

# 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

## Membership Report

May, 2017

### New Member Information

David Counts

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

#### *Patrons*

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

#### *Benefactors*

Marilyn A. Cutting, Linda Driver & Walt Crawford, Gail Fairfield, Richard & Wanda Finn,  
James & Rae Hooks, Cindy McKenna, Patricia Moore, Peggy Weber & Bob Whitlock

*Total L-AGS Members as of April 10, 2017: 139 Memberships and 167 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. Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks) [tvtmg.chair@L-](mailto:tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org)

[AGS.org](http://www.L-AGS.org);

TV-TMG Forum [tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org](mailto:tvtmg.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 each Wednesday 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

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## President's Message



This month we pay homage to those who, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, “gave the last full measure of devotion” so that this nation would survive. When it comes to military service, there is one branch of my family tree that stands out above all others. That is the family line of my maternal grandmother, Mildred Mary Annis. My 5X great-grandfather James Annis of Andover, Mass., served at the Battles of Lexington and Concord. His grandson, Lewis Annis, served in the War of 1812, and his son, Harvey Annis, my 2X great-grandfather, fought at the battle of Shiloh. He never made it home from the war so it is to him that I dedicate this letter.

Last month a friend made me an offer I couldn't refuse. He asked me to accompany him on a trip to Washington DC and even offered to cover the airfare. I won't confess to too many weaknesses but one of them is that I love (with a capital 'L') Washington. I was born there, lived the first six years of my life in the DC metro area, and am a passionate lover of both history and art, two things

our nation's capital has in spades. After discussing the offer with my wife, I accepted.

While there I visited two places that have long been on my bucket list. The first was the national headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution where I spent the afternoon collecting evidence of James's service. Later, I visited a monument that I have wanted to see ever since I heard it was to be built. In an out-of-the-way corner of the city not far from Howard University is a statue bearing the likenesses of four men: three soldiers and one sailor. Their uniforms reveal that this is one of thousands of Civil War monuments that one is likely to see while traveling throughout the Eastern United States. There is one key difference to this monument. The men's faces denote that they all share a common African heritage. Surrounding the monument on broad semicircles, are dozens of plaques bearing the names of the over 200 thousand African American soldiers and sailors, who volunteered to fight for the Union during the Civil War. On one of these plaques I found what I had waited many years to see. On plaque C-63, under the heading of the **51<sup>st</sup> Regiment, United States Colored Infantry**, was the name I sought, Harvey Annis.

In 1860, Harvey Annis was working as a carpenter in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He lived with his wife, the former Mrs. Ann Sims (nee Vessey), three step-children and four children: Louis (8), Angelina (6), James (4), and Isabella (aka Belle, age 2). When war broke out Harvey enlisted in Company K, 18th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment where he soon rose to the rank of sergeant. He saw action at Shiloh where his company was fortunate to suffer light casualties, three wounded. In 1863, the army detached him to a pioneer (engineers) unit where he likely put his carpentry skills to work building canals that allowed Union river traffic to avoid the Confederate guns at Vicksburg. In July, 1864, he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant and assigned to Company G of the 51<sup>st</sup> Regt., U.S. Colored Infantry, stationed near Vicksburg, Mississippi.

Serving in an African American unit included risks that other units didn't face. Soon after the Union began organizing black units, the Confederate congress passed a law saying that black troops taken prisoner would be returned to slavery. White officers captured while commanding black troops would be charged with inciting insurrection and hanged.

Harvey never saw combat with the 51<sup>st</sup>. Shortly after being assigned, he fell ill, suffering from ‘chronic chills and fever, an enlarged spleen and dysentery’. His condition was so grave that Ann, the twice-widowed spouse of English sea captains lost at sea, traveled from Oshkosh with her 7-year old daughter Belle to tend to him. With his condition unimproved and the end of the war in sight, plans were made to ship him home while awaiting his discharge. And so, on the evening of April 24, 1865, The Annis family boarded the Steamboat Sultana and set sail for home.

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### 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

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## The Descendants of Edward Emerson

By Linda Harms Okazaki

Edward<sup>1</sup> Emerson was born about 1733. He married Mary Barton about 1761. Four of their twelve children lived to adulthood and had children of their own. All of the children were baptized in Holkham, Norfolk. Mary died in April 1786 and Edward in May 1793. Both are buried in the parish cemetery of St. Withburga, which lies within the gated grounds of Holkham Manor.

Richard<sup>2</sup> Emerson, (Edward<sup>1</sup> and Mary) was baptized on 15 July 1770, also at St. Withburga. He married Ann Russell, daughter of Spooner Russell and Eliza Bower, in that same church on 19 June 1792. They both signed their names to the marriage record, indicating literacy at a time when many couples marked their identities with an "X." Between 1792 and 1814, Richard and Ann had thirteen known children, most of whom died in infancy. When the last child was baptized, Richard was employed as a carpenter.

The tenth child of Richard<sup>2</sup> and Ann was Richard<sup>3</sup> Emerson, born in Holkham on 31 October 1807. On 26 May 1833, he married Mary Ann Shorten, daughter of Harvey Shorten and Mary Ann Hayhow at St. Withburga. The Shorten family was from the nearby village of Stiffkey and family records can be found at St. John the Baptist.<sup>4</sup>

Shortly after their marriage, Richard<sup>3</sup> and Mary Ann moved to Wells Next the Sea. Ann Margaret was baptized in the chapel of St. Nicholas on 29

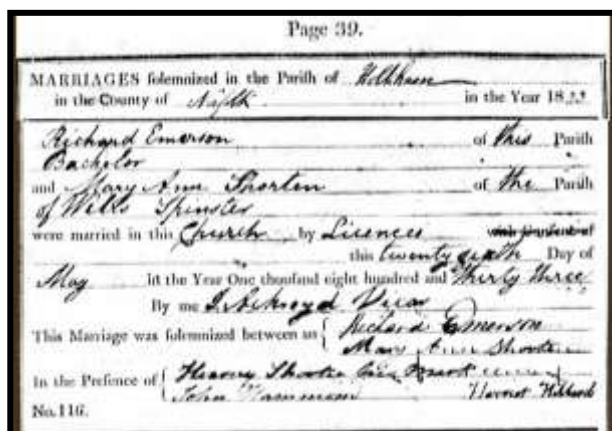
September 1833. Richard was employed as a publican, or tavern keeper, an occupation his sons would later follow.<sup>5</sup>

Eldest son, Richard Harvey<sup>4</sup> Emerson was born on his father's birthday, 31 October 1835, and baptized 8 November of that year. Richard<sup>3</sup> worked as a mail guard.<sup>6</sup>

Two years later, the family moved to a nearby seaport, Kings Lynn. Richard<sup>3</sup> continued his work as a mail guard when a third child, John Emerson, was born on 13 July and baptized on 10 August, 1837, at All Saints Church in South Lynn.<sup>7</sup> These three children, Ann Margaret, "Harvey," and John, were re-baptized on 10 February, 1839.<sup>8</sup> This may have been due to the welfare system of the time, whereby families could only receive assistance from the parish in which they were born or baptized.

Albert Emerson was born the following year and baptized on 15 November 1840. His father's new occupation as a baker was one that he shared with his older brother.<sup>9</sup>

At the time of the 1841 census, the four children of Richard<sup>3</sup> and Mary Ann were: Ann, age 7; Richard<sup>4</sup>, age 5; John, age 3; Albert, 7 months. Also living in their Kings Lynn home were Mary Ann's 60-year-old mother and a 15-year-old female named Elizabeth Fall.<sup>10</sup> Mary Ann's mariner father was absent.



Norfolk, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1754-1940 for Richard Emerson [edit].jpg; Caption: Norfolk, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 26 May 1833, Richard Emerson & Mary Ann Shorten

<sup>1</sup>Holkham, Norfolk, England, Parish Registers, FHL Film #1526785 and 1526887; Holkham Parish Inscriptions, FHL Film #2299463; Peter Henry Emerson, *The English Emersons*, (London, David Nutt, Publisher, 1898), p. cxvi.

<sup>2</sup>Holkham Parish Registers, FHL Film #1526887 and 1526941; Emerson, *The English Emersons*, p. cxvi.

<sup>3</sup>Holkham Parish Registers, FHL Film #1526887 and 1526941; Emerson, *The English Emersons*, p. cxvi.

<sup>4</sup>Stiffkey, Norfolk, England, Parish Registers, FHL Film #1596386.

<sup>5</sup>Wells, Norfolk, England, Parish Registers, FHL Film #2149773.

<sup>6</sup>Wells, Norfolk, England, Parish Registers FHL Film #2149773.

<sup>7</sup>England, Norfolk Parish Registers, 1538-1900, South Lynn Baptisms, FHL Film #1,471,634.

<sup>8</sup>England, Norfolk Parish Registers, 1538-1900, South Lynn Baptisms, FHL Film #1,471,634.

<sup>9</sup>1841, 1851, 1861 UK Census, Holkham, Norfolk, England, *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>10</sup>1841 UK Census, All Saints South Gate, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England, *Ancestry.com*.

By 1851, the family had moved to Somers Town, St. Pancras, Middlesex. It is unclear exactly why the family moved far from their ancestral home in Norfolk County, though employment opportunities were a likely factor. Richard<sup>3</sup> worked as an omnibus driver (the operator of a public transportation vehicle) and both Mary Ann and 17-year-old Ann Margaret worked as cloak makers. One wonders if they gained their seamstress skills while living in Holkham, an area known for silk and wool textiles. Sons Richard<sup>4</sup>, age 15, and John, age 13, worked as errand boys for a printer. Albert, age 10, was a scholar.<sup>11</sup>

The 1861 census shows that Richard<sup>3</sup> and Mary Ann continued to live in St. Pancras, along with Mary Ann's widowed father, Harvey Shorten. Richard<sup>3</sup> worked as a hackney cab driver. Mary Ann worked as a Mantle Maker (coat maker or tailor). Daughter Ann Margaret was not recorded, though may have been working as a servant.<sup>12</sup> However, all three boys, Richard<sup>4</sup>, John, and Albert, lived in Australia.

Richard Harvey<sup>4</sup> Emerson arrived in Australia in 1856. He married Elizabeth Mapp in 1859 and worked as a shop keeper, restaurateur, ship captain, and merchant.<sup>13</sup> John and Albert both arrived in 1860.<sup>14</sup> John followed a career as Master Mariner. Albert worked as an oyster merchant, saloon operator, and hotel owner.<sup>15</sup>

Richard<sup>3</sup> and Mary Ann, along with their daughter Ann Margaret, eventually followed their sons and migrated to Australia in 1863.<sup>16</sup> Ann Margaret, a spinster, died of pancreatic disease in 1871. Her father, Richard<sup>3</sup>, died in 1872, and her mother, Mary Ann, in 1878. John and Albert both married and had children. Albert died from tuberculosis in 1885 and John died in 1889 from an accidental

*Continued on page 9*

<sup>11</sup>1851 UK Census, St. Pancras, Somers Town, St. Marylebone, Middlesex, England, *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>12</sup>1861 UK Census, St. Pancras, Somers Town, Marylebone, Middlesex, England, *Ancestry.com*.

<sup>13</sup>*New South Wales Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922, February 1856, SS Catherine Adamson, Ancestry.com*; Marriage Certificate, New South Wales, #1859/000938, 15 December 1859.

<sup>14</sup>*New South Wales Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922, 20 December 1860 (John), SS Camillian, and 26 April 1860 (Albert), SS Eagle, Ancestry.com*.

<sup>15</sup>Private correspondence by post and by email, with descendants of John and Albert Emerson currently living in Australia, 1998-2013.

<sup>16</sup>*New South Wales Unassisted Immigrant Passenger Lists, 1826-1922, 3 February 1863, SS Vernon, Ancestry.com*.

### Descendants of Edward Emerson

Edward<sup>1</sup> EMERSON  
b. about 1733, Norfolk, England  
d. 1793, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
m. about 1761  
Mary BARTON  
b. ?  
d. 1786, Holkham, Norfolk, England

Richard<sup>2</sup> EMERSON  
b. 1770, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
d. 1824, England  
m. 19 Jun 1792, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
Ann RUSSELL  
b. 30 Oct 1773, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
d. 1841, Wells Next the Sea, Norfolk, England

Richard<sup>3</sup> EMERSON  
b. 31 Oct 1807, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
d. 18 Jun 1872, New South Wales, Australia  
m. 26 May 1833, Holkham, Norfolk, England  
Mary Ann SHORTEN  
b. 10 Mar 1811, Wells Next the Sea, Norfolk, England  
d. 19 Feb 1878, New South Wales, Australia

Richard<sup>3</sup> EMERSON and Mary Ann SHORTEN had the following children:

Ann Margaret EMERSON  
b. Sep 1833, Wells Next the Sea, Norfolk, England  
d. 22 Feb 1871, Norwood, St. George, New South Wales, Australia

Richard Harvey EMERSON aka Emerson<sup>4</sup> CORVILLE  
b. 31 Oct 1835, Wells Next the Sea, Norfolk, England  
d. 08 Jun 1906, San Francisco, California  
m. 1<sup>st</sup> 15 Dec 1859  
div. about 1875  
Elizabeth MAPP  
b. about 1836, Shelsely, England  
m. 2<sup>nd</sup> 1875  
Maria CULLUM  
b. 29 Jul 1853, Islington West, Middlesex, England  
d. 24 Jul 1921, San Francisco, California

John EMERSON  
b. 13 Jul 1837, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England  
d. 30 Apr 1889, Cairns, Queensland, Australia  
m. 14 Sep 1871, Cumberland, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
Anna PEARCE  
b. 24 Dec 1850, St. Peter, Hammersmith, Middlesex, England  
d. 14 Dec 1891, Redfern, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia

Albert Russell EMERSON  
b. 23 Nov 1840, Kings Lynn, Norfolk, England  
d. 30 Dec 1885, Picton, New South Wales, Australia  
m. 1870, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia  
Eleanor MCDAVID  
b. 06 Nov 1844, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia  
d. 14 Feb 1883, Woniora, New South Wales, Australia



## Will the Real Danner Ancestor Please Step Forward?

By Patricia C. Northam

*Dear Great-Great-Grandfather Danner,*

*I feel deceived and ignorant for believing you were "John" Danner. Recently I wrote an article about you for The Roots Tracer.<sup>1</sup> I wanted to know if you had served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. The various records for "John" Danner proved to me that none of them was you. I tracked down Census records for each of those "John" Danners and their families. None of them was you. I concluded that I still didn't know if you served as a Confederate, but I learned more about our family. So, now I've returned to my sources to re-evaluate the details of your name and life.....*

One thing I did was to review the death certificate of Idella Catherine Danner Strickland Stanfield. Her daughter Pinkie Stanfield had provided the information about Idella's parents and identified them as John Leonard Danner and Emmaline Owens. This is most likely where our family carried on the mistaken belief that our ancestor was John Leonard Danner instead of Leonhard Konrad (aka LJC).<sup>2</sup>

John Leonard Danner and Emmaline Owens have given me much to research. Who were they? From where did they come? How can I determine their correct names? Both were known by various

names. Their surnames were always the same, but their first and middle names seemed to alter somewhat. How was I to narrow the field? Let me share with you how I wandered down one pathway that has led to some enlightenment.

I begin with thanks to Bill and Diane George for directing me to Amy Johnson Crow's *31 Days to Better Genealogy*.<sup>3</sup> In October 2016 Amy wrote a tip a day for each day of the month. Amy set up the tips whereby she sent one per day via email. On Day 19, she suggested using [linkpendium.com](http://linkpendium.com) instead of Google for searching a surname. This website is tailored to genealogy research and thus gives results that are more appropriate than Google.

So, I headed to the [linkpendium.com](http://linkpendium.com) website. The website has a free "Family Discoverer Search Engine." You can enter a name, first and last, as well as the locality. So, I entered "Danner John L C" and "Alabama". Bingo! Up popped a link "Tracking Your Roots: The DANNER Family of Randolph County, AL." My heart skipped a beat. Could this be for what I was searching? My great-great-grandparents had lived in Randolph County (later the portion of the county where they lived became Clay County).

I excitedly clicked on the link (<http://www.trackingyourroots.com/data/danner.htm>)

and was rewarded with a three page summary by Wanda (Danner) Mehlhoff.<sup>4</sup> Wanda's summary indicated that Johann (John) Leonhard Conrad Danner was the oldest sibling, born 16 April 1827. John married Mary Ann Kitchens, and he died 24 December 1872, buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Montgomery, Alabama. John lived in Wedowee, Randolph County, Alabama and was a law clerk. I know this John Leonhard Conrad Danner cannot be my great-great-grandfather be-

*1960 Death Certificate of Idella Catherine Stanfield*

<sup>1</sup>"Was John Danner a Confederate in the Civil War?" The Roots Tracer, vol. 36, no. 4, November 2016, pages 4-6, <http://l-ags.org>

<sup>2</sup>Ancestry.com. Texas, Death Certificates, 1903-1982 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2013.

<sup>3</sup>Amy Johnson Crow, *31 Days to Better Genealogy*, <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/31days2/>

<sup>4</sup>Tracking Your Roots, "The DANNER Family of Randolph County, AL", Contributed by: Wanda (Danner) Mehlhoff, <http://www.trackingyourroots.com/data/danner.htm>

cause my ancestor was still alive in 1880 and still married to Emmaline/Rebecca Owens. Also this John had moved to Montgomery with his wife Mary Ann Kitchens. My ancestor did not live in Montgomery. (I have verified this information about John Leonhard Danner.)

John Leonard Conrad Danner's siblings were listed in Wanda's summary. She noted that the younger male sibling was Leonhard Konrad Danner, born 23 July 1832. This is the person I believe to be my great-great-grandfather. Here are the reasons: Census records for him indicate a birth year as 1831, 1832, or 1833. Also, L J C's wife and children match up with my ancestors. In the 1860 Federal Census, my Danner is living in Randolph County, Alabama and listed as L J C,<sup>6</sup> being born in Germany, estimated birth year as 1833. He is listed as a teacher.<sup>5</sup> In the 1860 Non-Population Census, Danner is noted as L J C. In the 1870 Census, Leonhard is listed as L J C, a farmer in Lineville, and is also the ass't marshall on the census form. His birth place is listed as Bavaria, with an estimated birth year as 1831.<sup>7</sup> In the non-population schedules of 1870, he seems to have a small farm and listed as L and as C.<sup>8</sup> In the 1880 Census, L J C is noted as being a teacher, living in Fox Creek, born in Bavaria, estimated year 1832 as well as enumerator on the Census form.<sup>9</sup> I have also located the 1867 Voter Registration for Clay County where he is listed as L J C.<sup>10</sup> In addition, he is listed as L J C in the 1872

<sup>5</sup>1860 Federal Census - Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Year: 1860; Census Place: Northern Division, Randolph, Alabama; Roll: M653\_22; Page: 573; Image: 179; Family History Library Film: 803022  
<sup>6</sup>Ancestry.com. Selected U.S. Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Census Year: 1860; Census Place: Northern Division, Randolph, Alabama

<sup>7</sup>Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Year: 1870; Census Place: Township 19 Range 9, Clay, Alabama; Roll: M593\_8; Page: 275B; Image: 196396; Family History Library Film: 545507

<sup>8</sup>Ancestry.com. U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Census Year: 1870; Census Place: Township 19, Clay, Alabama; Archive Collection Number: M279; Roll: 27; Page: 3; Line: 35; Schedule Type: Agriculture. AND Census Year: 1870; Census Place: Township 19, Randolph, Alabama; Archive Collection Number: M279; Roll: 27; Page: 49; Line: 18; Schedule Type: Agriculture

<sup>9</sup>Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-

<p>Leonhard Konrad DANNER b. 23 Jul 1832, Weidenbach, Bayvern, GERMANY d. bf 1900, Alabama m. 28 Jan 1856, Alabama Emmaline OWENS b. c. 1832, Tennessee d. bf 1900, Alabama</p>
<p>Idella Catherine DANNER b. 25 Feb 1868, Alabama d. 12 Jul 1960, Daingerfield, Morris Co., Texas m. 7 Dec 1882, Clay, Alabama Ezekial Thomas STRICKLAND b. 21 Feb 1862, Clay Co., Alabama d. 20 Feb 1932, Birmingham, Jefferson Co., Alabama</p>
<p>Bessie STRICKLAND b. 18 Jul 1895, Daingerfield, Morris Co., Texas d. 10 Oct 1966, Daingerfield, Morris Co., Texas m. 1 Jan 1916, Morris Co., Texas Wardlow Nugent NORTHAM b. 8 Jun 1894, Morris Co., Texas d. 9 Jan 1963, Daingerfield, Morris Co., Texas</p>
<p>Douglas NORTHAM b. Daingerfield, Morris Co., Texas m. Rockwall, Rockwall Co., Texas Hazel Bertha VITAICH b. San Francisco, San Francisco Co., California</p>
<p>Patricia Charmaine NORTHAM b. Oakland, Alameda Co., California m. Oakland, Alameda Co., California div. Oakland, Alameda Co., California Richard Edward ENGLAND b. Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co., California</p>

line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. 1880 U.S. Census Index provided by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints © Copyright 1999 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved. All use is subject to the limited use license and other terms and conditions applicable to this site. Year: 1880; Census Place: Fox Creek, Clay, Alabama; Roll: 7; Family History Film: 1254007; Page: 34D; Enumeration District: 033; Image: 0677

<sup>10</sup>Ancestry.com. Alabama, Voter Registration, 1867 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original data: Alabama 1867 Voter Registration Records Database. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

**SCHEDULE I.—Inhabitants in Township West No. 1, in the County of Clay, State of Alabama, enumerated by me on the 11 day of June, 1880.**

*L J C Danner*

No. of Inhab.	Name of Inhab.	Sex	Age	Color	Profession, Occupation, or Trade	Married	Single	Widow	Orphan	Deaf and dumb	Blind	Insane	Pauper	Foreign born	Place of Birth
1	<i>L J C Danner</i>	M	45	W	<i>Teacher</i>										<i>Bavaria</i>
2	<i>R E</i>	M	45	W	<i>Keeps house</i>										<i>Bavaria</i>
3	<i>L J</i>	M	16	W											<i>Germany</i>
4	<i>Idella</i>	M	12	W	<i>Daughter</i>										<i>Germany</i>
5	<i>Jonathan Gallatin</i>	M	86	W											<i>Germany</i>
6	<i>Robert Simon</i>	M	26	W											<i>Ireland</i>

1880 Census for Clay County, Alabama for L J C Danner and family. Note that L J C Danner is the Enumerator

civil appointments as Justice of Peace.<sup>11</sup>

Based on the summary written by Wanda Danner Mehlhoff, I believe I have sorted out my ancestor's given name. It seems my ancestor is Leonhard Konrad Danner, not John Leonard Danner as was listed on his daughter's death certificate.

Wanda provided information regarding Leonhard Konrad's birth as 23 July 1832 in Weidenbach, Bayvern, Germany. Ancestry.com now has digitized birth registers from the Ansbach Lutheran Parish Register Extracts.<sup>12</sup> These registers confirm Wanda's information.

After reading Wanda's summary, I returned to [FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) in search of the immigration of the Danner family, whereby I found them arriving in Philadelphia in 1840. The records listed all the surviving children and father Georg's second wife Anna Katharina.<sup>13</sup> However, after the Danner family arrived, where did they go? The 1850 Census lists brother, John Danner, in Randolph

**POOR COPY**

Wides: *Danner - Horn*

1.	<i>1.1. 1833</i>	<i>23.7. 1832</i>	
I.	00	00	
II.	00	00	
III.	00	00	
2.	<i>2.9. 1834</i>	<i>23.9. 1834</i>	
I.	00	00	
II.	00	00	
III.	00	00	
3.	<i>16.4. 1835</i>	<i>16.4. 1835</i>	
I.	00	00	
II.	00	00	
III.	00	00	
4.	<i>2.4. 1836</i>	<i>2.4. 1836</i>	
I.	00	00	
II.	00	00	
III.	00	00	
5.	<i>23.7. 1837</i>	<i>23.7. 1837</i>	
I.	00	00	
II.	00	00	
III.	00	00	

This is the image from the Ansbach, Germany, Lutheran Parish Register Extracts, 1526-1940

Leonh Konr Danner, birth date 23 Juli 1832, birth place Wdb, Bayern, Deutschland is noted as person 5. Older brother Jnh Leonh Konrad is person 3. Note: names were abbreviated.

<sup>11</sup>Ancestry.com. Alabama, Civil Appointments, 1818-1939 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Original data: Card index to the commissions and civil appointments register of the Secretary of State. Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Alabama.

<sup>12</sup>Ancestry.com. Ansbach, Germany, Lutheran Parish Register Extracts, 1526-1940 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2015. Original Data: Ansbach Lutheran Parish Register Extracts. Digital images Tobias Brenner Collection.

<sup>13</sup>"Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Passenger Lists, 1800-1882," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8C3-L2G> : 29 December 2014), Conhard Danner, 1840; citing NARA microfilm publication M425 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm. AND "Pennsylvania, Philadelphia Passenger Lists Index, 1800-1906," database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV9Y-8742> : 26 June 2014), George Fried Danner, 1840; citing ship Edward, NARA microfilm publication M360 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.); FHL microfilm 419,453



(No. 4.) Printed and sold by John C. Clark, 30 Dock Street, Philadelphia.

**Report or Manifest** of all the Passengers taken on board the *Ship Edward* whereof *J. H. Hill* is Master, from *Bremen* and owned by *Grantsville* and bound to *Philadelphia*.

whereof *599* 4/95 Tons

NAME	AGE	SEX	OCCUPATION	To what Country belonging	Country of which it is their intention to become Inhabitants	Number and Names of Passengers who have died on the Voyage
<i>George Fried Danner</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>male</i>	<i>mail-carrier</i>			
<i>Katharina Danner</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>female</i>			<i>Tatto</i>	
<i>Emad Danner</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>male</i>				
<i>Auguste Danner</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>female</i>				
<i>Leonhard Danner</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>male</i>				
<i>Barbara Danner</i>	<i>5 1/2</i>	<i>female</i>				

Above: George Fried Danner with family, 1840, Manifest from ship Edward at Philadelphia

County,<sup>14</sup> but I haven't determined where Georg (the father) and the rest of the family (including Leonhard Konrad) are living. I have yet to find any further trace of Georg Friedrich Danner. L J C (Leonhard Konrad) Danner is found in Census records for 1860, 1870, and 1880, but I have not located him in the 1850 Census or any death records.

<sup>14</sup>Ancestry.com. 1850 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch. Year: 1850; Census Place: Beat 1, Randolph, Alabama; Roll: M432\_14; Page: 282B; Image: 7

...so, Great-Great-Grandfather Danner, now I will say goodbye to "John" and hello to Leonhard Konrad. I feel I can correctly identify you as Leonhard Konrad (or L J C) Danner, not John Leonard Danner. I believe I have solved the mystery of your name, but still have questions about you and your wife Emmaline (aka Rebecca) Owens. I only wish I had asked your daughter Idella and your granddaughters Pinkie and Bessie about your life. I am pleased that for at least part of your life you were a teacher. I, too, worked as a teacher and so I feel connected to you.

Your great-great-granddaughter,

Patricia C. Northam

## The Descendants of Edward Emerson

*Continued from page 5*

drowning.<sup>17</sup> Their descendants live in Australia today.

Richard Harvey<sup>4</sup> was involved in many nefarious activities. He fled New South Wales about 1867 and created a new life for himself in San Francisco, California, complete with an alias (Emerson Corville) and new wife. Although he eventually divorced his first wife, no record of the second marriage has yet been found. He died shortly after the 1906 earthquake and fire, leaving behind a wife and ten children.<sup>18</sup> Many descendants continue to live in the San Francisco Bay Area.

<sup>17</sup>New South Wales Death Certificates for Richard Emerson (#1872/002656), Ann Margaret (#1871/002321), Mary Ann (#1878/001069); Queensland Death Certificate for John Emerson (#1889/974); NSW Births, Deaths and Marriages Transcriptions, for Albert Russell Emerson (#507198).

<sup>18</sup>California State Board of Health Death Certificate for Emerson Corville, 1906 (#700); Probate File for Emerson Corville, San Francisco (#597).

## President's Message

*Continued from page 3*

The Sultana had accommodations for 376 passengers and crew, but with approximately 2,100 recently liberated prisoners from Andersonville and Cahaba prisons and 200 civilian passengers, the boat was dangerously overloaded as it struggled northward. On the night of April 27<sup>th</sup>, shortly after passing Memphis, the Sultana exploded and burned in what was to be the greatest maritime disaster in American history. Almost two thousand of the boat's passengers and crew perished including 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Harvey Annis and his daughter Belle. Ann, now thrice widowed by drowning, returned home and spent her remaining years fighting to receive a pension for Harvey's service, which was ultimately granted by an act of Congress.

To all who have lost loved ones in the service of their country, I salute you and thank you for your sacrifice.

*Tom Mathews  
President, L-AGS*

# Authenticating Three William Kemp Trees and Why Online Trees are Not Reliable

By Duncan Tanner

When I started my genealogy research about 14 years ago I located an undocumented tree on RootsWeb. My efforts at that time were to build a reasonable tree. I had some information, mostly names, from an aunt while I was in high school. When I resumed research I used the RootsWeb trees to provide lists to work on. My initial online work was with Heritage Quest online census data (not as complete as today) and Heritage Quest Online books. I have worked with my cousin as she is continuing the work her mother did. I have learned a lot since joining L-AGS. I have worked diligently to verify the members of my tree with primary or secondary sources. That initial tree had Nathan Kemp, my 3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandfather, and his father, William. Last year I revisited the Find A Grave memorial for Nathan. The memorial now had pointers to Nathan's parents "William Kemp & Emma (Farnsworth) Kemp." This William was different from



Nathan and Polly (Hartwell) Kemp

<sup>1</sup>Rev. Henry A. Hazen, *History of Billerica Massachusetts with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: A. Williams and co., 1883), 80.

<sup>2</sup>Billerica, Middlesex, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1626-2001, p 140, image 210, William Kemp, birth; familysearch.org, <https://familysearch.org/>; FHL microfilm 901881.

<sup>3</sup>Rev. Henry A. Hazen, *History of Billerica Massachusetts with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: A. Williams and co., 1883), 80.

<sup>4</sup>*Vital records of Billerica, Massachusetts, to the year 1850* (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1908), 235, 278.

<sup>5</sup>Rev. Henry A. Hazen, *History of Billerica Massachusetts with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: A. Williams and co., 1883), 80.

<sup>6</sup>Gamble, *Data Concerning the Families of Bancroft, ..., Kemp*, 163.

<sup>7</sup>The Essex Institute, *Vital records of Groton, Mass.*, Page 127; Kemp, William, s. Ebenezer and Mary, Sept. 2, 175 [torn].

<sup>8</sup>Caleb Butler, *History of the town of Groton, including Pepperell and Shirley* (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 1848), 410; Born 2 Sep 1753.

<sup>9</sup>Caleb Butler, *History of the town of Groton, including Pepperell and Shirley* (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 1848), 410..

<sup>10</sup>*Find A Grave*, database and images (<http://www.findagrave.com/> : accessed 21 Jan 2015), William Kemp (1755-1806), memorial # 68376517, Hill Cemetery, Shelburne, Massachusetts, Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts, photograph © DeeB.

<sup>11</sup>The Essex Institute, *Vital records of Groton, Massachusetts, to the year 1849* (Salem, Massachusetts: The Essex Institute, 1926), V. 2. 61, 99.

<sup>12</sup>Caleb Butler, *History of the town of Groton, including Pepperell and Shirley* (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 1848), 410.

<sup>13</sup>*Vital Records of Shelburne, Massachusetts to the end of year 1849* (Salem, Massachusetts: Shelburne, 1931), 50.

## Three William Kems:

All three Williams are claimed to be descendants of Samuel Kemp of Groton, Massachusetts (Great-grand-father or 2<sup>nd</sup> great-grand-father).

William Kemp (b. 1750) born 10 Jan 1750,<sup>1,2</sup> died unknown. Married Abigail Clarke 10 October 1769. All in Billerica, Middlesex, Massachusetts.<sup>3,4</sup>

Parents: Jason Kemp, Hannah Meers.<sup>5</sup> Both of Billerica.

William Kemp (b. 1753) born 2 September 1753 in Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts,<sup>6,7</sup> died unknown, no marriage found. Some trees say he was born in 1750. The book *Vital Records of Groton, Massachusetts, to the year 1849* says the last digit of the year is "torn." No source for the 1750 year has been found. The book by Caleb Butler "*History of the town of Groton, ...*" provides the year as 1753. William's parents were Ebenezer Kemp and Mary Bradstreet.<sup>8</sup>

William Kemp (b. 1755) born 17 April 1755 in Groton Middlesex, Massachusetts,<sup>9</sup> died 17 August 1806 in Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts.<sup>10</sup> He married Emma Farnsworth 30 March 1780 in Groton.<sup>11</sup> Two of their children were born in Groton and the rest, eight, were born in Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts. William and Emma are buried in Shelburne. William's parents were Hezekiah and Rebecca.<sup>12</sup> The first child born to William and Emma was my third-great-grandfather Nathan Kemp.<sup>13</sup>

## Lineage Kemp - Nelson

<p>Hezekiah<sup>1</sup> Kemp  b. 14Aug1715 Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts<sup>1</sup>  d. after 1759  m. Rebecca<sup>2</sup>  b.  d.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup>Arthur James Weise, The New-England Kemps: Ancestral Kinsmen of the Hon. William Kemp of Troy, N.Y. (New York, New York: DeVinne Press, 1904), 137  <sup>2</sup>Weise, The New-England Kemps, 146</p>
<p>William<sup>2</sup> Kemp<sup>3,4,5</sup>  b. 17Apr1755 Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts<sup>6</sup>  d. 17Aug1806 Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts<sup>7</sup>  m. 30Mar1780 at Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts<sup>8</sup>  Emma Farnsworth  b. 18Sep1757 Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts<sup>9</sup>  d. 30Jun1834 Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts<sup>10</sup></p>	<p><sup>3</sup>Arthur James Weise, The New-England Kemps Ancestral Kinsmen of the Hon. William Kemp of Troy, N. Y. (New York, New York: DeVinne Press, 1904), 137  <sup>4</sup>Caleb Butler, History of the town of Groton, including Pepperell and Shirley (Boston: Press of T. R. Marvin, 1848), 410; of Rebecca.  <sup>5</sup>Weise, The New-England Kemps, 146  <sup>6</sup>Caleb Butler, History of the town of Groton, 410  <sup>7</sup>Find A Grave, database and images (<a href="http://www.findagrave.com/">http://www.findagrave.com/</a> : accessed 21 Jan 2015), William Kemp (1755-1806), memorial # 68376517, Hill Cemetery, Shelburne, Massachusetts, Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts, photograph © DeeB  <sup>8</sup>The Essex Institute, Vital records of Groton, Massachusetts, to the year 1849 (Salem, Massachusetts: The Essex Institute, 1926), V. 2. 61, 99  <sup>9</sup>Find a Grave, Inc, Emma (Farnsworth) Kemp (1757-1834) gravemarker, memorial #68376558, Hill Cemetery, Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts, photograph © DeeB</p>
<p>Nathan<sup>3</sup> Kemp<sup>11</sup>  b. 9Nov1780 Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts<sup>12, 13</sup>  d. 15Mar1866 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>14</sup>  m. 1805 at Charlemont, Franklin, Massachusetts<sup>15</sup>  Polly Hartwell  b. 19Aug1782  d. 19Oct1867 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>16</sup></p>	<p><sup>11</sup>Vital Records of Shelburne, Massachusetts to the end of year 1849 (Salem, Massachusetts: Shelburne, 1931), 49. Hereinafter cited as Vital Records of Shelburne, MA.  <sup>12</sup>Ibid., 50  <sup>13</sup>Shelburne, Franklin, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1600-1900, 103; familysearch.org, <a href="https://familysearch.org/">https://familysearch.org/</a>; FHL microfilm 886786; Born at Groton.  <sup>14</sup>Find a Grave, Inc, <a href="http://www.findagrave.com">www.findagrave.com</a>, (accessed 2012), Nathan Kemp (1781-1866) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 65523105, Kemp Cemetery, Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts, photograph © DeeB, 2011  <sup>15</sup>Vital records of Charlemont, Massachusetts, to the year 1850 (Boston, Massachusetts: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1917), 110  <sup>16</sup>Find a Grave, Inc, <a href="http://www.findagrave.com">www.findagrave.com</a>, Molly Kemp (1782-1867) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 65523077, Kemp Cemetery, photograph © DeeB, 2011</p>
<p>Mary E.<sup>4</sup> Kemp<sup>17</sup>  b. 1Nov1811 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts  d. 10Jan1891 Cherokee, Cherokee, Iowa<sup>18</sup>  m. 11Dec1831 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts  David Lovell Nelson  b. Sep1808 Southwick, Hampden Massachusetts  d. 24Nov1887 Cherokee, Cherokee, Iowa<sup>19</sup></p>	<p><sup>17</sup>Yates Publishing, U.S. and International Marriage Records, 1560-1900 (Provo, UT, USA: My-Family.com, Inc., 2004)  <sup>18</sup>Find a Grave, Inc, <a href="http://www.findagrave.com">www.findagrave.com</a>, database and images (<a href="http://www.findagrave.com">http://www.findagrave.com</a> : accessed 2016), Mary E Kemp (1811-1891), memorial 65533691, Oak Hill Cemetery, Cherokee, Cherokee, Iowa, photograph © Ann  <sup>19</sup>Find a Grave, Inc, <a href="http://www.findagrave.com">www.findagrave.com</a>, database and images (accessed 2016), David Lovell Nelson (1808-1887), memorial 65533654, Oak Hill Cemetery, Iowa, photograph © Ann</p>
<p>Lewis Lafayette<sup>5</sup> Nelson  b. 27Nov1840 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>20</sup>  <sup>21</sup>d. 11Nov1905 Topeka, Shawnee, Kansas<sup>22</sup>  m. 10Mar1861 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>23, 24</sup>  Sarah Abigail Tower  b. 23Jan1842 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>25</sup>  d. 2Apr1918 Galveston, Galveston, Texas<sup>26</sup></p>	<p><sup>20</sup>1900 U.S. census, Shawnee, Kansas, population schedule, Topeka, ED 169, p. 246 (stamped), sheet 3A, dwell. 49. fam. 50, Lewis L. Nelson household; digital image, ancestry.com (<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">http://www.ancestry.com</a>: accessed 19 Dec 2005); citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 500; Birth date is Nov 1840.  <sup>21</sup>Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1880 United States Federal Census (Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005).  <sup>22</sup>Find a Grave, Inc., Find A Grave, database and images (<a href="http://www.findagrave.com/">http://www.findagrave.com/</a> : accessed 2012), Lewis L. Nelson (1840-1905) gravestone photograph, memorial no. 140009871, Topeka Cemetery, Topeka, Shawnee County, Kansas, photograph © Oz (#46520830).  <sup>23</sup>Massachusetts marriage certificate (1861), Lewis L. Nelson and Sarah A. Tower; Duncan Nelson Tanner, [address for private use], Livermore, California.  <sup>24</sup>Charlemagne Tower, Complier, Tower Genealogy: An Account of the Descendants of John Tower, of Hingham, Mass. (Cambridge, Massachusetts: John Wilson and Son, 1891), 605; PDF, Heritage Quest Online (<a href="http://0-persi.heritagequestonline.com">http://0-persi.heritagequestonline.com</a>); Marriage day (12) does not match official records.  <sup>25</sup>Charlemagne Tower, Complier, Tower Genealogy (Cambridge), 454; PDF, Heritage Quest Online  <sup>26</sup>Texas State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate no. 16415 (1918), Sarah A Nelson; digital image, "Death Certificates," Fold3 (<a href="http://www.fold3.com">http://www.fold3.com</a> : accessed 2012)</p>
<p>Henry Lewis<sup>6</sup> Nelson  b. 21Nov1876 Florida, Berkshire, Massachusetts<sup>27</sup>  d. 10Jun1941 Vancouver, Clark, Washington<sup>28, 29</sup>  m. 12Sep1900 Bennington, Ottawa, Kansas<sup>30</sup>  Mary Isabella "Mayme" Foster  b. 12Nov1878 Bennington, Ottawa, Kansas  d. 11Mar1958 Vancouver, Clark, Washington<sup>31</sup></p>	<p><sup>27</sup>Volume 277, Page 37; New England Historic Genealogical Society, "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841-1910 (From original records held by the Massachusetts Archives)," database and digital image, New England Historic Genealogical Society. (AmericanAncestors.org).  <sup>28</sup>Washington Bureau of Vital Statistics State Board of Health, death certificate no. 145 (1941), Henry L. Nelson; Duncan Nelson Tanner, [address for private use], Livermore, California; Death date 10 Jul 1941.  <sup>29</sup>Washington State Department of Health, "Washington Death Index, 1940-1996," database, ancestry.com (<a href="http://www.ancestry.com">http://www.ancestry.com</a>), Henry L. Nelson; specifically citing copy of index obtained from: Washington State Archives.  <sup>30</sup>Henry and Mary I Nelson marriage announcement, H L Nelson Family Marriage Announcement Card, 1900; original privately owned held by Duncan Tanner, [address for private use], Livermore, California, 2015.  <sup>31</sup>"Mary I. Nelson Obituary," Vancouver (Washington ) Evening Columbian, 12 Mar 1958, col. 1. ; microfilm, Vancouver Community Library; Death Notice for Mary I. Nelson</p>
<p>Mary Carrol<sup>7</sup> Nelson  b. 18Dec1914 League City, Galveston, Texas<sup>32</sup>  d. 11Aug1962 Oakland, Alameda, California<sup>33</sup></p>	<p><sup>32</sup>Galveston, Galveston County, Texas, Birth Certificate, no. 41646, Mary Carrol I Nelson (1914) &lt;, [CD4]&gt;; familysearch.org, <a href="https://familysearch.org/">https://familysearch.org/</a>; Replacement Certificate showing first name, submitted by W(alter) A Foster, 28 Oct 1950  <sup>33</sup>California State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, death certificate no. 4862 (1962), Carol Tanner; digital image, "Death Certificate California,"(accessed 1962)</p>

my unconfirmed tree as the birth date and parents did not match what I had.

After some research with microfilms and books at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City I identified three William Kemps born in Massachusetts in 1750, 1753 and 1755. The William Kemp on Find A Grave was born in 1755.

My task required analysis of all three William Kemp trees to identify the most accurate one. . .

**Online Trees**

A search of FamilySearch.org for all persons named William Kemp born during the 1750's in Massachusetts provided two matches, one born in 1750 and the other born in 1755. These are correct except they both report a death on 17 Aug 1806 in Shelburne, Massachusetts. Unfortunately, FamilySearch.org utilizes a single tree which is composite of input from all users.

Since the William Kemp (b. 1753) from the online tree was erroneous I thought it would be interesting to examine the group of three William Kemp trees to test their accuracy.

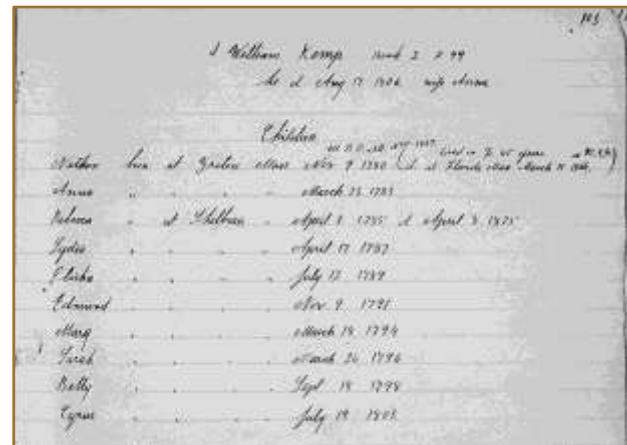
Ancestry.com has several hundred trees with various combinations of birth dates, spouses and parents. Of those with a death date many use 17 Aug 1806 in Shelburne, Massachusetts.

The William Kemp who died in 1806 is buried in Shelburne and his wife, Emma is also buried

there. Emma's grave marker says "Mrs Emma relict of Mr William Kemp died June 26 1825 aged 77 years." Eight of the ten children of William and Emma were born in Shelburne. No records have been found of the other William Kemps in Shelburne. The conclusion is William Kemp; (b. 1755) died in 1806 and is buried in Shelburne.

William Kemp (b. 1750) was born 10 Jan 1750 in Billerica. He was married in Billerica and all of his three children were born in Billerica.

Billerica and Shelburne are about 90 miles apart. It seems very unlikely that the William of Billeri-



*William Kemp Family Records*

Analysis of trees	William Kemp b. 1750	William Kemp b. 1753	William Kemp b. 1755
<b>Number of trees</b>	108 Trees:	83 Trees	91 trees
<b>Born</b>	10 Jan 1750 in Billerica, Middlesex, Massachusetts	2 September 1753 in Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts, Two trees (2%) have a 1750 birth year	16 Apr 1755, 91 (100%) Groton, Middlesex, Massachusetts,
<b>Parents</b>	Jason Kemp & Hannah Meers 89 (82%), Charles and Jane 12 (11%), unknown 7 (7%)	All 83 (100%) listed his parents as Ebenezer Kemp and Mary Bradstreet	Father Hezekiah 76, (85%), Jason 1 (0.1%), none 14 (15%) Mother Rebecca 38 (42%), Dorothy Adams 37 (41%), Hannah 1 (1%), none 15 (16%)
<b>Married</b>	Abigail Clarke 10 October 1769. Abigail Clarke 2 (2%), Emma 12 (11%), rest none 94 (87%)	No marriage 82 (99%), Abigail Clarke 1 (1%)	Emma Farnsworth, Groton 30 Mar 1780 35 (39%), no date 5 (5%), none 51 (56%)
<b>Died</b>	Death: 1806 40 (37%), none 66 (61%), 1836 1 (1%), 1829? 1 (1%)	Died unknown. Death: 1797 20 (24%), 1833 7 (8%), 1836 31 (45%). none 25 (30%)	Death 17 Aug 1806 90 (99%), none 1 (1%)
<b>Analysis of trees</b>	68 (63%) of the trees were correct but not always complete. Only one tree identified William's wife as Abigail Clarke and identified his parents correctly.	11 (14%) of the trees were correct but not always complete.	55 (60%) of the trees were correct but not always complete. 15 (17%) trees identified William's wife as Emma Farnsworth and identified his parents correctly.



ca was buried in Shelburne.

The trees on Ancestry.com were analyzed for the three William Kemps.

The above examples show where many online trees contain errors because the originator did not do reasonably exhaustive research as expected by the Genealogical Proof Standard. Other 'researchers' just copy information without authentication. Most trees have little or no sources cited or a few sources are inconsistent with other information.

It is clear that there is a high risk of error when

you accept information from some of these trees without verification. In this example the death date and location was assigned to two William Kemps. This was an easy result because the information was easy to obtain.

It is much better to do a reasonably exhaustive research and in many cases you can find direct and, or, indirect evidence to substantiate the facts concerning your ancestors. As you search diligently you may find valid information which will add to your story about your ancestor. Then Publish in the Livermore Roots Tracer or Regret that your future descendants will be led astray.

## The Kusterdingen Connection

By Gene R. Block

Most people who trace their family history want to discover not only their ancestor's country of origin but also the city, town or village where they were born. Unfortunately finding the birth records at the local level is often a difficult task. But once the exact location of an ancestor's birth is discovered, it can pay big genealogical dividends. The search for the birth location of my wife's maternal great grandparents clearly illustrates this point.

When I first began tracing my family and my wife's family history back in the late 1970's my mother-in-law provided me with the names of her maternal grandparents, Adam and Amelia Mozer. She knew that they were both born in Germany and when they came to this country in the late 1880's they settled in Batesville, Indiana. But since they had both passed away before she was born that was the extent of the information she was able to provide on the Mozer family.

Starting with that information I was able to find a number of records about the Mozers in Batesville. Unfortunately every record I found for Adam and Amelia listed only Germany as to their place of birth. As anyone who has done German research knows, without more specific information as to the location of birth, the chance of continuing research back in time is nearly impossible. **I had hit a brick wall.**

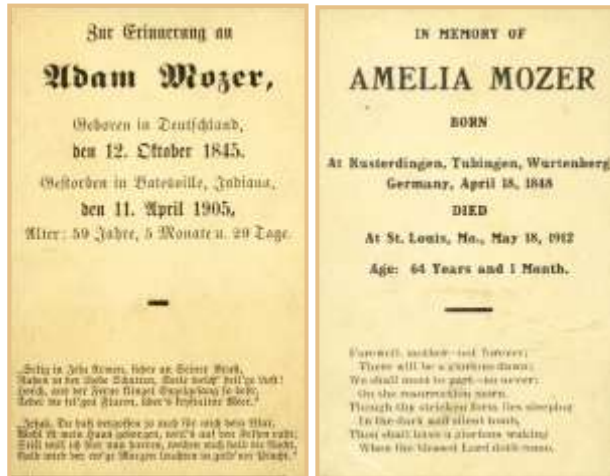
The breakthrough came when my wife's second cousin discovered funeral cards for Adam and Amelia while she was cleaning her mother's condo in preparation for sale after her death. Knowing of my interest in genealogy she mailed the

cards to us. Adam's funeral card listed Germany as his place of birth, but Amelia's card listed her place of birth as Kusterdingen, Tubingen, Wurtenberg, Germany.

The next time I went to the Family History Li-



*Sandra Thoms Block great-granddaughter of Adam & Ameila Mozer, Old St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, Cross Roads, Indiana*



*Funeral Cards for Adam and Amelia Mozer*

library in Salt Lake City, I discovered that the library had microfilmed the records of the small church in Kusterdingen back to the year 1540! With the help of a German translator we spent eight hours extracting information from the church records on my wife’s ancestors in Kusterdingen going back over 400 years. I discovered that Amelia’s husband, Adam was also born in Kusterdingen.

The following year at the end of a river boat cruise on the Rhine River my wife and I made arrangements to rent a car and drive to Kusterdingen to meet some of her distant Mozer relatives. The meeting was scheduled at 4:00 in the afternoon.

The morning of the meeting we stopped at the City Hall in Kusterdingen to explore what records the town had on its citizens. The receptionist told us that the town had a part time archivist and he happened to be in his office that morning. She called Mr. Wandel and he said he would be happy to meet with us. It turned out that Mr. Wandel spoke English and was being interviewed that morning by a reporter from a Tübingen newspaper. The reporter also spoke English. When we showed Mr. Wandel the chart I had prepared of my wife’s

ancestors who had lived in Kusterdingen, he informed my wife that they were



*Cover Sheet of the Wandel Family Genealogy from Kusterdingen*

distant cousins as one of his ancestors had married one of my wife’s Mozer ancestors back in the 1600’s. Mr. Wandel was most gracious and told us to come back the following day and he would give us information he had extracted from the town’s records on the Wandel family. The following day Mr. Wandel gave us a 56 page Wandel Family Genealogy going all the way back to a man named Jakob Wandel who was born about 1485. The 6 oldest male Wandels listed in the Wandel genealogy were my wife’s 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> great grandfathers!

After meeting with Mr. Wandel in the City Hall we met with my wife’s relatives. The oldest relatives who lived in the house where we met did not speak any English. But they had arranged for a number of their grandchildren to be present who did speak English. The meeting could not have gone any better. Then for the next two days my wife’s relatives drove us all around the area. It was a wonderful experience to actually get to know several new families all of whom were my wife’s relatives!

Amelia Mozer’s maiden name was Regelmann. Before we left Kusterdingen we were given a 10 page genealogy history of the Regelmann family. So between the church records I had previously uncovered and both the Wandel and Regelmann genealogies given to us while we were visiting in Kusterdingen, we had accumulated a considerable amount of information about a significant number of my wife’s ancestors.

As I look back on that experience I realize that I had some real misconceptions about what records would be available prior to our trip to Kusterdingen. First, like a lot of genealogists, I assumed that due to both World War I and World War II many, if not most, of the German records had been destroyed. Nothing could be further from the truth. Many areas of Germany, Kusterdingen being an excellent example, did not suffer any damage during the World Wars. We were told that there was no ‘on the ground’

fighting in the area during both wars and that only one bomb was dropped on the area during the Second World War. Apparent-

ly that bomb landed in the cemetery. No one above the ground was injured.

Another misconception I had was that since the LDS Church had microfilmed the records of the only church in Kusterdingen, no other records were available. Again nothing could be further from the truth. When the LDS members microfilmed the church records in the town they never filmed any of the civic records. The LDS church is interested in family relationships and by filming the records of the local church they fulfilled that goal. But the numerous bookshelves full of civic records at the local city hall were never filmed but were readily available for viewing.

I have to admit that I was surprised that a number of records are still available about the lives of ordinary people who lived 200-300 years ago. To be sure, these types of records do not exist for every person who lived in that time frame but personal information does exist for some people and if they are your ancestors it is certainly a wonderful find.

Several other things were quite surprising to me. The first was that I thought that the information flow would only be one way. That is, we would be asking my wife's relatives many questions but we would not have any information of interest to them.

Here again, I was wrong. We found that at least in my wife's family, correspondence ceased between those still living in Kusterdingen and those who had immigrated to the U.S. at the beginning of World War I and never started again after the end of the war. My wife's relatives were just as interested in obtaining any information we had involving their relatives who had immigrated to the U.S. prior to World War I as we were interested in information going back in time. Therefore the flow of information was not just one way but both ways.

Finally it never occurred to me that we would

have a continuing relationship with my wife's German relatives after we returned home from our visit in 2002. Nevertheless we have had four visits here in California from my wife's cousins' families since we first visited Kusterdingen.

We went back to Kusterdingen again in 2011 with our oldest granddaughter who by that time had studied German for two years in junior high school and three years in high school. She discovered that she really could communicate with her relatives from Germany and they could understand her when she spoke to them in German.

She later spent the first semester of her junior year in college abroad in Heidelberg, Germany. During that semester she visited Kusterdingen several more times. Once her mother, our oldest daughter, flew to visit with her. They spent a long weekend in Kusterdingen visiting with relatives our daughter had never met. This, combined with continuing occasional e-mails back and forth throughout the years, has made for meaningful ongoing relationships!

relationships!

All of the above information we now have about the Mozer and Regelman families going back in time and our ongoing relationship with my wife's relatives living in the Kusterdingen area has been possible because of one small 3" X 4" funeral card. Had my wife not made her relatives aware of my interest in genealogy her second cousin said she probably would have discarded the funeral cards. What a shame that would have been.

So let everyone in your family know about the ancestral families you are researching. You never know when someone quite unexpectedly will come across information that can take your genealogy search back many generations and perhaps allow you to meet relatives you didn't know you had.



*Johan Friedrich Regelmann & Maria Dorothea Schaefer*

## Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton  
Visitors are always welcome.

June 12, 7:30 p.m.

*Cat Nielsen      Preparing For a Research Trip*

July 10, 7:30 p.m.

*Sheila Wells      Cemetery Records*

August 14, 7:30 p.m.

*Kay Speaks      Online Research Techniques*

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Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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