



*East Bay Genealogical Society*

# **The Live Oak**

January/February 2009

Oakland, California

## **JANUARY MEETING**

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

### **OAKLAND LIBRARY – HISTORY ROOM**

Steve Lavoie, librarian in the Oakland Library History Room will be our speaker. Steve was previously a librarian and an editor for the Oakland Tribune. He will bring us up to date on new acquisitions at the Oakland Library that are of interest to genealogists. He also asks that if you have had problems finding information in Oakland, bring your problems to the meeting and he will try to help you.

## **FEBRUARY MEETING**

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

### **FAMILY TRAITS**

What are some of the “traits” in your family tree? It’s possible you have some but have never really given it much thought. What particular talents, skills or gifts did some of your ancestors possess? Did some of your ancestors have a particular profession or vocation in common? Come and share these insights with us, please.

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Our research trip to Sutro Library in November garnered at least a tidbit of information for those that made the trek. Sutro’s librarian was extremely helpful. Some members made good use of their digital cameras to copy information from books still under copyright and, therefore, not “xeroxable”.

The December meeting was well attended. Funny how those cookies bring some members “out of the woodwork”! There was quite an assortment to chose from and enjoy. Bill George demonstrated how to use and take advantage of Geni.com. Several members shared their research experiences throughout the past year.

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**In Memoriam**... We were saddened by the news that our long time member, Rick Sherman, passed away on October 27. Over the years Rick graciously provided programs for us from his experiences researching in Virginia, Massachusetts and the Doe Library on the U.C. campus. We will miss him. EBGs extends their sincere condolences to his wife Pat and their family.

## EBGS NEWS

Hope everyone had a very nice Holiday Season. Now it is time to pack those decorations away for another year and get back to our family research.

We have some fun programs and meetings in the mix for 2009. One meeting will be a trip to the Sacramento State Library on AMTRAK, hopefully in April. We did that several years ago and it was really a fun day. In May, we will again have an anniversary luncheon at Pier 29 Restaurant.

**The Oakland Family History Center**, in conjunction with California Genealogical Society, has some marvelous genealogy classes planned for early 2009, plus a series of classes of interest to PAF users. The classes are free, with a nominal charge for handouts or syllabus. Reservations are requested. Go to the website [www.oaklandfhc.org](http://www.oaklandfhc.org) and look them over. You are sure to find some that will interest you. You may take the entire series or maybe only one or two that pique your interest.

Marge Bell at FHC has also informed us that the library now has [findmypast.com](http://findmypast.com) on one computer. This is a good British website.

In case you hadn't noticed...there were a few obvious errors in the **Index to Anniversaries** printed in the previous issue of this newsletter. I have corrected the errors and brought the index up-to-date as of December 31, 2008. The corrected first installment can be found in this issue on pages 5 and 6.

## WHAT WILL YOU DO ON A RAINY DAY?

Many of us have become so accustomed to the Internet as our primary source of research that we neglect or reject those lessons we learned in Beginning Genealogy classes we attended long years ago. It is still necessary to visit libraries and repositories to view original records or to extend our research. It is also necessary to put pencil to paper and write those letters – though some of this may be accomplished by email in some cases.

I recall the words of a very successful researcher and professional genealogists who spoke at a meeting many years ago...this lady was a diligent letter writer with respect to her own family research and that of many clients. To her, "a day without mail" was equivalent to "a day without sunshine"! She said that one Saturday morning her husband came through the front door carrying a stack of fresh mail and announced, "B...., your mail is here. Would you like me to save some of it for tomorrow?"

This year I vow to launch my own letter-writing or email campaign. I intend to make contact with as many cousins as possible on all sides of my and my husband's family trees. I am going to ask them to write me a paragraph or two on what they remember or one of their experiences with grandma, or uncle or aunt so-and-so. I know we each had different relationships and experiences with these ancestors and I want to enhance my family stories by including theirs.

What libraries or repositories will you visit this year? Whose mailboxes will you inundate with your letters with requests for information on your ancestors? Go for it! Do remember that SASE, and may your efforts be delightfully successful.

**WHEN SOMEONE ASKS, “How are you doing with your genealogy?”** - perhaps one of these lines might suffice for your answer.(from a recent Santa Cruz Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol 25 No. 9)

1. My family coat of arms ties at the back...is that normal?
2. My family tree is a few branches short. All help appreciated.
3. My ancestors must be in a witness protection program.
4. Shake your family tree and watch the nuts fall!
5. My hobby is genealogy, I raise dust bunnies as pets.
6. How can one ancestor cause so much trouble?
7. I looked into my family tree and found out I was a sap...
8. I'm not stuck, I'm ancestrally challenged.
9. I'm searching for myself, have you seen me?
10. If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help.
11. Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!
12. It's 2009...Do you know where your great,great grandparents are?
13. A family reunion is an effective form of birth control.
14. A family tree can wither if nobody tends to it's roots.
15. A new cousin a day keeps the boredom away.
16. After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be adopted.
17. Am I the only person up my tree...sure seems like it.
18. Any family tree produces some lemons, some nuts, and a few bad apples.
19. Ever find an ancestor HANGING from the family tree?
20. FLOOR: The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.
21. Gene-Allergy: It's a contagious disease, but I love it.
22. Genealogists are time unravelers.
23. Genealogy is like playing hide-and-seek. They hide...I seek!
24. Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.
25. “Crazy” is a relative term in my family.
26. A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor.
27. I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand.
28. I should have asked them before they DIED!
29. I think my ancestors had several “bad heir” days.
30. I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower.
31. Only a genealogist regards a step backwards as progress.
32. Share your knowledge, it is a way to achieve immortality.
33. Heredity: Everyone believes in it until their children act like fools.

Note: This newsletter is abridged, with 3 pages of paste-up Oakland 50<sup>th</sup> wedding announcements references and John Montgomery Ancestor Chart omitted.