



**January/February, 2010**

**Oakland, California**

*Abridged version of The Live Oak, containing all articles in computer-readable form.*

**JANUARY MEETING**

Wednesday, January 13, 2010 - Oakland Family History Center Library – 10 a.m.

**ORAL HISTORIES**

**Speaker, Nancy Thompson**

Born in Oakland, California, Nancy is an award-winning oral historian, filmmaker and writer. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology/economics from Mills College in Oakland and a J.D. degree from Hastings College of Law in San Francisco. She is the author of *A Legacy of Courage, Pioneering Spirits*, which was reviewed in our previous newsletter. She has recorded her family history with the Story Corps Griot Project and the Museum of the African Diaspora Share Your Stories Project.

Nancy will share her experiences in writing her book and give us lots of information and pointers on how to successfully conduct oral histories. We are looking forward to having her at our podium.

**FEBRUARY MEETING**

Wednesday, February 10, 2010 – Oakland Family History Center Library – 10 a.m.

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

Two members, Trina and Karyn, of SCCHGS have been kind enough to accept our invitation to tell our members about their society and their marvelous library. They are a very active society and their library is a wonderful resource for their area. We hope to visit their library later in the year.

Steve Harris was most generous and informative in his talk on City Directories at the November meeting. We learned a lot and were reminded of much we had forgotten since those “beginning” genealogy classes! His handout contains much useful information with regard to researching with city directories. There is a copy in our library for your perusal or you may make a copy for your own use. Steve has an extensive collection of city directories covering California and many areas of the United States. His collection is accessible at the

California Genealogical Library in Oakland. If you email him and request a list of his collection he will be happy and willing to send you the list to download. Email Steve Harris at - [wizard848@earthlink.net](mailto:wizard848@earthlink.net).

Our Annual Cookie Exchange at the December meeting was a success and lots of fun as usual. Photos of members in their "youth" kept us all guessing and added to the fun. There were many delicious cookies to enjoy and small gifts for members who attended. Your editor entertained the group with a photo she discovered and believed to be our president, Sally Stevens. Many agreed, except Sally. She never owned a blue and white striped shirt...hmmm. On closer scrutiny, it was discovered the photo was actually ME! Had never realized Sally and I look somewhat alike in profile, but had to admit, that was MY shirt. Did I feel silly? You bet!

## **EBGS NEWS**

We welcome the year 2010, but wonder where 2009 went. The last year seemed to pass so quickly. However, the New Year does bring us a little nearer to the release of the 1940 Census and the hope that some of us can finally find ourselves!

Since the Alameda newspapers refuse to print information about our upcoming meetings because we do not meet in Alameda, we plan to run an ad in their papers for the January meeting. AND...if you have a friend or friends interested in genealogy, please bring them to a meeting. We are a very congenial group and our programs have been quite informative, varied and interesting and will continue to be throughout the year.

We have programs planned through May so far. If you have an idea for a program, know of a speaker, have a particular subject you would like us to cover, please speak up and let us know.

## **IN MEMORIUM**

We were saddened to hear of the death in late November of our long-time member, Marie Walsh. Marie had been quite active in the society over the years and spent many hours volunteering her time at our library in the past. We missed her at the Christmas meeting and will continue to miss her for quite some time.

## **EBGS LIBRARY NEWS**

We have one new book: *Researching Your Italian Ancestors*, a recent book sale find.

Thank you to our devoted librarian, Lois Kline for her time and effort throughout the year in maintaining our library; and thanks also to Joyce Schleicher for volunteering almost every Monday afternoon!

## **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS....?**

Last year at this time I mentioned I intended to send letters to several of my cousins asking for their stories of grandma, aunts or uncles. I did send three letters to favorite cousins. My response was zip! Guess they

might become not-so-favorite very soon. Suppose everyone has had a busy year. Did any of you attempt to gain information from your cousins? Sure hope you had better luck!

I had promised to print an addendum to the Anniversary Index printed throughout last year in this January issue. My apologies – there has not been the time to get it all together. Hopefully, it will be in the next issue, when life has slowed down a bit after the holiday madness.

I was watching *Dateline* on TV a few weeks ago. They were telling a story of a murder that had happened in Green River, Idaho several years ago. Suddenly a light went on.....My husband's elderly Aunt Ruth had told me that she and her intended husband had left the Bay Area headed for Wisconsin to visit her relatives and had planned to marry in Reno, Nevada on the way. Then, she claimed she got a bad cold, and they did not get married until the next day in Green River, Utah. Have searched all of Utah and never found the evidence. NOW I will search Idaho! It is true. Sometimes little tidbits and clues turn up in the most unsuspecting places.

Thank you, *Dateline!*

### **THE NEW YEAR IS A GOOD TIME TO HONE YOUR RESEARCH SKILLS UPCOMING CLASSES AT FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY, OAKLAND**

Tuesday	January 12, 10:30 AM	Sources and Citations- hands on	Marge Bell
Saturday	January 16, 1:30 PM	Google Your Family Tree and Using a Flash Drive	Rich McCartney
Tuesday	January 19, 10:30 AM	Getting the Most from Ancestry.com	Kay Arnold
Wednesday	January 20, 7 PM	Introduction to PAF – hands on	Ken Miller
Tuesday	January 26, 10:30 AM	Comparing PAF Data to New Family Search - hands on – LDS only	Ken Miller
Saturday	February 6, 1:30 PM	PAF Special Features - hands on	Ken Miller
Tuesday	February 9, 7 PM	Beginning of 8-week Intermediate Series Probate & Guardianship Records	Marge Bell
Tuesday	February 16, 10:30 AM	Adding Sources & Notes in PAF hands-on	Ken Miller
Tuesday	February 16, 7 PM	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Intermediate Series Church and Cemetery Records	Marge Bell
Tuesday	February 23, 7 PM	3 <sup>rd</sup> of Intermediate Series  U.S. Military Records	Susan Goss Johnson

## **GENEii FAMILY HISTORY WRITING CONTEST**

The Southern California Genealogical Society sponsors one of the few writing contests designed specifically for family historians that is open to the general public. Membership in SCGS is not required to participate. The contest, now in its tenth year, offers cash prizes in two categories: Family or Local History Articles of 1,000 -2,000 words and Family or Local History Articles of 1,000 or Less.

The deadline for this year was December 31<sup>st</sup>; however, you might want to consider entering next year's contest. All details and contest rules can be found on the SCGS website at [www.scsgenealogy.com](http://www.scsgenealogy.com). Look on the left-hand side of the screen for "Writing Contest" and click on that link to read examples of some of the previous entries

## **FREE INTERNET TOOLS**

Member, Bill George, recommends the Family History 101 web site as a very useful tool to follow those county boundary changes over time. <http://www.familyhistory101.com>. Although the site is filled with excellent genealogy resources, there is one area in particular that shows how counties have evolved over time at <http://www.familyhistory101.com/maps.html>. Click on "County Boundary Changes for Each Year" and step through, year by year, an evolving map of where every county line was in your chosen state. With this tool, your research will undoubtedly improve.

## **MACGEN GROUP - FOR MACINTOSH/REUNION USERS**

It's free, informative, and open to all Macintosh users. The goal is to learn from each other and further our knowledge about genealogy and the Macintosh. The group was organized by Bill George of EBGS, Ed Mason of San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society and Rich Peterson of Diablo Valley Macintosh User Group and now boasts members from all over the East Bay Region.

Meetings offering Macintosh Tips, a Main Topic, Reunion Tips, and a Q/A session are held at the Oakland Family History Center Library on the fourth Saturday of each month from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. They also offer a workshop meeting on the second Wednesday of each month from 7-9 p.m. at the same location, designed to help members with questions and problems and to review previous topics for those unable to attend the Saturday meetings.

Reunion is the most popular genealogy program for Macintosh users and previous meetings have explored features such as: charts, digital photos, vital records, source citations, person tagging, advance charts and Reunion for the iPhone.

Saturday, January 23, 1:30 PM	Making Family History Movies
February 27, 1:30 PM	presentation by Pat Burrow, Santa Clara Computer Gen. Group
March 27, 1:30 PM	Creating a Family History Slide Show

If you are a Mac/Reunion user, you would certainly benefit by joining this group.

## **LOOKING FOR A GRAVE?**

Check out [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) . This site is now up to 21 million gravesites and grows daily. If you have exhausted Ancestry.com or other resources, come here and perhaps find your ancestor. Search famous graves, cemeteries, or their entire data base. They are not just in the United States. Names come up alphabetically. You will find information ranging from perhaps a photo of the grave or cemetery to information about the person, wording on the headstone, or a short biography of a person who submitted the information to the website. By selecting a cemetery, you can see a list of names of the gravesites in that cemetery.

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