is now big business in Germany. The head of Germany's toy industry introduced it in 1990. They have not caught onto "trick or treating" yet. -- The Leo Baeck Institute has become the premier research library and archive for history of German-speaking Jewry. -- The Goethe Institut in San Francisco has a program, "Step into German," for American students learning German. -- Germany is planning ahead to win the 2018 Winter Olympics for Munich.