

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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January/February 2019

Oakland, California

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE

May You Knock Down That Brick Wall and Make Some New Discoveries!

JANUARY MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 at 10.a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

OPEN FORUM

Starring: Our Members

We will spend part of the meeting discussing program ideas and possible speakers for the upcoming year.

During the second half you are welcome to discuss your brick walls, problems or questions about your family research, or whatever you wish to share or exchange.

Your input and ideas are most welcome. We look forward to your suggestions, criticisms, etc. Bring it on!

FEBRUARY MEETING

Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at 10 a.m. - Oakland Family History Library meeting room

CITATIONS AND NOTATIONS

Speaker: Karla Henderlong

Do you remember to cite your sources...correctly? Do you make notations in the family stories and histories you write?

Both citing and notating your family history are very important...you do want to prove that you have done your homework and that the facts can be checked for verification if necessary.

Karla will help us understand the proper way to do these two important factors.

Looking Back at November: Kathleen DiGiovani's talk on the influence of women's organization in Oakland history was very interesting and quite an eye opener. I have heard of the Ebell Society, but had no idea how active and involved those women were in the community. Oakland should be most grateful to the dedicated ladies of the Ebell Society and others that contributed so much over the years.

As the saying goes:

'Man who says it can't be done...should not interrupt woman doing it' !

Looking Back at December: Do our members bake delicious cookies? Do birds have wings? What a delightful array of cookies to taste, enjoy, and take samples home! We were happy to share our goodies with the staff of the Family History Library who have always been so gracious to us.

Thank you to everyone who attended and brought a childhood photo of themselves. They were great photos and it was a challenge guessing who was who. Kathleen Young did best with 7 out of 10. Good for you Kathleen.

EBGS NEWS:

There is not a lot of news to report since the board has not met since November.

Hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with friends and family and maybe some new additions, traditions or tales to share with members.

If you would like to save the society a little money, please consider having the newsletter sent to you via email. Contact **c-kstorm@juno.com** to do so.

Do you subscribe to other society newsletters? Are there any interesting programs going on in our area that might be of interest to our members? 'Inquisitive minds want to know'... We are always looking for new and interesting topics and speakers for our meetings. Please let us know if you have information on a speaker or program that we might pursue.

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 this 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**

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.

38th Annual Ancestor Roundup Genealogical Seminar: Saturday, January 6, 2019. 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Presented by the Commodore Sloat Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. LDS Church, 1024 Noche Buena, Seaside, CA

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Family Tree Magazine: The December 2018 issue has some wonderful articles...you can find a copy of the magazine at your local FHC.

I especially enjoyed the article titled "Do the Write Thing" by Diane Haddad. She suggests six steps to follow in the process of writing your short stories, short histories, or whatever you choose. The following is a brief description of her suggestions;

Know Your Purpose: Will you write short vignettes on members of your family? Or, will you write the entire story of a branch of your family...as you know it?

Make a Plan: Draw up an outline of the person/persons, events, etc. that you want to include.

Say It With Pictures: Pictures, maps and graphs will get your readers' attention and keep their interest.

Get Assistance: Reference and cite sources, create a bibliography

Begin in the Middle: Don't let the "how to start" roadblock stall your project. Just start to write a story that is familiar to you, or a short nugget about your grandparents migration, etc.

Take Your Time: Don't set a deadline. Work a little at a time. You'll be surprised how much you will accomplish in a few month's time.

January/February 2019 Issue of Family Tree Magazine: Features a very interesting interview with Henry Louis Gates, host of "Finding Your Roots" on PBS. AND "Finding Your Roots" will return for a new season on PBS Tuesday, January 8 at 8 p.m.

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.

FamilySearch.Org is continually adding material to its searchable website. I logged onto it a few weeks ago and discovered numerous old German records that have been only available in Salt Lake City until now.

There were lots of 'Riedessers' in Württemberg listed...most of them are related to my grandfather I am sure. Cannot wait to find the time to delve a little deeper.

Check this and other websites you like often, new material is being added constantly and what may not have appeared last week or last month may be online today.

Any Texans in Your Tree? The Denton Public Library in Denton, Texas has considerable material in their Special Collections research area located in one of its branches at 502 Oakland Street, Denton, Texas 76201. Or go to genealogy@cityofdenton.com.

National Archives Military Records: A cousin and I are constantly searching for information on our fathers' youngest sibling - who was always in trouble and dishonorably discharged from the Merchant Marines. He had been drafted into WWII, and was honorably discharged. One source suggested searching the National Archives Military database. We didn't find uncle Bobby, but we found quite a lot of information on two of his older brothers, our uncles. Have you thought to search this database for your military relatives and ancestors?

FOUND BY MY PATERNAL FAMILY
By Gretchen Kohl

I was adopted as an infant. I was fully integrated into my family and they were the subject of many years of genealogical research. My adoption papers only listed Howard as the surname of my biological father and I never attempted any search.

In the same month that I was found by my maternal family, I was also located by my paternal side. A young woman contacted me and reported that her father was a close match. He turned out to be the younger half brother of my bio-father. After a couple of months getting acquainted on-line through stories and photos, they invited me to visit them in Georgia. I made the trip in May of 2017.

The family is from a small rural county near Savannah, which is now where many of them live. I was able to visit Sylvania and research the Screven County courthouse, the cemetery, their church, city hall, and the library. While we couldn't be sure of the connections, it seemed I was probably related to half the town through either my grandfather or grandmother. Everyone was warm and welcoming,

My uncle is in skilled nursing due to physical limitations, but was fully able to visit and tell me family stories. I have a great photo of the two of us showing the "Howard hair lick" we both share. His wife had a wonderful barbeque and many cousins came by and added more stories. They also had family photos where I learned why I had red hair as a young child.

My biological father died in 1999. He'd been married twice and had at least 11 children. As best we can tell, he never knew about me and his family certainly didn't. The cousin who is my prime contact doesn't know of any of my half-siblings. She has attempted to start a dialog with one of them, but he has not been responsive and we're not bothering them further at this time.

SOME NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

As usual, cleaning out files is at the top of MY list! Especially since I may be moving in the spring time. I have already begun, as I have one four-drawer file cabinet that I wish to get rid of. Anyone one out there looking for a four-drawer, letter-size filing cabinet? (any offer will be accepted) Please let me know.....
c-kstorm@juno.com

After cleaning out files (if I ever get through!), I will begin to sort and file stashes of notes and collected items on various relatives and ancestors...I have several folders full of those!

Obviously, self-discipline is NOT my strongest suit.

I hope to write short stories or family histories on family members and ancestors and FILE them in booklets, not various folders as has been my habit.

I promise to keep good records and cite my sources correctly and accurately...more self-discipline required here!

I hope to be able to spend one afternoon a week at the Family History Library filling in some voids in my research, following up on some leads, and attacking a few brick walls with gusto! I shall also make use of their machine that will allow me to copy slides and store them on a thumb drive. I have hundreds of those.

I will publish my family stories or short histories in the *Live Oak* newsletter...and the hope is that many members will do the same and help me fill those 6-8 pages every two months...please?

I will compose a "Genealogy Will" stating what is most important to save and preserve so my family will know what to do with my "genealogy stuff" should I suddenly get 'hit by a bus' in the near future....and I suppose I should leave some notes on WHERE to find all that STUFF!

I will frame and hang some lovely family photos of my husband's ancestors that I came across while cleaning out a closet recently! We should be able to enjoy them, not store them, right?

I will spend TV time in the evenings sorting through several shoe boxes of photographs that date back perhaps to 1970 or so! Why did we always order duplicates when we had film developed? Then I will diligently file those photos I wish to keep in binders and NOT those darn sticky-page albums.

I will email or write letters to many of my cousins, rattling their 'cages', asking for more information on the lives of their parents. My cousins are all several years younger than I, so their recollections are a little different. While they were growing up I was married and raising three kids! NOW we have so much more in common...like growing old gracefully, for example!

I will make sure my daughter and granddaughter have copies of Gramma Storm's favorite recipes. She made a wonderful coffee cake and a decadently delicious vanilla fudge. Unfortunately, as she became a little senile, her meat loaf tasted somewhat like Alpo!

Sit down and make your own list of To-Dos to start the New Year...and then GET TO IT and good luck!

A BAGGAGE CAR WITH LACE CURTAINS - By Kay Fisher
A Book Review

The author tells of being a newly wed when her husband accepts a job working for the railroad in the Sierras during the 1940s. Rather than stay behind, she decides to leave their honeymoon cottage and go with him.

They end up living in a baggage car, often with his co-worker, moving from one spur to another. She is forced to deal with trains, track laborers, coal stoves, oil lamps, train crews, etal.

It is a wonderful story and full of humor and railroad history in the Sierra Nevada.

A SLICE OF LIFE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION

My grandmother Elsie (Riedesser) Heinemeyer and her second husband Fred Heinemeyer lived for many years on 80th Avenue in Oakland, just south of what was then East 14th Street. They rented their home from Mr. and Mrs. Tornquist, who lived next door. The Tornquists had two children, Dorothy who became my mother's lifelong friend, and Adolph (known by "brother") who also became a lifelong friend of my mother and her brother, my uncle Trevor.

They have all passed away by now except Adolph Tornquist, who is in his nineties and living in Rhonert Park. I visit him on occasion and love hearing the stories he relates of growing up with my uncle Trevor, and the escapades of my mother and Dorothy. It was never dull when Bernice and Dorothy got together!

Nor did Trevor and Adolph ever stop playing pranks on each other! They were both later traveling salesmen with expense accounts and would sometimes cross paths at airport restaurants. The one to depart first usually left his bill behind for the other...telling the waitress that, "the gentleman over there will take care of it"!

On one of my visits to Adolph we got to talking about times during the depression. He said my grandmother and her husband Fred were getting further behind in their rent each month. Fred, who was a carpenter was mostly out of work during those years.

Fred and my grandmother moved to Berkeley for a while and managed a small housing complex there, while the children were left to fend for themselves. Trevor and probably one or more of his older sisters were working and had to pay the bills. Trevor would put pennies in the meter boxes and hook up to neighbor's electrical lines to maintain power for the house.

Adolph says that many times his father was prepared to evict the Riedesser-Heinemeyer family from next door because they were not keeping up with the rent. Each time, Dorothy would cry and plead, "You can't do that! Bernice lives there!"...and Mr. Tornquist would give in to her pleas.

Papa Fred died in 1958. The rent had finally been repaid, by 1952, according to Adolph. Can you imagine? Twenty years to pay back rent? How patient Mr. Tornquist must have been and how insistent Dorothy was!

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.

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