

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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January/February 2014

Oakland, California

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library Meeting Room

USING MAPS IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH - Speaker: Teresa Costa Fraser

Historical maps are fascinating to use in learning about places that existed in the past. They can be used to find the exact place your ancestors lived and to learn about the neighborhood or surrounding areas. Using historical maps with other sources such as vital records, censuses, city directories, tax lists, and land records can help you see your family's history from a different perspective.

Historical researcher and lecturer, Teresa Costa Fraser, will provide an overview of historical maps that can be used in genealogy research and discuss how to find them in libraries, archives, and on the Internet. She will share examples of how she found historical maps of where her ancestors lived in the Azores, Virginia, Illinois, Mississippi and California.

Teresa holds an MBA and BS in Business and Marketing from the University of Phoenix. She was employed for many years as a market research analyst and at one time owned her own business, a marketing and business start-up consultancy. She presently owns and operates Retracing the Past, a genealogical research services firm in the San Francisco Bay Area. She belongs to the National Genealogy Society and several other societies. She is Editor of the *Roots Tracer* Journal for the Amador-Livermore Genealogical Society.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 12, 2014 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library Meeting Room

SOCIETY OF MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS LIBRARY - Speaker: Myrtle Savage

Myrtle Savage, an experienced researcher for the Mayflower Society, will give us an overview of what we might find on the library's shelves. Your ancestors may not have been on the Mayflower, but if they were early immigrants in New England and the colonies, they may very well be found among the collection at the Mayflower Library. The library has reference volumes you will not find anywhere else in the greater Bay Area.

Born in rural Minnesota, Myrtle is a graduate of The Swedish School of Nursing and the University of Minnesota. She remembers as a child writing notes as her grandmother talked about the early times and family members. Her father knew his genealogy, but in the 1980s Myrtle set out to document his work. She has been actively pursuing genealogy ever since and a researcher at the Mayflower Society Library for over 13 years.

A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR - EVERYONE!

Looking Back at November: It was so nice to meet Joan Morris from the Bay Area News Group. She had many interesting tales to share about her ancestors and we enjoyed having her as our guest.

Looking back at December: I just love our members!! So many of them brought beautiful old or interesting family photographs to share and tell the stories of their family and ancestors. One member brought a "mystery" collection of documents full of scintillating information, however, she is yet to figure out who these people were and how they fit into her genealogy. Some family member preserved them for a reason. You may someday read about this research in the pages of this newsletter! Another member captivated everyone's interest with her ancestor's "sword-cane". What a wonderful old artifact it was.

After the meeting we enjoyed a marvelous assortment of cookies provided by our members and shared with the FHC staff on hand. It was a very lovely morning and such a delightful way to get into the holiday spirit.

EBGS NEWS: We are looking forward to the New Year and hope to provide our members with interesting and helpful articles in this newsletter and useful and motivating topics for programs at our meetings.

A brief article about your research or ancestor would be welcome by your editor, as would suggestions for speakers or topics for our meetings.

Our last set of Alameda County, CA Obituary Cards, dating from 2007 through 2011, have recently been donated to the Oakland FHC. We are presently gluing up the Biographical Files that relate to them. When that is completed the FHC will make arrangements to have them filmed. The previous two sets, covering 1986 through 2006, along with the related biographical files, have previously been filmed and are available at the Oakland FHC.

Please add to your roster: new email address for Carolyn Sherfy - CLSherfy@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS;

Oakland FHC: In addition to the regular classes and workshops listed below, the Oakland FHC offers many free classes throughout the year. Be sure to check their website for future classes.
www.oaklandfhc.org

Oakland FHC Free Classes and Workshops - No Pre-registration Required

African-American Research Workshop	4th Wednesday each month	6 p.m. to 8 p.m.
MacGen Workshop	2nd Wednesday each month	7 p.m.
MacGen Meeting	4th Saturday each month	1:30 p.m.

MacGen Web Site: <http://macgen.org>

ITEMS OF INTEREST: Social Security Death Index

A message from Peggy Rossi of the California State Genealogical Alliance asks that we please read Judy Russell's blog, The Legal Genealogists <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/>.

The current congressional budget agreement includes a closure of the SSDI for three years after a person's death. While not as bad as it could be, this poses problems for forensic genealogists, heir searchers, etc. Judy has a good blog entry on this and directs you to other sites with information so you can contact your representative. (Ed. It is worth reading!)

<http://findagrave.com> is the #2 most visited genealogy web site in the U.S. You can search by name, place or dates. Give it a try - its free!

Trove Digitized Newspapers of Australia: This website presently boasts almost 11 million newspaper pages and over 110 million articles. I understand it takes a little effort to grasp how to search this site - but it might be worth your time if you are searching for information on ancestors in Australia. **<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>**

New Books Available at the Oakland FHC:

British Roots of Maryland Families Vol. II, by Robert W. Barnes

Irish Vital Records from The Scots Magazine 1739 - 1826, by David Dobson

Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers 1607 - 1635: A Biographical Dictionary, by Martha W. McCartney

Have You Decided What Your Genealogy-related New Year's Resolutions Will Be for 2014?

Will you finally catch up with that filing or clean up those files that you never quite completed last year?

Will you be going over old notes to see if you might have missed a clue somewhere?

Will you sort through old photographs or letters, perhaps with a relative, trying to determine "who" those people were and/or what was going on in their lives at that time?

Will you *finally* remember to document your research at the time and on the spot before you forget where you discovered the information?

Will you come up with a new idea of how to break down that "blinkin" brick wall?

Will you make a point of visiting your local Family History Library on a regular basis and keep up with your research? It keeps the mind tuned in, you may find a clue to that brick wall, the help their staff is able to provide is terrific, and you have access to Ancestry.com along with several other websites - all for free.

Will you write short stories about some of your ancestor's photographs, artifacts, accomplishments, hardships, interesting vignettes from their lives?

Will you plan or take part in a Family Reunion or plan a research trip to old ancestral "digs"?

Wish each of you good fortune wherever your research takes you in the coming year!!

THE VACATION THAT ALMOST WASN'T!!

One summer, probably around 1948 or so, my family packed up the car and set out for a vacation at Clear Lake, California.

With us was my aunt Irma and uncle Dell and two neighbor girls, Faye and Linda, who were each about the same ages as my sister Lynda and I. We were looking forward to lots of fun at the lake.

My mother had arranged to rent a cabin that she had been told was within easy walking distance to Austin Beach on the lake, a very desirable area. The cabin belonged to relatives of one of her "high school club" ladies. She had been told it had not been used recently and was given directions to the cabin plus a photo so we would recognize it when we got there. The rent was very inexpensive. My parents were always strapped for money back in those days and I suppose this was an opportunity they could not pass up. Frankly, judging from the photo, I would have passed up the opportunity in a "New York minute"!

After a three-hour drive, and far too many choruses of "99 bottles of beer on the wall..." our two cars arrived at Austin Beach where we turned right onto the road leading to the cabin. This road was over one-quarter mile long, then turned right for a short distance and then right again, returning to the main road at the beach. We made several tours around this square looking for the cabin. It took a while to sink in that the ram-shackled, ugly box of a cabin near one corner at the far end of the square was REALLY our destination. We had hoped NOT!

We drove our two cars off the road and under a huge tree near the cabin, reluctantly. Timidly we got out of the car. My mother tried the key in the lock and, unfortunately, the door opened! We entered and stood dumb-struck staring at the rubble!

There were massive cobwebs everywhere. What little furniture in this one-room dump was covered with layers of dust. The mattresses for the beds were roped and hung from the ceiling. They were also covered with layers of dust. Someone opened a drawer in the kitchen area which revealed silverware green with tarnish. The sparse supply of cooking utensils and dishes were filthy with dirt and dust. The small bathroom was deplorable. The entire place was absolutely unlivable!

It was quite obvious that this cabin had not been used RECENTLY. It appeared not to have been used in a decade! We would be spending our vacation cleaning this place in order to live there.

Totally dejected, we returned to the outdoors. The temperature by this time of day had reached nearly 100 degrees, which is not unusual for Clear Lake. My parents got some folding chairs out of the car. My aunt and my mother sat down and cried. My uncle and my dad reached into the cooler for a cold beer. Us kids glanced back and forth at each other and wondered what in the world would be done now and would we have to turn around and go home? I am sure the neighbor girls must have felt a little frightened and were wishing they had not come.

No one wanted to go back inside and stay THERE!

After tears and beers my father and uncle Dell came up with an idea. The previous two years we had rented a very nice, clean, roomy cabin on the far side of the lake. This cabin was on a secluded lagoon with a private beach and a nice lawn area. My father and Uncle Dell were going to drive to this cabin with the hope that the neighbor there would be home. He had a key and knew the owners well. Hopefully, he could contact them and if the cabin was not presently in use we could rent it.

We felt relieved and hopeful when the men drove off and anxiously awaited their return - hoping for the best.

To our sheer delight, they returned in about an hour with the key to the lovely cabin on the lagoon. The neighbor had been home. He called the cabin owner who, fortunately had also been home. Some money was exchanged and we had a place to vacation. Hooray and Hallelujah!

We were all rather giddy as we climbed back into the cars and drove away from "the shanty"!

All was well. We had a marvelous vacation after all!

You can be sure my mother raised quite a ruckus to her club-mate and got her money back.

We kept the photo! Would you rent this for four adults and four kids? Looks like an old miner's shack, doesn't it? They say, "pictures can be deceiving". This one is not, believe me!

There is a Kodak stamp on the back of the picture dated July 25, 1939! Can't help but wonder if that was the last time anyone used this little shack!



GENEALOGY PLEDGE: Take nothing but ancestors - Leave nothing but records.

CEMETERY PRESERVATION By Jeremy Frankel, SFBAJGS

Sometimes it's necessary or deemed politically correct to distance oneself from an organization when writing about it. One usually reads certain disclaimers of there not being any association between the writer and the organization in question. Well, I'm not going to do that: I will state up front that I am not only a board member but also a trustee of the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West.

The Commission used to be under the umbrella of the Magnes Museum which I'm sure needs no introduction. In recent years, the Magnes changed direction, having ceded most if not all of its documentary archives to the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley. The artifacts have been retained by the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life in a new location in downtown Berkeley. This is, I admit, a much simplified version of the break-up of the old Magnes, but it will suffice for now.

That said, there was no place in either the "new" Magnes nor the Bancroft Library for the Commission. During 2012 the Commission therefore obtained its own not-for-profit status in order to continue to carry out the mission for which it was set up some fifty years ago.

For those of you not familiar with the Commission, it came to light all those years ago that a number of Jewish cemeteries were in the Gold Country. They were pretty much abandoned, with fences in disrepair, the grounds within overgrown, a number of the headstones either broken due to vandalism or simply falling over, and others which stood at precarious and dangerous angles.

The Commission entered into discussion with various towns to assume ownership and responsibility of the cemeteries. Today the Commission owns the titles and oversees the maintenance of seven Gold Rush pioneer Jewish cemeteries: Grass Valley, Jackson, Marysville, Mokelumne Hill, Nevada City, Placerville, and Sonora.

Now that the Commission is a non-for profit organization it is reaching out to enhance its ability to maintain and preserve the cemeteries (and maybe acquire more later on) for future generations to enjoy visiting and learning about those early years. In California, when people came from thousands of miles away and many Jews set up shop to serve those seeking their fortunes mining for gold. Today the descendants of those early pioneers have scattered far and wide, but many still live in and around the Bay Area.

Some people have lamented that there is no actual Jewish historical society encompassing this part of California, and so it has fallen to our society and the Commission to step in to recognize and highlight those aspects of Jewish life and history we research today.

Whether you have connections to those pioneers of the past or not, the work of the Commission helps preserve pioneer Jewish cemeteries for generations to come and for all to learn from.

I asked Jeremy Frankel's permission to reprint his article in this newsletter. I felt the article told a lot about what a small group of dedicated people can accomplish. If you wish to contact or donate to the commission:

Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West, P. O. Box 433, Aptos, CA 95001 or go to <http://www.pioneerjewishcemeteries.org/>

Continuation of Engagement and Marriage Announcements from Local Newspapers 1985 - 2010

GROOM	BRIDE	EVENT	DATE	PLACE
STETSON, Stephen Anthony	SILVA, Patricia Marie	Mar	June 1990	Alameda Co, CA
STEVENS, Anthony Brian	IHLING, Donna Greer	Mar	June, 1993	N. Carolina
STEVENS, Anthony Brian	IHLING Donna Greer	Eng	Feb 1993	High Point, N.C.
STEVICK, Jess	GLASS, Teri	Eng	Dec 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STEVKO, Martin Mitchell	de SOUSA, Isabelle Silveira	Mar	Dec 1991	Carmel, CA
STEWART, Glen Chris	MENDENHALL, Tirza Rena	Mar	July 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STEWART, Gregory Allen	PEREA, Jami Louise	Eng	Aug 1990	Alameda Co, CA
STEWART, John William	RABBACH, Marci Ann	Mar	Nov 2000	Alameda Co, CA
STIDHAM, Bobby Charles	HILLMAN, Rebecca Lynn	Eng	Nov 1988	Alameda Co, CA
STIRLING, Alan	BAKKER, Karen	Eng	May 1993	Alameda Co, CA
STIRLING, Alan Thomas	BAKKER, Karen Shirley	Mar	Aug 1993	Alameda Co, CA
STOCKTON, Larry	JOHNSTON, Betty	Mar	Sept 1993	So Lake Tahoe, CA
STOKES, Christopher Raymond	CASELLS, Renee Elizabeth	Mar	June 1989	Sacramento, CA
STONE, Dennis Lee	BOWERMAN, Debora Karen	Eng	Nov 1990	Eugene, OR
STONE, Frederick Robert	THOMAS, Terry Nadine	Mar	Oct 1985	San Francisco, CA
STONEHAM, Tracy Michael	CARMIGNANI, Angela	Mar	June 1997	Alameda Co, CA
STORM, Kevin Scott	HIBBS, Susan Rene	Eng	Jan 1986	Alameda Co, CA
STORM, Kevin Scott	HIBBS, Susan Rene	Mar	Aug 1986	Alameda Co, CA
STORY, Christopher Scott	JIMENEZ, Sylvia Alarcon	Eng	Aug 1993	Alameda Co, CA
STOVALL, Adrian A.	BROWN, Robyn Elaine	Mar	June, 1987	Compton, CA
STRATFORD, Eric Scott	CRESPIN, Michelle Marie	Eng	Jan 1997	Alameda Co, CA
STRAUB, Henry	MANSTROM, Debbie	Eng	Dec 1992	Alameda Co, CA
STRAW, Gerald	QUICLEY, Shawna	Eng	Oct 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STRAWN, Joseph Christopher	NORBERG, Karen Rene	Eng	May, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STRAWN, Joseph Christopher	NORBERG, Karen Rene	Mar	Oct 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STREEPEY, John Paul III	HAVENS, Lynda Lee	Eng	Jan 1990	Alameda Co, CA
STREHLOW, Roland	MALLOY, Myra	Mar	Nov 1989	Napa, CA
STRELO, Jim	PORTOCARRERO, Laura	Mar	Apr 1990	Alameda Co, CA
STRELO, Jim	PORTOCARRERO, Laura	Eng	Oct 1989	Alameda Co, CA
STRONG, Bill	GALLAGHER, Lisa	Eng	Feb 1997	Alameda Co, CA
STRONG, Steven Ray	TURNER-SOMMER, Allyson E.	Eng	Oct 1992	Carmel, CA
STROUP, Timothy Lawrence	REDINGER, Rachel Marie	Eng	July 1987	Alameda Co, CA
STRUBLE, Edward Steven	FOX, Marcia Jane	Eng	Jan 1988	Alameda Co, CA
STRYSKO, Timothy A.	SHINKO, Maria Teresa	Eng	Aug 1988	Alameda Co, CA
STUDER, Thomas Allen	WALKER, Karia Jane	Eng	Dec 1988	Alameda Co, CA
STURLINE, Alfredo Giovanni	GILBERT, Sharon Louise	Mar	Aug 2004	Alameda Co, CA
SUGARMAN, Steven Alan	STAGNARO, Karen Marie	Eng	May 1992	Santa Cruz, CA
SUGARMAN, Steven Alan	STAGNARO, Karen Marie	Mar	May 1992	Santa Cruz, CA
SULLIVAN, Brian	HARTER, Maureen	Mar	April, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
SUMMERLIN, Daniel	HOWES, Shannon	Eng	Oct 1996	Chapel Hill, N.C.
SUMMERLIN, Daniel Clayton	HOWES, Shannon Marie	Mar	Aug 1997	Chapel Hill, N.C.
SUTHERLAND, Colin Peat III	JOHNSON, Melissa Ann	Mar	June 1990	Alameda Co, CA
SUTHERLAND, Colin Peat III	JOHNSON, Melissa Ann	Eng	June 1989	Spokane, WA
SUTTER, Paul	MAYBERRY, Roberta	Mar	April 1988	Alameda Co, CA
SVENSGAARDS, Peter James	RASMUSSEN, Georgene Lee	Mar	Aug 1986	Alameda Co, CA
SWAMBAT, Tracy Thomas	WARNER, Cynthia Dale	Eng	June 1991	Alameda Co, CA
SWAMBAT, Tracy Thomas	WARNER, Cynthia Dale	Mar	June 1992	Muir Beach, CA
SWAN, Robert Jr.	BOYLE, Cheryl Ann	Eng	Oct 1989	Alameda Co, CA

MEETINGS

2nd Wednesday each month – 10 am
Family History Center Library
4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland, CA

Visitors welcome! Typically a speaker discusses genealogical record sources, research techniques, research tips. Occasionally, working meetings are held at sites of genealogical interest.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all...

Individual/Organization - \$18.00

Family - \$25.00

Foreign - \$20.00

Request an application by writing to: P. O. Box 1648, Alameda, CA 94501
or download from our website.

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Website <http://rootsweb.com~caebaygs.com>

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December 11, 2013 Cookie Exchange Meeting Photos



**EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A
NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
EST. 1979**