

# THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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November/December 2016

Oakland, California

*WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY THANKSGIVING*

## NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 9, 2016 - 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

### **FORENSIC GENEALOGY - Speaker: Janice M. Sellers**

The term "forensic genealogy" is used by many people, but what does it really mean? Learn the definition of forensic, how it applies to genealogy, and who is using (and misusing) the term.

Janice Sellers is a professional genealogist who is passionate about her work. She loves researching her own family and everyone else's. She specializes in Jewish, black, forensic, and newspaper research. She also edits three genealogy publications and serves on the boards of three genealogy societies. Her website is: [ancestraldiscoveries.com](http://ancestraldiscoveries.com). You may also want to follow her blog.

We are always pleased to have Janice as our speaker and look forward to this program.

*MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE FILLED WITH  
JOY AND PEACE*

## DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 - 10 a.m. - Oakland FHC Library Meeting Room

### **ANNUAL HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE**

Yes, I know, the year has gone by swiftly. It is time once again to dig out your favorite cookie recipe and whip up a batch to bring to the December meeting to share with members. Do remember to bring a zip lock bag or other container to take samples of cookies home with you.

We also plan to once again play Table Topics - "Family Reunion" game. It always triggers your memory and we expect some interesting tales to be shared.

**Looking Back at September:** Carolyn Storm explained how she had created a simple booklet telling the story of her German grandfather, Wilhelm Riedesser, who had married her German grandmother, Elsie Scott. Then, when she began to do the same for her great grandfather, Elsie's father, she hit a snag...turned out he was not her grandfather after all. Read more about how you can write a simple biographical booklet on one of your ancestors on Page 5.

The Silent Auction was a success. We had two large tables full of books donated by members...thank you all for being so generous, and a big thanks to the Oakland FHC for making the tables available. We didn't make oodles of money, but enough to pay for a few speaker's lunches.

We did manage to auction off two thirds of the books! The remainder were donated to the Alameda Library Book Sale - to be held in a few weeks. We consider it a win/win for everyone and a lot of fun at the same time.

**Looking Back at October:** Dennis Evanosky is a wonderful guest speaker. It is obvious that he is very passionate about history. He kept the audience captivated with his many tales of the early, and now long gone, cemeteries in Oakland. He also had many stories of the famous and some infamous people interred at Mountain View Cemetery and some history of the cemetery. It was a lively, interesting program and very much enjoyed and appreciated by our members.

Dennis Evanosky has written a wonderful book on Mt. View Cemetery and co-authored with Michael Colbruno on "Lives of the Dead at Oakland's Mountain View Cemetery" - an interesting read, fully indexed and little maps to help you find some of the burial plots of the persons mentioned in the book. Go to: [www.evanosky.info](http://www.evanosky.info) for a list of other books on San Francisco, Alameda, and districts of Oakland that he has authored or co-authored. (I don't think this man ever sleeps! Ed.)

### **EBGS NEWS:**

After several months recovering from hip surgery, Jean Christie was back among us at the September and October meetings. It is so good to have her back and to see her doing so well.

Your editor apologizes for the last newsletter's shorter version. I simply could not come up with material to fill two more pages. This issue I have lots of information to include and it will probably cover two or more issues. "When you have teeth, you have no bread. When you have bread, you have no teeth"!

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](mailto:c-kstorm@juno.com).

**Some Additions/Corrections to the May/June 2016 Live Oak:** In Sally Stevens' article on Pg 4: Sally referred to the event at the old San Francisco Mint as San Francisco Day - it should have read "San Francisco History Day", and she failed to mention that the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society and the African American Genealogical Society of Northern California were also represented at the event.

Also on Pg 5 of the same newsletter I unintentionally omitted the following in the "Researching in Alameda County California" series list of societies in the area:

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society: P. O. 28485, Oakland, CA 94601  
African American Genealogical Society of Northern California: P. O. Box 318214,  
San Francisco, CA 94131

**Please Welcome Our New Member and Add Her to Your Recent Roster:**

Karla Henderlong  
1293 El Cerrito, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-549-1339 email: Khenderlong@gmail.com

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The Oakland FHC Library**, in my estimation, is one of the largest, well equipped, and well staffed with very qualified people in the Oakland/Bay Area. You should take advantage of the opportunity to research there if you live in the greater Bay Area. In addition, they offer the following classes/workshops that are free and available to the public.

**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](http://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!

**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](mailto:SFSIG@CALIFORNIAANCESTORS.ORG)

**November 3:** "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to dust: What's Buried in Cemetery Records", Janice M. Sellers. Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia. <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cagsv/>

**November 5:** Cyndi Ingle seminar: "Unappreciated Treasures: Libraries, Archives, and Digital Collections" - "Timelines: The Straight Line Between You and Your Ancestor" - "The Hidden Web: Digging Deeper" - "Plotting, Scheming, and Mapping Online". California Genealogical Society, <http://www.californiaancestors.org/>

**November 5:** "A Beginner's Guide to DNA and Genetic Genealogy", Deborah Sweeney. Solano County Genealogical Society, <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cascgsi/>

**November 6:** "American Settlement Patterns", Kathryn Marshall. Sacramento Public Library, <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

**November 8:** "Delta Veterans", J. R. Wilson. Mt. Diablo Chapter DAR, <http://www.dar-mt Diablochapter.org/>

**November 13:** Field Trip Tour of Colma's Jewish Cemeteries, San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society, <http://www.sfbags.org/>

**November 15:** "Saratoga, A Lumber Town", Ray Cosyn. Santa Clara County Historical and Genealogical Society, <http://www.scchgs.org/>

**November 16:** "Bubbie, Who are You?: Finding Maiden Names in Your Family Tree", Janice M. Sellers. Oakland FamilySearch Library, <http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>

### **ITEMS OF INTEREST:**

**Ellis Island -Statue of Liberty Museum:** There are plans to build a museum at the Statue of Liberty. If you would like to read more about it or if you would like to donate to the foundation, google "Statue of Liberty Museum Foundation."

**Family Roots Publishers:** Through their *Genealogical Newslines* weekly offers many books for sale on German Research, both in the U. S. and Germany, and many other useful books as well. Google them and check out what they have to offer..

**findmypast.com:** Over the past two months this site has added volumes of records for England, Ireland and Scotland, as well as some U.S. records and others. The records cover baptisms, deaths, marriages, military records, local histories, newspapers, and so much more. It is worth the effort to visit your local FHC and browse this site. They also offer tips on various areas of research, such as, school records, finding maiden names, searching occupations, etc.

**A Tip From Lisa Cooke's *Genealogy Gems* newsletter:** Google is great, but you may get more hits than you can handle, and many of them are going to be totally unrelated to what you are seeking. Use *parentheses*...this allows Google to understand what it is you are looking for. For instance: you may be searching for Richard Denton. Just Googling Richard Denton will result in a multitude of hits mentioning Richard or denton. Instead Google "Richard Denton" and limit the hits....and also try "Denton, Richard".

**Online Historical City Directories:** <https://sites.google.com/site/onlinedirectorysite/Home/usa>

This website has a selection of links to directories in the United States, Ireland, Canada, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. Not every location is covered and selections vary by area. The U. S. collection is very good, again the selection varies by state and county. Some directories can be easily downloaded, and others require screen shots of each page. Take a look at your family/ancestor's location and hopefully you will be successful. (Santa Clara Historical & Genealogical Society newsletter, October, 2016 - slightly edited)

**Swedish Research Resources Available at the Oakland FHC Library:**

Besides their many online and digitized sources, the following books are on the shelves to help you.

"Cradled in Sweden" [948.527j] and "Your Swedish Roots" [948.5D27cp] two definitive references for Swedish research.

"Genealogical Guidebook and Atlas of Sweden" [948.5E7t] Lists parishes and maps

Swedish/English dictionaries; Swedish postal directory; Swedish Genealogical Dictionary

Swedish Passenger Arrivals in the U.S. 1820-1850 [439W3ow] Almost 5,000 immigrants listed with short biographies and research.

### **Birth Certificates (Adoptees) in Missouri:**

The Adoptee Rights Act took effect in August 2016: Missouri born adoptees born before 1941 can get a copy of their birth certificate starting August 29, 2016. Adoptees born in 1941 and later can request a copy of their birth certificate starting Jan. 2, 2018. The identities of the natural parents will be redacted if they file a statement in advance saying they do not want to be contacted by their child or an intermediary. (Family Roots Pub. *Genealogical Newslines* #319 - Ed. Leland Metzler, August, 2016)

### **Birth Certificates (Adoptees) in Illinois: Public Act 96-0895**

Adult adoptees born in Illinois, who are 21 or older, can request a copy of their birth certificate. Birth parents of adoptees born after January 1, 1946 can specify whether they want their identifying information released and whether they want to have contact with the adoptee. (Ed. note: it is unclear whether this Act has taken effect or will take effect in the future) (Family roots Pub. *Genealogical Newslines* #319 - Ed. Leland Metzler, August, 2016)

### **Is There a Railroad Worker/Employee in Your Ancestry?:**

If you have done your homework and have determined *which* railroad the person worked for, the following information may be of use to you.

California State Railroad Museum- Library & Collections: <http://www.californiarailroad.museum/>  
Holds records for Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Western Pacific, Central Pacific, and Southern Pacific railroads.

Atchison Railroad Museum: <http://www.railmuseums.com/cgi-bin/namerica/jump.cgi?ID=137>  
Address: P. O. Box 19, Atchison, KS 66022

Ellis Railroad Museum: <http://www.railmuseums.com/cgi-bin/namerica/jump.cgi?ID=138>  
Address: 911 Washington, P.O. Box 82, Ellis, KS 67637

Great Plains Transportation Museum: <http://www.railroadmuseums.com/cgi-bin/namerica/jump.cgi?ID=211> Address: 700 East Douglas, Wichita, KS 67202

The Great Overland Station: <http://www.railmuseums.com/cgi-bin/namerica/jump.cgi?ID=231>  
Address: 701 North Kansas Avenue, P. O. Box 8792, Topeka, KS 66608  
(the above information was excerpt and edited from "Diablo Descendants" Vol. E -9, #8, September, 2106)

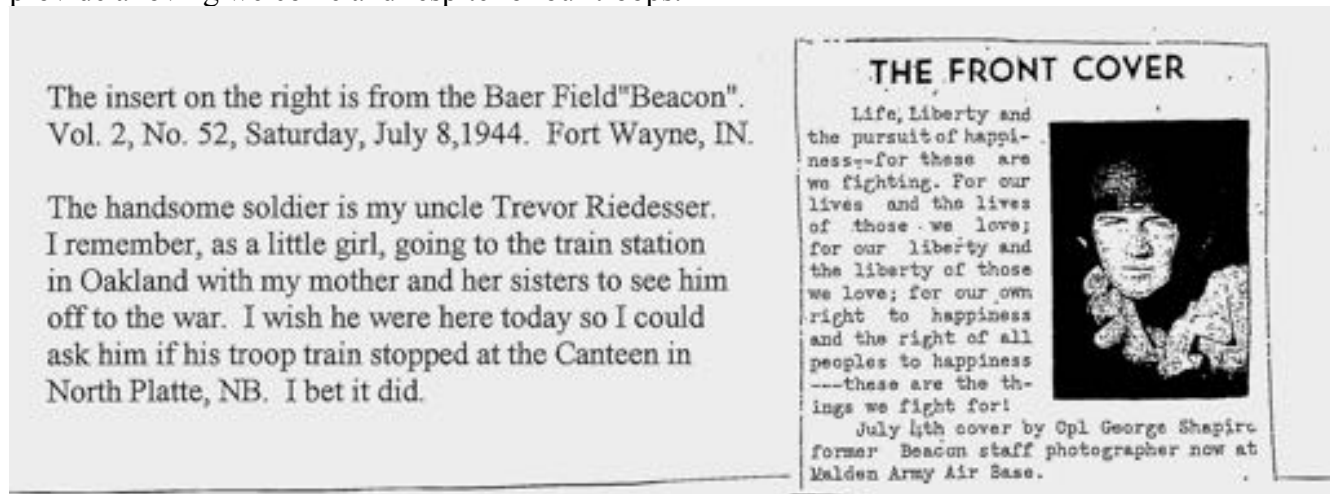
### **ONCE UPON A TOWN - By Bob Greene** A Book Review by Carolyn Storm

What a wonderful town! What a wonderful book! I would highly recommend it to anyone.

Mr. Greene tells the story of the generous and dedicated people of North Platte, Nebraska who organized The North Platte Canteen at their railroad depot during WWII. Troop trains travelled across the country day

and night, making a ten-minute stop at the North Platte depot. The marvelous women and men of North Platte welcomed each train, day and night throughout the war and for some months after, with sandwiches, coffee, fresh fruit, cakes, and so much more.

The author interviewed people who had volunteered at the canteen and many retired service men who had been on some of the troop trains. Our soldiers and sailors were so grateful for the love and consideration shown by the citizens of North Platte. In spite of rationing and hard times, the volunteers never failed to provide a loving welcome and respite for our troops.



### WRITING A SIMPLE ANCESTRAL BIOGRAPHY - by Carolyn Storm

My grandfather on my mother's side was Wilhelm Riedesser. I had been fortunate many years ago to have two very dear friends who could translate German records for me and lucky to have contacted some German archivists who sent me translated German records and documents. I decided these files had been sitting in their folders long enough - it was time to put it all together in a booklet.

I began by sorting the material chronologically: family group sheets and other records from Germany, military records, immigration and naturalization records, censuses, information from city directories, photos, vital records, notes from interviews with relatives, etc.

Starting with what I knew of my grandfather's early life in Germany I wrote a page or so and behind that I filed all the documentation relating to that time period. I then did the same for his military records, when he arrived in America, his marriage and family, and his death. Each section was backed up with documents, photos, and information relating to it and all the pages were put into vinyl protective sheets and filed in a small binder.

The result was a nice biography and story of my grandfather's life which I could share with my cousins.

The bonus was my files were cleared out and organized because everything was now in one book/binder. I was surprised how quickly it went together once everything was sorted.

Genealogy is not fatal....but it is a grave disease  
**SOME USEFUL HISTORY ABOUT CALIFORNIA COUNTIES**

This information was originally published by Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness and is being reprinted here with permission. Visit their website at: <http://www.raogk.org/california-genealogy/ca-counties/> They have a lot to offer besides information on California.

**Extinct California Counties:** California has several counties that no longer exist or that never actually came into existence. They were created by state, provincial, or territorial authorities. A lot of these counties were established and disbanded in the 19th century; county boundaries have adjusted very little since 1900 in most states. These counties should be investigated when doing genealogy research. Pay attention to where the courthouse records went if the county was eliminated or combined with another county.

\*Branciforte County was one of the original 27 counties adopted by the statutes of 1850, but soon after that the legislature changed the name to Santa Cruz County.

\*Coloma County was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to El Dorado County.

\*Coso County was approved by the state legislature, which designated territory in Mono County and Tulare County to be in the new county with the county seat at Bend City. Coso County, however, was never organized. In 1866 substantially the same territory was created as Inyo County.

\*Fremont County was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Yola County and later changed it again to Yolo County.

\*Klamath County was created in 1851 from the northern half of Trinity County. In 1857 Klamath County lost significant territory to the newly formed Del Norte County. In 1875 Klamath County was abolished and its territory was divided between Humboldt County and Siskiyou County. Lands which at one time were in Klamath County are now in Del Norte County, Humboldt County, Siskiyou County, and Trinity County.

\*Mount Diablo County was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Contra Costa County.

\*Oro County was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Tuolumne County.

\*Pautah County was created in 1852, an act to be effective when the United States Congress ceded to the State of California the territory described, in what is now the State of Nevada. The county seat was to be Carsonville. California never acquired this territory and the act creating the county was repealed in 1859.

\*Redding County was a county proposed by a committee of the California Constitutional Convention. Before the statute was adopted, the legislature changed the name to Shasta County.

**MEETINGS**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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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**EST. 1979**