

THE LIVERMORE ROOTS TRACER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Revisions made by any Society show problems until the dust settles. Changes in our name, number of yearly issues of "The Livermore Roots Tracer" -- and method of distribution, in our by laws, dues, regular monthly meeting day and Board Members has caused problems which will soon be resolved. Please read the "Tracer" from cover to cover for pertinent information regarding the above.

Our programs have been and will continue to be excellent. Your suggestions are always welcome.

We now have a speakers committee: Bill Wolcott, Chairman, and Rosemarie Wade and Barbara Dittig as Co-Chairman. Should another club you belong to need a speaker please call on them.

Membership is picking up. We would also like to see more of our original members in attendance. Bring interested friends.

The first National Genealogical Conference held recently in Atlanta, Georgia was a high success. Fifteen interested Californians attended. Mark May 12-15, 1981 to attend the 2nd Conference to be held in Indianapolis.

If all goes well, I hope we have a few sessions soon on "How To Do" Genealogy prior to our regular monthly meetings. Please pass the word along. There will be a charge to cover materials.

A "New Members" packet will be off press in the near future. Present members may purchase a packet at nominal costs---call Gayle Pipes to reserve yours.

See you at the meetings.  
Frances Fowles Samans

FROM THE EDITOR

A note on our numbering system -- The monthly Roots Tracer left off with Vol. 4, Issue 2, February 1981. The quarterly Roots Tracer has begun a new numbering system beginning our fourth year with Vol. 1, No. 1, July 1981, Summer Issue.

of birth, death, and marriage records has been raised from \$2 to \$4, as of July 1, 1901.

The Plymouth County Courthouse Marriage Records have been copied from 1881 through 1900. Alphabetical indexes by groom have been compiled by year. A duplicate of the Marriage Index will be placed in the Genealogical Section of the LeMars Public Library. Another will be donated to the Plymouth Co. Clerk's office in appreciation.

Also reported by this organization: The Minnesota Genealogical Society has been compiling a list of all Minnesota cemeteries by County and Township. They are listing those for which information is available, and where that information may be obtained. Contact: Ella Johnson, Box 10006, St. Paul, MN 5510 for more information. OLMSTED COUNTY G. S. NEWSLETTER, Rochester, MN

The Sonoma County Genealogical Society (P.O. Box 2273, Santa Rosa 95405) has completed, ready for sale, their new Surname Directory. Forty-four pages, over 2000 names are included and it sells for \$2.00.

The National Genealogical Society (Education Division, 1921 Sunderland Place, N. W., Washington, D. C.) is offering a new correspondence course for genealogists. The Society states that the Society has prepared the kind of course that is most helpful to beginners as well as researchers who wish to upgrade their knowledge and skills".

The California Genealogical Society (2099 Pacific Ave., San Francisco, CA 94109) was established in 1898!! This Society became a non-profit corporation in 1921. Over 15,000 books are available for your perusal at their library at Shubert Hall, 2099 Pacific Avenue, San Francisco. They are open 10-4 Wednesday through Saturday.

Mercer Chapter (c/o Sue Miller, 3181 Mud Pike, Celina, Ohio 45822) is busy cataloging obituaries and reading local cemeteries. They will accept queries which include a SASE.

The Montgomery Chapter, (PO Box 1584, Dayton, Ohio 45401) will accept queries also. They are compiling births and deaths of their county, copying tombstones and copying records at Wright State University. Their newsletter is called "The Family Tree".

Mail queries to the Ohio Genealogical Society to Query Editor, Box 2625, Mansfield, Ohio 44906. Use a 3 x 5 card. In their August newsletter, they sent 12 pages of queries!!!

I received an information letter from the Arkansas Genealogical Society while requesting information on my great-grandfather. They sent me a Researcher's List for 1981 - hourly rates - if anyone is interested. Membership fee to this Society is \$10 a year and they boast 1600 members. They send their newsletter to members in the U.S.,

Canada, and overseas!! There is no charge for queries at this time but because of its popularity there is a backlog! All genealogical letters must have a SASE. If you would like to do research in your area let them know. They keep a list of those in other states who do research and they will suggest your name. Maybe you could barter your time with another researcher!!

Birth and Death certificates were not recorded in Arkansas until after 1914

Arkansas Genealogical Society, Inc.  
4200 A Street  
Little Rock, AR 72205

A Reminder -

If the area of your interest is not listed, contact the County Genealogical or Historical Society in that area. Many of these groups have already published census, cemetery and other valuable information helpful to persons working on genealogy.

A new fact sheet detailing a variety of land records and research services available to the public has been issued by the Eastern States Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Over five million individual documents are stored and maintained at the Eastern States Office, and are open to researchers. To obtain a copy of the "BLM Eastern States Land Records" fact sheet, write: Eastern States Office, Bureau of Land Management, 200 South Piccadilly, Alexandria, VA 22304. Enclose a SASE.

NEWSLETTERS FROM OTHER OR AKA SOCIETIES SUBSCRIBED TO BY OUR MEMBERS:

Los Californianos	Joan Bokanich
New Jersey Genealogical Society	Margaret Fazio
Upper Cumberland Gen. Society	Margaret Fazio
Arizona State Gen. Society	Rosemarie Wade
Scioto County Ohio Gen. Soc.	Lucile White
Maryland Gen. Soc.	Lucile White
Publik Observer (Williamsburg)	Art Skinner
Backtracker (North West Arkansas)	Rita Rector
Nat'l Genealogical Society	Fran Samans
New England Biog. and Gen. Soc.	Fran Samans
Berkeley Historical Society (VA)	Barbara Dittig
Linn County Kansas Gen. Soc.	Bill Wolcott
South East Nebraska Gen. Soc.	Bill Wolcott

QUESTION FOR PENNSYLVANIA RESEARCHERS:

Can anyone find a copy or any information about a meeting at Octorara, now Dauphin County, PA, which was a model for the U.S. Declaration of Independence?

M. Grace Carleton  
153 Portola Ave.  
Livermore, CA 94550  
415-447 9195

COVER PHOTO: Henry Mohr, Pleasanton Farmer, with his hay burning steam engine. Taken in the Livermore Valley circa 1890. Photo, courtesy of Elliott Dopking.

LIBRARY NEWS

These books have been added to our library collection since the last list was published:

AN EXPEDITION TO THE VALLEY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE, by Howard Stansbury. The results of a survey in Utah.

Genealogical Helper, July/Aug 1961

The Report of the Ohio Genealogical Society, Spring 1961

SEA ROUTES TO THE GOLD FIELDS by Oscar Lewis. The migration by water to California in 1849, according to diaries and journals. Donated by Margaret Fazio.

BRING OUT YOUR DEAD by J. H. Powell, The story of the great plague of Yellow Fever in Philadelphia in 1793. Donated by Margaret Fazio.

OUR CALIFORNIA by Emmagarde Richards, Date and history of California. Donated by Margaret Fazio.

PASSENGER LISTS FROM IRELAND, 1811, 1815 and 1816 by J. B. Hackett. Donated by Lucile White.

NEW YORK MARRIAGES 1639-1700 by Kenneth Scott, Indexed by Lucile White. Donated by Lucile White.

INDEX OF THE NEW ENGLAND HISTORICAL & GENEALOGICAL REGISTER, Vol. 1 to 50. Donated by Bill Wolcott.

EMIGRANTS FROM THE PALATINATE TO THE AMERICAN COLONIES IN THE 18TH CENTURY, by Friedrich Krebs. A passenger list. Donated by Bill Wolcott.

Library News (cont.)

Five small booklets of early tax lists of Kentucky:

Fayette County 1788 Tax List, Washington County 1792 Tax List  
Knox County, 1800 Tax List, Mercer County 1799 Tax List  
Madison County, 1792 Tax List  
Jefferson County, 1789 Tax List  
Nelson County 1792 Tax List

Donated by Lucile White

NEW HISTORICAL ATLAS OF ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA by Thompson and West  
1878. Donated by Frances Samans.

MEET THE MEMBERS

My name is Patty Robins Reuppel. I am new in the genealogy experience and spend a fair amount of time confused, yet interested. I am lucky to have Margaret Fazio and Judie Hurtz nearby to answer questions or put me back on the right track. I am a teacher's aide in Special Education in the Livermore School District. I enjoy working with children who have learning and behavior problems. This is my sixth year in Special Education and my second year at Granada High School Special day class. My husband Duane is a Senior Technologist at LLL. We have been married 13 years and he enjoys soccer refereeing, coaching and computers. Our twin sons, Erik and Todd, will soon be 12 and also enjoy sports and fishing and camping with their dad. My hobbies are needlepoint, music, reading, and now genealogy.

At this time, I am working on my parents families. My paternal grandfather, John Clark Robins, was born in Aimes, Iowa. He met and married my grandmother, Eunice Caroline Cameron Robins in Minneapolis. Eunice was born in Minnesota. John worked for Caroline's father, Carlisle Cameron at Cameron Moving and Storage Company. Carlisle came to Minneapolis from East Farnham, Quebec, Canada about 1881.

My grandparents John and Eunice Robins died within 3 years of each other. John caught a viral pneumonia and Caroline supposedly died a short while later of a "broken heart". My father, Richard Cameron Robins, was only 13 and went to live with Eunice's sister, Elaine, and her husband and 2 daughters. He was an only child. Since I never knew them, I have discovered many pictures I am having copied and restored. I have a wedding announcement from their wedding in 1913. Because of my interest in his family history my father has given me his school ring, John and Eunice's personal bibles and a beautiful ring that belonged to Eunice and her family. My father hasn't given me a whole lot of information (my mother and the cousins my dad went to live with

Meet the Members (cont.)

have filled me in on most of this). My interest uncovered a cousin of my grandmother who had done some family history and we have enjoyed writing to each other. I think losing his parents and being an only child, it was a great loss for him.

On my mother's side - my great-great-grandparents, James and Mary Welsh Fleming, arrived in America from West Rainton, Durham, England with 6 daughters. My great-grandmother was Margret Isabelle "Belle" Fleming Scribner. Belle married my great-grandfather, Thomas Jefferson "Jeff" Scribner from Arkansas. I know little about Jeff and have sent off for the 1880 Arkansas census (thanks, Margaret). They were living in Sopris, CO when my grandmother, Edith May Scribner Fitzpatrick, was born. Jeff worked for the mines as an interpreter through Southern Colorado and New Mexico. Jeff died when my grandmother was about 10 years old. My mother, Shiela Ruth Fitzpatrick Robins, was born in Dawson, New Mexico, where her father and Edith's husband, Thomas Bernard Fitzpatrick, also worked the mines as a coachman. When these mines closed up they settled in Long Beach, CA in the early 1930's.

My twin sister and I were born at the Persidio of San Francisco in 1948 while my parents were stationed at Fairfield AFB. My father was an officer and a pilot in the Air Force for 20 years. He flew many missions for the U.S. during WWII, the Korean War and the Berlin Airlift. My mother and father met at a dance with friends in Southern CA. She was working in the Shipyards at Long Beach. I have many pictures of my parents at dances of my father during the war--very romantic!! We moved every 3 to 4 years while we were growing up. We lived in many different states and were stationed for 4 years in Madrid, Spain. My parents made sure we saw a good deal of America and most of Europe. It was an exciting and happy time of my life.

I have been collecting some general information on my husband's family but I'm not experienced enough to take on too much this early in my genealogy career. Some of the names are Rueppel, Windell, Davidson, Kieferly, and Helstrum from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and originally Germany. I'll tackle this hurdle after the Christmas holidays!

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Lillian Clifton was born March 12, 1903, in Ottawa, Canada. She was the only child of Amos and Mary Belcher Clifton. She married Lawrence Wilson and had six children. They are as follows: Rita L. Rector, Doreen E. Peck, Robert L. Wilson, John E. Wilson, Ronald J. Wilson, Patricia I. McCune (deceased). Over the years, Lillian has lived in Ottawa, Canada 15 years, Saskatchewan, Canada, 5 years, and 58 years in California.

Meet the Members (cont.)

Her parents were born in England. Father in Sussex and mother in London. Surnames on her father's side of the family are: Clifton & Clout of County Kent, Sussex, England. From the maternal side of this family come the names Clout, Bishop, Baldock, Golden, Doe/Doo & Wright. From the paternal side, Clifton, Darnell, Gladwin, and Roberts. All these families are from various parts of Sussex.

She hasn't been able to trace her mother's family names of Belcher and Landon. On her husband's family she has the following names: Wilson, Burns, Mason, Finner, Hammond, Stewart, Farrell, Graham, Smith and Parker. All of these families come from Quebec, Saskatchewan and other areas of Canada.

Much of Lillian's information has come from the efforts of her daughters who started searching about 10 years ago. Some of the data came from letters she received in the 1930's and some from letters written by her father to her daughter.

Some exciting finds have come from recent information her daughter Doreen received from a woman in England who is doing research for her. It is Census records from the 1841 and 1851 years on her father's family.

Since she has so much information, she would like to go as far back in history as possible.

Lillian Wilson, 4202 Stanley Blvd., Apt. 5, Pleasanton, CA 94566

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Olivette Johnston Corzine Chinn--I was born in Wichita, Kansas, the second of four children born to Francis Ira (b. Illinois) and Minnie O. Johnston (b. Kansas). We moved to a ranch in Colorado when I was two and one-half years of age. Later I moved back to Kansas, where I married James A. Corzine, Jr. Back in the 1870's and 1880's the Corzine's and Johnston's farms had "cornered" in the Chikaskia river in Sumner County Kansas. (The Corzine land is still in the family.) After James was killed in a plane crash I moved to New Mexico and in 1956 came to California. I have been at LLNL for 25 years.

Former hobbies of flying, fishing and camping have been replaced by my interest in my job, my children and grandchildren, plus Foster Grandparenting, sewing, crocheting, needlepointing, quilting, traveling, etc.

I am researching (not very enthusiastically until I retire, however) the following surnames: Blue, Johnston, McCliman, Poulson, Whitlaw (or Whitlow), Saunders, Shannon, Emery, Corzine, Chinn, Clark, Justice, Madden.



GENEALOGICAL AIDS

Compiled by Rosemarie Stickney Wade

RESEARCH IN THE ARCHIVES OF MASSACHUSETTS

Martha Clark, Reference Archivist for the Archives Division, Office of the Massachusetts Secretary of State, Room 55-West Wing-Basement, State House, Boston, MA 02133, writes me that the repository for documents produced by the State Legislature and certain state agencies has had no collecting policy which stressed genealogical concerns. However, there are collections in the Archives that would be of interest to local historians and genealogists. She suggests, if you have not already done so, you consult the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 20116. The following are excerpts from an information sheet of the archives.

WHAT IS THE ARCHIVES?

The Archives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is a division under the authority of the Secretary of State. Its function is to collect, process, arrange, preserve and service the records of state government that are no longer used in the day-to-day operation of an office or agency, but need to be preserved. Thus, the Archives holdings are unique (mostly manuscripts, in contrast to a library which holds printed material).

WHO USES THE ARCHIVES & WHY?

1. Since it holds fundamental legal documents such as treaties, charters, the State Constitution, as well as the Laws of the Commonwealth, people involved in research for legal purposes (i.e., court cases, legislative hearings, etc.).
2. The need or desire to "tell it like it was" draws many historians to our collections. Whether they be amateur or professional student or seasoned scholar, the holdings form a unique and priceless vehicle with which these people can gain insight into the past.
3. Finally, a large part of the service centers around genealogical research. While some of the collections are limited by a lack of comprehensive indexing, there is a good deal of genealogical interest in the census material, the colonial series, the military records up to and including the Revolutionary War, and passenger lists for the Port of Boston (1348-1891).

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU WANT IN ORDER TO USE THE ARCHIVES.

Absolutely not. The archives staff is totally geared toward assisting the public, be they professional researcher or the curious novice. We

Genealogical Aids (cont.)

will take the necessary time to explain and advise. That is why we are here. In our search area, Room 55 of the State House, there is always someone on duty from 9 to 5, Monday through Friday (except legal holidays). If coming in person or calling by phone are not convenient, we also provide a modest and routine service through the mail at no charge, and guidance will be provided for more complex inquiries. We also offer a photo-duplicating service for the high quality reproduction of our archival material. Order forms and costs will be provided on request.

I THINK I UNDERSTAND THE ARCHIVES A LITTLE BETTER. IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE I SHOULD KNOW?

One last thing: Since we receive numerous inquiries from people looking for records which we do not hold, it might be helpful to briefly indicate some of the record groups most often sought which are not in our collection. We have no substantial collection of town, county, or court records; naturalization records; and no collection of private papers, art objects or artifacts. Moreover while we hold census records for part of the 19th century, we do not have any of the published or microfilmed indices. It is also important to remember that many records - like vital records from 1840 and military service papers since 1812 - are still serviced by other governmental departments. The staff keeps a constantly updated list of other holdings and will make every effort to direct you to the appropriate source.

NOTE: I dream of the time when all archivists are as positive and helpful as those in Massachusetts. Thank you.

DESCRIPTION OF THE ARCHIVES COLLECTION OF THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Organic: Charters, treaties, and constitutional papers, including records of popular and constitutional conventions.

Collections: The "Massachusetts Archives", a compilation of state papers to 1799, organized by topic. These include original papers and some journals of the General Court and Council to 1784, military records from 1643, town valuations, official correspondence, and a large body of treasury and other pecuniary records. Some private papers included. "Documents collected in France" consist of ten volumes of materials copied from French archives in the nineteenth century. Alexander Harris Papers, 1823-51; letters and papers relating to building projects of this noted architect and civil engineer. Col. Alfred S. Hartwell Papers, 1864-66. Miscellaneous papers concerning his command of the 55th regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Lands: Records and papers relating to land claims, grants of bounty lands to soldiers, boundary disputes, and the separation of Maine,

Genealogical Aids (cont.)

1628 to date, including surveyors records and Land Court Decrees (1898-1969).

Legislative: Journals of the General Court, 1628 to date. Engrossed Acts and Resolves from 1686. Letterbooks, 1763-76, including letters to the agent in G. B. Original papers generated in the legislative process, 1775 to date - from petitions to acts and resolves; and papers referred to the Legislature, including reports of government officers, governors' messages, reports and transcripts of hearings of special commissions; claims and correspondence.

Executive: Journals of the governor's council in its advisory and executive capacities from 1628. Council files from 1780, including records of special commissions appointed by the governor and council. Executive orders, proclamations, royal instructions and colonial commissions. Some office records of recent governors from 1960. Returns of votes from 1780 to date. Commitments to institutions. Letterbooks and Letters received, 1701-1872, including letters and papers recorded for the governor (to 1872) and council (to 1780), including correspondence with the agent in Great Britain and with the general government.

Treasury: Treasury records and papers, 1701-1935. A comprehensive record of Treasury business from 1753, with claims, vouchers, correspondence, and other loose papers dating from 1701; sheriffs' returns; and pension records. Includes records of such special accounts as those relating to the disposition of Loyalist estates and the operations of the Troy and Greenfield Railway Company and Lynn Pearl Button Company (1892-94).

Secretary: A comprehensive record of the business of the State's Chief Recording Offices, including: Commissions and qualifications of officeholders; Acceptances of local option statutes; Passports, 1815-60; Medical examiners' returns of deaths from 1885; Election returns from 1780; State census schedules, 1855 and 1865, and other special census records from 1750; Maps and plans from 1636; Records of the state geological and topographical surveys, 1830-1850; Annual returns of turnpike and other public corporations, to 1868; Returns under the Lobby Act, from 1891; Returns of campaign expenses, 1962-1964; Records of pardon, respite, commutation, and extradition from 1780; Letterbooks and other administrative records.

Military Departments: Muster Rolls from 1710 through the Revolutionary War. Records of the Board of War, Commissary Dept. and Quartermaster for the Revolutionary period and the War of 1812, primarily relating to supplies. Records of the Adjutant General, primarily for the Civil War period, including muster rolls, issue books, and correspondence, notable of the agent for state troops (1861-1867).

Genealogical Aids (cont.)

Administrative Agencies: A developing collection of records of administrative agencies and state institutions, including administrative, hospital, and case records of the Boards of Health, Lunacy, and Charity, Dept. of Public Welfare and Dept. of Mental Health from 1870; Board of Education from 1837; State Almshouses and Primary School from 1850; Board of Arbitration and Conciliation, 1886-1949; various administrative commissions and regulatory boards; state tuberculosis sanitarium; parole board, 1913 to 1940; Board of Agriculture, 1870-1879.

County Records: Hampshire: Original deeds filed with the county register, 1771-1950. Trial Justice case records, 1852-1857. Attachments and Executions, 1896-1966. Middlesex County: Records of the county training school, from 1893.

United States Records: Duplicate federal census schedules, 1850-1880, for Massachusetts. Passenger Lists (1848-1891 of alien immigrants at the port of Boston.

Published volumes recommended for research:

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1896 (17 volumes)

Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War. Boston: Wright and Potter, 1937 (8 volumes)

Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England. Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, Boston: William White, 1853-1854. (5 volumes)

Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England. Edited by Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, Boston: William White, 1855-1861. Later volumes edited by David Pulsifer. (12 volumes)

The Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771. Edited by Bettye Hobbs Pruitt, Boston: G. K. Hall & Co. 1978.

Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790-Massachusetts. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1973

Vital Records Before 1850. Arranged by town. Most volumes published by the New England Historic Genealogical Society, around the turn of the century.

LOCAL NOTES:

The Livermore Heritage Guild was presented a copy of the privately printed memoirs of Livermore history written by Ernest Wente. They also have the memoirs of the Young-Sweet families.

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The microfilming of the Livermore Echo (1887-1919) is finished.

DOING NEW ENGLAND RESEARCH LOCALLY

by Lucile White

After locating my great-grandmother's maiden name a few months ago and learning that her parents had been born in Massachusetts, I began my first New England research. This has been a new and successful experience as I never knew there was such a wealth of information available from that area.

The Sutro and Civic Center Libraries have many volumes of Vital Records of the towns in New England, especially Massachusetts. These give the birth, death, and marriage records as late as 1850. One volume may give you the date of your ancestors birth, when and who they married and the names of their parents, also their birth and marriages, depending on how long they lived there and how complete the record is. There are also many volumes of family histories, both county and state besides the New England Register which has 134 volumes. The Civic Center Library has the indexes included with their holdings of the N. E. Register.

The N. E. Dictionary by Save  our own library has an amazing amount of information. I have found  information and help from them.

The L.D.S. Library in Oakland has most of the vital records of N.E. on their Microfiche. There is an unbelievable amount of information there but it takes some time to sort out the duplicate names you may be working on, to fit the date and location. One important thing is to learn the area as there was not much travel and if your ancestor did not marry a girl in the town he lived in he probably married in the next town. Some of my ancestors helped settle a town in northeast Massachusetts in 1635. A century and a half later their descendants were still being born there. This certainly simplifies research.

These sources have given me 174 complete names of direct ancestors from the time they immigrated. I have lost count of the number of ancestors found before that. A lady in N.E. working on one of my lines sent our direct lineage going back to Cernic about 500 A.D. This line goes down through William the Conquerer and is the same line as George Washington descended from. I find that I am a 14th cousin to our first president, had a grandmother who was hanged as a witch during the witch hunts in Salem, had a grandfather who was shanghied and never seen again and several that were killed by Indians, and much more.

This has taken a lot of work but I hope that all of you may have the experience of working in New England. You, too will be surprised at the amount of knowledge available from there.

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## VALLEY ROOTS

by Margaret Fazio

MAY GERTRUDE WISSEN, a lifelong resident of the valley and teacher to hundreds of children, died Sunday July 19, 1981, at Valley Memorial Hospital. She was 97 years old.

She was a teacher of English and Latin at Livermore High School for 38 years, and continued living in Livermore after she retired in 1948.

She was the daughter of Danish immigrants. Her father, Hans Rasmus Nissen, arrived in the valley from Denmark in 1869 and worked for a time on the May family ranch. Her mother, Anna Christiansen, arrived in the valley in 1871 and worked for the Wells family in Dublin before her marriage.

May Nissen was born Jan. 12, 1884, and spent her early childhood on the family hay and grain ranch, located north of what is now the Santa Rita county jail. She graduated from Livermore High School, and then on to the University of California Berkeley, where she graduated in 1908.

ROBERT LIVERMORE'S GRAVE IS ... St. Joseph's Church in Mission San Jose, Fremont, ... on Monday, June 1, 1981, exposing the majestic marble ... of valley pioneer Robert Livermore for the first time in 113 years.

The 6 foot tombstone, which includes a Spanish epitaph, was spotted after the building was hoisted up three feet above its foundation. Until this discovery, church officials and archeologists believed that Livermore was buried at a spot where a plaque had been placed outside the church.

Up to 10 gravesites, including that of Livermore's daughter, Clara, are believed to have been buried in the floor of the adobe mission, destroyed by earthquake in 1868, according to Father William Abeloe.

Robert Livermore was born near London, England, in 1799. He came to the United States at 16 as a ship's cabin boy, eventually landing in Monterey and later moving to what is now the Warm Springs area of Fremont.

He married Josefa Higuera at Mission San Jose in 1838. By then, Livermore and partner Jose Moriega had settled in the Livermore Valley. In 1839, they secured the land grant for Rancho Las Positas. Livermore ultimately purchased Moriega's share and left the ranch for his wife and eight children.

At his death in 1858, Livermore was a naturalized Mexican citizen. He was buried in the same church he had been married in 20 years before.

Valley Roots (cont.)

ERNEST A. WENTE, the patriarch of the winemaking Wente family, turned 91 on July 9, 1981. He's written his memoirs entitled "Memories of the Early History of the Livermore Valley". Mr. Wente wrote this 57 page book, that may never be put on the market, in response to his grandchildren who had insisted that he write down his memories of the early days.

Carl Heinrich Wente, Ernest's father, was a native of the Hanover province of North Germany. His family owned a good piece of land, but the custom was that the oldest son inherit the farm. Since C. H. Wente was a second son of a second marriage, he sought his opportunity in America. In St. Helena, he met Barbara Trautwein, also a native of Germany. He courted her and then married her. He bought land in Livermore and moved his family there in about 1883. They had seven children in this order: May, Carolyn, Carl, Ernest, Herman, Freida, and Hilma.

The Wente Vineyards was founded in 1883, specializing in better varieties of wine. "While Robert Livermore brought grapes into the Livermore area in the 1830's and the old padres brought in mission grapes in the early days, all the mission varieties were of Spanish origin. It had no great quality asset at all. It was just the vin ordinaire."

Ernest and Herman remained in the winery all their lives, but Carl Jr., developed an aversion to the life and went into banking, becoming the president of the Bank of America. When Carl Jr. died in 1934, Ernest and Herman named the winery Wente Bros. Herman helped to bring about a change of emphasis within the California wine industry by marketing a Sauvignon Blanc, which is believed to be the first "varietal" wine produced in the state (varietal - meaning a wine named after the grape itself).

Karl Wente, Ernest's son, became the winemaker in 1961, following Herman's death. He pioneered the winemaking of the Arroyo Seco grapes, and expanded the winery's production greatly by the time of his death in 1977.

Carrying on the family tradition is the fourth generation of the Wentes. Eric and Philip Wente manage the winery and vineyards, while Carolyn Wente, their sister, is the organization's vice-president in charge of public relations.

Much of the history of the Livermore Valley can be told by the stories of the many Wineries located here and by the families who pioneered and founded them.

LIVERMORE AMADOR GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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2nd Vice President  
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Roots Tracer

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Circulation  
Printing  
Typing

The L-A Genealogical Society meets the 4th Monday of each month, except December, at 7:30 pm, Livermore Library.

Dues are \$9 per year, payable July 1 of each year. Dues may be mailed to Treasurer Clarence Parkison, 1023 Camelia Drive, Livermore, CA 94550. A subscription to the Roots Tracer is included in the annual membership fee.

The Roots Tracer is published quarterly. Deadlines for the Tracer are: Summer Issue - June 15; Fall Issue - Sept. 15; Winter Issue - Dec. 15; Spring Issue - March 15.

Board Meetings are held at 4 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at Fidelity Savings in the Lucky Discount Shopping Center, Livermore, CA.

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For Information Call: 455-0550 -- 447-4216 -- 447-0761