



Palatines to America – German Genealogy Society  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **CROSS THE BRIDGE TO YESTERDAY**

**PALATINES TO AMERICA GERMAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY TO HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN CINCINNATI, OHIO**

PALAM's next national conference will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio from June 17 – 20, 2020 at the Hilton Netherland Plaza Hotel, featuring nationally known speakers Daniel Jones and Dr. Michael D. Lacopo. Jones, an Accredited Genealogist specializing in Swiss and German research, has experience in numerous archives across more than a dozen countries in Europe, North America, Africa, and Australia. He is currently a research specialist in German and Slavic Europe for the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dr. Michael D. Lacopo is a retired small-animal veterinarian born and raised in northern Indiana. Researching since 1980, he has lectured internationally and written for numerous periodicals and journals.

They will be joined by regionally recognized speakers, presenting a range of sessions, including author, lecturer, and President of the German-American Citizens League, Dr. Don Heinrich Tolzmann, who will lead a pre-conference tour of the historic Over-the-Rhine district, as well as sharing the story of John A. Roebling and his Suspension Bridge on the Ohio River at Friday evening's banquet.

Another pre-conference session will be held by Kent Robinson, immediate past National president of Palatines to America—German Genealogy Society. He designed the presentations in his half-day workshop based on his 15-years of German research experience and the type of questions that people generally ask at conferences. He has attended the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research on two and the Salt Lake Institute.

Ernie Thode became interested in genealogy in high school and graduated from Purdue University with a teaching certificate in English, German, and Speech and is still educating while talking about German genealogy in English. He received a Master's degree in German and also studied and taught at The Ohio State University. He was awarded first place in the ISFHWE Excellence in Writing contest for his "Ask Ernie" column in *The Palatine Immigrant*. His genealogy interests include German surnames, place names, immigration, and records sources.

Diana Druback has been interested in genealogy since the 1980's and has taken many of her lines back to the 1500's in Slovakia, and Germany. She regularly lectures to central Ohio audiences, has had articles published in genealogical journals, and has volunteered at two LDS Family History Centers for twenty years, helping patrons with their research.

Kathy Reed has been researching her German, Irish, and English roots for the past 18 years. She currently serves as a Director on the Board of the Hamilton County Genealogical Society and leads a regional DNA Interest Group. She is currently conducting a new study and will present the results of that study at the conference as "How to Make German-American Connections Using DNA."

Andrew Houghtaling is the Director of The Ninth Ohio: A Living History, an organization dedicated to educating the public by bringing to life the stories and experiences of not just the Ninth Ohio, but all German-Americans who served in the Civil War. He is a 2004 graduate of the University of Cincinnati with a degree in German Studies.

Lauren Kuntzman, MA, MLIS, has over 20 years of experience in family history research. Currently, she manages Medina County District Library's Family History & Learning Center and enjoys helping library patrons to find their roots. Her personal research interests include the Midwest, France, criminal ancestors, and finding living relatives.

Full details of the sessions to be presented are available on the Palam website, [www.palam.org](http://www.palam.org) along with the registration information. If you have German speaking ancestors, this is one conference you will not want to miss.