



## FINDING THE LIVING

**TIME: Sunday, January 13, 2008**

**2:00 pm**

**Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm**

**LEADER: Marilyn Deatherage**

Part of completing our genealogy will require contacting living descendants of family lines and "others". By exchanging information with them, we can help one another complete our information about various branches and twigs on charts. How do you find remotely related branches? -- sometimes in the most unexpected places!

**PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library**

**1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA**

### ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES AT IGS

After discussing changes in how our Immigrant Genealogical Society is operating, the Board of Directors has made some changes in our procedures.

The number of Directors has been reduced from 11 to 9 members. This did not require a change in the Bylaws. Bob Reis and Jean Nepsund are leaving the Board as of Dec. '07 and are not being replaced, which reduces the present Board to 9 Directors.

The Board of Directors has decided to meet every three months unless special circumstances require an additional meeting. The scheduled ones will be on the 4th Wednesday of January, April, July and October.

### HEUERSDORF NEAR LEIPZIG MOVES

The Emmaus Church at Heuersdorf, near Leipzig, has been moved to Borna. For several years the move has been discussed due to the desire to mine the 50 million tons of lignite (brown coal) lying under it. The church has stood on the site in Heuersdorf for over 700 years.

On Oct. 25, 2007 the 750-ton church was loaded in one piece onto a flatbed trailer and moved 7.5 miles to its new site at Martin Luther Square in Borna. Most of Heuersdorf's 320 citizens have already resettled.

The church building is Romanesque-style and stands 65 feet tall. The officials of Heuersdorf fought the plan to move the church for several years, but lost their final appeal to the German Constitutional Court in 2005. The move in 2007 was made just before Reformation Day. The Mibrag Mining Company spent \$4.2 million to move the church. *(Pasadena Star News, 11/1/2007)*

### IGS LIBRARY HOURS AND EVENTS

The Board of Directors requested some clarification of procedures for our Library due to difficulties from loss of some volunteer staffers. The refreshments at the regular monthly meetings will be only "Light Refreshments". Because the programs do not begin until 2:00 pm, the refreshments do not need to be over-elaborate. You may contact Marilyn Deatherage to sign up to volunteer for

this activity. Her telephone number is on page four of this *Newsletter*, or you may use her e-mail <marilynd@socal.rr.com>. It IS nice to nibble a bit while you converse with fellow members. Please sign-up now for the month you wish to provide refreshments so that planning the meetings is easier.

Because we have lost some Library staffers, persons coming from a distance should inform us in advance of plans to come to the Library, so that we can be sure of "on-time" staffing.

### NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE CORRIDOR

If your ancestral families were fairly early immigrants to the United States, they very likely traveled westward along the "National Road." This ran roughly from now Cumberland, Maryland, across West Virginia, through southwestern Pennsylvania, across the Ohio River, and in later years westward across southern Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, the Mississippi River and farther west.

A National Road Heritage Corridor Society has been working for a number of years to preserve and celebrate the importance of this route to many thousands of families. The National Road is sometimes called "The Road that Built the Nation." What was at first only a dirt wagon track, is now mostly paved highways with historical markers throughout.

You may wish to support this society's efforts by making a tax-deductible donation to "National Road Heritage Corridor, 65 West Main St., Uniontown, PA

### KALENDER

Dec. 29,30	New Years, Library CLOSED
Jan. 13	IGS Monthly Meeting
Jan. 23	Board of Directors Meeting
Jan. 24	Feb. Newsletter Mailed
Feb. 10	February Monthly Meeting

15401." There are special celebrations at keyplaces along the Corridor each year, (Ft. Necessity Battlefield, etc.) mostly during summer months, and publications. You may e-mail them at <info@nationalroadpa.org.> They'll be happy to send you info about upcoming activities.

### COOK CO., IL RECORDS GOING ONLINE

Cook Co., which encompasses Chicago, will be placing its records after 1871 online beginning in January, 2008. Why only after 1871? That is the time after the famous "Chicago Fire" wiped out all earlier records.

For over a year the county records have been digitized and prepared for a searchable website. This will include some 24 million vital records--births, deaths, marriages. There will be a fee for downloading and printing. The website is expected to be searchable by January of 2008. (SCGS *The Searcher*, Autumn 2007.)

### CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES CATALOG

The CA State Archive is in the process of posting online an index to their holdings. They hold some 232 million historical documents. The use of their catalog will be free, but will not be complete for some time. In the meantime you may begin to use the part already posted online under the name "Minerva", after the Roman goddess of wisdom featured on the official seal of the state of California.

You will wish to visit this website repeatedly to see what new has been added since you last checked it out. Go to: <<http://minerva.sos.ca.gov/>>.

The CA archives have many pre-statehood records, land grants from the Spanish-Mexican eras, the state founding documents, and other historic events.

(SCGS *The Searcher*, Autumn 2007)

### POLISH BOOKS

Gwen Christiansen, editor of the Pommeranian Special Interest Group periodical gave our IGS Library a catalog from Polonia Bookstore, Inc. of Chicago, IL If you wish to browse through it for your Polish research, it will be on the New Book Shelf for your use. Many of the books listed are in Polish, but some are in English.

### SILESIA (Schlesien in German)

An indepth article about the country of Silesia was published in the August 2007 issue of the periodical of the German Interest Group-Wisconsin beginning on page 635. The entire article covered four pages, including good maps. If you have ancestors who came from that area, be sure to look at this article. The periodical should be in the file box of periodicals on our New Book Shelf at the IGS Library.

### PICTURES OF GERMAN BUILDINGS

In *The German Connection*, (Vol 31, No. 2/3) a member, Judy Davis describes a German Website which posts pictures of pre-WWII buildings in many villages and cities. When she visited the village of her Grandfather after WWII, she found most of the old buildings had been destroyed, and she could no longer see what they looked like in his day--until she found an online website.

The German website shows pre-War pictures of the streets of many German towns. If you know the village of origin of your ancestor, and their house number, you may be able to find a picture of the house in which your family live, --probably for generations--as Judy did.

Keep in mind that farmers and homeowners did not live on their farm acreage--they lived in the village in the center of the fields owned by inhabitants. Keep in mind also, that originally houses were numbered in the order constructed--not necessarily in the order they stood along a particular street.

But, you may wish to take a look at the website--<[www.bildindex.de](http://www.bildindex.de)> administered by the Bildarchiv Foto Marburg. The site includes 1.9 million pictures from art and architecture all over Germany. It can be searched by place (Orte), then by type of building (for residences choose "Privater Profanbau--Wohnbauten") and then by street or plaza (Strassen und Plätze). The pictures are in order by house number along the street with a thumbnail picture for each that can be expanded. For a fee, prints can be obtained. You can be sure you will probably be able to get a picture of the village church the family attended and where family members were baptized. Even rural areas and small towns are included. Have lots of fun!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 2, 2008--SaddleBrooke Genealogy Club, All Day Seminar (25 mi. North of Tucson, AZ). Barbara Nuehring.

Feb. 8,9--St. George UT Genealogical Society & My Ancestors Found Family Heritage Jamboree. <[www.myancestorsfound.com](http://www.myancestorsfound.com)>

Feb. 23 --Whittier Area G. S., 25th Annual Seminar, Lloyd Bockstruck, 7604 Greenleaf Ave, Whittier, CA., (<<http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>>)

March 2-8, -- SLC Research Trip, Conejo Valley G.S. Pat at (805)482-8140, or<[patthomas1@verizon.net](mailto:patthomas1@verizon.net)>

Mar 22--Logan UT. Logan Regional Family History Center & My Ancestors Found, a genealogical Jamboree. <[www.myancestorsfound.com](http://www.myancestorsfound.com)>

Apr. 26 at Topeka, KS. Topeka Genealogical Soc. 2008 Conf. <[npattontaylor@Topeka.chamber.org](mailto:npattontaylor@Topeka.chamber.org)>

June 8--10, --The Jamboree, by Southern CA Genea. Soc. at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, CA.

Aug. 7-9--"Sail Into Your Past Aboard the Queen Mary." Celebrating British Isles Family History Society's 20th Annual Seminar., at Long Beach, Calif. <[www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/seminar](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa/seminar)>

Sept. '08--German-American Steuben Parade, Philadelphia, PA (Pommerschen Verein Central WI)

### CALIF. STATE GENEALOGICAL ALLIANCE

An interesting development in Genealogical operations was announced by the statewide CSGA in their July-August *Newsletter*--their annual meeting may be held electronically! ! ! Two other meetings each year will be held at large state events in southern and northern California. Changes to their governing Bylaws are being made to accommodate this new technique.

### HERMANN MONUMENT SOCIETY

Most of us have heard about the monument in Germany to Hermann, the early tribal leader who stopped the advancing Roman legions in 9 A.D. in northern Europe. There has been a monument of Hermann also in New Ulm, MN. The monument is owned by the city of New Ulm, and it was refurbished in 2005. It has been registered in the National Register of

Historic Places since 1973.

Now a new development--a special independent tax-exempt organization has been formed to manage and promote the Monument. It is named the Hermann Monument Society, P. O. Box 643, New Ulm, MN 56073-0643. Perhaps you would like to join this society.

You may view a photo of the Monument and some views of parts of New Ulm City too, on its website at: <[www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us](http://www.ci.new-ulm.mn.us)>

### LANGUAGE TRANSLATION WEBSITES

For persons needing to research in records in Germany, the lack of knowledge of the German language can be frustrating. However, you can quickly learn enough of the key words and phrases to recognize different types of records.

Now there are several websites which can translate text segments from German into English. It will not be a perfect translation of the text, but it can give you the main idea of what is said, so that you can tell whether to keep a copy of a certain segment for further polishing by an expert.

*Der Blumenbaum*, periodical of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, published an article about using this process. You can read the entire article in the July-Sept 2007 issue of *Der Blumenbaum*.

They suggest four translation websites:

Alta Vista's Babel Fish Translation

<[www.world.altavista.com](http://www.world.altavista.com)>

e-Free Translation.com

<<http://www.e-freetranslation.com/>

GoogleLanguage Tools

<[http://www.google.com/language\\_tools?hl=en](http://www.google.com/language_tools?hl=en)

WorldLingo

<[http://www.worldlingo.com/en/products\\_services/worldlingo\\_translator.html](http://www.worldlingo.com/en/products_services/worldlingo_translator.html)>

### EMIGRANTS ESCAPE ROUTE

Emigrants did not always have a pleasant experience in deciding to emigrate. In the *AHSGR Journal*, Fall 2007, there is an article, including a map, showing the route followed by one person's relatives in emigrating from southern Russia to South America. The article would be worth reading. Here is the map trip shown---

The family left Ekaterinostav in southern Russia, via Moscow, then east across Russia and Siberia to Harbin, China. From there they traveled by ship down the eastern coast of China via Shanghai, Hong Kong, Saigon, around the tip of Indochina and past the southern tip of India, north through the Red Sea to the Mediterranean, west on it and across France to the Atlantic Ocean, then south on the Atlantic to Rio de Janeiro and Porto Alegre, and finally inland to Iracema, Brazil! The family was in Harbin in March 1931! This was fairly recent emigration!

### GEDBAS--GENEALOGICAL DATABANK

This website is one that should become a good friend to any person researching German ancestry. It is the early website established by the German Computer Genealogists Society. Because the genealogists starting it were so knowledgeable, it has been easier for other German genealogical societies to work with GEDBAS rather than try to establish independent sites.

You will want to explore this databank many times, each time working your way through one of the many

segments. Keep a German-English dictionary handy, to help you understand where you wish to go step by step on various topics.

Go to: <<http://gedbas.genealogy.net>>

At the top of the page are several tabs for various areas of the database: Home, News, Regional, Vereine (Societies), Datenbanken (databases), Software, Mailinlisten (Mail lists), Links, Hilfen (Help).

You can register and submit your own family information, or you can search without registering.

I'd suggest you get a copy of the article from *The German Connection*, quarterly of the German Research Association in San Diego, CA, Vol. 31, No. 2/3, 2007 if you do not read German easily. It will explain this massive website and how to use it. Just browsing it for a few hours will probably blow your mind!

After struggling with the shifting boundaries and political jurisdictions in Germany to find information about your German families, it is a real blessing to find information from all over central Europe on one site, and searchable by computer!!!

Twenty-one German Genealogical Societies have their databases on GEDBAS. How utterly convenient!

### ACQUISITIONS

When Degener Publishers moved from Neustadt and der Aisch to their new home near Rothenburg o.d. Tauber in 2005, some of the series of books which we had on standing order got "lost in the shuffle." We have called this matter to their attention, and items for several series are enroute or newly arrived. We know that *Deutschen Familien Archives* # 149, 150 are enroute, and an index to Vols. 126--150 will be published in '08.

In the meantime, we have received a sizeable donation of books from John Movius' library. While these have been sorted for duplicates of things we already have, they have not been shelved for lack of labels.

Needless to say, John's library had duplicate copies of some books we already had. The second copy of such items is on our "For Sale" shelves. This would be a good time to visit our Library and browse the "For Sale" books.

### MEMBERS' RESEARCH SURNAMENES

Member John Fischer of Las Vegas is researching the following surnames:

Altenberger, Behr, Burck, Fischer, Gehrlein, Heid(t) Hengen, Hoemel, Hönel, Hoffmann, Landa, Loesch, Lösch, Marthaler, Pfadt, Ratai, Ratay, Schaaf, Schwab, Schwindt, Sedlacek, Wolf(f).

You may contact him at <[lucky1570@cox.net](mailto:lucky1570@cox.net)>

### FEBRUARY IGS MEETING

The Monthly Meeting on February 10 will follow-up on the discussions at the January 13 meeting. The January meeting is expected to provide suggestions for getting info from persons who knew your ancestors and might have information. As you discuss this type of research with one another, it will trigger further ideas and possibilities. We will try to "tickle your imagination" for new sources and records to give you a more complete picture of your ancestors and their lives, both before they emigrated and after they arrived in America. New information becoming available on the Internet opens new possibilities.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Time Value  
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Expedite

Jan. 2008

**THE WEEK IN GERMANY**

Petra Heussner Walker will be an Honorary Consul of Germany. She was introduced at German-American Day in Seattle by German Consul General Rolf Schütte. She has lived in the Seattle area since 1986 when she married her American husband. -- A socio-economic research think tank, DIW DC, has set up shop in Washington, D.C. -- A university in Braunschweig developed a system for reducing pollution from auto air conditioners by 35% using carbon dioxide as a coolant. -- Go online to <www.Germany.info/study> for info about studying in Germany. -- A survey about 40,000 TWIG readers, showed 70% over age 50. -- On Nov. 9, 1989 thousands of E. Germans demonstrated at border crossing points until guards opened the gates in the 890-mile-long-wall and allowed reunification. Oct 3, 1990 is now called the "Day of German Unity." -- The East German Trabant car, affectionately called "Trabi", celebrated its 50th anniversary. -- German Angela Merkel was President of the European Union from Jan. 1 to July 1, 2007. -- This year the German University in Cairo (Égypt), founded in 2003, graduated its first class of 162 students. -- A new Particle Accelerator is being built at Darmstadt to study the nature and origin of matter. -- Kassel is the first German city to provide "green electricity" from Scandinavian hydro-electric sources. Solar panels will be the next step. -- ThyssenKrupp Stainless USA, LLC broke ground on a 3,500 acre plant in Calvert, Alabama. -- The Guinness Book of World Records has declared the 25.7-meter tower of the 15th century Suurhusen church "the most tilted tower in the world," at 5.17 degrees. -- Chancellor Merkel will be awarded the 2008 Charlemagne Prize for EU Leadership. -- The Jugene computer is the fastest super-computer in Europe, constructed by IBM and housed at Research Center Jülich. -- On Dec. 6 the European Space Agency's Columbus module was delivered to the International Space Station by the U.S. shuttle Atlantis. It will conduct medical and technological research.-- A Transatlantic Economic Council was established at the EU-US Summit on Apr. 30, '07 to encompass 60% of the world's GDP. The European Commission will help coordinate

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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.

Permission to quote if appropriate credit is given.  
Annual Membership, \$25, Family \$30  
If publications desired by 1st Class mail, \$35.00

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and expedite worldwide trade. -- German Scientists are testing a new early-warning Tsunami Sensor System. -- A small German car by Daimler named Salon will be introduced to the U.S. in Texas in 2008. -- Christmas markets featuring handcrafted ornaments, gifts and treats are Germany's beloved traditions. -- A walled, historic pre-war Jewish cemetery in Hamburg is proposed as a UNESCO world heritage site. -- Germany's largest Christmas Market is in Frankfurt. -- Persons from surrounding countries flock to German Christmas Markets. - Nuremberg's Christkindlsmarkt dates from 1628.  
(TWIG Nov. 3,11,14, 23, 30)