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

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

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society
ANNUAL SEMINAR
Featuring Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck as speaker. Saturday, March 12, 2011, 8:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church, 1600 E. Hillcrest Dr., Thousand Oaks, CA. Mr. Bockstruck’s topics are: The Religious Society of Friends; Land Records; Church Records; and Virginia.

Queries:
Shirley L. Garnet is researching Lantz.
Robin Robison is researching Nebeck, Lang, Lange Ahrendt.
Susan B. Mullins is researching Böse, Boese, Hollmann, Wehmeyer, in Bremen area.

Here “Eastman’s Top Ten Genealogical Commandment’s” from that genealogical guru, Dick Eastman.
#1. Never accept someone else’s opinion as ‘fact’. Be suspicious. Always check for yourself.
#2. Always verify primary sources; never accept a secondary source as factual until you have personally verified the information.
#3. Cite your sources! Every time you refer to a person’s name, date and/or place of an event, always tell where you found the information....
#4. If you use the work of others, always give credit. Never claim someone else’s research as your own.
#5. Assumptions and ‘educated guesses’ are acceptable...as long as they are clearly labeled as such....
#6. Be open to corrections. The greatest genealogy experts of all time make occasional errors....When someone points out a possible error...always thank that person...and then seek to re-verify your original statement(s). Again, check primary sources.
#7. Respect the privacy of living individuals. Never reveal personal details about living individuals without their permission....
#8. Keep ‘family secrets’. Not everyone wants the information about a court record or a birth out of wedlock to be posted on the internet or written in books....
#9. Protect original documents. Handle with care, and always return them to their rightful storage locations.
#10. Be prepared to reimburse others for reasonable expenses incurred on your behalf.”  I know all these may be what you already do, but if not, heed Eastman’s advice. The whole genealogical community will be better off! Family Tree, Montgomery County Chapter of the OGS, Vol 30, Issue 12, December 2010

I’m sending out a “Help” signal to all of you who live anywhere in the vicinity of the library in Burbank. For the past two years, in addition to putting together this newsletter, I have been in charge of the mailing. We have relied on a friend of President Ron Grider to mail when we are gone on mailing day and she would like to be relieved of that duty. It is a half-day, once a month task. It would really be appreciated! Member, Anne Archer and her husband, Lee, are our monthly crew putting the newsletter together for mailing. Please consider helping!

KALENDAR

March
Time Change on 13th- 2 AM
13 General Meeting/Program 2PM
15 Mailing

April
10 PSIG/General Meeting/Program 2PM
19 Mailing
27 Board of Directors 7PM
Recent Additions to FamilySearch Database
Some of the records added to FamilySearch.org include (images and/or indexes):
- Canada, New Brunswick Provincial Deaths, 1815-1938
- U.S., Connecticut—WWII Draft Registration Cards, 1942
- U.S., District of Columbia—Deaths, 1874–1959
- U.S., Indiana, Marriages, 1811-1959
- U.S., Minnesota Will Records, 1849-1985
- U.S., Ohio, Cuyahoga County (Cleveland) Probate Files, 1813-1900
- U.S., Texas—Birth Records, 1903–1934
- U.S., Texas, County Marriage Index, 1837-1977
- U.S., Wisconsin, Probate Estate Case Files, 1861-1933

NARA Has New Search Engine
The U.S. National Archives is in the process of replacing its current Archival Research Catalog (ARC) with a new Online Public Access (OPA) search engine. The new system includes access to NARA’s Electronic Records Archives, a collection of electronic government records which do not exist in paper form.

Simple searches using the two systems produce the same results except for any additional holdings available through OPA. OPA is a bit more sophisticated in that it does not display duplicate results.


I had a visit from one of my two grandsons last week.
It was wonderful to see him and get better acquainted with his girlfriend who we had met only briefly last year. I had my swim-exercise friends laughing because I said, “I sure hope he doesn’t marry her, because she is so smart, she will make our family look dumb!” This girl finished a Sudoku while we played three games of Clue (which she had never before played) and won two out of three games! Okay, I do want her to marry him and improve our gene pool.

Isn’t it amazing how you never hear a word and then you hear or read it again within hours? I had never heard of “Joe Beine” before he was mentioned at my DAR meeting Saturday. Then today, I was organizing papers and found an article I had of his, from 2005. Go to: <http://www.germanroots.com/passenger.html> that covers “Finding Passenger Lists & Immigration Records 1820-1940’s arrivals at US ports from Europe” in which he talks about “Indexes for Passenger Lists by Port & Time Frame”. Be sure to remember that many Germans came in at New Orleans, as my Schröders did in 1847. Ed.

And here, Joe Beine again—now I’m finding him, everywhere. In her article, Leslie Albrecht Huber, a genealogy freelance writer and lecturer mentions, “If you have German ancestors, don’t miss Joe Beine’s ‘Online GermanEmigration Records, Lists & Indexes’ at <home.att.net/~wee-monster/emigration.html> INTERNET genealogy, April/May 2007

At the meeting, Joe Beine was also mentioned for having “Death Indexes”. We just found the website: <http://death-indexes.com>. Go to “Joe Beine” and his name will come up and then go down to “Joe Beine genealogy”. Ed.

I was disturbed today while listening to NPR this morning that the State of Georgia is going to abandon the teaching of cursive in the schools. Now, really! Am I just that much of an “old fuddy-duddy” that I think that is totally NUTS! The rational is that all the children are texting. Well, sorry people, but I see cursive as a skill. It sure is faster than hand-printing and until humans are born with computers or iPhones attached to their hands, they might value cursive writing. Ed.

Humor found on a wall in a library here in the San Fernando Valley. “Outside a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside a dog, it’s too dark to read.” Groucho Marx

An island off Gambia is going to be renamed, “Kunta Kinte” from the book, Roots by Alex Haley. A documentary is being filmed about it, and my husband, the production person for this newsletter, was asked to be in it as a slave owner. He says he will only be in 10 to 20 seconds, if he isn’t cut, but hey, he had fun. Another bit of trivia is that the twin granddaughters of a friend in DAR play the little girl in the TV show, “House”. Although they appear alone, twins are used because children can only work for short periods and it’s an economy measure to use twins. Ed.

This sounds wonderful and my husband, who loves computers, says he already uses it. “Google Instant Preview: Google is constantly improving its search to give us a more useful and faster user experience….Google has just introduced the Instant Preview to help users choose between search results. (It) gives users the ability to view a website without actually visiting it. It does this by showing a screenshot of the webpage after you have clicked on the magnifying glass icon that is on the right of every search result. In addition, Google puts an orange box around the section of the preview page where the search term occurs….Instead of having to scroll through the entire page to find the person’s name or keyword, you can look at the Instant Preview and see where the word occurs….After activating Instant Previews with that one click on the magnifying glass, you can hover over any other search result to see a preview of the web page.” Using this ability you may, “Quickly compare results. Pinpoint relevant content. Interact with the results page.” I am the last person to get on board with computers, but this sounds good even to me! Family Tree, Montgomery County Chapter of the OGS, Vol. 30, Issue 12, December 2010
The Germans continue to entertain. This morning on NPR, there was a little humor segment about a German man who was transporting spiders illegally and the operation to catch him was called, oh, you guessed it—“Operation Spiderman”.

“Are You A Good Ancestor?” Here is what it involves: “A good ancestor keeps Certificates including birth and death certificates; records including health, military, naturalization, and school; passports; newspaper and church notices; awards; photos;...journals, Bibles; diaries; baby, school and wedding books; heirlooms....A good ancestor dates everything, is sure that full names are included, records where material may be found and always sees that at least one other copy of important data is somewhere else.” This particularly hits home with me. Two years ago there was a fire that came through half-a-mile from our house in Twin Lakes and destroyed eight of the 98 houses. LaPorte County (IN) Genealogical Society, Vol. XXVII No. 4, Dec. 2010

We (the editor and production person of this newsletter) just returned from a cruise trip from Hong Kong to Bangkok and I have a cold or “the flu”. I was fine when we got on the return plane but was sick two days later. We had a great time until Warren fell at the ship terminal requiring doctor’s visits but it seems to be healing. We left the camera and camcorder at the hotel but are in their “Lost and Found”. Hope to get them back this month. Ed.

A nice feature of the airline lounge is the free newspapers. I picked up “The Wall Street Journal” and found an interesting article that included this information. If you are the owner of an iPhone or iPad, you may want to use this on a foreign trip. “One of the most celebrated apps to be released in recent months, Word Lens instantly translates printed words in one language into another using the phone’s built-in video camera. For example...point the iPhone or iPad camera at the sign, and the English translation will immediately appear on the screen overlaying the initial image using augmented reality.” Here is the catch. “At the moment the application only provides translation between English and Spanish, but the...creators...development firm Quest Visual Inc. promises more European languages in due course.” The Wall Street Journal, Wed., February 16, 2011

On our cruise, I heard many complaints at dining tables about the speed of connecting to the Internet on the ship. This meant nothing to me but I am sure most of you understand. Here is some interesting information about the Internet and the speed of connections. “Roughly two-thirds of all Americans who have an Internet connection in their homes use broadband. We tend to think of that as ‘high speed’. But is it? The U.S. ranks 25th in the world in average Internet connection speeds, and nearly half of all U.S. residents Internet connections fall below the U.S. Federal Communications Commission’s minimum definition of broadband, at 4 megabits per-second download....The average download speed in the U.S. in 2010 {was} 3 megabits per second....In contrast, South Korea’s average download speed is 34.1 mbps. Sweden’s is 22.2, Romania’s 20.3, and Japan’s 18....Too many Americans are locked into slow Internet, foreclosing access to many online applications and services.” The full report is at <http://www.speedmatters.org/content/internet-speed-report> I can’t imagine it being of interest to anyone but someone in the computer business, but hey, it may be just what you want to read! Are you interested in finding how fast your connection really is? Go to <http://goo.gl/35Sr5> to find a long list of such testing services.....If you are not receiving what you are paying for, call your Internet service provider’s customer service department and ask to open a trouble ticket.....If you don’t report it, your speed will probably never equal what you are paying for.” Family Tree, Montgomery County Chapter of the OHS, Vol. 31, Issue 1, Jan. 2011

One of the greatest resources we have as genealogists is the National Archives. But it is probably under utilized according to Kerry Bartels who spoke at a meeting on February 18th at a meeting of the San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society. Bartels will be speaking at a meeting of IGS over the Summer, probably in July. This is a meeting you do not want to miss. There is so much to learn about NARA that it can’t be fit in to one meeting. There were handouts that explain just a small amount of the information stored in the two facilities in Washington, D.C. and College Park, MD. The facility in Riverside, CA that was moved from Laguna Niguel recently is very modern, very unlike the building in downtown Washington, D.C. When I worked for the Census Bureau here in Los Angeles, I was sent to College Park and probably saw that facility. Like most things in life, I lived 11 years in Maryland near D.C. and was not interested in genealogy! One of the most informative handouts that you may want to order is titled “Reference Information Paper 114”. It is subtitled “Research in the Land Entry Files of the General Land Office”. Notwithstanding names and dates, place is the most important item we have to know about an ancestor. This booklet contains too many sub-heads to cover here, but some are: “Using the tract books at the National Archives Building; A note on cadastral surveys (principal meridian, numbered section, township and range); military bounty land warrants; and Military bounty land warrants, land entry case files, and general land office administrative records available on microfilm.” Ed.

Listening to this webinar in “real time” and highly recommend those using Family Tree Maker 2011 to watch it – at their convenience. The webinar is now archived on the Ancestry.com site: <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> Scroll down to: Family Tree Maker 2011 Charts and Reports. And click on Watch Video.
The Week in Germany
Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in___Germany/TWIG__110211.html>

Berlinale: The Whole World of Film
The Golden Bear is one of the most prestigious international film awards and each February the film world gathers at the Berlinale for its presentation.

Laureus World Sports Honors Awarded to Kaymer, Bentele
German golfer Martin Kaymer and paralympic star Verena Bentele were honored in Abu Dhabi with Laureus World Sports Awards for their exemplary performances in 2010.
Laureus Honors Germans: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2011/02/07__Laureus__PR.html>

Riesch Takes Bronze to Kick Off World Championships
Clocking in a time just 0.21 seconds off the winning pace, Germany’s Maria Riesch shot down the icy slopes near her hometown of Garmisch-Partenkirchen to take a bronze medal in the women’s Super G.
Ski World Champoinships: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2011/02/08__Ski_Championships__PR.html>

Word of the Week: Krass
Have you ever had a friend tell you an amazing story and you just weren’t sure how to react? Enter the word krass, the ultimate comeback word for any situation! Word of the Week: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/GiC/2011/02/11__Word__>