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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members

Jerry Dempsey, E. Gilbert Ellenberger, Anna Lim, Janet Nadol, Patricia L. Nostrome, Elaine & Don Price, Phillip B. Seelinger, Debbie Young

We are grateful for the generosity of these members of L-AGS:

Patrons

Sandy & DeLynn Clark, Joel F. Gelderman, Cheryl Kay Speaks, David E. Steffes, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

James W. Bahls, Sandra Caulder, Ralph J. Crouse, Gary B Drummond & Anna T. Siig, Marilyn A Cutting, Ted & Gail Fairfield, Richard & Wanda Finn, Jeanette & Martin Froeschner, Leslie & Raymond Hutchings, Richard & Jean Lerche, David & Bernice Oakley, Madelon Palma, Betty Ryon, Rhett Williamson

Total membership as of April 15, 2008: 263 individuals

We are sad to report that L-AGS Member Margaret McClelland died on April 16, 2008 in Livermore.

Meeting News

General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

The Family Tree Maker Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Almond Avenue School, Livermore.

FTM Chair *ftm.chair@L-AGS.org*
FTM Forum *ftm.group@L-AGS.org*

The Study Group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December at 7:30 p.m., at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore.

Study Group Chair *study.chair@L-AGS.org*
Study Group Forum *study.group@L-AGS.org*

The Master Genealogist Group meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at 7077 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 110, Pleasanton.

TV-TMG Chair *tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org*
TV-TMG Forum *tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org*

L-AGS Leadership for 2008

President	president@L-AGS.org	Anne Homan
First VP and Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Arleen Wood
Second VP and Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Patrick Lofft and Gail Bryan
Corresponding Secretary	corresponding@L-AGS.org	Barbara Hempill
Recording Secretary	recording@L-AGS.org	Rose Marie Phipps
Business Manager	business@L-AGS.org	Larry Hale

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A Message from Our President

Our presence at the Alameda County Fair with the genealogy booth has become a L-AGS tradition. Gail Bryan has ramrodded the project now for several years, but this year she will be away during the time of the fair. Kay Speaks has agreed to take over the responsibility along with a small committee. But they cannot possibly do all the work. We need you, the members, to volunteer. Perhaps some of you hold back for fear that you do not know enough to be of help, but, as someone told my husband when he worried about teaching his first college physics class, “those freshmen think you know more than God.” Most people who come to see our booth at the fair do not know much about their family genealogy and even less about using the computer to find information. If it turns out that they know more than you, then you can ask them to teach you! The whole idea is to have fun with learning and genealogy. Remember, if you still feel shy, you can sign up to be the greeter—a useful role to make people feel welcome and talk to them until a computer terminal is open. We will have the sign-up sheet available online. Please help us to reach out to the community.

Another area in which we need volunteers is in working on projects that require transcribing local materials. George Anderson is the one who is putting together ideas. If you can donate some time, send him an e-mail. Rose Marie Phipps is in the middle of working on a project now—you could get in touch with her to find out what she has been doing and how simple it is.

I’m very happy to see how many of you have come to our monthly general meetings. It’s a chance for us to get acquainted and to hear some great speakers. Kay Speaks gave an excellent presentation about all the different sources available on Ancestry.com. My friend Hildi Kang talked about her work with Korean family lineage records and her family’s yearly album. Ron Willis presented a program about photography as a genealogy tool and stayed to look at and, in some cases, date the photos people brought to the meeting.

On Saturday April 1, a group of ten people led by Kay Speaks went on a field trip to the San Francisco Library for the day. Larry Hale said that he had a lot of fun and learned some new things from their city directory collection. Perhaps we should have more field trips—does anyone have a suggestion for one.

Anne Marshall Homan

Researching Black Sheep, Lost Sheep and Rascals!

By Kay Speaks, Study Group Chair

The American Random House Webster’s College Dictionary defines a ‘black sheep’ as “a person who causes shame or embarrassment because of deviation from the accepted standards of his or her group.”

I have two black sheep among my relatives. Last January I began to wonder, “How many other members of L-AGS also had black sheep?” Thus, my January Study Group topic was decided—Black Sheep Ancestors. That session of the Study Group was especially lively and popular.

We do not have enough space in the printed Roots Tracer to include the full stories as written by the

authors. Instead, we have posted them on the L-AGS Web site, and I have provided links to them in this article, along with a short description. The full text stories can be found on our Web site at:

<http://www.L-AGS.org/Sheep/Sheep.html>

All “black sheep” stories from L-AGS members are used with their permission.

Murdered His Sister-in-Law

My great-uncle Leong Fook murdered his sister-in-law in March 1928 on the family ranch and was hanged at San Quentin in April 1929. His case is used in insanity case law to this day.

First Real “Wild West” Gunfight

My second black sheep, Davis K. Tutt, was related to the family of my great-grandmother, Julia Frances Gabriella August Tutt. In 1865, Springfield, Missouri, was the site of an historic gunfight where “Wild Bill” Hickok killed Davis K. Tutt, Jr. over a gambling debt. Most historians consider this to be the first real “Wild West” gunfight.

Prominent Presbyterian Minister

Mary Ann Loss’ black sheep was a prominent Presbyterian minister from New York who traveled and preached through Ohio, Illinois and Iowa. He was a deserter during the Civil War, and abandoned not one, but two wives and one child.

Well-thought-of Baptist Minister

Marilyn Cutting’s great-grandfather was a well-thought-of minister and family man who was convicted of “assaulting” a 15-year-old girl in Chico, California. Her article *Getting a “Hit” in Salt Lake City* appeared in the February 2007 RootsTracer.

Bigamist Who Became a “Trigamist”

Anne Homan’s ancestor married in England, had 2 children, and in 1856 separated from his wife (#1). Without a divorce, he married again (#2) and immigrated to the United States. After his second “wife” died in New York, William married again (#3) and had two sons.

Fired Tax Collector Becomes a Priest

Anna Siig’s “black sheep” worked as a tax collector for the King of Denmark. He was a bit too enthusiastic doing his job and fell out of favor. Later he became a priest in the church, probably the State Lutheran Church.

Three Black Sheep—Three Deserters?

Cindy Wheeler has three “black sheep” she is researching. She has a Civil War soldier who shot a commanding officer, jumped off the ship and disappeared. She also has a couple who appear to have deserted each of their families, married and had three children together. He then “disappears.” Lastly, Cindy’s family has another man who deserts his wife and two boys.

Executed in South Carolina

Sandra Caulder has been researching her husband’s great-grandfather’s brother who was executed for murdering his wife in South Carolina in 1913.

y-DNA Exposes a Black Sheep

Member Robbie Robinson (Meridian, Idaho) and a

second cousin were found to have completely different y-DNA, showing that a black sheep was lurking somewhere in his own or his cousin’s line up to their common great-grandfather.

Trafficking a Minor Across State Lines

Elizabeth Dalman is researching her father’s paternal grandfather, Benjamin Franklin Jones, who was incarcerated for trafficking a minor across state lines for the purpose of prostitution.

Count your Fingers

Larry Hale’s maternal grandfather was discharged from the Army in 1899 after serving about a year. He was in the Klondike, but he came back broke because the people who were there were bigger crooks than he expected. All his mother said was, “After shaking hands with him, count your fingers.”

Shoots Baptist Minister

Linda Garrett’s mother-in-law’s great-uncle (#1) was definitely a black sheep. In 1871, William Lee Henley walked into a Baptist church in Arkansas and shot the reverend in the face.

Shoots Fiancée’s Father

Grover Garrett (#2) was Linda’s father-in-law’s uncle. He shot and killed Clem Wackerly, his fiancée’s father, because Clem refused permission for the two to marry.

Doane Gang of Bucks County

Linda’s father-in-law also has links to the infamous Doane Gang of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. In the late 1700s, over a 10 year period, this family stole over 50,000 pounds of sterling, worth at least a million dollars by current standards.

Hanged as a Witch

Linda descends from Hannah (Allen) Holt, sister to Martha (Allen) Carrier who was hanged in Salem as a witch. Then there was Ann Putnam, who was one of the hysterical 14-year-old girls of the time accusing people. Linda descends from Ann’s sister, Abigail (Putnam) Dale.

“dogs, toads, & hoeres birds”

I couldn’t help laughing my way through Joe Keller’s ancestral records from the 1600s and 1700s. One ancestor was charged “as high offender against god, for swearing by the life of god & blood of Christ, & that hee was beyond god & above the Heavens and the starrs.” Witnesses were called “dogs, toads, & hoeres birds.”



G. R. O. W.

Genealogy Resources On the Web — The Page That Helps Genealogy Grow!

Compiled by Frank Geasa

If you are located in or are planning to visit the San Francisco, California Bay area, the LDS Oakland Regional Family History Center has an online catalog of the long term holdings of books, films and other genealogy media physically located at that center and at 8 other family history centers in the bay area.

<http://www.oaklandfhc.org/>

An ongoing project has started to create an index of the land transactions in the memorial books of the Irish Registry of Deeds located in Ireland. Some of these date back to the early 1700s.

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~registrvofdeeds/index.html>

The US National Archives have added online Passenger Lists for Germans, Italians and Russians immigrants to the NARA site. These join the already existing Irish Famine List. Unfortunately, while there is much good information in these lists, they are awkward to use and it takes some patience to become familiar with the mechanics of using them. Courtesy of Maxine Trost.

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-list.jsp?cat=GP44>

This site has an index of over 19,000 entries for Silverbrook Cemetery, Niles, Michigan near South Bend, Indiana. The site itself makes you wish every cemetery got similar attention.

<http://friendsofsilverbrook.org/site/>

If you love maps, you will love this US government site which allows you to view various historical and other types of maps. It also offers fascinating options for viewing different layers of information on these maps

<http://nationalatlas.gov/>

Wondering if someone got married in Las Vegas? The Recorder's Office for Clark County, Nevada which includes the Las Vegas Strip has a searchable index on its site of marriages performed there.

<http://www.accessclarkcounty.com/recorder/Marriage/Search.aspx.html>

This Prince Edward Island (Canada) site has a baptismal index available with over 92,000 records for the period 1777-1886

<http://www.gov.pe.ca/cca/baptismal/>

If your ancestry search includes County Kent, England you may find a visit to this site with a marriage index for 7 county districts worthwhile. It covers the years 1754-1911.

<http://www.woodchurchancestry.org.uk/midkentmarriages/>

The Missouri State Archives site has an ongoing transcription and indexing project for Pre-1910 births and deaths. It also has a 1910-1957 death index with accompanying digital images.

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/birthdeath/-search>

If your ancestry includes Scotland, you will want to visit this site which has a commercial side but nevertheless offers links to many free sites focused on Scottish genealogy. There are links to birth, marriage and death sites as well as passenger ships lists and much more.

<http://www.scotlandsfamily.com/>

The Genealogical Society of Sarasota, Inc (Florida) has a searchable digitized version of a book published after a survey they made in 1992 of the cemeteries in Sarasota County. An alphabetical listing makes searching of the extensive work easy

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgss/GSSCemeteryBook.htm>

A work in progress to index the vital records of the state of Virginia as a whole, this site has indexes for some marriage, births and death records from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries with a smattering of more recent data

<http://nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/virginiarecords.html>

Think an ancestor came to North America in the early 1600s? This ship list site might be helpful.

<http://www.packrat-pro.com/ships/shiplist.htm>

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

Added to our library from October 15, 2007 through April 2, 2008:

1. **Alameda County, California, deaths** : County records, 1889-1894 / a public service project of The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society ; project leader: Sandy Clark. 929.379465 ALAMEDA.
2. **Asian American genealogical sourcebook** / edited by Paula K. Byers. 929.108985073 ASIAN.
3. **Early records of the Asbury United Methodist Church of Livermore**, California / transcribed by Gail Bryan, Kathy Chase and Jean Lerche. 929.379465 EARLY.
4. French, J. H. (John Homer), 1824-1888. **Gazetteer of the state of New York**. Historical and statistical gazetteer of New York State / [by J.H. French]. 974.700321 FRENCH.
5. Haga, Enoch, 1931- **Write and publish your family history on your PC** / written and compiled by Enoch Haga. 808.066929 HAGA.
6. Hall, Charles M. **The Atlantic bridge to Germany, Vol. 1** / by Charles M. Hall. 929.30943 HALL.
7. **The handybook for genealogists** : United States of America. 929.1 HANDYBOOK.
8. Nelson, Wes. **The ancestors of Harry Arnold Nelson, Jr.** / Wes Nelson. 929.20973 NELSON.
9. Nolte, Isabel W. **The early pioneers in the Livermore Valley**, California were one big family / by Isabel W. Nolte. 929.20973 NOLTE.
10. Smith, Clifford Neal. **Encyclopedia of German-American genealogical research** / Clifford Neal Smith and Anna Piszczan-Czaja, Smith. 973.0431 SMITH.
11. Wallis, Michael, 1945- **The real wild west : the 101 Ranch** and the creation of the American West / Michael Wallis. 976.624 WALLIS.

Mobility and Migration

East Anglian Founders of New England, 1629 – 1640

Book Report by Barbara Huber

Mobility and Migration: East Anglian Founders of New England, 1629 – 1640, University of Massachusetts Pres, 1994, by Roger Thompson. This is a great research book for anyone who has ancestors from the Greater East Anglian area of England. From 1629 to 1640 between 14,000 and 21,000 people emigrated from England to the New England Colonies. Leading elements in this movement were settlers from the five eastern counties: Lincolnshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Essex.

Part II of the book investigates the personal histories of 934 adult men and women emigrants. Their names, with individual and ancestral details, are presented in lists, plus source notes. I found a number of my ancestors listed in the book. Included were their age, date of birth, date of entry in New England, birthplace and much more. The author also listed the emigrants by their business, such as clerical, clergy, professional, or entrepreneurial. For the women emigrants he also listed the same information and included their husband's names.

Extended Families: In this section Roger included relationships and kinships of a number of prominent families. Another section I found very informative was the “Adult Sibling Emigrants.” I know my ancestor and his brother came to New England together, but I was surprised to find out how many more brothers and step-brothers came together.

The book has an excellent index listing every name, town or subject.

What I have written is just a small part of the information available in this book. I was so impressed that I wished to have my own copy. However, it is very hard to find. I searched all the bookstores I knew of, plus used-book stores. I then discovered AbeBooks.com which has new and used books, textbooks, rare and out-of-print books. The company searches many bookstores to find the book requested. My book was available and I was able to buy it.

Available from local libraries via interlibrary loan.

Crossing the Pond: Those Wonderful German Churchbooks

By Anne Homan

For many of us in the United States interested in tracing our ancestors, the big step is moving across the pond, that is, the Atlantic Ocean. I have two sets of German ancestors who immigrated from Württemberg in the early 1830s. Adam Dürr, my great-great-grandfather, married Justina Geissert on 10 June 1833 in Manchester, Maryland, according to their marriage certificate. These two surnames—Dürr and Geissert—became the focuses of my search.

Early Lutheran church records in Manchester revealed some family clues, and the 1840 census showed the Dürres in Hanover, Pennsylvania, just over the border from Manchester. The third child in the family, Catherine, was my great-grandmother. Adam Dürr enlisted in the U.S. Army on 3 July 1847 during the Mexican War; he died of disease near Jalapa, Vera Cruz, Mexico, on November 12. Justina's father, Matthias Geissert, wrote in his will dated 18 May 1847 that "I do not want my daughter Eustena [Justina] to have the principal of her share so long that she is living with him the said John Der [Adam Dürr] her husband. I therefore direct my executor to put my daughter Eustena's share on interest and pay the same to her annually." That certainly made me wonder about the character of said John Der!

I looked through many documents without learning anything about the Dürr family's hometown except that it was in the kingdom of Württemberg, between Baden and Bavaria in southern Germany. Even Adam's naturalization papers for "John Der," signed Adam Dürr, only declared his freedom of allegiance to King William of Württemberg.

I attended a class about research in Germany, and one of the main points made about immigration was that people rarely traveled alone. I knew that my family had long ago been friends with the Folmer family in Hanover. In fact, Johann Martin Folmer and his wife, Anna Maria Folmer, were the witnesses to the marriage of Adam and Justina Dürr. My brother helped me get in touch with the Folmers, and we visited them. We learned from Johann Martin's naturalization papers that he was born in the Württemberg village of Dusslingen. The family had come to Baltimore from Amsterdam, a port that emigrants from Württemberg reached by

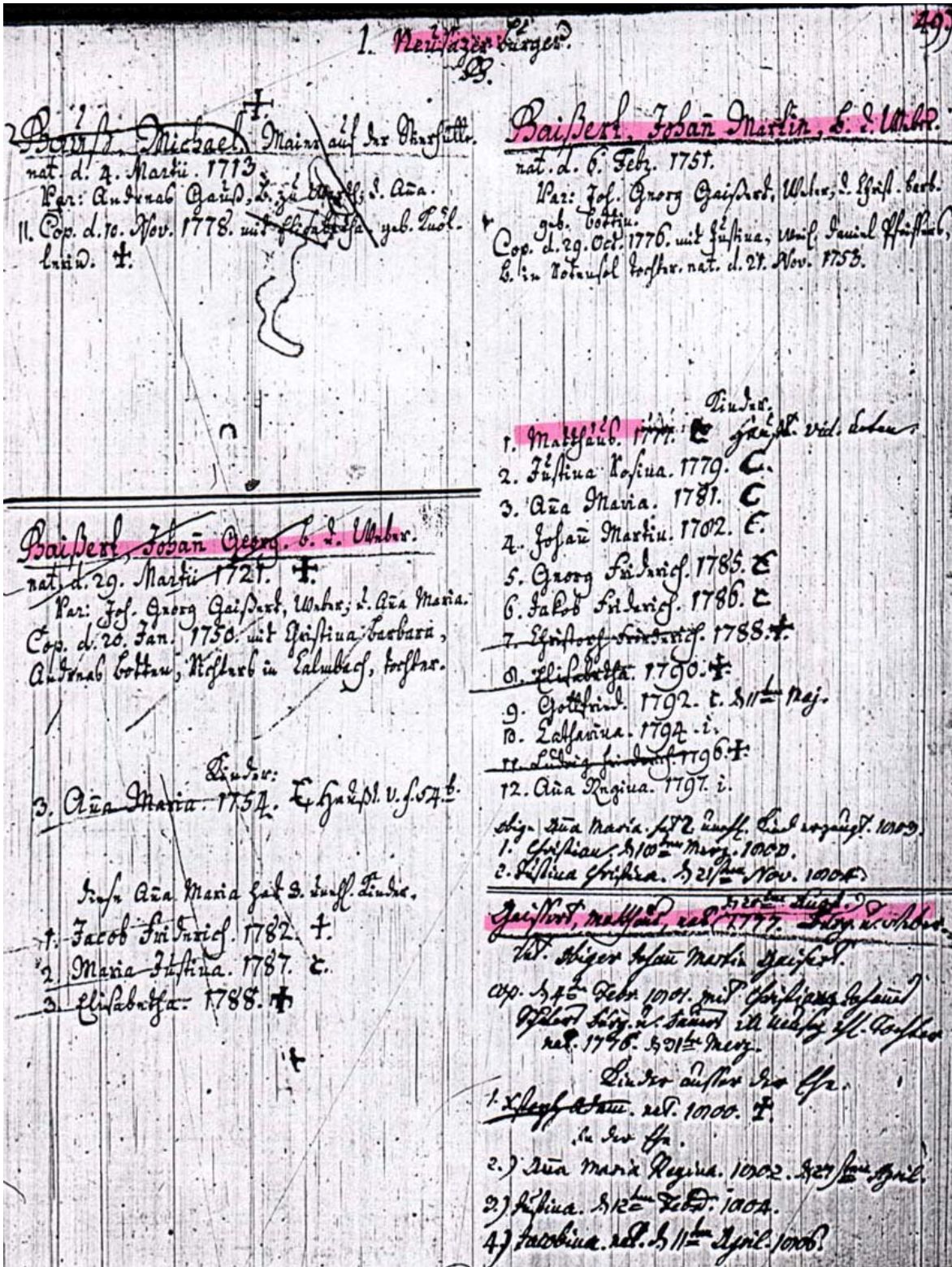


My great-grandmother, Catherine Schneider née Dürr

sailing north on the Rhine River. The Folmers (in Germany, Vollmer) even had a list of their family members with all the vital records that they evidently brought over with them. They came in 1832, a time before steamboats when the sailing vessel voyage across the Atlantic averaged six months.

As soon as I could, I went to the LDS library at Salt Lake and spent a dizzy five days whirling through microfilmed German records. I was fortunate to find that the Dusslingen church kept a detailed familienbuch. Such a book keeps track of families and their descendants. With that to refer to, it was easy to follow the family through the birth, marriage and death records.

The Dürres were bauers, ordinary farmers, for the most part; I was able to follow them back for five generations to Conrad Dürr, born in 1627. They achieved some prestige when an ancestor married



The familienbuch for the Gaisert family of Neusatz. Justina Gaisert, who later married Adam Dürr, is listed as the second-to-last name in the right-hand column. The familienbuch is a summary of genealogical data compiled by the pastor of a church from earlier primary entries in the church books. In this case, it names Justina's ancestors and collateral ancestors for four generations back.

the daughter of the mayor. After that, the men were listed as bauers and burghers, citizens. Adam Dürr’s father broke the tradition and worked as a groom in the king’s stable near Tübingen, a large town nearby.

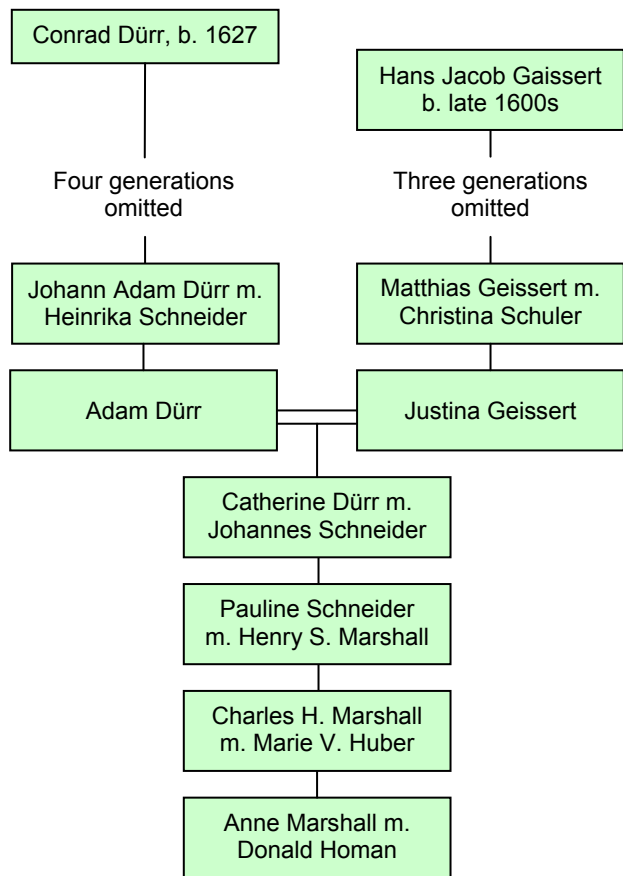
Adam served in the army and married Anna Luz in 1829; they had a son, David, a year later. The familienbuch stated that Adam, Anna, David and Adam’s brother, Georg Dürr, all left for “Amerika” on 30 April 1832. It is certainly possible that they made their way 70 miles to the Rhine and sailed on the same ship from Amsterdam with the Folmers. Once they were in the U.S., there are no records of Anna, David or Georg—I assume that they died enroute.

Now to the other half of my puzzle—the Geisserts. The family was buried at the Zion/Immanuel Lutheran Church graveyard in Manchester, Maryland. Here in Maryland, they bought land and worked as farmers. I looked in every record I could think of with no success at establishing a connection in Germany. The friendly German experts at the LDS Salt Lake library tried to help.

One of the wonderful sources for finding families in Württemberg is *The Württemberg Emigration Index* by Trudy Schenk and Ruth Froelke. It is a set of eight volumes. When citizens of the kingdom decided to leave Germany, those who followed the rules applied for permission to leave. The eight volumes of this index are compiled from these records. The first volume was published in 1983, and subsequent volumes continued until the eighth one in 2002. When I was first searching for the Geisserts, volume five was the last to appear. The information in the index includes the person’s name, birthdate, birthplace, oberamt (a government district, similar to our county), application date, and destination. I finally decided that my approach would be to wait until the volume was published in which my family (hopefully) appeared. And eureka! it happened!!!! Volume seven was the magic number.

I was fortunate that the name Geissert and the names of the families who lived and intermarried with the Geisserts were not common names like Schmidt or Schneider. My other names were Knöllner and Pfeiffer. The families were listed in Oberamt Neuenberg. Again I traveled to Salt Lake and spent many hours under a hood turning a mi-

crofilm reel. The Geissert men, whose name was spelled Gaissert in the Lutheran church records, were all weavers and burghers. The family was centered in the village of Neusatz and married into families from Neusatz and nearby villages. Again, the local church had marvelous records of birth, marriages and deaths as well as a familienbuch. I was able to follow the family back from Matthias for four generations to Hans Jacob Gaissert, who was born in the late 1600s. The first seven volumes of the *Württemberg Emigration Index* are in print in our library, and all eight are now available online from Ancestry.



TO BE IGNORANT OF WHAT OCCVRRED BEFORE YOY WERE BORN IS TO REMAIN PERPETVALLY A CHILD. FOR WHAT IS THE WORTH OF A HVMAN LIFE VNLESS IT IS WOVEN INTO THE LIFE OF OVR ANCESTORS BY THE RECORDS OF HISTORY?

*Marcus Tullius Cicero, 106-43 B.C.
from Logan Family History Center, 5 Mar 2008*

Members Helping Members

By Linda Garrett

I wrote to members@L-AGS.org with a request:

“Does anyone have the key to the counties on Vital Search's site of the 1905-1939 CA Death Index? I have found three deaths for a family I'm researching for my daughter-in-law and can't seem to find a key that tells me in which county they died. I know that #28 is Napa for example because a lady who is researching for an obit for a fee told me she died in Napa County. But I found this woman's two sons-in-law on this site and one died in #60 and the other

in #40. This would be of interest to the whole group if someone who has the key could post it.”

Linda Trudeau answered:

“The counties are numbered alphabetically. Alameda is 1, San Francisco is 38, Santa Clara 43 and so on. Look at the list, and go from there, should be the same. There are 58 counties as far as I know.”

Wayne Barnes sent the following table:

01 Alameda	17 Lake	33 Riverside	49 Sonoma
02 Alpine	18 Lassen	34 Sacramento	50 Stanislaus
03 Amador	19 Los Angeles	35 San Benito	51 Sutter
04 Butte	20 Madera	36 San Bernardino	52 Tehama
05 Calaveras	21 Marin	37 San Diego	53 Trinity
06 Colusa	22 Mariposa	38 San Francisco	54 Tulare
07 Contra Costa	23 Mendocino	39 San Joaquin	55 Tuolumne
08 Del Norte	24 Merced	40 San Luis Obispo	56 Ventura
09 El Dorado	25 Modoc	41 San Mateo	57 Yolo
10 Fresno	26 Mono	42 Santa Barbara	58 Yuba
11 Glenn	27 Monterey	43 Santa Clara	
12 Humboldt	28 Napa	44 Santa Cruz	
13 Imperial	29 Nevada	45 Shasta	60 Alameda
14 Inyo	30 Orange	46 Sierra	70 Los Angeles
15 Kern	31 Placer	47 Siskiyou	80 San Diego
16 Kings	32 Plumas	48 Solano	90 San Francisco

Dick Finn answered:

“Wayne beat me to the punch as I was just about to send out similar information. Please note that four counties have two numbers each and both numbers need to be checked in some indexes because they do not overlap. Alameda County is 1 and 60, Los Angeles County is 19 and 70, San Diego County is 37 and 80, and San Francisco County is 38 and 90.”

Kay Speaks wrote: “Information for county codes can be found at this two-line link:”

<http://www.vitalsearch-ca.com/gen/ca/vitals/cacodes.htm>

Thanks everyone. This really helps me to know what county to write to for a death certificate for my daughter-in-law's family!

Linda

Seminar

From the California Genealogical Society

Noted Irish author, researcher and lecturer, Nora M. Hickey, will be presenting a full-day seminar on Wednesday, July 9, 2008, at the Berkeley Yacht Club. Ms. Hickey will present four talks on topics for beginners and expert alike. She has also agreed to schedule another day at the CGS Library to do one-on-one consultations.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. Lectures will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Details are forthcoming and a registration flier is being prepared, so check back at the CGS Web site:

<http://www.calgensoc.org/web/cgs/cgshp.nsf>

Court Documents Prove Invaluable

Joane Was “an infamous scould & breaker of the peace”

By Joseph E. Keller, Jr.

New England Ancestors is a quarterly publication of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. In the Summer 2007 Volume 8, No. 3 issue I read an article by Diane Rapaport entitled, “Breaking the King’s Peace.” It presented an interesting perspective on my eighth great-grandparents, John and Joane Andrews.

In this article, Joane was in court many times starting in 1651. In addition, two of Joane’s children, including my seventh great-grandmother, Joane Ford (Joane the Younger), were in court records as children. Also one of Joane the Younger’s sons, John Ford, escaped from the Portsmouth jail. My research included looking at copies of four of the six volumes of the Province and Court Records of Maine

Kay Speaks’ request that people consider presenting information about Black Sheep ancestors for a Study Group meeting catalyzed me into refining my information about John and Joane in order to provide it to Kay. In evaluating what I provided her, I realized there were several unanswered questions: 1) after John Andrews died, before 4 Jul 1671, Joane married a Philip Atwell, but soon moved his trunk out of her house and reclaimed the Andrews name. Who was Philip Atwell? 2) What about a Edward Gatch who beat Joan in 1688? And 3) why was John Ford in the Portsmouth jail?

In trying to answer these questions I began to truly appreciate the value of the above court records. They are an excellent source on at least two matters: 1) the types of crimes and punishments that people received in the 1650s to 1700s in Maine, and 2) the language people used in these court proceedings.

In researching answers to the above three questions I learned:

Joane was presented for threatening Goody Whitte in a profane manner “saying shee would swere her self to the Divill but she would bee avenged of her & shee sware 2 or thrise by the name of god in a profayne manner.” Joane thus qualified as a witch, and “could by his aid wreak vengeance on Goody White at the risk of the gallows.”

1) Philip Atwell was Joane Andrews’ second husband after the death of her husband John. Philip was also involved in settling the estate of Joane’s dead husband. Although Joane was reported to have changed her name back to Andrews after Philip left

her house, she had more court appearances as either Joane Atwell or Joane, Philip Atwell’s wife. Philip was not immune to court appearances as a defendant, being fined for “not frequenting of the publique place of gods worship upon the Lords days.” He also failed

in “giving bayle” for good behavior in a civil suit and was “Convayed to prison.” Finally, Philip and his stepson John Andrews owed a “Judgment of one barrel & an halfe of Mackerell & foure shilling in silver” to a Henry Deareing.

2) What about Edward Gatch? In a June 13, 1688 Court, he had to answer for his “Beating and evill Intreating Joan, the wife of Philip Attwell, being the breach of his Majestyes Peace.” He was sentenced to pay 30 shillings or to receive 5 lashes on the Bare Skinn, as well as costs of 20 shillings six pence. At the time of the Court hearing, Joane was about 67 years old. I don’t know when Edward was born. His will was signed April 18, 1717. Showing the interrelationships of that period, Gatch’s son-in-law was Samuel Ford, a grandson of Joane Andrews, whom Gatch had beaten. Gatch’s will was witnessed by Samuel Ford’s mother, Joane the Younger.

3) I have no information yet as to why John Ford was in the Portsmouth jail. John is the brother of Samuel in the above section.

The following table is included to show charges/convictions and punishments of the 1650s – 1680s for a few cases. Although it focuses on my relatives, the charges and resulting punishments were common with other people of that period. It appears as perspective of the mores of the time.

Joane Andrew's checkered record of behavior and her quaint punishments

<i>Charges/Convictions</i>	<i>Penalty</i>
Joane was convicted of being “an infamous scould & a breaker of the peace & for Conteming authority in abusing the Governor”	Either a “Forty shillings Fine” or “to receive corporall punishment by 25 stripes upon the bare skin.”
Joane and a neighbor, John Dyamond, were convicted “for suspicion of Incontinency,” which was the seventeenth-century code for sexual relations.	John was fined 40 shillings and an act of separation was made in court that John and Joane were not to keep company with each other.
Joane was convicted of being a “Make bayte, making contention and abusing Goody Mendum.”	“she is to have twenty lashes with a whipp upon the bare skin.”
Joane was convicted of “breaking the Kings peace and by abuseing of Mis Lockewood”	10 lashes on the bare skin
Joan was presented for abusing a Grand Jury man per many threatening and reviling speeches.	A fine was paid and the presentment dropped.
Joane was presented for selling a firkin of butter (Note: a firkin of butter was 56 pounds) with two stones weighing slightly over 14 pounds in it.	That she appear in Town Meetings in York and Kittery, ME, for two hours, “with her offense written upon a paper in Cappital Letters pinned upon her forehead.”
Joan appeared in court for stealing from a Mary Hayle.	She was to pay Mary, the County Treasurer and the Constable. She refused, and was sentenced to receive corporal punishment.
A Gowan Willson was presented for frequenting the home of John Andrews suspiciously and at unseasonable times and for accompanying Joane up and down Pischatagua River about “frivelous Occasions” thus neglecting his wife and children.	The court issued an injunction for the separation of Gowan and Joane. Subsequently Joane forfeited 10 pounds under this act of separation.
Joane was presented for threatening Goody Whitte in a profane manner “saying shee would swere her self to the Divill but she would bee avenged of her & shee sware 2 or thrise by the name of god in a profayne manner.”	Joane thus qualified as a witch, and “could by his aid wreak vengence on Goody White at the risk of the gallows.”
Joane was presented for Contempt of Authority in saying she cared not a Toard (Turd) for any magistrate in the world.	Joane was to be carried out to the post and have twenty lashes on the “bare skine.”
Joane was censured by the court for “profayne swearing & Contempt of Authority”	Because people mentioned that she was pregnant, she could avoid the 20 lashes on the bare skin and instead pay 5 pounds within three months.
Joane the Younger and a sister were presented in court as children for breaking and entering. Joane Younger was about 6 at the time and her sister about 14. This almost seems like it came from a Charles Dickens' story.	There was no record of punishment.

Continued

Although the information in the above table shows Joane Andrews as a defendant, there were other cases in which she was a witness for the prosecution. For example, in the June 30, 1656 session, she was a witness for a Magdeline Wiggin stating she had seen her mother in the act of adultery. In the July 3, 1660 session Joan was again a prosecution witness about the “uncivill Carages of Capt. Champnoone” with a Mis Godfrey. This was followed by “Mis Godfrey is Injoynd to pay 8s to Joane Andrews as a Witsesse.” Then in the session of July 7, 1663, Joane was a witness to a scene where a Goody Greene asked a James Wiggin to

carry in a “dish of Meate to the bay Magestrates” and Wiggin responded “by god if it were poyzen hee would Carry itt to them.” Joane was awarded 3 shillings for her costs in presenting testimony in another civil suit.

The information above shows that much of what Joane was charged with would not be considered a crime today. To me this is a wonderful example as to how our mores have changed with time.

The value of reviewing court records of certain areas in order to study one’s family cannot be overstated.

Long-lost Letters Need to Find Rightful Family

By Paula Brown

{Editor’s note: Paula felt that this story about old letters that should be returned to the rightful family was worth telling, but she felt unable to write it herself. I offered to write the article, as I and the other Roots Tracer staff members will do on request for stories that deserve to be told. Jane Southwick}

My late husband was an electrician and a stamp collector. He was hired to work in an old building in Alameda County that was being renovated. While he was working he found a stash of old letters left behind by somebody. Because he enjoyed collecting stamps, he took the letters home and put them in a file cabinet. I have been cleaning out that old filing cabinet and discovered the letters. The building in which these letters were found must have been pretty old, because some of the letters are dated 1898. As I looked at them, I thought about the people to whom the letters were addressed. Would there be descendants, and would they want to know about these letters?

The letters portrayed a space in time in the life of a Johnstone family. Mr. George W. Johnstone and his wife, Ada, wrote to each other when George went on a gold mining trek to British Columbia in 1898. Ada was living with her mother and father, and two-year-old son, Irwin, in Alameda, California. Of the letters found, four were written by Ada to George, three of which were mailed to the Dominion Hotel in Victoria, British Columbia. The fourth was addressed to Hazelton, Sheena River, British Columbia. There were five letters written by George to Ada at their home at 604 Taylor Street, Alameda.

“Ada’s prayers had been answered. ... I do not know of any thing that could bring more happiness to your home than this little daughter ...”

Ada’s letters written between February 25, 1898 and March 20, 1898, described what was happening in Alameda, how she and their son, Irwin, missed him. She wrote about her father having a bad leg and no longer being able to work in the shipyard, and how her mother worried about her father. She mentioned the weather, relatives and friends, how she made a new pair of pants for Irwin out of an old pair of George’s pants, and how she wrote in her diary every day so she would be able to tell him everything that had happened while he was away.

The dates of George’s letters are February 24, 1898 to March 2, 1898. The inferences from the letters show that he left home the night of the 23rd and traveled by train, stopping in Dunsmuir where the first letter was written. He, and the group he was with, (the Cunningham Grider Party) arrived in Victoria, British Columbia and stayed at the Dominion Hotel. They stayed there until two days later when a 12-year-old steamer took them to Hazelton, Skiena River, British Columbia. He talked about how he missed his family and friends, what a good time he was having, and that he hoped to strike it rich so his father-in-law would not have to work any more.

There was a letter written February 23, 1898 from a friend, Bert. The letterhead on this letter was Hay and Wright Shipbuilders at Ship Yards, Alameda

Point, 26 Steuart [sic] Street. In this letter, Bert draws a little circle and writes “this is no potato but the first nugget found by Geo Johnson [sic] at _____ Creek Apr 1st 1898.” Evidently, he was also hoping that George would strike it rich.

With the information provided in the letters, it was possible to look at census records to find more about the family. In the 1900 Alameda Township census, Ada’s father, Donald D. MacDonald, was the head of the family with his wife, Jane. Besides George, Ada, and their son Irwin, there were nine other people living in that house: James, Mabel, and Leona, who were Donald’s children, plus two nieces and three boarders.

By 1910, George was head of the household with a new son, Roy. Ada’s parents, Donald and Jane MacDonald, were living with them.

By 1920, George was living on Taylor Street with a new wife, Cora and children, Irwin age 24, Roy age 19, and Jean age 5. Another letter from E. V. Haley in Sacramento, written to George at an address of Webster Avenue, Alameda, congratulated George on the birth of a “little Miss Johnston at 602 Taylor Ave.” and that “Ada’s prayers had been answered.” He goes on to write, “I do not know of any thing that could bring more happiness to your home than this little daughter and sincerely hope that she will grow and thrive to become a companion to her Mother. I hope that Mother and babe are well.” This can be interpreted to mean that Jean was born to Ada, but a question arises as to why the letter was sent to George at Webster Avenue, and when the new wife Cora appeared on the scene. Could Ada have died in the 1918 flu epidemic?

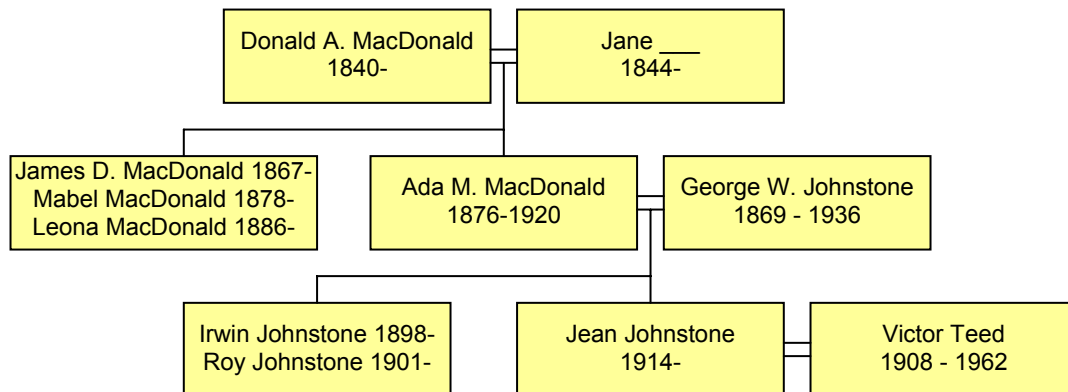
The 1930 census shows George, Cora and Jean living on Taylor Street in Alameda.

In December 1936 a letter from Aunt Minnie in Tatmagouche, Nova Scotia, Canada, arrived at the home of Mrs. Victor Teed who was living on Taylor Street in Alameda. Aunt Minnie expressed her sorrow to Jean at the death of Jean’s father, George. This implies that Jean Johnstone married Victor Teed and was still living in the house where she was born. Minnie writes, “I sympathize with you and Roy, write to me Jean and tell me all about your Baby and yourself.”

In further newspaper research I found an article in the Oakland Tribune of July 25, 1937 that mentioned a Roy Johnstone of San Jose who gave his cousin, Miss Josephine Hamilton, in marriage to a Patrick J. Cannon Jr. Josephine’s mother was Mrs. Mary Hamilton (no father was listed). The 1930 Alameda census shows a Charles H. Hamilton as the husband of Mary and father of Josephine. The Rev. Thomas A. Phelan, assistant pastor and cousin of the bride, officiated. The ushers, who were also cousins of the bride, were Philip Davenport of San Leandro and Victor Teed of Alameda.

In that stash, there was one more letter, which was a birthday card to Agnes Heselmeyer, living on John Street in Hayward, California. I can find no relationship to the Johnstones.

If any L-AGS member can trace this family forward and find living relatives, I would like to present them with this package of memories from the past.



My Carson Family Roots

The 101 Ranch, “The Largest Diversified Ranch in the World”

Part 2

By Mary Dillon

[Editor’s note: *This is the second of a two-part series about the most famous ranch in the American West in the early 1900s. L-AGS member Mary Dillon’s family history is entwined with that of the owners of this ranch. Part 1 appeared in the February 2008 Roots Tracer. Part 1 ended in 1903 when the Miller Family was about to launch the ranch into its explosive growth.*]

After “GW” Miller’s death, the running of the Ranch fell to his three sons, Joe, Zack and George, and within a few years life changed considerably. All decisions were made together—the three brothers and their mother, Molly (Carson) Miller. Each brother had a area of interest: Joe loved agriculture and breeding both plants & animals—he even corresponded with Luther Burbank on some of his experiments with grains; Zack was the stockman and knew how to raise, trade and train horses and mules; George, the youngest brother, was the businessman and financier. With each brother doing what he loved best the 101 Ranch quickly became know as “the largest diversified ranch in the world.” Cousins from back in Kentucky were brought out to work on the ranch and a lot of names in my genealogy passed through the Ranch.

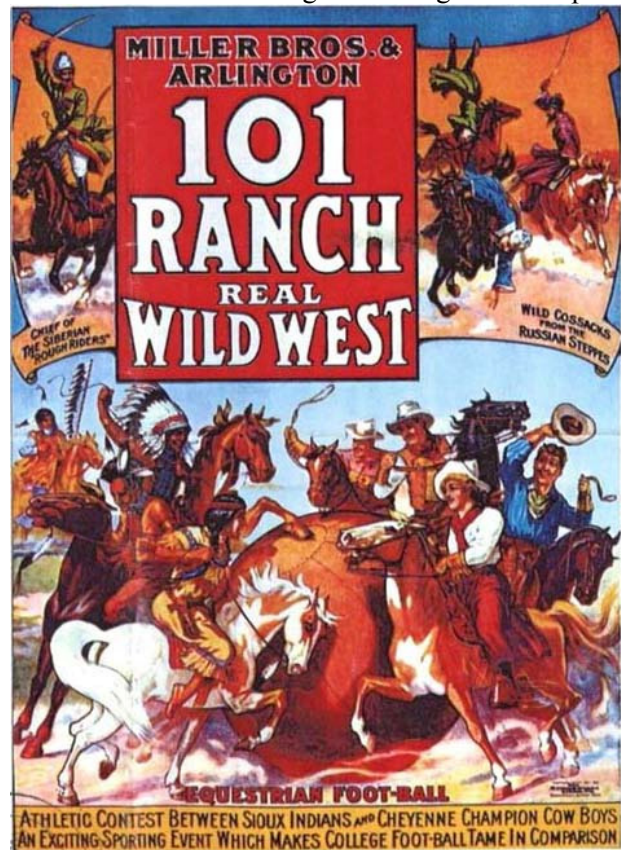
At its peak of operation the ranch employed close to 3,500 people, many of whom lived on the Ranch with their families.

Here is a description of some of the operations at the ranch.

The cowboys on the Ranch loved to get together at roundup time and compete to see who was the best at various events—and the locals from miles around would come to watch or take part in the competition. As word spread about the rodeo, more people came. In 1905 the National Editorial Association held its annual convention in Tulsa. The Millers invited the group to come visit the ranch and see a “real” rodeo. The brothers rented railroad cars for the visitors to come and spend a few days at the ranch. Then all the local women worked to feed the crowd. It was a huge success with over 65,000 people attending. The brothers even managed to have Geronimo brought from his imprisonment at Ft. Sill to have his “last buffalo hunt.”

Needless to say, the world soon learned of the 101 Ranch and by 1908 the Miller Brothers “101 Wild West Show” was on the road for everyone to enjoy. The early Wild West Shows were along the lines of Buffalo Bill’s shows and often competed with him. One favorite performer was Bill Pickett, who invented the sport of bulldogging by sinking his teeth into the steer’s lip (like a bull dog) to bring him down. When the show performed at the ranch my great aunt Verona Carson often rode with the other cowgirls in the show. And the Carsons would venture down from Blackwell to enjoy a day of terrapin races and Wild West Show excitement.

The show was performing in London, England in 1914 when WWI broke out. The British Government, with very little reimbursement, confiscated all the animals and equipment that could be used in the war effort leaving the show people stranded. It cost the Miller Brothers a huge sum to get all the per-



A 101 Ranch Wild West Show poster from about 1911.

formers home and to replace all the trained horses and show equipment. The show didn't go back on the road again until 1923 when profits from oil wells on the ranch allowed them to pay off debts and outfit the new "101 Ranch Wild West and Great Far East Show." The shows in the 20's were quite spectacular and featured the Wild West Show as well as "Far East" entertainment, like Cossack dancers from Russia and elephants and other exotic animals.

One of the early sidelines from the show was motion pictures. During 1911-12, the show wintered in Venice Beach, California, and the Millers, not wanting to miss out on any money-making opportunity, started the Bison 101 Film Company with William Ince as director. A number of early westerns were filmed both at the ranch and at Inceville in the Santa Monica Mountains. Several of the Wild West Show cowboys went on to become movie stars. Tom Mix, Will Rogers, Hoot Gibson, Buck Jones, Ken Maynard and Yakima Kanute are probably the best known. Several of the Ponca Indians who worked for the show also worked in the films. By 1912 the newly formed Universal Pictures forced the Millers to sell out to them and give them the use of the Bison 101 label. By 1913 the Miller Brothers were out of the movie business.

But of course, the Millers were never involved with just one thing at a time. In 1909 a friend of E. W. Marland, an oil man who had made and lost a fortune in the oil fields of Pennsylvania, invited him to vacation on the 101 Ranch. While riding on the plains, Marland noticed an anticline that indicated oil. He worked out a deal with the Millers and drilled a well, which came in dry. In 1911, after several dry wells, Marland got permission from the Ponca Chief to drill a well on land leased from the Poncas. Oil was struck and the well was named "Willie Cries For War" after the owner of the land. This well continued producing until 1976.

The Miller Brothers and E. W. Marland began with the wells on the 101 Ranch, its gas station and a small refinery. E. W. created the Marland Oil Company and took over management of the oil properties with the Millers as stockholders, sank more wells and grew quite wealthy. Marland built a large refinery in Ponca City and in 1922 the Watchhorn Oil Field, one of the largest ever discovered, was found on 101 land. By 1923 the 101 Ranch oil income jumped to \$1.3 million—enough to bring

them out of debt from WWI. In 1917 the 101 Ranch Oil Company became Marland Refining Company, then later the Marland Oil Company. In 1929 it became Continental Oil Company, or what we now know as CONOCO. But because of financial problems, the Millers sold most of the oil stock in 1929.

The end of an era

Molly Miller died in 1918. The loss of her leadership was felt by the brothers. In October of 1927 Joe Miller was working on his car in the garage of his home and apparently died of asphyxiation. The family and world mourned. In February 1929 George Miller was coming home late from a meeting in Ponca City. His car skidded on an icy curve and the car flipped over onto George. He wasn't found until morning and died on his way to the hospital.

Zack was now the only one left to manage the entire operation as the world tumbled into depression—and Zack would always rather be out with his stock than in a business meeting. He struggled valiantly to keep the Ranch going—taking out loans and cutting unprofitable operations, but with the depression, prices fell for Ranch products while taxes and overhead continued. In 1931 the Ranch was placed in receivership and liquidation began. Most of the lands were divided and sold. Buildings were used for a while by the government for a youth vocational program. In the mid-1930s the Whitehouse was sold for scrap and stripped to its bones. Zack was allowed to keep the store and about an acre of land and lived there most of the time until his death in 1952. He is buried on Cowboy Hill overlooking the Salt Fork River and the headquarters of the ranch he loved so much. The store burned in the 1990s.

All that's left now are the foundations of the once great 101 Ranch. The headquarters is a roadside park and a group called the 101 Ranch Oldtimers (descendants of people who worked for the Ranch or Miller family members) is working steadily to gain the Ranch its deserved recognition and to preserve its legacy. There is also a 101 Ranch Museum in Ponca City—in E.W. Marland's first house, before he built his "castle." The museum houses a wonderful collection of pictures and memorabilia.

The Prairie has taken back what it once gave to the Miller family, but what a time it was!

Even After 25 Years, the Wheeler Family Search Continues

By Cindy Wheeler

Start with what you know. That is the most important genealogy lesson I have learned. But I have also learned that sometimes what you “know” isn’t true!

Over 25 years ago, my husband, Gene, told me that his father, Woodrow Wilson “Woody” was the youngest of four children, born in Darien, Walworth County, Wisconsin, to Harry and Mytta (Shields) Wheeler.

Knowing it might be painful for Woody to talk about his childhood, I asked him about his siblings. Surprise—Woody was actually one of *ten* children! First there was Leo (born 1894), then Ruby. Woody remembered his brothers bringing Ruby’s coffin home on a train from Indiana when he was very young. Myrtle came next, then LaVerne, David, Harry Jr., and Bill. Harry Jr. disappeared around 1929, abandoning his wife and two small sons. The next two, Edward and Wayne, died as toddlers. Woody, born in 1918, was the youngest.

There is very little known about Woody’s father.

After having the 10 children, and while Woody was very young, Harry’s wife left the family. Woody was raised by his older sister Myrtle, after she was married. He was in close contact with some of his brothers. Brother Bill was known for having a bathtub full of turtles. It turns out that Bill’s wife, Iva, made very good turtle soup! Later, Woody became a partner with his brother LaVerne in a meat market.

After telling me about his siblings, Woody reminisced about his grandparents, Riley and Helen (Starin) Wheeler, from Darien, Walworth County, Wisconsin, and David and Anna (Brace) Shields from Brodhead, Rock County, Wisconsin. He wondered about their lives; why his mother left the family; how Ruby died; and where Harry Jr. went when he left his two little

boys.

During the last 25 years, I have continued searching. Because Woody’s grandparents were from Darien and Brodhead in Wisconsin, I looked at Wisconsin federal census records. I interviewed Woody’s surrogate mother, Myrtle, which led me to Florence, the abandoned wife of Harry Jr. Florence sent me a 1976 bicentennial book on Darien with cemetery listings. I found microfilm of the local newspaper, which produced obituaries. I took a trip to Darien and Brodhead. While there, I interviewed Florence. I found where Bill’s grandson was, but he never replied to my inquiries.

Then I discovered Woody’s grandfathers were Civil War veterans, but from Illinois. I sent for pension files; Riley’s included a copy of his death certificate! Riley was born in Sharon, Schoharie County, New York to Henry and Lydia Heltz Wheeler. I now knew Woody’s great-grandparents. I found Henry, Lydia, Isaac, Henry Jr., Willard, John, Robert, Riley, Charlotte, Truman, and an infant,

who were in a 1850 census, just across the border in Chemung, McHenry County, Illinois. Henry and Lydia weren’t located again until 1880, still in Chemung, with grandson (Harry Sr.) and the now grown infant from 1850, Alphonse, his wife and daughter. Both censuses indicated that Henry was born in Connecticut and Lydia in New York. Working back, I found Henry in the 1840 census, in Sharon, New York. I also found Henry in Sharon in the 1830 census, but the age of the oldest female, who may have been a wife, is the same in both censuses, and the 1830 census showed children too old to be Lydia’s. Two different wives?

I continued hunting. Information for Woody’s Grandfather Riley’s siblings, as well as Woody’s, was slowly gathered. On a 2006 Salt Lake City trip I

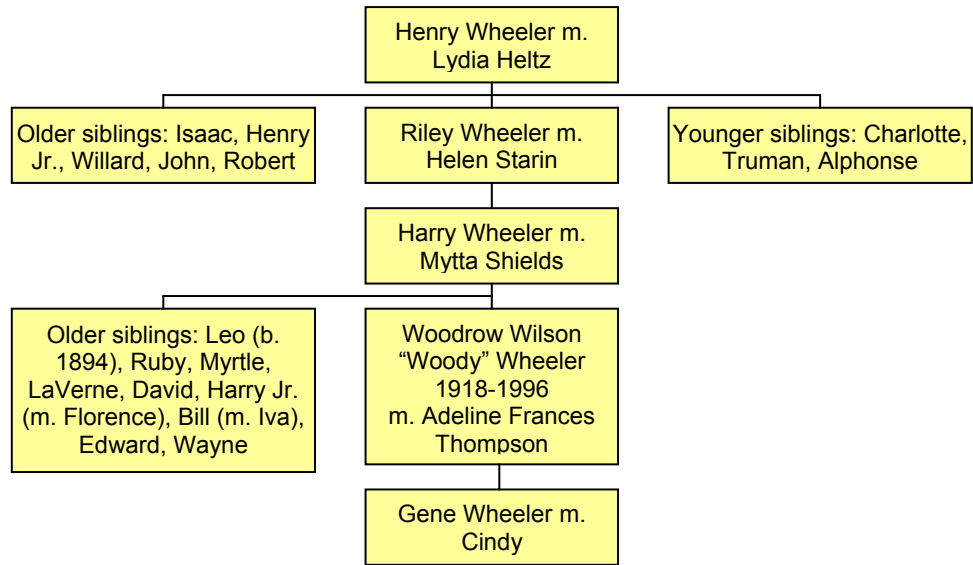


This is my late father-in-law, Woodrow Wilson “Woody” Wheeler, in the 7th or 8th grade. I cropped this out of a school picture. It is only one of two photos of him we have.

found a McHenry County, Illinois, grantor/grantee index. This led me to a 2007 visit to McHenry County, Illinois where I found deeds, but no death certificates or obituaries. A generous Walworth County, Wisconsin, resident found a marriage certificate for Ruby! Ruby was with her husband in the 1920 Janesville, Rock County, Wisconsin census. A

World War I registration card for this husband led to Hammond, Lake County, Indiana in 1930, but with a different wife. Ruby didn't die until 1933; the headstone says Wheeler. Divorce? In January, I found a new cemetery database on the Walworth County Genealogical Society's website. There were Henry, Lydia and Alphonse, all in the same cemetery! L-AGS member Jane Southwick went to Salt Lake City and copied pertinent pages of cemetery records (Thank you Jane!). Dates and more Wheelers!

Most recently, homework for Sue Johnston's advanced genealogy class at Las Positas College was to write a research paper. I sent a draft to Sue for comments. She got curious, did a little research, and found a Henry Wheeler in 1820 in Canajoharie, Montgomery County, New York, which is just



across the county border from Sharon, Schoharie County, New York. There is also an Isaac! In 1830 Henry is gone, but Isaac is still there, along with a Willard! Henry named his sons Isaac and Willard! Could these be relatives?

New resources are added daily to the Internet. Thanks to education, I've evolved from family group sheets in a binder to a comprehensive filing system for my documents, recording negative searches, and properly citing my sources in a computer program.

L-AGS members are known for helping other members, and if any of you can help me, I would appreciate it. I will furnish you more details.

The search goes on...

Queries Can Be Both Interesting and Challenging

By Richard Finn

Most of our members know that L-AGS has genealogy docents on duty willing to help visitors to the Pleasanton Library with queries they might have about how to find information on their ancestors. Sometimes, with only the smallest clues, our docents are able to help people find that missing grandfather or long lost aunt or uncle.

What our members may not know is that, on occasion, L-AGS is sent queries from local libraries and museums. As you would guess most of these queries pertain to families in our Tri-Valley. With the information we have in the Tri-Valley Heritage Families database we often are able to help family

For those with the willingness to help others in their family history research there is no better place to get started than as a docent at the genealogy section of the Pleasanton Library. To help at the library contact docent.chair@L-AGS.org and volunteer.

members with information on their families or at least head them in the right direction.

Some of the queries are very easy to answer. For example, just last week we received a query from a

woman who wanted to know about a shirt-tail relative who died here in Livermore in 1848. I had to write her that we did not find that surname in our database until the late 1800s and had to wonder if she had the correct Livermore since Livermore was not even a town until many years after the date she was interested in. After a couple of emails back and forth she realized that she had the wrong Livermore in the wrong state.

On the other hand some queries are much, much more challenging. In June 2006 I received a query by way of Doreen Irby of the Pleasanton Library. She had been sent the query from a person who wanted to know who his great-grandfather Gabriel Garcia's parents were. There was not much to go on and we did not get very far in helping that person.

But then, about month ago, L-AGS President Anne Homan shared some information she had on a family with the same surname, and it was like a name jumped off the page. We were able to determine that one of the names on the family listing Anne was looking at was the great-grandfather of the man who had sent the library a query two years earlier.

We now have been able to supply the man with not only information on his great-grandfather but on the family back to some of the earliest Spanish settlers in Northern California in the 1700s. The man was so happy he wrote, "I am so excited, I have prayed for this day." At long last, after spending a lot of time running into brick walls he, almost at once, knew of many more generations of his family. He on the other hand has helped fill in many blanks we had on the family.

What interesting family it is. The list of related surnames reads like a who's who of early Spanish settlers. Names of not only the Garcia family but also Miranda, Peralta, Franco, Mesa, Romero, Altamirano, Espinosa, Robles, Soto, Higuera, Martinez, Lisalde, as well as the most well known non-Spaniard of the early days in our area: Livermore. A couple of branches of the family lived in Livermore and Pleasanton after living in the Santa Clara and Mission San Jose areas.

One distant relative is reported to be Bernardino Garcia, better known as Four-Fingered Jack. Yet another relative, per family stories, was Manuel Garcia, better known as Three-Finger Jack. Both



The photograph is of Gabriel Garcia and his wife Maria Josephina Espinosa Garcia. The children are unidentified. The photo was taken before 1924. According to the family, Gabriel was born in Pleasanton in 1854.

men were said to be in the Joaquin Murrieta gang and perhaps even related. Some of you will remember that the hand of Three Finger Jack was on display in the museum at Columbia State Park in the California Gold Country for many years until someone thought better about the appropriateness of such a display.

The person I have been in correspondence with reported that older generations of his family said that they were related to Murrieta and even called him uncle. Who knows? Makes a good story.

For those with the willingness to help others in their family history research there is no better place to get started than as a docent at the genealogy section of the Pleasanton Library. To help at the library contact docent.chair@L-AGS.org and volunteer.

The Tri-Valley Heritage Families database now contains close to 20,000 entries. When I interviewed local families to gather data for this project, some gave me private information that I am not free to make public. However, if you are researching your connections with the Tri-Valley, I am more than willing to try to help you. Please contact me at rwfynn@wecare.net.

Exciting Programs Still Ahead in 2008

By Arleen Wood, First Vice President, Programs

We have been fortunate to get a calendar of excellent speakers for 2008. The programs are held at our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are open to the public at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visitors are welcome, admission free.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
May 13	<i>Tri-Valley Civil War Veterans—What an Interesting Group They Were</i>	Dick Finn
June 10	<i>WPA Depression Era Jobs Turn into Great Gifts for Genealogists</i>	Pamela Dallas
July 8	<i>Using Maps in Genealogy</i>	Marcia Murray Holstrom
August 12	<i>Scandinavian Research</i>	Mel Stephensen
September 9	<i>Familysearch.org (Tentative)</i>	Marge Bell
October 14	<i>The Five Civilized Tribes of Southeastern United States</i>	Taffy Coutts
November 11	<i>An American Story—The History of Abram Bradbury Lowell and His Family</i>	David Lowell
December 9	(To be announced)	

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: tracer@L-AGS.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. We offer ghost-writing help to inexperienced writers.

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