Immigrant Genealogical Society
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Library open 12:00 till 5:00  Come for the fellowship!
PLACE: Immigrant Genealogical Society, 1310 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA

Linda Ann (Leake) Stone
July 29, 1937-January 11, 2013

Linda was born in Keokuk, Iowa and passed in Woodland Hills, California after a 1 ½ year fight with leukemia. She came to the San Fernando Valley in July of 1979. She met her husband, Warren Stone, on March 23, 1981, falling in love 7 days later. They bought a unique home in Twin Lakes, north of Chatsworth, in November 1981.

She fell in love with the area and, sometimes with Warren, joined and served for 31 years in many Community organizations on boards, committees, and functions with her enthusiasm, follow through, ideas, and physical stamina. One of her favorite endeavors was as a Director, President, Newsletter Editor and many other duties at the Immigrant Genealogical Society & Library in Burbank, CA, a private Library specializing in research in Germany and German-speaking areas of Europe. She will be missed greatly!

Linda is survived by her 2nd husband Warren R. Stone (73), daughter Tina Kimberly Pugliese (55), Michael Anthony Pugliese (51), two grandsons and a cousin, Mary Swanson. Her 1st husband August Joseph (Pug) Pugliese and daughter Mary Linda Pugliese (at 10 days) predeceased Linda. She is also survived by four step children and eight grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life service and reception will be held from 2-5 pm on March 10, 2013 at the Simi Valley Elks Club, 1516 Kuehner Dr., Simi Valley, California 93063. Parking is limited. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Immigrant Genealogical Society, P O Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369.
Randy Seaver was born in San Diego. His ancestry is mainly Colonial New England and Upper Atlantic, with some 19th Century English added to his Colonial German, French, and Dutch ancestry. Although a retired aerospace engineer he lists his current occupation as “Genealogist.” You may have encountered him through his blogs and columns.

Mr. Seaver began research in 1988, and has pursued his interest online since 1992. Randy’s membership in national and local genealogical societies has made him known to many throughout Southern California, where he speaks on and teaches “Beginning Computer Genealogy.”

-SAVE THE DATE- Henry (Hank) Jones Jr, is coming to the IGS on July 14, 2013 He will speak at 2 pm on “How ‘Psychic Roots’ Became an ‘Unsolved Mystery’ " -- a lively talk full of greatly entertaining stories of strange happenings in our searches for our ancestors. These “weird” serendipitous finds, intuitive nudges, and syncronistic events leading to information where it shouldn’t be expected was the basis for his books “Psychic Roots: Serendipity & Intuition in Genealogy” and “More Psychic Roots,” which will be available for purchase on July 14, 2013. More on this later, but mark your calendar now!

The Immigrant Genealogical Society Library is open for research on all Wednesdays from 12-5, 1st & 3rd Saturdays from 10-5, and 2nd & 4th Sundays from 12-5. Come see us!!!

Starting with an Apology...
This will be an issue devoted almost exclusively to German genealogy, but I promise to branch out again in the next issue for the benefit of those of you with broader research interests. We really are a society focused upon European immigration generally, despite the reasons we were formed so many years ago and despite the strength of our library residing in our many German Ortssippenbücher and other German-language resources. --Ed.

Our Renewing Members (& Research Names)
Your editor has gotten a couple of months behind on this feature, but now we are going to catch up! My hope is that you'll each consider submitting your names as you renew this year. Just listing the names might spur you to reopen a search that you laid aside years ago, so it never hurts to do this even if the expectation of a “match” with another member might be small. Eildon Knuth - Becker, Blumhagen, Butler, Foels, Knuth, Koevenig, Lovas, Oldag, Simko, Wiedow. Eleanor Brucken - Brucken, Bruckner, Havemann, Oberwitte. Carolyn Flint - Allen, Appel, Hunt, Myers, Nolan/Nolen, Nowland, Pettit, Poplett, Summers, Toler, Zackmire. George Hedick - Detter, Friday, Hedick/Hutig, Hefner, Ramsour. Susan Phelps - Wm. Justice (Engl./WIs. >Phila.,PA) md. Maria Hull (of Trenton, NJ); Joh. Andreas Schneider (Ger.) md. Louisa Henning. Gerald Nippert - Cammen/Cammin, Hahn, Havel, Pietschmann. Robert Singiser - S(ei)ngleis(es)en, Sing(e)is(ser). Betty Laurent - Brust, Hager, Hippler, Krupp, Kuhn, Leithmann, Meder, Siegrist, Wild, Zimmer. Mary Summers - Besse, Ruffner. Susan Mullins - Böse/Boese, Holman, Peulerer/Bueler, Wehmeyer. Barbara Cox - Baer, Wankel. Herbert Hapke - Fasse, Geweke, Hapke, Schrader, Wilkening. Larry Holderby - Hölderlie, Jatlehofer, Münzer (all from 1850s Baden). Eunice Linberg - Koch (Ger.>Hermann, MO). James Maerz - Gies/Geis, Loew, Maerz, O'Brien. George Pirch - Bartels (Ostfriesland), Gornikowski (Poland), Hertzog (Palatinate), Lilly & McGregor & Sweeney (Scotland), McGranahan & Stevenson (N. Ireland), Pirch & Wetzel (Hinterpommern), Schwensen (Schleswig). Nancy Walters - Harazin.

New entries in the Mecklenburg-Kontakte Database
In the previous month the surnames below were added to or changed in the Surname Database &Research Names sponsored by various local organizations. Often these books are priced cheaply in such markets and sales. This completes a series that ran from the August through December issues. It constitutes an index of 19th century German-American poets with birthplaces in Europe, the names and places of origin having been taken from a book of the title listed above. As I mentioned when this began, should someone find a surname of interest more information can be provided by sending an email to your editor at <gordonseyffert@me.com>.


The book is an example of the kind of gem that may be discovered at your area flea markets and at used book sales sponsored by various local organizations. Often these books are priced cheaply in such markets and sales. This
is usually due to both the age and language of the book having limiting its appeal to the masses. I paid a dollar or two for this one at a library sale, and at that price and the nominal cost of shipping it book-rate the book is still cheap to someone else living at a distance. So, even if such a book might not have a place in your personal collection, your editor might be interested in buying your “find” as a source for sharing within this newsletter. Please note that I can also be reached at the number listed for me on page four, and (should you have that number with you) consider giving me a call from your cell phone while you’re still holding the item in your hand. Thanks!! --Ed.

Archiv Ostdeutscher Familienforscher (AOFF) Band 20 (2012)

The above is the title of a publication now offered for sale as of December by the “Association of East German Genealogists.” It is a family history compilation for the former lands in what was the German East pre-1945 (now mostly part of Poland and Russia), and for former German settlements in several nations of Central and Eastern Europe. These are some of the lines of descent covered by articles that typically run for a few pages, but which can be almost twenty pages in length: Czaja (Czaya, Czala) from Kreis Karthaus in West Prussia; Grütner from the Duchy of Neisse in Silesia; Hackenbeck from Kreis Naugard in Pomerania; Himmel from Kreis Cosel in Upper Silesia; Matzke from Kreis Friedeberg in Neumark; and Skalnik (Skalning) from Kreis Leobschütz in Upper Silesia. In addition, there are ancestor lists that begin with persons of the following surnames: Gamroth, Gieke, Henschel, Ko-rti, Romanowski, and Schwarz.

Including in this volume are transcriptions from these source materials: marriages from Diedersdorf, Kreis Landsberg/Warthe, Neumark (1731-1825); Silesians on the Medical Faculty of the University of Vienna (1752-1938); marriages from the Protestant church of Ischdaggen, Kreis Gumbinnen, East Prussia (attended by Lithuanian-speaking “Old Prussians”; Part 2: 1771-1791); the book of citizens for the City of Leschnitz, Upper Silesia (1835-1850); marriage registser for Roschischtsche, Volhynia, Ukraine (translated from Russian, 1892); and pupils from East & West Prussia and Posen at the cloister school at Roßleben (1786-1914). This work is indexed by place name and by family name, so former volumes could be consulted if visiting a library where this publication may be found. This particular hardback volume contains 314 pages and 22 illustrations, and costs €25.00 plus an unstated postage and handling amount for overseas orders. Orders for Band 20 (ISBN 978-3-939271-04-8) may be sent to: AGOFF-Versandstelle, Dieter Pechner, Rosenstr. 28, 46485 Wesel, Germany. Inquiries may be directed to: <versand@agoff.de> or to Dr. Peter Bahl <PeterBahl@gmx.de> in Berlin. The website is <www.agoff.de>.

“My German Roots” -- A Festival for German Genealogists

Saturday, May 4th, the Sacramento German Genealogy Society is sponsoring a workshop featuring Dr. Roger P. Minert and six of his colleagues from Brigham Young University. There will be 21 sessions from which to choose, but your registration also entitles you to a free 15-minute, one-on-one consultation! Also, bring your surname cards; printed 3” by 5” surname entries will be posted alphabetically by surname (one to a card!) on the “Surname Bulletin Board.” And did I mention that these instructors will really know their stuff? BYU is the only university in the nation that offers a Bachelor of Arts in Family History degree, and Dr. Minert himself is responsible for research and studies concerning Germanic peoples in central Europe. Dr. Minert will present three 75-minute lectures and two more of half-hour duration. His colleagues will offer two to four shorter sessions during each of his five lectures as well as the aforementioned individual consultations. Preference on the consultation schedule will be given to those who bring the following: one family group sheet, with sources; one pedigree chart; a research log showing what has been found & not found; and copies (not originals!) of documents you may wish to share. Each attendee receives a hefty syllabus with information about all 21 sessions, and you may also find it possible to buy that German genealogy-related book you need to round out your research library. For information, see the Society’s web site <http://SGGS.us> and for a registration pamphlet or further details contact Mitt Kelly at 210 San Carlos Way, Novato, CA 94945-1628 <mekelly4143@comcast.net>.

Your editor plans on attending just to hear Dr. Minert again; he is an excellent speaker and -- may I say -- a superb “research motivator.” And while I’ve belonged to the SGGS for a number of years, I’ve never taken advantage of their educational offerings during my now almost two years of living in California. Now is the time, and I’ll be bringing free back issues of the IGS newsletter with me in hopes of encouraging attendees to join us as members and/or to request research in our excellent small library. --Ed.

A Note of Appreciation

Member James W. Maerz sent us a very nice note upon the passing of IGS Board member Johannes Linning; it is reproduced here in full.

“A Note of appreciation and condolence is here given to the family members of Mr. Johannes Linning, the Corresponding Secretary, and Board of Directors of the Society and Library. It was sad for my wife and me to learn of Mr. Linning’s ‘passing’ via the December 2012 Society Newsletter. ‘John,’ as most people knew him by, made a valuable personal contribution to the unraveling of my Maerz family’s history after the beginning of the 20th Century, after my grandparents arrived in America in 1883. A few years ago, upon the death of one of my next oldest cousins, I had come into possession of a very detailed photograph that had been annotated by my grandfather in his crabbled, almost indecipherably small handwriting, in German of course. Everyone in this group photo had been identified, complete with dates of birth and often where, but the ink used was water soluble and quite smeared, rendering it nearly impossible to translate except for the dates. As I recognized a few of the surnames as those of individuals also appearing in other very old daguerreotype photos I had inherited from the estate of an aunt on that side of the family, I knew this later photo was an important link to our past and a strong clue as to what had ever happened to some of the remnants of the Maerz extended family left behind in the Rhineland-Westphalia...”
area after Grandfather Carl A. Maerz had brought his family to this country. There had only been a few sketchy details about my family that had been left behind in writing (found in 2009) in copies of a German Presbyterian newspaper obituary that my own father had kept about his father, the Rev. Carl Maerz. Even these references did not contain any of these names and there were no other family letters kept of which we several surviving cousins that do ‘keep up’ were aware. I believe it was in 2010 that I submitted copies of the photo, some enlarged, to Ms. Lura Perkins who kindly passed them along to John who then was able to make a remarkable translation of the photo entries. As a result, I have been able to document the fate of my Gr. Grandmother, Witwe Luise Maerz-Frank, the family of grandfather’s only surviving sister, Frau Augusta Maerz Wolf and several named of his cousins. The occasion of this photograph was historic in nature as it documents perhaps the one and only reuniting of Herr Rev. Emil Mueller in June, 1926, who along with my grandfather was one of the founders of the original Northwest Conference of the Evangelical (Lutheran) Church in America, with some of his surviving friends still in the Essen area of Rhineland, members of Grandfather Maerz’ family. My late father had no knowledge that these people had kept up, as family ties had undoubtedly frayed due to his voluntary participation in World War I as an intelligence agent and the Rev. Mueller had left the Lutheran ministry, becoming a state court judge. The ties of faith, camaraderie and friendship had obviously kept these people ‘in touch’ in spite of a devastating war. Without John’s ability to make sense of this photo, I might never have had this information as he was only perhaps eight months’ older than me.

“As an aside and perhaps a partial ‘pay forward,’ in this collection of photos are what is called Photo Cards of perhaps every member of my grandfather’s German Army unit, the 6th Co., 57th Reserve Regiment, Westphalischers in approximately 1879. These may be the only large collection of photos of these fellows in uniform and where taken, in existence. There is no documentation that exists anymore on this unit in Germany archives. If anyone in the Society is able to identify their relative as a member of this unit, I will be glad to provide a high grade copy of their person and the information that I have on them. Perhaps the entire battery of Photo Cards should be published to the Internet.” Sincerely, James W. Maerz (letter dated 29 Nov. 2012).

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__130215.html>