

Volunteers sought



IGGP has come a long way in a short time thanks to volunteers. As we look to the future, we need to expand the pool of people willing to assist with partnership activities.

One priority is to name a treasurer for the partnership. If you or your society has a suggestion, write info@IGGPartner.org.

The 2019 conference in Sacramento also will be in need of volunteers. The volunteer coordinator for the conference, Bonnie Cosgrove, is starting a list (and will be checking it twice). Please write to volunteer@iggpartner.org or visit the 2019 volunteer [web page](#).

Introducing the IGGP partner newsletter



As our partnership continues to grow, it has become important to find ways to keep all the

partners up to date on developments, the conference and each other.

The "Partner Zeitung" will be posted on the IGGP website at regular intervals and may be downloaded and shared within your organization if desired.

Contributions are welcome, particularly about your society's activities. Email the editor, Edie Adam (edieadam@gmail.com).

Help promote the IGGP channel on YouTube



Our partnership is developing a channel on YouTube to share video about our activities as well as films of interest

to our partners. You can help promote our channel on YouTube, which raises its profile in search results for related content.

Here's how:

1. Visit the [channel](#), log in or create an account. Then subscribe to the IGGP channel. When new videos are added, you'll get a notice.
2. Watch the existing videos.
3. "Like" the existing videos.

If your society has a video to share with the other partners, or knows of a German genealogy-related video to which to link, e-mail channel editor Garry Finkell (garryfinkell@nycap.rr.com) for instructions.

IGGP grows to 100 member societies

The International German Genealogy Partnership, just having passed its second year, announced in January that it has achieved the 100-society member level.

The latest societies to become partners are the German Special Interest Group (GSIG) of the Genealogical Forum of Oregon and the German-American Heritage Foundation (GAHF) of the USA in Washington, D.C.

The partners represent societies around the world and include several dozen in Germany itself.

To help share information, the IGGP recently held its first German language partner conference call on Feb. 13. The next one is scheduled for April 19. Some IGGP web pages will begin to appear in German.

Conference calls in 2018 for all society representatives are scheduled for March 15, May 17, July 19, Sept. 20 and Nov. 15.

Each society is asked to identify one representative to attend these calls; if your society has not yet participated or needs to change your representative's contact info, e-mail to info@iggpartner.org.

The executive committee of the partnership is working on incorporation of the IGGP as a non-profit in Minnesota, USA. The executive committee (Kim Ashford, Kent Cutkomp, Ingeborg Carpenter, Kent Robinson, Dirk Weissleder, Bill Cole and Gordon Seyffert) is providing oversight and leadership until formal elections can be

held at the next international conference or another appropriate time.

There is a need for a volunteer from a partner society to act as treasurer for the IGGP. A Finance Committee and Acting Treasurer are in place to help manage the IGGP bank account in the interim.

Please look within your societies for persons interested in volunteering for any of the IGGP committees:

- IGGP – Organization Committee
- 2019 Conference Committee
- Correspondence Committee
- Partner Committee
- Projects Committee
- Publicity Committee
- Research Committee
- Technology Committee
- Volunteer Committee

The IGGP also has submitted a proposal on behalf of the 2019 conference to a German public diplomacy campaign "Deutschlandjahr" (Year of Germany).

The campaign will highlight the deep ties between Germany and the USA with displays and programs across America. The IGGP submitted the conference to showcase partnership in the areas of culture, education, science, and business.

In Brief | kurz berichtet

Records, no matter the type, are the lifeblood of any genealogical research. So many are disappointed that a project to digitize the records of the former East German secret police, has been abandoned. The effort focused on restoring millions of shredded pages for digitizing, but the technology is lacking. [Watch the video](#).



Modern Germans are looking for unique first names for their children, and the list of officially accepted first names is growing. Still, there are some rules about what's allowed or not. "Emma" and "Ben" are popular, but traditional Germanic options are gaining. [Article](#).



The Cato Institute looks at the question of how immigrant assimilation programs can backfire and cites the example of anti-German language laws implemented in the U.S. after World War I. Some academics believe those government programs encouraged immigrants to assimilate more quickly, while others say immigrants were more likely to push back against "Americanization" when it came from the government. [Article](#).



Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna und Umgebung has shared on its Facebook page an article about name changes. *Augsburger Allgemeine* newspaper writes about why people change their last names. While not uncommon, it reports, the reasons for doing so are very

different. [Article](#). Tip: Use Google Chrome to open the link, right-click and select "translate to English." The machine translation is good enough to follow the story.



Verband deutschsprachiger Berufsgenealogen e.V. has shared on its Facebook page news of the publication of a 6-volume set of emigration lists. The set is by member Friedrich R. Wollmershäuser in English and German and covers the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg and Grand Duchy of Baden. You can purchase from the bookstore in Germany [here](#).



Germany's highest court has ruled that having only two genders for official purposes is unconstitutional. So the government must find a way to provide a third gender category or do away with gender in official documents. Smithsonian.com asks whether that means changing the German language, which is very gendered. You're not just a teacher, you are a male teacher (der Lehrer) or a female teacher (die Lehrerin). [Article](#).



SGGEE (Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe) posted from Vera Miller, who blogs as Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family, about an unknown database maintained by the Center for Latin American Migration Studies. Several SGGEE members report finding possible German relatives listed. Read Miller's post [here](#).

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Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/IGGPartnership/>

Twitter: #IGGC19

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiK3Fy3Dv5i1cGB4HOQ3QoA>

CONFERENCE CORNER

Visit Flensburg, Germany, AND attend a genealogy conference? Now's your chance! The **Flensburg Genealogy Conference for English Speakers**, Sept. 27-30, is sponsored by the Germanic Genealogy Society and the International German Genealogy Partnership. Email partnership@ggsmn.org with the subject "Flensburg Conference" if interested. Read about the [conference](#).

Then look for the 70th **Genealogentag**, Oct. 5-7, in Melle near Osnabrück in Lower Saxony. Organized by the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände, the German Genealogists Day is the largest meeting of genealogists in German-speaking countries. There will be a lecture program and exhibition hall. More [info](#) (in German or use a translator).

Registration is open for the **German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance** conference Aug 17-19 in Adelaide, South Australia. "Australisches Deutschtum: Reconstructions - Recollections - Resilience" is the first time researchers from across Australia will gather to discuss German-Australian history, heritage and culture. For program and registration details, visit [here](#).

Registration also is open for the **Foundation for East European Family History Studies** (FEEFHS) East European Family History Conference Aug. 6-10. Learn from the experts in Slavic, Germanic and other aspects of East European Genealogy. Visit the conference [web page](#).

Spring conferences include the **Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society** on April 13-14 in Laurel, Maryland. Download the [flyer](#) then [register](#).

The **Germanic Genealogy Society** spring conference is April 20-21 in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota. Download the [flyer](#), then [register](#).

Visit the [Events](#) area of the IGGP website to find more workshops and conferences hosted by our partners.

The International German Genealogy Partnership's mission is to facilitate German genealogy research globally as the internationally recognized federation of German genealogy organizations.

We seek partner relationships with and support societies whose purpose includes a major focus on German genealogy research.

We seek relationships with and support affiliate organizations whose purpose coincides with the goals of our societies.

We sponsor, support, and encourage German genealogy research conferences, meetings, and publications in Germany and throughout the world.

We foster and nurture personal connections between fellow researchers as well as local and international connections for friends and colleagues who desire to advance the genealogy research interests of the worldwide community of German genealogists.



EUREKA!

Sacramento to be German genealogy's epicenter in 2019

Sacramento will host the second conference of the International German Genealogy Partnership (IGGP) starting June 15, 2019.

More than 700 people are expected to attend the conference, which will focus on the history and genealogy of those with German ancestry, wherever they live.

The theme, *STRIKE IT RICH! with Connections 2 Discoveries*, follows on the Connections theme of the 2017 inaugural conference.

The "gold" theme is appropriate given Sacramento history. John Sutter, born as Johann August Sutter in Baden in what is now southwestern Germany, eventually settled in the Sacramento Valley and built a sawmill where gold was found in 1848. That discovery set off the California Gold Rush.

The 2019 IGGP International Conference will be held in downtown Sacramento at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and will offer three days of German-centric presentations in multiple tracks. Attendees will learn from genealogists, authors, historians, and archivists who are top presenters in their fields of study.

It's a sure bet that more than one visitor will shout "EUREKA!" upon learning something that breaks through a brick wall or offers new understanding of their history.

"The IGGP international conference has emerged as one of the top international Germanic genealogy conferences," says Amy Chidester, chair of the Presenters Team.

IGGP held its first international



2019 INTERNATIONAL German Genealogy Conference

INTERNATIONAL GERMAN GENEALOGY PARTNERSHIP

Key dates

MARCH 1, 2018: Hotel reservations opened for the 2019 conference.

SPRING: "Save the date" cards sent to potential sponsors, vendors and advertisers.

APRIL 2: Call for presentations opens. Contact Amy Chidester at presenters.iggp@gmail.com.

JUNE 1: call for presentations closes.

NOVEMBER 1: conference registration expected to open.

JUNE 15-17, 2019: Strike It Rich! with Connections 2 Discoveries conference in Sacramento, CA. (Leadership Day on June 14.)

Hotel booking

Be a wise owl or an early bird and make your hotel reservation for the 2019 conference THIS year.

The reservation link opened March 1 at the Sacramento Downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel. The conference room rate is \$149 per night (single/double).

Rooms are likely to sell quickly. Other hotel locations will be negotiated once the Hyatt sells out.

Go to www.iggpartner.org, select "Hotel Reservations" under "Conference 2019" and click "make your reservations here."

conference in Minneapolis, Minn., in 2017. Participants travelled from Europe, North America, South America and Australia.

"I've been coming to genealogy conferences around the country for nearly 20 years. The first IGGP conference in 2017 was the best I've ever attended in terms of organization, facilities, program and sheer energy," says James M. Beidler, German genealogy expert and columnist for *German Life* magazine.

The conference is hosted by the Sacramento German Genealogy Soci-

ety supported by a consortium of German Genealogy Societies across the Golden State.

Details of the Sacramento conference will be posted when available at the [host society website](#) and on the partnership [website conference page](#).

Germans arrived in America as early as Jamestown in 1607.

In 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that almost 50 million people in the United States have German roots – the largest ethnic minority in the country at that time.

Gold!

John August Sutter decided to build a saw mill in 1847 at Coloma, east of Sacramento, and sent his carpenter, **James Marshall**, to be in charge.

Peter Wimmer, a millwright employed at the site discovered the first nugget. It was verified by **Mrs. Wimmer** when she boiled the nugget with lye in her wash-kettle. It was known that gold would not disintegrate in lye. It was Jan. 28, 1848, and the news spread like wildfire thanks to **Benjamin P. Kooser**, a Pennsylvania German and pioneer printer who sent letters about the discovery to the *New York Herald*.

A number of guide books were written in Germany – including **B. Schmoelder's** *Wegweiser*, which was translated into English and influenced the coming of the Argonauts, as the gold miners were nicknamed.

German gold seekers established many mining camps — some still identified — such as Dutch Flat and Mosquito Gulch. **Hermann Ehrenberg**, a pioneer from Arizona, discovered Gold Bluff and the mouth of the Klamath River and drafted the first map of that region. The writer, **Friedrich Gerstaeker** worked in the mines and wrote accounts and novels about his adventures. **Hein-**

CALIFORNIA VIGNETTE

Germans in California history

rich Schliemann, an explorer of ancient Greece who found a trove of gold jewelry at Troy, lived in San Francisco in 1850 and

became a U.S. citizen.

The gold fields of the Central Valley and Bay area are not the only parts of California whose history is influenced by Germans. In the 1850s two German engineers, **Georg Hansen** and **Franz Lecouvreur**, surveyed and laid out the larger part of the modern city of Los Angeles.

Jacob P. Leese, a German-American pioneer, is credited with being the founder of modern San Francisco. In 1836, he was granted a hundred-yard lot to establish a trading post anywhere on the shore. He chose a spot at the northwest corner of the San Francisco peninsula on a beach known as Yerba Buena cove.

He built his house and a trading post. An American flag was raised for the first time on July 4, 1836. Twenty years later, the little town that grew up around his trading post and house became known as San Francisco.

Hundreds of well-known and not so well-known Germans or those of German ancestry have contributed to making California the state it is today. We will be introducing many of them to you in the future.

By Marilyn Ulbricht