Sunday, April 11, 2010

IGS/DPL April Pommern Group. Speaking genealogist, Arlene Eakle

Genealogical Evidence in Emigration-Immigration Sources for Ancestors

Leaving Northern Europe for America. No fee.

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

Upcoming programs

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m

May & June
To Be Announced

July 11, 2010
Joint IGS/PSIG Meeting
Speaker: Paul Lipinski-Polish Society of California
Topic: History of Poland with Maps
Historical Implications on Genealogical Research

We have been getting urged to work for the 2010 Census. If you know someone who is out of work and would be good at contacting people who don’t return their census form, tell them to get in contact with their local Census Bureau office. I worked as a recruiter for the 1990 Census and found it very rewarding work.

If you are doing census work in research, Herman (Hank) Brech suggests you go to <http://skyways.lib.ksus/genweb/kcgs/census.htm> and you’ll find various census information such as, the effective date of each Federal Census from 1790 to 1930, and what year each state was admitted to the Union, along with the year of its first Federal Census. German Genealogy Group, Der Ahnenforscher, Issue 139, February 2010

Many times we have heard that more Germans came to America than any other nationality. It is nice to have this confirmed.
“According to U. S. immigration statistics, more persons immigrated to the United States from Germany than from any other country in the world.”

Immigration to the United States, by Country of Birth, 1820-1996
Bureau of the Census
Germany……….7,095,790 Ireland………..5,114,378
Mexico………..5,534,592 Canada………..4,293,438
Italy…………..5,354,186 Russia…………3,863,287
Great Britain…..5,145,350


You may realize that some of these statistics may be deceiving if you know anything about people who were living in America and decided to return to their native country, even after getting their citizenship. Conditions in their native country may have been so bad as to cause them to migrate. Years later, for whatever reason, maybe homesickness for the old country, improved conditions back home, relatives who needed them so much they couldn’t refuse giving aid, and so many different circumstances that we can’t even imagine them all, they left America.

KALENDER

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<td>11</td>
<td>IGS/DPL /General Meeting/ Arlene Eakle!! NO FEES at 2 pm</td>
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IGS Newsletter, April 2010
I hope you saw the three excellent shows on genealogy on Public Broadcasting television series, "Faces of America" hosted by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. It was so enjoyable to see the delight on the subject faces when they found out information about ancestors that they had not known. Meryl Streep said that now she could join the Daughters of the American Revolution. Oh no, Meryl. Just because you had early people in New England, you don't automatically get to join the DAR. I am a member, and you have to have a patriot who fought or contributed in some way to the Revolution. And those of us who had to do our own research because we didn't have a woman who joined in our direct line to that person, it represented "blood, sweat, and tears", lots of sweat! We like to go to a Mario Batali Italian restaurant in Los Angeles, and it was funny to see how amazed he was to find he is related to Queen Noor of Jordan. He gave Gates a "high five" because he said he always knew there was royalty some where!

The first show of "Who Do You Think You Are?" began on NBC on March 5. I hope you saw it. They took the genealogy of Sarah Jessica Parker and traced her ancestry back to Salem, Massachusetts. She was visibly shaken when she found one of her female ancestors had been accused of being a witch. Thankfully, the court put an end to the trials just before she was to go to court. Every person, male or female, who was accused of being a witch was put to death. This program will continue looking at others ancestry. I recently found where my first husbands one great-grandfather came from in Czechoslovakia. I may have been near the town when I visited the future Czech Republic just after the "Velvet Revolution". He would have been so happy to know about it. How many times has information come too late for you to tell someone a fact they would have been happy to know. This is another reason for us to keep searching.

Under the heading, "There's nothing constant but change", how has the internet changed your life in any way other than looking at web sites for genealogy? The German Genealogy Journal editor, Lois Edwards, is asking for examples that "the new social networking tools" is helping in your genealogy research. She would like "a paragraph (or more),...focusing on German and German-American ancestors" in any of the sites where you have connected with relatives or researchers in this new technology that seems to be taking the country by storm. My husband has a Facebook page and corresponds with family and friends. I don't believe he's learned anything new about anyone, but who knows, it might happen. Besides Facebook, Edwards mentions, myfamily.com and GenQueries.com that contains a query database. You know how desperately we want new information for our own databases and she would like to hear from you at lahedwards@comcast.net if you have anything that you would like to contribute to future copies of the journal which is a branch of the Minnesota Genealogical Society in St. Paul, Minnesota. Germanic Genealogy Journal Winter 2009

With that last item in mind, you may want to let this editor of Immigrant Genealogical Society know of anything that you learned from any social networking sites to which you belong. Send them to <warrenstone@sbcglobal.net> with the word "newsletter" in the subject field. It will be at our discretion what will be published in the newsletter. If there is anything else of interest that you think other members of the society would find helpful, please pass them along at the same address. If you found something of interest, you can count on the fact it will interest some one else. This is your newsletter, and we want you to use it.

With this same theme in mind, "The National Archives at New York has joined Facebook! Debby Kozel contributed the information that. The National Archives will be using its Facebook in order to connect and interact with the public." Go to <www.facebook.com>. First, you must join and get your own account on Facebook. After you do that, search for The National Archives at New York in the upper right search box. That is not all. To find out about other Web 2.0 social media initiatives of the National Archives, see: <www.archives.gov/social-media/> I am being brought kicking and screaming into the electronic world. I was okay with the radio and television, but this computer thing is beyond me. German Genealogy Group, Der Ahnenforscher, Issue 139, February 2010

Tom Risinger contributed important information about files of most, if not all, "soldiers who served in the Royal Bavarian Army during WWI" offered at Ancestry.com. I am astounded to read all the info that is available in these files. There is "info on the names of both parents (including mother's maiden name) and father's occupation,...the spouse, besides stating date and place of birth and previous occupation of the soldier, and his engagement in military actions and injury. Whenever a soldier was transferred to a new unit, a new file was opened." Unfortunately, only "a World-wide or a German premium subscription of <ancestry.com>, allow you to access these files. German Genealogy Group, Der Ahnenforscher, Issue 139, February 2010

If you are interested in "driving directions, maps and local area panorama photos try: This represents a virtual turnpike. German webcams can be found by going to: You go there and click on the letter of the town you are interested in and then check the list to see if that town is there. Palatines to America, Illinois Chapter, January 2010

If you had immigrants from Schleswig-Holstein, you might want to try<br>http://www.wiki.familysearch.org/en/census__Schleswig-Holstein>
In an excellent article by Phyllis Bunnelle, she explains about a “great migration” of Europeans to America. Although I had heard the term, “redemptioners”, I’m afraid if I had been asked to define it, I probably would have gotten a gong for getting it wrong. It means, people who paid for a trip after they made it. And no, it doesn’t mean what some of us do by going on vacation and using a credit card! How terrifying must it have been to go to a strange country and hope that once you arrived, you would be able to pay for your passage. Many people left the Rhineland after “the year without a summer”. The first time I heard about this I told a couple I was passing at the LDS genealogy library in West Los Angeles and they literally laughed at me when I said I had just heard that birds fell frozen out of the sky. Just goes to show you that some people just won’t listen! There was also an “Act of Confederation (Bundesakt) of 1815, allowing people to emigrate from one German state to another.” It didn’t mention emigrating to other countries! This caused confusion among officials. Finally, the German Empire in 1848-49 simplified legal formalities preceding emigration. Lack of employment along the upper Rhine made many people paupers and so the government of Baden “developed a system of state, local, and individual cooperation which assisted the annual departure of a few hundred of these paupers”. This was extended to criminals and undesirable citizens were gotten rid of. The Hamburg City Council in the year 1832 transported a number of convicts to America subject to their own agreement. If anyone ever tells you history is boring, tell them to read history and then tell you that again. German Genealogy Group, Der Ahnenforscher, Issue, February 2010

The Allen County Public Library has “the second largest genealogy collection in the U.S.” It contains more than 350,000 printed volumes and 513,000 items of microfilm and microfiche plus digital records. The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette reports that the library’s website has about one million visitors a month and...that more than one million digital text versions of genealogy materials have been downloaded since June 2008.” The website is: <http://www.acpl.lib.in.us> Give it a try! Palatines to America, Illinois Chapter, January 2010

Those of you using Google to search for information on your families are doing the right thing according to UCLA researchers who “asked volunteers, ranging in age from 55 to 78 to spend an hour a day using Google to search for information about a range of subjects. Many had never used the Internet before. After two weeks, brain scans revealed increased blood flow in regions involved in decision-making and short-term memory.” Neuroscientist Susan Bookheimer told National Geographic News, “Becoming involved in new things and keeping your brain active are all hallmarks of activities that would tend to preserve your cognitive skills. And these are all things that searching the Internet for new information really does.” The Week, November 13, 2009

I often hear people at society meetings say they had some ancestor come from Alsace. It isn’t a big area, but a lot of people must have decided to leave after the Germans again got possession of the region after 1871. Here is a brief history of the area. Alsace was part of the Holy Roman Empire before 1648. In my grandfather Gumble’s mairie (town hall) there was a drawing of a Roman who governed the town at the beginning of its settlement. The Peace of Westphalia ended the Thirty Years War in 1648, and most of Alsace was included in France. Not until 1766 was Lorraine included. Following the France-Prussian War in 1871, both Alsace and part of Lorraine were annexed by Germany as Elsass-Lothringen. These are known as Bas-Rhin (Lower Rhine), Haut-Rhin, (Upper Rhine) with its western part becoming the territory of Belfort, and Moselle. Following WWII, Alsace went back to France with both Bas-Rhin and Haut-Rhin restored. Lorraine (Lothringen) became the department of Moselle. During WWII, Alsace again became a part of Germany from 1939-1945. It would appear, that like so many parts of Europe over the ages, this area has known upheaval and that would make it understandable that people would leave their homeland to look for more stability. Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 18, No. 2: October, November, December 2000

The January 17, 2010 edition of the Los Angeles Times had a story by Anna Gorman of maximum interest to genealogists. The headline of the story said, “A government genealogy service lets family history leap off the page.” The sub-heading said, “A little-known program of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services provides information that bridges oceans.” Now what genealogist wouldn’t want to find out about that? “The records include naturalization files, visa applications and citizenship tests.” The agency’s historian, Marian Smith, said, the 5,300 requests made in fiscal year 2009, were fewer than expected. “In the past, genealogy researchers had to file document requests under the Freedom of Information Act and sometimes waited years for a response…Under the genealogy program, which started in 2008, requests are usually completed within 90 days.” Now if that fact doesn’t make you want to take advantage of this service, nothing will! You submit $20 to “run a search of a name, as long as the person is deceased. If there are records available, the government charges fees for the files.” For information check out <www.uscis.gov/genealogy> Requests can be made online or by mail. Los Angeles Times, 2010 January 17

If you find yourself getting too many responses that are not what you are looking for such as a specific place or name, use Boolean search. You can delineate by using AND, BUT, or NOT, such as Burbank AND California, or Stone NOT Stein. Palatines to America, Illinois Chapter, January 2010

“Middle age is when you’ve met so many people that every new person you meet reminds you of someone else.” Ogden Nash, quoted in the South Boston, Va., News & Record The Week February 26, 2010

“The first 40 years of life give us the text: the next 30 supply the commentary on it”. Arthur Schopenhauer, quoted in The Sacramento Bee. The Week December 18, 2009

IGS Newsletter, April 2010
The Week in Germany
Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__100312,variant=issue.html>

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Iraqi Voters Demonstrate Courage to Choose Democracy
“The parliamentary elections are an expression of the courage and the unwavering belief of Iraqi voters in democracy in their country, and of their intention to take their future into their own hands,” the Federal Government spokesman said. Elections in Iraq: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_PR/P__Wash/2010/03/08__Iraq__Elex__PR.html>

Olympic Biathlete Kati Wilhelm to End Career
Kati Wilhelm, the most successful Olympic women’s biathlete, has announced that she will end her career at the end of this World Cup season. <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_PR/P__Wash/2010/03/10__Wilhelm__PR.html>

Win a Trip to Visit a German University with Deutsche Welle “Studi-DW”, the Deutsche Welle program about studying in Germany, has announced a contest with the chance to win a trip to Germany to visit a University in Bonn or Berlin. Deutsche Welle Contest: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_PR/GIC/2010/03/05__DW__Contest__PM.html>

Current Affairs
Germany and Brazil are linked by a strategic partnership that covers far more than just economic issues. Foreign Minister Westerwelle stressed this fact on the fourth and final leg of his week-long trip to Latin America. Westerwelle in South America: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_PR/P__Wash/2010/03/12__Westerwelle__Trip__PM.html>

Uruguay and Germany – Linked by Shared Values
In Uruguay, the third leg of his South American tour, Foreign Minister Westerwelle emphasized his desire to see the two countries forge closer political, cultural and academic ties. Westerwelle in South America: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_PR/P__Wash/2010/03/11__Westerwelle__Trip__PM.html>