Curious About Your Ancestors?

“Researching German Ancestors” Workshop Sat., Sept. 14, 9-4, 2013

Day-long seminar offers insight to digging into your family tree.

CLEVELAND, OH—“There are many families in the area with German roots,” said Ann Sindelar, Reference Supervisor, Research Library, Western Reserve Historical Society. “Uncovering the stories of triumph, or intrique, or sometimes tragedy, can help you put the pieces together of who you are. This workshop is ideal for people who want the tips and tools to initiate or continue their research into their German ancestry.”

The Fall Genealogy Seminar, Researching German Ancestors on Saturday, September 14, at the WRHS presents Warren Bittner, CG, a genealogical researcher and lecturer, with thirty years of research experience. He is a trustee for the Board for Certification of Genealogists and the owner of Ancestors Lost and Found, a genealogical research firm specializing in German research. For six years, he was the German Collection Manager for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, performing research in more than fifty German archives and in over forty U.S. archives and repositories. Bittner is a frequent lecturer, has made several television appearances, and has written articles for the National Genealogical Society Quarterly.

At the daylong workshop, Bittner will touch on various aspects of German cultural history. Beginning at 9:00 am, pre-registered attendees will be given an historical overview of the country. Following a short break, Bittner will lecture on the importance of the historical maps and territories of Germany as necessities in ancestral research.

At the halfway point, boxed lunches will be available for purchase or visitors can bring their own. The second half of the day includes a presentation on the German marriage laws and customs that affected Germans through the ages. In the final portion of the day, “Elusive Immigrant: The Search for Dora Lühr”, Bittner takes visitors along his own quest to uncover his ancestor’s
German origins. The origins of this particular case illustrate the common challenges in
genealogical research and give visitors the tools necessary to overcome such obstacles in their
own research. The workshop concludes at 4:00 pm. The fee is $40/person. Space is limited.
Preregistration is recommended.

“The in-depth knowledge that Mr. Bittner has is the ideal complement to the genealogical
resources of the Western Reserve Historical Society,” said Gainor Davis, President & CEO of
WRHS. “These types of workshops with recognized experts, allow us to continue our emphasis
on the study of family history. They augment our resources, such as our outstanding
genealogical collections, and our experienced and dedicated staff of the Research Library. For
those interested in learning about their German ancestors, we highly recommend this workshop.
Then, on your future visits, WRHS Research Library staff and volunteers can help you take the
next steps.”

The Western Reserve Historical Society History Center is located in Cleveland’s University
Circle at 10825 East Boulevard. History Center museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday,
10:00 am - 5:00 pm, and Sunday, Noon - 5:00 pm. Research Library hours are Thursday
through Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm. Admission to the museum and the Research Library is
$10 for adults and $5 for children ages 3-12. WRHS members and children two and under are
admitted free of charge. Group rates are available. The History Center and Research Library
are handicap accessible. An elevator is available to various levels of the museum. Western
Reserve Historical Society is a Smithsonian Affiliate.

Founded in 1867, Western Reserve Historical Society (WRHS) is Northeast Ohio’s premier storyteller. It
presents the lives and activities of the 19th-century settlers through historic Hale Farm and Village in Bath,
Ohio, and relates the Gilded Age of glitter and industry through the history of Cleveland’s millionaires and
entrepreneurs. WRHS offers a wealth of resources to research your family heritage at the History Center
in University Circle, Cleveland. It is one of the oldest and largest nonprofit regional historical societies in
the nation. WRHS inspires people to discover the American experience by exploring the tangible history
of Northeast Ohio. For more information on the Western Reserve Historical Society, 10825 East Blvd.,
Cleveland, OH 44106 visit: http://www.wrhs.org/ or contact Jane Mason, Director of Communications and
Marketing jmason@wrhs.org, 216-721-5722, x 1501.

WRHS receives public support with local tax dollars from Cuyahoga Arts & Culture. Sponsorships,
bequests, grants, admissions, and other funding are used to preserve and enrich the region’s artistic and
cultural heritage. If you are interested in a funding opportunity for the Western Reserve Historical Society, please contact Amy Shorey, Director of Development, ashorey@WRHS.org

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