



Declaration of Heidelberg of the DAGV

On September 27-29, 2013, by invitation of the DAGV and FamilySearch International, German genealogists and many international guests will meet in Heidelberg for the 65th German Genealogy Day (Deutsche Genealogentag) to present the latest developments and research results. This exchange will also motivate new people to become interested in genealogy. During these days in Heidelberg, we will proclaim the motto "***The world in Germany – Germans in the world***" making it clear that genealogy does not divide us but can bring people together worldwide.

Since our founding of the DAGV on May 28- 29, 1949 in Frankfurt am Main, societies and different organizations have cooperated to promote common genealogical research and to represent the common interests of the individual genealogists, both within and outside its societies. At the moment, the DAGV, as an umbrella organization, represents about 22,500 single members in our 65 member societies. Next year, the DAGV celebrates its 65th anniversary. For that reason, the member assembly has decided to proclaim, by this Declaration of Heidelberg of the DAGV, that 2014 will become the

"Year of Genealogy"

Under the motto "*genealogy connects the world*", we, as an umbrella organization along with our members, want to promote our colorful, common welfare oriented work of our family history researchers to the public by publications, conversations and different activities and also to attract more members. Following the Latin aphorism of the DAGV, *detegimus antiquorum generum vestigia* (we are searching the trace of old families), it is clear how the "*year of genealogy*" can be brought to life. We will show the many opportunities that exist in the areas of research and documentation and, at the same time, will stress to the public the dangers of potential destruction to all types of important records. Altogether, it is about the rescue of our rich family historical legacy in Germany and the more recent protection of private data that are permanent challenges to genealogists!

In 2014, the DAGV is not only celebrating its 65th anniversary but we will also remember the start of World War I 100 years ago. So the "*year of genealogy*" shall not only stress national but international aspects under the theme of international understanding and thus promote international collaboration. Unfortunately, there still is a lack of strong international structures to make a lively exchange easier. Genealogical research becomes more and more international as common roots are uncovered. We, as DAGV, want to motivate the genealogical- and heraldic world family to share and to support this proclamation in their countries and their single communities so that the "*year of genealogy*" might lead to the common success of all family history researchers.

Heidelberg, September 27, 2013