

**Immigrant  
Genealogical  
Society**

# Newsletter

Number 298

P. O. Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369

January 2009

## JOINT MEETING WITH POMMERN SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

**TIME: Sunday, January 11, 2009**

**1:00 p.m.**

**Library Open: 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

**SPEAKER: Brad Witt**

### **From Pomeranian Field to Chicago Factory**

The Journey of an Itinerant Day Laborer to America

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THIS MEETING ! ! ! ! Always bring your charts and documents to share!

IGS Office: 818-848--3122 or Marilyn: 1--818--348--6444

**PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society Library**

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

### **MORE GENEALOGICAL CHANGES**

The effects on how we do Genealogy in light of the expanding use of the Internet are continuing to be felt by long-time Genealogical Societies. An e-mail message advises us that the Library of the Palatines to America Society is being moved, so genealogists will need to change their mailing address and location in their records. Previously, mail and publications were sent to Palatines to America, 611 E. Weber Rd., Columbus, OH, 43211. Their new address will be:

Columbus Metropolitan Library  
101 S. Stygler Rd.  
Gahanna, OH 43230  
Attn: Palatines to America

I suspect that many Societies are experiencing similar effects. As members spend more time on the Internet, they decrease their attendance at monthly meetings of local societies. The decreasing attendance results in decreasing membership, which in turn decreases funds to "pay the rent" and other expenses for a local society. As membership shrivels, more responsibility for operation of the society falls on fewer and fewer persons, until it becomes difficult to find officers and volunteers to serve the society needs.

Will the Internet be the fatal blow to many genealogical societies? Let's hope NOT. Perhaps more aggressive recruiting of friends and neighbors by members would be helpful. There are certain basic services of societies that cannot be replaced by online access.

### **EVERTON'S HANDYBOOK FOR GENEALOGISTS**

A new 11th Edition of the *Everton's Handybook for Genealogists* has recently been published. In light of the many changes in the last few years in how we now do genealogy, this is a very necessary resource for every genealogist to have at hand. This new edition contains

many expansions of updated features, a thorough analysis of new sources, and many suggestions how to use the Internet to improve your record keeping. It can also be purchased on CDs, if you prefer that method of storage. For your updated copy, you may order one from <www.everton.com> or call 1-800-443-6325. Such a comprehensive research aid is indispensable to a genealogist, and it can save you time otherwise spent "stumbling around the Internet".

All the new genealogical information on the Internet is not necessarily entirely dependable. You still need the advice of experts to analyze and evaluate many things you find posted online. This new *Handybook* is really needed by every genealogist.

### **READING ORIGINAL CHURCHBOOKS**

In light of the many new records being digitized and posted online, it becomes much more important for you to learn to read churchbook records in German, Norwegian, Swedish, French, Italian, Spanish, or other languages of your ancestors. It is not necessary for you to be fluent in your ancestor's language in order to read the churchbook records, or even histories of your ancestral heritage. It does not take long to memorize the terms for births, marriages, deaths, etc. in any language. You can look up words in a dic-

### **KALENDER**

Dec. 16	January Newsletter Mailed
Dec. 24, 27, 28, 31 ('08)	IGS Library Closed
Jan. 3, 4, ('09)	IGS Library Open
Jan. 18	IGS January Meeting
Jan. 20	Feb. Newsletter Mailed
Feb. 8	IGS February Meeting

tionary and make a list as you go along. What is usually most difficult is reading the handwriting !

Even learning to read old gothic script (handwriting) isn't a great problem. Once you get your eyes "tuned" to how it is supposed to be written, you can quickly tell from the context what an individual letter probably was intended to be. So, teach yourself to read some basic words in the language in Gothic of your ancestors so that you can read the church book records **yourself**.

Check genealogical publications for lists of words commonly used for your language of heritage. There are some that show the word in printed form and then in handwritten form. Such guides are pure gold. You really CAN "teach yourself" to read old German church-book records--and any other language you need to know. Give it a try!

### RECORDS ON CD-ROM/COMPACT DISC

Preserving records or old books on Compact Discs is becoming more and more popular. There are hundreds of books already on Compact Discs. The advantage of this medium is that you can have them at your fingertips right at home.

Now there is a way to find what CDs are available !! *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, Nov-Dec 2008, has published a list of 10 CDs and what books or records each contains. It was published in the Nov/Dec. '08 *Genealogical Helper*, pp. 84-92.

### 70th ANNIVERSARY OF KRISTALNACHT

Nov. 9 was the 70th Anniversary of Kristalnacht in Germany. For those too young to recall that night, it was the time before World War II when organized gangs of Hitler's Nazis attacked Jewish businesses and synagogues in an attempt to wipe out European Jewry. Many persons living today are not really aware of the hatred for Jews that Hitler fueled. Many of us who are old enough to recall some of the events of that time, never actually heard about the racial hatred involved. Let us hope that the world learned a bitter lesson by that event, and now respects the best values of differing cultures throughout the world.

This year, on Nov. 9th, the Central Council of Jews and the German Federal Government had a joint meeting, commemorating the destruction of the Ryke Street Synagogue in Berlin's Prenzlauer Berg neighborhood, and the pogrom of 70 years ago. This was the first-ever joint commemoration of that historic event in Germany.

### BMW'S ELECTRIC MINI

The Los Angeles Auto Show on Nov. 19, 20 this year featured BMW's unveiling of the world's first all-electric Mini Cooper. It features a 35 kilowatt-hour lithium-ion battery and an electric motor. It seats two persons, has a range of 150 miles, and a topspeed of 95 mph. It can be charged in a garage via a wall box. The German ambassador unveiled the Mini on Nov. 17, 2008.

The new lithium ion batteries were developed in cooperation with experts in Taiwan, and are now being evaluated for efficiency and durability. At present, their size is the main problem--the batteries take up all the back seat space in the Mini.

GM tried to use a similar battery in GM's EV1 in 2003, but the battery section was too large and expensive to be practical. For the present, electric vehicles will be

practical only for city driving, not long distances. As the battery efficiency is improved in coming years, this technology is expected to be more competitive.

### THE FINANCIAL SUMMIT--NOV. 15, '08

The Group of 20 (G-20), leaders of the world's major industrial and emerging countries, met in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 15, 2008 to discuss the world financial situation and what stricter regulations may be necessary. German Chancellor Angela Merkel suggested there is the need to discuss several things--how to develop a "risk map" for global institutions, altering the system of providing executive bonuses, and creating an international credit register are topics needing detailed discussion.

### IS THERE A CURE FOR AIDS? ? ?

An interesting report in the *News from Germany*, Nov. 14, 2008 distributed by the German Embassy in New York, tells of a surprising reaction of a 42-year old, HIV positive person being treated in Charite' Hospital in Berlin. In his treatment for some other condition, he received Stem-Cell Therapy. A subsequent blood test showed that his blood, following the treatment, was HIV/AIDS free! Perhaps this discovery will develop a treatment for AIDS.

On the other hand, since AIDS seems to be triggered by the inter-action of the immune systems of two men due to homo-sexual activity, would repetition of such activity, after the stem-cell treatment, tend to reproduce the AIDS/HIV virus again?

### UPCOMING EVENTS

January 10, 2009--San Diego, CA. The San Diego Genealogical Society will hold a luncheon and seminar featuring Lloyd Bockstruck. <[www.rootsweb.com](http://www.rootsweb.com)>

Jan. 12-16--Salt Lake City, Utah, A week seminar at the Radisson Hotel. Ten Courses. Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy. <[www.infouga.org](http://www.infouga.org)>

Feb. 14-- The 10th Annual Genealogy Seminar by the Genealogical Society of Riverside, CA. (<<http://www.gsor.org/> or <[gsor@gsor.org](mailto:gsor@gsor.org)>).

February 28--Whittier, CA, Seminar by WAGS, Sat. Febr. 28, featuring Curt Witcher of Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

March 7--Escondido Family History Fair in Escondido, CA, Escondido Stake Center. Speaker-Leland Meitzler. <[www.familyhistoryfair.org](http://www.familyhistoryfair.org)>

April 25--Santa Rosa, CA. Seminar, featuring Lloyd Bostruck <[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgs/bockstruck2.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgs/bockstruck2.htm)>

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

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

### RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

If the Web's proliferation of websites in the last few years has you confused, you might like to take a look at a list in *Everton's Genealogical Helper*, Sept/Oct. '08 issue, which has a section titled, "Everton's Best-Rated Genealogy Sites." The list is well organized under general headings such as: British Commonwealth, England & Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Canada, Australia. Each geographic area is divided into topics. Consulting those lists might save you some time sorting for records on the Internet.

### FREE GERMAN MAPSITE ONLINE

If you have picked up a little understanding of the difference in spelling between English and German, you can probably navigate a free website that displays old maps of Europe beginning in the 1500's. The site is on the website of the Institute of European History--Mainz, Germany, copied from their library.

If you have German heritage, this may reveal some of the changes in political jurisdictions over the centuries that would reveal political jurisdiction names to be searched at specific time-periods. The url is:

<<http://www.ieg-maps.uni-mainz.de/mapl.htm>>  
(*Genealogical Helper*, Nov/Dec. '08)

### GERMAN CONSULATE OFFICES IN THE U.S.

The *Week in Germany* recently listed all the German Consular offices in the U.S from which you might like to secure information.

They are located in--- Atlanta GA, Boston MA, Chicago IL, Houston TX, Los Angeles CA, Miami FL, New York NY, San Francisco CA, and Washington DC.

The Consular Office in Washington, DC is the one whose website posts "*The Week in Germany*" on its website. If you wish to keep current on happenings in Germany--which our U.S. Media tend to ignor--you could visit their website occasionally, or use it to subscribe to *The Week in Germany*, (a very condensed version) which can be delivered free of charge to you by e-mail most weeks. They seem to finally be back on a weekly production schedule now, after all the confusion of adding a number of similar offices worldwide.

<<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/>>

### REAL CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING FOUND?

With all the whoop-la about Global Warming, and attempts to blame it on air pollution, it is refreshing to see a report in *Acts & Facts*, a periodical started a few years ago by present-day scientists. They report research by a Prof. Henrik Svensmark, head of the Center for Sun-Climate Research at the Danish National Space Center. He has worked for several years to prove or disprove possible causes of Global Warming such as: Precipitation, Carbon Dioxide, Sunspots, and Cosmic Ray Flux.

By studying weather patterns for thousands of years, and other factors that could effect weather, Prof. Svensmark has finally concluded--based on the use of his many statistical studies--that Global Warming is NOT caused by air pollution, or increases in carbon dioxide!

His conclusions after all his study, is that the most scientific causes are related to cosmic rays coming to the earth, exploding supernovas in space, collisions of remnants of stars with nebula in space, effects by the solar wind, electromagnetic activity of the sun, and fluctuations of cosmic ray intensity from space.

While Dr. Svensmark's new theory of Cosmoclimatology is far too complicated to describe in a paragraph, it is expected to be presented to the CERN Laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland for testing and approval in 2010.

It is recommended that the U.S. NOT try to eliminate carbon dioxide as a cause of Global Warming until Dr. Svensmark's theory is studied and firmly substantiated by world climatologists. (*Acts and Facts*, Nov. '08)

### INDIAN GROUPS` DNA NOW AVAILABLE

A recent speaker at the American Association for the Advancement of Science shed new light on facts uncovered by recent DNA studies of various American Indian tribes. Apparently the high interest in DNA testing has include many persons with American aboriginal heritage.

The speaker was Dr. Theodore Schurr of the Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research in San Antonio, Texas. He stated unilaterally that the DNA evidence shows that Europeans and Japanese persons arrived on the shores of America by sea about 30,000 years ago. Prior to this revelation, it had been thought that the first immigrants came from Siberia and north-east Asia about 13,500 years ago via the land bridge over the Bering Sea. Now accumulated DNA records have changed that conclusion.

It is now evident that there were five DNA "haplo-groups" identified among Indian tribes. Four of the haplo groups trace back to north-eastern Asia, particularly the areas of Baikal and AltaaiSayan. A fifth group originates in Europe and appears among Algonkian speaking groups such as the Ojibwa Indians. However, this group came much later thanthe other four. The DNA markers in the Ojibwa group have never yet been found anywhere in the northeastern Asian groups.

Another interesting fact revealed by the DNA studies is that the Blackfoot, Iroquois, and other Indians in Minnesota, Michigan, Ontario and Massachusetts are partially descended from the neolithic Japanese. Their heritage comes from a group calledthe Jomon, whoinvented pottery manufacturing after 10,000 B.C. and were known as seafarers. The Jomon type of pottery has been recovered along the west coast of South America.

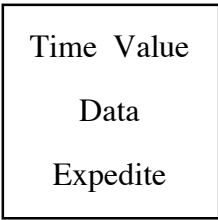
### FEBRUARY MEETING

The IGS Monthly Meeting in February will feature our Computer Guru, Warren Weimer. The meeting will be on the 2nd Sunday, February 8, at 2:00 pm. If you have questions about how to use your computer online, this might be a good opportunity to seek some basic help and advice.

### THE WEEK IN GERMANY

On Nov. 9 Germany commemorated the 70th anniversary of "Kristallnacht"--the night when gangs of Nazis attacked Jewish businesses and synagogues and precipitated World War II. -- Germany expects to have 1 million electric autos and plug-in hybrids within 10 years. -- Germany has authorized 5 million Euros in aid to Afghanistan to help with Winter problems. -- Tempelhof Airport, where American food aid was delivered after WWII, was closed down because it is now surrounded by Berlin city buildings. -- Germany is hosting 4 major art exhibitions. -- Chancellor Merkel attended the global financial summit meeting (known as the Group of 20) in Washington, DC, and made several concrete suggestions. -- Common security issues will continue to be important between the U.S. and Germany. -- Germany has already agreed to increase its troops in Afghanistan to 4,500 and to give up to

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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170 million Euros for reconstruction. -- Germany and the U.S. must cooperate on solving the Iran nuclear program threat. -- Syria's attitude and actions must also be closely supervised. -- Brandenburg is an outstanding example of conversion to renewable energy. -- Germany has already launched a much needed German-Indonesian Tsunami Early Warning System. -- The leading industrial and emerging economies (G-20) are planning to cooperate closely to overcome the present world financial crisis by taking 50 emergency measures to eliminate "blind spots". Suggested were a risk map of the world, modifications of incentives for executives, and an international lending register. -- A Nuremberg Conference honored the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. -- The U.S. and Germany are leading the nations to overcome the current financial crisis. -- An international conference on human rights is being planned. -- Germany is working with liquid crystals to reduce friction in bearings and gears. -- Cities in the U.S. are beginning to set up traditional German Christmas Markets. In Germany they are colorful fairs during the 4-week period of Advent providing foods, Christmas ornaments and handicrafts. The Christkindlmarket in Chicago is the best known in the U.S., taking place since 1996. Others more recent are Cincinnati, New York City, Denver and Bethlehem (PA), Akron, OH, Leavenworth (WA), Hermann, (MO), Baltimore (MD), Schaumburg, (IL), Elkhardt Lake, (E WI) and Medina, (NY), Mifflinburg (PQ), Tulsa (OK) -- Fredericksburg (TX), Austin, San Antonio, Brenham and Tomball, (TX), Dayton (OH) are others. -- In Germany Christmas is celebrated both Dec. 25 and 26. -- "Silent Night, Holy Night" was written in Austria in 1818. It has been translated into 300 languages and dialects. It was first sung in St. Nicolas Church in Oberndorf near Salzburg. -- Advent is celebrated the four weeks before Christmas by both Catholics and Protestants. Advent Calendars in Germany have 24 small windows and doors that open up to reveal pictures, candy or gifts. Many families make their own calendars. Advent wreaths are made of Evergreen branches, usually with 4 candles for the 4 Sundays of Advent. -- Germany has

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

**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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set up the most ambitious climate protection and energy goals in the world. -- Germany set up a crisis office Nov. 27 and sent a team of psychologists to India to counsel victims of the terrorist attack at Mumbai. Foreign Minister Steinmeier strongly condemned the attackers. -- The EU has agreed to accept permanently 10,000 Iraqi refugees from Syria and Jordan. -- Saxony has been recently rated top in German schools. -- A resort built on Rügen Island in the Baltic Sea was stopped by World War II. Now construction is planned to complete it to serve 20,000 vacationers. -- A pair of polar bear cubs were born in Nuremberg to join Knut, now full grown. (TWIG Nov. 7, 14, 21,28, 2008)