Ralphs Community Program

REMINDER!

If you are currently enrolled at <www.ralphs.com>, then on or after September 1, 2012 please re-register. At the Ralph’s web site click on “Sign In,” click on My Account, click on Community Rewards, click on Edit Community Contributions & then complete the information with our organization number (#83796 for the I.G.S.). If not enrolled, then “create an account” first & then proceed. Our Quarterly check from your purchases (%) really helps!

Questions: Marilyn Deatherage: 818-348-6444

IMMIGRANT GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Presents

Sunday, October 7, 2012 2PM
JEAN WILCOX HIBBEN on the 1940 Census Residence in 1935, Military Status, etc.

NOVEMBER 11, 2012
Annual Meeting 2PM Research 12-5 with expert help

DECEMBER 9, 2012
Holiday Pot-Luck 1PM Show & Tell

From the Treasurer: Thank you so very, very much to all of you who have renewed your membership at an upgraded level AND/OR given donations to help us in this economic environment. WE STILL NEED HELP! Do not forget our organization is a non-profit 501(c)(3). You can deduct your contribution from your taxes. Do you know of any foundation/company that gives grants, or has a matching plan? Or an individual/other entity who could donate? Marilyn Deatherage - 818-348-6444

Deutsch in Amerika: Episch=lyrische Poesie (Chicago, 1892) This is a continuation from the last issue. It is an index of 19th century German-American poets with-
changed to become either more “Swedish” or more ethnically neutral. So, if immigrants move to another country to obtain a better life, it follows that a part of that life should be obtaining a good job -- and this research demonstrates the connection between that goal and obtaining a new name as a stepping stone. See here for the full story: <http://www.genealogyintime.com/NewsStories/2009/March/why_immigrants_change_their_name.html>.


I'm hoping that the sight of all these names prompts you to renew your membership with us in the past -- and especially if you have new names you've uncovered. Also, apologies to Helen Ruatti for spelling your name wrong in the August issue! -- Ed.

Things of Interest
The Journal of the Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe, Vol. 14 No. 2 (June 2012) has articles on German settlements in Russia and at Lodz, Poland. Norwegian Tracks (from the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library, in Madison, WI), Vol. 36 No. 1 (Summer 2012) has an article on Center's acquisition of the "...Definitive Archive on the Wisconsin 15th Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War." Check their website for updates: <http://www.nagcn.org>. The Palatine Immigrant, Vol. XXXVII No. 3 (June 2012) has a 9-page article by BYU scholar Roger P. Minert (& co-author Rebecca Smith) on "Genealogical Research Among Catholics in Vienna, Austria." It is "...a 'how-to' for modern Vienna research."

Hessian Soldiers in America
The “Forum” of the German Special Interest Group (St. Louis, Mo.; Gerald Perschbacher, compiler) recommends a Marburg Archive site for those who wish to research their Hessian ancestors who served the British in the American Revolution. The Marburg Archives are the holding institution for this material, rather than archives located in Giessen and Darmstadt, because it was the northern portion of Hesse that raised the troops for King George III. [The northern and southern Hessians had their differences, and it is said that some of the southern Hessians actually fought for the French on the side of the colonists!] Here is the site: <http://www.lagis-hessen.de/en/subjects/index/sn/hetrina>. However, your IGS Library also holds some good materials on these same soldiers; those who live too far to visit may submit research requests %Lura Perkins, our Corresponding Secretary.

--Ed.

Germans from Russia
Scottish Post Office Directories
From <http://digital.nls.uk/directories/index.html> we get this announcement: “Over 700 digitised directories covering most of Scotland and dating from 1773 to 1911 are available here for you to use. With their alphabetical list of a location’s inhabitants and information on their profession and address, the directories enable you easily to find out where people lived at a certain time and how they earned their living. The oldest volumes we have digitised were published in the late 1700s, when the demand for information about the increasing number of traders, businesses and industries grew rapidly. Most of the directories were published annually. This makes them a valuable resource, especially for the years not covered by the census which, starting in 1841, was only carried out every 10 years.” My Scottish immigrants of interest were here before 1788, so this likely doesn’t help me. But for those of you with 19th century forebears, this is just the kind of out-of-the-way record series that everyone should seek out when and where they may be found. --Ed.

German Genealogical Exchange Group Cases
Here are some additional “cases” that were researched in 1983 and 1984. As before, some of the mentioned surnames were the subject of queries, while others were offers of help to others. Case Number & surname(s): 103--Miller; 104--Hoerner; 105--Scheel, Schneider, Voigt and Ulbricht; 107--Bertram; 108--Ruppenthal; 109--Gudrien/Guderian/Guderjahn; 112--Fisher; 113--Slonaker/Schoanoeker; 114--Lauer; 115--Theilan; 116--Keller; 120--Lemsong and Paul/Paulus; 126--Ellten and Oppelt; 127--Berends and Freemen; 128--Graf and Reinhardt/Reinzer; 129--Tank; 131--Zimmer; 132--Hasenest; 133--Kreplin; 142--Lange; 145--Bodeutsch, Kirchhof and Seidel; 147--Kronfeld; 148--Brunening and Oberwitte; 150--Aswegian and Beenken; 151--Theuerkau/Theuerkoff; 154--Boldt and Eicholtz; 155--Eckes; 157--Heller; 164--Stoebring, Trapp and Upadal/Upadal; 165--Von Moll; 166--Teske; 168--Albrecht; 169--Fieg; 170--Broecker. And, as was said here two months ago, we continue to research “brick walls” for those who request a search. Contact Research Chair Lura Perkins at your IGS. --Ed.

Research Wikis
Do you use wiki sites for your research? There are some good ones out there, and an example of one you should know about if you conduct German research is the one at FamilySearch.org that addresses non-obvious sources: <https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/German_Records:_Research_beyond_vital_records>. Here’s the introduction to the page, which leads into a checklist of these records: “German parish and civil registration records may contain a gold mine of information. Exceptions do exist, especially the early records, though for the most part they include the key elements needed for genealogical research. When available, the parish and civil registration records are our primary record source of individual life events. Unfortunately, there are instances when these vital records do not exist or are not accessible. In such cases, other types of records may be able to provide needed information. Too often these other records are overlooked in the research process. Records, other than vital records, are helpful when: parish and/or civil records have not survived, records are not available outside a German archive, the ancestor is from a large city, or multiple persons exist with the same given and surnames.” Even if your research problem involves another country or issue, you can always go for help to the genealogists who have built up this and other wikis. In the case of FamilySearch.org, just add “learn/wiki/en” to the end of the FamilySearch.org address (called a URL, for Universal Resource Locator) and then plug in a key word at the search box. You’ll be surprised at the amount of information available. --Ed.

Warren Bittner and Robert de Berardinis in Houston, Texas
Historically one doesn’t find a strong connection between Germany and France, and so I suppose it’s to be expected that presentations on researching German and French ancestors would appear separately. The Houston Genealogical Forum <http://www.ghftx.org> has the above two speakers appearing in different months: Mr. Bittner is lecturing Saturday, November 3rd at the Bayland Park Community Center (6400 Bissonnet, Houston) on “All Things German!” He is the former German Collection manager of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, and is a popular speaker. It’s a free seminar, and runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Then on February 2, 2013 Mr. de Berardinis, a national expert on all things “French,” will speak at the same location from 10 a.m. until Noon on “A Complete Guide to Records of the French in North America: Acadia, Canada, Louisiana and the Caribbean, 1509-1811.” He is also the president of the Houston Genealogical Forum.

The Hoffmann Family
We all know that Müller and Schmidt are the “Smith and Jones” of German genealogy, in that they are the most common names to be found (with all that implies for the difficulty of tracing a person of such a surname). But not far behind is the name Hoffmann -- which is the tenth most popular name! If you have that surname in your pedigree, and if they are from the Baltic, then all is not lost. There is a web site specifically devoted to Hoffmanns from the Baltic regions of Estonia and Latvia. These Hoffmanns, it has been shown, descend from the blacksmith Philipp Hoffmann of Sangerhausen in Saxony (living from about 1540 until 1610). The “Familie Hoffmann” site is to be found at: <http://www.familiehoffmann.com.ar/newSite>.

Nordrhein-Westfalen Ancestry
There’s also an interesting forum site available for persons with searches that take them to the part of Germany that we call North Rhine-Westphalia. See it at: <http://www.ahnenforschung-bildet.de/forum/>. It has a search box that’s really powerful; I tried searching for my (not common) surname in the section devoted to Köln and received fifteen hits! It’s also very appealing visually, and easy-to-use. And, if that’s your area of interest, then you should also be aware of a RootsWeb “GermanyGenWeb” site at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~deunrhfwf/cc/qryindex.htm>. 

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It is divided into three sections: (1) Surname Register and Query Index, (2) Town Index, and (3) Queries. About 48,000 hits have been recorded here in fifteen years of operation. --Ed

Cattle and Emigration

Cattle? Emigration? Really?? That's the title of an article appearing in August in The French Genealogy Blog <http://french-genealogy.typepad.com>. In a previous post (the link to which is included in the article) this blogger wrote of the "wars, epidemics, famine and the like" that prompted persons to emigrate, "thus becoming the ancestors you seek." Now he's back with an even more entertaining notion -- that cattle diseases that wiped out your ancestor's herd may have accounted for their decision to leave home and strike out for a new land. He provides specific dates and locales for the onset of Rinderpest, Foot and Mouth Disease, Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia, and Gloss-anthrax. The dates cited range from basically the 18th century through the early to mid-19th century. While you're there, check out as well the many blog entries concerning French military service; the color photos of various military documents are quite impressive! --Ed.

The German Aid Society Records

Did your German immigrant come through Chicago? And were they less than wealthy? Then perhaps they needed some financial or other assistance once they arrived, in which case you might find out more about them and the daunting task of assimilation they faced by searching through the daily logs and applications for assistance. On the other hand, if they were established in Chicago and wanted to help others from the Old Country, you might find their name amongst the membership rosters and contribution lists of the Aid Society. The collection of Society records is to be found at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where you'll need to make an appointment (or hire someone to go and search for you). For a description of the collection, go to: <http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll/services/rjd/findingaids/GASF.html>, and for information about library policies and procedures, see:<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/specialcoll>.

Spiegel Online International

<http://www.spiegel.de/international/germany/>

The Week in Germany

Click here to view the Newsletter online
<http://www.germany.info/Vertretung/usa/en/Newsletter/The_Week_in_Germany/TWIG__120914.html>

Forbes Names Angela Merkel World's Most Powerful Woman <Vertretung/usa/en/__pr/P_Wash/2012/08/23Forbes.html> For the second year in a row and sixth year overall, Forbes magazine has named Chancellor Angela Merkel the world's no. 1 most powerful woman, noting her leadership role in dealing with the euro zone debt crisis and commitment to keeping the euro zone intact.