

# THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN

0897-9839

November/December 2018

Oakland, California

## HAPPY THANKSGIVING EVERYONE

*MAY YOUR TURKEY BE TENDER AND JUICY AND YOUR BLESSINGS BE MANY*

### NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, November 14 at 10.a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

#### **FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN**

The Women's Club Movement in Oakland

Speaker: Kathleen DiGiovani, Senior Librarian, Oakland History Room

Oakland has a proud history of women's organizations that led the way to advancing the city's cultural and philanthropic life. Kathleen will talk on the women's clubs movement; including the venerable Ebell Society, neighborhood women's clubs like Rockridge, Montclair and Fruitvale, the Fanny Jackson Coppin Club, and the Linden Street YMCA.

We are looking forward to Kathleen's program, she has never disappointed us, she is always interesting.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

*HOPE YOU ENJOY SOME FAMILY TRADITIONS AND THAT SANTA IS GOOD TO YOU*

### DECEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, December 12 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

#### **IT 'S PARTY TIME ONCE AGAIN**

**Bake a Batch of Your Favorite Cookies**

Get that cookie sheet and your special/favorite cookie recipe out of the cupboard and whip up a batch of cookies to bring to the December meeting. We will all go home with samples of each other cookies...and what could be better than that?

We are also asking members to each bring a photograph of themselves as a child - age 5 or younger if possible. Put your photo in an envelope with your name on it and give it to Carolyn Storm at the door when you arrive.

### **Looking Back at September:**

Our member, Gretchen Kohl, told us her story of using DNA to find her birth parents. She managed to find out who they were and connect with living relatives. It was a very interesting meeting. Gretchen is a very compassionate and understanding person. She does not plan to pursue the matter further...just having the information is satisfaction for her. Gretchen has submitted two articles to this newsletter relating to her research. See page 4.

### **Looking Back at October:**

It was a pleasure to have Madeline Yanov at our podium once again. Madeline puts a lot of time and effort into her research, and she is a fabulous researcher. It was interesting to know how nicknames originated over the years, and how many are still common. Pay close attention in your research for the use of nicknames!

### **EBGS NEWS:**

Please make the following corrections to the latest Roster, which was mailed with the last newsletter.

Lorna Jones: add...email address: Lornaspix12@gmail.com

Diana Demeter: New Address...2709 Ptarmigan Drive #2, Walnut Creek, CA 94595.

Gretchen Kohl: correct email address: gretchenmkohl@gmail.com

Thank you Gretchen Kohl for stepping in and being willing to attend the Combined Meeting for Program and Publicity Chair persons in Walnut Creek on October 30th. Much appreciated! We look forward to hearing about it and hoping for some good news on finding more interesting programs to present to our members.

### **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 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](http://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

### **FamilySearch Updates:**

Changes in Family Tree shed new light on your ancestor's lives. Newly released updates to the Person Page is now faster and more intuitive. New ways to view your ancestors' lives and information, including maps and timelines, will expand your understanding and enable you to identify and fill in missing information more quickly.

When you log onto your FamilySearch Account, make your way to the person page to one of your relatives. You'll notice that it looks different, cleaner, and easier to navigate. With the new updates, your relative's information is also easier to edit.

Timelines and Maps: a New View of Your Ancestor's Life

The Time Line Menu Tab will take you to a new screen, displaying major events in your ancestor's life. Click on the SHOW button to filter out which events and relationships you would like to view.

**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:**

**California State Library:** I have heard that they maintain a calendar on their website of the genealogical society meetings and activities throughout the state. However, I have not been able to get into the calendar. Maybe someone out there will have better luck!

**Some TV Fare:** On Saturday evenings (9 p.m. - 11 p.m.) on channel 127 (Comcast) there is a program entitled "Strange Inheritance". It is very interesting and the inheritances are truly strange.

On Monday evenings (9 p.m.) on Ch 50 (Comcast) you might enjoy watching "Long Lost Family". They help mostly adoptees find their birth parent(s). Sometimes a tear jerker, but it is very interesting.

Wednesday evenings, KQED+ (channel 10) 7 p.m. "Finding Your Ancestors". They do not appear to be repeated shows, but I am not certain. They research the ancestors of two persons during the one hour show.

**Genealogy Tip of the Day:** <http://genealogytipoftheday.com/> Add this one to the list of blogs in the last issue of this newsletter! Tips are short, usually one paragraph, but they are worth giving some thought to. To subscribe to this blog, click on the link at the top of the page and enter your email address. (Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society newsletter, March 2017)

And...here is a tip from **Tip of the Day:**

If some of the information given by your ancestor in a record does not make sense, consider the possibility that he/she lied. People lied for many reasons: wanting to get married, wanting to join (or avoid) the military, trying to escape their past (parents, children, spouse, debts, etc.). An outright lie can be difficult to research around - but people did lie about their age, place of birth, name, marital status, etc.

(via Genealogical Society of Vallejo & Benicia newsletter, "Taproot")

**How Might the Names in Your Family Tree Have Changed Over Time?** People changed their names for many reasons, and in most cases, surnames were changed by the immigrants themselves. Ellis Island did not make that many mistakes, I'm told.

Immigrants changed their names for many reasons: to make them simpler or "more American", to fit in, to improve job prospects, to appear "less fortunate", etc. You would be wise to make a list of the different versions of your family names you have come across (and perhaps add some possibilities of your own) while you research your ancestors.

Note: Be careful how you "Google". In my case, with a name like Storm, I Google: "Storm"-weather

**GenealogyBlog.com:** Now available through Family Roots Publishing: Dollarhide's substitute name lists for the lost 1890 census

"Substitute Name Lists for the Lost 1890 Federal Census - Part 1: National & Alabama to Missouri"

"Substitute Name Lists for the Lost 1890 Federal Census - Part 2: National & Montana to Wyoming"

**Family Roots Publishing: ([www.familyrootspublishing.com](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com))** Two books that may be of use to you in your research: "German Residential Records for Germany: Tracing Your Ancestors From Place to Place in Germany" ... and ...Tracing Your Ancestors - Hispanic Research, A Practical Guide"

They are offering 10% off and free USA shipping through November 12, 2018.

### **INTRIGUING OLD HOSPITAL AND ASYLUM RECORDS That Can Be Researched Online for Free**

Some of us may have had an ancestor in an 'asylum' or state hospital. Thanks to recent changes in the law you may be able to track down these elusive records. Let's talk about why these records are now more accessible and how to use them.

The Hospital Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) was initially passed in 1996 and it established legislature to electronic medical records. Part of that legislature stipulated that an individual may have access to his or her own medical records and that anyone and that anyone else must have written permission from that person to gain access. Upon the individual's death, the records was sealed permanently and anyone without legal permission from that person's estate could not be granted access.

This created a huge problem for many people, including those with heredity conditions, medical researchers, and genealogists. Because of numerous complaints, the Department of Health and Human Services revised the law in 2013. The revision limits the period of protection for the records of individuals who have died to 50 years following the date of death. This is a big improvement from, well, never.

The law clarifies what constitutes a protected record for libraries, archives, and historical societies who may have acquired hospital or medical records from various sources. Many of these collections are now accessible to the public.

Just because HHS changed the law doesn't mean you can go on line and acquire any record you may want. There are still state and local regulations that govern the release of medical records and their publication on line. These rules are gradually changing based on the federal law revision, however, and slowly access to these records is becoming easier. Many old hospital records are now available on line, and many more can be viewed in person.

Hospitals themselves are NOT good places to contact regarding old records. Modern hospitals only hold their medical records for a certain period. In addition, the hospital that your ancestor stayed at may not even exist anymore. This is especially true of old asylums and sanatoriums as these facilities were phased out in the 1970s or earlier. These records are now held by state and local historical societies, libraries, archives and other organizations.

If you know the location of the hospital or medical facility you wish to search, visit the website for the associated state or local historical society and search their catalog to see if the records you want are held there and if they are accessible online. If the records have not been digitized, you will need to view the records in person. Check to see if you need to fill out an application to view the records, as these laws also vary by state.

In addition to individuals sometimes being listed as a patient in a hospital or asylum, health information can sometimes be found in the US census. In 1880 and special census was even taken to track "Defective, Deependent, and delinquent Classes" and may provide additional material on an ancestor's medical history. The schedule can be accessed through Ancestry.com with a paid subscription, but is now available for free online.

Here is a list of few sites that provide access to old hospital and medical records, indexes of records, or information on how to view records in person.

**Genealogy Trails History Group:** Run by volunteers. All the information included on the site is available for free online.

**Cyndi's List:** Search for the category: *Medical & Medicine*

**FamilySearch's Medical and Hospital Records:** On the Search page, go to Find a Collection Search Tool and type in ":hospital".

**Asylum Projects:** A wiki page dedicated to history of asylums of all types. Includes historical information on mental hospitals, sanatoriums, state training schools, reform schools, poor houses, poor farms, and orphanages. Site includes a page on how to access genealogical information. Go to [asylumprojects.org](http://asylumprojects.org) and click on the link that says *Genealogical Requests* in the sidebar on the left side of the page.

**IF ATTACKED BY A MOB OF CLOWNS  
GO FOR THE JUGGLER!  
GLENN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA - A Thumbnail Sketch**

Glenn County was formed in 1891 from parts of Colusa County. It was named for Hugh G. Glenn, who became the largest wheat grower/farmer in the state during his lifetime and was very prominent in political and commercial life in California.

The population of Glenn County in the 2010 census was 28,122. Over 50% of the county's population live in either Williams, Orland, or Hamilton City. The County Seat is located in Williams, California. The largest city is Orland.

This county is primarily farming communities, but does include parts of the Mendocino National Forrest, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge and Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.

Located east of Orland is the city of Hamilton, now known as Hamilton City. This town began in 1905 and it's first Post Office opened in 1906.

Hamilton City was named for James Hamilton. He and the Alta California Sugar Beet Company opened a large sugar beet processing plant there in 1905 ...it is known today as the Holly Sugar Plant. It was sold in 1936 to Spreckles Sugar Company (parent company of Holly Sugar) and later sold to Imperial Sugar.

Bayliss is an unincorporated community in the county...located 9 miles east-northwest of Willows. It boasts the only library I could find in the county.

Bayliss Carnegie Library.

7830 County Road 39.

It is open one day a week (Tuesday) for eight hours.

The County Courthouse is located at: 516 West Sycamore Street, Willows, CA 95988  
In my brief internet search I could find no museums or historical societies.

**MY MATERNAL DNA SEARCH  
By Gretchen Kohl**

I was adopted as an infant. I was fully integrated into my family and they were the subjects of many years of genealogical research. I had my biological mother's name from my adoption papers. I really wasn't too interested in a search and pre-internet, figured trying to locate someone named Mary Taylor would be very difficult. In 2016 I sent my DNA into Ancestry out of ethnic curiosity. They provided a lot of relative matches, but none had the Taylor name and all were too distant to actually identify how we might be connected.

Then, in January 2017, I was contacted by a researcher who was helping a young man who matched me as a second cousin AND also had a Taylor link. By going up his line to the first male Taylor and then going down that man's lines I soon located my biological mother with her family in the 1930 and 1940 censuses. Her mother's obituary gave me the girls' married names, and with an on line search, I learned that my bio-

mother was still alive at age 91 and living in Oregon. She had no other children. I eventually wrote to her including a brief introduction, a biography, some photos, and an outline of how I'd searched. I also made it clear that I was not looking for further contact if she didn't want it. It has been more than a year, I have not heard back, and I am OK with that.

Since I now know which Taylors are mine, I have located and corresponded with a couple more cosins. They knew about Mary's baby from their mothers and were not surprised. The best thing was finding a family photo from 1963. I look so much like a couple of the girls that you could Photoshop me into their place and never notice the change. Since I never looked anything like any of my adoptive family, it brought me a big smile.

### **MY SWEDISH FAMILY**

**By Sue Hanson**

As a young girl growing up I adored my maternal grandparents. John and Lilly Johnson. They were both raised in the southern part of Sweden near Jonkoping. They came to America for a better life. I learned later that they left because of famines and poor working conditions. My grandpa was a master furniture maker.

Grandpa came to the US in 1912 to find work in an area where furniture production was in full swing. Also, friends and family had come to this area of Illinois. Grandma came in 1913, escorted by her brother-in-law (John and Lilly planned to marry in Illinois. They married in October of 1916 in Freeport, Illinois.

They never spoke about conditions in Sweden but maintained their traditions. I asked them many times about a small wooden box that said, "Alfred Nelson", on the top. After grandpa passed away in 1957, I continued to wonder about Alfred Nelson. In 1990 I began to search in Sweden. My hopes were dashed when I found that Johan Johanson was an adopted orphan. I still would not give up. A few years later, the records showed that a sister was the one adopted in 1885. Grandpa's records had been changed. Later I searched Ancestry and was contacted by a girl in Sweden. Her stepmother was related to the Nilsson family and she sent me parts of her family tree back to the 1700s. DNA has shown that I have 25 cousins in the US and 5 in Sweden.

In ending, my advice is never give up looking! There is no end of the road.  
(Genealogical Society of Vallejo & Benicia newsletter "Taproot" October, 2018)

The above article was reprinted with permission of the author. Along with her note giving me permission to reprint she wrote: "...I hope it will help your members pursue their own hunt for ancestors. DNA has been one of the best things I did to find my answers. As a side comment, I found that Johan Alfred Nilsson was my Great Grandfather. Since this story was printed in our newsletter, I have found 5 more cousins from DNA. One of the things I hate to see in family trees are the words "End of the Line". Thank you Sue!

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.

**BOARD MEMBERS**

President	Sally Stevens
Recording Secretary	Jean Christie
Treasurer	Joyce Schleicher
Membership	Starr Brown
Publicity	Lynne Bajuk
Editor	Carolyn Storm
Programs	<b>c-kstorm@juno.com</b>

Webmster	William George <b>williamgeorge@gmail.com</b>
----------	--

Website	<a href="http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/">http://rootsweb.ancestry.com/~caebaygs/</a> Temporarily <a href="http://caebaygs.bdgeorge.com">http://caebaygs.bdgeorge.com</a>
Blog	<a href="http://caebaygs.blogspot.com">http://caebaygs.blogspot.com</a>
Email	<b>caebaygs@gmail.com</b>

**EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY IS A  
NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

**EST. 1979**



## EBGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

**Mail to: EBGs, P. O. Box 1648 Alameda, CA 94501**

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss \_\_\_\_\_

Street/Apt.#/ P.O.Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Amt. Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ \$18 Individual/\$7.50 Each Additional Family Member

May we hear from you by July 1, 2017     Thank you for your support.

---

---

Office use only: Date \_\_\_\_\_ Amt \_\_\_\_\_ Ch# \_\_\_\_\_