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# 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

July, 2019

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

## *Patrons*

Richard and Jean Lerche, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner, Anonymous

## *Benefactors*

Kristina Ahuja, Annette Breingan, Marilyn A Cutting, Linda Driver, Gail Fairfield, Richard Finn, Sharon Garrison, Barbara Hempill, Arnold and Nancy Koslow, Thomas Mathews, Cindy McKenna, Ileen J. Peterson, Peggy Weber

*Total L-AGS Members as of October 30, 2019; 112 memberships and 132 Members*

## Meeting News

**General Meetings** — Usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 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 (Duncan Tanner)

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

Pleasanton Genealogy Center — is jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library. A L-AGS docent is available by mutually convenient appointment, e-mail: [docents.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:docents.chair@L-AGS.org), at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California.

**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 2019

President	<a href="mailto:president@L-AGS.org">president@L-AGS.org</a>	Julie Liu
VP/Program Chair	<a href="mailto:program@L-AGS.org">program@L-AGS.org</a>	Tom Mathews
VP/Membership Chair	<a href="mailto:membership@L-AGS.org">membership@L-AGS.org</a>	Jim Stinecipher
Corresponding Secretary		Ken Bredlau
Recording Secretary		Susan Davis
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

So what is happening at L-AGS? The nominating committee (aka myself) is setting up the slate of officers for the year 2020. Most of the positions have a member who has volunteered to fill that position. If anyone else would like to put their name forward, please let me know.

**We are actively seeking a member to fill the membership position also known as 2<sup>nd</sup> VP.** This could be a 1 person job or you could bring a buddy along to share the responsibilities and make it a 2 person job. This organization does not continue without member participation. We would love to have you working with us. Come join us.



*A grainy picture of my Dad, Carl Gilliland, in a VA hospital bed*

The fall season is fast approaching and with it will come many fall family events. Maybe it's Thanksgiving, Christmas or Hanukkah when your families will be gathering to be together.

Will this be an opportunity to collect some stories or share some?

I will be travelling to Nebraska this month. There are several reasons for the trip but the biggest reason is to reconnect with my 90 year old aunt who is my mother's older sister. I have many family pictures that I recently inherited that I will be sharing with her and hoping for answers to a couple of questions. There is a grainy picture of my dad in a hospital bed, a picture of a Veterans Administration building and one of a more youthful man in his newly pressed uniform. I am hoping that my aunt may be able to flesh out these pictures to add a little more story to them.

So here's hoping that you will have many opportunities coming up over the next several months. Take advantage of any genealogical opportunities that may present themselves.

Post note: - I didn't get to take my trip. I had to cancel at the last minute with a horrible cold. Just goes to prove, take the opportunities when they come.

Julie Liu

### *The Livermore Roots Tracer*

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

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to: [rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org) or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

### *The Roots Tracer Staff*

**Editor**..... Patrick Lofft

**Contributors**..... Barbara Hempill, Virginia Loewe, Patrick Lofft, Kelly O'Hair

**Composer**..... Andi Winters

**Printing and Distribution**.... Sue Davis,  
..... Jean Lerche

## Grandmother Sara Adelaide Acheson Crawford

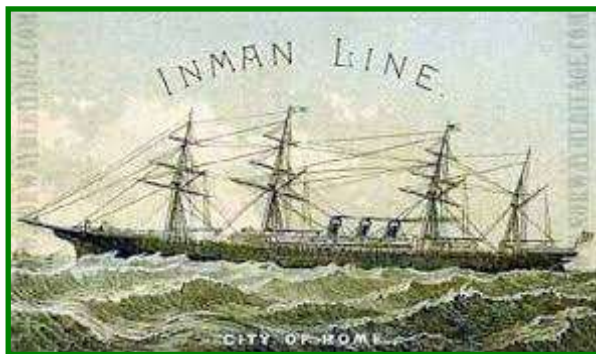
By Virginia Loewe

In my family there were many strong women but the one who stands out is my maternal grandmother, Sara Adelaide Acheson.



*Sara Adelaide Acheson, 1894 or 1895*

She was born in a small town, Cloonagh, in northwest Ireland, in the county of Leitrim, province of Connacht but she did not stay in Ireland long. It must have taken courage for her to leave for the United States at the age of twenty-four. She trav-



*Inman Line steamship "The City of Rome"*



*Sara A. Crawford and her youngest child, about 1908*

eled alone on a steamship, "The City of Rome". (All her brothers and sisters followed her over the next ten years).

Since we could never induce her to tell us about her early life, we can only assume that she recognized that Ireland would not provide the kind of life she hoped to have. She had been in New York City less than a year when she met her husband to be, Robert Crawford, and they were married in December of that year, and the next November her first child was born in New York City.

During the next eight years her husband repeatedly uprooted his family, making their home in four different places as his financial situation took off. During this time her second child was born in Massachusetts; her next two in Richmond, Virginia, and her last child was born Montreal, Canada. In 1905 they moved to Streator, [LaSalle and Livingston counties] Illinois where her husband builds a factory to repair freight cars. It becomes

the major industry in the town of 14,000 inhabitants, employing more than 900 workers. Those must have been busy years for her but it was later in her life when her strength and determination were most manifest. An indication of her strong will appeared the winter of 1911 when, on the advice of her doctor that her ailing fourth child, Audrey Beryl Crawford, spend the winter in California to improve her health, she declares that she will take this six-year old to San Diego. When her husband asks who will take care of the other four children, Robert Acheson, Florence Vivian, Norman Acheson and Grace Robson she announces that she will take all of them to California for the winter.

And she does, staying in San Diego until late April. By 1916 a world-wide depression contributes to the collapse of her husband's million dollar industry and the family finances change dramatically. With the failure of his business her husband deserts his family, moving to Montana. She handles this shock well. First she sells all their valuables: oriental rugs, silver and jewelry, paintings, and furniture and even moves into a much humbler house. But she has no steady



*Sara Crawford with her children*

#### Lineage Sara Adelaide Acheson Crawford

Andrew Acheson

b. 1818 Leitrim, Ireland

d. 1898 Leitrim, Ireland

m. 1862 Killarney, Ireland

Susan McKinley

b. about 1849 Ireland

d. 1904 Manhattan, New York, New York

Sara Adelaide Acheson

b. 20 Mar 1870 Cloonagh, Leitrim, Ireland

d. 20 Dec 1965 Palatine, Cook, Illinois

m. 28 Dec 1895 Chicago, Cook, Illinois

Robert William Crawford

b. 1865 Carlisle, Cumberland, England

d. 1936 Chicago Ridge, Cook, Illinois

Audrey Beryl Crawford

b. 1904 Richmond, Virginia

d. 1989 Livermore, Alameda, California

m. 1929 Chicago, Illinois

Leon Adrian Decker

b. 1903 Cape Girardeau, Missouri

d. 1981 Chicago, Cook, Illinois

Audrey Virginia Decker

source of income now and in addition she has two sons ready for college, and three daughters not yet finished with school. Her solution shows both courage and ingenuity. She finds and rents a very large apartment near the University of Chicago, which she operates as a "boarding house." She told me that she sold the last of her diamond rings to pay the boys' initial tuition bill. Her children are resourceful too. The girls take business courses since college is no longer an option for them, and find jobs as stenographers. Her sons work nights while going to school during the daytime, and finish school to become a lawyer and an M. D. All this happened before I was born, but I remember this grandmother as sweet and very supportive, taking my side when appropriate. I have asked my cousins how they remember their Grandmother Crawford and each of them speaks of how they felt she was their champion. Sara lived to be 97 years old. She showed incredible forgiveness toward her husband. When he returned to Chicago in 1936, the last year of his life, she nursed him through his last days.



## Adam was a Baker

By Barbara Hempill

The Great Chicago Fire of 1871 had consumed the entire central core of the city, but the “I will” spirit of the city prevailed. No sooner were the ashes swept away than plans were laid for a new and better city—one built of brick rather than wood. Perhaps it was that spirit that attracted my great grandfather, Adam Kurth, when he emigrated to Chicago in 1872 from his birthplace in Germany with his pregnant young wife, Marguerite Kurz, who he had married in London during a three-year stay in England, prior to coming to the United States.



1872 Kurth, Adam & Margarethe Passenger list extract

The young couple, both 22 years of age, arrived at the port of New York on the steamer Smidt in August 1872.<sup>1</sup> According to the ship’s manifest, Adam was listed as a merchant. However, when he first arrived in Chicago, Adam worked for a while as a carpenter, perhaps because of the urgent demand for construction workers as an aftermath of the fire. By October 1872, new buildings worth nearly \$50 million had been constructed. Chicago was not only the nation’s sec-

<b>ICE</b>	Kurtemeyer John H. (Gernhart & Kurtemeyer) r. 571 Milwaukee av.
	Kurth Adam, baker, r. 133 Church
	Kurth August, housemover, r. 136 Bushnell

1874, Kurth, Adam, baker, *Chicago City Directory*, pg. 654

<b>Kurtatecke Albert, lab. house 692 W. 19th</b>
<b>Kurth Adam, baker, house 282 W. Huron</b>
<b>Kurth Charles, cabinetmkr. house 121 Front</b>

1878 Kurth, Adam, baker, *Chicago City Directory*, pg. 622

ond largest city, but also its fastest growing city.

However, we can tell construction was not Ad-

<sup>1</sup>New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1891." Database with images. FamilySearch. <https://FamilySearch.org> : 5 March 2019. Citing NARA microfilm publication M237. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

<sup>2</sup>Ancestry.com. U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

am’s ultimate employment goal because he is listed in the 1874 city directory at 133 Church and the 1878 city directory and the 1880 U.S. Census<sup>2</sup> as working in a bake shop on 282 W. Huron Street a modestly prosperous area where many Germans lived on the near north side of the city that had been rebuilt after the fire. This was a first step to getting into the bakery trade. By 1880 Adam and Marguerite lived in the same building where he worked. This common practice at the time certainly was an advantage on a cold, dark winter morning when coal was the source of heat for bakery ovens. Bakers had to arrive for work very early in the morning to rekindle the fire from the day before or to start a new one, mix the dough in time for it to rise, and bake the bread and rolls before the arrival of their earliest customers.

By 1879 my grandfather, Henry Kurth, had been born in January 1873, his brother John had been born in 1875, and a sister Bertha, born in 1878, had passed away following the 1880 census.

Before organizing a union, bakers were required to work long, hard hours. A union was formed to im-

1880 Census, Adam Kurth & family

prove the working conditions for the bakers, which at the time, had an average work week estimated to be 108 hours, often working 16 hours a day. The Chicago Bakers’ Union, like those in New York, included a large percentage of German bakers.

The long hours the bakers worked led to a strong labor movement in Chicago with the goals of shorter working hours and higher wages. This often led to violent strikes, with saloons the center of male social life. And reformers saw them as places that incited riotous behavior.

With feelings of pride and civic responsibility, Adam was influential in the Bakers’ Union. In 1881, he published a circular in the Illinois *Staats-Zeitung* [State Newspaper] announcing that an employment office had opened in the Bakers’ Union office. He wrote, “The object is to combat the bad



Adam Kurth

influence of loafing in saloons. It cannot be denied that taverns have a deleterious effect upon unemployed bakery workers; card games are constantly indulged in, and the saloonkeeper, in accordance with his interests—gladly chalks up his bill—facts which are not designed to further the moral or financial welfare of the men who frequent such places.” The Bakers’

Union required a fee of twenty-five cents if a job was secured.

In 1884, Adam moved his family to a newly constructed neighborhood on the south side of Chicago at 2800 Groveland Avenue with ready access to the city center by street car. By 1890 he was working in a bakery at 2740 Cottage Grove and living next door at 2742. In addition, he bought a house which he rented to two families.

Then in 1892, Adam bought the bakery where he worked on Cottage Grove and went into a part-

Kurter J. painter 171 Wright  
 Kurth Adam, baker, h. 2800 Groveland av.  
 Kurth Adolph G. saloon 1581 Milwaukee av. h.  
 1049 S. Oakley av.

1887 Kurth, Adam, City Directory Chicago, Illinois, pg.: 907



Kurth Brothers Bakery Delivery Wagon

Lineage for Adam Kurth

Adam Kurth  
 b. 1850 Hesse, Germany  
 d. 1910 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 m. 1872 London, England  
 Marguerite Kurz  
 b. 1850 Germany  
 d. 1897 Chicago, Cook, Illinois

Henry Kurth  
 b. 1873 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 d. 1957 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 m. 1895 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 Etta Sommer  
 b. 1875 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 d. 1946 Kankakee, Illinois

George Kurth  
 b. 1900 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 d. 1990 Livermore, Alameda, California  
 m. Robertina Morrison  
 b. 1901 Chicago, Cook, Illinois  
 d. 1973 Naperville, Illinois

Barbara (Kurth) Hempill  
 b. Chicago, Cook, Illinois

nership business which lasted for a few years until his sons Henry and John joined him in the business. A few years later, his sons Henry and John opened their own business as Kurth Brothers Bakery.

The Kurth family continued to own the Cottage Grove business until 1900 when Henry opened his own bakery farther south at 47<sup>th</sup> Street. By this time Adam had purchased another apartment complex, evidently intending to live on income from rents after retiring; however, he died in 1910 at the age of sixty.

I am deeply indebted to Charles Kleekamp for technical and historical information in this article which can be found in his biography of his grandfather Adam Kurth, to be published in the near future under the title: *The Baker, the Doctor, a “Widow” and a Counterfeiter.*

## My father Paul Albert O'Hair (b1920 d1996)

By Kelly O'Hair

My father, Paul Albert O'Hair (b1920 d1996), served in WWII and was stationed in Burma and India manning airport control towers. His experiences in WWII, capability as a licensed pilot and his strong interest in electronics landed him a civilian career in Air Traffic Control.

Paul was an Air Traffic Controller and then a Supervisor for 33 years. The job allowed him to provide for his family of 4 boys, but it was clear that at some point, the job had taken a toll on him and his health. Being responsible for "dots" on a radar screen (or dozens of dots on dozens of radar screens while being a supervisor) was stressful, each "dot" could be representing a plane with 100's of passengers. Later in his career, poor health allowed him to at least retire a year early at 54, and just 7 years later Ronald Reagan firing over 11,000 of these hard



*L-R:*

*Mike, Pat, Kevin, Kelly, and Paul Albert O'Hair*

working and stressed air traffic controllers, including a lifetime ban on being rehired.

For my Dad, when he left the FAA, they were required to retrain him in a new field, so he went back to school and learned how to repair color TVs. This added to his skills at fixing anything electronic: radios, black and white TVs, CB radios, and shortwave radios.

In retirement he enjoyed family, traveling in his pickup truck all over the western United States (for some reason he avoided airplanes and flying anywhere) and eventually built a summer house in Koosharem, Sevier, Utah.

I will always admire and appreciate my father's dedication to his work and support of his family, doing a job that was so stressful and important. To all the Air Traffic Controllers out there, I understand what the job can do to you and will always support the hidden workers that are so important and critical to everyone's safety.



*Paul Albert O'Hair, air traffic controller*



## My namesake, Patrick Lough, Lofft, Lofts, Loftt 1869-1894

Was the family's surname changed or was the immigrant's speech misunderstood due to his accent? My personal family history search began many years ago because I had difficulty reconciling my father's statement that his family heritage was Irish because our surname lacked any resemblance to the many common Irish surnames in Buffalo, Erie, New York.

My great-grandfather's name was James Lough, Lofft, Lofts, or Loftt on various records in the U.S. James' son, my granduncle and namesake, Patrick, was born on 3 November 1869 at 20 Ellison Street in the town of Jarrow, County of Durham, North East England, United Kingdom. His parents' names, James Lough and Bridget [née Glen] Lough, are clearly recorded on the Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth, General Register Office.<sup>1</sup> He was baptized on 24 June 1869 in Saint Bede's Roman Catholic Church, Town of Jarrow.<sup>2</sup>

On the United Kingdom Census of 2 April 1871, Patrick was listed in the household of James Lough along with his elder siblings James, my grandfather, Bernard and Mary in 91 Ellison Street, Town of Jarrow.<sup>3</sup>

James Lough	Head
Bridget do	Wife
James do	Son
Bernard do	do
Mary do	Daughter
Patrick do	Son

1871 UK Census Lough, James, Bridget, James, Bernard, Mary, Patrick

Four years later Patrick was listed as a passenger with Bridget Loft and his four siblings dated 13 September 1873 on the S/S City of Brooklyn,

0	Bridget Loft	24	1	1/2	Irish	✓
50	James	17	1	1/2	Irish	✓
1	Bernard	7	1	1/2	Irish	✓
2	Mary	4	1	1/2	Irish	✓
3	Pat	3	1	1/2	Irish	✓
4	James	1	1	1/2	Irish	✓

1873 S/S City of Brooklyn, Loft, Bridget, James, Bernard, Mary, Pat, Teresa

Inman Line, New York City, New York.<sup>4</sup>

On 7 June 1880 Patrick was enumerated on the US Federal Census of Groveland, Livingston County, New York, in the household of James and Bridget Lofts.<sup>5</sup>

On 24 October 1881 Patrick's father, James, ex-

73 73	Lofts James	71-7-48		✓
	Bridget	71-7-35	wife	✓
	Bernard	71-7-13	son	✓
	Mary	71-7-10	daughter	✓
	Patrick	71-7-8	son	✓
	Theresa	71-7-7	daughter	✓
	Elizabeth	71-7-4	daughter	✓

1880 US census: Lofts: James, Bridget, Bernard, Mary, Patrick, Theresa, Elizabeth

cutted his Declaration of Intent in New York State Court, Livingston County. Very clearly James did not sign the Declaration as indicated by "his

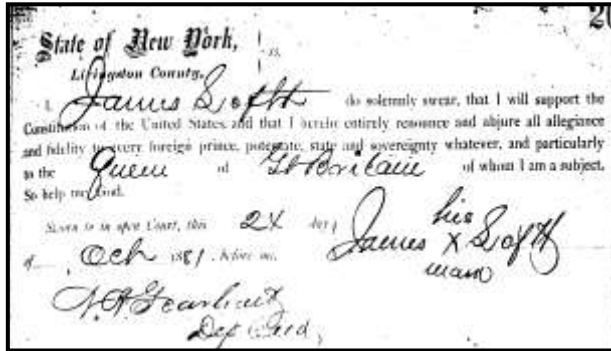
<sup>1</sup>Certified Copy of an Entry of Birth, General Register Office, Registration District: South Shields, County of Durham, No. 103, Third November 1869

<sup>2</sup>St. Bede's Roman Catholic Church records, 1861-1988, Baptismal Index, England, Durham, Jarrow, film # Baptisms, 1861-1879 - FHL BRITISH Film 2046479 Items 5-6, Family History Library, Salt Lake City.

<sup>3</sup>James Lough, 1871 United Kingdom Census, United States Federal Census [database on-line], Ancestry.com Operations Inc., Provo, Utah, USA, Entry ID: page 7, family number 30, Ancestry.com; United States Federal Census (database on-line) RG 10/5043-5044; GSU roll: 848497; Ancestry.com. 1871 England Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004., 1871, United Kingdom population census; James Lough, Head, married, age 32, born Ireland; Bridget, wife, married, age 31, born Ireland; James, son, age 12, born Ireland; Bernard, son, age 5, born Durham, Jarrow; Mary, daughter, age 3, born Ireland; Patrick, son, age 2, born Durham, Jarrow

<sup>4</sup>1873; S/S City of Brooklyn Arrival: New York, United States; Microfilm Serial: M237; Microfilm Roll: M237\_381; Line: 20; List Number: 977. Ancestry.com. New York Passenger Lists, 1820-1957 [database on-line]. Provo, Utah

<sup>5</sup>Census 1880, US New York, Livingston, Groveland, population schedule, Enumeration District (ED) 24, page/sheet 12A, Lofts, James household, line 22, dwelling 73, family 73; National Archives micropublication T9\_858, page 112; (neither James nor Bridget could read or write).

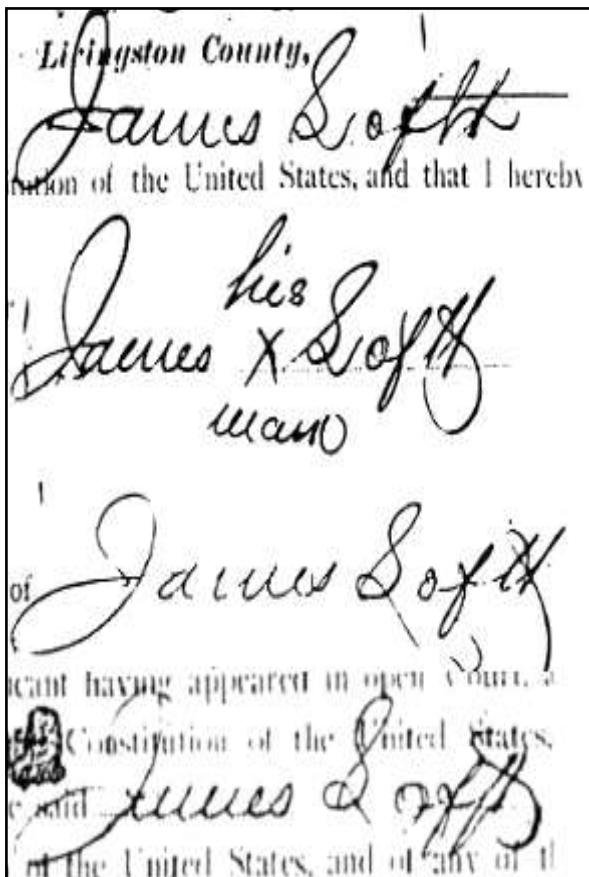


Declaration of Intent, State of New York, Livingston County

Family name <b>Lofft</b>	Given name or names <b>James</b>
Address	
Certificate no. (or vol. and page)	Title and location of court
<b>Naturalization No. 4 P-202 Court- Liv. Co.</b>	<b>Court- Liv. Co.</b>
Country of birth or allegiance <b>Gt. Britain</b>	When born (or age)
Date and part of arrival in U. S.	Date of naturalization <b>Oct. 24, 1881</b>
Name and address of witnesses	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, Immigration and Naturalization Service. Form No. 1-IP. 2-1-1909	

Declaration of Intent, State of New York, Livingston County

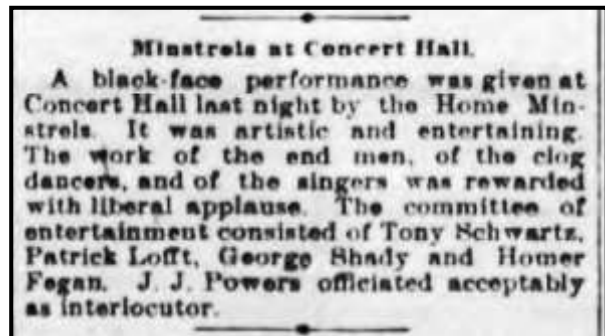
Twelve years later, 1893, Patrick Lofft's occupation was publicized in the following article from the Buffalo Evening News on Friday April 28, 1893.<sup>7</sup>



Four variations of surname in the Declaration of Intent: Lof?t, Loftt, Lofit, Lofft

X mark." Less clear is the spelling of the surname which appears four times in the Declaration.<sup>6</sup>

When the Court elected to organize the Declaration of Intent on typewritten index cards provided by the Department of Labor, Immigration and Naturalization Service the spelling of the surname was chosen to be: Loftt.



Minstrels at Concert Hall

*Minstrels at Concert Hall*

*A black face performance was given at [Brady's] Concert Hall last night by the Home Minstrels. It was artistic and entertaining.*

*The Work of the end men, of the clog dancers, and of the singers was rewarded with liberal applause. The committee of entertainment consisted of Tony Schwartz [Patrick's brother-in-law], Patrick Lofft, George Shady and Homer Fegan. J. J. Power, officiated acceptably as in-*

<sup>6</sup>Declaration of Intent, Card index to naturalization, G-Mo 1834-1953 - FHL US/CAN Film 989234, Livingston County Court, New York State

<sup>7</sup>"Minstrels at Concert Hall," *Buffalo Evening News*, Friday APRIL 28, 1893, digital image, *Fulton History* (<http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>).

*terlocutor.*

The following year his death was chronicled amid continuing variations of his surname.

Buffalo Evening News, Friday, November 23, 1894, page 1, column 5

*One of the World's Sad Short Stories.*

*Patrick Loftus, 24 years old, died alone in a room on the fourth floor of the tenement house at 187 Main street last evening. He was a song and dance man and had been employed in Canal street saloons.*

*The Coroner took charge of his remains.*

To assert her claim to the accuracy of the family's proper surname Theresa [née Wiest] Loftt, wife of Patrick's older brother, Bernard, wrote the following to the newspaper:

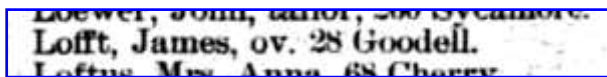
Buffalo Evening News, Tuesday, November 27, 1894

*His Name Was Loftt.*

*Editor Evening News:*

*Will you please state that the name of the young man who died recently in a Main street boarding house was Patrick Loftt and not Loftus. Also that he was employed in concert halls and not in saloons.*

[signed] SISTER-IN-LAW



*1885 Loftt, James; Buffalo City Directory*

Nevertheless previously in 1885, my grandfather, James Loftt, 1861-1905, had settled on Loftt as his preferred spelling of the surname.

Lineage James LOUGH	
James LOUGH b. c 1838 Ireland d. 1892 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. c 1859 Clones, Monaghan, Ireland Bridget GLENN b. 1836 Ireland d. 1917 Buffalo, Erie, New York	
James Simon LOFFT b. 1861 Clones, Monaghan, Ireland d. 1909 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. 1888 Buffalo, Erie, New York Mary Ann Angela O'NEILL b. 1863 Spartansburg, Crawford, Pennsylvania d. 1943 Buffalo, Erie, New York	Patrick LOFFT b. 1869 Jarrow, Durham, North East England, England d. 1894 Buffalo, Erie, New York
Bernard Thomas LOFFT b. 1895 Bellevue, Cheektowaga, Erie, New York d. 1965 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. 1938 Buffalo, Erie, New York Grace Geraldine ELTGES b. 1910 Buffalo, Erie, New York d. 1977 Buffalo, Erie, New York	
Patrick Michael LOFFT b. Buffalo, Erie, New York	

My continuing research convinces me that genealogy is enlightening, time consuming and captivating.

## HeritageQuest Online Launches New Obituary Index, 1800s – Current

HeritageQuest Online now includes the Newspapers.com™ Obituary Index. Patrons can explore the world's largest collection of obituaries, which includes over 750 million records from 475 million pages of historical newspapers. A powerful name filtering feature increases the user's ability to expand or narrow the search results. Full metadata for each obituary can be viewed on individual record pages and includes a source citation and durable URL for the corresponding digital image in Newspapers.com™. The "Email a Record Home" feature can be used to easily share records.

Users can search by:

- Name of deceased
- Birth date and place and/or age at death
- Marriage date and place
- Death and/or burial date
- Residence and/or death place
- Obituary date and place
- Names of parents, spouse, children and/or siblings
- Original publication details

Use HeritageQuest Online through the Livermore and Pleasanton library web pages. Start exploring today.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Dublin California A Brief History

By Patrick M. Lofft

Local author and historian, Steven Minniear, recently published a lively, informative addition to our local history collection.

For much of its history, Dublin attributed its recognition to treacherous roads notorious for grisly stagecoach accidents and, later, near-fatal car crashes. Change came during World War II, when the community hosted one of the country's largest U.S. Navy installations. Rapid suburban development followed in the 1960s, attracting people looking to live in the thriving Bay Area. It also served as home to a U.S. Air Force base, a Cold War testing ground, a U.S. Army base and one of the greatest St. Patrick's Day celebrations on the West Coast. Mr. Minniear presents the friendly story of one of California's fastest-growing cities.

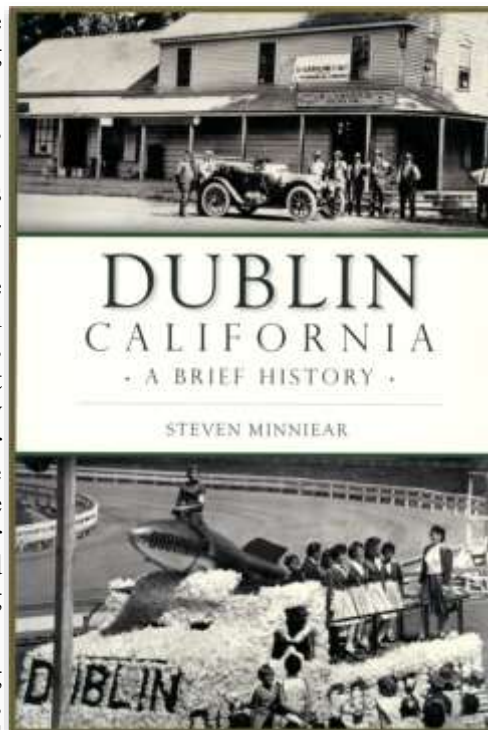
Dublin has long been known as the Crossroads of the Bay Area. Dublin now sits at the crossroads of two major highways: Interstate 580 and Interstate 680. However, the significance of the crossroads dates back more than 200 years when Dublin served as the crossroads of two important stage routes - one from the Bay Area to Stockton and the other from Martinez to San Jose. The Alamilla Spring, located in the Dublin area, provided a place for travelers to change horses and freshen up before continuing their journey.

Dublin has a rich history dating back to 1772 when Pedro Fages led an expedition of 16 mounted men on a journey in search of a land route to Drake's Bay, now known as San Francisco Bay. Their return journey brought them through the Amador Valley.

While the book's title says History, Steve writes in an approachable conversational style. Look at the first four chapter headings for a sample: We Always Lived Here, We Settled Here, We Just

Passed Through Here, We Were Stationed Here, etc. He portrays pre-European settlement, Spanish settlers, gold seekers, farmers and ranchers etc. in this relaxed, enlightening narrative.

Steve Minniear moved to Dublin in 1987, like so many others looking for an affordable house, a place to raise his family, good schools and a reasonable commute. He found what he was looking for. Steve has a master's degree from Georgetown University in government. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of California-Berkeley in political science. He served eight years on the City of Dublin Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission. He is the president of the Dublin Historical Preservation Association. Mr. Minniear is a member of the California Association of Museums, California Conference of Historical Societies and the Society for Military History. He co-wrote *Dublin and the Tri-Valley: The World War II Years*. He wrote content for several webpages on the history of Camp Parks, Camp Shoemaker, Shoemaker Naval Hospital, Parks Air Force Base and the Murray School District/Dublin Unified School District. Mr. Minniear designed local history exhibits for the Dublin Heritage Park & Museums and the Dublin branch of the Alameda County Library.



*Dublin California A Brief History*

This book is very well written as its content is based on real facts and events. The four page index assists the reader to locate specific topics and surnames. While ample photos, charts and maps are included, this is a more detailed written history than is found in some of the other books of this type. It is readily available at Amazon, Target, Barnes and Noble, etc.



## Diving into Directories

By Patrick M. Lofft

Of course you located your ancestors in the US federal and the appropriate state censuses. Did you then follow through with research among the City Directories? City Directories are some of the most underused genealogical sources available. The old directories exist for virtually every community in America and often to the earliest time of settlement of a community. Some of the privately published directories for a city date back over a hundred and fifty years, and some collections are nearly complete for every year in which a directory was published. Surprisingly, those that exist are quite easy to find. They are usually located in the public library serving a particular city. [www.genealogyblog.com/?p=21631](http://www.genealogyblog.com/?p=21631). Many have been made available on the Internet by Ancestry.com and Heritage Quest. But not everything is online. Contacting the public library and genealogical society in the locality could prove valuable.

This article recounts the economic progression of the Grad immigrant and his descendants from Stone Mason to Blacksmith to Wagon Maker. Over the years while enjoying our genealogy hobby I also marvel at the adaptability of the ancestral family members.

Michael GRAD was born say 1750 in Hohengoest, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. He married Anna Maria HARTMANN say 1779 in Hohengoest, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Michael died in July 1806.

Michael's son, Antoni Grad, was born 21 Jul 1780 in Hohengoest, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France to Anna Maria (nee Hartmann) and Michael Grad. He married Magdalena SELIGMANN on 29 APRIL 1813 in Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. He married Barbara MEYER on 10 NOVEMBER 1819 in Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. Antoni died at an unknown age.

The birth of Anthony J., the Grad family immigrant on 20 Apr 1823 is recorded as:<sup>1</sup>

*"ten o'clock in the morning Declaration made at the town hall of Detwiller, Department of the Lower Rhine, before the officer of records, at five o'clock in the evening, the twentieth of April, one thousand eight hundred twenty three, of the BIRTH of an infant of the masculine sex, born in legitimate marriage, today the twentieth of pre-*

*sent month at ten o'clock in the morning, and named **Anthony**. Declarant and father of the infant: Anthony Grad aged forty years [1783], living in this mayorality, profession: carpenter. Mother of the infant: Barbara Meyer, living in this mayorality, wife of the declarant. The father of the infant declares that he cannot sign makes his mark."*

Mayor, acting as the officer of state records, Hahn

Anthony J. GRAD was born on 20 APRIL 1823 in Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France. He received a Military "Good Conduct Certificate" on 10 JULY 1838 in 9th Battalion, 2nd Regiment Artillery, Metz, Moselle, Lorraine, France. He married Maria Anna CASPER circa 1850.

Anthony immigrated to America 7 August 1852<sup>2</sup>. Anthony declared his intention to become a citizen of the United States on 20 AUGUST 1857 [age 29] in Superior Court of Buffalo, New York; Liber 3, page 140.

The 1860<sup>3</sup> federal census of Buffalo, Erie, New York enumerates the family as: Anthony, age 37, occupation: stone cutter as head of a family consisting of Mary, 43; Mary, 8; Catherine, 6; John, 4; Magdalene, 4; Anthony, 2; and Apollonia, 4 months.

The 1870<sup>4</sup> federal census of Buffalo states Anton, age 46, occupation: stone mason head of a family including Maria, 53; Maria, 18; Cath, 16; Johann, 14; Magdalene, 14; Anton, 12; Apollonia, 10 and Jakob, 8.

<sup>1</sup>France, Births and Baptisms, 1546-1896," FamilySearch, Antoine Grad, 20 Apr 1823; citing Birth, Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France, Archives départementales du Jura (Departmental Archives of Jura), France. FHL microfilm 771,140.

<sup>2</sup>"United States Germans to America Index, 1850-1897," database, FamilySearch, Anton Grat, 07 Aug 1852; citing Germans to America Passenger Data file, 1850-1897, Ship Rhine, departed from Havre, arrived in New York, New York, New York, United States, NAID identifier 1746067, National Archives at College Park, Maryland.

<sup>3</sup>"United States Census, 1860", database with images, FamilySearch, Anthony Grat, 1860, 5th Ward Buffalo City, Image Number 00408.

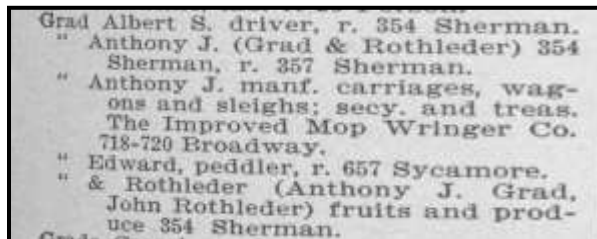
<sup>4</sup>Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

The 1880<sup>5</sup> federal census of Buffalo details Anthony, age 57, occupation: stone mason, at 693 Broadway, head of a family comprising Marianna, 63; Anton, 22, tailor's apprentice; Apollonia, 20 and Jacob, 17, tailor.

The 1900<sup>6</sup> federal census of Buffalo lists Anthony, age 77 at 722 Broadway as father in the household of his son, Anthony Joseph Grad, age 42, occupation: carriage manufacturer, with his family consisting of his wife, Mary, 38; Mary, daughter, 24; Wilhelmina, daughter, 13; Frank A, son, 7; Anthony, son, 5; John, son, 3; and Jacob, brother, 38.

Anthony Grad died on 8 July 1901 in 718 Broadway, Buffalo, Erie, New York, age 78.<sup>7</sup> His remains were interred on 11 July 1901 in United German and French Cemetery, in Section NN, Lot 131, grave 9, Cheektowaga, Erie, New York.

In addition to the bare facts enumerated on the census and obituary who was Anthony Grad? How did he and his offspring earn their living and support their families?



*A typical city directory entry*



*A. J. Grad Carriage Wagon and Sleigh Works*

From Blacksmith to Carriage and Wagon Maker to manufactures Auto and Truck Bodies!

<sup>5</sup>Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2010.

<sup>6</sup>Ancestry.com. 1900 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2004. Original data: United States of America, Bureau of the Census. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1900. T623, 1854 rolls.

<sup>7</sup>Death Register St. Ann's Church, Microfilm # 1292737, Family History Library, Salt Lake City, 230 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA 84103.

The following extracts from Buffalo City Directories reveal the adaptability of the family members to economic practicalities:

Selected entries from Buffalo City Directories				
Year	Name	Occupation	Residence	Page
1862	Grad, Anthony	stone cutter	h. 26 Watson	196
1875	Grad, Anton	mason	h. 693 Batavia	384
1881	Grad, Anthony J.	blacksmith	b. 693 Broadway	393
1884	Grad, Anthony J.	blacksmith and horse shoer	718 Broadway	471
1885	Grad, Anthony J.	blacksmith & wagonmaker 718 Broadway	h. 15 Johnson	464
1896	Grad, Antony J.	carriage and wagon maker 718 Broadway see page 188	h. 15 Johnson	684
1917	Grad, Frank Anthony	auto repair foreman	draft registration	
1919	Grad, Anthony J.	A J Grad Auto Body Works	r 718 Broadway	596
1921	Grad, Frank Anthony	manager A J Grad Auto Body Works	r 165 Grey	639
1922	Grad, Anthony J.	Grad Auto Body Works	r 718 Broadway	631
	Grad, Anthony J. Jr.	salesman	r 186 Grey	631
	Grad, Frank	repairer	r 165 Grey	631
1925	Grad, Anthony J.	Grad Auto Body Works	h 718 Broadway	813
	Grad, Frank A.	repairman	h 114 Landon	813
1928	Grad, Anthony J.	president A J Grad Sons Body Corp	r 186 Grey	790
	Grad, Frank A.	secretary A J Grad Sons Body Corp	h 114 Landon	790

Lineage Grad - Heckmann	
<p>Michael GRAD                      b. s 1750 Hohengoeft, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d. c 1806                      m. s 1779 Hohengoeft, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      Anna Maria HARTMANN                      b. s 1750 Hohengoeft, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d. c 1806</p>	
<p>Antoni GRAD                      b. 21 JUL 1780 Hohengoeft, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d.                      m. 10 NOV 1819 Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      Barbara MEYER                      b. 12 FEB 1786 France                      d.</p>	
<p>Anthony J. GRAD                      b. 20 APR 1823 Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d. 8 JUL 1901 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      m. c 1850                      Maria Anna CASPER                      b. 5 SEP 1816 France                      d. 27 OCT 1882 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>	
<p>Maria Anna GRAD                      b. 19 NOV 1851 Dettwiller, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d. 2 FEB 1922 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      m. 14 APR 1874 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      Eugene HECKMANN                      b. 10 JUL 1851 Duttlenheim, Bas-Rhin, Alsace, France                      d. 11 MAR 1901 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>	<p>Anthony Joseph GRAD                      b. 19 APR 1858 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York                      d. 2 MAR 1928 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York                      m. c 1884 Buffalo, Erie Co.,                      Marie Magdalena SCHLEININGER                      b. MAR 1861 New York                      d. 9 JUL 1930 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York</p>
<p>Eugene Anthony HECKMANN                      b. 27 APR 1879 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 2 NOV 1935 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      m. 26 NOV 1902 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      Eleanora A. FROMMEL                      b. 27 FEB 1882 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 14 MAR 1944 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>	<p>Francis Anthony GRAD                      b. 12 DEC 1890 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York                      d. 12 MAY 1970 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York                      m. 17 Jun 1914 Buffalo, Erie Co., New York                      Caroline Hertel --?--                      b. c 1892                      d. 25 Aug 1970</p>
<p>Blazes Edward HECKMANN                      b. 3 FEB 1909 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 5 JUN 1994 Snyder, Erie, New York                      m. 2 JUL 1938 Johnstown, Fulton, New York                      Ruth Ella STOLLER                      b. 3 FEB 1912 Johnstown, Fulton, New York                      d. 24 OCT 1996 Williamsville, Erie, New York</p>	<p>Harry Francis HECKMANN                      b. 18 NOV 1910 at Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 24 DEC 1989 Cheektowaga, Erie, New York                      m. 15 JUN 1937 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      Mildred Barbara MEIDENBAUER                      b. 11 OCT 1915 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 7 JUL 1992 Gates, Monroe, New York</p>
<p>Charlotte Eleanora HECKMANN                      b. Gloversville, Fulton, New York                      m. 29 May 1999, Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California                      Patrick Michael Lofft                      b. Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>	<p>Joan Marie HECKMANN                      b. 15 APR 1940 Buffalo, Erie, New York                      d. 5 MAY 1995 Columbia, Howard, Maryland                      m. 19 January 1963, Buffalo, Erie, New York                      Patrick Michael Lofft                      b. Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>

***If you have not yet researched your ancestor via items in the City Directories of the communities in which they were employed I urge you to contact the relevant public libraries and local genealogical societies. Virtually every city in America with a public library has a collection of city directories for that city.***

# Membership Renewal Form

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

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