April 10, 2011 - Joint IGS/PSIG Day

Dr. Frank Bensen / Peter Borck
Retired Educator / Pommern native to U.S. 1954
Pommerania: personal experiences in the war, flight and relocation as a child (Stettin) and fisherman (Stolp)

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

May 15, 2011  Connie Moretti
CA. native, retired educator, professional genealogist
How Good Is That Source?
T.I.P.S. to evaluate sources

June 5, 2011  Cheri Mello
National Board Certified Teacher –
into Portuguese ancestry and DNA
FIND-A GRAVE
A Virtual Cemetery on the Internet-improved

July 10, 2011- Joint IGS/PSIG Day
Kerry Bartels
Wide experience as an archivist now
with the National Archives/CA
“My Pommeranian research” & Military Records

PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

IN THE BEST INTEREST OF OUR MEMBERSHIP SINCE WE EXPERIENCE VERY LITTLE RESEARCH TRAFFIC ON THE DAYS WE’RE OPEN.
WE’VE BEGUN SOME DISCUSSIONS ABOUT MOVING, COMBINING OPERATIONS WITH OTHER GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES, OR SIMPLY CLOSING THE LIBRARY. WE NEED TO MAKE A DECISION THIS YEAR.
TO INCREASE REVENUE, WE COULD INCREASE ANNUAL DUES BUT THAT WOULD NOT BRING IN SUBSTANTIAL REVENUE AND WOULD PLACE AN UNDUE BURDEN ON YOU, OUR VALUABLE MEMBERS. A INCREASE IN DONATIONS WOULD CERTAINLY HELP, EVEN THOUGH TEMPORARY.
OUR POMMERN GROUP WOULD ALSO BE AFFECTED AS THEY WOULD NEED ANOTHER FACILITY TO HOLD BOARD MEETINGS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES.
WE WOULD CERTAINLY WELCOME ANY IDEAS/ SUGGESTIONS ANY OF YOU MIGHT WISH TO MAKE, I’LL CONTINUE TO KEEP YOU INFORMED AS WE MOVE THROUGH 2011.
BEST WISHES FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

KALENDAR

April
10  PSIG/General Meeting/Program 2PM
19  Mailing
27  Board of Directors  7PM

May
8   CLOSED    Mother’s Day
15  General Meeting/Program 2PM
17  Mailing
28-29 CLOSED  Memorial Day
The following article will be quite long, for a purpose. See if you guess what it is.

It seems as if Mark Twain is more popular now than ever. The first autobiography that was published last year has ‘nearly half a million copies in print, putting it as high as No. 4 on the Los Angeles Times’ hardback nonfiction list and No. 2 on the New York Times’ list....The book’s publisher, the University of California Press, had pushed for all three volumes to be published together last year....they now want the second volume in stores next year and the third by 2014.” Editor Robert H. Hirst, “says he will not meet those deadlines if it means diluting the quality of editing.” (This editor’s insert comment; I so know what he means!) The editing is being done at “UC Berkeley’s Bancroft Library, near the repository of the world’s largest collection of Twain manuscripts and letters. Most of the 20,000 (this is not a typo if that is what you thinking) items came to the university in 1949 with permission of Twain’s daughter Clara....The projects staff worked for 43 years in relative obscurity, producing volume after volume of what are considered the most accurate and complete editions of Twain’s work, including such classics as the ‘Adventures of Huckleberry Finn’ and ‘The Prince and the Pauper’, along with letters, travelogues and essays.” Hirst said “he expected the memoir’s first volume to sell perhaps 10,000 copies....You’d have to be a fool to expect something like this to be a bestseller he said of the often rambling reminiscences and many scholarly notes. It’s not as if Twain left behind a well-organized memoir. After several false starts, he started dictating his thoughts and memories in 1906 in a manner he called ‘a complete and purposed jumble’. That continued over four years....Working from the sometimes conflicting typescripts of the dictation sessions, the project’s scholars painstakingly decipher the writer’s—and previous editors”—handwritten corrections and deletions. They keep lists of every change, even shifts from commas to semicolons. They also research accompanying explanations about many of the people, events and places Twain mentions. About 200 of the first volume’s 736 pages are devoted to such notes....Twain had instructed that no one publish the entire memoir until a century after his death and no one seemed to want to. Dating to the 1920’s several abridged versions were produced, all of which took liberties with the writer’s format. Previous editors and Twain heirs also cut much of his earthy humor and more virulent attacks on former business partners, politicians and others; UC Berkeley’s scholars put it all back in.” This article is much longer than what I have included, but I think you will see my point of including what I did. All of us genealogists face some of the same problems, if diaries or letters were inherited. I wasn’t lucky enough for this, but my daughter wants me to write my remembrances of my parent’s lives before she was born. I think it’s time I begin and hope my work will go down the generations, without editing! Los Angeles Times, March, 2011

Now it’s time for some wisdom. “Hints for those who would be rich: The use of money is all the advantage there is in having money.” Benjamin Franklin; copied from a notebook of this gentleman at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California many years ago by the editor. I say, “Money has no inherent value, just what I can buy with it”, and Warren still thinks Ben and I are wrong.

Warren and I have received an e-mail that Gordon Seyffert, who has added such valuable information on occasion to the Periodical and Newsletters, will bemovingsoon from Kansas City, MO and plans to help at the library. Wow— someone who moves all the way from the Midwest, to help! Just a joke.

Queries:
Beverly Vauke—Graham, Harmon, Hartman,
Pankratz, Pongratz
Gordon Seyffert—Seyffert, Seyferth, Schin(c)k, Schoder,
Luckner, Knauf,Wagner, Bischoff, Mohn,
Groschopp, , Muffland, Alpach, May,
Spangenberg, Sippel.
James & Karen Maerz—Lintz, Löw, Gies

In going through my stash of old periodicals, I ran across this information that might help you find marriage dates. The article is called, “The Dating Game” authored by Janet Elaine Smith. She says, that unlike your birth and death, excluding, suicide, you call the shots. I can think of exceptions, when there is a war, and a couple decides to either get married before the combatant leaves, or to wait for him, if he or she is lucky, to come home. Smith suggests looking for dates in June which is traditional. Then there is New Year’s Day, when people may be thinking of new beginnings, especially if one of the couple is widowed. Smith says “One tidbit...I have learned along the way is that marriage and land records were kept in almost every state much earlier than birth or death records. One problem...is that the individual who performed the ceremony to send the documentation in to the proper authority. Sometimes this was done after an extended period of time...and sometimes the official failed to do it all together.” Smith says she has even found a marriage registered 16 years later. (I can personally attest to this fact, because my first marriage was performed by a priest on an Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado, and it was never sent back to the Denver County Courthouse. Imagine my shock when I went to join DAR and found this out, years after the fact. My marriage to Warren was on his parents’ anniversary and we were so shocked when he told her the plan and she said, “That’s nice dear. Now what should we have for dinner. Ed.)

September/October 1998 Issue No. 77, Heritage Quest

I want to remind everyone that we have at Immigrant Genealogical Society one of the premiere collections of books on Germany. Elisabeth Sharp and Gerda Hafner started the collection and it has been added to over the past three decades. When you get your renewal letters you will receive flyers with our searches done by volunteers. That word is so important—Volunteers. What would we do at IGS without them and We Need More! No matter how many volunteer we get, there is always work for more. Please think of helping. Ed.
San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society will present on Friday, March 18, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. at the Chatsworth Chamber of Commerce room in the Chatsworth Train Station, 10038 Old Depot Plaza Road, Chatsworth, Jon Schweitzer, teacher and consultant at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center on the topic “What’s new at the Santa Monica Family History Library”. For information, call John Lindsay at (818) 349-0878. Programs are free. Guests with problems which hinder their research may come in half-an-hour early and experienced members may be able to help guide you. They also have the website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~casfvgs/index.html>

Here is a bit of information that may help you. They also have the website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~casfvgs/index.html>.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society is happy to announce a Special Event
We are sponsoring a Genealogy Education and Research trip to the
L. A. Regional Family History Center
10741 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A.
Friday, June 3, 2011
All ARE WELCOME
Depart: 9:15 a.m. from Chatsworth Train Station
10038 Old Depot Plaza Road, Chatsworth, CA
Return: Leave FHC 3:00 p.m.
Bring a Sack Lunch
To reserve your seat—Notify:
Donna Chelles or Lynn Neill
(818) 341-1466 (818) 360-9792
rchel53483@aol.com <meneill@aol.com>

Anyone who is doing Mexican research may want to keep in mind the date May 20, 2011 on “Finding Your Roots in Mexico” with John Schmal with the San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society at the Chatsworth Train Station.

I am starting this newsletter with a suggestion that you get a Shingles shot if you ever had chicken pox. I came home from a cruise we just went on with a cold and shingles the next day. I still have remnants of the cold, but the shingles are gone. My doctor said I would have had a worse case if I hadn’t gotten the shot. Now I am seeing double—CAT scan & MRI show nothing--off to neurologist next. Ed.

German Interest Group-Wisconsin is having their Annual Workshop on Saturday, July 9, 2011 at the Hamilton Auditorium in Conner Center, UW-Whitewater Campus featuring Lois Hemmeter Edwards on the topic, “Tracing You German Family”. It will feature the following sessions: “Beginning German Genealogy, German Church Records and Civil Records, Surprising and Amusing Discoveries in German Research, and Researching Two Pomeranian Towns”. For more information or questions call (608)752-0358 or email “<gig.wi@hotmail.com>.

The Ventura County Genealogical Society, Inc., on Saturday, March 19, at 1:00 p.m. at the LDS Family History Center, 3591 Lorna Vista Rd. (at Mills Rd.) Ventura, CA will have “Working With Old American Hand-writing with Sandi Barrett Ruch. For more information call Gwenda at (805) 485-7930.

Leland K. Meitzer, Editor for Family Roots Publishing Co., currently writes daily at <GenealogyBlog.com>. New this year is Genealogy Newsletter. To subscribe, enter your email address in the box “Signup—Free Genealogy Newsletter” in the upper left hand corner of the Family Roots Publishing Company web site <http://www.familyrootspublishingcompany.com> To give you an idea of what you will find on this web site, read the following. The information is taken from the 2nd issue. We all learn quick enough about the almost total destruction of the 1890 Federal Decennial census. To help fill this gap, the New York State 1892 (State being the focus here) has digital data now posted. You may like to know that 37 “states took colonial, territorial and/or state censuses….State censuses haven’t had nearly the accessibility, or the publicity that Federal census records have had.” Most hadn’t “indexes, so we just didn’t hear much about them. That is all changing very rapidly. <Ancestry.com>, <FamilySearch.org>, and other websites have been digitizing and posting these records.” Here are other items that can be used as census substitutes that are made up of large name lists. All of these substitutes (hey, look at that, three of the five vowels interspersed with the letter “i”) are closely related to State Census records. “Substitutes include tax records, voter registration rolls, city directories and any other lists that cover large numbers of the population.” This information is from: Genealogy Newsline Vol. 1 #2, Tuesday, January 18, 2011; a publication of Family Roots Publishing Co., LLC. SFVGS BULLETIN, San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society, March 2011.
The Week in Germany
Click here to view the Newsletter online http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG_110311.html

Germany Stands by Japan and is Prepared to Help
Chancellor Merkel and Foreign Minister Westerwelle expressed condolences to their Japanese counterparts following the devastating earthquake and offered Germany's help in dealing with the aftermath.
Japan: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P__Wash/2011/03/11__Japan__condol__PR.html>

Biathletes Looking for a Hot Siberian Weekend
In what promises to be a barn-burner medal race in the final weekend at the World Biathlon Championships in Siberia, German policewoman Tina Bachmann does her part with a silver medal on Wednesday. Biathlon World Championships: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P__Wash/2011/03/11__Biathlon__PR.html>

Germany Again Most Popular Country
Germany is still the most popular country, again topping a BBC poll carried out in 27 countries. This was the fourth year running in which Germany got top marks.
Germany Most Popular: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/_pr/P__Wash/2011/03/08__Germany__Popular__PR.html>

International Women's Day at 100
March 8 marks the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day, an observance based on the initiative of a German woman. Chancellor Merkel is calling for the free market to ensure that more women hold management positions, among other measures.

Human Rights Commissioner Welcomes Abolition of the Death Penalty in Illinois
"I express welcome Governor Quinn's decision," Commissioner Löning said. "With this move, Illinois has become part of a global trend which has the German Government's full support."