Dear IGS Members,

Due to the lack of attendance at our monthly General Meetings with speakers, the IGS Board of Directors has voted to keep the Library OPEN for research on the 2nd Sunday of each month as usual but without paid speakers for the rest of the year.

However, there will be speakers for the joint IGS/Pommern Special Interest Group meetings in July and October at 2pm. Please read the newsletter for possible Workshops, etc. Of course, our annual Pot-Luck in December will be held as usual.

We still need your generous donations and upgrades in your membership status! Do you know of any Foundations or companies who would consider giving us a Grant or a donation to help us through this economic crisis?

Regrettfully,

The IGS Board of Directors

Marilyn Deatherage  Director/Treasurer
818-348-6444 marilynd@socal.rr.com

Hiring a Polish researcher

Joyce Sharifi has written a 4-page article for the Bulletin of the Polish Genealogical Society of California (April 2012, pgs. 9-12) titled: “Roadblock? Considerations for Hiring a Researcher in Poland.” Essentially a checklist of items to consider before making a commitment, this also includes her recommendations on how to obtain the maximum material on your family beforehand (for the purpose of briefing your expert on what you’d like to have researched). Her first thought on this matter? “…get a recommendation from someone who knows a reliable researcher. Then conduct your own assessment…..” Wise advice!! But where to find the person to recommend that reliable researcher? Well, one can’t get everything from the internet; some things are still best found through your local (or national) genealogical society…. --Ed.

Upcoming Talk on British Research

The San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society will have an evening meeting at the Chatsworth Train Station on Friday, July 20th. Speaker Nancy Carlberg will be “Looking at British Research--New Changes.” The same group will meet on August 17th (also a Friday) to hear Gena Philibert-Ortega speak on “Elusive Genealogy Sources.” Those seeking advice concerning their “brick walls” are advised to come in early. These programs are free, but donations are appreciated. For more information, find them at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~casfvgs/>.

**KALENDER**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 CLOSED</td>
<td>15 Mailing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 PSIG/General Meeting/Program</td>
<td>25 Board of Directors 7PM</td>
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<td>18 Mailing</td>
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<td>25 Board of Directors</td>
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July 8, 2012  JOINT MEETING IGS/PSIG

Karl L. Weiler
Director for 11 years at a Fresno, CA LDS Family History Center, now a volunteer at the Murrieta, CA Family History Center

“Recent Changes to the Family Search WebPages”

Library open 12:00 till 5:00  Come for the fellowship!
PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA
**Poznan Project**
The March *San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin* has on pg. 19 a report on a project many may not have run across before. 30,000 church marriage records covering this part of central Europe are being augmented by the addition of civil marriage records through the end of the 19th century. This project covers both Polish and German ancestors, as this is where many lived side-by-side with others not of their ethnic origin. If you’re having trouble finding a village of origin, this database might provide the answer. And keep coming back, as it’s estimated that only two-thirds of parishes then existing (19th c.) are represented in this volunteer database at the present time. See: <http://bindweed.man.poznan.pl/posen/data/support.php>. And, if a short description of Poznan (German: Posen) is desired, see the Fall 2011 issue of the *Germanic Genealogy Journal* at the IGS Library. It includes a helpful historical summary, timeline and Kreise map, all by St. Olaf College’s LaVern J. Rippley. Plus, immediately following is a separate article by Kent Cutkomp, “Genealogical Resources and References for Posen.” This is a quick seven-page orientation!

**“East German Colonization in the Middle Ages”**
This is an article that appeared in the *Annual Report of the American Historical Association* for the Year 1915. Written by a Professor of History at the University of Chicago, it makes some interesting comparisons between the American frontier settlement (as understood by Frederick Jackson Turner) and the eastward expansion of the Germans centuries before. Here is one excerpted paragraph:

“Under these new and changed conditions it was natural that the ‘New East’ beyond the Elbe beckoned to the Saxons of the twelfth century much as the ‘New West’ beckoned to the American pioneer. In both cases the sparsely populated back lands tempted men from the more settled regions. The frontier of medieval Germany lay at ‘the hither edge of free land’ as truly as did the American frontier. The increasing economic and social pressure in the older parts of Saxony and elsewhere pushed the hardier and the braver spirits across the line. They ‘trekked’ eastward to establish new homes for themselves in the wilderness, leaving the great manors of church and noble—in particular the former, which had supplanted the Saxon free farmer, to be farmed more intensively by Flemish and Dutch settlers used to deep plowings in the heavy soils of the Low Countries, who were import-ed by Adolph of Holstein, Henry the Lion, and many of the bishops. ‘Hard Times’ and feudal oppression were powerful factors in the migration of peoples in the Middle Ages. The Bavarian colonization of the Ostmark, the Frankish colonization of parts of Saxony and the Thüringer March, the settlement of Westphalian, Dutch, and Flemish colonists east of the Elbe are examples.”

There are many comparisons with the American experience, such as when the author compares the “large influx of German immigrants into the trans-Elbe lands” after 1143 with “the American ‘rush’ after the War of 1812 into the Western Reserve and the Ohio Valley.” Many readers may have noticed that German local histories often begin with what is known about the area—beginning with earliest settlement. But for those of us with settlement timelines that begin only two or three centuries ago it is often hard to appreciate this early history. Thus the many comparisons in this work brought home to me the fact that frontiers and settlers are archetypes that extend across space and time. Now that we are all looking -- most of us, at any rate! -- towards DNA studies to reach back in Germany before the Thirty Years’ War, these writings become relevant. [And, guess what? I found this item at a used book store.....] --Ed.

**St. Louis Gen. Society’s German Special Interest Group**
Like many locally-based societies, the St. Louis society has a “SIG” devoted to Germanic research. Additionally they have four “clusters” for more specific researcher interests: (1) Bavaria & Niedersachsen, (2) Hessen & Westphalia, (3) Alsace-Lorraine, Baden-Württemberg/ Rhineland & Swiss, and finally (4) a Prussian cluster. The "Forum" that is sent to all G-SIG members came to me recently with this extra notice that I found to be of possible interest:

“German Church Book Words”

“This is about exploring information about some of the words used in German church books. While the link suggests it is about “passenger lists” the questions have digressed a bit. Let your curiosity take hold.


“Now go to this link for the first query about farms and how they are described.


Here you find the query by “Jim” as he asks about the meaning of Halbbauer (half-farmer), Viertelbauer, & Viertellahner (quarter-farmer). Notice the thread of 8 ongoing replies to his question. As you read this you will gain a bit of insight to the words.

“Enjoy!” (...thanks to the folks at this important society!!) --Ed.

**Assorted Wisdom** -- “Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate!”

**More Assorted Wisdom** -- “To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research.”

**Australian Obituaries**
Looking through Ann Archer’s May 2012 copy of *TWIGS*, the newsletter for Lake and Porter Counties, Indiana, I saw a notice that the Australian National University has placed almost 3,000 obituaries on-line. The data may be searched by name or keyword (e.g., country), among the many possibilities. It occurred to me that a search for a mention of your country of interest might turn up some people you’d like to investigate further. See: <http://oa.anu.edu.au>. --Ed.

The Germanic Genealogy Society, of St. Paul, MN, publishes a research guide under the title listed above, and it has now gone into its second edition. But the Society also publishes a quarterly, *Germanic Genealogy Journal*. The Fall 2011 issue of this quarterly contains the three new essays written for the second edition, and they are as follows.

“Extracted Church Records,”
“German Catholic Church Records,” and
“German Civil Vital Records.”

The websites mentioned in the first edition have, of course, been updated in the current edition, and these changes have also been added to the Society’s Fall 2011 quarterly publication. You might have seen this 2nd edition offered for sale at the SCGS Jamboree in June. Your IGS Library has another publication of the same genealogical organization -- *Germanic Genealogy*, third edition (2007). It’s to be found in library stack #3, under German how-to-research materials.

Meine Ahnen, Sippe & Familie (English title: My Ancestors, my Kin, my Family)

Some months ago I formed an on-line friendship with a German who was seeking help in identifying some of his U.S. cousins. He already knew of some, but he also knew that those persons were no longer in touch with several others, the passage of time having separated the different branches of the line. And that line was a Catholic Drücker family associated with Duisburg, Germany since 1850, but stemming earlier from Neuenkirchen, and still earlier from Scherfede and its nearby village of Bonenburg. All of this takes him back to the year 1642, and places him in the general area of Warburg, in Westfalen. Now he has prepared an “American version” of his German-language genealogy (the original of which also includes his father’s side -- Drücker being his mother’s family), targeted to his American cousins. I have a copy, and would be willing to check it for anyone interested in a Drücker ancestor or relative. ––Ed.

Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association

You’ve heard the one about “There’s an app for that!” ?? It appears as well that, for about any type of ancestor one might imagine, “There’s a society for that!” Exhibit “A” is the Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association, which your editor encountered while perusing the National Genealogy Society’s on-line Events Calendar. It turns out that this group is holding its Annual Membership Meeting in Buffalo, New York on the 23rd of June. This will include a Gottscheer history presentation and a workshop.

So what, exactly, is this group? In answer, the brief description provided by NGS says: “The region of Gottschee was a Germanic linguistic island in Slovenia that was first settled in the 1300’s and was dissolved in 1941. Gottscheers have emigrated to the United States and Canada since in the 1880’s.” Okay, so with immigration that recent, one probably has some knowledge of this group if one is a descendant. If not, then there’s still a way of checking to see if this heritage is plausible. More on that in a sec...

But do Gottscheers know how distinctive they are? Veit Valentin’s 1946 book, *The German People*, addresses this in his chapter on the end of the Middle Ages. He observes that colonization in the east proceeded by inching forward (particularly into areas conquered through warfare), or by leapfrogging into the heart of alien lands where they would have to adapt to the host culture (but remain isolated) -- the case with the Gottscheers. Here is his specific reference: “Peasant settlements in the Danubian area remained rarities; the German community in Gottschee in Slovenia is one of these exceptions.” He then adds that they were welcomed because of the economic development they brought to the area, but had no choice but to follow Slavic instead of German law.

The Gottschee’s website home page is at: <http://www.gottschee.org>, but if you think you might be a descendant you’ll surely want to check out the surnames that are commonly associated with this regional settlement. They are to be found at: <http://www.gottschee.org/surname.html>. Many of these are not names one commonly sees; I counted eight of them that begin with the letters “Tsch,” as one example. To see where this settlement was, look for the “Location of Gottschee” page. ––Ed.

Polish In-Country Migration

The Spring 2012 issue of *Rodziny*, the Journal of the Polish Genealogical Society of America contains a 7+ page article by researcher Ron Wencer on his Lipinski family. For me, the most interesting aspect of the article was the documentation of the many moves the family made in response to the destabilization they experienced at the hands of Prussian and German rulers. It’s a good account to read if such migration may be a factor in your own ancestral family, whether they were Polish or not. ––Ed.

Flax in the Life of Your Ancestor

April’s copy of *Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage* contains a long bilingual Pennsylvania German talk on flax by Alan G. Keyser (as transcribed and translated by Keith “Butch” Reigart). It was presented in Farmersville, PA on July 8, 2011. Here are the paragraph headings, to give an idea of the breadth of the topic: sowing flax, flax in blossom, plucking flax, threshing flax, retting flax, drying and braking flax, scutching flax, hackling flax, spinning flax, measuring flax yarn, weaving linen cloth, clothing made from linen, bleaching linen cloth, and making half-linen (“Linsey-Woolsey”). This would appear to be a “must-read” if you have ancestors who cultivated and processed flax.

The 1921 Canadian Census

Many ancestors of Americans today came via Canada. Some of these even came within the past century, and for those with such a heritage it will be important to await the release of the 1921 census. Canadian law is stricter than our own Federal policies regarding the census, and require the passage of 92 years (instead of 72) before release may be made. Sometime after June 1, 2013 the Library and Archives of Canada will have scanned the images and placed them on-line, although -- like the indexing of our 1940 census -- this may take some time.
A Note from Hank Jones

He wrote a letter to The Palatine Patter informing Pal-Am members of his article in The American Genealogist (TAG) -- January 2011 issue -- that adds European origins of some 30 more “1709” families who settled in New York. Surnames of these families are: Batz, Bresseler, Dorner, Finck, Gerlach, Goldmann, Hite, Hoffman, Jung, Kast, Kraus, Kramer, Kuhn, Loscher, Mertz, Meyer, Musig, Nellis, Reich, Riedt, Rouch, Schauer, Schenckel, Schurtz, Schütz, Speichermann, Sterenberger, Thomas, Ulrich, Weber, & Werner. Mr. Jones is the author of three reference works on the subject of these immigrants: The Palatine Families of New York - 1710, More Palatine Families, and Even More Palatine Families. Your IGS Library has all three. The TAG article may be seen as a supplement to them.

The American Heritage Library, in Glendale, CA

As editor I usually forego items that might be of interest to our membership, but for which I can find no clear connection to ancestral immigration to the United States. But this month I’ll make an exception to pass along information I found in the March issue of the San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society Bulletin. I did not know that the “Sons of the Revolution in the State of California” has maintained a library for 110 years, that this facility houses over 25,000 titles, and that the catalog is being made available on-line at: <http://www.srcalifornia.com/library.htm/>. The Library “is well known as one of the largest collections relating to the American Revolution and Colonial America in the Western United States,” and use of the library is free. Normal library and museum hours are Fridays and Saturdays from 10 until 4, but they can be opened by appointment. The address is 60 South Central Avenue, in Glendale, close to the Glendale Galleria. You may reach them at 818-240-1775.

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