

# The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://twitter.com/lagsociety>

# Membership Report

January 9, 2017

## New Member Information

Leah Larkin

**Thanks to the generosity of the following L-AGS members:**

### *Patrons*

Dick & Jean Lerche, Madelon Palma, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner & one anonymous patron

### *Benefactors*

Kristina Ahuja, Annette Breingan, Marilyn A. Cutting, Barbara Hemphill, Linda Driver & Walt Crawford, Richard & Wanda Finn, James & Rae Hooks, Arnold & Nancy Koslow, Cindy McKenna, Patricia Moore, Bill & Marlene Silver, Peggy Weber & Bob Whitlock

Total L-AGS Members as of January 9, 2017: 88 Memberships and 75 Members

## Meeting News

**General Meetings** — are held on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map: <http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

**The L-AGS Writing Group** — Meets monthly in Livermore. The encouragement to write your ancestors' stories and your own comes from this enthusiastic group. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Writing Group list" in the subject line.

**Let's Talk Genealogy** — Meets monthly in Livermore. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Let's Talk Genealogy list" in the subject line.

**The Master Genealogist Group** — usually meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Loca-

tion: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks) [tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org);

TV-TMG Forum [tvmtg.group@L-AGS.org](mailto:tvmtg.group@L-AGS.org)

**Pleasanton Genealogy Center** — is jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library. A L-AGS docent is available from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California. Or by appointment, e-mail: [docents.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:docents.chair@L-AGS.org).

**Livermore Family History Center** — Several L-AGS members, both LDS and non-LDS, volunteer as docents at the Livermore FHC. They are available to assist you in your genealogy research. The FHC has several subscription research sites not readily available elsewhere and is open Mondays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday evenings 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. If the parking in front of the building is full, there is a large parking lot in the rear of the building. [Map](#).

## L-AGS Leadership for 2017

President	<a href="mailto:president@L-AGS.org">president@L-AGS.org</a>	Tom Mathews
First VP and Program Chair	<a href="mailto:program@L-AGS.org">program@L-AGS.org</a>	Kay Speaks
Second VP & Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:membership@L-AGS.org">membership@L-AGS.org</a>	George Fulton
Corresponding Secretary		Susan Davis
Recording Secretary		Leora Frise
Business Manager	<a href="mailto:business.manager@L-AGS.org">business.manager@L-AGS.org</a>	Duncan Tanner

## Contents

Membership and Meeting News.....	2
L-AGS Leadership for 2017 .....	2
President's Message from Tom Mathews .....	3
Pension File Solves a Mystery .....	4
New Member Introduction: Caroline Chavez ..	8
New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library .....	9

John Joseph Ryan-and what I learned from the National Archives .....	10
In Memoriam .....	13
G.R.O.W.....	14
Did you STOP your research at the 1850 census? What resources are available beyond the 1850 census?.....	15
Future General Meetings .....	16

## President's Message

I haven't always been interested in genealogy but I did grow up hearing lots of stories.

I heard of the original Thomas Mathews, the son of the coachman of Sir Robert Ross, who eloped with the daughter of his father's boss. The story goes that when they wanted to leave Ireland and emigrate to America he lacked the funds until he happened to find a wallet in the road with enough money to secure passage for his family to New Orleans and up the Mississippi to southern Illinois. Once in America he learned who had lost the wallet and, through hard work and honest toil, sent the money back to its rightful owner. I heard that a Scottish tutor changed the spelling of our name to 'Mathews' because using two 't's was a waste of ink. I'd heard that my grandfather, Charles Willard Mathews, Sr., was so cheap that he overinflated the back tires of his car so that it was always driving downhill, thus saving gas.

I heard that I was descended from at least ten Mayflower passengers.

I heard that one ancestor accidentally suffocated her baby while trying to keep it from crying during an Indian attack.

I heard of Duncan Campbell, the youngest son of the Duke of Argyll, who being deprived of a title, came to America and joined in the fight for independence.

I heard of the young Bates sisters who used a penny whistle and drum to fool an attacking British shore party into thinking Yankee troops were coming to spoil their surprise attack.

I heard stories of my great-grandfather Cunningham who declined a suggestion by a neighbor to go into business making farm machinery. The neighbor's name was John Deere.

More than any of the others, though, I heard of Ann Vessey, lady-in-waiting to Queen Victoria who had the misfortune of having three husbands die by drowning, and twice barely escaped the same fate herself. I heard of her last husband, Harvey Annis, who fought at Shiloh, then became an officer commanding a company of the 50<sup>th</sup> U.S. Colored Troop. When he fell ill towards the end of the war, Ann and their youngest daughter, Belle, came down to Vicksburg to tend to him and escort him home. They boarded the riverboat Sultana which was severely overloaded with recently released Union prisoners from the Andersonville prison camp. Just north of Memphis, one of the boilers on the Sultana exploded sparking a catastrophic fire that killed over 2,000 passengers and crew. Anna survived by using a cabin door as a raft but Harvey and Belle were lost and never found.

When my dad passed away in 1996 the family gathered together at his house, sharing memories and pouring over old photo albums. Often someone would wonder as to the identity of a person in a picture and the answer was always 'Dad would know.' It was at this gathering, mere hours after saying our final farewell to my last surviving parent, that I realized I had lost an opportunity to ask them any questions about their lives or their parents. From this get-together grew a determination to learn all that I could about my parents' families and to never miss an opportunity to pick someone's brain about what they know.

I have learned much in the subsequent years. Much of what I thought I knew has turned out to be, well, fanciful. Any suggestions of royal lineage appear to be the creation of someone with the misguided desire to believe that they were *somebody special*. I don't mind this, though, for in my search for dukes and princes I have found many *real* people with *real* stories. They are all special and they all deserve to be remembered.

Keep Hunting  
Tom Mathews

### The Livermore Roots Tracer

*The Roots Tracer* is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Roots Tracer is:

**“Instruct. Inspire. Inform.”**

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to:

[rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org) or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

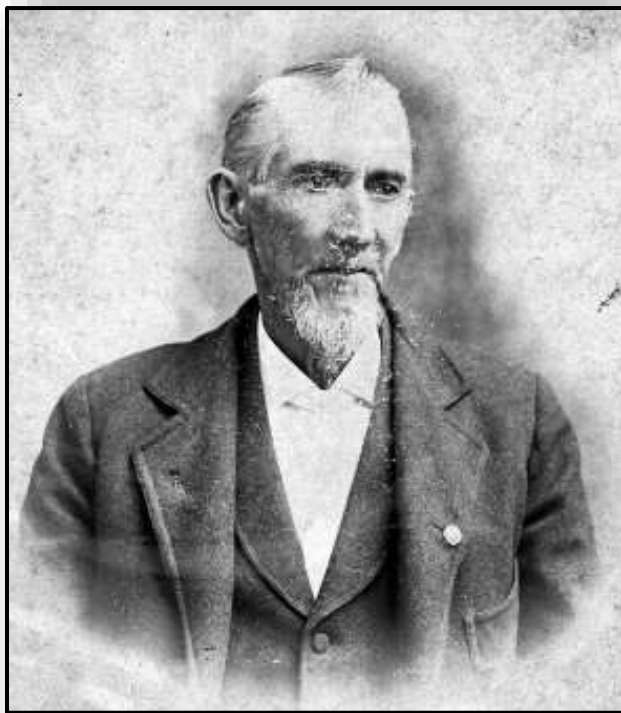
### The Roots Tracer Staff

**Editor** ..... Patrick Lofft  
**Contributors** ..... Richard Lerche,  
 Caroline Chavez, Shannon Ryan, Kay Speaks  
**Web Editor** ..... Craig Mullins  
**Compositor** ..... Andi Winters  
**Printing and Distribution** .....  
 ..... Sue Davis, Jean Lerche  
**G.R.O.W. Columnist** ..... Kay Speaks

## Pension File Solves a Mystery

By Dick Lerche

Have you ever spent much time investigating the origin of given names in your family history? I never did. That changed during the review of the 200 plus images from the Civil War pension file of my GG Grandfather John Shannon Davenport Ogg that Patrick Lofft and his sister, Sheila, graciously photographed during their research at the National Archives in Washington D. C. during December 2015. A couple of names in the file caught my attention and inspired me to review the naming of John S. D. Ogg's siblings and the naming of his children including my G Grandfather Aaron Wilson Ogg. Surprisingly, the names for ten of the dozen siblings in the two generations of Ogg children could be traced to earlier ancestors. The two exceptions were my direct line relatives, John S. D. Ogg and Aaron Wilson Ogg!



*John Shannon Davenport Ogg*

My GG Grandfather, John Shannon Davenport Ogg (1829 - 1910) was the seventh of eight children born to Robert Washington Ogg (1775 - 1837) and Rebecca Young Hance Ogg (1790 - 1873). His seven siblings appear to be named after relatives. Only the name of my GG Grandfather

remains a mystery. The following list summarizes the most probable sources for the names of the eight children of GGG Grandfather Robert Washington Ogg.

**Benjamin Hance Ogg:** Named after his maternal Grandfather Benjamin Hance.

**Alexander W Ogg:** Named after his paternal Grandfather Alexander Ogg and his uncle Alexander Washington Ogg.

**Robert Washington Ogg (1815 - 1890):** Inherited the name of his father Robert Washington Ogg (1775 - 1837).

**Elizabeth Susan Ogg:** Named with the first names of her maternal and paternal Grandmothers - Elizabeth Dorsey Hance and Susan (unknown maiden name) Ogg.

**Arianne Hance Ogg:** Middle name from her mother's maiden name Rebecca Young Hance. Source of first name Arianne is unknown.

**Young Hance Ogg:** Named after his mother Rebecca Young Hance Ogg (a maternal G Grandmother's maiden name is Young).

**John Shannon Davenport Ogg (1829 - 1910):** Name origin is a **mystery**.

**Sarah Rebecca Ogg:** Named with the first names of her G Grandmother Sarah Hall and her mother Rebecca Young Hance.

**My G Grandfather, Aaron Wilson Ogg (1858 - 1928)** was the third of four children born to John S. D. Ogg and Elizabeth Casey Ogg. Again, sibling name selection appears to be derived from names of relatives.

**William Alexander Ogg:** Named for his maternal Grandfather William Casey and paternal G Grandfather Alexander Ogg.

**Robert W Ogg:** Named for his Grandfather Robert Washington Ogg.

**Aaron Wilson Ogg (1858 - 1928):** Source of this name is **another mystery**.

**Nancy Rebecca Ogg:** Named with the first names of her maternal Grandmother Nancy Young Casey and her paternal Grandmother Rebecca Young Hance Ogg.

Neither my G Grandfather nor my GG Grandfather appears to be named after relatives. So, from where did the inspiration come for the names John Shannon Davenport and Aaron Wilson? Review of some 200+ Civil War Pension images for John Ogg provided a clue regarding the naming of Aaron Wilson Ogg!

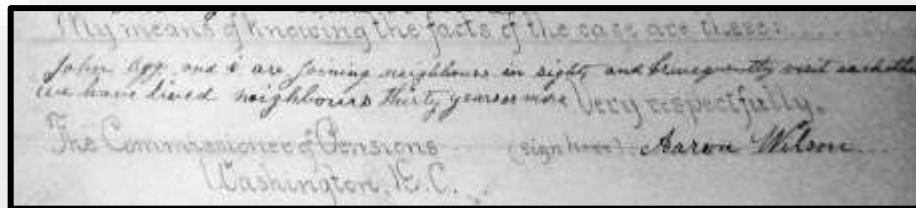
The documents in John Ogg's pension file span some 32 years (1879-1910).<sup>1</sup> The images were sorted by year and by document within each year; then images for each year were combined into annual pdf files. Bookmarks were added for each of the many documents.

The initial Claim for Pension was filed in May 1879. In November 1879 a notarized Additional Evidence form signed by Aaron Wilson and John Calland was filed. Both men stated that they "first became acquainted with the physical condition of John Ogg after his return from Co. A, 78 Regt. Ohio Vols. about June 1865 and found him then suffering from disease called 'disease of the stomach' and 'ruptured blood vessels of the legs' from which they knew him to suffer each year up to the present 1879. That it is believed the above originated in the U. S. Service."

They further stated "That they lived near him at Summerfield O. all this time, and were well acquainted with his physical condition, seeing him frequently." This document confirmed that John Ogg knew an Aaron Wilson from 1865 through 1879. Could it be that John Ogg named his son after Aaron Wilson? John Ogg's son was born in February 1858, seven years before John returned home from the war in June 1865. Did John know Aaron Wilson before the war?

On 14 June 1887 (22 years after the end of the war), the Department of the Interior, Bureau of

<sup>1</sup> Pension File No. 286463 for John S. D. Ogg: Records show John S. D. Ogg's pension application and related documents for the period 1879-1910, NARA, Washington, D.C.



*"John Ogg and I are farming neighbors"*

<p>Robert Washington Ogg                  b. 1775 Calvert County, Maryland                  d. 1837 Barnesville, Belmont, Ohio                  m. 1810 Calvert County, Maryland                  Rebecca Young Hance                  b. 1790 Calvert County, Maryland                  d. 1873 Warren Twp., Belmont, Ohio</p>	<p><b>John Shannon Davenport Ogg Descendants</b></p>
<p>John Shannon Davenport Ogg                  b. 1829 Belmont County, Ohio                  d. 1910 Franklin Township, Monroe, Ohio                  m. ?                  Elizabeth Casey                  b. 1829 Ohio                  d. 1894</p>	<p>William Alexander Ogg                  b. 1853 Swazey, Monroe Co., Ohio                  d. 1928 Williamstown, Wood, West Virginia                  m. 1876, Monroe Co., Ohio                  Elizabeth Corenia Antill                  b. 1856 Swazey, Monroe, Ohio                  d. 1950 Williamstown, Wood, West Virginia</p>
	<p>Robert W Ogg                  b. 1856 Ohio                  m. 1889 Guernsey County, Ohio                  Ella M. Lyons                  b. 1870 Ohio</p>
	<p>Aaron Wilson Ogg                  b. 1858 Ohio                  d. 1928 New Concord, Muskingum, Ohio                  m. 1887 Monroe County, Ohio                  Magdalene Ellen Draper                  b. 1866 Ohio                  d. 1895</p>
	<p>Nancy Rebecca Ogg                  b. 1864 Ohio                  d. 1962                  m. 1894 Monroe County, Ohio                  Ara Slaughter                  b. 1875 Little Washington, Franklin Ohio                  d. 1953 Lakeville, Ashtabula, Ohio</p>



*Aaron Wilson & Family*

Pensions, in traditional government style mailed form letters to four of John's neighbors. They began "Sir: To further aid this Office in determining the merits of the claim above entitled, be kind enough to answer in your own handwriting the following questions, giving more complete details than your affidavit on file affords."

Aaron Wilson's answers to two questions are significant: (1) "How frequently have you seen him since your first acquaintance? Ans: I see him once or twice a week on an average." And (2) "My means of the knowing the facts of the case are these: John Ogg and i are farming neighbours in sight and frequently visit each other. We have lived neighbours thirty years or more. [sic]" This clearly suggests that John Ogg knew Aaron Wilson prior to his son's birth and that they were good friends.

The question remains, what was their relationship? Aaron Wilson (b 1816, d 1901) was 13

years older than John S. D. Ogg. Both men were born in Belmont County, Ohio. According to Aaron Wilson's pension affidavit, they lived on neighboring farms from the mid 1850s. Census records show Aaron Wilson lived in Monroe County in 1850 and Noble County in 1860 and later. Census records also show John Ogg lived in Monroe County in 1860 and later.

Further investigation found Noble County was formed on March 11, 1851 from parts of four counties including Monroe. Government Land Office records show patents<sup>2</sup> for 1,100 acres of

<sup>2</sup>Government Land Office records, 14 patents issued to Robert W Ogg in Monroe and Noble Counties, Ohio (1834 -1837); BLM, Department of the Interior; viewed online at <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov/results/default.aspx?searchCriteria=type=patent|st=OH|cty=|ln=ogg|fn=robert|sp=true|sw=true|adv=false>

land purchased by Robert W. Ogg at Township – Range of 006N-007W actually straddles the Monroe-Noble County line.

Each of Robert Ogg’s eight children inherited a separate farm when he died in 1837.<sup>3</sup> Further investigation shows that even though Aaron Wilson and John Ogg lived in different counties, their townships (Stock in Noble County and Franklin in Monroe County) actually have a common border at the county line.


Additional research using land and tax records may show the proximity and time when the Wilson and Ogg families lived close to each other – perhaps in Belmont county when John was a child growing up and later as farmers in Monroe and Noble counties.


Based on the circumstantial evidence supplied by the Civil War Pension documents, census records,<sup>4</sup> and Land Office records, it is my belief that Aaron Wilson Ogg was named in honor of John S. D. Ogg’s neighbor and friend Aaron Wilson.

More research may resolve their relationship. One mystery explained, one to go! From where did John Shannon Davenport Ogg get his name?

<sup>3</sup>Will of Robert W. Ogg, Will Records, Vol F-G, 1833 -1845, p. 511, Ohio. Probate Court, Belmont County, Ohio.

<sup>4</sup>United States Census, 1850-1910, database with images, FamilySearch, (<https://familysearch.org>)

Alexander Ogg d. 1799 VA or W. VA m. 1774 Susan	<h2>Alexander Ogg Descendants</h2>
Robert Washington Ogg b. 1775 Calvert County, Maryland d. 1837 Barnesville, Belmont, Ohio m. 1810 Calvert County, Maryland	Benjamin Hance Ogg b. 1812 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1899 Graham, Nodaway, Missouri m. 1840 Belmont County, Ohio Mary Detwiler
Rebecca Young Hance b. 1790 Calvert County, Maryland d. 1873 Warren Twp., Belmont, Ohio	Alexander W Ogg b. 1813 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1908 Belmont County, Ohio
	Robert Washington Ogg b. 1815 Maryland d. 1890 Solsberry, Greene, Indiana m. Nancy Calland b. 1820 d. 1905 Solsberry, Greene, Indiana
	Elizabeth Susan Ogg b. 1817 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1908 Belmont County, Ohio
	Arianne Hance Ogg b. Belmont County, Ohio d. 1850 Marian Twp., Noble County, Ohio m. 1841 Belmont County, Ohio Joseph Calland b. Scotland
	Young Hance Ogg b. 1824 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1905 Douglas, Butler, Kansas m. 1852 Belmont County, Ohio Mary Ellen Stamp b. 1833 Maryland d. 1895
	John Shannon Davenport Ogg b. 1829 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1910 Franklin Township, Monroe County, Ohio m. Elizabeth Casey b. 1829 Ohio d. 1894
	Sarah Rebecca Ogg b. 1832 Barnesville, Belmont, Ohio d. 1920 Barnesville, Belmont, Ohio m. 1859 Belmont Co, Ohio John William Chaney b. 1835 d. 1898



## Did you forget?

L-AGS annual membership dues  
are due and payable  
**on or before January 1st.**

Please complete the form at  
[http://www.l-ags.org/  
application.html](http://www.l-ags.org/application.html).

Dues may now be paid either via  
PayPal or postal mail.

## *New Member Introduction*

Caroline Chavez,

L-AGS Genealogy Docent, Pleasanton Library

Growing up, I knew my mother was interested in our family genealogy. I remember she had inherited some of her family's heirlooms. She faithfully updated our family's information in Debrett's which tracks relationships and ancestors of our English ancestors. I also remember that she hosted a large family reunion at our house where she laid out a handwritten family tree for about three generations for her father's family and we each were given a numbered name tag that corresponded to an entry on the tree so we could see how we were related to each other.

However, my time and interest in our heritage was limited as I raised a family and worked outside the home.

It was not until about the year 2010 as I entered my 60's that I started wondering about my ancestry as well as the ancestry of my children. My children's ancestry was complicated by the fact that their father had been adopted when he was a toddler and renamed by a childless couple in their 50's. His adopted father had tragically died in a hunting accident and his mother remarried. She then died, and his second adopted father remarried. That father also remarried to a widow before I met and married my husband. By that time he had had three sets of parents, not counting his unknown biological parents. The only thing he had was a notebook that his first adoptive father had prepared with a lot of mysterious family names and a few addresses and dates.

He also had a biological uncle retire and move back to our town. He knew his sister was the biological mother of my husband so now I had a name, but although she was alive, there was no interest in contact on her part.

The hunt was on. Using the scant information I had, I used Ancestry.com and the Internet to see what I could find. Eventually I tracked his father's family back to Tennessee and the Civil War.

When I found a photo of his great uncle on Ancestry.com, it was like looking at a photo of my husband. I also connected with another family member in Tennessee and found they were very

active in tracking the family history. They were able to help fill in the tree and provide other family photos as well as invite me to their annual family reunion. I traced another branch from Ireland to Australia to San Francisco in the 1870's.

In the meantime, I started also tracing my mother's family. Her father's family was well established in England and Ireland, and she was a descendant of people who owned castles, had distinguished military and clerical careers, and even had a great grandfather who was imprisoned in the Tower of London for joining the revolution against the king. One was a sheriff of Nottingham and several were members of Parliament. I traced the arrival of the first family member from that branch to about 1871 when he arrived in San Francisco, married the daughter of a Scottish soda water manufacturer, and became the cashier of a newly formed bank housed in the newly built Palace Hotel. However, when the bank failed in 1879, he disappeared under a cloud leaving his wife behind with two young boys. What happened to him and his family? I know my grandfather eventually graduated from the University of California with an engineering degree and established an East Bay company that built ships and eventually designed, patented, and built the container cranes that offload cargo around the world. As time goes by, I am finding tidbits of information tracking my mysterious great-grandfather who apparently returned to England. However, I don't know if he had any contact with his wife or sons.

My mother's maternal side was just as interesting. I was able to trace back my direct descendants to three passengers on the Mayflower and several others who arrived in the first half of the 17th century. I've been able to trace many of these New England roots through the vast collection of American history and records. Many of them were in the Boston area as new towns were established and during the Revolutionary War period all the way into the late 1800s when the first members of that branch arrived in the San Francisco area. As a history and historic novel buff, I am fascinated by finding out the forces and historical events that pushed and pulled at



their lives. Clearly they were contemporaries of names like Paul Revere and Rev. Increase Mather. There is some likelihood that a couple of my Boston ancestors took part in the Boston Tea Party. I have also traced one great grandmother to her death in prison where she was suspected of witchcraft.

My father's maternal side of the family has lead me back to a Native American grandmother in the Louisiana area in the late 1700s who was captured by French explorers and eventually married the man who bought her. Her descendants came to California by ship and crossing the Isthmus of Panama during the Gold Rush, settling and gold mining in the Dutch Flat area where they also owned and operated the Opera House frequented by actors and orators including Mark Twain.

Dutch Flat became the meeting and melding place for my Welsh (via Wisconsin) mining ancestors, my Louisiana roots, and a spry and feisty German harpist who took her four daughters and left her French philandering merchant husband in New York and came to follow the promise of wealth in the gold fields.

The most recent arrival to the US was my pater-

nal German great grandfather who arrived in New York in 1900 and moved to California with three children after his first wife died. He followed the burgeoning wine industry throughout the state blending wine in southern and central California as well as Livermore. The impact of Prohibition on his family was severe, as were the prejudices he encountered against German immigrants following World War I.

However, researching his ancestry in Germany has been very difficult, and I hope to make some headway in that area. Understanding how the winds of history shaped my family has been extremely enlightening, particularly since I earned a history minor in college. Additionally, it has become a source of a knowledge of the strength and tenacity my family exhibited to be able to survive and thrive. That knowledge humbles me and provides me the resolve to meet the challenges I face in my life. Finally my knowledge that most of them were living in and around San Francisco at the time of the 1906 earthquake provides me with a fascination with that city that I want to pursue. I volunteered as a docent to help others uncover their own fascinating history.

## New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Tim Johnston, Administrative Librarian

Mon 1/9/2017

Three titles to report:

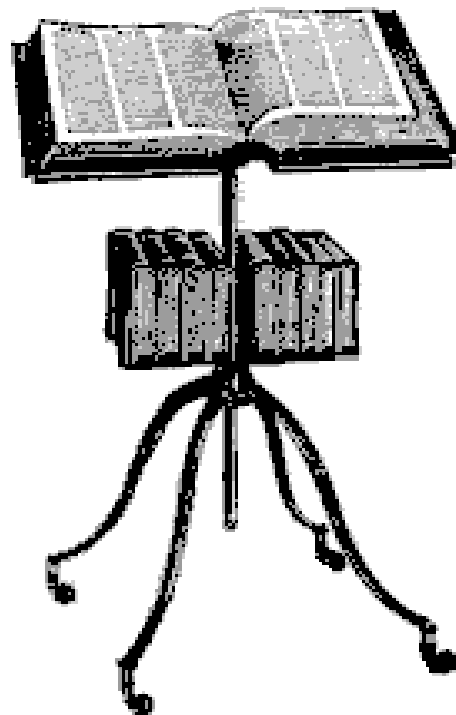
Trace your German roots online: a complete guide to German genealogy websites

James M. Beidler; Genealogy 929.1072  
BEIDLER (LIB USE ONLY)

South Carolina Genealogical Society, surname directory / South Carolina Genealogical Society

Genealogy 975.7 SOUTH (LIB USE ONLY)

Hamilton County, Ohio burial records *Volume one, Wesleyan Cemetery, 1842-1971*



## JOHN JOSEPH RYAN – and what I learned from the National Archives

By Shannon Ryan

National Archives records relating to my maternal great grandfather, John Joseph Ryan, were his Civil War documents: muster lists, casualty reports, doctors' summaries and recommendations, petitions for invalid compensation, and his widow's pension papers. Patrick Lofft, during a trip to the National Archives, kindly scanned over 100 documents. I was greatly impressed by the body of documentation that was there and began slowly wading through this treasure trove. I am truly indebted to Patrick for his work.

### Overview of John J Ryan

John Ryan was the eldest son of Pierce Ryan (b 1797) and Mary Sullivan (b 1812), both Irish immigrants who settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where John was born in 1834. John's father, Pierce, was a tailor by trade and taught John the same skills. Pierce Ryan and his family show up in the 1840 and 1850 census of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Sometime before the Civil War began, John pulled up stakes, took his parents and siblings with him,<sup>1</sup> and settled in Lockport, Will County, Illinois,<sup>2</sup> about 35 miles southwest of Chicago. At the time, Lockport's main claim to fame was the headquarters of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, about 97 miles long, which was begun in 1836. I do not know yet why John moved to this particular area of the country - it may have been a friend or family who lured him there - but it was in Lockport that John Ryan enlisted as a sergeant on 13 Aug 1862 into Co. C, 90th Illinois US Infantry to fight for the Union in the Civil War. His younger brother, Daniel, had already enlisted in 1861 (and survived at war's end without injury).



*John Joseph Ryan*

### Civil War history of John Ryan

John Ryan's regiment was nicknamed "the Irish Legion" or "the Second Irish," since it was comprised of a larger percentage of Irish members. My great-grandfather would have fit the bill well – with his distinctive red hair (which my mother inherited), he was known as "Red Jack" among his peers.

The 90<sup>th</sup> Illinois Regiment was led by Tipperary-born Col Timothy O'Meara, who was killed in action at the Battle of Missionary Ridge.<sup>3</sup> John Ryan was also wounded in this same battle. One of

the documents obtained from the National Archives<sup>4</sup> states: "[John] received a gunshot wound from the enemy in the left arm below the

<sup>1</sup>According to an undated newspaper obituary for John J Ryan. John and his parents and siblings are, so far, missing from the 1860 census and I believe this is owing to the fact that the family was on the move.

<sup>2</sup>See 1870 census for Lockport, Illinois (his parents are not living with John Ryan, and I presume they were dead by this time, though so far a far-ranging search has not pinpointed when and where his parents died).

<sup>3</sup>The Battle of Missionary Ridge was fought November 25, 1863, as part of the Chattanooga Campaign of the American Civil War.

<sup>4</sup>"Officer's Certificate of Disability of Soldier" dated 20 Aug 1866; source: National Archives Civil War records for John J Ryan.

Pierce Ryan b: 1797 Ireland d: Bef. 1860 Lockport, Will, Illinois	Mary Sullivan b: 1814 d: Bef. 1868 Lockport, Will, Illinois	Matthew Connor b: 1812 Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland m: 1835 Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland d: 1863 Lockport, Will, Illinois	Elizabeth Catherine Coyne b: 1817 Co. Westmeath, Ireland d: 1855 Lockport, Will, Illinois	Patrick Tobin b: Abt. 1828 Ireland d: 1889 Plattsburg, Clinton, Missouri	Margaret Morrissey b: 1829 Clonmel, Tipperary, Ireland d: 1869 Plattsburg, Clinton, Missouri	Patrick Kildery McNamara b: 1822 Co. Clare, Ireland m: 1856 Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts d: 1897 Kansas	Honora "Hannah" Connole b: Abt. 1832 Ireland d: 1925 Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri
John Joseph Ryan b: 1836 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania m: 1868 Lockport, Will, Illinois d: 1904 Caldwell, Sumner, Kansas		Katherine Connor b: 1844 Kinnegad Parish, Mullingar, Westmeath, Ireland d: 1918 Pratt Co., Kansas		George Francis Tobin b: 1862 Platte Co., Missouri m: 1890 Denison, Grayson, Texas d: 1940 San Joaquin Co., California		Margaret Katherine McNamara b: 1870 Kansas d: 1956 French Camp, San Joaquin, California	
George William Ryan b: 1890 Caldwell, Sumner, Kansas m: 1916 Wichita, Sedgwick, Kansas d: 1965 Tracy, San Joaquin, California				Hazel Margaret Tobin b: 1891 Denison, Grayson, Texas d: 1975 Contra Costa, California			
Phyllis Josephine Ryan b: Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas				<b>Lineage Chart for Phyllis Josephine Ryan</b>			

elbow about five inches and came out at elbow point [fracturing the joint] and badly injured said arm. And he was in the field hospital [in Tennessee] in consequence about 5 weeks and was then furloughed home.”

Notwithstanding the weakened condition of his injured arm (which must have caused him severe pain and lack of mobility), John actually rejoined his company four months later in time to march to Atlanta during General Sherman’s “March to the Sea.”<sup>5</sup> Apparently, this scenario was repeated for many soldiers who had been recovering from wounds sustained at Missionary Ridge.

That John returned to his regiment after such a devastating injury surprised me. Another surgeon’s report described John’s arm as “useless” and while in his care in the field hospital it oozed pus and had a tendency toward gangrene, with bits of bone working themselves out through the wounds.<sup>6</sup>

It’s interesting to note that throughout John’s career in the Regiment, up to this point, he had retained his rank of sergeant. However, he was “reduced to ranks by order of Colonel O. Stuart” on July 15, 1864 according to the Muster Roll,

dated July and August 1864.<sup>7</sup> No reason was given. Since John’s injured arm was useless, I imagine John was relegated to more menial tasks and probably not expected to use a rifle with much accuracy!

At war’s end, John mustered out on 5 June 1865 as a private by Captain Nelson in Washington, DC after participating in the grand review march in the capitol city.

Katherine (“Katie”) Crowley Weigel (born 1906, a few months before John Joseph died) was John Joseph’s granddaughter, born of John Joseph’s second eldest daughter, Mary Agnes Ryan/Crowley. After John Joseph’s death, his widow, Katherine Connor, lived with Mary Agnes. Katie

<sup>5</sup>Sherman's March to the Sea, more formally known as the Savannah Campaign, was a military campaign of the American Civil War conducted through Georgia from November 15 to December 21, 1864

<sup>6</sup>Excerpts from document entitled “Additional Evidence; Application for Original Invalid Pension,” dated 6 Nov 1879; source: National Archives Civil War records for John J Ryan.

<sup>7</sup>Muster Roll dated July and August 1864; source: National Archives Civil War records for John J Ryan.



*Pierce Ryan – the eldest son – in the tailor shop*

Crowley sometimes listened in to the stories that John Joseph's wife, Katherine Connor, would tell during long winter evenings. Katie recalled: "Here is as much as I know: He enlisted from Illinois, and took part in Sherman's March to the Sea – something he was not proud of, as it was something of a rape, ravage, and arson expedition. The only thing he ever took was a silver coin from a table. He much preferred to soak his tired feet in the nearby cool streams. All this I remember from listening to Ryan conversations while I sat in the corner."<sup>8</sup>

#### **Aftermath**

Surprisingly, somehow John Ryan managed to continue in his trade of tailoring. Even after the war, Dr. Edward Lamed, the surgeon who described John's arm as "useless" in the field hospital, continued the care of John's arm in Lockport. From a written affidavit in 1879, Dr. Lamed testified that John's arm remained weak,

full of pain, and unable to move. He termed the arm "permanently disabled" and unable to be remedied.<sup>9</sup>

John had married Lockport resident, Katherine Connor (b 1844 in Ireland), shortly after the Civil War and went on to have ten children, the youngest of whom became my grandfather, George W Ryan (b 1890). The eldest son, Pierce, learned the tailoring trade, as well as the oldest daughters. It may be that John's son, Pierce, and the other children helped John maintain his trade when the family moved from Lockport to Wellington, Sumner, Kansas (see 1880 census for that city), and then finally to Caldwell, Sumner, Kansas,<sup>10</sup>

<sup>8</sup>Source: Personal letter to Phyllis Ryan circa 1980s.

<sup>9</sup>Excerpts from document entitled "Additional Evidence; Application for Original Invalid Pension," dated 6 Nov 1879; source: National Archives Civil War records for John J Ryan.

<sup>10</sup>See Caldwell, Sumner, Kansas Censuses for 1900.

which in those days was a pretty rough and tumble cow town. (Interestingly, the talent and love of sewing has been carried down through the generations, even to me!)

The other subject in the National Archives records that fascinated and surprised me was that John had to submit “declarations” and affidavits constantly throughout the remainder of his life to keep his pension coming.

Despite his clearly painful and disabling condition, John continued to do what he could to

maintain his large family and branched out in various ways, surely to augment his tailoring income: breeding strong, resilient Indian horses (the Indian territory was very close to Caldwell), becoming a saloon keeper, and uplifting the town from chaos to a bit of respectability by helping to bring the Catholic Church to Caldwell. His death from “Bright’s Disease” (nephritis) in 1904 was mourned by the residents of Caldwell.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>11</sup>Undated obituary from an unidentified **Caldwell, Kansas** newspaper.

## In Memoriam

### **Elmond D. Holbrook,**

L-AGS member since before 1990

Elmond D. Holbrook, age 96, passed away on Friday, July 22, 2016, in Livermore, California. He was born on April 11, 1920, to Harvey and Burnetta Holbrook in Page, Nebraska. After acquiring a BS degree from York College and a Masters (Math) from the University of South Dakota, Elmond worked as a high school teacher.

He enlisted in the Army in 1942. A 1st Lieutenant in the Infantry and an Automatic Weapons Unit Commander, Elmond served in the Philippines, on Mindanao. On August 1, 1943, Elmond married his childhood sweetheart, Wilma Mae Mahood, in Stamford, Texas. Together they had three children. He was released from service in 1946 and reunited with his family in Orchard, Nebraska.

In 1955, Elmond was hired by Sandia Laboratories to be a computer programmer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In 1957, Elmond and family were transferred to Sandia’s Livermore, California, facility. Elmond and Wilma had resided at Quail Gardens Assisted Living. Elmond was preceded in death by his parents, his brother, Harvey Holbrook, Jr., of Nebraska, and his daughter, Cheryl Ann Mendez of Oregon.

Left to honor Elmond and remember his devotion are Elmond’s wife of 73 years, Wilma Mae Holbrook; his son, James E. Holbrook and daughter-in-law Amy; his daughter, Linda K. Olsen He was interred at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California.

### **Wilma Mae Holbrook**

Wilma Mae Holbrook, age 91, passed away on

Monday, September 19, 2016, in Livermore, California. She was born on May 4, 1925, to Wilber and Nora Mahood in Orchard, Nebraska. Wilma graduated from Orchard High School in 1942, and then went on to attend Wayne State Teachers’ College. They made their first home in El Paso, Texas, and had three children.

Wilma and family moved to Livermore, California, in 1957. Wilma was preceded in death by: her husband of 73 years, Elmond Holbrook; her daughter, Cheryl Mendez; and her parents, Wilber and Nora Mahood.

Wilma was interred at Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, California, to be with her husband.

### **Isabel (Whann) Nolte,**

L-AGS member since before 1990,  
Recording Secretary 1991-1992,  
2nd VP and Programs 1993-1994.

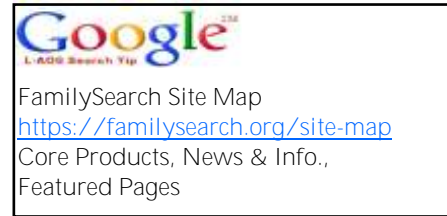
Isabel (Whann) Nolte passed peacefully at home with family by her bedside on October 22, 2016, four hours shy of her 98th birthday. Preceded in death by her siblings, Caroline (Whann) Bennett and William Whann. Isabel Whann Nolte was the oldest of three children of Marian and Charles Whann.

At the age of 70, she graduated from Chabot College earning an associate degree in Business. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Don, and three children: Elizabeth (Betty) Fallon of Livermore, California, Russell B. Miller of Colorado and Donald C. Nolte of Cameron Park, California, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



## G. R. O. W.

**Genealogy Resources On the Web**  
**The Page That Helps Genealogy Grow!**  
 Compiled by Kay Speaks



**Das Bundesarchiv**, <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/index.html.de>. English German research resources: Collections, film, library, maps, plans and technical drawings, military bodies and associations, official printed archives, personal archives/genealogy, personal papers, pictures and posters, more. Option for English.

**Mid-Continent Public Library Genealogy Center**, <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy>. This Independence, MO library is one of the top genealogy resources in the U.S. Take time to explore their local, U.S. and world database collections, genealogy forms (some electronically fillable) and many other resources.

**Findmypast—Free Irish Parish Records and More!** <http://www.findmypast.co.uk/irish-parish-records>. Largest Irish online collection with over 110 million records spanning centuries of history. Parish records details daily life from records kept by priests and vicars. Ten million Catholic Parish records include baptisms and marriages, indexed for the first time. Visit the Ireland Billion Graves Cemetery Index. Findmypast's four billion records and 11 million historic newspapers are free at your local Family History Center.

**General Register Online Irish Genealogy Historic Records**, <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>. Website now is now home to the historic Births, Marriages and Deaths of the GRO. The records join the "Indexes to the historic records of Births, Marriages and Deaths" that were already available on the website (frequent updates).

**Arizona Department of Health Services—Arizona Genealogy Birth & Death Certificates Information.** <http://genealogy.az.gov/> Arizona Genealogy Birth and Death Public Records online digital PDF copies. Birth records 1855-1940, death records 1870-1965—Death/Birth: Name, Born, Died, Father, Mother, County.

**Office of Justice Programs, National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS).** <http://namus.gov/index.htm>. A national centralized repository and resource center for missing persons and unidentified decedent records. A free online system searched by medical examiners, coroners, law enforcement officials, and the general public. NamUs is comprised of three databases: Missing Persons, Unidentified Persons, and Unclaimed Persons. There are similar online databases for missing children and other persons on states, newspapers and historical records (wanted, missing, seeking) websites.

**Archives Portal Europe**, <http://archivesportaleurope.net>. Provides access to information on archival material from different European countries as well as information on archival institutions throughout the continent. The website states you can search 253.9 million descriptive units of archives, 21,496 persons and entities, 6861 institutions. This portal is supported by the Archival Portal Europe Foundation, originally created via funding by the European Commission. It uses a Wiki format for finding additional research information.

**GenealogyBank's Thomas Jay Kemp, Director of Genealogy Products, guest blog post on FamilySearch Blog.** Name of the article, *I have the Name of the Ship and the Year He Immigrated—Now What?* <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/ship-year-immigratednow/>. Mr. Kemp article takes GenealogyBank's Historical Newspaper Archives and FamilySearch Passenger Lists to track his ancestor's immigration history through passenger ships lists.

**FamilySearch Learning Center**, <https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>. Browse hundreds of online genealogy courses to help you discover your family history. Categories include: Place, Skill Level, Subject, Format (audio, interactive slides, video and slides, video), Subject Language.

**Family History Research Wiki** (updated): [http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main\\_Page](http://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Main_Page). Get genealogical research advice, or learn where to find record collections worldwide within 84,862 articles. Click "All Countries" link to browse by country. Countries in alpha order. At end, "See also list of extinct states."

## Did you STOP your research at the 1850 census? What resources are available beyond the 1850 census?

By Patrick M. Lofft

On Monday evening, January 9, the general meeting speaker, Kathryn Miller Marshall, PhD., urged those in attendance to filter our research databases for persons eligible for military service during the War of 1812. Yes everyone who was merely a tick mark on the census enumerations of 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830 etc. As well as those who were in their late 50's on the 1850 census. Kathy's recommended filter was 'born after 1771 and before 1795.' I recalled that I had likely individuals among my wife's colonial ancestors. The recommended website was the always free site: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Specifically: [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/US\\_War\\_of\\_1812\\_Pension\\_Records#Pension\\_Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/US_War_of_1812_Pension_Records#Pension_Records).

And more specifically: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1834325>.

I searched, initially, with the colonial era surname of my wife's mother. BINGO: there was a record citing my wife's 1st cousin 4 times removed as she was the widow of a New York militiaman who served from 7 Sep 1814 through 18 Oct 1814, (42 days and 42 nights)! The index card displayed the soldier's dates of enlistment, discharge, marriage and death (11 November 1863) and his widow's maiden name. Also the residence communities of the soldier (1854 & 1855) and his widow (1878 & 1887) and the fact that the bounty land warrant was cancelled.

At the Livermore FHC, I download the 34 documents from the file on Fold3.com. The soldier received a Bounty Land Warrant, dated 2 May 1854, which was never exercised as the word cancelled is written across the face of the

document. The widow's meager pension was approved on 24 January 1879 for 8 dollars per month (approximately \$185 per month in 2017). A 'Secondary Proof of Marriage' document in the file listed the names and ages in 1879 of their 8 children whereas the 1850 census listed only 7 of the children. Other documents included the signatures of the soldier and his widow.

Are you waiting for another invitation to check the names in your database against the index on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)?

The following volumes for War of 1812 information are on the Pleasanton Library Genealogy reference shelves:

929.1072 SCHWEITZER; War of 1812 Genealogy by George K. Schweitzer c1988

929.3768 ARMSTRONG; Twenty-four hundred Tennessee pensioners: Revolution, War of 1812 Zella Armstrong; 1987

929.3773 UNITED; War of 1812 bounty lands in Illinois / with an introduction by James D. Walker; indexed by Lowell M. Volkel; United States. General Land Office. 1977

973.52 SOCIETY; Register of the General Society of the War of 1812 / Edited by Frederick Ira Ordway, Jr 1972

973.524 ROSTER; The Roster of the General Society of the War of 1812 (1989); and, Supplement to the 1989 roster / compiled and edited by Dennis F. Blizzard; General Society of the War of 1812; 1999

973.524 WHITE; Vols. 1 & 2; Index to War of 1812 pension files / transcribed by Virgil D. White

Your family history is important!  
Share it publicly and with your family through  
The Livermore Roots Tracer  
*The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society's Quarterly publication.*  
Editor Patrick Lofft is willing and able to help you format your information to share  
with others. Contact Patrick at [PMLOfft@comcast.net](mailto:PMLOfft@comcast.net)

## Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

March 13, 7:30 p.m.	<i>Jackie Krebs Reimers</i>	<i>Making Your Family History Come to Life</i>
April 10, 7:30 p.m.	<i>George Fulton</i>	<i>Mexican Research</i>
May 8, 7:30 p.m.	<i>Linda Baily</i>	<i>Visiting The Oakland Family History Center</i>

L-AGS annual membership dues are due and payable on or before January 1st.

Please complete the form at <http://www.l-ags.org/application.html>. Dues may now be paid either via PayPal or postal mail.

*The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3)(public charity) of the Internal Revenue Code and California Taxation Code 2301g.*

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

**P.O. Box 901**

Livermore, CA 94551-0901

Address Service Requested

FIRST CLASS