

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

~~ISSN 0897-9839~~

January/February 2017

Oakland, California

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

FOREIGN CENSUSES - Speaker: Diana King

Foreign Censuses are becoming more available each week and can be very useful in your research. Diana will explain what countries have available censuses online and how to find and use them.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 8, 2017 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

ONE-STEP WEBSITE - Speaker: Stephen Morse

Stephen Morse has been our speaker in the past and we are thrilled to welcome him again. This program will explain his One-Step Website that he created and that we can use for free. How great is that! He will show us how to best navigate through the website and how to get the most out of it. This should be a most interesting and helpful meeting.

Looking Back at November:

Janice Sellers performed her magic once again and kept the audience captivated while she talked, this time, about Forensic Genealogy...defined as: genealogical research, analysis, and reporting in cases with legal implications. A forensic genealogist must be totally impartial and ethical in their research and reporting their findings. Besides the obvious uses; adoption/guardianship, probate, etc., it can be useful in obtaining dual citizenship. I think a few members, who travel frequently and have close/foreign-born ancestors, ears perked up at this possibility!

Looking Back at December:

As usual, our marvelous members baked and shared their tasty, favorite cookie recipes with us and the staff of the Oakland Family History Room. We enjoyed a game of Table Topics "Family Reunion". It was

interesting to hear the tales and tidbits our members shared. Thank you everyone, for the fun and the delightful cookies!

EBGS NEWS

It was a very pleasant surprise to have Lois Kline, our dear retired Librarian, at our November meeting. We have not seen much of Lois since she moved to Pleasanton, but her daughter-in-law brought her in and hopes to be able to do so for more of our meetings....thank you Cindy, we have missed Lois!

We older members were saddened to hear that one of original members, Marie Prichett, passed away on November 1. Marie had been very active for many years in this society, as Secretary, President twice, and the originator of our newsletter. She had just happily celebrated her 100th birthday October 8.

In our search to find a speaker on German Research we have run into a snag. We have been able to engage a very competent and capable speaker; however, he is not available on Wednesdays. This was brought up to the membership at the November meeting and it was voted and agreed to hold our March and April meetings on Tuesdays for our speaker's two wonderful programs. **Mark your calendars now for the second Tuesday of the month for March and April so you don't miss these great programs.**

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. Second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. More info at www.macgen.org

Swedish 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!

Hispanic Research Workshop: Wednesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Come join the group and learn more about researching your Hispanic ancestors.

We Are Our Family's Story Catchers: Speaker, Burrows January 18, 2017 1-3 p.m.

The Digital Public Library of America: January 19, 2017 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Gen. Soc. Meeting: January 22, 2017, 12:30 p.m. "A Kindertransport Survivor Tell His Story", Speaker: Samuel, 12:30 p.m.

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

January 21 - 10 a.m.: How-to Class at Concord FHC, 3700 Concord Blvd, Concord, CA

"Exploring Family Tree Mobile app by FamilySearch. Instructor: Jean Brunk.
Questions: call Jackie at 925-827-4729

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Oakland Public Library: This is exciting news: You may now access *NewspaperArchives.com* at any branch of the Oakland Library, and in every area of the main branch. It is an international database with full text of hundreds of newspapers. You can make copies of articles, load them onto your thumb drive and/or email them to yourself. Not accessible online, must be used within the library.

It was a godsend to me. The librarian in the Oakland History Room found the article I was looking for in seconds...I had already spent three afternoons searching the newspaper on microfilm! I am making a list of names and items I hope to find in old newspapers. I intend to spend a few more afternoons at the Oakland Library after the first of the year browsing this wonderful newspaper database. Editor

Are You Researching German Ancestors? You may be interested in viewing the websites and joining one or both of the societies listed below. Belonging to a genealogical society that is primarily based on your area of interest can be very helpful. They offer interesting meetings, if you live close enough to attend. They offer informative newsletters and often have researchers that can answer questions or queries for you. The societies listed below are devoted to German Research and are excellent. They both have excellent newsletters. Go to their websites and check them out.

The Immigrant Genealogical Society - <http://immigrantgensoc.org> Located in Burbank CA
The Sacramento German Genealogical Society - <http://sggs.us/index.php>

Heritage Quest has recently updated their site and added considerable content. You can search: City Directories, 1850-1860, Slave Schedules, U.S. Indian Census Rolls, Mortality Schedules, Agricultural and Industrial Schedules, 1890 Veterans Schedules, California Death Index 1940-1997, Social Security Death Index, World GenWeb Project, and Cyndi's List. Available at your local Family History Center library and from home if you have an Alameda County Library Card.

Having trouble finding your ancestors in the U.S. census? They also offer some hints for searching:

The counties your ancestors lived in probably changed their boundaries and even their names once or twice during their lifetime. Find your state and look at the changes over time.

If you want a specific district or city in a large county, enter the name in Keywords and then choose Exact.

Try a first name search within a county if you cannot find the person you are looking for.

Editor's Note: An unusual first name within the family you are searching has worked very well for me several times.

Breaking Down Brick Wall in Eastern European Research: A common problem is the failure to exhaust resources or not reading the directions for best results on internet sites (do read what the source contains) and using indexes vs. actual records. Do not only use the internet. Understand the time period you are researching and the language nuances. Do not only look at the line on a record, but observe that which is around it - neighbors, ship passengers, etc. Spelling can vary for original names. Learn naming patterns and practices for the country of interest. Eastern European females might have 'ova' attached to the surname. Create a chart of possible spelling variations. Key information is in village names, which might vary. Review many sources, including funeral homes, land/probate, fraternal, newsletters, and especially churches. (Excerpted from an article in San Ramon Valley Gen. Soc newsletter July, 2016 . Program presented by Lisa Alzo)

Why pay money to have your family tree traced?

Go into politics and your opponents will do it for you!

Oops! We Lost Great Grandpa!

In the last issue I wrote about composing a biography of my grandfather, Wilhelm Riedesser. I was so pleased with myself when I completed it I decided to begin on a biography of his wife, my grandmother, Elsie Scott Riedesser and her family.

Getting my papers in order I was bothered by the fact that I had not been able to find a birth record for my grandmother. And the fact that she was always known as just 'Elsie' when generations of Scotts all had multiple names was troubling also. Something was wrong.

Years ago I had written to an archive in Hamburg and had been able to obtain birth and marriage records for her parents, Alexander Scott and Emma Haak, and a birth record for their older daughter, Martha...all of whom had multiple names. The archive, however, had been unable to locate a birth record for my grandmother, Elsie...and I knew she had been born in Hamburg.

I emailed a second cousin who is also working on the Scott ancestors. Lisa's great grandfather was my great grandfather's brother. She is a very efficient researcher and is able to read the German records quite well. She went online and researched some recently released German records in Hamburg and answered me with a copy of what she felt certain was my grandmother's birth record...the date was 'right on', 21 December 1880. And she was named 'Else' with no "i", as mentioned on immigration records. There was not much doubt about it...but it was quite a surprise.

It seems my grandmother Elsie was NOT the daughter of Alexander Wilhelm Maria Carl Scott and Emma Friederike Maria Haak, but had been born out of wedlock to Alexander's youngest sister Martha Elise Emilie Sofie Frederike Scott and her full name was Caroline Louise Hermine Else Scott. Aha, she did have multiple names!

After mulling this new information over, a few things became a little clearer to me.

It appears that Alexander and Emma Scott took my grandmother into their family and raised her as their own...she had been born a "Scott" after all. Rather than refer to her by one of her first names, they called her Else...this I am sure was intended to make it difficult to find her in the birth records.

Alexander appears to have been very protective of Elsie. When he immigrated to America in 1890 he brought her with him. His wife Emma and daughter Martha arrived a year later. Obviously, Alexander's sister Martha Scott must have provided papers for little Else, who was seven years old at the time. Else was mentioned on the ship manifest leaving Germany as "a family member" travelling with Alexander. However, on the ship manifest when they arrived in New York, she is listed as his "daughter".

In a way, I suppose, Alexander smuggled my grandmother out of Germany!

The result is I now have a new and correct great grandmother, Martha Scott and I have proof of my grandmother's birth and know her full name. However, I no longer have a great grandfather, as Alexander and Emma Scott have become my great, great aunt and uncle. I am certain my grandmother never knew the

circumstances of her birth. She had no idea she had been raised by her aunt and uncle or that her sister, Martha, was actually her cousin. But I feel certain that if she had found out in her later years, she would have simply chuckled and said, "Oh, my goodness"! She was such a sweet, easy-going little lady.

Lisa did some further research on Martha Scott and discovered that she came to America in 1893, arriving in New York. She married a fellow German, Bernard Frosch, in Brooklyn in 1895. Martha and Bernard later moved to Pittsburgh, PA. They never had any children. In the early 1900s they moved back to Germany and lived there until their deaths..

Now I can begin again on a biography of my dear, sweet grandmother, Elsie Scott Riedesser.

What Do You Plan To Do With Your Genealogical Research This Year?

The busy holiday season is behind us once again and a new year, new approaches, new ideas, and new discoveries hopefully await us. Do you have some plans or strategies on how you will approach your research in the coming year? Perhaps some of these ideas will get you motivated.

Will you organize your research, if you have not been keeping it so?

Will you attend some classes, seminars or genealogical society meetings to further your horizons and learn more about topics and particular areas of research that interest you?

Will you join a specific genealogical society devoted to the area of your research; Germany, Ireland, Pennsylvania, Canada, Wisconsin, New England, etc?

Will you decide to have your DNA tested to "find out who you are", as they advertise?

Will you organize your research on grandpa or some other ancestor into a biographical booklet?

Will you browse newspaper data bases in the areas where your ancestors lived to find little tidbits or stories about them or their lives?

Have you found all the vital records, obituaries, cemetery/mortuary records etc. on your ancestors that you possibly can find?

Have you followed those collateral relatives for more clues and answers?

Will you buy a book to aid you in researching Germans, Swedes, Irish, English, etc., or perhaps read a history of the county or area where your ancestors lived?

Will you be sure to Cite Your Sources to verify your findings?

Will you browse through your files to see if there is some area of research you neglected to do or perhaps you will find some information you had forgotten you had?

Will you plan a research trip to a library, city/country or archive you have been meaning to visit but have been putting off?

Will you keep a Research Log to keep you on track and so you do not duplicate your efforts?

Will you take advantage of the 'free' websites available at your local library or Family History Library; Ancestry.com, World Vital Records, etc., for example?

If you live in Alameda County, have you obtained an Alameda County Library card? They are available for free at the Albany, Castro Valley, Fremont and San Lorenzo libraries and enable you to search some great data bases from home.

It's a New Year, it's up to you....good luck and good fortune in your future genealogical research.

Blessed are grandmothers who preserved family Bibles and diaries - for this is our heritage.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY OF CEMETERIES IN & AROUND SAN FRANCISCO

Up to 1850 vacant lots were used to bury bodies or they were left on the beach or under a bush.

- 1850 City designated 15 acres, one mile out on Market Street as the official cemetery, named Yerba Buena. (Lasted for 20 years)
- 1852 An informal burial ground at Second & Market Street was closed & the bodies were moved to Yerba Buena Cemetery.
- 1854 City itself reaching the Yerba Buena Cemetery, so Lone Mountain Cemetery was established, a safe three miles west of downtown. It was later renamed Laurel Hill.
- 1860 Catholics established the Calvary Cemetery to the east of Lone Mountain Cemetery.
- 1864 Masonic Cemetery established to the south of Lone Mountain Cemetery.
- 1865 Odd Fellows Cemetery established to the west of Lone Mountain Cemetery. Lone Mountain Cemetery was surrounded on all sides by burial grounds that were called the Big Four.
- Jews moved their bodies from Cow Hollow to two cemeteries near Mission Dolores.
- 1868 City purchased 200 acres for new cemetery on bluffs above Land's End.
- 1870 Three thousand bodies were removed from Yerba Buena Cemetery to the new Golden Gate Cemetery.
- 1870 Yerba Buena Cemetery became more of Market Street. (Lone Mountain cemeteries were not safe either.)
- 1860's - 1870's Western addition filled with Italian row houses & Laurel Hill Cemetery was twice reduced for new building sites.
- 1880's Public outcry for land used up by cemeteries.
- 1880 City prohibited further burials in the Mission Dolores & Jewish Cemeteries.
- 1887 Catholics established Holy Cross as the first cemetery in Colma, south of the city line.
- 1889 Jews followed suit and established Home of Peace to receive bodies from old cemetery. (It was later named Dolores Park.)
- 1892 Nondenominational cemetery, Cypress Lawn established between the above two cemeteries by prominent San Francisco businessman.
- 1901 City supervisors outlawed further burials in city limits.
- 1909 Supervisors secured consent to use Golden Gate Cemetery as a park. Mausoleums & tombstones were removed & dumped down a convenient ravine at Land's End. Those bodies not removed were carpeted with the Lincoln Park Golf Course.
- 1914 Supervisors ordered ALL bodies out of the City.
- 1920's Masonic Cemetery purchased for the University of San Francisco. Odd Fellows Cemetery vacated. Calvary & Laurel Hill Cemeteries resisted, but with no income, both reverted to sand and scrub. The vaults were vandalized and the mausoleums occupied by tramps.
- 1937 Supervisors again demanded bodies be evacuated and voters upheld the decision.
- 1939 Exhumation began and stopped because of war.
- 1948 Task completed. WPA records show Charles Harvey, contractor (who later built Candlestick Park) was paid 80 cents a ton to dump walls, crypts, and markers into the Bay, later to become the Marina Yacht Harbor jetty. Other smashed tombstones made fine retaining walls in Buena Vista Park. Calvary Cemetery was covered by a Sears building, a Kaiser Hospital, and housing. Laurel Hill Cemetery was covered by more housing, a shopping center, and the Fireman's Fund Building.

TODAY only two small cemeteries remain inside the city limits: Mission Dolores and Presidio. Colma is the final resting place for 1.5 million San Franciscans. Cypress Lawn Cemetery is a mass grave for 35,000 nameless pioneers removed from Laurel Hill Cemetery. Levi Strauss is buried at Home of Peace. Wyatt Earp is buried at Hills of Eternity. Emperor Norton is at Woodlawn Cemetery. Ishi is at Olivet Cemetery. There are eighteen cemeteries in Colma.

(Reprinted from Ash Tree Echo, Fresno Gen. Soc., March 1992; they got it from San Luis Obispo Co. Gen. Soc. Qly, Winter 1990; orig. in S.F. PBS station TV schedule.)

The above was previously published in the Hayward Area Genealogical Society newsletter, June, 1992
California Counties With Burned Courthouses

Many California courthouses have experienced a loss of records due to fire, flood or theft. Damages to courthouses has a critical effect on genealogists in just about every way. Not only are these historic buildings torn from all of our lifetimes, so are they archives they stored: marriages, probate, land records, etc. Once destroyed they are gone permanently. Even when they have already been placed on microfilm, computers and film can burn just as well.

The most tragic aspect of this is the reason that almost all of our courthouses were destroyed as a result of arson. Luckily not all records are lost, however.

Amador County Courthouse: Destroyed by fire in 1862. Not all records were destroyed.

Del Norte County Courthouse: Destroyed by fire in 1948. Some early records were destroyed.

El Dorado County Courthouse: Fires in 1910 and 1920 destroyed most courthouse records. For probate records prior to 1951 write County Museum, 100 Placerville Dr., CA 94667. For probate after 1951 write to Judicial Section, 495 Main St., Placerville, CA 94667.

Inyo County Courthouse: Destroyed by earthquake March 26, 1872. On June 30, 1886 a fire broke out in a vacant building in Independence and destroyed 38 buildings. Although the county records and most of the furniture were saved, the courthouse was one of the buildings destroyed.

Lake County Courthouse: Courthouse in Lakeport burned in 1867. All earlier records were destroyed.

Madera County Courthouse: A fire on Christmas Eve 1906 destroyed the upper story and tower.

Nevada County Courthouse: The first courthouse was damaged by fire in 1856. Fire again damaged the courthouse 1863.

Sacramento County Courthouse: The first courthouse, built in 1851, became the Capital in 1854 and was destroyed by fire that same year.

San Francisco County Courthouse: The courthouse and all records were destroyed in the great earthquake of 1906.

Santa Clara County Courthouse: On May 18, 1931 a fire quickly spread through the courthouse, causing extensive damage.

Shasta County Courthouse: All records were destroyed in the great fire of June 14, 1853.

Sierra County Courthouse: A fire in 1947 destroyed the courthouse. No records were lost.

Sonoma County Courthouse: The courthouse was destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. There were minor records lost.

Sutter County Courthouse: The courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1871. A second and larger courthouse, completed in 1873, was also set on fire.

The above information was originally published by Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness on their website and has been reprinted here with permission. <http://www.raogk.org/california-genealogy/ca-counties/> Visit their wonderful website and browse their database.

And, now a tip from Lisa Louise Cooke to start your New Year Research and keep you inspired:

Genealogy is fraught with challenges and road blocks. But, at the end of the day, our ancestors are counting on us to preserve their memory and carry on their legacies. If you feel like you are in a rut or need a new perspective, head over to www.GenealogyGems.com. In the top left corner you'll see "What do you want to learn about?". Select *inspiration* from the list and you'll get over 100 articles that will re-engage your passion with feel-good success stories, brick-wall tips, and more!

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
Membership	Starr Brown
Publicity	Lynne Bajuk
Editor	Carolyn Storm
Programs	c-kstorm@juno.com

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

Website	http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/
Blog	http://caebaygs.blogspot.com
Email	caebaygs@gmail.com

**EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A
NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
EST. 1979**