



MARCH MEETING – Wednesday, March 11, 2009 – Oakland Family History Center Library

A TREASURE TROVE OF GENEALOGY GEMS CRAFT PROJECTS - With Lisa Louise Cooke

If you are researching your family tree but haven't shared it with your family in a way that sparks their interest, then you are only experiencing half of the joy of genealogy! If your descendants don't grasp the importance of their heritage, your hard work may tragically find its way to the city dump when you are gone. Don't just collect your family history and store it away in binders and files! Learn how creative displays and crafts can capture the imagination of your non-historian friends and relatives, while honoring your ancestors. These projects are guaranteed to inspire your family to ask you to tell them more about the family tree!

Lisa Louise Cooke is a member and on the board of San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society. She is the producer of two international Internet "radio shows": *The Genealogy Gems Podcast* and *Family History: Genealogy Made Easy*, and is the author of "*Genealogy Gems: Ultimate Research Strategies*". She also writes articles, produces videos, and hosts the monthly *Family Tree Magazine Podcast*, and is the host of *Family History Expos TV*. She is an experienced genealogical speaker and recently presented at the 2008 Federation of Genealogical Societies conference.

APRIL MEETING – Wednesday, April 8, 2009 – Research Trip

SACRAMENTO STATE LIBRARY – VIA AMTRAK

This should be fun! Cost per person: \$27.60 round trip/based on 10-ride ticket. Transportation to the library from Amtrak via shuttle, cab or Regional Transit. Will have more detailed information available on this by the March meeting. Train departs Jack London Square at 7:45 a.m. and Berkeley at 7:55 a.m. --arrives Sacramento at 9:45 a.m. We can return on the 4:40 p.m. train. Library hours: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

BRING A BAG LUNCH w/something to drink. It is required to place your belongings in a locker in the entrance. The State Archives are a block away for anyone interested in

researching at that facility. On page 7 of this newsletter is a partial list of resources available at the State Library or State Archives.

Please let us know by April 3rd, if you wish to go on this adventure. Goests are welcome. We hope to arrange carpools to the train stations. Those who will board at the Berkeley station – contact Sally Stevens at **510-524-2904** or David_stevens@comcast.net. If you plan to board at Jack London Square – contact Carolyn Storm at **510-522-7469** or c-kstorm@juno.com

At our January meeting Steve Lavoie, librarian at the Oakland Library History Room had a captive audience. He gave us a lot of interesting and informative information regarding the holdings of the library, and primarily the Oakland History Room. There is an abundance of local research material available to genealogists at the Oakland Library. We hope to plan a research trip there soon.

Our roundtable discussion of Family Traits in February was lively and interesting. Bill George explained his new “toy” – a compact computer Notebook with a large hard-drive and memory. Bill also explained some interesting and intricate ways of browsing-searching Google.

EBGS NEWS

Arrangement have been made for the May Anniversary Luncheon on May 13th. A reservation form is enclosed. Hope to see many of you there. Bring a guest if you like.

Dues are Due: A renewal form is enclosed. Please continue to support us.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to hear our past member and many-times board member, Helen Hawkins, had recently passed away in Van Nuys, CA. Helen and her husband, Paul, belonged to EBGS for many years. They were very active members and willing and resourceful volunteers.

NEWS FROM OAKLAND FHC

They will soon have copiers/printers for large copies, 11x17 and scanners capable of scanning photo negatives and slides. They have subscribed to GenealogiyBank.com on a one-month evaluation. This site offers over 3,000 newspapers in their archives. Take advantage of this marvelous site if you can – we would like to see the FHC continue this subscription. The recent genealogy classes offered by California Gen. Soc/Oakland FHC were so successful it has been decided to repeat this series in the spring. Sign up on the waiting list ASAP by contacting the Oakland FHC at 510-531-3905.

CLASSES AT SAN BRUNO NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Workshops will be held at the National Archives & Regional Admonistration, Pacific Region, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno, CA 94066.

To register and reserve space contact: Rose Mary Kennedy – 650-238-3488
Fees are \$15 each, payable in advance

Instructor: Rose Mary Kennedy
Fridays: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 20	Census Records
April 17	Passenger Arrival and Naturalization Records
May 15	E-VET Records Research
June 12	Military – Part I – Revolutionary War to Civil War
June 26	Military Part II - Spanish-American War to Viet-Nam War
July 17	Federal Land Records
August 14	Preserving Your History

HOW EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY GOT ITS START

I was interested in genealogy and had been doing my own research for a few years. I had joined the California Genealogical Society and attended several of their monthly Saturday meetings in San Francisco. These meetings were held in the basement of the California Historical Society Mansion on Pacific Avenue. I was also a member of the Alameda Women's Club and put on a one day Genealogical Seminar in Alameda with speakers from the staff of the Genealogical Helper published by Everton Publishers. The seminar was a great success. A sign-up sheet for those interested in starting a genealogical society in the East Bay generated a great deal of interest. I set a meeting at my home, sent out invitations, and The East Bay Genealogical Society was formed. That first meeting was organizational. We selected a name, set down some rules, and decided on regular meetings at 10:00 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

The society which I nursed along for a few years took off and has grown into a mature organization. The group should be about 30 years old by now. You have helped each other and others to extend their family trees. You have formed lasting friendships. I am so proud to have been a part of your friendly company. I read the newsletter from cover to cover as soon as it arrives. I have moved out of the area, but I do plan to attend a meeting some day in the future.

Carolyn Sherfy, Charter President

The Charter Meeting was held in Alameda on May 9, 1979 with 14 charter members. Carolyn Sherfy was elected president, guidelines were established and dues were set at \$6 per year.

The new president and secretary established a bank account with the total treasury of \$36. The following month they were hit with a \$3.50 service charge by the bank because non-profit accounts were required to maintain a balance of at least \$200. It was decided that the account would be closed and the treasurer would handle the money until there were

sufficient funds to establish a non-profit bank account sans monthly service charges. By October, 1980 we boasted 36 members and a total \$125.61 in the treasury.

In April, 1981 dues were raised to \$10 a year, by-laws were adopted, a non-profit no-fee bank account was established in June and our Christmas Cookie Exchange began. In December, 1982 a relatively new member raised her hand and offered to take over the responsibility of our library in her home.

By 1983 we had established a post office box and were actively pursuing incorporation status. We were still meeting in Alameda and were seeking a permanent meeting place. Late in 1983 we were able to make arrangements with the Oakland Family History Center to hold our meetings at their facility.

In early 1985 we became a tax-exempt corporation and established a safe deposit box at the bank. We began negotiating with the Society of Mayflower Descendant to share space in their library and this was accomplished by the end of the year. We volunteered at their library for a six-month probation period and were able to move our collection into their facility in June, 1986. Also during 1985/86 several of our members volunteered their efforts to the RIM Project organized throughout the state by the newly formed California State Genealogical Alliance. Many months were spent inventorying vital records in the county, i.e; church, cemetery, mortuary etc. We amassed quite an inventory and several months later the Family History Center in Salt Lake City approved most of this material, and with the consent of the respective repositories, much of this material was microfilmed and we were given copies for our library.

By 1988 we must have been quite solvent, as it is mentioned in old minutes that we loaned the Oakland Library \$550 so that they could copy old photographs for their archives. The loan was soon repaid.

In March, 1989, with the help of Hayward Area Genealogical Society, we organized an all day seminar featuring Angus Baxter. This was quite successful and well attended and we even made a little profit. That May we celebrated our tenth anniversary with a luncheon at Spenger's in Berkeley. The president was late in arriving because of a traffic snarl and then absent-mindedly locked her keys in her car. By the time she arrived, formally, we were having dessert. There was a short program where our founder, Carolyn Sherfy, was introduced and past-presidents in attendance were presented with small gavels as keepsakes. Everyone, including the Treasurer, had departed when the president and one lone member were approached and presented with the bill! Oops! Our member was able to write a check for the amount and was promptly reimbursed by the Treasurer the following week!

Several diligent volunteers and many, many months of gathering, sorting, and editing material finally brought the publishing of our Alameda County, California Research Guide to fruition in 1993. The book was well received and the first printing sold out rapidly. Though it is now in need of some revisions, it remains a "bible" for research in Alameda County. Another group of members volunteered to index the 1890 Great Register of Alameda County, and this was completed and published in 1998.

We celebrated our twentieth anniversary in 1999 with a well attended luncheon at Mac's Bar & Grill in Jack London Square in Oakland – no mishaps this time!

Sometime in 2004/05 we realized our newspaper obituary file was consuming too much space in our small area at the library. It was decided to see if Salt Lake City would consider filming these. Volunteers spent countless hours over a period of many months clipping, gluing and filing our huge collection. The Oakland FHC offered space to store the bulk of this collection. In 2006 these records, along with our biographical files, were digitized by the Family History Center, Salt Lake City and we received copies of these DVDs for our library.

We have decided to make the May luncheon an annual event and this May we will celebrate thirty years at a luncheon at Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant in Alameda – home of our humble beginnings.

Over the years, members have taken advantage of several research trips to Salt Lake City, some organized by our members. For a short interim in the 1990's our meetings were held at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Library, but we are once again meeting at the Oakland Family History Center Library on the second Wednesday of each month. Our annual dues have been increased to \$15 a year and we remain solvent. We have established and maintain a Website and a Blog. We continue to exchange cookies at our December meeting. We are still clipping, gluing and filing newspaper obituaries and maintaining our library with the help of members who faithfully volunteer.

Without helpful volunteers in our midst all these years, we could not have survived. We are ever so grateful to our many members, past and present, who have given their time and effort to our society and its projects over the past thirty years. Thank you all for being so generous and a special thank you to Carolyn Sherfy for her inspiration and getting EeBeGeBes organized way back in 1979.

CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY AND STATE ARCHIVES RESEARCH SOURCES

Space only allows a condensed list and I hope I have included items of interest to most of you. For the complete list, compiled by Jim W. Faulkinbury, CGRS, please see **San Francisco Genealogy.com**

VITAL RECORDS – State collection began July 1, 1905

Indexes: Deaths – 1905-1986, Marriages: 1949-1986

Nancy Morebeck's "Northern California Marriage Index 1850-1860"

B, M. D. in the Sacramento Bee 1851-1904 (fiche)

Mary Dean Alsworth's "Gleanings from *Alta California* 1846-1851 (2 vol)

DAR compilation of "Vital Records from *SF Bulletin* 1854-1874

SF Call WebBase [<http://cefha.org>] 1869-1899 (eventually to 1905)

Kathleen Beals' "Index to San Francisco Marriage Returns 1850-1858"

"Index to *SF Call* 1894-1903";

Mortuary File and "Book of the Dead"
NEWSPAPERS – Both early S F and Sacramento newspapers covered a wide portion of the central state

SF Newspaper Index Card File 1904-1950
California Information File 1840-1986 (a newspaper index)
SF Call Index 1894-1903

ARRIVAL RECORDS/SHIP PASSENGER LISTS

Rasmussen Compilations of SF Ship Passenger Lists/Rail lists
Haskins Index to the Argonauts of California
Society of California Pioneers Constitution
SF Ship passenger Lists 1893-1934

MILITARY RECORDS

Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers
Orton's Roster of California Civil War Volunteers (Caryle's Index)
Records of Californians who served in WWI
DAR Honor Roll – WWII
DAR Veterans Grave Registration for L.A. County

COUNTY HISTORIES/DAR Volumes -118 volumes

Cemetery records, newspaper vital record extracts, church records, wills, marriages.

The State Library has several Pre-Statehood Sources and censuses, some Mission Census. Other census records include: 1790 Padrones (LA, SF, S. Barbara, Monterey & S. Diego); Los Angeles in 1816, 1836 & 1844, City Directories dating from 1850 to 1892; Property Owners Indexes 1984/5 – 1996/7

AVAILABLE AT THE STATE ARCHIVES

Some records of 25 of the 58 counties including: some pre-1905 county vital records, some naturalization records (El Dorado, Napa, Orange, Placer, S. Barbara, S. Clara, Sonoma, Stanislaus Cos.)
Some probate records, some deeds. Mission Census 1796-1798. Prison Records 1850-1945 for San Quentin & Folsom – prison registers and photo mug books.
Index to Prison Registers. (Only 10% of actual prisoner files were kept)

Note: This is an abridged version of the Live Oak Newsletter constructed of that portion of the newsletter available in a computer readable format. on the computer.