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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

Welcome to Our New Members

Donelle Bomben, Brentwood; **Patricia R. Hansen**, Livermore; **Andi Winters**, Redding

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

Patrons

Anonymous, **Cheryl Kay Speaks**, **David E. Steffes**, **Duncan Tanner**

Benefactors

Anonymous, **David and Jolene Abrahams**, **Sandra Caulder**, **Ralph J. Crouse**, **Marilyn A. Cutting**, **Gary B. Drummond** and **Anna T. Siig**, **Ted and Gail Fairfield**, **Richard and Wanda Finn**, **Patricia R. Hansen**, **Madelon Palma**, **Ileen J. Peterson**, **Susan and Terry Silva**, **Carl Webb**, **Rhett Williamson**

Total membership as of July 24, 2009: 243 individuals

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. Map: <http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

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.

Map: <http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Liv-FHC.html>

Study Group Chair (Kay Speaks)

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.

<http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Pls-KollCenter.html>

TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks)

tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org

TV-TMG Forum

tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2009

President

president@L-AGS.org

Barbara Huber

First VP and Program Chair

program@L-AGS.org

Derrell Bridgman

Second VP and Membership Chair

membership@L-AGS.org

Kevin Gurney

Corresponding Secretary

corresponding@L-AGS.org

Barbara Hempill

Recording Secretary

recording@L-AGS.org

Anne Les

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business@L-AGS.org

Larry Hale

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A Message from President Barbara Huber

Dear L-AGS Members,

Summer is here and time again to write the President's Message for the Roots Tracer. Since becoming president of L-AGS, I find myself sitting in front of my computer more often during the day. I feel like I have to try everything each time we have a speaker at our General Meeting because they are all so interesting. I go home with all the handouts and start searching.

In May Dr. Stephen Harris, a professional genealogist, informed us about the many kinds of information to be found in a city directory. I was amazed at how many ways a city directory could be used in family history research. Dr. Harris informed us that he has about 6000 city directories and phone books in his research library. So, in the future, when you are searching for that hard-to-find ancestor and the website lists a city directory, don't ignore it because it may have just the information you are looking for.

Our speaker for June was Lisa B. Lee. She also is a professional genealogist and author. Lisa's presentation was on *Canadian Research Techniques*. She handed out flyers on Canadian genealogy with a number of ways and places to research your Canadian ancestors. Lisa also reminded us that if we are searching for an immigrant ancestor and can't find him, it may be because he entered through Canada. Lisa maintains a website: <http://Gotgenealogy.com>. In it she explains her "Golden Rules of Genealogy." She gave us a flyer that lists the ten rules. I logged on to her website and even signed up for her newsletter.

Dr. Stephen P. Morse was our speaker in July. His topic was: *A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Research Tools and How to Use Them to Increase Your Research Success*. Dr. Morse is well known internationally for his *One-Step Website* (<http://www.stevemorse.org/>). It is a genealogical research tool that greatly simplifies many existing online database searches. For our July program, Dr. Morse focused on using some of the lesser-known tools and programs that he developed. I was unable to attend the seminar at which he spoke on his One-Step Website, so I went home and logged on the website and started searching. I even found an old boyfriend.

So now my computer goes on early in the morning and it doesn't go off until 1 or 2 a.m.

I recommend that everyone attend our general meetings because Program Chairman Derrell Bridgman is doing a wonderful job getting great speakers for us each month.

Advanced Genealogy: Continuing the Adventure

This fall, L-AGS member Sue Johnston will continue her popular series of continuing education classes at Las Positas College by teaching *Advanced Genealogy: Continuing the Adventure*. This class is geared towards students who are familiar with all the basic record groups, and who are also familiar with the frustration Elizabeth Shown Mills speaks of in this comment, "If you are frustrated by record losses and tired of 'spinning wheels,' perhaps what you really need are some new ideas for dealing with those records you have managed to find already!" This is a six-session

course. Classes will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on these Saturdays: September 26, October 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31.

Class topics:

- Context: The Key to Thorough Analysis
- Paleography
- The Research Report and Proof Summary
- Genealogy and the Law
- Writing an Interesting Family History
- Fun With Land Records

Fall classes have not yet been posted on the college

web site. When posted, the class will be found via the Community Education home page, Las Positas College Community Education:

<http://www.laspositascollege.edu/communityed/>

If you have questions, please contact Sue at <mailto:zacathan@comcast.net>

Members Helping Members

By Kay Speaks and Ileen Peterson

A message sent to our members by Kay Speaks described a site in Arkansas:

<http://www.arkansasgravestones.org>

This site has over 200,000 gravestone photographs in 75 counties of Arkansas! There are many dedicated volunteers doing the actual photographing. The Veteran Gravestone Database is among the largest in Arkansas, and the volunteers have been diligently working on getting all stones in the Little Rock National Cemetery included. It is almost complete. The site is free to all to upload and browse. You can search by county, surname, or cemetery.

One of our members, Ileen Peterson, answered Kay with this e-mail message, "THANK YOU. This has a chunk of the cemetery my husband's great-grandparents, James Marion Owens and wife, deeded to the church with pictures of many of his relatives' stones. I am sure I will find plenty more after I spend a little more time."

Ileen has been researching the Owens family in Polk County for over ten years. This research was inspired by her husband's mother, aunt and cousin, who loved to discuss family oral history. The now 96-year-old cousin, La Mena Nichols Browning, wrote *That Owens Blood, a Legacy from the Ozarks* and is still actively involved in family research. The other ladies loved to discuss the implication of the death records, newspaper articles and census records which Ileen has found. Undoubtedly, there are cemetery photos taken in the late 1960's stashed away in someone's closet, but this website makes pictures of the family tombstones readily available. The Polk County Genealogical Society has many active members who have published cemetery indices, 1890 Census substitutes, obituary notices from the Mena Star, etc. Therefore, the Arkansas Gravestone Project basically confirms, in a graphic way, the Polk County cemetery information already available. Ileen has noticed that some of the entries

do have more information than others so she is already preparing to write to the site with supplementary data.

James Marion Owens deeded the land for the Owens Chapel Cemetery in 1893. The link to his headstone picture and a short bio are at

<http://tinyurl.com/nugjan>

Business in the Good Old Days

SILVERTON BARBER SHOP

S.D.HANSON, Prop

Choice Cigars and Tobaccos, Nuts, Candies,
Oysters, Sardines and other luxuries.

Kept constantly in hand

Razors put in order for private use a specialty

Remember the place

Water Street,

Silverton, Oregon

UNDERTAKER

Gervais, Marion County, Oregon

Will take in exchange, chickens,
I will also take Butter, Eggs,
Lard, Turkeys, Ducks, Geese and
Lumber in exchange for my work.
I have received the finest Coffins from the East.
And will sell at the lowest figures.
My friends will please call if I am needed.

Get Coffins from \$6.00 to \$40.00

Remember the old Undertaker and

All favors will be

Very thankfully received and

Every effort be made to

Satisfy customers.

Yours Truly—

Spotted by Mildred Kirkwood

From the Woodburn Independent

Woodburn, Oregon

Date unknown



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Frank Geasa

If your genealogical quest includes the Spartanburg County, South Carolina area, the public library there has several death indexes based on newspapers going back to 1849.

<http://tinyurl.com/lmo9tg>

If your ancestors are from the Posen/Poznan area (was Prussia, now Poland), this site includes a marriage index of over 400,000 entries (1835-1884).

<http://tinyurl.com/mmb66e>

Based on the efforts of a WPA project, this Hale Collection site has headstone inscriptions from over 2,000 Connecticut cemeteries.

<http://www.hale-collection.com/>

Centered primarily on Derbyshire, England, this site offers many databases, some of them unusual. You do not run across a Bastardy Papers database often. Courtesy of Mike Spencer and Kay Speaks.

<http://tinyurl.com/c899q9>

This University of Pennsylvania site has links to many newspapers across the country. Scroll down to the newspapers in the table as university status is required for those few above the table.

<http://tinyurl.com/aphxw8>

Another site to access free newspapers archives resides on an otherwise commercial research site.

<http://tinyurl.com/lm6aac>

The developing California Digital Newspaper Collection at the University of California has images of many the historic state newspapers. Courtesy of Dick Finn.

<http://cbsr.tabbec.com>

An online copy of the 1981 book "Sacramento County Cemeteries" by Billie Harris is available via the Sloughhouse Area Genealogical Society site. Some of the cemeteries such as the Franklin Cemetery have extensive burial lists.

<http://tinyurl.com/lkwbpc>

If your research involves the Philippines, you may find this site helpful. It offers several hints on what to do and don't do as well giving general guidance.

<http://barbsnow.net/Philippines.html>

Have you ever needed an easy way to type something using foreign language characters such as the German umlaut? Try this site which incorporates those characters with the standard keyboard for easy use with 14 European languages.

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

This site, which hopes to sell photos, offers free indices of a number of large cemeteries in Scotland. Note that after selecting the cemetery you are interested in, you should scroll down several pages to the start of the burial list.

<http://www.memento-mori.co.uk/index.htm>

This Sumner County, Tennessee site has a number of online databases including death, tax and voter lists. It has an all list index. If you find someone of interest you should continue scrolling horizontally across the page to see if they are in multiple databases.

<http://www.sumnertn.org/archives/>

This Mellette County, South Dakota site has digitized funeral cards; marriage and WWII military indices; a number of family histories and befitting the location, some illustrated local cattle brands.

<http://tinyurl.com/lhby9u>

This Golden Nugget Library site has incredible links, most for northern California. Included are church rosters, telephone directories, membership lists and much more.

<http://tinyurl.com/lq5al6>

If your ancestry includes Ireland, you will want to visit this site which is organized by county. The content varies by county but there is good information for each and the content continues to grow.

<http://www.from-ireland.net/>



Great Class in Understanding Land Records

By Mary Dillon

Once again my class at the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research in Birmingham, Alabama was a fantastic experience. The weeklong class, *Understanding Land Records*, opened my eyes to a variety of new sources to possibly find information on my ancestors. The segments included lectures on *County Land*, *Pre-Federal Land Records*, *Federal Land Records at the National Archives*, and both *Federal Bounty Land* and *Colonial and State Bounty Land*. We also spent a whole day learning how to plat metes and bounds land descriptions and *Range and Township* records.

One of the key points brought out is that we should find out what the pertinent laws regarding land were at the time period we are researching. Laws changed and unless we know what laws were in effect we won't know where to look for records. Laws regarding lines of inheritance also affect who would inherit land or how it would be divided.

Bounty Land Warrants were used to pay soldiers in the Revolution and War of 1812, and in some smaller, more localized wars, and were usually issued by the individual Colonies or states, or by the Federal Government. Use of bounty land warrants had been discontinued by the Civil War.

There was a full half-day lecture by Kandie Adkinson, Administrative Supervisor for the Kentucky Secretary of State's Land Office. Kandie led us through all the early Kentucky land records which have been digitized and put onto the Kentucky Secretary of State's website:

<http://www.sos.ky.gov/land>

in order to preserve them. From early warrants and patents, when Kentucky was part of Virginia, to the period after Kentucky statehood, there is a huge selection of documents which can be viewed in digitized form and printed or downloaded—all free of charge! Now if only the other 49 states would do this!

Kandie also encouraged us to check early tax lists for our ancestors because the lists will identify land patent history and often give quite a bit of family

history and relationships. She also suggested we keep checking back on state and county history, and revisit genealogy websites as land information is continually being added. The Bureau of Land Management's General Land Office site

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

is an excellent resource for tracking land grants in federal public domain states. The site includes scanned images of many records.

There are several types of records to check for any piece of land granted to an individual. Before the land is patented to the person the following records are produced: 1) The Warrant was a certificate given

to the individual stating he was entitled to X number of acres in a given place (did not convey title); 2) The Entry reserved land for surveying. Entry Books contain the date of filing, name of applicant, type of warrant(s) being used, the warrant numbers and the location of the land to be surveyed (does not convey title); 3) The Survey depicts and describes the tract being patented. Surveys include: Plat drawing, list of warrant(s) being used, name of person(s) for whom the survey is being made, county, closest watercourse, metes and bounds description, surveyor, deputy surveyor, chain carriers (who were often sons or relatives of patentee), and other information; (4) Patent or Grant finalized the land patenting process. Grants include the name of Governor or Lt. Governor, name of Patent recipient(s), type of warrant(s) being used, warrant number(s), county, watercourse, metes and bounds description, date of issuance, and other information.

Once you've found a description of the land, it's possible to plat the individual land grant and superimpose it over a current topographical map to locate the exact place your early ancestors lived. It's an exciting concept and will make a visit to the area even more interesting.

If you find this information interesting, consider taking Sue Johnston's class on Advanced Genealogy (including land records) at Las Positas College Community Education this fall.

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Excerpts from a Southern California Jamboree Blog

By Susan Johnston

[Editor's note: Susan's full blog is at:

<http://zacathan.blogspot.com/>

See also the following article about the Jamboree by Kristina Ahuja.]

Like about 1500 other people, I attended the Southern California Genealogical Society's 40th Annual Jamboree last weekend (June 12-14). It's the first multi-day conference I've attended in years, and I had a great time. There's nothing like three days with fellow genealogists away from the demands of everyday life to jump-start a stale brain! The Jamboree reminded me that I had a blog — and it amazed me that I haven't touched this thing for almost two years. Either I have no life — or I have too much life.

Seven of us rented a van and drove to the Jamboree—Hurray! Road trip! Before we even got to the hotel, the group made a stop at Glen Haven Memorial Park in Sylmar to visit my grandmother's grave. I'd never been to this cemetery before, and as you might guess, it was an emotional experience. Although we arrived after the office closed, I had called the cemetery the day before, and a very nice



My paternal grandmother's tombstone in Glen Haven Memorial Park, Sylmar, California.

young man had looked up Nana's burial information for me. With seven genealogists searching, it didn't take too long to find her. Thanks, guys, for braving rattlesnakes and driving out of the way to give me this opportunity.

I was so excited about finding the tombstone that I needed a "good research" reminder. Nancy said, "Don't forget to look at the neighboring tombstones!" I didn't think anyone else in the family was buried here, but we looked anyway. Lo and behold!

Right next to Nana was her son-in-law! I'm glad someone from the family is buried near her. It always seems a little sad to find one family member buried all alone.

Of course, this visit reminded me of other cemetery visits, and I realized that this was only the second grandparent whose gravesite I've visited! Can you believe it? I've visited hundreds of cemeteries, but I've never been to either grandfather's grave. Time and circumstances have scattered my grandparents' graves to the four corners of the U.S. My paternal grandfather is buried in Woodmere Cemetery in Detroit; my maternal grandfather rests in Maple Street Cemetery in Bethlehem, New Hampshire; my maternal grandmother's grave is in Rest Haven Cemetery in Long Beach, Mississippi; and my paternal grandmother is buried in Sylmar, California. My husband's four grandparents, on the other hand, are buried in two cemeteries less than thirty miles apart.

L-AGS was well represented at the SoCal Genealogy Jamboree. My six fellow travelers in the van were Nancy and Jane Southwick, Eileen Redman, Francine Montez, Kay Speaks, and Joyce Siason, who flew from Illinois to join us on the drive down to Burbank. In addition, Kristina Ahuja, Kevin Gurney, and Cheryl Palmer were all present, and we never attended any lecture en bloc. This means there were plenty of reviews when it came to choosing recordings or planning the day's events. On the drive home, we listened to four more hours of lectures and discussed our favorites.

Number one on my list was Tony Burroughs' presentation, *The Nature of Genealogy*. Some people skipped this talk because they thought it might be too basic, but it was an absolute gem. In one short hour, Tony took us from our initial research misstep through the publication of our findings. Almost every sentence highlighted important considerations, repositories and records—and he did it in his own inimitable manner. Among his closing statements was this telling point, "Among the approximately one hundred African-Americans who served in Perry's fleet on Lake Erie, scholars have identified only twelve—and Charles Smothers wasn't one of them. This is original, valuable work!" In this day of family trees repeated on line ad nauseum, this is a comment we should all remember.

Number one on Jane's and Nancy's list was Jean Wilcox Hibben's presentation, *Clue to Clue: Tracking a Family Over Time and Miles*. I had planned to attend this, but changed my mind at the last minute. Big mistake! Jane and Nancy came running out of the presentation yelling, "You would have loved it!" I bought the CD, of course, and we listened to this on the way home. I did love it.

Given their enthusiastic review, most of us changed our 8 a.m. Sunday plans and went to Jean's talk, *Deduction vs. Induction in Genealogical Research*. We didn't regret it.

Jana Broglin's talk on the *Genealogical Proof Standard* was high on Kay's list and Joyce's number one was *Summit 2: Son of Blogger*. I bought those CDs, too—and if you'd like to critique my blogging attempts, you can find the *Adventures of a Histotechneer* at <http://zacathan.blogspot.com/>.

I crept quietly into my house at 2:00 a.m. on Monday morning, very tired, but in a wonderful mood. It was a great weekend full of fun with friends, interesting lectures, and lots of new ideas for my research and my classes. If you find that your brain seems a little fuzzy or stale, keep next year's SoCal Genealogical Jamboree cure in mind.

Organizing your Data Files

Take Your Four-drawer Filing Cabinet to the Goodwill Store

By Kristina Ahuja

[Editor's note: See also the previous article by Sue Johnston about the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree.]

A group of L-AGS members had the opportunity this year to attend the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree. I learned many things there and am very eager to try them. The most practical and useful technique I learned was computer file organizing. I cannot carry around giant folders stuffed with family group sheets and original documents, my backpack is only so big, and I already have a 17-inch laptop.

I attended a lecture by Leland Meitzler, *Electronic Document Preservation*. Mr. Meitzler founded Heritage Quest in 1985, editing *Heritage Quest Magazine* until 2006. In April of 2006, Mr. Meitzler took the job of Managing Editor for Everton's *Genealogical Helper*. He does a daily blog that can be found at <http://www.GenealogyBlog.com>.

The description of the lecture was: "Electronic filing allows instant access and easy sharing of any document in your collection. Take your 4-drawer file cabinet to the Goodwill Store. Reduce your paperwork to an archival box. Fully document your genealogy, link to the documentation, and electronically file it, allowing instant access to any document."

I thought, "Wow!" That is exactly what I need. I have used electronic filing for years but have constantly had to reorganize because somehow my system always hit a snag at some point as I added more documents.

Of course, I would never discard the originals of my photos, movies and audio recordings, and my heirloom documents like the family Bible and old letters, even if I did make digital copies. But I feel that much of what is in my filing cabinets is safely archived in digital form, provided I make multiple backups and store some of them in remote locations. In addition, I recognize that, as Dick Eastman says, "Today's CD-ROM and DVD-ROM



L-AGS members at the Jamboree, standing outside the Marriott Hotel in Burbank on Saturday evening: Starting back left: Kay Speaks, Kristina Ahuja, Joyce Siason. Second row: Sue Johnston, Francine Montez, Eileen Redman. Front Row: Kevin Gurney, Nancy Southwick, Jane Southwick. Not shown: Cheryl Palmer.

disks have an average life expectancy of anywhere from 3 to 12 years.” So I need to migrate the information to new media periodically. That is a simple matter of recopying disks, not rescanning.

First, and most important, scan everything you have—take a day, a weekend, or a whole week—and just do some mass scanning. You preserve the document and still have access to it. Save it to JPEG or TIFF depending on your needs and preferences. (See:

<http://tinyurl.com/5zrh6k>

for more information on JPEG and TIFF.)

Make a folder. I call mine: Genealogy, which I simply have at

D:\Data\Kristina\Genealogy.

Next, within that folder, I make various folders to do with my genealogy. I have one for families, GEDCOMs, one for letters to relatives, one for research notes.

The one for this article deals with surnames. Make a folder called Families, located within the Genealogy folder. Example:

D:\Data\Kristina\Genealogy\Families.

In the Family folder, I make a folder for each surname I am researching. This is easy to add to as new families are found. So next make a surname folder. I will call mine Wise.

Example:

D:\Data\Kristina\Genealogy\Families\Wise

This is where I always hit a snag, but I think Mr. Meitzler had some good ideas. He suggests: inside each surname folder, set up country folders and family folders. So make a folder labeled 1United States. Mr. Meitzler suggests making locality folders, first state, then county and down to city if needed. You will have fewer country folders so if you place a 1 before the country it will force the country folder to sort to the top. Mr. Meitzler uses the country, state and county folders to hold documents that apply to numerous families or “unknown persons.” Examples: PDF files that may contain a portion of a book found using Google Books; a handwritten transcription of a marriage record index from a courthouse; collections of documents that may or may not pertain to your family; and documents that need further study before they can be inserted into a family file and then linked from your genealogy program.

On your computer it may look something like this:

D:\Data\Kristina\Genealogy\Families\Wise\1United States

The family folders: A family folder begins with the marriage of two individuals. All documents pertaining to that individual prior to marriage stay in the folder of the individual’s parent folder. A family folder is where most of your information will be kept; you keep all documents pertaining to that particular family. All the census records, marriage records, children’s birth certificates, photos, and anything you keep on that family will be placed there. When one of the children gets married or you gather an abundance of material on that person, you may choose to make them their own folder.

Meitzler’s system labels the family folder with a combination of the name of the couple and a four letter code. Examples: Wise, Charles & Katherine Landgraf WCKL. The four letter code is a combination of the first letters of each person’s name. Using the surname first allows one to quickly locate any particular file since it will sort alphabetically by the name of the husband.

On your computer it may look something like this:

D:\DATA\Kristina\Genealogy\Families\Wise\1United States\Wise, Charles & Katherine Landgraf WCKL

The four letter code is an identifier to label the files you place in that folder. Naming documents that go in this file are easy now as you just use the four letter code WCKL01; WCKL02; etc. Example: WCKL01 - The marriage license of Charles Jesse Wise & Katherine Landgraf from Hamilton County, Ohio.

D:\DATA\Kristina\Genealogy\Families\Wise\1United States\Wise, Charles & Katherine Landgraf WCKL\WCKL01

In the folder named Parents, place a Contents file simply labeled with the 4-letter code WCKL, that way it always sorts first. Contents files are a listing of the contents, with descriptions, and source citations for each document (file) found within that Family Folder WCKL.

There are various ways to organize your material and there is not a one-size-fits-all method, but maybe these ideas will help you make your data more organized—or at least give you ideas to get organized!

The Last Marshal of Livermore Comes to Town

By Kathy Javdani

[Editor's Note: The August 2008 issue of The Roots Tracer contained an article titled Livermore's Own "Faces on the Barroom Wall" by Dick Finn. One of those faces is believed to be a caricature of Daniel Alexander Smith. Now we have his life story in The Last Marshal of Livermore Comes to Town, as researched through family lore, letters, newspaper clippings, Footnotes.com, census, and other sources, and written by his great-granddaughter Kathy Smith Javdani.]

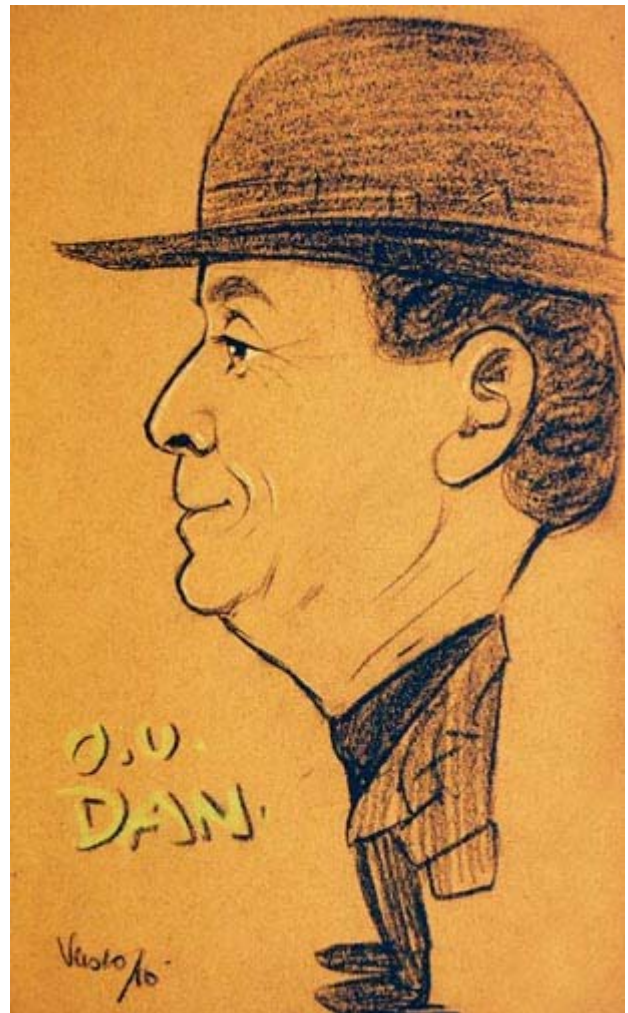
My great-grandfather, Daniel Alexander Smith, was the last marshal of Livermore. This was exciting to me when I was growing up and watching cowboy movies. I imagined him on horseback chasing villains across the hills. I asked my dad if Great-grandfather had a marshal's badge and was appalled when he said he didn't know. I wanted so much to see and hold Great-grandfather's star!

I have only a vague memory of my great-grandfather Smith. From a Livermore Herald article I learned that I attended his and Great-grandmother Elizabeth Twohey Smith's 50th wedding anniversary when I was five months old. I wasn't in Livermore often because my father was in the Marines and we moved frequently. However, on one warm spring day when I was almost four years old we were visiting in Livermore. I was thrilled to be allowed to accompany my great-grandfather downtown for a meeting with Captain Johnny Michaels. According to family stories, my great-grandfather had been Michael's mentor in the police department. When we arrived, as Great-grandfather got out he told me to wait in the car. But it was SO hot. Being resourceful, I climbed out and stood by a post in front of the car to wait. When he came out of the building and saw me out of the car, he was FURIOUS! At that moment I learned that two basic Smith family values, to do what you're told when you are told to do it and to show initiative, could be in conflict. Unfortunately, I have no other memories of him. He died soon after on May 11, 1948 at the age of 78.

I have many Daniel Smiths in my ancestry. To save confusion, I will refer to my great-grandfather, Daniel Alexander Smith, as Dan, the nickname he used in Livermore. Other Daniels in my family tree will be given similar unique names. The diagram of

my family on a later page may also help.

Dan came from a long line of seafarers. His grandparents lived in Banff, Scotland, where his grandfather, Daniel Smith the Elder, was a shipbuilder. So, it wasn't surprising that both Dan's father, Alexan-



My great-grandfather Daniel Alexander Smith, last marshal of Livermore.

der Smith, and his uncle, Daniel Smith, went to sea. Uncle Dan first served with the British East India Company, and Alexander served on the ship Reliance, probably out of Banff. Somehow, he came to be in New York where in 1864 he signed up as a Quarter Gunner (i.e.; a petty officer who assists the gunner) in the United States Navy during the Civil War. He served on the USS North Carolina, USS Susquehanna, the USS Vermont and the USS Pensacola. After the war he sailed on the USS Pensa-

cola around Cape Horn to join the Pacific Squadron in Hawaii. In Honolulu he joined Uncle Daniel and his wife, and was discharged from the Navy on June 20, 1867.

Alexander settled on the Kona coast on the Big Island of Hawaii where he was employed as the Road Supervisor and a customs officer. There, on Feb. 2, 1869, Alexander, a 44-year-old Protestant seaman from Banff married Margaret Bradley, a 36-year-old uneducated Catholic girl from Carn, County Donegal, Ireland. On December 8, 1869, their only child, Daniel "Dan" Alexander Smith, was born. Unfortunately, not quite four months later, Alexander died from an apparent heart attack. Margaret and young Dan stayed on Kona where she took in a boarder and at times kept house for a doctor and his wife. She was known as a hard working, honest woman. Uncle Daniel and his wife, also named Margaret, lived nearby in Honolulu, and the family remained close.

It seems from Margaret's letters to her sister-in-law in Honolulu that Margaret returned to the mainland in December 1873 to provide a good education for Dan. Both Uncle Daniel and his wife had graduated from universities in Scotland, and education was very important in the Smith family. By November 1875, Dan was a competent, not stellar, student at Livermore's Townsend School. Over the years he received encouragement to pursue education from his family in Banff. An undated letter reads, "Were you sorry to leave school? It is a very good thing to be always learning. Try my dear boy and not forget what you have learned. Build upon the foundation you laid at school."

By September 1874 and until 1880, young Dan and his mother were living with Joseph K. Taylor and his family in the Livermore area. It appears that Dan and his mother received some financial and family support from Uncle Daniel. Correspondence between young Dan's mother and his aunt in Hawaii states that Uncle Daniel and his wife came to Livermore on a visit in the spring of 1881. They made the trip from Honolulu in spite of Uncle Daniel's illness. Tragedy struck when Uncle Daniel died in June. (He was probably buried in Oak Knoll Cemetery. A box of letters contains an 1881 receipt for a burial plot there.) Uncle Daniel had been ill for a number of years. Was his visit one last effort to guide his nephew? What an uncle young Dan had! Captain Smith's obituary in a Honolulu paper

noted that he had worked for the British East India Company; fought pirates in the Persian Gulf; been master and part owner of a vessel that sailed from Liverpool to Auckland, settled briefly with his wife in New Zealand, drew maps of the Pacific that were relied upon by many ship's captains, and finally settled in Honolulu where he and his wife opened a school and he later continued his scientific interests while serving as harbor master of Honolulu. What stories he must have shared with Dan.

Following the death of his uncle in Livermore, and shortly thereafter of his aunt in Honolulu, Dan could have been a rich young man. In addition to monetary inheritance, there was a home and land on Waikiki Beach. Here apparently, family lore is correct. The lawyer got most of the estate.

From then on, Dan and his mother seem to have been on their own. They kept in touch with the Smith family in Scotland, but they had only themselves here. The years passed. The 1896 voter registration described the young adult Dan as six feet one inch, with hazel eyes and light-colored hair with a scar on his left wrist. In those years, both Margaret and Dan must have worked hard. By 1887 they owned a home in his name at 2363 Third Street. At one point, she cooked for local ranch hands. Dan toyed with the idea of becoming a butcher like their friend, Peter McKeany of Livermore. Yet, in the 1900 census he is listed as a laborer.

Somewhere along the way, a young local girl, Elizabeth Twohey, caught Dan's eye. Elizabeth was the oldest daughter of a local Irish farmer, Thomas Twohey, and his wife, Mary Wright Twohey. On Nov. 28, 1894, at St. Michael's Church, Dan and Elizabeth were married. Then, after a wedding dinner at the Twohey's home, they caught the train for their San Francisco honeymoon.

Though he was now head of his own family, Daniel felt a call to civic service. He enlisted as one of the original members of Livermore's National Guard Company I of the fifth Regiment. Then in the spring of 1900, Daniel Alexander Smith announced himself as a candidate for Livermore town marshal. When the votes were tallied William Harvey had 163, D.A. Smith had 123, and C. H. Acker had 25. Fate intervened. Harvey was unable to serve. By June 1900 Daniel was Livermore's marshal. He served for seven years. His salary in 1903 was \$65.00 per month. In 1912 he was appointed town

clerk and served for five years until he again became town marshal, filling in after the death of Charles Lefever. Dan resigned in 1919. His mother died on March 28, 1921. He returned as a night duty officer and in 1922 was the deputy sheriff. Later from 1926 to 1929, Dan was persuaded to become Livermore's first chief of police. When he retired in 1929, a long article in the Herald praised his career. "Mr. Smith closes his service with the town with an enviable reputation—his long efficient and faithful performance of duty having won him a record which few men can achieve." The article mentioned not only his excellent record as clerk, but also his successful handling of police duties. "He believed in the prevention rather than the suppression of crime and especially did he take an interest in keeping youth on the right path." Even in retirement, he might be seen serving the town in some capacity. In 1932 he was recruited to run for city councilman. In the early 1940s he was observed directing traffic during the annual Livermore Rodeo.

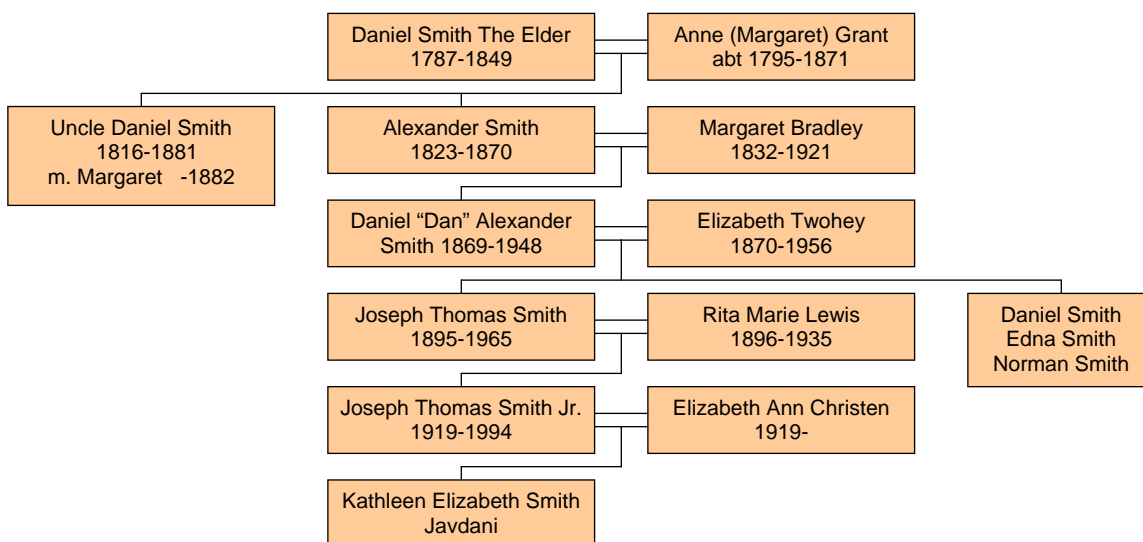
In 1910 Dan hired architect Julius L. Weilbye to design a one and a half story house of seven rooms costing about \$2,500 at the northeast corner of Lizzie and Third Streets for Elizabeth, himself, and their four children. Their oldest son, Joseph Thomas, upon graduating from UC Berkeley in 1917, joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He served in the Pa-

cific in both World Wars I and II and retired as a major general. Their second son, Daniel, had a career in the merchant marine, but also served in the U.S. Navy in both world wars and retired as a lieutenant commander. Their daughter, Edna, became a nurse at Highland Hospital in Oakland. Their youngest, Norman, served as an enlisted man in the Marine Corps before returning to Livermore. Back home he became owner of a gas station on the corner of First and L before eventually moving out of the valley.

Dan and Elizabeth enjoyed a full social life. They often played cards with family and friends. Dan was a charter member of the National Guard Company I and of the Foresters. He also belonged to the Livermore Aerie of Eagles and the Woodmen of the World. His wife Elizabeth and he were both active at St. Michael's Church where he was a member of the Holy Name Society.

Dan made Livermore his home from 1874 until his death May 11, 1948 at the age of 78. Yet like all in his family, he may have been drawn to the sea. A family story tells of the many times that he traveled alone to Oakland to sit on the pier and stare out to sea through the Golden Gate.

Descendants of Daniel Smith the Elder



Finding a Home for 100-year-old Documents

By Linda Garrett

My daughter's sister-in-law, Kelly, had a neighborly, Irene, who died in 2000. Kelly helped her mother clean out Irene's house. Irene had no children, and because she had lived to an advanced age, Kelly and her Mother knew of no living relatives to contact concerning the things that had been left behind. My daughter's husband had been a Marine, and, because there were some military items, he was asked if he would like them. Then I was contacted with some things that only a genealogist or historian would be interested in. There were several report cards, certificates, and mementos from childhood in Plumas County, California, as well as a nice collection of World War I memorabilia. They had belonged to a man named, William Samuel Firmstone.

William had been born November 1896, according to the 1900 census. His parents were Samuel and Jannet Firmstone, nee Skinner. Samuel had been born 4 May 1848 in Stokeclimaland, Cornwall, England, and Jannet had been born 30 September 1855 in Richmond, Quebec, Canada. Samuel had come to America in 1870. In 1900 Samuel was working as a gold miner in Indian Township, Plumas County, California. William was then 3 years old.

William's death occurred 11 January 1977 in Livermore, Alameda County, California. He left his widow, Susan Irene Firmstone, nee Sorracco, to continue without him for the next 23 years. It appears she held on to many of William's mementos. They were from his school years in Plumas County, and his military service, including his participation in many unit reunions. He kept up with his World War I buddies as seen in the year book of 144th Field Artillery, *California Grizzlies*, organized 3 August 1917. As I turned the pages of this yearbook, I found several obituaries and just the date of death on the pictures of many of the men. There was a rolled up photo of a 50th Reunion photo that took place in 1967. He had also kept his promotions to corporal and to sergeant, and his discharge certificate. I think the most interesting piece of military history was a booklet

that reminded me of what we called an "autograph book" when I was a kid. This book he had taken with him to France, or somehow acquired it there. In it, many of the men of his unit had signed and written down their addresses at home. As it got near the end, it was apparent these men were waiting to deploy back to California—the War was over. There were conversations where you can tell they were playing cards, and one after another the men were joking with each other through this booklet. How tedious it must have been for these war-weary men forced to wait in a foreign country waiting to come "home."

My dilemma was what to do with these pieces of history. I looked online for someone researching the name, Firmstone and I did find a relative. At the time, she seemed interested in having these items, but I wanted to see the military papers go to a place that would be interested in having them for display. I had put them away on a high shelf and I must admit, I didn't think much about them for a long time. As most of you know, I have moved to Fernley, Nevada this year. And anyone who has moved knows there are many things to sort through when packing to move.

As I came across the Firmstone papers again after



The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, Kansas City, Missouri. I had come into possession of some homeless World War I memorabilia, and the museum was happy to receive the items.

eight years, I knew these things couldn't be tossed away; it was my job to find them a home. Emails sent to the person who is a relative now bounced. So, I looked at Plumas County California on USGenWeb. I was able to find that there is a Plumas County Museum in Quincy, California. I gave them a call and they have a file on the Firmstone family. They were very happy to have the mementos of William's youth which included a card telling of the birth of a baby that was probably a nephew to William. There were also records showing his promotions through elementary and junior high school. His report cards showed he was a good student.

But I still had to find a home for the World War I material. A search on the internet led me to "The National World War One Museum Liberty Memorial," located in Kansas City, Missouri. I talked to Museum Archivist Jonathan R. Casey, and he said, "Yes! We would like to have this material." The first week of January 2009, I received a nice "Thank-You" from the museum.

Dear Ms. Garrett:

Thank you for your donation of Sgt William S. Firmstone's service material. It is through do-

nations such as yours that the Museum preserves the history and knowledge of World War I.

I also received a card that said,

We gratefully acknowledge your contribution to the Plumas County Museum Association of a collection of documents and certificates related to William Firmstone of Greenville.

I could now move to my new house in Nevada knowing that finally I had found homes for these papers that had meaning to William and Irene Firmstone.

The USGenWeb home page is at:

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

A beautiful and informative Web site for the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is at:

<http://tinyurl.com/nrafgu>

Black Diamond Mine Cemetery Records

By Kathleen Young

Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve is located in Contra Costa County, south of Pittsburg and Antioch. It can be found off Highway 4 at the Somersville Road exit in Antioch, where you then drive south (toward the hills) on Somersville Road to the Preserve entrance. Mining for coal (black diamonds) was carried on there from the 1860s until the early 1900s. In the 1920s underground mining for sand began near the deserted Nortonville and Somersville town sites. The Somersville mine supplied sand used in glass making by the Hazel-Atlas Glass Company in Oakland, while the Nortonville mine supplied the Columbia Steel Works in Pittsburg with foundry (casting) sand. Sand mining ended in the late 1940s. The East Bay Regional Park District began acquiring land for Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve in the early 1970s.

A genealogist would be interested in the Black Diamond Mine because of the Rose Hill Cemetery located there. Quoting from the Black Diamond web site, "Although little remains of the coal mining communities, a historic cemetery serves as a

monument to the lives of the former residents. Buried here are children who died in epidemics, women who died in childbirth, and men who died in mining disasters and of other things. Although over 10 nationalities resided in the mining area, Rose Hill Cemetery was a protestant burial ground, and many of the people buried here were Welsh. Over the years, vandalism has taken its toll on the cemetery, which the Park District is attempting to restore."

Black Diamond Supervising Naturalist Traci Parent has taken it upon herself to document the 234 individuals buried in this cemetery. She has provided a list of these individuals on the Park District web site <http://www.ebparks.org>. To view or download the list from the District site go to "Parks" and then "Black Diamond." Rose Hill Cemetery is listed under "Park Features." If you have information concerning people buried here or the location of missing gravestones, you may place a call to the Black Diamond office at (510) 544-2750 or contact Traci at <mailto:tparent@ebparks.org>.

Mount Ellison—The Ellison House at Vails Gate, New York

Wendy Ellison Rosenkilde, Ph.D.

Yes, 'twas a dark and stormy night. The year was circa 1834, and Andrew Jackson was President. Four miles east of Whitehall, New York, George W. Ellison and Sena Delamater were raising five children. Assuring his family that he would be right back, George set out to secure his nearby sawmill. All night Sena watched for his return. He perished in the storm and never came back.

Around 1840, Sena, her new husband, Charles Lester, a widower, and their half dozen children, joined the "Gang from Whitehall" and set out for Northwest Pennsylvania. Perhaps they traveled on the Erie Canal—parts of it are still visible around Erie, Pennsylvania. Two of George and Sena's sons arrived in Pennsylvania. Horatio B. Ellison seems not to have survived the journey, but Allen Kennebec Ellison followed his mother with his bride, DeeDee Russell, from New York. Henry, too, came along to Richmond Township, Crawford County, Pennsylvania. There he met and married Ida. (Sometime in 1860, however, Henry, Ida, and their children, Jane and George, disappeared from history.)

Fortunately for me, the descendants of Allen Kennebec—"Allen K"—lived into the 20th Century, and his son, grandson, and great-grandson, gave me my maiden name of Ellison.

Unfortunately, Allen K's father, George W. Ellison, didn't live long enough to introduce Allen K to his paternal grandparents. Thus was set into place the search for the parentage of George W. Ellison. A great deal is known about Sena's family. She was the daughter of Benjamin Delamater, a descendant of Huguenots and son of a Revolutionary War patriot. A book entitled, *The Elusive Ellisons*, provides

an Ellison history but only hints at who George W. Ellison may have been.

The quest for George W. Ellison may have come down to two lines of Ellisons, both in New Windsor, New York. DNA evidence separates these two families, living near each other, but unrelated. One line is associated with Mount Ellison, the Ellison House at Vails Gate, New York. Today, in one day, one can tour the Ellison House, along with a tour of the New Windsor Cantonment and Washington's Headquarters on the Hudson.

In mid-June I joined a group of school children and was treated to a tour of the Ellisons' well-preserved 18th-century Revolutionary War-era home. The tour began in the cellar where the kitchen was set up to acquaint us with 18th-century cooking utensils. Preserved there, as well, are window panes that speak a history of their own. Apparently, one night during a party, two young women used their diamonds to carve their names into the glass panes, and the names are still visible today.

On the first floor are elegant dining, parlor, and game room furnishings. William Ellison, John's father, owned a highly successful merchant fleet, and the family expressed its wealth in their homes. At dinner, for example, each place setting included a silver salt dish. The family and guests entertained with card games and musical offerings. Upstairs,

the beds were built for the good-sized Ellisons and others staying the night. Also upstairs were the servants' quarters. Sixteen African-American slaves lived in two attic rooms, the larger of the two maybe 10' x 15'. Their entire lives they slept on the floor. John Ellison, however, believed in abolition, and in 1821 began



The Ellison House at Vails Gate, New York, about 50 miles north of New York City, was of Revolutionary War significance when it was taken over by Generals Gates, Knox, and Greene as their headquarters, after Knox brought armaments from Lake Champlain.

emancipation of his slaves.

After my tour of the house, the docents led our group to see the remains of the Ellison gristmill. A huge grinding stone had been brought from Europe, and the mill is reputed to have sold flour to both sides during the Revolutionary War. Sadly, the family was disgraced after the War, for it was thought to be traitorous to sell to both sides.

I have speculated that my lost fifth grandfather, George W. Ellison, and his first born, Horatio, may have been named to honor Revolutionary War generals and to also publicly express loyalty to the American cause.

This year, New York State has been inundated with rain and the Silver Stream next to Mount Ellison was swollen and fast-moving. The path was muddy from the house to the mill, and I could imagine workers and slaves slipping down the hill despite the steps that today are nearly covered with dirt. It is known that General George Washington and his troops marched through the property, down the hill, and across the bridge next to the mill. They, too, could have found it a slippery descent.

How did the house come to be built? William Ellison provided well for his children, and in 1753 he commissioned William Bull, stonemason, to build the house for a son, John Ellison and wife Catharine. This is of genealogical interest to my family, since my fifth great grandmother's sister, Laura Delamater, in 1831, married Nathaniel Bull. The Ellison Family and the Bulls traveled together to

Northwest Pennsylvania, and the question remains, did they first leave the area around New Windsor, New York, emigrate to Whitehall, New York, where shipbuilding was thriving, and then head southwest to the Donation Lands of Crawford County, Pennsylvania?

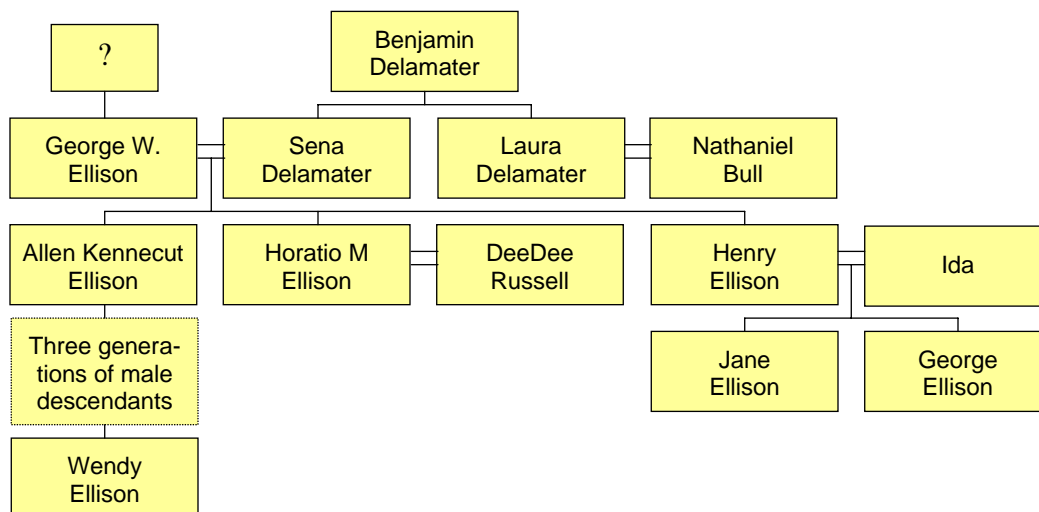
Recently, my brother, Mark Ellison, submitted a cheek swab to determine whether his DNA matches either of the two Ellison lines from New Windsor. Catharine and John Ellison died without issue, and I have been unable to connect their nephews to my ancestors, George W. Ellison and his son, Allen K.

My hope is that interest in the Ellison House will continue. I went there because of the family name, but would be glad to return for its historical significance. The house went through a period of Revolutionary War significance when it was taken over by Generals Gates, Knox, and Greene as their headquarters, after Knox brought armaments from Lake Champlain. The Ellisons allegedly were forced to live upstairs. The State of New York continues to preserve historical sites. Vails Gate is part of the Knox's Headquarters State Historic Site in the town of New Windsor in Orange County. There was a Vail Family in the area. I will try to learn more about the Vails and their 18th-century history. The history of the house is described at:

<http://www.nysparks.com/sites/info.asp?siteId=18>

Whether or not my DNA connects to the Ellison House and its history, I will continue to be interested in the history of the Hudson Valley and its role in the Revolutionary War.

My Delamater and Ellison Ancestors



“Old Pancake” and Nevada’s Comstock Lode

By Barbara Huber

When my great-aunt, Amanda Burnight Clark, died a number of years ago, I was given a folder of all her family history papers. Among them was a letter from a Mr. John Adams Comstock addressed to Elizabeth in Oakland, California. Elizabeth’s maiden name was Dougherty and her mother’s maiden name was Pheobe Ann Comstock. (Her given name “Pheobe” was spelled that unusual way in my chief reference book, cited below.) In the letter, John Comstock said he was writing a book about the Comstock family in America and he was asking Elizabeth questions about her family.

For a long time I wondered if there was any connection between my great-great-grandmother, Pheobe Comstock, and the Comstock Mine in Nevada. I was finally able to purchase a copy of John Adams Comstock’s book, *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America*, published in 1949. I found my great-great-grandmother’s family listed in the book. Pheobe Comstock was born 29 June 1816 in Putnam, New York and died 13 February 1899 in Arthur, Iowa. The book traced her family back eight generations to the immigrant, William Comstock, born about 1595 in England.

The book contained a lot of great genealogy information, but I still wanted to know if my Comstock family was connected to the Nevada Comstock Mine, so I started reading books about the Comstock Lode. One of the best is *Silver Kings: The Lives and Times of Mackay, Fair, Flood, and O’Brien, Lords of the Nevada Comstock Lode*, by Oscar Lewis.

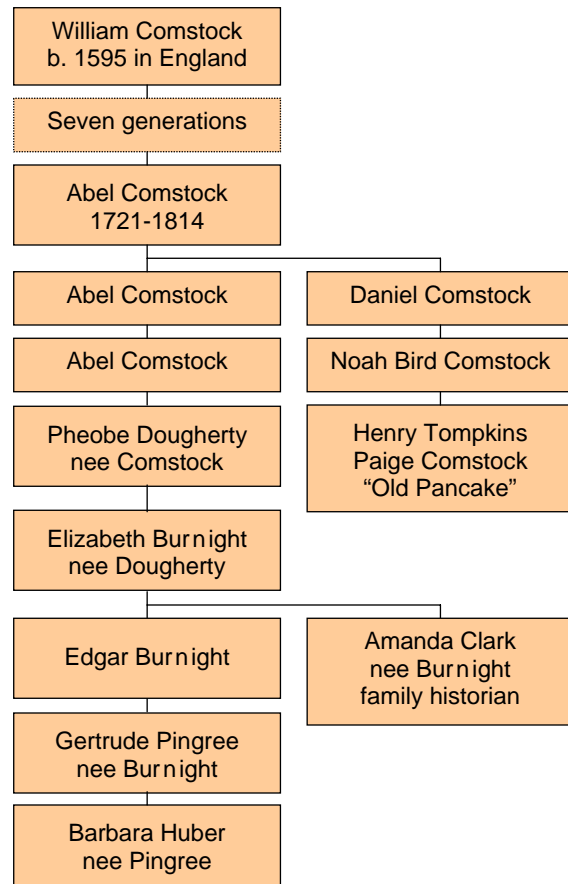
The story of the lode’s discovery and development is a long record of bad luck and bad judgment. In the summer of 1849 and through the early fifties, thousands of gold-hunters traveled through the Carson Valley headed for California. Some miners, as early as 1850, found traces of gold beside the streams flowing into the Carson River. In 1859 the curious blue stuff that kept clogging the miners’ rockers was identified by a Grass Valley assayer as being exceedingly rich silver sulphide, mixed with gold, that assayed close to four thousand dollars a ton.

Over the years the miners worked their claims with progressively smaller return. After eight years the poor man’s bonanza was playing out. Luck continued bad until two prospectors, Peter O’Riley and

Patrick McLaughlin, commenced deepening the mouth of a tiny spring. An impulse caused them to toss a few shovels of sand from the spring into their rocker. At the bottom of this rocker, after the lighter material washed away, was a film of finely granulated gold.

Then along came Henry Tompkins Paige Comstock (“Old Pancake”), boastful and arrogant, riding into

My Comstock Ancestors



their camp on an old mule with his long legs scraping the sagebrush. The two miners incautiously showed Henry their 1/2 inch of gold in a tin can. This was enough for greedy Old Pancake, and, by sheer noise and bluster, he persuaded them to share their claim with him and one Manny Penrod. The four men daily washed out several hundred dollars in gold and increasing quantities of blue sand. Two months later the historic assay of the blue sand ended the lean early years of the Washoe.

The owners of the original claims were besieged by eager strangers offering extravagant sums for their property. They did not long refuse and one-by-one the veterans of the region's lean years sold their holdings. McLaughlin was first to sell for \$3,500 and Manny Penrod sold his for 2 1/2 times as much. Henry Comstock realized \$11,000 for his property that had cost him only half an hour of argument and threats.

What did these pioneers do with their money? The lode was named for Old Pancake Comstock. He invested his \$11,000 in a Carson City supply store and went broke. He then drifted north into



“Old Pancake” Comstock, at far left, and fellow miners. Painting by unknown artist.

Montana and a year or two later he committed suicide. Not one of the original owners held on to a dollar of their small return. The lode yielded hundreds of millions, but it all flowed into the pockets of far shrewder men.

I found “Old Pancake” in the Comstock family history book. He was born in Trenton, Ontario, Canada, in 1820 and died in Montana 27 Sept 1870. He was one of 12 children of Noah Bird Comstock and Catherine Tompkins. Lo and behold! My great-great-grandmother, Pheobe Comstock, and Henry “Old Pancake” Comstock were second cousins.

From the Editor

Last year and in years past, about this time, our Livermore-Amador Genealogy Society (L-AGS) had been very busy introducing Alameda Fair patrons to the wonders of genealogy. Many people were not only introduced to their ancestors but discovered the joy of family connections of which they had been unaware. People had lined up to view their families on our computers, and went home with printed information about them. This was a very popular venue at the fair, and many people returned each year for more information. They used their cell phones to contact parents and grandparents about dates and places. L-AGS benefited because some of these people were interested enough to join our organization. However, this year, due to economic circumstances, the Fair was unable to invite us back. Therefore, the *Roots Tracer* does not have information about our work at the Fair.

However, we do have a number of articles about genealogy conferences. The Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) <http://www.samford.edu:80/schools/ighr> is an annual event at the Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. It is held in June of each year. There are ten classes on different subjects offered for the week. Mary Dillon and I were able to attend this year. Mary has written an article in this issue about her class on land records, and I learned about the many sources available for English Records, which I hope to follow up on at home and at the Salt Lake Library next January. If you wish to know about future courses go to

http://www.samford.edu/schools/ighr/IGHR_future.html.

You will notice two other genealogy conference articles included in this issue. They are about the Southern California Genealogy Jamboree, one written by Sue Johnston and the other by Kristina Ahuja. Next year the Jamboree will take place at:

41st Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree
Friday through Sunday, June 11-13, 2010
Burbank Airport Marriott Hotel and Convention Center
Burbank, California

Jane Southwick

The Cyclor Buckaroo

Carolyn Drown Schilling

One of my avocations is family history. My interest was caught when my father gave me an 8-1/2 x 11 inch envelope with a variety of papers saying, "This is what I have of the family genealogy. Perhaps you will be able to figure it out. All I ask is that you share your information with your brother and sister." There really wasn't much there, but in it was some of the correspondence Grandmother had collected over the many years of her inquiring.

The 'gift' of the envelope of genealogical materials from my father probably occurred in the late 1960's. I had undergone a period of depression in the '60's, actually a not-so-unusual event for women of my then age in that era, and I believe the 'gift' was a kindly attempt of my father's to assist my 'recovery.'

Unfortunately for me my husband had a dedicated antipathy toward any genealogical efforts, which seriously hampered my research. He did not want me to even look at his family's genealogy. Sad for me, because I had a close DAR friend who knew some of my husband's family, and she wanted to help me on such a project. Also sad for me because last year, about 21 years after his demise, I located on the Internet a relative of his on his maternal grandmother's side who gave me sufficient information to discover his Norwegian ancestry and where his given name came from.

My husband was the youngest of six Schilling boys: William, Leonard, Arthur, Martin, Gerald and Dale. I always felt that his name was a slight misfit from the other five. Dale was only 3 years old when his mother died on Christmas eve, and after that, his family did not celebrate Christmas. He knew some of his mother's family, but he barely remembered her. I would have loved to tell him his given name, Dale, came from his Norwegian maternal grandmother's maiden name: Dalemoe, and I also would have loved to tell him I think he should have been eternally grateful he was named Dale, and not Moe.

Dale often told me of his only memory of his mother. After his death I wrote the following poem for him. For a long time I collected Cowboy Poetry; that collection now is a part of the Drown-Schilling collection in the Western History Center at Casper College in Casper, Wyoming.

EPITAPH

In Memory of Dale
1933 - 1987

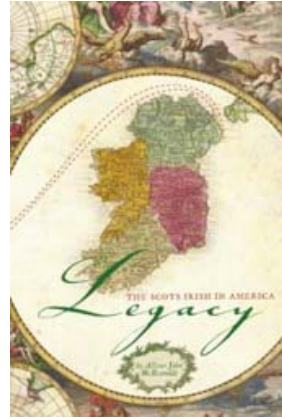
*Up early with the crack of dawn, and moving
fast to please
the body's wont for fast relief from cold, slow
moving knees;
The cowboys in the bunkhouse are all in motion
now,
preparing for the day ahead with horse and dog
and cow.
No time for words, it's action speaks when cattle
are awaiting:
Head for the cookhouse on the run, coffee starts
cold abating;
It's gulp your food and grab your horse, and to
the range you're headed
Your saddle beneath, the sun not UP, the cows
no longer bedded.
But somehow the routine of what he's heard and
"seed"
is stopped still in the tracks of this young cow-
boy's steed;
Mother's spotted youngest boy and votes he's
not a-going:
She stops 3-wheeler in its tracks, rider's tears
they start a flowing,
Returning to the ranch house astride his trusty
trike,
and wondering why he can't go with Bill and
Bob and Mike,
Our future cowboy's day at work is short and
not so sweet,
For Mother's wrangling means she is switching
at his seat.
This memory of Mother is the only one he had,
and while it stung and though it hurt, he never
thought it bad;
His mother died on Christmas eve, and had she
never cared,
Our cowboy would have been without this mem-
ory he shared.
For memory is all that's left of these beloved
two:
Of Mother -- and of our 'cyclor buckaroo';
His mother died when cowboy was but a lad of
three,
And this was written by the widow of the man he
grew to be.*

The Scots Irish in America

By Dick Finn

A few years back, Alister McReynolds was visiting his cousin Reverend Roberta McReynolds in Livermore. While he was here, he was a speaker at one of our Study Group meetings. Roberta called me to say that Alister has written a new book that many of our members might be interested in. As an historian, he is well known for his work in Scots Irish history. His new book is entitled *Legacy: The Scots Irish in America*.

The advertisement for this book states: “In this new and vivid account of the achievements of the Scots Irish in America, Alister McReynolds tells the story of these ordinary, yet somehow remarkable, indi-



viduals in a lively and human fashion. The people portrayed were not saintly but were possessed of the kind of inventiveness and energy that literally, ‘moved mountains.’

“This book is compulsory reading for anyone who is interested in the contribution made by the Scots Irish to building the United States of America. *Legacy* focuses on States and characters that up to now have been somewhat overlooked”

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 when requested.

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