February 13, 2011  Lisa Schumaker  
President of South Bay Cities Genealogical Society  

Pre-1850 Census Research  
How to deduce other members of the household  

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

March 13, 2011 Gena Philibert-Ortega  
Speaker, author, blogger  
“California Dreamin”  
California repositories and archives such as city, county, public & private libraries, state resources, genealogical & historical societies  

IGS Board Member Warren Weimer brought Elyse Doerflinger to our attention and we have had her speak twice at our Society Sunday afternoon meetings. Just barely into her 20’s, she has put the rest of us to shame! This young generation is so computer savvy that “the head spins’. Here is another of her bits of information for us who are of the older generation. Her talk, “Using Social Networks for Genealogy” included this knowledge. Under the subtitle: “Podcasts” – “Similar to a pre-recorded radio show that can be downloaded and listened to at any time.” I hear this constantly at the end of some of the shows I listen to on National Public Radio but haven’t yet tried. Next: “The Genealogy Gems Podcast: <www.genealogygems.com> and The Genealogy Guys Podcast: <www.genealogyguys.com> and finally, The Family Tree Magazine Pod-cast: <www.familytreemagazine.com/info/podcasts>” Now those should keep you busy for a few hours, weeks, and months during the long winter ahead. Elyse especially recommended The Genealogy Guys and said she listens to them a lot.  
<GenealogistElyse@gmail.com> 
<www.ElysesGenealogyBlog.com>  

We are sinking in a “sea of paper”. Now that my husband is engrossed in genealogy too, it could become worse with one exception. He is a “computer geek” and most of his research will never get printed. Now he has gotten the international version of Ancestry.com and he sits at the computer hours on end. Remember, be Careful What You Wish For! Ed.  

How did you fare over the Holidays? I hope you weren’t snowed in, as so many people in the country were. I just ordered from L.L.Bean and I was told that they were sorry there would be a wait because they had a snowstorm and were at half staff. Having lived in Caribou, Maine one miserable Winter beginning with the Cuban Missile Crisis, I understood.  

Free Family History Faire 2011  
Family History Center  
The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints  
January 22, 2011-01-11 8:30am to 3:00pm  
24443 McBean Parkway, Valencia CA 91355  
661-259-1347 - <http://www.scvfamilyhistoryfair.org/>  

KALANDER  

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My gripe this month is the use of “Can” and “May”. Please help our youngsters learn that they don’t mean the same thing. I learned my lesson the hard way from my school Principal when I was in 7th grade. I was in his office with three friends and I asked if I could do something. He asked if I was capable of doing whatever it was, and I said, “Yes”. He said, “Then, in that case, you may.” Wow—you never forget that when it’s in front of friends. Ed.

Some new FamilySearch records you may want to check out are: United States—Civil War Pension Index Cards, total 291,369, additional records added; United States—Navy Widows’ Certificates, 1861-1910, 1,003,115, new index pointing to Footnote.com website; United States—Revolutionary War Service Records, 1775-1785, 1,997,022 new index pointing to Footnote.com website. Family Tree, Montgomery Co. Chapter of the Ohio Genealogical Society

Have you identified everyone in every picture you have? I begged my father when he was nearing 90 to do that with an old album (remember the kind with the thick covers?) and he never did. These days we are all doing digital pictures and most will never be made into hard copies. The reason I am thinking of this is that I opened the album my mother started with my birth and discovered half the pictures on the first two pages were gone. Within an hour I found every one of the missing photos. As I put them in the black holders it dawned on me why they were in a small album. I had removed them for display at my Mother’s memorial. Maybe this is the year we can all get busy and identify pictures for future generations. Ed.

Beginning on February 4, the television show, “Who Do You Think You Are?” is coming back again on NBC. I was fascinated to see the process that found ancestors of the people featured on the first season. If you did too, remember to save the date.

For those of you in the Los Angeles area, there is a show at Getty Center Museum that may be of interest to you. The show runs from March 29 to June 19, 2011 and is titled, “Spirit of an Age: Drawings from the Germanic World, 1770-1900”. Following is the description: “Unveiling recent acquisitions…this exhibition features about 40 German and Austrian drawings and watercolors. The works reflect the profound changes—intellectual, social, and political—that the Germanic world underwent from about 1770 to 1900. Events such as the publication of the writings of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and the formal unification of Germany, contributed to shaping the artist’s world. Drawing captured the spirit of the age and evolved quite dramatically over the course of this period, which is rarely showcased by North American museums.” “at The Getty”, Winter 2011

On a lighter note, have you had the fun of seeing the cross-eyed opossum that the Leipzig, Germany zoo got from Kentucky, or maybe Tennessee? I have seen her twice now, the last time on the “Today Show”. It had been decided she wouldn’t be able to survive in the wild because of her condition. Her name is Heidi and she has a “Facebook” page

In the vein of organization, here are some really good hints from Paula Stuart Warren, CG in an article dated 16 October 2003 that I printed in July 2009 at <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/article.aspx?id=7720> has ideas that all of us can use. The title of her article is, “Lazy Days Organizing Tips for the Family Historian”. Hint #1: “Keep paper handy. Keep a pad of paper and pen anywhere you do your thinking. The best notes are made right away when the idea is fresh”. (I had never done research on my first husband’s family and with him deceased, I am working with very little knowledge, but I had the thought that with the 1930 Census I could look for his mother born in 1923. With the information there, I was able, with help on an LDS computer to find his WWII draft card, and Ship’s Passenger List. If I had waited to write that idea about the Census the next morning, the thought would have been gone.) Here is a hint that I wish I had heeded;

Hint # 2: “The size of paper is important….write on full 8 ½ by 11 sheets of paper and on one side only.”

Hint #3: “Be a List Maker….Keep lists of your research goals and what you need to check at the library or courthouse. You might even categorize lists by library or family.”

Hint # 4: “Are you going to attend a class or seminar? Check the descriptions of the presentations and jot down notes on what you hope to learn or questions you might have the opportunity to ask.”

Hint #5: “What should you do with all these lists and notes? I use boxes for my “lazy days” filing. I label a box for each family or group of families…for a specific library such as the Family History Library (or) the National Archives….Into the boxes I put notes, copies, articles, things to look up, things to file…and other categories. I know I may not get them all right into the filing cabinet, but at least I have narrowed the search to a labeled box rather than a towering stack of paper when I need to find something.”

Hint #6: “Go to the office supply store….Your assignment is to visit the store. Buy a supply of file folders; some should be the plain old manila variety and others should be in several colors.”

Hint #7: “What to do with these folders? Label one…Organizing Tips and ‘put this in the folder. Put some folders…where you might do your genealogical work and thinking. With these handy, you can immediately put a piece of paper in a file folder and label it.”

Hint #8: “Buy a full-size clipboard or two. First, add a label with contact details so that it will hopefully be returned if you lose it. Then, use it in libraries and around the house to hold paper you are working on, notes on telephone calls, your ‘to do’ list, and other important items. These are less likely to get lost if they are on the clipboard.”

And finally, some humor;

Hint #9: “What do vitamins and teeth brushing have in common with organizing your genealogical materials? That is simple: do it every day. Five or ten minutes spent every day can save you hours in the future.” I don’t know about you, but these hints seem doable.
Allison Stacy, Publisher/Editorial Director, of Family Tree Magazine, pulled out what she thought were “Allison’s Top 3 Tips” from the August 2010 issue. Tip #1: When searching genealogy websites, save time by using wildcards to nab spelling variations of ancestors’ names. Tip #2: Obtain copies of records documenting your life to share with your children—who likely won’t be able to access them. Tip #3: Locate your ancestor’s address on an old map noting churches within a 5-mile radius: One of these parishes may have records of your family.” Family Tree Magazine, August 2010

The Conejo Valley Genealogical Society, ANNUAL SEMINAR, will feature, Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck, Sat. March 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at 2482 Oakshore Dr., Westlake Village, CA. For questions, call (805)379-2067 or email <cvg2011seminar@aol.com> Today at my DAR meeting in Chatsworth, CA, Dr. Carole Morton, passed out an information sheet that may be of interest to you. The website is:<http://ancestorhunt.com/land-records-search.htm> There you will bring up Free Land Records Online and you will find Land Records Search. I don’t know about you but I really do like the word Fre! Under “Iowa Free Land Records Online it notes, ‘Free access to land records for all counties in Iowa.’” I have a long time in Iowa starting with ancestors in 1859 in Lee County and plan to look at this.

Dr. Carole Morton had a handout that is nothing but acronyms that may puzzle you. Here are a few: ACPL: Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Ind; AAD: Access to Archival Databases (part of NARA’s Web site); ARC: Archival Research Catalog (part of NARA’s Web site; CMSR: Compiled Military Servicer Record; FEEFHS: Federation of Eastern European Family History (which includes IGS); FOIA: Freedom of Information Act; FALAM: Palatines to America; SGGEE (sometimes pronounced ‘squeegee’); Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe; and finally, WDYTYA? the genealogy television series ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ (can refer to NBC’s US version or BBC’s British version).

Europe seems to be in more trouble. I quote; “Is the European Union itself at risk? Incridibly, it might be. ‘The failure of the euro—and thus of the EU and its Common Market—would be the biggest pan-European disaster since 1945,’ said former German foreign minister Joschka Fischer. ‘This outcome is possible—despite protestations to the contrary by all involved.’ Tensions between nations are rising, with Germany recently proposing that bailed-out nations share the pain of future bailouts. That announcement caused an immediate sell-off of Irish government debt, as investors dumped bonds that, under the German plan, might never be repaid in full”. THE WEEK, January 14, 2011

I had just typed the above information about the possible Euro failure when my husband saw an article in the L.A. Times with the headline, “Global Economy—Beijing acts to prop up Europe”. The following is excerpted: “China pledges to buy billions of dollars’ worth of bonds in the debt-ridden region….Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang was all smiles on a recent swing through the continent, assuring the Germans that their economy was complementary to China’s….If Beijing wants its economy to keep flourishing, China can’t afford the collapse of the euro any more than the nations that use it. The European Union is China’s biggest trading partner, and Chain is the EU’s second biggest export market. That adds impetus for helping…the German firms that provide Chinese manufacturers with the sophisticated equipment they need.” The article is lengthy, and if you are interested in reading it go to: <www.latimes.com> January 15, 2011—LATIMES.COM/BUSINESS

Ethel Ramin handed out several resource pages at DAR and I want to pass some suggestions along. “Google Books” Select “all books” to include books which allow viewing of over a million books, many out of copyright, but also others for which publishers have given Google permission to display limited book previews (which often includes the Table of Contents and Index pages, so you can easily check to see if a particular book includes information about your ancestor). The list of useful books...include many county histories and biographies published in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s, as well as family histories. <http://books.google.com> See Find Family History in Google Books for tips and search suggestions.” <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset--fhlc.asp>

Also in the same vein, from Ethel Ramin, is another website: Internet Text Archive—<http://www.archive.org/details/toronto>, which many of you may know for its Wayback Machine, also hosts a details/texts of books, articles and other texts. The biggest collection of interest to family historians, is the American Libraries collection at <http://www.archive.org/details/americana> which includes over 300 city directories and 1,000 family histories free for searching, viewing, downloading and printing. The U.S. Library of Congress collection at <http://www.loc.gov/lc/uscongress> and Canadian Libraries collection at <http://www.archive.org/details/toronto> also include genealogies and local histories”. See what these might have to offer for you.

Here is a gentle reminder to consider getting your newsletter faster on email as opposed to snail mail. I mailed myself a copy a couple of months ago, before the Christmas crush, and my newsletter took exactly two weeks! I feel badly that some time-sensitive things about meetings elsewhere may come to us so late that only email receivers have a chance at attending these events. My husbands other newsletter for another organization is going to try to have all their newsletters go email. Ed.
The Week in Germany
Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__110114.html>

Top Stories
Dr. Jazz and the Legacy of Jazz in East Germany
Dresden's Karlheinz Drechsel, the longtime jazz journalist known simply as Dr. Jazz, has been a flag bearer and ambassador for jazz in Germany – explaining, promoting and delivering the art form to German ears through three political systems.
Dr. Jazz: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/ _pr/GIC/Pop__Tips/2011/01__13__Dr__Jazz__PM.html

Heidi the Opossum is Latest German Animal Celebrity
Her name is Heidi, and she is an international media sensation. She may be cross-eyed, but a mere glance at her furry little face sends legions of adoring admirers into the throes of a weirdly wonderful cuteness overload.
Heidi the Opossum: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/GIC/2011/01/14__Heidi__PR.html>

Word of the Week: ‘Fingerspitzengefühl’
Compound nouns abound in the German language. One that applies well to a variety of scenarios yet is difficult to translate precisely into English is "Fingerspitzengefühl." Word of the Week: I <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/GIC/2011/01/14__Word__of__Week__PR.htm>

Silvia Neid is International Women’s Soccer Coach of the Year
Silvia Neid, the head coach of the German national women's soccer team, has been named International Coach of the Year by the sports' international body FIFA.

Environment Ministry to Increase Funding for Renewables Research in 2011. The German Environment Ministry will further increase levels of research funding for renewable energies in 2011. Funding is set to increase to 128 million euros this year, up from 12 million in 2010.