

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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January/February 2018

Oakland, California

HAPPY NEW YEAR !

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

ALAMEDA, CA - SOME HISTORY AND INTERESTING FACTS

Speaker: Dennis Evanosky

We have had Dennis Evonosky speak at our meeting once before and he was wonderful and full of facts.

Dennis is the Editor of *The Alameda Sun*, a local weekly newspaper. His passion is history. He was delighted to be asked to speak to us about Alameda. I am sure you will find his talk fascinating and most enjoyable.

Please join us, and bring a friend!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 14, 2018

LOOKING FOR YOUR ANCESTORS USING FHC WIKI

Speaker: Ralph Severson

Hardly anyone knows better how to navigate the FHC WIKI than Ralph. It might amaze you what you may find through the WIKI portal.

Ralph has asked that a few members bring their research problems, information they are seeking on their ancestors, or some idea of what you hope to find. He will try to solve your problem, which in turn will demonstrate how to use WIKI and the possibilities that might await you!

It is always exciting to have Ralph as our speaker, he is so inspiring. Please join us and bring a friend!

Looking Back at November: This was the second part of Mr. Jackson's talk on German research and centered around doing research in Germany. Robert Jackson is very enthusiastic about German research, as you might have guessed if you attended this meeting. He ran an hour overtime! I hope many of you gleaned some useful tips and/or information that will aid you with further research of you German ancestors

Looking Back at December: Are EBGs members wonderful cookie bakers or what? We had a delightfully delicious array of home-made cookies to enjoy and take home to share with members of our family or friends. FHC staff joined us to enjoy the treats also. We appreciate their support during the year. Members exchanged stories/lore of family Christmases of years ago. It was a fun meeting. Thank you to everyone who attended.

EBGS NEWS:

Finding speakers for upcoming meetings is quite a challenge at times. If you know or have heard of a speaker you would like to recommend to our group, please, please let us know.

Apparently some of our members have changed their email addresses since the printing of the last Roster. PLEASE let me know if you change your email address. I will need to update my records.. **c-kstorm@juno.com.**

It is not only our members who read this newsletter - well, I hope they read it!

I have been contacted several times over the years by libraries and researchers throughout the country in regard to stories or information they have found on these pages. With that in mind, why not submit a story of one of your ancestors or perhaps a research dilemma? You might be surprised with the response.

Would you be interested/willing to have your Ancestor Chart or a Family Group Sheet printed in this newsletter? It might generate some interest from distant cousins you never knew you had...who knows? There is almost always plenty of space to fill...just let me know. **c-kstorm@juno.com**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

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 the library's workshops and upcoming classes. They are not always mentioned in his newsletter as they do not coincide with the mailing date.

Please Note: When the library reopens after the holidays you will have to sign-in with a user name and password to get into their **familysearch** website from home or in the library. In fact, from home you may have to do so now. This is to be sure you are not a "robot" and to discourage scammers. Keep your password simple so that you can easily remember it.

New Books at the Library: "A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames", by Lars Menk.

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.

California Genealogical Society DNA Event: "A Day With the Genetic Genealogist Blaine Bettinger". March 5, 2018, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. In Berkeley. There is a charge for this seminar and reservations are required. Check CGS website or blog for further details.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

The Concord FHC is once again offering "How To Classes". Their January 20, 2018 class is titled: "**But He Was Only a Farmer**". The speaker will be Madeline Yanov. The Concord FHC is located at 3700 Concord Blvd. Class begins at 10 a.m. and it is FREE and open to anyone interested.

Many of us do have farmers in our family tree. Have you found them in records other than the Census Schedules? Madeline will guide you in finding what records are available and sources that may provide information on where to find Social History, Economics, and Politics that affected our ancestors. They were influenced by more than just the weather and they were more than just *farmers*.

California Genealogical Alliance: It is official, this association has folded, unfortunately. For several years they were responsible for many useful projects to aid the genealogical communities in California. We appreciate all that they offered and accomplished during their existence. It was a worthwhile organization. However, in today's world it is becoming more difficult to find leaders for such, and that is a shame.

Findmypast, which can be accessed through Ancestry and is available at your local FHC, has recently added a considerable amount of genealogical records and reference material dealing with the

State of New York. New York has always been a difficult state from which to obtain records, or so I have been told. Maybe these records now available through Findmypast will be helpful to many of you.

Looking For Reference Materials/Books to Expand Your Collection of German Research Guides, etc.? Family Roots Publishing Company has quite a large selection to choose from as well as map guides for Germany. Google them and check it out.

Hit a Brick Wall? Go to Cyndi's List where you will find links to 25 articles from magazines, etc., that may help you knock down that brick wall.

Remember when...we used to get those pencil boxes from the local Woolwoths as Christmas presents from our aunts and uncles or cousins? The larger ones with the drawers were my favorites!

Notice in a Farmer's Field:

"The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges."

Stress stinks! But don't you just love the sweet smell of success!

TELLING YOUR STORY

Why should you be interest in writing your story? You have all the data on your computer, you have shared your information in Ancestry, and you will tell those who will listen what you have found. So what is this business about writing your story?

Sadly, many relatives, children and other non-genealogists don't understand what you are talking about. Family Group Sheets? What's that? Charts? Graphs? First, why do you want to tell them even though they say they do not understand and have limited interest? You have done a ton of work finding all those names and stories. You don't want it lost forever. Second, maybe your son/daughter is not interested...but your grandchild or great grandchild will be. What a marvelous gift you can give them by carefully preserving your research.

There are several ways to give your genealogy information to non-genealogists. One quick and easy way is pictures. Buy an archival photo book and arrange pictures of your ancestors in order. Be very sure your album is archival. I have seen photo albums fade away in as little as 20 years. You want yours to last much longer. Carefully place your photos in the book and next to each one list who they are and a short story about them. Pictures are fun to look at. Even the small children can understand this. You can have fun using scrapbook methods and your own art work. This method will work if your research is mostly pictures and doesn't go back too far. However, photos only go back to the mid 1800s and then how do you tell that part of the story? You can add photos of tombstones, pictures of ships and towns or even a modern day report about a town they lived in.

Another method is to print family group sheets, in order, and/or family trees. Large family tree forms can be purchased online and filled in, framed and hung on a wall. Although most of these have limited information about each family member (but do list their birth and death dates and their relationship to

each other), it is fun to see it all in one place. It makes a great picture to hang on the wall of your workplace or computer room. Make others for family members, or give as gifts.

Do you use Family Tree Maker? FTM has a program to write your family story. They will automatically bring up graphs, charts and information you have saved. You can just follow the instructions in FTM and you are done. It is quick and easy, but might not share the story exactly as you want it.

The last method is to write your story in a narrative form. Actually, you will be writing a book. You can tell your story starting with the oldest ancestor and bring it forward or you can start with yourself and take it back. Which ever way you choose, you will have a way to tell family stories, add pictures, family sheets, maps, and anything you want. This method will take a considerable amount of time and effort but is the most comprehensive method and I think tells the story best.

When your book is finished, you have several options to publish. You can print it out on your own computer and printer. You can have it printed by a local printing establishment. You can have it printed on line by vanity press.

Your computer printing is slow and is OK if you plan on only a couple of copies. You can staple the pages o place in a loose-leaf folder. The cost will be your time and your printing cartridges. Having it printed by a local printer faster, and if you need several copies, is better. The printing house can also place the pages in the form of a book with a cover sheet and even a plastic cover to protect it. There will be printing costs, and if you want your relatives to reimburse you, you will have to collect it yourself. If you have a limited number of people who will want the book or you plan to give the books away, this is a good method.

Last, you can have it printed on line by several different companies. The one I am most familiar with is LULU.com.

In order to use the last method, you will need to transform your story to a PDF format. LULU will help you produce a cover. You download your book and your cover, and voila, your book is online. In order to see your book in completion, you will have to pay to have it shipped to you. LULU will set the price per book. If you want to make a little profit, you can ask for a little more over that price.

Finally you receive your book. If you are happy with it, you let everyone know it is available for a price. If you are not happy and want to make corrections, you will have to go back to your computer, fix it and repeat the download. LULU provides for this. You will need to buy the second book that is corrected to make sure it is right this time,

Now your relatives can all buy your book. LULU does not publish the book until they have an order. It is shipped directly to your relative. If you sell lots of books, you have nothing to do except get a check. There is one little fact, however, on getting a check. LULU does not send a check unless you have taken in more than \$20. Less money than that and it just stays in limbo. If you have many cousins who all want your information, this is probably the best method.

Good Luck and happy writing!

By Doris Locke

(Previously printed in the "Taproot", newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Vallejo-Benicia - Vol.20, Issue 11, November, 2017)

IS PERFECTION HOLDING BACK YOUR GENEALOGY?

Have you ever had either of these thoughts: "I know I should write my genealogy, but I'll do it when it's all perfect" or, "I'll write my genealogy when it's complete"?

There are two things that might make you reconsider these positions: first, there's no such thing as "perfect" or "complete" and second, writing can actually improve your research.

As careful as we are, everyone...and I mean *everyone* ...has a mistake somewhere in their research. It could be a wrong ancestor or an incorrect date or place... but there are errors. We're humans; it happens.

Complete? Genealogy is never "complete". When you find a new ancestor, you now have the challenge of identifying that person's parents. Even if you're researching the descendants of someone, you might find all of them, but have you found every record you can for each person?

But for me, the biggest thing to think about is how writing can improve our research.

Genealogy software is great for recording the facts that we have found and the conclusions. That is where writing comes in.

There is something about writing that makes us organize our thoughts and spot problems with our research. If you are like me and have a hard time remembering what you had for breakfast this morning, you might forget how you came to the conclusion you did.

To be clear, I'm not talking about writing the definitive book about one of your ancestral lines. You could write an article for a genealogical or historical society. You could write a blog post or even a post for social media. You could also write something for your own files.

Don't let procrastination keep you from writing. Your research will thank you.

(Frances Lloyd submitted the above article taken from the on-line website "Amy Johnson Crow Newsletter" and it was previously printed in the San Ramon Valley Gen. Soc. newsletter Vol. XXXIII, No. 3, September, 2017)

As Lisa Louise Cooke has stated in her "Genealogy Gems" website: "Everyone has stories worth telling, and that includes *you*. You have stories about where you're from, where you've been, whether you've been rich or poor (or both) or in-between, what you've overcome, what special gifts you have, your interests, relationships, and occupation. The list goes on."

WHAT IS ON YOUR GENEALOGY "TO-DO" LIST FOR THE NEW YEAR?

There are several hints, some not so subtle, on this and previous pages of this newsletter issue regarding writing your story or your genealogy. Will you gather your courage and your research and begin writing...something?

I feel fortunate, in a way, to be the editor of this tome. Having to fill these pages every two months has given me the opportunity to write many of my stories...simply because I need to fill these pages! However, this year, organizing my files is at the top of MY to-do list. If I don't get my papers in order my family will have absolutely no idea what to do with all that "stuff" when I am gone...and I am NOT getting any younger!

I have begun with my mother's family, the Riedessers. Folder by folder I am sorting photos, documents, vital records, etc. and putting them into sheet protectors and then into binders. I happen to have an abundance of empty binders on a shelf in an open closet that I have been staring at for years!

However, I will continue to keep copies of vital records, military, immigration and other important documents... in special binders marked as such.

I hope to write a short biography or story about each member of the family and information on their offspring as well to be included in these binders.

Stay tuned...this is going to be a monumental project and I may not see the light of day for many months to come!

I also hope to solve the mind-boggling question that has been bothering me and a cousin for quite some time: "Why did our grandparents, both immigrants from Sweden, leave both their families in the Boston area and move to Placer County, CA ...specifically Roseville and Lincoln, CA, around 1914"?

Today Lincoln is a new, modern community. However, in the early 1900s there was hardly anything there...perhaps some farms or ranches and I think there was a brick factory or something of that nature. I think I need to read a history of Placer County

My aunt said my grandfather was an accountant and that is verified on his immigration papers. My father has always said grandpa was a carpenter, and that is verified with the fact that I have discovered some carpentry tools with his last name inscribed on them. I am positive they did not belong to my father...he had no reason to identify his tools as they never left his garage.

Maybe I will be able to find some records of the brick factory in local libraries in the Lincoln, CA area and hopefully find some trace of my grandfather in those records? We shall see.

I am looking forward to a trip to Placer County, CA sometime this year.

What ever research challenges you intend to pursue in the New Year, remember to cite your sources and document your findings as best you can...and perhaps write a little story for this newsletter?

May you all find success in your genealogical endeavors in the New Year!

By Carolyn Storm

**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

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