

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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September/October 2018

Oakland, California

SEPTEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

DNA AND FINDING YOUR ROOTS: Speaker- Gretchen Kohl

Gretchen was adopted and has spent almost sixty years researching the families of her loving adoptive parents. However, the question of "who were her birth parents" has always been on her mind. She has spent years trying to find her birth parents. Through perseverance and DNA she recently made some discoveries and has been able to make contact with relatives of her birth parents and siblings.

Gretchen will talk on the impact of DNA on her work and some general thoughts on how it is impacting others.

OCTOBER MEETING

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME

**Using Nicknames, Pet Names, Diminutives, Abbreviations, and Given Names
to Find Your Ancestors
Speaker, Madeline Yanov**

So you think you know who your ancestor was! What happens if you find your great, great grandfather's marriage record to a woman named Nancy but your great, great grandmother's name was Ann? Was he married before to a different woman? Explore how abbreviations can turn one name into another - Josh can mean Josuah or Josiah depending on the punctuation. Why do people have the nicknames they have? Why did people call John Wayne the "Duke"

In this interactive talk, we will explore the wonderful topic of names, including nicknames, naming patterns, abbreviations, pet names and given names. (Sorry, surnames not allowed!) Be prepared to learn something new about your ancestors name and have some fun along the way!

Madeline has presented programs to our society in the past - and we have never been disappointed!

This will be an interesting and perhaps a slightly humorous adventure into your family tree.

Looking Back at July: Evidently many members were away or doing other things or perhaps did not want to share their family stories....we had very few members attend the July General Meeting. Those of us there exchanged some stories and adjourned early.

Looking Back at August: We did not hold a meeting in August. We certainly hope we will have an average attendance at our September meeting. We go to a lot of effort to come up with programs to pique your interest and keep you informed.

EBGS NEWS:

New Roster: The new Roster is enclosed in this issue. Please notify me if there are any corrections or additions to be made. **c-kstorm@juno.com**

Thank You to many of our members who included a donation along with their annual dues payment. We appreciate your generosity and support.

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: You will have to sign-in with a user name and password to get into the **FamilySearch** website from home or in the library. 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.

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.

Is There a Boy Scout in Your Family at the Present Time? The Oakland Family History Center conducts classes on Saturday mornings for Boy Scouts wishing to earn their "Genealogy" merit badge.

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**.

Contra Costa County Genealogical Society Fall Seminar: October 6, 2018, Pleasant Hill Senior Center, 233 Gregory Lane, Pleasant Hill, CA.- 9 a.m.. - 3:30 p.m..

Spend a day with Thomas MacEntee, Creator of "Genealogy Do Over". Get the tools and learn the techniques to clear out the clutter and build a better family tree. Four amazing genealogy sessions in one day . Cost is \$40 for members of CCCGS and \$50 for non-members. For more information and to register: **www.cccgs.net**

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Several years ago, the daughter of my elderly neighbor was planning a cruise vacation for herself and her mother. She was having trouble getting her mother a passport because she had been born in Norway and had no birth certificate. We contacted the San Bruno National Archives for help --there was not a lot of help on the internet back in those days.

The archives were able to find my elderly neighbor as a child listed with her parents in the census records of San Francisco. For a nominal fee, they provided a certified copy of the census. This made it possible to obtain a passport and my neighbor and her daughter sailed off to the Caribbean and had a wonderful time. My elderly neighbor especially liked the casino on board! Editor

The latest issue of *Family Tree Magazine*, September 2018, has an extensive article listing their choices of 101 Best Websites. I made an alphabetical list of the major surnames in my and my husband's family trees and decided to check them on each of the "free" sites. Was not very far into **findagrave.com** when voices coming from my computer began warning me of a virus approaching! I immediately turned the computer off, waited a few minutes and rebooted. All was fine.

My suggestion is...if you decide to do something like this....do it at your local library! Editor

Genealogy Website Reviews: excerpted from Ed Keenan's column in the Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter, July 2018.

Nebraska Public Documents: Not necessarily a genealogical site, but to get some background on your ancestors from Nebraska it could be very interesting and useful. Use the 'search box' to search by name and to avoid ephemeral information on farm life, etc.

Montana Memory Project: Do take the time to peruse the "instructional videos" option on the opening page. Following that, there are several categories from which to choose: mining, county histories, historical photos, newspapers, obituaries, city directories, etc.

ChattanoogaNewspapers.org: Features about 6,000 pages of old Tennessee newspapers. The first batch covers 1862-1907 and 12 different newspapers. Publications include: The Chattanooga Star 1907, The Daily Times 1869-1895, The Chattanooga Daily Times 1875-1811, Chattanooga Daily Gazette 1864-1865 and others.

This information dates back to 2014, I imagine there have been substantial additions since then.

10 Genealogy Blogs Worth Reading

Kimberly Powell (<http://www.thoughtco.com>) in an article dated March 17, 2017 recommends the following for their excellent writing and timely updates and because each brings something special to genealogy blogging.

- 1) **Genea-Musings:** By Randy Seavers. His site includes an eclectic mix. He shares genealogy news and new databases as he finds and explores them. He shares his research successes and failures so you might learn from them.
- 2) **The Genealogue:** Chris Dunham's unique brand of genealogy humor puts a special spin on just about everything genealogy: interesting items culled from old newspapers, current genealogy news and products, tongue-in-cheek commentary, and genealogy challenges to keep us all on our toes. His special *Top Ten Lists* are always good for a chuckle.
- 3) **Ancestry Insider:** This "unofficial, unauthorized view" offers current reports, updates and yes, even criticisms, of the big genealogy web sites - especially Ancestry.com and Family/Search.org. It is often first to report on new updates, products and announcements from the above organizations and provides the "insider" point of view you won't easily find elsewhere.
- 4) **Creative Genealogy:** The author of this blog challenges us to take time off from names, dates, and research to instead pursue creative ways of sharing our ancestors with the world. Her focus is on digital scrapbooking, photo editing and other creative pursuits.
- 5) **The Genetic Genealogist:** Thoughtful insights on the current and future status of genetic genealogy. Easy to read and updated almost daily. This blog highlights various testing companies and projects, current news and research, and tips on resources for those interested in genetic genealogy testing.

- 6) **Genealogy Blog:** Leland Meitzler and Joe Edmon, along with a number of occasional authors, have been blogging about genealogy since 2003. Topics run the gamut from genealogy news, press releases and new products, to research techniques and highlights from other blog posts around the internet. If you only have time to read one bog, this is a good one to consider.
- 7) **Think Genealogy:** Mark Tucker, a software architect by day and family historian, offers a thought provoking and interesting blog on genealogy and genealogy software. If you are a technology nut, this blog is for you.
- 8) **The Practical Archivist:** The author writes about preserving and archiving photos, documents and ephemera of your family's history. Learn about archival-safe products, organizing your photos and memorabilia with plenty of random research tips and presentation tips sprinkled in.
- 9) **Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:** News, reviews and a wealth of insightful commentary on various technologies as they relate to genealogy are the hallmark of Dick Eastman's blog. A variety of helpful articles and tutorials are available to "Plus Edition" subscribers, but the majority of the content is available for free.
- 10) **Boston 1776:** Outstanding blog by J. L. Bell on the American Revolution. The eclectic content covers New England during the time just before, during and after the Revolutionary War. He uses a wealth of information from original source documents to discuss how history has been taught, analyzed, forgotten and preserved.

Some of Kimberly Powell's other suggestions are:

Family Oral History Using Digital Tools, by Susan Kitchens

Hill Country of Monroe County Mississippi, by Terry Thornton

Family Matters, by Denise Olson.

In a program, "Breaking Down Brick Walls in Eastern European Research" presented by Lisa Alzo for San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society (their newsletter July, 2016) Liza also encourages blogging or being on news posts online.

Liza recommends checking the FamilySearch Wiki on the country of origin. Check the country genealogy sites, Slovakia Genealogy Research, etc. Use both U.S. Google and the country Google sites. She suggests stevemorse.org in FamilySearch, read how to use the collections.

Every year, review all you have done that year and prior research. Use a research log and always cite your sources!

I Know That I Will Never See A finished Genealogy!

JACKASS BRANDY by Bruno Buti
A Book Review

It might surprise you to read and learn about the bootlegging industry in Alameda County during prohibition. There was a lot of money to be made in this lucrative business, some of it by law enforcement officers and city officials ready to exchange a case of Jackass Brandy for their silence. Jackass Brandy was considered the finest product the bootleggers distributed.

But, all things come to an end sooner or later. When Earl Warren was elected District Attorney of the County he moved in on them and the law officers taking the bribes. Soon after that prohibition was abolished and "The Good Old Times", as the author puts it, came to a halt.

While reading each chapter I could imagine the bootleggers in their old cars scampering through Castro Valley, up and down the canyons of the area, sometimes with the law in pursuit, and many times on dirt roads.

It is a very interesting and humorous account of this era in Alameda County's history.

Carolyn Storm



COLUSA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - A Thumbnail Sketch

One of the state's original counties, established in 1850. In 1856 a portion of the county was given to Tehama County and again in 1891 a portion was given to Glenn County. Located in the Central Valley NW of Sacramento. The eastern boundary is formed, in part, by the Sacramento River.

In 2010 the census numbered 21,419. The county seat is the city of Colusa. The county was named after the 1864 Rancho Colusa land grant to John Bidwell and was originally called Colusi, the original name, and sometimes still used today.

Colusa County Clerk and Recorder
546 Jay Street, Ste. 200
Colusa, CA 94532
ph: 530-458-0500

Colusa County Library
738 Market Street
Colusa, CA 95932
ph: 530 458-7671

Colusa Carnegie Library
260 Sixth Street
Colusa, CA 95932

Colusi Historical Society
P, O, Box 643
Williams, CA 95988
ph: 530-865-9555

The Historical Society's website has an extensive list of biographical sketches. The society does not appear to have a definitive 'home base'.

Want to learn more?

History of Colusa County by Justin Logan can be found/read on the internet.
The histories of Glenn and Tehama counties also contain information on Colusa County

If you had ancestors in Colusa County, hopefully, the above information will be helpful to you in your research.

Happy researching in Colusa County, California!

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 - \$20.00

Request an application by writing to: P. O. Box 1648, Alameda, CA 94501
or download from our website.

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EST. 1979