

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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November/December 2017

Oakland, California

MAY YOUR TURKEY BE TENDER AND
YOUR BLESSINGS BE MANY
HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE!

NOVEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, November 14, 2017

GERMAN RESEARCH - Speaker: Robert Jackson

The second part of Robert Jackson's program on German Research will focus on finding your ancestors in the village in Germany where they came from. If you have been told your ancestors came from Hanover or Hamburg, you may have been misled.

Mr. Jackson's program in October was wonderful and I am sure you will be pleased and mesmerized by this program also.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE !
MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU JOY
....and success with your research!

DECEMBER MEETING

OUR ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

We look forward to this meeting each year and the delightful array of baked goodies our members bring to share. Bake up a batch of your favorite cookies and bring them to share with us. We are also asking each member to be prepared to share a holiday story or tradition (or family lore). How did your family celebrate the Christmas holidays? Was there something special, exciting or chaotic during the holiday season that you would like to share with us? Was there a particularly memorable Christmas you would like to tell us about? We hope you will share your stories. You will have a 'captive' audience!

Looking Back at September: Our member and FHC staff researcher, Karla Henderlong, provided a very helpful handout along with a lot of thought provoking suggestions to help us solve some of our research puzzles and roadblocks. Karla led us in an open-discussion type of meeting and members offered several suggestions to help their fellow members.

Looking Back at October: Robert Jackson provided an excellent handout and program on how to locate *where* in Germany your ancestors came from. He had many great suggestions to inspire you to research further...and his talk drew quite a few members to the meeting, along with several guests.

We are truly looking forward to having him return in November. We hope you will return also - and bring a friend!

EBGS NEWS:

Please note: The November meeting will be held on **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14TH** and will feature the second series of lectures by Robert Jackson on German Research. If your ancestors came to America from Germany, you will not want to miss this program.

At the October General Meeting the membership voted to donate \$25 to the Friends of the Oakland Library History Room. It was also decided to add a line onto our membership renewal form for donations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Oakland FHC will be closed for the holiday season beginning December 15th through January 1st and will reopen and be ready to welcome researchers again January 2, 2018.

The Oakland FHC Library offers the following on-going classes/workshops. ALL classes at the FHC are free and open to everyone interested. Sometimes there might be a small charge for handouts. You can check their website to view information on these workshops and upcoming classes. They are not always mentioned in his newsletter as they do not coincide with the mailing date.

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.

Personal/Family History: Write Your History in Stories: 2nd Thursday each month, 1-2 p.m. Instructor: Ken Miller, staff genealogist. Does writing your personal history sound intimidating? Does "I was born..." seem like a boring way to start? How about writing your memories one story at a time? Come once or come monthly or come when you can. Set

aside the 2nd Thursday of each month and spend an afternoon jump starting your memory. Write one story each time you come and you could have quite a personal history recorded by the end of the year.

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**.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

"Finding Your Roots" with Henry Louis Gates Jr. ...Ten new episodes are again airing on Channel 9, KQED. They began October 3rd and run through December 5th.

From Lisa Louse Cooke's August 10, 2017 newsletter: "Finding Original Manuscripts with **ArchiveGrid**" - a companion website to **WorldCat**. A free online tool. Original manuscript records may reveal genealogical gems about your ancestors. Manuscript records such as old diaries, letters, vital records collections, military documents, church registers, store ledgers, school and business records can be genealogical gems. You can search for repositories or specific manuscript items. Go to Lisa's Genealogical Gems website to read a more detailed explanation.

From Lisa Louise Cooke's October 14, 2017 newsletter: Top German Translation Websites

Wordmine.info; A great site for translating German genealogy documents.

Kurrent Wikipedia Page: Offers a key of the Kurrent letters and corresponding letters in our alphabet.

Abkuerzungen.de: Have an abbreviation in your genealogy document but not sure what it means? Type it into this website for possible German words.

Online German Dictionaries: LEO.online dictionary by Langescheidt and dic.cc

Lingue.com: A very helpful translation site. Shows words and phrases translated by actual translators - definition of the word, plus pages of sample sentences.

Woerterbuchnetz: Find the meanings of old fashioned words. Knowledge of German required.

Der Famillamstammbaum: Provides a list of old fashioned German occupations with their modern day German translation.

Street Search Engine: If you know that a word in your document is a street (strade) but cannot figure out which street it is, use this site to find out. Type in the city in the "OrtsverzeichnisA-Z" (gazetteer). An A-Z list of street names will appear on the screen. If you know at least some of the letters in your street, this list can help you recognize the correct transcription.

Fonts2U: Allows you to type in any word to see how it would look in Kurrentschrift.

More From Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems - Via the Newsletter of the Immigrant Genealogical Society, November 2017.

Irish Genealogy: Fold3 is not a place one might search for Irish records, and yet it is to here that the Genealogy Gems blog points researchers who think their Irish ancestors might have

received an army pension in the two century period of 1724-1924. The collection is called "Royal Hospital Kilmainham Pensions Discharge Documents".

Dutch Genealogy: Genealogy Gems has also reported that FamilySearch has added 51 million Dutch records as a result of a project by Dutch archives to index such records as, civil registration, church records, emigration lists, military registers and land and tax records.

"Genealogy" - A magazine devoted mostly to online research and many Internet related family history topics. To order online, go to www.internet-genealogy.com or call toll free, 1-888-326-2467.

Were Your Ancestors From Michigan? You may not be aware that Michigan has many genealogical societies throughout the state. The Michigan Genealogical Council lists ten: Bay County, Benzie Area, Berrien County, Calhoun County, Cass River, Charlevoix County, Cheboygan County, Clarkston Area, Clinton County, Cornish Connection, Dearborn County, and Detroit Society. Check out their website at [www.http://mimgc.org/ctsm_societyList.php](http://www.mimgc.org/ctsm_societyList.php). On the left side of the page you also may want to click on "research tools" or read their newsletter.

International Tracing Service Records (ITS) Online: If your research entails Jewish ancestors or Holocaust victims this website may be very helpful to you. The following is excerpted from an article written by Allison Deprey Singleton and originally published in *ZichronNote: Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society* August, 2017, Vol.XXXVII, No. 3.

World War II wrecked havoc on families in Europe as people fled their homes, others were forced into concentration camps, and entire towns were destroyed. To begin dealing with the vast number of displaced people, multiple organizations worked together early during the war to prepare for the work of finding missing people. By the time V-E Day occurred, millions of people had been displaced by the war and needed assistance. The Allied Forces and non-military organizations began initiatives to help displaced persons. This entity became the International Tracing Service. Their website is a superior website for researching displaced persons. [www.https://its-arolsen.org/en/](https://its-arolsen.org/en/)

In 2007, each country with a representative on the International Commission that governs ITS received a copy of the then-digitized collection.

The U.S. copy is held by the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Wash.D.C.

<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/internation-tracing-service>. It is not on the Holocaust Museum website. You may search it in person or have an expert staff member search for you. Priority is given to victims of the Holocaust and then to families searching for answers to loved ones lost.

For more detailed information of this marvelous website, I refer you to the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society...Google them to read the above-mentioned newsletter and find out more about the society from previous newsletters if you like.

Ireland and Scotland Records Online: Via Cath Madden Trindle and San Ramon Valley Gen. Soc. Newsletter - March, 2017.

IRELAND:

National Archives of Ireland: <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: <http://www.proni.gov.uk>

Vital Records - Northern Ireland:

<https://www.ndirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/government-citizens-rights/births-deaths-marriages-and-civil-partnerships>.

Ask About Ireland - Griffith's Valuations: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>

SCOTLAND:

Scotland's People: <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Scotland Catholic Archives: <http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk/>

In What War Might Your Ancestor Have Fought/Served:

The following is a list of wars or military actions in which your ancestor may have fought, based on his or her birth year.

1726 - 1767	Revolutionary War (1775-1783)
1762 - 1799	War of 1812 (1812-1815)
1796 - 1831	Mexican War (1846-1848)
1811 - 1848	Civil Was (1861-1865)
1848 - 1881	Spanish-American War (1898)
1849 - 1885	Philippine Insurrection (189-1902)
1872 - 1900	World War I (1917-1918)
1877 - 1925	World War II (1941-1945)
1900 - 1936	Korean Was (1950-1953)
1914 - 1955	Vietnam Was (1964-1972)

Birth year ranges are approximate as those who served at very young or old ages may not fall within the ranges. Information provided by Sue Fitzpatrick.

(Santa Clara County Genealogical & Historical Society newsletter, October 2017)

ANOTHER BOSTON EXPERIENCE - By Sally Stevens

After reading Trish's article about her Boston experience, I thought I should add something about my trip to Boston in June. A friend and I decided to take advantage of the New England Historical and Genealogical Society's Spring Research Getaway. This consisted of spending three days at the library and consulting with 4 of the professional researchers there.

Each morning began with a get-together over fruit, bagels and coffee or tea, signing up for consultations followed by a lecture, which lasted about an hour. The first day's lecture was an introduction to the staff who would be helping us and an overview of the library and its holdings.

The next two days' lectures were very interesting ones on Catholic Records in New England and Women in Naturalization Records. After that, we went about our various research journeys, taking an half hour out for our consultation for the day, a wine and cheese reception the first night and dinner, then working until 9:00 p.m.

When we signed up for this, we were asked to write down and submit a page or so of what we hoped to accomplish, including the names, dates and places of those we were looking for.

Because I have been lucky enough to have successfully researched most of my husband's and my immigrant ancestors, I was hoping to fill in some holes and basically prove what I had found in books or various sites. I do have a couple of brick walls, which still remain, and wished I had added a few more people to my list...as we were all pleasantly surprised that our papers were handed back to us before entering the library, with detailed notations of where to look for information. This was done by Gary Boyd Roberts, who is a well-known genealogist there. During the next three days, he circulated around to sit down with each of us and look at the pedigree charts (he doesn't do computers) and proceeded to spend about an hour or so with each of us.

One of the most impressive aspects of the library is the large number of family histories they have. I was able to find a lot of information I hadn't seen before. One gem was an account of an ancestor Nicholas Potter, who, when he moved to Linn, Massachusetts, was told he was to get a license and open a tavern. He had been a tanner before. I certainly could have spent a lot more time just researching those family books.

All the consultants were very helpful, and immediately brought our or suggested a number of books and manuscripts to look at. Consequently, we had plenty of avenues to go down in our searches. The library even has a copy of a family book written by our member, Blanche Sack.

Unfortunately, I was not really able to prove my brick wall, but was assured that "if it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, it probably is a duck". In my case, my unusual name of a couple cropping up in a small town where I know my gr, gr, grand parents were....the time is right and the names fit. I probably have the bridge to the rest of the ancestors and another Mayflower ancestor.

Some of the participants had done one of these before, and felt it worthwhile. I would happily return armed with a lot more names for research. I did not expect to have any big breakthroughs, as I have most of the immigrant ancestors, but I did fill out lines and stories. Sheri and I even discovered we were distant cousins from the 1600s.

Outside of genealogy, we did the touristy bit and walked the Freedom Trail, a great deal further than we expected - 7 miles that day. The next day we only walked 5 miles, taking the train to the Harvest Museum of Natural History. We really enjoyed the museum, especially their collection of glass flowers.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY MISHAP

There has probably been at least one Thanksgiving turkey mishap in your family. I know there has been one in mine. My very own mishap! We had invited my mother and father-in-law, brother-in-law and wife and daughter to join us. The first Thanksgiving in our new house - which happened to be my in-laws "old" home where my husband and his brother had grown up.

Dinner was being kept warm in serving dishes, salads had been served and I had put the lovely turkey on its lovely platter on an antique tea cart. As I rolled it from the kitchen into the dining room (my husband later said it appeared I was at Daytona!) the cart stumbled over the metal strip separating the dining room carpet from the kitchen floor! The turkey, of course, flew to the floor! Egads! We scrambled to gather it up, wipe it off, and, yes, we served it anyway. However, my husband elected to

carve it in the kitchen rather than at the table. It was delicious in spite of its unexpected last minute 'flight' and no one seemed to mind - God Bless my gracious in-laws!

RELATIONSHIPS - THAT IS WHAT GENEALOGY IS ABOUT, RIGHT?

By: Carol-Ann Tucker-Watt, President of the Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia

We try to find the people who are somewhat related to us. They must be full, half, step, in-law, or adoptive relationships. At first, we work with the relationships closest to us - parents, siblings, grandparents. Then we start to move out a bit - aunts, cousins, in-laws. We keep moving up and out chasing those little leaves on Ancestry.com and hitting brick walls. Then we turn around and start chasing leaves in a different direction. Soon we are up at 2:30 in the morning trying to identify the maiden name of the mother of the husband of the adoptive daughter of the third wife of the step-brother-in-law of our half fourth cousin three times removed. And asking ourselves...WHY? We don't know these people and they aren't even remotely related to us. Well, okay. They are remotely related. Very remotely related.

I've managed to work a couple of relationships into my family tree in a different way. These were people I knew, who turned out to be related to me in a convoluted way. One was a good friend of my husband and initially I accepted him as just that. Then, I found out that his former wife and my husband's former wife were cousins. Oh! That meant I could add him to my family tree! Rodney is the former husband of the daughter of the sister of the father of the former wife of the husband of...me! Had to figure out a few names, but he is in the tree.

Another case was a co-worker of my husband. At one point in time they even exchanged jobs. I wondered why in the world he was Facebook friends with my first cousin. I couldn't think of any way their lives would overlap. Well, get this...Bill is married to the daughter of the sister of the mother of...me! So, my husband and his co-worker were related to each other and didn't know it!

My grandmother was widowed about a week before her 49th birthday. A few years later she remarried. It would be several more years before I was born. I considered grandma's second husband to be my grandfather and called him "Grandpa Lynn". My mother was not particularly fond of her stepfather and made it clear that he wasn't her real father. I didn't know anything about Grandpa Lynn except that he was kind enough to me. As an adult, I became vaguely aware that he had been married before. A couple of years ago I discovered he had been married TWICE before when I uncovered a marriage license from Solano County from 1944. Recently (and who knows why) I was tackling his family tree again I saw that someone had the same maiden name listed for both of his former wives. I was sure it was a mistake. But, when I investigated further I discovered that they were sisters! I also found out that Grandpa Lynn had two children from his first marriage. I didn't think it was a big deal until I looked at the relationship Ancestry had calculated between the daughter and myself. Step-aunt, Huh? That is brief...not exactly a convoluted relationship. And then it hit me...if she's my step-aunt, that means she is my mother's step-sister. And, my mother had a step-brother too. Wow! That's a pretty close relationship. To the best of my knowledge, my mother never met either of her step-siblings. And knowing my mother...she never wanted to. But for me, it's a reminder that you never know what you will find each time I turn a genealogical corner whilst chasing those little leaves.

Reprinted by permission. Thank you Carol-Ann. From the Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia's "Taproot", Volume 20, Issue 10.

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

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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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!