

IGGP 2023 conference shaping up as interesting, informative and innovative

Work on the 2023 International German Genealogy Partnership conference is progressing at all hours of the day as our planning team works across time zones. It's not unusual to receive an email sent at 3 in the morning, no matter what country it's coming from!

The conference, both in-person and virtual, is a great learning opportunity for those doing German genealogy research — whether you are a novice or experienced. The number of presentations is the most IGGP has offered and our expert speakers are based all over the world.

When you look at the big picture, it's also clear that this — the fourth such conference — will be bringing new elements to the table. Here's a bit of a preview of the activities, whether familiar or new, that help make the IGGP the premier conference devoted to German genealogy.

Connection Sessions

We have to take a minute to brag on the Connection sessions at the conference. There are almost 30 of them, and just about every place Germans originated from or emigrated to is on the schedule. It's certainly the most comprehensive schedule of Connection sessions we have offered, and these have been one of the most popular features at IGGP conferences.

But even more, those who have volunteered to facilitate the sessions are experienced researchers from many parts of the German world. The easy way to see who they are:

1. Go to the "[presenters](#)" page on iggp.org
2. Scroll down to "Connection session facilitators"
3. Click on the photo to see a bio and which Connections the speaker is facilitating

Our goal for these peer-to-peer sessions is to have everyone join in real-time. So you may find you are sharing tips with someone halfway around the globe.

Our Connections team is working on a way to capture the tips and tricks shared in each session, so you'll have something to bring home with you.

Want to see the full listing of Connection sessions? Use the "Filter by Track" tip on the conference schedule how-



Making connections is a vital benefit of IGGP's 2023 conference. Just ask Eric "Rick" Bender of New Mexico, who made contact with tour guide Wolfgang Grams at the 2019 IGGP conference. Eric's story of working with Wolfgang to achieve his lifetime dream of visiting his ancestral German villages is featured by former IGGP board member James Beidler in his "Family Research" column in the new edition of [German Life](#) magazine. You can make your own connections, in person or virtually, at this year's IGGP conference. Where will your new genealogy friends take you?

to, found on page 9 in this newsletter.

You'll see they are scheduled in three blocks of time: early morning, mid-day and late afternoon. This will ensure as many of you as possible can join in real-time. Except on Friday, the first day of the conference, when the mid-day break will feature a DNA panel.

DNA panel

For many years, it's been said that our German cousins have been slow to take up the use of DNA for genealogy purposes. There are cultural and historical reasons for that, but it's been difficult to understand them amid the many advertisements that make DNA testing look so fun.

Our DNA panel will not be about chromosomes. Instead, the participants will discuss differing attitudes to DNA testing for genealogy. Daniel Horowitz of My Herit-

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55120



INTERNATIONAL GERMAN Genealogy Partnership

The specific purposes of IGGP are to:

- Create an international Partnership of organizations and groups interested in genealogy and family history as it relates to German-speaking ancestors;
- Support each Partner in its efforts to fulfill its purpose and reach its goals;
- Promote each Partner's events and organization within the Partnership and to others;
- Encourage networking among Partners and their members;
- Facilitate research help among Partners and their members;
- Collect and share German genealogical knowledge, references, resources, and information;
- Encourage public access to and preservation of records of German genealogical value;
- Promote ethical standards in German genealogical research and practices;
- Marshal the resources of IGGP and its Partners to accomplish goals and objectives deemed to be in the best interest of the international German genealogical community.

Bi-monthly partner representative calls in German and English. See [schedule](#).

IN BRIEF | KURZ BERICHTET

Is there anyone who doesn't know that much of Germany's Autobahn has no speed limit? But people concerned about climate change are pointing out that limiting speed can significantly reduce carbon emissions. And National Public Radio in the U.S. reports this has inspired some soul-searching in Germany about the meaning of freedom that the Autobahn represents. [Listen](#).



The American Association of Teachers of German offers a number of seminars, scholarships, and professional development funds for teachers and students of German. Visit their [website](#) for a full list of opportunities. New programs are added throughout the year.



Oscar voters this year named the German film, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, Best International Feature Film. This is the first German adaptation of the famous novel by Erich Maria Remarque, originally published

in German in 1929. The novel is set during World War I and is based on Remarque's experience in the war. The new film version was widely praised and is available to English-speaking audiences. [Article](#).

Related: The producer of the 1930 Oscar-winning film was "the closest thing to Oskar Schindler Hollywood has to offer." [Article](#).



The Museum of Jewish Heritage, JewishGen and JLTV are partnering to produce *Generations*, the first Jewish-themed genealogy television series. The series, which premieres later this year, will follow a now-familiar format to explore each guest's family tree and family history. [Article](#).

Finding Your Roots is a popular genealogy-based program on U.S. public television. Watch as rock star Cyndi Lauper learned that her 7th great-grandfather helped organize a rebellion against unfair monetary policies in Switzerland in the early 1650s. [Video](#).

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IGGP Conference 2023



Crossroads and Connections:
Find your Family Story

Wo Wege sich kreuzen:
Finde Deine Familiengeschichte

Need 10 more reasons to attend?

1.

More than **100 presentations**, and no two the same! The topics cover the range of the German experience on multiple continents and during multiple time periods. Most will be presented during the conference weekend. But another set will be recorded for viewing at your convenience. And ALL will be accessible for 3 months after the end of the conference. You also can buy the USB and watch the programs for years to come.

2.

A conference app, **Whova**, that makes it easy to connect with other attendees, whether in Fort Wayne or online. You'll set up your Whova account weeks before the conference opens, giving you plenty of time to post on the message board, plan your schedule and a lot more.

3.

A **DNA panel** that's not about chromosomes. We want to explore attitudes in different cultures toward DNA testing for genealogy. And maybe foster change.

4.

Sponsors and exhibitors with a story to tell. You can visit those present in Fort Wayne and explore their products and services. Then join your fellow attendees in cyberspace to wander the virtual exhibition hall.

5.

The **Genealogy Center** at the Allen County Public Library. The second-largest family research center in the United States is a hop and a skip from the conference center. Virtual attendees can catch up with recorded webinars. Anyone attending in person is welcome to head over and check out the collections or do research.

6.

Speaking of librarians — the family researcher's best friend — IGGP is offering its first **Librarians' Day** on June 8, the day before the conference opens. We hope librarians at facilities small or large, archivists managing collections small or large, or those curating collections at

local historical societies will participate, either in person or virtually. The speakers will share tips for locating German genealogy resources, and allow you to show off your knowledge when a patron comes to you for help. PS: And maybe you'll want to hang out with us at the conference.

7.

Make new friends. **Connection sessions** bring together people with an interest in the same topic, encouraging you to share your experiences and get help from others. And no one will know if you exchange email addresses and stay in touch. Because it's all about connecting. Take a look at the sessions; just about every corner of the historic German empire is covered, with a few extras to boot!

8.

Party time! One of Fort Wayne's top events, **Germanfest**, is in town the same weekend as the IGGP conference. Gather with your new friends and take the short walk to the park where you can enjoy the beer, the food and the entertainment provided by local German organizations. Then join us at the **IGGP gala** Saturday night to celebrate our wonderful partnership and honor those who have done so much for German genealogy.

9.

All the **extras and new elements** we're giving a try. There will be document translation and transcription assistance. We're running our first hands-on workshops. Programs timed so that virtual attendees can be online when they are wide awake. Syllabus and individual handouts in Whova. Museum displays you can visit and learn from. Presentations in German AND English. Extending the excitement with speaker Q&As in the weeks after the conference. Etc. etc. etc.

10.

If we're being honest, this is THE most important reason to attend the conference, in-person or virtually. It's **German genealogy and only German genealogy** all day long for three wonderful days! It's a family reunion!

100+ PRESENTATIONS | 25+ CONNECTION SESSIONS | USB DRIVE | [REGISTER](#)

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EXHIBITORS*

* As of April 10



Crossroads and Connections:
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Finde Deine Familiengeschichte

Visit the exhibitors' [webpage](#) for details

★ On-site & virtual exhibitor; others virtual

		★		
	★			★
★	★		★	★
★	★		★	★
★	★	★		
★				
	★	★	★	

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SPONSORS*

* As of April 1

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Visit the sponsors'
[webpage](#) for details

Platinum Plus (\$5,750) PLATINUM (\$5,000)

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In honor of
our
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Still time to register as a sponsor or exhibitor for this unique opportunity

Calling All Exhibitors! This is the last week in which to register to exhibit at the IGGP 2023 conference. We've extended the deadline to April 15 and hope you will decide to join us before the window closes.

Our unique conference, with its sharp focus on German genealogy, is an opportunity to showcase your genealogy services and products. That's also true for genealogy and other non-profit societies; you can talk about your expertise and resources and recruit new members, as well.

Potential sponsors and exhibitors can read about the benefits in more detail on our [fact sheet](#). You can choose

to be on-site in Fort Wayne, Indiana, or virtual in Whova — or both. All our attendees will have the opportunity to visit your booths and explore what you have to offer.

For a minimal fee, you can reserve your spot to interact with motivated German genealogists attending from all over the world.

Exhibitors may [register on Whova](#). Sponsors should use the [registration form](#) and select your level of support.

We thank the sponsors and exhibitors, displayed on these pages, who have already registered and hope to have you join us, too!

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age will moderate the discussion.

The hope is we'll all understand each other's attitudes better and possibly foster changes in how we approach this important subject.

Transcription/translation team

We're happy to report that a team of IGGP volunteers will be providing **translation/transcription services** during the international conference, June 9-11. Our "Helping Hands" sessions will be virtual only. Attendees can drop in and get help with short items such as entries in a church book or a brief document. Nothing more than a few sentences, please, so we can assist as many as possible.

You'll have to be able to display your document on screen, either as a scan or from a website. The sessions, Helping Hands: Transcription and Translation Assistance for German Records, will be offered once each afternoon of the conference and will be first come-first served. Check the [agenda](#) on [iggp.org](#) and in Whova.

If you need more help than our volunteers have time to provide, take a look at the list of [IGGP 2023 exhibitors](#) and visit them in Fort Wayne or virtually in Whova. IGGP also maintains a listing of [professional researchers](#), many of whom offer translation services.

Traveling displays expand your knowledge

In another innovation, we are fortunate to be able to present two traveling exhibits related to the German experience. These displays will be set up in the on-site exhibition room so you can visit them while also stopping to talk to our exhibitors.

From the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City comes **Shared History Project: 1700 Years of Jewish Life in German-Speaking Lands**. It explores how interwoven the lives of Jewish people and their non-Jewish neighbors have been in the 17 centuries since the presence of Jews in the Rhineland was first documented in a Roman Edict



The Shared History Project at the Center for Jewish History, NYC.

Projects and initiatives of the German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance

3:00 AM - 4:00 AM

Connection session Virtual only

Eric Kopittke

Speaker's Page

Join this Connection Session to network with other attendees. This session will specifically highlight the Australian membership of the German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance.

[Read More](#)

You'll notice sessions offered at non-traditional times. We have two Connection sessions on Australian topics, for example, so people in Australia, as well as those in Germany researching immigrants there, will be bright-eyed. Other Connection sessions are early morning, mid-day and early evening.

from the year 321 CE. This exhibit has traveled through Germany and the United States in the last few years, and the IGGP conference is the last stop.

The Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies in Madison, Wisconsin, also is allowing IGGP to display its traveling exhibit, **Neighbors Past and Present: The Wisconsin German Experience** at the conference. The exhibit covers German migration and settlement in Wisconsin, questions of ethnicity and identity in newly forged communities, and the cohesiveness of these communities, especially in times of economic crisis or war.

Be sure to make time to visit these two displays and the other activities taking place in the exhibition room.

Q&A sessions extend the learning

We are fortunate to have a number of "on-demand" speakers who agreed to record their presentations. Although these speakers will not be presenting at the conference, they address a range of topics we could not pass up. That's another 50+ presentations!

To extend the value of your registration, we will be scheduling live question and answer sessions with many of these speakers in the weeks after the conference ends. The recordings of these programs may be viewed in Whova for three months after you get home. IGGP will be in touch with the schedule of Q&A sessions.

The on-demand sessions are also included on the USB drive that you may have purchased for your personal use.

These extra presentations are listed on the [schedule](#) posted on [iggp.org](#). See page 9 for instructions on how to filter the schedule to show those "on-demand" programs.

This is another innovation to increase the benefit of your participation in the conference as well as to capture information of value to those doing German genealogy.

IGGP Conference 2023



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THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2023

LIBRARIANS' DAY

at the

International German Genealogy Partnership 2023 Conference

**Hosted by The Genealogy Center
at the ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA

<https://acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/>

9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Joseph B. Everett, AG[®], MLS — “Resources for Beginning German Research”

11 a.m. – 12 p.m. Viktor Pordzik, M.A. — “Where are Genealogical Records in Germany”

12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. — Lunch break

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Charlotte Nolle Champeño, AG[®] — “Communicating with Archives in Europe”

3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. — Speaker panel with moderator Carol Nahrwold, joined by Dr. Thomas Aigner and John D. Beatty, CG

ALL TIMES EASTERN U.S. ZONE

Register at iggp.org

Expert speakers will share advice on how to assist your patrons with questions about genealogy research. *In-person and virtual.*

Only \$10 USD — budget-friendly for librarians and archivists anywhere.



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Make time for fun in Fort Wayne!

When you want to know about a place, who better to ask than the local visitors' bureau. Here's what our new friends at Visit Fort Wayne want attendees to the IGGP conference to know about their town.

Enjoy fine dining, award-winning attractions, and vibrant art throughout Fort Wayne – Indiana's second largest city. Discover the historic Embassy Theatre, Parkview Field, and the Botanical Conservatory, all just across Jefferson Blvd. from the Grand Wayne Convention Center. Fort Wayne's walkable downtown provides access to shopping, dining, entertainment, and riverfront views for a vibrant experience in an urban setting.

Check out The Landing, just four walkable blocks north of the Genealogy Center to experience the revitalization of the most historic street in Fort Wayne. Where canals once landed in the 1800s, find shopping, dining, and recreation in the historic, first post office, papermill, and other preserved architecture.

Just one block north from The Landing, find Promenade Park, rich with skyline views, scenic walking paths, seasonal foliage, canal boat rides, and entertainment along the St Mary's River.

Voted a top 50 Best Place to Live, #1 Best City to Raise a Family, and Top 10 Cities for Quality of Life, among many other accolades, Fort Wayne offers big city fun with small town convenience and hospitality. To fill your visit with the best of Fort Wayne go to VisitFortWayne.com.

Thanks to Visit Fort Wayne!

Germanfest fun

After a day inside, heads-down doing genealogy, there's no more enticing picture than an evening of German food, beer and music. And lucky for IGGP conference-goers, Fort Wayne's annual Germanfest is a stroll away on the same weekend!

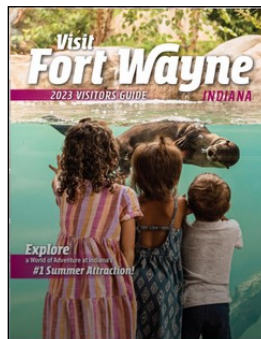
Both our organizations are put on by volunteers, and Germanfest is helping in several areas to make the IGGP



Watch this [video](#) to get a preview of our host city.

conference fun. In return, IGGP is looking at ways to make it easier for you — our attendees — to visit Germanfest. There's no shortage of [activities](#) to enjoy:

- If you arrive Wednesday... it's Festival Pavilion Opening Day until 11 p.m.
- On Thursday ... pack your lederhosen so you can strut for the Legs 'N Lederhosen judges.
- Musical entertainment is on tap until midnight on Friday.
- Saturday is Familienfest with Wienerdog races and other activities as well as Polka like a Star.
- Finally, hang around after the conference ends Sunday and just relax at Germanfest until 5 p.m.



View online or request a mailed copy of the Fort Wayne visitors' guide before you set off. [Link](#).

And don't forget shopping!

We're going to sneak in a brief item unrelated to German genealogy — unless you need a new bag to carry your genealogy supplies in.

The very popular [Vera Bradley annual outlet sale](#) is taking place the week after our conference in Fort Wayne, hometown of company that started out making colorful luggage and handbags. The sale is so popular, it's listed as a separate event on the [Visit Fort Wayne](#) website!

Here's an [FAQ](#) if you want to hang around town after you get your genealogy fix and find yourself a bargain.

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Using the schedule on IGGP.org: A conference key

Once you register, and the conference goes live in Whova, you will be able to create a personal schedule of presentations that you want to view on the weekend. (Don't worry, we'll show you how. And remember, Whova can be used on a computer or mobile device.)

But today, you can view the schedule on iggp.org to get a sense of what is happening when.

Let's take a look:

- ◆ Go to the [webpage](#) with the schedule.
- ◆ Click one of the day tabs (1) at the top to select that daily schedule.
- ◆ Scroll to see the title, time and description.
- ◆ Click the "Speaker's Page" link (2) to see their information, including what other presentations they are making
- ◆ Click the PLUS sign at right (3) to add the program to your Google or Outlook calendar
- ◆ If you want to print that day's schedule, scroll back to the top and click the printer button (4).
- ◆ **NOTE:** *The schedule is subject to change so save trees and wait until later to print.*

That's the basics of using the schedule on iggp.org. Now let's see how you can customize the view of the schedule.

All the programs are labeled in a variety of ways using "tracks." Before we show how to use that filter, here are the different tracks you'll see in the list.

The speaker programs have been categorized:

- ◆ German Genealogy Toolbox
- ◆ German Research Outside the Box
- ◆ Researching Across the German Diaspora

- ◆ History and Culture
- ◆ Connecting the Links
- ◆ Researching German Immigrants in the US

So if you're interested in all the programs that fall into the "German Genealogy Toolbox," you can use the track filter to display them.

The programs are also labeled to show all the Connection sessions. Again, use the filter by track to show those sessions only.

If you want to know which sessions are in real-time for virtual attendees, the filter gives you that option. Alternatively, show all the sessions that will be held for in-person attendees.

Finally, there is a block of sessions labeled "On Demand." These are a set of recordings that will not be presented during the weekend but available for viewing after

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the conference. You can do that in Whoova for 3 months. You also can buy the USB drive and have them for your personal use as long as you want.

If you filter to see those “On Demand” sessions, you can see the list of topics that will be included. And the benefit of that is there will be Q&A sessions with those speakers in the weeks after the conference.

Having explained the benefits, here’s how to use that “Filter by Track:”

- ◆ Click the “Filter by Track” button to display the list of tracks (5).
- ◆ When the list opens, click the button next to the tracks you DO NOT want to view.
- ◆ Then click the Filter by Track button to apply your choice(s).

Finally, you can use the search box to find programs using your preferred keywords (6), for example, all the programs with “Prussia” in the title.

So that’s how to use the schedule to plan your attendance at the upcoming conference.

And one more time ... the schedule is

Registering for the conference: Step by step

Registering for the conference is only a couple steps. And the first one is to get to the [registration page](#) on IGPP.org.

Once there, select your ticket type and the number of each ticket you wish to purchase. Your options are simple:

- In-person
- Virtual
- In-person + USB
- Virtual + USB

The USB is available only to registered attendees for your personal use.

If you have been given a discount code, put in the box and click apply. Discount codes previously announced are now expired. Then click the Register button.

We have heard from several people who click that button and nothing happens. 99.9% of those problems have been related to the browser settings on the person’s device. If this happens to you, try using a different browser or clear the cache on the one you are using. But if you have a problem and are not sure what to do, email to info@igpp.org.

When you click Register, the next page

prompts you to provide basic information about yourself. Then you will provide information for each ticket holder.

Note that you must use a unique email address for each ticket you are buying. The email address is used to create an account in Whoova for use in the conference. So you cannot use the same email address for more than one person.

Order Summary

1 x In-Person Ticket	\$325.00
Subtotal	\$325.00
Fees	\$0.00

Total Registration Cost \$325.00

At the left of the screen, you see your order summary so you know exactly what you are paying. The next page will ask for your billing and card information. Then click Register and you’re done. You’ll get a confirmation email.

Pick your IGPP 2023 conference option ...

VIRTUAL	IN-PERSON
Access to all recorded programs	Get everything Virtual PLUS ...
Visit virtual exhibition space	On-site speaker presentations
Handouts and syllabus materials	On-site exhibition space
Live, scheduled Connection Sessions	Genealogy Center at Allen County Public Library
Live Q&A time with recorded speakers	Unique DNA panel discussion
Live presentations by virtual speakers	Germanfest weekend Social time
Connect with others anywhere using Whoova	‘Selfie’ station! Special displays IGPP gala

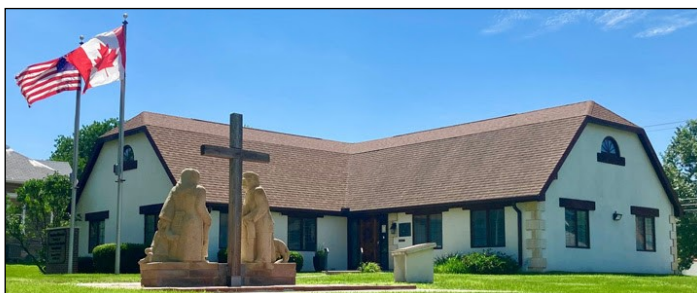
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PARTNER SHARE

The IGGP has welcomed several new partner societies in recent months:

- [Galizien German Descendants](#), which focuses on research of and education about the Galiz-iendeutsche. Emigrants from southwest Germany in and around the Rhineland were settled on a massive tract of Poland acquired by the Austrian empire in 1772. GGD maintains a website, coordinates a cooperative database with Die Galiz-iendeutschen - Geschichte und Erinnerungskultur e.V. and publishes a quarterly newsletter.
- The [American Historical Society of Germans from Russia](#) (AHSGR) is an international, non-profit educational organization engaged in researching the history of all German Russians. It has a publishing program, library and archive, an online store, and website with numerous valuable resources for our members and the public.
- [Gottscheer Heritage and Genealogy Association](#), which focuses on the county of Gottschee, a German linguistic island in what is now Slovenia.
- [Arbeitskreis für Familienkunde und Auswanderungen im Heimatbund für das Oldenburger Münsterland](#) (FAK), which represents the southern part of the old Duchy of Oldenburg. Its database includes more than 1 billion persons from the Catholic region of Oldenburg.

Welcome to all our new partners! Not only does the number of partners continue to grow, IGGP is now more representative of the German diaspora.



AHSGR headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Speaking of AHSGR, it is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the opening of its headquarters building in Lincoln, Nebraska. Dedicated in 1983, the building and campus house the collection of Germans from Russia materials, hosts events and welcomes visitors from around the world, and serves as the home of AHSGR.

The society also is planning its international convention, Aug. 3-5 in Greeley, Colorado. The schedule is

The *Partner Zeitung* is edited by Edie Adam. Articles or comments may be sent to info@iggp.org.

packed with informative sessions, international speakers, workshops, a theatrical production, and a Dutch Hop dance! Registration opened April 1. [Details](#).



Another IGGP partner is also opening registration for its annual conference. The **Foundation for East European Family History Studies** has begun accepting early-bird registration for its conference, Aug. 1-4 in Salt Lake City. Both in-person and online programs are offered.

The program features research tracks in the former Austro-Hungarian Empire, German Empire, Poland, and the Russian Empire as well as classes on DNA Research, Jewish, Germans from Eastern Europe, and more. [Details](#).



The **Kentucky Genealogical Society's** new book, the *Essential Guide to Kentucky Family Research*, is now available [for sale](#). This comprehensive guide written by and for Kentucky researchers is a must-have resource for anyone looking to explore their family history in the Commonwealth. Readers can learn to perform comprehensive genealogical research and get step-by-step guidance on how to piece together your Kentucky family history, from understanding the state's history to using genealogy techniques and tricks.

Proceeds support fundraising efforts to digitize and preserve records of genealogical value to Kentucky.



IGGP 2nd vice president Dirk Weissleder has been busy in Europe, speaking to organizations and representing German genealogy.

But closer to home, he has been elected chair of the [Niedersächsische Landesverein für Familienkunde](#) (NLF) in Hannover. The society is marking its 110th year in 2023. Whenever you have questions on Lower Saxony, NLF with 560+ members is available to help.

Below, Dirk also welcomed Barbara Stanculescu, a colleague and friend from the IGGP, to the NLF library. Another advantage of participating in IGGP activities is that you have new friends in many corners of the German genealogy community!



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