November 13, 2011-Annual Meeting

Crossing a Continent: Migration Between the Revolution and the Civil War (1783-1861)

Kathleen Roe Trevena Retired computer document writer; 30 year genealogist

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

2011 Federation of Genealogical Societies meeting in Springfield, IL
Your editor attended the September annual convention of this national organization (to which the IGS belongs) and attended sessions with topics pertaining to immigrants and the research strategies used to find records for them. The syllabi for all lectures was provided on a “thumb drive” in each registration packet, and this is now at the IGS Library for reference, for those of you with the ability to visit. In addition, we have several of these talks captured on CD. The topics are:
- “Discovering Old World Origins with U.S. Records”
- “Demystifying Eastern European Research”
- “Tracing Scots-Irish Ancestors”
- “Irish Maps and Tools for Finding the Right Place”
- “Locating American Scots-Irish Families in the Records of Ireland and Scotland”
- “Dutch Treat: Strategies for Finding Ancestors in the Netherlands”
- “Scotland’s Old Parish Registers: How to Access, Use, and Interpret”
Two lectures on Swiss research were not taped, but were still attended — and they were excellent! Expect to hear more about this in the future.... Gordon Seyffert

Amsterdam’s Archives Online
The May 2010 issue of TWIGS, the newsletter of the North-west Indiana Gen. Society, reminds us of the award-winning database available on-line from this municipal archive. IGS member John Linning uses this himself, and finds it very helpful in that it allows the use of wild cards and it exists in an English version. He also notes that early records for Dutch New York and the Dutch East Indies, for example, were sent to Amsterdam whenever there was a legal reason for doing so, such as with inheritances. John advises checking back often, as he says the site is a growing “work-in-progress.” See: <https://stadsarchief.amsterdam.nl/english/archives_database/introduction/index.en.html>. Ed.

Did You Know? (Part 2)
Richard Piepho reports the following, in the September issue of the Pomona Valley Gen. Soc. Newsletter: “The Genealogy Collection of the Pomona Valley Genealogical Society & the Pomona Public Library maintains one of the largest collections of family history information on the east side of Los Angeles County,.....” And, they do indexing!

KALENDAR

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Pardon Our Oversight!!
And here is where your editor endeavors to catch up with surname postings that have not made it into recent newsletters. If you see a name of interest, please send a SASE and we'll respond with the address of the member posting that name.

You may recall that when you joined the Society, the back of your application form gave you the chance to list “Surnames being researched.” That is what is now being shown, below in bold. But any member who wishes may also notify us of new names of interest, and your editor will publish those as they are received.

Patti Hacht: Hacht/Hagge, Purtell.  
Gregory Maltby: Holmgren, Engens, Russell.  
Marlon McHale: Michel, Boesdorfer, Platzbecker, Scherer.  
Edith Van Bellenhem: Bloedel, Simpelaar, Hambach, Franck, Christiaansen, Boeltjes, Laubenstein.  
Joy Ames: Möll, Schulke, Schulze, Mahler, Scharnhorst, Niemeier, Rodewalt, Ulmer.  
Glady M. Donson: Polter, Walter, Moser/Musser, Gusler, Fink.  
Marla M. Kriewall: Will, Winkel, Schnell, Pochert, Kriewall.  
Robert J. Robertson: Goossen, Crist, Schramm, Fuhrmann, Barthe, Siemers, Mueller.  
Robert Seal: Stadtler, Helfritzsch, Kriechhammer, Poch, Muller, Vatter.  

Our Newest Members
Jim Martin, a Burbank resident, dropped by the IGS Library last month. Having used our library before, and needing to continue his research in greater detail, Jim joined our Society and submitted these names he’s researching: Redman, Kaul & Hartwig. He reports that he has located the Kaul name in three separate German locales. Welcome, Jim! Then, close behind him, Dorothy and Raymond Fleck of La Verne came in to join. The names of interest to them are: Rossow, Lapes, Fleck, Meyer. Again, welcome! If any of you dear readers see a name of interest, please send your IGS a SASE for the address of the member researching that name.

“Periodical Gleanings”
That’s the name of a helpful section in Rabbit Tracks, published three times a year by the Conejo Valley Gen. Soc., Inc. out of Westlake Village. Why is it helpful? Because for some of you it may be closer and easier to visit the Genealogical Section of the Grant R. Brimhall Library in Thousand Oaks than to drive to your IGS Library in Burbank. And that’s where the periodicals they “glean” may be found! Here are two they list that may be of special interest for immigrant research: Roots-Key (Journal of the Jewish Gen. Soc. of L.A.), and The Searcher (Southern California Gen. Soc.). We have them, too, but the Brimhall Library also has a number of other American periodicals that might prove helpful if that’s closest to you. By the way, the Conejo society’s monthly newsletter has new databases that have been added to Ancestry.com -- an interesting service to members I haven’t seen carried elsewhere. And, just as a final “FYI” tip, these folks plan an annual trip to Salt Lake every February. Ed.

Hispanic Family History Research
The Los Angeles WESTSIDE Gen. Soc. notes the following monthly opportunities for seeking help with Hispanic research, together with the specific dates remaining prior to Christmas:  
Tues. -- So. Cal. Gen. Soc. in Burbank, Nov 15 & Dec 20 (1-9 pm)  
Weds. -- L.A. Family History Library in West Los Angeles, Nov 2 & Dec 7 (3-9 pm)  
Sat. -- L.A. Central Library (Hist. & Gen. Dept.), Nov 19 & Dec 17 (11 am - 5 pm)

Note: Those of us who are <Ancestry.com> subscribers note that they now offer the 1930 Mexican census, which can be a major source of family documentation. Major libraries often have Ancestry.com subscriptions for patrons to use free-of-charge, so be sure to look into this if you take advantage of the above opportunities. Ed.

Polish Ancestors?
The Milwaukee County Genealogical Society has a Polish Area Research Group you might consider if you’re in need of someone with whom “to discuss problems and share resources specific to that nationality.” An individual membership in the Society is $12, a family membership is $14 and a foreign membership is $18. Join by writing to PO Box 270326, Milwaukee WI 53227-0326, or see <http://www.milwaukeegenecology.org>. When you’ve joined, contact Brian Allen Wierzb, (262) 391-7341 or alwierz@gmail.com.
“Researching Your Catholic Ancestors”
We had an excellent September program, presented by Pam Wiedenbeck. She gave those present a 12-page handout with seven of those pages being devoted to examples of the kind of documents one finds in church books. And, as she pointed out, even your early Lutheran or Reformed ancestors might appear in Catholic records: the churches they attended couldn’t and didn’t move, but changed denomination depending upon the whim of the ruler. But the books remained the same, because paper was expensive. For that reason, a general understanding of church books works well for all faiths.

Here are some additional points of interest to keep in mind. First, the birth of the Protestant Reformation comes in 1517, and thus records for commoners start to exist about this time. Second, and as to marriages, if the date fell during Lent or Advent, or if the reading or publishing of the banns was dispensed with totally, then a child was probably on the way. Third, the best Catholic records are to be found in French Canada, “where almost all of the church books have been microfilmed,” and where indexes are plentiful. Thanks, Pam, for a great presentation! Ed.

Heinrich Konrad Wilhelm & Marie Charlotte Henriette (Spreen) BODE
A fifteen-page article on the descendants of this couple from Hannover & Westphalia and Washington Co., Texas may be found in The Journal of the German-Texan Heritage Society, Vol. XXXIII, No. 3 (Fall 2011), pgs. 166-180. Other articles focus on immigrant SCHIFFERLING and von STACHELHAUSEN families of Texas. Very informative. Ed.

East European Genealogist, Vol. 19, No. 4 (Summer 2011).
This issue has articles on a present-day Ukrainian region called Volyń or Volhynia, and on the Austro-Hungarian databases available at Genteam <http://www.GenTeam.at> -- including several that are specifically Jewish databases. Worth a look! Ed.

Lake County (IL) Annual Workshop
Laura G. Prescott, president of the Assoc. of Professional Genealogists, and Harold Henderson, a genealogical author and blogger, are together the speakers for this workshop to be held in Round Lake Beach, IL on Saturday, November 5th. Topics are academic archives, timelines and the software to produce them, Indiana research, “Gender Loyalty within Families,” county-level repositories in the Mid-west, manuscripts & special collections, and name-changing ancestors. Further info is at their web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~illcgs>.

National Genealogical Society 2012 Conference
This major annual genealogical event will be in Cincinnati, Ohio on May 9th -12th. The list of talks and presenters has not been released yet, but an advance flyer describes the research opportunities to be found in Cincinnati, some of which are:

Public Library of Cincinnati & Hamilton County (a top genealogical collection)
Cincinnati Historical Society Library (strong on regional history)
Carl Blegen Library, U. of Cincinnati (German-Americana collection, by appt.)
American Jewish Archives (manuscripts, photos, microfilm)
German Heritage Museum (<http://www.gacl.org/museum.html>)

Murray’s Handbook for Travellers: Northern Germany (1871)
While at FGS, your editor purchased the above travel guide, published in London the year of German unification. It is a gem! And, of course, it is not under copyright. Here is but one example: “The Miners of the Saxon Erzgebirge are a somewhat primitive class. Their form of salutation is by the words ‘Glück auf.’ They are enrolled in a sort of semi-military corps, of which the common workmen are the privates, and the superintendents and managers the officers. They are called out several times a year for inspection or parade, and in addition assemble in a body at certain stated times to attend miners’ prayers in the church, at the funeral of a superior officer, during the visit of a royal personage, and on days of rejoicing for the discovery of a rich vein. On these occasions they appear in uniform, their leather aprons fastened on behind, leather pockets in the place of cartouche-boxes, and a large knife stuck in the girdle. The common miners march with their pickaxes shouldered, the carpenters with their axes, and the smiths with their hammers borne in the same fashion. These processions have a martial appearance, are headed by a band playing a miners’ march, and accompanied by flying colours. The officers have similar uniforms, distinguished according to their rank. All, up to the chief, or Berg-Hauptman, whether in working costume or in full dress, wear the singular hinder-apron, which, from its position, bears a very significant name. Even the sovereign, were he to appear on the spot, as head miner of Saxony, could not dispense with this appendage. To be deprived of it is the greatest disgrace to which a miner can be subjected; he thereby loses his privilege, and the dishonour is equal to that of knocking off the spurs from a knight’s heels.”

Public Libraries Petition
For those of you who are California voters, here’s something you may wish to consider. AB 438 is a bill that will stop the privatization of California’s public libraries. Yes, the state is “broke,” but do you really want to see the operation of public libraries handed over to private corporations that seek to run them first and foremost to maximize profit?

For Pomeranian Research
Did you know that the Pomeranian Society of Freistadt Newsletter (Germantown, WI) lists 16 books of various sorts that are for sale, along with Kreis maps at 1:100,000 scale? An order form is included as the last page of this publication, received at your IGS Library. Ed.
Hungarian Research
Have you checked <FamilySearch.org> lately? You might find what you’re looking for, and if you read German then there’s an article to describe the holdings. Dr. Günter Junkers writes of 9.1 million Hungarian church book entries now available, in a three-page article in the June 2011 issue of Donauschwäbische Familienkundliche Forschungsblätter, pages 768-70.

Advance Notice
February 25th is the date to save for the Whittier Area Genealogical Society’s 29th Annual Seminar. The speaker will be George W. Morgan, noted author and podcaster.

IGS October Program
Our speaker Tom Underhill gave a challenging presentation to a rapt audience of 14 people earlier this month… “challenging” in the sense that those who heard it will never look at interviewing in the same way again. For this listener, the new standard will be to invite the subject to start reliving his or her life, just “chatting” as it were -- such that in a few moments they’ll ask: “When are you going to begin the interview?” Another great presentation! Gordon Seyffert

Don’t Forget!!
We hope you saw it on our first page, but just in case you skipped by it…. November 13th is our Annual Meeting! Please try to attend if you can, as this is when we report to you and then transition to our next year. Five members of the Board will be elected at this time, and three members will continue. Please come and be a part of this process!!

The Week in Germany
Sep 16, 2011
Click here to view the Newsletter online <http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__111014.html>