



**Immigrant
Genealogical
Society**

Newsletter

Number 299/300

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

February/March 2009

WORKSHOP NO. 1, HOW TO USE THE IGS LIBRARY, FINDING AIDS

TIME: Sunday, March 8, 2009

12:00 p.m.

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

LEADER: ,MARILYN MARKHAM DEATHERAGE

30 + YEARS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

SHE WILL PROVIDE A LIBRARY DIAGRAM, LIST OF ORTSSIPPENBUCHER IN OUR UNIQUE COLLECTION, INDEXES OF IMPORTANT SERIES AND OTHER AIDS FOR USING THE LIBRARY.

THIS IS YOUR TIME TO RESEARCH:BRING YOUR INFORMATION (CHARTS, CLUES, BRICK WALLS, AND THOSE QUESTIONS) FOR OUR LEADER AND STAFFERS TO HELP YOU.

COME ANY TIME, BEGINNERS ARE VERY WELCOME. INFORMATION: 818-348-6444

PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society

1310 W. Magnolia Blvd. Burbank, CA 91505

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

This months newsletter is our first attempt since the retirement of Jean Nepsund. She will be sorely missed.

Last months presentation by Warren Weimer was very informative.

My time has been limited due to illness in my family. Hopefully you'll find the information useful and informative. Our content will most likely change over time. Please feel free to write or email us with your suggestions and wishes.

As Jean as mentioned in previous newsletters, we need more volunteers to help. If you can assist please let us know. Our expenses are increasing, genealogical memberships are decreasing This puts a strain on our resources. None of us can do it alone.

Plae consider volunteering your time or contributing a monetary contribution. We need your help and involvement in order to function as a ongoing society.

Thank you in advance for your help.

HELPFUL TOOLS FOR GENEALOGISTS

<http://babelfish.yahoo.com/> Translations
<http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/Rg/frameset>
 Genealogical Word Lists for Foreign Countries
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/cgi-bin/qfd/lookup>
<http://resources.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/townco.cgi>
 Old towns and cities.

<http://www.searchforancestors.com/utility/dayofweek.html> Days of the Week
<http://www.myrelative.com/html/day-of-birth.html>
<http://www.calendarhome.com/day-of-week.html>

After finding an ancestor in the Social Security Death Index, you can use the site <http://stevemorse.org/ssn/ssn.html> to find out from which state the Social Security Number was issued and when it was issued. This could lead you to where your ancestor lived when they first started working.

READING ORIGINAL CHURCHBOOKS

Reprinted from last month. 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

KALENDER

March 8	IGS General Meeting 2:00PM
March 14,	CGS Meeting, 1:00PM
March 29,	CGS Salt Lake City Trip
April 5	IGS/PSIG Meeting 2:00PM
April 22	IGS Board of Directors
May 10	Library Closed

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 dictionary 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! Evertons Genealogical Helper (Nov-Dec) has an excellent article on Pages 52-56. Recommended reading.

USING GRANTOR/GRANTEE RECORDS

Grantee land records are excellent sources of genealogical information. However it's important to check the actual deeds to be sure that recording errors haven't occurred.

The Nov/December issue of Genealogical Helper, Pages 24-25 has an excellent article by Jennifer Sheppard in which she shares her own experience in handling these documents.

TOWNS AND STATES

If you come across a place in your research in the U. S. and it only lists a town and a state, use the following web address on Roots Web, <http://resources.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/townco.cgi>. Make a list of your states, counties, and towns and carry it with you for those times you aren't at home. <Ancestry >

LAND PATENTS:

You can access land patents for 32 states online at the BLM General Land Office Records Automation website <www.glorerecords.blm.gov>. They also have some land surveys, field notes, and plats--or maps--to go with the patents. Full homesteading land entry case files are available through NARA in Washington DC. You can find information for accessing them, including the information you will need to request a file, on the BLM-GLO website or at www.archives.gov/genealogy/land/index.html. <Ancestry>

IGS WORKSHOPS 2009:

This year we're having a series of workshops at the Library to acquaint our patrons with various resources, how to use them, and what can be expected from them.

MARCH 8, FINDING AIDS

MAY 17, SURNAME SOURCES

JUNE 14, PLACES, MAP USE

AUGUST 9, UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 13, FOREIGN SOURCES

NOVEMBER 8, PUTTING IT TOGETHER

APPRECIATION FOR OUR GENEROUS MEMBERS

The Society thanks all of our members and DPL Subscribers for their very generous extra donations in the form of additions to their renewals, separate checks, and upgraded membership categories.

In this economy, we know all items in your budget are looked at carefully. Along with other non-profit groups our membership and subscriptions to DPL have decreased in the last few years.

To keep our doors open to our unique collection, we need to increase revenue. We also need the active support of all of you. Please bring in new members, bring friends to the IGS Library, suggest programs for our monthly meetings, and volunteer for the many open opportunities to better acquaint yourself with your Society and its great collection, especially German sources.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 25--Santa Rosa, CA. Seminar, featuring Lloyd Bostruck <www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgs/bockstruck2.htm>

April 25--Topeka, KS. The Topeka Genealogical Society and the Kansas State Historical Society are co-hosting the 37th Genealogy conference featuring John Philip Colletta.

June 26-28--SCGS Jamboree Burrbank, CA
www.scgs.com

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

Searchable database of 65,000 emigrants from Schleswig-Holstein. <www.rootdigger.de/Emi.htm>

GREENLAND'S MELTING SEA ICE

In a normal summer, Greenland's northern and eastern coasts should be ringed by an ice belt 30 to 40 miles wide. The drifting ice acts like a shock absorber, dampening the strength of the North Atlantic. "It takes a lot of wave energy to move the ice, and normally water along the coast is very calm," says Danish archaeologist Bjarne Gronnow, of the National Museum in Copenhagen.

But in the past five years, the sea ice has all but disappeared. Without its floating frozen shield, Greenland's coast is being pummeled by storm surges originating hundreds of miles away. When Gronnow visited the region last summer, his team was barely able to land their zodiac rafts on the beaches because of waves almost 10 feet high.

The effect on the island's heritage has been catastrophic. Hardest hit have been sites associated with the Thule culture, people closely related to the Inuit of Northern Canada who first migrated to Greenland around 2,000 years ago. The Thule were formidable hunters and whalers, and their villages were built close to the shore. Today, Thule houses made of stone and turf with whale bone rafters are disappearing quickly, along with buried tools and artifacts. "A meter per season will be tumbled down to the beach and washed away," Gronnow says. "It's not a slow process."

Older sites along the coast are also in danger. As the Arctic warms up, archaeologists fear the frozen turf that covers Qeqertassussuk, a 4,500 year old settlement where evidence for the earliest settlement of Greenland was found, may be melting. Gronnow, who excavated the remote site for the first time in the 1980's, is headed back this summer, and he is not optimistic. "I've been working in Greenland for 30 years now," he says. "I can see with my own eyes how it has changed." <Archaeology>

ORTSSIPPENBUCHER-VILLAGE LINEAGE BOOKS

In Germany, "town lineage" books are called *dorf-sippenbucher*, *ortssippenbucher*, *familienbucher* and various newer titles. These books are the printed alphabetical listings of surnames for one specific place. They usually are listed after the surname chronologically by marriage date with cross reference to father or further family if a person had no children. If known, a cross reference to a spouse's town is useful if not of the same place. Putting families together for a village or town using the parish records and sometimes civil records is a wonderful source to further your genealogy.

All you need is a place! There are about 50,000 parishes in German and 350,000 parish registers. Only hundreds of these books have been published, but if one is yours, BINGO! This is an ongoing project by individuals, State Genealogical Societies, and even towns.

The IGS has at least a couple hundred volumes, marked in Blue on our shelves. Come to Workshop No. 1 on March 8, 2009 to get a list and tips for using them, such as symbols and abbreviations

Bring your lunch if you need to. Ope-from 12-5PM
The workshop is on How to use the
IGS Library Finding Aids.

RETREATING SWISS GLACIERS

The summer of 2003 was a scorcher in Europe, setting record temperatures across the Continent and contributing to the deaths of more than 30,000 people. High in the Swiss Alps, the heat wave melted glaciers and snow, causing severe floods in the valleys below.

On September 17, a hiker named Ursula Leuenberger was crossing an iced over pass near the Schnidejoch glacier when something odd caught her eye, a leather quiver that had been left high in the Alps by a Neolithic hunter around 2800 B.C.

The following summer, University of Bern archaeologist Albert Hafner organized a team of glaciologists and archaeologists to follow Leuenberger back up the mountain. There they found a five foot thick ice patch 260 feet long and 100 feet wide. In just one sunny week, the edges of the ice patch shrank 20 feet. Over the course of two summers, archaeologists found in it everything from prehistoric leather pants and shoes to nails from Roman sandals.

The find revealed that people have climbed high in the Alps for millennia, despite its harsh conditions.. (At Schnidejoch's altitude, the ground is covered in snow nine months out the year.) "This was just the quickest way from one valley to another," says Hafner. His work also showed that 1,000 year gaps in the ages of the artifacts corresponded with cold periods when glacial ice would have blocked the pass. The fact that fragile organic materials were preserved near Schnidejoch for more than 5,000 years means the ice cover hasn't been this small since the Stone Age. "I think in the next years if there is a hot summer, the ice will disappear completely," say Hafner. It's obviously related to climate change.

For archaeologists, the melting ice is both a crisis and an opportunity: the artifacts at Schnidejoch never would have been found without climate change, but as more and more alpine ice fields thaw and vanish, countless more artifacts may rot away and disappear forever, along with the icy glaciers and snowfields that define the Alps. Hafner says he has his eye on other sites that are on the verge of thawing. "I'm very happy to find the objects because they will give us new inputs, but I am not happy about the climate change," he says. "I'm an archaeologist, but I'm also an alpinist." <Archaeology>

ABOUT "THE WEEK IN GERMANY"

As 2008 draws to a close, Germany.info can look back at a great year. We celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift with our "Friends Always" campaign, relaunched Germany.info and continued to bring you the latest news from Germany every week. There is no doubt that 2009 will bring plenty of challenges that Germany and the United States will have to face together. Getting the Global economy back on the path to growth. With the new administration in Washington there will be new opportunities to strengthen the transatlantic bonds.

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February/March 2009

This Week in Germany, January 16, 2008
During talks in Israel, Foreign Minister Steinmeier called for a humanitarian suspension of the hostilities in the Gaza Strip and criticized the recent Israeli attacks. Economic Recovery measures focus on jobs, stability. The government's second recovery package is worth 50 billion euros. "We don't want to just survive this crisis", we want to see Germany emerge stronger and better equipped to face the future said Merkel.
Berlin's Green Week Fair is a crowd pleaser. Once a year country life comes to the German capital and city folk flock to the worlds largest exhibition for the food industry, agriculture and horticulture to smell, taste and marvel attractions on offer. Steinmeier Calls for "New Transatlantic Agenda"
Your campaign was thrilling. You gave people, in the US and beyond, enthusiasm for a new start towards a shared future.. The tasks we are facing are enormous... (and) can only be realized together said the German Minister in an open letter to President elect Barack Obama published in Der Spiegel. German economic growth in 2008 was considerably weaker than in the two preceding years, according to the Federal Statistical Office. At the same time, employment reached its highest level since German reunification.
Inspector Gadget: Robot gives wind turbines check up. Sure to give the wind energy sector a boost, a new robot developed by German researches scales and inspects wind turbines to accurately detect the most minute damage even below the surface.
Liquid Wood Replaces Plastic in Sustainable Toys: Plastic was one of the great chemical inventions of the 20th Century, but now liquid wood may be the plastic of the 21st Century, according to a group of German scientists.
German to Fund Engine Design Work by Car Industry: Germany is to inject government funding into the engine-design work in the car industry, Chancellor Angela Merkel said recently. "Germany invented the first cars a century ago. Now we are in a fresh competition to see if German Industry can build the 21st Century car," she said.

Immigrant Genealogical Society
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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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Politics takes a back seat to storytelling, both dramatic and comedic, in the 2009 edition of Film-Neu, the 17th annual round-up of distinctive German Language cinema from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland that takes place January 23-29, in Washington DC.
Mendelssohn on the Mall:
In 2009, the international music world will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy. To honor the composer, a series of events billed as "Mendelssohn on the Mall" will take place in Washington, DC from January 11, to February 27, 2009.
German Titleholders Face Challenging Handball Championships in Split, Croatia in defense of title.