Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month from 6 to 8 PM at the Louis Latzer Memorial Public Library. No meetings are held in the months of July and December. There are no membership dues. For announcements regarding speakers or field trips, please check the Everett Genealogy Room bulletin board.

Mr. Ray Litzau will be the guest speaker at our May 15, 2014 meeting. M. Litzau is the genealogy columnist for the Owl Creek Gazette, Greenville, IL. The topic will be: “Using old German maps in your research”. Please join us at 6 PM in the Everett Genealogy Room at the Louis Latzer Library in Highland.

NOTES FROM THE COORDINATOR

Unlike years ago, there just isn’t much on the Internet that a genealogist can use for researching that is free. A few companies have bought up all those “favorite” websites and unless we want to pay for a subscription, we can no longer access them. One thing we need to take note of is that years ago we did not have the Internet and we all had to use books, journals, newsletters, etc available at libraries, genealogy societies, and organizations. The Louis Latzer Library has a wonderful resource for card holders that will put them in touch with millions of genealogy research materials. It is called OCLC WorldShare/WorldCat. OCLC stands for Online Computer Library Center, Inc. and is a cloud based database with over 314 million global information sources in all formats-books, full text, electronic books and journals, Web-based articles, and audio and video recordings and its members include over 9 million libraries. It is the world’s largest, most complete, and most consulted library union catalog and it is growing every day.

If you have a Latzer Library library card you can access OCLC WorldShare/WorldCat at the library or from home. You will first need to go to the library’s webpage at highlandilllibrary.org. On the left side of the screen you will need to click on “Databases”. Move down this screen until you see the “WorldCat” logo. After clicking on the logo the database will ask you for the username (100106955) and the password (few%sxave). At this point it would be a good idea to start an account located at the top, right hand corner of the screen. After you have filled out the account information, go to the pull down menu on the left of the screen and choose “WorldCat”. You can search by title, author, subject, or keyword. Searches are ranked automatically by the most widely held items to the least held. When you find the item you want, you will want to request it and fill in your patron information. Any line with an asterisk next to it must be filled in before you can send your request. Your requests are then forwarded to the librarian that handles the inter library loans. She looks over the request making sure