

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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July/August 2015

Oakland, California

JULY MEETING

Wednesday, July 8, 2015 - 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

EASTERN EUROPEAN RESEARCH - Speaker: Gail Chaid

Upon inheriting a cardboard box that had belonged to her mother containing records and letters dating back 100 years, Gail Chaid (pronounced "Shade") began her quest to uncover the family history. Making the task more difficult - the letters were written in Cyrillic, native to many Slavic countries and still used today in Russia, Bulgaria and some other Slavic states.

Following all the recommended research techniques, attending classes and seminars, searching websites, etc., attempting to research her Bulgarian family proved most futile. Records in the United States were not her problem, translating Cyrillic and researching records in Bulgaria WAS her problem. Gail had to change her strategy.

Although her research deals primarily with Bulgaria, Gail's strategy that broke through some brick walls might be useful to anyone researching their Eastern European ancestors.

AUGUST

THE SOCIETY DOES NOT HOLD A MEETING IN AUGUST

Vacation, research, roam the country at will... Of course, should you happen to make an interesting or unusual discovery concerning your family research, you will write a paragraph or two for this newsletter, please! Appreciate all the help I can get.

See you at the September Meeting!

Looking Back at May:

Our Annual Spring Luncheon at Pier 29 in Alameda was well attended and most enjoyable. The food was good, the chatter lively and the staff treated us so graciously. It was good to see some members that we do not get to see often - but we did miss those who could not make it.

Looking Back at June:

Not sure I want to...! I dropped the ball. I scheduled our June speaker quite some time ago and should have followed up with a phone call or email last week - just in case. Well, I did not and he did not appear Wednesday morning, much to the disappointment of some members. My humble apologies to all.

President, Sally Stevens, browsed the staff at the library and returned with Elder Dennis White who willingly filled the void. He spoke on FamilySearch and its' many possibilities. The members seemed to really enjoy the meeting and asked to have him return again some time...and we will certainly try to do so!

EBGS NEWS

DUES ARE DUE.....If you have not renewed your membership, this will be your last newsletter. We hope you will continue to support the society. Your dues make this newsletter and our programs possible.

Sadly, a recent obituary told of the passing of a previous, but very dear, member, Doras Briggs. Doras was one of our early members and a member for twenty years or more. Those of us that have been around long enough to remember Doras, remember her as a very vivacious and active little lady, all 5 feet 95 pounds of her. She edited this newsletter for a few years and held other positions in the society. She managed the committee that handled our incorporation process - and that was a major task. Bless you Doras, may you rest in peace.

Our Recording Secretary, Jean Christie, has been ill and had to miss the last board and regular meeting. We missed her and her meticulous note taking that keeps us honest! We hope she will be well soon!

Some information from Janice Seller's program on Immigration & Naturalization (April meeting) can be found on page 7 of this issue.

Beginning in this issue we will begin a series of articles to help researchers searching ancestors in Alameda County, California. Way back in 1993 EBGs published a very definitive Alameda County Research Guide. Though the book is outdated in some respects, much of the information contained therein is still relative and available today. We hope that this Alameda County Research Series in our newsletter will update and supplement some of that information.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Oakland FHC Library offers the following on-going classes/workshops. They are free and open to everyone interested.

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

MAC-GEN Genealogy meetings/workshops for Mac Users. More info at www.macgen.org

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

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

Contra Costa County Genealogical Society regular meeting - June 11, 2015 - 7 p.m.

LDS Building, 1360 Alberta Way, Concord, CA

Topic: Lost Landmarks of San Francisco

Speaker: James Smith

San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Free Mini-Seminar - July 21, 2015 - 10 a.m.

LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road, Alamo, CA

Topic: Newspaper Research in the 21st Century and Genealogy Road Show Research - 5 lessons

Speaker: Gena Philibert Ortega

ITEMS OF INTEREST

U. S. Independence First Announced in German: Although drafted and signed by English speaking colonists, the adoption of the Declaration of Independence was first reported in German. Philadelphia publisher Henry Miller scooped the English language newspapers by reporting the signing on Friday, July 5, 1776 --- the day after it happened. Miller simply was lucky enough to run the only newspaper in town with a Friday edition. His *Der Wochentliche Philadelpische Statsbote* carried a brief notice about the Declaration of Independence that Friday and ran a complete German translation of the document the following Tuesday. The English language readers first saw the complete Declaration on Monday, July 8.

The *Staatsbote* was outspokenly anti-British, and the account of the signing had a headline set in an especially bold typeface. Needless to say, the British took a dim view of Miller's politics and later confiscated his press and type. He got them back, but the *Staatsbote* ceased publication in 1779, when Miller retired. (from an old magazine or newspaper article - name of publication and author unknown.)

Researching Historic Persons and Events at Your Local Children's Library: Several weeks ago I was culling books that had been stored in the attic since my children left for college. My 9 year-old grandson took some and the rest were going to the local library for their book sale. While boxing them I ran across one from a series of "Adventures of...." books. It was about Lewis and Clark. I decided to read it before I donated it.

The inside front cover, as well as the inside back cover, had a map of the U. S. in 1804 showing the trail of their expedition West and East, returning to St. Louis. The print was large and the entire book was only 85 pages and I read it in about half an hour's time. I was amazed how much I learned and how well the authors had covered the subject and included so much vital information on every aspect of their expedition from beginning to end in such a compact format.

I was reminded of years ago when I wanted to know more about John "Snowshoe" Thompson and was unable to find a book about him at the local library other than in the Children's Section. It, too, was a quick read; but packed with lots of interesting information about this amazing Norwegian man who in the mid to late 1800s had skied over the Sierra Mountains each winter for about 20 years delivering mail between Genoa, Nevada and Placerville in the Sierra foothills of California.

I would suggest that if you want to learn more about a particular individual or event in history and do not wish to take the time to read some 300 to 400 pages to do so, browse the shelves or catalog of the Children's Section at your local library. You might be amazed at what you find and what you learn in a short time...and if you are like me, you will appreciate the large print!

It Happened in the Smokies - by Gladys Tretham Russell (1988). A book review...

A mountaineer's memories of happenings in the Smoky Mountains in pre-park days (Great Smokey Mountains National Park).

Born in 1917 on what has since become National Park land, and living there until the age of 16, the author relates many tales of the inhabitants, customs and ways of life from her childhood. Several family names are mentioned in the book, i.e.; Trentham, Bohanon, Cole, Huskey, McCarter, Maples, Walker, Whaley, Reagan and Ogle

Do You Have Photographs That You Would Like to Scan? The Oakland Family History Library has the answer for you! They have recently installed a new photo scanner that I understand does several scans in record time. Visit the Oakland FHC and check it out.

Write Your Stories, Folks! Twice now, I have been contacted through my email by second or third cousins I never knew existed...because they had read a tale I wrote in this newsletter about one of my or my husband's ancestors. A wonderful surprise!

I am not entirely sure how the information gets out there 'on the web' - Google, I suspect. But I think it is marvelous! There are also libraries in other areas of the U.S. that I know download or catalog our newsletter in some manner...and probably other society's newsletters as well.

You never know when someone might be Googling one of your surnames and be directed to a story you wrote that had been printed in our newsletter. A couple of paragraphs, half a page or more - or whatever you wish would be welcomed by me - and may turn out to be rewarding to you.

You can include your email as contact, if you wish; or someone can contact me through my email, which is on the back page, and I can put you in contact with them.

Do take advantage of the opportunity and hopefully reap the rewards it may generate.

Oakland/Alameda County/California Newspaper Records Collection -FamilySearch.com:

Index and images of card files/obituaries and news clippings from local newspapers (1985-2011) The collection includes, obituaries, wedding announcements, anniversary announcements, birth announcements, death notices, biographical articles. The original obituary card files for 1985-2002 and 2007-2011 are on file and available at the Oakland Family History Library. Unfortunately the original card files for 2003-2006 have been destroyed.

To access the collection: (the > sign means - then click on)

Go to familysearch.org >Search >Records >Browse all published collections (on left or near bottom of page).

The above takes a long time to load....to hasten things...click on United States in the left column of the page....then scroll down to California, Oakland Alameda County Newspaper Record Collection. The collection is searchable by surname. Happy searching!

Attention Society Newsletter Editors, et al:

We all need to be mindful of the Copyright Laws, as confusing as they are. Apparently articles we write in our newsletters are considered "copyright" unless it has been gleaned from another source - and the source cited and/or permission has been granted to reprint or quote.

If you wish to include items from EBGs *The Live Oak*, that I have composed, I do not have a problem with that...and the EBGs Board agrees. However, **do cite** our newsletter and date of issue when quoting or reprinting. If an item or article has been submitted by one of our members, that person's permission would be required before using the material in your publication. To contact me or to ask permission to reprint or quote a member's article: **c-kstorm@Juno.com - subject line: EBGs**

RESEARCHING IN ALAMEDA COUNTY CALIFORNIA Part I - County History

A brief history of the county and resources that can help you find further information regarding its history.

The county is included in the East Bay Region of the San Francisco Bay Area. The 2010 Census states the population was 1,510,271 making it the 7th most populated county in the state at that time.

The county was incorporated in 1853 from a large portion of Contra Costa County and a smaller portion of Santa Clara County. The first county seat was Alvarado. It was later moved to San Leandro. A devastating earthquake on the Hayward Fault in 1868 destroyed that county courthouse and the county seat was moved to Oakland in 1873 where it remains to this day.

Today, Alameda County is an intensively urban region with major cities and an ever-growing population and infrastructure. Back in the early days it was rich with rancheros, farms, and orchards ...only a few remain today, primarily in the area once known as Murray Township.

Cities in Alameda County:

Alameda (an island since the dredging of a tidal canal separated it from Oakland in 1906), Albany, Berkeley, Dublin, Emeryville, Fremont, Hayward (earlier called Haywards), Livermore, Newark, Oakland, Piedmont, Pleasanton, San Leandro and Union City. Other census-designated communities are: Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, San Lorenzo and Sunol.

Former Townships:

Alameda Township - now essentially the City of Alameda.

Brooklyn Township - mostly now within Piedmont and Oakland.

Eden Township - partly incorporated into San Leandro and Hayward, the remainder becoming the communities of Castro Valley, San Lorenzo and other nearby unincorporated areas.

Oakland Township - the northern portion became Berkeley and Albany.

Murray Township - Dublin, Pleasanton, Livermore and substantial unincorporated areas of Sunol.

Washington Township - Union City, Newark, Fremont and small unincorporated areas nearby.

Two definitive histories of Alameda County: Available at libraries throughout the county.

History of Alameda County California by Frank Clinton Merritt (2 volumes)

History of Alameda County California by M. W. Wood

The Oakland Main Library History Room has histories of several cities and communities within the county. Check city libraries in the county for histories of their cities - there are far too many to list in this article.

Alameda County California Genealogical Research Guide, published by EGBS - 1993

Available at Oakland libraries and Oakland FHC, Salt Lake City FHC, and many societies and libraries throughout California and some other states.

Wikipedia is a good source for further information about cities in the county and for districts and small communities that have since been incorporated into larger cities...and don't forget to "google"!

HISPANIC RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

Helpful Websites

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the internet - <http://www.cyndislist.com/>

Cyndi's List - Hispanic, Central & South America, incl. Mexico, Latin America & Caribbean

<http://www.cyndislist.com/hispanic.htm>

LatinoLink, online weekly journal and conferencing forum - <http://www.latinolink.com/>

LatinoWeb, Latinosion the internet <http://www.latinoweb.com/>

LDS (Mormon) Church searchable database. <http://www.new.familysearch.org>

My History is America's History, a millennium project for the National Endowment for the Humanities

<http://www.myhistory.org/>

Southwest Research Center. <http://taos.unm.edu.swrc/>

Yahoo! Clubs genealogiahispana <http://clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/genealogiahispana>

Hispanic Websites - Non-U.S. Research

Archivo de Indias - Seville <http://www.andalucia.com/cities/seville/archivo-de-indias.htm>

El Portal de Archivos Espaoles

<http://hispanicgenealogy.blogspot.com/2007/10/pares-portal-de-archivos-espaoles.html>

English Translation of El Portal de Archivos-Espaoles

<http://www.linguee.com/spanish-english/translation/portal+de+achivos+espanoles.html>

Genealogy of Mexico <http://members.tripod.com/~GaryFelix/index1.htm>

Genealogy of Mexico <http://maxpages.com/outlostmfamily/Research>

Hispanic Heritage Project <http://hh-p.org>

Iberia Genealogy dedicated to Hispanic Genealogy, dedicated to those who have an interest in the genealogy and history of the early settlers of northern New Spain

<http://members.tripod.com/longoriaF/>

Mexico Research Group <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Estates/9631/>

Somos Primos <http://www.somosprimos.com/>

Society of Hispanic Historical & Ancestral Research(SHHAR) <http://members.aol.com/shhar/index.html>

U. S. Hispanic Genealogical Societies

Albuquerque Genealogical Society <http://www.abqgen.swnet.com/>

Canary Islands Descendants Association <http://cida-sa.org>

Colorado Genealogical Society (CGS) <http://www.cogensoc.org/cgs/cgs-home.htm>

Colorado Society of Hispanic Genealogy <http://www.hispanicgen.org/>

Genealogical Society of Hispanic America <http://www.gsha.net/>

Hispanic Genealogical Society - Texas <http://www.hispanicgs.com/>

Hispanic Genealogical Society Center of New Mexico <http://www.hgrc-nmc.org/>

Hispanic Reference Library of the Hispanic Genealogy Society of New York

<http://www.hispanicgenealogy.com/refer3.htm>

New Mexico Genealogical Society <http://www.nmgs.org/>

Olibama Lopez Tusher Hispanic Legacy Research Center <http://hispaniclegacy.org>

(The above information is from *Huellas Del Pasado*, Vol. 3, No. 2, May, 2015. The newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America Southern California society. (<http://www.gsha-sc.net>))

Searching For Immigration and Naturalization

From a handout by Janice Sellers - April meeting

Find as many records in the U. S. as possible!

Search censuses, vital records, religious records, personal and family information, city directories, voting registers, mortuary/cemetery records, newspaper obituaries and ethnic newspapers in the area where they lived. In censuses, look at neighbors from the same country.

Consider as many name variations as possible.

Correct names improve chances of success.

Earlier records may be more likely to be closer to original name.

Establish approximate date of immigration by searching a wide variety of records.

The U.S. census has helpful information in 1820, 1830, 1850-1940.

Search available state censuses and look at birth places of children.

Search passenger lists/manifestations and passport applications.

Search U. S. Customs passenger lists (1820-1891)

Search vital records (BMD) for your ancestor's siblings and of your ancestor's children.

Search for any other documents. The names of witnesses mentioned in documents could provide clues.

Religion may be a clue to country of origin, or vice versa.

Helpful Websites:

SteveMorse.org One-Step site

Ancestry.com

Canadian Border, called "St. Alban's lists" covers entire border and Canadian ports

Mexican border crossings - many people went to Mexico and then to U.S.

EllisIsland.com (1902-1924); search through SteveMorse.org

CastleGarden.org (1830-1892); search through SteveMorse.org

NARA Archives.org

Collections Canada

GermanRoots.com

Great Migration Begins (early New England, 1620-1635) on NEHGS

Repositories and Group Records

Historical and Genealogical Societies

Ethnic/Heritage Societies

Immigrant Aid Societies - helped people find jobs, lent money

Archives and Libraries

Books on Ethnic and Religious Groups

Websites for Countries, Groups, Surnames

More on Naturalization in the September/October Issue

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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