

Der Ahnenforscher

"The Family Researcher"

Issue 152

May 2011



Inside this issue:

10 Places to Find Immigrant Origins
Juliana Smith

From the Heart
Jo Ann Schmidt

Names
Bob Vornlocker

Guten Appetit
Semmelknoedel

World Wide Web

April Meeting
Linda Heelan

Reading the Records
Amelia Schiller

The Danube Swabians
Michael Leisch

Library Corner

Archival Treatment
Ken Bausert

New Members



Happy Mother's Day

Ten Places to Find Immigrant Origins by Juliana Smith

There's a unique thrill that comes when we identify an immigrant ancestor in our family tree. Someone long ago, an ancestor who was born in a foreign place, left their home and everything he or she knew. That decision had a huge impact on who we are today. It determines the label we put on ourselves, whether it be American, Canadian, British, or some other nationality.

It's connections like these that fuel our passion for family history, inspire us to stay up late searching the depths of the Web, schedule vacations around graveyard and courthouse visits, and grill Great-Aunt Madge at the family reunion, seeking that elusive town name in Germany where it all began. (Of course by "grill," I'm speaking figuratively. Don't throw Aunt Madge on the barbie at the family reunion. It will just make her mad and you'll be less likely to get information from her in the future.)

But Madge may not have the answer for you. What then? Here are ten places to look to find that location in the "old world" where our immigrant ancestor made that fateful choice.

1.) Family Correspondence and Memorabilia

As with many aspects of family history research, often the best place to start is at home (or Aunt Madge's home, or Grandpa Joe's home, etc.). A clue to your ethnic origins may lie in an obvious place like a family Bible, or something not as obvious like a piece of clothing or a piece of lace with a pattern that is native to a particular region. Photographs can hold surprising clues, again, sometimes as obvious as a name on the back as was the case when I identified my paternal great-grandfather's hometown in Poland, or perhaps in some elements of the photograph like clothing, a sign in the background, the type of housing, or a photographer's imprint.

2.) Birth Records

Locate the birth records of all your immigrant ancestor's children. While your direct ancestor's birth record may only include a country of origin (or no information at all), a sibling's record could include the name of the town or county.

3.) Marriage Records

If your ancestor was married in this country find their marriage record. In the U.S., marriage information is available in the 1900, 1910, and 1930 U.S. Federal Censuses, and the 1880 census has a field for those married within the year.

4.) Death Records

Death records may also include the birth place of the decedent, and sometimes that of his parents. A 1927 death record for John J. Cullerton of Chicago revealed that his father had been born in County Wexford, Ireland, and his mother was from Queenstown, County Cork, Ireland. John was one of twelve children and although he was not the direct ancestor of the person who was being researched, it was one of those times where whole family research paid off greatly.

5.) Religious Records

Where civil records don't include an immigrant's exact place of origin or where civil records aren't available, turn to religious records. I found my great-great-grandmother's county of origin in Ireland in a book of dispensations for the Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn. From there, Griffith's Valuation gave us an even more specific location.

(continued on page 2)

German Genealogy Group, Inc.

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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

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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.

Der Ahnenforscher is published monthly except for July and August.

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ISSN 1543-9380

Der Ahnenforscher is indexed in PERSI

Member of: Genealogy Federation of Long Island
Federation of Genealogical Societies

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or

www.TheGGG.org

6.) Gravestones

Unless your ancestors were frugal with engraving costs like mine were, tombstones can be another source of information when it comes to an ancestor's origins. Others however, are much more fortunate. In fact, dedicated researchers have compiled entire books on cemetery transcriptions. Two books in my collection focus particularly on graves where place of birth is given. (Old Calvary Cemetery: New Yorkers Carved in Stone, by Rosemary Muscarella Ardolina and Tombstones of the Irish Born: Cemetery of the Holy Cross, Flatbush, Brooklyn, by Joseph M. Silinonte)

7.) Newspapers

Newspapers often list the town of origin for the individual mentioned, particularly in obituaries. An obituary in the Brooklyn Eagle listed Balbriggan as the town of origin in Ireland for my third great-grandmother. But don't overlook other sections of the newspaper. An ancestor's "misdeeds" may have earned him a spot in the paper and anti-immigrant newspapers may have been all too eager to point out where he or she was from. Notices like the following from the New York Times were also common.

PERSONAL.--Thomas Talbot, formerly of Kilkenny, Ireland, wishes to find his sisters, who are believed to be in this City. Mary, Judy and Margaret were their names, and the first was married to a Mr. Prim of Kilkenny.

8.) Local Histories

Local histories often include mentions of groups who immigrated and settled together within the community. Also, family members may be profiled like the following entry from the History of Cook County, Illinois: From the Earliest Period to the Present Time (Chicago: A.T. Andreas, 1884.) which is available at Ancestry.

John S. Forster, florist, was born in Yorkshire, England, February 20, 1851. He came to Chicago in 1871, and after a stay of several weeks went to Wisconsin, where he was engaged in railroad surveying for four years, when he came to Evanston, in 1875, and first worked for W.T. Shepherd, florist, whom he bought out and has since carried it on for himself. Mr. Forster was married to Miss Fredrika Schlucter, of Gosler, Germany, February 14, 1876, in Chicago. They have four children--George H., Annie L., William J., and Charles R.

9.) Naturalization Records, Alien Registrations, and Passports

In the U.S., you may find clues to ancestral origins in naturalization records created post-1906 when the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), now the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), took over and standardized the forms used in the naturalization process, requiring more personal information. Prior to that time you may find the occasional record with a detailed place of origin, but often only the country is listed. Ancestry has several large databases of naturalization records available.

- U.S. Naturalization Records Indexes, 1794-1995
- U.S. Naturalization Records - Original Documents, 1795-1972
- New York Petitions for Naturalization

Alien registrations are another source. When I requested my great-grandfather's alien registration from the USCIS, it confirmed the location we had found on the back of the photograph as his town of birth. You will soon be able to request these records online through the USCIS website.

If an ancestor had to travel back home to settle a family estate or visit relatives, he might have requested a passport which could also bear the name of his hometown. Ancestry has a database with images of U.S. passports available to members.

10.) Military Records

You'll often find immigrants serving in the military, so be sure to check for service records. In the British Army WWI Service Records, 1914-1920 I found an entry for Hyman Samuel Baumander that stated that he was from Lodz, Poland-Russia.

Source: Ancestry Weekly Journal

From the Heart

Thoughts from Jo Ann Schmidt



The joy of researching your family comes from documenting their existence over the years. We go through the scraps of family records, pictures, papers and listen to family stories to try to put the pieces back together again. What is the point of all of this labor? Is it simply to determine how far we can trace our roots, maybe until we find our family tree as a sapling sprouting up our earliest ancestor? It seems it should also include the environment in which they lived, what it looked like and how people managed to survive in that place at that time.

I remember very well when I first began to use a computer program to trace my ancestors from Germany. An early census report popped up on my screen, indicating that my maternal great great grandparents came from BAVARIA!! I was so excited, and I was literally jumping around the room. My poor mother thought I had lost a few more marbles! But to me, it was the first time that I had an actual region to imagine my family immigrating from...to the new land of America. I knew we were German, but now I knew more. I had somewhere that I could picture them living. For me, and I am certain for many of us, this is part of the joy of collecting family.

My great grandmother, Isabelle Rose, or Bella, was the ninth of ten children born in Manhattan to Bavarian parents on the 27 of December 1866. Our family story only remembered nine names, and now I knew there was a tenth, Aunt Kate, who was not recalled in the spoken history, for a yet to be uncovered reason. All of this information was now part of my documented family history, all through census reports. As I further researched this branch of my family tree, I discovered that Bella's sister, Lizzie, was married in 1877 to Charles. (Family story does tell of a close bond between Bella and her sister Lizzie.)



On the census of 1880, I was surprised to see that Lizzie and her new husband Charles were living in an apartment in Manhattan with three of her sisters, Bella, Lena and Kate. Upon further consideration it became obvious that Bella's family had broken up most probably due to the untimely death of their father in 1874. Now, in 1880, Bella is living with her married sister and two of her other sisters, and I was still a bit confused as to why this was the case. I wondered why these sisters couldn't have gotten their own place? Closer inspection of the census report gave me the hint I was missing. Charles was a "tobacconist." I was unfamiliar with the term, and so I looked it up. A tobacconist is a person who has expertise in all types of tobacco products. Now I am picturing Charles' Shoppe, complete with carved Indian statue at the door. I thought I had put the puzzle together correctly. Charles must have been a very successful businessman. Wow, I thought to myself, Lizzie had married well, and her sisters and probably her entire family were reaping the benefits. They probably had a large apartment; Charles employed three sisters and gave them rooms in his apartment. This was a happy picture. I even made a leap of imagination to suspect that the newly married couple was helping Lizzie's widowed mother and young sister. I was putting my family into my own picture of life in Manhattan in 1880.



As I continually attempt to find information that will help me to get a mind's eye glimpse of life for my family, I have gained a more than passing interest in history, which I believe goes hand in hand with the collection of ancestors. Recently, I obtained a book written in the late nineteenth century by social reformer, photographer, and author Jacob A. Riis. This book entitled *How the Other Half Lives* was going to possibly provide a new dimension of my family's life in New York City. I was very interested to see a chapter dealing with cigar making in tenements. Maybe I would read something about my "wealthy" Uncle Charles in this area, after all, Riis was considering Manhattan at the same time my uncle was a tobacconist! Maybe he would be mentioned, and I pondered the idea with excitement.

I read the chapter dealing with tenement cigar making. A cool chill went down my spine as I came to the abrupt realization that this chapter was dealing with the very type of "industry" my family was involved in, and that my fantasized images were way off base! It seems that the owner of a tenement frequently served as both landlord and employer. The tenants were given supplies with which to produce cigars. Tenants were crowded in small, window-sparse living quarters which had poor to non-existent ventilation. In the front room, a man and his wife could work from sun up until nine or ten at night. Tobacco leaves were kept under cloth in the back room to keep them moist. The family would use a table to strip the tobacco leaves, make filler, and roll the cigar wrapper to produce a finished product.

(continued on page 4)

In general, the wage for the production of one thousand cigars was about \$3.75. Rent was approximately \$12 per month, and when relatives assisted in the process, a successful family could produce four thousand cigars per week. In this instance, the true Tobacconist was a landlord, who benefited from products produced and rent collected. Remember the Tennessee Ernie Ford ballad *Sixteen Tons*? "Another day older and deeper in debt, St. Peter don't ya call me, cause I can't go, I owe my soul to the company store." These immigrants had both their living quarters and occupation controlled by the same man, the owner of the "company store." Instead of a statue of an Indian in front of a shop, the tenement owner would put an ash barrel filled with stripped tobacco leaves, to advertise the business that was being carried on within the walls of the building. The rank odor that resulted from the tobacco products filled the air and made the inhabitants sick. This was the reality of the day in Manhattan in 1880!

My Aunt Lizzie did marry well, as I originally thought, but not because she married a wealthy man. She and her husband lived a long and happy life together, despite the difficult beginnings as cigar makers in a crowded tenement. The sisters eventually married and moved away from the tenement, making homes in Richmond Hill and Ridgewood, and stories of their early occupation were never carried down to the next generation. Family historians must always verify rather than fantasize the lives of those long gone. This will keep stories accurate, rather than turning them into idolized folk tales!

Names

Bob Vornlocker #1927

The combination of reading a great book on the derivation of names, "*An etymological dictionary of family and Christian names*" by William Arthur, which is available for downloading, and Amelia Schiller's article in the March GGG newsletter, prompted me to write this article.
<http://www.archive.org/details/etymologicaldict00arthuoft>



Until two years ago, I spent many years searching for my Vornlocker roots. My paternal family tree ended with my father's grandfather, Johann Vornlocker, who emigrated to the USA in the 1880's. As for his wife, a Pfister(er) who emigrated to the USA from Herbolzheim, I successfully traced her back to the early 1600's with not much variation in surname - Pfister, Pfisterer and Pfisters, not including female names ending in "in." My father's maternal grandfather, a Skidmore, I traced back to the 1500's, with the surname variation of Skidmore, Scidmore and Scudamore, and his wife, a Ryder/ Rider, whose ancestors I traced to the 1600's in the Netherlands.

My maternal roots have not been as yielding. My mother's paternal grandfather came from Bavaria in the 1880's but I have been thwarted from digging deeper by both St. Nicholas and Most Holy Trinity in New York. The former doesn't respond at all and the latter has locked up the records in a safe since it's consolidation with St. Mary's about 5 years ago. I've been more successful with his wife, a Traenkle/Trenkle/Trankle immigrant from Grafenhausen in the 1870's, whom I've traced back to the 1600's in Schweighausen. On her mother's side, the Dohrmanns (1865 baptism record in NYC) and Jahns (1820 baptism record in Meuselwitz) are just starting to yield answers.

Along the way to these ancestors, I've discovered about a 100 other surnames from whom I've descended, many of which are listed in the GGG Surname section.

Whoops, I've wandered from the intention of this article - the variations I've discovered in the past two years with my current surname, Vornlocker. I can still remember an old German priest telling me that the name meant "front lock," referring to a band of German bad guys, who wore their hair with a lock of it hanging down over their foreheads, kind of like Bill Haley of "Rock Around the Clock" fame. What a great story! And completely untrue - too bad.

After finding my great grandfather's marriage in the GGG database for St. Leonard's of Port Maurice R.C. Church, and deducing that the birthplace was Burgebrach from the record's "Burg Eberach, Bavaria," I started researching. First I found a document referring to a Vornlocker Cross in Burgebrach. Then I contacted a wonderful family named Fischer who was responsible for the article, who introduced me to relatives still living there and to other relatives with different names, Vornlocher (Bamberg) and Farnlacher (Munich). This latter gentleman was a bonafide genealogist, a member of the Bavarian Genealogy Society, who had been tracing the family for over 20 years. He had traced it to its origin with a shepherd named Fachenlueger in St. Johann im Pongau, Austria in the early 1600's. With the help of the archives of the Catholic and Lutheran churches in Bavaria, I was fortunate to get the records that connected me to this Vachenlueger, who got his name from a farm in this town. The name of the farm, Vachenlueg, means "where the wild pigs hide."

Besides Vornlocker, Vornlocher, Farnlacher and Fachenlueger, here are just a few of the documented versions of my surname - Fahrenluger, Fahrnluger, Fahrenlochner, Fahrenlockin, Fahrenlucher, Fahrnlocher. And, of course, V and F are interchangeable. Whenever I search databases, I use V or F*nl*r or n. Thanks to the improved wildcard search at Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org, these have yielded new records both in the USA and Germany.

So, if I want to find relatives researching my surname, it's almost pointless to enter Vornlocker. But, to have a second field where I could enter variants would bring a lot more success! And, I'm guessing the same would hold true for many or most of the members of the GGG. An umlaut always plays havoc as a German name is Americanized - Traenkle, Trenkle, Trankle all started as Tränkle. Even my simplest ancestral surname, Jahn could also be John and misspelled on a census record as Yahn. And, as the number of letters increase, so does the variation. Unless your name comes from a city, like Bamberger.

Well, there's my pitch. I am hoping that the readers of this will agree and ask for the second field everywhere on the Internet that has a Surname database, as I have begun to do.

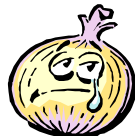
Guten Appetit!

Semmelknoedel (Bread Dumplings)

These Bavarian large dumplings accompany roast pork or game dishes, any meat with gravy, or with mushrooms in a creamy sauce. Serve one dumpling alongside your dish, and cover with a little gravy.

Ingredients

- 1 (1 lb.) loaf stale French bread, cut into 1 inch cubes
- 1 cup milk
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh parsley
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 pinch ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs (optional)



Directions

- Place the bread cubes into a large bowl.
- Heat the milk until it starts to bubble at the edges, then pour it over the bread cubes.
- Stir briefly to coat the bread.
- Let soak for 15 minutes.
- Meanwhile, melt the butter in a skillet over medium heat.
- Add the onions; cook and stir until tender.
- Stir in the parsley, and remove from the heat.
- Mix into the bowl with the bread along with the eggs, salt and pepper.
- Use your hands, squeezing the dough through your fingers until it is smooth and sticky.
- Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. The water should be at least 3 or 4 inches deep.
- When the water is boiling, make a test dumpling about the size of a small orange or tangerine, by patting and cupping between wet hands.
- Gently drop into the boiling water. If it falls apart, the dough is too wet. In this case, stir some bread crumbs into the rest of the dumpling batter.
- Form the remaining dough into large dumplings, and carefully drop into the boiling water.
- Simmer for 20 minutes, then remove to a serving plate with a large slotted spoon.
- They should come out soft, spongy and delicious!
- Enjoy!

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 rebcots@verizon.net or phone her at 718-460-4240.

Program Schedule

May 5 - "Ellis Island during the Second World War"
Presenter – Barry Moreno

**June 2 - "Adventures in Genealogy:
Rewards & Surprises"**
Presenter - Ken Bausert

"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

REMINDER - Nominations to the Board of Directors will be taken from the floor at the May membership meeting. All nominations must be seconded and all nominees must be present at the time of nomination.

WDYTYA - According to Dick Eastman's Online Newsletter, *Who Do You Think You Are* has been renewed for a third season.

NY MUNI - Effective Monday March 28, 2011, the NY Municipal Archives at 31 Chambers Street, Room 103, Manhattan, has eliminated the \$5 fee for using the reader machines. ~ Margaret DeAcetis

DID YOU KNOW? - The German language has between 300,000 and 500,000 words. Thus the German word-pool ranks between French (100,000 words) and English (600,000 to 800,000 words). The active vocabulary of an average German is estimated at some 12,000 to 16,000 words, although most Germans understand up to 50,000 words without any difficulty.

GGG WEBSITE - Many members have never visited the "member section" of <http://www.GermanGenealogyGroup.com> If you are visiting for the first time, just put your mouse on the Membership button, then click on Member Login. Put in the email address that you gave us and the password "gggpass" without the quotes. You'll be asked to change your password to one of your own choosing so use gggpass as your 'old' password. You can read all back issues of the newsletter, check the CD/Library Book listings, contact members and contributors to the Surnames and scan the Member Owned Book list.

**"The world's favorite season is the spring.
All things seem possible in May."
~ Edwin Way Teale ~**



Wide web

NY NATIONAL GUARD - The *New York National Guardsman* was a magazine published monthly from April, 1924 to August, 1940 when much of the *New York National Guard* was federalized for duty. It is a good source of photographs and biographical information on higher-ranking officers. ~ Barbara DeOliveira
http://dmna.state.ny.us/historic/research/NY_National_Guardsman/NY_National_Guardsman.htm

SHIPS - If you'd like to learn more about the steamships our ancestors traveled on, including the meals provided, go to:
<http://www.gjenvick.com/SteamshipArticles/TransatlanticShipsAndVoyages/OceanPassengerTravel/1891/06-ProvisionsAndMeals.html>

LONG ISLAND - The Patchogue-Medford Library website offers many genealogy resources to those who hold a Suffolk County library card but there is much to be found for others. Check out the "Getting Started" and "Genealogy Resources" tabs. ~ Anthony Di Marino <http://www.pmlib.org/genealogy>

HAWAII - Hawaii State Archives <http://hawaii.gov/dags/archives> Say aloha to this site's indexes of marriages, divorces, deaths and citizenship papers; guide to Hawaiian newspapers; and digital collections, including passenger manifests, WWI service records, tax assessments and vital records. The latter covers all of Kauai, Molokai and Niihau plus all Maui birth and death records and a few marriage records.

IDAHO - BYU-Idaho Special Collections <http://abish.byui.edu/specialcollections/famhist/> Home to the Western States Marriage Records Index, which includes Idaho, this site also hosts Idaho-specific resources, including the searchable state death index (1911 to 1956) and eastern Idaho death records. ~ Genealogy Insider

UTAH - Utah Death Certificate Index <http://archives.utah.gov/research/indexes/20842.htm> Search death certificates from 1904 to 1958. Each links to an image of the original.

Cemetery and Burial Database http://history.utah.gov/research_and_collections/cemeteries/ A perfect complement to the death certificate index is this searchable database of Utah burials. You can search for a person's name or for a cemetery.

Utah Digital Newspapers <http://digitalnewspapers.org/> Still another reason to wish you had Utah ancestors is this ambitious site serving up versions of more than 40 digitized newspapers ranging from the 1850s to the 1970s.

OLD FULTON POSTCARDS - You may not find postcards but you will find newspapers! Many of you know this site but for those who don't, Anita writes: "I have come across a great website for old newspaper articles from New York State. The website is Old Fulton Postcards and its address is www.fultonhistory.com You can search for names or other info and is so much fun you just get hooked. I have found numerous interesting facts about my family. In fact, found where my great great grandmother was buried through the site and was able to get the location and in fact went to Calvary and found the grave of the great great grandparents and a few of their deceased children. Hope you all enjoy using it." ~ Anita Wolf

DIE MAUS - The Mouse (Die Maus), Society for Family Research in Bremen, has added a new database "Departures of emigration passages" from Bremen/Bremerhaven. At <http://www.passengerlists.de> you find "More databases" with links to "Departures of emigration passages," "Emigration of Bremen citizens," and "Register of passports." Sources are mainly account records. The emigration agencies had to pay fees for each passenger, for adults the full amount, for children half, and nothing for babies. 22, 656 voyages in the time from 1840-1945 are registered. For missing years there is only the fee for agencies documented, no ship names and dates mentioned. ~ Barbara DeOliveira

MISSOURI - We, in Missouri, have been having fun finding information from Birth and Death Records and Death Certificates. Birth & Death Records ended in 1910 when Death Certificates began. The Death Certificates that are online are from 1910-1960. Every year, another year is added. The website is called Missouri Digital Heritage and you can find it at www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates From that page you can switch back and forth between Records and Certificates just by clicking on the title. ~ Sandra K. Becker-Gurnow

IGI - Have you gotten lost searching the International Genealogical Index on www.familysearch.org? Go to this website to learn all about what the IGI is and how to use it. <http://www.ancestor-search.info/SRC-IGI.htm> ~ Barbara DeOliveira

GERMAN - If you have German ancestors, you will need to know the name of the specific place (city, town or village) where your German immigrant ancestor lived. Then you can take your genealogy research back to Germany and look for German genealogy records. Here are some suggestions where you might find the German place of origin for your ancestor who came to America from Germany. <http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/german-immigrant-ancestor-hometown.html> ~ Mark Waldron

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



April Meeting

Linda Heelan

We had another great turnout at the April 2, 2009 meeting, held at the VFW Hall, 320 South Broadway, Hicksville, Long Island with 129 members and guests. Welcome new members Kevin, Allen and Nancy.

President **Liz Lovaglio** announced the Palatines to America National Conference, June 2nd-4th in Pittsburgh, PA. To learn more and register, see <http://www.palam.org/#events>

Joann Schmidt introduced the apparel available through Thread Logic (<http://www.thread-logic.com/>); sweatshirts, hats, bags, just about anything that can be embroidered with the GGG logo! They really looked classy on our Board members and will be available for members in the near future. The GGG will again be marching in the German American Steuben Parade on September 17 and there will be more info on upcoming cemetery tours next month.

Terry Koch-Bostic invited all to the National Genealogical Society Family History Conference to be held in Charleston, NC, May 11th-14th, starting at 8:00am with lectures that go into the evening with many choices each hour, many focusing on German heritage such as how to get into German records and interpreting German handwriting. For a full description see www.ngsgenalogy.org

Dale Realander, Nominating Committee chair, announced that three positions will be open for election for the Board of Directors. At the May meeting nominations will be taken from the floor and the nominee must be present to accept the nomination. The election will be held at the beginning of the June meeting.

Ruth Cipko introduced our speaker for the evening, **Dorothy Dougherty**, currently Public Program Specialist for the National Archives in New York City, who has been intimately involved in NARA, especially NARA's development, training and deployment of NARA's consultants. Dorothy was New York State Archives Records Manager and headed the Online Archival Research Catalog as well as other research related positions.

The much anticipated 1940 Census will be released digitally Monday, April 2, 2012, at NARA facilities across the country, 72 years after its initial taking. Dorothy explained in detail the intricacies of census taking from vocabulary to procedures and then concentrated on what we all came to hear, the specifics of the 1940 enumeration. The census reflects the decade before its taking, in this case the great depression, government social programs and all its ramifications, and the world unrest.



Consider also that of the 130.2 million people from 48 states, life expectancy was 58 for men, 61 for women, the average income was \$1368 per year though 25% were unemployed. Staples such as bread and milk cost \$0.09 and \$0.14 respectively.

New questions in the census relate to migration, where they lived in 1935, assessing the need to move to find employment, and if foreign born as of 1937. Many of the questions related to employment including whether there was a minor working, employed in emergency public works programs, or if you had a job at all. Did you have a social security number, were deductions made for old age insurance or railroad retirement and was this your usual occupation, as well as level of education attained. There is also a sampling schedule that included only 5% of the population, asked of those on the 14th and 29th lines of the census, relating to national origin of parents, language spoken, veteran status of father and, if alive, war, and possession of social security number. Women were asked if they were married more than once, the age at first marriage and number of children ever born.

The codes applied to various living arrangements and employment and reveal a great deal about the lifestyles of inhabitants including what the household had in terms of cooking facilities, what the housekeeping arrangements were, and whether one was a veteran of a war or expedition. Interestingly, you didn't have to give the information directly to the enumerator, it could be mailed in and forms were left at hotels, homes, boarding and lodging houses to be completed by the residents and collected the next day. The information from the forms was then coded, keyed into punch cards, tabulated and the originals destroyed.

We thank Dorothy for her insightful and thorough knowledge of another piece to our continued search for our ancestral families. The 1940 census promises to be both a challenge and a great source of information.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/census/1940/general-info.html> has the 1940 census form, questions asked, copies of the forms, explanation of codes and abbreviations and a copy of the guide given to enumerators. Though it will not be name searchable you can search by Enumeration District (ED). Military personnel were counted as residents of where they served.

Door prize winners were: Audrey Harmse, Richard Klein, Carol Lesslie, Ghyll Simoneschi, Frank Wibben
50/50 winner was: Nancy Weinman

REMINDER

Nominations to the Board of Directors will be taken from the floor at the May membership meeting.
All nominations must be seconded and all nominees must be present at the time of nomination.

READING THE RECORDS

Amelia Schiller #211



One of the side-effects of doing genealogy research is stumbling upon information the family "buried" long ago, or hoped would never surface. Usually it was a concern over the legitimacy of their children.

With the reorganization of the Germanic kingdoms, dukedoms, principalities and other political subdivisions after the defeat of Napoleon, the record keeping of the populace was retained by the civil authorities. It was a source of income (every civil document had a required fee), and it was a source of control. Hereafter, no religious ceremonies could be performed without a document from the civil authorities. Furthermore, no religious ceremony **was required** to legalize the event. The documents issued by the civil authorities were the legal proof.

So when we search the records, we sometimes find disparities in dates. Religiously sanctioned marriages could occur anytime after the civil license was issued. In my family that became very evident back in 1868. Religious differences have always been a strong undercurrent in our family and Gustav Noll, Reformed Evangelical, fell in love with Elisabeth Kiefer, Roman Catholic. They had obtained a marriage license, but could not agree on a church ceremony. Meanwhile, they had a son, Emil, born in 1864, a daughter, Henrietta, who was listed with her surname as Kiefer in the Catholic Church records, in 1866.

Finally, on May 30, 1868, after agreeing to an arrangement that determined the religious upbringing of the children, they were married in the Protestant Church. There is a notation in those records that they had had a "wild marriage" (in the vernacular of the village—an illegitimate relationship since there had been no prior religious ceremony) because Gustav refused to show the civil license to the Catholic Church. Somewhere on a blank page at the rear of the Catholic Church records is a notation that Elisabeth married Gustav.

They had 12 children, among them my grandmother, Amalie. In order to find them all, I had to look for the boys in the Protestant records and the girls in the Catholic records. Every Sunday, the boys and their father went up the hill to the Protestant Church and the girls and their mother went down the road to the Catholic Church. The whole village was aware of this division. And it was not unusual. On Catholic Church records you may find the word "*dimissi*" in the margin, which denotes an agreement to split the religious upbringing of the children according to the sex of the parent. The villagers call it "*halbe halbe*"—half and half.

On a visit to Germany, I took the family group sheet to a cousin who had the Noll family bible. On the fly page where the children's birth dates were noted, Emil is listed at the end, as the youngest.

An interesting German word: **Jeck**

The word is used almost exclusively in the Rhineland, especially in the city of Cologne and, to a slightly lesser degree, in Bonn and Düsseldorf, the strongholds of German carnival.

Jeck can be a noun (*ein Jeck*), as well as an adjective (you can be *jeck*). Originally, it refers to a person who actively participates in a carnival celebration. During Carnival, all inhabitants of Cologne are, or at least should be, somewhat *jeck*.

But the more important meaning of the word is used year round. In this sense, it is an adjective that reflects the tolerant Cologne way of life and the general attitude of the Rhinelanders, who like to refer to themselves as *jeck*. *Ein Jeck* thus means a humorous person who does not take things nor himself too seriously. The *Jeck* may even be slightly crazy, but in a nice way. At least in the Rhineland area, the word clearly has a positive connotation.

Famous Rhineland sayings (*Jeder Jeck ist anders* – "Every Jeck is different" or *Jet jeck simmer all* – "We're all a little jeck") express this concept of tolerance. Knowing – with a wink – that you are not perfect helps in recognizing that others aren't either. They are, in fact, as *jeck* as you are.

Source: *The Week in Germany*



Passings...

**Elizabeth
Macfarlane
April 7, 2011**

Elizabeth was a founding member of the GGG and she served as Treasurer in 1998 and 1999.

She also served on the Board of Directors from November 1999 to June 2000.

We extend our sincere condolences to Elizabeth's family and friends.

The Danube Swabians (Donauschwabien)

The Danube Swabians are the descendants of German colonists who settled during the 18th century around the Danube River and its tributaries, in an area widely known as the Pannonian Lowland. They came from the overpopulated westernmost part of the Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation (Rhineland, Palatinate, Alsace-Lorraine, etc.) and also from Austria, Bavaria and Bohemia to a land that, after almost two centuries under Turkish rule (1526 to 1718), was depopulated, devastated, swamp covered and, although potentially fertile, vastly neglected and uncultivated. In three waves, each coinciding with the reigns of Emperor Karl VI (1711-1740), Empress Maria Theresia (1740-1780), and Emperor Josef II (1780-1790), those settlers traveled in barges hundreds of miles down the Danube River to their new homesteads in the frontier land of the southeastern part of the Empire, the Kingdom of Hungary. Theirs was not an easy lot. Famine, Plague, swamp fever and sporadic assaults by Turkish bands were their constant challenges. An estimated 40% of the first-generation settlers perished without ever seeing the fruits of their labor. However, their pioneer spirit prevailed, and during the next two hundred years, they succeeded in transforming a swampland into the "Breadbasket" of Europe.

The political instability of the region hardly disturbed the settlers, for they were loyal, honest and God-fearing citizens who provided for their families. But they also loved their language and their cultural heritage. In their settlements, they maintained their own schools and churches. Their cities became centers of German culture with German-language newspapers and theatres. But a friendly relation with their neighbors of various nationalities necessitated the mastering of other languages, too, and so, many settlers became multilingual in a natural and beneficial way. It should be mentioned that the name "Swab" (Schwabe) was first applied to the settlers by their neighbors, mostly teasingly, but sometimes in a defiant way, too.

From 1790 to the end of the 19th century, the number of the settlers had increased sevenfold. Since the land had become scarce, many families moved away in search for better living conditions. Many ventured across the ocean to the "promised Land." Between 1890 and 1930, about 350,000 came to America, where they became known as "German-Hungarians."

The fall of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the First World War brought about a drastic change: the area was divided up among Hungary, Yugoslavia, and Romania. It was around this time that the name "Danube Swabians" emerged as a collective denotation for all the German-speaking people whose ancestors had settled alongside the Danube two hundred years earlier.

The tragic events of the Second World War all but eradicated the Danube Swabians' population in that area. The 700,000 Danube Swabians in Yugoslavia were deprived of their citizenship, and their property was confiscated. Thousands of able-bodied men were executed, thousands of young women were abducted for forced labor to Russia, and the rest were thrown into concentration camps where, between 1945 and 1949, tens of thousands perished from starvation, maltreatment, and various diseases. The largest part of the 650,000 Danube Swabians in Hungary were "Repatriated" (expelled) to Germany, leaving all their property behind. Thousands of the 350,000 Danube Swabians in Rumania were forcefully displaced to the Baragan Steppes near the Black Sea, where a great number of them perished.

Those Danube Swabians who escaped before the Communist tide swept through their land and most of those who survived the ordeal of the concentration and forced-labor camps found refuge in the Western World. The largest part settled in Germany and Austria, the land of their forefathers. Many migrated to Australia, South America, and Canada. About 100,000 came to the United States where they quickly adapted to the new way of life. Here, too, diligence, thrift, and honesty are their main character traits, as are loyalty and faithfulness to their new homeland. But here, too, they take pride in their language and their cultural heritage.

Written by the late **Michael Leisch** of the Philadelphia Donauschwaben

Distributed by the Philadelphia Donauschwaben, the United German-Hungarians and the Trenton Donauschwaben. 2006

Submitted by **Dennis J. Bauer**, V.P. Trenton Donauschwaben & GGG member

Palatines to America National Conference

Sponsored by the Palatines to America and
Western PA Genealogical Society

June 2-4, 2011
Sheraton Station Square
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

For more information and registration form,
go to:

<http://www.palam.org/>

The Genealogy Society of Bergen County

May 23, 2011 at 7 pm

Ridgewood Public Library ~ 125 No. Maple Ave, Ridgewood, NJ

"Discovering Your Community's Civil War Heritage"

Stephen D. Glazer

This program will provide practical guidance on how to research your town's Civil War history, including the identity and biographies of local citizens who fought in the war. Many of the approaches and resources to be discussed are easily accessible from a home computer, often at little or no cost. An official research guide recently published by the State's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee will be made available.

Stephen D. Glazer currently serves on New Jersey's Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, and has published numerous articles regarding New Jersey and the Civil War.



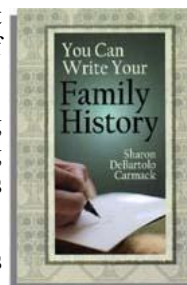
Library Corner

You Can Write Your Family History by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

Well-known genealogy author Sharon DeBartolo Carmack offers extensive advice in her reprint of *You Can Write Your Family History*. Her aim is to guide her audience to write well-documented histories of their ancestors. She recommends reading her book through and then using it as a workbook.

In 19 chapters, Carmack covers topics including what type of family history to write, selecting a theme, gathering and organizing research, using family stories, blending social history with family history, including documentation, and publishing and marketing your work. Self publishing is well covered. The author envisions future historians citing your published work in their own scholarly work.

Carmack cites numerous helpful references. For example, she defines, describes, names, examples and lists sources for further reference of 7 genres of genealogical and family history writing. As in all her books, the margins feature icons labeled: warnings, tips, important, technique, reminder, and citing sources. Appendices A and B provide helpful sample chapters of family narratives, illustrating how the bare bones of documented facts can be fleshed out with well-sourced social history that can place our ancestors' lives in the context of their times.



GCG Book #282

Soft covered paperback, 245 pages, includes illustrations, bibliography, appendices, and index.

ISBN #97-0-8063-1783-0.

Book originally published by Betterway Books, Cincinnati 2003. This 2008 reprint is available from Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, MD 21211-1953. www.genealogical.com Cost \$19.95.

By the way, www.amazon.com has very positive recommendations of this book. Writers especially cite its usefulness.

Reviewed by Margaret DeAcetis

What Will Matter

Ready or not, some day it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours, or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass to someone else.

Your wealth, fame and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance.

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will fade away.

It won't matter where you came from or what side of the tracks you lived on at the end.

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So what will matter? How will the value of your days be measured?

What will matter is not what you bought, but what you built, not what you got but what you gave.

What will matter is not your success but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage, or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate your example.

What will matter is not your competence but your character.

What will matter is not how many people you knew, but how many will feel a lasting loss when you are gone.

What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live in those who loved you.

What will matter is how long you will be remembered, by whom and for what.

Living a life that matters doesn't happen by accident. It's not a matter of circumstance but of choice.

Choose to live a life that matters.

(Author Unknown)

Contributed by Mark Waldron

A Letter from Germany

16. 7. 49

Liebes Linchen! Zu Deinem bevorstehenden lieben Geburtstag an 13. Aug.

Dear Linchen! For your coming dear birthday on Aug. 13

Sollen Dir alle guten Wünsche unseres Herrrens gelten.

All good wishes of our Lord should prevail.

Unser Himmelsvater möge Dir im neuen Lebensjahr reichlich vergelten was

May our heavenly Father, in your new year of life, richly reward you

Du Gutes an uns getan. Als kleines Zeichen meiner Liebe nimm diese

for the good you have done for us. As a small token of my love, accept this

winzige Handarbeit entgegen. Es ist ja nicht viel was ich Dir schenken

little handcraft. There isn't much that I can give you

kann wir sind ja arm geworden. Unser Benno ist immer noch in Gefangenschaft

we have become poor. Our Benno is still a prisoner of war

hat heute einen traurigen Brief geschrieben nun kannst denken wie uns das Herz

today wrote a sorrowful letter now you can imagine how our heart

wehe tut. Wie hast Du die Hitze überstanden? Wir denken sehr viel an Euch

hurts. How did you survive the heat? We think of you often

Bitte lahs doch bald etwas von Dir hören. Grühse bitte all deine Lieben von uns.

Please let us hear from you soon. Please give our regards to all your loved ones.

Dich grüihst herzlichst Alma

Sincerest greetings to you Alma



Contributed by Ken Bausert

A photograph of a handwritten letter in German, written in cursive. The text is a translation of the typed text above. The date '16. 7. 49' is written in the top right corner. The handwriting is clear and legible.

Liebes Linchen! Zu Deinem bevorstehenden lieben Geburtstag am 13. Aug. sollen Dir alle guten Wünsche unseres Herrrens gelten. Unser Himmelsvater möge dir im neuen Lebensjahr reichlich vergelten was du Gutes an uns getan. Als kleines Zeichen meiner Liebe nimm diese winzige Handarbeit entgegen. Es ist ja nicht viel was ich dir schenken kann wir sind ja arm geworden unser Benno ist immer noch in Gefangenschaft hat heute einen traurigen Brief geschrieben nun kannst denken wie uns das Herz wehe tut. Wie hast du die Hitze überstanden? Wir denken sehr viel an Euch bitte lahs doch bald etwas von dir hören. Grühse bitte all deine Lieben von uns + Dich grüihst herzlichst Alma

Lentil Soup Calamity!

From **Nancy Dow** regarding the lentil soup recipe in the April newsletter: "I was so excited to try the lentil soup recipe in my new crock pot. There is something wrong with either the recipe or my pot (!). Trusting it to do its thing I came home from being away all afternoon to the smell of burn and a pot of dried out inedible lentils. Two cups of lentils to 3 cups of liquid made me suspicious at first glance but I followed it anyway."

The liquid amount stated in the newsletter was correct but apparently wrong in the original recipe. Depending on how thick you would like your soup, perhaps 6 cups or more of liquid might prevent dried out, inedible lentils.

Archival Treatment of Photos & Paper Goods

Ken Bausert #2073

Just thought I'd pass along some good sites for members to check out archival storage supplies for their family heirlooms. I've been involved in selling and collecting old comic books for many years and have used Bookkeeper spray for paper goods for over twenty years. There's also lots of info on these sites about "safe" storage of photos.

Great site for learning about archival treatment and storage of items:

<http://dlis.dos.state.fl.us/archives/preservation/Scrapbook/index.cfm>

Look for polypropylene, polyester ("Mylar") and avoid any made from vinyl or PVC. More information on Mylar & other types of pages and envelopes:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/staying-safe-with-page-protectors.html>

All about Bookkeeper Archival spray for paper (Ken recommends):

<http://www.ptlp.com/spray.html>

Your Family Legacy (cheapest price for ONE CAN Bookkeeper 16 oz. spray):

<http://www.webyfl.com/bookkeeperdeacidificationspray-preserveyournewspapers.aspx>

Cheapest place for Bookkeeper archival spray (DISCOUNT for 3 or 12 cans):

http://www.conservationresources.com/Main/section_29/section29_13.htm

Wei T'o Deacidification Spray (more expensive than Bookkeeper):

http://apps.webcreate.com/ecom/catalog/product_specific.cfm?ClientID=15&ProductID=17224

New product (cheaper than Bookkeeper) but untried;

http://apps.webcreate.com/ecom/catalog/product_specific.cfm?ClientID=15&ProductID=27851



Tips from the Pros: Same Name Blues

George G. Morgan

George Foreman isn't the first person to name more than one child by the same name.

Seasoned genealogists find this again and again, especially in cases where the first child given the name died early in life. In other cases, the use of the same name could have been used to honor persons from both sides of the family who shared the same given name. In other cases, it is possible that two persons were called "John"--one may have been named John while the other may have been named Jonathan.

Family members may have referred to them as "Young John" and "Old John," but official primary source documents may have made no such distinction.

Study the events of these contemporaries' lives and look for anything that can help distinguish one from another.

Source: Ancestry Weekly Journal

Burma Shave

THE MIDNIGHT RIDE
OF PAUL FOR BEER
LED TO A WARMER
HEMISPHERE

Burma Shave

AROUND THE CURVE
LICKETY-SPLIT
BEAUTIFUL CAR
WASN'T IT?

Burma Shave

NO MATTER THE PRICE
NO MATTER HOW NEW
THE BEST SAFETY DEVICE
IN THE CAR IS YOU

Burma Shave

A GUY WHO DRIVES
A CAR WIDE OPEN
IS NOT THINKIN'
HE'S JUST HOPIN'

Burma Shave

SPEED WAS HIGH
WEATHER WAS NOT
TIRES WERE THIN
X MARKS THE SPOT

Burma Shave

Check it out! Don Eckerle

German Enemy Aliens

In 1917 the US declared war on Germany. In 1917 New York State conducted a "Military Census and Inventory." This special census was taken in May and included all persons, male and female who were between the age of 16 and 50 years of age. Approximately 5,600,000 men and women completed the form. There was a separate form for males and females and there were about 80 questions on each form.

The names and addresses of all German males in New York City who were not citizens were printed in a series of articles in "The Herald." The list was published between December 4, 1917 and December 9, 1917. The GGG has obtained a copy of this list and has created a searchable database of the names and address. The database also notes which persons have submitted their first papers to become a citizen. There are over **26,000** names in the database.

We hope that you may find an address for a person and that the indication of "First Papers" will lead you to a Naturalization record.

Hey, ya never know. Check it out. Good luck.

Membership Application German Genealogy Group

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Name: _____
(Last) (First) (MI) (Please print plainly)

Address Street _____
(if new address, please check box)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ - _____

Telephone: (____) _____ Email: _____

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\$25.00 foreign for postal mail newsletter
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Please make check payable to: **German Genealogy Group or GGG**
Mail to: German Genealogy Group, PO Box 1004, Kings Park, NY. 11754

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Your name and state may be published in the newsletter unless requested to be omitted. Check to omit

The GGG is a tax-exempt organization. Contributions to the GGG, Inc. are tax deductible.

Send me a sample of the newsletter via email in pdf format. nl

Speaking Out Susan Sherman #2001

GGG member Susan Sherman writes: "I just wrote a letter to Nursing Spectrum News which has been published, on Jan. 24, 2011, since I am a Registered Nurse doing a lot of medical research on my family genealogy. The NJ State Archives will not release causes of death on NJ Death Certificates due to confidentiality for the deceased. They "white-out" or redact the information on each Death Certificate so the recipient cannot see it. I argue this point, since if families can find out the genetics and causes of death in families, they might seek specific medical tests, like screening colonoscopies, for example, which may save many lives. It's imperative that we be able to see the causes of death in families."

Here is my published letter to Nursing Spectrum regarding causes of death on death certificates for genealogy.

Nurse Urges New Jersey to Change Archives Process

As a nurse paralegal researcher for a Manhattan law firm and a family genealogist, I urge Gov. Chris Christie to change the law that prohibits the New Jersey Archives Office from sending out the causes of death on New Jersey death certificates. This information is being "whited out/redacted" on each death certificate for genealogy research before the documents are sent out. As our family genealogist and RN, I am creating a family medical database for the causes of death in our family.

This information is essential for creating a genetic link to certain diseases in families. As nursing advances, especially in terms of genetics in nursing practice, we need this vital information.

I recently discovered my grandmother and great grandmother died of rectal carcinoma. This is a vital piece of information for this deadly and preventable disease. By withholding this information, you prohibit loved ones from taking lifesaving tests.

Please change the policies and practices of the New Jersey Archives Office as soon as possible.

Susan L. Scherman, RN, BA
 Weehawken, N.J.]



New Members

- 2635 Greene, Lori, Jonesborough, TN
- 2636 Filiault, E. Pat, Valley Stream, NY
- 2637 Walls, Joy, Greene, NY
- 2638 Tesdal, Marsha, Short Hills, NJ
- 2639 Moore, Karen S., Summit, NJ
- 2640 Wesnofske, Edward R., Bridgehampton, NY
- 2641 Spearing, June, Somerville, MA
- 2642 Hawkins, James E., Portsmouth, NH
- 2643 Luca, Dorothy J., Shohola, PA
- 2644 Kinsel, Karen S., Eureka Springs, AR

- 2645 Hurley, Brian, Winston-Salem, NC
- 2646 Slanker, Dennis, 63654 Budinggen, Germany
- 2647 Preiss, Kevin, Hicksville, NY
- 2648 Gresehover, Robert, Columbia, MD
- 2649 Martin, Mary Jo C., Doncaster East, Australia
- 2650 White, Nancy, Manasquan, NJ
- 2651 Bengsch, Harold K., Springfield, MO
- 2652 Lohse, Otto, New Hyde Park, NY
- 2653 Kropp, Ellen, San Miguel, CA
- 2654 Konrad, Delores T, Maspeth, NY

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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, May 5th 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 — **“Ellis Island during the Second World War”**

Presenter – Barry Moreno

Immigrants, Spies, Enemy Aliens and the FBI will be discussed.

Don't forget to renew
your membership!

