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Books and Projects – Betty  
Mathis

Surname List – Melinda  
Lambaren

Research – Charlie Lambaren

Newsletter – Sheri Fenley &  
Leah Allen

### **MEETINGS**

Board Meeting – Monday,  
Oct. 3rd – 7 pm at the home  
of Virginia Kranz, 6 West  
Loretta, Stockton

General Meeting - Thursday,  
Sept. 15th - 1 pm at Chavez  
Central Library, 605 N. El  
Dorado Street, Stockton

## **San Joaquin Genealogical Society**

**P.O. Box 690243, Stockton, CA 95269-0243**

**[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sjgs/index.htm](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~sjgs/index.htm)**

**Volume 32 Number 4**

**SEPT/OCT 2011**



## **Flexing Your Genealogical Muscle Getting Started Right – Enriching Your Existing Family History**

**Thursday – September 15, 2011**

**1:00 PM**

**Chavez Central Library – Stewart Hazelton Room**

**605 North El Dorado Street, Stockton**

Whether you are just beginning or have been researching your family since the days when microfilm was hi-tech, our speaker, Karen Ramos, former reference librarian and genealogy volunteer, will help you look at standard and unique methods for building your family history. And using things she's learned the hard way, we will touch on that often ignored subject—citing your sources. Our discussion will cover both online sources and resources available at the Chavez Central Library. Though our topic is general we will give extra emphasis to San Joaquin County local history sources.



## SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER

This Fall there are so many great genealogical events happening in Northern California. So many in fact that I created a special supplement for this edition of the newsletter. I am calling it the "BACK TO SCHOOL" Supplement for Genealogists.

Many of these events are free of charge, but a few have a fee. All of them are chances to schmooze around with other genealogists who come from all walks of life. Whether you are just a hobbyist, a professional genealogist or somewhere in between - there is something for everyone.

I want to encourage you to attend these events. Get up off that couch and spend some quality time with of people and most of all have a little fun!

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Volunteers from SJGS are ready to help you with your family history. Every Tuesday at the Chavez Central Library from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. You will find them upstairs in the genealogical reference section. No appointment is necessary, it is open to the public and FREE OF CHARGE!



## California Women Celebrate 100th Anniversary



Votes for  
Women  
1911-2011



CELEBRATE! EDUCATE! PROMOTE!

October 10, 2011 is the 100th anniversary of California women's right to vote and women all over the state are planning parades and other events to commemorate the centennial.

One of the iconic images of the California campaign was taken on August 27, 1908 in Oakland. Three women – Lillian Harris Coffin, Mrs. Theodore Pinther, Jr. and Mrs. Theodore Pinther, Sr. – led a parade of 300 suffragists to the Republican state convention.



Carol Norberg, who is a member of the California Genealogical Society, is helping to plan a Centennial parade and she thinks it would be wonderful to find descendents of the Oakland marchers to take part in the celebration. She would like to honor the early California suffragists by reaching out to their descendants, including those who may not even know what their ancestors did.

In her research in Oakland newspapers, Carol has secured the names of thirty women who were mentioned there, but being new to genealogy, she has not been able to make much progress. She would especially like to locate descendants of Lillian Harris Coffin and the Mrs. Theodore Pinthers.

If you descend from a California suffragette, have time to do some research or have other information to share, please email Carol Norberg at [cdnorberg@comcast.net](mailto:cdnorberg@comcast.net)





## LIBRARY BOOK TRANSFERS

When the SJGS purchases a book, it is held in our "Members Only Library" for exclusive use by society members for one year. After one year, the books are transferred to the Chavez Central Branch of the Stockton Public Library where they are catalogued and placed into the genealogical reference section on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library. Our society does not have a facility to house our library so for many years, society Librarian Virginia Kranz has housed our "Member Only Library" in her home. To visit the "Members Only Library" please call or email Virginia Kranz at

(209) 477-0634     [r.kranz@comcast.net](mailto:r.kranz@comcast.net)

## Summer 2011 Book Transfers

- "Forgotten Patriots – African American and American Indian Patriots in the Revolutionary War" by Eric Grundset and the staff of the DAR Library
- "State Book of Pennsylvania" by Thomas H. Burrows
- "Surry County, North Carolina Wills 1771-1827" by Jo White Lynn
- "Sidelights on Maryland History" Volumes 1 and 2 by Hester Dorsey Richardson
- "Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World" by Wm. Forbes Adams
- "Married Well and Often, Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800" by Robert K. Headley
- "Newspaper Extracts, Sausalito News, Marin County, California – February 1885 to December 1890" compiled by the Marin County Genealogical Society
- "Abstracts of Wills, Inventories and Administrative Accounts, Loudon County, Virginia" by Junie Estelle Stewart King
- "The Cherokee Land Lottery" by James K. Smith
- "The German Colonies of the Lower Volga" by American Historical Society of Germans From Russia
- "Raking The Ashes, Pre-1906 Earthquake Research" by Nancy Simon Peterson, CG
- "Wills and Ways, Miscellaneous Kentucky Records" compiled by the Kentucky Genealogical Society
- 4 books compiled by the California Genealogical Society:
  - "San Francisco Deaths, 1902-1904"
  - "San Francisco Deaths, 1865-1869"
  - "Index of San Francisco Marriage Returns, 1850-1858"
  - "San Francisco Probate Index, 1880-1906, Partial Reconstruction"





It's that time of the year again. The time that we ask for nominations for new board members. Each and every year we ask members to step up to the plate. Each and every year NO ONE does.

Maybe some of you are just shy, too shy to come forward and volunteer. Others may think that haven't any experience. People – I am here to tell you that NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY.

So here is a new plan – if the board cannot get people to replace them then the very least the members can do is to become a helper. We would like to have 1 – 2 helpers for each board position. You decide on how much or how little you want to participate. We need helpers for the book projects, the secretary could use a helper to type the minutes of meetings, the librarian needs help with our collection, the surname and pedigree chart chairman needs help, and the list of tasks goes on. Your help with even the smallest of jobs will go a long way in lessening the load of the board.

Please contact Marilyn Rauzi and let her know that you are willing to step up to the plate and help us out.

(209) 465-8724      marilynrau@hotmail.com



## A DIFFERENT WAY TO EMMIGRATE TO AMERICA

by Geri Miller Berkman, Stockton, California  
Special Guest Author to the Newsletter

Jacob Isaac Melech left Russia at approximately 17 years of age to avoid the Czar's Army. He went to Riga Latvia, although his father had told him to go to Antwerp. With the money his father gave him, after selling their cow, he bought passage to New York, America.

After 8 long months on a sailing ship that went not to New York, but around Cape Horn to Australia and all stops in between, Jacob was not sure he would ever get to America. He was forced to become one of the ship's crew although he had paid for his passage.

Finally, on April 6, 1906 (the day of the great earthquake), the schooner docked in San Francisco, CA. After being assured that this was America, Jacob left the ship and joined many of the earthquake survivors in a park.

After a few days, A. P. Giannini, the founder of the Bank of Italy (later Bank of America) came through the park in a horse and wagon, loaning people gold coins. Jacob signed for \$50 and bought a small sewing machine and rented a store on the Embarcadero – J Miller Menswear. By this time he had decided to give himself a new American name – Jack Miller. Being a skilled tailor his business thrived.

Within 4 years he had a new bride – Fanny Rubin also from Russia and a friend of his sister in New York. Fanny was a "picture bride." He had only seen her picture and sent money for her to come to San Francisco to be married. Jack had also sent money to his parents and 3 sisters to come to America. By this time he had been naturalized and bought a house in the Mission District of San Francisco.

His wife, my mother, had left her family in Brooklyn. She did have a sister who had married a Stocktonian. Her husband died and the Miller family made many trips to Stockton to be with her. Jack got tired of traveling back and forth so he sold his business and the family moved to Stockton in 1917 with 2 children. I was born in Stockton in 1923.

Dad soon had a men's store on El Dorado near Weber and operated it until 1949 when he retired. He made many of the police uniforms and worked closely with the trade union. He would never leave Bank of America even though Giannini had sold it many years before. He lived an active life to 97 and was a devout American always. Jack Miller died October 31, 1983 and is buried in Temple Israel Cemetery here in Stockton.





## LIBRARY BOOK SELECTION MEETING

Wednesday – September 28<sup>th</sup>

1:00 pm - At the home of Virginia Kranz

6 West Loretta, Stockton

Here is a wonderful opportunity to have all kinds of fun. Please mark your calendars and save the date so you won't miss this afternoon of genealogical delight. Below is a list of companies that publish books of a genealogical nature and a link to their website. Please visit these sites and then make a list of books you would like the society to purchase. Bring the list with you to the meeting. This meeting is very informal, very social and we would love to have you join us!

BIG TREE BOOKS – [www.bigtreebooks.com](http://www.bigtreebooks.com)

CLOSSON PRESS – [www.clossonpress.com](http://www.clossonpress.com)

FAMILY ROOTS PUBLISHING – [www.familyrootspublishing.com](http://www.familyrootspublishing.com)

GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING/CLEARFIELD COMPANY – [www.genealogical.com](http://www.genealogical.com)

GREEN'S USED GENEALOGY BOOKS – [www.home.earthlink.net/~genbooks/](http://www.home.earthlink.net/~genbooks/)

HERITAGE BOOKS, INC. - [www.heritagebooks.com](http://www.heritagebooks.com)

HIGGINSON BOOK COMPANY – [www.higginsonbooks.com](http://www.higginsonbooks.com)

JANAWAY GENEALOGY BOOKS – [www.janawaygenealogy.com](http://www.janawaygenealogy.com)

MASTHOF BOOKSTORE CATALOG – [www.masthof.com](http://www.masthof.com)

MOUNTAIN PRESS – [www.mountainpress.com](http://www.mountainpress.com)

PARK GENEALOGICAL BOOKS – [www.parksbooks.com](http://www.parksbooks.com)

PICTON PRESS – [www.pictonpress.com](http://www.pictonpress.com)

SOUTHERN HISTORICAL PRESS – [www.southernhistoricalpress.com](http://www.southernhistoricalpress.com)



## NEW WAY TO ORDER MICROFILM

Effective July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011 local Family History Centers will no longer be taking orders for microfilm. All orders and payment for film and microfiche will be handled on-line. To view a demonstration of the on-line film ordering process and print a handout go to:

[www.familysearch.org/films/Help](http://www.familysearch.org/films/Help)

Hat tip goes to SJGS member Sally Spenker for this update.

[illegible]

## NEW MEMBERS OF THE SAN JOAQUIN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## Barbara Hansen ~ Stockton

## Beverly Clark ~ Stockton

## JoAnne Talbot ~ Stockton

## Susan Saunders-King ~ Stockton

## Ethel Ramin ~ Chatsworth

**Mr. & Mrs. Al Baker ~ Stockton**



## What was the Hohenshell Twins' Grandfather thinking?

By S.A. Mendenhall

### Part One

When researching the Hohenshell Twins, Julia and Jessica, for a previous article in the San Joaquin County Genealogical Society Newsletter, I discovered some rather interesting and titillating news stories about their grandfather, Abraham Hohenshell.

Life began for Abraham Hohenshell in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, 7 June 1821.<sup>1</sup> His parents were John Goerge (sic) Hohenshell (aka George) and Scharlotta Scherbandy.<sup>2</sup> With such an unusual surname there is good reason to suspect this family is descended from the Pennsylvania immigrant "Joh. Adam Hohenschilt, Sept. 1, 1736. Palatines imported in the ship *Harle*, of London, Ralph Harle, Master, from Rotterdam, last from Cowes" with "One hundred and fifty-six men, sixty-five women, one hundred and sixty-seven boys and girls--in all 388."<sup>3</sup>

By June 1850, Abraham was a twenty nine year old farmer who lived in Fayette County, Pennsylvania with his wife Delilah (nee Pool) and three children: Mary, age five; Cyrus, age three; and, Sarah, age one.<sup>4</sup>

Perhaps restless or just wanted to break from the Pennsylvania Dutch routine, in "1852 he rounded stormy Cape Horn, and came to California. He spent the first two years in the mines of Placer Co., and the succeeding three years in Eldorado Co. He purchased a squatter's claim November 8, 1856"<sup>5</sup> in O'Neal Township, San Joaquin County. Now that Abraham was in California his aspirations to develop a productive farm took hold of him. However, people complicated his plans as the following news accounts bear out for the reader.

January 7, 1858, *Daily Globe*, pg. 2; and January 8, 1858, *Daily Democratic State Journal*, pg. 2  
SECOND DISPATCH.

Fatal Affray near Stockton—One Man Killed and Others Dangerously Wounded.

Stockton, Jan. 6, 1858.

EDITOR GLOBE:—News has just reached town of a fatal affray which occurred about noon today, seven miles from this city, on the Sacramento road, between a number of men, in which one Owenshell (sic) was killed by John Vance. Vance was dangerously wounded by Owenshell (sic), and another man, named Wells, was badly wounded by one of the party. Particulars could not be ascertained.

January 11, 1858, *San Francisco Bulletin*, pg. 1

FATAL END OF AFFRAYS.—John Vance, who was engaged in the affray near Stockton, on the 6<sup>th</sup> January, the circumstances of which affair were related in the Bulletin of the 8<sup>th</sup>, died on the day last mentioned, of the wounds he had received. His antagonist, Hohenschell (sic), had previously died of his wounds [*falsely reported*]. One of the aiders and abettors in the double homicide, named Theodore Lee was arrested and taken to Stockton; but has since been bailed out.

January 14, 1858, *Daily Democratic State Journal*, pg. 2 and January 16, 1858, *San Joaquin Republican*, pg. 1

THE LATE AFFRAY--ANOTHER ARREST—Theodore Lee was yesterday arrested by the Sheriff, as an accessory to the murder of John M. Vance by Hoenshell, last week. Lee was arraigned before Justice McCausland, and after hearing the testimony for the prosecution, the case was adjourned until this morning.



January 16, 1858, *San Joaquin Republican*, pg.2

Held To Answer—Mr. Lee, charged with being accessory to the murder of Vance, a few days since, was again up before Justice McCausland yesterday. The testimony for the prosecution being closed, witnesses for the defense were introduced. Mr. Lee was committed without bail. Immediately afterwards he was brought up on writ of Habeas corpus, before Judge Shafer, the affidavit alleging that the prisoner was wrongfully incarcerated, and that the testimony, if sufficient to hold him at all, was not of a character (sic) to preclude him from the right of entering into recognizance to answer, Judge Shafer set the case for hearing, at 12 o'clock today.

*Sacramento Daily Union*, vol. 15, no. 2200, 15 April 1858, pg. 2, c. 2

CONVICTED.—Edward (sic, Abraham) Hoenshell was convicted of murder in Stockton, April 12<sup>th</sup>, for killing John Vance, January 31<sup>st</sup>. The difficulty arose from a settlers' quarrel and was referred to in the UNION at the time.

April 17, 1858, *San Joaquin Republican*, pg. 2

District Court - The Court was occupied most of the session yesterday in the trial of the case of Hohenshell and Lee vs. Lord W. Northrop. The plaintiffs claim that by right of prior possession, as well as by purchase of John R. Crosby, they became possessed of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Elk Horn Township, in this county, and that they held peaceable and quiet possession of the same, till Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 1858 that the defendant at the time entered the premises and posted them, and that he still withheld possession from them. They ask restitution of the land and \$200 damages and costs of suit. A demurrer was filed by the defendant, denying the jurisdiction of the Court, and also that there were not sufficient facts for cause of action. The defendant, in his answer, denies the allegations in the complaint generally, claims that plaintiff had no possession at any time, peacefully or otherwise, or that Crosby had a right to sell to plaintiff, or that he has sufficient information that said sale was made. He alleges that the land during the time the plaintiffs claimed to hold possession of it, was in peaceable possession of John M. Vance deceased, except at one time, when the plaintiffs attempted to oust him in a violent and riotous manner. Defendant also (sic) alleges that W. M. Davis, representative of said Vance, for a valuable consideration, put him in possession of the land January 15<sup>th</sup>, 1858. Bridges & Hall for plaintiffs, and Campbell & Walthalt for defense.

April 17, 1858, *San Joaquin Republican*, pg. 4

Trial for Manslaughter. The District Court was occupied the whole of yesterday in the trial of Edward (sic) Hoenshall (sic) for the killing of John Vance on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. Hoenshell, Lee and others had purchased the claim of a settler on what is alleged to be the Pico grade, about six miles from the city, on the Calaveras road. Upon this purchase the deceased built a house and settled. Hoenshell and Lee went out to the spot with the intention, it is said, of driving off Vance, even if they had to tear down the house. It was understood that they offered to pay Vance for his improvements if he would leave quietly, and even offered him a piece of land on which to settle. As no arrangement could be effected, the parties came to angry words, and then commenced shooting. There was a great discrepancy in the evidence of the different witnesses in regard to the firing. Hoenshell received a ball about four inches below the right nipple, and a terrible wound to the head, from the effects of which he has scarcely recovered. Vance received a ball in the groin, from the effects of which he died. Lee was indicted for an assault with a deadly weapon, but was acquitted. After the testimony was closed, Mr. Bradie, District Attorney, examined the argument for the prosecution. He was followed by Messrs. Baker



and Bridges, for the defense, and the closing argument was delivered for the prosecution by Mr. Bushlin [blurry]. The defense asked of the Court several instructions to the jury, which it declined granting. His Honor Judge Creace [blurry] then delivered a short concise charge to the jury, after which they retired. After an absence of two hours, they released with a verdict of guilty.

*Sacramento Daily Union*, vol. 15, no. 2214, 1 May 1858, pg. 3, c. 3,  
SENTENCED.—Hohenshell was sentenced to the same term to the State Prison for two and a half years of imprisonment, for manslaughter, in the killing of Vance, and the same proceedings were had in his case. (A new trial was moved, but denied. Notice of appeal to the Supreme Court was given.).

September 11, 1858, *San Joaquin Republican*, pg. 2, col. \_\_,  
THE CASE OF HOHENSHELL.—The judgment of the District Court of this county in the case of Edward (sic, Abraham) Hohenshell, convicted of manslaughter, in the killing of Vance, and sentenced to imprisonment for two and a half years in the State prison, has been affirmed by the Supreme Court. Right assignments of error were made by the defendant to the action of the Court below in refusing to arrest the judgment, all of which were overruled. This Court considers that the offence was sufficient to sustain the verdict, and the Court committed no error in refusing to set it aside.

*Researched and written by S.A. Mendenhall, 101 Valley Farm, Sequim, WA 98382; e-mail [suemendenhall@hotmail.com](mailto:suemendenhall@hotmail.com).*

<sup>1</sup> Thompson & West, "History of San Joaquin County 1879," pp. 91-100, transcribed by Sharon Marie Robinson, (c)2010, accessed webpage <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nrmelton/sjbios1.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> Online 5/9/10, FamilySearch.org.

<sup>3</sup> Filby, P. William, ed., *Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, 1500-1900s*, Farmington Hills, IM, Gale Research, ©2010, Joh. Adam Hohenshilt, pg. 122, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., ©2010, accessed and noted 5/2/11; Scharlotta Scherbandy aka Charlotte Scherbonda.

<sup>4</sup> Hohenshell, Abraham, household, Fayette Co., Penn., 1850 U.S. Census, populations schedule, Jefferson Twp., pg. 276A, lines 22-26, dwelling 87, family 87; several large Hohenshell families, lines -8-36--George, with [wife] Charlotte, (both b. abt.1797), John, age 25, Abraham, and Jacob, age 46, accessed Ancestry.com and transcribed 1/15/10, roll M432\_780.

<sup>5</sup> Thompson & West, "History of San Joaquin County 1879," pp. 91-100, transcribed by Sharon Marie Robinson, (c)2010, accessed webpage <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nrmelton/sjbios1.htm>.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article is a perfect example of how newspaper accounts can bring your ancestor's story to life. Look for Part Two of this story in the next issue of the newsletter. Thank you to SJGS member Sue Mendenhall for all of her articles that she has contributed to the newsletter.



## NEWS FROM THE SJGS RESEARCHER

Charlie Lambaren is the person who handles requests for research for SJGS. Some requests are for a simple obituary while others are so involved it may take Charlie a few days to find the answers. But find them he does and Nickolaus Madden from U.C. Davis was so happy with Charlie's work he sent in a \$50.00 donation to express his gratitude. Thank you Nickolaus and thank you Charlie for your gift of time and talent.

[illegible]

**NOVEMBER MEETING - Thursday – November 17<sup>th</sup> - 7:00 pm**

Join us in the R.E.I. Community Meeting Room for a real treat. New SJGS member Donna Shreve was in Germany recently doing research. She will share her experiences and give you some tips about doing research outside of the U.S.

[illegible]

## GREAT NEWS ABOUT THE 1940 CENSUS

SJGS member Karen Ramos shares some good news with us - Ancestry.com announced that it will make the 1940 Census index and images available for free when the collection is released in mid-April 2012. The collection will remain free through 2013.

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# San Joaquin Genealogical Society

Dues are for the Year – January to December 2011

\$10 per member or \$15 per family

**Pay Your 2011 Dues Now**

Circle Appropriate:    Renewal    New Member    //    Individual    Family

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

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Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

May we send you newsletters and announcements by email?    Yes \_\_\_\_\_    No \_\_\_\_\_

I will help with the following: (Check all that apply)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Research (Do research for those who request our Society's services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Projects (We always need transcribers and typists)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Committee (Help set up programs and speakers for meetings)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Volunteer work in the Genealogy Collection at the Chavez Central Library

**Send dues to Barry Wood, 1910 S. Church St., Lodi, CA 95240**

Make checks payable to San Joaquin Genealogical Society

**San Joaquin Genealogical Society**

P.O. Box 690243

Stockton, CA 95269-0243