

# *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

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

### *Patrons*

Sandra Clark, Madelon Palma, Cheryl Speaks, and Duncan Tanner.

### *Benefactors*

Kristine Ahuja, Sandra Caulder, Marilyn A. Cutting,  
Linda Driver & Walt Crawford, Richard & Wanda Finn,  
Richard & Jean Lerche, Cindy McKenna, Ileen Peterson, Peggy Weber

Total L-AGS Members as of October 7, 2013: 148 Memberships and 174 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>

### **Study Group Chair** *Vacant*

*study.chair@L-AGS.org*

**Study Group Forum** *study.group@L-AGS.org*

**The Master Genealogist Group** meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at 7077 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 110, Pleasanton.

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

### **TV-TMG Chair** (Kay Speaks)

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### **TV-TMG Forum**

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## 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*

### **Business Manager**

*business@L-AGS.org*

### **Corresponding Secretary**

### **Recording Secretary**

### **Marilyn Cutting**

### **Patricia Northam**

### **Helen Benham-Gallagher and Deborah McMenamin**

### **Duncan Tanner**

### **Cheryl Palmer**

### **Julie Liu**

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## A Message from our President

They say (and I don't know who "they" are) that "time flies when you are having fun." We sure must be having fun because fall is suddenly in the air – cooler evenings and autumn colors in abundance. One may even get more research done as the days are shorter and cooler so we tend to be indoors more of the time. Besides that, at my house there are way too many football games on TV, so I can escape to my research "cave."

I am writing this article prior to the October Heritage Happening events to be held at the various libraries in the Tri-Valley area, but I am confident that this major undertaking was a huge success. To Patrick, Dick, Teresa, and ALL the volunteers, including members of L-AGS, DAR and SRVGS a big THANK YOU! for all your efforts. These events would not have been successful if not for ALL of you.

I want to remind everyone that the December meeting is a chance for members to share their stories of how you had an "ah ha" moment when doing research. Be sure to let Pat Northam know if you would like to share a story with the membership. You can reach her at [program@l-ags.org](mailto:program@l-ags.org). I know that it will be an interesting time of sharing for all of us.

Also at the December meeting is the election of the president and board for 2014. Please consider stepping up and taking on a board position. It will help you to expand your horizons and will help L-AGS maintain its position as the dynamic genealogical society that it is. Please contact Jane Southwick, if you are willing to help, at [southwickj@comcast.net](mailto:southwickj@comcast.net).

I will take this opportunity to thank all of you who became new members this year. Also a huge thank you to all our dedicated members who have served on the board and those who chaired the many committees for their on-going contributions to L-AGS. I have truly enjoyed serving as your president these past two years; it would not have been possible without your dedication and support.

Sincerely,  
*Marilyn Cutting*

### In Memoriam

*In Honor of Robert (Bob) Allen Ware, November 10, 1925 – July 21, 2013*

Robert was born in his family's residence in Takoma Park, Maryland. He was the youngest child of his parents, Hext Perry Ware and Katherine Beatrice Ware. Robert's parents and three siblings predeceased him.

Robert conducted a 71 year quest for his family history. It began with his father relating the oral history as he knew it. Robert picked up the gauntlet, so to speak, and gathered thirty-five generations of his ancestors that were rich in English and Scottish history back to the year 900. He was most proud of the fact that seven of his eight great grandparents descended from colonial families. He proudly referred to himself as a Colonial-American.

Bob was a very active L-AGS member as Publications Chairperson and participant in the Computer Interest Group. He was the featured presenter of his RESEARCH IN ENGLAND on November 12, 1991. His articles appeared in the *Roots Tracer* of May 2007, May 2010 and February 2011.

He was interred at the San Joaquin Valley National Cemetery with military honors.

### *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](mailto: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*

**Editor** ..... Patrick Lofft  
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 ..... Susan G. Johnston, Kay Speaks

## Putting the Puzzle Pieces Together

By Anne Newman Les

A long search for my missing paternal grandmother led to a Baxter family in Westchester County, New York. For some reason my parents had never mentioned Minerva Thirza Baxter, who became the wife of my grandfather, Carroll Glengard Newman. I found the marriage certificate of C. G. Newman and Minerva on my first trip to Salt Lake City with the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society. About eight ladies were traveling together from Santa Barbara. I had studied the Soundex system and was ready to look at some microfilms.



C.G. Newman family, left to right – Betsy, C.G., Anne, Margaret

I started with three films with marriage certificates for the area concerned. I decided to pick the middle film and within ten minutes the certificate I wanted showed up. I recognized my grandfather's signature and was astounded to see that Minerva Thirza Baxter, age 32, was from New York. I had no trouble reading every word which also included her mother's maiden name. This led me to search many generations of Baxters in Westchester County. I truly believe that Minerva was sitting on my shoulder as I cranked the reel.

Because of this knowledge I have researched many generations of the Baxters and their spouses. I even met one cousin when he answered an e-mail inquiry. After an extensive e-mail dialog, I asked where he was located and it turned out he was living 50 miles away from Lompoc, California where I lived at the time! We met at several events in Santa Barbara.

The 1870 Census for Bradford County, Pennsylvania showed 'Glen' was two years old and living with his parents and three other siblings. In 1880 he was still with them. By 1900 he is listed in Pennsylvania still with his parents, but is also

STATE OF NEW YORK	
<p>by me in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, in the City of New York this <u>fourteenth</u> day of <u>March</u> 1911</p> <p>Witness my hand and the seal of the City of New York this <u>fourteenth</u> day of <u>March</u> 1911</p> <p>Minerva Thirza Baxter Richard B. Mathias</p>	
Date of Marriage	March 14 <sup>th</sup> 1901
Groom's Full Name	Carroll Glengard Newman
Bride's Name	New York City
Age	32
Color	White
State of Residence	Singles
Profession	Carroll Newman
Profession of Bride	Edwin Newman
Place of Birth	Lincoln Spalding
Place of Birth of Bride	First
Full Name	Minerva Thirza Baxter
Residence	Westchester N.Y. City
Age	32
Color	White
State of Residence	Singles
Profession	Westchester N.Y. City
Profession of Bride	John W. Baxter
Place of Birth	Mary R. DeRish
Place of Birth of Bride	First
Witnesses	Richard B. Mathias
Witnesses	Glengard
Witnesses	Westchester N.Y. City

Marriage Register, New York City March 1901

Edwin Newman

- b. 1822 Eaton, Wyoming, Pennsylvania
- d. 1922 Canton Bradford, Pennsylvania
- m. 1853 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania

Lois Bradford Spalding

- b. 1829 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1909 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania

4 children in bold:

**George Ernest Newman**

- b. 1855 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1941 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania

**Clyde Harding Newman**

- b. 1860 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1937 Buffalo, Erie, New York

**Jesse May Newman**

- b. 1861 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1947 Florida
- m. 1884 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania

Frank W. Secrist

- b. 1861 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1908 Fort Collins, Larimer, Colorado

**Carroll Glengard Newman**

- b. 1867 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1964 Troy, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- m. 1901 Westchester, New York City, New York

Minerva Thirza Baxter

- b. 1868 Westchester, New York
- d. 1923 Danville, Montour, Pennsylvania
- m. 2, 1926 Elmira, Chemung, New York

2 children in bold

**Ernest Harding Newman**

- b. 1902 Pittsburgh Pennsylvania
- d. 1971 Williamsport, Lycoming, Pennsylvania
- m. 1938

Eveyn Mott

- b. 1911 Canton, Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1975 Troy, Bradford, Pennsylvania

**Edwin Stuart Newman**

- b. 1906 Canton Bradford, Pennsylvania
- d. 1997 Laurel, Prince George, Maryland
- m. 1930 Emeryville, Armstrong, Pennsylvania

Margaret F. Emery

- b. 1912 Eddyville, Armstrong, Pennsylvania

5 children

**Edwin S. Newman, Jr.** Oakland, California

**Margaret Anne Newman,** Riverside, California

**Thomas G. Newman,** District of Columbia

**John T. Newman,** District of Columbia

**Alice Elizabeth,** District of Columbia

found in New York City and is listed as a boarder (age 40?) and working as a telegraph operator. Apparently his landlord just guessed at his age. The marriage certificate in 1901 shows him to be 32 and says his residence is New York City. That must be where he met Minerva.

My father, Edwin Stuart Newman, the son of Minerva and C. G., had a brother, whose birth certificate states his first name was Thomas at birth. The parents' names and the date were correct as December 30, 1902. It turned out that he was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. When Minerva and C. G. contacted his family in Canton, Pennsylvania his parents, Edwin and Lois, begged Minerva and C.G. to name their first son (named Thomas on the birth certificate) after C.G.'s elder bachelor brother, George Ernest, and thus Ernest Harding was always Uncle Ernie to me. But I wondered why they had gone from Bronx, New York, to Pittsburgh. Time will tell.

Minerva died in 1923 at Danville State Hospital, primarily a mental institution. The institution was still in operation in 2000 but they would not say why she was there or who had admitted her. She is buried in Canton, Pennsylvania. Since she had been at Danville since 1906 or 1907, there are indications that she might have had Post-Partum Depression which is normally treated now and women continue with their family. Letters from her sisters have indicated their concern for her and a sister who died shortly after the birth of her 4th child. Both Edwin and Ernest, children of Minerva and C. G., were brought up by relatives in Canton.

Pauline Newman, a cousin of my grandfather, made a book of sorts with many items from the local newspapers about the Newmans. At this time she was living in Florida, but she sent me two pages of information about my side of the Newmans. One was about C. G. Newman's second marriage in 1926 and another was about his retirement from the Postal Telegraph Co after 50 years!

The following are Pauline's notes and some hints to the puzzle's solutions which are creeping in the doorway.

She writes of the second marriage of C.G. in April 1926 Elmira, New York:



“The marriage of Mrs. Louise Becker and Glen Newman was solemnized Monday (Apr. 12, 1926) at 11 Lake St., Dr. R. Lew Williams performing the ceremony. The bridegroom is an employee of the Postal Telegraph Co.”

Pauline’s notes about the retirement of C.G., probably in 1950:

“Culminating 50 years’ service with Postal Telegraph-Cable Company, 843 Decker Av., Elmira, Carroll Glen Newman retires on a pension Wednesday. He has been operator manager at the Elmira Office since 1925 coming here from Olean where he was office manager 15 years. Prior to

that he had worked in New York, Buffalo and Pittsburg. A large number of telegrams from persons with whom he had worked in the past were received. The article goes on to say he was honored at a party at Watkins Glen, Sunday, given by office employees and presented with a pipe and tobacco pouch.”

That explains why he relocated to New York City, then to Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Elmira. Few dates are in the notes to reveal when his second wife may have died. I have a photo from 1951 with my mother, my sister and myself in Maryland. So that might be shortly after his retirement.

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## New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

1. 929.2 LINDENMEYER. Lindenmeyer, Ruth Gates, 1908-2001. *The Cockerton story: the Mathew Cockerton family and their descendants in America,*



1849-1993 / by Ruth Gates Lindenmeyer; edited and compiled by Linda A. Driver.

2. 929.2 ANNA. Anna Julia Young: autobiography / compiled and edited by Linda A. Driver.

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## Separating Wheat from Chaff: The Cockerton Story

By Linda A. Driver

In 1991, I was seeking information about the Cockertons—my paternal grandmother’s family who settled in Livermore in 1868. A cousin put me in touch with Ruth Gates Lindenmeyer, my grandmother’s first cousin and daughter of Essie Cockerton Gates. Ruth graciously provided me with some of her notes about the Cockerton family and went on to create a history called “The Cockerton Story.” The typewritten manuscript was finished in 1993 and in the intervening years has been photocopied and circulated among extended family members.

Ruth researched her family history the hard way, manually wading through census records and newspaper images on microfilm. Since 1993, a wealth of information has become available online, including census records from England, passenger and voter registration records, and

many more resources, giving us a more accurate picture of the Cockertons—where they came from, their journey to the United States from Soham, in county Cambridgeshire, England, and their eventual arrival in Livermore, California.

Ruth’s narrative was a combination of family stories that she heard as a child and adult, historical records and speculation. Ruth made best guesses based on the information she had available, but unluckily some of those guesses proved to be incorrect, and Ruth dramatized some of the events to make her narrative more entertaining—but consequently less reliable. At times it was difficult to know how much of the tale came from family members’ recollections and how much was from Ruth’s imagination. As one cousin commented, the work had many

*Continued on page 19*

Roots Redux

## The Epic Travels of Orrin Smith, California Mormon Pioneer

By George Anderson

Barbara Wills wrote an article for the Roots Tracer in 2006 that stands as a model for what such articles should be. It is a well-written, interesting story. It is good genealogy, with careful citation of sources. There are relevant images. And it relates how her ancestor took part in some of the most significant events in California history.

The article is found at:

[http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol\\_26\\_4.html#Orrin](http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_26_4.html#Orrin)

Jane Southwick was editor of the Roots Tracer in 2006. She wrote in an introduction to Barbara's article:

L-AGS Member Barbara Wills is a descendant of sturdy pioneers who, along with 240 other Mor-

mons, settled in the San Francisco Bay Area in 1846, a year before Brigham Young led his wagon train into the Salt Lake Valley. Barbara has recently finished a carefully documented biography of these pioneer ancestors, her great-great-grandparents Orrin Smith and his wife, Amy Ann Dowd.

I was Web editor of the Roots Tracer at that time. I am embarrassed to see that the formatting of Barbara's article in the archived copy cited above seems clumsier than what I used originally, probably due to some change in the default settings in use now. The content has not changed.

I recommend an enjoyable and inspiring re-reading of Barbara's story.

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## Book Review: Reunion, A Search for Ancestors by Ryan Littrell

By Deborah Conner Mascot

Often, genealogy books fall into one of two categories: how-to or historical fiction. While I enjoy both, it was refreshing to find an author who was able to walk the reader through the hunt for ancestors, sharing the trials and tribulations we all go through as we chase our lines back through generations.

Mr. Littrell has a gift of merging words into sentences and sentences into eloquently described feelings—feelings that mirror mine exactly as I search for my own ancestors. “And all around was the chance, like a ghost, that an ancestor has walked there! This far west, this far north, some MacDonalDs must have lived. Maybe right here...”

From beginning to end, the author walks the reader through his proofs and disproofs of family legends, stories and records. As he found a new item, my heartbeat would speed up, as if it were my own find about my own family. The writing of these parts was moving and I enjoyed spending



my time researching his family with him by reading his words.

If it were only this, I would have still loved this book. But to elevate it to even a more amazing level, every other chapter was devoted to telling the Gaelic story of his MacDonald family in great detail, but written from that time. I was able to learn about Scottish clans and old Scotland, by living it in the stories woven by the author. I thank him for lending me his grandfathers before him and allowing them all to weave a tale for me that make me imagine my own Scottish grandfa-

thers' lives.

You can find this book on Ancestry in a paperback or Kindle version.

<http://tinyurl.com/Reunion-Ryan-Littrell>

*Disclosure: Ryan Littrell sent the author of this article two copies of this book to review—the Kindle version and a paperback version. However, I will share that I have purchased two paperback copies of my own to give as gifts. And I may order a third for another birthday coming up!*

# Infecting a Friend with an Incurable Bug; Launching a family history search

By Danielle Forestier, with most of the writing by Rae Bryant

My birth name was “Dinah Ruth.” I had no middle name. Ruth was my surname, my maiden name. It is a girl’s name; an old fashioned name from the Jazz era Having a first name for a last name is very confusing; especially in elementary and junior high schools. I dreaded the first day of class. Figuring out the seating arrangements and attendance on the first day would usually go something like this:

Teacher: “What is your name?”

Me: “Dinah Ruth.”

Teacher: “What is your last name?”

Me: “Ruth.”

Teacher: “Your last name?”

Me: “Ruth.”

Teacher: “May I have your *last* name, please?”

Me: “Ruth.”

Teacher: “Oooh, Ruth is your last name.”

It was probably funny in a “Who’s on first” sort of way, but for me as a kid, it was definitely not funny. It was embarrassing and I didn’t know how to handle it.

When I married and changed my name, “Ruth” became a part of me that went into the mental filing cabinet sort of space where I didn’t think about it anymore. (Eventually I also changed my first name). I was glad not to have to deal with it. It probably wasn’t any better for my dad, Earl Francis Ruth. It probably was worse. His last name was a girl’s name and his middle name is another girly sounding name “Francis.” As a ‘junior’ he was called ‘Francis’ by his parents, so effectively he had a girl’s name.

Genealogy opens those mental filing cabinets so we think about those names and their histories. So who was this patriarch “Ruth,” my grandfather, whose stories in bits and pieces drifted my way over the years? I had heard a few things: my dad’s dad was an orphan; he may have been an Indian. He might have been a white child adopted by an Indian family. That seemed pretty amazing. He was from Kansas and he made the army his

career. He was in France in World War I where he met and later married and brought back a war bride with the maiden name of “Forestier,” to be my grandmother.

My friend Rae in Texas encouraged me to find the story of this “orphaned Ruth.” In other words, she infected me with a dose of genealogy. We teamed up to find this misunderstood and unappreciated Ruth. It was my first experience with researching a family line. This was in the early 2000’s when family research was more about peering at microfilm machines than computer screens.

Finding my grandfather, Earl Francis, wasn’t too hard in Kansas. According to the 1920 census records he was born in Kansas in the early 1880’s

The image shows two pages of a 1900 Census Schedule. The top page is for Pottawattamie County, Lincoln Township, Kansas, enumerated on the 1st to 4th day. The bottom page is for Jackson County, Grant Township, Kansas, enumerated on the Fourth day. Both pages contain a table with columns for LOCATION, NAME, RELATION, and PERSONAL DESCRIPTION. The names listed include Amanda August, Indira, Clyde A., Beatrice, Della M., Ruth, and Earl.

LOCATION		NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					
IN OTHER	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Color or race	Sex	DATE OF BIRTH	Number of years married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years married	Number of children
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11 12	Amanda August	Wife	W	F	20 Jan 1861	39	20	11
		Indira	Wife	W	F	20 Jul 1861	38	20	11
		Clyde A.	Son	W	M	17 Aug 1894	5	5	5
		Beatrice	Daughter	W	F	17 Oct 1894	5	5	5
		Della M.	Daughter	W	F	17 Aug 1898	1	1	1
		Ruth	Daughter	W	F	17 Oct 1900	0	0	0

LOCATION		NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					
IN OTHER	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	of each person whose place of abode on June 1, 1900, was in this family.	Relationship of each person to the head of the family.	Color or race	Sex	DATE OF BIRTH	Number of years married, widowed, or divorced	Number of years married	Number of children
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	31 32	Ruth Henry	Wife	W	F	20 Mar 1827	72	72	44
		Archie	Son	W	M	1837	62	62	44
		Eva	Daughter	W	F	1877	23	23	23
		Earle	Son	W	M	1879	21	21	21
		Ruth Carl	Servant	W	M	1874	26	26	26

Extract 1900 Census, Kansas, Jackson and Pottawattamie counties



and his father's birth place was Pennsylvania. I couldn't find him in 1910. In 1900 I found him living with the Kroth family, as farm laborer and enumerated again that year in a different family, Aumiller, as a stepson.

Maybe my grandfather was an orphan who came west to live with a Kansas farm family on an Orphan Train. There weren't any Ruth families anywhere near my Earl Francis as a young man or a boy. Who were his parents?

The old Sutro Library in San Francisco was a windowless, uninviting dark brown sort of place. Worn out inside with thin carpet and the lower level crowded with microfilm machines packed into a small space. By all appearances, it didn't inspire confidence that such a place might hold answers to these questions. Tracking Earl Francis was proving to be hard. He wouldn't be in the 1870 or 1880 census because he wasn't born yet. The 1890 Kansas census burned. I was lucky, Kansas has an 1885 Agricultural Census and Sutro Library has the rolls. My friend was with me that day. She was upstairs and I was down deep into microfilm.

The experience of finding something special on microfilm is difficult to describe. Imagine the shock and awe of being the first person to shine a light on the cave drawings of Lascaux. The dark, quiet remoteness of the cave is very intimate. When the light illuminated the dramatic drawings, it shattered the very modern construct of what it means to be human and the human relationship to the physical world. I'm not saying that when you find a special page on the microfilm that the whole world will shift, but inside you a neuron will shift. You adjust and widen your understanding of what was always there, but hidden in the rolls of dark film. Now you can experience a truth about the past that has always been there

SCHEDULE 1		Inhabitant in the Township of <u>Arcade</u>		Page No. <u>16</u>	
Post Office <u>Phillipsburg</u>		M. D. <u>Orange</u> Assessor.			
1	2	3	4	5	6
11	10	Ruth Maria A.	23	.	1
11		Carl A.	1	M	"
1		Larry Obed	69	M	A

Extract from 1875 Phillips County, Kansas State census, pgs. 16, 19

### Edmund Sylvester Ruth Family

Edmund Sylvester Ruth,  
 b. 1849, Cherry Tree, Indiana, Pennsylvania  
 d. 1909, Provolt, Grants Pass, Jackson, Oregon  
 m. 2nd, 1881, Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas  
 Marie Antoinette Garvey  
 b. 1861, Bedford, Lawrence, Indiana;

Earl Francis Ruth,  
 b. 1883, Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas  
 d. 1936, Kickapoo, Leavenworth, Kansas  
 m. 1920, Saint Loubes, Gironde, France  
 Marie Germaine Forestier  
 b. 1900, Petit Bordeaux, Izon, France  
 d. 1988, Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida

Earl Francis Ruth, Jr.  
 b. 1921, Fort Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas  
 d. 1997, Oakland, Alameda, California  
 m. 1942, Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri  
 Dorothy Margaret Steil  
 b. 1919 Mason City, Cerro Gordo, Iowa  
 d. 1999, Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut

Daughter: Danielle Forestier (née Dinah Ruth)  
 Daughter: Jetta Ruth  
 Son: Mark (née Ruth) Toms

and open yourself to how that page entry changes your idea of your own past.

On that 1885 Kansas Census, in the western prairie township of Arcade, there was an entry for Maria A. (Nettie) Ruth, a young woman with a little boy, Earl Francis, living as housekeeper with an older man, Obediah Garvey. Was this her father? The light from the microfilm machine illuminated them for the first time. I recognized her name and age as being the later Nettie Aumiller in the Kansas 1900 census. She was obviously his mother, but did that mean that Earl Francis was indeed an orphan? Finding out answers in genealogy usually leads to more questions, as we all know.

We looked at the entry for a long time. We imagined Nettie in a dugout with a toddler and no husband. Life had to be incredibly hard for everyone, but a young woman in a world that broke men with hardship was sobering. The lighted

words shifted the story from Earl Francis as the lead character to Nettie Ruth. I may have been the first person to look for them ever in that census since it was taken in 1885. The microfilm light illuminated their lives and situation for the first time in 116 years.



Knowing her age and location, I was able to quickly find a marriage record for Nettie Garvey and E. S. Ruth. The

older man in the 1885 census was indeed her father. The Garvey family is well-documented and I followed Nettie's family back to North Carolina. But E.S. Ruth, he was the mystery man. Was his first name Earl like my grandfather? Who was his father? There didn't appear to be any Ruth men fitting his demographic or location. Yet, there wasn't any record of an E.S. Ruth being killed or dying in any Kansas records.

Now I knew to focus my efforts on E.S. Ruth in Phillips County, Kansas within a window of the early 1870s and 1880's to find any other records. Through the Oakland Library Interlibrary loan program I was able to look at a microfilm of Phillipsburg Kansas newspapers in good condition. There was a long article about the big Fourth of July Celebration with all the Union Veterans attending listed. Many Union veterans settled in Kansas because their enlistment time applied to the Homestead Act. That meant many veterans would own their land within a year or so of settlement. On the list was E. S. Ruth. This was another time when I stared at the screen for a long time to absorb the meaning of the illuminated words. My E.S. Ruth was a Civil War veteran and that meant he would have military records. It was another one of those moments where finding out one piece opens up a whole new way of thinking.

E.S. Ruth was not only a mystery man for me, but when the Union Army records arrived; he was a mystery to his own family. E.S. Ruth was a man who over the course of his life, reinvented himself

and in doing so, created serial families. Edmund Sylvester Ruth was born in Pennsylvania and married. His wife died from a fever when their children were very young, he left his two children with his wife's family and he headed west to Kansas.

There he married my great grandmother Nettie Garvey and they had

two boys. I found a grave record so I knew the first little boy died. E.S. abandoned Nettie and went prospecting through the southwest. At some point he moves to Washington State and marries legitimately for the third time and has another family. He died in 1905. The third wife applied for a pension under his name. Before awarding the pension there were many depositions and the third wife and the Pennsylvania family swore up and down and on a stack of Bibles that they didn't know anything about any other living wife. In one sense the 'orphan' story was true-Earl Francis' father left them when he was a toddler.

The Union military record gave information relating to Edmund's parents, Peter and Maria Ruth. I was able to find them in several census records and quickly determined that Maria was part of another well-documented family, the Gibboneys.

Under Rae's tutelage my paternal line was complete for four generations. I was infected with the genealogy bug; I knew the basics of looking for the documents to verify the family stories and legends of my ancestors. The family story of the white orphan adopted by a Native American family turned out to be fiction: neither was he an orphan nor was he a Native American, the family had merely lived near an Indian reservation. I had found the names and vitals of my most recent ancestors and laid romantic family stories to rest as flourishes.

But who were Edmund Sylvester Ruth's grandparents...? (To be continued!)

## Grampa got a book of his ancestors, If I can do it, anyone can!

By Debbie Conner Mascot

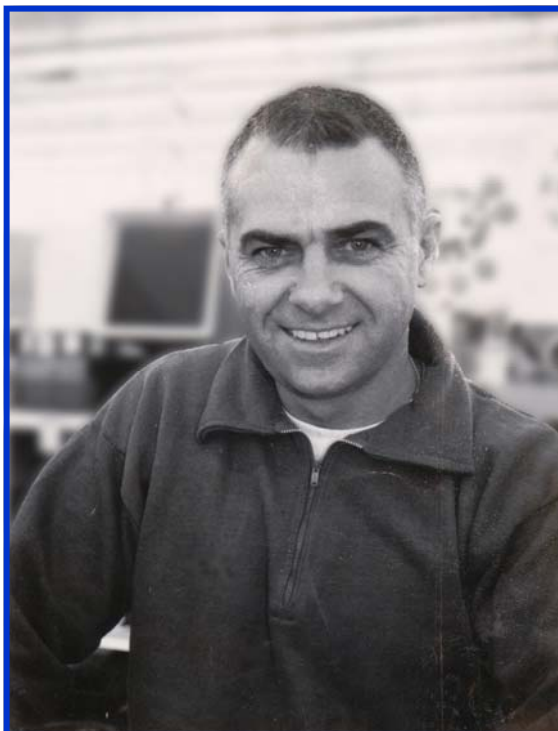
I began my genealogy adventure in 1998 when I wanted to make a plaque for my grandfather, Pierre Conner, of his descendants and I couldn't get the spacing right. I bought a computer program (on a floppy disk!) and mapped everyone out. I'm a type A personality, so when there were blank spots for Grampa's parents, I didn't leave them blank. And so on and so on and so on. Now it's nearly twenty years later and instead of getting a plaque of his descendants, Grampa got a book of his ancestors.

I help with the L-AGS eBulletin, the writing group and the lunch 'n' learn group. I volunteer with the California Genealogical Society and take classes through the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. I work full time in the insurance industry and have two children, ages 10 and 7, that my husband and I home school. I lead two 4-H groups and volunteer with our 4-H club. I tell you all of this so that you know that if I can publish a book, anyone can!

At the L-AGS May general meeting Jane Southwick and I spoke about all the stages of writing and the different paths we each followed to get to our resulting books. In case you missed the meeting, I thought I'd share my writing adventure with you via the *Roots Tracer*.

Writing my book began in August 2011 with a Facebook message from my aunt in Seattle. She told me that I needed to come up there as Grampa, who was 92 years old at the time—was going to get rid of his pictures. I was there within two weeks and by the time I got there; Grampa had

decided to keep the pictures. I spent three days using my FlipPal© mobile scanner to scan over 500 of Grampa's pictures that he had in shoeboxes and manila envelopes. As I'd scan a photo, I'd write in my notebook the story Grampa was telling me about the next picture. I also had small Post-It notes that I would jot a quick reminder on and scan with the picture, so I knew which pic-



*Grampa, Pierre William Conner*

ture went with which story. Each evening after Grampa retired, I'd organize the original pictures we went through that day into photo boxes sorted by category. When I got home, I tagged each picture, named the files with the names and tickler information, and wrote out the stories in Word.

As I wrote each story, I'd often find I needed to do more research. I did the research and then added it as a post to my blog. After a few weeks of this, it felt like my blog was becoming a "Grampa's Pictures" website and the idea of a book to share with the family was born. In essence, by the time I was

writing the book, it was really already about half written.

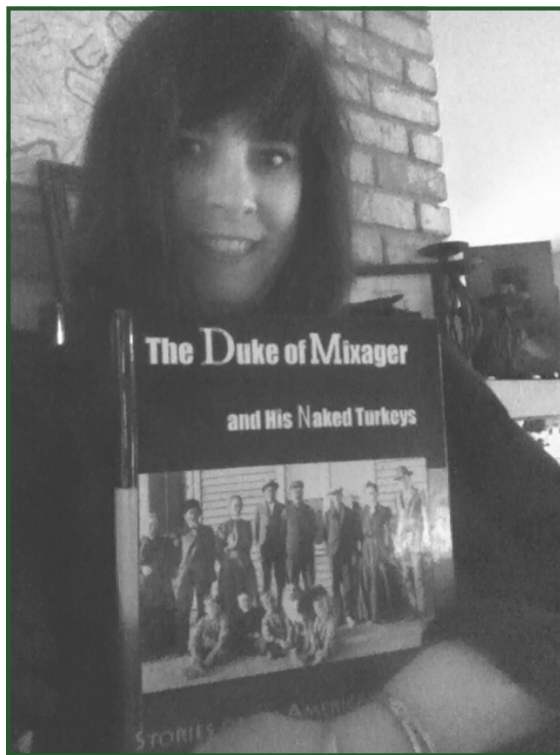
Once I decided on an actual book, I had to organize how I was going to present all these different stories. I made an index card for each story and then sorted them into a number of different ideas: story theme, people, chronological, etc. I settled on chronological and then grouped my cards into the eight sections that I'd determined would work. I then organized what I'd already written and typed the rest, filling in with genealogy and other items I found.

Once I had the stories done, I had to move on to editing. However, I actually worked out of order and did editing and designing before the writing was complete. It would have been easier had I not done it this way, but keep in mind that I didn't even know I was writing a book at first, so I am a bit backward!

It was around this time that I decided this book would just be for family, as it is focused on Grampa himself. Was it going to be hard or soft cover? Black and white or color? What printer to use? I'd already done a small book for family using Lulu and L-AGS uses Lulu, so I decided on Lulu. Once I logged in and started a project, I could see that a hardcover was what

I wanted. Since most of my pictures were black and white, I didn't spend extra on color insides. The book is reasonable at \$34.98 and since my book is for family, I didn't add a markup on Lulu—the price is what Lulu charges. Lulu provided a template showing me what the margins in my book should be and I used that to insert my already completed writings.

I had to learn a lot about book making, since I didn't use any professional assistance, and so I would write a bit and learn a bit. For proofreading and corrections, I sent off each section to my retired school teacher aunt for her to check as I'd finish. I didn't do anything for photo preparation and resolution but insert the pictures in Word, unfortunately losing much of their crispness without knowing. Sadly, I know Word but not book making, so I didn't know any better.<sup>1</sup> My interior layout was planned as soon as I decided on a book. While I'm writing, I like to see where pictures will be and plot ends of each page. **This is not a good idea.** When you go back and edit, it all changes anyway. But, again, I just didn't know.



*Cover: The Duke of Mixager*

My husband designed the cover and I did the Lulu set up. Once the writing and proofreading were completed, it was my intent to go back and add in the correctly formatted footnotes and to index it, but sadly, at about the time I was ready to begin footnoting and indexing, my father, Harry James Conner<sup>2</sup>, announced that he was going to stop his dialysis treatments. I immediately sent it to the printer as-is and, although he never did see the finished book, at his funeral, we were able to provide early Christmas gifts to my aunts and uncles. I sent one copy to a genealogist friend and some to my dad's cousins. Through

Facebook and my blog, there have been a few more ordered by second cousins.

Was it difficult to do on my own? No, I wouldn't say difficult. I would say that I may have been a bit naïve to think I could do it perfectly, but it was a labor of love and so not necessarily difficult.

What would I do differently? Knowing what I know now—that this is a high level book to be extremely proud of—not just blog posts wrapped up in a binding—I would definitely work with professionals if at all able. I wouldn't let money stop me from doing it, but I'd work harder to find the money, as the professional quality that I see in other books just can't be done in Word.

However, again, not being able to afford a professional would not and did not stop me and should not stop you from writing the book about your ancestral research! If I can do it, anyone can!

<sup>1</sup>Roots Tracer uses Microsoft Publisher.

<sup>2</sup>Google in Peace, Dad, *Roots Tracer*, November 2012, page 4  
[http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol\\_32\\_4.pdf](http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_32_4.pdf)



# “Mom has gone to be with the Lord at age 110 ½”

By George Anderson

That was the beginning of the hand-written note I got in early June this year, referring to the death of my mother’s second cousin, Hazel Welhoff Windsor.

She was a remarkable lady. I had met her only once when we stopped to see her in Warrensburg, Missouri in the 1980s. Ever since that one meeting, she had never failed to send birthday cards to both Harriet and me, often with genealogical data about her extended family. We tried to reciprocate, but were not as disciplined as she was. The cards stopped three years ago. We assumed we had not been informed of her death.

It was frailty of health, not a visit from the grim reaper that stilled Hazel’s hand. Her mental alertness had dimmed but still was amazingly sharp. On a whim, I googled her name and was surprised at the number of hits. Among them were three worth citing.

Her obituary is at

[http://www.L-AGS.org/Hz/Hz\\_obit.html](http://www.L-AGS.org/Hz/Hz_obit.html)

Sunrise Health Care, a hospice that cared for her most recently, ran a lengthy story on Hazel in its newsletter. It featured her love of sports – not as participant, of course, but as an avid fan of the Kansas City Royals baseball and the University of Kansas Jayhawks basketball. Those teams were so

Jacob Welhoff	
Amelia Welhoff Flake	John J. Welhoff
Laura Flake Black	John E. Welhoff
Beulah Black Anderson	Hazel Welhoff Windsor
George Anderson	

impressed by her loyalty at her then-age of 108 that they invited her to attend games as an honored guest. Her fragile health advised against that so they sent team members to the care facility to express their gratitude. The story is found at: [http://www.L-AGS.org/Hz/Hz\\_sports.html](http://www.L-AGS.org/Hz/Hz_sports.html)



*When former Kansas City Royals First Baseman John Mayberry came to visit Hazel Windsor, one of the Royals oldest living fans, he showed her how a knuckle ball is thrown.*

*l to r – Larry Bradbury, Hazel Windsor*

One of the most interesting hits was on a Wikipedia page that keeps track of the oldest people in the world:

The list is sorted by ascending date of birth. Hazel was born on November 14, 1902. As of March 31, 2013, she was number 177 on the list. By the

time she died in June, she had inevitably moved up a bit. There were only 32 people in the US older than her. <http://tinyurl.com/lpe8r2f> I have no idea how reliable that information is – it seems impossible to collect valid dates of birth in Third World countries.

May Hazel rest in Peace!



## Who was Isabella Cummings?

By Barbara Huber

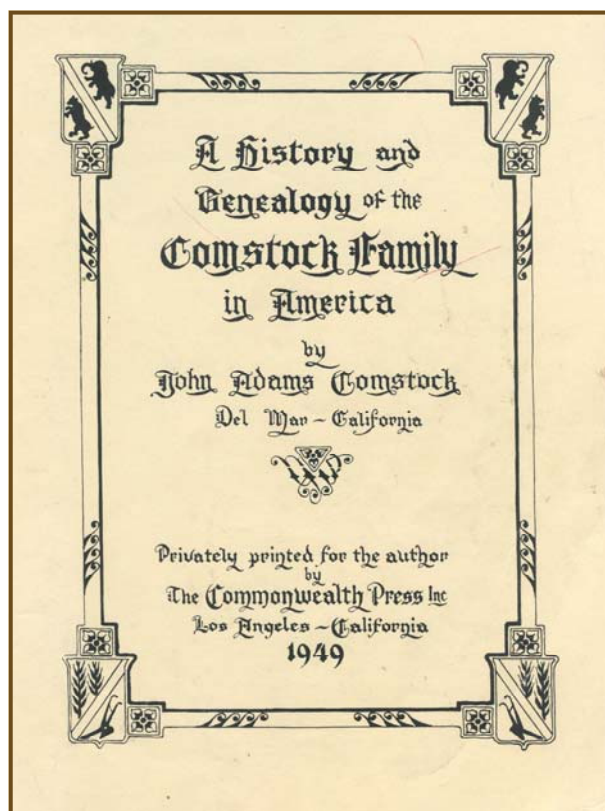
I have researched my father's Cummings ancestors for many years. I have also written about them in their connection to the Salem Witch Trials<sup>1</sup> in Salem, Massachusetts but I could not find any information about an Isabella Cummings or her father Robert Cummings.

The Cummings family of Salem, Massachusetts was descended from the immigrant, Isaac Cummings, who was originally thought to have emigrated from Scotland.

I have found through Google that other researchers of Isaac Cummings now claim he was born in Mistley, Essex, England 1600/01. Now that I have

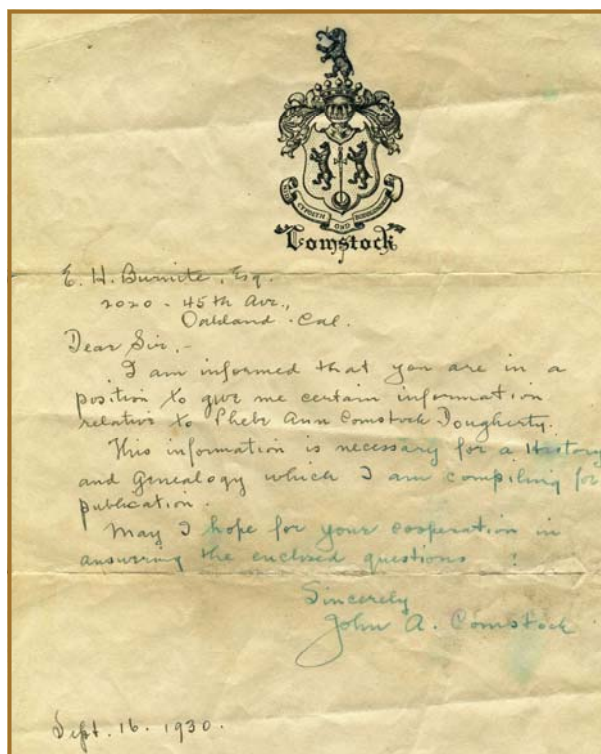
six generations of Cummings families I thought it would be easy to locate Isabella Cummings.

The first problem I found was the fact that Isabella married into my Comstock family who were ancestors of my mother's Burnight family, not my father's Pingree ancestors. I originally found Isabella Cummings in the genealogy I own titled: *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America* by John Adams Comstock. Isabella's parents were Robert and Hannah (Hutton) Cummings. She was born in Putnam County<sup>2</sup>, New York in 1795. When Isabella married Abel Comstock in 1815; she became my maternal 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother. She died in 1859 at Bethel, Fayette County, Iowa. A Cummings ancestor on my father's side, Lydia Cummings, born 1798 in Andover, Essex County, Massachusetts became my paternal 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandmother. I have found no evidence that Isabella and Lydia were related. Abel and Isabella Comstock had eleven children.



<sup>1</sup>Roots Tracer February 2013, page 10  
[http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol\\_33\\_1.pdf](http://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_33_1.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>When New York Colony established its twelve counties in 1683, the present Putnam County was part of Dutchess County. Putnam County is situated in the southeastern part of New York State, between the Hudson River on its west and the New York-Connecticut border on its east. Putnam detached from Dutchess in 1812, and created its own county.



Letter addressed to Phoebe Ann Comstock, *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America*

Phoebe Ann, the oldest, born June 29 1818 was my 2<sup>nd</sup> great grandmother. She died in 1899 at Arthur, Ida County, Iowa. That's who Isabella Cummings was.

This all happened years ago and I was not able to find anything about Isabella's ancestors, so I gave up searching for her. Then a couple weeks ago while going through some of my old files I came across a letter addressed to Phoebe Ann Comstock, the daughter of Abel and Isabella Comstock, from John Adam Comstock, the author of the Comstock genealogy. The letter again rejuvenated my interest in the Cummings family.

This time I decided to try searching Google for "Robert Cummings and Hannah Hutton" (Robert's wife). I was amazed when I saw all the articles written about Robert with the Cummings family and Hannah with the Hutton family. I now have a lot more research to do regarding these families.

Robert's immigrant ancestor was his father, Thomas Cummings born circa 1730 in Paisley, Scotland. For years I thought Isaac Cummings was my ancestor born in Scotland and now they claim he was born in England, but I still have Cummings ancestors born in Scotland.

Paternal and Maternal Lineages to Barbara Huber	
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	Abel Comstock b. 1790 Granville, Washington, New York d. 1876 Dubuque County, Iowa m. 1815 Putnam County, New York Isabella Cummings b. 1795 Putnam County, New York d. 1859 Bethel, Iowa
Asa Bixby Pingry b. 1818 Boxford, Essex, Massachusetts d. 1871 Albany, Oxford, Maine m. 1852 Salem, Essex, Massachusetts Melita Wheeler b. 1824 Bethel, Oxford, Maine d. ?	Pheobe Ann Comstock b. 1816 Putnam County, New York d. 1899 Arthur, Iowa m. 1839 Newton Falls, Ohio John W. Dougherty b. 1814 Belmont County, Ohio d. 1863 Memphis, Shelby, Tennessee
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	Elizabeth Hannah Dougherty b. 1849 Mercer County, Pennsylvania d. 1936 Oakland, Alameda, California m. about 1865 Ohio George Cornelius Burnight b. 1845 Jones County, Iowa d. 1898 Orland, Glenn, California
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	Edgar Ellsworth Burnight b. 1871 Jones County Iowa d. 1937 Chico, Butte, California m. about 1899 Orland, Glenn, California Edith May Hunt b. 1879 Sheridan, California d. 1960 Chico, Butte, California
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. 1990 Chico, Butte, California m. 1924 San Francisco, California



## G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Susan Johnston and Kay Speaks



keyword site:URL

keyword inurl:URL

### Focus on: Becoming a Better Genealogist

The Internet is not just a source for information about our ancestors. It's also a source we can use to find information and instruction designed to help us improve our research skills. Here is a selection comprising traditional websites, blogs, and even a *FaceBook* page! Be sure to note this month's *Google* search tip if you're looking for information in a *FaceBook* page. Example: To find Mills' FB posts on "deeds," *Google* search: *deeds site facebook.com/evidenceexplained*.

#### Board for Certification of Genealogists:

<http://www.bcgcertification.org/>. Certification may not be your goal, but this site should still be bookmarked. Begin with the section, "Skillbuilding: Your Learning Center." Outstanding articles and exercises by leaders in the field will help you improve your own skill in research and analysis.

#### Evidence Explained:

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com/>. Now, this famous book is a website – and it's also a *FaceBook* page (<https://www.facebook.com/evidenceexplained>)! If you're an avid *FaceBook*er, "Like" the *Evidence Explained* page and receive daily tips and discussions. Visit the website and study the "QuickLessons." Here, Elizabeth Shown Mills provides her expert instruction on interpretation, correlation, and analysis of the records we use every day.

#### NARAtions:

<http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/>. If you want to keep up with happenings at the National Archives, follow this blog. Interesting finds, unfamiliar record groups, and research tactics all appear in this informative blog from our nation's premiere repository.

#### O say can you see?:

<http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/>. It's not a genealogy blog, but the National Museum of American History's blog might give you the historical insight necessary to accurately inter-

pret your ancestor's actions and reproduce his life. For starters, read the topics categorized as "Women's History."

#### The Legal Genealogist:

<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/>. Understanding the law is a prerequisite to accurate analysis of evidence. Judy G. Russell, Certified Genealogist and lawyer, has the perfect credentials to be a genealogist's guide to the law as it affected our ancestors. Not only are her posts informative and pertinent, her source citations are a learning tool themselves!

#### DNAeXplained – Genetic Genealogy:

<http://dna-explained.com/>. If you find DNA confusing, maybe following Roberta Estes' blog would be helpful. She defines terms and illustrates genetic genealogy problems and solutions with real-life examples.

#### WHAT'S NEW AT ...

**FamilySearch:** Do you have Massachusetts ancestry? One of the newest collections at *FamilySearch* is "Massachusetts, Town Clerk, Vital and Town Records, 1579-2001." It's a browse-only collection, but the site also offers birth, marriage and death indexes that will point you toward the relevant town. *FamilySearch* also includes the collection, "Massachusetts, Land Records, 1620-1986." These two browse-only collections make *FamilySearch* your first stop for in-depth Massachusetts research.

**Ancestry:** Among *Ancestry's* newest additions are two collections on Native Americans. "Native American Applications for Enrollment in Five Civilized Tribes, 1898-1914," NARA microfilm M1301, is an extraordinary collection of original documents, filed by "Census Card Number." "Native American Citizens and Freedmen of Five Civilized Tribes, 1895-1914," NARA microfilm T529, may be more familiar under its common title, the "Dawes Rolls."

## Bells Across America” celebrate the start of Constitution Week!

By Jane Southwick

“Constitution Week is recognized annually from September 17th to the 23rd. In 1787, Colonists rang bells to celebrate the signing of the U.S. Constitution. To remember this and to honor our Constitution the traditional “Bells Across America” takes place. This tradition was started by the late Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1987. In Livermore, on September 17th at 1 pm Pacific time, members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter (DAR), met at the local Methodist Church on East Avenue in Livermore to ring their hand-held bells. The church has a large free standing bell. By also ringing that bell, the group was able to make the sound of bell ringing loud and clear.

Sandy Clark, a member of both DAR and L-AGS, led the group and told about the man who penned the original parchments of the Constitution. Much

is written about the Founding Fathers who labored long and hard putting the Constitution together, but not much was known about the man who did the actual calligraphy, which at that time was called engrossing--writing out documents in large, clear writing. He was not one of the Founding Fathers. He was the son of a German immigrant and a Revolutionary War veteran named Jacob Shallus. We know about him because of a book, “The Man behind the Quill,” written by Arthur Plotnik in 1987. Jacob lived from 1750 to 1796. He was an assistant clerk of the Pennsylvania State Assembly, was paid \$30, and given just two days to write most of the document’s 4,543 words on four sheets of vellum parchment.

If you would like to know more about Jacob Shallus, there are many Internet references using Google.

## Roots Tech 2014

Wed. Feb 5 (Developer Day) through Sat. Feb 8

RootsTech is held at the **Salt Palace Convention Center**, located conveniently in downtown Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2014 annual conference will be in the east wing of the Salt Palace, with bigger classrooms and easier access throughout the venue.

The **official conference hotels** <https://rootstech.org/venue-hotel/hotels/> offer reduced rates for conference attendees. Each hotel is conveniently located near the Salt Palace Convention Center.

Some of the exciting events:

- **Getting Started Track for Beginners** Thurs. through Sat.
- **Computer Labs** Thurs. through Sat.
- **Expo Hall**
- **Hosted Lunches and Evening Events**

Want to save \$90 off your registration for what’s shaping up to be one of the biggest family history events ever? Of course you do!

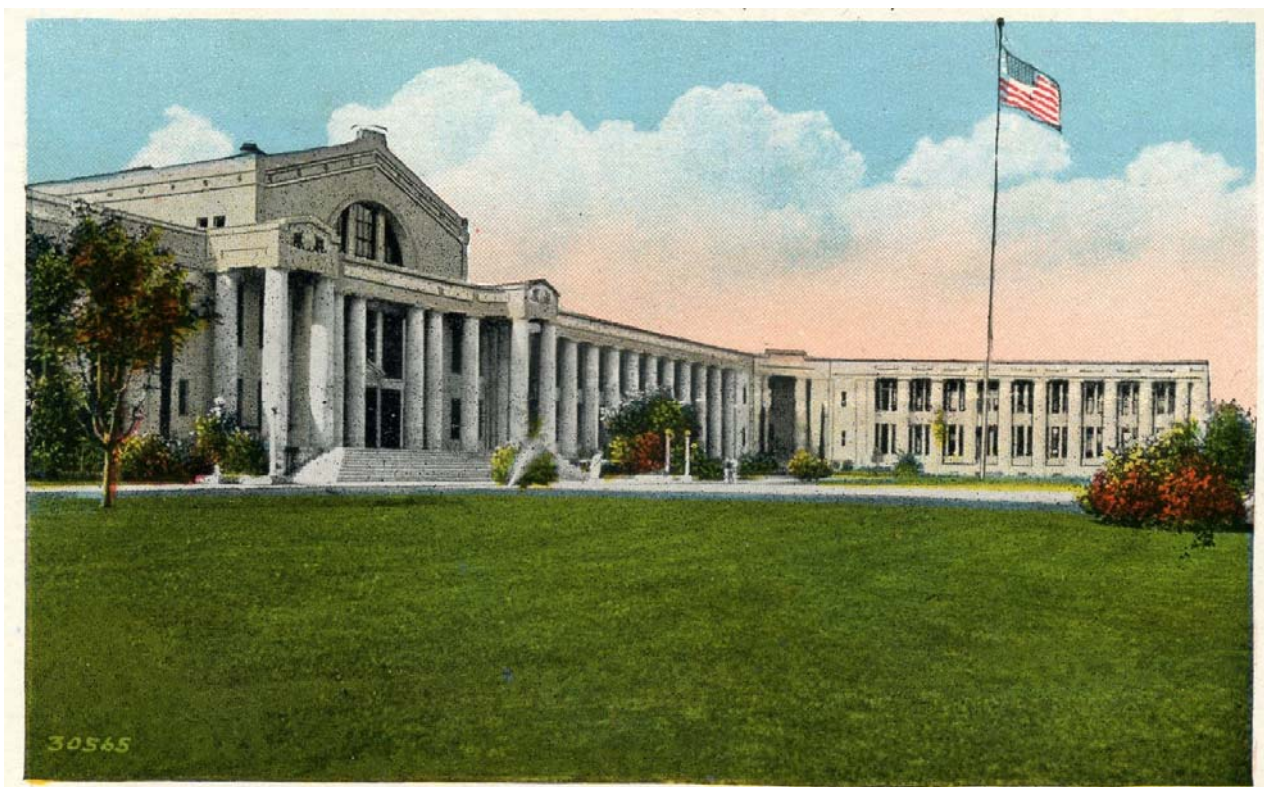
From now until November 30, 2013, *Roots Tracer* readers can save an additional \$10 off the already discounted early registration price for RootsTech 2014, happening February 6-8 in Salt Lake City. The promo code is **RT14LTO** by November 30.

*For more information visit* <https://rootstech.org/>



## My Parents' High School

By Cheryl Palmer



*Oakland Technical High School*

This is a scan of a postcard I found on E-bay a couple of years ago. I was searching for something, or maybe nothing, when I ran across this item. I knew instantly I would be bidding on this postcard.

The postcard is of Oakland Technical High School, commonly known as Oakland Tech, Tech High, or just plain Tech. This is the school my parents went to and graduated from in the early 1950's.

I am fortunate to have photo of the high school they attended. Many of you may not have a picture of their parents high school, is the school still standing?

This school was built in 1914. In the seventies many schools were being torn down and rebuilt in order to make them earthquake safe. Tech's main building was deemed "too historical" to be torn

down. Instead, the inside of the building was demolished and renovated, leaving the historic outside of the building in place. Oakland officially named the school a historic landmark on July 23, 1985.

Tech was featured in two major motion pictures: "The Principal," (1987) which starred James Belushi and Lou Gossett Jr. and "Made in America" (1993) with Will Smith, Ted Danson and Whoppi Goldberg.

Alumni that you may have heard of who have attended this high school are: John Brodie, Clint Eastwood, Ricky Henderson, Ted Lange, The Pointer Sisters, Ron Dellums and others.

The most important people to me though who attended this school are: My parents! They told us: "They met at Tech while my mother was going up the down staircase."



## L-AGS 2014 Survey

I attend the L-AGS General Meeting:

- Every month
- 2-3 times per year
- Once or 0 per year

I read the L-AGS Roots Tracer:

- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely

What do you use to search for your ancestors? Please check all that apply.

- FamilySearch.org
- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Family Tree Maker
- Pleasanton Library and books
- Livermore or Oakland LDS Family History Center
- Internet Search engines
- Other: describe please \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued from page 6*

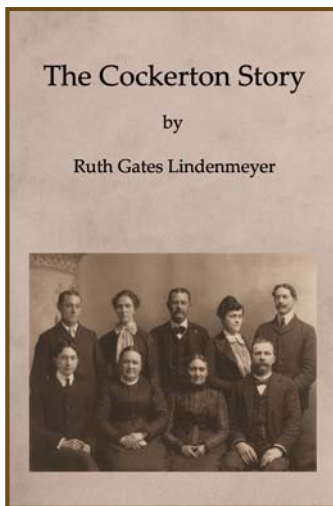
“howlers.” One of those howlers involved a news article that Ruth found in an 1880 issue of the *Livermore Herald*, describing Ebenezer Cockerton’s purchase of a Pitts Separator. Ruth assumed that it was for milking cows. The image was priceless (if a bit disturbing). A Pitts Separator was for threshing wheat!

Because of its inaccuracies, I had been hesitant to share the manuscript with other family members. We all know how easy it is for genealogical errors to proliferate like little evils from Pandora’s Box. So, I undertook the task—with the permission of Ruth’s son—of editing her manuscript: eliminating some of the inaccurate material, adding new passages and footnotes, and turning the manuscript into a book that could be shared with family members.

I was asked by one cousin whether it was really worth doing, considering the dubious nature of some of the material. The answer is, yes. Despite the challenge of occasionally having to separate fact from fiction, Ruth gave us a great gift by passing on family stories that would have otherwise been lost to future gen-

erations. Her family tidbits helped to fill the backstory for the census records, voter registration records and newspaper articles that I had found over the years. Without Ruth’s narrative, I would not have known about the family’s trip to visit Esther Cockerton’s father, Elijah Wiltfong, in Coldwater Canyon—where Esther’s daughter Leone met her future husband, Pierce Benedict—or why I found an 1888 voter registration record for Willie Cockerton in Los Angeles rather than Alameda County. He was hired by Leone’s husband to help break horses for the Los Angeles market.

A Pitts Separator would have been handy for separating the wheat from the chaff in Ruth’s narrative (although not the milk from the cream!). But the discovery of hearty kernels of family history made the effort well worthwhile.



*Cockerton Story, front cover*

*The Cockerton Story* is now available in paperback and hardback from Lulu.com.

<http://www.lulu.com/content/paperback-book/the-cockerton-story/13767715> (paperback) <http://www.lulu.com/content/hardcover-book/the-cockerton-story/13871725> (hardback).

## Membership Renewal Form

L-AGS annual membership dues are due and payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please complete this form, attach your check, bring to the general meeting or mail to:

**Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society**  
P.O. Box 901  
Livermore CA 94551

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ eMail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check box below to indicate your membership choice:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual	\$18
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family (2 or more people at same address)	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual Benefactor	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Benefactor	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$100

Please indicate how you would like to receive *The Livermore Roots Tracer*:      eMail      U.S. Mail

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