

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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March/April 2017
California

Oakland,

Please note: March and April Meetings are being held on the second Tuesdays of the month

MARCH MEETING

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

GERMAN RESEARCH - Speaker: Robert Jackson

We are very fortunate to have Robert Jackson speaking on German Research. He is an exceptional researcher with tremendous knowledge of Germany and I have heard nothing but raves about his programs.

This first session will cover what you need to know to trace your German ancestor as completely as you can in the United States. Without his/her background here in this country, you will face some heavy hurdles researching in Germany. Mr. Jackson will share his research experience, which in turn will make your research experience so much easier.

APRIL MEETING

Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

GERMAN RESEARCH - Speaker: Robert Jackson

Aha, this month we get to travel "across the pond" as they say.

We are pleased to welcome Robert Jackson once again. He will share his vast knowledge of German Research in Germany: Where to search for your particular ancestor; Where to write for further information or vital records; Websites that may be of particular help to you, and so much more that you need to know to achieve success in this particular area.

Looking Back at January:

Because of some flooding or water damage at the FHC Library, the overhead projector and other equipment were not working. It created a rather stressful several minutes for our speaker, Diana King. Fortunately Ralph Seversen, the Director, came up with a solution. He set up his iPhone and she was then able to access her data and carry on with her program.

It was a very good program explaining how to use and where to find census records for a wide variety of foreign countries. Her handout was most helpful also. Thank you to Diana for her patience and a big thank you to Ralph for his solution for saving the day!

Looking Back at February:

Steve Morse presented a program explaining how to use his One-Step Website. It was a rainy day, traffic was snarled all over the area, and still we had a good sized audience.

You will be surprised at what you can find and the many options for searching using the One-Step Website. Google *steve morse.org*. and from the hits click on *A One-Step Portal for On Line*. How to use and understand this portal is well explained. Have fun and hopefully success! And our thanks to Steve for such a fascinating program.

EBGS NEWS:

The society has voted to have a booth at the upcoming *San Francisco History Days* event to be held in early March. The venue is the Old San Francisco Mint. Sally would really appreciate some volunteers to help her during the weekend of this event. Please call her at 510-524-2904 or reach her by email at: david_stevens@comcast.net. For further information on this event, please see the item in the Mark Your Calendars section below.

Many of us older members were saddened to hear that our society's founder, Carolyn Sherfy, recently passed away. It was voted that the society make a donation in Carolyn's memory to the East Contra Costa County Historical Society of which she had been very active for several years. Please see the article on Carolyn on page 4 of this newsletter.

Annual Spring Anniversary Luncheon: May 10, 2017 at noon at Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant in Alameda. Make your reservations early and join the fun and good food. Reservation form can be found on the last page of this newsletter. Directions to the restaurant will be in the next issue of this newsletter. We hope to see many of our members there.

Dues are coming due soon: A renewal form is at the back of this newsletter. Your dues supports this society, please renew and help keep us alive and kicking. We have many interesting programs planned for the future and the annual luncheon coming up in May.

Newsletter Exchange: In recent newsletters from the Whitman County Genealogical Society in Pullman, WA we notice they have reprinted several news items from our newsletter. Thank you, Whitman County Genealogical Society, we consider that a compliment. And, please, any other society that wishes to reprint items from our newsletter, please feel free to do so as long as due credit is given The Live Oak and East Bay Genealogical Society. However, any item with a member's name on it other than that of the editor, would require permission from that person/author to reprint.

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 <http://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.

Black Family History Day: Sunday, February 12, 2017 at 1-5 p.m.
Come learn about Black History from your ancestors perspective. The African American Genealogical Society of Northern California will be on hand to help researchers. Receive one-on-one assistance for free. Bring a USB Flash Drive to take home discovered treasures.

To reserve a spot for workshops and one-on-one consultation featuring a four-generation ancestry chart, please call 877-884-2843 or email us at oande@aagsnc.org

Paper Basics: Saving Your Family's Paper-based History: Wednesday, February 22 at 11 a.m.

Do you have original documents that need to be preserved? Letters, diaries, journals, certificates, citizenship papers, family bibles...? Let Karen Zukor teach you the basics of preservation before they crumble into dust. She will discuss the factors that damage paper and how to properly handle, store and display items that are both inherently valuable and inherently fragile. Karen has been a professional paper conservator for almost thirty years and is a Fellow of the American Institute for Conservation. You won't want to miss this most informative class.

It is FREE. Just pre-register at: fhcoakland@gmail.com or call 510-531-3905 Tues-Sat.

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, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sunday, March 4, 2017 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. This is referred to as a "pop-up" museum of San Francisco history. Many exhibits and short programs. The Old Mint is located at 88 - 5th Street, San Francisco. Admission is \$1.00 per person. Tours of the Old Mint, built in 1874, are available.

Concord Family History Center How-To Class: March 11, 2017 at 10 a.m....It is FREE, "Review of Ship's Passenger Lists" - speaker Diana King. A general review of information to be found on these lists and discussion of specific meanings of the marks that may be found on a passenger list. The Concord FHC is located at 3700 Concord Blvd. For more info call Jackie at 925-827-4729

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Are You Researching German Ancestors? The January/February issue of *Family Tree Magazine* has a very informative, useful article/tutorial on using Meyers Gazetteer online. Sometimes referred to as Meyers Orts, this gazetteer is a comprehensive list of every place name

in the Second German Empire, which was in existence from 1871-1918. Family Tree Magazine is available at your local FHC. The website to access the gazetteer is [www/meyersgaz.org](http://www.meyersgaz.org).

More Useful Info From the January/February 2017 Family Tree Magazine:

I have been asked in the past for information on researching Native Americans. In an article titled: "U.S. Legal History Resources" under a subheading: "American Legal History Online Sources:" the following website is suggested: guides.lib.uchicago.edu/amerleghistonline> A little further into the article it is suggested that those researching American Indian roots should explore the Native Americans Nation link. Hope this may be useful.

Catholic Church Records:

Two of Boston's most venerable institutions are teaming up to create an online database of hundreds of thousands of Roman Catholic Church documents to help people trace their family histories. The New England Historic Genealogical Society and the Archdiocese of Boston on Tuesday announced the project that was first talked about two years ago. It's the first time a significant number of sacramental records from any U.S. diocese have been digitized on this scale, the organization said. (from the San Francisco Chronicle, January 11, 2017)

IN MEMORIUM
Carolyn Louise Sherfy
Sept. 2, 1943 - Dec. 1, 2016

We were saddened to hear of the death of our founder, Carolyn Sherfy.

In the mid 1970s, as a member of the Alameda Women's Club, Carolyn organized a one-day genealogical seminar with speakers from the staff of the Genealogical Helper Magazine...a very popular happening back then. She generated quite a lot of interest with her sign-up sheet at the event and that was all the impetus she needed. She sent out invitations and held an organizational meeting at her home.

Thus East Bay Genealogical Society was born. This charter meeting in May, 1979 consisted of 14 original members who then elected Carolyn as their President. There were a few stumbling blocks in the early days.

When they were charged a bank fee of \$3.50 on their grand sum of \$36.00 in their bank account, they closed the account and the Treasurer kept the money until it reached a sum that would avoid service charges.

They began collecting books for a library, which Carolyn kept at her home. Her husband soon began mumbling about 'all those boxes' and at that time a recent new member, Lois Kline, raised her hand and offered to keep the 'library' at her home. It was not long after that Lois's husband began mumbling about 'all those boxes' and the society then moved in with the Mayflower Library...and there was no more mumbling.

Our membership has fluctuated over the years, but we continue to thrive. We will be forever grateful for Carolyn Sherfy's early leadership, nurturing and support of our society. She was our last remaining charter member.

Rest in Peace Carolyn.

*I went to a bookstore and asked the sales person, "Where is the self-help section?"
She said that if she told me it would defeat the purpose!*

THE INHERITANCE

In a family of 8 children with 6 sisters, sewing was an important part of growing up and we were all excited when we received a used treadle sewing machine. It was a thing of beauty to all of us girls who wanted to make pretty clothes. As each girl grew up, Mama taught her how to use the wonderful machine. However, we had to be very careful not to, as Mama said, "discombobulate" it. We were very careful, as none of us wanted Mama's wrath.

Time marched on and each child left home and bought their own sewing machine. Three sisters even sewed professionally and all but one at least was able to sew simple things.

Then it came time for Mama to let go of the sewing machine as she was getting down to the time when she had to go to a nursing home. So who should get the machine? The sister I'll call #2 made a trip to visit Mama and took the machine home. She had a perfectly good electric machine and realized the old machine was just taking up space in her house. Her son was living in a trailer in the desert without reliable electricity and he said he wanted it. Off to the desert it went. He wasn't skilled at sewing, so it ended up back at his mother's house minus a drawer of the cabinet. Sister #3 saw the head of the machine and said that she would take it home and have it renewed like new. Sister #1 saw sister #3 had the head and said since she was the oldest she should have it. Sister #6, in a visit, was given the cabinet, minus the missing drawer. She thought she could fix it.

Finally sister #3 sent the head to sister #6 so they could go back together. Sister #1 visited sister #6 and demanded the machine until she took a look at the damaged cabinet and the missing parts of the head, so the old sewing machine in the state of disrepair was left with sister #6.

Eventually, sister #3 saw an identical sewing machine in her next door neighbor's house and purchased it. She was happy. Sister #1 decided she didn't want the mess. Sister #2 had passed away and her son was not considered for the marvelous sewing machine since he had lost the drawer. Sister #4 raised her voice and insisted on it belonging to her while it sat in sister #6 home. Sister #5 never learned to sew on it.

Sister #6 tried to fix it but was unable to find the parts for it. However, she did find another White treadle sewing machine just like it and placed it in her home and told sister #4 she could have it. Sister #4 checked it out and was also discouraged but thought her husband who could do anything would fix it.

Finally sister #6 took the marvelous sewing machine to sister #4 house and left it in the open garage where it was still sitting when she passed away.

So why did each sister want the old sewing machine? It certainly wasn't to sew on as it had limited use in the modern world of sewing machines that could do numerous stitches. It was the memories. And it is the memories that we are trying to preserve with our genealogy. Try to give as many of these memories as you can to all the family. Maybe they will say they don't care, but someone down through the years will wonder and want this information. Print out a sheet of information, write a story of what you know about your family or send them a Gedcom file. Don't let your memories get lost.

Doris McKenzie Lock, sister #6

(Reprinted with permission. Originally printed in *The Taproot*, Gen. Soc of Vallejo/Benica, January, 2017)

HOW WILL YOU PRESERVE YOUR FAMILY STORIES, KEEPSAKES OR MEMORIES?

We probably all have items from the past, some belonging to our parents another relative or ancestor that we treasure. But what will become of them when we are gone? If you have not already done so, now may be the time to give this particular area of your family research some serious thought. Family members may not seem interested in these items now, but when you are gone they may ask "Where did this lovely clock, candy dish, or whatever come from"....and there will be no one to answer these questions.

Ask your family members if there are any items that they would particularly like to have... You may be surprised who does or does not want something.

Give items you no longer need or use away to those who will most cherish them now, or write their name on a tag and attach it to the item so there will be no quibbling later.

Take a photo of each item. Write a story or note about it, where it came from, and who it is to go to when you are gone, and where it can be found; i.e., safe deposit box, attic, garage etc. Keep these notes, stories in a file and give each of your family members a copy of the file to avoid problems down the road.

I read a magazine article many years ago about a family that held an auction of their belongings. Mom kept the "bank" and the record of who had bought what and Dad was the auctioneer.

They had doled out the same amount of Monopoly Money to each of their children. Some of the items were taken home that day, others were still "in use" by the parents (dad's car, for instance) and were marked or noted in the record as to whom they were to be distributed to upon the parent's death.

If you decide upon an auction, do plan on an entire day and have food available. It is likely to be a lively but long day.

You will also want to make sure your research and "family history" will not be tossed into the dumpster when you are gone. You may already have a family member who would appreciate inheriting your files and wish to carry on your research or at least preserve what you have collected. If so, make sure other members of your family are well aware of this.

Make sure your files are in order, that you have cited your sources and documented your findings to the best of your ability and get the information in stories and records filed so that it will be easy for someone to understand all the tedious and loving work you have been doing all these years.

You may want to consider a "Genealogical Will" for preserving your family history. A good example of one can be found on our website. Google *East Bay Genealogical Society* and click on 'My Genealogical Will' to download a copy.

*Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
England has no kidney bank, but they do have a Liverpool.*

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, 2017 Thank you for your support.

Office use only: Date _____ Amt _____ Ch# _____

ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON – MAY 10, 2017

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: \$25.00 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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Website	http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/
Blog	http://caebaygs.blogspot.com
Email	caebaygs@gmail.com

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EST. 1979