

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN 0897 9839

November/December 2014

Oakland, California

WISHING EVERYONE A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 12, 2014 - 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

A GENEALOGICAL TRIP TO AERO ISLAND, DENMARK

Speakers: Paul and Terry Watt

Aero is a small island in the Baltic off the coast of Denmark. Paul and Terry will tell us of their exciting visit to her grandfather's native land and the unexpected meeting with a distant cousin. They were able to gather interesting and helpful information provided for them from the Marstal Maritime Museum on the island.

Whether you have ancestors from Denmark or not, you are sure to enjoy this program.

MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH JOY

DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, December 10, 2014 - 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND COOKIE EXCHANGE

Time to cull those cookie recipes and dust off the cookie sheet! Bring a batch of your favorites to exchange with members.

Have an heirloom, old photo, odd artifact - any item of interest you would like to share at this meeting? Please do...you will have a captive audience!

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

Looking Back at September:

John Rawlinson is a marvelous speaker and gave us all pause to think: are we following or even noticing every little clue (dot) our research reveals? I bet we will all be a little more alert and a little more aware of those "dots" and follow those "dots" a little more diligently in the future.

Looking Back at October:

Unfortunately, our speaker on Canadian Research was unable to attend at the last minute. We look forward to having him speak to us sometime in the coming year. On the spur of the moment, we improvised our own meeting and discussion covering the subject of "Grandparents".

EBGS NEWS:

On your new Roster, please correct Carolyn Sherfy's email to read: CLSherfy@gmail.com.

We are so grateful to all the members present at the October meeting who rallied and contributed stories of their grandparents to help us fill the void when our scheduled speaker could not attend at the last minute. Our members are wonderful!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Oakland FHC offers the following free classes/workshops on an ongoing basis. All interested are welcome to attend.

MAC GEN Genealogy meetings - website for more information on this group go to **www.macgen.org**

2nd Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m.

4th Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m.

African-American Workshop: 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m.

You can contact the Family History Center by phone or email to see if some new classes have been added and their dates and availability: 510-531-3905 / email: **fhcoakland@gmail.com**

The Oakland FHC will be closed November 24 through 29 for the Thanksgiving holiday and also December 19 through January 2, 2015 for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Bedfordshire, England - Marriage Records

<http://www.stevengibbs.me.us/ParishRegistersPage.htm>

According to Dick Eastman's website, these records are not available anywhere else. This appears to be an enormous list of transcribed information covering the years July, 1837 to March, 1901.

The registers are only for parishes in the Bedfordshire Registration District and are primarily from the Church of England. Some registers from other than the Church of England that Mr. Gibbs was able to access are listed at the bottom of the main page and are limited in scope. The main page has links to all of the transcribed records, plus birth and burial records for 22 counties have been added. There is a treasure trove of information available on this site for those with Bedfordshire ancestors. (*Genealogy Website Review*, by Ed Keelin. Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society newsletter, October, 2014)

Newspapers in Santa Clara County

The *San Jose Mercury News* and *Evening News Historical Archives* (1884-1922) are now available at the Santa Clara City Library.

.....*Jokes about German sausage are the wurst*.....

History Room - Oakland Main Library: Policy changes effective as of September 1, 2014. To have any materials retrieved from locked rooms (Local History Room, Photo Room, Oversize Room, Level F, Jack London Room) you will be asked to give your ID (California Driver's License, California ID card, City of Oakland staff ID, OPL card) to the staff. IDs will be held at the History Room reference desk until all items are returned.

- * Gloves must be worn when consulting photographs and historic maps.
- * Block Book and Sanborn Map research must end *15 minutes* before closing.
- * Photo reproduction and photo scan fees have been increased

Breakthrough in Pennsylvania Research Some of this information in prior issues, but worth repeating. Ed.

Pennsylvania began keeping birth and death records at the state level in 1906. Unfortunately, these records were closed. To get a copy of a death record you had to supply information such as; date and place of death, a direct relationship to the deceased, and include payment of \$9... then wait..... perhaps as long as 3 to 8 months. Many researchers did not know this information or weren't sure there was a relationship. In fact, this was the reason a death certificate was wanted!

A grassroots effort was successful in changing this. On December 15, 2011 a bill was enacted allowing death certificates on file for 50 years and birth certificates on file for 105 years to become public records. The first indexes were released on February 13, 2012 and included the years 1906 - 1961 for death records and 1906 for birth records. These indexes were difficult or impossible to search. On August 27, 2012 Ancestry began scanning the open certificates. Researchers were faced with the decision to request certificates at a cost of \$5 or wait for Ancestry to release the scanned certificates.

The release of the first batch came on April 17, 2014. Reportedly, death certificates for 1925-1944 were to be released June, 2014 and death certificates for 1945 - 1963 to be released in November, 2014 and 1906 birth certificates to be released in March 2015.

Pennsylvania residents can access these records for free, while other researchers need to have access to Ancestry.com. (by Denise Gresch via Champaign County Genealogical Society newsletter Apr/May/Jun, 2014, VOL.30 No. 2 - adapted and edited)

Los Altos Town Crier Online Obituary Index

In 2011 Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society member Nancy Sutton indexed nearly a decade's worth of obituaries published in the *Los Altos Town Crier* from July 1, 1997 to December 31, 2006. Nancy recently added obituaries from January 9, 2008 to December 21, 2011. The index includes name, date of death and date published.

The index can be found a <http://www.scchgs.org/towncrier/towncrierobits.pdf>. A printed index as well as paper copies of the obituaries themselves can be found in the Heritage Pavilion of the Santa Clara Central Park Library. (Excerpted from Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society newsletter May, 2014.)

Find Some Amazing Maps! Google: "40 more maps that explain the world". Make sure it is by Max Fisher and published in the Washington Post! (Monterey Co Gen Soc newsletter, Mar/Apr 2014.)

"Finding Your Roots" is once again on KQED public television, CH 9 in this area. It is a new series and appears to run through November...Tuesday evenings, 8 p.m.

UNDERSTANDING COUSIN RELATIONSHIPS By Kimberly Powell, Your Guide to Genealogy

If someone walked up to you and said, "Hi, I'm your third cousin, once removed", would you know what they meant?

Most of us don't think about specific cousin relationships in exact terms, "cousin" seems good enough, so many of us aren't familiar with what these words mean. **Working on your family history, however, it's important to understand the various types of cousin relationships.**

- > First cousins are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you.
- > Second cousins have the same great grandparents as you, but not the same grandparents.
- > Third cousins have in common two great, great grandparents and their ancestors.

When cousins descend from common ancestors by a different number of generations, they are called "removed".

- > **Once removed** means there is a difference of one generation. Your mother's first cousin would be your first cousin, once removed. She is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents.
- > **Twice removed** means that there is a two-generation difference. Your grandmother's first cousin would be your first cousin, twice removed because you are separated by two generations.

To complicate matters, there are cases of **double cousins**. This situation occurs usually when siblings of one family marry siblings from another family. The resulting children, grandchildren, etc., become double cousins, because they share all four ancestors in common. These relationships can be difficult to determine. It is usually easiest to chart them one at a time through one family line and then through the other. (Wittier Area Gen. Soc. newsletter Vol. 32 No. 5 October 2012 via Gen. Soc. of Hispanic America newsletter Vol. 22 No. 3 August, 2014)

A STRING OF PEARLS Submitted by Barbara Elliott Parkin

Some of you may remember me telling you about a 'pearl' being dropped into my hands. At a pre-Thanksgiving dinner last year I received a whole 'string of pearls' for my granddaughter, Jessica.

I was loaned quite a history of Dr. Robert M. Hall, Jessica's maternal grandfather and his family. Everything was numbered and cataloged. Included were pictures, newspaper articles, letters and many documents of three generations past. Among these documents was a letter from Herbert Hoover complimenting great grandfather, Percy Hall, for his work in the U.S. and Belgium for the Belgium Relief Program.

Some information was provided on grandmother Muriel Pirlke Hall. In other packets there were pictures of Jessica's mother, aunts and uncle growing up as well as pictures of herself and cousins. Each packet included a directory. All I could say was, "Wow"! and Thank You!

WHAT MOTIVATES *YOU* IN GENEALOGY RESEARCH?

By Anita Crabtree - Lake County Genealogical Society

Generally, when researching our ancestors, we start with one surname, our own. We move on to spouse's surname, mother's' surname, etc., and before long we have accumulated several surnames! If you are like most people, you work on one line until you think you have found as much as you can and then you put it aside to work on another.

So, what gets you back to the first family line? Perhaps someone answers a query you posted long ago. Maybe a descendant of a sibling of your ancestor contacts you with new information...or it could be, as in my case, something in the newspaper and on TV news that pulls you back.

Early this year TV news reported on a boat with sonar sweeping San Francisco Bay looking for obstacles before the America's Cup races. (This was actually done in 2013, but not on the news until early 2014.) The sonar came across the wreck of the *City of Chester* nearly beneath the Golden Gate Bridge. The *City of Chester* was an iron steamship that carried passengers and cargo between San Francisco and Eureka with stops at Arcata, Hookton, Pt. Arena and Fort Bragg.

On August 22, 1888, the *City of Chester* with 47 crewmen and 106 passengers aboard left the pier in San Francisco in a thick blanket of fog. Arriving from Yokohama was the *Oceanic*, a ship almost twice the size of the *City of Chester*. The *Oceanic* carried a cargo of merchandise and 1,107 passengers.

Both ships moved slowly through the fog, both blowing their whistles. Suddenly, the two ships sighted each other, but it was too late...the *Oceanic* plowed into the *City of Chester*, cutting it nearly in two. Passengers scrambled for safety; some able to climb from the *City of Chester* onto the *Oceanic* as the two vessels were locked together. The *Oceanic* immediately launched lifeboats, plucking many people from the sea. According to most estimates, it was only about seven minutes between the time of the collision and the time the *City of Chester* sank out of sight. Three crewmen and 12 passengers aboard the *City of Chester* died, some after having been rescued.

So, why am I so interested in this news about the *City of Chester*? Because four of the passengers: Columbus T. Davis, Solomon Paul Davis, Mrs. Caroline (Davis) Brewen, and Josie Brewen were related to my husband. Columbus T. Davis and Josie Brewen were siblings of his great grandmother, Elizabeth (Davis) Crabtree.

Josie Brewen?? She is a mystery! She was either 3 or 5 years old at the time, so wasn't listed in any census. Her mother was listed as Mrs. Birdie (or Bertie) Brewen...another mystery. I have no idea who Birdie/Bertie's husband was. Caroline and Eli Brewen had six sons, but I haven't found a wife named Birtie/Bertie/ Bertha, etc.

Another mystery...Caroline is listed as Carrie Brewen on the ship's list, but she had remarried to a Hiram Hopkins about 1872 and was listed with him in the 1880 census. So, she's listed on the ship's list as Carrie Brewen, but when she filed suit against the steamship company in 1890, she is Caroline Hopkins again.

By the way, while I was back into researching the Davis family once again, I found Caroline's first husband, Eli Brewen, who is buried in Lower Lake Cemetery, in Lake County, CA. I don't know why he is there; they had never lived in Lake County to my knowledge. I can only guess that they were visiting her sister, Elizabeth (Davis) Crabtree, who lived in Seigler Canyon at that time.

(With renewed interest, Anita searched for articles relating to the collision and reports her recent findings. Ed.)

Contra Costa Gazette, August 25, 1888: "Among the passengers on the *City of Chester* were Mr. S. P. Davis of Springville, Humboldt Co., his brother, C. T. Davis, a sister, Mrs. Brewen, and niece, Josie Brewen of Contra Costa Co.....As soon as it became a certainty that the *Chester* would go down, Mr. S. P. Davis sprang into the bay with his sister.....Mr. Davis had his head turned toward the sinking ship and saw his brother and niece standing together on the deck as if they were about to jump overboard....." Another article, same newspaper: "Among those lost on the *City of Chester* by the collision on Wednesday morning were Mr. C. T. Davis, brother of Mrs. Carrie Brewen of Brentwood, and Josie Brewen, daughter of Mrs. Bertie Brewen, aged three years. Mrs. Carrie Brewen, who was saved, was in ill health and was taking the ship in the hope that it might prove beneficial." (*This is the first place that I found the name of Josie's mother*)

Daily Alta California, Vol. 42, No. 14249, 9 September 1888:
ANOTHER CITY OF CHESTER VICTIM..... "San Rafael, September 8th.....An inquest on the body of the man found floating off Tiburon was held today. The body was identified as that of C. T. Davis, a resident of Martinez. Mr. Davis sailed on the *City of Chester*, intending to go to Springville, Humboldt county. The remains were removed to Martinez for burial." (*This is where I found the place of C. T. Davis's burial. There was no mention that Josie's body was ever found*)

San Francisco Call, Vol. 68, No. 73, 12 August 1890: **THREE DAMAGE SUITS.....**"Caroline Hopkins has sued to recover \$25,000 damages from the Pacific Coast Steamship Company the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company, claiming that she was a passenger on the steamer *City of Chester* when it collided with the steamer *Oceanic* in the bay on August 22, 1888, and she has since been ill from the injuries received..... Columbus T. Davis was also a passenger on the *City of Chester* during the collision and was drowned. His Children have sued to recover \$100,000 damages from the above defendant..... Josie Brewen was also among the passengers of the *City of Chester* who were drowned in the collision. Her parents have sued to recover \$50,000 from the above defendants."

San Francisco Call, Vol. 75, No. 36, 5 January 1894: **THE CITY OF CHESTER DISASTER:**
"A jury in Judge Sanderson's court is engaged in trying the suit of Marion Angus Davis et al against the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company. The suit, which was originally commenced in the Federal courts. grew out of the collision between the *City of Chester* and the *Oceanic* on August 22, 1888, off Point Bonita. A passenger named Columbus T. Davis, on board the *City of Chester*, was drowned when the vessel sank, and the plaintiffs, his children, brought suit." (*In this article I learned the middle name of Marion A. Davis*)

So, that is what started me back on an old search. Go back and research your names. There is SO MUCH more information available now than there was just a shot time ago. Happy Hunting!
(Lake County Genealogical Society Spring 2014 Newsletter Vol. 3, No. 1. Reprinted and edited with permission of t

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

VIEL, Bruce Anthony	FLEISCHMAN, Annette	marr	Feb, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
VIERRA, Frank O'Neil	McNEILY, Erin Regina	marr	July, 1991	Dayton, OH
VIGIL, Michael	ABREW, Donna	marr	June, 1991	San Francisco, CA
VILLIADOS, Patrick M	PEREZ, Angela Marie	eng	Oct, 1993	Alameda Co, CA
VINCENT, Joseph A	CAPINPIN, Jo-Anne P	eng	Jan, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
VINSON, Kent Phillip	ALMASON, Brenda Lee	eng	August, 1990	Alameda Co, CA
VINSON, Kent Phillip	ALMASON, Brenda Lee	marr	Sept, 1990	Las Vegas, NV
Von Dessauer, Anthony	BOND, Marisa	eng	August, 2003	Alameda Co, CA
VRANDENBURG, Jos. B.	COLLINS, Cheryl Ann	marr	June, 1985	Alameda Co, CA
WACEK, Ronald	HOWELL, Susan Lynn	marr	March, 1988	Contra Costa Co
WADDICUPS, Thomas	YAGER, Keldi Ann	marr	Sept, 1990	San Bruno, CA
WADE, Eric	ZENDER, Lee Ann	eng	Jan, 2000	Alameda Co, CA
WADE, Frank	TOWNSEND, Nina	marr	March, 2001	Memphis, TN
WADSWORTH, Bradley C.	HARTSELL, Valentina	eng	June, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
WADSWORTH, Bradley C.	HARTSELL, Valentina	marr	Sept, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
WAGNER, Christopher J.	CHILDE, Colleen Leila	eng	Dec, 2006	Alameda Co, CA
WALBRECHT, Michael	HYDE, Janis	eng	Dec, 1992	Alameda Co, CA
WALBRECHT, Michael C.	HYDE, Janis Marie	marr	Dec, 1992	Alameda Co, CA
WALD, Zachary	SORENSEN, Eliza Ridgely	eng	July, 2000	Alameda Co, CA
WALDEAR, James Richard	CHRISTENSEN, Sandra J.	eng	Dec, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WALDEAR, James Richard	CHRISTENSEN, Sandra J.	marr	August, 1992	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, James P. Jr.	JENSEN, Katherine A.	eng	Nov, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, James Michael	CULLISON, Melanie Ann	marr	August, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Kevin C.	RIVERA, Rose Carvajal	eng	August, 1991	San Antonio, TX
WALKER, Mark M	SMITH, Susie	eng	Jan, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Mark M.	SMITH, Susan Ann	marr	March, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Robert James	BOWMAN, Debra Ann	marr	Nov, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Shaun Alan	COWDEN, Christine Adrian	marr	June, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Stephen	OPPENDIKE, Aleesa	eng	Jan, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WALKER, Walter Yi	KALAVERAS, Alethea T.	marr	July, 2001	Suisun City, CA
WALLACE, Christopher Lee	ZEHNDER, Sara Jane	marr	August, 1998	Alameda Co, CA
WALLACE, Michael	LIMA, Tammie	eng	Dec, 1989	Alameda Co, CA
WALLACE, Michael Allan	LIMA, Tammie Anne	marr	March, 1990	Alameda Co, CA
WALLER, William Waite	ROTH, Elizabeth Anne	marr	June, 1986	Bethesda, MD
WALLER, William Waite	ROTH, Elizabeth Anne	eng	March, 1986	Alameda Co, CA
WALSH, Allen	BUNTE, Deborah	marr	Sept, 1990	Alameda Co, CA
WALSH, Allen	BUNTE, Deborah	eng	August, 1990	Contra Costa Co,
WANDEN, Andrew	KACLUOIS, Laura Ann	marr	Dec, 1990	Alameda Co, CA
WAPLES, Alan Patrick	SCOTT, Monica Jo	eng	Feb, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WARD WARE, Stephen E.	SARGENT, Virginia R.	eng	March, 1985	Tiburon, CA
WARD, Bradley Middleton	SHACKLEFORD, Samantha L.	marr	Jan, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WARD, Dan	ENGELDINGER, Jill	eng	Jan, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WARD, Jim Ellsworth	COUCH, Cheri Kay	eng	Nov, 1987	Alameda Co, CA
WARD, John	LOWDER, Janice	eng	Sept, 1991	Alameda Co, CA
WARD, Steven Curtis	FITZSIMMONS, Mary A.	marr	Oct, 1988	Alameda Co, CA
WARE, Stephen Everett	SARGENT, Virginia R.	marr	July, 1985	Tiburon, 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.

BOARD MEMBERS

President	Sally Stevens
Recording Secretary	Jean Christie
Treasurer	Joyce Schleicher
Publicity	Lynne Bajuk

Editor	Carolyn Storm email: c-kstorm@juno.com
--------	--

Webmster	William George email: williamgeorge@gmail.com
----------	---

Website	http://rootsweb.com~caebaygs.com
---------	---

blog	http://caebaygs.blogspot.com
------	---

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A

NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

EST. 1979