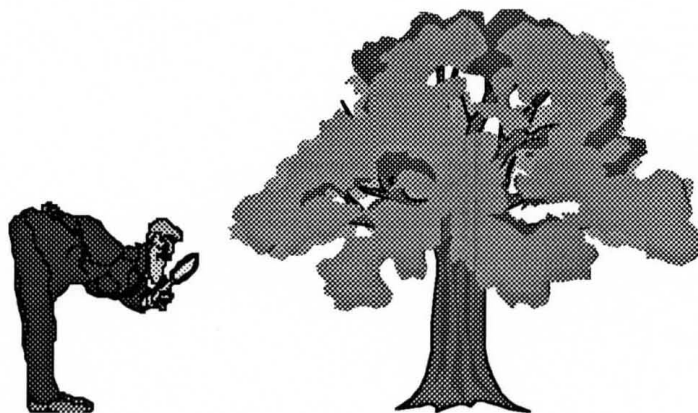


***1995 L-AGS/LDS Church  
Seminar***

***Researching Your Family  
History***





IRIS F. GAN — Staff

David Abrahams helps roll out wife Jolene's 17-generation family tree at their El Caminito Way home in Livermore.

## Finding family roots takes digging

By Jeff Israely  
STAFF WRITER

LIVERMORE — At 27, Joel Abrahams has his eyes fixed squarely on his future.

But when and if he decides to look back in time, the Pleasanton husband will run into some interesting characters from the history of his own family.

Thanks to his Livermore parents, both avid genealogists, the only child of David and Jolene Abrahams has most every limb of his family tree mapped out and waiting for the day he's ready to rediscover his roots.

There's his mother's great-great-great grandfather, Prettyman Marvel Knoles, who married in 1802, changed the family name after a spat with some relatives and moved his clan from Delaware to Evansville, Ind., where his descendants spawned and dispersed across the country.

On the other side of Joel's family, the more recent history finds his father's Jewish mother fleeing Hitler's Germany in the 1930s to marry Joel's grandfather in England. The couple then moved in 1947 to Boise, Idaho, where an unlikely but well-established community of relatives and other Jewish families welcomed them to America.

And though the younger Abrahams jokes to his parents that only retirees have time for genealogy, David and Jolene Abrahams insist that it's never too early to start digging for your roots and reuniting with long lost relatives.

"I want them to come alive," Jolene Abrahams said of the ancestors whose histories she traces.

For those curious about distant cousins, interested in history and eager to travel back to a time when their own flesh and blood lived without cars, electricity and CD-ROMS, a Saturday seminar is calling your name.

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society is hosting an all-day symposium that will introduce beginners to family tree tracing and hone the techniques of those already looking backward.

David Abrahams, who will be giving a lecture about immigration records at the upcoming seminar, said he likes to focus on the living in his ongoing search.

"Stories are part of the family history," said Abrahams, who periodically tape records conversations with his 85-year-old father.

Abrahams, a manager at Sandia National Laboratory, also has found that looking for stories and statistics about his dead relatives has brought together his living relatives.

The seminar will be held at the Pleasanton LDS Stake Center, 6101 Valley Ave. It will run Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with registration beginning at 8 a.m. The cost is \$10 at the door, with lunch provided.