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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 2022

Patrons

Anonymous, Lois Barber, Susan Davis, Richard and Wanda Finn, Richard and Jean Lerche, Doris Matthews, Thomas and Natasha Mathews, Duncan Tanner and Shirley Terry

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Denise Barr, Matthew Berry, Ken Berdlau, Annette Breingan, Linda Driver and Walt Crawford, Barbara Hemphill , Cindy McKenna, Ileen Peterson and Peggy Weber

L-AGS Members

95 active memberships and 110 members

Meeting News —

All face-to-face meetings are suspended indefinitely due to Covid-19.

General Meetings —

Monday, September 12, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Richard Finn: Cowboys and Ranchers in the Livermore Area.

Monday October 10, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Madeline Yanov: Ancestral Road Trips Part 1: East of the Mississippi

Monday, November 14, 2022, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Madeline Yanov: Ancestral Road Trips, Part 2: Go West Young Man

Let's Talk AND Write Genealogy — When: Sundays at 3:00 p.m. REMOTE via Zoom Chair:

Debbie Mascot - Our theme will be the National Genealogical Society 2022 Conference 24-28 May 2022 in Sacramento. Location: Contact talkgenealogy.chair@L-AGS.org

The Master Genealogist Group — Due to Covid-19 meetings via Zoom on the 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Friday meeting is because the Roots User Group in Virginia meets on the 2nd Saturday. TV-TMG Forum Topic: Reports and Problem Assistance; Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Duncan Tanner) mailto:tvmtg.chair@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 genealogy docent will be available by ap-

Meeting News continued on Page 9

L-AGS Leadership for 2022

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President's Message

As September 2022 arrives, what has also arrived is the 1950 U.S. census. Something that many of us have been anxiously awaiting for many years. Was this the first census on which you were listed? Where were your parents living in 1950?

How frequently have you visited the NARA site <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950> ?

I frequently index the 1950 census through the <https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/1950> website. Indexed by computers, reviewed by people. Use the dropdown menu or the interactive map to help make the census searchable. **Choose** a state or territory!

The Review Families activity was recently updated so that it includes fewer fields to review and requires less time to complete. Review Families has been shortened to the following 11 fields that need review: **Street address, House number**, Apartment number, Dwelling number, **Given name, Surname**, Name suffix (where there is one), Relationship to head, Race, **Age, Birth place**. What you are asked to review is: ***Did the AI (Artificial Intelligence) correctly interpret the handwritten entry?***

In addition, the Get Involved 1950 Census landing page will highlight states with a greater need for review. In most cases, this will be a state with a review that is nearly completed. Helping to complete the review for a particular state is important because it means that we can then publish the index for that state.

I find it easy to use and enjoy spending 20 minutes or so doing it. The more of us that participate even just a little will speed up the time when the 1950 census is more easily searchable for all. I encourage you to participate.

Persons that every volunteer organization rely heavily upon is **VOLUNTEERS**. SURPRISE! We also need additional L-AGS members to assist us in board activities. We especially seek additional members to evaluate potential presenters for general meetings. It is important that board members do not remain in our board positions for longer than our bylaws state. Right now, several of our board members are well over the limit established by the by-laws. We need to bring some fresh faces (aka proposals) on to the board. They could be as an assistant for an existing position. **That could be you.**

Email me Julie Liu, president@L-AGS.org and we can discuss what some of the choices are that are available. One thing is certain, we cannot keep continuing with the same people in the same positions for over 3-4 years. **It is not healthy for the organization.** One thing is guaranteed, we will continue to have all of our board meetings via zoom. I will be spending a large chunk of time in New Jersey this spring. During which I will still participate in the board and general meetings via Zoom.

As we finish up this year 2022, we approach what seems like a marathon of holidays: Rosh Hashanah (Rosh Hashanah 2022 begins in the evening of Sunday, September 25 and ends in the evening of Tuesday, September 27), Halloween, Thanksgiving, Hanukkah (December 19-26, 2022), and Christmas to name a few. These are all opportunities to meet with family members; seek answers to questions and

*President's Message
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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 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 Caye Johnson; Patrick Lofft; Doug Mumma; Debbie Mascot; Shirley Siems Terry; Andi Winters; Gregory Winters

Composer..... Andi Winters

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

A Green Leaf took Root on my Brick Wall!

by Shirley Siems Terry

Within the first couple of months of beginning my genealogy journey in 1966, I knew the names and birth and death dates of all eight great-grandparents. All were buried in southeastern Nebraska where my parents and I were born. Since this was long before the internet or even home computers, I spent hundreds of hours writing letters and viewing microfilmed records in genealogy libraries and archives which worked out fine with my maternal ancestors who had all been in America since the Revolution.

But all four of my paternal great-grandparents had immigrated from Germany. My Great-Grandpa Siems immigrated in 1865 to Wisconsin, then married in Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, and had two sons before moving to Gage County, Nebraska, to farm. My Damkroger and Schernikau families immigrated directly to Nebraska between 1868 and 1879. My Grandma Siems' father was the first of my Damkrogers to immigrate in 1873 with two of his brothers following in the next couple of years. Later, the three brothers sent money home so their parents and six younger siblings could immigrate in 1879. The American confirmation records of those younger siblings gave me the birth location for the Damkroger family. Three of my immigrant Claus Siems' five sons married three Damkroger girls - two sisters and a first cousin.

Grandpa William Siems' parents were harder to trace because they had changed locations once or twice after immigrating before settling in Nebraska. Family only knew of one relative of his immigrant father, Claus Siems. It was a sister "Gesche Eitzen nee Siems" buried in Claus' cemetery plot. (Some descendants mistakenly thought she was his wife but the "nee" translates "born.") It took me twenty years to find his birthplace after finally following up on his sister's marriage held in the same Illinois church as Claus' marriage in 1872. A tiny communion card had the sister's birthplace as "Mulsum near Hannoversehen." It turns out that Mulsum was the church location of their baptism and confirmation rather than their birthplace. I had two enormous strokes of luck at this point as earlier research had connected me with a Siems who had gone to Germany to visit Mulsum but first went to the wrong Mulsum. The correct Mulsum near Stade and Hamburg had the huge advantage of having an Ortssippenbuch (town

lineage book compiled from the church records.) My husband and I visited Mulsum in 1989 and were allowed to search the church records which got me back another three generations before easy to read columns turned into entire pages of German script. A few years later, I talked a lady into photocopying her 1000 page Ortssippenbuch for me which took my Siems ancestors back to 1658 with two changes in the surname spelling, originally Siemens and Simens. It had all their spouses and ancestry giving me 55 additional ancestors.

A main clue to tracing this family was a biography in one of those much maligned county histories. I'm here to sing the praises of the 1888 *Portrait and Biographical Album of Gage County, Nebraska*. A lengthy biography of my immigrant Claus Siems 1841-1911 gives the following information on the origins of his wife, Lena 1850-1890. "While a resident of Lincoln, Illinois, Mr. Siems was married, Feb. 19, 1872, to Miss Linie Weltzien, who was also of German birth and parentage, her early home having been in the Grand Duchy of Mecklenburg, and the date of her birth Aug. 18, 1849. Her father died in Germany when comparatively a young man, and she accompanied her mother to America when but a child five years of age. Like our subject they at once made their way to the young State of Wisconsin, whence they removed subsequently to Lincoln, Illinois, where Mrs. S. made the acquaintance of her future husband."

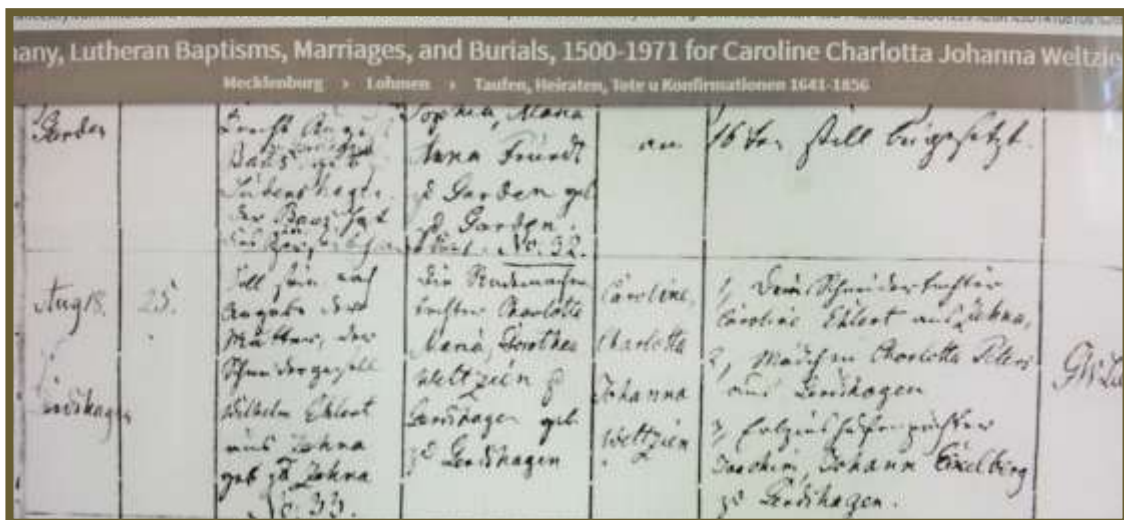
Tracing Lena WELTZIEN was complicated. Every record found seemed to have a different surname spelling; her marriage records gave us two possibilities. The church record definitely looks like WIRZIN while the Illinois state marriage certificate has WISCTEN. The Illinois baptismal records for her oldest two sons had her as Magdalena Johanne Charlotte WOLTZIEN. Her five sons' marriage records add three more spellings - WELTZIEN, WELZIN and even WILSON! Her tombstone was "nee WELSZIN." Lena died young on 23 May 1890 at the age of 39 leaving seven children aged four to seventeen. My grandfather, William, was four years old. Claus didn't remarry until late in life. Lena's last few years must have been very hard and heart-breaking as their daughter, Anna, was an invalid. We do not know the cause, but the state hospital records say that Anna died of marasmus, i.e. wasting away

and had no use of her extremities. We wonder if she had polio. She died less than three years after Lena's death. Her records say her mother, Lena, died of cardiac thrombosis although the church burial record says she died of a "blood disturbance." Could this have been diabetes?

We could not find anything on Lena's widowed mother. It seems likely she remarried, maybe even before their immigration, which would explain why I haven't found them in immigration records.

After more than 50 years of research, I had nothing beyond Magdalene Johanne Charlotte Weltzien born 18 August 1849 in Mecklenburg who died 23 May 1890 in Gage County, Nebraska. Then one day in 2019, I clicked on Ancestry's *little green leaf* not expecting to find anything other than public trees that had copied or re-posted data or pictures my daughter or I had previously included in our trees. But Ancestry had **FOUND** Lena's baptismal record giving me precious new information on her parents and leading to a few other records including her father's death in 1853 when Lena was only three. I had always doubted the widowed mother story but I was wrong. Her name and birth date on the baptismal record were the same except it said Caroline instead of Magdalene. It gave her place of birth and baptism as Lohmen in Mecklenburg. There is still a mystery for me to solve. Her father's name is given as Wilhelm Ehlert and her mother as Charlotta Maria Dorothea Weltzien with hers being Weltzien rather than Ehlert, so I need to have that baptismal record and Wilhelm Ehlert's death record translated.

SIEMS FAMILY LINEAGE	
Claus SIEMS ¹	b. 11 Feb 1841 Klein Fredenbeck, Stade, Hanover d. 22 Nov 1911 Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska m. 19 Feb 1872 Lincoln, Logan, Illinois Caroline 'Lena' Charlotta Johanna WELTZIEN b. 18 Aug 1850 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. 23 May 1890 Gage, Nebraska
William Ernest SIEMS	b. 02 May 1886 Gage, Nebraska d. 17 Aug 1951 Park Rapids, Hubbard, Minnesota m. 12 May 1908 Clatonia, Gage, Nebraska Sophia Mina DAMKROGER ² b. 24 Apr 1885 Clatonia, Gage, Nebraska d. 19 Oct 1978 Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska
Glen Claus SIEMS	b. 24 Jul 1917 Gage, Nebraska d. 31 Aug 2004 West Salem, Polk, Oregon m. 27 Dec 1937 Geneva, Fillmore, Nebraska Arlene Lucille EMAL b. 21 Dec 1917 Pickrell, Gage, Nebraska d. 10 Jun 2013 West Salem, Polk, Oregon
Shirley Jean SIEMS	m. Sylvester Wayne TERRY 1938-2010
¹ SIEMS ancestors to mid 1600's in Mulsum, Stade, Hanover church records ² DAMKROGERS from Boerninghausen & Roedinghausen, Westphalia	



Weltzien Baptism - Film #69306

My Unforgettable Memory: Pearl Harbor

A tribute to: George Watkins Anderson, Jr. (Feb. 9, 1924 - Nov. 1, 2015)

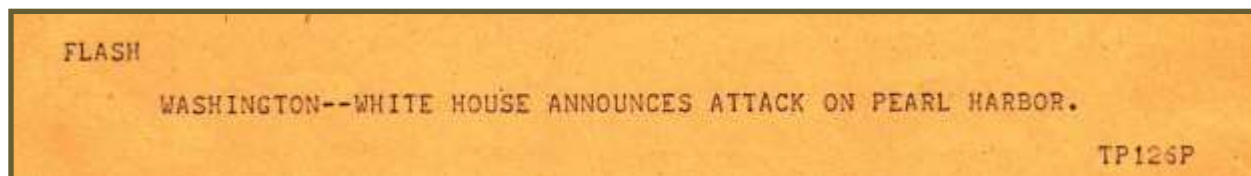
[Editor's note: As genealogists, we experience exuberant thrills each time our research locates any comment, however slight, written by an ancestor. We owe our descendants similar thrills. The Roots Tracer will publish and post on the Internet the personal recollections of significant events as written by members.]

I graduated from high school in Mankato, Minnesota, in May of 1941. Thanks to my having been editor of the high school newspaper, the journalism teacher was able to get me a job as a cub reporter at the local radio station. My plan was to save enough money to get me started in college a year later.

The job was prestigious – at least compared to that of a soda jerk – but it paid starvation wages and the hours were gruesome. The pay was \$15 a week, not per hour, as it might be now. I was on duty nine

on the air almost constantly, and I did my job of tearing off the yellow teletype stories and carrying them to the announcer in the sound proof room. We stayed until evening. I resumed my regular beat the next day.

The technology in a newsroom in those days was interesting. We got all of our non-local news by teletype via a dedicated telegraph line from Minneapolis. For routine news, someone at the other end created a paper tape that was fed into a machine that transmitted the text at relatively high speed – at least 5 characters per second! When important “breaking news” happened, someone sat at the other end and typed into the machine manually. The characters came in slowly and haltingly while the bell on the teletype rang continuously. Everyone in the station then came running to



Teletype fragment – Sunday, December 7, 1941

hours a day, seven days a week. During those hours I made repeated rounds on foot to local news sources, among them the police, sheriff and fire departments, the courthouse and mortuaries. I then hoofed it back to the station and wrote up the news for the announcer to use during his four times a day newscast. I had every third Sunday off.

One of those Sundays was December 7, 1941. I was relaxing at home, listening to a shortwave radio that I had bought with my new wealth. I had tuned in to a station in Quebec, Canada, that had nice classical music. In the middle of a symphony, an announcer broke in and spoke excitedly in French. All I could understand were the words “bombes” and “Honolulu.” I switched to a station in English, got the news about Pearl Harbor, told my family the news, and hurried down to the radio station.

The station was on full alert. The teletype was clacking away frantically, the news announcer was

watch the “flash” being typed out. Before Pearl Harbor, this happened once or twice a week. On the afternoon of December 7th alone there were eleven flashes.

Packrat that I was I collected the flashes from the teletype. The one that first announced the attack on Hawaii is shown in the image above. I have the flashes that came in during most of the year I worked at the station.

A poignant drama that hit close to home played out during the following chaotic week. A boy, Guy Flanagan, who lived on our block in Mankato, had graduated from college a few years before 1941 and had joined the Navy as an officer. He was stationed on the U.S.S. Arizona, the battleship that sank with much loss of life during the attack. His mother received a telegram on December 8th informing her of his death. There was much grieving by the family and by the whole city, and it was

Unforgettable continued on Page 9

✠ In Memoriam ✠

Ann Kip West



*Ann Kip West, July 6, 1929
- June 13, 2022*

In loving memory of **Ann Kip West (July 6, 1929 - June 13, 2022)** of Livermore who died at the age of 92. Kip was born at Francis Hospital, San Francisco, the first child of Charles Ledlie Watson and Mary Ingraham Edie Watson. She was the

great-great-granddaughter of Bishop William Ingraham Kip, (October 3, 1811 – April 7, 1893), the first Episcopal Bishop of California and has always been proud of her family heritage.

She loved skiing and went on many different ski

trips around the West. On one ski trip she met Harry I. West, Jr. They were married at Grace Cathedral Chapel, San Francisco, Jun 28, 1956, and settled in Livermore, as Harry worked at Lawrence Livermore Lab.

Kip was very involved in her family genealogy. She served leadership in L-AGS as Corresponding Secretary during 2009 and 2010. Kip and Harry, West were L-AGS Life Members.

Kip was preceded in death by her husband, Harry Irwin West, Jr., 1925 – 2004.

Kip passed peacefully in her sleep, at Creekview Health Center, Pleasanton, June 13. A Memorial Service was held on July 30, at 10:30 a.m., St Bartholomew Church. She will be laid to rest in the Kip Family plot in Cypress Lawn, Colma, California. She will be missed by her children and grandchildren and many friends in the community.

The above is from the Livermore Independent, July 14, 2022.

Barbara Hemphill

Barbara Hemphill was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 22, 1931.

She was the lovingly welcomed daughter of George and Robena Kurth. Because Robena had Parkinson's Disease, Barbara learned to be independent, caring, and responsible at an early age.

Love of God, family, friends and music played a central role throughout Barbara's life. She learned to play the piano and began singing in the church choir when she was 16. On January 31, 1953, Barbara married Hugh Hemphill at the First Presbyterian Church in Chicago. In 1957, Barbara retired from her job as secretary to the controller of The Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation to stay home and raise a family.

In 1971, Hugh accepted a job in Livermore, and the family moved to Pleasanton. Barbara attended classes at Cal State East Bay and graduated in 1976 with a master's degree in public administration. She was hired by the City of Livermore and continued to work there until August 1997, when she retired as coordinator of Housing and Human Services.

Barbara served on several local boards and commissions including serving as L-AGS Corresponding

Secretary in 2008 - 2009 and contributing many articles to the Livermore Roots Tracer. Barbara was an Elder and a Deacon at the Pleasanton Presbyterian Church and sang in the choir for many years.

Barbara was a recipient of the Pleasanton Mayor's Award and the Ed Kinney Community Patriot Award. She was also very active in the American Association of University Women Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin Branch and the Livermore-Amador Valley League of Women Voters and was a past president of both organizations.

Barbara was preceded in death by Hugh, her devoted husband of 62 years. She is survived by their loving children, John (Kristan), Thomas, and Jeanne Schulz (Mark); as well as much-loved grandchildren, Geoffrey Hemphill (Rita), Meghan Montana (Chris), Sarah Baretino (Eddie), Sean Hemphill (Yaazi), Katarina Schults (Scott), and Gabriella Schulz; in addition to four great grandchildren.

The above is from the Livermore Independent, January 20, 2022.



*Barbara Hemphill,
July 22, 1931 –
Jan. 10, 2022*

October 17, 1989

By Caye Johnson

Thirty-three years ago, at about 5 pm, we had just returned to Los Altos Hills from a MIT Sloan Class reunion in Boston. Richard was outside picking strawberries and I was setting the dining room table for dinner. Suddenly, the house began to shake. I immediately knew it was not a normal, small earthquake and yelled at my son in the family room to run. I quickly sought refuge in the closest doorway between the dining room and kitchen. Everything came tumbling down. The free standing bookcases in the family room toppled over breaking mine and my mother's good china and the few pieces I had of my grandmother's antique china. The overhead cabinets in the kitchen were emptied of everything they held: dishes, glasses, canned goods, jars of spices. Even the doors of the refrigerator came open spewing jars of mayonnaise, eggs, cartons of milk, etc. onto the floor. Books in my husband's office flew off the



Richard's Office



Book shelves in Family Room

shelves, pictures jumped off the wall. The baby grand piano and the free standing Swedish fireplace in the living room went different directions. A huge pane of glass came out of its frame and floated to the ground two stories below without breaking. A gaping hole about an inch wide ran the width of the dining room. However, the buffet just walked across the room and nothing in it was broken. Doors were jammed open or shut in the basement. Dozens of bottles of home-made wine crashed to the floor in the wine cellar. The cat was nowhere in sight and feared buried under the bookshelves in the family room.

Outside, the water lines on two adjacent streets ruptured. There was a river flowing down Arroyo Oaks Dr. to our cul-de-sac. We shut off the gas to the house. There was no electricity. Several of our

neighbors suffered as much damage to their homes as we did and subsequently rebuilt new homes, but our area never made it into the news, nor were we red-tagged. We watched the news on a very small TV (about 5" x 5") placed on the roof of our car and plugged into the car battery. Clean-up without water and electricity was difficult. I literally used a shovel to scoop up all the debris in the kitchen into a wheel barrel and then dumped it into the bed of our pickup truck. We cooked food from the freezer on a camping stove on the back patio. There were numerous after-shocks. One was while I was taking a shower. What to do? Run outside naked?

Insurance companies were over whelmed and flew in agents from all over the country. We had a least three different representatives offering us what it would cost to rebuild based on what it cost to build in the mid-west. We still had our blueprints and sent those out for bid. A neighborhood group was formed to fight the insurance companies. We eventually sued our insurance company to get a decent settlement. We hired an architect to design a new house, bulldozed the old one to the ground, and lived in a rental house until we

could move back home. Building codes had been significantly upgraded because of the Loma Prieta earthquake. We had to dig a trench through the building site to verify that there wasn't a fault running through the proposed footprint of the house. Every lot of concrete had to be certified. An unbelievable amount of rebar was used in addition to the steel U-beams at three different locations in the house, and the heavy metal

We eventually sued our insurance company to get a decent settlement.

joints at every intersection of the foundation. Santa Clara County grandfathered in our Prop 13 property tax basis and we only had to pay increased taxes on the additional square footage that we added.

Lessons learned. If you live in earthquake country, be prepared. Attach all bookcases and tall objects to the wall. Hang pictures on proper picture hangers, not just a nail into the wall.

Unforgettable *continued from Page 6*

my job to report that on the radio news. Then a week later, his mother received another telegram that he was alive! He had actually been a hero during the attack, helping rescue many men from the overturned ship. (Google: "Pearl Harbor" "Guy Flanagan.") He finally was overcome by the toxic fumes on the burning ship and had

to be taken to the shore hospital, where he was overlooked when the roster was called the next day. After the war, Guy married into my extended family. A tragic footnote to this story is that a younger brother died as an infantryman helping recapture the Philippines. For many years, his mother refused to believe he was dead.

President's Message

Continued from page 3

seek several of the stories that they have in their deep memories.

What was their life like "back in the day"? Get some of those stories and write them down. The Roots Tracer is an excellent place to put your story. It will always be on the web. Just by Googling a surname some descendant or other relative may find it.

Julie Liu, President, L-AGS

Meeting News

Continued from Page 2

pointment, Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California, request a mutually agreeable appointment via e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org



Searching your DNA matches for Cousins, Surnames and Locations

by Shirley Siems Terry

DNA tests have become a staple for genealogists. If your DNA matches are in your database, they verify your research. Autosomal DNA tests are the most common DNA tests taken and really give you the most information. They are done by a number of companies. I've been tested by both Family Tree DNA and Ancestry DNA and transferred my results to GEDmatch. You can upload your Autosomal tests from Ancestry, 23andMe and MyHeritage to FTDNA to get the chromosome information.

If you want to verify the surname your family carries, you need to have a male member of the family take the yDNA test. This traces the DNA of son to father way back. One of my Terry grandsons took the yDNA test which verified my paper trail back to our earliest known John Terry 1740-1795. yDNA results aren't always what you expect. If you find out that you are carrying a different surname from your results, it means one of those Grandpas was either illegitimate, adopted or carried the surname of a step-father. I have not been able to find a father for my 2nd Great-Grandfather Cobb. I believe he was illegitimate and carried his Mother's maiden name because I have DNA matches to Cobb descendants from her birth county. The solution to this mystery would be to find a male Cobb descendant of his to take the yDNA test to see what surname we'd get. If it's Bledsoe, I know who his father was; otherwise, it's still a mystery.

I've taken the mtDNA or mitochondrial DNA test which follows your maternal side of daughter to mother line which traces back to Ann Elizabeth Jacques 1717-1787. It was validated by one or two matches proving my paper trail to that point. I'll be doing a Roots Tracer article on that line. Since the surname changes with each generation very few people take the test and even fewer input their maternal genealogy, you really don't learn much. I did pass the information along to my two daughters and to the daughters of my Mother's three sisters who managed to produce an amazing eleven girls while I was an only child.

I've spent the past month or so using the searches available on both Family Tree and Ancestry

DNA match sites. I understand you can search all autosomal results by surname which is good for those of us who have unusual surnames, but only Ancestry has the location search which is helpful for small towns. It is not advised for you city people. I've found it especially good for my small German villages, but it can be very time-consuming because it will only get you to the database of your DNA cousin. In their Ancestry database, under "Tree Search," first try the surnames you expect to match; if that doesn't work, you'll have to pull up "List of all people," and scan through page by page looking for your little town. At the bottom of that first page, you'll find out how many pages that'll be. Ten thousand people will be 100 pages. After finally finding my Great-



Theodor and Maria Eichelberg ca. 1870



Claus Siems family ca. 1890

Grandmother Caroline Johanne Charlotte ‘Lena’ (Weltzien) Siems’ baptismal location of Lohmen, Mecklenburg, I decided to use the search features of Ancestry and FTDNA to search my DNA matches. I searched both sites for my newly found ancestor surnames of Ehlert, Eckelberg, Roloff, Schultz, Wollenberg and Zarse and of course Weltzien and think I can safely assume they are my connecting link with those DNA matches. Ancestry has the advantage of also being able to search for birth locations and I found six of my Ancestry DNA matches were from Lohmen or Mecklenburg towns within a close radius. Seven of my DNA matches have Eckelberg ancestors, several of whose descendants immigrated to Wisconsin or Chicago near where my Lena Weltzien lived. One sent me a picture of her Theodore Eickelberg which I think shows a resemblance to my Lena and several of her children. Some of my matches even have extensive enough family trees that I’ve been able to make direct links so I feel the effort has been a success. One of those matches was an Eckel who told me the name has originally been Eckelberg. I had wondered of the possibility because my German Damkroger and Siems grandparents grew up in a rural community with Eckels so I have some Eckel cousins.

ECKELBERG FAMILY LINEAGE	
Johann Joschen ECKELBERG	b. 11 Aug 1762 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. 1830
m. 11 Nov 1795 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg	Anna Maria Magdalena SCHULTZ
b. 12 Sep 1776 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg	8 Feb 1827 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg
Johanna Maria Ilsabe D. ECKELBERG	b. 29 Nov 1798 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. 13 Dec 1831 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg
m. 13 Nov 1818 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg	Hinrich Johann Cristoph WELTZIN
b. 10 Feb 1791	d. 24 Jan 1831 Gerdshagen, Prignitz, Brandenburg
Charlotta Maria Dorothea WELTZIEN	b. 26 Nov 1819 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. USA
+Wilhelm Leopold Johann Jochim EHLERT ¹	b. 1819 Zehna, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. 15 Dec 1853 Kussow, Gustrow, Mecklenburg
Caroline ‘Lena’ Charlotta Johanna WELTZIEN ²	b. 18 Aug 1850 Lohmen, Gustrow, Mecklenberg d. 23 May 1890 Gage, Nebraska
m. 19 Feb 1872 Lincoln, Logan, Illinois	Claus SIEMS
b. 11 Feb 1841 Klein Fredenbeck, Stade, Hanover	d. 22 Nov 1911 Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska
William Ernest SIEMS	b. 02 May 1886 Gage, Nebraska d. 17 Aug 1951 Park Rapids, Hubbard, Minnesota
m. 12 May 1908 Clatonia, Gage, Nebraska	Sophia Mina DAMKROGER
b. 24 Apr 1885 Clatonia, Gage, Nebraska	d. 19 Oct 1978 Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska
Glen Claus SIEMS	b. 24 Jul 1917 Gage, Nebraska d. 31 Aug 2004 West Salem, Polk, Oregon
m. 27 Dec 1937 Geneva, Fillmore, Nebraska	Arlene Lucille EMAL
b. 21 Dec 1917 Pickrell, Gage, Nebraska	d. 10 Jun 2013 West Salem, Polk, Oregon
Shirley Jean SIEMS	
1. I was not able to find a marriage for her listed parents and presume that's why she went by Weltzien rather than Ehlert. 2. Lena WELTZIEN SIEMS descended from ECKELBERGS through both her maternal Grandmother as shown above but also through her maternal Grandfather, Hinrich WELZIN 1791-1831 whose maternal grandparents were: Lehn Marie ECKELBERG 1724-1805 m. 1744 Nicolaus Clas ROLOFF 1717-1794	

Antique Automobiles

Gregory Winters provided the following identifications as the best the Gear Heads at the California Automobile Museum could come up with



Photo preserved by Deborah Mascot

Likely a 1910 Buick. The logo on the radiator is the clue and the whitish tires date it to the first decade or so of the 19th Century.



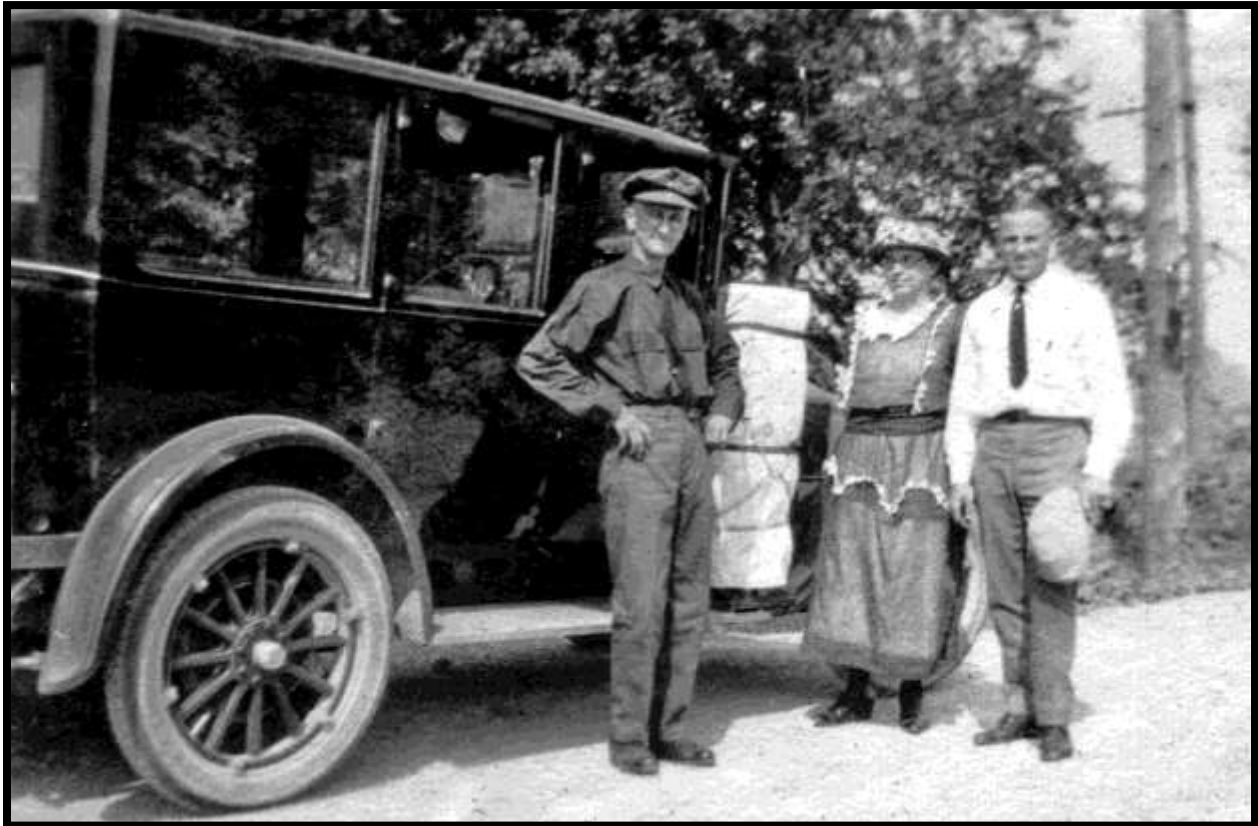
Photo preserved by Andi Winters

My father, Andrew Larson standing next to his car in Stockton, dated October 27, 1929. May be a 1925 Chevrolet Capitol.



Photos preserved by Caye Johnson

Two different versions of the car my parents owned (post 1937). In one, my mother, Violet Collins, is sitting in the car. My father, Walter Collins, is in both photos. Obviously, after having gone duck hunting.



The these two photos were preserved by Doug Mumma.

1923 The Trip West on a Peerless bus; year uncertain. Tip offs were the size of the vehicle and the uniformed driver. Peerless made large cars and early 20th Century buses.



Photo of my father with his siblings and parents - Dayton Ohio. Unknown make or model: We compared this car with seven similar cars in the museum and cannot identify it. The features were common to dozens of auto makes in the 1900-1910 period. The fittings and the angle of the front fenders eliminate Cadillac, and several others. Right-hand drive dates it to the "19-oughts."

The Family Tree

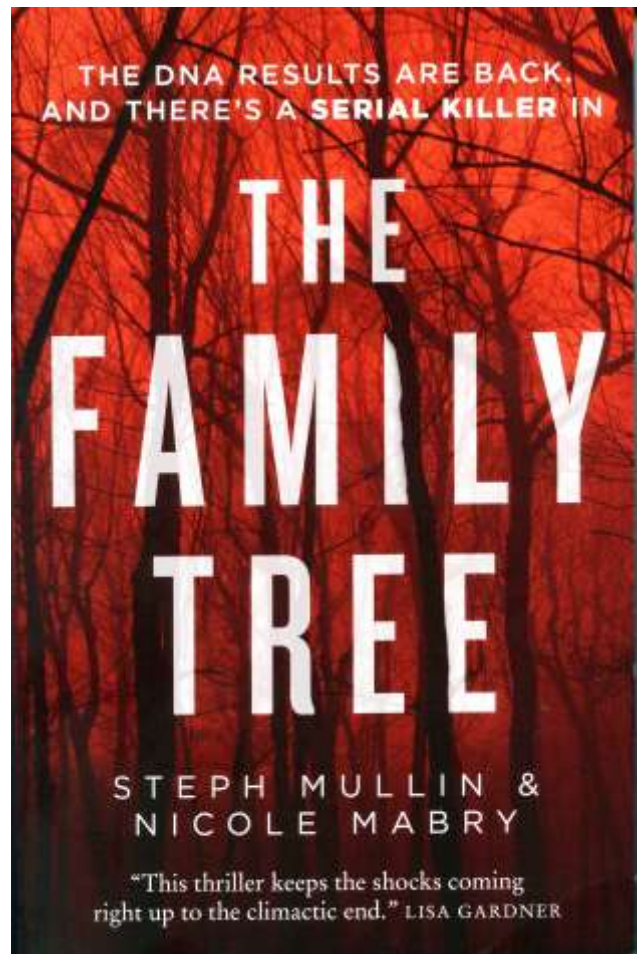
Review by Patrick M. Lofft

The DNA results are back. And there's a serial killer in her family tree. Liz Catalano is shocked when an ancestry kit reveals she's adopted. But she could never have imagined that her efforts of connecting with her unknown family would plunge her into an FBI investigation of a notorious serial killer. Chilling from page one, *The Family Tree* is a nail-biting exploration of a serial killer who's terrorized a region for decades. This book was such a fun ride I had a hard time putting it down!

Authors, Steph Mullen & Nicole Mabry met as coworkers in New York City discovering a shared passion for writing and true crime. After Steph relocated to Charlotte, North Carolina, they continued to collaborate creatively. They spent countless hours scheming via Face Time and editing each other's typos in real time on Google Docs. *The Family Tree* is the duo's first crime novel.

Like many others I read California newspaper accounts of how genetic genealogy helped catch the Golden State Killer and how a DNA match identified a serial killer's victim in Alaska after 37 years. Then I read a promo for *The Family Tree* and I wanted to read this novel about DNA assisting in locating another serial killer. The plot twist in this one was brilliant. It was everything that I had hoped it would be and more; I highly recommend it. I was also strangely fascinated by how smart the serial killer really is and how he avoided capture.

Liz receives a birthday gift of a 23 And Me DNA test kit from Addie, her cousin and roommate. When her results come in they are both shocked when they realize Liz has been adopted. As devastated as she is, she recognizes that she wants to uncover her birth family. Who is she really? She locates a Grand-Uncle living in Connecticut, not too far away from where she lives in New York City. But it was not long before the FBI came knocking with more information on her family - her DNA is a familial match to that of a serial killer who has been abducting and killing women for 40 years and they need her help. While the Tri-State killer has lain dormant for the last few years two college girls have recently disappeared making them wonder if he's back in action. His Modus



Operandi has always been to kidnap two young women at the same time, usually roommates.

Fortunately the plot of this page turner quickly resolves itself in a few weeks. The authors use an exceptionally interesting structure of dual time-lines to interpose brief accounts of the abducted women's ill-treatment while excluding the repulsive details.

The idea behind it is stunning, current and ingenious, that a killer is tracked down due to a genealogical DNA testing result. This tale is not a tutorial for DNA analysis. DNA evidence alone didn't solve the case. What I really liked about the story was that it provides a realistic view of the detailed analysis and the plain old slogging work that goes into solving a case. The ending is just WOW. <https://www.goodreads.com/en/book/>

Future General Meetings ~ via Zoom

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool.
 Join the L-AGS meeting through a L-AGS email invite.
 First time Zoom participants Learn How at YouTube.com:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>
 Visitors are always welcome.

Monday September 12, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m. <i>Richard Finn Cowboys and Ranchers in the Livermore Area</i>
Monday October 10, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m. <i>Madeline Yanov Ancestral Road Trips Part 1: East of the Mississippi</i>
Monday November 14, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m. <i>Madeline Yanov Ancestral Road Trips, Part 2: Go West Young Man</i>

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Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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