Immigrant Genealogical Society

Library open 12 noon-5pm
1310 Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

February 12, 2012
Speaker: Dr. Eric Siess Over 25 years in Genealogy!
Topic: “Emigration: Where Did They Come From? Bridge the gap with records from the Old Country”. (Strategies and specific tips)

March 11, 2012
Speaker: Donie Nelson 30 years experience in Family History
Topic: “Family Stories, Secrets, Lies & Surprises” (The longer you research the more you find!)

April 15, 2012 PSIG/IGS Meeting
Speaker: Jean Wilcox Hibben Topic: “Turning Genealogy into Family History”

The Proceedings of the Old Bailey, 1674-1913
If you have English Colonial (or later) immigrants, you might want to investigate the web site for London’s historic Central Criminal Court. This site offers a fully searchable database encompassing almost 200,000 criminal trials. It’s to be found here: <http://www.oldbaileyonline.org/>. At that location there is also a sister site, London Lives (1690-1800), that gives access to some 3.35 million names taken from 240,000 manuscripts in eight archives. Further information is available at the site. --Ed.

Treasurer’s Message
On behalf of the Board of Directors and the entire membership I thank you so very much for those members who have upgraded their membership or sent donations to help the Society/Library with our expenses.

As you know it has been more difficult to meet our expenses due to the aging of our members, the internet, distance, and other factors. We are not alone; many societies have given up on quarterly publications, scaled back in other ways, or closed the society itself. We are trying to hang in there!

We need volunteers, attendance at monthly meetings, more ideas to raise funds, indexers etc. etc. Please think about how the Society/Library has helped you in the past and what treasures are still lurking in our stacks!!

Our volunteers get a great thrill in finding clues, break-throughs, and sending you elsewhere, if necessary, even if it is not our own families!! Make our day when you renew, make year-end donations, or come into the Library.

Gratefully, Marilyn Deatherage, Treasurer

KALENDAR

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GenealogyandFamilyHistory.com
This is a blog that Asst. Editor Warren Stone follows, and he recommends an article he saw in September on “Genealogy a la iPad,” by Carolyn L. Barkley. It’s long, but worthwhile if you want to know how the new reading technology can be of service in your research endeavors. What’s particularly helpful is that she critiques 22 different “apps” that the Apple Store lists for the iPad in relation to genealogical activities. They are categorized as follows: utilities, programs & GEDCOM viewers, magazines & podcast apps, and support apps. You can read all about this at: <http://www.genealogyandfamilyhistory.com/?p=688>.

From the same blog Jean Chapman Snow (a member of the Southern California Genealogical Society, Inc. – also in Burbank) has recommended a March article by Ms. Barkley on the subject of the Boston Post Road, the Great Valley Road and other colonial highways. Actually a review of a book by Eric Jaffe, the title of this article is: “Movin on Down the Road: Thoughts on Highways and Our Ancestors.” The URL will be the same as above, only with the number being 575 instead of 688.

Murray’s Handbook for Travellers: Northern Germany (1871) Hamburg, down to 1867 one of the Free Hanse Towns, has become Prussian, and is occupied by a Prussian garrison. It is remarkable for its excellent harbour, rendering it the first trading seaport of Ger-many. It is intersected by canals, called Fleethen (Fleet ditches?), and in this respect, and in the trees growing in the streets, bears a resemblance, in the old part of the town, to the towns of Holland. The trade of Hamburg has enormously increased: the annual value of its imports amounts to 55,000,000£. sterling! The average number of vessels entering the port in a year is nearly 5000, more than one-third of which are British. The Elbe is navigable thus far for ships of considerable burden, which can enter the harbour and transfer their cargoes in barges to the merchants’ doors, whose warehouses and dwellings generally adjoin. There are no docks. Much banking and funding business is done here; besides which it is the dépôt for a large part of the exports and imports of the North of Europe. The sugar refineries have diminished of late.

By the Fire of 1842 Hamburg sustained a calamity unequalled in extent in any European city since the fire of London. The conflagration broke out in the Deichstrasse, near the Elbe, on Thursday, May 5, and raged until the following Sunday in spite of all efforts to oppose it; widening as it advanced until it had involved in destruction 2 sides of the Alster Basin, levelling almost all the buildings, public and private, over an area of many acres, sweeping down 1749 houses, 61 streets, besides courts and alleys, and even crossing the broad canal of the Alster. The churches of St. Nicholas, St. Peter, and St. Gertrude were consumed; the New Exchange, though surrounded by the flames, escaped uninjured. The sympathy caused by this event in all parts of the globe was proved by the voluntary subscriptions raised for the sufferers, amounting to near 400,000£., of which England contributed 41,000£. Besides this, immense sums were raised by loan, so that Hamburg has now the largest national debt, in proportion to its population, of any continental state....

Servant-girls and cooks rarely appear in public except in gay attire; with lace caps, long kid gloves, and a splendid shawl, arranged under the arm, so as to conceal a basket shaped like a child’s coffin, containing clothes, butter or cheese, or other articles purchased at market. The peasants who frequent the market wear a picturesque attire; they are chiefly natives of a district bordering on the Elbe, called Vierlanden, which is principally laid out in gardens, and supplies the market with vegetables.

Funeral processions in Hamburg are not composed of friends of the deceased, but of hired mourners, called Reiten Diener, dressed in black, with plaited ruffs round their necks, curled and powdered wigs, short Spanish cloaks, and swords. The same persons, whose number is limited to 16, attend at marriage-festivals, and form also a sort of body-guard to the magistrates. Their situations were formerly purchased at a high price, in consideration of the perquisites and fees attached to them. Upon the death of a burgomaster or other personage of importance in the town, the town trumpeter, a civic officer, is set to blow a dirge from one of the steepleys....

The public ball-rooms in and about the town, though not frequented by the most respected classes, being often the resort of low company, deserve to be looked at as one of the peculiarities of the place. The best are the Elbe Pavilion, Apollo Saal, Peter Ahrin’s Salon. Some of the cellars for suppers, beer, &c., are worth a visit. The Hamburg hung beef is celebrated....

In some parts of the town a portion of the poorer inhabitants live in cellars under the houses. In winter, and after a prevalence of W. winds, which drive the waters of the German Ocean into the mouth of the Elbe, the tides rise to a great height (sometimes 20 ft.), sometimes inundating the streets near the river. The tenants of these cellars are then driven from their habitations by the water, which keeps possession of them for days, leaving them filled with ooze, and in a most unhealthy condition from the moisture. The upper part of the house is let under condition that the occupants of the cellars are to receive shelter at such seasons of calamity. Outside the Damm Gate, not far from the Jungfernstieg, are the public Cemeteries, which deserve a visit, as exhibiting the customs and usages of Germany with regard to the resting-place of the dead.

Hamburg had once the misfortune to be a fortified town, and in consequence was subjected to the horrors of a siege from the French, and was twice occupied by their armies, who, under Davoust, in 1813, exercised the most cruel severities and atrocities upon the inhabitants. Here is a monumental sarcophagus to 1138 men, women, and children, who perished of cold and starvation on that occasion, driven out of the town in the depth of winter.... [Hamburg suggested by member Bobbe Horton. Thanks, Bobbe!]

American Families of German Ancestry
We have a most interesting volume tucked away from the shelves of our Library because it is in poor condition and needs rebinding. Schlegel’s American Families of German Ancestry in the United States, Volume IV (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1926). However, it should be possible to consult this volume, or to
make copies of it, so long as care is taken to see that it is not damaged in the process. The book is kept in the acquisitions desk. Here are the surname chapters, as they appear: Braunstein (of Bruchsal, Baden), Peter (Achern, Baden), Weber (Wallau, Hesse-Nassau), Hoffman (Dessau, Anhalt), Mueller (Nagold, Württemberg), Bauer (Klingenberg, Württemberg), Vollweiler (Eppingen, Baden), Haussling (Deidesheim, Rhenish Bavaria), Bender (Wachbach, Württemberg), Bierstempfel (Rohra, Saxe-Meiningen), Wendel (Rückenhausen, Rhenish Bavaria -- two articles), Wahlers (Klein-Sottrum, Hanover), Ploehn (Schleswig-Holstein), Schneider (Gösslingen & Laufen, Württemberg), Breidt (Pforzheim, Baden), Schill (Wildbad, Württemberg), Kroeger (Frohnhausen, Westphalia), Flocken (Albersweiler, Rhenish Bavaria), Runkel (Hesse-Nassau), Nungesser (Pfungsstadt, Hesse-Darmstadt), Hauenstein (Kirchheimbolanden, Rhenish Bavaria), Schaeffer (Deidesheim, Rhenish Bavaria), Stengel (Hesse-Cassel), Jaekle (Moenchweiler, Baden), Dippel (Hesse-Darmstadt), Maurer (Gross-Asbach, Württemberg), Otto (Luedhorst, Hanover), Osleneder (Cologne, Rhenish Prussia), Reuter (Altenheim, Baden), Vogeler (Kreis Bersen Bruck, Hanover), Breidt (Ertzingen & Münzkirchen, Upper Austria), Weimar (Nantershauen, Hesse-Nassau), Sebold (Walkersbrunn, Bavaria), Havemeyer (northern Prussia), Schmieder (Ober-Achern & Lauf, Baden), Stuebner (Gera, Reuss, Saxony), Bender (Wachbach, Württemberg), Martin (Albersweiler, Rhenish Bavaria), Muller (Viersen, Hanover), Barkhausen (Bremen), Schmidt (Ober-Melsungen, Hesse-Nassau), Wilhelms (Altenümbrecht-bei-Numbrecht, Rhenish Prussia), Sauerwein (Möenchberg, Bavaria), Kuhn (Eisenach, Saxe-Weimar), Just (Danzig, West Prussia), Stohn (Lichtenstein-Caillen, Saxony), Hoffman (Ueterlaute, Oldenburg), Fisher (Bohemia), Meurer (Frankfurt-am-Main, Hesse). There is an index in the back of the book. --Ed.

Finding an Ancestral Place in Ireland
The Genealogical Society of Stanislaus County, through their newsletter Stanislaus Searcher, Vol. 33 No. 10 (Nov. 2011), has identified <http://www.seannruad.com> as a place to consult if you’re trying to locate an Irish ancestor’s reported place of origin. This web site gives you The IreAtlas Townland Data Base, and the item states that there are 61,402 named townlands -- the smallest commonly-found locality in Ireland. But let’s say that you don’t have a place name to track down, but do have some other information and just need to know where to turn in your research. The same issue of the Stanislaus Searcher alerts us to a new online forum, <http://www.findmypast.ie>. Registered users can join existing discussions or start new ones of their own, on topics ranging from place names, to specific ancestors, to Irish records and so forth. By sharing with others and benefitting from their expertise, the next success story could be yours! --Ed.

Web Site of the Month: The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®, at: <http://www.gahfusa.org/gahm/gahm.html>. [Thanks to The Palatine Patter, No. 136!]

Whittier Area Genealogical Society 29th Annual Seminar
In the November issue we alerted you to this event, and now it’s time to take action. Roger Mount, Seminar Director, can be contacted at <wags.seminar@gmail.com> or 562-693-2674, or visit their web site at <http://www.cagenweb.com/kr/wags>. The date is Saturday, February 25th, at Whittier Masonic Temple, 7604 Greenleaf Ave. Fees are $32 members/$37 non-members if registered before Feb. 13th, $40 at the door, and a special student rate (with school photo ID) of only $10. The speaker is Geo. Morgan, co-host of “The Genealogy Guys” podcast, who will address building ancestor profiles.

Early-Bird Notices regarding Palatines to America
Speakers Warren Bittrner (FHL intl. Reference Consultant) and Michael John Neill (Rootdig.blogspot.com) should be reason enough to go to Indianapolis, June 14 to 16, for the Palatines to America 2012 National Conference. But if not, consider that the theme of this gathering is “German Research: Methodology & Technology.” Look for a conference brochure & registration form at <http://www.palam.org>. And, if you have time for a side trip while in the Midwest, consider that the Palatines to America German Collection is now housed at the Columbus (OH) Metropolitan Library. But you say that’s too far from your home in the Western U.S.? Then consider that Henry Z. “Hank” Jones will speak in Denver on Sat., April 28th for Pal-Am’s Colorado Chapter Spring Seminar. Get further information from Pam Smith by writing <palatinepam@gmail.com>.

Glückstal Colonies Research Association
In a joint publication project with the Germans from Russia Heritage Collection of North Dakota State University, this organization -- publisher of a newsletter we receive on the Colonies of Bergdorf, Glückstal, Kassel and Neudorf in South Russia -- will publish an important compilation, Collectivization in the Soviet Union: German Letters to America, 1927-1932, by Janice (Huber) Stangl. From the flyer received we know that “Most of the letters were written by village correspondents to German-language newspapers published in the United States. The earlier letters contain many names, places, and family events.” But additional funds are needed this month to complete the project. You may call 701-231-6596 or visit <http://www.ndsu.edu/grhc> for more information.

New Member Surnames-of-Interest
Julie Fisher of Burbank joined us in October. If you have one of these names, then she’d like to hear from you: Turnipseed, Pritts/Pritz, Messimore, Aspey, Moyer. Send a SASE to your IGS office, and we’ll respond.

The Danube Swabians
Sue Clarkson has written a fact-packed, four-page article on the German settlements of Southern Hungary for the November 2011 issue of Der Ahnenforscher (“The Family Researcher”), newsletter of the German Genealogy Group of Kings Park, NY. By 1900, she reports, Hungary contained over two million residents of German ancestry whose ancestors came there (often to Banat Province) between 1711 and 1750. The article includes a bibliography of a dozen books and articles of special interest. --Ed.
Our Renewing Members
Norman Feil, a Florida member who can read much of the old
German records, has offered to share his 25,000-name data-
base with us on CD. How thoughtful!! His names of interest are:
Feil, Strussenberg, Zarpentine and Graupman. Other
names being searched are: Milt Radant - Radant/Radandt/ 
Raddant, Mielke. Jo Ann Ball - Stelter, Chudyszewitz,
Seidtiz, Wroblewska, Helke, Tiedtke. Gloria Hank - Hank,
Sylvia Keller - Hessel, Schmidt, Ströter/Ströder, Müller,
Hartel, Hoff, Moeller, Baumann, Eller, Sames,
Kästner, Kupfer, Keller. Dr. James F. Schäuble - Schäuble,
Stuhlfauth. Thanks!!

“Writing a Genealogically Relevant Obituary”
...is the title of a page-long item in the Oct. 2011 Bulletin
of the Polish Gen. Soc. of CA!

Spiegel Online International
<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/>

The Week in Germany
Dec 16, 2011
Click here to view the Newsletter online <http://
www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/newsletter/
The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__111216.html>

German-Jewish Relations the Focus of Westerwelle’s
Trip to New York
Contacts with the Jewish community and exchanges with
representatives of the main American Jewish organiza-
tions were the focus of Foreign Minister Guido Wester-
welle’s trip to New York from December 10 to 12.
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P__Wash/
2011/12/13__Westerwelle___NY__PR.html>

Advent and Christmas in Germany are a time for tra-
ditional, family celebrations. A number of beloved Ger-
man traditions have become staples around the world,
like Christmas markets, Advent calendars, and popular
carols

<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/04__W__t__G/
01/09__Advent__Christmas/__Christmas.html>

Important Step Forward at Durban Climate Conference
The Climate Change Conference in Durban paved the way
for a legally binding climate agreement between all countries in
the early hours of Sunday morning following long and tough
newsletter/The__Week__in__Germany/TWIG__111216.html>

Celebrating the New Year Does the “same procedure as
every year” accurately describe your annual party? Perhaps
you should try adding a little German flair to your New Year’s
Eve. Dazzle your guests with an obscure British comedy
sketch, jelly donuts, “fiery” drinks, fortune telling, and fireworks.
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/04__W__t__G/
01/01__New__Year/New__Year__S.html>