

German Special Interest Group
at the Genealogical Forum of Oregon
March 2, 2024

Online courses, Presentations and YouTube

This is a recap of the websites and YouTube accounts that were discussed at this meeting. We also discussed the fact that a number of large genealogy organizations have been holding virtual or hybrid conferences, but will not be, going forward due to the cost and demands on volunteers. I suggested that we continue to find those groups who post their courses and presentations on their websites to be made available to researchers to fill the gap.

Starting with the big guys -

RootsTech - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/>

This is a major annual event sponsored by FamilySearch. It concluded this past Sunday, but the courses were all recorded and are now available on the FamilySearch website. Courses with corresponding handouts will be available in their catalog for 3 years before they are retired. The current catalog contains up to 1,500 sessions on 185 topics.

Sacramento German Genealogy Society – <https://sggs.us/>

Upcoming presentations show on the homepage (including a good one on March 26 on “Genealogy in the Hesse-Darmstadt Archives”. If you scroll down the page, you will see another presentation, for the “2nd Online Pommern Connection Session, 2020”, a recorded event with the Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna, an organization out of Germany. Other recorded presentations are available only to paid members of SGGS, a common practice now. Note: SGGS is planning to do a series of monthly presentations that will cover the states of Germany in some detail, historically and with the researcher in mind. I will let all know when that kicks off.

The Society for German Genealogy in Eastern Europe - <https://www.sggee.org/>

Their recorded presentations from multiple years of conventions are available only to paid members. They don't have as many as RootsTech but they are specific to researchers interested in Germans in East Europe. Good free-to-see stuff on their website.

Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies –
<https://mki.wisc.edu/exhibits/virtual-presentations/>

The second listed presentation has a limited watching life, but the rest do not. Our SIG actually had a presentation on “Hessians in the American Revolutionary War” by one of our members. It was very good, but the one they have here just might make up for missing that one back a couple of years ago.

Pinellas Genealogy Society -

<https://pinellasgenealogysociety.com/databases/meeting-recordings-and-handouts/>

This organization is out of Florida so if you are interested in attending any of their mostly-free presentations, please keep the time difference in mind. There is a warning that these presentations will only stay up for 30 days before they are moved to the members-only area. The handouts are only available to members.

St Louis Genealogical Society -

<https://stlgs.org/about-us-2/sigs-and-special-programs/german-special-interest-group-2>

This SIG homepage has both info on upcoming events as well as recordings of recent ones.

GRIVA – the Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia -

<https://griva.org/german-sig/>

While Sylvia (the host) does issue handouts for members only, her notes posted to the website will give you everything she covered. She just completed a series on the states of Germany, ending with Bavaria and an extra with Berlin, which will be posted shortly. Past presentation notes are continued by clicking on the German SIG tab on the GRIVA header. This group does take summer off so don't expect to see any activity during May to August.

YouTube Channels of interest:

Germanology Unlocked - <https://www.youtube.com/@germanologyunlocked>

This channel is owned by Katherine Schober of Germanology Unlocked. While this channel just shows some short tips videos, Katherine has provided a link to her website, <https://germanologyunlocked.com/>, with the idea you can check out her “Upcoming Webinars” on the header and find scheduled presentations, some of which may be free.

BYU Library Family History -

<https://www.youtube.com/@BYULibraryFamilyHistory/search?>

Using the magnifying glass in the middle of the home page, enter the word “German”, and you will come up with many videos on German subjects, some of which are by known speakers such as Roger Minert and Joseph Everett.

Lisa Louise Cook's Genealogy Gems Podcast

<https://www.youtube.com/@GenealogyGems/search?query=german>

There are lots of presentations for research as well as compilations of other websites. There are 253 episodes to her podcast if you choose and the numbering jumps around a bit, but there are lots more topics to review.

Websites recommended by attendees to this meeting:

The Germanic Genealogy Society

<https://ggsmn.org/index.php>

Upcoming events and presentations are shown here. Many of the events are in person but registrations for virtual presentations are given. Membership will give you access to the recorded ones.

The Polish Genealogical Society

<https://pgsa.org/>

All webinars are posted here. Their archived presentations are available to members only.

For information on upcoming events, in the US as well as European genealogy groups, please access the IGGP website Genealogie – Kalender.

<https://iggp.org/cpage.php?pt=164>

So much to look at, so little time!