

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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September/October 2015

Oakland, California

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 9, 2015 at 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

29 YEARS LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER - Speaker: Jeremy Frankel

Jeremy Frankel is a professional genealogist and has been researching his family for over 30 years. He is president of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society and a trustee for the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Jewish Cemeteries and Landmarks in the West...which owns and maintains seven Gold Rush era cemeteries in the Sierra foothills. He and his partner own Frankel & Fisch, Family Historians; and in addition to traditional projects, they have worked on four TV programs.

Thirty years ago, Jeremy's grandfather looked up from the dinner table and asked him if he knew that his older brother had been previously married...the grandfather's brother, not Jeremy's. This nonchalant question set Jeremy on a trail that took nearly thirty years to solve across two continents and led to an amazing "reunion" in April of this year.

OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

OHIO - GATEWAY TO THE WEST - Speaker: Richard Ferman.

Ohio was truly the Gateway to the West during the expansion of our country. Richard Ferman has lectured on many aspects of Ohio research. He will share his knowledge of Ohio resources and references which I am sure you will find quite useful as you research your ancestors from Ohio and vicinity. We have had to reschedule this program a few times - hopefully we can finally satisfy our membrs who have been patiently looking forward to Ohio information.

Looking Back at July: Apparently, several members were out of town - we had a rather small audience at our July meeting. Nonetheless, Gail Chaid presented a very interesting program on her Eastern European research, primarily Bulgaria. I think probably the very most important point she made was to do thorough research in THIS country before trying to expand to Eastern Europe. If you are researching a small country, remember, it is very likely (as was the case with Bulgaria) that it has been ruled by several different countries over the centuries and it's boundaries may have changed during that time. There may be no other recourse but to visit the area yourself or hire a professional genealogist in the area.

There was no August Meeting: Hope everyone has had a nice summer so far. With the drought and rampant fires in the state of California, it has been a most difficult summertime for many. Let's hope there will be some relief soon.

EBGS NEWS

More information from Janice Seller's program on Immigration & Naturalization (April meeting) can be found on page 6 of this issue.

A new, updated Roster is included in this issue. If you find any typos or other errors, please contact Carolyn Storm at **c-kstorm@Juno.com** so corrections can be noted.

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? Let me know at: **c-kstorm@Juno.com**

We miss our long-time member and once faithful librarian, Lois Kline. She has moved to a senior living facility in Pleasanton to be closer to her family. Her new address is in the Roster. She would welcome a phone call or a visit if you feel so inclined.

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.

San Francisco Research: 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Saturday each month at the California Genealogical Society - 2201 Broadway Ste LL2 /at the corner of 22nd Street, Oakland, CA. This is an open forum meeting group to help each other looking for ancestors pre and post 1906 in San Francisco. Bring your questions and/or your experience and join the discussions.

For more information email: **SFSIG@CALIFORNIAANCESTORS.ORG**

All Day FALL FLING Seminar: Sponsored by Contra Costa County Genealogical Society.
Saturday, October 17, 2015 - 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA. Google them for more information and a registration form.

Docent-led Tours of Mountain View Cemetery: Open to the Public

5000 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA 510-658-2588

Saturday, September 12, 2015 - 10 a.m. - Tour highlighting the people, architecture, beauty and history of the cemetery.

Saturday, September 26, 2015 - 10 a.m. - Specialty Tour - U.C. Berkeley Founders and Leaders
Led by Jane Leroe and Ron Bachman

Saturday October 10, 2015 - 10 a.m. - Tour highlighting the people, architecture, beauty and history of the cemetery.

Saturday, October 24, 2015 10 a.m. - Specialty Tour - Architects and Architecture/ Led by Stafford Buckley

Friends of the Alameda Free Library Semi-Annual Used Book Sale: October 16 - October 17.

DeWitt O'Club, 641 West Red Line Avenue, Alameda Point....the previous Officers' Club on NAS.

Friday evening 6:30 - 9 p.m. \$5 admission, members free

Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission Free

Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission Free - sale day! Bag of books \$3/box of books \$5

Friday evenings are frantic, but Saturday is more relaxed, less collectors and browsing is easy. One of the largest used-book sales in the Bay Area. They generally have large collections of history and biography books that are especially interesting to the genealogist.

ITEMS OF INTEREST**New at the Oakland Family History Center Library:**

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer

published by the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 2014

The Preface is two pages long.....here are some excerpts

"One thing that sets New York apart from many other states is its long and unusually complex history."

"For over 150 years New York was the most populous state in the Union, so it is not surprising that a large number of people living today have New York roots. New York City alone has more people than forty states, and extensive records covering 400 years. An amazing number of records have survived from the colonial period."

"To cope with New York's extensive and often complicated records in today's genealogical world, a comprehensive, accurate, and up-to-date, statewide research guide has long been needed.....from those attempting New York genealogy for the first time to experienced researchers who may have hit a brick wall.....it is a book that should be in every New York genealogist's personal library, always on hand for ready reference."

FamilySearch.org: New items are added to their database almost daily! Check it often.

Genealogy NEWSLINE: A free twice-weekly email newsletter published by Family Roots Publishing and edited by Leland Meitzler and Andy Pomeroy. Every issue has articles of interest to the genealogist; the latest additions to FamilySearch databases, book reviews and books for sale, interesting articles submitted by genealogists, and much more.

You can get a free subscription by email at: www.familyrootspublishing.com Click on the subscription box at the top left of the first page, subscribe, and enjoy some interesting reading.

Google Genealogy Search Tip from Lisa Louise Cooke's *Genealogy Gems*, August 5, 2015:

How to communicate with Google that there *might* be a middle name or middle initial, or there *might* be a word or short phrase between two words...telling Google that there is a relationship between words, even though you are not sure what all the words are...using the * .

"This comes in very handy in the case of my ancestor, George R. Moore. He might be mentioned on the internet somewhere as George Moore, George R. Moore, or George Robert Moore. I can start with this

Google search: "George * Moore 1853..1923 "Latimer" Oklahoma". This way I'm specific while retaining flexibility. The numrange, county in quotes, and state add definition to tell Google which George Moore I am looking for."

RESEARCHING IN ALAMEDA COUNTY CALIFORNIA Part 2 - Libraries

Alameda County Libraries

The holdings of most of the county libraries overlap considerably. However, each library is likely to have newspapers and news clippings, church or mortuary/cemetery records, high school yearbooks, and histories pertaining to their particular city/area and inhabitants. You will probably want to check the library nearest to where your ancestors lived. County libraries are listed below. For particular information, it would be best to call their reference desk before a visit.

If you are a resident of California you may obtain an Alameda County Library Card. You can apply on line, which will give you access to databases through their website (www.aclibrary.org) or if you live within Alameda County, visit the closest county library and obtain a free Alameda County Library Card. I was informed that with the (physical) card I could check out up to 60 books and several DVDs...hopefully they would lend me a handcart to carry them to my car! The library card expires in three years, don't forget to renew!

You can search the following sources from home through their website and without a library card: Cyndi's List, Rootsweb, WorldGenWeb Project, CA Death Records (1940-1997) via Rootsweb, and SS Death Index, via FamilySearch.com. The site also offers tips and suggestions to help you research.

With a library card you can search:

Heritage Quest: City Directories, 1850 and 1860 Slave Schedules, U.S. Indian Census Rolls, Mortality Schedules, Agriculture and Industrial Schedules, 1890 Veterans Schedule and 1790-1940 U.S. Censuses.

WorldVitalRecords: Besides a List of their Collection and what is new and updated on the site, you can search censuses, maps, vital records and immigration records for the U.S. and many other countries.

Albany County Library, 1247 Marin Ave, Albany, CA 94607, (510)-526-3720
Castro Valley County Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546, (510)-667-7900
Canterville County Library, 3801 Nicolet Ave., Fremont, CA 94536 (510)-795-2629
Dublin County Library, 200 Civic Plaza, 94568, (925)-828-1315
Fremont Main County Library, 2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont, CA 94538, (510)-745-1400
Irvington County Library, 41825 Greenpark Dr., Fremont, CA 94538, (510)-795-2631
Newark County Library, 6300 Civic Terrace Ave., 94560, (510)-795-2627
Niles County Library, 150 "I" St., Fremont, CA 94538, (510)-795-2626
San Lorenzo County Library, 396 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo, CA 94580, (510)-670-6283
Union City County Library, 34007 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City, CA 94587, (510)-745-1464

Public Libraries in Alameda County

You will probably want to focus your research on the city or area where your ancestors lived. There you may find that obituary or newspaper article you desire, city directories and other pertinent information

regarding your ancestors. If the County Libraries don't cover your research area, perhaps other public libraries in Alameda County will.

As with the county libraries, some resources in the public libraries overlap. However, they are the local archives for their area and you may find city directories, local newspapers on film and newspaper clipping files, maps, city and personal histories/biographies, photo files, and in some cases, vital records.

Alameda Free Public Library, 1550 Oak Street, Alameda, CA 94501, (510)-747-7777

Berkeley Public Library, Shattuck Avenue & Kittridge, Berkeley, CA 94704, (510)-644-6100

Hayward Public Library, 835 "C" Street, Hayward, CA 94541, (510)-293-8685

Livermore Public Library, 1000 Livermore Avenue, CA 94550, (925)-373-5500

Oakland Public Library, 125 - 14th St, Oakland, CA 94612

History Room (510)-238-3222 - Magazine & Newspaper Room (510)-238-3176

Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA 94566, (925)-931-3400

San Leandro Community Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577, (510)-577-3490

The resources of the Oakland Main Library in their Newspaper Room and History Room are extensive, especially if you are researching ancestors that lived in Oakland. Listed below are some useful resources available at the Oakland Library History Room and Magazine & Newspapers Room. You may want to search their online catalog for more information. www.oaklandlibrary.org

Oakland History Room: City Directories 1869-1943 (Alameda, Berkeley, Oakland)
County Voting Registers 1867-1944
Photos, Postcards, Maps
Original Birth & Death Certificates/City of Oakland 1870-1904
Extensive card and vertical files
County histories for almost every county within California

Magazine & Newspaper Room: Some Hayward and many San Francisco City Directories
Telephone Directories from 1940 to date (Oakland
Berkeley/Alameda area)
Present and past local newspapers on microfilm
Mt. View Cemetery, other mortuary, church records on
microfilm
California Information File: Microfiche index of early newspapers
California Marriage Index on microfiche 1960-1985

Some Other Libraries in Alameda County That May Be of Help to You

University of California, Berkeley Campus: The campus includes several ethnic studies libraries as well as the following: Please check their website and online catalog for particular information

Doe Library - The Newspaper Room is extensive, as is their Map Room

Bancroft Library - Lots of California history here and huge manuscript collection

The Judah L. Magnes Museum and Western Jewish Historical Center books and manuscripts collection can be found at the Bancroft Library.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Library

Their library holdings are housed in the Pleasanton Public Library

J. A. Freitas Library ((Portuguese) Portuguese Union of the State of California Cultural Center

1120 East 14th St, Oakland, CA 94577, (510) 483-7676

They have some Portuguese newspapers. There were many Portuguese in early California.

Family History Center Library (LDS), 4766 Lincoln Ave. Oakland, CA (510)-531-3905

Lots of computers, several subscription websites to search for free and, of course, their own Familysearch.org. Some local obituaries from newspapers on file and on film/CDs. Staff is very helpful.

California Genealogical Society, 2201 Broadway, Ste LL2, Oakland, CA 94612, (510) 663-1358

Website: **californiaancestors.com**

There are many other private entities and societies throughout the county with their own small libraries, far too many to include in this space. The librarian at your local library may be able to assist you in locating a "specialty" library in the county if that is what you may need.

Searching For Immigration and Naturalization

From a handout by Janice Sellers - April meeting

Search Passenger lists/manifests. Many can be found on line.

U. S. customs passenger lists (1820=1891)

Border Crossings: Canadian Border (on Ancestry.com) called St. Alban's lists. covers entire border and Canadian ports.

Mexican Border (Ancestry.com) Not only Mexicans, many people went to Mexico and then to U.S.

Sites to Check:

SteveMorse.org One-Step site

Ancestry.com

EllisIsland.org - search through SteveMorse.com

NARA Archives.org

Collections Canada

GermanRoots.com

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

Where to Find Naturalizations

Many now digitized on Ancestry.com and Fold3.com

Prior to 1906 could be filed in any court in the country

Look where they lived at any point during their lives in the U.S.

If in a federal court, may be at NARA.archives.gov

FamilySearch.org

U.S. Research Outline (30972)

state research outline

card catalog searches; try several approaches

U.S. naturalizations (304)

Massachusetts naturalizations (130)

California naturalizations (168)

keyword search, e.g. naturalizations

USCIS.gov/genealogy (formerly INS)

Book Review: *Hardscrabble - A Narrative of the California Hill Country*

By Anita Kunkler, University of Nevada Press, 1975

A very interesting and sometimes humorous account of growing up in the mountains of Northern California in the early twentieth century (1907-1925). Anita Kunkler relates tales of her family life and other mountain folk, encounters with local wildlife, and her sometimes perilous adventures in what was then mostly wilderness. I thought it was a delightful book and would make a wonderful family movie. The book was originally published only a few months before her death

Judging from the hand drawn map on the cover and also on an inside page, this Hardscrabble was located roughly 10 to 20 miles north of Shingletown and 10 to 20 miles south of Whitmore. Wikipedia states that "Hardscrabble is now know as Ione..." However, the Ione they refer to is located in Amador County - quite a distance away. Apparently there was more than one little town or hamlet once known as Hardscrabble in the state of California.

by C. Storm

Lewis Newell Novak born 1899, in Montana
died October 19, 1966, Castro Valley, CA
Married my aunt Thelma Riedesser in
Carson City, Nevada 18 May, 1942

Photo is dated May 30, 1931. He appears to
be showing off his new outfit - possibly a
driving outfit? Maybe he just got a new
car? He always was a snappy dresser.

In the 40's he was part-owner of a men's wear
store in Oakland. In the 50's he owned a
liquor store on E. 14th Street in the Fruitvale
district of Oakland. His last venture was a
delicatessen in Castro Valley, CA

He was a proud veteran of WWI and WWII.

by C. Storm



Well folks, this *Live Oak* issue is wrapped up and ready to go to the printer. I am off to Washington D.C. for a week - hooray! As I explained to my family, Obama has requested my genealogical/research assistance in locating his birth certificate! (tee hee)

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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