# Der Ahnenforscher

"The Family Researcher'

Issue 143

#### June 2010



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Happy Father's Day

### Board of Director Nominees

At the May meeting it was announced that the Board of Directors is recommending Debby Kozel, Dale Realander and Mark Waldron to fill the three BoD seats that will be vacated in June.

The Nominating Committee asked for any nominations from the floor and since there were none, the process was closed.

After a vote at the June membership meeting, the three BoD nominees will be officially installed in their new or continued positions on the Board of Directors.



**Debby Kozel** joined the GGG in 2004 after being encouraged by a friend who is a member. Growing up in Middle Village, NY, I was surrounded by family members, including numerous great aunts and uncles, who were a part of my every day life. I didn't realize it at the time, but that was my introduction to genealogy. Stories and "facts" heard over the years have now been documented and corrected thanks to research knowledge acquired at the GGG. Our research into the Kozel side of the family (from DC) has inspired trips to the National Archives in Washington, DC and

Prospect Hills Cemetery, where several ancestors rest. For a long time I was a 'silent' member of the GGG but you can now find me volunteering at the book lending library on meeting nights. The mother of two, grandmother of four, I have been a stay at home wife for almost as long as I can remember. Married to a computer tech, my computer and its software are often updated/replaced which 'encourages' me to be familiar with current applications. Within the past several years, my hobbies have migrated into a part time job teaching both knitting and machine sewing at adult education programs in our local school district. I'm currently Vice President of the local knitting guild and you'll often see me knitting away on a current project while at the GGG meetings. The generosity and willingness to share on the part of the GGG members is what makes this a great organization and it would be a privilege to be able to serve on the GGG Board of Directors.



**Dale Realander** has been a GGG member since 2000. She was elected to a two year Board of Directors term in 2005 and a three year term in 2007 and has proven to be a valuable member of the Board. At monthly meetings Dale volunteers at the sign-in desk and is the first to greet meeting attendees. She also handles the printing and distribution of name tags. Presently Dale is working on producing the first GGG Policy & Procedure Manual which will be a helpful addition to our large and growing organization. She has also volunteered in helping with computerization projects for preserving Church records. At present she is working with the Suffolk

County Historical Society to computerize indexes to some of their collections for use by genealogists through the GGG website. Dale has been gathering photographs, diaries, scrapbooks and personal family stories for more than 30 years and joining the GGG has helped her organize and expand her collection of family information. She has recently been accepted into the D.A.R. and has traced her family to the early Jamestown, VA settlement. On a recent trip to Scotland, she visited the hometown of her Keith family line and an ancestral castle and learned much about their history.



**Mark Waldron** has been a GGG member since its inception. He has managed the members' Surname List since its beginning, and does lookups for members on the GGG computer at monthly meetings. He has been working on his own genealogy for the past sixteen years. Virtually all of his genealogy work has been done with the aid of computers. He is a member of the Huntington Historical Society Genealogy Workshop, the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society, the New England Historic Genealogical Society, the Computer Genealogy Society of Long Island, the Cornwall Family History Society, and is President of the Long Island TMG Users

Group, and an officer and board member of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island. He has given presentations on the use of computers in genealogy to several local societies.

### German Genealogy Group, Inc.

Post Office Box 1004 Kings Park, NY 11754

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The German Genealogy Group (GGG) is a not-for-profit organization that was established to provide mutual support among those interested in researching their Germanic ancestors. We meet on the first Thursday of each month (September—June) at the Hicksville VFW, 320 South Broadway (Route 107), Hicksville, NY at 7:30 PM.

All members are encouraged to submit articles, hints, suggestions, etc. for publication. We reserve the right to edit submissions. Material may be mailed or e-mailed to:

#### Elizabeth Lovaglio 888 Violet Drive ~ North Massapequa, NY 11758 <u>LizLov@optonline.net</u>

While we strive for accuracy, the German Genealogy Group assumes no responsibility for typos, errors of fact or opinions expressed or implied by contributors. Errors brought to our attention will be corrected.

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Please visit our website at:

www.GermanGenealogyGroup.com or

www.TheGGG.org

### Fathers and Their Occupations By Juliana Smith

any of us spend a large portion of our lives at work, and there's no doubt that our occupations and/or those of our spouses have a great impact on our lives. As we honor the fathers in our lives this month, let's also celebrate the fathers in our family history and the contributions they made to their families through their work. Not only can researching an ancestor's occupation help bring their lives into focus, the details you discover may be clues that will unlock new doors in your research.

#### What Did He Do?

Our ancestor's occupation can be found on a variety of records. Check for it in directories, census records, Social Security records, insurance records, immigration-related records, obituaries, and pensions, to name a few. Directories allow us to follow our ancestor's career and any career changes throughout the years. Census records for the years 1880, 1900, 1910, and 1930 even include questions regarding employment status.

#### Hazards of the Job

Many of our ancestor's jobs put their health and even their lives at risk. Hatters were at risk of mercury poisoning from inhaling mercury vapors during the felting process. With the casualties of the Civil War, embalming became more widespread as the military sought a way to preserve corpses to be shipped home. Civil War embalmers were at risk of poisoning by chemicals like arsenic, creosote, and mercury, and after the invention of formaldehyde following the Civil War, it too posed a danger.



And of course, most of us have heard of "black lung," a disease caused by the inhalation of coal

dust, common to miners and other laborers who worked with coal. Research your ancestor's occupation and check the cause of death in cases where it is known. You may find that your ancestor gave his life in support of his family.

#### Seasonal Work

Your ancestor may have had to adjust his work for seasonal conditions. A farmer may have turned to railroad work for a time to supplement the family income during the off-season. During the rough winter months, New England fishermen may have sailed further south for extended periods to ply their trade.

#### **Finding More Information**

To learn more about your ancestor's work experience, check local newspapers. They will contain details about local industry conditions. The PERiodical Source Index (PERSI), is an index of genealogical and historical periodicals dating back to around 1800. Created by the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, this index can lead you to helpful articles with great historical background information. Local histories can also be informative. In any case, although you may not find an article about your ancestor, reading about the lives of contemporaries who shared his occupation can shed some light on how he made a living and the challenges he faced to support his family.

Source: *The Weekly Discovery* (Copyright 2009, The Generations Network) German Genealogy Group





I do not have any recollections of food that my great grandmother "Oma" prepared. I have a picture with her, and I was only four years old at the time. I was sitting on a bench on her farm and she was thrilled to have her great granddaughter at her side. I was more interested in pretending I was Dale Evans. What I should have been doing is asking her questions about her trip to America and her family back in Germany. But what can you expect from a 4 year old? I am sure that at some point during the day she fed me. I don't remember much about her, or of the foods

she prepared. I remember the stove in the kitchen, with a special compartment to keep the plates warm for hot meals. All I have are family stories of the way she prepared and served a delicious array of treats.

At a recent family reunion, my cousin Larry (her grandson) began reminiscing about his Oma's wonderful cooking. In particular, he remembered when Oma would prepare Rote Grütze. My Uncle Harry agreed that it was surely a treat when Oma made this delicacy. Shortly after this reunion, I took my first trip to Germany. One of the first dinners that my family and I shared was ended by my requesting Rote Grütze. (I must admit, I pronounced this so poorly that the puzzled waitress asked me several times what I wanted, and probably walked away thinking... "What a Dumbkopf!")

The Rote Grűtze was wonderful, superior, delicious and all that stuff, five thumbs up as far as I was concerned. In Germany it was served with vanilla ice cream. It was wonderful, but I longed for the one that Oma prepared all those years ago on her farm in the Catskill Mountains.

My Uncle went to the German butcher in Catskill and found a jar of Rote Grütz and bought it for me. It is produced by a company called göbber in Germany. Most people I speak with never have heard of this wonderful treat, but then again, are they Germans? Nein!!

Rőte Grutze seems to be a favorite dish in the northern part of Germany. (Ah, yes, Oma came from Hamburg.) There were many berry bushes in the area, as well as in areas north of that in Denmark and Prussia where the dish was prepared. The plentiful bushes of berries made this dessert popular in the summer months. However, in the olden days this could be used as a light meal in the heat of the summer, with milk or cream. Recipes for this treat may use red currants, raspberries, cherries, blackberries and black currants as their ingredients. Some people use strawberries, rhubarb, wine, or brandy in the mix. The berries are cooked with some sugar and cornstarch to make it thick. They are chilled, and served with topping, like cream. The modernized version can be served with vanilla sauce.

I searched the Internet for this wonderful summer delight. My findings were varied at best. Proper Rote Grűtze must contain about 2/3 red currants. (This is the way it was described to me by the uncle and cousin as well.) Other experts state that any proportion of berries will do, as long as they are predominantly red. Purists of this German delicacy agree that addition of gelatin to this recipe is disastrous. But they are purists, not busy people in the 21st century.

I thought a summer dessert that has its roots in the homeland as well as in our backyard berry bushes might be an interesting treat. I am also reminded that part of our family history should include some of the recipes our forebears prepared. The GGG has documented many of these in a wonderful cookbook, but as family historians we should make sure to include these precious cooking directions in our family files as well. So, for your summer delight, like Oma used to make, try your hand at Rote Grűtze!!

#### The Modern Internet Recipe for Rote Grűtze

#### Ingredients

2(8 1/4 ounce) packages frozen raspberries (thawed)

- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries (thawed) and then pureed with their juice
- 1 lb dark sweet red cherries stemmed pitted and quartered
- 1 (20 ounce) can dark sweet cherries with juice reserved separately
- 1 quart natural red grape or cranberry juice

3/4 cup sugar

1 tablespoon grated lemon zest

1/4 cup freshly squeezed lemon juice



1. Combine raspberry juice, pureed strawberries and cherry juice in 1-qt measure. Add enough grape juice to total 1 quart, then pour mixture into heavy saucepan (NOT ALUMINUM) and add 2 more cups grape juice. Stir in sugar, lemon zest, lemon juice and bring to a boil, uncovered over medium heat stirring often.

2. Combine cornstarch with wine in separate bowl to make a thin, smooth paste. As soon as mixture boils, add cornstarch paste, whisking vigorously.

**3.** Immediately reduce heat to low, cook and stir for 3 minutes until mixture boils again, thickens and starch taste is gone. Stir in raspberries and cherries gently.

4. Heat and stir 1 minute more. Remove from heat and stir 1 minute more. Cool mixture to room temperature and then chill for 24 hours.

FOR TOPPING: Shortly before serving, beat heavy cream with vanilla sugar until slightly thickened, but still thin enough to pour.

### Where is your last name hiding (in the indexes)? George Ludder #448

I have a very rare last name. It was Lüdders in Germany for generations, then showed up as Luddert for one generation when he moved to Loxstadt. Finally, when the first brother showed up in America, it became Ludder. His three brothers followed him, also dropping the "s" from the name, making it extremely rare.

Finding the name in the American records was a different story. Going through various indexes, I found: Ludders, Luddert, Luthers, Sudder, Ludden, Luders, Leuder, Leuders, Luiders, Ladder, Lüdder, and X (his wife couldn't sign her name). I'm sure there are still more variations out there.

One advantage of volunteering to transcribe data for John Martino is seeing how inventive people can be in spelling any name. There can be 20 different ways, many of which you couldn't think of until seeing it in print.

One recent surprise came with the last name Gunscht. It is non-existent in America, making you think it is spelled wrong. However, in the German church records, the home village is full of them.

The moral: Never stop tinkering with the spelling when going through the indexes.



Robert A. Aikman, Jr. Terrence Alleg \*\*\* Eileen L. Arndt David Bakehouse Elizabeth A. Becker Evelyn L. Berg Emily S. Biegel Shirley Bishop Robert & Lucille Blum Herman J Brech Donald Brehm Doris Georgette Breusch Serena Brochu \* Joan C. Brooks Alice M. Burns \* Denise E. Burren Christine M. Cacace Ethel Caravias \* Richard Catena \*\* Sandy Chapman John F. Conway Janice M. Corcoran Marianne Cummings Barbara Curtis William D. Daly Margaret E. DeAcetis Valera E. D'Espop Edward F. Dietz, Jr Virginia & Richard DiNonno \* Colby Duerk Philip Dumbainski Lonv Edelman \* Barbara Edwards Robert & Evelvn Erath Joanne Fariello

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We would like to thank the following members for their generous donations to the GGG between May 14, 2009 through May 14, 2010. Your donations are very welcome and very much appreciated.

> Joan D. Sampieri David J. Sautter \* Rose & Joe Scanlon Marilyn Schauder John Schilling Marion Schmitz Raymond Schratwieser Art Schroepfer Chris Schumacher \* Judith Schuster Ed Seiter Robert C. Single \* Antoinette A Sloan Sandra J. Smith \* John F. Smith James J. Stehn \* Christian J. Streck, MD Ann Thibadeau Alan T. Turschmann Stephen J. Ullrich Robert G. Vornlocker Mark Waldron \*\*\* William T. Walter Margaret B. Wehrhagen Ann Wehrle Paula Weil Raymond J Werner \* Frank & Carol Wibben Hans P. Wiedemann Richard Winter \* Robert F. Wissert Judith C Woods Robert D. Wunderlich Gus H. Zimmerman III

\* \$20.00 or more

\*\* \$50.00 or more

\*\*\* \$100.00 or more

\*\*\*\* \$150.00 or more



### Rahmapfelkuchen (Apple And Rum Custard Cake)

### CRUST

- 1 1/2 cups flour; unbleached -- unsifted
- 2/3 cup butter or margarine
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 1 egg yolk -- large
- 1 tablespoon lemon rind -- grated
- 1 tablespoon milk



### FILLING

- 1/2 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup raisins \*
- 2 tablespoon butter or margarine; melted
- 1/4 cup rum
- 4 cups apples; tart, sliced
- 3 eggs; large, beaten
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1/3 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1 3/4 cup milk

## PREPARATION

\* Soak raisins in 1/4 cup rum for 1/2 hour before using.

### **CRUST**:

- To make crust, mix flour, sugar, and lemon rind.
- Cut in butter or margarine until mixture resembles coarse crumbs.
- Add egg yolk and 1 T of milk; mix gently to form a dough.
- Pat into bottom of a 10-inch Springform pan that has sides only greased. Press dough up sides of pan for 1 inch.

### FILLING:

- Toss together bread crumbs and melted butter.
- Spread evenly over pastry crust.
- Toss apple slices, lemon juice, and 1/4 cup of sugar. Spread apples over crumbs.
- Drain raisins, reserving rum, and sprinkle raisins over . apples.
- Bake in a preheated 350F oven for 15 minutes.
- Beat eggs and 1/3 cup sugar until thick and lemoncolored.
- Stir in milk and reserved rum.
- Pour custard over apples and bake for 45 to 60 minutes at 350F. until custard is set.
- Cool completely before serving. Do NOT remove • Springform pan until cool.

### EXTRA, EXTRA! Read all about it!!!



Ruth Becker Cipko

The Program Committee is looking for your input. Please let us hear from you with your suggestions for speakers and topics for our monthly meetings. You can also send your suggestions to Ruth Cipko via email at recipko@earthlink.net or phone her at 718-460-4240.

### **Program Schedule**

June 3, 2010 - "Images of Central Brooklyn -Its history and evolution."

Presenter – Wilhelmena Kelly

July & August - No meetings or newsletters.

### **Enjoy your summer!**

"First timers" Orientation session will be from 7 to 7:30.

Please check at the sign-in desk for flyers or other sign-up sheets for upcoming events.

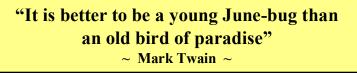
### **Bits and Pieces**

GERMAN BUTCHERS - An interesting article in the Smithsonian magazine of January 2010, tells of the declining number of butchers in Germany because of the switch to American-style supermarkets. A once highly respected profession is fading away. Be sure to read all 10 pages ~ Len Ulbricht http://tinvurl.com/vaupruv

**MUSEUM** - The new National Museum of American Jewish History www.nmajh.org opening in November 2010, is dedicated to telling the still-unfolding story of Jews in America. ~ Fred Fitting

STEUBEN PARADE - On Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2010, the 53rd Annual Steuben Day Parade will march down Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. The goal of the parade is to remind others of the part played by German immigrants and their descendants in the development of the USA. The GGG has applied to march in the Parade, and it is our hope that this will become an annual event for our group. Please mark your calendar for the 25<sup>th</sup> of September, and plan to attend as we march with our Banner and celebrate our heritage!! Remember, September is German American Friendship Month, get out with us and march!!! If you would like to march with the GGG, contact Jo Ann Schmidt at boopnurse31@yahoo.com

**UPCOMING GGG EVENTS** - Besides marching in the 2010 Steuben Parade, look forward to other GGG events when we return in September. In the planning is the annual Oktoberfest Dinner, a tour of Greenwood Cemetery and a Beginner Genealogy class. We look forward to your participation.



German Genealogy Group





**BRONX** - This website is a must for ex-Bronxites. You'll find an alumni database, a class picture gallery, a photo gallery, message boards and more. ~ Anthony Di Marino <u>http://bronxboard.com/</u>

**COUSINS** - DistantCousin is an online archive of genealogy records and scanned images of historical documents from a wide variety of sources, such as newspaper obituaries, city directories, census records, ship lists, school yearbooks, military records, and more. In all there are more than 6 million genealogy records from over 1,500 sources online. There are no fees or memberships required to use the records at DistantCousin. http://www.distantcousin.com/

**NORTH CAROLINA** - The State Library of North Carolina and the North Carolina State Archives recently placed North Carolina Family Records Online at <u>http://tinyurl.com/p9emg2</u> The digital collection contains family Bible records from the State Archives, the six-volume Marriage and Death Notices from the Raleigh Register and North Carolina State Gazette 1799–1893 and an 1,100 page compendium of marriage announcements and obituaries. ~ FGS Forum

**WYOMING** - A comprehensive statewide collection of digitized Wyoming newspapers from 1849-1922 is now available online at **www.wyonewspapers.org** Researchers can access the individual issues of the Cheyenne Daily Leader, the Laramie Sentinel, the Natrona County Tribune, the South Pass News, the Torrington Telegram, the Inter-Mountain Globe and others through keyword searching by title, year, city or county. ~ FGS Forum

**LIMERICK** - Burial records for Limerick's largest cemetery, Mount Saint Lawrence, are digitized and available free of charge at <a href="http://www.limerick.ie/DigitalArchives/MountStLawrenceBurialRegisterBookOne1855-1896/">http://www.limerick.ie/DigitalArchives/MountStLawrenceBurialRegisterBookOne1855-1896/</a>

**SCOTLAND** - In addition to having Church of Scotland births/baptisms and marriages, death/burial records will also be available. These records begin 300 years earlier than the civil registration system in 1855. The General Register Office for Scotland began the digitization project in 2001. <u>http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/</u>

**DEAD FRED** - Dead Fred's Genealogy Photo Archive is an online digital archive containing over 97,000 ancestral images taken prior to 1965 that can be searched 5 different ways. This site provides a place for researchers to scan or send in orphan photos, that are either identified or not, in hopes that a descendant will be reunited with the photograph. <u>http://www.deadfred.com</u>

**FREE CLASSES** - FamilySearch is continually adding new online classes. All of the classes can be accessed by clicking on **Free Online Classes** on the home page. Classes include: England Beginning Research, **Germany Research**, Ireland Research, Italy Research, and **U.S. Research** ~ Linda Heelan <u>http://www.familysearch.org/</u>

**DIACRITICS** - If you have reason to type in a foreign language you might find this website helpful. It provides instructions on how to type diacritical marks for French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish on both a PC and a Mac. ~ Barbara DeOliveira <u>http://www.umich.edu/~langres/diacritics/index.html</u>

**FAMILY SEARCH** - If you have used the IGI (LDS International Genealogical Index) and wondered what batch numbers were, go to <u>http://genealogy.about.com/b/2009/08/14/using-batch-numbers-in-the-lds-international-genealogical-index.htm</u> to learn about them. German batch numbers can be found at <u>http://www.igi-index.de/index.php?page=0&seite=batch8&lang=uk</u> ~ Barbara DeOliveira

**CEMETERY RECORDS** - This website offers cemetery transcriptions for the county of Greene in New York. Both public and family cemeteries are included and are listed under current Township borders. Towns of Prattsville, Coxsackie, Catskill, Athens, Cairo, New Baltimore and more are included. <u>http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nygreen2/cemetery\_records\_greene.htm</u>

**CIVIL WAR PHOTOS** - Several of the photos are quite graphic but clearly depict the reality of war. Click on the image to enlarge it. A description will appear as you roll your mouse over the photo. ~ Anthony Di Marino ~ Fred Fitting ~ Tom Risinger <a href="http://www.mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html">http://www.mikelynaugh.com/VirtualCivilWar/New/Originals2/index.html</a>

**NEW JERSEY** - This Civil War-period treasury vouchers collection includes payment receipts for military expenditures and wartime purchases made by the State of NJ from 1861 through 1866. It includes soldiers' discharge certificates for final pay, affidavits of family members for pay due to deceased soldiers and quarterly returns of the counties and cities listing the names of soldiers' families and dependant mothers who received subsistence pay during their service. In all, nearly 114,000 index entries. https://wwwnet1.state.nj.us/DOS/Admin/ArchivesDBPortal/CivilWarVouchers.aspx

LAND PATENTS - A land patent records the original transfer of a piece of land from the ownership of the federal government to an individual. This website provides live access to Federal land conveyance records for the Public Land States. It also provides image access to more than three million Federal land title records for Eastern Public Land States, issued between 1820 and 1908. http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/

**NAMES** - This website gives equivalent names for the following languages: English, Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Polish, Slovak, Russian, Yiddish/Jewish. The complete list is organized alphabetically by a root name that is usually of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Germanic, or Slavic origin. ~ Mark Waldron <u>http://www.sciway3.net/scgenweb/oconee-county/names.html</u>

Do you have an interesting or helpful website to share? Email it to the Editor and it will be included in an upcoming newsletter. <u>LizLov@optonline.net</u>





The GGG held its monthly meeting on the first Thursday of the month, May 6, 2010 at 7:30 P.M. The meeting was held at the Hicksville VFW Hall Post # 322, located at 320 South Broadway (Route 107), Hicksville, NY. Our President **Elizabeth Lovaglio** opened the meeting with announcements.

Janice LaScala announced an election will be held at the June membership meeting to fill three Board of Director positions. Board nominees are Debby Kozel, Dale Realander and Mark Waldron. Janice asked for nominations from the floor; there were none.

**Don Eckerle** announced a new addition to the GGG databases on our website. The Amityville Record contains an index of notices of births, marriage, engagements, baptisms, deaths, major anniversaries (birthdays and marriages) and occasional divorces published in the Amityville Record newspaper on Long Island, New York, covering the years 1904-1929.

**Ruth Cipko** introduced the presenter for the evening Jordan Auslander, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the New York Genealogical & Biographical Society. The topic was "Genealogy 101: Methods, Myths and Madness."

One of the great things about genealogy is you will often find overlapping pieces of information to help fill in gaps in your research. A variety of sources can aid in finding three key things you need as you begin your research; names, dates and places. For example, dates of birth can be found in a birth, marriage, death, social security, military or naturalization record.



Information in census records varies depending on the year. Census records can provide information on a person's age, year of immigration or naturalization, year of marriage,

occupation, number of children born to mother, address and birthplace. The 1900 census lists month and year of birth. Occupation is important because someone may have belonged to a trade union or profession. A skilled laborer might have brought over a trade from the old country. The 1930 census is helpful because it brings family into living memory. City directories and WWII draft records can provide address information and help you be more prepared to research the 1940 census when it becomes available.

Records are often filed by jurisdiction. These jurisdictions are very important in terms of naturalization records. It is important to understand the area you are researching as it existed in the past as well as today. In 1848, NY City was just Manhattan as we know it today and Brooklyn was a separate city. In 1898, the five boroughs were incorporated as part of NYC. 1874 and up until 1914, Bronx county naturalizations are actually in Manhattan.

Information provided by a person on an application will usually be more accurate then information recorded by someone else. Social Security and passport applications were completed by your ancestor in most cases. Census records were recorded by an enumerator, based on information your ancestor provided and is not always accurate. Women often changed their age to appear younger. Check multiple sources. Be prepared and be diligent.

One of the things that has revolutionized civilization is transportation. Most people in the 19th century never went 50 miles from the place they were born. The Internet is transforming how we research information about our ancestors. Websites familysearch.org, ancestry.com, footnote.com along with many others, including our website <u>www.germangenealogygroup.com</u> are adding databases online all the time. Some old newspapers are searchable online; NYTimes.com, Proquest.com and Fultonhistory.com are good examples. There is so much out there that has not yet been indexed, much less scanned or digitized. Revisit the sites often to fill in gaps in your research.

Probate records, wills, coroner's reports, cemeteries, historical societies, real estate deeds, churches, public libraries, state and national archives can provide genealogy information. A handout from the meeting provides ideas for sources of information regardless of the area of research; although the focus is on NY since 83% of all immigrants came to NY during 1820-1920. The handout is available via email. (See below)

Door prize winners: Nancy Dow, Clare Gunning, George Hager, Richard Klein, Marion Rousselle 50/50 winner: Clare Gunning

Handouts from the May meeting are available in either a Word or PDF file. If you would like the handout from *"Genealogy 101: Methods, Myths & Madness"* by presenter Jordan Auslander, email ggginfo.german@gmail.com and specify what type of file format you would like to receive.

### **Sunday Afternoon Rocking**

### Something No One Can Take Away

when they faced an open ocean and sailed, to literally carve from nothing but the wildness of an uncharted country a new nation, a new opportunity for their children and the children to come. It was what they dreamed when they challenged daunting mountains without a guide, rode rivers, waded swamps, plowed through the canebreak of an impossible wilderness determined to hold them at bay.



HE rose when that question was asked, and my heart near to bursting, I slipped a sidelong peek at the proud mother nearby, and seeing tears bathing her face in clear abandonment, I allowed my own to flow.

They were accustomed to risking, our ancestors. And seeing things lost, and taken away. Fires did it, floods did it, draughts did it, wars did it, early death and illness, financial hardships, all were responsible, again and again for disaster. All precipitated the knowledge there was nothing to do but what they did, roll up their shirtsleeves and begin again. There were no insurance policies, no "backup plan," nothing for a "rainy day" all too often, and those who preceded ourselves knew only to begin again. Most of us either lived, or know intimately those who did, the Depression, the war years, much harder times than what we live today. Many of us can look at the path a family has trod, regardless of our problems, and truthfully say this family was working for a time for their family when things might not be so easily lost, so easily taken away, and they succeeded.

"A good education is something no one can take away." If I heard it once growing up, I heard it a hundred times. It was the song and dance of my parents and their parents before them. And although none of them achieved a significant amount of education beyond that offered freely in this country, that they grasped as circumstances would allow them, and that held in high esteem. And believing in it, they wished for more for the children that followed.

Today our family celebrated the college graduation of a son-in-law. It was a celebration of his commitment and dedication, a celebration of a tool for him that "no one can ever take away." It was also a celebration of the several hundred years his ancestors have been on the scene of every great event of this country, at the scene of every economical disaster, every war, every hardship. It was a celebration of all the times shirtsleeves were rolled up, and determination was reborn to "begin again." It was a celebration of the grandparents who were soldiers and farmers, housewives and merchants, traders and pioneers. Today a young man achieved the dream that has been in his family since the days those first many greats grandparents cast their eyes on an ocean, and dreamed what was on the other side.

Just a thought, jan

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(Note: Afternoon Rocking messages are meant to be passed on, meant to be shared... simply share as written without alterations...and in entirety. Thanks, jan)

### Weekend Guide to the Top German-American Radio Programs in the U.S.A.

The following listed programs are streaming live online and have been updated for 2010. Fill your home once more with the sound of German-American radio each weekend from German-American communities across the country. Show your support by listening and calling in to request a song. Let's all join together to help keep German-American Radio Programs alive.

#### Breakfast Mit Hans

WJYI-AM JOY1340. Milwaukee. Every Saturday 8am-9am Central Time Hosted by Hans Peter Schaaf. On line streaming at <u>www.joy1340.com</u>

German-American Continental Showcase WJYI-AM JOY1340 Milwaukee. Every Saturday 1pm-4:30pm Central Time. Hosted by Robert Deglau On line streaming at <u>www.joy1340.com</u>

Benediction Lutheran Church's German Service. WJYI-AM JOY1340 Milwaukee. Every Saturday 4:30pm-5pm Central Time Pastor Eberhard Klatt On line streaming at www.joy1340.com

German Music Program WTKM-FM 104.9 Hartford, Wisconsin Every Weekday. 4:30pm-5pm Central Time. On line streaming at <u>www.wtkm.com</u>

Hallo Deutschland WTKM-FM 104.9 Hartford, Wisconsin Every Sunday. 9pm-10pm Central Time Hosted by Bob Ziegenbein On line streaming at <u>www.wtkm.com</u> http://www.musikderheimat.com/HTML/EN/Startpage.htm

Deutschland Echo Every Saturday and Sunday 9am-11am Central Time. Armin Homann brings you the best in German Music and News from Chicago's impressive German-American Community. http://radiotime.com/station/s 21594/WNWI 1080.aspx German Music from Rochester, New York. George Hoffmann's German Radio Program. Every Saturday Afternoon from 2:00pm to 4:30 Eastern Time. Listen live on line at Jazz 90.1

### http://www.jazz901.org/listen-live/

WOBO Radio Presents Heinz Probst and Wolfgang Grossmann's Over The Rhine Showcase from 1:00 to 6:00 pm every Sunday. Cincinnati, Ohio. http://www.wobofm.com/index.htm

Sunday morning from 8:00am to 1:00pm and listen live to the Toronto/Kitchener Area's best in German Radio. http://www.am530.ca/index.html

Ted Hierl's Philadelphia Area German-American show (live on Sunday mornings 10 am to 12 pm or listen to the archived show of the week any time.

#### http://cazoo.org/TedHierl.html

Cleveland's German American Program. Hosted by Joe Wendel and Ruth Kleine Marino. Sunday Mornings WCSB 89.3 listen on line 10am to 12pm <u>http://wcsb.org/listen/</u>

The German Family Society of Akron presents it's weekly live broadcast of German Music and news from Akron's German/Donauschwaben Community Sundays from 6pm to 7pm Streaming live on 91.3 Akron, Ohio. http://www.913thesummit.com/audio/

The German Tunes of The Queen City. WAIF 88.3 Great German Music from Cincinnati, Ohio streaming live online every Wednesday Evening from 5pm - 8pm E.S.T. http://www.waif883.org/

Contributed by Carl Probst

### June 12th in History

<u>June 12, 1817</u> - Birth of Lothar von Faber in Stein, Germany. He and brother Eberhard built a family pencil business into a global manufacturing company. Ebehard came to America and founded the Faber American pencil company, the largest in America and still owned by the Faber family, although the German company was sold many years ago.

June 12, 1829 - Birth of the writer, Johanna Spyri in Hirzel, Switzerland. She is known most widely for her story, Heidi.

June 12, 1867 - The Austro-Hungarian Empire is formed. It lasted until the end of World War I.

June 12, 1899 - Birth of Fritz Albert Lipmann in Königsberg, Prussia (now Russia). He immigrated to the United States after an academic career in Germany. In 1953 he won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of coenzyme A.

<u>June 12, 1919</u> - Death of Hermann Lietz in Haubinda, Germany, an educational reformer. Impressed with the Abbotsholme model in England, he established similar schools in Germany which combined individual instruction with physical education.

June 12, 1929 - Birth of Anne Frank in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The diary she kept during the period of hiding was later published in 50 languages, "The Diary of Anne Frank."

June 12, 1930 - The German boxer, Max Schmeling becomes World champion by defeating Jack Sharkey. He remained champion for 2 years until he was defeated by Sharkey on June 21, 1932.

June 12, 1982 - Death of Karl von Frisch in Munich, Germany. Von Frisch won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1973 for his work on the communication among bees.

June 12, 1987 - American president, Ronald Reagan, visits Berlin. In a speech he says, "Mister Gorbatschov, tear down this wall!"



### The Cemetery Belt Rhona Amon, Newsday

### Why does Queens have so many cemeteries? Answers go back to mid-1800s Manhattan

Inder cover of darkness the creaking horse-drawn wagons are loaded onto the ferry. Once across the river, they lumber through the sleeping countryside, finally coming to a halt on Queens hillsides where graveyard workers unload their strange cargo -- thousands of skeletons and coffins exhumed from Manhattan churchyards.

By daylight the only sign of the nocturnal operation will be fresh mounds on the hills and meadows that have been converted into burial grounds.

The wagon trains of the dead -- triggered by a law that turned burials into business -- kept rolling from the 1850s until the early 1900s, transporting bodies to western Queens, which became known as the Cemetery Belt. More than 35,000 bodies were transferred to Cypress Hills Cemetery.

Today more than 5 million of the departed, including the famous and the infamous from Mae West to Lucky Luciano -- almost triple the live population of Queens -- are buried in 29 Queens cemeteries -- four Catholic, three Protestant, 14 Jewish and eight nondenominational.

The Queens land rush began in 1847, after the state Legislature passed the Rural Cemetery Act. Before that, burial was mostly in churchyards or on family farms, where servants and slaves were interred beside their masters. The new legislation "commercialized death for the first time," said historian Vincent F. Seyfried of Rockville Centre. It authorized nonprofit corporations to buy land, open cemeteries and sell plots to individuals for money. The law stipulated that no organization could acquire more than 250 acres in one county, but land dealers got around that by buying land straddling two counties. Cypress Hills, two thirds in Queens, one third in Brooklyn, is one of 17 cemeteries that form a sea of headstones along the county line.

By the 1830s, immigration from Ireland and central Europe was already overcrowding Manhattan neighborhoods and land prices were soaring. Manhattan had a population of 202,589; Queens had 9,049 in an area more than four times the size of Manhattan. Church and backyard gravesites were no longer sacrosanct. "Many were sold, tombstones removed and housing placed on top of graves," said Queens historian Jeffrey Gottlieb.

In 1832 and again in 1849 a cholera epidemic swept Manhattan, which was using well water. The many deaths exhausted the graveyards. Many suspected that disease was being washed down from the gravesites into the drinking water. In 1852 the Common Council of New York City (then consisting of only Manhattan) passed a law prohibiting any more burials.

The churches looked to rural Queens. St. Patrick's Cathedral trustees purchased land in Maspeth in 1846, and the first body was interred in Calvary Cemetery in 1848. "By 1852 there were 50 burials a day in Calvary, half of them Irish poor under 7 years of age," Gottlieb reported. By the 1990s there were nearly 3 million graves in Calvary Cemetery.

Cypress Hills was the first nonsectarian cemetery corporation organized in Queens. The land scramble was on. Although most Queens cemeteries were founded by legitimate church groups, land speculators got into the act, buying cheap farmland to turn into profitable burial grounds.

The first Cypress Hills burial in 1848 "made the land tax-exempt," said Kurt T. Kraska of Ridgewood, author of a "History of Cypress Hills Cemetery and Its Permanent Residents." From 1854 to 1856, more than 15,000 bodies were transferred from churchyards in Manhattan and Williamsburg. Wooden coffins had decayed, leaving only skulls and bones to be exhumed. Unidentified bones were buried in mass graves, said Kraska, a City Transit Authority electrician who became fascinated with cemetery history when growing up in the cemetery belt.

When Union Cemetery closed in Brooklyn in 1897, more than 20,000 bodies were moved to Cedar Grove Cemetery in Flushing. "The curious crowd had abundant opportunity to study the contents of the graves," reported the Brooklyn Eagle. The remains were moved at midnight to "prevent the work being turned into a sideshow," Kraska said.

Churchmen pooled their resources to establish bigger and better cemeteries. The Rev. Frederick William Geissenhainer, pastor of St. Paul's German Lutheran Church in Manhattan, bought 225 acres in Middle Village in 1852 for a cemetery to serve Lower East Side immigrants. Members decided to call it the Lutheran Cemetery although it was open to all faiths. It became the final resting place for the 1,021 victims of the excursion boat General Slocum, which burned and sank during a Manhattan Sunday School outing in 1904. Today, it's the All Faiths Cemetery and most of its interments are Italian with some Hispanic, African-American and Jewish, said chief executive officer Daniel Austin.

The 19th-Century Queens communities grew rapidly. Picnicking families would come on the Astoria-Yorkville ferry, which, signs on the terminal proclaimed, was the "shortest route to St. Michaels, Lutheran, Calvary, Cypress Hill, Mt. Olivet and Mt. Zion Cemeteries." Restaurants, saloons and beer gardens flourished. The cemetery is "the principal industry of the people in the vicinity," reported W.W. Munsell's 1882 "History of Queens County."

### New German-American Heritage Museum Opens in Downtown DC

The German-American Heritage Museum of the USA highlights the history of German immigration and migration across the United States via various exhibitions and events, while at the same time introducing modern Germany to an American audience.

German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth visited the new museum, financed by more than \$2 million in private contributions, on March 19 in Washington as a guest of honor during an official opening ceremony.

"The Museum will be a wonderful educational resource to help develop a greater appreciation for the diversity of the German-American experience. The German Embassy fully supports this project and hopes you will, too," said Scharioth.

Based in Hockemeyer Hall, the former historic townhouse home of a German immigrant, the new Heritage Museum serves as both a local community center as well as a national home for German-American associations and individuals across the country.

#### Oral history project to record individual stories

In a special Oral History Research Project administered by the museum, German-Americans - regardless of whether they are first or fifth generation immigrants - will be able to record their own personal stories, which will be used for wider educational purposes.

"There are so many stories of individuals and families who came to this country to start a new life that we would like to tell," said Rüdiger Lentz, executive director of the museum with decades of experience as a German journalist and director of Deutsche Welle programming in the United States.

The oral history research project is funded through the European Recovery Program, a German governmental program to foster transatlantic relations. "By recording, evaluating, archiving and publishing audio-visual testimonials from Americans of German descent, we are following our primary mission of preserving the rich cultural heritage of German-Americans," the museum states on its website.

#### Exhibitions and events bring heritage to life

Permanent and temporary exhibitions, such as on literary influences and on German pioneers in Alaska, will moreover illuminate contributions both past and present of German, as well as Austrian and Swiss, immigrants to the United States - from Levi Strauss (blue jeans), to Wernher von Braun (space exploration) to Heidi Klum (Project Runway).

Among the permanent exhibitions is a striking historic timeline sprawling across an entire wall of the museum's main exhibition space tracing German immigration to the US from 1600 to the present. Another permanent exhibition highlights the role of German music and choir traditions in US history.



The new German-American Heritage Museum in Washington. (© German-American Heritage Museum of the USA)

Rotating exhibitions will include two separate panels highlighting the stories of German families and of German clubs across the country. These will be swapped on a continuous monthly basis.

In addition to the exhibition spaces, a modern auditorium, with seating for up to 60 people, will serve as a venue for lectures, multimedia presentations and small conferences. Educational programs designed for students of multiple age groups will complete the Heritage Museum's programs and allow visitors to delve deeper into the subject of German immigration to the United States.

#### About the museum

Admission to the museum, as well as its exhibits, is free. A small gift shop is located near the main entrance. The museum is metro accessible (red, green and yellow lines at Gallery Place-Chinatown).

Located in the heart of DC's booming downtown Chinatown/Penn Quarter area, the museum is situated right across from the Verizon Center near several other museums, hotels, restaurants, the Goethe-Institut and the National Mall.

Opening hours are from 11 am to 6 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 2 pm to 7 pm on Wednesdays, and from 12 pm to 5 pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The museum is closed Mondays.

To learn how you can get involved in the Oral History Project, please contact info@gahfusa.org

Source: © Germany.info

### THE ANCESTOR WHO CHANGED MY LIFE Kate Loschke Baum #1971

early thirty-five years ago, I began the search for Gottschee in Austria, the birthplace of my father's father. In my first ever correspondence with the Mormons in Salt Lake, I discovered the place had been in the Austrian Empire and was then located in **Yugoslavia**. From my brother, I learned of a lady in Kansas City who had heard of this place and she shared my maiden name. We had all grown up understanding that anyone with our surname was related to us. I've never yet discovered this relationship, and she has passed away, but her information started me on a path that changed my life.

The information she gave me led to my contacting a man in Austria who provided me with most of my father's genealogy. In turn, that led me to meet Elizabeth Nick of Kansas City who was publishing a newsletter called *The Gottschee Tree*. She had only published two editions and we became fast friends since both of us were interested in genealogy. In 1991, several subscribers got together in Salt Lake City (all of us were west coasters). We decided to form a society of Gottscheers. We set up a non-profit in 1992 while at Frisco, CO. I have been the treasurer of the organization since its formation.

One of the men I met in Salt Lake, a Catholic converted to LDS, decided he would give LDS some English translations of the microfilmed records they had in German. I told him I would help with my grandfather's parish. I copied microfilm records onto the form he had devised day in and day out and mailed them to him. It occurred to me after I mailed him a few pages, that I should keep a copy for myself. With that parish finished and with me later looking up records on the flimsy sheets I had, I decided to put them on a floppy as a Word Table. Since then, I have copied almost 39,000 more marriage records in 22 parishes and 10,000 baptismal records.

Our non-profit grew from the original 12 members to over 500 active members. We also publish a newsletter, have translated many articles and books from the German, have donated to a permanent Gottscheer collection in St. John's Library in New York and have contributed monetarily to the restoration of parish churches and cemeteries in the homeland. As our membership is international, we hold our annual meetings across the country and in Canadian locations, usually where there are a large number of the descendants living.

I have written a book outlining the parishes, the films numbers, what is on the films in the way of birth, marriage or death records with a "how to" section, so that other members can look these up. I have made four trips to Slovenia, where our homeland, destroyed by WWII, is now physically located.

In turn, this has caused me to join local genealogical societies and volunteer my German talents to their members.

In gratitude to LDS, I joined a group transcribing records for them and I've volunteered at LDS from Oakland to Sonora to Stone Mountain and back to Sonora.

Kate Loschke Baum Born Kansas City, MO Living in Sonora, CA <u>http://www.gottschee.org/</u>

(continued from page 10)

But tensions developed over "the endless funeral processions that were wearing out the roads. Some roads were not even paved," historian Seyfried said. "Worse, the cemeteries were exempt from taxation."

There were also outcries about the high cost of dying, particularly when Calvary raised its price to \$10 per plot. "A whole funeral might cost \$10 in Cypress Hills," Seyfried said. Lutheran Cemetery originally charged \$2.50 for a burial, \$7 for a plot. Bridges, tunnels, subways -- all the construction of a fast-growing city took its toll of churchyards. Graves dislodged by the Williamsburg Bridge were moved to Queens cemeteries.

With the improved access, especially with the completion of the Queensboro Bridge in 1909, thousands of city dwellers moved to the once-isolated Queens communities. "The churches themselves began to follow their congregations to Queens," said Queens County historian Henry Ludder. When the Queensboro Bridge opened in 1909, the Queens population soared, although it never came close to the numbers of dead. Today there are more disinterments than reinterments as families moving to other areas take their departed with them.

Contributed by Anthony di Marino

### Membership Application German Genealogy Group

Date:	New Member	Renewal	Gift from		
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(Last) Address Street	(First)	(MI)	(Please prin	nt plainly)	
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City			State	Zip	=
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Dues: <b>\$15.00</b> for 12 months <b>\$25.00</b> foreign for postal ma <b>\$15.00</b> foreign for email new			1 5	erman Genealogy Group up, PO Box 1004, Kings I	
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**Your name and state	may be published in th	ie newsletter unless	requested to be omitted.	Check	to omit**
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Send me a sample of the newsletter via email in pdf format.					NL

### You and Your Friends are Invited to Attend...

A Genealogy Seminar presented by **The Genealogical Society of Bergen County** with Dan Lynch, author of *Google Your Family Tree* at Bergen Community College, 400 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ - Saturday, June 5, 2010 9 am - 1 pm.

Dan Lynch will present two lectures, "Google Your Family Tree" and "Organize For Efficiency."

**Google Your Family Tree** - Google is available in more than 160 countries and is free to use! By learning to employ some very simple yet powerful techniques, you can reduce the amount of time spent searching through results and instead use that time to evaluate a much smaller number of results with far greater relevance to your specific family research. (Also discusses Yahoo, Live.com, Bing.com and merits of other secondary search engines and/or emerging trends for online search.) Gives tips and techniques, with specific emphasis given to refining results with filters by content type.

**Organize for Efficiency -** If you use a computer for any aspect of your genealogy, you may never look at your screen the same way again! There are many simple, but powerful techniques you can use to ensure you are squeezing the most power from your computer. We'll discuss file organization, file naming conventions, tips for sharing files online, and ways to outsmart your computer when working with dates. We'll also discuss the use of common software applications, (Word, Excel, Email, etc) and how they can be easily adapted for use as powerful genealogical tools.

Follow links at http://njgsbc.org for further details and registration form. Email njgsbc@gmail.com if you have any questions.

New Members							
<ul> <li>2388 Tuck, Maryann Stockert, Zebulon, NC</li> <li>2389 Private</li> <li>2390 Franke, Gary L., Manteca, CA</li> <li>2391 Stilson, Christine, Portland, OR</li> <li>2392 Vasquez, Kathleen Anne, Chicago, IL</li> <li>2393 McCarthy, James S., Oneonta, NY</li> <li>2394 Schroepfer, Art, Oakland, CA</li> <li>2395 Barker, Kathy, Chatsworth, CA</li> <li>2396 Mead, Carol D., Rhinebeck, NY</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2397 Huebner, Virginia M., Hampstead, NC</li> <li>2398 Periann, Carl, Maryville, TN</li> <li>2399 Shewchuk, Susan (Heather), Marco Island, FL</li> <li>2400 Bayer, Patricia A., West Islip, NY</li> <li>2401 Bayer, Jeanne, West Islip, NY</li> <li>2402 Coen, Michael, Lindenhurst, NY</li> <li>2403 Blackie, Barbara J., Prescott, AZ</li> <li>2404 Morris, Charles, Bend, OR</li> </ul> Welcome!	9 4 6 M E M B E R S					

German Genealogy Group Newsletter PO Box 1004 Kings Park, NY 11754

Address Service Requested

The German Genealogy Group will hold its next monthly meeting on Thursday, June 3rd at the

### Hicksville VFW, 320 South Broadway (Route 107), Hicksville, NY

Orientation session will start at 7 PM for beginners and newcomers. The regular meeting will start at 7:30. Building opens at 6:30.

### The topic of this month's meeting will be — "Images of Central Brooklyn - Its history and evolution." Presenter – Wilhelmena Kelly

The early founding and development of Bed-Stuy, Crown Heights, and East New York are solidly intertwined with the development of Brooklyn itself. Images of these townships will be presented in a 20-minute review, with additional glimpses of townships, structures and communities that are either gone, or hint at the past.

