

The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://facebook.com/Livermore.Amador.Genealogical.Society/>

Membership Report

February 2018

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

Patrons

Kay Speaks, Dick and Jean Lerche, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Linda & Walt Driver

Arnold Koslow, Tom and Natasha

Matthews Peggy Weber & Bob Whitlock

Total L-AGS Members; 121 Memberships and 145 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-AGS.org; TV-TMG Forum 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.

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 2018

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

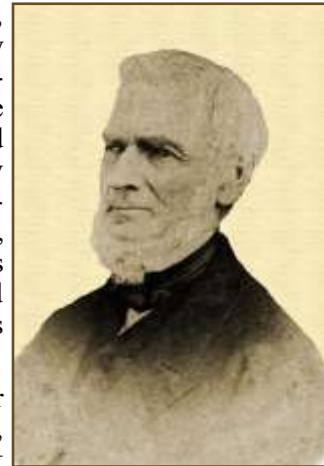
Contents

Membership and Meeting News	2	Our Path into Genealogy	6
L-AGS Leadership for 2018.....	2	New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library	7
President's Message from Tom Mathews	3	Planning a Trip?	10
I Finally had my DNA Tested; So What Did I Learn?	4	Membership Renewal Form	12

President's Message

Finding Myself

My first experience with family history came at a fairly young age when, rooting around in my father's desk, I came up with a sheaf of about thirty pages and a title page that bore my name. As it turned out, though, it wasn't my name, but that of another person named Thomas Mathews, one much, much older than I was. When I asked my dad what this was he told me that what I had was the story of my family that had been compiled by him and his father, Charles Mathews, Sr. in preparation for a family reunion held sometime in the mid-1930s. It contained the names, birthdates, and relationships of hundreds of people who were descended from this other Thomas Mathews. What thrilled me the most, though was that I had been named after the patriarch of the whole Mathews clan. How cool was that?



This Thomas Mathews was born was born 12 June 1782 in Calbarne (or Calharne, or Cathome, or Caleme, or Coleraine) Parish, County Antrim, Ireland. He was married to Nancy Ross (ca. 1891) who bore him eight sons and two daughters. Nancy was the daughter of Robert Ross of Anockavall (Kushawallin) near Dervock, Derrykeighan Parish, County Antrim. Family stories tell that Robert was landed gentry who employed Thomas's father as a coachman and that Thomas and Nancy eloped sometime around 1811 or 1812, prompting Sir Robert to disown her for marrying outside her social class. This story is highly unlikely, though, as not one of the eight Derrykeighan Rosses listed in the 1848 Griffith's Valuation owned any land at all.

In 1834 Thomas and Nancy's second son, also named Thomas, immigrated to Philadelphia at age 18 and in 1836 migrated west to Randolph County, Illinois. He wrote home to his family urging them to follow, at first with little success. According to stories passed down by the family, the elder Thomas had, perhaps in an attempt to please his noble in-laws, built a home that was much finer than any other in the parish. It was also more than he could afford. As a result, he soon found himself at odds with his neighbors who may have considered his free-spending ways pretentious. That's the story anyway.

Whether this was true or not, another event served as a much more compelling reason to emigrate. We know that Thomas Mathews was a linen weaver. Traditionally, a home-based linen weaver would grow his own flax in a one-acre field. At harvest time he would pull the stalks of flax out by the root, tie them in bundles using reeds that he wore around his waist, and throw them into a pond to soak for a week. The flax was then taken out of the pond, beaten and drawn through hickles that stripped off the wooden exterior stalk, leaving only the flax fiber. These fibers were woven into linen cloth which the weaver would polish by rubbing and spraying it with a mouthful of sugar water. This process was very labor-intensive and had a limited return on investment. The Industrial Revolution and the invention of the steam-powered loom in the early 19th century radically changed the textile industry and led to a

Continued on page 9

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 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..... Gene R. Block,
Caye Johnson, Arnold and Nancy Koslow
Composer..... Andi Winters
Printing and DistributionSue Davis,
Jean Lerche
G.R.O.W. Columnist Kay Speaks

I Finally Had My DNA Tested; So What Did I Learn?

By Gene R. Block

I have been tracing my wife's and my own family histories since the late 1970's. But for some reason when testing one's DNA became popular a few years ago, I didn't rush right into getting mine tested. Actually my wife was much more interested in getting her DNA tested than I was. So several months ago while I was still dragging my feet, my wife submitted her sample to Ancestry. Two to three weeks later she received her results.

I have to admit I was quite surprised when her results came back. A number of her matches, where Ancestry stated the probability of a match were "Extremely High," were indeed clearly related to several of her family lines. This was verified by examining the family trees that her "matches" had posted on Ancestry; comparing them to my wife's family tree and contacting a number of her matches. There were probably many more valid matches, but the majority of potential matches that Ancestry listed hadn't posted a tree online with Ancestry or if they did, it was "private" which means it can't be viewed by others without the owner's permission. To date I have not tried to contact any of my wife's matches who have not posted their family tree with Ancestry or whose tree is "private." A number of people who do not appear to be a match and who have posted their tree on line may still be related to my wife. But the possible connection is back farther in time than either we or her potential matches have identified.

So after seeing my wife's results and realizing that having my DNA tested could possibly identify some unknown family members, I recently submitted my sample to Ancestry for testing. Several weeks ago I received my results.

The percentages reported by Ancestry about my genetic ethnicity were about what I expected with one exception. That exception is Ancestry's report that approximately 14% of my ethnicity comes from the Iberian Peninsula, i.e. Spain and Portugal. I have traced back all of my ancestors through at least my great-great-grandparents and a number of lines much farther back in time. No one in my family tree is from the Iberian Penin-

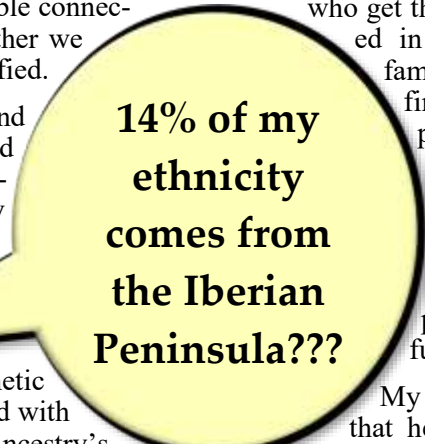
sula or in fact comes from anywhere close to Spain or Portugal. So if that percentage is correct, the connection must be back a minimum of 250-300 years or more in whichever line that connects to.

As was the case when we reviewed my wife's results I was pleasantly surprised at how accurate many of my potential matches appear to be. Since I started doing genealogy I have met two people who are 3rd cousins on my father's side of the family who Ancestry placed on my list of potential relatives. There are several other people who I have not yet contacted, but with whom I know a relationship exists as I recognize their surnames as being from my mother's side of the family.

So in addition to realizing that DNA testing is accurate enough to identify matches who are relatives, what else have I discovered? I guess the biggest surprise to me has been that not everyone, and perhaps even the majority of people I have attempted to contact and begin corresponding with on both my wife's side and mine have not answered e-mails I have sent them. This is the case even though Ancestry shows that they have been on line with Ancestry since my e-mails were sent to them so I know they received them.

I have recently read several articles which explain why this can be the case. Apparently many people who get their DNA tested are not interested in genealogy or in tracing their family history. They just want to find out what their genetic composition is. I also read that a number of people have been given a paid DNA testing kit as a gift for their birthday or Christmas. So they send in a sample for testing but don't plan to pursue the matter any further after getting their results.

My wife's mother always claimed that her father's family originated in Denmark before they moved to Germany. Up to this point in time every ancestor I have identified in that line has been German. But Ancestry's results show that my wife's genetic composition is 27% Scandinavian. So it appears that my mother-in-law was correct. That connection is



**14% of my
ethnicity
comes from
the Iberian
Peninsula???**

just farther back in time than I have so far been able to trace.

And then there are the unusual reasons why people get their DNA tested. The person at the top of my wife's list who was identified by Ancestry as being an "Extremely High" probability of being a 2nd or 3rd cousin falls into this category. After we contacted her she replied and confirmed she was related on my wife's father's side of the family. She stated in her e-mail that she was raised by her grandparents. Her grandfather and my wife's grandfather were brothers making my wife and her 2nd cousins. She wrote that she knows who her mother was but does not know the identity of her father. All she was ever told, for whatever reason, was the year her father was born and the state and county where he was born. She sent in her DNA to be tested hoping that someone would contact her from her father's side of the family. Unfortunately for her this hasn't happened yet. So when she found out that my wife's match with her was on her mother's side of the family she wasn't interested in pursuing this connection.

I have also learned that when receiving information from a potential match who has placed their family tree on line, you must be very careful and not accept their information at face value. Sometimes it is difficult to determine if another person's research is correct. Sometimes, however, it is readily apparent that their research is simply wrong. A potential match to my wife supplied by Ancestry posted her family tree on line and it illustrates this point.

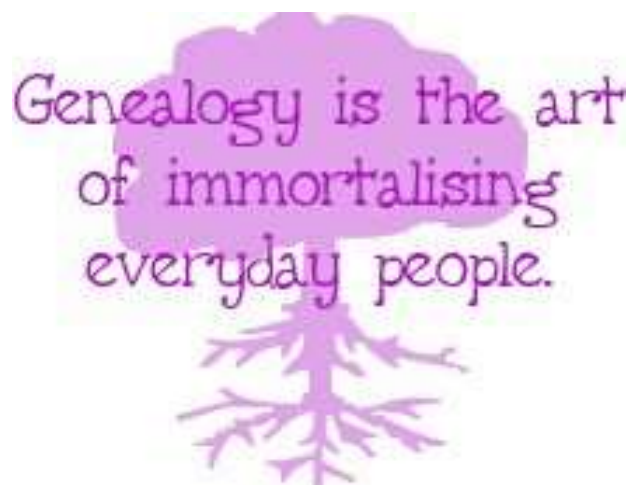
This potential match correctly identified one set of my wife's paternal great-grandparents. She correctly identified my wife's great-grandmother as having been married in New Jersey in 1875 and having children with my wife's great-grandfather in 1876, 1877 and 1879. But she incorrectly identified my wife's great-grandmother as having also been married in 1874 in England and having children in England in 1876 and 1879. By such erroneous logic my wife's great-grandmother would have been a remarkable woman. But I seriously doubt she was simultaneously married and having children with a man in England at the same time she was married and having the first 3 of her 17 children in New Jersey. Why someone would post a family tree on line with that type of information is hard to understand.

I have also learned that it is a good idea to keep a list of people who are possible matches to whom

you have tried to contact. Several times I have found myself starting to type an e-mail to someone whom I had previously sent an e-mail.

Finally it seems to me that the longer someone has been involved in genealogy the more benefits you can obtain from getting your DNA tested. This is because the farther back in time you have traced various family lines, the more names you are likely to recognize as a possible surname match. I mentioned that I recognized several possible matches from names on my mother's side of the family. At the time I started doing genealogy I had never heard these surnames mentioned within our family. The same is true for the previously mentioned 3rd cousins of mine on my father's side of the family who are on my list of probable matches. When I began doing genealogy I had never heard the surnames of these two people mentioned. But as I continued my research moving back in time I discovered family members with these new surnames. It was through this process that I discovered and eventually met these 3rd cousins. If I was just starting to do genealogy today and saw those two surnames I would have no reason to think those individuals were any relation to me.

So the bottom line for getting your DNA tested is that this process can connect you to relatives you probably do not know. And if you are lucky some of these distant relatives may be able to provide you with information allowing you to continue your research another generation or two back in time. Also it allows you to share information you have discovered with some of your newly found relatives. And that is what genealogy is all about.



Our Path Into Genealogy

By Arnold and Nancy Koslow

Nancy was born in San Diego, California and Arnold was born in Brooklyn, New York. Nancy was living in Walnut Creek and Arnold was working for GE as a Field Engineer on the Polaris Submarine Overhaul and Test Program at the Mare Island Shipyard when we met and married about a year later in Concord, California.

Nancy's Roeder (actually Sears)/Baltzell and Hill/Meyer roots in the U.S. track back many generations with the most recent of her ancestors (Meyer line) emigrating from Bremen, Germany in 1884. The Sears line traces to early Massachusetts and includes her ancestor William Brewster of the Mayflower. Others lines trace back to early Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Maryland, New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. Further research extends her ancestry to Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland and Scandinavia.

Arnold's Koslow/Mayer (previously Kacherginsky) ancestors immigrated to New York early in the 20th century (1904 to 1912) from Vidzie/Vilna (Lithuania/Russia) and Slonim/Grodno (Lithuania/Russia). While the geographic locations from which they migrated remained fixed, the country boundaries shifted over the years.

Before starting our genealogy quest, we fortunately had important information for a couple of generations on Nancy's side, including given and surnames and some of the location information noted above.

On Nancy's maternal side, besides the Sears ancestry, we knew the lineage included the Baltzell, Looney, Hanson and Logsdon families. This information was received from Nancy's mother as well as a couple of Baltzell family genealogy books (Brown-Baltzell and Baltzell Benedict-John Jacob-Atkison Cracraft Bicentennial 1976) that were written by relatives and that we had in our possession. These books traced the Baltzell lines to Maryland and Klingen, Alsace, Germany.

Nancy's paternal side included the McDowell, Hamilton, Adams, Meyer and Hill families. Family lore, (from her great aunt Kathryn Meyer), had the ancestry include (for sure) the families of founding fathers Alexander Hamilton and President John Adams, something we have confirmed

as not accurate.

On Arnold's side we knew much less except that his paternal grandfather Abraham Koslow immigrated by himself to New York from Slonim, Grodno, Russia in 1904, followed in 1909 by his wife (Mollie) and Arnold's Uncle Alex. Arnold's dad, Isadore (Irving) was born in New York after the family was reunited.

On Arnold's maternal side, the first immigrant was his Uncle Leon who arrived in 1904 from Vidzie, Lithuania with the details of his travels provided to us by his daughter, Charlotte. Arnold's Grandfather, Alex, migrated a few years later followed shortly after by Arnold's Grandmother, Fanny, who convinced her father to let her chase after Alex, probably using the fact that her older sister, Dora, was in New York having migrated there with her husband.

We fortunately had important information

The details of the above ancestries and what we have learned over the years beyond what we originally

knew hopefully will be the basis for future articles.

The real kickoff for our genealogical research focused on the Sears Line and occurred in 1976, just before our first daughter was born. We had moved from Vallejo, California to Cape Canaveral, Florida and then to Berkshire County, Massachusetts by Arnold's employer, as the division for which he worked was home based in Pittsfield. At the time of the move, Nancy's maternal grandmother informed her that Nancy's grandfather, Frank Sears, had been born in Pittsfield. As it turned out, our two girls were born in the hospital across the street from the house where their great-grandfather was born. Nancy, without realizing it, was attending the same Church in Stockbridge, Massachusetts that her ancestors attended. Some of them were buried in the cemetery across the street.

Nancy's mother had traveled from California to Massachusetts for the birth of our first child and since our daughter decided to be stubborn and delay her arrival from the womb for about 3 weeks, the three of us started doing local research on the Sears Family. This is when we discovered Frank's birth site and the fact that Frank's family for a time lived in Stockbridge and had a downtown mercantile store on the main street. From county and local

town records we traced the family to several other neighboring towns - Tyringham, Monterey and Sandisfield - in Berkshire County and started our trekking through many cemeteries, which has continued over the years.

From a Sears Genealogy book, *The Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears) of Yarmouth, Mass., 1638-1888* by Samuel P May, published in 1890 which we found in the Pittsfield Library, we were able to link the Berkshire County Sears Family to the Cape Cod Sears and Richard Sares (Sears), the immigrant, aka Richard the Pilgrim. The book also disclosed the familial link to William Brewster of the Mayflower as well as other early settlers of that same era which include George Willard, Edward Bangs, Richard Sparrow, Thomas Prince/Prence – who was married to Patience Brewster – William’s daughter, Edmund Freeman and John Mayo. These ties would not be unusual if your New England ancestry can be traced back that far. Nancy’s direct connection to William Brewster is through the wife of her 6th great-grandfather, Joshua Sears, who is the great-grandson of Richard the Pilgrim. Joshua’s wife Rebeckah Mayo is William Brewster’s 3rd great-granddaughter. She is also the 2nd great-granddaughter of John Mayo the first Minister of the “Old North Church” in Boston.

Anecdotally, Nancy kept kidding that she was going to sneak the Sears Genealogy book out of the Pittsfield Library but was able to restrain herself from doing that. Several years later, on the Genforum website, unfortunately no longer active, a Good Samaritan placed a notice at the Sears Surname Section that he had seen in an antique store the Sears Genealogy Book and provided contact info. I immediately called the store, which was in the mid west, and purchased it over the phone for \$5. This wound up being one of the best and cheapest Christmas presents I ever gave Nancy. Incidentally, the book is now available at Google Books, where it is fully searchable.

Over the years, we have added to and confirmed our information on the Sears and other ancestors by traveling the U.S., visiting courthouses, city halls, libraries collecting data from available records, local history books and genealogies. Additionally, we have collected information from websites including Family Search, USGENWEB, Ancestry, GenForum, Findagrave, Heritage Quest, Ellis Island, Stephen Morse One-Step, JewishGenWeb, Newspaper Archive, as well as State and Local Archives, Libraries, Historical and Ge-

nealogical Societies and Family Websites such as the Sears Family Association, www.searsr.com. We also exchanged and shared data with fellow researchers via email and postal mail.

Today with so much information currently on line and more being added daily, one can more easily research from home, the library or a Family History Center versus having to, as we did, travel to many parts of the country visiting courthouses, city halls, libraries, home sites, churches and graveyards. One can even walk through Graveyards at Findagrave.com. However, considerable, valuable data can only be found at the point of origin and there is definitely something special about going to the actual locations where your ancestors lived and worked; seeing their homes, farms, places of worship, places of business, etc. if they still exist. Touching the actual record books and courthouse papers provides a sense of closeness with the past which one doesn’t get by just sitting in front of a computer screen. In fact, Nancy says she can feel her Ancestors presence when she visits some of these locations.

Both the touchy feely research as well as the information on the Internet has allowed us to identify and come closer to ancestors who among other things came on the Mayflower, were involved in the founding of some towns, participated in the Boston Tea Party, made the Oklahoma Strip Run of 1893 and fought in the American Revolution, Spanish American War, War of 1812, Civil War, WWI and WWII. We also learned to understand the times they lived in, the way they lived their lives, the reasons for their migrations which paved the way for the current generation and who we are today. And as with all Genealogical research, the more you find out the more questions one has and of course there are always the Brick Walls that need to be pursued. And as Yogi Berra famously said, “It ain’t over till it’s over.” So the quest continues.

**New at the
Pleasanton Genealogy Library**

Courtesy of Tim Johnston, Administrative Librarian

Fundamentals of Genealogy: the Most Helpful Tools You’ve Never Used

Marsha Peterson-Maas

929.1 PETERSON-MAASS

First 10 Generations of Nancy (Hill) Koslow Sears' Maternal Lineage,
January 12, 2018

Gen 1	Richard Sares (Sears) b. abt. 1590 perhaps Croscombe, Somerset, England d. abt. August 26, 1676, Plymouth, Plymouth, Massachusetts m. before 1638 buried - unknown perhaps Ancient Sears Graveyard, West Brewster, Barnstable, Massachusetts Note – Ancestry unknown. First mentioned in 1633 Tax Rolls of Plymouth, Massachusetts	Dorothy perhaps Jones b. perhaps Dinder, Somerset, England d. after 1676 buried - unknown perhaps Ancient Sears Graveyard, West Brewster, Barnstable, Massachusetts Note – Richard's will mentions wife, Dorothy
Gen 2	Paul Sears b. Feb 20, 1638 Marblehead, Essex, Massachusetts d. Feb 20, 1708 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts m. 1658 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts buried - Yarmouth Ancient Cemetery, Yarmouth, Massachusetts Note - His gravestone is believed to be the oldest in the cemetery	Deborah Willard b. baptized 1645 Scituate, Plymouth, Massachusetts d. May 13, 1721 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts buried - Ancient Yarmouth Graveyard, Yarmouth, Massachusetts
Gen 3	Paul Sears b. Jun 15, 1669 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts d. Feb 17, 1740 West Brewster, Barnstable, Massachusetts m. 1693 Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts buried - Ancient Sears Cemetery, West Brewster, Barnstable, Massachusetts	Marcy (Mercy) Freeman b. Oct 30, 1674 Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts d. Aug 30, 1747 West Brewster, Barnstable, Massachusetts buried - Ancient Sears Cemetery West Brewster, Massachusetts
Gen 4	Joshua Sears b. Nov 20, 1708 Yarmouth, Barnstable, Massachusetts d. Sep 27, 1753 Middletown, Middlesex, Connecticut m. Feb 10, 1731 East Chatham, Barnstable, Massachusetts buried unknown	Rebeckah (Rebecca) Mayo b. Oct 10, 1713 Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts d. unknown buried - Unknown
Gen 5	Paul Sears b. Oct 18, 1740 Harwich, Barnstable, Massachusetts d. Aug 19, 1832 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts m. 1762 Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut buried - Sandisfield Center Cemetery, Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts	Elizabeth Slawter b. 1741 Simsbury, Hartford, Connecticut d. Jul 18, 1800 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Sandisfield Center Cemetery, Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts
Gen 6	Simeon Sears b. Oct 7, 1776 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. probably Dec 23, 1863 Indiana County, Pennsylvania m. 1801 East Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut buried - East Mahoning Cemetery, Purchase Line, Indiana, Pennsylvania Note – death date based on grave marker info, birth date, & 1860 census stated living in Green Township, Indiana, Pennsylvania.	Lovisa (Louise) Spencer b. about 1777 d. Jul 14, 1844 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - unknown Note - Louisa was Simeon's 2 nd wife.
Gen 7	Norman Spencer Sears b. Jan 7, 1805 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Sep 26, 1892 Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts m. Apr 29, 1837 Otis, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Old Center Cemetery, Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts	Olive Spear b. Aug 3, 1802 Otis, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Jun 14, 1878 Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Old Center Cemetery, Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts Note - Olive was Norman's 2 nd wife.
	Emily B. Sears b. Apr 17, 1809 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Oct or Nov 27, 1886 Athens, Bradford, Pennsylvania or Stockbridge, Berkshire, Massachusetts m. Sep 21, 1832 prob. Tyringham, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens, Bradford, Pennsylvania Notes – Daughter of Gen 6 Simeon and Lovisa. Headstone and Stockbridge Town Records differ on death date.	Sam'l (Samuel) Thompson b. Aug 23, 1805 South Tyringham, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Jan 27, 1886 Athens, Bradford, Pennsylvania buried - Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens, Bradford, Pennsylvania

Gen 8	John Simeon Sears b. May 31, 1842 South Tyringham, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Aug 15, 1905 Pittsfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts m. Jan 18, 1866 Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Stockbridge Cemetery Stockbridge, Massachusetts Note -John Simeon and Julia Ann were first cousins. He was son of Norman Spencer and Olive and grandson of Gen 6 Simeon and Louisa.	Julia Ann Thompson b. Sep 7, 1841 South Tyringham, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Dec 6, 1919 Pittsfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts buried - Stockbridge Cemetery Stockbridge, Massachusetts Notes - Julia was the daughter of Gen 7 Emily B Sears and Samuel Thompson and granddaughter of Gen 6 Simeon and Louisa. Julia was an early Suffragette and a friend of Susan B Anthony. She was also an officer in the local Pittsfield, Massachusetts WCTU (Women's Christian Temperance Union).
Gen 9	Alfred John Sears b. May 9, 1871 Monterey, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Jul 10, 1932 Dayton, Montgomery, Ohio m. Oct 1, 1893 Lincoln, Lancaster, Nebraska buried - Woodland Cemetery, Dayton, Montgomery, Ohio	Effie H. Hanson b Nov 2, 1876 Bennet, Lancaster, Nebraska d. Nov 17, 1966 Burbank, Los Angeles, California buried - Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Omaha, Douglas, Nebraska
Gen 10	Frank (Sears) Roeder b. Jul 15, 1894 Pittsfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts d. Jul 9, 1955 San Diego, San Diego, California m. Sep 29, 1918 Fairfield, Jefferson, Iowa buried - Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, San Diego, California Note -Took Surname of Stepfather	Alta Maud Baltzell b. Sep 30, 1895 Fairfield, Jefferson, Iowa d. Apr 6, 1994 San Diego, San Diego, California buried - Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, San Diego, California

President's Message, continued from page 3

sharp decline in the price of linen, crippling the economic prospects of most home-based weavers. The Mathews were just one of many families that gave up the Weaver's trade and immigrated to America.

Whatever the reason, it appears that Thomas made the decision to leave Ireland but lacked the necessary capital to buy passage to America. Family histories tell the unlikely story that, one evening while returning home from Ballymoney, he found a wallet in the road with more than enough funds to finance the voyage and no identification. It was not until after he had moved his family to America that he learned through correspondence who the owner was. Thomas and his sons then made up the amount and sent it back to the man who had lost it.

Carrying with them only three boxes, two barrels and their bedding, eight members of the Mathews family, Thomas, Nancy, James, William, Hugh, Adam, Jannet and Alexander, left Belfast on Sept 25, 1839, and, after a stopover in Liverpool, boarded the ship 'Jane Ross' of Philadelphia, and set sail for New Orleans, arriving in February, 1840. Four of the Mathews children traveled to America separately as all were later reunited in Randolph County.

In an age when infant mortality claimed the lives of almost fifty percent of our nation's children, the Mathews family was indeed fortunate. Of the ten children of Thomas and Nancy Mathews, all but one grew to adulthood. Even that one death was due not to illness but rather to a tragic accident. Six-year-old Alexander was given his first knife and, in his excitement, he ran outside to show it to his brother, Joseph, who was just returning home on his horse. The unexpected sight of the child rushing towards it spooked the spirited animal and it reared up, kicking Alexander in the chest. Neighbors were summoned and Alexander was bled, a common treatment of the day, but to no avail. Having suffered severe internal injuries, the youngest member of the Mathews family weakened and died within hours. Although we don't know for sure what impact this tragedy had on Joseph, it is noteworthy that he named his first son Alexander, after his baby brother. That son grew to become my great grandfather.

There are often times we feel lost and adrift, without any clear idea of who we are. At times like these I take great comfort in remembering that I am not the first of my kind and I will not be the last. The stories of our lives can give us comfort, and guidance and let us know that we are not alone in the universe.

Tom Mathews, President, L-AGS

Planning a trip?

By Caye Johnson

If you are planning a trip to the communities where your ancestors lived, even though that is not the purpose of the trip, add a little extra time to learn about their lives. Our younger son recently moved to the Philadelphia area and when we visited him for Thanksgiving, we took the opportunity to learn more about my great-aunt, Mary Meredith McLean, the older sister of my paternal grandmother, Louisa Meredith Collins.

I looked through my mother's address book and reread her diary entry for the visit we made in 1952 to my father's first cousin, James McLean, Mary's younger son. Low and behold, when sifting

through the research which I had previously done on that line, I discovered a letter from Mary's granddaughter, Linda Taub Fiscus. They know little about their ancestors other than that they used to take the train to McLean Station and have picnics in a nearby meadow. Prior to leav-

ing, I contacted the Reading Railroad and they told me approximately where the McLean Station had been and provided a picture of the Station to me. Supposedly, the station building still existed and was located on the Hersh property surrounded by the Macoby Run Golf Course. However, that did not give me an address.

It took several hours of searching land records at the Office of the Montgomery County [Pennsylvania] Recorder of Deeds in the county seat, Norristown, to learn the address. Along the way, I learned that the McLeans bought the property in 1863 for \$4,200.00. But the description of the property in that record was the time honored metes and bounds method¹ —

rather than a modern address one could find on a map. By diligently tracing the sales of the property by Alexander McLean's four children to Victor C. Hersh in 1919 and then from Victor to his son Floyd Hersh in 1957 I was finally able to get an address and visit the property. The station



McLeans passenger station, Reading [Pennsylvania] Railroad

¹Metes and bounds is a system or method of describing land, real property (in contrast to personal property) or real estate. Typically the system uses physical features of the local geography, along with directions and distances, to define and describe the boundaries of a parcel of land. The boundaries are described in a running prose style, working around the parcel in sequence, from a point of beginning, returning to the same point; compare with the oral ritual of beating the bounds. It may include references to other adjoining parcels (and their owners), and it, in turn, could also be referred to in later surveys. At the time the description is compiled, it may have been marked on the ground with permanent monuments placed where there were no suitable natural monuments.

Metes. The term "metes" refers to a boundary defined by the measurement of each straight run, specified by a distance between the terminal points, and an orientation or direction. A direction may be a simple compass bearing, or a precise orientation determined by accurate survey methods.

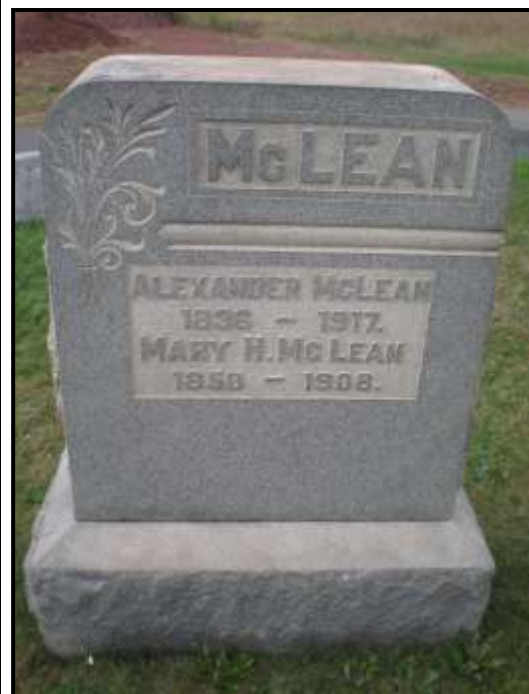
Bounds. The term "bounds" refers to a more general boundary description, such as along a certain watercourse, a stone wall, an adjoining public road way, or an existing building. The system is often used to define larger pieces of property (e.g. farms), and political subdivisions (e.g. town boundaries) where precise definition is not required or would be far too expensive, or previously designated boundaries can be incorporated into the description.

building no longer exists but I was able to see the portion of the Macoby Run Golf Course which was the original McLean farm. Needless to say, when my cousin, Linda Taub Fiscus, had those picnics on the meadow near the McLean Station, they were undoubtedly trespassing since the land

no longer belonged to them. My great-aunt, Mary Meredith McLean, and her husband, Alexander, are buried in New Goshenhoppen UCC Cemetery, East Greenville, Montgomery County, only a few miles from the farm.

I had always wondered why my great-grandfather, Benjamin Meredith (Mary Meredith McLean's father) and his brother, Samuel, had immigrated to the Philadelphia area rather than to somewhere else in the United States. This trip helped answer that question. They were both master stone masons in England, but the steel industry in the little village of Sedgley where they lived was collapsing, and rather than move somewhere else in England, they immigrated to the United States in the 1860's and according to the 1870's federal census were living in Lower Saucona Township, Northampton County near the Saucona Iron Company (later the Bethlehem Steel Corporation. We have visited distant relatives in Sedgley and the house where my great-grandfather Benjamin Meredith grew up was moved, brick by brick, to the Black Country Living Museum on Tipton Road, Dudley, West Midlands, England.

Meredith Lineages	
Joseph Meredith b. 2 Apr 1766 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England d. 22 Dec 1841 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England m. 4 Aug 1803, Sedgley, Staffordshire, England Mary (nee Rochel) Crook 3rd wife	
Benjamin Meredith b. 4 Aug 1805 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England d. 25 Mar 1884 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England m. 23 Apr 1826 St Mary's, Kingswinford Parish, Staffordshire, England Mary Timmins	
Benjamin Franklin Meredith b. 18 Sept 1832 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England d. 27 Oct 1906 Cleburne, Johnson, Texas m. 5 Nov 1855 St. Thomas, Dudley, England Sarah Bradley	
Louisa Eleanor Meredith b. 1 Jun 1864 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England d. 5 May 1919 El Centro, Imperial, California m. 2 Jul 1892 Portland, Multnomah, Oregon Charles Walter Collins	Mary H. Meredith b. Apr 1858 Sedgley, Staffordshire, England d. 1908 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania m. about 1877 probably Marlborough Township, Montgomery, Pennsylvania
Walter Benjamin Collins b. 28 Apr 1900 Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California d. 13 Jan 1990 El Centro, Imperial, California m. 24 Aug 1937 Reno, Washoe, Nevada Violet Ethel Thurston	Adam McLean b. 11 Oct 1878 Red Hill, Montgomery, Pennsylvania d. Mar 1968 m. 1907 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Lulu Constance Frith
Caye Collins Johnson, author of article, living	Elizabeth Constance McLean b. 1911 Pennsylvania d. 26 Apr 1995 m. about 1939 Pennsylvania George Louis Traub
	Linda Traub Fiscus, cousin mentioned in article, living



Alexander and Mary Meredith McLean's grave marker.

Membership Renewal Form

L-AGS annual membership dues are due and payable on or before January 1st.
 Please complete this form, attach your check, bring to the general meeting or mail to:

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society
 P.O. Box 901
 Livermore CA 94551

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Telephone: _____ eMail: _____

*Please check a box below to indicate your membership choice and circle whether: Renew, Rejoin or New and how you would like to receive *The Livermore Roots Tracer**

	Individual	\$18	Renew, Rejoin, New	<i>The Livermore Roots Tracer</i> _____ e-mail (full color) _____ U.S. Mail (black & white)
	Family (2 or more people at same address)	\$25		
	Individual Benefactor	\$40		
	Family Benefactor	\$40		
	Patron	\$100		

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