

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

Jim and Rae Anne Kenyon

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

Patrons

Anonymous, Dick & Jean Lerche, Madelon Palma, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

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

Total L-AGS Members as of August 31, 2014: 138 Memberships and 166 Members

Meeting News

General Meetings are held on the second Monday 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)
tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2014

President	president@L-AGS.org	Patrick Lofft
First VP and Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Pat Northam
Second VP and Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Thomas Mathews
Business Manager	business@L-AGS.org	Duncan Tanner
Corresponding Secretary		Cheryl Palmer
Recording Secretary		Julie Liu

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A Message from our President

Those members who read my emails during July recall that I was actively following the FamilySearch Worldwide Indexing Event. According to the FamilySearch blog, volunteer indexers and arbitrators set an international record:

FamilySearch volunteers are amazing! On July 20th and 21st, FamilySearch indexers and arbitrators from around the world joined together to set an international record for the greatest number of indexing participants in a single day! FamilySearch *hoped* to have an unprecedented 50,000 contributors in a 24 hour period. FamilySearch volunteers excelled, surpassing that goal by 16,511! That's right—66,511 participants in one day! Incredible!

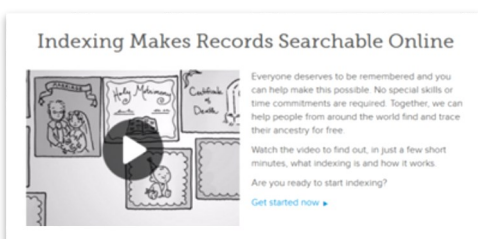
These generous indexers and arbitrators made a true difference. Each record and each name indexed and arbitrated matters. It only takes one to open the door to linking generations of families together. Without question, thousands of lives will be changed as a result of this day's effort.

I challenge you to join in the indexing effort. The indexing software is free and requires no skills on your part to install. Through their concerted volunteer effort FamilySearch indexers completely indexed the 1940 census in a mere five months.

L-AGS member, Martha Wensel, wrote about her indexing experiences in: "My 1940 Census Indexing Story," in the Livermore Roots Tracer, August 2012, page 4, www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_32_3.pdf

All genealogists need your help. Our joint efforts will enable both other researchers as well as ourselves to locate records that will open chinks in our genealogical brick walls.

Watch the video to find out, in just a few short minutes, what indexing is and how it works. <https://familysearch.org/indexing/>.



Consider contributing a small portion of your time to indexing your first record. Indexing at home in your robe and bunny slippers is encouraged. Hopefully, your experience will be enjoyable as well as fascinating and informative.

Currently, many recent obituary records are available for indexing. These records were, for the most part, scanned from recent newspapers so there are no issues regarding readability. The indexing guidelines expect that you will merely **type what you see**. For example, when the obituary for a person with a given name of Alex or Nevada does not include either the pronoun he or she; you are not to assume that the gender is either male or female but leave that field blank. If the place of death is merely identified as say either a nursing home or hospital without further specificity, leave that field blank. Do not assume information that is not specifically listed. <https://familysearch.org/ask/productSupport#/Basic-Indexing-Guidelines-1381813432182>

The researcher who locates the record that you indexed will be able to look at the actual record, review the information about their ancestor on the image to form their own interpretations and conclusions. That is exactly similar to your personal research efforts throughout the years.

One volunteer, one document, one name can make all the difference to someone looking for his or her family.

Sincerely,

Patrick Lofft

From the Editor's Desk

By Teresa Costa Fraser



This issue of the *Livermore Roots Tracer* is dedicated to the memory of Harriet Anderson. She was an active L-AGS member for over 30 years. Her kind and gentle spirit will be missed by all.

In his president's message, Patrick Lofft challenges us to join in the indexing effort. He provides information and links to additional resources to help us get started.

Gene Block shares some of his thoughts after decades of family history research. It was his youngest daughter's homework assignment that triggered his genealogy hobby and multi-decade research project. Like most of us, he has uncovered the *real* stories about his family and made some surprising discoveries along the way. As he pieced together his family history, he realized the difficulties his ancestors endured in their quest for a better life.

After visiting Rosie the Riveter / WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California, Leora Frise decided to write about Lois Virginia Wenger, her "Rosie the Riveter." Leora's article provides a detailed glimpse of one young woman's life while working in Washington, D.C. during World War II and beyond.

Danielle Forestier takes an in-depth look at the life of Marie "Nettie" Antoinette Garvey, her great-grandmother. You may remember reading about her in our last issue. She was the *secret* wife of Edmund Sylvester Ruth. Danielle reminds us that genealogy message boards can be an excellent way to connect with others searching for the same ancestors. By the way, do you know what a dug out is? If not, you will have to read Danielle's article to find out.

Elsewhere in this issue, Patty Upper captures our interest with colorful photos of one of her grandmother's heirlooms. It has been in Patty's possession for 45 years. Then, Anne Les takes us to Canton, Pennsylvania where her grandfather, Walter Newman returned from California with a wagon load of gold, as the rumors indicated.

G.R.O.W. columnists Susan Johnston and Kay Speaks assembled a unique list of 15 genealogy websites. Map lovers will have fun exploring these sites. Be sure and try the Google L-AGS Search Tip.

Finally, learn all about what Beverly Schell Ales, Marilyn Glass, and Debbie Conner Mascot are up to in our new *Member Happenings* section. I hope you enjoy reading this issue. Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and columns. Keep 'em coming.

Teresa Costa Fraser, Editor

Livermore Roots Tracer

The *Livermore Roots Tracer* is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Livermore Roots Tracer is: **"Instruct. Inspire. Inform."**

Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. Email articles to: rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org or mail articles to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901.

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 G.R.O.W. Column.....
Susan G. Johnston and Kay Speaks

Discovering Our Roots: A Gift to Pass On to Our Children

By Gene Block

One evening in the mid 1970's, my youngest daughter came home from junior high school and announced that her history class was studying the subject of immigration to the United States. The teacher had assigned each student the task of reporting to the class the countries their ancestors had come from before immigrating to the United States. It sounded like an easy assignment. I told my daughter I would sit down with her after dinner and give her all the information she needed. However, when the time came to provide her with the information, I realized that I knew very little about my family's background. I did not know what countries my ancestors had lived in before they came to the United States. Moreover, I had never thought about it before, and I realized for the first time that I did not know the names of any of my great-grandparents.

At that point, since both sets of my daughter's grandparents were still alive, I suggested she contact them and see what information they could provide. They were able to provide her with enough information to complete her assignment.

Before It Is Too Late

In reviewing the information my daughter received, I realized that I had to make an effort to collect and record our family's history. Because once my parents and my wife's parents passed away, the knowledge and information they knew about our family's background would be lost forever. Thus began what has developed into a very satisfying hobby, as well as a multi-decade research project. In addition, I have discovered that while some of the family stories I remembered were more or less true, some were simply false.

The Real Story

For example, I remember my grandmother telling me that her grandmother (my great-great-grandmother, who could not read or write) lost the



The author held by his maternal grandmother, Cecilia (Kipping) Stanze. She's the one who told him the family story about the "crooked attorney."

family farm in Monroe County, Illinois due to a *crooked attorney*. She said the attorney was able to get her grandmother to place her "X" on a document deeding the family farm to the attorney. I would later discover while reviewing court files in the Monroe County Court House in Waterloo, Illinois, that this was not true. My grandmother's mother, along with her aunts and uncles, and my grandmother's oldest cousin, sued my great-great-grandmother for the improper handling of her husband's estate after his death. The farm was not lost due to a *crooked attorney*. But, it was ordered sold by a Monroe County judge to settle the lawsuit that was filed

against her when she refused to pay off the debts the family incurred prior to her husband's death. It is entirely possible that my grandmother never heard the real story. It is conceivable that her mother never told her about the lawsuit and made up the story of the *crooked attorney*. After all, would you tell your young child that you had sued her grandmother?

Never to Return

As I pieced together our family's history from various public records, documents, and newspaper articles, I realized just how difficult life must have been for my immigrant ancestors who left behind family and friends to make their incredible journey to this country. Surely, they must have known when they left their villages in Europe, heading for the seaport, that in all likelihood they would never

return to their birthplace and would probably never see their family and friends again.



Wedding photograph of Leo and Maggie Duffy Kipping, September 1879. It was Maggie, along with her brothers and sister who sued her mother, Margaret Duffy.

Royal Descendants

Over the years, I have talked with many people who told me that they were descendants from some king, queen, or other royalty. That may be possibly true for them, but it certainly is not true in my case. And, I suspect that it is not true either for the vast majority of people living in this country today. Most of the immigrants who came to this country in the 1800's, when my family came to the United States, were basically impoverished. The reason my ancestors left their homeland was their desperate search for a better life for themselves and their children. To date, I have discovered that while I am predominately of German background, I also have Irish, Scottish, English, French, and Swiss ancestors.

Some Surprising Discoveries

As my research has progressed, I have made some interesting discoveries about my family. While reviewing the 1913 death certificate for

one of my great-grandfathers, I noticed that he was a city employee and that he had died in Room 419 in the St. Louis City Hall. Thinking that it might have been a newsworthy item in 1913, I checked the local St. Louis newspapers in print at the time hoping to find an article about his death. To my surprise, his death made the front page of both the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and *St. Louis Star Times*.

It turned out that some years prior to his death; my great-grandfather had been an elected official in St. Louis. I went back and reviewed the newspapers in print at the time of his election, and discovered that one newspaper had printed profiles of all of the candidates several days before the voters went to the polls. This provided me with a great deal of information about my great-grandfather that even my mother, his granddaughter, did not know.

Frank M. Stanze, Street Inspector, Dies in City Hall

Frank M. Stanze, 65 years old, an inspector in the excavation division of the Street Department, and a former member of the House of Delegates from the old Second Ward, dropped dead at 8:15 a. m. Thursday in the Street Commissioner's office. Physicians said apoplexy probably caused death.

Stanze reported for work at 8 a. m., and William Hull, 3839 Washington avenue, also an inspector in the department, remarked to him:

"How do you feel this morning?" "Fine! Fine! I never felt better in my life," Hull says Stanze replied. In ten minutes Stanze staggered and, putting his hand to his head, said to Hull:

"Oh, my head! How my head hurts!" and fell. When Hull reached him he was breathing heavily and physicians who arrived in a few minutes pronounced him dead. The body was removed to the City Morgue.

Stanze lived at 2339A East Harris avenue with his son, Harrison W. Stanze, a clerk.

Stanze was appointed inspector in the Street Department last May. He had conducted a grocery store at Ninth and North Market streets for thirty years. In 1896 he was elected a member of the House of Delegates, representing what was then the Second Ward.

Besides his widow, he is survived by four children, Fred, Harrison, Marjory and Milton.

FRANK M. STANZE DROPS DEAD AT THE CITY HALL

Former House of Delegates
Member Expires in Street
Commissioner's Office.

Frank M. Stanze of 2239 East Harris avenue, former member of the House of Delegates, dropped dead in the office of the Street Commissioner at the city hall at 8:15 a. m. Thursday.

Stanze, for the last seven months, had been an inspector in the street department. He had reported for duty and was talking with Inspectors William Hull and Charles Lauer when he suddenly collapsed.

Lauer, a moment before the stroke, asked Stanze how he felt.

"Fine, fine," Stanze replied. "I never felt better in my life."

He had scarcely finished the sentence when he raised his hands to his head and exclaimed: "My head, my head." He fell to the floor before either of the inspectors could aid him.

Stanze served a term in the House of Delegates several years ago, representing the old Nineteenth Ward. He was about 65 years old.

I also discovered that a great-great-grandfather on my father's side of the family once owned and passed away in a house in St. Louis, located on West Pine Boulevard. Today, the house is gone, but the lot on which the house was located is part of the St. Louis University Campus. This was interesting to me since I graduated from St. Louis University. I parked my car on West Pine Boulevard many times while I was working on my undergraduate degree, never knowing that one of my ancestors had lived and died on that street.

It has become obvious to me while doing my research, that not all of my relatives who came to this country seeking a better life for themselves and their children were successful in their search.

One great-grandfather on my father's side of the family ended his own life in 1907. His wife, my great-grandmother, was quoted in the coroner's report investigating his death, "that her husband was a day laborer who for several months prior to his death was constantly in pain as a result of

chronic back problems." Apparently, he reached a point where he could not live with the pain any longer, which was aggravated by his work. In 1907, there was no such thing as disability payments for those injured while working on the job. Interestingly, the newspaper heading describing his death was entitled "Three Elderly Men Commit Suicide in the City Yesterday." My great-grandfather was just 53 years old at the time of his death in 1907. In those days that was considered elderly!

Reading the coroner's report about the pain he suffered, made me view in a different light, the multitude of immigrant day laborers that I often see in front of building supply stores, hoping someone will hire them for the day to help with a home improvement project. I wonder if their descendants, three generations from now will be as fortunate as my great-grandfather's descendants have been in moving up the economic and educational ladder in a way that none of my immigrant ancestors could have possibly imagined in their wildest dreams.

Debt of Gratitude

As I near the end of my family research, I feel that the information I have gathered will provide my three children, all of whom have graduated from college, married, and now have families of their own, an understanding of how they became the person they are today. In the end, passing along this information to my children may well be one of the best gifts I can give to them. I believe it is important that they understand and realize the debt of gratitude that they owe our ancestors who immigrated to this country over a century ago. My children would not have started their professional careers with all the advantages this country has to offer if it had not been for the risks our ancestors were willing to take to find a better life and future for themselves and those who came after them. Finally, when my grandchildren's children come home from school with a homework assignment in the future similar to one my daughter received, their parent's will be far better prepared than I was to help them with their homework.



In Memoriam

Harriet Alvina Anderson

1925-2014

Our beloved Harriet passed away at 4:30 Friday afternoon, August 8. In her last hours, she was held in the fond embraces of all six members of her immediate family.

Harriet was born Harriet Alvina Martinson, daughter of Lawrence and Alvina Martinson, in LeHillier, a suburb of Mankato, Minnesota. She grew up there, the second of four siblings and the last to expire. Her future husband, George Anderson, also grew up in Mankato, but attended a different high school. They didn't meet until later when they were introduced through the good offices of her older sister, Lorraine. They married in Minneapolis in 1949. They had just celebrated 65 years of marriage this year.



Harriet worked as a cashier to support her husband in graduate school, then in 1953 they moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where George began employment with Sandia National Laboratory. In Albuquerque, Harriet made a large number of life-long friends from among the wives of other Sandia employees. There she volunteered as a "Gray Lady" in the local VA hospital, the first instance of many to come in which she gave of her time to help others.

In 1961, George transferred to the Sandia branch in Livermore, partly because of two frightening episodes of hyperventilation that Harriet had suffered in Albuquerque. They believed that some particular allergens in the New Mexico air caused these attacks. During their 52 years together in California, she became active as a volunteer in many community organizations. She joined the Children's Home Society, which funded a non-profit adoption agency, and served as president one year. They joined the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, and she served on the board of directors and as co-president with Bev Ales one year. For over a year, they traveled to the National Archives branch in San Bruno every week to volunteer as mentors to less experienced researchers. She volunteered for 4-H and helped her group win prizes at the county fair. They joined the Youth for Understanding foreign exchange society and she "mothered" students from Chile, Switzerland and Greece for a year. In turn, Eric spent six months in Sweden and Gail spent a year in Switzerland, in the family of the student Harriet mothered.

She and George helped found the Friendship Force of the San Francisco Bay Area, a new branch of the international foreign exchange group for adults that has the motto, "A World of Friends Is a World of Peace." FFSFBA sends delegations of members to other countries where the visitors spend one or two weeks in the homes of the hosts, comparing notes about the problems and joys of each other's family. Surprisingly strong friendships are built during such short visits. They traveled with FFSFBA to New Zealand, The Netherlands, Chile, Kyrghistan and Uzbekistan. They have hosted visitors from these countries and others.

One of Harriet's special joys in her younger days was acting in amateur theatricals, both in Albuquerque and in Pleasanton. She was a member of Cask and Mask during their years at the May School theater. She especially enjoyed her many years with The Claypipers, a Bay Area troupe that performed weekend melodramas at Drytown in the Gold Country. For instance, in "Dirty Work at the Crossroads," she played the pure and wholesome maiden, Nell Lovelace, who set the audience awing and sighing, against the dastardly and loudly-hissed-and-booped villain, Munro Murgatroyd, and was always saved to great cheers by the handsome and stalwart hero, Adam Oakhart. She and her sister, Lorraine "Naine" Bakke, also performed duet olios between acts, while George and Naine's husband, Hans, tended bar.

Harriet and George became members of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society in 1984, and were active members for 30 years. They became addicted to the fulfilling pleasures of genealogy when Harriet discovered some documents in Danish among her mother's papers. Building on these documents and learning the techniques of family history research, they reconstructed the lives of their ancestors back through time. In pre-Internet days, such research was time-consuming, involving hundreds of postal letters and frequent travel to archives throughout the US and overseas. The results of their studies were published in over 20 books and booklets which they gave to relatives to help strengthen family ties.

On the Martinson side of her ancestry, her grandfather and great-grandmother were pioneering immigrants to Minnesota from Norway. On the Hansen side, both grandparents were born in Denmark. One of the delights of her life was to conduct genealogical research that led to re-establishing long-lost contacts with living relatives in both countries. She visited them seven times, including once with her namesake, Aunt Harriet Martinson Sybilrud, and once with daughter Gail who was ending a study-abroad year in Germany. Research also led to the discovery of Danish cousins in New Zealand and a Norwegian cousin in Tasmania. She and George traveled to both places to visit them. The same pattern of discovery and travel occurred with George's relatives in Northern Ireland and England.

The cause of Harriet's death was COPD, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, resulting from long-term asthma. This cruel disease gradually robs its victims of the ability to get enough oxygen from the lungs to sustain life. The family wishes to acknowledge the compassionate care of Drs. Veena Jayaram-Chou, Michael Abdel-Malek and Raafat Zmary, Caregiver Gliceria Magat, Occupational Therapist Mary Mello, and the staff members of Hope Hospice, Valley Memorial Hospital and the Pleasanton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She was especially moved by the love shown to her by her nieces Bronwen Bakke, Kristi Peterson and Margit Chapman.

Harriet was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Richard and Dale Martinson, and sister Lorraine Bakke. She is survived by husband George of Pleasanton, son Eric of Pleasanton, daughter Dr. Gail Dressler and husband Donavin Dressler of Fremont, grandson David Dressler of Fremont, and granddaughter Sarah Dressler of Redwood City. She loved them all. She is also survived by sister-in-law Leah Martinson of Hopkins, Minnesota, brother-in-law James Anderson and wife Aileen of Tucson, Arizona, sister-in-law Mary Ellen Heine and husband George of Burlington, Iowa, sister-in-law Mildred Wolfe of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, and sister-in-law Marjorie Nash and husband Gary of Chanhassen, Minnesota.

A service in honor of Harriet will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, September 3, at Graham-Hitch Mortuary, 4167 First Street, Pleasanton. Her ashes are being preserved in the columbarium of Alta Mesa Cemetery in Palo Alto, in a niche next to the niche of her brother Dale. Inurnment services were private. Her parents and her sister Naine are also buried at Alta Mesa. Donations in remembrance of Harriet may be made to the charity of your choice.



Lois Virginia Wenger: “Rosie the Riveter”

By Leora Frise

I recently visited the Rosie the Riveter /WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, California with a group of Livermore Seniors. After viewing all of the films, letters, stories, binders and displays, I decided to write about Lois Virginia Wenger, my “Rosie the Riveter.” While her trips and cruises took us to exotic locations around the world, writing about her life allowed me to travel back in time with her.

Growing up in Virginia

Lois Virginia Wenger was born 4 September 1923 in Harrisonburg, Rockingham County, Virginia to Clement David and Bessie (Reiter) Wenger. It was a time of change. Summer was ending and autumn was beginning to show her vibrant colors. President Warren Harding had recently died and Vice President Calvin Coolidge had taken office.

Lois spent her childhood in the country on a farm with a large apple orchard, where they actually made potato chips. Her father was a farmer, fruit-grower, and nurseryman. In addition to her parents, Lois had two brothers and two sisters, Mark Relter, Paul Clement, Margaret Elizabeth and Charlotte Evangeline. Lois was the middle child. Her parents and one brother were active members of the Mennonite church.

Her School Years

Lois began high school in September 1937. She attended Dayton High School in Dayton, Virginia. During her sophomore year, Germany invaded Poland and began World War II. Lois graduated from high school in June 1941.



Lois Wenger School Days

In the fall, Lois moved on to Madison College in Harrisonburg. A few months later, on 7 December 1941, the Japanese



Treidler, Adolph. “Soldiers Without Guns.” U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1944. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.

bombarded Pearl Harbor and the United States entered World War II. Despite a nation at war, Lois diligently kept at her studies. By June 1943, she had earned a Business Administration Certificate.

Lois went to college because her Uncle Lester “Jack” Reiter paid for Lois and her two sisters, Margaret and Charlotte to attend college. He believed it was important for women to have the opportunity to get a college education. This kind of thinking was ahead of its time in the 1940’s. Jack was a Navy Commander and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Virginia in 1921.

Working in Washington, D.C.

After receiving her college certificate and passing an examination in June 1943, Lois began working for the Federal Government in Washington, D.C. Initially, she was employed at the Office of Price Administration, a federal agency in the

General Operations Branch of the Personnel Division located at 3rd and D Street in Washington. She worked there as a clerk typist for five months. Her duties included typing rough drafts and final copies of class sheets and position descriptions to be sent to the Office of Personnel Commission, letters and memos to officials of the agency, answering the phone and giving out information as authorized, checking journals with organizational books and vice versa, keeping organizational books and regulations, ordering books to keep them up to date, and taking dictation from several personnel representatives, and many other clerical jobs as assigned.

By November 1943, Lois had advanced to a clerk stenographer trainee position in the Training Branch of the Office of Price Administration. Her duties included taking dictation from the training specialists and transcribing letters, memos and rough drafts for pamphlet material. She performed other clerical duties including answering the phones, routing national and regional mail, and general typing.

In January, Lois became a clerk stenographer in the Office of Price Administration, Transactions Section of the Personnel Division. Her duties included time stamping documents, making sure they were signed by the proper individuals, and taking corrective action and routing to proper individuals, canceling or changing to vacancy and notify budget of vacancies, and return action to appropriate division. Additionally, Lois worked with the Selective Services Department typing form letters and telegrams. She notified regional and national officials of reclassifications granted on relative's cases.

In September 1944, Lois transferred to the Foreign Economic Administration, a federal agency located at 2501 Q Street N.W. in Washington. As secretary to the section chief, Lois performed clerical duties in relation to the gathering of intelligence information. She performed difficult and complex

stenographic and secretarial duties, handling secret, confidential and restricted materials. She also composed letters and memoranda on her own initiative. She was responsible for receipts of all checks for clearance section and distribution of same to employees. Maintaining accurate leave records for the section was also part of her duties.

World War II ended on May 8, 1945. That September, Lois began working at the Veteran Administration in Washington, D.C. as a personnel liaison assistant. Under the direction of the personnel liaison officer, she set up conferences with different government agencies, delivered special documents to the White House and to Congress Members. Lois worked for and had a signed picture from General Omar Bradley.

While working in Washington, Lois lived near the White House with several other young women. From her porch, she could look down the street and see the White House. She was invited to attend several diplomatic receptions and events at the White House. The guards knew her due to her position as a personnel liaison assistant.

A Man in Uniform

While sitting in the back of a bus one day with several friends, she noticed a handsome sailor driving his car. Lois later married the sailor, Harold Frise on 27 July 1946 at the First Baptist Church in Washington D.C. She continued to work for the Federal Government until March 1947 when she moved to Norfolk, Virginia where



Lois Wenger ca. 1940's Washington, D.C.



Lois's Wedding Photo, 1946

their son, Michael was born. Harold was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, then later to Hutchison, Kansas. Their second son, Duane was born in Kansas at the base at Yoder, Kansas. Around 1955, Harold was transferred again, this time to NAS Moffett Field in Mountain View, California. Their son, Mark and daughter, Marcia were both born in California.

While in the Navy, Harold was out to sea from nine months to twelve months, then home for three months to six months, then start all over



Lois and Harold Frise, ca. 1980's

months before he was supposed to retire.

Even though Lois did not talk very much about her jobs and time in Washington D.C., I was able to get information from an application form filled out for the Veterans Administration job and from a job application form that she filled out for the City of Sunnyvale, California, date unknown, but after 1955. Lois did not work for the City of Sunnyvale, but she did work until she retired as a secretary for a church administrator at Sunnyvale First Baptist Church, later called the Crosswalk Community Church. Lois attended for fifty-five years

again. Lois wrote letters to him daily. Sometimes, he would get several letters at a time, depending on mail delivery to the ship. Harold retired from the Navy after twenty years. He went on to work for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, Inc. in Quality Control in Sunnyvale, California. He died unexpectedly on 10 August 1986, six

and met her second husband, Perry there. They got together on a senior's cruise. Lois later married Harold Perry Williams in September 1990. Before he retired, Perry owned Walt's Bicycle Shop in Sunnyvale, California. Perry passed away in Colorado on 13 June 2014. He was 100 years old.

Worldwide Traveler

In her lifetime, Lois went on many trips and cruises, alone and with both, Harold and Perry. She travelled to the Panama Canal, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Vancouver, B.C., Brazil, South America, Alaska, Caribbean Islands, Jamaica, Republic of Belarus, Latvia, Suomi-Finland, the Holy Land, Italy, Branson, Missouri, and the Great Wall of China. She traveled multiple times to both Denver and Virginia. Lois even went with her sister on a Transamerica drive, flying to Virginia and driving to California, they returned to Virginia after driv-



Lois and Perry Williams, 2002



Lois and Perry's 1995 Caribbean Cruise. Author, Leora Frise, third from top.

to Virginia after driving through Canada, and then flying home. Lois and Perry invited all of their children and grandchildren on two Caribbean cruises. They also invited their children (fifteen in all) on an Alaska cruise. Lois loved to fly and cruise, always enjoyed dining with the ship's captain.

Even after being diagnosed with cancer in 2009, Lois still had an upbeat attitude. She asked her doctor if her chemo treatments would keep her alive long enough to attend her daughter, Marcia's wedding several months later. She was able to attend. Lois was still living in her home when she died 16 December 2009. She was buried in Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, California next to Harold Frise.

Lois is survived by four children and their spouses, nine grandchildren with seven spouses, and five great-grandchildren. She is also survived by four stepchildren and their spouses, their children and grandchildren. I asked her children to describe their favorite memory about Lois.

"Mom was a great cook," explained Michael. "I don't know if she cooked because she loved it, or if she cooked because she had to. I loved her mashed potatoes and meat with her wilted bacon salad."

"I remember that she knitted me socks when we lived in Kansas," recalled Michael. "Her and Perry knitted Afghans for rest homes and family."

"My favorite memories are of Mom reading to us when we were little," Duane recalled. "She was my Cub Scout Den Mother."

"I think my favorite memory of Mom is that she loved being with her family," said Mark. "It could be as simple as going to a ballgame or as special as going on a cruise together. What was important for her was to be with family. She was very easy to do things with; no complaints, just happy to be a part of the event," he explained.

"I loved that mom occasionally sent care packages," Marcia explained. "Sometimes it would be apples, sometimes coupons, and other random

items, but it was always fun to get a package in the mail. The girls enjoyed getting letters from Grandma and how Grandma and Grandpa would come visit them in Colorado. We always enjoyed their visits to Colorado."

Grandma's Heirloom

By Patty Upper

My grandmother, Piedad Mary Rivas-Garcia (1902–1961) must have been around eight to twelve years old when she made this headband. I was told she was a child when she made it. The headband was passed down to me in the same condition. It has been in my possession for 45 years. Someday, I will sit down and duplicate the pattern myself. I think some of my creative talents must have come from her.



Beaded headband created by Piedad Mary Rivas-Garcia in about 1910-1914.



Enlarged photo of beaded headband created by Piedad Mary Rivas-Garcia. You can clearly see the intricate details.

From Pennsylvania to the California Gold Rush and Back

Submitted by Anne Newman Les

The following came from Pauline Newman's notes. She is my second cousin. Pauline used to create "books of sort" of newspaper articles and notes about the Newman family. This information probably originated from a 1916 article published in the Canton Sentinel, Canton, Pennsylvania to commemorate Walter Newman's 100th birthday. It was entitled, "100 Years Old."

In 1849 when the discovery of gold in California set the country on fire, Walter Newman (born 31 May 1816 in Eaton, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania) got the gold fever and made the journey across the continent by wagon train. He did not personally engage in mining, but he ran the supply stores in mining camps and grubstaked miners for an interest in their findings. In this business he was very successful.

The story from Pauline Newman Northrup was that he returned to Canton with a fortune of about one hundred thousand dollars. He is probably the last survivor in Pennsylvania or New York of the thousands of men who crossed the plains in 1849. On the return trip he came by Panama and his adventure in the quiet little hamlet of Canton was one that caused excitement. "Walt Newman has come back from California with a wagon load of gold" passed from lip to lip and his fortune was multiplied many times over in popular reports.

Walter Scott Newman, son of Elisha Newman, came to Canton, Pennsylvania from Smithboro, N.Y. Walter and his brother Samuel Newman started a little store on the corner of what is now Lycoming and Sullivan Streets. It is still known as 'the Newman Corner'. They built the four story wooden building which stood for years on the

corner. It was considered an 'up to date' general store. Its appointments were first class and the fact that a painter was imported from New York to decorate the interior gives a hint as to the magnificence of its finish.

When the interior was dismantled to make room for Bunns Shoe Store, the gold lettering on the drawer pulls still bore testimony to the thoroughness of the New York artist. One of the counter tops that was rescued from the rubbish was an inch and a half plank, thirty nine inches wide and fourteen feet long. It was originally twenty feet long and some former occupant of the store had sawed off six feet. The Newman Store was some store in its day.

Walter Newman remained single until he had reached the half-century mark and it was not until 1866 that he married Miss Artemisa Hicks. To this union there was born one year later twin boys, one who died a few days later. The remaining boy lived to be 13 years old, and his death so grieved his father that he became almost a recluse and had since lived in strict retirement, never seeking the companionship of men.

His wife survived until 1910, after which a nephew A. Scott Newman came to Canton to live with and care for the old man. Scott

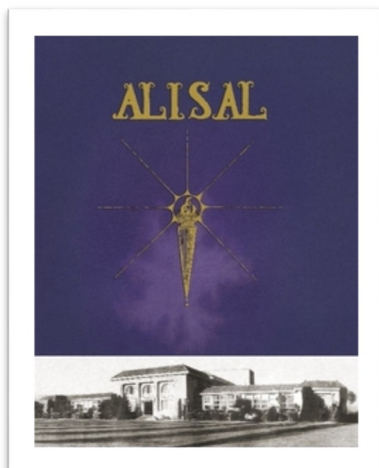
Newman died in 1979. Since then Mrs. James S. Phillips, a daughter of Scott Newman, has kept house for him. He lived to be 100+ as did his father Elisha and his Grandfather Ezekiel who fought in the Revolution War under General George Washington.



Edwin Stuart Newman, Jr. (age 3) sharing a root beer with his father at the soda fountain in Canton, Pennsylvania in January 1935. The counter top (originally 20-foot long) used to be part of the Newman Store established by his grandfather, Walter Newman.

Member Happenings and Events

By Teresa Costa Fraser



Beverly Schell Ales publishes new book for genealogists titled, *Amador Valley High School: 1923-1966*.

Beverly Schell Ales announced the release of her new book, *Amador Valley High School: 1923-1966*. Bev collaborated with fellow L-AGS member, George Anderson to compile rosters of students attending Amador Valley High School in Pleasanton, Alameda County, California from 1923 to 1966. Her

132 page book is available at LuLu (<http://www.lulu.com>). A copy is also available at the Pleasanton City Library, Genealogy Section.

Bev is presently working on another book for genealogists. It is the history of the Erie County Children's Home in Sandusky, Ohio. Bev lived there for six years during her teens. Her parents worked as the superintendent and matron. When complete, her book will also include a name index of census records and directory records of her home town from 1900 to 1940. The children's home closed in 1960.

Marilyn Glass is writing her first family history book. It will feature her great-grandmother, Nancy Paralie Morton. Nancy was born in 1858 in Marshfield, Webster County, Missouri and died in 1947 in French Camp, San Joaquin County, California.

Marilyn selected her great-grandmother because four of her grandchildren are still living. Marilyn will be able to conduct oral interviews of their firsthand memories and stories. Marilyn also has some wonderful pictures of her great-grandmother and thinks her life, what she has heard about so far, will be fascinating to research.



Debbie Conner Mascot publishes another family history book. This one is titled, *Vera's Chicken Wings and Peas*.

Debbie Conner Mascot announced the release of her latest book, *Vera's Chicken Wings and Peas*. It came out on August 12, 2014 in honor of Louise Mariani, a first cousin to Vera in the title. Louise turned 100 years old that day, and the book was released in her honor.

"The San Francisco pioneer Mariani family isn't blood of mine, but they are now *in* my blood, as I've spent the past few years researching and finding them," stated Debbie.



Back to front: Debbie Mascot, Marilyn Badgley Conner (Debbie's mom), Paul Schumacher, John Calderwood, (Louise's nephews), Louise Mariani. January 2014 at the Mariani Ranch, now Blue Oaks subdivision in Portola Valley, California.

Old Documents and Photos: Unanswered Questions Still

By Danielle Forestier

I connected with Pat Powell through a message board. She is my third cousin once removed and a long-time researcher of the Garvey and Turner families. She has been collecting family stories and memories since well before the computer age. Her collection of family histories comes from notes she took while conducting oral histories with her elders. My collection of family histories is primarily from records. Pat's is far more interesting.

Unanswered Questions

We both have unanswered questions that her oral histories and my records do not answer. Some of those questions, include: Why was my great-grandmother unknown to my great-grandfather's family? What was her life like as a wagon train pioneer? When was my great-grandfather really born? Why did he leave Kansas, deserting a young bride with a child on-the-way?

Marie Antoinette Garvey, was born in Indiana on 23 October 1861 to Obediah and Mary H. (Sutherland) Garvey. Marie (called Nettie) my great-grandmother and Pat's second great-aunt, was the secret wife of Edmund Sylvester Ruth. She married Edmund in 1881,¹ but no one in the Ruth family knew about her or her son until long after the death of her husband, my great-grandfather, Edmund Sylvester Ruth.

During the Civil War, Edmund Sylvester Ruth, age 13, enlisted as a Private in Capt. Burke's Co. A, 11th Pennsylvania Regiment.²



"Old Dug-Out," Kansas State Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas

Heading to Kansas

In 1878, Edmund went to Phillips County, Kansas to take up his soldiers' claim. Edmund and Nettie married in 1881. They buried their first child the day after he was born in 1882.

Land Squatter

Edmund was a squatter, likely living in a dugout. A dugout, an earthen cave dug from a rise in the ground, is snug in the winter and cool in the summer and perfect for the extreme temperatures in Kansas. Sod is laid over cottonwood poles to create a roof, and after the first rain prairie grass grows making the home impermeable. However, it is dark inside- only one wall faces outside, and bugs, spiders, crawly critters, centipedes and even snakes were probably tenants in the home. This

must have been his first home, and after marrying Nettie, the home to welcome their babies.



Marie "Nettie" Antoinette Garvey ca. 1880

Following a prairie fire in 1883, Edmund left his Kansas homestead. He disappeared, abandoning Nettie and a child soon to be born. He prospected through the West, then Panama, leaving no trace for Nettie and telling his family nothing about his wife and unborn child.

The Garvey Siblings

I have a copy of a photo of Nettie with her siblings who posed together just before they departed from Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana to Phillips County, Kansas by wagon train. My photo isn't very clear. Pat also has a similarly poor copy of the same photo given to her by another Garvey researcher. Neither Pat nor myself has been able to track down an earlier generation copy of this picture though we know its original source was Betty Cowell, who has long departed. We have been given copies of this photo by two different Garvey researchers, but we can not find an earlier generation copy, or the original.

Cousin Pat wrote, "Grandma Nettie, your grandmother, made the first trip! Our source is Nettie's sister, Caroline (Garvey) Jenkins. Caroline was concerned she'd correctly remembered the story



The Garvey Siblings. Top row from left to right, includes Zack, Nettie, Belle and Jim. 1st row from left to right includes Jane, Carrie, Rebecca. ca. 1870's



Wagon wheel ruts still exist in Independence, Missouri from wagon trains preparing for journey. Few sites remain, as most land has been developed. Copyright ©2008 Danielle Forestier

she'd heard many times from Nettie and matched it to her satisfaction with what the family had written down here and there.”³

Nettie Marries Augustus Aumiller

In 1889, Nettie married Augustus Aumiller. Two daughters seem to have survived childhood, Delia and Fay. They are mentioned in Earl Francis Ruth's (Nettie's son) obituary.⁴ I have also researched Nettie's peripatetic first husband's third wife and their offspring. But alas, Nettie was unknown to them. Edmund surfaced to Nettie's first knowledge in decades in Washington State, long after he had died.

In 1931, Nettie visited her sister in Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana. Her sister saved a newspaper clipping about the visit.⁵ A librarian at the historical society there kindly offered to drive by and photograph the house Nettie had lived in. The photograph provides a glimpse of the life Nettie had before moving to Kansas to live in a dugout.

Nettie died in Kansas City in 1940.⁶ She was 78 years old. Nettie's tombstone also proudly announces she went by wagon train to Phillips, Kansas.

Clearly the family was entranced with the stories of their past generations, evidenced by the drawing of a covered wagon on great-grandmother Marie Antoinette Garvey Ruth Aumillers' tombstone.

Neither the documents nor the photos answer the question about Nettie's life with Edmund. Nonetheless, finding a clear copy of this photo of the wagon train group would be so interesting. It would show what this family really looked like. Surely, it was given to one of her descendants; however, we can't find any descendants from Nettie's two husbands. We know their names and where they lived in 1940, but haven't been able to contact their offspring. Who has it? Where is it now? The quest continues...



The Garvey home at 417 Linden Avenue, Bedford, Indiana. The Garvey family lived here before moving to Phillips County, Kansas. ca. 1880 © 2013 Judy Van Dusen



Nettie Garvey Ruth Aumiller's grave marker at Green Lawn Cemetery, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.⁷

¹ Kansas. Office of Probate Judge of Phillips County, marriage license, No. 479 (1881) E.S. Ruth - Antoinette Garvey, 15 May 1881, Phillips County, Kansas.

² Department of Veterans Affairs, Edmund S. Ruth (Pvt., Co. A, 40th PA Inf., 11th Res.). Lizzie Ann Ruth, widows' pension certificate no. XC970886.

³ Powell, Patricia. Garvey Family email from (e-address for private use) to Forestier, Danielle. 2013-present. Ruth Family History. Privately held by Danielle Forestier, Oakland, California.

⁴ "Earl Francis Ruth Obituary," Kansas City Star, Kansas, Missouri, 5 March 1936.

⁵ "Nettie Visits Sister," Bedford, Indiana, 7 August 1931.

Note: Footnotes 4 and 5 are yellowed scraps kept by family members and passed down to Danielle Forestier.

⁶ Nettie Aumiller, death certificate, State File No. 1389 (24 January 1940), State of Missouri, Office of Vital Record. Missouri Digital Heritage. <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/#searchdeat>.

⁷ FindAGrave.com, digital images (<http://www.findagrave.com> : accessed August 2014), photograph, gravestone for Nettie Garvey Ruth Aumiller (1861-1940), Green Lawn Cemetery, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri.



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Susan Johnston and Kay Speaks



Try: *location* or *topic*
plus **map** plus GIS or
interactive

NOT YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S MAPS!

Geographic Information Systems (GIS), georeferencing, animation, interactive—look for all these terms when searching for online maps. The maps will still add visual interest to the stories of your ancestors' lives, but they offer so much more! Take the time to explore these example sites and imagine the possibilities for your own research.

Atlas of the Historical Geography of the U.S.: <http://tinyurl.com/om76lco>. Enjoy the digital update of this classic 1932 United States atlas, newly georeferenced, interactive, and animated.

Arlington National Cemetery Explorer: <http://tinyurl.com/8fg5pww>. The ANC Explorer, Arlington National Cemetery's app, is a great way to view our country's most famous national cemetery. Find burials, see photos of monuments, and grave stones—front and back—take a tour.

American Revolution Troop Movements: <http://tinyurl.com/kunbncj>. Follow your soldier ancestor from battle to battle. Be sure to read the details and the cited references.

History Animated - The War of 1812: <http://tinyurl.com/md9epwn>. The tiny ships sail, the troops march, guns fire, and white flags wave as these animated maps bring the War of 1812 to life.

Civil War - Battles in Action: <http://tinyurl.com/m2b55kb>. These animated maps are sophisticated, informative, and simply beautiful.

Locating London's Past: <http://www.locatinglondon.org/>. History is much more fun when you can see it on a map! Follow the links to original records, if available.

Earth Point Township Search: <http://tinyurl.com/7hy7uc8>. You have the legal land description, but how do you locate it on a

map? Start here and view your ancestor's land on *Google Earth* or copy coordinates to *Google Maps*. Don't forget Street View!

Griffith's Valuation: <http://tinyurl.com/mtod83v>. A classic example of how much more valuable maps become when correlated with data. Check out the *Canadian County Atlas Digital Project* for another great example: <http://tinyurl.com/yv798z>.

Did the West Make Newspapers... ? <http://tinyurl.com/olvha9q>. Stanford's study of the history of American newspapers is not just an effective display. It is also much easier and more fun to search than the Library of Congress' "U.S. Newspaper Directory."

CREATE YOUR OWN VALUE-ADDED MAPS

Batchgeo: <http://batchgeo.com/>. How many times have you painstakingly marked your ancestor's migration points on a photocopied map? *Batchgeo* is easy and fun. Check out Sue's map of events in the life of the 4th Vermont Regiment in the Civil War: <http://tinyurl.com/lgotog8>.

Social Explorer: <http://www.socialexplorer.com/>. The free version provides limited options, but the resulting maps are informative and effective.

Animaps: <http://www.animaps.com/>. Picture a map of your ancestor's migration across the country—via river boat, wagon, or train. Then create it!

WHAT'S NEW AT AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG?

Researching Middlesex Co., MA families in the 1648-1871 period? Search the NEHGS website <http://www.americanancestors.org/> for digital images of the *original* estate papers from this period. Need more good news? These images are *free!*

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

October 13, 7:30 p.m.

Vera Broyles

Land and Property Records

November 10, 7:30 p.m.

Susan Goss Johnston

"It Becomes My Painful Duty ...":

Uncovering the Stories in Letters of Condolence

December 8, 7:30 p.m.

Teresa Parham

Hitting the Mother Lode

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