

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

Lawrence Annis of Pleasanton, CA

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

Patrons

Anonymous, Madelon Palma, Cheryl Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

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

Total L-AGS Members as of January 8, 2013: 182 Memberships and 222 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

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

tvtnmg@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2013

President

president@L-AGS.org

First VP and Program Chair

program@L-AGS.org

Second VP and Membership Chair

membership@L-AGS.org

Corresponding Secretary

Recording Secretary

recording@L-AGS.org

Marilyn Cutting

Patricia Northam

Helen Benham-Gallagher and Deborah McMenamin

Cheryl Palmer

Julie Liu

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A Message from our President

Greetings to All Members,

Well we are well-launched into a new year. As we begin the year filled with goals and dreams, what will we do with that opportunity? We have the gift of extra years, something our ancestors did not have.

In January, Dick Finn enlightened us with the history of the former railway town of Midway and its townspeople.

This issue contains the conclusion of Joyce Tafoya's tale of her search for her birth parents. You will recall that her birth records were sealed at the time of her adoption.

Susan G. Johnston and Kay Speaks form an excellent team as they present the monthly G.R.O.W. page to assist us with locating Genealogy Resources On the Web.

I know that we will or did learn all about docents from Patrick Lofft in February. Our docents are available and willing to assist you in your research so avail yourself of their services. If their scheduled availability each Wednesday, 10 am until 1 pm and 6 until 9 pm, are inconvenient, request a mutually convenient appointment via email to: docents.chair@L-AGS.org .

Debbie Mascot, who heads up the writing group, is another person willing and able to assist with your writing endeavors. Read her article in this issue about the members of the group who earned well deserved recognitions for their writing accomplishments.

Remember that the secret of immortality is to "TELL YOUR STORY!" That is the way to live forever! Our *Roots Tracer* staffers remain willing to assist you with prettifying the discoveries of your genealogy research into an Internet worthy description of your ancestors' adventures.

Marilyn Cutting

In Memoriam

Charles (Chuck) Wiedel, 77, L-AGS member since 2004, died Monday, October 29, 2012. He was born on June 23, 1935 in Hebron, Nebraska to William Wiedel and Pauline (Bailey) Wiedel. Chuck, a veteran of the U.S. Army, was stationed at Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, and was honorably discharged in 1957. He studied finance and business administration at the University of San Francisco, and graduated in 1961.

After fifteen- year tenure at Allstate Insurance Co., Chuck began a long and successful career as a real estate broker in Pleasanton, where he resided with his family. Chuck was a loving and devoted family man.

Published in Contra Costa Times on November 4, 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:

rootstracer.chair@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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 Kay Speaks

A Fond Christmas Remembrance!

By Sue Caraway

I found this little journal entry that my mother wrote in 1976. Her name was Elsie Munce and she was born in Oakland, California in 1913, the eldest child of a Scottish father and German mother. This is her remembrance of Christmas.

"I've been thinking of past Christmases lately, and my mind goes back to those of my childhood. We lived in a bungalow on 27th Avenue in Oakland. We had a large entrance hall about 8 feet square, which had nothing in it most of the year except a library table and a tabouret¹ holding a plant in a jardinière by the front window. On Christmas Eve Dad moved the table out of the hall into the front room and he and Mother put up and decorated a large tree there. We were always sent to bed early that night so that Santa Claus could get his work done. My brother, Jack, used to say, when he was little, that Santa had a little elf who came down the chimney and opened our big front door so that Santa could bring in the tree and toys more easily.

"Christmas morning, we were allowed to open

¹A low stand or cabinet.

our stockings as soon as we awoke, and when our poor sleepy parents woke up, we got dressed and had breakfast. Then came the big moment when Dad went in first to light the candles on the tree and we were finally allowed to go in all together and see the beautiful sight – a lovely tree, beautifully decorated with candles and ornaments and gifts underneath, really making that hall a very special place.

"The candles were so pretty, about 4 inches long, and clipped to the tree in metal holders similar to clothespins. We kids never got burned and I don't recall ever hearing of Christmas tree fires, but we had strict instructions not to play in back of the tree and to watch when candles burned down so they could be replaced.

"Dad believed Christmas should be where the kids were, so we always spent the day at home, having dinner in mid-afternoon, and always having relatives to share Mother's good cooking with us. I especially remember with pleasure her turkey stuffing and carrot pudding she served with sweet hard sauce balls and lemon sauce."

L-AGS Writing Special Interest Group

By Debbie Conner Mascot

The first contest results were recently announced:

1st & 2nd Places - Barbara Hempill: "The Best Laid Plans of Mice and Men" described her family's flawed trip from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri and "The Costume Parade" about dressing as a witch in an imperfect dress made from crepe paper in her school costume parade.

3rd Place- Gloria Lotten: "No Trick 'r Treating" depicted her neighborhood's huge Halloween party in lieu of trick or treating.

4th Place- Duncan Tanner: "The Great Pumpkin of Livermore" who magically greeted children by name.

5th Place- Joyce Tafoya: "Halloween Memories" in which she dressed as a shower and won the contests.

Allie-Gumlet, the Story of a Part of my Grandmother's Life

By Marilyn Alice Felton Cutting

***Preface:** I originally wrote this story in January 1954, as a school assignment. I obtained the information from my grandmother, Alice Folsom Louttit, and my mother, Addie Louttit.*

In the booming town of Fostoria (later to be called

Paloma) in the gold infested land of Calaveras County, California on February 23, 1887 a baby girl was born on the Folsom Ranch. Even at the age of twenty-four hours, Mary Alice was beautiful. She was the sixth child born to George and Ellen Folsom.

George was a young lad of 16 when he left his home in Exeter, New Hampshire. His mother, Hannah Norris, had died and his father, Nicholas, had remarried. George and his stepmother were incompatible so he was lured to California from the tales of gold in California. He boarded a vessel bound for San Francisco via Cape Horn. The ship was totally wrecked in a severe storm off the North Atlantic coast. George, one of the fortunate, was rescued by a ship headed for Panama. All of his worldly possessions, which were very sparse, were lost. The ship's crew took up a collection of money and clothing so he could continue his journey. He walked across the Isthmus of Panama and at a port on the Pacific side boarded a San Francisco bound vessel. He arrived there in 1853.

Not too much is known about George's movements during his first ten years in California. It is known that he was engaged in mining in various places. He was an express rider and delivered mail by horseback. He then went to Fostoria and worked in the Gwinn Mine. His sister, Priscilla, had married a man named William Webster who had a working ranch in the Young Valley south of the center of town. George moved in with Priscilla and her husband as they needed help in running the ranch. Over time, they acquired two parcels of 160 acres through an 1855 Act of Congress granting Bounty Land.

Over a period of several years, a thriving ranch was developed and Priscilla decided that she needed more help in the farmhouse feeding all of the workmen so Ellen Maley, a young girl of fourteen, came to live and work for Priscilla. Ellen's mother, Sarah Bright, had died shortly after childbirth in 1867 and then her father, Michael, was injured in a mining accident and could no longer care for his family. Ellen was fourteen years old at the time she came to the Webster/Folsom home. She worked for them for two years and of course, during this time she and George became well acquainted and fell in love, even though he was much older than she. In December 1873, in a little Methodist Chapel in Mokelumne Hill, Ellen Mary Maley and George Washington Folsom were married. Within one year, Sam was born. Then seven more babies were born, five girls and two more boys. Fifteen years later we

Maternal Lineage of Marilyn Alice Felton Cutting
<p>Nicholas Folsom b 1795, Sanbornton, Belknap, New Hampshire d. 1880, Calaveras Co. California m. 1824</p> <p>Hannah Norris b. 1801 d. 1846 Groton, Grafton, New Hampshire</p>
<p>George Washington Folsom b. 1837, Groton, Grafton, New Hampshire d. 1923, Paloma, Calaveras, California m. 1873</p> <p>Ellen Maley (Malley) b. 1859, Jefferson Township, Morris, New Jersey d. 1932 Paloma, Calaveras, California</p>
<p>Mary Alice Folsom b. 1887, Paloma, Calaveras, California d. 1967, Oakland, Alameda, California m. 1904 Paloma, Calaveras, California</p> <p>James Alexander Louttit b. 1879, Stockton, San Joaquin, California d. 1916, Nome Alaska</p>
<p>Adeline Alice Louttit b. 1908, Council City, Nome, Alaska d. 2008, Livermore, Alameda, California m. 1931, Oakland, Alameda, California</p> <p>Ray Bigley Felton, Jr. b. 1905, Oakland, Alameda, California d. 1969, Castro Valley, Alameda, California</p>

are back to the night of February 23, 1887 when Mary Alice was born.

Papa, as everyone called George, was a strict father, yet he was a good and kind father. At night the family would sit around the fire, roast apples and sing hymns while Mama played the organ. Papa had names for everything and everyone. His children all had nicknames. Winnie was Binnie-Bump and Mary Alice was Allie Gumlet.

Rain or shine the Folsom children went to Sunday school. Mama always had the girls dressed in starched dresses and petticoats. The boys also were dressed in their Sunday best – clean over-

alls. Papa got all eight children in the wagon and off they would go to church, where Papa was a pillar of the church. Mama always stayed home and cooked the Sunday dinner for her family and usually the minister and his wife. Papa was always bringing ministers home to stay for weeks at a time.

Allie-Gumlet lived a normal, healthy life until she was six, when she got typhoid fever. It was a hard struggle for survival, but with the care from her good mother, she recovered. For the next two years, however, she was thin and frail.

She went to the country school which was two miles from the ranch. The gray school house with the tall spire accepted students up to the tenth grade. At fourteen years of age, Allie was the belle of the county and won the annual beauty contest. Her closest competitor was her older sister, Birdie. Within the next few years she had many proposals. Her young life was full of gaiety.

The next year after graduation, she went to Stockton and lived with Anna and Tom Louttit, who were very close friends of the Folsoms. While in Stockton she studied at a business school for about six months.

Tom's father who was U.S. Congressman, James A. Louttit, sent all of his children to college with the exception of James Jr., known as Lee, his youngest son. Lee turned down the offer of a college education for adventure in the Alaska Gold Rush. While Allie was staying with the Louttits, Lee returned from Alaska.

When Lee had left for Alaska in 1900, he thought of Allie-Gumlet as just a little girl. He had been very much interested in her older sister, Birdie. Now little Allie was a grown and pretty girl of

sixteen and Birdie had another beau.

Within the next year, Alice and Lee were married in the same little Methodist Chapel where Mama and Papa had been married. After the wedding, there was a big family get together, as the newlyweds were soon leaving for Alaska.



George & Ellen Folsom in background with (left to right) Alice Folsom, Violet Folsom and Edwina Folsom Wilson with son Alex.

They began their honeymoon by taking the train to Seattle. From there, they went to Nome on the steamer, *Umatilla*.¹ It was a miserable trip for Alice as she got deathly seasick. Nome was a big letdown for her after living in the green foothills as it was bleak and desolate.

Council City, which is about seventy three miles south east of Nome, was a picturesque little mining town on the banks of the Neukluk River and this is where the young couple settled. Their first winter was spent about five miles east of town in a little log cabin at Melsing Creek. For this long dreary winter, the seventeen year old bride was the cook for the miners. There wasn't another woman for miles around. The winter finally came to an end and soon the mining would begin again. In September 1905, Alice went back to Fostoria to give birth to her first child, Ellen. She stayed in Fostoria until the ice broke up north so that the boats could get to Nome. In the spring of 1906, Alice and her new baby returned to Council. When she arrived, much to her surprise, Lee had purchased a home in town so that during the winter they could be with other people.

The following year was just like the previous one, mining in the summer, working almost twenty-

¹Giles T. Brown, *Principal Vessels in the Pacific Coastwise Trade, Ships that sail no more*. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1966, p. 243-257.

four hours a day and then doing nothing in the long, dark winter, but staying at home and visiting with friends.

In March 1908, on the night of that winter's worst storm, Alice gave birth to her second child, Adeline (Addie). Addie was just the opposite of her sister, Ellen, as Ellen had dark hair and an olive complexion, while Addie had very blonde hair and a fair complexion.

Ellen lived in Fostoria for four years with her grandparents, George and Ellen, as she wasn't a very healthy child and could not withstand the rough, cold climate of Alaska. Addie was six when Ellen came back to Alaska. It was really a big day when the boat arrived bringing Ellen home, as Addie did not remember her sister at all.

Winter time was the social time of the year. Every Saturday night, there would be a dance at the Arctic Brotherhood Hall. Even the children would go along. They would soon tire and go to sleep. At midnight, they would join the adults and eat an enormous meal that the men cooked. At such social functions, the women were waited on hand and foot, as there were very few white women in Council City and they were really appreciated.

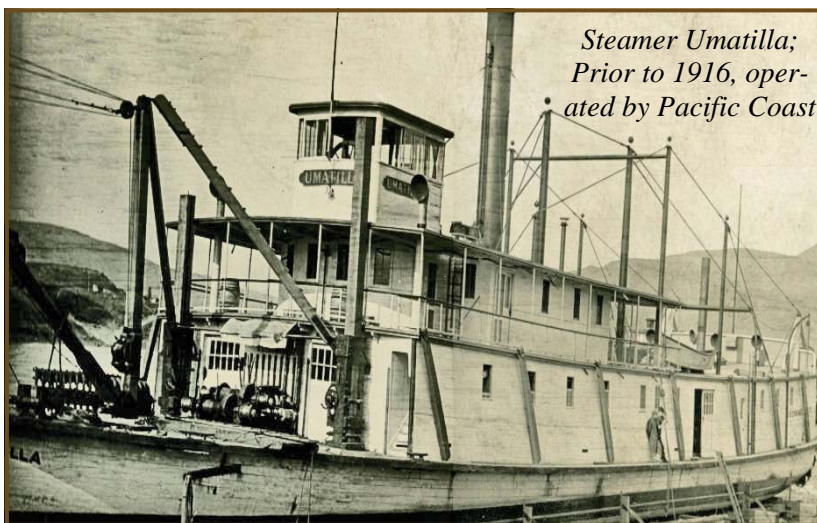
Lee and his partner, Axel, had a gold mining claim out of Council that was paying off quite well. Ax, as he was known, had a cousin in Nome who was a banker; he took care of all their transactions. The partners had \$100,000 deposited in the bank in Nome when the "trusted" cousin took off to who-knows-where with all of the money. After this heartbreak, Lee's health started going downhill.

The next few years, Lee struggled to get back on a sound financial footing. Then one stormy night

he was stricken with severe abdominal pain. A week later, he was taken to the hospital in Nome. Alice and the girls got a letter every time a dog sled came in from Nome. His letters were cheerful and full of wit, just as he was. He was at the hospital for about three months when Alice and the children were sent for. This trip to Nome was the first one that Addie could remember. It was the first time she saw a cow. Up to that time, milk just came out of a can, in her estimation anyway.

They were at the hospital for just a few days before Lee died. The cause of his death was septicemia due to a perforated duodenal ulcer.

Soon after the funeral services, Alice and the girls



*Steamer Umatilla;
Prior to 1916, oper-
ated by Pacific Coast*

left for Council. The weather was fine when they left, even though it was in the middle of winter. There were three dog teams traveling together. After they had traveled about a third of the way, a terrible blizzard came

up. They couldn't even see the sleds ahead of them and at one point in time they thought they had lost one of the sleds. Everyone was sure they would perish in this desolate, icy plain. But, Louis Bromfield (who later became well known as an author) had a compass and they made it to the half-way mark. This was a road side inn run by an old bachelor by the name of Gus. Gus filled them with good, hot beans. Even the dogs went inside to get warm. The next morning all was clear and they went on to Council City.

When the boat came to Nome that spring, Alice, Ellen and Addie were among the passengers. They returned to Fostoria, out of the bleak and heartless land of Nome.

Allie-Gumlet is the story of a part of my grandmother's life. Her second child, Addie, was my mother.

"City of Seattle" was taken on March 8th, just 20 days before the 1900 census data was recorded. In all likelihood, Frank Gatter was onboard the ship when this photograph was taken.

Frank next appears on line 72 of the June 9th 1900 Census of Tacoma Washington where he is enumerated living with his parents and all of his siblings.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. **B**

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Washington } Supervisor's District No. 1 Sheet No. 14
 County Pierce } Enumeration District No. 168

Township or other division of county Prescott 5th Name of Institution, _____
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Tacoma City Ward of city, 2nd

Enumerated by me on the 9th day of June, 1900, H. Holstman, Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION				SPEECH OF BIRTH											
			SEX	AGE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person			Years of schooling	Can read	Can write	Can speak English		Number of those speaking										
1	Frank Gatter	son	M	26	W	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Frank was then enumerated on June 16th, seven days later, when his ship was tied up at the dock in the port at Tacoma, Washington. It was apparently determined that the ship's crew had not been previously enumerated, or so they thought. Only the sailor's names and duties aboard the ship were recorded. None of their other personal data was listed which made this entry especially difficult to search and locate.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. **B**

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Washington } Supervisor's District No. 285 Sheet No. 7
 County Pierce } Enumeration District No. _____

Township or other division of county Persons Omittted by Enumeration Name of Institution, _____
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Tacoma City Ward of city, diffrent

Enumerated by me on the 18th day of June, 1900, J. R. Luckman, Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION				SPEECH OF BIRTH										
			SEX	AGE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person			Years of schooling	Can read	Can write	Can speak English		Number of those speaking									
1	Gatter L. D.	W	M	26	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Frank's last enumeration was on 7 September 1900 when the ship to which he was assigned was tied up in the port of Seattle.

TWELFTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES. **B**

SCHEDULE No. 1.—POPULATION.

State Wash. } Supervisor's District No. 1 Sheet No. 8
 County King } Enumeration District No. 99

Township or other division of county _____ Name of Institution, _____
 Name of incorporated city, town, or village, within the above-named division, Soconnet Becanet Ward of city, Fifth

Enumerated by me on the 7th day of September, 1900, John J. Briggs, Enumerator.

LOCATION	NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION		NATIVITY			CITIZENSHIP	OCCUPATION, TRADE, OR PROFESSION	EDUCATION				SPEECH OF BIRTH										
			SEX	AGE	Place of birth of this person	Place of birth of father of this person	Place of birth of mother of this person			Years of schooling	Can read	Can write	Can speak English		Number of those speaking									
1	Gatter Frank Sr.	father	M	36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

And so, Frank Duncan Gatter, Sr., a young single man of 26 years, has the distinction of being enumerated four times in the 1900 United States Census. A rather unusual accomplishment in addition to experiencing and being a part of the Klondike Gold Rush! But that is another article.

Witchcraft among My Pingree Ancestors

By Barbara Huber

I have researched my father's ancestral lines in books and on the Internet. I found a book in the Sutro Library years ago entitled "A *Genealogical Record of The Descendants of Moses Pengry of Ipswich, Mass*"¹ by Mary Patricia Pengra Westberg and William M. Pingry. The library let me check the book out so I took it home and tried to find my father's connection to Moses Pengry. Unfortunately at that time I only knew my grandfather's name, Earl Atkins Pingree, and he wasn't listed in the book. Most of my father's family lived in Modesto so I asked my father's sister to check the County Court House for information.

My aunt found that my great-grandfather's name was Lewis Clifford Pingree born 24 May 1856 in Albany, Oxford, Maine. My search for Lewis Pingree in the book was very easy because the author had an index for every person in the book.

I learned that Lewis' father, Asa Bixby Pingree, was born at Boxford, Massachusetts, in 1818 and married Sarah Perkins at Topsfield, 1847. Sarah died of consumption in 1851 with no children. Asa then went to Maine to visit his brother, Parker, and in 1852 Asa married Melita Wheeler, Parker's sister-in-law.

Lewis Clifford, along with his brothers, Leonard Wheeler and Asa Cummings Pingree, all came to California around 1865 in search of gold. Further research in the book informed me that Moses Pengry came to Ipswich, Massachusetts in 1641. Until Lewis and his brothers migrated to California most of the Pingrees and their families lived in a number of Massachusetts towns.

I then decided that since my ancestors lived in Massachusetts for around 230 years I might find an ancestor connected to the Witchcraft Trials. I searched books and the Internet for names of people accused of being a witch to see if I could find any of the names in my family tree.

To my surprise from the information I found on the Internet about the Witchcraft Crisis in Massachusetts and the most recent book I borrowed from the Livermore Public Library, titled "*In the Devil's Snare: the Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692*" by Mary Beth Norton, I discovered several of my ancestors were involved in that calamity.

The witch hysteria took place almost exclusively in Salem Village² where Reverend Samuel Parris was the minister. His household included a West Indian slave named Tituba who was in charge of two young girls, Elizabeth Parris, nine, and her cousin Abigail Williams, eleven. She entertained the girls by telling them stories of her childhood in Barbados. Elizabeth and Abigail soon invited friends to join their little group. As the conversations began to revolve around Tituba's knowledge of the forbidden subjects of Voodoo and fortune telling it became an exciting adventure. In January of 1692 Elizabeth began having seizures and making strange noises. When Abigail also began having seizures, Reverend Parris became alarmed and called Dr. Griggs. In mid-February Dr. Griggs declared the girls were "under the evil hand." Thus the ideas of witches were introduced for the first time in Salem Village.

My 8th great-grandmother, Mary Towne Easty, and her two sisters, Rebecca Towne Nurse and Sarah Towne Bridges Cloyes, were all accused of being witches. The simple pointing of fingers was all it took for 21 men and women to lose their lives by hanging on Gallows Hill.

The parents of Rebecca, Mary and Sarah were William Towne and his wife, Joanna.³ They migrated from Great Yarmouth, England, to the Bay Colony sometime between 1634 and 1639. Rebecca was born in England in 1622 and married Francis Nurse in 1644. Mary was also born in England in 1634 and married Isaac Easty in 1655. Sarah, the youngest daughter, was born in Topsfield in 1642 and she married her first husband, Sargeant Edmund Bridges in 1659. They had eight children and when her husband died in 1682, age 45, the constable of Topsfield ordered her and her children out of town. Due to her impoverished condition Sarah returned to her parents and quickly married Peter Cloyes in 1682.

¹Pingry, William M. (William Morrill), 1806-1885: A genealogical record of the descendants of Moses Pengry, of Ipswich, Mass., so far as ascertained /collected and arranged by William M. Pingry. Coon Rapids, Iowa: Coon Rapids Shoppers News, 1979. 186 p.: front., ports. ; 24 cm.

²Salem Village is now Danvers, Massachusetts.

³The Ancestry of Sally Sleeper Russell of Worcester, Massachusetts (1919-1983) <http://tinyurl.com/dy8redn>

Gen. No.	Paternal Lineages to Barbara Huber		Gen No.	
1.	Isaac Easty (Estey) Sr. b. 1627 Freston, England d. 1712 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts m. ? Mary Towne b.1634 Great Yarmouth, England d. Hung as a witch 22 Sept. 1692 Salem, Essex Massachusetts	Joseph Ballard b. 1644 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1720 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts m. 1665 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Elizabeth Phelps b. 1646 Newbury, Essex Massachusetts d. 27 July 1692 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts They said she was bewitched.	6.	Daniel Wheeler b. 1793 Hollis, Hillsborough, New Hampshire d. 1873 Bethel, Oxford, Maine m. 1819 Lydia Cummings b. 1798 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1881 Bethel, Oxford, Maine
2.	Isaac Easty (Estey) b. 1662 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1714 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts m. 1689 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts Abigail Kimball b. 1666 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1760 Reading, Middlesex, Massachusetts	Hezekiah Ballard Sr. b. 1682 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1751 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts m 1712 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Rebecca Davis b. 1692 Billerica, Middlesex, Massachusetts d. 1754 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts	7.	Asa Bixby Pingry 1818-1871 Asa Bixby Pingree b. 1818 Boxford, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1871 Albany, Oxford, Maine m. 1852 Salem, Essex, Massachusetts Melita Wheeler b. 1824 Bethel, Oxford, Maine d. ?
3.	Joseph Cummings b. 1692 Woburn, Middlesex, Massachusetts d. 1794 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts m. 1714 Sarah Easty (Estey) b. 1994 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1749 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts	Hezekiah Ballard b. 1720 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1801 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts m 1741 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts Lydia Chandler b. 1720 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1801 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts	8.	Lewis Clifford Pingree 1856-1929 Lewis Clifford Pingree b. 1856 Albany, Oxford, Maine d. 1929 Modesto, Stanislaus, California m, 1883 Grass Valley, Nevada, California Addie Frances Ware b. 1863 Grundy Co., Missouri d. 1959 Modesto, Stanislaus, California
4.	Thomas Cummings b. 1716 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1765 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts m. 2nd ? Anna Kittell Johnson b. 1718 Charlestown, Suffolk, Massachusetts d. 1792 Topsfield, Essex, Massachusetts	Dane Holt b. 1740 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d/ 1818 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts m. ? Lydia Ballard b. 1745 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1813 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts	9.	My Grandfather -Earl Atkins Pingree b. 1886 Colfax, Placer, California d. 1941 Modesto, Stanislaus, California m. 1906 Maude E Walters b. 1890 Colfax, Placer, California d. 1988 Whitmore, Shasta, California
5.	Asa Cummings b. 1759 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1845 Albany, Oxford, Maine m. 1782 Hannah Peabody d. 1796 Ipswich, Essex, Massachusetts m. 2nd. 1797 Lydia Holt b. 1766 Andover, Essex, Massachusetts d. ?		10.	My Father - Earl Clifford Pingree b. 1907 Elmhurst, Alameda, California d. 1964 Livermore, Alameda, California m. 1924 San Francisco, California Gertrude Burnight b. 1906 Orland, Glenn, California d. 1991 Chico, Butte, California

The three sisters and their families were members of Reverend Parris' Salem Village congregation. The witchcraft hysteria started in the household of Reverend Samuel Parris, who was a controversial figure. It seemed to revolve around either loyalty to Parris or displeasure with him. So bitter were the Nurse family's feelings toward Parris' ministerial issues that in 1691 they began "absenting" themselves from Sabbath meetings in protest.⁴

In 1692 Rebecca Nurse was 71 years old, a respected woman and saintly grandmother. However on March 23 a warrant was issued for her arrest for practicing witchcraft and the following day she was arrested and dragged from her sickbed to a cold stone prison in Salem. Rebecca spent several months in prison. She was first found not guilty by a jury and then another jury found her guilty and she was sentenced to death. On July 19, 1692 she was publicly hauled by cart to a low rocky hill and hanged by the neck until dead.

Sarah Cloyes' family, like her sister Rebecca's family, also was displeased with issues involving the Parris ministry and were "absenting" themselves from Sabbath meetings. On April 3rd Sarah walked out when Parris announced his text as "Have not I chosen you Twelve, and one of you is a Devil," John 6:70. The wind caused the door to slam as she left. In 1692 Sarah was 50 years old and on April 4 a complaint of witchcraft was filed against her. She was arrested on April 8 and examined but she refused to confess. Sarah was then fitted with leg and hand irons and placed in the Salem jail with her sister Rebecca.

It wasn't long before the middle Towne sister, Mary Easty (also recorded as Esty), was pointed to as being a witch. On April 22 Mary was arrested and held for trial in Salem Town. They weren't certain about her guilt so they released her on May 18. She was only home a few days when she was arrested again in the middle of the night on May 20 and dragged off in irons. Mary maintained her innocence and refused to confess to being a Witch as those who confessed were saved from the hangman's noose. Mary was tried on August 4, found guilty of Witchcraft and hanged on September 22, 1692. Her demeanor as she stood at Gallows Hill was documented by contemporary author Robert Calef.⁵ Mary's last farewell to her husband, children and friends was reported as being serious, religious and affectionate

and brought tears to almost all in attendance.

My other 8th Great grandmother, Elizabeth (née Phelps) Ballard, and her husband Joseph Ballard were living in Andover, Massachusetts during the Salem Witch trials in 1692. Elizabeth had been ill for several months so on the advice of some of the townsfolk Joseph was persuaded to send to Salem Village for girls who could tell the names of people who were able to afflict others. Thinking he could discover the cause of Elizabeth's illness, Joseph asked the two girls to attend a meeting at the North Meeting House. A number of women in the parish were summoned to the meeting house, blindfolded and asked to lay hands on the so-called afflicted girl visitors. The fits followed and the girls claimed that several people in Andover had bewitched Elizabeth Ballard. More than forty Andover residents were jailed as suspected witches and three of them, Martha Carrier, Mary Parker and Samuel Wardwell, were convicted and executed. Elizabeth Ballard died on July 27, 1692 from an unknown illness.

The witch hysteria of 1692 affected numerous communities north of Boston. At least 150 people were arrested and 42 confessed to being witches and named other witches. There were 19 young women and girls listed as the Afflicted Accusers of Salem Village and Andover which caused nineteen to be hanged and one pressed to death with stones. Ann Putnam Jr., one of the Afflicted Accusers died unmarried in May 1715. She joined the Salem Village church in August 1706, she asked forgiveness and "to be humbled before God for that sad and humbling providence" in 1692 that "made her an instrument for the accusing of several persons of a grievous crime, whereby their lives were taken away." She now believed them to be innocent, she declared, "and that it was a great delusion of Satan that deceived me in that sad time." She had, though, done it "ignorantly," without "anger, malice, or ill-will to any person," and she particularly "desired to lie in the dust" for the accusation of Rebecca Nurse and her two sisters, which caused so sad a calamity to them and their families.

⁴Witch Caves & Salem End Road

<http://www.boudillion.com/witchcaves/witchcaves.htm>

⁵Robert Calef was the author of *More Wonders of the Invisible World*, a book composed throughout the mid-1690s denouncing the recent Salem witch trials of 1692 and particularly examining the influential role played by Rev. Cotton Mather.

Witches and Dungeons, Oh My!

History Through the Eyes of a Ten-year-old

By Anne Les

The witches were not part of my education while growing up in DC and Maryland but when my eldest granddaughter, Alexdra Les, was willing to go and see the Washington, DC sights and visit a few relatives, she also wanted to know if we could go to Salem and Plymouth Rock.

Well, I'd never seen those places and knew nothing about Salem. I asked her politely what she knew about Salem. We both got an education by reading library books about Salem and the Witches! How could the professors have left them out of my schooling? My minor in college was history! By 1998 we were living in Southern California. Alex is a third-generation Californian.

With a 10 year-old granddaughter and my knowledge of the east coast we flew off to Washington, DC. I'd told my relatives that this was a Grandmother/Granddaughter bonding experience and we would stay down near the White House to do our sightseeing in DC. Well, my older brother showed up with a granddaughter in tow to take us to Mount Vernon. The girls were friends right off and they enjoyed having someone near the same age.

After Mount Vernon I asked that we be taken back to the hotel, which was just around the corner from the White House. During our first evening we walked all around the fences of the White House at dusk. We could see the Washington Monument which was surrounded with scaffolding as they were making repairs. We got tickets for visiting the monument the next day and we had tickets to see the White House as well as the Capitol. We knew ahead of time that we were able to request tickets from our congressperson and senators.

For several days we went to museums, rode the underground trams and even had to shop for sweaters as it was very cool for July in DC. Then we took off to Quincy, a suburb of Boston and checked into a hotel that offered bus tours to interesting places, including Salem one day and

Plymouth another. So on Monday morning we went off to Salem to see what there might be about witches and dungeons, oh my.

When we got to Salem there were tour buses to take us around and we could decide which of the specials we wanted to see. "Oh, let's go see the dungeons." says my 10 year old who had never ever been in a basement! I was sure she was going to break my fingers off as we walked through a very dark dungeon with caves in the walls with life-looking scenarios about what happens in dungeons.

We departed that place and decided to observe a mock trial. By then two other relatives had joined us for the afternoon and although they had lived in Massachusetts all their lives, they had never been on this tour either. Alex insisted this was her 'treat.' I guess her dad had suggested that she pay for some of the things. So Uncle Walter Les and Auntie Shirley came along for the reenactment. There were maybe 150 people sitting around the edges of the 'courtroom' and a reenactress was being questioned in the manner that lawyers might have behaved in those times. They were certainly not too kindly to the people who were charged with being witches.

It was a very interesting 'play' including some interaction between the judge and audience. We learned more than we expected about 'justice.' We did not have time to go the House of the Seven Gables but rode on a train that took us back to Boston and then to Quincy.

*** In case your history is rusty or never touched on this subject: "Salem was capital of the Massachusetts Bay Colony from its founding in 1626 until 1630. During the witchcraft trials from 1692 through 1697 the accusations of a group of children and women caused 19 people to be hanged and one to be crushed to death." From the AAA Tour Book 2009.

Why Did Somebody Do Somebody Wrong

By Joyce Tafoya

[Editor's note: The conclusion of Joyce's search for her parents and what she received with tears.]

I then resumed work, with little success, through the State Department of Mental Health. I was looking for information about the skeletons found in 2005. My contact with the State Department was Bill Holland, and he insisted my mother walked off the grounds. My gut feeling told me this was a case of foul play. My Uncle Bud had not been told of his sister's disappearance until he contacted them. Then an administrator, Mr. Adams, now deceased, sent him a letter of apology stating that they were negligent. This to me was another red flag.

After I had read about the 66 shock treatments my mother suffered, I ran an ad in the Tracy Record seeking anyone who had worked at the Stockton State Mental Hospital between 1953 through 1956 and knew of patients who had walked off the grounds, or who remembered my mother, to please call me. I offered a REWARD. I received several phone calls and interviewed one woman three times. She was on the staff and she remembered my mother. She also remembered a doctor who would use too much electricity during an electric shock treatment, and that someone had died during one of these treatments. She said no one walked off the grounds during that period of time and would testify to that in court. Tammy and I ran a camcorder of the interview which you can view along with my newspaper articles on <http://www.youtube.com/> Type my name 'Joyce Tafoya' in the search box.

I retained a wonderful lawyer, Mike Babitske, an Attorney at Law in Stockton.

He filed a request for an injunction to have each of the bodies found in the mass grave examined for height, sex and age at time of death. When the State Department of Mental Health refused, they were ordered by our elected State Senator, Ellen Corbett, to pay for this examination. It was then performed by the Pacific Legacy Group. My mother was 32, female and 5 ft. tall. Two bodies fit those criteria.

Tammy and I went to the reburial of the bodies at the Stockton Rural Cemetery. Dan Gerber, the recent on-site manager of the remaining building, invited us to tour what was left of the buildings of the Stockton State Mental Hospital including the Crematorium. There were slash marks on the wall and it was obvious there were no names of cremated persons.

We visited the Stockton Rural cemetery again and met Ruben, the manager. With sadness in his voice, he showed us two beautiful rose bushes on each side of cement slabs. He explained and shared this story: One day in 1990 he was instructed by the State Department of Mental Health to dig two deep holes and then pick up several urns of cremated remains from the State Hospital's Crematorium. He was told to inscribe

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Tri-Valley Herald

Monday | March 12, 2007 The Valley's Hometown Newspaper Since 1874

Search for mother ends at Stockton Mental Hospital

■ Daughter presses for DNA tests on unearthed remains

By Meera Pal
MEDIANEWS STAFF

As Joyce Tafoya walked slowly toward the fence, the normally spirited Pleasanton woman grew quiet and somber as she looked out on the construction site. Here, a little more than a year ago, workers unearthed human remains.

Tafoya, who never knew the woman who gave her up for adoption more than 60 years ago, is convinced the search for her biological mother ends here beneath the dirt at the old Stockton Mental Hospital.

At 63, Tafoya has spent almost half her life searching for the mother she first learned of 26

years ago.

After thousands of dollars spent on private investigators and conducting countless public records searches, Tafoya has some answers, but still mostly questions.

She knows her mother, Elizabeth "Betty" Fern Rathjen was committed against her will to the Stockton Mental Hospital in 1953.

She knows that three years later her mother supposedly walked off the hospital grounds, never to be seen again.

"My mother's life stopped Feb. 19, 1956, at that hospital," Tafoya said.

There are no records of Rathjen on the Nationwide Death Index or of having ever received Social Security benefits after 1956.

Please see SEARCH, News 7



TUE NAM TOH — MediaNews staff

JOYCE TAFOYA has been searching for her mother, Elizabeth Fern Rathjen, since she went missing in 1956 from the Stockton Mental Hospital.

the following, "These remains represent 2,500 unidentified remains from Stockton State Mental Hospital - 1990." Well, Tammy and I looked at each other and were appalled. I called my contact Bill Holland with the State Department of Mental Health and asked him if he could explain this incident to me. His explanation was, "I told you before the Stockton State Mental Hospital kept lousy records." I believe the Holocaust gave a recorded list of deceased names. Was this too much for Stockton State Mental Hospital to respectably do? The hospital closed between 1995 and 1996.

Now I had to wonder whether my Mother was one of the cremated remains at the Stockton Rural Cemetery, or was she one of the full bodied skeletons that had been thrown in the mass grave on the State Hospital Property. This gave me all the more reason to find out what really happened to my mother and why "Did Somebody do Somebody Wrong?"

Because my Mother, as a missing person, had not been found within five years a San Joaquin County Judge proclaimed my Mother deceased. He then presented my Attorney, Mike Babitske, a court order to send to Sacramento, to obtain a Delayed Death Certificate with the date of death which was 1956, the date my mother became missing, and the place of death, which was the Stockton State Mental Hospital.

This gives my case more substance for she was declared deceased on the date she became missing on their turf. This is 'another major accomplishment.'

After the Judge made his declaration, Tammy and I went to the Social Security Office in Stockton. Using my Mother's social security number the clerk gave me printouts disclosing no activity after 1940, and no requests for a new card or a new Social Security number. I then swallowed hard and at that point, I truly believed my mother to be deceased.

I have spent a substantial amount of money in this search for my mother. My lawyer, Mike, wants

more money to pursue the DNA of the two bodies that fit my mother's description and this would entail another court date. My Uncle Bud and I had a DNA test in March 2012. Hopefully, this would give me the answer I so desire.



Bill McDonald, USMC c. 1944

Thank God for the day I walked into the Pleasanton Library to meet with a lady to help me update my resume. She had cancelled my appointment that evening, and while it was being rescheduled at the information desk, I saw a flyer about genealogy. I asked the lady at the desk about it and she introduced me to Lois Barber, a member of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, who volunteers as a genealogy docent for the Pleasanton Library. I have become acquainted and worked with Lois and other L-AGS docents, Patrick Lofft,

Frank Geasa, and Debbie Mascot. I have also worked with Eliza Bullard, a genealogist and family historian who is a coordinator and web site designer for the Alpine County GenWeb Project. Now I am doing genealogy as another new beginning in my search for my family. "It's truly a challenge."

The Friday before Memorial Day 2012 I received an email from Frank Geasa: "Have a Nice Memorial Day; I think I found your Marine." Well you can imagine I never slept that night.

I returned to the Alameda County Courthouse and petitioned the court to open my sealed adoption records. Hopefully, this would give me closure by my being able to see my original birth certificate. At a later date there may be another article which will show beyond a reasonable doubt this McDonald, World War II Marine, is my Father. All of this may have happened because of the many people I have met and worked with including the help of the wonderful L-AGS docents and my friend, Eliza.

On Friday, October 19, 2012 Eliza wrote to me: "Hi, Joyce, I have developed a quasi-relationship

with a few of your cousins through our correspondence. Therefore, I took the liberty of writing to the two most doubtful of your cousins. I hope that you will not be offended that I have done so. I wanted them to hear the facts from me, so that I might erase some of their doubts, as far as your blood relationship to them. I also wanted them to have a clear, concise picture of the pertinent facts in this case. I hope that you will be happy with what I have written. Kind Regards, Eliza Bullard.”

Also on Friday, October 19, 2012, my partial birth records arrived. In writing, my father never denied being my father. Lois from the Vital Records Department in Long Beach, where my records are,

**“Also on Friday,
October 19, 2012,
my partial birth records arrived.”**

kindly sent me the info I needed for which I am ever so very grateful to her as I am to Frank Geasa. I also received a copy of my birth certificate from Vital Records that Lois sent to me and his name is on my birth certificate. I have been so very happy and crying with happiness for this is what I have been praying for ever since April when I found out his first name and petitioned the court for my records to be unsealed. I also asked for my original birth certificate, but it will probably take months to receive it. I have the birth certificate with his name on it from Lois in Long Beach Vital Records.

Alien Case Files (A-Files)

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) began issuing each alien an Alien Registration number in 1940, and on April 1, 1944, began using this number to create individual case files, called Alien Files or A-Files. Alien Case Files (A-Files) contain all records of any active case of an alien not yet naturalized as they passed through the United States immigration and inspection process. Alien residents of the United States who interacted with the INS after 1944 **may** have had an A-File. A-Files might also be created without any action taken by the alien; for example, if the INS initiated a law enforcement action against or involving the alien.

On June 3, 2009, the National Archives and Records Administration and United States Citizenship and Immigration Services signed an agreement to make the A-Files a permanent series of records. A-Files will be transferred in five-year blocks to National Archives custody 100 years after the alien’s year of birth.

The National Archives at San Francisco and the National Archives at Kansas City currently maintain over 350,000 individual A-Files for persons born in 1910 and before. Because of strong interest and advocacy for the A-files by local research communities and their congressional representatives, the National Archives at San Francisco will maintain A-Files controlled by INS district offices located in San Francisco, Honolulu, Reno, and Guam. However, researchers seeking individuals who may

have lived in these areas should check the holdings of both the San Francisco and Kansas City facilities.

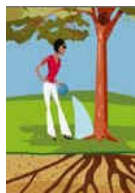
San Francisco: <http://tinyurl.com/bxah8ja>

Kansas City: <http://tinyurl.com/archo98>

A rich source of biographical information, A-Files may include visas, photographs, affidavits, and correspondence leading up to an alien's naturalization, permanent residency, or deportation. Some A-Files contain records consolidated from older immigration case file series – such as Chinese Exclusion Act era case files – currently open for public research at the National Archives. A-Files may be viewed in person by visiting the National Archives at San Francisco or Kansas City **by appointment**. Researchers must submit a written request at least three business days in advance of their desired appointment. Written requests must include all information required for record requests as stated at the above referenced websites. Copies of files may be ordered for a fee, minimum reproductions via mail order (up to 25 pages) \$20.00. Researchers should search the Archival Research Catalog (ARC) to find out if NARA currently has an A-File for a specific individual.

For more information about how the A-Files, including how to search for and request copies of individual A-Files, please visit

<http://tinyurl.com/aycuo4q>



G. R. O. W.

Genealogy Resources On the Web —

The Page That Helps Genealogy Grow!

Compiled by Susan Johnston and Kay Speaks

FOCUS ON: LOCAL LIBRARIES

IRL (In real life), the local library was usually the first stop a genealogist made when he or she visited an ancestral home. Our virtual research would benefit from a visit, too.

Massachusetts: The *Acton Memorial Library*, <http://www.actonmemoriallibrary.org/>, includes scanned images and exact transcriptions of the Early Town Records, 1735-1764. Its Civil War Archives is an impressive resource and even includes the records of the Isaac Davis Post No. 138 G.A.R. Find these under the menu heading, "Online Historical Collections."

New York: Head to the *Monroe County Library System*, <http://tinyurl.com/babxnqz>, and check all the resources under the menu heading, "Local History." The "Rochester Newspaper Index" is a great help when searching the scanned images of the *Historical Newspapers of the Rochester, New York Region*, <http://www.rlcnewspapers.org/>.

Maryland: The *Washington County Free Library*, <http://www.washcolibrary.org/>, includes an impressive collection of databases under the menu heading, "Local History," but be sure to check out the digital collections in their online library: <http://www.whilbr.org/>.

Ohio: Visit the *Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County*, <http://www.cincinnati.library.org/>. Access their Veterans History Project from the top menu heading, "Research & Homework." Access their Virtual Library from the side menu and take a look at the impressive collection of city directories, yearbooks and Cincinnati fire insurance maps.

Indiana: Visit any local library in Indiana and you're likely to find something unique for genealogists. The *Muncie Public Library's* digital resources area includes a wonderful collection of scanned images: <http://tinyurl.com/a9r5pz5>.

Illinois: The *Wilmette Public Library's* Local

History and Genealogy Resources department, <http://tinyurl.com/a8z9mlb>, contains photographs, newspapers, maps, and even letters from area "forty-niners." All are indexed and readily accessible.

Michigan: Although some of the *Ann Arbor District Library's* genealogy databases require a library card to access, the local history page is open to all: <http://tinyurl.com/gpmmh>. Be sure to check out the abolitionist newspaper, *Signal of Liberty*.

Tennessee: Head to the *Nashville Public Library*, <http://www.library.nashville.org/>, and investigate their holdings via the menu heading, "Local History & Info." The digital collections include the Nashville City Cemetery Burial Lot Cards, as well as other great resources.

Colorado: The *Denver Public Library's* Western History and Genealogy section, <http://history.denverlibrary.org/>, deserves more than a brief paragraph. Explore!

British Columbia: As a reminder that the U.S. is not the only place in the world, visit the *Vancouver Public Library*, <http://www.vpl.ca/>. Digital resources can be found via the "Genealogy Resources" link in the "Explore Online Resources" menu at the bottom of the page.

WHAT'S NEW AT ...

FamilySearch: Are you researching San Mateo families? Check out the browse-only collection, "California, San Mateo County Records, 1855-1991." Among the records are coroner's reports, deeds, marriage license applications, naturalization petitions, and World War II era Army and Navy discharge records.

Ancestry: Investigate the *U.S., Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971*, a digital reproduction of NARA microfilm publication M841. If searching by location, enter the county name in the state field and/or the city name in the county field. Hopefully, *Ancestry* will fix this.

Review of Dori Anderson's *Pathways to Livermore*

By Judy Person

Due to appreciation of Dick Finn's encouragement, Dori Drake Anderson donated to the Pleasanton Library a copy of her family history book of the Livermore Valley and surrounding areas, *Pathways to Livermore: Owen, Meyers and Taylor Families of Alameda County, California*.

The Owen family began in Anglesey, an island off the northwest coast of Wales, and descendants moved on to Liverpool, the busy port, and eventually on to San Francisco in 1850. William Roberts, raised by the Owen family, opened a ship landing at San Lorenzo Creek, on the bay, and "Squattersville" became Roberts Landing, and then San Lorenzo in 1854. She notes that Dublin, Dougherty Station, Pleasanton, Murray Township and Laddsville, which later became Livermore, grew up to serve those on the way to the Mother Lode. Young Mister Roberts persuaded some Owen relatives to join him in California. Owen Owen (sic) helped organize the First Presbyterian Church with the Odd Fellows in Laddsville in 1871.

The youngest Owen daughter from Wales married Jay Dutcher in 1877. He was an apprentice blacksmith with Dutcher & Heslep in Livermore, later opening a carriage shop. His brother Norris Dutcher opened a hardware store in Livermore in 1876. Mrs. Drake Anderson notes that there would be three generations of Norris Dutchers in Livermore, the last two descending from Norris, Sr. There are Owens, Taylors and other relatives in the Dublin Pioneer Cemetery, and the Victorian home of William Roberts is still occupied on the south side of Llewelling Boulevard in San Lorenzo.

The Meyers family from Germany, through Pennsylvania, arrived in Alameda County in the late 1850s and settled in Alvarado, later relocating to Livermore. They became founding members of the Livermore Presbyterian Church. Their children went to the school in a Victorian home on South L Street near the corner of Fifth Street, where the Veterans Memorial Building now

stands. Jacob Meyers was also a member of IOOF. He and his sons began building properties, many of them on L Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets. He was Livermore's Mayor in 1889 (Anne Homan's book is cited here) and members of his family all had houses built on L Street. Jacob's son-in-law bought pieces of land in the Dry Creek area in the Hayward Hills which later were gifted by the Meyers sisters to become the Garin Ranch part of the East Bay Regional Park System.

Henry H. Meyers designed over 200 buildings in the Bay Area and beyond, designing the first steel frame building in San Francisco, which became the prototype for others after the Quake. He designed the Foresters' Hall, Arroyo Sanitarium, Livermore Grammar School and Veterans' Hall in Livermore, Pleasanton, Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Niles, Oakland and San Leandro, and the old buildings at Ruby Hill Vineyard. He also designed churches and schools.

Andrew J. Taylor married Catherine Owen, and their children and Catherine moved to Livermore where she took in boarders after A. J.'s death. Their descendants lived along long L Street and had as close friends the Reid, Stevenson, and Knox families.

Photos and copies of news articles are included, relating to these people, some of whom were very prominent citizens. The book includes descendancy charts of each main family.

The family names include: Owen, Meyers, Taylor, Roberts, Blackwood, Schuyler (sic?), Murphy, Ludwig, Ebright, Dutcher, Scott, Warren, Sanderson, Bailey, Bernal, Packard, Peterson, and Bentley. *Pathways to Livermore: Owen, Meyers and Taylor Families of Alameda County, California* is available as a hardcover book with dust-jacket from Lulu.com for \$30.86:

<http://tinyurl.com/8lcn3mc>

We thank Mrs. Drake Anderson for this most interesting insight into our local history and genealogy.

Members Helping Members

By Frank Geasa, Lois Barber and Richard Finn

[Editor's note: Certain private information about the researchers, including their real names, has been modified.]

I assisted two researchers. The first was James, who was at the library for some other function, saw our sign and took about 20 minutes with me. He indicated he was selected by his family to receive the family history data gathered on various papers, to try putting it in order, fill it out, etc. He asked about genealogy software available to organize the data. Since he has an Apple Mac, I suggested he might want to look at Reunion and told him we had a few users in L-AGS who might be able to offer assistance should he have questions. He is starting by looking for his ancestral family on both coasts going back from 1940. He didn't have much time so I gave him one of our brochures and suggested he join us. I believe he said he lived just the other side of the creek from our meeting place.

Even before James left the second patron Andy arrived. Andy has traced the line of his family's ancestry back to arrival in the Cape Fear area of North Carolina in the mid-1600s. The area was settled by groups brought over from Scotland (shades of another researcher's search). Andy wants to find the ship's passenger list for their arrival. He has the name of a ship someone has put out there but we couldn't find it on the Immigrant Ship Transcribers Guild, Ancestry, or Olive Tree.

Andy also wants to expand his work to the siblings of his ancestor in North Carolina and to get further documentation on all of the family who served in the Revolution. I showed him how to get into the DAR site, how to use the digital books on Heritage Quest, how to use NARA, USGenweb, etc., etc. Since he also has Italian heritage (Sicilian) I showed him a few sites from there. Finally I introduced him to the books on our shelves. I spent almost 3 hours with him.

As I have done with James, I also gave Andy one of our brochures and later sent him a list of free web sites along with several sites his wife might use to trace her Nova Scotia heritage.

I had a couple of interesting people stop by. The first was Cathy. She has been looking for a missing aunt for over 30 years. It seems her father Jasper, aka William, farmed out his three daughters. Cathy of course knew her mother and also was able to locate her older aunt but has not been able to find what happened to the youngest girl. She was named Barbara at birth in Detroit. In April 1927, the parents left their daughters at different places in town.

Well after three weeks of no researchers to help, last night was a feast. In fact a friend stopped by. I printed a couple of copies of the 1940 census for her so I pointed out that my showing up was not a total waste. Soon after I arrived Marie came by. She has a relative but no birth or death record. She does have a marriage notice. We did not find anything useful for her.

Next came Caspar. Both of his parents died before he was 17. All of his parents' siblings are also deceased. He does have a brother with whom he has had a falling out, but he is hoping to reestablish a relationship. He has no pictures or family memorabilia and desperately wants some. We found some census records and his father's military information. I found his father's obit in the Bridgeport Post in Connecticut. It appears that everyone has lived in the same house where his grandparents lived. If he requests his father's military records is he likely to find a photograph of him there? I think Caspar will be returning to look around now that he knows about the genealogy computers.

A high school student stopped by wanting to find her grandparents. All she knew were their names. After we found a grandmother and a grandfather (not a couple) in the 1940 census the second grandfather couldn't be found. Before she came in I had been looking at Facebook. I left her at the computer and moved to the second one, logged back into Facebook and there was her person, picture and all. I gather she was not close to this person as she kept exclaiming how she couldn't believe that he was on Facebook. He was too young to appear in the 1940 census but she didn't have that information.

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

March 12, 7:30 p.m.

Tim Cox, CGS

Fun Tools to Help Genealogists Work Smarter

April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Teresa Costa Fraser

Maps and Land Records

May 14, 7:30 p.m.

Debbie Connor Mascot &
Jane Southwick

Self-Publication Process

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