

Der Ahnenforscher

"The Family Researcher"

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Spotlight on Ports beyond New York

By Juliana Smith

The vision of our immigrant ancestors sailing past "Lady Liberty" into the Port of New York is symbolic of the American immigrant experience. And in fact for some 24 million immigrants arriving in the U.S. between 1820 and 1920, the Port of New York was their port of entry (although the Statue of Liberty didn't come into the picture until October of 1886). But millions of immigrants found their way into this country via other ports and overland routes, and their records can easily be overlooked when we focus all of our efforts on the Port of New York.

Other popular ports of entry to the U.S. for Europeans were New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Galveston, and New Orleans. Baltimore was a good choice for immigrants headed for the Midwest. When the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad reached Wheeling, Virginia in 1853, it shortened the trip that previously took days, to sixteen hours, and created the fastest and easiest route to the Midwestern states.

The port of Galveston was established in 1825, when Texas was still part of Mexico. It was an important commercial port, but for immigrants going to the American West, it was an attractive entryway. Between 1907 and 1914, Jews escaping the Russian pogroms were encouraged to immigrate through Galveston because there were fears that an influx of Jewish immigrants through the popular Atlantic ports would result in a wave of anti-Semitism.

With its proximity to the Mississippi River, New Orleans was an attractive port for those destined for the country's interior. Immigration through New Orleans peaked in the period before the Civil War, 1820-1860. During that period New Orleans was a distant second to New York, the leading port of entry into the U.S.

Located 110 miles inland, and vulnerable to the freezing Delaware River which cut off its connection to the Atlantic, Philadelphia would seem a dubious candidate for one of the most traveled ports of entry, but between 1815 and 1985 more than 1.3 million immigrants entered the U.S. through that port.

Immigration through Boston jumped during the Irish Potato Famine with more than twenty thousand immigrants coming in annually between 1847 and 1854, the majority from Ireland.

Immigration via Canada and the Great Lakes - Not all immigrants came in to the United States via ocean ports. Immigration to Canada was typically cheaper and until 1895, it was also a way to avoid the hassles of immigration screenings. In 1895 the U.S. government closed this loophole by requiring Canadian steamships and railroads to complete manifest forms and only provide transportation to U.S. destinations to immigrants that would have been allowed to enter the country via other U.S. ports. These records are available on Ancestry.com in the database of Border Crossings: From Canada to U.S., 1895-1956. There is also a database of Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935, and if your ancestor traveled to the U.S. via Canada, you may find them included in that collection.

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The Weekly Discovery

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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:

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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.

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Please visit our website at:

www.GermanGenealogyGroup.com

or

www.TheGGG.org

New online searches for offline contents

Many might not be aware but Google can find not only “online content,” but also off-line content, including books and periodicals, some from the 18th or 19th century.

If you are very, very lucky, they put the whole book online, but in most cases, it's just four lines where the keyword appears. If you are unlucky, only the four lines before or after the keyword appear. Sometimes they just give you a title, with no preview at all.

The magic page is <http://books.google.com/>

Happy Googling!

You should also be aware that Ancestry.com now offers the files of most (or even all) soldiers who served in the Royal Bavarian Army during WW I. Unlike similar American military files, the Bavarian files provide even info on the names of both parents (including mother's maiden name and father's occupation) and of the spouse, besides stating date and place of birth and previous occupation of the soldier, his engagement in military actions and injuries. Whenever a soldier was transferred to a new unit, a new file was opened. Besides genealogical information, a lot of human tragedies are to be revealed.

It seems that only a World-wide or a German premium subscription (not the German standard subscription) of ancestry.com allow access to these files.

If a soldier was killed in action, you can find the information there as well (including detailed information on the circumstances and causes of his death), but you can compare it with the less complete files (they are still under work) of the "Volksbund Deutsche riegsgräberfürsorge e.V.

http://www.volksbund.de/graebersuche/content_suche.asp

You might be asked to register free of charge before getting access to the data.

Soldiers from other German Armies, e.g. the Prussian Army, the Saxonian Army, the Wurttemberg or the Imperial German Navy are not included in ancestry.com. Many files of the Prussian Army are believed to have been destroyed.

By the way, Bavarian soldiers had to take the oath on the Emperor only in case of war. The armies of smaller German states were mostly incorporated into the Prussian Army in connection with the founding of the German Empire in 1871.

Source: bavarian-ancestors@rootsweb.com

Contributed by Tom Risinger



From the Heart

Thoughts from Jo Ann Schmidt

February is a month when love is in the air, even for genealogists. We think of romance and valentines, and our heads turn back to days gone by. There probably was not a more romantic time period than the Victorian Era; proper gentlemen, ladies in bustling skirts, honor, respect, drama, and tragedy. And so, if I may, let me tell a story, as best as I can put it together, of a true Victorian love story, filled with all the necessary Victorian elements.

In 1792 a child was born in France. His name was Charles Canda. He grew as an educated young man, and eventually was old enough to join the army and fight with Napoleon. He fought in the Battle of Waterloo, and lived to tell the tale. He emigrated to New York sometime after the war in France, and settled in Greenwich Village. As an educated fellow, it seemed appropriate to open up a boarding school for girls. He was considered a headmaster, or a professor. His boarding school, The Charles Canda School, was located at 17 Lafayette Place in New York City, and was believed to be one of the finest in the country.

When Charles arrived in New York, he met native New Yorker Adele and they married. The couple had but one child, a lovely daughter they named Charlotte. Charlotte was born on the third of February, 1828. The family lived at 17 Lafayette Place near 4th Street in Manhattan and they had at least two servants. Mother and daughter were well provided for by Charles Canda, the French war hero.

Charlotte was a smart, happy young lady who was the center of her parent's affection and attention. She was nurtured and educated by her parents. As she grew she learned to speak English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. She enjoyed music, played several instruments, and was artistic by nature. She had several pet parrots, and she delighted in having them with her as much as possible. Not uncommon to the time, Charlotte was a religious girl, and faithfully attended St. Patrick's Parish in lower Manhattan.

She grew in her family's love, and had many friends and a close family. At some point as a teenager, Charlotte fell in love with a young French suitor. His name was Charles Albert Jarrett de la Marie. Charlotte and Charles were deeply in love. They became engaged to be married. Charles idolized the young Charlotte, and wanted to spend his life with her.

At age 16, Charlotte and her family suffered a great loss. Charlotte's aunt passed away, and the family was mourning her passing. Charles asked his creative young daughter to design a monument for her aunt. Charlotte took to the task, putting her knowledge of art to productive use, planning a design for a monument for her beloved aunt. She was a dutiful daughter, and very much a part of a loving family.

To celebrate her 17th birthday, Charles and Adele planned a party for Charlotte. It was quite a social event, similar to a coming out party in the society of New York in 1845. Charlotte was dressed in an elegant gown. Her hair was swept up in a graceful Victorian coiffure. Perhaps she wore a locket or a brooch on a ribbon around her neck. She was a sight to behold that evening, the pride and joy of Adele and Charles. They took their daughter to a party, traveling in a horse drawn carriage, as would be appropriate for a well-to-do family on the night of the third of February, 1845. Although the party was elegant and the social event of the season, the weather did not cooperate. There was an intense rain storm with thunder and lightning that night. Charlotte wanted to drop her close friend home first. Her friend lived on Waverly Place, not far from Charlotte's home on Lafayette Street. Her father, a true gentleman, got out of the carriage and escorted Charlotte's friend to the safety of her home. When he returned, the carriage was gone. Charlotte's father was uncertain as to where the carriage had gone, so he walked home, anticipating that it had returned safely to their home nearby.

Charlotte remained in the carriage while her Father escorted her friend to her door. There was a loud crack of thunder, which startled the waiting horse. The horse bolted in terror down the street. The door through which her father had exited remained open. The carriage turned the corner sharply, and young Charlotte was tossed from the carriage to the street, striking her head. Her parents were called for immediately, and they rushed to the site of the accident. They reached her less than half an hour after the accident occurred. Kneeling with her head in their arms, the rain pouring on their heads, Charlotte took her last breath and died in their arms. Charlotte was lost to them forever.

Charlotte's fiancé, Charles, was distraught. He blamed himself for a dozen things he should have done that night to prevent such a tragedy. Young Charles felt his life was meaningless without dear Charlotte.

Charlotte was buried in the church yard of her beloved St. Patrick's Cathedral on Mott Street. Her father wanted to do something more elaborate to honor his darling daughter's memory. He looked to the work she had been doing on a monument for her aunt. She had sketches and ideas jotted down in her journal. Her parents altered her design to make it fitting for their daughter. To commemorate her 17 years on this earth, the monument stands 17 feet tall and is 17 feet deep. There are 17 rosebuds on the shield. Included in the design are the things that Charlotte loved: flowers, birds, musical instruments and even the parrots. There is a figure of Charlotte in the center of the monument, with a star above her, indicating immortal life, as well as inverted torches, representing a life snuffed out. In addition there is a niche in which a likeness of the young woman appears, showing her right before her death. This monument to Charlotte was very expensive to create, at the time the cost was between \$15,000 and \$45,000. The plot was encased in an ornate cast iron fence, with locked gates. There were white pebbles surrounding the entire monument. At the time, some called this "The Birthday Tomb."

(continued on page 4)

One year after the loss of his beloved Charlotte, during the planning of her memorial, Charles Albert Jarrett de la Marie visited her parents' home. He was still distraught over the loss of his one true love. At the site of her home, Charles took out a gun and shot himself, once in the chest, and once in the head.

When Charlotte's memorial was completed, she was moved from her resting place at St. Patrick's to Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn. She was buried there on April 29, 1848. Since the cemetery is nonsectarian, the plot was consecrated by the Catholic Church so that Charlotte could be buried in hallowed ground. It was the wish of her fiancé to join Charlotte after his death. He wanted to be buried with her. Her parents did not have a problem with that request, knowing that the couple loved each other so much. However, since Charles took his own life, he was not able to be buried on the consecrated ground which was Charlotte's plot. He was therefore buried in a plot directly adjacent to his beloved young fiancé.

Oh, how romantic were the days of yore. Even in death, the lovers cling to each other. Author Emily Bronte aptly stated in *Wuthering Heights*, "I'll not lie there by myself: they may bury me twelve feet deep, and throw the church down over me, but I won't rest till you are with me. I never will!" Charles and his beloved Charlotte are together for all time.

How to Jump the Pond (Cross the Atlantic and find your German roots) By George Ludder #448

You only need one piece of information to find the name of the town your ancestors came from. Unfortunately, that is the name of the town. How bad do you want the name? I found it this way.

My ancestor, Henry Ludder, appeared in a NYC Directory in the 1850's. (Directories are like phone books with name and addresses, except instead of phone numbers, they gave a job description.) I then hiked up to the Public Library on 5th Avenue in Manhattan to find a map of NYC in the 1850's (I did this in 1980, so no computers yet.) After plotting Henry's address on the map, I again went into the Directory, in the back where they listed all the churches. Most of my ancestors were Lutheran, so I plotted the three closest Lutheran Churches (you had to walk to church in the 1850's). I then wrote the Lutheran Council to find the current location of the churches (they all relocated as their flocks moved uptown). After getting their current addresses, I wrote a letter to each of them, enclosing a monetary donation with the birth year of some of the children, and waited. Eventually all three responded. One had the records, more records than I could have imagined. Henry Ludder and two of his brothers were all married in St. Matthews Lutheran Church, and many of their children were baptized there. I then had to purchase a used close-up camera (no copy machines yet), learn to use it, and go up to the Bronx to St. Matthew's. Finally, I had to find someone who could read Old German from the photos.

Lutherans tend to put a lot of information in the records, everything but your shoe size. They listed the bride's parent's names, her age, where she currently lives, occupation, what village and area in Germany she was born in, and the same for the groom. Also listed were the witnesses.

Armed with these facts, I wrote the town clerk, local church, or town historian in Germany (first having the letter translated into German) and enclosed a donation (converted to German Marks). I've done this 4 times. In all cases, the response was well beyond my expectations. They sent me clan summaries with birth and marriages of everyone they could find, and books on the town history.

It was a long haul (two years), but worth it. Since then, I viewed records from the LDS Library on those villages, and hired one German researcher to fill in the gaps that the LDS Library did not microfilm. Ironically, many years later, I noticed that St. Matthew's records were microfilmed and sitting in the LDS Library in Plainview next to Richard Haberstroh's films. How many times did I pass them and never looked?

Another side note to all of this is that the first sons of Henry Ludder died young. Lutheran (now All Faiths) Cemetery said they did not have their burials. They were buried in Manhattan in St. Matthew's Cemetery. All those bodies were re-interred in Lutheran Cemetery around 1865. I hounded the cemetery until they found the records.

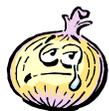


Item 20 - Ludder marriage

Guten Appetit!

Falscher Hase German Meatloaf

- 1/2 lb lean ground beef
- 1/2 lb ground lean pork
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons breadcrumbs
- 3 tablespoons cold water
- 2 large eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon prepared mustard
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- 3 peeled hardboiled eggs
- 4 slices bacon (cube 2 strips; cut 2 strips in half)
- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 cup beef broth



SAUCE

- 1/4 cup hot water
- 1 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 cup sour cream

- Mix together ground meats, onion, bread crumbs, 3 Tablespoons cold water, and eggs.
- Flavor with salt, paprika, mustard, and parsley.
- Blend ingredients thoroughly.
- Flatten out meat mixture in the shape of a square; about 8 X 8 inches.
- Arrange whole hard-boiled eggs in a row along the middle of the meat.
- Fold sides of meat patty over the eggs.
- Shape meat carefully into a loaf, resembling a flat bread loaf.
- Cook cubed bacon in a Dutch oven about 2 minutes.
- Carefully add the vegetable oil, and heat.
- Place meatloaf in the Dutch oven and cook until browned on all sides.
- Cut remaining bacon strips in half and arrange over the top of the meatloaf.
- Place in uncovered Dutch oven in a preheated 350°F oven for about 30-45 minutes.
- While meat is baking, gradually pour hot beef broth over the top of the meatloaf; brush occasionally with pan drippings.
- When done remove meat to a preheated platter and keep it warm.
- Add 1/4 cup of hot water to pan and scrape all particles from the bottom.
- Bring to a gentle boil.
- Mix cornstarch with 1/4 cup water and add to pan.
- Cook until bubbly and thick.
- Remove from heat and stir in sour cream.
- Reheat to warm (do not boil).
- Season with salt and pepper if desired.
- Serve the sauce (on the side) separately.

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

Program Schedule

Feb 4, 2010 - "Revolutionary War Research and What's Available at the DAR"
Presenter – Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly

Mar 4, 2010 - "A History Presentation of the Roebling's Brooklyn Bridge"
Presenter – Walter Traeg

"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 - If you move or change your e-mail address, don't forget to notify us, we want your newsletters to reach you! If you are receiving the e-newsletter, make sure your e-mailbox isn't filled up or the newsletter cannot be delivered.

NEW PBS SERIES - Poet Elizabeth Alexander, who composed and read the poem at President Barack Obama's inauguration, chef Mario Batali, comedian Stephen Colbert, novelist Louise Erdrich, writer Malcolm Gladwell, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, film director Mike Nichols, Her Royal Highness Queen Noor, actress Eva Longoria Parker, actress Meryl Streep and figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi will all appear in a new PBS television series **FACES OF AMERICA** airing in the U.S. in February. Hosted by Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. of African American Lives and African American Lives Two, Faces of America turns again to the latest tools of genealogy and genetics to explore the family histories of 11 renowned Americans. The Faces of America series airs **Wednesdays, February 10 - March 3, 2010 from 8:00-9:00 p.m. ET on PBS**

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE - The GGG Membership Drive will continue through March 31st. Give a gift membership to a brand new member and you will receive two months added on to your membership year. If a brand new member puts your name on the "Recommended by" line on the GGG membership application, you'll receive two months added on to your membership year. There is no limit to the free months you can receive so don't let time run out!

If I had a single flower for every time I think about you, I could walk forever in my garden.

~ **Attributed to Claudia Ghandi**



NEW JERSEY - This website has been mentioned before but it is always worth another look. The Hudson County Genealogical Society website offers many databases which are worth searching. Many New Yorkers migrated to New Jersey so your long-lost ancestor might just turn up here. ~ Mark Waldron
<http://www.hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org/databases-pub.html>

CENSUS INFO - Here you'll find various census information such as, the effective date of each Federal Census from 1790 to 1930, and what year each state was admitted to the Union along with the year of its first Federal Census. ~ Mark Waldron
<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/kcgs/census.htm>

NEW YORK - This website primarily contains Long Island information but there is much more, and you'll find marriages, obits, births and assorted info, too much to list. <http://nyvagealogy.homestead.com/newyorkrecords.html>

COME TO GERMANY - Do you have plans to visit Germany? This website helps you make those plans with everything you need to know from where to go to what to pack. There is helpful info for all types of travelers including business and religious travelers to honeymooners and those with disabilities. You can also download brochures right from the website. ~ Herman (Hank) Brech
<http://www.cometogermany.com/>

REVISIT A FAVORITE - Do you have ancestors from Brooklyn? Who doesn't! This website is updated regularly and it will keep you busy for hours. ~ Anthony Di Marino <http://www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/index.html>

FREE SEARCHES - Who doesn't like free? This website provides listings of free, searchable databases including ship's lists, vital records, immigration records, census records, death records, and lots more, for the USA and other countries as well.
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~thecohens/resources.html>

WEST VIRGINIA - You will be able to search vital records here for West Virginia and as a bonus, the scanned images of the birth, marriage, and death records are there. How great is that! If you don't find what you are looking for, check back often because new records are being added regularly. http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx

WATER - Our ancestors drank water from the tap and so did we, but those days are gone. Now it's bottled or filtered, and for good reason, which you'll find out on this website. There is no need to sign up, just click "continue on without..." then enter your zip code. Once you see what's in your water you'll run out and buy a water filter if you don't already have one.
<http://www.ewg.org/tap-water/whats-in-yourwater>

PITTSBURGH, PA - This site contains 125 directories published between 1815 and 1945. While most of the directories cover Pittsburgh and Allegheny City, a portion includes Homestead and nearby boroughs. This collection also contains several general business directories. <http://digital.library.pitt.edu/p/pitttextdir/>

NORTH CAROLINA - The state of North Carolina has launched a new digital archive collection of NC newspapers called, strangely enough, the North Carolina Newspaper Digitization Project. It contains almost 24,000 records of newspapers that date from 1751. <http://www.archives.ncdcr.gov/newspaper/index.html>

VINTAGE ADS - Vintage Ad Browser is a directory of over 120,000 vintage ads available at <http://www.vintageadbrowser.com/> The front page of the site has a huge list of topics to browse through, from Airlines & Aircraft to Xmas. You can also search by keyword or open up a color box and browse by ad color. One warning: the ads here do reflect the outlooks and prejudices of their times, and as such you may find some of them are offensive.

OBITS - If you are looking for an obit, particularly one from within the last ten years, you may find it at Legacy.com. There are obits here from over 750 newspapers in the U.S. and Canada. For very recent cases you may see the entire obit, but for most a fee of \$2.95 must be paid to get the entire archived obit for a period of 24 hours. You can pay by credit card and access is instant so you can then print the obit. The name of the paper and the print date is given in the search results, so if you want to save \$2.95 you can find and search the newspaper yourself. <http://legacy.com/NS/> ~ Valerie Kirchmann

GERMANY - Go to <http://www.feehfs.org/links/germany.html> for many helpful aids courtesy of The Federation of East European Family History Societies. Those that are in PDF form can be saved to your computer.

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

January Meeting

Linda Heelan



The January meeting was held January 8, 2009 at the VFW Hall, 320 South Broadway, Hicksville, Long Island, with 67 members and 9 guests in attendance. Welcome new members Carol, Janice and Ed.

Our meeting this month was the popular "Show n Tell." **Ruth Cipko** called the first presenter, **Robert Lang**, who brought a beer bottle and photographs from his grandfather Metzner's brewery on Forest and Metropolitan Aves., and was a volunteer fireman. From his great grandfather, George Spitzer from Frauendorf, Germany, a builder of St Aloysius Catholic Church and what is now the Evergreen Baptist Church, he showed a gift from their 25th Wedding Anniversary, two hand painted plates of his great grandparent's respective home towns in Germany.

Ken Bausert found a patent, which he projected on the screen, "A System for Melting Glycerin Soap," which listed his father's patent as a cited reference. He then found his father's 1923 patent for an "Electric Cooker and Melting Pot" which he and his father used to make lead sinkers. After 30 years, Ken found the pot in his garage which brought back fond memories of many shared fishing trips.

Edward Wolfe received a message from a cousin that a relative in Germany had passed away and there was a large inheritance. This was the first time he learned about the German side of his family from Oberhausen and Rheinhausen on the Rhine River. In 2007 he visited with them for one day and was overwhelmed by his wonderful reception from these far off relatives. This past September he again visited for a week to get to know them better. He brought the history of the two towns from the 1500's to the present which traces his family's origins in this area, as well as aerial views of the towns.

Stephen Nathan told us his Aunt Amelia was required to register as an alien during WWI and WWII and, as a result, documents were created which led to his finding his origins in Sondenau and the house his family had occupied, his great great grandfather being a forester.



Front row l to r: Steve Nathan, Patricia Heeger, Joan Young, Jeanne Burns
Back row l to r: Ken Bausert, Ruth Cipko, Ed Wolfe, Irma Erickson, Robert Lang

Joan Young brought in her great great grandfather's 150 year old top hat in its original box made in Dresden.

Patricia Heeger displayed Lederhosen and dirndl dresses from her "Tanta Anna" from Germany and a walking stick with many tiny plaques from all the places it had been.

Jeanne Burns reminded us of Ruth's suggestion last year that we should go through and over the things we have and thus she rediscovered her great grandfather's citizenship papers from September 4, 1856.

Ruth Cipko took her own advice after seeing Clara Dobert in the same plot as her father and she was determined to find her relationship, looking for her maiden name. She was her grandmother's sister who no one talked about. Her death certificate said she was married, but there was no informant, however, Uncle Harry's death certificate names a Clara as his wife. Ruth then consulted the GGG marriage database which is where she found the answer.

Irma Erickson held up a small piece of leather with a mirror and a black and white photo of her and her sister as children. She was born in East Prussia. The Russians ordered only women and children could leave. After digging a pit for their belongings in expectation of returning, her mother and sisters, limited to one satchel each, boarded a westward bound train as far as Dresden in June 1944, leaving her father and grandparents there. Her father ended up in Siberia and it was this small fob with their picture that kept him going.

We thank all for sharing their interesting and personal stories, reminding us of why we catalog, collect and continue searching.

Door prize winners were: Teresa Koch-Bostic, Ruth Kollar, Geraldine Nathan, Charles Parker, Ghyll Simoneschi
50/50 winner was: Charles Parker

Steve Nathan - During WWI and WWII, aliens were required to register with the authorities. For WWI it was done locally and the records are all but gone. However, for WWII the records exist and a search can be ordered from a division of Homeland Security. There are comprehensive instructions and an order form for a search at: <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1041instr.pdf> and also <http://www.uscis.gov/files/form/g-1041.pdf>

Ken Bausert - Ken's private nostalgic museum contains many interesting items from as far back at the 1800s and he'd enjoy showing them to any member who would like to visit him in East Meadow, Long Island. There are old photos, books and magazines, early TVs, radios, home appliances, toys, comic books, and lots of other cool stuff. Anyone who grew up in America during the 1930s to the 1960s will probably find something that they'll remember from their childhood. If you would like to visit, email Ken at PassScribe@aol.com or call (516) 794-6609 and arrange a time. Weekdays are as good (or better) than weekends. If anyone has any old objects that they were thinking of throwing out, Ken would be happy to have you donate them to his museum.

Sunday Afternoon Rocking

"The Keepers"



Two gone in less than a month, two remaining, and I the only member of the next generation. I look at the five that people the generation following my own, young and vibrant, yet always so faithful to follow my bidding in looking after the elders. There is so much I want them to have, to know, to be. None of the five bear the family name as I am the last of it, some are one generation removed from it, some two. None remember the home place or the family that is leaving us in their youthful years. And so "being the keeper of memories," I wonder how to bring closure to a family line, how to make this youth understand who they are, from whence they have come. It is the reason I write the stories, the reason Sunday Afternoon Rocking was truly born.

And there is more I want them to know.

I wish they could for one moment in time, read my stories of the home place and feel it as it really was. I wish they could come crunching through the snow tucked around a simple country farmhouse and feel the gust of warm air from a fireplace as they swung open the door. I wish they could hear laughter of the aunts in the kitchen, smell the scents wafting from an old iron stove, and hear Pa stomping the snow from his boots as he carried in a fragrant cedar to be set up as a Christmas tree. I wish they could feel the cold floor on their bare feet and know how comforting it felt to sink into a deep feather bed, pull a grandmother's quilts around tightly and watch as Pa stoked the old pot belly for the night. I wish they could see the beauty in old worn things, sit at a huge farm table lit by a kerosene lantern and savor food that was only there by the fruits of one's labors. I wish they could know what it was to sit on a long front porch and listen to the old timers tell of the times of those they considered old timers. I wish they could climb the tiny cramped stairs to an attic and pore over the photographs of ancestors of a hundred years ago and more.

I wish they could see and smell and hear all that I once did, and still do in memory. But more than that, I want them to know. Who our family is, was. I want them to hear the family quibbling over "who paid the last odd penny" of a flower bill when the family had sent those. Those quibbles were my first understanding of how deeply honest the family was. I want them to see four aunts each and every birthday, each and every holiday distributing flowers to the family graves. That sight was what taught me a family honored the past. I want them to see the clippings of presidents my grandfather pasted to his kitchen walls. That tribute was my first understanding of how deeply patriotic the family was. I want them to realize that for over eighty years, until the last known cousin had dropped out of sight or passed away, the family kept touch with a branch that moved out west early in the last century. Family ties were not easily let go of or forgotten. I want them to hear an aunt saying "Jobs are hard to come by, better hang on," another saying, "Have a little pride in yourself," a grandfather saying "Keep your wagon in the clear," and my father saying "Honesty is the best policy." Those adages have haunted me all of my life, and more than a few times made a decision easier to make. I want these for our youth.

We were not a wealthy family, not a well-educated family. The family lived frugally and simply, often more simply than even necessary. It was not a family that adapted much to change, or took up with the latest fads. It was a family that prided itself on a work ethic, practicality and simplicity. In short, it was representative of the many, many farm families that were the "salt of the earth" and the strength of a nation. Pa always said his family was "tough as pine knots," and I figure they were, and not much different from the many families that peopled this nation early in the last century and seeded the generations to follow.

Those of us who are blessed with the memories of those who came before, those of us who are the "keepers," have a tremendous responsibility. Our youth does not know of the "salt" or the "strength" they spring from unless we tell them, and in doing so, perhaps it will pass on, and keep our families "tough" as the proverbial pine knots, our nation strong as an ancient tree unbending in the winds.

Just a thought,
jan



Copyright JanPhilpot

(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)

Valentine's Day Tidbits



- Approximately one billion Valentine cards are exchanged each year...the largest seasonal card-selling occasion of the year next to Christmas.
- Most Valentine's Day cards (83%) are purchased by women. However, the number of cards purchased by men (currently 17%) is gradually rising, thought by some sources to be due to the fact that men often purchase two cards for their significant others...an amusing one and the obligatory romantic one which they believe is expected of them.
- Half of all consumers prefer to receive a humorous Valentine, followed by a romantic greeting (31%) and then a more risqué form of card (8.2%). More than one-third of women (36%) and 26% of males prefer to receive a romantic Valentine. 13% of males prefer a more sexy Valentine, whereas only 3.5% of women prefer this variety of card.
- February 14 is the most important holiday for florists, accounting for 32% of annual sales.
- 73% of people who buy flowers to send on Valentine's Day are male...only 27% are female.
- California produces 60% of American roses, but the vast majority sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported...mostly from South America.
- Approximately 110 million roses...the majority of them being red...will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period during the Valentine's Day celebrations.
- 36% of males and 28% of females put off their Valentine's Day shopping until February 14 or the day before...64% of consumers will plan to do their shopping a week or more prior to the date.
- Males tend to spend more money on Valentine's Day gifts than do females and are more likely to buy big-ticket items...the average amount spent being \$95.00.
- Approximately 3% of pet owners will give a Valentine's Day gift to their pet.
- Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone on Valentine's Day in 1876.
- The chief colors associated with Valentine's Day are pink, red and white. Pink is a delicate, almost innocent shade of red and is also connected with Saint Valentine, whose burial was said to have caused the pink almond tree to blossom. Red is a symbol of warmth and feeling...the color of the heart, while white represents purity and faith...a faith between two who love each other.

Source: The Tradition of Saint Valentine's Day

National Archives at NY Announces Facebook Page

The National Archives at New York has joined Facebook! The National Archives will be using its Facebook Page in order to connect and interact with the public. To stay up-to-date about workshops and programs at the National Archives and to see further examples of NARA records, members of the Facebook community can "Become a Fan" of the National Archives at New York.

To join this growing fan club, you must first be a member of the Facebook community. After you sign into your account, search for The National Archives at New York in the upper right search box. Once there, click on "Become a Fan" to be in the loop on the comings and goings of the National Archives at New York. As a Fan, not only will you be able to get information from the National Archives, you will be able to communicate with the National Archives staff and community about workshops, events, and records. After joining, you can also suggest the Facebook Page to your Friends and help make the community into a more thriving forum.

For more information, see www.facebook.com
To find out about other Web 2.0 social media initiatives of the National Archives, see:
www.archives.gov/social-media/

Contributed by Debby Kozel

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY (12/29/2009) -- There are now 53,671 more pages of New York National Guard records available online on the New York State Military Museum website. The digital files include 197 issues of the New York National Guardsman Magazine published between 1924 and 1940, and National Guard annual reports from 1858 to 1955.

The searchable pdf-format files can be opened online and are also downloadable. The Adjutant General's Annual reports contain data on the number of Soldiers and Airmen in National Guard units, training exercises, officers' names and units, and expenses. The National Guardsman Magazine includes professional articles, reports on unit athletic events and social activities, and period advertising.

Both the National Guardsman Magazine and the Adjutant General's reports are full of names and dates. The collections of the New York State Military Museum date back to 1863 when an officer in the Adjutant General's office was assigned to collect press clippings and other memorabilia about New York regiments serving in the Civil War. Today New York has one of the outstanding state archives of Civil War material, much of it available on line, as well as the largest collection of unit battle flags in the nation.

The Unit History Project section of the Military Museum website includes extensive on-line historical information on all New York Civil War military units, as well as in other conflicts. Military Museum website: <http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/historic/index.htm>

To view copies of the New York National Guardsman and the Adjutant Generals Reports on line click on "research" on the New York State Military Museum homepage on the left hand side of the screen. Links to the magazines and reports are below on the Research page.

Contributed by Barbara DeOliveira

- Emigration from Germany - by Phyllis Bunnelle, September 2008

The reason for the "great migration" of Europeans to America is very complex and much has been written explaining it in various ways. America held a fascination for Europeans as far back as Columbus' day. Since my Bohemian people were immigrants out of Germany, this account of their trip will be centered around that country.

Historians say the reason Europeans left their ancestral homes to begin life in the United States was the result of the so-called "push" and "pull" factors. The "push" were those causes which drove people to say good-bye forever to their villages and home towns, their families and friends, and undertake the risk of a dangerous and stressful sea voyage to establish a new home in a strange land. And the "pull" factors were those methods which were used to entice the Europeans to immigrate to America. It could also be stated that there was "despair" in Europe and "hope" in America.

The "push" factor will be discussed first. Life for most people in Germany, especially in the early 1800s, was unbearable. The people had no rights and were cruelly taxed so that their rulers could live in an anachronistic world of Versailles-like pleasures. For those below the ruling status, the future held nothing but overwork or unemployment. Germany's volatile social atmosphere caused hundreds of thousands to emigrate. It's well to remember that until 1870, the Germans were united only by a common language, culture and ancient geographical designation. "Germany" really consisted of several independent states ruled by ruthless, uncaring princes. Many Germans dreamed of uniting these states under a constitutional government. Soon after the beginning of the nineteenth century, Napoleon conquered and occupied the land, disrupting every facet of German life. The people rallied to oust the French forces and, during the ensuing struggle, the German princes promised their subjects a more democratic society. This promise was never fulfilled, however. The downfall of Napoleon in 1815 brought on a wave of reaction that made censorship of the press, repression of civil rights and police surveillance the rule of the day.

There was also a flood of destitute Germans who left the Rhineland in 1817, after the 1816 agricultural disaster known as "the year without a summer." This problem was caused by a random and acute climatic crisis, now believed to have been caused by a volcanic eruption which affected much of the world. These poor emigrants were forced to leave their homeland by becoming "redemptioners." These were people who paid for the trip after they made it.

German emigration to the United States prior to the 1830s had come almost exclusively from southwest Germany: Wurttemberg, Baden, Bavaria, and the Rhineland-Palatinate. This was a region predominantly of small farms, in which inheritance laws resulted in the equal division of family property among the surviving children. Farms were divided and subdivided until land was virtually torn into shreds. The only way some families could survive on these small plots was by raising potatoes.

"Potatoes are half the life of Europe, the foundation of peace and of the people's well-being" commented one observer. But then the mysterious potato rot which devastated Ireland and other parts of Europe in the 1840's, also hit the German states. This came at the same time as other crop failures, thus crippling the States' economy. It drove thousands of peasants to sell their land and depart for the New World, along with the Irish. The farmers who left before and after the potato rot went out in search of more land to raise their families. Some of the other farmers, whose land became too small to support their growing families, tried alternative means of providing extra income, such as the manufacture in their homes of items for sale - but that enterprise also failed. European industry had not yet developed sufficiently to support urban growth.

The county's population increased rapidly during the period of relative stability that followed the conclusion of the Napoleonic Wars. But the possibilities of employment had not kept pace with this population explosion, either in agriculture or in the craftsmen's trades.

Although peasant farmers predominated, other ranks of society, high and low, figured in this exodus, as the emigration movement was not limited to people of any special trade or class. Friedrich Gerstaecker, the well-known Hamburg writer, wrote in 1855 in his six-volume *Nach Amerika!* "We see them come from widely different circumstances and spheres, from all classes of society, good and evil, the feckless and the gambler, the peasant and the artisan, the scholar and the work-man, the honest citizen and the furtive thief."

Der deutsche Auswanderer (The German Emigrant), a weekly paper for would-be emigrants, aptly characterized the young and enterprising people who left Germany and Europe behind as people "for whom life in the Fatherland, in aging Europe, among the ruins of the Middle Ages, among the wreckage of the feudal systems, is too unpropitious and too restricted."

European craftsmen, too, found their economic situation deteriorating. As the Industrial Revolution gained momentum, automation took away more and more of their work. Machines used on an assembly line turned out products faster and more cheaply than master craftsmen could by working at home with simple tools. Finding themselves with a dwindling number of customers, spinners, weavers and other artisans went to the cities to find factory work. Thousands more used the proceeds from the sale of their equipment and cottages to finance a trip to America. Another group of people who left Europe were the wealthy who saw a possibility of multiplying their fortune elsewhere, as they distrusted the social and political future of Europe.

(continued on page 11)

Government reaction

So what did the German states think of this mass exodus from their lands? In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the governments looked upon every emigrant as a national loss and hindered their departure by a multitude of regulations; but the emigrants resorted (if they could afford it) to illegal agents who smuggled them out. The freedom to emigrate from one German state to another granted by the Act of Confederation (*Bundesakt*) of 1815 did not mention anything about emigration to foreign countries. The lack of guidance concerning this issue left German officials on their own to deal with emigrants to America, causing great disparity of opinion. Eventually communities, districts and finally the German Empire recognized the emigration phenomenon. The governments then reversed their attitude and decided that a "bloodletting" would preclude a revival of social disorder. Among the concessions made in 1848-1849 was a simplification of all the legal formalities which preceded emigration.

Among the "undesirables" were the politically persecuted who left to avoid further persecutions and/or long prison sentences, as well as criminals and paupers. Population growth and lack of possibilities of employment meant that in many parts of Germany, including most of the states along the upper Rhine, a large proportion of the populace became paupers and had to live on home relief. The communes to which they belonged or their governments finally could no longer support these poor people. Baden then developed a system of state, local, and individual cooperation which assisted the annual departure of a few hundred of these paupers. They considered this cheaper than feeding them for an indefinite time at public expense. American objections, however, limited the scope of such efforts. Of the horde of Germans who emigrated only a few thousands can be described as paupers. The emigration of criminals was financed in a similar manner. The money for their accommodation, food and custody was saved, and furthermore, undesirable citizens were got rid of. The Hamburg City Council in the year 1832 also transported a number of convicts to America subject to their own agreement.

In the interest of military defense, however, the authorities kept an eye on the young men whose services might soon be needed; and as the horizon clouded with the first threats that were to culminate in the Crimean War, the efforts became more active. But it was easy for the person who wanted to avoid this obligation to slip over the Rhine into France where passport formalities were more or less perfunctory; and the long newspaper lists of those who failed to respond to the call for military registration indicate the popularity of this way of escape. It was much more difficult to go out through Hamburg and Bremen, as these two cities, anxious to keep on good terms with the officials of the interior states, instituted a strict police supervision over prospective passengers and reported the suspects to the respective consuls.

Literature, Handbills, Guides, Newspapers, and Personal Letters

While literature prompted people from every European country to emigrate, it influenced none more than the Germans. German children studied maps and travel books in school while their parents poured over guidebooks, magazines and travelogues in village reading clubs. *The Leatherstocking Tales* by James Fenimore Cooper was popular in Europe, where it was read in every major language. People bored with their own dreary lives thrilled to Cooper's dashing accounts of adventure in the American wilderness. Cooper's strength, imaginative and intellectual, came from his passionate attachment to the land and to the virtues which he associated with it. A staunch democrat, he believed that political equality could be preserved only by the strictest observance of the rights of persons and property, social distinctions arising inevitably as the consequence of such observance. He endowed his greatest creation, Leatherstocking, with the qualities he most admires: love of justice and truth, reverence, integrity, frankness, and courage.

After the Civil War, the *Ausanderer Zeitung* began to carry advertisements from various American states and territories: "The agent of the state of Missouri for Germany, Austria, and Switzerland now has offices at 35 Langenstrasse, Bremen, Any information desired by those who wish to immigrate will be gladly and gratuitously answered." "The Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Company offers for sale millions of acres of the best land in the wonderful farming country of Iowa and Nebraska."

The desire to immigrate to a new world was fueled by letters from those who had already made the move. Although the writers painted drawbacks as well as advantages to the move, this did not deter the masses from making the move. In the early 1830's one German-American farmer sent this typical letter home: "If you wish to see our whole family living in a country where freedom of speech obtains, where no spies are eavesdropping, where no simpletons criticize your every word and seek to detect a vermin that might endanger the life of the state, the church and the home, in short if you wish to really be happy and independent, then come here."

"The German Immigrant's Guidebook" and at least 300 other books and newspapers gave the German reader emigration information. These added to the reader's intense interest in making the trip himself.

The majority of the German immigrants came to the port of New York and from there they dispersed via Albany and Troy to the western part of the county. The railroads soon added other routes. Other newcomers arrived in Baltimore and New Orleans, and a few sailed into Boston and Philadelphia.

Skilled craftsmen who brought tools with them had the best chance of making good. Sturdy peasants could find work in factories, on farms, or as laborers building canals or railways, but the language barrier and the risks of being cheated were often too much for some of them. A great percentage of the artists, scholars, and students ended tragically in hospitals and almshouses.

~~~~~

## Grandma and The Family Tree

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed her of late,  
She's always reading history or jotting down some date.  
She's tracking back the family, we'll all have pedigrees.  
Oh, Grandma's got a hobby, she's climbing Family Trees.

~

Poor Grandpa does the cooking and now, or so he states,  
That worst of all, he has to wash the cups and dinner plates.  
Grandma can't be bothered, she's busy as a bee  
Compiling genealogy - for the Family Tree.

~

She has no time to baby-sit, the curtains are a fright,  
No buttons left on Granddad's shirt, the flower bed's a sight.  
She's given up her club work, the serials on TV,  
The only thing she does nowadays is climb the Family Tree.

~

She goes down to the courthouse and studies ancient lore,  
We know more about our forebears than we ever knew before.  
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze,  
A minor irritation when you're climbing Family Trees.

~

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far,  
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.  
A worthwhile avocation, to that we all agree,  
A monumental project, to climb the Family Tree.

~

Now some folks came from Scotland and some from Galway Bay,  
Some were French as pastry, some German, all the way.  
Some went on west to stake their claim, some stayed near by the sea,  
Grandma hopes to find them all as she climbs the Family Tree.

~

She wanders through the graveyard in search of date or name,  
The rich, the poor, the in-between, all sleeping there the same.  
She pauses now and then to rest, fanned by a gentle breeze  
That blows above the Fathers of all our Family Trees.

~

There were pioneers and patriots mixed in our kith and kin  
Who blazed the paths of wilderness and fought through thick and thin.  
But none more staunch than Grandma, whose eyes light up with glee  
Each time she finds a missing branch for the Family Tree.

~

Their skills were wide and varied, from carpenter to cook  
And one (Alas!) the record shows was hopelessly a crook.  
Blacksmith, weaver, farmer, judge, some tutored for a fee,  
Long lost in time, now all recorded on the Family Tree.

~

To some it's just a hobby, to Grandma it's much more,  
She knows the joys and heartaches of those who went before.  
They loved, they lost, they laughed, they wept, and now for you and me  
They live again in spirit, around the Family Tree.

~

At last she's nearly finished and we are each exposed.  
Life will be the same again, this we all supposed!  
Grandma will cook and sew, serve cookies with our tea.  
We'll all be fat, just as before that wretched Family Tree.

## The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

### 2010 NYC Repository Tours

The Education Committee of the NYG&B is very pleased to once again offer tours to the Federal and Municipal Archives, the New York Public Library, the New-York Historical Society, and the Brooklyn Historical Society. Please join us for in-depth introductions to the holdings of some of the City's most genealogically relevant collections.

#### The New York Public Library Tour Friday, February 12, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Maira Liriano, Manager of the Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy, will give an overview of Genealogy resources, including the NYG&B holdings that have been incorporated into the collection. Milstein Division 9:30-10:20; Overview of the Map Division 10:25-10:55; Hands-on access to e-resources 11-12:00.

#### National Archives Northeast Region Tour Tuesday, February 16, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Patrick Connelly will provide an overview of some of the lesser known genealogically pertinent holdings of the Archives. Attendees will be assisted in their research by Education Committee members and NARA staff.

#### Brooklyn Historical Society Tour Tuesday, February 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

The Brooklyn Historical Society's library is a wonderful resource for Brooklyn and western Long Island. Registrants will be given a detailed orientation to the collection and time for research on their own.

#### New York City Municipal Archives Tour Friday, March 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Leonora A. Gidlund, Director, will welcome registrants and an introduction to the large assortment of vital records, city directories, photographs, voters' records, etc. will be provided. The otherwise closed archives will then be available for assisted research.

#### The New-York Historical Society Tour Thursday, March 18, 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Joseph Ditta, Reference Librarian, will provide an orientation on the genealogically pertinent holdings at the Historical Society. Registrants will have time for research on their own.

#### Registration

Each program \$25 members/\$40 non-members.  
Any three programs \$65 members/\$110 non-members  
All five programs \$100 members/\$160 non-members

Registration is limited. You may sign up via the online store <http://tinyurl.com/yb2bhee> or by calling 212-626-6853.

## Membership Application German Genealogy Group

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ Gift from \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last) (First) (MI) (Please print plainly)

Address Street \_\_\_\_\_   
(if new address, please check box)

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues: **\$15.00** for 12 months  
**\$25.00** foreign for postal mail newsletter  
**\$15.00** foreign for email newsletter

Please make check payable to: **German Genealogy Group or GGG**  
**Mail to:** German Genealogy Group, PO Box 1004, Kings Park, NY. 11754

CD/Book Library Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_   
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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

## ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE ~ NEW YORK

### School of Professional and Graduate Studies

The Office of Continuing Education

### *“Who Are You? An Introduction In Genealogy”*

Saint Joseph's Office of Continuing Education is pleased to offer a genealogy course. This class will show you how to begin your family research; inform you of records that are available; give hints on how to organize your genealogical findings; suggest ways to link with other researchers.

Join us for this interesting exploration that will help you begin the process of “digging up your roots and planting a legacy.”

There will be 4 classes, which will meet **Wednesday** evenings at the Patchogue campus

**March 3, 10, 17 and 24, 2010**

**from 7:00-8:30 p.m.**

*Please contact JoAnne Petrone at 631-687-1244 for more information.*



## New Members

- 2332 Hough, Christine M., Valparaiso, IN
- 2333 Marcum, Adele M., Salt Lake City, UT
- 2334 Kemp, Dan, Davenport, IA
- 2335 Sigler, Paul, Wantagh, NY
- 2336 Beckhans, Joseph, Doral, FL
- 2337 Ennis, Susan T., San Jose, CA Gift
- 2238 Ferguson, George T., Copley, OH

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## 2010 Membership Drive

### *Time marches on!*

The 2010 Membership Drive will be ending on March 31st. Don't let the time slip away!

Give a gift membership to a brand new member and in return, we will give a gift to you of two months added to your membership year

A recommendation to a new member who adds your name to the “recommended by” line on the application will also mean two months added to your membership year.



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, February 4, 2010 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 — **“Revolutionary War Research and What's Available at the DAR”**

**Presenter – Wilhelmena Rhodes Kelly**

Ms. Kelly will be addressing the files that can be accessed for researchers interested in their family history, and the work being done at the DAR to raise public consciousness of American History.

Don't forget to renew  
your membership!

