

## WE REALLY "WENT" TO GERMANY!

**TIME: Sunday, May 18, 2008**

**2:00 pm.**

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

**SPEAKER: Mrs. Susie Phelps**, Retired Quality Control Inspector, Scuba diver, Motorcyclist & Genealogist

Discovering the SCGS in 1988 and "getting the bug", Susie and a friend went with NGS in 2001 on their Northern Germany Genealogy Tour. Flying home on September 12 was a problem because of 9/11. Pictures and narrative will highlight the Berlin and Hamburg Archives, Castles, Bremerhaven Ships Museum, etc.

Plan your own trip with a group or with friends-- nothing is better than being in your ancestral areas to focus on their culture and history.

**PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library**

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

### COOK CO., IL VITAL RECORDS

Our April *Newsletter* mentioned that the Cook Co., IL, Vital Records should be online. Connie Wills informs us that, as often happens in genealogy, the "hoped for" date was not actually accomplished--the next goal set is July of 2008. We thank Connie for the update. With much dependence on volunteers, such dates often are missed--BUT--Better Late than Never. Keep volunteering and keep checking online for the desired records.

### A SUGGESTION FROM ARLENE EAKLE

In the search for indexes to records, Arlene Eakle suggests that you try a check of "www.familysearch.org". This is the most recent website where newly digitized records from the Family History Center are posted. The pace at which filmed records are being added is almost unbelievable.

If you are researching in a foreign country, check for their available archive records online. Don't make the mistake of expecting all Land Records to be labeled as such! There may have been different offices in charge of such records over the years--Poor Law Districts, District Electoral Divisions, Townland Indexes, etc.

### TWO MEMBERS LEAVE US

We have been notified of two of our formerly active members who are now deceased. Cecil Wiggins served for many years as a Librarian and helped with mailing of publications until recent months. Mrs. Louise Lamb was very active in helping organize our library, but we are now advised that she has passed away. IGS owes much gratitude to both of those generous volunteers.

Many of our formerly active volunteers have reached advanced age and are no longer able to help. We are grateful for several new younger volunteers who are replacing them. We can always use more extra hands.

Former Pres. Barbara Freshwater is in town for medical help. Her daughter is with her. She suggests you ex-

plore <[www.genealogyguide.com](http://www.genealogyguide.com)>. Click on the radio icon and listen to recent genealogical advances.

### DIGITIZATION OF RECORDS

The miracle of new digitization technologies is almost unbelievable. An entire book can now be digitized faster than you can "turn the pages" by hand! Once digitized, the indexing of a book is almost equally as fast.

A check for Irish Catholic Church records showed that the Family History Library has only about 25% of Catholic Church records for Ireland on film, but most of the Irish Quaker Records.

The fact that most sizeable archives are busy digitizing and posting their early records, means that every day the number of records online is expanding by hundreds, if not thousands, of records. Don't hesitate to do a Google search frequently. Even some smaller archives and local societies are busy with this newest technology. Don't expect that a certain type of record will bear the same name that we would use here in an English-speaking country.

### 14,340 YEAR OLD FOSSILS IN OREGON

Newly discovered fossilized feces in Paisley Cave, Oregon show human visitors there a thousand years earlier than the Clovis finds--13,200 years ago.

### KALENDER

April 17	May Newsletter Mailed
April 23	IGS Bd. of Directors Meeting
May 11	IGS Library CLOSED--Mother's Day
May 18	May Monthly Meeting
May 24, 25	IGS Library CLOSED, Mem'l Day
June 8	IGS Monthly Meeting

These finds match the age of others in southern Chile, South America. The feces show food remnants of squirrel bones, bison hair, fish scales, protein from birds and dogs, and plant remains of grass and sunflowers. DNA shows the persons involved seem related to people of Siberia and Eastern Asia.

We'll hope the archeologists keep busy and discover more of the early history of the U.S. It has been ignored for far too many years already.

(Ventura Co. *Star*, Apr. 4, '08)

### OHIO LAND RECORDS

Pre-1908 Ohio Land Records are now available online at <<http://www.WorldVitalRecords.com>>. This site shows transfers of land ownership from the federal government to individuals, patentees, assignees, warrants, widows or heirs of transfer. There is even provided a Google map showing the land under the ancestor's name! (Napa Valley Genea. & Biog. Soc., CA, Oct. 2007)

### FAMILYSEARCH EXPANDED

The online databases of FamilySearch have been expanded to include the records of WorldVitalRecords.com and The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. databases of the Ellis Island passenger arrival lists. These should be available at every Family History Center as well as online at the main FamilySearch.com website.

As each of these major collections expand, the FamilySearch.com site should be THE major resource for all genealogists. (FGS *Forum*, Fall 2007)

### ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Not to leave out Canada in this listing of U.S. genealogical records available, the same process of going digital online is taking place in Canada! An advertisement in the FGS *Forum*, Fall 2007, shows the website for the Ontario Genealogical Society of Toronto, Canada is available with many Canadian records. Go to--<[provoffice@ogs.on.ca](mailto:provoffice@ogs.on.ca)>

### EARLY POLYNESIAN EXPLORERS

There is an interesting article concerning Polynesian explorers in the far western Pacific who sailed the oceans at least 3,000 years ago--long before the discovery of America--in the March 2008 issue of the *National Geographic*. Imposing walls and rock structures, made with no modern machinery, indicate a very intelligent and talented culture. How could they move 10-ton rocks? Their sailing techniques were very advanced, too! As I recall, there is one Indian language in Chile, S. America, that shows Polynesian roots! Intriguing -----

### OUR IGS WEBSITE

I recently received a phone call from Germany, seeking my address. Seems that I had moved when a professor in Germany tried to contact me and his letters to my previous address were returned to him.

How did he find me again? ?? Someone went online and found my present phone number--probably listed on our IGS webpage! !!! Since that conversation by phone, I have received a sizeable package of information about my Fuhrmann family, adding several generations earlier than I had found--including 2 generations before the surname "Fuhrmann" was adopted! !!!

### WHITTIER AREA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Whittier Area Genealogical Society (WAGS) Library has now been moved to a permanent home in the Whittier College Wardman Library from their previous home in Sante Fe Springs. Due to the help of many volunteers, the entire library was packed, moved and all the books re-shelved in one day! All genealogists in the Los Angeles area are happy for this good news. They have room for expansion as well as beautiful modern facilities. If you live anywhere in the area of Whittier, you should plan a visit to check out this new facility.

### BÄDESCHEN ORTSFAMILIENBÜCHER

In rambling around on the Internet recently, I came across a list of local family history books for families in 115 villages in Baden state of Germany. They are all ones that are currently available for sale, having been published since 1951. You may take a look at the list at: <<http://user.baden-online.de/~ksiefert/>> The list names the village, the number of pages, the years covered (for some), publication date and cost.

An Ortschaftsbuch is an amazing resource if it is for YOUR ancestors' village. The local officials have gone through their local records of all various kinds and compiled those for each family. They cross-reference the records from one generation to the next and index the entire contents. You cannot find a better resource for researching German families. The only problem is--you must know the name of the village or parish where your family's records are included.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr. 25, 26--Two Day Seminar to celebrate 25th Birthday of Sacramento German Genea. Soc. Speakers: Roger Minert & Marion Wolfert. Details from <[Lorelei@softcom.net](mailto:Lorelei@softcom.net)> or (916) 421-8032.

Apr. 26--Sonoma Co. Genealogical Soc. All day seminar featuring Rhonda McClure, Santa Rosa, CA. <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cascgs/mcclure.htm>>

Apr. 28--Sacramento German Genea. Soc., All-day Seminar with John Humphrey, 9-4, Carmichael Park Community Center. <<http://www.sacergensoc.org>>

May 10--Annual Seminar, Conejo Valley G. S., Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA. Ms Smolenyak, "Finding your Lost Ones," "Obits, Newspaper Research". 8:30-3:45, <[rootsweb.com/---cavgs/](http://rootsweb.com/---cavgs/)>

May 14-17--Lancaster Family History Conference. Lancaster, PA. Lancaster Mennonite Historical Soc., 2215 Millstream Rd., Lancaster, PA, 17602-1499.

June 12-15--Platt-Deutsche Conference, by Am. Schleswig-HolsteinHeritage Soc., in eastern Schleswig-Holstein. <[burchettme@prodigy.net](mailto:burchettme@prodigy.net)>

June 19-21--Palatinesto America Nat'l Conference. Columbus, OH. "Tune up your German speaking Research". <[www.palam.org](http://www.palam.org)>

June 27--29-- The Jamboree by So. CA Genealogical Soc. at the Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center, <[www.scsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgenealogy.com)>.

Aug. 7-9, British Isles Family History Soc. Seminar: on board the Queen Mary, Long Beach, CA.

Sept. 3-6--Fed. of Genealogical Societies Nat'l Conf., Philadelphia, PA <[www.fgs.org](http://www.fgs.org)>

## BEGINNER'S GUIDE -GERMANIC GENEALOGY

For persons just beginning to research German Genealogy, it would be very wise to secure a copy of this book which should explain the basics. Once you understand the history, culture, governmental organization, etc., you can branch out on the Internet and find records that you will need. There is no substitute for understanding the historical background in the areas where you will be looking for records.

This new book for Beginners, has been published by the Germanic Genealogy Soc. of St. Paul, MN. The author is Lois Edwards. The 100 pp. paperbound book should be a handy reference and is available for only \$16.00. You may write to Ms. Edwards at 6513 Nordic Drive, Edina, MN 55439, or find her online at <lahedwards@mn.rr.com> or call 952-942-7232.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO SGGs!!!!

As a Society dedicated to German research, IGS must give special attention to the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, which celebrated the 25th anniversary of their founding on April 25th and 26th this year. We are well aware of the valuable support to German research that SGGs has provided over the years.

As the population of California changes, we are pleased that such a strong society helps our society to preserve the German influence of earlier years. Although little of current immigration is of German origin, the effects of those earlier immigrants is still a valuable part of California history.

## AGRICULTURAL CENSUSES 1840-1910

If your ancestors were farmers, it might be helpful to make use of the Agricultural Censuses that are available, associated with the Federal ones. Most are not indexed, but there are ways to shorten the process.

Much information on the Agricultural Censuses is in addition to the regular federal census, and may be of special interest to paint a picture for descendants that would otherwise be forgotten. The Agricultural schedules include facts about crops grown, livestock raised, the amounts of honey and butter produced, etc.

Copies of the Agricultural census may be available in a local county office or library, though not available where the federal census is held.

For the Agricultural census for Lake Co., IL,, they are available in local libraries. On the federal census for the same year, a number at the far right of the entry for a given farmer is a number that is the farm number for that farmer on the Agricultural Census. This note can save you lots of time. The details given are exciting if it is for YOUR ancestor.

(Lake Co., IL G.S. Quarterly, 28:2:2007)

## NEW YORK TIMES ARCHIVE WEBSITE

The New York Times, and its daughter company the Herald Tribune, have now stopped charging for some parts of their website. This may open some new records for researchers in New York State. If you wish to check for records on their website, go to: <nytimes.com> and explore their holdings. (Der Blumenbaum, 25:3:2008)

## OKTOBERFEST IN MUNICH 2008

If you should happen to "get the itch" to attend the Oktoberfest celebrations this coming Fall, they will be held in Munich from September 20 to October 5, (2008).

This is the announcement given in "Der Blumenbaum", Jan.-Mar., 2008.

## HAMBURG EMIGRATION LISTS INFO

Many persons emigrating from northeastern German areas departed from Hamburg. The records of those departures are not readily available here in the U.S. A member of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society, knows and recommends a group in Hamburg who can do research there in the archive for you--probably faster than the archive personnel.

Go online to: <www.beyond-history.com> or e-mail <beyond-history.com>. Their fees are said to be quite reasonable. (Der Blumenbaum, 25:3:2008)

## COLORADO MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE REC'S.

The state of Colorado has closed its marriage and divorce record indexes online due to the problems of identity theft. Persons needing such info for personal use may get it through the state website: <http://www.cdphs.state.co.us>

Isn't it sad that those who respect the rights of others have to be denied access to some records because irresponsible persons are unwilling to obey normal rules of personal responsibility?

(FGS Forum, 19,4,2007)

## NARA & FAMILYSEARCH PARTNERSHIP

In the absence of staff and funding to make more National Archives records available online, NARA is joining with FamilySearch and Footnote.com to digitize, index, and make available several sets of valuable records. With FamilySearch's new high-speed digitizing capabilities, and their many volunteers available for indexing, this should speed up considerably the availability of many NARA records for use by genealogists. The first project was 3,150 pension files.

The National Archives have vast numbers of historical records that can be made available through this new partnership. The digitized materials will be available free via <FamilySearch.org> and at local family history centers worldwide, on a subscription basis operated by third parties subject to NARA approval, and free of charge at Nat'l Archives research rooms.

(Announced Oct. 2007)

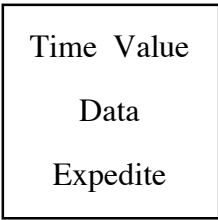
## THE ATLANTIC MAGAZINE

The online website of *The Atlantic Magazine* is now free to researchers. Up to now it has been available by subscription only. It includes blogs, author dispatches, slideshows, interviews, and videos. There are issues back to 1995 of the magazine to browse, some articles back to 1857 when the magazine was founded. You might like to take a look at: <http://www.theatlantic.com/> (German Genealogy Group, March 2008)

## GENEALOGICAL HELPER

We gave a fleeting reference in our last *Newsletter* to information from Everton's Publishers for a discounted price for our members to *Everton's Genealogical Helper*. In case you did not investigate their online site, the details are that you can subscribe for one entire year for only \$19.95 instead of the usual \$29.00, by telling them you are a member of IGS. There may be a cut-off date to that offer, so you should check their website--www.Everton.com.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



May 2008

**JUNE 8, MONTHLY MEETING**

"Verdugo Hills Cemetery History & the Story of the Great Flood of 1978", Speaker: May Lou Pozzo, Author, retired Law Librarian, Caretaker of Verdugo Hills Cemetery. History of the trials of a pioneer cemetery, stories of "occupants", and the struggle to preserve the cemetery and its documents will highlight her presentation. Research is the driving force to accomplish these goals. Is your family burial place well documented and administered, kept up & easy to use?

**THE WEEK IN GERMANY**

The first week of March commemorates the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift. -- Muslim groups in Germany formed a Coordination Council of Muslims in Germany in March 2007. -- This year's International Aerospace Exhibition on May 27--June 1, will show progress at the International Space Station and for exploring the moon and Mars. -- Many foreign language students at Georgia Tech are engineering and computer science students preparing for international work who serve 6-month internships in Siemens of Germany. -- April 18-20 marks the 400th anniversary of German immigration to America. A German physician, Johannes Fleischer, came to Jamestown, VA with the British. -- Jewish culture in Germany is being renewed by remodeling the Old Synagogue in Essen. Today there are over 100,000 members of Jewish communities in Germany. -- A picture of composer Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) has been reconstructed by computer from a bronze skull for his hometown of Eisenach. -- The former East Germany "Stasi" secret service had 189,000 informers when the Berlin Wall fell in 1989. -- German scientists are developing an implant for the retina of the eye to restore sight to blind persons whose nerve cells are still alive. -- Germany's goal is to have 20% of energy come from renewables by 2020. -- The Euro reached 1.54 against the dollar. -- The European Parliament celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 19, 2008. It now has 785 members from 27 EU member states. -- Use of wind energy and biomass, landfill and sewage gas, and organic waste exceeded hydro power for the first time. -- Germa-

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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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ny's beech forests are being considered for UNESCO Natural World Heritage Status. -- Berliners are trying to decide what to do with Templehof Airport in the heart of Berlin. -- An European Union Open House in Washington, DC is scheduled for May 3rd. -- The 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift of 1948 was celebrated this spring at Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, DC. -- By late summer the German Bundestag will operate entirely on green power. -- Meissen porcelain has been produced since 1710 near Dresden. The Frick Collection in New York is the outstanding one in the U.S. -- The first International Transport Union Conference will be in Leipzig, May 28-30. (TWIG, March 7,14,20,30)