

# 2021 IGGP conference canceled

## Family researchers cope with pandemic

Just a few short months ago, family researchers were wishing they had more time to explore records, and genealogy societies were busy planning meetings of all sizes for 2020.

Then coronavirus happened, and the world turned upside down.

Archives, museums and libraries closed to the public. Travel and stay-at-home restrictions took hold. And societies began a waiting game to see if or when the pandemic would allow meetings to proceed as scheduled.

But the worldwide shutdown also presented opportunities to tackle new technologies. And the wealth of online resources, as well as long days spent inside, allowed researchers to view webinars and chat over social media to learn and discover.

## Deutscher Genealogentag

The 72nd annual Deutscher Genealogentag 2020, scheduled to be held in Bavaria, has been cancelled.

The board of the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft genealogischer Verbände (DAGV), a partner in the IGGP, decided to cancel as simply postponing was not possible.

“We very much regret this step, as there will be no exhibitions and lectures in the usual setting this year,” DAGV wrote. “We would have been happy to welcome our esteemed colleagues from Germany and abroad in Tapfheim.”

As of this writing, the regular

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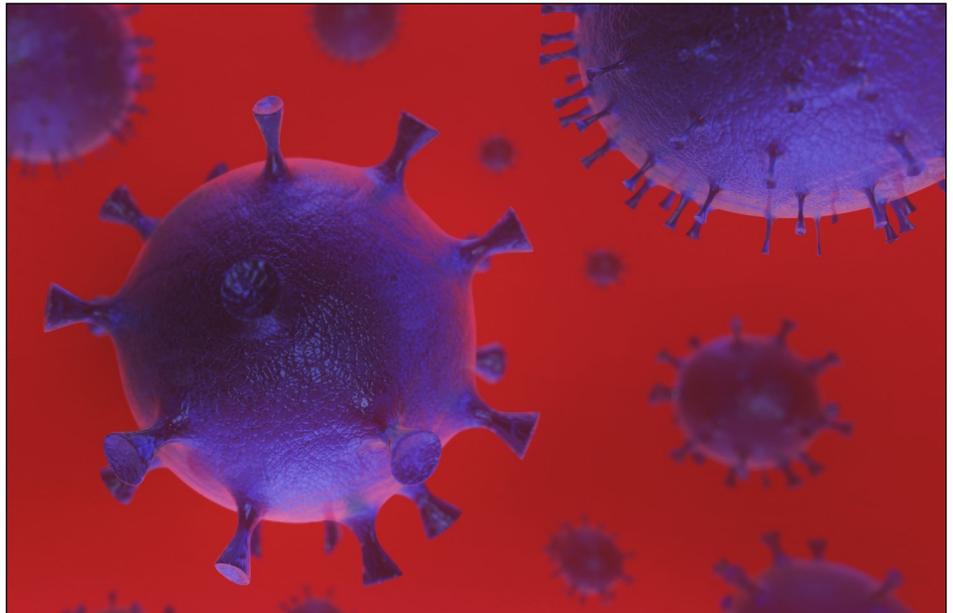
The 2021 International German Genealogy Conference, originally scheduled to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, next July, is being canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The board of the International German Genealogy Partnership, as well as that of the host Hamilton County Genealogical Society, shares

expected to attend.

Those financial risks in this case would not have been resolved by an entirely virtual event. In addition, there was the desire to continue “Connections” made in person, the theme of previous conferences.

IGGP previously held international conferences in 2017 and 2019.



<a href="https://www.freepik.com/free-photos-vectors/health">Health photo created by freepik - www.freepik.com</a>

the disappointment felt by all. The list of projected speakers and programs, along with other activities in a city known for its German heritage, promised to provide an outstanding weekend for participants.

The decision was driven by the uncertain health, economic and travel conditions likely to continue into next year.

Given that uncertainty, the financial risks of planning a major international conference were too great to continue. About 1,000 people were

It will now look to 2023, when it is hoped progress against the pandemic will provide more certainty for planning and a greater comfort level for participants. An announcement will be made at the appropriate time.

This decision was based on circumstances specific to the IGGC; partner societies are encouraged to evaluate their own plans for 2021 based on what is appropriate in their area at that time.

Questions may be sent to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org).



## 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 reciprocal networking among Partners and their members;
- Facilitate research assistance between 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.

### Board | 2020

**President:** Ingeborg Carpenter

**1st Vice President:** Kent Cutkomp

**2nd Vice President:** Dirk Weissleder

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**Treasurer:** John Schulte (interim)

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Kim Ashford, GGS, Minnesota

James Beidler, MAGS, Maryland

André Hammann, GenealogiaRS, Brazil

Nancy Myers, Ahnenforscher Stammtisch

Unna, Germany

### In Brief | kurz berichtet

Munich's renowned Oktoberfest announced in April that the festival is canceled this year.

Mayor Dieter Reiter said the cancellation was a "bitter pill" but that officials had no other choice.

It's not the first time a pandemic has caused the celebration to be canceled; a cholera epidemic prompted its closure in 1854. [Article](#).



Louis Weinzierl emigrated from Regenberg, Bavaria, and settled in the area of Johnstown, Pennsylvania. Sadly, he, his wife, Mary, and six of their nine children were lost in the Johnstown Flood on May 31, 1889, one of the worst disasters in 19th-century America.

But now this history is being researched by a distant relative, so that she can update the family genealogy for her descendants. [Article](#).



Do you have a yearning to travel? So much so that it feels like an ache or pain not to be able to? Guess what, there's a word in German for that feeling: *fernweh*, which the BBC translates "a pain to see far-flung places beyond our doorstep." And Germans, who love to travel, are suffering in this pandemic year. [Article](#).

But you can still "sightsee" many locations virtually. Here's a couple spots with German connections in Ohio. We were saving them to feature in coverage of the 2021 IGGP conference, now canceled. If you know of others, send a link!

- ◇ Take a photo tour of Old St. Mary's, Cincinnati's oldest standing church, built in 1841 using bricks made in the kitchen

of German Catholic immigrants. The architect was a German immigrant named Ignatz Erd. [Link](#).

- ◇ Hop over to Columbus, Ohio, and its historic German Village and Brewery District. German immigrants built a flourishing community on land purchased following the Revolutionary War. [Video](#).



The border between Germany and Denmark has been a source of friction over the centuries. But the *New York Times* shows that closed borders and pandemic viruses can't stop love. Karsten Tüchsen Hansen, 89-year-old German farmer, and Inga Rasmussen, 85-year-old Danish caterer, continued their romance by meeting at the Mollehusvej border crossing to chat, joke and drink. "We're here because of love," said Mr. Tüchsen Hansen. [Article](#).



Stay-at-home orders due to the pandemic are frustrating for many. But in one case, having time to meet the neighbors uncovered the most amazing genealogical coincidence.

The *Washington Post* writes about the Njoten and Strom families, who live on the same block in a Los Angeles neighborhood. During a socially distant "get to know the neighbor" event, they learned the families both had roots in Norway.

That conversation led to sharing of more details and eventually the information that paternal ancestors came from the same tiny Norwegian island and that they shared a great-great-grandfather. [Article](#).

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/IGGPPartnership/](http://www.facebook.com/IGGPPartnership/)



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

## PARTNER NEWS

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member assembly of the DAGV still is scheduled to take place Nov. 21, 2020 in Augsburg.

The 73rd Genealogentag is now scheduled for early autumn 2021.

## Family History Library

Be advised that the Family History Library in Salt Lake City has been closed since 13 March. There is no planned opening date or a projected date or even speculation about when it might reopen.

Potential visitors should confirm its [status](#) BEFORE you make any reservations or incur travel costs.

Even if it does reopen while the coronavirus remains a threat, procedures for visitors are likely to be significantly different in order to take protect staff, volunteers and visitors.

Researchers are encouraged to use the online resources at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) (free account required) or the Family Search Communities for questions and advice.

Microfilms not available online are inaccessible at this time. This is especially an issue for the German record collections as many are not posted online due to contractual obligations to the record owners.

The Germany Genealogy Research group at Family Search is a partner and answers question and provides assistance on its [web page](#).

## Going virtual

The stay-at-home orders in much of the world kept family researchers from many of the activities they enjoy as archives and libraries closed, and connecting with others at meetings and conferences was stopped.

A number of genealogy product providers quickly stepped in to offer free webinars and other online learning opportunities. And many researchers, who now had the time to focus on genealogy, took advantage of them.

But a number of partner societies also turned to virtual tools to hold monthly meetings or small group presentations to maintain connection with their members.

Others expanded or added webinar capabilities in order to present programs for members, and found they had advantages beyond physical distancing.

Feedback from partners includes comments such as greater participation online than in person or seeing members who would otherwise not be able to attend a physical meeting.

Efforts are also under way to do conferences in a virtual setting. The learning curve may be steep, but genealogists are used to that!

Partners are encouraged to share what they learn via the IGGP mail list.

## IGGP volunteers needed

The IGGP will be holding an election for officers and directors to serve from 2021-2022 later this year.

Members of partner societies are encouraged to consider standing for the board or serving on a nomination committee to select candidates.

IGGP continues to refine its mission to support German genealogy, and your involvement is crucial. Email to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org) if interested.



Shirley Riemer, left, with Ingeborg Carpenter, IGGP president and fellow SGGs member, on a trip to Germany.

## In memoriam

While the pandemic captured the world's attention, we celebrate the life of Shirley Riemer, whose contributions to German research were respected worldwide. She died March 31, just shy of her 92nd birthday.

For 24 years, Shirley edited *Der Blumenbaum*, the award-winning journal of the Sacramento German Genealogy Society. She also wrote the *Mitteilungen* publication for the Sacramento Turn Verein for 15 years.

Among her publications are *The German Research Companion* and *Researching in Germany*. Her dedication to the German genealogy community was commemorated with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International German Genealogy Partnership.

Her obituary may be read [here](#).

The *Partner Zeitung* is edited by Edie Adam. The German translations are provided by Georg Palmueller. News items may be sent to [info@iggp.org](mailto:info@iggp.org).

## Online-Webmeeting vs. Persönliches Treffen: eine kleine Zwischenbilanz!

Von Georg Palmüller (Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna, Deutschland)

Als es sich abzeichnete, dass persönliche Treffen zu einer Ansteckungsgefahr am Coronavirus für die Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer werden könnten, verlegten wir vom Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna unsere Treffen kurzerhand vom Landhaus Massener Heide in Unna auf eine Webmeeting-Plattform ins Internet und haben zwischenzeitlich auch andere genealogische Organisationen tatkräftig dabei unterstützt, diesen Schritt auch zu gehen.

Welche Erfahrungen haben wir bis jetzt dabei gesammelt und welche Vor- und Nachteile konnten wir bislang feststellen?

### Vorteile von Online-Meetings:

- Kein großer Aufwand zur Organisation des Treffens, keine Anreise notwendig,
- Möglichkeit einer aktiven Teilnahme an größerem Angebotsspektrum unabhängig vom Wohnort,
- Fragen erreichen jeden Teilnehmer
- Effektivere Hilfestellungsmöglichkeit durch alle Teilnehmer
- Bessere Lesbarkeit der Präsentationen durch Bildschirmfreigabe,
- Teilnahme sogar von Tablets, Smartphone oder durch Telefonanruf möglich, wo auch immer man sich befindet,
- Schnelle Weitergabe von Informationen, z. B. Internetlinks über speicherbare Chatfunktion an alle oder ausgewählte Teilnehmer,
- Forscherkontakte von größerer Reichweite möglich.

### Nachteile von Online-Meetings:

- Online-Treffen über zwei Stunden werden anstrengend,
- Kein persönlicher Kontakt der Teilnehmer untereinander,
- Gemütliches, geselliges



- menschliches Miteinander fehlt,
- Teilnehmer können sich nicht gleichzeitig untereinander unterhalten,
- Ahnenforscher mit geringen computertechnischen Kenntnissen oder ungenügender eigener Technik nehmen nicht teil,
- Erstteilnehmer haben zuerst oft Probleme mit der Technik,
- Genealogie-Einsteiger fühlen sich weniger angesprochen,
- Referent hat keinen direkten Kontakt zum Publikum bei Vorträgen.

Es lassen sich mit Sicherheit noch mehr Vor- und Nachteile finden.

So schlimm wie diese Zeit der Einschränkungen von Versammlungen durch die Coronakrise auch ist, so ist es auch eine Zeit des Lernens und der

Optimierung unserer Nutzung des modernen Kommunikationsangebotes in unserer Zeit.

Wir vom Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna betrachten die Online-Veranstaltungen und die tollen Möglichkeiten, die sie bieten, als zusätzlichen effektiven und erfolgreichen Bestandteil unserer genealogischen Aktivitäten, auch wenn die persönlichen Treffen zukünftig wieder möglich sein werden.

Sie sind ein weiteres effektives Instrument zur Steigerung der Attraktivität und des Bekanntheitsgrades genealogischer Vereine, Organisationen, Gruppen und Einzelpersonen und vergrößern deren Reichweite auf weltweites Niveau. Davon können alle Beteiligten in großem Maße profitieren!



Programm des Ahnenforscher Stammtisches Unna und der Genealogisch-heraldischen Arbeitsgemeinschaft Roland zu Dortmund e. V. im Juni 2020:

**Dienstag, 9. Juni 2020** um 19.00 Uhr CET. Roland zu Dortmund Online-Vortragsabend: **GENEALOGISCHE KARTEN ONLINE SELBST ERSTELLEN MIT STEPMAP**. Referent: Heiko Hungerige, Bochum. [Zoom-Link](#).

**Dienstag, 16. Juni 2020** um 19.00 Uhr CET. Ahnenforscher Stammtisch Unna Online Spezial: **DER ANCESTRY-ONLINEABEND**. Forschen, fragen, fachsimpeln, Tipps und Tricks rund um das genealogische Internetportal ANCESTRY für Interessierte, Einsteiger und Fortgeschrittene mit Ursula Krause (Ancestry Deutschland). [Zoom-Link](#).

**Freitag, 26. Juni 2020** um 18.00 Uhr CET. Offener Online-Ahnenforschertreff. ROLAND -WERKSTATT FÜR FAMILIENFORSCHUNG ONLINE. Forschen, fragen, fachsimpeln, helfen und sich helfen lassen! [Zoom-Link](#).