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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901
www.L-AGS.org

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Number 4

Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members

Lena Wilson, Livermore; **Shannon Ryan**, Jacksonville, Oregon; **Marilyn Glass**, Livermore

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, Cindy McKenna, David & Bernice Oakley, Madelon Palma, Ileen J. Peterson, Susan and Terry Silva, Carl Webb, Rhett Williamson

Total membership as of October 26, 2009: 244 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,

Congratulations and many thanks to Patrick Lofft and Delores Olness for stepping up and becoming our new Editor and Compositor for *The Roots Tracer*. The November *Roots Tracer* will be the last edition for our current Compositor, George Anderson, and Editor, Jane Southwick. My congratulations and thanks to you both for many years of dedicated time and effort put into producing our *Roots Tracer*.

We also have a very important column in *The Roots Tracer* entitled “G.R.O.W.—Genealogy Resources on the Web.” It has been compiled by Frank Geasa for the past nine years. He has recently informed the board that he wished to resign from writing the column, with his final column being in the November issue. So we are again asking if any member of L-AGS would be willing to do the research and write the column. I feel sure that Frank would be willing to help someone get started with the research and writing. My congratulations and thanks to Frank Geasa for all his time and effort writing the G.R.O.W. column.

Every month I look forward to our L-AGS general meetings because we have such interesting speakers and so many of our members attend the meetings.

In August, Richard Rands, President of the Silicon Valley Computer Group, spoke to us about a concise and clear methodology for gathering information. He handed out a Census Analysis form.

In September, Ron Arons spoke to us about “Best Bet Internet Websites.” He handed out a three-page list of Internet websites. He said to keep trying them because sometimes they get updated.

October’s speaker was Susan Goss Johnston. Her topic was “Assumption is the Mother of all Screw-ups.” She showed us many ways to prove all information and also why we need to prove it.

Assumption Is the Mother of All Screw-ups

By Susan Goss Johnston

[From a presentation, with many graphics, given to The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society on October 13, 2009.]

“I’ve hit a brick wall on this line.” “I’ve looked everywhere for information on _____, but she doesn’t seem to have left any records.” “I know something must be wrong. John and his sister appear to have been born only six months apart!” Does any of this sound familiar? If so, your research may have become infected with a hidden assumption.

“Wait a minute,” you say. “How can I research my family history without making assumptions?” Defining terms may clear up the problem.

Hypothesis: A supposition formulated from proved data and presented as a temporary explanation to

establish a basis for further research.

Assumption: A hypothesis that is taken for granted.

In other words, good researchers examine the information found in a source and form a hypothesis upon which to base further research, but they never take the hypothesis for granted. All hypotheses must be consciously questioned and examined as new evidence is obtained. This is much easier said than done. The situation is complicated further by the existence of three hidden assumptions that attack us all from time to time.

1. The source is accurate.

The death certificate states that your great-grandmother’s maiden name was Chandler. “Assuming” this information is correct, you begin researching the Chandler family in the appropriate

geographic region, but nothing you find fits your knowledge of your great-grandmother. When this happens, backtrack. Identify the source that pointed your research in the wrong direction and question its validity. Instead of assuming the source is accurate, state, “**If** the source is accurate, **then** this will be true.”

To avoid making this error, remember that the *Genealogical Proof Standard* states that good researchers perform a reasonably exhaustive search of high quality sources. It’s seldom a good idea to assume one source is accurate without verifying the information in independently created sources.

2. The source means what you think it means.

You find a 1785 guardianship record for your several-greats-grandfather, Jeremiah Prescott, which calls him the “orphan son of Joshua Prescott.” You immediately enter the dates of death for Joshua and his wife Maria as “before 1785.” You continue your research and discover a 1786 marriage record for Maria Prescott and Jonathan Winter. This can’t be Jeremiah’s mother, because she died before 1785—or did she? Instead of assuming the source means what you think it means, state, “**If** the source means what I think it means, **then** this will be true.”

Interpreting the old records genealogists use is seldom easy. The medium may have deteriorated and the handwriting may be difficult to read. Over the years, words have changed their meanings. New laws have been passed and customs have changed. To determine what your source really says, first make as complete and accurate a transcription as possible. Then examine your conclusions in the light of the source’s historic and legal context.

3. What usually happens always happens.

The 1850 census enumeration includes a St. Louis household comprising John Smith, age 28, Mary Smith, age 26, Anna Smith, age 3, William Smith, age 2, and Robert Jones, age 53. You conclude that this is a family unit, and you begin searching for a John Smith and Mary Jones marriage circa 1845. You don’t find this marriage, and more complications ensue when you discover that young Anna was born 15 May 1847 and young William was born 24 November 1847! Do you now “assume” that one of these birth dates is incorrect?

Instead of assuming what usually happens, always happens, state, “**If** this is the case, **then** this will be true.”

The list of assumptions we make because something usually happens is endless: census households are family units; heirs-at-law are children; the 75-year-old man found in 1850, but not in 1860, died in the interim; 85-year-old widows don’t remarry; divorces didn’t occur in the 17th century. To determine what really happened in your family’s history, make a thorough search of all records for every person you encounter in your research. Write out your hypotheses and reexamine your conclusions in the light of new evidence. If something doesn’t make sense, question your hypothesis before discarding the conflicting evidence.

Brick walls, conflicting evidence and timeline inconsistencies appear when a hidden assumption has infected your research. They are warning signs that remind us that good researchers adhere to the *Genealogical Proof Standard*:*

- Perform a reasonably exhaustive search of high quality sources.
- Make complete and accurate source citations.
- Analyze and correlate all collected information.
- Resolve all conflicting evidence.
- **Write your hypothesis and detail the evidence that supports your conclusion.**

Avoiding hidden assumptions is painstaking and time-consuming. Your database won’t accumulate new people as rapidly as you might hope, but you will be far less likely to discover that your family oak tree has suddenly sprouted pine branches!

* For more on the *Genealogical Proof Standard*, please read Christine Rose, *Genealogical Proof Standard: Building a Solid Case* (San Jose: CR Publications, 2005).

"Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future." Gail Lumet Buckley

Family History Circle, 14 October 2007



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Frank Geasa

After compiling this column for 9 years I have decided this will be my last one. I have enjoyed hunting for sites which I thought might be useful to the readers. I hope you have enjoyed the column and perhaps at some point even found it helpful in your searching.

If any of your ancestors are from Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, or Wisconsin, you might want to check the website of Cathy L. O'Connor. She has transcribed Every Name Indexes for many counties and clicking the Free Databases button makes them available online.

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

Do you ever wonder if there may be information in the National Archives (NARA) in some of its less visible databases? Try putting a surname into the Archival Research Catalog. You may get lucky.

<http://www.archives.gov/research/arc/>

The National Archives of Ireland now has the 1911 census for all 32 counties digitized and available for viewing on their site. Also enjoy the links to the description and photos of the country in 1911. Courtesy of Eileen Redman.

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

The University of North Carolina Library has an extensive collection of old maps for numerous locations in that state. Included are atlas, highway, railway, Sanborn insurance and other type maps.

<http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/ncmaps/>

The Oshkosh, Wisconsin Public Library has directories for that city spanning the period 1857 to 1922. Go to page 8 of the 1868 directory for a hint of the different political atmosphere at that time.

<http://tinyurl.com/ykrdds2>

This unique site's focus is on the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade 1514-1866. It includes information on almost 35,000 slave trade voyages and has an African names database of over 67,000 individuals. For some, their African origin is also noted.

<http://www.slavevoyages.org/tast/index.faces>

This Charleston County, South Carolina Probate Court site has an index of marriages starting from 1879 as well as some estate and guardianships indexes online.

<http://tinyurl.com/ykxh79z>

The Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois has an index of naturalization declarations and petitions for the period 1871-1929.

<http://198.173.15.34/NR/about.aspx>

Providing perhaps one of the strangest genealogical resources, the Cook County, Illinois sheriff's office has put photos of over 43,500 headstones online as part of a cemetery scandal investigation.

<http://www.burroak.net/index.html>

If you are researching ancestors in the United Kingdom, you will want to explore the following free sites with indexed information transcribed from millions of vital, census and parish records.

<http://www.freebmd.org.uk/>

<http://www.freecen.org.uk/>

<http://www.freereg.org.uk/>

The University of Leicester in England has a digitized collection of local and trade directories for England and Wales (1750-1919) available.

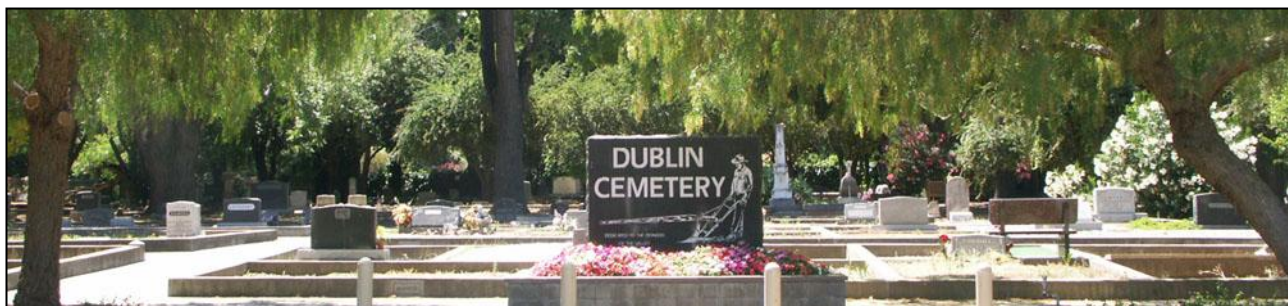
<http://tinyurl.com/yh5scoh>

This site has numerous excellent indexes to many types of records such as census (including some state, county, school, etc.), cemetery, vital and others. It is a little heavy with advertising but the site is updated frequently.

<http://tinyurl.com/yz489q6>

If your ancestry traces back to the Friesland region of the Netherlands, you will want to visit this site. Many municipalities have indexed and digitized their vital records for the period 1811 to the early 1900s. It has an English version. Hint: Use a language translation site for typed comments in Dutch.

<http://www.allefriezen.nl/en.html>



New Online Cemetery Survey, with Gravestone Photos

By Emily Bailey

I did a project through my church this Spring, working a day at Dublin Cemetery, so I was aware of the cemetery through that. Then my husband, Bob, and I got a link to the California Archives web site in an e-mail from Kay Speaks a few months ago. I checked with the California Archives to see if Dublin Cemetery had been “adopted,” and was told it hadn’t, so I decided to transcribe it. I don’t have anyone buried there, but it seemed it was a small enough cemetery to handle without having to make a huge time commitment and a good starting point for learning how to do a cemetery transcription project.

I started at the L-AGS web site

http://www.l-ags.org/cem_pd/dub_intr.html

and compared the current markers against what was transcribed in 1989. Of course, there were many additions and a few that were no longer there. Then I photographed each marker as best I could. This was all given to the California Archives in a CD. They compressed my photos (which really irritates my husband, since he believes the quality has been lost!) and added the acknowledgement and border on each photo. This CD was also given to the Dublin Heritage Center but, as far as I know, they have not used it yet. They were debating between using this on their web site or just hyper linking to the California Archives site. Last I checked, they had not done either.

The only real problem I had, if you want to call it that, was that the director of the Dublin Heritage Center, Elizabeth Isles, gave me very specific instructions NOT TO TOUCH THE STONES. She said no soft brushes, no water, no brushing them to remove debris, nothing. Not the newer granite markers or brass. Of course, I knew not to use anything

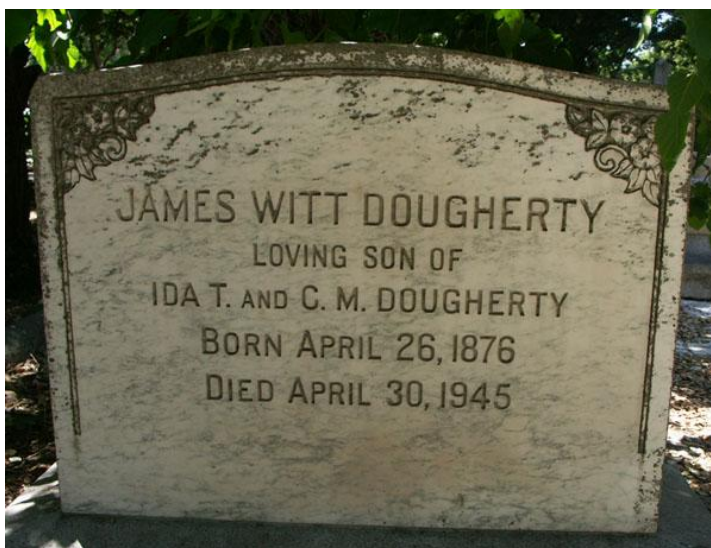
on the fragile ones and not to use stiff brushes or chemicals, but she didn’t want me to even wet the stones. I felt sort of bad since many of them had bird poop on them—it seems sort of disrespectful to photograph them without at least trying to get that off, but I did what she told me. Also, sometimes wetting the stones brings out the engraving so a few are not so easy to read. Fortunately, I had the earlier L-AGS transcription so I could get an idea of what they said and that helped a lot.

That is how I spent my summer vacation. It really wasn’t bad, and I really enjoyed it. I’d love to do another, preferably in Oregon or Massachusetts, but I think my husband might have a problem with that. Or maybe there is another one a bit closer. Bob did a great job of creating the web page:

<http://www.calarchives4u.com/>

then click on **Cemetery Records and Tombstone Photos | Alameda | Dublin Cemetery.**

I am pleased at how well it turned out. I just hope that it is helpful to someone!



A Three-year Wait, but It Was Worth It

By Bill Evans

When I was younger, I started wondering about the lives of my grandparents. I didn't realize how hard it would be to obtain information about them once I started looking into their past. My grandparents were born in Poland, my grandfather in 1870 and my grandmother in 1880, but they lived in Lithuania while these countries were under Russian rule. The vital records for them involve Russian, Lithuanian, and Polish records. I found their names spelled many different ways depending on the country in which the record was published.

To understand my ancestors, I decided I had to know a little bit about the history of these three nations. It is a turbulent history. Lithuania became the Kingdom of Lithuania in the 13th century and by the 15th century it had merged with Poland to become the largest state in Europe. This merger of Lithuania and Poland became a formidable power until the 18th century when it was erased from the political map with the Partitions of Poland. These Partitions were in 1791, 1793, and 1795 at which time the people of Lithuania and Poland came under Russian rule until the 20th Century. They became independent states at the end of the First World War (1918), but when the Second World War began, they once again fell under Russian rule. In the early 1990's Lithuania restored its sovereignty. The Modern Polish state was established in the late 1980's.

One of the biggest challenges in my research has been the difficulty of the different spelling of my ancestors' names. Two books which have helped me a great deal are *Polish Roots: Korzenie Polskie** by Rosemary A. Chorzempa, and *Polish Surnames Origins and Meanings*** by William F. Hoffman. These have helped me learn the development of the spelling of my grandfather's name and the changes made over the years, as well as the difference in the way it is spelled in the different countries, i.e. my grandfather's name in Polish is Casimeras Iwanowski (Soundex: E152 when spelled as Evanouski), but in Lithuania it is spelled Kazimieras-Jonas Ivanauskas. There was also a difference in the male and female spelling of last names; i.e., my grandfather's first wife's last name was Cizauskaite but her father's name was spelled Cizauskas.

My father's mother said they were from Kovno, but that city and area is now in Lithuania, so I

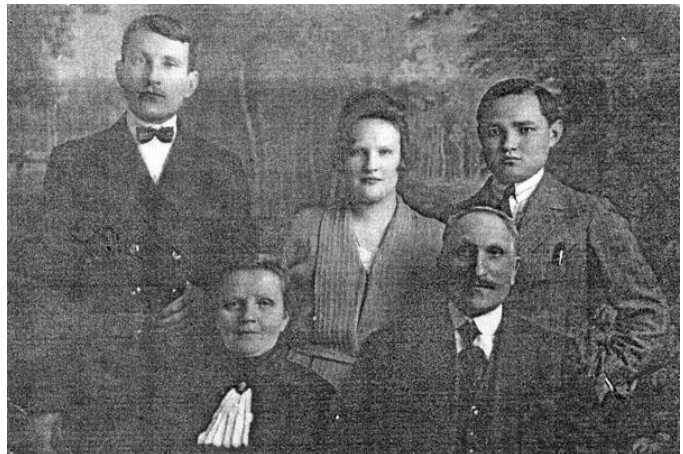
contacted the Lithuanian State Historical Archives, (LSHA). I obtained information about my paternal grandparents' birth and marriage, my great-grandparents' marriage, and the names of some of their ancestors. Unfortunately, because at that time Russia controlled the area, the records were in Russian, and had to be translated. They did send birth, death and marriage records as well as a pedigree chart with some errors. But the LSHA has over a three-year lag in time before they actually work on any request, so this has been a long tedious research. The State Archives are located at Gerosis Vilties g.10, LT-2009 Vilnius, Lithuania Tel (370-5) 2137482 Fax 2137612.

I have been searching for the village and estate names which were on the various records sent to me, to get a better idea of where they lived and the distances involved. I discovered Google Maps World Gazetteer:

<http://www.maplandia.com>

which has been an eye-opener to me because these small towns are not on any printed maps that I have found. My grandmother Petronele was from Slabada. When I Googled Slabada I found satellite images of Slabada.

Both of my parents were Polish. I have been able to do some of my mother's family research because the LDS records are pretty good for Polish



In the front row are my paternal great-grandparents, Veronika Ivanauskas, born Kalendaite, and Jonas Ivanauskas. They remained in Lithuania when their son, my grandfather, Kazimieras Ivanauskas, came to the U.S. In the back row are three siblings of Kazimieras; they also stayed in Lithuania.

churches. I have visited the New Church at Bakglowo, Poland. It was built in 1865. It is where my maternal grandparents were baptized. However, there are not many of the earlier records because their older church burned down.

I have found success at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City in the books available about Lithuania. I have done a lot of copying. There is even more information about Poland at this library. Up to now, some of the places I have researched that have not been successful for me have been the Lithuanian Genealogical group in Chicago and the Federation of East European Family History Societies, (FEEFHS).

Today's Internet data helps, but my problems still arise primarily due to the incompatibility of Russian with Latin languages like Polish and English. The Old Russian script is also difficult even for a living Russian to read and interpret. Earlier records that were in Polish are easier to translate.

After all this research, this is what I know. My paternal grandparents were Polish, but lived in Lithuania. My grandfather, whose Polish name was Casimeras (English =Charles) Iwanowski (soundex E152) was born in Vimbarai Village, Babtai Parish, Poland in 1870. His Lithuanian name was spelled "Kazimieras-Jonas Ivanauskas." In the rest of this article I will be using the Lithuanian spelling of my ancestors' names.

Kazimieras-Jonas married Konstancija Cizauskaite in 1897. She died soon after, and he married Petronele. Kazimieras-Jonas Ivanauskas immigrated to Spring Valley, Illinois, sometime before 1905 because he was fearful of being killed. He was a reserve officer in the Czar's army and deserted when the pogroms were restarted in 1904-1905 (According to Wikipedia, "The term 'pogrom' became commonly used in English after a large-scale wave of anti-Jewish riots in 1881-1884 swept through south-western Imperial Russia, which is present-day Ukraine and Poland."). Kazimieras Jonas was fluent in eight languages, including Yiddish, and had many friends who were Jewish. He felt that he could not lead men against them. He never returned to Europe because he believed that the Russian army would shoot him. I've been unable to find my grandfather's arrival date or port, possibly because he had false papers.

My grandmother's name in Polish was Petronele Zabotkaite Iwanowska. (Note that Iwanowska is the

married female name of Iwanowski.) She was born in Slabada, Lithuania, in 1880. Kazimieras and Petronele were married in 1899 in the Roman Catholic Church in Kaunas, Lithuania. They had two children, Michalina and Kazimieras, before Kazimieras-Jonas fled the country. After tedious hours of film searches, and literally ordering and buying dozens and dozens of reels in Santa Monica and Santa Clara, I found an LDS film which showed me that a Petronella Iwanowska and two children entered the United States in New York on July 18, 1905 Red Star Line, Steamer Kroonland. The ship departed Antwerp on July 8, 1905. She had tickets to go to Spring Valley, Illinois and \$12. These were the two children, Aunt Michalina-Mildred, about three years, and Uncle Kazimieras-Charles, about six months, who had been born in Lithuania. Petronella joined her husband, Kazimieras in Spring Valley and they had six more children. My father was the fourth child in this family of eight children. Kazimieras had come from a wealthy family in Lithuania and it was a hard life for him in America, but at least he had his life. My grandmother crossed back and forth to Europe to visit relatives about 12 times up until WWI. In the 20's she went across only a few more times as her father died in 1912, and her mother in 1923.

My father, William Peter Evans, was born in Spring Valley, and my mother, Josephine, in Chicago. They were married in Chicago. I was born with the surname, Iwanowski, as spelled in Polish, but at the end of the 1930s my dad's siblings all shortened the name to Evans. I get lots of Welshmen asking me what part of Wales I'm from.

I will continue the tedious but fun work of trying to decipher Russian, Lithuanian and Polish records. I have a sense of accomplishment for what I have discovered so far.

If anyone is struggling with ancestors from these areas, I would be happy to pass on a few tips and pitfalls that I've chanced upon. I can be reached at

<mailto:rootstracer@L-AGS.org>.

* Published by Genealogical Publishing Company, 1000 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD 21202. Copyright 1993. In the L-AGS Library. Reviewed at

http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_xiii1.htm

** Polish Genealogical Society of America, 984 North Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622

The Roots Tracer Helps a Sculptor Win a Commission

By Jane Southwick

We were pleased to learn that our quarterly publication, *The Roots Tracer*, and Anne Homan recently helped a sculptor obtain a commission. It seems that genealogy is helpful in many ways, and in many disciplines.

We received an e-mail dated January 31, 2009, at *The Roots Tracer*. This e-mail was in reference to a *Roots Tracer* article in the May 2007 issue entitled "My German Heritage," written by Anne Homan.

http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_27_2.html

The e-mail stated,

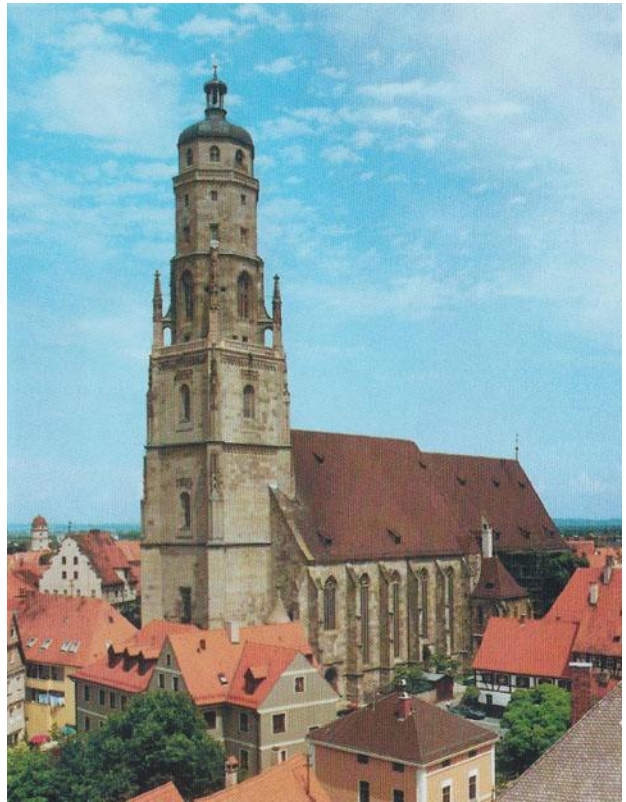
I surely hope that you can help me. I am in need of some information that Ms. Homan would have. She describes on your web site of being inside St. George's Church in Nordlingen, Bavaria, Germany. I am a sculptor. I am trying to re-create the Daniel tower which is attached to St. George's Church. I cannot find information to know positively if the tower has six sides, or eight. Could you please pass on my e-mail to Ms. Homan. Best wishes, Treva Mitchell.

I sent the e-mail to Anne, and on Monday morning, February 2nd, she answered,

Hi Treva, I received your message that you sent to The Roots Tracer about the Daniel in Nordlingen. All the photos that I have of the tower show three sides for the top section. ... I'm sorry, but I don't have any cross-sections that would show it. I'd love to see a photo of your model when you are finished. Are you doing this just for fun, or is it a class assignment? Good luck—Anne Homan

On Monday afternoon, February 2nd, Treva answered,

Hi Anne, I am a sculpture student at Herron School of Art and Design [at the University of Indiana]. I am in my junior year, so we are competing for commissions. This is for a very rich, philanthropic woman that lived her first 20 years in Nordlingen. My plan is to artistically re-create the bell tower and add the "So G'sell so" song to it so that it plays at 10 pm and midnight. [*"So G'sell so" is the cry of the watchmen on the tower. The cry was used to check whether all the guards were at their posts.**] I



St. George's Church in Nordlingen, Bavaria, Germany, with its Daniel Tower. Anne Homan's ancestors lived in Nordlingen.

have read that this is what people remember most about Nordlingen. Any advice?

On Monday evening, February 2nd, Anne wrote,

Hi Treva, Well, I read through the book I have, and we were wrong. The tower has seven stories. The lower four are square; the upper three are octagonal. It is 89.9 meters high. The calling out of "So G'sell so" is done every half hour from 10 to 12 p.m. Best of luck with your project! Anne

On Friday afternoon, May 25, 2009, Treva wrote,

Hi Ann, Well, I received the commission to make a sculpture inspired by both the Daniel Tower and St. George's Cathedral in Nordlingen, Bavaria. Attached you will find a picture of my maquette [model]. The pattern is taken from the gothic ribs in the ceiling of St. George's. The finished piece will be 17 feet tall, made of steel pipe, lights from the top down and the bottom up, and right on time, will

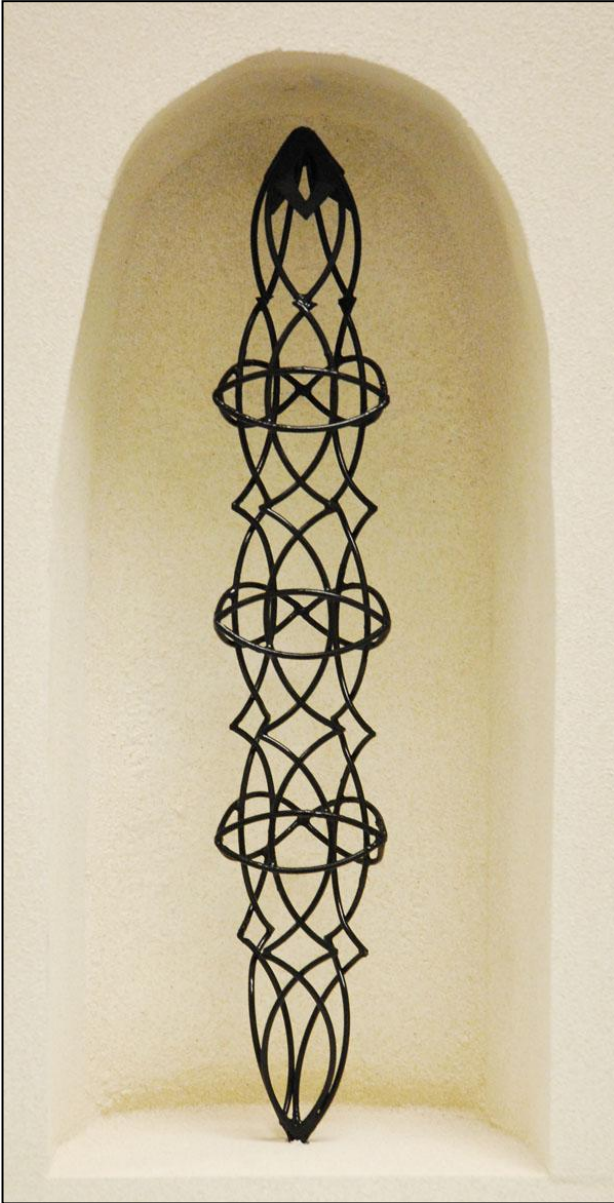
call out “So G’sell so!” Thank you for all of your help with my success. Sincerely, Treva Mitchell

On Friday evening, May 25th, Anne wrote,

Congratulations, Treva! The sculpture is beautiful and engaging with its voice. Thanks for letting me know about your achievement. Anne

On Thursday afternoon, July 16, Anne wrote,

Dear Treva, The editor of The Roots Tracer (where you found the information about me and



Model of a sculpture being designed by Treva Mitchell, inspired by the Daniel Tower and the St. George Church ceiling. The finished work will be made of steel pipe and will be 17 feet tall.



The gothic ribs in the ceiling of St. George Church in Nordlingen, Germany. Treva Mitchell’s sculpture brings to mind this intricate pattern.

St. George) would like to have an article about our correspondence. What made you look at the L-AGS web site? In other words, how did you find me??? Have you finished your sculpture yet? Anne

On Thursday evening, July 16, Treva wrote,

Hi Anne, I’m working my tail off on the sculpture. It should be finished and installed Sept/Oct. As for how I came to hook up with you. I had googled to find out as much information about the Daniel Tower and St. George’s Cathedral as possible. I also sent out many cries of help e-mails, and you were the only one to respond. You were a very big part in me landing this commission. Without your added pictures of the inside of the cathedral, I would not have known the rib vaulting pattern (which is the entire linear pattern); along with the information about the town crier “So G’sell so.” I’ve attached some pictures of the work in progress so far. When finished, it will be 17 feet tall, steel, lit from within the bottom base, and of course, the crier will cry out at the correct times. I am excited to see it as a total package. Please feel free to contact me anytime. Thank you, Treva

* A charming legend about the origin of the cry “So G’sell so” is told in fractured English at the website:

<http://www.airport-shuttle-munich.com/noerdingus.htm>

Organizing Your Data Files

Is Electronic Filing a Truly Archival Technique?

By Maxine Trost

[Editor's note - Maxine Trost, Archivist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL), has a masters degree in history and archival management from New York University. Before coming to Livermore, she worked for the Massachusetts State Archives, the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming, and the New York Public Library. Maxine has taught archival management at the Universities of Wyoming and Connecticut. She has completed the Society of American Archivists' intensive training in preservation as well as workshops in disaster recovery.]

It happened again last week. I was showing a new Lab manager through the Laboratory's Archives; the first thing he wanted to know was whether I was digitizing everything. When he found out I wasn't, we had a lengthy "discussion" about whether I was failing the future; electronic information will last, while paper, tapes and film will deteriorate, he told me.

Well, not necessarily. Paper has been with us since the second century; examples of that 2000-year-old paper still exist. Some studies suggest that CDs and the like will last for a couple of hundred years. But we've all heard stories like the one told by a professional photographer who copied his photos to disc to preserve them. Only a year later, when he needed a photo, he was unable to read the disc; he lost much of his body of work. On the other hand, I have in the Archives perfectly readable video tapes that were stored in a metal shed for 20 Livermore summers and winters.

Paper and film can be read with our eyes, light, and perhaps magnification. Electronic media require software and hardware. That fact makes it fairly irrelevant how long the physical media lasts, because the software and hardware necessary to read the media will have changed many times within 50 years. As an article in *Wired Magazine* says, "There are already a bazillion methods of compressing and encrypting media, and the number is only increasing." So just copying to a disc, without thought and a strategy is not the answer to preservation. A system to read the media will be necessary. This is, of course, true of video tapes as well as computer media.

Quick and easy access is a good reason for copying photos and other frequently used documents and materials to electronic format. It reduces handling of the original and allows world-wide access. But for preservation of an original, as an archivist, I think twice and usually three or ten times before I copy and destroy the original. Things like old newspapers and copies made with early duplication techniques will not last and need to be "reformatted" in some way. We used to photocopy them or microfilm them. Now we would probably scan them.

But some things are of value for other reasons than for the information. Clearly I would not digitize and discard a Rembrandt; nor a family bible or a tintype of Great-great grandfather Steele. Even a newspaper with a headline announcing the assassination of President Kennedy causes an emotional reaction embodied in the original that is not present in any



Maxine Trost, Laboratory Archivist at LLNL, works with some of the millions of documents in the LLNL Archives. The Archives, containing 5,000 cubic feet of historical Lab records, is in a climate controlled, fire-protected building designed to protect the materials.

copy. Documents, letters, photographs, all kinds of things, can have emotional content. These items will need special handling and perhaps a conservator's help if they are already in poor condition, but they need to be preserved in the original format.

I also worry about continuity for digital copies. What if we lose funding and cannot migrate our digital copies when technology changes? Or, what if I simply forget to copy my discs when I upgrade my computer system. When the family historian dies, will someone take over responsibility for the data before it is too late? Unlike old papers found in the attic 20 years later, digital media will probably not be useable.

We also need to figure out what to do with things that are "born digital." I know it's almost laughable

in today's world, but I would probably print digital photos and documents that I want to be absolutely sure I have for the future. I would copy to the best media available, in multiple copies, the bulk of the materials. In the Archives, I would budget for migration to new hardware and software in the future and tag the catalog record to remind me that I need to pay special attention to these items.

Technology is a magnificent way to help us make our treasures more available, but it is not a solution to every preservation problem. I guess the moral of my story is: use technology when it solves the problem and after careful thought. Check out:

<http://www.nedcc.org/resources/leaflets.list.php>

for helpful information.

How Do You Spell that Name Again?

By Frank Geasa

One of the first lessons a newcomer to genealogy research learns is that searching for even the simplest surname can sometimes try the patience of even the best of sleuths. You know the name you are looking for and the place where it should be but it just doesn't seem to be there.

There can be any number of reasons for this besides the obvious – it just may not be there. Usually most of us realize the magnitude of the other possibilities soon enough. There is the misinterpretation of a census taker unfamiliar with the culture of the people he is enumerating so that the Irish name Dwyer becomes Dwire or O'Shea becomes Oshay. Or there is a point where some member of the family decides to leave an ending off the name and Smithe becomes Smith. There is the transposition of letters and Wiese becomes Weise. Is it Johansen or Johanssen or Johanson or Johannsen? And so it goes.

There are of course some great aids available now to help us in our endeavors to find that elusive name. One is the NameThesaurus site which will give you numerous variants of a name as well as those names matching the Soundex and Metaphone algorithms for your name:

(non-click-able): <http://www.namethesaurus.com/Thesaurus/Search.aspx>

(click-able): <http://tinyurl.com/yh9wadm>

There are also the things we learn from experience. Is the first name one which could serve as a last name – is James Alexander perhaps coded on the census as Alexander James? Can we find the name by searching for another name such as that of a neighbor enumerated on a previous census?

There are numerous suggestions available to help but there is one I haven't run across and so I would like to suggest it here. If the ancestor was not a native English speaker and he was asked to spell his name, how would he spell it using his native language? How would they pronounce the letters? I'm not talking about how the letters would sound when used, but how the name of the individual letters would be pronounced.

I became aware of the possibilities this provided when I wondered about my own name. Some time ago I wrote an article for *The Roots Tracer* outlining the numerous variants I had found of my own surname.* I wondered how it was that Giese wound up as Geasa rather than one of the other variants: Gesse, Keyser, Gieser, Geaser, etc. I think I found a very plausible answer.

In October of 1876, my great-grandmother Catharina Weber Giese passed away. As recorded in

the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper of 9 March 1877, my great-grandfather William Geasa had taken out an insurance policy on her life. When the insurance company pulled some shenanigans to avoid paying, William started what today would probably be a class action, suing the company on behalf of himself and others. As circumstances would have it, before the case was resolved, it involved the states of New York and New Jersey, raised questions of which was responsible for what and ended up in the US Supreme Court (Reynolds v. Stockton, 140 U.S. 254 (1891)). William Geasa's name rode right along with it. As to the outcome of the case, see the notes below.

My great-grandfather emigrated from Wismar, Mecklenburg (Germany today) to Brooklyn, New York about 1860. Sometime between then and July 1864 when my grandfather was born, he married my great-grandmother who had emigrated from Enkenbach, Rheinland Pfalz, Bavaria; also about 1860. While William needed to learn English so he could later successfully captain his own tugboat and work as a pilot in New York's harbor, at the time of Catherina's death they spoke German at home and attended a German language church in Brooklyn.

Given the extended time frame and nature of the court case he started, I am sure that he was asked to spell his name on any number of occasions. I expect that he probably answered in the alphabet of his native German language.

How would Giese sound spelled out in the German alphabet?

Letter	G	I	E	S	E
Pronunciation	gay	eeh	ay	ess	ay

Source:

(non-click-able): http://german.about.com/library/anfang/blanfang_abc.htm

(click-able): <http://tinyurl.com/5d4vsn>

Based on the above it would be easy to see how his response to spelling his name could be understood to be Geasa. Once recorded in the courts and especially after the case led to the U.S. Supreme Court, I think I know why Giese evolved to Geasa.

It isn't only German or the Germanic languages that pronounce some of the letters of the alphabet different from English. A little research on my part found that French also has some different pronunciations. I'm sure that is true of most of the languages which are based on the same Latin alphabet. If you haven't been able to find that immigrant ancestor by other

means, you might ask yourself, if asked to spell his name, how would he have answered in his native tongue.

Notes

It is difficult to know with any certainty what amount of money my great-grandfather received for his efforts. It is fairly certain that he did receive something, since the Supreme Court Case was not concerned with who got what amounts but with which state would control the dispensing of the funds that were recovered from the insurance companies involved. As early as January 1879 a judgment in a New York court ruled in William's favor for \$563.

I haven't at this point been able to tell whether he ever collected this or whether he collected more after the Supreme Court case was settled. As it wound up being a very complicated case or series of cases, it is also possible that monies were dispensed as they were recovered from the defendants over the 14 years of litigation.

Although I do not know what the grandfather finally received, I was able to trace the course of my great-grandfather's case through the use of several newspapers. The Brooklyn Eagle has been digitized and resides on the Brooklyn Public Library site:

(non-click-able): <http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/Default/Skins/BEagle/Client.asp?Skin=BEagle>

(click-able): <http://tinyurl.com/bxpts5>

It was also carried in the New York Times:

(non-click-able): <http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>

(click-able): <http://tinyurl.com/avxq6>

The result was published in the Washington Post, a subscription site:

(non-click-able): <http://pqasb.pqarchiver.com/washingtonpost/advancedsearch.html>

(click-able): <http://tinyurl.com/a76qn>

In all cases searching by Geasa and the word "insurance" should work.

* http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_xxiil.html

then click on **The Name Puzzle**.

Can You Settle the Cousins' Argument after 30 Years?

By Anne Les

This family portrait of the James S. Gibb Family of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, has caused many a discussion and argument among the descendants now scattered around the United States.

My grandmother, Alice Maude Gibb, is seated on the left hand side of this picture. Standing in the back row, left to right are Alice Maude's youngest sister, Anne Covert, her brother, Andrew, and another sister, Sarah Elizabeth. In the middle of the picture are Alice's mother, Mary Emma Walters, and her father, James S. Gibb, with Alice's youngest brother, Lewis, seated between them. On the right side is Alice's other sister, Mabel Claire.

The long-standing argument is the date when this photograph was made, and what occasion it represents. What significant event occurred to cause such a picture to be taken? Was it when Alice Maude (seated on the left) turned 16...or maybe 21? Was the young lady, Mabel, seated on the right, in what might be a white dress, about to be married? Was it when Andrew came of age? The little guy, Lewis, seated in the middle on a stool was born in September 1890 and who would like to guess his age in this picture? The 1900 census gives facts that are continued in the 1910 census. Given the facts from the census taken during this time, it is known that Alice Maude was born in March 1876, and

Mabel was born in 1882 and Andrew was born in 1874.

If the picture is showing the celebration of Alice's 16th birthday, which some cousins claim, the year would be 1892 and Lewis would have been about a year and a half. Not likely, as he has laced up shoes and seems older than that age. Also, in 1892, Mabel was only 10 years old when her sister Alice turned 16.

If, as other cousins claim, the picture was taken when Mabel was getting married in 1900, Lewis would have been 10, and it seems as if he is younger than that. Do the fashions tell us much? Well Alice is the oldest of the sisters and is wearing the latest fashion, with the Gibson girl sleeves and tight bodice. Anne, the youngest sister, standing next to Alice, seems young and a bit immature, but beginning to blossom. She would be 15 in 1900 and she doesn't seem that old.

Could it be the 21st birthday of brother Andrew, standing in the middle? Andrew's birthday is December 1874, and he would be turning 21 in December of 1895. That would make Alice about 19, Sarah 16, Mabel 13, Anne 10, and Lewis about 5.

Who could convince the cousins still in Pennsylvania that it was not taken when Alice turned 16 in 1892 or when Mabel was married in 1900, but more likely December 1895 when Andrew turned 21? Are there other clues in the picture that would help date it? Can you recommend Web sites that would help?

If you can help me solve this mystery, please contact me via the e-mail address:

tracer@L-AGS.org

You are welcome to study a high-resolution copy of the original of the photo.



My mystery picture. Can you tell when it was taken?

Google a Picture of Your Great-great-grandfather's House!

By Kristina Ahuja

Ever wondered what the house that your great-grandparents lived in looked like? Ever returned from a trip and realized you forgot to take a photo of Great-aunt Mary's house?

Well with Google Maps and Zillow you can do that. Google Maps has a great feature known as Street View. Be warned! Not every address in the world has a street-view photo, but if you are one of the lucky ones, Google may have street-view photos from your city or home available so you can get a photo of your great-grandparents' house without ever leaving your computer!

I discovered this quite by accident one afternoon. I was gathering information for my grandfather's 90th birthday and I wondered what the house looked like where he grew up. Quickly, I looked him up on the 1920 U.S. Census and found the address: 1927 Harrison Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio.

I opened up <http://maps.google.com/>, input the address, clicked on Street View, and to my disappointment, I see it is a used car lot!

So I took a virtual walk down the street, (which I can assure you is much safer than actually walking in that neighborhood), and looked at the houses that were still standing, noting their addresses. There were two houses that were across the street from the used car lot: 1922 Harrison Avenue and 1920 Harrison Avenue. Keep in mind that Google may not pinpoint the addresses exactly and sometimes the address may be a little off from the actual house. Sometimes you can zoom in to see the address located on the house.

From the pictures, I see that 1920 Harrison is the smaller one, 1922 is the taller one set back from the street.

I put the addresses into Zillow at:

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

Zillow is a business often used by real estate agents. It will give you the information on the house: how many rooms, bathrooms, and square footage. If you scroll down to the house information you can find out when the house was built. That's the information I was looking for. I wanted to see if the house existed at the time my ancestor lived there. Sometimes the exact address is not in their database, but you will still be able to see the neighborhood and the nearby houses.

Zillow says that 1922 Harrison was built in 1910. Since my great-grandparents were not well off, it is not likely they were living in a house built in 1910, so 1894 is a better fit for them. Both are basic row houses built around the turn of the century. After seeing the entire Google Street View I can conclude that their house, which was razed with other houses to build the used car lot, was not much different from the smaller house at 1920 Harrison

Street.

My next effort was to discover the place where my great-great-grandfather lived. According to the 1910 US census, that address was 1347 Walnut in Cincinnati. A look at Google Maps shows a street view of an old apartment complex at that address.



A house (foreground) in Cincinnati that I believe is like the one my grandfather lived in in 1920. I found the picture by going to maps.google.com, putting in his known address, then choosing Street View.



I believe that my great-great-grandfather lived in this apartment building in Cincinnati. The building dates from 1865.

This address is not listed on Zillow, but two other apartment complexes that look similar on an adjacent street were built in 1865, so this building was likely built around that time.

This neighborhood also has several buildings of the same style protected by the Cincinnati Preservation Society, so I am confident this is the same building my great-great-grandfather occupied in 1910.

It may not be an exact science, but finding houses on Google Maps and Zillow will give you an idea of what the houses looked like where your grandparents lived.

And if you have no luck at all, have Google Maps zoom in on Paris and take a stroll along the Seine River or visit the Eiffel Tower!

Chalk up another one for Google!

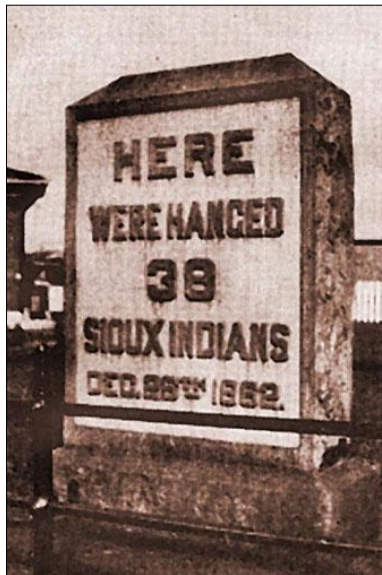
The Mystery of the Monument to 38 Sioux Warriors

By George Anderson

In March of this year, Patrick Lofft sent an e-mail to L-AGS members with the subject line: "U.S./Dakota War of 1862 material/Claims from the Dakota Conflict." Patrick sent the message to members to alert them to a new book of that title, published by Park Genealogical Books of Roseville, Minnesota. The U.S./Dakota War of 1862 took place in southern Minnesota. Members with ancestors from that area might well find their families listed among the "masses of terror-stricken settlers who fled their homes to seek safety, often with only the clothing they wore." Over 500 settlers were killed.

Mention of this conflict rang a bell with me. My wife, Harriet, and I grew up in the region of Minnesota where the 1862 Sioux ("Dakota") uprising took place. Harriet and I are from Mankato, in south-central Minnesota. It was at Mankato that a show trial of Sioux warriors took place. Of 303 who were sentenced to death, President Abraham Lincoln pardoned all but 38, and they were simultaneously hanged in a public execution.

We remember well the prominent granite monument erected on the site of the hanging. The inscription began, "Here were hanged 38 Sioux Indians..." When we lived in Mankato in the 1930s, there probably was not one Native American among the 20,000 residents. I don't even remember one African- or Asian-American. As far as I know, almost everyone in Mankato thought the trial and the sentence were proper outcomes of due process.



The missing monument. The 8500 pound stone was erected on the 50th anniversary of the massacre of 500 European settlers in southern Minnesota.

Times change. When we visited Mankato in September this year, we looked for the monument. It was nowhere to be found. There were two other plaques about the Sioux uprising, one in a small grassy area called "Reconciliation Park." Both inscriptions gave an even-handed description of the conflict, recognizing the serious grievances among the Sioux that led to the uprising.

When we returned to California, I Googled "Here were hanged 38" and got 83 hits. The most recent was a long article in the Mankato newspaper from 2006. The headline read, "Students search for missing monument. Marker was moved from downtown spot in 1971." The college students learned that the city official most likely to know what happened to the stone had died since 1971. They also inter-

viewed a prominent leader of the present-day Sioux nation. "I know for sure where it's at," she said, referring to the marker she calls 'that derogatory rock.' 'My personal feelings are that it would stay buried and that people should leave well enough alone'" The professor advising the students disagreed, saying, "We all want to understand the past. You certainly don't learn anything if you bury things and try to forget them."

We felt privileged to witness first-hand, on familiar ground, a small example of what genealogists see often: events as seen through the eyes of our ancestors, the "terrified settlers," are often not at all the same as seen by public officials in later years.

Members Helping Members

Finding a Publisher for Your Family History Book

By Dick Finn

[Editor's note: One of our L-AGS members wrote an e-mail to other members with this question:

"Hello All, I have a friend who wrote her family's story, and she now wants to find a publisher. Does anyone have recommendations? - Felicia Ziomek"

Another member, Dick Finn, e-mailed this answer:]

Dear Felicia,

Your friend is not alone in wanting to publish her family story. I wish more of our society members would do so. We have had talks on that at L-AGS in the past. Perhaps it is time to do so again.

In the meantime I have looked at the books I have in my possession and can tell you who some of our local authors have used to get their books into print.

First, the least expensive way to publish is to do so yourself. A number of us have used genealogy software like Family Tree Maker to format our books, and then have taken our PDF files to one of the local printing places like Office Max, Office Depot, or Kinkos. They all seem to do a nice job, nothing fancy, but a fast turn-around and a low cost and there is no minimum to have printed.

Here is a summary of the firms some local authors have used to help format and print their books. You might call some of the authors and ask what kind of service they received and if they would use the same publisher and printer again.

Don Larsen used Mennonite Press of Newton, Kansas for *The Prairie Tides*.

Audrey Cedarlund Lovell used Camino Press of Livermore for *From My Heart*.

Robert W. P. Cutler used Morris Publishing of Kearney, Nebraska, for *Red Mountain*. (He has passed away, but check the company for services and costs.)

Virginia Smith Bennett used Falcon Books of San Ramon for *Dublin Reflections*. (She has also passed away, but check the company for services and costs)

Hector Timourian used Xlibris Corporation for *Gifts From America*.

Gary Drummond used GRT Book Printing of Oakland for *Recollections - Early Life in the San Ramon Valley*.

For a couple of local books with a bit more polish take a look at these books:

The Holm Family Cookbook, by Holm Women, Circle H Cowgirl Press, Livermore.

The Morning Side of Mount Diablo by Anne Homan and my favorite: *Historic Livermore A-Z* by Anne Homan. Both of the Homan books are published by Hardscratch Press, Walnut Creek.

Look on the web for these publishers and printers and see what they have to offer. If they are near by, drop in and talk with them about what you want your book to look like, tell them how many copies you want, and then get a firm price and time frame.

One other place I might suggest to look is www.Authorhouse.com. They are one of the many print-on-demand publishers. I suggest this one because my cousin Lyle's wife, Rita Finn, had her book (*It's All About Ri*) published and printed by Authorhouse and she said it worked out well. You can go to their website and get a feel for what Rita's book looks like. The cover was designed by the staff at Authorhouse. They charge about \$600 to setup a black and white book and about \$1000 to set up a color book. Read their website to see what they do for this fee. As I remember it, Rita received about 15 books for that sum. She then gets a percentage for each book sold whether it is from Authorhouse, Amazon, or any other online book seller. Again, this is just one of many print-on-demand publishers. Go to Google to do a search for "print on demand" to see others.

I think you will see a very large difference in the cost from doing it all yourself, all the way up to contracting with a full-service publisher. So, the question you have to answer is how polished do you want the book to look. The answer might be "this is the way I want it and this is the final version," or it might be "this is just the first of many versions I will print as I find more information on my family." You need to answer that question before you head off to find a publisher. Also, you need to have some idea how much money you would like to put into the project before you go shopping.

I hope this helps. At least it will give you and your friend places to start asking questions.

Livermore's First Grammar School Started with 13 Students

By Gary Drummond

Although the Alameda County Board of Supervisors had provided for school districts in the Livermore School District as early as 1862, the first school house in this area was not built until 1866. It was located somewhere near the Portola-Murietta intersection. There were 13 students in the school, six of whom were from one family. It was a subscription school, as the County had not provided funds to pay the teacher.

By 1869, the population in the Laddsville-Livermore area had increased, so the school building was relocated on the east boundary of property belonging to A. J. McLeod. (In later years, the land became the Livermore High School football field.) A second school building was constructed. Now, it appeared that McLeod may not have had clear title to the school site. The two buildings were then moved to a city block on Fifth Street, donated by William Mendenhall.

In 1877, a new two-story school building was erected and called Livermore Grammar School. There were to be four classrooms on each floor to accommodate students from first through eighth grades. But there was only money enough to fit out the lower classrooms. Each room was crowded, and by 1880 the average daily attendance was 205 children. The third grade alone was made up of 82 children. The upper grades used the unfinished second floor, even so at least 20 students were without seats or desks.

The estimate to finish the upper floor came to \$2,050, but the school fund was just \$500 and that could only be used for teachers' salaries and general maintenance. The local property owners passed a tax levy of 30 cents per \$100.00 assessed property valuation in 1883. This enabled the upper rooms to be finished in 1884.

In 1921, the School Board considered a bond issue to replace the 1877 building. The Board found that it could count on a bond issue of \$117,000, which was 5% of the school district valuation. When the matter was put to the voters in November of that

year, the bond issue was approved by a vote of 633 to 104.

Meanwhile, architect Henry Meyers was engaged to complete the design of a new school building, using the same site. His design provided for eight classrooms for classes 1 through 8, a kindergarten room, areas for domestic science and manual training, and on the second floor, two large community rooms. The low bid for the new school



Courtesy of the Livermore Heritage Guild

The Livermore Grammar School on Fifth Street, built in 1877, shown in a c. 1900 photo. It was used until 1921, then replaced by a new building that has been in continuous use since.

building was \$94,887 for construction and another \$16,000 for plumbing, electricity and heating.

Next, the School Board solicited bids for the 1877 building removal. The winner offered \$588 for it, with the condition that the site be cleared within one month. Meyers had designed the new building so that construction of the wings could be carried out while the old building was being demolished.

Cleaning up the site and building a new school took about three and a half months. The new Livermore Grammar School opened its doors to students on October 2, 1922. The building has been in continuous use since, and presently is a Continuation School.

What happened to the original two school buildings? One was moved to a location near the northwest corner of First and Livermore and became the Magnolia saloon, and the other was moved to Fifth Street near L and became a carpenter shop. Both former school buildings have since been razed.

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

My Memory of the 1989 Loma Prieta Quake

By Mary Maenchen

October 17, 1989, twenty years ago, at about 5 p.m., my husband and I were on an airplane to Los Angeles. We were going to meet up with friends in Mexico and spend some time sailing on their boat. While we were waiting in Los Angeles for the plane to Mexico we overheard a couple of men saying, "The game at Candlestick in San Francisco had been called off. I wonder why?" We didn't take it too seriously and thought perhaps it was foggy or something.

After we landed in Mexico our friends were waiting and before we could say "Hi," they asked if we wanted to telephone home. We looked at each other and asked "Why? We have just left there." What we learned first was that the Bay Bridge was gone and things were pretty bad in the whole Bay Area.

Both of our mothers were living in Berkeley and Richmond and we needed to find if they were OK. We tried to phone them but were told no calls were going through. The operator told us that all the lines were busy.

We went to our friend's boat and tried to make contact via Ham radio with our son in San Jose (he had been in contact with the boat before). No luck, so we decided to try the next day. We received a message back and found that our mothers and their houses were OK. What a relief!

We learned from our son about the Cypress freeway tragedy and the fires in San Francisco. Also, that the Oakland Bay Bridge was still standing. We received the call via relay through Reno. Our son and his Ham radio friends spent days helping to find families and get information to their families.

L-AGS Membership Form

The annual dues are due and payable on or before January 1st of each year.
Please complete this form, attach your check and bring to a meeting or mail to:

L-AGS Membership

P.O. Box 901

Livermore CA 94551

E-mail: membership.chair@l-ags.org, L-AGS is unable to handle electronic payments.

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New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

Added to our library from April 6 through 27 October, 2009

1. Ales, Beverly Schell, compiler. **Index to obituaries and death notices in the Pleasanton [California] Times from 1928-1934.** 929.379465 EARLY.
2. Bentley, Elizabeth Petty. **County courthouse book, 3rd ed.** Elizabeth Petty Bentley. 347.73 BENTLEY.

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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