

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 20417
OAKLAND, CA 94620-0417

LIVE OAK NEWSLETTER March/April 2008

MARCH MEETING

Wednesday, March 12th - 10 A.M. at the Oakland Family History Library Meeting Room

U.S. MIGRATION PATTERNS INLAND FROM THE ATLANTIC COAST

Speaker – Evelyn Bentley

Evelyn taught history at Chabot College for 27 years and also spent one year as a volunteer at the Hyde Park FHC in England. She has been involved with family history research for 25 years. The routes your ancestors took moving inland from the Atlantic Coast may surprise you. Evelyn has visited our society in the past and been well received. We look forward to this program.

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 9th - 10 A.M. at the Oakland Family History Library Meeting Room

ESTABLISHING YOUR PERSONAL WEBSITE

Speaker – Bill George

Our member, Bill George, recently retired from Kaiser Permanente's Information Technology Division. He has helped several organizations set up their websites and computer user groups. We are fortunate to have him share his knowledge and expertise with us.

Our January meeting was well attended. I offer a synopsis of John Fenstermacher's topic "Researching Property Records in Alameda County".

Property records from 1969 forward are available online. Earlier records require a personal search of the microfilms available at the County Recorder's Office, 1106 Madison Street, Oakland, CA. Their office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

Visit the County Recorder's official website: acgov.com In a column on the left side of the page is a list of Quick Links – click on County Recorder's Office. You'll find it quite user friendly. Be sure to also look at the FAQs for some hints.

I was unable to attend the February meeting, but from what I have heard from several members everyone was thrilled with Cath Madden Trindle's talk and useful handout for Scottish Research.

The handout is available from our library for anyone who missed the meeting and would like one. It contains much useful information on researching Scottish ancestry through various websites.

EBGS NEWS

We have finally received the remaining DVDs from Salt Lake City which contain the balance of our obituary file that was digitized.

NEW MEMBER – Welcome! Nancy H. Servin

ITEMS OF INTEREST

This item was recently printed in the Oakland Tribune. Can anyone help this family?

“ZIMMERMAN, Bobby D. Our brother Bobby D. Zimmerman who resided in Oakland, CA for a number

of years, died on Sept. 20, 2006 in Los Angeles, CA.”

“We are seeking information as to the whereabouts of his son, Tumahini Zimmerman, aka, Tumahini Sherry.

Please call collect: Ramona Zimmerman, (818) 852-6634 or Jewel Zimmerman, (310) 603-2931.”

Annotating Scanned Images – FotoTagger at www.fototagger.com

Labeling photos is important regardless of where you store them: digitally, hard drive, or envelopes and shoe boxes. This program can be downloaded free. It claims to store the image and text annotation in the same file, but the annotation can be hidden with a click so the original picture is always available. Might be worth a try.

Pathfinders at Allen County Public Library (Family Chronicle, October 2006, pg 61)

The library’s website has tips for the genealogy beginner, but there is also information on adoptions and law. An international area includes links to more than 40 different aspects of genealogy. The choices are: French-Canadian, English and Welsh, Scottish, Irish, Newspaper, German, Census, Adoption, Modern Research, Swiss, Heraldry, China, and Eastern European. In the ethnic pathfinders you can find tips on records, maps, and census. In the newspaper pathfinder there are tips on how to locate and access newspapers for genealogical research.

Obituary and/or Birth Announcement Look-ups (South King County Genealogical Society, *South King News*, Vol. 22, No. 1, July/August 2006, pg. 13 and Whitman County (WA) Genealogical Society newsletter.

The Washington State Library does free obituary and birth announcement look-ups from any newspaper in their collection. They need a death/birth date or a close approximation.

Their catalog can be searched at: <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/library/> You can request an obit via an email to: askalibrarian@secstate.wa.gov.

Federal Census Mortality Schedules – MortalitySchedules.com (San Luis Obispo County Genealogical Society *Bulletin*, Vol. 40.3-4, November 2007)

In 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880, census enumerators were directed to secure, in addition to the usually required census data, information as to all persons dying within the 12 months preceding the census taking. These lists became known as the “Mortality Schedules”. The mortality schedules usually included the date and cause of death. Some online transcriptions do not include all data found on the original mortality schedule images. Hundreds of counties have been transcribed and placed online.

NEW BOOKS IN THE EBGs LIBRARY

Index to Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, St. Helena, CA

Publ. by Napa Valley Genealogical & Historical Society – 2007 (Napa Valley File)

Livermore Union High School #1 - List of teachers in early Livermore Area Schools

Publ. by LAGS (Alameda County File)

The following was found among the papers of Judge Silas Weaver, Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, serving on the Court from 1902 – 1923.

Marshall County was created in 1846 and the fight over the county seat was not resolved until 1859. Silas Weaver moved to Iowa from New York in 1863, so I know he was not the author of this, unless it was merely a story he wrote. However, this story is an interesting glimpse of the event.

By Sally Stevens

When but a small child my father was attacked with the “Go West” fever. Iowa was then the Mecca of such restless spirits and glowing accounts were sent out of rich rolling prairies and fertile valleys of wooded streams. A land flowing with milk and honey where a man had but to drop the seed into the earth – then while he slept his crops grew and almost harvested themselves.

So, we and our household goods were loaded into covered wagons. An uncle and neighbor, with their families, formed quite a party. I think there were several wagons as we started for the land wherein lay our future fortunes.

My first recollection of things connected with the journey were pretty white covered wagons, the long eared mules, men with shining long guns and barking dogs who seemed to take in the (idea) that this journey was being made in their interest as well.

I have a faint remembrance of my first glimpse of Iowa. We were camped on the east bank of a large river. Across the water from us could be seen the lights of a town or city, and as they

glowed through the mist of the evening twilight which rose over the river I imagined we were very near Heaven. I had heard the older folk talk so much of the beautiful country where the prairies were covered with flowers that I thought, of course, this must be the very gateway to the New Jerusalem.

My next remembrance was of spending a winter in a log school house located on land which my father bought. As school was closed for the summer, we occupied the house until father could haul logs, build a saw mill, and saw lumber for a new "frame" house, which was the first such house in that neighborhood.

Two or three families would build near each other as possible so as to be able to all flee to one building in the event we should be attacked by Indians. One or two tribes, or parts of tribes, of the Misquakies (?) and others still returned to the prairies and wintered in the woods along the river.

My next remembrance was of going to town to live. There was to be a town started north of center of the county. People were sure it would eventually be the county seat. My father sold some of his land and built a hotel there. But before he built the hotel, he built a house to winter in, which I will describe. He hauled logs to his mill and sawed them into planks or boards as the people of this place were pleased to style them and put up what they called studding and boarded them up on the inside and out, leaving a space between. Into these spaces was packed sawdust, filling it in as the siding was put on. After the roof was on and the windows in, mother papered the inside with newspapers. After this was done they held a house-warming and danced until the chickens began to crow for the dawning of the morn.

I cannot recall much connected with the building up of the town, but I do recall the first 4th of July celebration. There was to be a war dance by the Johnny Green tribe of Indians, which camped near town. We had moved into the new hotel, and our family consisted of father, mother, four children, three hired girls, a baker, a clerk and thirty boarders, mostly young men who had come west seeking work in the new town. Notwithstanding this large family, mother and the help baked and cooked for the 4th of July dinner in the Public Square. A table was constructed of wooden horses and boards which reached around three sides of the square. All who brought food put it into our common fund and served from these tables. After the dinner was cleared away the dance began. The hideous painted faces with the coronet of feathers frightened the children almost into spasms. I can never forget those brave bucks as they brandished their tommyhawks (sic) and bent low to the ground in the pretended act of scalping their victims.

The next important event of which I have remembrance was the county seat war between Marshalltown and Marietta – two little towns located on the Iowa River. The courthouse was a poorly constructed wooden building – two storied high with an outside stairway leading up to the courtroom above. The lower part containing the offices and county records. The Mariettans had placed a keg of powder in the cellar and made arrangements to blow up the building in case the sheriff and his men should make an attempt to remove the county records and books from the building.

The sheriff and a great company from Marshalltown and as many farmers and hangers on as could be collected to constitute a company large enough to awe the Mariettans into submission

arrived to take the place. In the meantime, inhabitants of Marietta had armed themselves, built fortresses behind the closed doors of their houses and places of business; and with guns pointing at their enemies from loopholes, were ready for the battle. On they came marching until the sheriff called out, "Men, this will never do, the women and children were (are) in danger", and he called out "Stop, don't shoot". An old preacher by the name of Shinn, who had been quite active in organizing the attacking company, rode down the street of the town calling upon the inhabitants to surrender. He was answered by showers of eggs. By the time he could make his exit his own family would have difficulty in recognizing the head of the house as dripping with the fragrant eggnog he dashed the rowels into steed and disappeared in the gloaming.

Our town had a real missionary. He was sent from way down East, and the family consisted of father, mother and eight children. We had no church, but meetings and S.S. (Sunday services) were held in the chambers of one of the neighbors. The room was not plastered and had two windows in each end. The seats consisted of boards laid on chairs.

The Reverend gentleman preached three sermons from the same text and took up no collections at the meetings. The great event in the life of that family was the opening of the great missionary box sent from the "East". It contained a lot of cast off clothing, a suit for the minister, a few apples, (and some) bedding. I have in my mind now a picture of one of the tall lean girls as she was togged out in some of the things of that box.