

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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March/April - 2016

Oakland, California

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

WHEN SEARCH ENGINES DON'T WORK Finding Online Sources That Are Not Digitally Indexed Speaker: Marge Bell

The records of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City are being digitized at an amazing rate. This includes the millions of microfilms and microfiche previously available only in the SLC library or by mail order through your local FHC. It also includes the thousands upon thousands of periodicals indexed in PERSI.

This presentation by lecture and demonstration will explain how to find and use these online records which *cannot be found* by doing a search for an individual at a subscription website.

It is delightful to have Marge Bell once again available to present this new class/program. Ralph Severson was extremely impressed with it and I think you will be also.

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG - Speaker: Ralph Severson

It's time once again for an update on what is new and how to navigate our way through FamilySearch.org's vast archives...and nobody does this better than Ralph Severson.

We know this website can provide valuable clues and information that will answer questions and lead us to further understand and know our ancestors - but, sometimes finding those clues or that specific information can be a little difficult.

We are hoping this presentation will help you better find your way through the website and discover some valuable information relating to the ancestors in your family tree.

Looking Back at January:

Karla Henderlong and Madeline Yanov presented a very detailed and information-packed program on researching early tax records. These records, where available, are terrific for finding your ancestors in the years between the censuses, especially prior to the 1900's. Tax records are a great substitute for missing census records and also for missing information about an ancestor prior to the 1790 census. One or both of

these lovely ladies are available to help you research at the Oakland FHC every Wednesday. You might want to take advantage of this opportunity.

Looking Back at February:

Sheila Wells Harris from Harris Funeral Home in Berkeley was as excited to meet us as we were to meet her. We both had many questions for each other. I was surprised at how many members of the audience had not thought to search for funeral home/mortuary records!

The family at Harris Funeral Home make it a point to get to know the families they interact with and learn about the life of the deceased. They have kept very extensive records and photos throughout the years, and have created a database of the family information. If you had an ancestor whose funeral arrangements were made through Harris Funeral Home in Berkeley you are probably very fortunate and are likely to find a wealth of family information among their files...which they are most happy to share with you.

It was a very interesting meeting and we heard some great stories. Sheila was able to meet Ralph Severson from the FHC and they are both anxious to have the mortuary records preserved. It was a win/win meeting for everyone.

EBGS NEWS

Reservations have been made at Pier 29 restaurant in Alameda for our Annual Anniversary Luncheon on May 11th. You will find a reservation form at the back of this newsletter. This will be our 37th year! We hope many of you will join us at the luncheon. Directions to Pier 29 will be printed in the May/June newsletter.

Dues will be coming due soon. There is also a Membership Renewal form at the back of this newsletter. Your dues helps keep this society alive and kicking - please renew and enjoy the interesting programs we have planned for this year.

Correction! In the last issue on the section on "Researching in Alameda County - Part 3 - Cemeteries and Mortuaries Cont'd" there is a glaring error! I don't know who did it (tee hee) but in the "Addendum" where it is suggested you also search Amador County...that is sooo wrong! Cross out Amador County, please! Thank you to the member who pointed this out to me.

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact me and provide your email address. You can reach me at **c-kstorm@juno.com**.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Oakland FHC Library offers the following 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.

Genealogy Research Workshop: Thursdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Need some help with your Swedish research? Join our experts on Thursdays for some individual assistance. No appointment necessary, and it is free!

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

fh123.org: Family History as easy as 123, Free Tips and Lessons, Simple to navigate site, Powerful Free Research Tools, Links to the Best Lessons and Helps, New Consultant Tips. That is what is written on the cards available at the Oakland FHC - give it a try.

Subscription Sites Available for FREE at the Oakland Family History Center:

Ancestry.com; Fold3.com; Heritage Quest.com; MyHeritage.com; Origins.net; Godfrey Memorial Library; Proquest Obituary Listings; WorldVitalRecords.com; Findmypast.com (UK); Newspaper Archives. And there are always knowledgeable staff available to help you navigate these sites.

Look What is Available at the Oakland FHC: I may have mentioned this before, but it is worth repeating. The Oakland FHC Library now has a color printer for your use, plus a large printer that will print large fan charts and a photo scanner that can scan 25 photos a minute! Wow!

Lots of great reasons to visit the Oakland Family History Library often!

San Francisco Research: 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. on the **3rd Saturday** of 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**

San Francisco History Days at The Old Mint: Saturday and Sunday, March 5 & 6, 2016. If you have roots in San Francisco this FREE exhibit may be of special interest to you. (I am thinking it would be interesting just to see that marvelous old building on the inside.) Many organizations will be taking part in this celebration of San Francisco's past. For more information: go to **<http://sfhistorydays.org>**

Sonoma County Genealogical Society Annual Spring Seminar: Saturday, April 16, 2016, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Finley Community Center, *Person Auditorium* ...Judy G. Russell, "The Legal Genealogist". For more information, go to : **<http://scgsonline.org/events.html>**

Sacramento German Genealogy Society: Spring Seminar, April 30, 2016. Guest speaker Fritz Juengling, PhD., AG. For more information: **<http://sggs.us/cpage.php?pt=7>**

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Linkpendium.com: This site was originated by the originators of RootsWeb, I believe. It is quite a huge collection of data that can lead you to sites or indexes to trace your ancestors.

I clicked first on US sources, then on Colorado, then on Custer County - you can also search world wide sources. I was amazed at the leads I found - including a death date and place of burial for a child who I knew had died in Colorado but did not know the date!

Some of the leads will have \$ after them - well, we all know what that means. However, if you are searching at the FHC you can make a note of that particular site and log onto it to find the information. Give **Linkpendium.com** a try and hopefully you will be as lucky as I was.

California Obituary and Cemetery Databases: Google the *Hemit-San Jacinto Genealogical Society* to search their databases of obituaries and cemetery listings which covers the cities of Hemit and San Jacinto in the San Jacinto Valley in southwest Riverside County, CA. This information was collected from three or four local newspapers by their volunteers.

Google *Ivy Lawn Memorial Park & Funeral Home, Ventura, CA* to search their database. There are more than 50,000 persons buried at Ivy Lawn cemetery, established in 1917. Between 1917 and the 1960s many persons were relocated to Ivy Lawn from the Springfield and Ventura cemeteries. Click the Records link at the top of the page to access the search page. Click the Name link to view a photograph of the gravestone. (The above items both excerpted and edited from *The Weekly Genealogist*, Vol. 19, No. 1, Whole #773, January 6, 2016)

Family Tree Maker: A recent notice from Family Roots Publishing Co. announces that Family Tree Maker has been revived! MacKiev, which produces Family Tree Maker for Mac will now also produce Family Tree Maker for Windows. Also, that RootMagic will soon be able to Sync with Ancestry.com family trees.

"Mobile Genealogy: How to Use Your Tablet and Smartphone for Family History Research" by Lisa Louise Cooke. This is Lisa's latest book and for you folks who are tech savvy you might want to check it out. Available through Family Roots Publishing.

A Blog That Might Interest You: Janice Seller's daily blog is quite interesting and informational too. Go to **ancestraldiscoveries.blogspot.com** to see for yourself.

I have been following her Thursday blog to read, what I refer to as "The Perils of Emma Petit LaForet". It begins with her July 20, 2015 blog, titled "Don't Look a Genealogy Gift Horse in the Mouth". I am finding it most interesting - but then, I was the "Gift Horse"! C. Storm

Some Funny and True Stories Shared by Our Members at the February Meeting: A family rented a private plane at the Oakland Airport to scatter the ashes of a recently deceased relative, we'll call him 'uncle George'. They knew how to fly the plane, however, they knew nothing about how to scatter the ashes. They only slid open one window and then attempted to toss the ashes out. Well, the gust of incoming air scattered "uncle George" throughout the cockpit and instead of being scattered over the Pacific Ocean, he ended up in the shop vac - and we are not sure of his finale destination....

A family bought a used car somewhere back East and drove to their new home in California. It was only after reaching California that they discovered a container of "someone's" ashes was in their glove compartment! The container, with ashes intact, was returned to the rightful owner.

How Many Members Recall....our November, 2015 speaker, Susan Shoemaker, describing to us her Super Filing System? One member reports that she was surprised and delighted to find among some papers, etc. that she had inherited from a dear friend some time ago all the colored filing folders she would need to set up this system. She has begun to do so, and has been amazed how easy it has been to file and locate material with the Super Filing System recommended by Susan.

RESEARCHING IN ALAMEDA COUNTY CALIFORNIA
Part 4: Vital Records, Civil Court Records, Criminal Records, Property Records

Buildings holding all of the above records are located in downtown Oakland, CA near the shore of Lake Merritt and within easy walking distance of each other and the Oakland Main Library.

Vital Records: County Recorder's Office, 1106 Madison Street, Oakland, CA 94607
Ph: 510-272-6362 for long distance callers: 1-888-280-7708
Open Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

You will need to show identification to search available indexes on microfilm and you will not get a certified copy of a vital document unless you can prove next of kin. But, you can receive an "information only" copy. Some information may be redacted. Their records date from 1905 to date. It is possible to search the following indexes on microfilm:

Births: 1940+
Deaths: 1960+
Marriage: 1971+

These documents keep rising in price...do your homework well. Be prepared to pay \$20-30 a copy, as of this date.

The Oakland Main Library History Room has early original birth and death records for the city of Oakland dating from 1880's to 1904. These copies can be had for the price of a Xerox copy! Keep in mind, what was considered the city of Oakland at that time was only a fraction of it's current area.

The Oakland Main Library Newspaper Room has marriage indexes on microfilm for 1960 to 1985. For earlier dates you might want to check the California Information File, 1904 - 1959, (an index of early local newspapers on microfiche) also available in the Newspaper Room for newspaper death notices.

East Bay Genealogical Society created an obituary file dating from mid 1986 through 2010 of obituaries clipped from local newspapers; primarily Oakland Tribune and Alameda Times Star, though there are many obituaries in this file for other cities within the county. This three set card file was donated to the Oakland History Center, though one set has been destroyed. However, the **entire three set card file** was filmed and the information can be found on **familysearch.org** with a name search.

WorldVitalRecords.com also contains some Alameda County vital records and indexes.. It can be accessed for free at the Family History Center Library or from home with an Alameda County Library Card.

Civil Court Records: Located in the Records Management office in the basement of the Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612, Room 16B, Attn: County Recorder's Office.

You can search the computer index for probate, divorce or other civil case files. Early records are on microfilm and readers are available. Copies cost 50 cents per page.

If you cannot find what you feel certain should be there and it is fairly recent, ask the clerk. The information may be in either the Pleasanton or Hayward courthouse.

The **Assessor's Office**, if you are interested in researching tax records, is also located in this building on the main floor.

Property Records: To research deeds, mortgages, liens and also power of attorney, notary and fictitious business names: go to the County Recorder's Office, 1106 Madison Street, Oakland, CA, 94607. An immediate right turn as you enter the door will take you to the area where you may view their microfilms. There are helpful staff members there to assist you. Copies can be requested while you wait. Cost 75 cents per page as of this date.

Criminal Court Records: These are located in the main Courthouse at 1225 Fallon Street. Located between 12th and 14th Streets, the entrance is actually on 12th Street. As you enter the courthouse, the Criminal Court Records office is immediately to your right - after going through "check-point" of course. There is a microfiche index and probably some old bound indexes. Clerks are helpful. Readers are available and copies can be made for you.

We Rode the Orphan Trains, by Andrea Warren Book Review by Carolyn Storm

Found this great little book at a local book sale. It was written for middle school-age children, so it is a quick, easy read.

Between 1854 and 1929 it is estimated 200,000 children journeyed west on the Orphan Trains organized in New York City by the Children's Aid Society.

The author includes much history of the Orphan Trains and the agents that accompanied these children during their journey. She interviewed eight living persons who tell the stories of their lives of having been orphans riding these trains. There are also many photographs in the book.

We have heard such sad tales of the Orphan Trains over the years, and I am sure there were many. However, this book relates mostly fortunate circumstances for the children interviewed. These frightened, lonely, bewildered little children showed much courage and strength throughout their ordeals.

All the interviewees have devoted their later years to speaking to school children and community groups about their experiences.

Andrea Warren is also the author of "Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story", which I realize I have also read, though several years ago. It, too, was very interesting.

A Plea to Our Members: In the next issue of *The Live Oak* I will probably complete the series on Researching in Alameda County, therefore, I am going to have another page or so to fill!! With summer approaching, I am asking our members to send me their stories of how they spent some of their summer vacations in their "youth"! Did your family travel, camp, visit amusement parks? Did you have part-time jobs as teenagers? A half page or more would be so appreciated, so won't you share your summer experiences with us, please. Send your tales, or tribulations, to me at: c-kstorm.juno.com.

EBGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Mail to: EBGS, P. O. Box 1648 Alameda, CA 94501

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss _____

Street/Apt.#/ P.O.Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone () _____ E-mail _____

Amt. Enclosed _____ \$18 Individual/\$7.50 Each Additional Family Member

May we hear from you by July 1, 2016 Thank you for your support.

Office use only: Date _____ Amt _____ Ch# _____

ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON – MAY 11, 2016

Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant, 1148 Ballena Blvd. Alameda, CA
Directions will be printed in May/June LIVE OAK. Time is NOON

Teriyaki Chicken _____ Shrimp Louie _____ Caesar Salad w/chicken _____

Salads served with a cup of clam chowder. Teriyaki Chicken served with choice of clam chowder or tossed green salad w/zesty Italian dressing, garlic mashed potatoes, fresh steamed vegetables. Meals include roll and butter, coffee or tea, and ice cream or sherbet for dessert. Tax and tip are included. Cost: \$24.50 per person

Mail your check and this form to:
EBGS c/o Joyce Schleicher, 4345 Detroit Avenue, Oakland, CA 94619

Name _____ Amt. Enc _____ No. Persons _____

We look forward to seeing many of you there. Guests are certainly welcome!

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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