October 10, 2010

This will be the final Pommern Special Interest Group meeting for 2010.

Speaker: **Barbara Renick**

Topic will be "**Ask and You Shall Receive**" (help on line).

Barbara frequently lectures and teaches computer labs at national family history conferences and at the Regional Family History Center in Orange, California. Over the years she has had many articles published and was a National Genealogical Society contributing editor for eleven years. She co-authored "The Internet for Genealogists: A Beginner's Guide", made two instructional videos on using the Internet for genealogy, and publishes short instructional videos online at her ZRoots.com Web site. Her last book titled "Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family's History and Heritage" was sponsored by the National Genealogical Society for their 100th Anniversary.

Library open 12:00 till 5:00 Program starts at 2:00 p.m.
PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA
We were gone from July 22 to August 22. I drove over 4,000 miles. We said goodbye to friends moving from Utah to Iowa. When we got to Salt Lake, we found out the Library was closed the next day for Pioneer Day. My friend knew and forgot and Warren’s friend who lives there also forgot to tell us. So, it was off to Basalt, CO and two days to take W’s oldest grandson to dinner. From there we went to Denver to celebrate my 73rd birthday with my daughter, son, and two grandsons. We circled back to SLC and a young man at the Swedish desk worked with W. for about five hours and found his John-son great-great-grandfather. We had been told his name was Gustav. It was August. Since he had a daughter named Augusta, it makes sense. Still couldn’t find where he was from. Also, corrected his mother’s last name to Edin from Eden. That makes sense too when you think one of the Viking Gods was Odin. Live and learn.

I had an amazing visit with my cousin after we circled up to Yellowstone for three days, on to Glacier National Park, and through the Cascades and across Washington visiting friends, on to Portland to see relatives and on down the California coast seeing more relatives. My cousin Mary had inherited a box of mementoes from a common cousin. I knew she had pictures of the families but never knew she had an album of pictures taken in Wales of our Howells relatives. And there was one picture that took my breath away. It was my grandfather Leake when he was probably five in a coat, short pants and high top boots. He was born in 1889 in Iowa. What is so astounding is one of my grandsons is a duplicate of him. The genes will out!

The papers on my desk grew by inches while we were gone. How do they do that?!

You may already know about this but I find it fascinating. German researchers reported on “DNA from a 40,000-year-old pinkie finger...indicating that the bone is from a previously unknown family of human relatives that lived among Neanderthals and modern humans.” I love all this science stuff. In school I hated it but it wasn’t as interesting as it is now, don’t you agree? This item was reported in the journal Nature if you would like to learn more. “The discovery, if confirmed by research already underway, would mark the first time that an entirely new species of hominid has been identified solely on the basis of DNA sequencing.” And this just gets better. “With the recent, and still controversial, discovery of the Hobbit-like species Homo Floresiensis that survived in Indonesia until about 13,000 years ago, the evidence now indicates that at least four species of human-like creatures walked the Earth at the same time.” The team doing the research was led by anthropologists Johannes Krause and Svante Pääbo of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany. “The new species shared a common ancestor with both modern humans and Neanderthals about 1 million years ago, based on the DNA sequences.” Here is a further explanation. “The DNA sequences are from mitochondria, the tiny organelles within cells that provide power for all the activities of life. They thus provide a useful indicator of lineage, but say little about the physical characteristics of the whole organism.” It is interesting that the bone is “from a child age 7 to 9 but of unknown gender... found in a Denisove Cave in Siberia. The location is critical primarily for climatic reasons. While most hominin fossils have been found in equatorial regions, the heat and humidity of such places rapidly degrade DNA, making sequencing problematic, if not impossible. But DNA is preserved much better at higher altitudes and in colder climates.” The area of habitation where the pinkie bone was found, “shows signs of being occupied by humans and their relatives periodically for at least 125,000 years...the pinkie was found in a layer of soil and debris dating from 30,000 to 40,000 years ago.” The work is continuing. “Krause and his colleagues are now working feverishly to sequence the much-more-difficult-to-analyze DNA in the nucleus of cells….Until the team has a complete sequence of nuclear DNA, ‘we are not saying this is a new species’... But all evidence so far suggests it is.” Here is something I had never heard about before. “Other researchers are speculating about the kinship of the bone...guessing that it might belong to species such as Homo heidelbergensis or Homo antecessor, both of which split off from the human lineage in the same general window of time but were thought to have gone extinct much earlier.” I just have to live long enough for all this to get sorted out! Los Angeles Times, March 25, 2010

My husband and I visited a wonderful museum that I want to pass along. It is not on a major highway so you will have to go out of your way to see it. It is called the National Oregon/California in Montpelier, Idaho. It is interactive and we went through with a young couple and their two children who were pre-teens. The docent made Warren and I the grandparents for the trip. One of the fun things was getting inside a wagon and then taking a Bumpy Ride. It made you appreciate the fact that you don’t have to travel that way any more.

Here is something that I really believe is true. I don’t have a “talisman or lucky charm” but I have looked at a number on a raffle ticket and thought, “This number will win” and it has! Crazy, huh!? “German researchers found that when people carried a lucky charm, they set higher goals and felt more confident than people who left their talismanic coin or favorite stuffed animal at home. In one test, subjects who’d been told a golf ball was “lucky” tended to perform better than those who were simply handed the ball”. Psychologist and study co-author Barbara Stoiberock said, “Superstitious behavior won’t help you win the lottery, but it could help you win a sporting event or pass a test.” THE WEEK, July 30, 2010

The Max Planck Institute in Germany “created a scientific uproar by using a new, more accurate technique for measuring the proton.” Here is how it happened. “New measurements indicate the proton is just 4 percent, or about 0.000000000000003 millimeters, smaller than previously thought.” This may not seem like much to someone like me but—the result has caused consternation’ among physicists, says The New York Times, because it threatens to upset existing theories about the basic forces of nature….What you have is a result that actually shocked us….The new result may point to the effect of as-yet undetected particles, an error in the calculations, or a flaw in the foundation of quantum physics.” Swiss physicist Ingo Sick says, “There is something seriously wrong someplace.” Those crazy physicists!
As I was typing in the names for people’s queries for the Periodical, I was struck by how many of you are teachers. Just a “shout-out” of Thanks to You! I can’t think of a more honorable profession. I can remember every extra-ordinary teacher I had from first grade through college. In first grade I came home and cried my eyes out and told my mother that the teacher had told us about something called “twenty”. Now this was something that was just not credible to my brain. To this day, when I see numbers I shake inside. But, I have found the perfect solution. I go in a store, whip out my Visa and say, “Charge it”

Death of Film: Last Roll of Kodachrome Processed  

What do you know about Dwayne’s Photo Service of Parsons, Kansas? It is the place where the very last roll of the Kodachrome was processed. Kodachrome, the slide-film that inspired songs, was discontinued by Kodak last year at 74 years of age. The color emulsion was a victim of its own weird processing requirements, which didn’t use the usual E6 chemistry designed for transparency film, and therefore wasn’t worth supporting in the age of digital. The last roll was shot by National Geographic photographer Steve McCurry, who shot the 36 exposures in New York (actually, the last three shots were exposed in Parsons before dropping off the film at Dwayne’s). The pictures will be part of a National Geographic piece in the near future. McCurry’s film may have been the official last roll off the production line, but Dwayne’s will still process any Kodachrome that you might have until December 10th this year. And then it will shut down, forever. People may still shoot analog, but with the death of Kodachrome comes the spiritual death of film. from member Lura Perkins

Well, Labor Day has passed, but the lbs we gained over that weekend aren’t. As it turns out, “lines found in Homer’s Odyssey…show that the Greeks were enjoying a sausage…as early as the ninth century BC. The Romans also knew how to make sausage. In fact, the word “sausage” from the word salus, meaning “salted”. Maybe that’s why I like them—love salt! “The development of the frankfurter…is often attributed to the butchers of Frankfurt, Germany, who are said to have first produced this seasoned sausage made of pork and beef in 1487. Other sources maintain that the frankfurter, also called a ‘dachshund’…was first produced in the late seventeenth century. In this version…the originator…is said to have been a butcher named Johann Georghehner…from Coburg, Germany. Still other(s) maintain that Austria is the proper home of the hot dog. According to supporters of this theory, it is a descendant of wienerwurst, also called Vienna (Wien) and the German word for sausage (wurst), “wienerwurst” has evolved into “wiener.” And finally, we come to America and the hot dogs origins on our shores. “According to one tradition, [it] can be traced to New York City during the 1860’s, when an anonymous (don’t you love how many things were developed or written by anon!) German immigrant sold dachshund sausages in milk rolls covered with sauerkraut from a cart. Other(s) trace the origins…to the 1870’s and another German immigrant named Charles Feltman.” Feltman originally sold “pies to inns and saloons near Coney Island beaches using a small wagon for transportation. Around 1867, Feltman’s customers expressed a desire for hot sandwiches” but he had too small a cart to prepare a wide variety of sandwiches and “so he outfitted it with a specially built charcoal stove and boiled sausages instead. He is said to have served the sausages with rolls…His new culinary invention quickly became a Coney Island staple. Feltman rented some land on Coney Island and opened a stand. During his first season in business, he served 3,684 customers….Three years later, he bought a plot of land… and opened Ocean Pavilion restaurant. When it opened in 1874 it was “billed as the largest building on Coney Island” it was said to accommodate 28,000 people. “When he died in 1910, Feltman’s business was worth over $1,000,000, the equivalent of more than $26 million in today’s dollars.” Not too shabby! Let’s hear it for the Hot Dog! the Eiks magazine

Here is some important information that we all can use! “ProGenealogists Inc., a consortium of professional genealogists specializing in genealogical, forensic and family history research, recently announced its list of the 50 most popular genealogy Web sites.” These top 20 sites, including five subscription sites, marked with a dollar sign, “were determined in the first quarter of 2010….The 2009 and 2008 rankings are given in parentheses.”

1. Ancestry.com $ (1, 1)
2. FamilyLink.com (80, 72)
3. MyHeritage.com (3, 3)
4. FamilySearch.org (5, 5)
5. Genealogy.com $ (2, 4)
6. RootsWeb.com (4, 2)
7. FindAGrave.com (7, 7)
8. USGenWebArchives.net (not ranked)
9. OneGreatFamily.com $ (11, 9)
10. GenealogyToday.com (12,11)
11. AncestorHunt.com (11, 12)
12. SearchForAncestors.com (19, 21)
13. AccessGenealogy.com (14, 13)
14. CyndisList.com (17, 15)
15. EllisIsland.org (20, 14)
16. Interment.net (16, 16)
17. WorldVitalRecords.com $ (13, 10)
18. USGenNet.org (15, 17)
19. GenealogyBank.com $ (31, 41)
20. FamilyTreeDNA.com (26, 27)

American Spirit  Daughters of the American Revolution magazine July/August 2010

To see the complete list of sites - including DAR.org at No. 43 - visit <www.progenealogists.com/top50genealogy2010.htm>

If you have gotten help from IGS and would like to share that information, please write us and we will include it in the Periodical that is being prepared now. Send to <warrenstone@sbcglobal.net> put IGS in title line. Ed.

“A lot of good arguments are spoiled by some fool who knows what he is talking about.” Poet Miguel de Unamuno, quoted in the London Independent THE WEEK March 2, 2010

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Oktoberfest is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. Over the course of the 16-day festival in Munich some 1.75 million gallons of beer and hundreds of thousands of pork sausages and spit-roasted chickens are consumed by almost six million visitors from around the world.

Oktoberfest at 200: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/07__Culture__Lifestyle__Travel/06/06__Oct__Fest/Oct__Fest_20__1.html>

Bärbel Bohley, one of the most well known civil rights activists in the former East Germany, has died. "I remember her as a figure who made the peaceful revolution and the path to German unity possible," Chancellor Merkel said.


Best-Selling Childrens' Writer's New Book Based on Fairy Tales. The new fantasy novel from best-selling author Cornelia Funke, Reckless - which goes on sale worldwide this week - is based on her extensive reading of central European fairy tales.


Bayern Munich will honor Franz Beckenbauer before Saturday’s (September 18) Bundesliga match against Werder Bremen which coincides with his 65th birthday.

Franz Beckenbauer: <http://www.germany.info/>