

THE LIVE OAK

EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

ISSN

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July/August 2019

Oakland, California

JULY MEETING

Wednesday, July 10, 2019 - 10 a.m. - Family History Center Library meeting room

HOW TO WRITE AN OBITUARY

Speaker - Carolyn Storm

We will discuss what should be and perhaps should not be included in an obituary. If you have a copy of an unusual or interesting obituary and wish to bring it to share with the group - please do so.

AUGUST MEETING

East Bay Genealogical Society

Does Not Hold A Meeting In August

YOU ARE FREE TO ROAM THE COUNTRY

Looking Back at May:

Our Annual May Luncheon was well attended and was a delightful gathering. Pier 29 Restaurant was most accommodating, as usual. Thank you to all who attended.

Looking Back at June:

The program on Irish Research presented by Sandra Huber was well received. Sandra stressed the importance of finding the Irish County, township and civil parish from where your ancestors originated. Those civil parish records can be most valuable in tracing your Irish ancestors.

EBGS NEWS:

Our Recording Secretary, Jean Christie, has been ill. We miss her and wish her well and a speedy recovery.

A Message From Our President, Sally Stevens:

Unfortunately, Jean Christie, our Secretary, has had to resign from the Board. She has done a marvelous job and we will surely miss her and her excellent minutes. So, that leaves us with her vacancy as well as a Treasurer spot, as Joyce Schleicher also has asked to retire. For a number of years when asked if someone

would be willing to fill in on the Board, there have been no responses. Your present Board has served way too long for a healthy organization, so we need to get newer people to help lead us as we do provide some excellent programs to the small number who attend.

The July meeting program will be on what you would want in an obituary, and how to write it. Since it is an in-house group, it will be an excellent time to discuss the future of the society. Please plan to attend to help us make a decision.

A Message From Your Editor:

I apologize to anyone who clicked 'print' when they received the email copy of the last Live Oak. I had no idea I had several pages of drivel trailing behind it! I am experiencing a very painful, though not serious, medical problem, and it has been difficult to concentrate. This *newsletter* issue may be a few pages shorter than usual because of that.

Dues Are Due: You will find a renewal form at the back of this newsletter. Please be sure to also enclose \$10 if you wish to have your newsletter mailed to you via snail mail. Thank you to those who have already renewed their membership. The society thanks you and is most grateful for your continued 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 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 individual assistance

Hispanic Research Workshop: Wednesday evenings, 6-8 p.m. Come join the group and learn more

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**.

African American Genealogical Society of Northern California:

Monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month at 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the Dimond Branch of the Oakland Public Library, 3565 Fruitvale Avenue, Oakland, CA.

A Special One-Day Genealogy Seminar with Dr. Thomas W. Jones: Nationally known genealogical methodology and problem-solving expert. Saturday, August 3, 2019, Imperial Room Lorba Linda Community Center. Presented by the Genealogical Society of North Orange County, CA. For more information: **www.gsnoc.org.ca**

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

The Journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society - *Zichron* Note , February 2019 issue: Contains a wonderful article entitled "Indexing For New Genealogy Sites" by Marian Burk Wood. The article was printed with permission of the author, so I cannot copy it here. However, I can give you an outline of what it covers and if you wish to read the entire article you may find the newsletter at their website **http://www.sfbajgs.org/**

Sometimes we inherit boxes of papers, letters, etc. from relatives or ancestors and trying to organize the material can be daunting. Below is an outline of the topics Ms. Wood suggests to help you tackle that task.

Why Index?

Set Up Your Index Template

Six Easy Steps to Indexing

After Indexing - Look For Clues

Lake County Genealogical Society Newsletter: Spring - 2019 Issue: Includes four pages devoted to the development of Lake County. Lots of interesting information for anyone researching that county. Their website address is: **www.lcgsc.org**

**PERFECT SWIMMING HOLES
And Other Summer Pleasures**

That 'headline' was the feature story on the cover of VIA, American Automobile Association's summer 2019 issue. Brought back some memories of my childhood days.

Of the half dozen or so kids in my neighborhood, I was the oldest, and therefore, the 'ring leader'! I taught most of them how to skate, how to make ceramic dishes or ashtrays as gifts for our parents, where to catch butterflies and how to mount them for display, etc.

One very hot day, I taught them how to dig a swimming hole! We all got shovels and dug a huge, deep hole in my backyard. Then we filled the hole with water from the garden hose and jumped in! What fun, and what muddy messes we were! My mother had to hose us off before we could go into the house for dinner.

Another summer pastime was catching grey bees. The neighbor's 'lawn' was actually some sort of ground cover which had tiny small flowers in it...and it was always covered with grey bees. We got jars and had contests to see who could catch the most bees in one jar. Then we punched holes in the lids of the jars, poured water into them and drowned the bees, dumped them out in the gutter and began all over again. We never got stung...and we never ran out of bees!

In Alameda I lived about three blocks away from Krusi Park, where I spent a lot of time when I was old enough to go that far away from home. At that time, Jack LaLanne lived on the corner across the street from the park. He was not well-known as a body-builder then. We used to watch him in awe as he practiced his stunts on the swinging bar and parallel bars.

Alameda was smaller back then and across the street from the park was a seawall and the bay. We were not supposed to go over there, so of course, we did! Gathered sea shells and even a piece of a jawbone with teeth, maybe from a sand or leopard shark. Of course, we could not share our 'finds' with our family, we had to stash them out of sight.

One day I brought home a fledgling robin I had found in the lot around the corner where we caught the butterflies. My mother was working in the garden and my rabbit was out grazing on clover in the yard. The squawking of the young robin scared the rabbit who began running wildly across the yard bouncing off the short chicken wire fence around the flower garden like a beach ball. I was told that, "No! I could not keep the robin" and returned him to the lot where I had found him.

One day a friend and I were gathering sticks for something and a stick that she tried to pick up began to run away! It was a foot long lizard! Have no idea where he had come from, but we caught him and put him in a gallon jar and later took him to school. We had not fed him, nor had we thought to punch holes in the jar, hence, he died. The teacher put the jar on the windowsill and opened it just before school was out for the class to see. Oh brother, did he smell! Not too many classmates ventured near the jar to see my lizard!

Carolyn Storm

How did you spend your summers as a child? Inquisitive minds want to know. Please share your stories.

WRITE YOUR STORY

By Marcia Holstrom, Genealogy Instructor

More than 10 million people worldwide have shared their spit with one or more of a plethora of DNA testing companies. Ancestry.com currently has the largest share of the market with 23andME a close second. My husband and I submitted ours to FamilyTreeDNA several years ago because, as a retired geography teacher, I wanted to contribute to the National Geographic Genographic Project. This project has collected DNA from people like us and, more importantly, from indigenous people all over the world. As a

result, National Geographic has produced an incredible report on Human Migration (<http://genographic.nationalgeographic.com/human-journey/>),

Another plus to all this spit sharing is the explosion of interest in family history. We have not seen this kind of interest since the Victorian period when genealogy was very popular. How did they do it? One of my father's ancestors sent letters to all the people he could find in the United States with his surname. These people sent back the dates for family births, marriages, deaths and included location details. Most of my mail goes directly into the shredder. Can you imagine sending anyone that kind of information?

So how do we verify our ancestors' connection to us? How do we prove we are descended from a Revolutionary War Veteran or a passenger on the Mayflower or Charlemagne (that's a lot of people!)? Actually, DNA might help. If you have a common cousin whose DNA works with yours and IF that cousin has proven her lineage back to a Revolutionary War veteran, then all you have to do is prove your relationship to that cousin's ancestor. DAR doesn't accept DNA as proof of ancestry. Same goes for the Mayflower Society. I am a descendant of five Mayflower passengers, and no spit got me in. That took good old-fashioned research.

If you have no interest in joining a Lineage Society (there are many choices), then you may have an interest in proving you are related to John Wayne (another distant cousin of mine), Or you may want to find a shady character in your family. I've been helping a friend with his family history and found a Mayflower ancestor for him. He doesn't care. He only wants a "colorful" character, hopefully one that was hanged or died in a shootout at the OK Coral. I'm still working on that for him.

Family history is so much more than Genealogy or DNA connections, and identifying family member who went before us can be frustrating and difficult. However, if you want to make a significant contribution to your family history, write your own stories...all of them. Imagine one of your descendants in 400 years reading about your struggles with your iPhone. I think they would be fascinated hearing about the closing of Orchard Supply and how it affected you. Think about what you would like to know about your ancestor who lived in Ohio in 1820 or Massachusetts 200 years before that. So many questions I have for them! Yes, I have read stories written by my family members at least 100 years ago and some earlier. We have all read stories written much earlier--not necessarily from our family but from someone's family member.

Why not be that person whose story will be read (or ingested some way we don't yet know about) in 400 years. Or, much more important, write your stories for your great great grandchildren/nieces/nephews. We probably won't meet these folks personally. Tell them what you want them to know now and the family they came from. I guarantee they will appreciate having your stories.

Reprinted from Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society Newsletter, February, 2019

Having had the job of composing and editing this newsletter for many years has afforded me the opportunity to write many of my family stories. I had to fill these pages with 'something!' I hope it was something that interested the readers. I now have quite a large folder of family stories to pass on to my children, grandchildren, and beyond.

On rare occasions, some members have shared their research or stories in The Live Oak, for which I am forever grateful. I only hope that those who have not, have at least written them and will leave them for their ancestors to read many years from now.

Carolyn Storm

EBGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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Individual _____ \$20.00 Receive newsletter by mail _____ \$10.00

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I would like to make a donation to EBGS in the amount of _____

May we hear from you by July 1, 2018 Thank you for your support.

Office use only: Date _____ Amt _____ Ch# _____

**EAST BAY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
A Non-Profit Organization Established in 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.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all...and includes email copies of our bi-monthly newsletter
Individual/Organization - \$20.00 Include \$10 extra if you wish the newsletter by mail
Request an application by writing to: P. O. Box 1648, Alameda, CA 94501
or download from our website.

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