



ANNUAL MEETING AND SPEAKER

TIME: Sunday, November 9, 2008 2:00 pm Library Open, 12:00 to 5:00 pm

SPEAKER: Johannes Linning, avid West European genealogist

NORTH GERMANIA--the Dutch, Fleming, etc.

The Circumstances of their Participation in the Establishment of Settlements
from the Weser to the Memel.

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

USING THE COMPUTERS

Perhaps it isn't surprising that so much genealogy is now being done on the Internet. However, it has quite suddenly changed how we do genealogy and how much material is now available online that previously required travel and planning to acquire. Now the problem is more one of too much info available--so much that it tends to be confusing.

One thing that is confusing is the similarity of URLs. If you find a good site to which you wish to return later, be sure you add it to your list of such addresses. If you simply try to return to the site from memory, you are likely to end up at another site you don't really appreciate. Particularly in genealogy, a word sometimes used for many purposes by persons not interested in the topic as researchers use it. So, preserve your own link to those sites you like.

One site recommended by the Germanic Genealogy Journal in their Fall 2007 Journal is a German website at <www.genealogy.net>. This is the English version of the same info at <www.genealogienetz.de/> The website has English versions of about 1/3 of the databases.

Be aware that most German websites charge for search of their records. The site mentioned above is also being gradually changed to a GenWiki format. That means that registered users may add their personal comments and information.

FamilySearch is the website for the Mormon Library films and books being scanned for on-line use as rapidly as possible. They have so many thousands of films and books that the size of their website is growing by leaps and bounds, and continually changing. However, it should be one site that you check frequently, just to see what is new. The indexing does not keep up with all the new materials being added. This necessitates frequent exploratory visits.

PRESERVING HISTORICAL RECORDS

Legislation HR 6056 was introduced in the House of Representatives in May 2008, to provide grants to states to help preserve and make access available to states' historical documents. The amount proposed was \$50 million--about \$1 million for each state. The current economic "melt-down" may delay its passage. If these moneys can be directed through state historical archives/libraries etc., they could give great impetus to preservation of the earliest historical records for each state, which are the valuable records most in danger of loss due to the aging process. Hopefully, it will include checks against abuse.

Also in Ohio, where much of my family research has centered, already the Ohio Historical Society has been given grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to preserve all OH newspapers between 1836 and 1922 by digital preservation. The resulting database is expected to be stored in the Library of Congress and accessible via the Internet free of charge.

The Ohio Historical Society already has most newspaper from 1793 to the present--- on over 52,000 rolls of film and many original-copy newspapers.

KALENDER

Oct. 14	Fall Periodical & Nov. Newsletter Mailed
Oct. 22	IGS Bd. of Directors Meeting
Nov. 2	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 9	Annual and Monthly Meeting
Nov. 18	Dec. Newsletter Mailed
Nov. 26, 29, 30	IGS Library Closed

SILESIA RESEARCH

A very detailed and helpful article for researchers was published in the Spring 2008 issue of the "FGS Forum." Because the history of most continents and populations prior to 1900 was much the same, this article may give you good ideas for other areas of your research.

Look at Silesia's changing political history--Up to 1526, the population in what is now Silesia, was under the Bohemian Crown, then under the Austrian Hapsburgs until 1742, then under Frederick the Great of Prussia, and in 1945 ceded to Poland.

Upon acquisition by Poland the following announcement was made: "Women and Children must now leave the City." With such changes in rulers, it is rather difficult to be sure just where borders were and who exactly would have the past records for your ancestor's area.

This same situation predominated throughout most of Europe. Even though your ancestor may not have been from Silesia, this article will be very helpful to understand what types of records would or would not have been kept, and how you might go about locating those you need.

MOST POPULAR GENEALOGY WEBSITES

The most popular websites for genealogists are ones we probably should be sure to visit, if we have not already done so. They may be the earliest or largest, or most easy to use.

There was a tie for 1st place between <Ancestry.com> and <RootsWeb.com>.

Third place was: <MyHeritags.com>

Fourth place was: <Genealogy.com>

Fifth place was: <FamilySearch.org>

(*The Helper*, July/Aug. '08)

WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY--1828

Why look at a dictionary ninety years old? It will demonstrate how terms used in genealogy have changed.

The old 1828 dictionary gives TWO definitions for the word "infant". One is the usual--"a child in the first period of life." However, the 2nd definition may surprise you--"In law, a person under the age of twenty one years, who is incapable of making valid contracts."

You can take a look at this interesting old book online at --<<http://machaut.uchicago.edu>>

(*FGS Forum*, Spring 2008, p. 13)

A FREE ONLINE GENEALOGY SITE

Why should we pay to use a site if information is also available for free? Only if the free site does not have the desired info. One of the largest free sites is one provided by Brigham Young University. It has digitized copies of many of the books in the Salt Lake City Family History Library. An additional valuable database contains books from the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, IN. These two large collections cover the largest and most basic genealogical resources.

(*Genealogical Helper*, July-Aug. '08)

PENNSYLVANIA RECORDS

A grassroots group in Pennsylvania named, People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access (PaHRAccess), originating in the Lehigh Valley, are attempting to make old Pennsylvania death records available online. Their goal is to include those 50 years or older.

Volunteers to help input records are welcomed.

<<http://users.ren.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm>> is the url online to use their website.

(*FGS Forum*, Sprng 2008, p.20)

QUESTIONS ABOUT EVOLUTION

An article in a periodical I received recently asked some interesting questions and made some rather obvious statements. Can you answer these?

Have you seen information showing that some animal evolved during your lifetime?

Have you seen a record of an animal that evolved in the last 100 years? 200 years? A thousand years?

Have you read a report of any person in the world who observed evolution?

Has a star evolved from hydrogen in your lifetime?

Have you heard of a scientist who has produced something by evolution?

If Evolution must be accepted on faith--how can it be Scientific? H'm-m-m!

WARNING ABOUT WEBSITE URLS

In a discussion of how to use the nearly free website Genealogy.net, Cindy Jacobson warns readers not to be fooled into using urls such as: "www.genealogie.de, www.genlogie.De, genlogie.com, genlogie.Info or deine-gene.com." These look-alike addresses were bought by persons in Germany who are not connected to genealogy but know it is popular." (*Germanic Genealogy Journal*, Fall 2007)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 8--Arizona State Genealogical Soc., Annual Seminar, Featuring John Philip Coletta. Tucson, AZ <<http://www.rootsworld.com/~asgs>>

June 26-28, 2009-- SCGS Jamboree, Burbank, CA

COMPUTERS DO THE DARNDDEST THINGS

German Scientists have developed a "pattern-recognition machine" that can piece back together shredded documents!

With the Fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the Stasi (German Secret Police under Hitler) were ordered to shred all documents of the persons they had killed, stuff the shreds into bags and send them to be burned.

There were so many record to handle that the shredding machines broke down and the workers had to do the shredding by hand. Then they were not able to get trucks to haul them to the quarry where they were to be burned, so they abandoned them in the basement of their headquarters in Hohenschönhausen, Berlin, Germany.

Now the new machine pieces together the computer images so the original documents are reproduced and filed for court use!

I suspect that any Nazi officials still living aren't exactly happy about that.

(*Der Blumenbaum* 25:1)

CHANGES IN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

It has been a very gradual and slow process, but the adaptation of genealogists to the Internet has been continual and steady. If you look in on a meeting of most genealogical societies nowadays, I suspect that you will see a decided decline in attendance. I'm sure there is a correlation between that and the number of

members in most societies.

What would be the cause of such declines? ? ? The Internet, in most cases. As genealogists have discovered more and more of the records they need are being posted on the Internet, they have less urgency to attend the meetings of their local society to "chew the fat" with other researchers, or to donate time to keep the society operating efficiently.

I see an increasing tendency in publications of state genealogical societies to be struggling for officers and fewer seminars being planned throughout the state, and less state news to publish.

Indeed, the genealogical society members are probably spending MORE time working on their genealogy as more and more records are becoming available online. The negative side of the situation is that local societies are having more and more difficulty in recruiting new members and filling openings for society officers. Please--do not decrease your activities in your local society. Work to plan meetings, seminars, trips to libraries, and be sure your library maintains subscriptions to periodicals from across the U.S.--or you donate yours.

PROMOTING OIL INDEPENDENCE

Already about 3 years ago talk about oil independence was being discussed. The governor of Montana suggested breaking the U.S. dependence on Arab oil by using a technology developed in the 1920's. He pointed out that two German scientists had developed a method to convert coal to oil--a process the Nazi regime used during World War II, when the Allies cut off Germany's access to Arab oil.

However, the U.S. decided to use Saudi Arabia's oil instead of the new technology. Today the U.S. has enough coal to produce all the oil we need for 150 years. Montana Governor Schweitzer says that the U. S. could produce all the diesel and gasoline we need from coal for about \$1.00 per gallon.

These statements were published in Oct. 2005. Maybe our officials need to take a second look at this possible technology.

(Chad Groening, in Agape Press, 2005.)

From: *Daily News*, Jan. 29, 2006

"Scientists have discovered an undersea deposit of frozen methane just off the Southern California coast...." The size of the deposit is unknown but it appears to be rather substantial. It is in the form of methane hydrates, ice-like crystals that form under seabeds and Arctic permafrost. Scientists believe that the other already known such deposits around the world, could power the world for centuries!

Scientists were plumbing the Pacific Ocean for other reasons when they discovered the methane deposit--a volcano resting on top of an active faultzone in the Santa Monica Basin. The fact that the deposit is so close to Los Angeles and other coastal cities would make safety in mining a serious consideration.

Gas hydrate deposits contain about three times the amount of Methane currently in the atmosphere. Some estimates are that they contain more carbon energy than all other fuels combined.

The discovery of this fuel is discussed in detail in the February issue of the journal "Geology" (2006 issue).

DEATH RECORDS ONLINE

In a current publication a list of Internet websites which contain records of deaths in various states is given. Most of these websites are already online with some records, but not necessarily all for any given state. You will wish to use the urls for those states that interest you and check again repeatedly. The name of the main website is PA Historical Record Access -- <<http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access-states.htm>> State and other urls are:

Arizona--<http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Georgia--<http://content.sos.state.ga.us/cdm4/gadeaths.php>

Kentucky--http://kyvitals.com/vis/search/searchdeath_recs.php

Missouri--<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/advanced.asp>

Ohio--<http://search.labs.familysearch.org>

Texas--<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/>

Utah--<http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/20842.htm>

West Virginia--http://wvculture.org/vrr/va_dcsearch.aspx or www.wvculture.org

Philadelphia, PA--<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/>

Washington--<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/>

It would also probably be fruitful if you did a search for a specific county that interests you.

DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

The Monthly Meeting in December will be on the 14th at 1:00 pm. It will be the Special Annual Pot-luck Dinner at 1:00 pm. Plan ahead for some special ethnic food that your family had for special occasions, or just a dish that everyone enjoys. All utensils, plates, napkins, drinks will be provided.

At 2:00pm the Program will begin. Be prepared to share. Bring something you have found in your genealogical searching, name of a website you have found particularly helpful, an exciting contact you made with a relative, or whatever made your 2008 research extra special. It doesn't have to be genealogical--just some highlight of the year to share with friends.

PAST-PRESIDENT BARBARA FRESHWATER

A note from Barbara Freshwater included some items for articles in the periodical or newsletter. She will not be coming down to Los Angeles, from her other home in northern California, this year. She had an attack of Shingles about 8 months ago and her skin is so sensitive that she cannot wear her usual clothes, or carry on her usual activities. We'll all certainly miss seeing her. Maybe later in the year? ? ?

THE WEEK IN GERMANY

A baby rhino named Samir has been born to mother named Sani at the Stuttgart Zoo in Mid-August. -- On Sept. 3 Germany and Denmark signed an agreement for a nearly 12 mile suspension bridge from Copenhagen to Hamburg. Construction is slated for 2012. An additional route called the Fehmarn Belt will connect the Danish Island Lolland to the German Island Fehmarn in 2018 to complete bridges to the mainland. -- Germany is sending flood relief to India's Bihar

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Nov. 2008

State and to the Caribbean victims of Hanna and Gustav. -- Ditib, a foundation in Ankara, is building a mosque in the city of Cologne. An estimated 3.3 million Muslims, mostly Turkish, live in Germany. --- Germany's President Köhler will also visit Mongolia and China to solicit military help with UN peacekeeping projects. -- Germany is copying Italy in offering rebates on purchase of more efficient refrigerators and freezers. -- At the Berlin Consumer electronics Show IFA this year (Aug. 29--Sept.3) "geo-tagging" devices drew the most interest. They use the Global Positioning System to plan travel routes. -- A rare giant clam called "Big Mouth" was discovered in the Red Sea. It was thought extinct. -- This year's Beethovenfest featured over 60 concerts in 24 venues across Bonn and Rhineland. -- The annual Wagner Festival planned for 58 years by Wolfgang Wagner, is being passed on to 2 of his daughters to continue. Wagner is 89. -- On Sept. 22, Jewish groups demonstrated outside the UN when Iran's Pres. Ahmedinajad spoke. They also held a rally in Washington, D.C. regarding Ahmedi-najd's threats against Israel. -- The Week In Germany took a 2 week break in Sept. to transfer and fine tune a new format which will integrate the German Embassy, the 8 German Consulates in the U.S. and the German Information Center on one Website. -- New German information Centers were opened recently for Africa, Brasilia, Cairo, Mexico, Moscow, New Delhi, Paris, Beijing, Pretoria and Washington, DC. They are dedicated to strengthening the UN activities. -- Germany hopes to balance its budget by 2011. -- The latest product in electroic reading devices was presented in San Diego on Sept. 8--- a device the size of a sheet of paper, as thick as a writing block with a flexible electronic display. It is produced by Plastic Logic Reader in a factory near Dresden. -- Bees are necessary to a successful agricultural economy. A zoologist has discovered special bees whose job is to "heat" the hives. -- A new synagogue opened in Krefeld, replacing one the Nazis destroyed 70 years ago. -- Twenty-eight years after the Beatles played first in Hamburg, a new set of 5 stainless steel sculptures grace a corner in St. Pauli, Hamburg, depicting the group playing. -- Ger-

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mans are encouraging North and South Korea to begin talks of reunification. -- Berlin's 22nd Jewish Cultural Festival on Sept. 13-21 in Rykestrasse celebrates the survival of Jewish culture after Hitler's regime. There are now 12,000 Jews in Berlin. -- Subscribe at: subscribe-gic@lyris.globescope.com. (TWIG--Sept. 5, 12, 19)

The expansion of "The Week in Germany" to several other countries, carried out at the end of Sept. and beginning of Oct. stopped the publication of the columns for several weeks. We hope they are back soon.