

The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://twitter.com/lagsociety>

Membership News

Welcome New Members

Cindy Brown – Pleasanton, Danielle Forestier – Oakland,
Leora Frise – Livermore, Judy Harvey – San Jose, Eugenia Paine – Concord,
Richard & Beverlee Taylor – Pleasanton, Frank R. Thomas – Livermore.

Thanks for the generosity of the following L-AGS Members:

Patrons

Anonymous
Madelon Palma, Cheryl Kay Speaks, David E. Steffes, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Sandra Caulder, Ralph & Jack Crouse, Marilyn A. Cutting,
Linda A. Driver & Walt Crawford, Gail & Ted Fairfield, Richard & Wanda Finn,
Sharon Garrison, Patricia R. Hansen, Leslie & Raymond Hutchings, Richard & Jean Lerche,
Pamela Lewis, Cindy McKenna, Patricia Moore, Ileen J. Peterson, Peggy Weber

Total L-AGS Members as of April 19, 2012: 173 Memberships and 213 Members

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 *Vacant*

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)

tvtnmg.chair@L-AGS.org

TV-TMG Forum

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L-AGS Leadership for 2012

President

president@L-AGS.org

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First VP and Program Chair

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Cheryl Palmer

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A Message from our President

I look at the calendar and it tells me that it is spring time, but as I write this there is snow on the hills, it is dark, cloudy and pouring rain. However, the up side of this is since we can't be outside doing activities we could be doing genealogy research or writing stories for the *Roots Tracer*. Right?

Speaking of writing, I attended the SIG writing group's get together earlier and came away from there with all kinds of ideas spinning in my head. The topic was to write about a favorite toy that you had as a child. It is amazing how someone will say something that triggers a memory in another person's mind and on it goes. I jotted down many ideas. Now I must commit them to paper. Debbie Mascot is doing a terrific job as the leader of this group. She is inspiring everyone who is attending. Check the monthly e-Bulletin for the SIG writing group's meeting date and location.

We were all shocked and saddened to learn of Dick Finn's health issues. It is my understanding that he is on the mend.

Invite your friends to our meetings. They just may get bitten by the genealogy bug and want to become a member.

I know that everyone present at the April meeting was inspired by Stephen Morse's presentation on the 1940 Census.

A big thank you goes to the L-AGS officers and committee chairmen for their continued, dedicated work for making our society the great organization that it is.

Keep chipping away at those brick walls.

Marilyn Cutting

In Memoriam

William Andrew Evans, L-AGS member since 2003, passed away unexpectedly on Saturday, February 25, 2012. Bill was born on October 25, 1936 to William and Josephine Evans in Chicago, IL. Bill is well remembered for his expert advice about family history research in Slavic countries, as documented in the *Roots Tracer*, November 2009. Bill's article was titled, "A Three-year Wait, but It Was Worth It." We extend our heartfelt condolences to Bill's family.

From *Tri-Valley Times*, March 1, 2012

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:

managing.editor@l-ags.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901.

Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

The Roots Tracer Staff

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A Tale of Two Sisters

By Linda A. Driver

The most interesting genealogical discoveries often come when you aren't looking for them. Whenever Ancestry.com sends out an announcement about a new database that is relevant to my family's origins, I always cast a wide search of family surnames to see if I can stumble on new information. A recently introduced database, "California, San Francisco Area Funeral Home Records, 1895-1985," (Funeral Home database) led to an interesting discovery about my little-known Higgins branch of the family, who settled in Murray Township, Alameda County, about 1870. Specifically, I discovered an unexpected second marriage for my great-grandmother's sister, Sylvia Higgins (1853-1937).

The Funeral Home database is unusual because included on the forms are "most of the information that would be found on a death certificate about the deceased such as name, surname, death date, place of death, place of burial, and possibly other information like gender, age, parents' names, birth dates and places, etc. ... A death certificate is attached to some of the forms along with a copy of the newspaper obituary which could list the names of children, grandchildren, brothers, and sisters." (Description from Ancestry.com.)

Sylvia Higgins interested me because she wasn't listed with her family in the 1860 census records. She was born in 1853 to Oliver Perry Higgins (1819-1874) and Sylvia Olive Edmunds (1827-1913) in Utah, en route to California from Missouri. The Mormon company that brought the family to Utah in 1852 was led by my great-great-grandfather, Joel Edmunds (about 1800-), Sylvia's grandfather. Sylvia's absence from the 1860 census was a mystery. She was, however, listed with her family in the 1870 census in Murray Township (Pleasanton Post Office). I later discovered that in 1860 she resided in Eden Township (Alvarado Post Office) with her mother's cousin, Rebecca Wheeler Perham (1823-1903), and Rebecca's husband, Liberty Perham (1821-1902). Initially, I didn't know how the Perhams were related, but with a little detective work, I discovered that Rebecca was the daughter of Joel

Joel Edmunds, b. about 1800 Ellisburgh, Oneida (now Jefferson), New York, d. After 1880 California m. About 1819 New York? Eliza Brown, b. 1802 New York, d. After 1852

Sylvia Olive Edmunds, b. 1827 New York, d. 1913 Oakland, Alameda, California m. 1843 Nauvoo, Hancock, Illinois Oliver Perry Higgins, b. 1819 Sangamon, Illinois, d. 1874 Alameda, California
--

Martha Ann Higgins, b. 1850 Missouri d. 1920, Oakland, Alameda, California m. about 1875 Alameda, California John Henry Driver, b. 1848 Mineral Point, Iowa, Wisconsin, d. 1936 Alameda, Alameda, California
--

George "H." Driver, b. 1876 Irvington, Alameda, California, d. 1964 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California m. 1905 Oakland, Alameda, California Mabel Esther Cockerton, b. 1885 Livermore, Alameda, California, d. 1962 Contra Costa, California
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George Cockerton Driver, b. 1908 Berkeley, Alameda, California, d. 1955 Alameda, Alameda, California m. 1930 Sacramento, Sacramento, California Grace Symmons, b. 1911 Orinda Crossroads, Contra Costa, California, d. 2005 Castro Valley, Alameda, California
--

Linda Ann Driver, b. Alameda, Alameda, California m. Castro Valley, Alameda, California Walter Charles Crawford, b. Modesto, Stanislaus, California

Edmunds' sister, Diana (Edmunds) Wheeler (1798-1873). Sylvia was actually listed twice in the 1870 census—once with her parents and once with the Perhams. The Perhams had no children of their own, and I suspected that Sylvia was a substitute daughter. She had nine siblings, so her mother probably didn't mind sharing her with her childless cousin.

My great-grandmother, Martha Ann Higgins (1850-1920) was one of Sylvia's older siblings. Martha (or Mattie, as she was known) married John Henry Driver (1848-1936)—twice! The first marriage occurred about 1875; they divorced in 1909 and remarried in 1913. Evidently, the rec-

conciliation wasn't successful. I found Martha in the 1920 census under the name of Mattie Hermann. Mattie and her husband, John Hermann, were living with Mattie's daughter, Lettie (Driver) Wilson (1880-1967). I remember when I was about 10 years of age, and I was playing gin rummy with my Aunt Lettie (actually my great-aunt). I asked her to



*Martha Ann Higgins
(1850-1920)*

tell me about her parents. I don't remember exactly what she said, but to this day I remember quite vividly that she was uncomfortable with the question and evasive with her answers. She refused to be pinned down on details and I knew there was something she wasn't telling me. Perhaps she felt that her parents' rocky marriage and divorce wasn't an appropriate topic of discussion for a child. My Aunt Lettie was quite prim and proper!

Mattie's sister, Sylvia Higgins, married Frank Wood (1840-1905) about 1876. Her second son



*Lettie (Driver) Wilson
(1880-1967)*

was named Perham Wheeler Wood (1879-1957), honoring the names of the family with whom she had spent time in her childhood. Frank Wood died in 1905 and I lost track of Sylvia until I found her in The Funeral Home database. I didn't recognize her at first because she was listed as Sylvia Wood Hermann, but I noticed the name of her parents: Oliver

C. P. Higgins and Sylvia Edmunds. I was fortunate that the record, in this case, was as detailed as a death certificate. Sylvia died on 16 Jan 1937 of a coronary embolism and was buried in San Francisco National Cemetery next to her second husband, John Hermann, who had died a little over two weeks earlier, on 29 Dec 1936. It's not uncommon for longtime partners to die within a short time of one another. But I knew they hadn't been together for decades. Sylvia had to have married John Hermann after the 1920 census was taken, because in 1920 John was married to my great-grandmother, Sylvia's sister!

Not only did the Funeral Home database answer my question about what happened to Sylvia (Higgins) Wood, it also answered my question about what happened to my great-grandmother's second husband, John Hermann. I knew that he wasn't buried with my great-grandmother, who died in 1920, shortly after the census was taken. I could never find John in the 1930 census—and now I know why! In 1920, he was 53 years old, born in Germany, and he drove a mail truck. In 1930, he was 65 years old and born in California. Fortunately, he still drove a mail truck for the Post Office. If he hadn't been with Sylvia in the 1930 census, I might still be looking for him.

While the funeral record led to many answers about Sylvia Higgins and John Hermann, it also raised more questions—ones that are hard to discover with only dry facts. Marriage certificates, census images and funeral records can't answer these questions: Did Sylvia and my great-grandmother have a close sibling relationship? Did Sylvia know John while he was married to Mattie? Did Sylvia meet John for the first time at my great-grandmother's funeral? My Great Aunt Lettie probably knew, but would she have shared the knowledge with me, even if I had been older at the time? At age 10, I had the curiosity to ask questions, but getting answers—as we all know—can be difficult!



*Martha Hermann
1850-1920
Grave marker*

My final question: Did Sylvia die of a broken heart after her John died? I suspect so.

From France to The Azores to Livermore – Third Chapter, The Amazing Conclusion

By David Goularte

Recently I revisited the articles that I wrote for the *Livermore Roots Tracer* in 2005 and 2006 http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_25_4.html#Azores. Looking through them, I realized the story had continued on to a happier ending! I would like to share it...proof that sometimes you just should not give up!

At that time, I had said that even though we were not able to achieve my goal, I was happy with all the new knowledge about my family and their origins. I had found long lost family members, meeting some of them. I had been able to verify many family stories, while clarifying others by piecing many narratives together. I had learned much about the culture of the Azores, even understanding that which island a family came from determined their luck, their vocation, call it what you will.

I had been researching the family of my great-grandfather Frank Bettencourt, an early rancher in Livermore.



Anna Julia (née Bettencourt) and Andrew Peters, 1933

The goal was to connect Frank to the ancient noble de Bethencourt family of Normandy and Picardy in France. It was challenging because in Azorean culture, though there may be multiple siblings, only one or two might have the same surname. This makes genealogical research in the Azores like putting puzzles together. We had reached a dead end with my 2nd great-grandmothers' lineage in the 16th century. Until

José Silveira Bettencourt	Maria Eusébia Bettencourt	André José Pires	Ana dos Anjos de Azevedo
Frank S. Bettencourt (Francisco da Silveira de Bettencourt) b. 1849 Beira, Velas, São Jorge, Azores, m. 1884 Connecticut d. 1915 Livermore, Alameda, California		Frances Bettencourt (Francisca dos Anjos do Coracao de Jesus) b. 1857 Beira, Velas, São Jorge, Azores, m. 1884 Connecticut d. 1929 Livermore, Alameda, California	
Anna Julia Bettencourt b. 1891 Livermore, Alameda, California, d. 1973 Modesto, Stanislaus, California m. 1915 Livermore, Alameda, California Andrew Peters (Andre Pires Silveira), b. 1886 Pleasanton, Alameda, California d. 1961 Modesto, Stanislaus, California			
Frances Nora Peters, b. 1917 Chowchilla, Madera, California, d. 1994 Modesto, Stanislaus, California m. 1946 Modesto, Stanislaus, California Harry Joseph Goularte, b. 1921 Ferndale, Humboldt, California d. 1999 La Pine, Deschutes, Oregon			
David Bettencourt Goularte b. Modesto, Stanislaus, California			

my recruited local genealogist had finished the entire genealogy of Velas, São Jorge (St. George),¹ he was stymied and could go no further. He wasn't doing that just for me...he was working with many others with the same problem.

That's where multiple documents became handy...birth, christening, marriage, and death certificates. There were usually several names on

¹The São Jorge Festival takes place on 23 April and is dedicated to the saint after which the island is named (St. George). In the municipality of Velas, the celebrations include a procession, musical shows and exhibitions. <http://www.visitazores.com/en/the-azores/the-9-islands/sao-jorge/festivities>

each document which could lead to clues about family relationships. Even with this advantage, we could not get past the 16th century to connect to the de Bethencourts even though some lines went to the 15th century. There was always the possibility that my ancestors may have picked up the surname one way or another (servants, etc.) and were not “real” Bettencourts. Having gone that far back, I felt they were, as taking another family’s name happened more in the 17th century.

One of the discoveries I made was that my maternal grandmother and grandfather shared the same maternal grandparents! In other words, they were first cousins. My genealogist, Joao Ventura, asked to research two of my great-grandmothers, who were sisters, one my grandmother Anna Julia Bettencourt’s mother and the other my grandfather Andrew Peters’ mother. I responded...but they are not even Bettencourts! Why do you want to do this? I was resigned that we were at the road’s end.

His response was that he thought there “might be something there”...that he was fairly certain he would find what he was looking for rather quickly. I reluctantly gave him an okay to go ahead.

After about a year, he started sending me discoveries about my grandmothers. He would send a name, a copy or copies of documents regarding births, marriages, or deaths, and the latest revised chart with the new additions. Sometimes an ancestor was found through one document only, others



Anna Julia Bettencourt 1891-1973 and Andrew Peters (Andre Pires Silveira) 1886-1961, married 1915

with two or all three.

He discovered they were Bettencourts. I was stunned.

I started looking at the charts more closely. I saw that my family married within their ancestral “French” group. They seldom married into other nationalities...in other words they stayed within their extended family boundaries...most likely as arranged marriages. Names went back and forth, from one side to another!

For many months, Joao Ventura worked on tracing the lineage of my maternal great-grandmothers’ ancestors. He got back to the early 15th century on some lines but reached a dead end to connect to the de Bethencourts. The family was still in the area of Beira and Velas...they didn’t move around until the 18th century when the Diaspora² began.

I received a few more connections and updates from Joao. He expressed frustration because he seemed to see where the connection “should be” but could not find proof. I wasn’t sure what he meant. I did not hear from him for another year.

One day, a packet came in the mail. I pulled out an inch-thick clipped group of papers containing an updated chart, another of names and attached documents, and a letter from Joao. He had found the connection and enclosed was the complete chart all the way back to the first recorded de Bethencourts in the 11th century! With a couple of lines it actually went quite further back as well.

How had it happened? I had to question him to completely understand what he did. It turns out that there was an 11th great-grandfather whom

²Diaspora - Since the 17th century, many Azoreans have emigrated, mainly to Brazil, the United States and Canada. Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts, especially the cities of New Bedford, Bristol, Barrington, Pawtucket, Central Falls, West Warwick, Hudson, River Point, and Fall River. These places have been, and continue to be the primary destination for Azorean emigrants. Northern California was the final destination for many of the Massachusetts immigrants who then moved on to the San Joaquin Valley, especially the city of Turlock, just south of Modesto. The tuna fishing industry drew a significant number of Azoreans to the Point Loma neighborhood of San Diego. From 1961 to 1977, about 150,000 Azoreans immigrated to the United States. There were an estimated 83,000 Azoreans in California in the 1970s.

Joao Ventura suspected of being the father of a 10th great-grandfather but he hadn't found documentation to prove it. Rather than give up, he began looking at several other sources to see if other documentation might show up. He finally found two sources that supported each other and proved that this 11th great grandfather was indeed the father of the 10th great grandfather... completing the link in the chain to the first recorded de Bethencourts.

He discovered this 11th great grandfather married twice and my 10th great grandfather was a son of the second marriage. The second marriage document had not been found in the earlier searches.

I was able to do something I'd never dreamed to do. I sent the list of my family and all the documents that proved the relationships to Ron Bettencourt, who built the on-line chart of *The Bettencourts 1200-2000* <http://web.meganet.net/bettenco/>. They were inserted into the chart based on the proof. Somehow, it was figured out what great-grandfather Frank Bettencourt's connection was. So, as a bonus, he was placed on the chart with his lineage also going back to the same common ancestor!

It turns out that my mother can trace both sides and all grandparents to one common ancestor who lived a thousand years ago! Mission accomplished!

When I let some of my new found relatives know this had happened and gave them copies of the chart, they were pleased. One had sent his own partial charts...a list of all siblings for 4 generations. Then he asked me to share proof documentation to enable his branch to connect onto the chart as his father was my great-grandfather's brother. In exchange I asked for his copy of a book I had searched for for years, "*Os Bettencourt*" (*The Bettencourts*) by J. Moniz de Bettencourt 1993. It is the story of the Bettencourt family with charts for each branch. My family is listed. It is in Portuguese and I'm slowly trying to read it as I don't know the language but have learned key words and terms.

Another found relative asked for help to try to place her great-grandmother in respect to the chart. I looked at the list of siblings sent from my other contact...and there her great-grandmother

was...a cousin to my great-grandfather. So she is on her way and that was our proof we were indeed related. That sibling list was valuable...you seldom get names of all siblings when you do direct searches.

This has been an amazing journey that began with rediscovering my Livermore family in 2001! I owe this beginning to Anna Siig and Gary Drummond who helped me find my Livermore family.

I am sure some of you are wondering what a genealogist might cost. Joao Ventura was reasonable, and spread over many years, was affordable. He charged \$15.00 for every ancestor found. For this he updated my chart, included copies of all birth, christening, marriage, and death certificates found. As they were in archaic Portuguese, he also included a translation. Sometimes the death certificate had information about that person's life, so that was a bonus.

This is only for the people he finds. You do not pay for people already in published records and charts, just for those he finds to connect to those lists. There are many family charts on-line. If you are fortunate to find one you suspect is your family, you only have to find the connection.

Even though I was researching my family in St. George, all the records are in Terceira. That is where Joao Ventura is based. He has also done classes in California teaching genealogical research.

For other Bettencourts and people of Azorean descent who might like to contact Mr. Ventura, his address follows: Joao Ventura; Ladeira Grande, 137; Ribeirinha; 9700-451 Angra do Heroismo; Terceira, Portugal. The email address for Joao Ventura is joao_ventura@sapo.pt

For those interested in looking deeply into the Bettencourt lineages 1200-2000 <http://web.meganet.net/bettenco/>, my grandparents can be found in the 20th generation ID Numbers 4371, 4272, 4373 and the 21st generation ID 5723. By clicking on blue names you can go back to each person's ancestor to 1200 or move forward to my mother's and my generation. This will show you how most online charts work. It's amazing.

Significant local Azorean resources are available

at the J. A. Freitas Library, a Special Collections Library privately owned and operated by the Supreme Council of P.F.S.A. with funds from a Grant from the Louise Freitas Estate. The Library was founded in 1964 and is located in the U.P.E.C Cultural Center, 1120-24 E. 14th Street, San Leandro, CA, 94577. It is open to the public Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM. The library collection consists of 11,914 works

dealing with the Portuguese throughout the world. It holds a vast number of books on the Azores and a fairly complete sample of periodicals published by the Portuguese in California, some dating to the late 1880's. Most of the collection circulates for periods of two weeks each and books can be requested from anywhere in California through the inter-loan library services provided by most Public Libraries in California.

My Husband's Ancestor In Our Nation's Service

By Phyllis Louise Smith Rothrock

Jonathan W. Moore is the great-grandfather of my husband, Lawrence Moore Rothrock. He served in the War Between the States.

In 1859 at Tyler County,¹ Virginia, **Jonathan W. Moore** and Rebecca Susan Urton were united in marriage. There was nothing in common between these two families as it related to their background, religion, politics or temperament. The Moore family was brought up to think of hard work and frugality; whereas, the Urtons were from a slave-holding family; Rebecca was nursed by a slave mammy.

In 1861, less than six weeks after Abraham Lincoln was inaugurated as President, the Civil War broke out. He called for 75,000 volunteers to put down the Southern rebellion. Jonathan W. Moore was one of the early enlistees. His first assignment was as a recruiting officer at Wheeling, Virginia.² He successfully enlisted two companies and was commissioned as the Captain of the 2nd Company, 7th Regiment,³ West Virginia (originally 7th Virginia) Infantry. The 2nd Company and two companies of the 7th Virginia Infantry Volunteers, 2nd Battalion were camped for the winter of 1861-62 near Grafton, Virginia.

¹Tyler County lies in the northwestern region of West Virginia in the Ohio River Valley.

²West Virginia became a state following the Wheeling Conventions, breaking away from Virginia during the Civil War. The new state was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863.

³The 7th fought in the 1862 Shenandoah Valley Campaign in Nathaniel Banks' V Corps, seeing action in a number of small engagements before fighting in the Battle of Port Republic in late May. It was assigned to the II Corps and would remain in that organization for the rest of the war.

Jonathan W. Moore b. 1836 Sistersville, Ohio, Virginia, d. 1862

m. 1859 Sistersville, Ohio, Virginia

Rebecca Susan Urton b. 1840 Sistersville, Ohio, Virginia, d. 1927 Sistersville, Ohio, West Virginia

Okey Johnson Moore b. 1860 Tyler County, Virginia, d. 1946

m. 1882, Grape Island, Ohio, West Virginia

Ann Eliza Ruttencutter b. 1857, d. 1941
Jacksonville, Duval, Florida

Susan Viola Moore b. 1889 Santa Fe, Santa Fe, New Mexico, d. 1970 Plainfield, Union, New Jersey

m. 1916 Wooster, Wayne, Ohio

Lawrence Elwood Rothrock b. 1884
Raubsville, Northampton, Pennsylvania, d.
1978 Ocean City, Cape May, New Jersey

Lawrence Moore Rothrock b. 1917 Pomeroy, Meigs, Ohio, d. 2004 Torrance, Los Angeles, California

m. 1942 Hollywood, Los Angeles, California

Phyllis Louise Smith b. 1920 Johnson County, Indiana

In early spring 1862, this company crossed the mountains to join the Army of the Potomac in its Shenandoah Valley Campaign against Richmond, under the command of General George B. McClellan. Reaching Romney, they had their first skirmish with the Confederates. The 7th Virginia had two cannons and with this artillery, they knocked out the Confederates who quickly cleared out of Romney.

The summer of 1862 was characterized by heavy rains; conditions for camping were anything but favorable to the comfort and health of the soldiers. Captain Jonathan W. Moore became a victim of the unsanitary conditions and when it became evident that he could not recover he was given an honorable discharge and went home to die, September 5, 1862. Mourners who came on horseback to attend the services were led up a winding road to the burial site by a fife and drum corps and soldiers fired a salute over the grave.

Martha Moorehead, maternal grandmother of Okey Johnson Moore son of Jonathan Moore, commented about Jonathan that he was a Christian gentleman but that she could not forgive the Yankees for destroying her property. After the

NAME OF SOLDIER: <u>Moore, Jonathan</u>				
NAME OF SPOUSE: <u>Wife, Moore, Rebecca</u>		MARR. <u>Boyer, F. G.</u>		
SERVICE: <u>Capt R 7 W Va Inf</u>				
DATE OF FILING	CLASS	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	STATE FROM WHICH FILED
	Includ.			
<u>1865/Jan</u>	Widow	<u>14425</u>	<u>13664</u>	
<u>1865/Apr 16</u>	Misc.	<u>109613</u>	<u>79166</u>	
ATTORNEY:				
REMARKS:				

Pension file index card, Moore, Jonathan, Captain, West Virginia Infantry

Civil War was over, the government wrote to Martha Moorehead, "We have a check for you for \$600 for some things that were taken from you during the war. If you will take the pledge of allegiance to the United States, we will send that check." She wrote back, "Keep your old check; I will wear the Grey as long as I live."

Facing a Brick Wall no Longer - Proving the Wheeler Ancestry!

By Cindra Wheeler

Back in May, 2008 I wrote an article for the *Roots Tracer* (Vol. 28 No. 2) about my husband's Wheeler ancestors. We were facing a "brick wall" looking for the parents of Gene's great-great-grandfather Henry Wheeler (1797-1880). Henry migrated to Chemung, McHenry Co., Illinois from Sharon, Schoharie Co., New York with his wife Lydia and children Isaac, Henry Jr., Willard, John, Robert, Riley and Charlotte between April 1845 (Charlotte's birth in New York) and July 1847 (birth of next child George Truman in Chemung). One more son, Alphonso, was born in Chemung in August 1849.

Henry's family is found in the 1840 and 1830 censuses for Sharon, Schoharie Co., New York, but not in 1820. While taking an advanced gene-

alogy class from L-AGS member, Sue Johnston, at Las Positas College, Sue pointed out a Henry Wheeler located in Canajoharie, Montgomery Co., New York in 1820. Canajoharie is just across the county line from Sharon and there was an Isaac Wheeler also located in Canajoharie. By 1830 Henry is missing from Canajoharie, but Isaac is still there and now there is a Willard household. Sue suggested we explore the Canajoharie Wheelers because Henry named two of his sons Isaac and Willard.

After analyzing the census records we determined that the 1820 Canajoharie Henry Wheeler family could very well be the same as the 1830 & 1840 Henry Wheeler family. Letters, e-mails and phone calls were sent out to Montgomery County

asking for help. Montgomery County Department of History & Archives found no records for Henry, but did send information on Willard, his wife Laura (nee' White) and their children Henrietta (perhaps named after his brother Henry W.?), Charles, Mary and Charlotte (Henry named his daughter Charlotte as well). A family sketch in Washington Frothingham's History of Montgomery County for Charles noted that his father, Willard, was a native of Connecticut (just like Henry!), that Willard's father was Isaac and that he was a descendant of Josiah Wheeler, a participant of the Boston Tea Party! Montgomery County's cemetery records showed an Isaac Wheeler buried in a small cemetery on McPhail Road in Canajoharie who died 6 October 1837 at the age of 76; this cemetery also has six unmarked field stones in the same plot. Willard and family, including Charles, are buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Canajoharie. A family file noted that Willard left a will listing his heirs as his widow and his four children, as well as a business partner Gilbert Robinson.

Montgomery County also mentioned some land records for Isaac and Willard. An 1819 deed where Isaac purchases seventy acres notes that he's from Deerfield, Oneida Co., New York (more on this later). In 1828 Isaac transfers this same seventy acres to Willard R. Wheeler, setting aside "sixteen Rods of land situate upon a point of land bearing about S. E. from the house, to be used as a family burying ground to lie in such shape as the said Isaac Wheeler shall mark out the said Isaac reserving the right to pass and repass to said burying ground, and to his heirs forever the said reservation is made."

Note to self: always, always find the original record if at all possible! In Salt Lake City this year, these deeds and Willard's will were examined. There in Willard's will dated 29 April 1844 and probated 30 May 1844 was the proof we had been looking for! "Second. In the sale of a farm of and lying in Sharon in Young's Patent, called the Smith farm, I direct that from the whole amount of the purchase money there be eight hundred dollars (it being about the amount of the present encumbrances) be deducted, and one half of the remainder be paid to my brother Henry W. Wheeler and to his heirs forever." So! Henry lived on land in Sharon that was owned by his brother Willard! Land records for Schoharie County showed a 24 May 1845 land

Isaac Wheeler b. 1761; d. 1837 New York buried near Canajoharie, Montgomery, New York m. Margaret? or Mercy Willard
--

Henry W. Wheeler b. 1797 Connecticut; d. 1880 Chemung, McHenry, Illinois m. Lydia Heltz/Hiltz/Hilts/Hills b. 1809 New York; d. 1885 Chemung, McHenry, Illinois both buried Oakwood Cemetery, Sharon, Walworth, Wisconsin
--

Riley W. Wheeler b. 1842 Sharon, Schoharie, New York; d. 1913 Darien, Walworth, Wisconsin m. Helen Starin b. 1847 Albany, Albany, New York; d. 1923 Darien, Walworth, Wisconsin
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Harry H. Wheeler b. 1873 Darien, Walworth, Wisconsin; d. 1952 Darien, Walworth, Wisconsin m. Mytta Shields b. 1873 Wisconsin; d. 1956 Rockford, Winnebago, Illinois

Woodrow Wilson Wheeler b. 1918 Darien, Walworth, Wisconsin; d. 1996 Mesa, Maricopa, Arizona m. Adeline Frances Thompson b. 1920 Mount Horeb, Dane, Wisconsin; d. 1978 Lorain, Lorain, Ohio both buried Maple Grove Cemetery, Vermilion, Erie, Ohio
--

Eugene Neil Wheeler b. Evanston, Cook, Illinois

transaction where Willard's executors and widow sell 94 acres in Sharon for \$1550 minus \$886.67 (mortgage amount). This is just before Henry purchases a land grant on 12 Jul 1845 (18 Feb 1846) in Chemung, McHenry Co., Illinois. So, after Willard died on 18 May 1844, as per his will, the property was sold and half of the net proceeds were given to Henry, who purchased land in Illinois and moved his family there in 1846.

We now have proof of Henry's connection to the Canajoharie Wheelers. We also have proof through a property history search that the small cemetery on McPhail Road containing a headstone for an Isaac Wheeler is on the property that Isaac sold to his son (and Henry's brother) Willard. Ar-

rangements have been made to obtain a picture of this headstone.

Remember the 1819 deed where Isaac Wheeler purchased land in Montgomery County and stated that he is from Deerfield, Oneida Co., New York? A search of Oneida County shows that Isaac purchased seventy acres on 1 May 1806. He sells one half of it 11 Feb 1820 with wife Margaret. He also appears as an 1814 landowner (FHL US/CAN Film 1435187#1). The timing fits with

the Montgomery County Isaac, who appears in the 1820 and 1830 census records, and then dies in 1837. A Margaret Wheeler appears in the 1840 Canajoharie census.

We're so excited to have proved the connection between Henry Wheeler and his brother Willard! We will now move forward with further research on Isaac, hoping to prove his descent from Josiah Wheeler, who participated in the Boston Tea Party!

A Brick Wall Resolution: My Search for the Marriage Location

By Rae Atwood

One pair of great-grandparents of my husband, Ed Atwood, were John P. Hannon and Alice Amanda McClain. They were born in Ireland. They lived on a 160 acre homestead¹ near Valley Springs in Calaveras County. Here they raised six children: five daughters and a son, all born in California.

Ed's grandmother, Mary Joseph, the eldest child, was born in September 1865.

I had no idea as to how or when they came to California; gradually I pieced together information through census records, obituaries, voter registers and naturalization papers, but I could not find a marriage record. I knew they were Irish Catholic but could not find their marriage record. I wanted to know where they married.

I learned that John Phillip Hannon immigrated in 1852, coming to Boston. He was a minor but knew a Matthew Hannan. Both Phillip and Matthew applied for naturalization in Boston in 1853.² Throughout his life, his surname was sometimes spelled Hannan.

In the 1860 census John Phillip was in Calaveras County, California working as a miner.

¹The homestead was listed in Alice Hannan's will. I have family papers on the Hannans. Their daughter, Lizzie, was the executor of the estate. The State purchased most of the property for the Los Melones Dam. Also John Phillip Hannan's will mentioned the property. Everything went to Alice. At her death it was to be divided among the daughters. The Son died earlier at age 28.

²The occupation "Ledgerman" should read "Ledgeman," it refers to a person who worked the ledges of the granite quarries in Quincy, Mass. in the 1800's. It was a hazardous occupation.

<p>John Phillip Hannan b. about 1837 Ireland d. 1903 San Andreas, Calaveras, California m. 1864 New Bedford, Bristol, Massachusetts Alice Amanda McClain b. about 1843 Ireland d. 1923 Stockton, San Joaquin, California</p>
--

<p>Mary Joseph Hannan b. 1865 Caledonia (Petersburg, Valley Springs) San Andreas, Calaveras, California d. 1937 Stockton, San Joaquin, Co., California m. 1891 San Andreas, Calaveras Co., California Mark William Huberty b. 1863 San Andreas, Calaveras Co., California d. 1948 Stockton, San Joaquin, California</p>

<p>Rega Theresa Huberty b. 1899 San Andreas, Calaveras, California d. 1979 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California m. 1926 Berkeley, Alameda, California Edward Levi Atwood b. 1897 Lodi, San Joaquin, California d. 1971 Stockton, San Joaquin, California</p>
--

He and Matthew both completed their naturalization in 1863 in Calaveras County. Within two years his first child was born; I could find no parents of either John or his wife Alice. When I found her surname, McClain, in an obituary I searched the area but found nothing for the McClains or Hannon families.

There were no records of a marriage in Calaveras County, Amador County, or towns of Sacramento, Stockton, or San Francisco.

99

MARRIAGES REGISTERED IN THE *City* of *New Bedford* for the Year eighteen hundred and sixty-*four*

No.	DATE OF MARRIAGE.	NAMES, SURNAMES, AND COLOR OF GROOM AND BRIDE.	RESIDENCE OF EACH AT TIME OF MARRIAGE.	AGE of Each in Years.	OCCUPATION OF EACH.	PLACE OF BIRTH OF EACH.	NAMES OF PARENTS.	WHAT MARRIAGE, WHETHER 1st, 2d, 3d, &c.	NAME AND OFFICIAL STATION OF PERSON BY WHOM MARRIED.
254	Jan'y 30	John P. Hannon Alice Amanda McClain	California New Bedford	22 23	Miner	Ireland	John and Mary Patrick - Catharine	First	Same

Civil marriage register 1864, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Then, when searching again at familysearch.org, a link appeared to J. P. Hannon-Alice McClain. I had performed the same exact search of this site many times before, but as we repeatedly hear, additional data is always being added. When I clicked on the link, a civil marriage register for New Bedford, Massachusetts³ appeared. John Phillip Hannon and Alice Amanda McClain were married on January 30, 1864 before Joseph R. Fallon, a Roman Catholic priest. John is noted as a miner from California. She is from New Bedford, Massachusetts. This Massachusetts marriage register also confirmed the given names of Alice’s mother and father that I previously acquired from her obituary. As a bonus, I learned the first names of John’s parents: John and Mary Hannon.

How did he meet her? Was she a “mail order bride?” Did he meet her in Massachusetts? So many questions remain, but I found a partially satisfying piece of the puzzle. Next, I sent an email query to the Catholic Diocese at Fall River, Massachusetts and learned that the only Catholic parish in New Bedford in 1864 was St. Lawrence Martyr Parish. Usually the marriage records contain the names of the witnesses and sometimes even the name of the community or church at which the individuals were baptized. Wish me luck as I continue to seek records from that church.

³Massachusetts Marriages, 1841-1915 for Alice Amanda McClain Marriages, 1841-1915 for Alice Amanda McClain

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Hopkins (about 1578 – 1644) m. Mary UNK 	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Lines to Joseph Keller, Jr.</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Ancestors featured in the article are in BOLD. Mayflower passengers are indicated in <i>italics</i>. Supplement to Where My Direct “Grandparent” was with Your Direct “Grandparent,” Roots Tracer Feb..2012, pages 11-13.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Constance Hopkins</i> (about 1606 – 1677) m. (1627) Nicholas Snow (about 1600 – 1676) 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Snow (abt 1634 – 1722/1723) m. (about 1670) Mary UNK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Clifford (1640 – 1694) m. (1638) Sara UNK, 2nd Elizabeth Wiseman (- 1667), m. (1670) 3rd Bridget UNK Huggins
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ruth Snow (1679 – 1720) m. (1704) James Brown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Clifford (1659 – 1708) m. (1684) Jacob Basford (- ~ 1735)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesse Brown (1706/1707) m. (1729) Elizabeth Walker/Waker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elizabeth Basford (1692 – bet 1762 – 1772) m. (1711) John Davis (1689 – 1752)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hannah Brown (1731 – before Oct 1760) m. (1754) David Whitney (1732 -) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepsibah Davis (1721 – 1803) m. (1737) David Sawyer (1715 – 1796)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary Sawyer (1765 – 1815) m. (1786) Jesse Whitney (1758 – 1832)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hepsibah Whitney (1788 – 1864) m. (1810) Thomas Dyer, Jr. (1784 – 1860)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elbridge Dyer (1815 – 1875) m. (1845) Margaret Terer (1825 – 1916)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Dyer m. David
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Margaret Dyer m. Joseph Keller
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph Keller, Jr. m. Eleanor Bullock

The Price of Miles Price

By Debbie Conner Mascot

A few weeks ago, I ordered my first Civil War pension file. I'd had the index record in my hands for years, but finally I got the gumption to order the file from the National Archives via their online ordering service.¹ Since genealogy is technically a hobby for me, it was tough to plop down \$75.00 in one spot for the file. But brick walls make us do extravagant things.

I asked for the file on CD so that it would be digitized and I wouldn't have to scan each page. The 126 page PDF document arrived a mere 3 weeks after ordering. While it didn't break down any brick walls—I still don't know who his parents are—and it didn't give me any glaring new information or avenues to travel down in my research, it did give me a story, an intricately woven story of my third great-grandfather, Miles Franklin Price, his wife Emmaline (Markham) Price, and their lives before and after the war. The best \$75.00 I've spent on genealogy.



Emmaline (Markham) Price and Miles Franklin Price

From his Declaration for Pension, I learned that he was 5 feet, 8 ½ inches tall with a fair complexion, grey eyes, and dark hair. After the war, he resided in Bushnell, Illinois from 1865 to 1876 and then moved to Russell, Iowa where he spent the next several decades, except for two years on his short-lived homestead in South Dakota. He claimed to have had the measles in the war and that they affected his eyes and lungs. (He did not mention back injuries himself, but there are testimonies of

¹To order compiled records based on pre-1917 military service in the United States forces download NATF Form 86 at: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html#nwctb-list>

Asa Bement Markham b. 1815 or 1816 Ohio, d. 1898 in Illinois m. Harriet Fleming b. 1820 Pennsylvania, d. 1902 in Illinois
--

Miles Franklin Price b. 1837 Pennsylvania, d. 1916 in Iowa m. Emmaline Markham b. 1843 Ohio, d. 1933 in Iowa

William Mason Conner b. 1872 Scotland, d. 1970 in Iowa m. Harriet Orvilla Price b. 1868 Illinois, d. 1959 in Iowa
--

Thomas Orville Conner b. 1895 Iowa, d. 1988 in California m. Anna Ellen Konst b. 1894 Iowa, d. 1978 in California
--

Pierre William Conner m. Signa Viola Felt b. 1917 South Dakota, d. 1976 in South Dakota (buried in California)
--

Harry James Conner m. Marilyn Luella Badgley

Deborah Elaine Conner m. Marc Stephen Mascot

back complaints from others.)

In the file there was also paperwork regarding Miles' birth date. There is notarized and signed documentation, attesting that there are no records of his birth and no one alive to attest to his birth date of October 21, 1837. The government accepted this as adequate "proof" of his stated date of birth.

The 126-page file's main strong points for me, though, were the letters from friends and family. People who knew him for many years submitted testimonies on his behalf, stating how he was before the war, during the war, and after the war.

With their signatures affixed. Included in those letters, were affidavits from Miles' father-in-law and mother-in-law, my 4th great-grandparents.

From the testimony of his father-in-law, Asa Bement Markham, on August 5, 1890, I learned that Miles worked on his farm and then later married Asa's daughter. I did not know this before. I knew only that Miles married Emmaline in 1862 in Quincy, Illinois. Not how they met. I also learned that 4th great-grandfather Markham was a 75-year-old farmer in South Bardolph, Illinois. He described his son-in-law as an able-bodied man before the war, but, "He came home on sick furlough after he had he measles. I helped him out of the wagon when he came from the train. I thought he was going to die. He felt so cold and clammy like."

He also stated that after the war Miles, "Had a bad cough and took lots of Halls Balsam that he bought of Mr. Foislie in Bushnell.... He doctored a great deal with my brother, Dr. Markham who is dead for these troubles of his throat and lungs." He went on to describe back aches that Miles complained of as well. "His back troubled him a great deal. Sometimes he could hardly turn over in bed. Had to have help... I do not know what ailed his back but suppose he strained it while building bridges and pontoons while he was in the Pioneer Corps."²

His mother-in-law, Harriet (Fleming) Markham, also on August 5, 1890 in Macomb, McDonough County, Illinois, shared that she was a 70-year-old housekeeper. She knew Miles before the war as he worked for her farm as well as her brother-in-law's. She described him as an "unusually stout, healthy young man. Never knew him to be sick an hour before the war." She went on to describe his

sick furlough home from the war in June of 1861. He wasn't able to help himself out of the wagon and was sick in bed for days. He coughed almost constantly during the night and only got "some better" before going back to the war.

I've now ordered his military record file (another \$25.00 that I didn't even hesitate about), as some of the dates don't add up. Miles was mustered in on May 24, 1861. He and Emmaline had a daughter on November 3, 1861 and married on January 13, 1862. I'm hypothesizing his measles and sick furlough actually coincided with his marriage, but until I further comb through these records and the newly-ordered records, it's merely a hypothesis.

After he came back from the war in 1865, he was, according to Harriet, "not at all well. He had a bad cough and soreness of lungs. About 6 weeks after he came home, he had a bad breaking out all over and was very sick. We thought he would die before we could get the doctor here." Just like her husband did, she also made a point of mentioning his use of "several bottles of Hall's Balsam that he purchased from the Druggist Foislie in Bushnell, Illinois." It's fascinating to me that both mention the druggist by name and the product by name. There is later testimony from the druggist saying he really doesn't remember selling the Halls Balsam to Miles Price. But he doesn't remember NOT doing it, either.

Miles Price received his pension and after his death in 1916 of arteriosclerosis Emmaline continued receiving it, getting as much as \$50.00 per month.

²Pioneers - Soldiers detailed to carry out duties similar to those of modern combat engineers such as cutting roads, repairing bridges and works, and dismantling enemy artillery, fortifications, and railroads; the Pioneer Corps was a specialized unit in the Army of the Cumberland.

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

1. 929.37946 EARLY. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Early records of the Presbyterian Church, Pleasanton, California / a public service project of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society ; project leader, Richard Finn.

2. 979.465 INDEX. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Index to the Richard N. Schellens collection of historical materials for Alameda County / a public service project of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society ; project leader, David Abrahams.

Cont. on Page 19

Members Helping Members

By several genealogy docents

Anna M., a very pleasant lady of Italian Catholic heritage arrived as Jack, a frequent researcher, was finishing up. Last week, Anna used the library computer to build an FTM database. She thought that she had saved her FTM database to her flash drive, but only the shortcut was on her flash drive. Her son, her IT support, scared her with the possibility of bringing home viruses from the library computers on her flash drives. I attempted to reassure her that the city works meticulously to prevent infections.

Anna is researching her mother's first husband in Chicago circa 1922. We again located her older half-sister's birth certificate on FamilySearch.org and talked extensively about the Chicago area circa 1922. The former Italian immigrant neighborhood of interest is located southwest of the intersection of the Chicago Kansas City and Dan Ryan Expressways. As Catholic Church records are excellent resources, we focused our attention on identifying the possible parishes in that neighborhood using the Diocese of Chicago website. We obtained the addresses and phone numbers of two candidate parishes which she will contact.

The birth certificate from FamilySearch.org stated the address of the 1922 family residence on Sholto Street. We located an email address for the Chicago Genealogical Society and she sent an email request with an attached copy of the birth certificate asking for the location of that street and names of Catholic parishes that have been discontinued. As the library computer attached the file from her flash drive to the Yahoo email, Norton scanned the file to assure freedom from viruses. This reassured her that the library is focused on computer safety.

This site has area maps and this is the link to 1921 map of Chicago, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10345.html>. Another useful site if you have any census ED or need street names is <http://www.alookatcook.com/1920/index.htm>. Newberry Library web site is also great and has lots of online resources and links. www.ChicagoAncestors.org

With about an hour to go Larry V. came in. He said he had talked to me a year or so ago but got

sidetracked. Now Larry is really trying to find information on his birth father who he never knew. The father, John Peach, was in Alameda Co. in 1945 and seems to have been born between 1920 and 1930.

Larry's mother was a Marjorie. I did a search in the California Death Records and could not find a Marjorie Valenzin who died in 1981 (date per Larry).

However there was a Marjorie Ruth Peach b. 10/7/1911 in Kansas (Larry seemed to think there was a Kansas link) and d. 5/13/1981 in Los Angeles Co.

Not so good since Larry said his mother died in Oakland. Larry (like many of us) is waiting for the 1940 census to be released. He thinks that will help him locate his father.

Larry did not bring any paper work when he came in. I suggested he bring everything he has in writing next week and whoever is the docent on duty may be able to make some headway in finding Larry's lost father.

Family Search: shows Social Security Death Index: Marjorie Peach, b. 7 Oct 1911, SS# 559-01-7241 obtained in CA, last residence Alameda, CA 94610, d. May 1981.

On www.FindAGrave.com I located a death certificate for Marjorie Peach, died at 69, Oakland, California.

Roots Web: There are two databases for a Marjorie Ruth Hansman, married to a Peach. It shows two living children when it was done. Does Larry have siblings?

One lady came in just to ask where to go for a Bergen County, New Jersey birth certificate. Her mother is living and was born in the 1930's and they could not find birth records online. I showed her the county website and the forms to complete. She left after 5 minutes but she subscribes to Ancestry.com. I also showed her the FamilySearch.org site for other records in other states/countries as needed.



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Kay Speaks

National Register of Archives

Options to search for Corporate name, Personal name, Family name or Place name:

Example: Family Index using Advanced Search.
Name: (blank); Seat: (blank); County: (blank);
Country: United States; Date (yyyy): (blank).

Results: 8 records

Example: Families (1), Persons (17), Contact details: Drew University, NJ, USA (Family: Embury Family of Balingrane, Limerick)

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra/default.asp>

Script Tutorial Online

Developed by the Center for Family History and Genealogy at Brigham Young University, this website offers script tutorials for English, German, Dutch, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The website offers guidance in deciphering manuscripts and other old documents printed in old typefaces or written in old handwriting styles.

<http://script.byu.edu/>

Canada Genealogy, courtesy of Dave Obee's website. Dave was a 2011 SoCal Jamboree Conference presenter. His website is loaded with very useful Canadian genealogy research links arranged by region, category, resources and more.

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

Heritage West is a digital database from the collections of museums, libraries, historical societies and archives from throughout the Western U.S. It is a combination of digital data from Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming.

<http://heritagewest.coalition.org/>

Historical Newspapers Free Online

Birmingham Iron Age 1874-1887, free, Birmingham Public Library Digital Collection

<http://tinyurl.com/ironagenews>

Largest Free Newspaper Digitization Projects:

Chronicling American Newspaper Collection, Search for U.S. National Archives, 1836-1922, use U.S. Newspaper Directory, published 1690-present.

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Australian Trove Newspaper Collection, National Library of Australia's online resources free: books, image, historic newspapers, maps, music, archives and more. <http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

Google Newspaper Archive, free.

http://news.google.com/news/-advanced_news_search?as_drrb=a

Are you looking for relatives, classmates or friends on the Internet? Some websites provide no-tracking privacy policy unlike many search engines. Best search is for people alive in the last ten years. Read more about searching for live people at <http://tinyurl.com/GenInTimeMag>. Check your own name, www.duckduckgo.com/ (no-tracking policy).

Google Tips:

LINK: Found a great website? Find out who is linked to it!

Examples of LINK search:

link:Faulkenberry (220,000 results)

link:Faulkenberry genealogy (17,900)

link:Faulkenberry genealogy cemetery (91,100)

link:TN cemetery Faulkenberry Nancy Elizabeth 1957 (181)

link:L-AGS.org -lags.org -lags (1,130,000)

link:site:L-AGS.org (47)

RELATED: Lists websites that are similar to web page listed.

Example RELATED search:

related:ancestry.com (187 results)

related:fold3 WWII Faulkenberry TN (4)

related:fold3 WWII "Chinese" Tulare County CA (9)

related:findagrave.com (183)

And Then There Was a Fire

By Barbara Hempill

The wind that had been twisting Margaret's long skirt around her legs and caught the sheet she was pinning to the clothesline like the sail on a boat. Although the sun shone brightly that morning, she felt a fall chill in the air. Margaret managed to hold onto the sheet to keep it from flying off the line and ending up on the concrete pavement of the courtyard where she and the other women in the apartment building hung their laundry out to dry.

In spite of all the work involved in scrubbing everything on a washboard in the sanitary tub in the basement and all the rinsing and wringing by hand, Margaret enjoyed washday. Even the strong smell of the Fels-Naptha® soap, couldn't lessen the satisfaction she felt seeing all the bleached white shirts and bakers' aprons swinging on the line. It reminded her of her mother and home.

To Margaret, home was a far away village of Grossenenglis in the province of Hesse, Germany. In 1871, the year before Margaret and her husband Adam Kurth sailed from the port of Bremen¹ en route to the United States; General Bismarck had overseen the unification of Germany. Until then, Margaret and Adam had been residents of what was known as Prussia.

In October of 1871 Adam read in the newspaper about the great Chicago Fire that had destroyed vast areas of the city. The article he read also spoke of the Spirit of Chicago rising from the ashes. He dreamt of the possibility of helping build a new city from the ground up and someday being in business for himself. Although Adam would list himself as a merchant on the Smidt's manifest, he was handy with a hammer and he was confident he could find a job in Chicago as a carpenter.

Margaret remembered how Adam had such high hopes for their new life together in the United States. His ambition knew no bounds in the face

of Margaret's reticence to leave her family. "Do you want the sons we will have to be drafted to fight with the German army in some future war? If we stay here, that is inevitable."

The steamer Smidt would make nine voyages from Bremen to New York in 1872. When it docked at Castle Garden in New York on August 10, 1872, Margaret was already pregnant. The crossing from Bremen had taken nearly a month, and most of the time Margaret was nauseated.

Impatient as Margaret and the other 700 passengers were to set foot on solid ground again, it took what seemed to be an eternity to gather their meager belongings and disembark. And then there were the interminable lines and inspections and examinations to be subjected to before Margaret and Adam were approved for entry into the United States.

Along with many of their fellow ship passengers, Adam and Margaret boarded a train for Chicago. As Adam had hoped, it took no time for him to find work as a carpenter. He and Margaret found a small apartment at 242 Clyborn Avenue and in the remaining months of the year they became acquainted with other German families in the neighborhood, but Christmas was a lonely holiday so far away from their families. Early in the New Year, on January 29, 1873, a son they named Henrich (Henry) was born in the apartment. Henry was my father's father. Two years later, in 1875, a second son, John, was born.

Although work was steady and paid well as a carpenter, Adam had his heart set on owning his own business, so he went to work in a bakery to learn the trade and the family moved to a larger apartment at 282 Huron Street.

In 1879 Margaret was overjoyed when little Bertha was born, but as was true with so many little ones at the time, she lived only a few years. Then in December 1882 (Elizabeth) Lizzie was born and four years later, in May 1886, another daughter, Kate (Catherine) was born.

From 1891 until 1893 Adam Kurth and Nicholas Yunker, his partner, had a bakery at 2742 Cottage

The ocean-going steamer Smidt sailed from Bremen in July 1872. It was owned by Bremer Dampschiffahrt Ges. When Adam and Margarethe arrived in the U.S., they were both 22 years old.

Grove Avenue and the family lived above the bakery. But Adam decided the time had come for him to establish his own bakery. He bought a horse-drawn delivery wagon and had "Kurth & Sons Bakery" painted on the sides. Henry and John both worked with their father and took turns driving the delivery wagon.

On February 28, 1895, Henry married Emma Sommer. Her father, Jacob, operated a 3-chair barbershop down the street from Adam's bakery and in the evening, Jacob played the piano at the saloon on the corner.

And then life came full cycle for Margaret when my father's oldest sister, Mabel, was born to Henry and Emma on May 22, 1896.²

So, on the morning of October 5, 1897, as Margaret hung out the laundry, she was thinking about her grand daughter, now almost a year and a half old, and the little dress waiting on the sewing machine to be finished for Christmas.

An agonized scream roused Margaret from her thoughts. She looked up at the porches lining the courtyard, searching for the source of the screams. Above her, on the second floor, her neighbor Lizzie Remme was holding a fiery pot. Suddenly Margaret realized she was screaming too.

In her frenzy, Lizzie Remme had thrown the burning pot of boiling oil over the porch railing onto my great grandmother in the courtyard below.

A second daughter, Margaret, was born to Henry and Emma on June 1, 1898. Henry opened his own bakery in 1902.



Margaret's first scream was in shock. Her second scream and all subsequent ones were from agonizing, searing pain as burning oil tormented her skin and caught her clothing on fire. She ran at first and then fell.

Hearing her scream Adam rushed to Margaret's side, rolling her on the ground, trying to extinguish the flames with wet sheets. But an oil fire is not easily extinguished. Meanwhile, Lizzie Remme too was covered with flames and burning oil. It seemed an age before Firemen arrived with their horse drawn engine and ambulance. They managed to finish extinguishing the flames that had enveloped the women before taking them both to Mercy Hospital.

There was nothing the doctors could do to alleviate the pain but give the women shots of morphine.

Both women died later that day on October 5, 1897, almost twenty-six years to the day after the Great Chicago Fire. The coroner's report said Margaret came to her death "... from shock and burns accidentally received caused by her clothes catching on fire from burning oil in the rear yard where she lived at 2632 Lowe Avenue." The witness was Adam Kurth.

Similarly, the report for Lizzie Remme said she died from shock and burns accidentally received caused by her clothes catching fire from burning oil in the kitchen of her apartment at 2632 Lowe Avenue. The witnesses to her death were William Remme and Charles Godfrey.

Both reports were signed by F. M. Lambaugh at Mercy Hospital.

Pleasanton Library

Cont. from Page 15

3. 929.1072 MCREYNOLDS. McReynolds, Alister. *Legacy : the Scots Irish in America* / Alister McReynolds.

4. 929.3 MOSER. Moser, Geraldine. *Hamburg passengers from the Kingdom of Poland and the*

Russian Empire: indirect passage to New York, 1855-June, 1873 / by Geraldine Moser & Marlene Silverman.

5. 929.1 TANNER. Tanner, James L. *The guide to FamilySearch online* / by James L. Tanner.

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

June 12, 7:30 p.m.

Ron Arous *Putting the Flesh on the Bones*

July 10, 7:30 p.m.

TBA *To Be Announced*

August 14, 7:30 p.m.

Steve Daigo *The ABC'S of DNA*

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