May 15, 2011- HOW GOOD IS THAT SOURCE?
T.I.P.S. to Evaluate Sources

Speaker: Connie Walton Moretti; CA native from Torrance, 3rd-generation Californian, volunteer, retired educator, professional genealogist (specializing in American lineage).
She will focus on Time, Individual, Purpose, and Support

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

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

Need An EXPERT?
Come to the Library or Call 818-848-3122
1st Wed. 12-5 WARREN WEIMER
German Research & Computer
2nd Wed. 12-5 LURA PERKINS
Research Chair. really knows the Library

3rd Sat. 10-5 JOHANNES LINNING (Dutch born)
Read, write, speak German, GREAT researcher

4th Wed. 1-5 ELDON KNUTH
Mechlenberg & Pommern, read, write, speak German, foreign websites
Others: Linda Stone 1st Sat. 10-5; Marilyn Deatherage 3rd Wed. 12-5

Irish Genealogy Website

The San Fernando Valley Historical Society speaker program for May will be given by Dr. Brian Damiata on “Pioneer Cemetery’s Lost Graves.” The program and refreshments are FREE!

The question of how many burials are actually located at the San Fernando Valley Pioneer Memorial Cemetery in Sylmar will be discussed on Thursday, April 28th when Dr. Brian Damiata will present his findings from an extensive archaeo-geophysical investigation. Unconfirmed cemetery records indicate more than 600 people could be buried at the historic site.
Dr. Damiata, a California state licensed geophysicist and Cotsen Fellow at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology at UCLA, has extensive experience in applying ground-based geophysical methods to support archaeological and forensic studies that include the locating of unmarked burials and clandestine graves.

There is also an upcoming field trip to the Skirball Cultural Center, on May 14.

KALENDAR

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A free search engine geared toward genealogists and people interested in learning more about their family history.

<WWW.Mocavo.com>™

<Mocavo.com> enables the search of more than 50 billion words - including billions of names, dates and places, all within fractions of a second. <Mocavo.com> fills an important industry need by providing the first large-scale, free search engine for family history research. Coupled with the speed and accuracy by which search results are produced, <Mocavo.com> represents a major technological breakthrough within the genealogy world.

**Southern Campaign Revolutionary War Pension Statements & Rosters**

<http://southerncampaign.org/pen/#1>

Currently 10,788 Pension Application and 73 Roster Transcriptions posted

**SEARCHES**
You need to use the Search feature to access the power of this database, even in cases where an application is not provided for your soldier of interest. Almost all users have to learn by trial and error (instructions provided), and no one sees your efforts. Your searches simultaneously access all the applications and rosters. Some useful searches: names, known captains, battles, relatives, locales, streams. It never hurts to try spelling variations.

**The terrible earthquake in Japan** is having far reaching effects around the world. This from Germany: “German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s center-right Christian Democratic Union suffered a historic defeat in state elections...after a surge in anger over her government’s wobbly nuclear policy. The southwestern state of Baden-Württemberg, a prosperous CDU stronghold since 1953, fell to a leftist coalition of anti-nuke Greens and Social Democrats....Merkel drew widespread criticism last year for her decision to keep aging nuclear plants open. But when she abruptly reversed that decision in the wake of the Japanese nuclear disaster, voters believed her to be pandering. ‘We'll have to work a long time to overcome the pain of this defeat,’ Merkel said.” THE WEEK, April 8, 2011

If you have been puzzled by any German wedding traditions, here is a website that will explain them. <http://www.worldweddingtraditions.com/locations/west_europe_traditions/german_traditions.html> And, now for something different, go to this website and you will see a candle being carved. <http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=k7ojRYQAm64> If you have a spare six minutes, go to this website and “be amazed at the level of technology used to build and store the Volkswagen Phaeton.” <http://www.youtube.com/embed/nd5WGLWNIIA?rel=0> Der Ahnenforscher, Issue 151, April 2011

I don’t know if you saw on TV the girl from Southern Germany who has taught a cow to jump over two poles. I heard on the radio that she wanted a jumping horse, but her parents said, “Nien”. But they did agree to a cow. Ed.

**Interesting facts:** The width of your arm span is equal to your height. Your foot and your forearm (from your wrist to the inside of your elbow) are the same length.
From the newsletter ‘ResearchBuzz’. “A collection of over 20,000 marriage certificates from Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, dating back to the middle of the 19th Century can be accessed at: http://salcat.dpi.state.wi.us/index.php?P=FullRecord&Resourceld=356 Then click on the URL that is listed on the first line. TWIGS—January 2011, Vol. 34, No. 4

As I type this, it is the anniversary of the day 150 years ago when the first shot was fired on Fort Sumter that began the Civil War. We watched some very interesting television last evening on the National Geographic channel. Descendants of men who fought for both the North and South retraced their ancestors’ journeys. It made for intense viewing. Tonight will be a show on Lincoln's assassination and the part Mary Surrat played, if any. I am anxious to see the new film of the trial of Mary. Being descended from Abraham's ancestor, Samuel, gives me a feeling of kinship to him. Ed.

“The Maine Archives has launched a database of Maine’s Civil War Stories. This site contains narratives and stories about Maine citizens and locations...there are now over 150 stories available.” Go to: <http://maine.gov/sos/arc/sesquicent/civilwarwk.shtml> TWIGS—January 2011, Vol. 34, No. 4

Imagine my surprise to find Printed Copies for Indexes of a set of a “Family History Resource File, CD ROM Library” that we have here at the IGS library. Find these copies in a box labeled “FamilySearch Vital Records Index Western Europe” on the shelf marked EUR. This is a description of the information contained on the CD’s; “This set of CDs contains approximately 12 and a half million birth, christening, and marriage records for the following German areas: Baden, Bayern, Hesse-Darmstadt, Lippe, Thüringia, Württemberg. Here is a list of the countries included in the box: Austria (Alpine Region), Belgium (Benelux Region), (French Region), (Italian Region), Netherlands (Benelux Region), (Spanish Region), Switzerland (Alpine Region). I can testify to the efficacy of these records. Warren Weimer found my great-grandfather, Karl Bicker on the CD for Lippe, Germany. We had just visited there and couldn’t find him on the city, county, or church records in Detmold. I was in the library one day and there he was, about 30 miles away. In the Federal Census he, and all of his children, had given a village where he must have lived only a short time before leaving for America. Try these and maybe that missing ancestor is hiding here. Ed.


Here are some interesting facts about Germany and coffee. It seems as if “Germans drink more coffee than beer!” Yeah, I was surprised too. I hardly ever drink coffee but don’t try to take my beer away from me! It seems coffee was introduced to eastern Europeans in the 17th century, when Ottoman Turks conquered the area. In Hamburg, hot drinks, such as tea, hot chocolate and coffee appeared in coffeehouses. In the 18th century, the Kaffeekränzchen reached private households, similar to tea-time in England. This accounts for the time I met a relative in Wurtzburg and we had coffee and cake. In Germany now, much of the coffee is consumed at the workplace, “by enjoying the Muntermacher (picker-upper) with breakfast or the afternoon at their own coffeetable...In Germany, Munich boasts its own brand of coffee, thanks to the city’s renowned food emporium, Dallmayr. Located on Dienerstrasse, just...north of Marienplatz, the Dallmayr delicatessen occupies several historical buildings and is worth visiting, with its fountains, arches, tiled floors and vaulted ceilings. The shop (sells) breads, cheeses, wines and caviar, fresh fish, exotic fruits, and... coffee...It’s long been a custom in Germany to get together with family and friends, especially on a Sunday afternoon...to share coffee and cake. Some of the cakes that have achieved popularity...are the Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte, made with cherry brandy (Kirschwasser)“. And here is an interesting note: “German Chocolate Cake...is not a German Cake”. Now, I’m rather disappointed to have something I held true to be debunked. It’s “named after a special chocolate called ‘German Sweet Chocolate’, created by an American baker named Samuel German in 1832.” Okay, but that’s just the chocolate. “The cake itself, with its nutty coconut topping, was invented by a woman in Texas in 1957.” It’s still good to eat, German or American Chocolate Cake! Der Blumenbaum, SGGS, Vol. 28, No. 3: January, February, March 2011

It pays to know someone who is computer savvy and passes along information. Dr. Carole Morton sent this along. “Last week [e-mail dated 9 April] the Library of Congress added more than 165,500 historic newspaper pages, Chronicling America Web site. This update includes new titles from Nebraska, Louisiana, Utah, Texas, and Virginia, as well as many issues added for existing titles.” The numbers will “blow-you-away”. “...more than 3.4 million pages from 457 titles published between 1860 and 1922 in 22 states plus the District of Columbia.” If you are interested you can take a ‘sneak peek’ at upcoming changes to the site by clicking ‘beta version’ links and use the Feedback button to let us know what you think.” Chronicling America is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program, partnering with the National Endowment, for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.

I hope you saw the last series of, “Who Do You Think You Are?” As always they were very interesting. Ed.
Westerwelle: Clinton is Exceptional Politician, Visionary Woman, Dedicated Transatlanticist

In presenting Secretary of State Clinton with the Walther Rathenau Prize in Berlin on April 15, Foreign Minister Westerwelle said: “We are here to praise an American leader of strong convictions and a true friend of Germany. Your work, ours, Rathenau’s: What we share is the belief that the value of human dignity stands above all else.”

Rathenau Prize for Secretary Clinton: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2011/04/15__Clinton__Rathenau__sp.html>

Tribeca Film Festival Features German Films

A total of seven German films and co-productions will be shown at the 10th annual Tribeca Film Festival, which takes place in Lower Manhattan from April 20 through May 1, 2011.

Tribeca Film Festival: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/K__Wash/2011/04/15__Tribeca__PR.html>

“Vincent Wants to Sea” Receives Golden Lola

The German Film Academy named road movie “Vincent will Meer” (Vincent Wants to Sea) film of the year at the award ceremony in the Berlin Friedrichstadtpalast. The Silver Lola went to the comedy “Almanya – Wilkommen in Deutschland” (Almanya). German Film Awards: <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/K__Wash/2011/04/11__GermanFilmAwards__PR.html>

Blinky Palermo: A Retrospective and an Introduction


Irrepressible Vettel Makes It Two-for-Two in Malaysia

Reigning Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel dominated the Malaysian Grand Prix in Sepang on April 10 for his second consecutive victory to start the F1 racing season. Vettel Wins: http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/2011/04/11__Vettel__Malaysian__GP__PR.html