January 10, 2010
Joint Pommern Special Interest Group/IGS Meeting

Members of PSIG will help you with our unique Pommern section of the library for your research. You will learn how to access the Pommern web-site to your best advantage and use our books and the queries in “Die Pommerschen Leute” since it’s beginning.

Other staffers can help you with other areas of Germany and the rest of the Library!!

Program starts at 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As we approach the end of the year, 2010 is almost upon us. Soon the 1940 census will be available (2012). It only seems like yesterday that 1930 was available. This brings to mind how short a time window we have and how important it is to finish our family research projects and take the time to share them.

I hope the new year brings you success and happiness. Thank you to all of our members for your support and membership. A special thanks to those of you who were able to be supporting members or who made special contributions to your society. We truly appreciate it.

I also wanted to recognize the Board of Directors for their unselfish efforts. Special recognition goes to Linda Stone for taking over as editor of our publications. Her husband, Warren, has been instrumental as well. Lura Perkins has solidly filled the Corresponding Secretary position while also serving as our Research Director. Her contributions of time, knowledge, and commitment are irreplaceable. Lastly, Marilyn Deatherage, continues to be the backbone of your society, wearing many hats, Treasurer, Program and Staffing Director. We would not be able to function without these people.

Please make it a point to thank these people when you attend a society function. Once again, Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you during the year.

Ron Grider, President

This is a quick reminder that the library will NOT be open every Saturday or Sunday in the future. The volunteer librarians have diminished in number the past year and it has put an undue pressure on several of the people who have picked up the slack. Marilyn Deatherage has been especially responsive to our plight. It is just the only solution that the board could come up with unless we get more volunteers. BE SURE TO CHECK if the library is open before you decide to come and save yourself the frustration of arriving and finding the library closed. We are not happy with this situation but it is the only way we could keep open at least part of the time. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Marilyn or Pres. Ron Grider. In the meantime, please take advantage of this wonderful resource. Our collection, especially of German books, is extraordinary.

KALENDER

December 23-31 Closed
January 2010
10 PSIG/General Meeting/Program
2PM WORKSHOP
19 Mailing
27 Board of Directors 7PM
I want to send a Special Christmas Greetings to the mailing committee, Bob Reis, and Sharon Cody, Anne and Lee Archer and friends when they are in town, who have so willingly donated their time every month to the one morning once a month when we get together to get the newsletter ready for mailing. A Special Thank You to Villa, who has come in every month to do the book work involved in the mailing list. And to Lura, who proof reads and finds our errors. Remember, we also send the letter by e-mail and greatly appreciate all those members who are taking advantage of this mode to cut down on the time and money saved with this endeavor by the society. Linda Stone and Warren Stone, Editors

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Following is a press release for the Sacramento German Genealogy Society's monthly meetings. The meetings are held at 1pm in St. Mark's Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on Lusk Dr. & St. Marks Way. St Mark's is located directly behind Country Club Plaza near Watt and El Camino. Submitted by: Joan Gray-Fuson (916) 487-2563

Tuesday, January 26, 2010
Presenter: Jim Rader
Title: “Genetic Genealogy: DNA as a Key to Your Ancestors”
Once again, we depend on Jim Rader to keep us posted on what's going on in the field of genetic genealogy DNA. It's a topic to which constant changes need to be heeded. Fortunately, we have Jim to answer our questions.

Tuesday, February 23, 2010
Presenter: Warren Bittner
Title: “Using Multiple Sources for Solving an Immigrant Problem”
Warren Bittner, with a wide background in German research, will share with us his extensive knowledge of the holdings at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, with ideas about how to use them.

Have you ever seen Fraktur with which “generations of Pennsylvania Germans recorded births, baptisms, marriages, and other events?” “The earliest-known examples date to the 1740's when German speaking European immigrants were flocking to the countryside beyond Philadelphia. Many were Mennonites, Amish, and other refugees from religious persecution.” In Europe, common people did not commission manuscripts with fraktur calligraphy. “In America, however, even farmers and shopkeepers felt entitled to commemorate their lives...for a modest fee...the local schoolmaster would wield his pen to inscribe the who, where, and when, punctuating their significance with vivid, scrolls and hearts, flora and fauna. (Oddly, farm animals and houses are scarce, as Corinne and Russell Earnest observe in Fraktur: Folk Art and Family, a Schiffer book. Country Living, October 2005

In a review by Nancy Dow of the book, Your Land, Our Land—Two Centuries of American Words and Images from the Regions of the National Archives by Monroe and Brian Dodd and the staff of the National Archives, I learned some interesting facts. Do you know what year the National Archives was created? Do you know when the regional offices started? Okay, I’ll let you know in a minute but I want you to make some guesses! If you think it’s fun to find out about famous people, you can see Declaration of Intent for naturalization for Marlene Dietrich and Maria von Trapp. Remember Maria and her stepchildren in the film “The Sound of Music”. I still don’t think they walked over the Alps singing, but that’s just my take on their escape from Nazi Germany. But it is amazing when we were in a cafe and talked with two military men in their early 20’s who told us that they had gone on the von Trapp tour the day before, and they were still in awe. It pointed out to me the power of music and film in our lives. Okay, here are your answers; the National Archives was created in 1934 and the regional offices were started in the 1950’s. 2009 is the archives 75th anniversary. Der Ahnenforscher, German Genealogy Group, Issue 136, November 2009

Elisabeth Shown Mills is well-known in genealogy and has spoken at many seminars and authored many books. Mills has a new book that is perhaps daunting to many by it’s size at 885 pages. But in a review by Dale Realander, it has peaked my interest. Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace is a book you may want to peruse for the sections concerning Ger-many. We have people tell us that they can’t do German research because they don’t speak the language and therefore can’t read the books. We tell everyone you are only looking for a name and if you know a location you look there as well. In this book, Mills tells you the words we tell people to look for, such as, “Kirchenbüchen(er) (church books)…” Familienbüchen(er)=family registers; Heiraten & Aufgeboten=Marriages and banns; Kommunionen=Communionen; Konfirmationen=Confirmations; Seelen=Church membership rolls; Taufen=Baptisms; Toten (Todten) & Begräbnisse=Deaths and Burials. There, you have the items you are looking for and you now know the words and two of those words are so familiar to us that we would recognize them. You will also find Standesamt (civil records office) or Stadtarchiv (state archives) serving a region. Of course, I have only touched on these few words in the sections on German research and this book offers much more about evidence and citation which she has emphasized in a past title. Der Ahnenforscher, German Genealogy Group, Issue 136, November 2009

I knew I was mostly descended from Germans but even if I didn’t, this would confirm it. So many times I’ve said I wish I had looked for the lost item in the last place, first. Well, as it turns out, the Palatines had the same idea. In de letscht Dutt find sich alles. You find everything in the last bag.) Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 27, No. 2: October, November, December 2009
Richard L. Hooverson in an article titled “Musings and Gleanings” in Heritage Quest, May/June 2001 gathered these interesting facts. If you want to look for ancestors leaving home and coming to America, here are the times when they most likely came. Irish Catholics fled the potato famine in the 1840’s and ‘50’s. Germans (before 1871 we weren’t called German but it is easier now to consider everyone from the various regions that became incorporated into Germany as German) fled recessions and political unrest. Scandinavians fled land shortage in the 1860’s to 1900’s. Jewish people fled the Russian Czar and persecution in the 1870’s through 1910’s. Poles fled disease, oppression and poverty from the 1880’s through the 1920’s. "Austro-Hungarians" fled poverty and oppression from the 1880’s through the 1920’s. Italians fled revolution and unemployment in the 1890’s and the 1920’s. It is estimated 4.5 million Italians came; 4.0 “Germans” and Austro-Hungarians; 2.5 Jews from Russia; 1.0 Poles; 1.5 Irish and Scandinavi-ans. I have been working on my first husband’s family because he died before he ever got around to doing anything and I want my children to know more than just my side of their ancestry. In the past three years my son found where his Italian great grandfather came from at the National Archives regional office in Denver. And just during the past month I had help at the LDS stake in Simi Valley, CA in finding where their Austro-Hungarian great-grandfather was born. It is only the beginning, but I’m so happy that we have at least this much to begin with and I hope I find more. Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 27, No. 2: October, November, December 2009

On my husbands dream vacation to China this year, I wrote every day to my two children and after the first day, my husband included everyone he thought would be interested in what we were seeing and doing. When I got home he told me I had written a blog. The feedback from some of our friends was tremendous. Perhaps you would be interested in blogging yourself. And if you don’t want to, at least look in to the following blogs mentioned in Kathryn Doyle’s article in the journal for the California Genealogical Society. Since I didn’t know I was creating a blog when I was, perhaps her explanation is in order. “A blog is a special type of website set up like a journal or a diary (web log) with the newest entry at the top of the page. The term ‘blog’ refers to the site or also to a particular article. Blog is also used as a verb—‘to blog’ is the act of writing material for a blog. ‘Blogosphere’ refers to the online universe of blogs.” Here are several of the blogs that Doyle says “…have become the best-known and respected of the genea-blogs: Creative Gene by Jasia, Steve’s Genealogy Blog by Stephen Danko, Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog by Schelly Talalay Dardashli and Genea-Musings by Randy Seaver.” “Dick Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter is a prime example.” Christopher Dunham has a humorous blog called ‘The Genealogue, a self-described ‘irreverent guide to the lighter side of genealogy”—a searchable index of genealogy blogs categorized by type…lists 1,281 genealogy blogs in thirty different flavors such as Personal Research, Single Surname, Corporate, Genealogy News, etc.” Doyle says to “…look for your surnames and places in Google Blog Search”. (Type “blog search” into Google. I have a very technology interested husband and he helps in so many ways (including doing the production on this newsletter) and I am being pulled and pushed, kicking and screaming into the electronic age, but he says I’m getting better! Hooray! California Genealogical Society & Library, Spring 2009

You never know what you’ll find when you read journals of other genealogical societies. I found an article, “An Unexpected DNA Journey” by Kathy Beals. The name caught my attention because I have an immigrant, John Beal(s) of Hingham, Norfolk County, England in my ancestry. And this same man was in her husband’s ancestry too. There is a Beals Surname Project but I can’t get involved because he was in my father’s ancestry. Beals says, “A major achievement of mitochondrial genetics is the classification of modern Europeans into seven groups, the mitochondrial haplogroups categorized by the letters U, S, H, V, T, K, and J.” Beals mentions The Seven Daughters of Eve book by Bryan Sykes. We met him at a book signing in Pasadena, CA and my husband and I decided to have our DNA done by his DNA testing company, Oxford Ancestors. My mitochondrial genetics come from Ursula, 45,000 years ago at Mount Parnassas, Greece. My husband’s go to Tara in Tuscany, 17,000 years ago. The names are ones Sykes gave the seven women to make interesting stories. “Sykes’ contention is that if Europeans could track their maternal lines back far enough, 95% would eventually reach one of seven ancient women.” Kathy Beals has now been placed in a new haplogroup called “W” for Wilma Flintstone, that is “mainly Caucasian, and NOT classified as one of Eve’s Seven Daughters, with small populations all over Europe, the Near East and even into parts of Asia.” Very interesting stuff don’t you think! California Genealogical Society & Library, Spring 2009

The following appeared in the book Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, by Edwin M. Fogel, Ph.D., published in 1940. The information is contained in “Of Months and Days” within the book. “The Pennsylvania German Belznickel is no Santa Claus at all, he is the Niklas with the Pelz, that is furs. In Germany, he has many names and many variations in form and action. In Hessen and Upper Silesia, Niklas or Neckels, disguised and clothed in a white mantle, enters houses on St. Nicholas’ Day, commands the children to kneel and pray and then gives them nuts and apples; naughty children he strikes with a whip or he puts them in his bag. In other parts of Germany, this is done on Christmas evening. In South Germany he is St. Niklas; in North German, Klas; in Swabia and Baden, Pelzmartel. In other words, Belznickel is Niklas in furs.” Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 27, No. 2: October, November, December 2009
The Week in Germany Dec 11, 2009

For full List of the week in germany <www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__091211,variant=issue.html>

Copenhagen - Every Nation Must Do Its Bit - Two weeks to save the world. The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen has started. The focus of deliberations over the next 12 days will be on putting together an agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires at the end of 2012. Chancellor Angela Merkel is expected on December 17.

Germany Will Review Contribution After London Afghanistan Conference - Ambassador Scharioth: "We will now discuss the details of the joint effort with our American friends and other Alliance partners. The Afghanistan Conference taking place in London at the end of January will more precisely establish the objectives and tasks."

Filmmaker Michael Verhoeven Receives Visionary Award - Award-winning German filmmaker Michael Verhoeven was given the Visionary Award of the Washington Jewish Film Festival. Ambassador Scharioth, who said Verhoeven is an indispensable voice in modern German cinema at the award ceremony, hosted a special dinner in honor of the occasion.

Europe’s Largest Jewish Cemetery to be Restored - A major renovation effort is underway at Europe’s largest Jewish cemetery located in Berlin’s Weißensee area. The cemetery, a testament to Germany’s Jewish heritage, is also applying for UNESCO status.

With Lisbon Treaty in Effect, Europe Reorganizes - At their first meeting since the Treaty of Lisbon came into effect, the heads of state and government of the European Union are discussing how the EU Council is to be organized in future. They want to consider carefully how they can best put the provisions of the treaty into practice.

Westerwelle Meets with Exec. Dir. of American Jewish Committee - Shared concern over the Iranian nuclear program was the main focus of talks between Federal Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle and David Harris, Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee, in Berlin.