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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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A Message from Our President

Dear L-AGS members,

My first thoughts in writing this letter are to congratulate all of you who participated in any way with our booth at the fair. Many who signed up to work were noticeable on the published schedule, but there are always those who do other jobs—setting up, tearing down, computer programs. I think that we had a very successful effort and performed a valuable service to those who wanted to know something about their relatives. And the biggest thanks of all goes to Kay Speaks, who pushed us to take on this responsibility even though Gail Bryan would not be there to guide us.

As usual, Arlene Wood has done a wonderful job of finding us programs for the last three months. In May our own Dick Finn gave us an overview of his ongoing project on identifying the Civil War veterans in our area. They were certainly a mixed group of people. I keep wondering whether there really were fewer veterans from the south who settled here, or whether they didn't want anyone to know they had fought on the southern side. Pamela Dallas presented a program on the WPA, a group formed during the Depression to create jobs. This was not just about history, however, but also about how to access the many records created by the WPA—for example, the records of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which could perhaps reveal why a young person moved to another part of the country and started a family there. In July Marcia Holstrom gave a talk about maps, which was mostly about various web sites where maps can be found.

A number of you have mentioned that you have missed my local history column in the *Independent*. Thank you for noticing! I might come back to it again after a year or so, but I wanted some time to do other things. Writing an 850- to 950-word essay every week is very time-consuming. My first task since stopping the column is cleaning out my study—for 12 years now I have been focused on writing and the research that it entailed. I'm sure that with a little imagination, you can "see" the piles of materials scattered around that room!

I hope that you are finding time to work on your genealogy this summer!

Anne

Online Census Images and Indexes

By Susan Goss Johnston

With its wide coverage and complete indexes, most of us start our census research with *Ancestry.com*. Too many of us end our research there, as well. Unless you're that rare researcher whose family appears, names correctly spelled, in every census year, *Ancestry.com* may not always yield successful results. Sometimes, this immense database is not the best tool for solving your research problems. If your subject is lost in the 1820 census, perhaps you should take advantage of *Heritage Quest's* more accurate index. If you can't find an 1860 census subject, *Footnote's* unique search method may be very helpful. If you want to browse a town page by page, try the censuses at *FamilySearch Labs*. Their pages are clear and load very quickly. Do you need to analyze a large group of people? *Heritage Quest's* search results can be sorted in many different ways. Online census indexes vary in coverage, quality, and search methods. If one doesn't yield results, don't forget to take advantage of the other possibilities.

The charts on the following pages compare coverage and features of four major databases: *Ancestry.com*, *Heritage Quest* and *Footnote*, all subscription databases, and *FamilySearch Labs*, a free database. Although the first three are subscription databases, free access is available through your local library or local Family History Center. The charts were accurate as of June 2008, but online resources are subject to frequent changes.

Online Census Indexes Comparison

	<i>Ancestry</i>	<i>Heritage Quest</i>	<i>FamilySearch Labs</i>	<i>Footnote</i>
Every Name Index	Yes	Head of Household	Yes	Yes
Available Index Years	1790-1930	1790-1820, 1860-1870, 1900-1920, 1930 (five states)	1880, 1900, partial 1850, 1860	1860
Available Browse Years	1790-1930	1790-1930	1850-1880, 1900	1860
Soundex search	Yes	No	No, but allow s close matches	No
Wildcard search	Must be preceded by three known characters; * = up to six characters; ? = 1 character	No	Allow s exact, close, and/or partial matches	Narrow results allow s browse of all values
Various sort options?	No	Yes	No	No
Available search fields				
Sur name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Given name	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
State	Dropdown menu	Yes	Yes (includes type ahead options)	Yes
County	1800-1930	Yes	Yes (includes type ahead options)	Yes
Civil division	1790-1930	Yes	Yes (includes type ahead options)	Yes
Age or age range		1860-1870, 1900-1930	No	Yes
Gender	1850, 1870-1910	1860-1870, 1900-1930	An option in narrowing results	Yes
Race	1850, 1870-1880, 1910-1930	1860-1870, 1900-1930	No	Yes
Birthplace	1850-1920; 1930 HOH only	1860-1870, 1900-1930	Yes	Yes
Keyword	Yes	No	No	Yes
Microfilm roll number	1830-1850, 1880, 1930	Browse	No	No
Microfilm page	1830-1850, 1880-1900	Browse	No	No
Military service	1840 (also 1890 Special Census)	No	No	No
Birth year (+/-)	1850-1930	No	Birth year range	No
Marital status	1880, 1910	No	No	No
Relationship to HOH	1880-1930	No	No	No
Father's given	1880-1930	No	Given and surname when relevant	No
Mother's given	1880-1930	No	Given and surname when relevant	No
Spouse's given	1880-1930	No	Given and surname when relevant	No
Father's birthplace	1880, 1910-1920	No	No	No
Mother's birthplace	1880, 1910-1920	No	No	No
Enumeration district	1880-1900, 1930	Browse	No	No
Occupation	1880	No	No	No
Immigration year (+/-)	1900-1920	No	No	No
Family number	No	No	No	Yes
Other				
Available State Censuses	Iowa, Kans., Minn., Miss., Mo., N.J., N.Y., Wash., Wis. (various years)	None	Mass. (index available), Wis. (browse only)	None
Available Special Censuses	Mortality, Slave, 1890 Veterans	None	1850 Mortality, 1850 Slave	None
Foreign Censuses	Canada, United Kingdom, Mecklenburg-Schw erin	None	Argentina (index available), Mexico (browse only)	None

Susan Goss Johnston

7 June 2008

Census Images Available Online

Ancestry.com**Canada**

1851, 1901, 1911

United Kingdom

Includes England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, and Isle of Man: 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, and 1901

United States

1790-1930, including 1890 pensioners, slave schedules, and some mortality schedules

State Collections:

Iowa: 1836-1925

Kansas: 1855-1925

Minnesota: 1849-1905

Mississippi: 1792-1866

Missouri: 1844-1881

New Jersey: 1895

New York: 1880, 1892, 1905 (partial)

Washington: 1857-1892

Wisconsin: 1895, 1905

Germany

Mecklenburg-Schwerin: 1819, 1867, 1890, and 1900 (in German)

Footnote.com**United States**

1860 (currently 78% complete)

Family Search Labs (<http://labs.familysearch.org/>)

1850 (Use browse; index incomplete)

1880 (no images)

1900

Massachusetts: 1855, 1865

Argentina: 1895

These two regions are browse only:

Wisconsin: 1855, 1875, 1885, 1895, and 1905

Mexico: 1930

Heritage Quest

Indexes: 1790-1820, 1860-1920, and 1930 (Ct., Del., Md., Tx., Va.)

ArchiviaNet (Alternate Canada Source)
(<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/>)

(Geographic search only, but links available to Automated Genealogy indexes)

1851/1852 (<http://automatedgenealogy.com/index.html>)

1901, 1906 (Northwest Provinces), 1911

Susan Goss Johnston, 7 June 2008

Library Docents Follow up on Alameda County Fair Results

Patrick Lofft. *Library Docents Chair*

These days, the Pleasanton Library's Genealogy section is experiencing an upsurge in family history research from folks whose ancestor search interests were stimulated at the L-AGS booth during the 2008 Alameda County Fair. Greeters and researchers assisted an uncounted multitude of fair goers and now those individuals are busily seeking a deeper knowledge of their parents and grandparents.

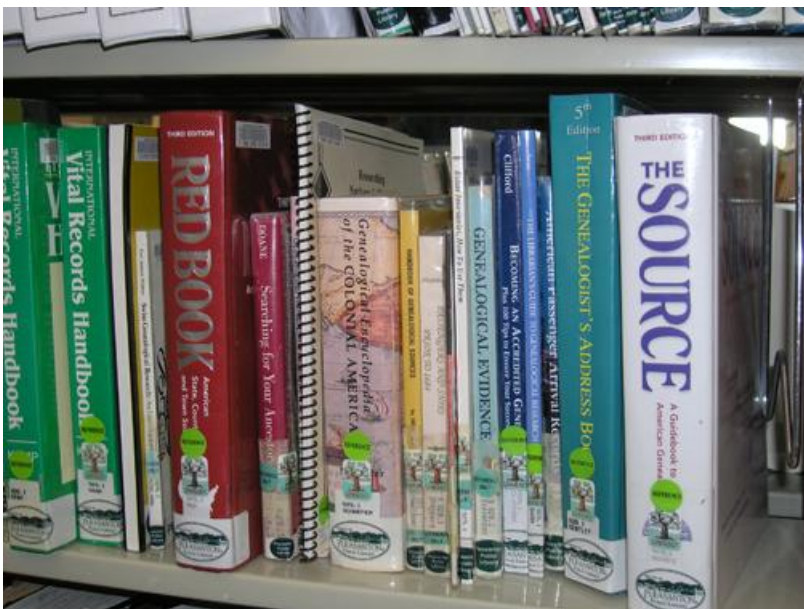
Following their satisfying encounters at the fair, they returned home, consulted other relatives and are now returning to the hunt with high enthusiasm.

On Wednesday and Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings, half a dozen L-AGS members serve the public as Genealogy Docents from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. or from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. These docents are amateur genealogists, like you, who desire to share their hobby with others.

One person came to the library with information from her ancestor's obituary. The ancestor, according to the obit, was born in Ireland. I jumped to the conclusion that she would need to write to the archivists in Dublin. I showed her a copy of the book *International Vital Records Handbook* that was on our shelves. When she showed me that the obituary stated the tor was born in Belfast, I could show her the address in Belfast since that office would have records of Northern Ireland.

As our recent speaker, Ms. Shirley Riemer said; "Most genealogy information is NOT on the Internet." The Pleasanton Library genealogy section has many shelves of research materials that focus on individual states, countries, religions, and ethnicities.

If you were satisfied with your service to fair goers as either a greeter or researcher and want to further assist others who are just beginning to search for their ancestors, consider volunteering for docent duty on Wednesday or Saturday morning from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. or Wednesday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. If we obtain a sufficiently large pool of volunteers, no one person will be overly burdened. Ad hoc substitutes are also valuable for vacation relief.



Some of the 1700 genealogy-related books in the Pleasanton Library. About 1100 of these are in Genealogy Reference. In addition, we have 560 genealogy CDs. Many of these contain data not online and not in books.

Please contact me either at the membership table at a general meeting, or via email at docents.chair@l-ags.org. We will arrange mutually suitable opportunities to further investigate docent duties and shadow one or more of the current docents.

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

Added to our library from April 2, 2008 to July 10, 2008:

Abstracts of wills and inventories, Fairfax County, Virginia. 1742-1801 : with rent rolls for 1761 and 1774 / J. Estelle Stewart King ; with a new index by Elizabeth Petty Bentley. 929.3755 KING.

Alameda County Fair Genealogy Booth

Ring Toss, Ferris Wheels, Tilt-a-Whirls—and Genealogy?

By Kay Speaks, Fair Booth Coordinator

The genealogy fair booth, sponsored by L-AGS, has become a popular exhibit and an annual L-AGS tradition. When I think of the genealogy booth, Jon Bryan, deceased member of L-AGS, instantly comes to mind. Jon was one of the original promoters of this event and it was close to his heart; Jon and Gail Bryan, between them, have coordinated the booth for many years. When Gail told the Board of Directors she wouldn't be able to coordinate the genealogy booth this year, it seemed the event might be cancelled. As I thought of how much I've always enjoyed working at the booth, how L-AGS and other participating societies could reach out and teach fair goers the importance of researching their family history, and as I thought of my friend Jon Bryan, I felt I couldn't let that happen. So with a leap of faith, even knowing my schedule was already on overload, I volunteered to coordinate the event. For those who know me, that meant receiving middle of the night e-mails, brainstorming and pushing the limits of "can we" and "what if" questions. Thus began my own tilt-a-whirl process of trying to coordinate this event within a short period of time.

Enter two knights in shining armor and one princess—Larry Renslow, George Anderson and Susan Silva! Larry hastily organized the website for volunteer sign-up. George provided past years' information, suggested individuals for the committees, provided a list of suggested improvements from former volunteers and volunteered to help with the volunteer website, and more. Our fair princess was the hard working Susan Silva. Susan created the volunteer list so that we could communicate with the volunteers. It sounds so simple, "maintaining a contact list." Trust me when I say—this was one hardworking princess! The four of us shared many middle-of-the-night e-mail messages. If it wasn't for these individuals, this year's genealogy booth would not have happened and I would have a lot more gray hair than I already do!

Thus began our roller-coaster ride to get enough volunteers to man the booth. The fair officials wanted a personal commitment from me that we would provide the designated number of volunteers for each day of the fair. My e-mail campaign to L-AGS members, and to genealogy societies in ten



A busy day at the fair genealogy booth on Saturday, July 5. In the center with the badge is Ellen Fletcher from L-AGS. On the ends are two docents from SFGenealogy.com: Ron Fillion on the left, and Pam Storm on the right. (Photos: Duncan Tanner)

counties and other organizations, began. Amazingly, we had volunteers that represented seven different counties! I also contacted historical societies, DAR Chapters, genealogy libraries, Family History Centers and SFGenealogy.com. I asked that our event be blogged on the California State Genealogical Society site and attended meetings asking for volunteer help. Over 700 emails were involved in coordinating this event.

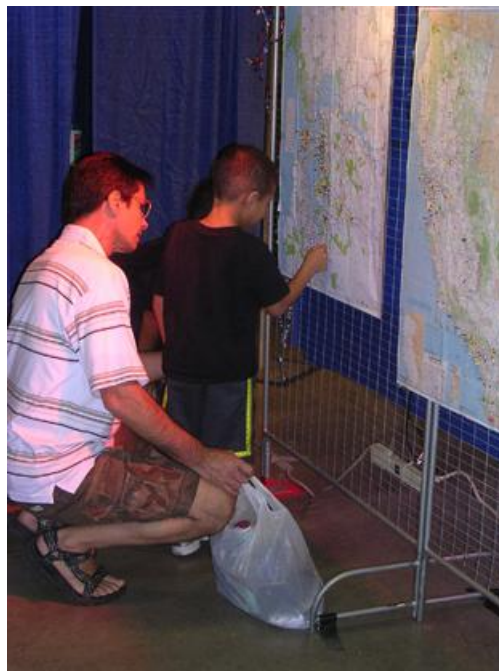
Volunteer Demographics—this event is truly a multi-organizational endeavor! We would need to fill 237 volunteer sessions to cover the 17 days of the fair. Of the 237 sessions, 50% were filled by 13 volunteers, some working as many as 16 sessions. These are the same individuals that step forward and volunteer for many other community events. They give the precious gift of "time." Our Hall of

Fame Volunteers, by sessions worked, were: Lois Barber, 16; Marie Ross, 15; Barbara Huber and Frank Geasa, 11; Arleen Wood, 10; Duncan Tanner, 9; Mary Maenchen, 8; Bill George and Richard Finn, 7; and Julie Liu, Gail Bryan, Anne Homan and Lorna Wallace, 6. Over 22 different organizations were represented by volunteers, sessions worked, many are members of multiple organizations: L-AGS-199; DAR Chapters-50 (Livermore-47, Mt. Diablo-2, Fremont-1); FHC-40; SRVGS-32; CGS-17; ALVHS-17; LHG-15; TV-TMG-11; H-AGS-8; EBGS-7; SVPAF-7; TMUG-6; AIISF-5; SCCHGS-5; SGS-5; Mayflower-4; DAC-4; SCGS-2; SFGenealogy.com-2; SFBAJGS-1; CSGA-1. These statistics did not include national society memberships. As witnessed, this event is coordinated by L-AGS, but is truly a multi-organizational and community event. Based on the number of pedigree charts printed, there were an estimated 900-1000 visitors who attended our genealogy booth. Our maps indicating where fair goers visiting our booth were born were once again heavily populated. For some families, sticking pins into our maps have been a family fair tradition!

Publicity for our genealogy booth was the best ever. Barbara Hemphill was our publicity guru. Our coverage in local newspapers and on the Internet was the best coverage ever. We had printed articles, a web links, in the Tri-Valley Herald, The Valley Times, The Independent and the Pleasanton Weekly.

Fair researchers become library docents! We had many first time volunteers that found they loved working at the fair and were asking for more sessions to work. They have also shown an interest in working

as library docents to continue helping people research their families. Remember, L-AGS members participate as docents at the Pleasanton Public Library and the Livermore Family History Center year round. Become a volunteer!



We invited visitors to locate their birthplace on a map and mark it with a pin. Here a youngster is introduced to the concept of family history.

Contribution Acknowledgements. Donated Software: Footnote.com, Ancestry.com, The Godfrey Memorial Library; Training Facilities: ClubSport Pleasanton and Leisure Sports, Inc.; Equipment: Leisure Sports, Inc. donation for an additional laser printer for researchers. Alameda County Fair: booth space, computers, supplies, technology support, additional website advertising, as well as gate, parking and guest passes. PowerPoint Slide Shows played throughout the fair were contributed by: George Anderson, Richard Finn, Kay Speaks, San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society, Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group and Footnote.com.

Our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make this year's genealogy fair booth such a success! From those serving on the website fair administrators (Larry Renslow, George Anderson, Susan Silva), our training workshop teachers (Susan Goss Johnston, Frank Geasa), the crew that setup and took down the booth (Darrell Bridgman, Bob Dougherty, Frank Geasa, Joe Baca, Larry Hale), the Action Committee (George Anderson, Lois Barber, Derrell Bridgman, Richard Finn, Frank Geasa, Gail Bryan, Patrick Lofft, Jane Southwick), the Advisory Committee (Jane Knowles Lindsey - CGS, Ed Mason, SRVGS), Publicity (Barbara Hemphill), Renee Ramig, fair Technology Building Coordinator, and all the wonderful volunteers, my most heartfelt thank you. For those of you who helped to cover my 31 hours of fair work when I was called out of town for work, you warmed my heart. Your "Help Kay Go" e-mails as a call for volunteers were incredible. And for all the fair researchers and greeters, you made a lot of booth visitors happy. As one volunteer wrote, "We had to bring out the tissue box for the tears of joy." You will receive a fair booth survey shortly. Please take the time to complete the survey so that we can improve next year's experience. I enjoyed our drop-in training sessions for the fair. I'm looking forward to next year's fair—I hope you are too!



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Frank Geasa

At the recent Alameda County Fair, L-AGS provided a handout of favorite genealogy web sites. The handout received many favorable comments. We thought it might be appropriate to use this column to give everyone another opportunity to either become aware of those sites for the first time or to remind them of their availability.

The homepage of the **Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**. Online search lists of local cemetery, census, obituary, mortuary and pre-1905 death records. Index to the large Schellens Papers collection of newspaper clippings. Contains links to many other Internet sites of genealogical interest.

www.L-AGS.org

The homepage of **San Francisco Genealogy**, a vast collection of genealogical databases related to San Francisco. Includes birth, death and marriage lists, various directories, voter lists and much more. Also has links to numerous other web sites of genealogical interest.

www.sfgenealogy.com

The homepage of the **Family History Library (LDS)**. This site offers search lists of millions of transcribed records from around the world and of submitted family trees, as well as indexes to the US 1880 census and the 1881 census of the UK and Canada. The site also offers a catalogue of millions of available microfilms and much, much more.

www.familysearch.org

A pilot site for an **LDS film-indexing project** to index all film holdings. Miscellaneous databases from many areas.

<http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html>

The homepage of the **USGenWeb Project**. This site, organized by State and County, is the result of efforts by volunteer transcribers throughout the country. The data offered varies by location dependent on the availability of both the data and volunteer help. Some locations have very large collections, others small.

www.usgenweb.org

The homepage of the **WorldGenWeb Project**. This site, organized by Country and Province/Area is the result of efforts by volunteer transcribers throughout the world. As with USGenWeb, what is accessible depends on the availability of both data and volunteer help for the location.

www.worldgenweb.org

The homepage of the **RootsWeb** free genealogy site, which resides on the servers of the commercial company Ancestry.com, offers numerous searchable databases, the Social Security Death Index, surname, locality and other message boards and much more. The price is lots of Ancestry.com advertising.

www.rootsweb.com

The homepage of **Cyndi's List** has about 264,400 links to genealogy sites the world over. These are categorized by location, by type, by religion and by many other designations. If there is a site out there that might have information you are looking for, the link to that site can probably be found here.

www.cyndislist.com

The homepage the **Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation**. Allows searching for New York passenger arrival records during the period 1892-1924. If you find someone, in most cases you may also display the original ship's manifest and/or a photo of the ship they arrived on. The site may ask you to sign in with a user name and password. Make these up and remember them for future use. There is no charge.

www.ellisland.org

The homepage of the **Castle Garden** site. Castle Garden was the New York immigrant arrival station in the period from 1820 to the opening of Ellis Island.

www.castlegarden.org

The homepage of the **Stephen P. Morse's** many helpful web pages, far too numerous to list. Instead of the Ellis Island site, try his Ellis Island Gold Form to search for passengers by partial names, by names that sound like it or by where they came from.

<http://www.stevenmorse.org>

The homepage of the **US Bureau of Land Management**. If an ancestor received a land patent (homestead) from the federal government, you may be able to find a digital image of the original document on this site.

www.glorerecords.blm.gov

The homepage of the **National Park Service Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System**. If you believe your ancestors served in either the Union or Confederate Army, you should be able to find them here. The database for the Navies is still being transcribed.

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss

The homepage of the **Obituary Daily Times** site. A growing site through volunteer effort, it has over 12 million entries, primarily from 1995 forward. Search by name or by location.

www.rootsweb.com/~obituary

The homepage for the **Genealogy section of the US National Archives**. It has excellent information

including hints on what to look for in the various censuses, several online databases and links to many other excellent genealogy sites.

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy>

This site is a directory of **US State Historical Societies and Archives** along with links to their sites. Many of these have extensive online offerings of vital record indexes and other compilations of genealogical interest.

<http://web.syr.edu/~jrvan/infopro/hs.html#top>

In addition to the above sites, the researchers working at the fair had a second list of Favorite websites (also known as bookmarks). These are primarily sites of **vital records in foreign nations** although a few deal with specific ethnic organizations here in the USA. The entire list can be seen by going to the website

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

For convenient access, this URL can be added to your favorites or bookmarks.

The Fair Booth Experience

Rewarding for Both Volunteers and Patrons

We asked genealogy booth volunteers to tell us about some of their experiences at the fair. Here is a selection of their anecdotes. To meet space restrictions in the Tracer, some text has been deleted, but the remaining words are verbatim from the volunteers.

From Janice Sellers, (FHC) (SFBAJGS, CSGA)

What I would call the most surprising result (for the patron) was when he asked me to look up his father's second marriage and the names of the children from that marriage, and I incidentally found that his father was now divorced from the second wife. The patron was floored to find out that his father's second marriage was over.

As a general comment, I do remember that I was able to find something for every patron I assisted, which made me feel good about the time I spent volunteering.

From Dolores Olness (L-AGS)

A woman asked me to find some information on her father. I found him in the 1930 census. Then I looked in the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

and found him. When the woman found out all the things one can learn about people in Switchboard, Google, and SSDI, she asked me to look up her brother in L.A. in SSDI. I found his wife, but not him. Then, she wanted me to find him in Switchboard or Google. I found him with an address and an area code, but no phone number. The first thing she said to her husband was that her sister-in-law had died and her brother "had to go through that all alone." She was delighted to have found her brother. She had lost track of him because of some family "falling out." Sometimes it isn't ancestors that one finds, but the reward is just as great.

From Ileen Peterson (CGS) (L-AGS) (SRVGS) (DAR - Mt Diablo)

An older lady asked me to find her mother on an early census. We located the whole family in New Mexico Territory, just where she expected them to be. As I wondered why she was asking me to confirm something she already knew, she exclaimed "That's Aunt Anna." She was so moved we had to provide the tissue box. After she left, I found her great-grandparents and grandfather in the 1880 census. I really regret not searching on the grand-

father's unusual given name while she was still at the booth.

From Pamela Storm (SFGenealogy.com)

I had a teenage girl who was hoping to find something about her maternal grandfather. She had never known him because he passed away before she was born, and she had also lost her mother a few years ago. All she remembered her mother mentioning was his name, and that he'd lived (and probably died) in Hawaii. She said, "He came from Korea, so you probably won't find anything about him. But I have this one picture of him, so I've always been curious."

I was quickly able to find him in the Social Security Death Index. I was also able to easily find him in the 1930 census, confirming that he was a Korean immigrant and was living in Hawaii. Since the grandfather was a child in 1930, the census data gave us the names of his parents and some of his siblings. The young researcher I was working with just about jumped out of her chair when she saw his name on the census record! Not only did she succeed in finding out SOMETHING about him, here she was suddenly able to fill in a new generation on her pedigree chart!

Just a few minutes more into our research, we learned that he was buried in the National Cemetery in Hawaii, having served in the Army in WWII. Besides giving a physical description of her grandfather, his enlistment records showed he had not been drafted, but had volunteered. By the inscription on his tombstone, she learned that he had risen to the rank of Major during the War. She said she couldn't wait to get home and show her brothers, one of whom had recently joined the Army himself.

I felt so good about this young girl walking away from just a few minutes in our booth so full of pride about her ancestry. Even better, she wants to continue doing more research!

From Dick Finn (ALVHS) (L-AGS) (LHG) (FHC) (SRVGS)

I had a couple of people looking for grandparents. In both cases there was some kind of trouble in the family and the persons who attended the fair never knew their grandparents and very much wanted to do so before they passed away. Tears in both cases.

Another case with tears was a very nice woman who wanted to learn more about her birth mother. It seems as she grew up her adopted mother would not tell her anything about where she came from. After the adopted mother passed away our woman found a paper that had the name of her birth mother and a hint at what city she was living in when she gave birth to our woman. We found a woman who seemed to fit the bill but needs more research.

From George Anderson (L-AGS)

A note left at the fair booth for me:

Dear George,

We came to the fair to see a painting that our daughter has entered and came into the Genealogy Center to say hello to you. You helped us out 2 years ago and we were able to track down my birth mother. Before she passed away last August she was able to give me the name of my birth father! Hope you are well and I'm sorry we missed seeing you.

[Jane Doe] and husband Bob

The same thing happened at the fair last year – "Jane" stopped at the booth to say hello when I was not there, and left a note for me.

From Julie Gilliland Liu (L-AGS) (SRVGS)

One man was looking for where his dad grew up. When we did an initial search, we had several names came up. The one that was closest to the correct age said "inmate." We were both clearly disappointed that we weren't finding him. So I said, "Look, we're here, you want to look at this guy?" I was thinking we couldn't find the guy's dad so this was just something interesting. I clicked on it and it was the guy's dad and uncle. They were living in an orphanage of some kind. Needless to say, the man was very happy.

I always enjoy working the fair. A big thank you to the work force that set this thing up. I am amazed at what this group can do.

From Patrick M. Lofft (L-AGS)

My most interesting patron was a deaf individual. We communicated in writing. We found the person he sought and he was grateful for receiving the printed census page bearing the names of his ancestors.

Growing Up With a Great-grandmother's Stories

A Most Unusual—and Refreshing—Fair Booth Visitor!

By Kay Speaks, Fair Booth Coordinator

It was the most amazing experience. A young man, in a boy's 11-13 year old body, sat next to me at the genealogy fair booth. He said he had a couple of people he had trouble locating in his family. When asked if he had done any genealogy research before, he said yes, but hoped we had software to help him that he didn't have at home.

As he didn't have access to Ancestry, we started with this software. Often, the booth becomes what I fondly call, "cell phone genealogy," where many visitors don't know the most basic information about their family so they are on their cell phones calling their grandparent, parents, aunts and uncles for information. Not so this boy. When asked for a name, date and location, he instantly provided the information. At first I thought he had read our newspaper publicity and came prepared with basic information. Not so! As we scrolled through Ancestry's research results, he would say something like, "There is my great-aunt; she used to work at a bank and had four children. I already know about her." This continued as his family appeared on the monitor, acknowledgement and a bit of history so you knew he really did know about these long passed family members.

The fun part was when we got to the census records. The boy was an absolute math wizard. When only an age was given, in the blink of an eye he would whisper the year of birth while leaning forward, intently staring at the monitor. I listened as he said, "Yes. No. Hmmm. Maybe. Can we look for this person?" I was having so much fun, I wanted time to stop and just spend days with him researching his family! Finally I asked him, "Do you spend a lot of time with your grandmother and is she into genealogy?" I was surprised when he answered, "No, neither of my grandparents or parents is interested in their family's history." I said, "Did you know your great-grandmother?" His eyes glowed and his response was a definite yes. I asked if he used to sit with her while she told him stories about his ancestors; another smile and positive response.

Not wanting to make him sad, but my curiosity had to be satisfied by this fascinating boy, I asked softly, "When did your great-grandmother pass away?" He looked at me and said, "Oh she isn't dead, she's 105!" I had just told him how lucky he was to still

have his great-grandmother to tell him stories, when I felt a tap on my shoulder, and was told by our greeter that someone was waiting for a researcher.

It was with deep regret that I said goodbye to this amazing boy, gave him our website links, told him about Ancestry's availability at libraries, and watched him walk straight out of the building, not looking at the other games and technology in the building. I thought, yes, he definitely came to the fair with a goal to finding more of his family. I'm glad I was able to add to some of his knowledge.

The next person to sit by me first pulled out his cell phone and said, "Mom, do you know where grandpa was born and when?" With a quick thought to my amazing young visitor, I returned to cell phone genealogy research.

The Passing of a Generation

George Douglas Camp, 1920-2007

By Kay Speaks

As I was flying to my maternal uncle's funeral, I was thinking about the rite of passage, when one generation ends, and the next generation takes its place. It was with great sadness that I traveled to bid farewell to a beloved uncle. For over forty years, we shared many late night telephone calls, talking about our family and ancestors.

Uncle, mentor, stand-in-dad,
Happiness, tears, what fun we had.

Family gossip, old and new,
Laughing at what wasn't true.

Stories told throughout the night,
Talk of loved ones, seemed just right.

Families grow, age takes its toll,
Departed loved ones, life's final goal.

Mom, her siblings, now the past,
How did it happen, it seemed so fast.

Family gossip, night time sharing,
Now it's cousins calling, caring.

How “Members Helping Members” Helped Me Crack My Brick Wall

By Mary Dillon

I began to get seriously interested in genealogy about 14 years ago. The next year, about six months before my mother died, I asked her about her father’s family.

Her father was named William Elmer Lowder (a fairly unusual last name) and Mom told me then that he was illegitimate. Mom was an only child and she worshiped her father. She remembered that her father’s mother would come to live with the family for six months at a time and that “she was the meanest old lady in the world.” She thought her name was Emma Anderson and that she died in St. Joseph, Missouri. This was all I had to begin my search.

I sent for William’s death certificate, which showed he was born Sept. 7, 1870, in Greenville, Darke County, Ohio. His mother’s name was given as Priscilla Anderson, born in Indiana, and his father’s name as “unknown” Lowder. I was unable to find a birth record because the courthouse had burned. A researcher I contacted in Darke County was unable to find anything in bastardy records. I was able to find William beginning in the 1900 Census in Kansas after he married my grandmother in 1896, but nothing earlier.

So I’ve spent the past 13 years searching Ancestry and other records for Emma/Priscilla Anderson – to no avail. I could not find any record of an Emma/Priscilla Anderson with a son named William with no father attached.

I was stuck...until last fall when Kay Speaks sent out a link to the newly posted Missouri death records. The records began in 1915 and I figured Emma/Priscilla would be in them. My mother was born in 1906 and she remembered her grandmother pretty clearly, so I figured she must have been 8-10 years old before E/P died. First I searched for Emma Anderson and none of the listings fit. Then I tried Priscilla and lo and behold! —there was PERCILLA Anderson who died January 16, 1917 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Her birthplace was Indiana and her parents’ names were John and Percilla Lowder. Wow, I just figured out my lineage – or so I thought....

The story only proceeded to get stranger and stranger. There is no absolute proof, but lots of cir-



My grandfather, William Elmer Lowder, 1870-1937, in Ringgold County, Iowa. My mother told me just before she died that William was born out of wedlock to a mother named Emma Anderson. I spent 13 years trying to find records of her.

cumstantial evidence that this is my great-grandmother – and so the mystery begins. From her death record I find that her birth date is given as March 31, 1830, but her age on that record was listed as 79. This would make her birth year 1843, and this matches the census records (as close as I can get since she kept changing her age).

1850 Federal Census for Greensfork Township, Randolph County, Indiana:

This census showed a 44-year-old farmer, William Anderson, born in North Carolina, his wife Nancy, age 33, and a daughter, Precilla, age 8, born in Indiana. She had a sister, Mary J., age 11, and four other siblings, David, Francis M., Thomas J., and John N. So this census shows that her parents may have been William and Nancy Anderson, not the

John and Percilla Lowder listed on her death certificate. William Anderson also appears in the 1840 Randolph County, Indiana Census. I have not been able to find a **married** John and Percilla Lowder in any census record.

So this disproves her parents were John and Percilla Lowder – these people don't exist in any census record, though there is a John Lowder age 6 in 1850 in the next county in Indiana. Also, there is no other Percilla Anderson in any census.

1860 Federal Census for Greensfork Township, Randolph County, Indiana:

William Anderson and family are listed, but without daughters Precilla and Mary J. However ... I find them living with Preston E. and Eliza Hopkins in Clarksburgh, Fugit Township, Decatur County, Indiana. Since Preston is 56 and Eliza is 53, I believe they may be an uncle and aunt. Pricilla is listed as age 19, with Mary J. as age 16. Both use the last name Hopkins.

1870 Federal Census for New Point, Fugit Township, Decatur County, Indiana:

This census shows Preston E. Hopkins, head, age 65, widowed. Mary J. is listed with the last name of Hopkins, age 25. Precilla has the last name of Anderson, age 28, and has a 1-year-old son named

William.

1870 Federal Census for Greensfork Township, Randolph County, Indiana:

William S. Anderson (Percilla's father) is shown still living with his wife, Nancy, and with two sons left at home. William and Nancy Anderson are missing from the 1880 census, so I assume they both were deceased by then.

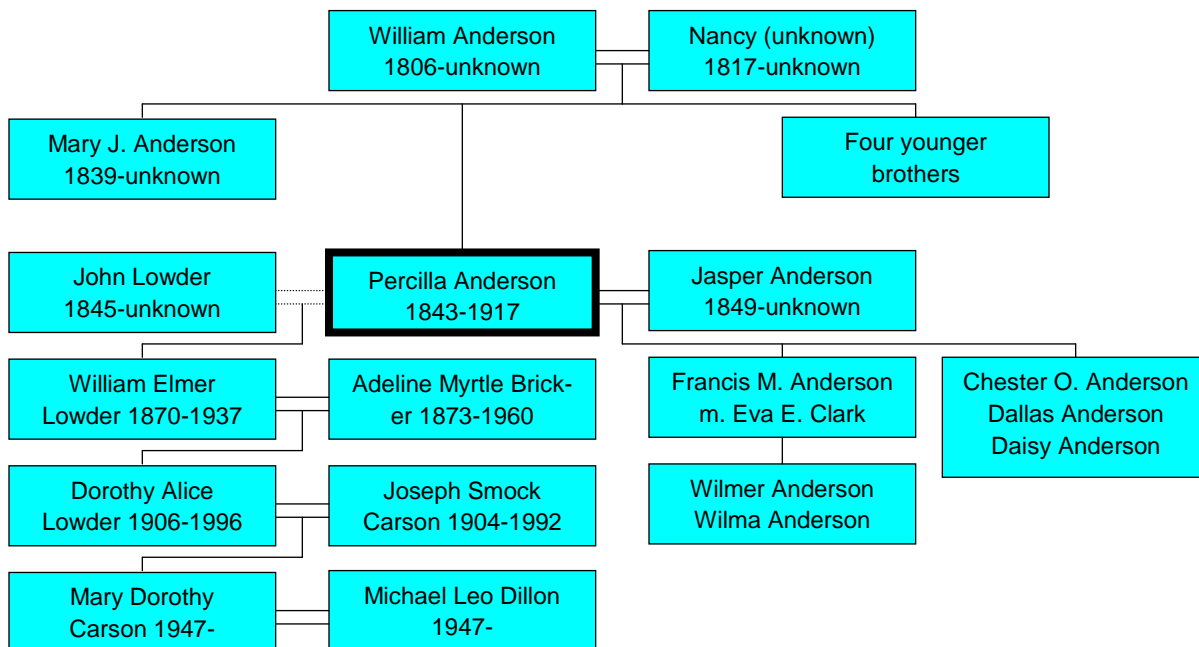
Now begins the really strange part of the journey:

1880 Federal Census for Old Redding, Clinton Township, Ringgold County, Iowa:

In 1880 it looks as if Percilla has moved to Iowa, married a man with her own maiden name, and had two children. The census shows a 31-year-old farmer named Jasper Anderson with a wife Percilla, age 28, born in Indiana, with two sons, Francis M., age 5 and Chester O., age 3.

1880 Federal Census for Fillmore, Iowa County, Iowa:

At the same time in Iowa County, Iowa, a Mary E. Swope, age 27, the wife of John H. Swope, is living with her two boys, Benjamin and Charles, **and** her nephew William H. Lowder. It is interesting that Percilla is now married to a man named Anderson, there is no William living with Percilla, and Percilla's age is still 28.



Kinship ties for my great-grandmother Percilla/Precilla/Priscilla Anderson that I have been able to deduce from documentary evidence. In her old age, Percilla fantasized first that she had been married to John Lowder, then later that her parents were John Lowder and Percilla Anderson.

Also: On her death certificate, Percilla requested to be buried in Redding, Ringgold County, Iowa. Though Mary J. has become Mary E. and ceases to age, this is the only William Lowder shown as a nephew, the correct age and in a logical state (since his mother is also in Iowa). Not a sure thing, but the best guess.

1885 State Census for Redding, Ringgold County, Iowa

This state census shows Percilla, age 36, still living with her husband, Jasper Anderson, age 36, and sons Francis age 9, Chester, age 7 and Dallas, age 2.

1900 Federal Census for Redding, Ringgold County, Iowa:

In 1900 the census of Redding shows Percilla as the head of the family. Her son, Dallas, and daughter, Daisy, are living with her.

1910 Federal Census for St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri:

By the 1910 census, Percilla is now living in St. Joseph, Buchanan County, Missouri with her son Frank Anderson, his wife Eva, and their twins, Wilmer and Wilma. Percilla's daughter, Daisy is also living there.

There are enough links in names and places for me to believe this Percilla Anderson is the same person throughout (especially since there are no other Percilla Andersons to be found in the Federal Census). Interestingly, the information on the death certificate is filled out by the undertaker, not a family member. It shows that she had been hospitalized for a month with pneumonia. Also, Frank (Francis) Anderson died in 1937 and his wife gave his father's name as Jasper Anderson and his mother's maiden name as ? Lowder.

I also traced John Lowder through the census. He was born about 1846 and lived in Tipton County, Indiana from 1850 to 1880. His father's name was William, as was Percilla's father. John married Abigail Vanness in 1874 and they had a son, William R. Lowder, who was born in 1876.

From all of this I propose that Percilla Anderson fell in love with John Lowder and had an illegitimate son, William, by him in 1869. John, for whatever reason, wouldn't marry her and went on to

marry someone else. Throughout the years, especially when she was older, Percilla obsessed about her love of John Lowder to the point that she became convinced they had been married. At the end of her life, possibly due to senility, she and John became her parents and this was recorded on her death certificate. Interestingly, even her son,



Percilla (Anderson) Anderson, who wanted to be known as Percilla (Anderson) Lowder in her old age.

Frank, (or at least his wife) thought her parents were named Lowder.

So with a little help from our fellow members sometimes we can break down those brick walls and find out just how strange our families really are!

I Recommend

Internet Genealogy Magazine

I can recommend a genealogy magazine that is fairly new on the market: *Internet Genealogy*. I have found the articles instructive and readable. Two other things distinguish this publication: There is almost no advertising (maybe not by the publisher's hopes), and the subject matter holds true to the promise of the magazine's name.

Here are some of the articles in a recent issue: *260 Million Names Found Online* (URLs and thumbnail descriptions for 120 databases), *Big Changes at FamilySearch.org* (the dramatic online changes planned by the Mormon Family History Library—the subject of our general meeting in September this year), and *A Tragic Tale of Lost Love* (a tear-jerker of a story about research on the Internet that shattered an elderly woman's lifelong belief that her husband was killed at Pearl Harbor. It turned out that the girl's father disapproved of her husband, and secretly had the marriage annulled, then told her that he had been killed at Pearl Harbor.)

Internet Genealogy. Six issues per year. One year, \$28; three years, \$64.

<http://www.internet-genealogy.com>

George Anderson

Orphaned Photograph Finds a Rightful Home

By Anna Siig

I was getting ready for Danish guests due to arrive Friday, the 27 of June, 2008, for a two-week visit. Many things I come across while rearranging and cleaning take me off course. Have always had difficulty staying focused.

One of the things that distracted me was an old photo from the Heritage Guild Auction. It was some time between auction '06 and auction '07 that I took home a photo with "Fabiola Hospital, ADD in Oakland, California 1915" written on the back. It also had written on it, "This photo belongs to Vida."

Fabiola was originally founded in 1876 by eighteen women as the Oakland Homeopathic Hospital and Dispensary. The building was located on the corner of Broadway and Moss Avenue (now MacArthur Blvd.) It closed in 1932, and was purchased by Kaiser (Permanente). It was soon demolished.

The photo is of buildings, done in a snapshot fashion even though the photo was a rectangle about 10 inches long. The frame, while a pleasant pattern, was coming apart. It is the kind of thing that might get thrown out by a buyer if it was put in a box lot. And besides, I like to find the right home for things.

In May 2007, I contacted the photo archives at Oakland Museum to see if they wanted the photo and heard nothing from them. I would "chase" the photo around when sorting and cleaning, thinking I ought to contact the museum again.

On June 25, 2008, I looked at the picture as it

surfaced again from one of my piles...oh, that's files. It suddenly came to me to contact L-AGS and see if anyone had a relative born there or knew of a chat room or bulletin board where I could post the picture to find a home for it. So, I interrupted the house cleaning and went downstairs to my computer.

Within a very brief period of sending an e-mail, I had several responses, with different ideas or suggestions. Bev Ales offered to find the correct person to talk with at the Oakland museum. Others suggested sites where lost photos can be posted. Another person sent a list of people who had died in Fabiola Hospital. John Shirley responded saying he would like to see the photo, as his mother took her nurse's training at Fabiola.

Yet another message said, "My mother was born at Fabiola Hospital on 25 June 1922. Today would have been her birthday! I would love to have the photo. Thanks, Janet Nadol"

Janet came from Walnut Creek to get the picture the next day. We are both quite touched by the fact that the picture was put on the L-AGS e-mail on her mother's birthday. Had it been out on the L-AGS list last spring, Janet might not have seen it. She joined L-AGS in February 2008.

Janet has already begun research on the Fabiola Hospital. She has sent John Shirley a scan so he can see where his mother did her nurse's training.

As Janet and I agreed a day or so after she was here, this story has only just begun.



Fabiola Hospital in Oakland in 1915. It was built in 1877 and demolished in the 1930s.

Livermore's Own "Faces on the Barroom Wall"

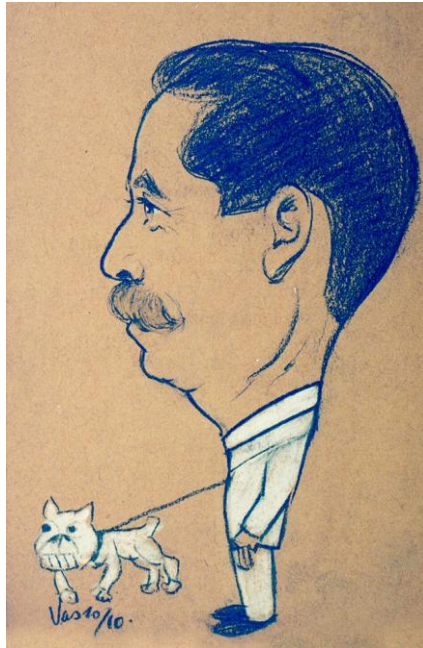
By Richard Finn

One of Livermore's numerous saloons in the late 1800s was Dan's Place, founded by Daniel Berry, 1822-1913. It was located on the east side of Livermore Avenue, a half block north of the flagpole. Three successive generations of Dan Berrys operated the establishment, serving prominent Livermore citizens until the 1950s. How the saloon survived during prohibition is not officially known, but it probably was not by serving soda pop. The building it occupied was torn down last year to make room for more parking near the Bankhead Theater.

Dan's Place is immortalized today in a remarkable collection of forty-three caricatures that used to adorn its walls. They were created around 1910 by a traveling artist named Vasco, who pictured saloon patrons in return for fifty cents or a drink. The drawings are now in possession of the third generation Dan Berry, who now lives in Burlingame.

The more Anne Homan and I look at the collection of caricatures, the more interesting they become. We still have not been able to identify all of the people in the sketches but are fairly comfortable with most of the identifications we have made. We have to ask ourselves the same question we ask of those who have left us old photographs: "why didn't you place the name of the person on the back?" Some of the caricatures give us good clues as to who the person is while others are a bit foggy.

We do know the man in the white suit is Daniel "Dan" August Berry, the man who owned Dan's Place after his father. Dan was born in Livermore on August 11, 1874 and died in Livermore on June 7, 1952. He not only owned Dan's Place but also worked as a cigar maker (one of several in early Livermore), a hotelkeeper, and worked in a soft drink parlor as well as in other saloons. He is the person, along with mortician Jack Reimers, who collected the caricatures and had them framed by Louis Paulsen (perhaps related to Livermore Civil



Dan Berry, 1874-1952, second-generation owner of Dan's Place, historic old Livermore watering hole.

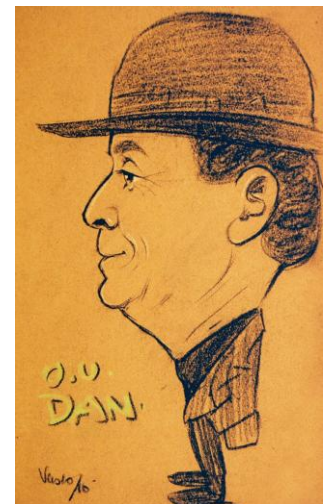
War veteran Charles Paulsen?). It is interesting to note that the drawings were done in 1910 – almost one hundred years ago. This Dan is the father of Dan ry who now owns the caricatures.

If a person did not want to pay Vasco for his efforts, it seems the artist would print O. U. and the person's name on the drawing. That helps us identify some of the drawings. If the person later paid then the O. U. was rubbed out as can be seen on some of the drawings.

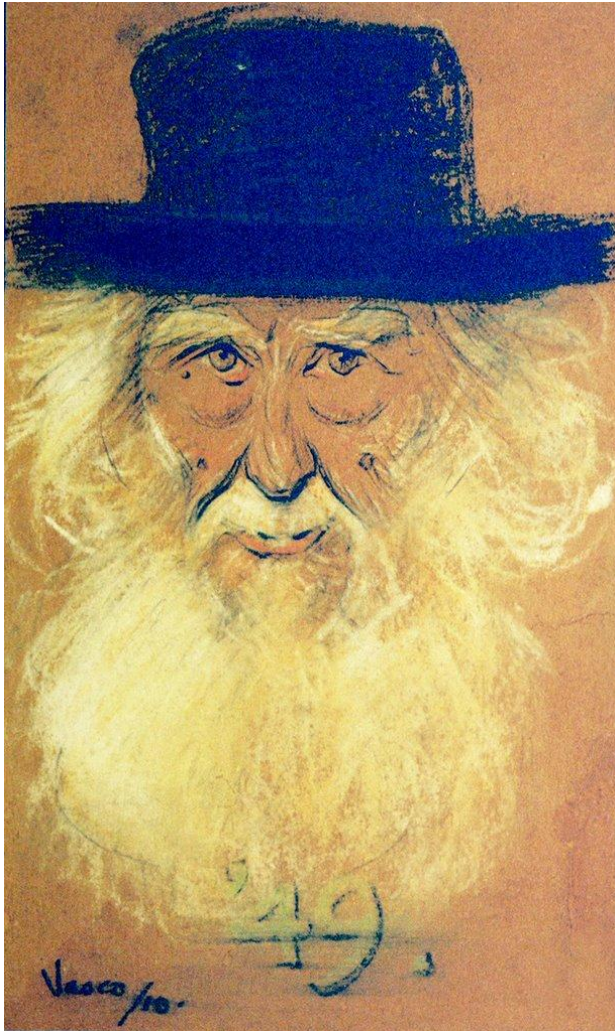
An example of one of the O.U. drawings is shown on this page. We believe it is of Daniel "Dan" Alexander Smith who was born in the Sandwich Islands (now Hawaii) on December 8, 1869 and died in Livermore May 11, 1948. Dan was very active in the history of Livermore having served as

town marshal, town clerk, and police chief. One of his sons, Joseph, became a Major General in the US Marine Corps (and the grandfather of L-AGS member Kathy Smith Javdani) while another son became a Lt. Commander in the US Navy.

We have been able to identify almost all of the men in the caricatures. Those that remain are a real mystery but over time we hope to find out who they were and how they fit into the history of our valley. One of those men is shown in the caricature labeled "49". Look into his eyes. You just have



Daniel "Dan" Alexander Smith, 1869-1948, civic leader in Livermore, and the great-grandfather of L-AGS member Kathy Smith Javdani.



“The 49er”—portrait of an unknown saloon patron with hypnotizing eyes.

to wonder who he was, what adventures he took part in, where did he come from, where did he go, and do any of his descendants live in the area?

Anne Homan and I are thinking of publishing a book with information on the men in the drawings, using new photographs recently taken by David Abrahams. Most of the subjects of the drawings were well-known leaders of Livermore.

On October 15th I will be speaking about and showing photographs of the Berry collection of caricatures at the Livermore Library for a meeting of the Livermore Heritage Guild, doors open at 7:00, talk starts at 7:30.

If you want to understand today, you have to search yesterday.

Pearl Buck

I Recommend

Eastman’s Online Newsletter

By Jane Southwick

There are many Web sites on the Internet for people interested in Genealogy. I feel one of the better ones is the Online Genealogy Newsletter written by Dick Eastman. This newsletter is available in two editions, a standard site, which is free, and a plus edition, which costs \$19.95 a year. Both can be accessed from links on his home page at:

<http://www.eogn.com>

An interesting article that appeared in Eastman’s column in January of this year was about the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), which was founded in 1890. I am a member of our local DAR chapter, the Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter NSDAR. Our Web site is found at:

<http://www.californiadar.org/chapters/jhlivermore/>

There is also a DAR Chapter in Pleasanton, the José María Amador Chapter, at the two-line link:

<http://www.californiadar.org/chapters/josemariaamador/>

I thought the article described DAR extremely well.

You can go to Dick’s web site for the complete column. Because the whole article is too long to include, I am paraphrasing it and using direct quotes. Dick Eastman defines DAR and writes about how the qualifying standards for membership application have changed over the years. Lineage information for application is now being analyzed carefully so that *“many of the newer membership applications contain the highest quality genealogy research you can find.”*

The article also describes the DAR Library in Washington D.C. *“The library of the Daughters of the American Revolution is one of the greatest resources for American historical and genealogical researchers. A visit there may uncover information not available elsewhere.”*

For more information about the Daughters of the American Revolution and its excellent genealogy library, visit:

<http://www.dar.org>

The online library catalog may be found at:

<http://www.dar.org/library/onlinlib.cfm>

Posted by Dick Eastman on January 09, 2008

Listen to Genealogy Podcasts on Your Computer

By Bill George

[Editor's note: This article by L-AGS member Bill George was previously printed in the June 2008 edition of the Hayward Area Genealogical Society newsletter, The Informer. It has also been accepted for publication in the July/August 2008 edition of the East Bay Genealogical Society newsletter, The Live Oak.]

Did you know you can easily listen to Genealogy Podcasts, which are very much like radio shows, on your computer? A podcast is an audio file that is usually free, produced weekly, covering every topic you can think of, including genealogy.

When you play podcasts on your computer, they seem like a radio broadcast and do not take up a lot of space. Podcasts are created as MP3 files, the same highly compressed format as standard music MP3 files.

There are a number of different genealogy shows available for your computer. Just download a podcast and play it with Mac's Quicktime Player or Windows Media player. Double click on the file and start listening. Be sure to turn on the speakers and adjust the volume.

Being a genealogy novice, I'm getting up to speed by listening to the very knowledgeable producers of genealogy podcasts. Each podcast has a good Web site with show notes supporting it. You can easily retrieve the helpful Internet destinations discussed in the broadcast. Here are a few examples:

The Genealogy Guys Podcast

<http://www.genealogyguys.com>

by George Morgan and Drew Smith. Click on Year/Month desired where it says "Archives." George Morgan authored the official guide to Ancestry.Com.

Family Roots Radio Podcast

<http://www.familyrootsradio.com>

by Kory L. Meyerink. Click on any of about 13 archived podcasts produced in 2007. Kory is an acclaimed author, teacher and professional researcher. See <http://www.progenealogists.com/kory.htm>.

Dick Eastman's Podcast

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/podcasts/

By Dick Eastman. Click on any of 10 archived pod-

casts from 2006-7. Dick Eastman owns Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN.COM).

Genealogy Gems Podcast

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

by Lisa Louise Cooke. Click on Year/Month desired where it says Archives. This is a very hometown informal podcast. Lisa lives in San Ramon and is a member of the board of directors of the San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society.

Genealogy Podcast Web site - I did a search on Google using "Genealogy Podcast" that revealed the above Web sites. There also is a Web site devoted to Genealogy Podcast and Broadcast Schedules:

<http://audio.genealogytoday.com>

For those who use iTunes, you can receive the above podcasts free, and automatically receive new episodes each week to your computer. In iTunes, go to the "Apple Store" and do a search on "Genealogy." Subscribe to the ones you like (for free) and play them on your computer or iPod.

News from the Library

By Judy Person

Pleasanton Library houses our very fine collection, with our online services and many books provided by the Friends of Pleasanton Library. All books donated to Pleasanton Library are examined by librarians for additions to the collection, then they go to storage for the book sales, two each year, or to direct used-book and magazine sales, which provide the same amount of money as one book sale, so it's worth your while to donate books to the library. Now there's a new wrinkle. Judy Matthew, a Friend of the Library, is managing online sales of valuable donated books through Amazon, providing several thousand dollars per year.

The docents report that people from the fair are coming in to use our collection, so all your volunteer hours at the fair are paying off. I greeted a family from Santa Maria, California, who were all born at the same hospital as I was—well, I was born in the earlier building, and they made their entry at the later one. Small world.

*Still to Come in 2008***Scandinavia, the Massive New LDS Indexing Project, and More**

By Arleen Wood, First Vice President, Programs

We are looking forward during the remainder of 2008 to four excellent speakers and a fun holiday meeting featuring ourselves. The programs are held at our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
August 12	<i>Scandinavian Genealogical Research</i>	Mel Stephensen
September 9	<i>The New Family Search</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	<i>Show and Tell: Members Sharing</i>	L-AGS Members and Guests

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 ghostwriting help to inexperienced writers.

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