SUNDAY’S PROGRAMS 2 PM

June 6, 2010 - CAROLINE B. ROBER
Analyze and Research Strategy for the Family Historian
Best ways to do further research by understanding "finds"
Orange Regional Family History Center
Staff Trainer, Speaks often

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

July 11, 2010 - PAUL LIPINSKI
History of Poland with Maps
Historical Implications on Genealogical Research
Past President-Polish Genealogical Society of California
an experienced long-term researcher

Ancestry has stopped publication and the following letter was sent to subscribers: "For 25 years, Ancestry magazine has been a valuable, timely resource for familyhistory professionals, hobbyists, and novices alike. Over the last few years we have found that the expanded accessibility of terrific family history content published online at Ancestry.com can reach a larger and broader audience than the limited distribution of a print publication. The refore, this issue of Ancestry magazine will be our last. If your subscription extends beyond the March/April 2010 issue, you will receive a prorated refund in approximately 6 to 8 weeks. Refunds will be made in the same manner that you order was received (i.e., payments made by credit card will be refunded via credit card). Questions about refunds should be directed to Ancestry Member Services via e-mail at <magazine@ancestry.com> or by phone at 1-800-Ancestry. The staff at Ancestry magazine has loved the opportunity we’ve had to bring you the best of what we found in the world of family history. We thank our readers and contributors for sharing our enthusiasm for all things genealogy over the last quarter century”.

Genetic Ancestry Testing Challenges are being identified by the American Society of Human Genetics Task Force in a new White Paper explaining and expanding the recommendations made in their 2008 policy statement <http://www.ashg.org/>. Recommendations are now "1. Leaders of the human genetics community should develop mechanisms for promoting thoughtful and rigorous use of genetic ancestry estimation in academic research" and "2. Interested scientific and scholarly societies should collaborate to convene a national roundtable discussion of DTC genetic ancestry testing." DTC means Direct-To-Consumer, mostly genealogy users. Genetic ancestry testing has become increasingly popular with about 40 companies worldwide offering this service, but there is a growing concern about personal and societal implications and issues of scientific validity of ancestry inference methods. The ASHG recognizes the value in this testing, but is concerned about the imprecise definitions and identification in the process including the lack of oversight and guidelines to ensure quality, validity and interpretation to prevent harm with misinterpretation of data. The Task Force therefore is publishing in the May 14, 2010 issue of The American Journal of Human Genetics a new comprehensive White Paper titled “Inferring Genetic Ancestry: Opportunities, Challenges, and Implications” with a more in-depth analysis of key aspects, scientific and non-scientific, of genetic ancestry inference in practice. They identify key stakeholders in this report to include scientific societies, industry, and “suitable” federal agencies. (My quotes) The ASHG wants to lead this endeavor. ASHG Press Release May 13, 2010, 12:00PM EST

KALENDER

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At our Board Meeting last week, someone mentioned a cartoon strip, which set us thinking of strips that we liked. For some reason, I remembered “The Katzenjammer Kids”, which I don’t know if I ever saw. This from Wikipedia: katzenjammer, noun: 1. the discomfort and illness experienced as the aftereffects of excessive drinking; hangover. 2. uneasiness; anguish; distress. 3. uproar; clamor: His speech produced a public katzenjammer. [Origin: 1840-50; G, equiv. to Katzen (pl. of Katze cat1) + Jammer discomfort, OHG jāmar (n. and adj.); cf. yammer] Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1) Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, Random House, 2006.


Anyone who subscribes to the Atlantic Monthly may know it was in existence in the 1800’s. Der Blumenbaum has excerpted an interesting article from 1873, titled “The Germans in the West”. I don’t know if Germans were enough of a rarity (probably in New York City) that it warranted this article. Whatever the reason, it is a gem to read. The author, J.J. Lalor, estimated that “our present German population has come here within something less than a quarter of a century, nine-tenths of all who have come being from the artisan and laboring classes…..Statistics have estimated them at the yearly average of 100,000 souls, for about twenty years. There are those—German authorities—who claim that of the present population, 10,000,000 are Germans and their descendants in the first generation and about as much American as if born in Westphalia. In 1864 they claimed one-sixth of our entire population.” Here, some of the same attitudes later immigrants encountered. “Un-American in language, un-American in education, to some extent un-American in their view; socially, and in a degree commercially, isolated from the native-born population, yet endowed with all the rights of American citizens; Americans de jure but not, in a sense, de facto; they present an object of study, political and social, second to none that can engage the attention of the American patriot or statesman”. Wow! “The Germans in this country are clannish, gregarious in their instincts. It is sometimes objected to the Germans that they herd together thus; but, as we think, unjustly. What else could be expected on their arrival? To find fault with them for not becoming Americans in a day is, to say the least, very un-philosophical…..” This shows a different perspective on the Americans in a day is, to say the least, very un-American in view; socially, and in a degree commercially, isolated from the native-born population, yet endowed with all the rights of American citizens; Americans de jure but not, in a sense, de facto,--they present an object of study, political and social, second to none that can engage the attention of the American patriot or statesman”.

Sacramento German Genealogy Society (SGGS)
P. O. Box 660061
Sacramento, CA  95866-0061
http://www.sacgergensoc.org

Following is a press release for the Sacramento German Genealogy Society’s monthly meeting. The regular meetings are held at 1 pm in St. Mark’s Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at Lusk Dr. & St. Marks Way. St. Mark’s is located east of Country Club Plaza near Watt and El Camino Avenues. Individual help with your German genealogy questions at 9:30 am the same day as the meeting, upstairs in the classroom wing, east end. Thank you for the exposure of these events. Submitted by Joan Gray-Fuson, (916) 487-2563.

Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Presenter: Marianne Hilburn
Title: Writing about Your German Ancestors
With all the information we keep collecting about our German ancestors, we need to get the stories written down. Having taught genealogy for 10 years, and writing for adults for 4 years, this speaker has lots of ideas about getting started and making the stories interesting. Tuesday, June 22, 2010, and Tuesday, July 27

Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Presenter at both meetings: Baerbel Johnson
Title for the double session: “How to Make Use of Resources for German Research on the Internet”
Here’s an exciting research concept: Baerbel Johnson, on the staff of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, is an expert on German sites on the Internet. Building on her 2009 presentation to SGGS members, she will give us a much more thorough review of resources, with website-specific handouts for each one of them – to guide us as open the se websites on our own home computers.
Today I came upon an interesting fact. In an article by Lisa A. Alzo, she mentions something I hadn’t known before. “Many people don’t realize the U.S. government’s preprinted passenger list forms were filled out at the port of departure—not when the immigrants arrived in America. In fact, U.S. immigration officials merely confirmed the information on the forms; they didn’t record details about passengers (which is why those tales claiming ‘our ancestor’s name was changed at Ellis Island’ are a myth). This is, as with anything, not 100% true, but probably true more often than not. A neighbor of my husband had a name that was Polish. He claimed that because the official at Ellis Island grew angry with trying to spell his name and said, “Oh, h---, Finn!” From that day on, they were Irish! In my first husband’s immigrant, the name where the man was going to in the U.S. was wrong and was corrected above that town’s name, and it was in fact where the family still lived 50 years later. Family Tree Magazine, May 2009

In her article, Lisa A. Alzo, has an idea for us that might be of great help. Most of us know about the destruction of the Bremen, Germany records destruction. But here is a website that may help some of us. “...you’ll find a searchable database of the few surviving lists at <www.schiffslisten.de/index_en.html>”. This appears to be a like circumstance. So many times people are stuck on the idea of Ellis Island and forget that many of our immigrants may have come before it was opened. “Stephen P. Morse’s search tools steve-morse.org could be your life-line. Morse has created forms for Ellis Island, Castle Garden and Ancestry.com that let you search on parameters not offered on the host sites.” Alzo mentions that “17 million immigrants passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924—but it wasn’t the only port that processed arrivals. Perhaps your ancestor actually sailed through Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia or another city. NARA has microfilmed passenger lists from dozens of ports on all U.S. shores, which you can get through genealogical libraries; they’re also on Ancestry.com.” It may not be true of all Germans coming in to the Midwest, but my German family who came in 1847 arrived at New Orleans, and came up the Mississippi. They settled within miles of the river in Illinois, so that may be something for you to check out. I made copies of the arrival list at the New Orleans Public Library. Family Tree Magazine May 2009

In a stash of journals, I found a copy of the “Forum” from the Federation of Genealogical Societies, with a lead article that offers some helpful ideas for finding that elusive immigrant. Kenny Burck, says after he spent “32 years of painstaking research, I discovered my most elusive ancestor’s ‘Heimat’ (or hometown). This completes my effort to locate all of my German ancestral villages.” Burck, as so many of us, says when he started research, he was given some information that proved to be wrong, and spent two years before he found out that an immigrant was from Baden, not Alsace. He found this information from, “persistent interviewing of many newfound cousins”. Persistence and getting everything you can from any relatives, even new-found ones paid off. Burck says, “Another great source for locating an immigrant’s birthplace is ethnic publications. Immigrants tend to settle in an area with others of similar ethnic backgrounds. “I can’t over-emphasize the importance of attempting to locate an ethnic organization, determine if a publication is available, and translate the findings.” Burck noticed that for one immigrant name, others of that name arrived in the “area in the same time period….Because groups of people or families often emigrated together, records of all linked arrivals can be researched to determine a common ancestral home.” Another of Burck’s tips was, “All death-related documents must be searched, including funeral cards.” Burck admits, “Church records do not always reveal an ancestor’s place of origin, but cannot be discounted….A search of city directories and census records indicated the area of the city where…ancestors had lived….” Burck “began a church-by-church search for all German Protestant churches in this area of the city”. In this instance, “several records included the exact birthplace for the brides and grooms….some clergymen recorded places of origin for an individual while the next…did not”. He goes on, “Attempting to decipher old German script…is a must for successful German research, and German church records will often provide the necessary clues to locate a birthplace.” For one ancestor, he played “the long shot. At Allen County Public Library, he “located [his] ancestor on a passenger list which gave her last place of residence as Oldenburg….This smaller geographic political boundary encouraged [him] to use a genealogical technique that…is scorned by most genealogical instructors….and he] decided to…search all records from Oldenburg, since it is a specific area of Germany.....[and he] was successful.” He found “the birth date and that led [him] to the baptismal record.” He admits, “This may not be the most effective research process, but in this case it produced a positive result.” Burck says we should, “Seek new sources”. A book we have in our library, Eighteenth Century Emigrants from Northern Alsace, by Annette K. Burgett, provided the truth to the information that they had an immigrant from Alsace! He says, “Be alert to the notion that there is usually some truth to many family stories and traditions although the facts may have become confused. Also, always seek new sources of information.....” Another suggestion of his, is to associate “with other genealogists at local, regional and national genealogical events”, a great idea with the Jamboree in Burbank in June. And, finally after 32 years, he found his last ancestor’s birthplace in an “old church book” in a box from a closet. He had been told that the records didn’t exist, then that they “were lost in a fire years ago.” When he pled with the church woman that he had traveled many miles, and that “the church may have been called the ‘German Settlement’, something clicked in her mind”. So you see, there is not one solution but many, and sometimes they take 32 years. Federation of Genealogical Societies Forum, Vol. 13, No. 3, Fall 2001

“A collaborative project between nine Reference and Research Library Resources Councils in New York State” has a site called “New York Heritage and is available at <http://www.newyorkheritage.org> Also, the New York State Military Museum site has announced the release of 53,671 pages of N.Y. National Guard records” at <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/index.htm> with a direct link at <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/research/index.htm> TW/IGS—March 2010
The Week in Germany 05/14/2010

Click here to view the Newsletter online
http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The____Week__in__Germany/TWIG__100514,variant=issue.html

Humboldt University Celebrating 200th Anniversary
In the year it was founded, Berlin's Humboldt University had 256 students and 52 lecturers. It has since produced 29 Nobel Prize winners and is regarded as the “mother” of all modern universities. In 2010, the university is celebrating its 200th anniversary. Humboldt University :
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P____Wash/2010/05/11_Humboldt_PR.html>

Guaranteeing the Stability of the Euro
With an unprecedented rescue package, the European Union, the European Central Bank and the IMF have secured the future of the euro. Euro Stability: http://<www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P____Wash/2010/05/12 Euro_Westerwelle__PR.html>

27 National Players for South Africa
In a nutshell, the 27 players nominated for the German national team by coach Joachim Löw can be described as young and Bavarian. World Cup: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P____Wash/2010/05/12_WorldCup__Team__PR.html>

Eastern Germany: The New Land of Opportunity for American Business Some 80 percent of US businesses have cited Germany as their primary planned foreign investment location, according to a new American Chamber of Commerce survey. Sunny Prospects: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P/GIC2010/05/12__US__Businesses__in__Germany__PR.html>

Polish Premier Tusk Receives Prestigious Charlemagne Prize. At the award ceremony for the prestigious

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1st & 3rd Saturdays .. 10:00 am to 5:00 pm
2nd & 4th Sundays ..12:00 noon to 5:00 pm
Closed for major holidays.

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If publications desired by 1st Class mail $35.00

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Charlemagne Prize, Polish Prime Minister Tusk and German Chancellor Merkel spoke of the opportunities presented by the crisis currently facing Europe.Charlemagne Prize: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P__Wash/2010/05/13__Karlspreis__PR.html>

Cabinet Approves Euro Stabilization. The Federal Cabinet has laid the legal foundations for Germany to play its part in the stabilization of the euro zone. The measures sent a clear signal that the euro zone is stable – and that there is no point in speculating against euro-zone states. Financial Stabilization : <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P__Wash/2010/05/12__Euro__Cabinet__PR.html>