

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

Sue Caraway of Pleasanton, CA, Gloria Lotten of San Ramon, CA,
Tom Mathews of Livermore, CA, Garl and Carol Satterthwaite of Pleasanton, CA,
D. Lynn Shaeffer of Pleasanton, CA, Linda Todd of Pleasanton, CA

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

Patrons

Anonymous, Madelon Palma, Cheryl Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

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

Total L-AGS Members as of October 9, 2012: 180 Memberships and 222 Members

Meeting News

General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map:

<http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

The Study Group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December at 7:30 p.m., at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore.

Map: <http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Liv-FHC.html>

Study Group Chair *Vacant*

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

TV-TMG Forum

tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2011

President

president@L-AGS.org

Marilyn Cutting

First VP and Program Chair

program@L-AGS.org

Cheryl Palmer

Second VP and Membership Chair

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Teresa Fraser

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Patricia Northam

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Duncan Tanner

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A Message from our President

Fall Greetings Everyone

As I write this article, I can hardly believe that Halloween has come and gone, but it still makes me think of skeletons. How many of you have found a skeleton in your closet? I did, several years ago while in Salt Lake City at the Family History Center. I plugged in my paternal great-grandfather's name and voila dozens of hits appeared! Neither my Dad nor my grandmother had ever mentioned this Baptist preacher's "story." So keep digging as you never know what you may find.

In mid-September five of us attended the Museum on Main's annual fundraising and awards presentation event. I felt much honored as L-AGS's representative to receive their Heritage Award for Historic Business. Besides that, it was a fun evening.

Also in September, several of us went to Heritage Estates in Livermore and assisted about eighteen residents in the "Ask Granny" program. They were each given a booklet, which really pleased them, with information and blank family charts. We helped them in documenting their parents and grandparents vital statistic information. They would say they had no idea, but then all of a sudden with some prompting they would recall a bit of information. It was a rewarding experience for the residents and for us. I guess the bottom line is: Make permanent records of your data and stories NOW. One never knows what that thing called memory will do. Thanks to Patrick for arranging this event.

Also a big thank you to the members who worked so hard on the "Heritage Happenings" that took place last month at several public libraries. L-AGS is such a great organization because of the many willing workers.

I think that you will all agree with me that our recent speakers, Kim von Aspern-Parker and Susan Goss Johnston, were very informative.

Enjoy the Thanksgiving holiday with your family and friends, but also keep chipping away at those brick walls.

Marilyn Cutting

Correction to "Anna Julia Young's Autobiography"

By Linda Driver, August issue

Caption on picture of Lone Oak Farm sign (v.32, no.3, Aug 2012, p.13) was incorrect. The caption should have stated that Alice Young planted an acorn she brought from Napa County.

The Livermore Roots Tracer

The Roots Tracer is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Roots Tracer is:

"Instruct. Inspire. Inform."

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to:

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

Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

The Roots Tracer Staff

Editor Patrick Lofft

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..... Katherine Bridgman, Marie Ross,
..... Jane Southwick, Kay Speaks

Web Editor Vicki Renz

Compositor Andi Winters

Printing and Distribution Sandra Caulder

G.R.O.W. Columnist Kay Speaks

Google in Peace, Dad

By Debbie Conner Mascot

There is an unofficial contest regarding for whom the term “Daddy’s Girl” was invented. It’s a very close race between my daughter and her daddy and me and mine. I always followed and emulated and admired my dad more than any words in any story will ever relay. He taught me to love the thrill of learning, the wonder of a library, and the love of lists and piles. He taught me that it is better to know a little bit about a lot than a lot about a little bit. He taught me what it’s like to be special in someone’s eyes and the true meaning of unconditional love. He amazed me and the funny thing is that I know he was equally amazed by me.

Sometimes to tell a story, you have to start at the end before you can get to the middle and beginning. The story of my dad is one such story. In addition to having post-polio syndrome affecting his walking, and nerve damage affecting his hand movement, Dad’s been on kidney dialysis for over seven years. When he developed another heart issue just a couple of weeks ago, he decided that he was done with all the medical intervention. He contacted hospice and learned how it would likely go. He was at complete peace with his decision and gathered everyone around his heart for his last days. He looked and felt great, right up until leaving us quickly a mere week later. He let that wonderful heart of his spare him and us the sadness of watching him sleep a slow sleep on his way to the Otherside.

Our final phone conversation just hours before his passing will be my treasure for always. He asked me when I was coming back and I said that I’d be there on Saturday. I planned to stay through to the end, so I told him he’d be stuck with me for a while.

“Well, Shorty, I figure there is no one better to be stuck with.” And we signed off for the last time.

I’ve no real regrets with Dad. Of course I wish we had more time— time to ask more questions,

time to show him the family history book I wrote that is at the printer as I type, time for him to hold me one more time and to be called Shorty one more time. But he knew I loved him and I knew he loved me. And in the end, that’s all that really matters.

Dad, the last few years, you have had a blast walking the world through Google Earth. Here’s hoping you’re now exploring and prancing around in Google Otherside™. Oh, and I just decided that I win the Daddy’s Girl contest. Sorry, Signa. Trophy’s mine.

The next book I write will be the story of my dad, Harry the Hat. The story of his childhood, his adventures, and maybe I’ll even tell you about snow mazes, garden planting, fire starting and phosphorescent fishing. But for now, I’ll leave you with the end.

From the *Medford Mail Tribune*, Sunday, September 2, 2012, page 2B

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the loss of Harry James Conner on August 30, 2012. Also known as ‘Harry the Hat’, Harry and

his wife Molly Morris Conner have resided in Oregon since 1995. Born April 14, 1943 in Booneville, Indiana, to Pierre William Conner and Signa Viola Felt Conner, they moved to California when he was still a baby.

Until moving to Oregon, Harry lived and worked in the Palo Alto area of California. He went to Cubberley High School in Palo Alto, California and then joined the Navy. After discharge, Harry met Marilyn Badgley and she soon became his wife. They had two children, Deborah and Todd. They divorced in 1985 and Harry met Molly Morris, bringing yet another beautiful, wonderful woman into the Conner family.

Harry is survived by his wife, Molly, his children, Deborah and Todd, five grandchildren, Austin Billy Conner, Signa Maxine Mascot, William Philip Mascot, Colman James Conner and Riley Thomas Conner. He is also survived by his father, Pierre Conner, and siblings, Karen Conner, Rickey Conner, Leslie Spencer and Susan Nance, and a host of other family and friends who were important to Harry throughout his lifetime. Memorial services are pending.



Harry James Conner

A Special Award for L-AGS

By Mary Dillon

Once a year citizens of the Tri-Valley have the opportunity to step back in time to when Pleasanton was known as one of the wildest towns in the west and “Fandango Houses” lined Main St. Cowboys, gamblers, dance hall girls and bandits mixed with the local citizens, and the occasional lawman, as Pleasanton struggled to become a city.

On September 15, 2012 several L-AGS members joined the milieu of old west characters attending the Museum on Main’s fundraiser “Brothels, Bar Rooms, & Bandits” at the Pleasanton Senior Center. With attendees attired in garb from the late 1800’s to the early 1900’s and the cafeteria walls hung with saloon backdrops, it was easy to forget you arrived by car and not horse & buggy.

Marilyn & Ted Cutting, George & Harriet Anderson and Mary Dillon enjoyed a chuck wagon dinner of salad, pulled pork, BBQ chicken, cornbread and dessert while enjoying country music by *Extended Roots*. Guests dressed as lawmen, gamblers, saloon girls, temperance ladies, suffragettes and cowboys gambled in the “casino” and put down bids on silent auction items or had their pictures taken by the tenderfoot with the camera. Yes, our “wild” group had our picture taken in the “bar”. And, after George complained to MoM director Rebecca Bruner wanting to know where the dancing girls were, he found himself being photographed with the all female members of *Extended Roots*. He definitely looked like he was enjoying himself – as Harriet kept an eye on him.

After dinner, Museum on Main executive director Jim DeMersman presented the Museum’s Community Service Awards. President Marilyn Cutting



l to r: Jim DeMersman, Executive Director; Patti Takens, President Board of Directors; Marilyn Cutting, President L-AGS.

was pleased to accept the Outstanding Organization Award for L-AGS. Jim DeMersman gave the following remarks about the close association of L-AGS with MoM:

“The Livermore Amador Genealogical Society was started in 1977 by students of a Livermore Adult Education class. They felt that there needed to be an organization to help beginning genealogists get started, to provide a forum for the exchange of information, to hear about new resources and to undertake genealogy-related public service projects. For the past 35 years they have been doing just that. Today their members have hundreds of years experience in toto with amazing levels of

expertise. If you have ever tried to do genealogical work, you know how hard it can be sometimes.

Some of the programs they have completed are:

- *A searchable database for local cemeteries and census records*
- *A published journal*
- *A close working relationships with local libraries and history centers*
- *Student materials to get them started*
- *An amazing array of publications on local subjects.*

There is not a week that goes by that one of our staff members uses one of the resources that has been provided to us by L-AGS. We are so grateful and thankful for their hard work and to reap the benefits of the fruits of their labors.

The Museum on Main wants to honor that commitment and dedication by presenting the Out-

standing Organization award to the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society."

Beverly Ales, George Anderson, Mary Dillon, Richard Finn, Ann Homan, and Patrick Lofft, along with many other L-AGS members over the years who worked closely with the Museum in recording the history of the Tri-Valley and its residents. It is a partnership that has benefited both organizations and will continue long into the future.

The evening ended with a live auction of such things as stays in vacation homes, private flights over the bay area, a wheelbarrow of wine – even



l to r: George and Harriet Anderson, Mary Dillon, Marilyn and Jack Cutting

a stay in a condo in Savannah, GA. People were generous with their bids and support of the Museum.

(According to an email from Jim DeMersman the evening raised approximately \$16,000 for the museum). Marilyn Cutting was the lucky bidder on two silent auction baskets.

After a delightful evening we left the saloon and reluctantly returned to 2012. Those of us L-AGS members who have worked with the Museum on Main in the past look forward to continued partnership in the years to come.

Why Did Somebody Do Somebody Wrong

By Joyce Tafoya

[The continuation of Joyce's search for her mother, including her conversation with Uncle Bud.]

I will never forget the phone call I made to my dear sweet Uncle Bud. We were taught through ALMA¹ that when we called a relative for information to say we were looking for someone for their class reunion, rather than say we were adoptees. Therefore, when Uncle Bud answered the phone I said, "I am looking for Elizabeth Fern Rathjen for her High School Class Reunion." When he said; "Yes, I have a sister named Elizabeth." I almost stopped breathing.....I was able to ask him several questions because I had learned the name of his parents, and that his Father was a carpenter. When he was able to confirm all of this I got real emotional and said, "I believe I am your sister's daughter...." Uncle Bud in his very com-

posed Texas accent said, "Well Joyce, I have always wondered what happened to you." He then insisted that my son and I fly to Texas to meet him and his now deceased wife, Swanny, and we did.



Elizabeth Fern Rathjen

We met Bud and his wife and drove to their home. He presented me with a beautiful box and when I opened it there was picture of my mother, Elizabeth, who had been called Bette. Immediately my son John remarked, "Mom you look just like her...." It was very, very, very emotional.

¹ Adoptees Liberation Movement Association (ALMA), P.O. Box 2341, Alameda, CA 94501

We had a wonderful, loving visit. Uncle Bud introduced me to his Texas A & M son, Scott. His second son had died of leukemia when he was 11 years old. While there Uncle Bud told me about my mother having been committed to the Stockton State Mental Hospital. She was committed by Alberta Devine, who is now deceased, in 1953, and she became missing without a trace in 1956.

When I returned home, I attended my search group meetings with AID (Adoptees Adoptive Discovery) in Sunnyvale on a regular basis. I brainstormed with them as they gave me a lot of support and search techniques, and I gained more knowledge about locating people. I obtained information, medical history, and pictures. Information from the Oakland Main Library gave me



Uncle Harold (Bud) Rathjen and son, Scott

the addresses where my mother had resided from the 40's till she was committed in 1953. I went to every address and spoke to neighbors, showing them the two 8x10 pictures of her, and explained that she was a missing person. They gave me no information or leads. I then filed a missing persons report at the Oakland Police Department and was given a report and a file number. This had become an obsession for me, and I was determined to find my mother and my Irish World War



Joyce Tafoya

II Marine father.

Finally I made a call to the Stockton State Mental Hospital. The assistant administrator, Neal Star, now deceased, took my call and when I explained the situation about my mother being a missing person, he immediately wanted to meet me for lunch. We met at the Hof Brau in Stockton and he listened to my story. He sympathized with me because as an adult he had lost contact with his mother. After lunch, we walked to his car in 100 degree heat and he handed me a manila envelope

containing the story of my mother's illness and her life. I was so grateful I cried, and I promised I would never say where I had gained the information. I then rolled down the windows of my non-air conditioned Honda Civic and sang all the way home because I was so happy with my productive visit with Neal.

The information in the envelope told me the day by day life of my mother living at the Institution. It also told me that Alberta Devine who was my mother's aunt by marriage, worked at Highland Hospital where my mother was committed, and that Alberta had forced her to have me adopted. After the commitment proceedings, a bus transported my mother to Stockton. My mother thought she was going there for a female exam. I can only imagine her anger and sorrow.

When Wells Fargo merged with Crocker, I left Wells and went to work for Allied Investigations, I was hired immediately to work under the owner of the company as a Private Investigator, and after I had worked 6,600 hours doing locates I was asked to work with his attorney cases. Mike knew my mother was a missing person and gave me permission to use whatever tools his company had to help me find her. I contacted all fifty two counties and other State Hospitals in California for Jane Does, always nil. I had the medical records from Neal Star which had my mother's Social Security number, but when I ran a search for her using that number there was no trace. After Allied closed their doors I paid other investigators

through the years to do social security runs . . . always no trace.

I re-read my mother's medical records looking for a hidden clue I may have overlooked. I found a man's name on the visitors list which I had missed. I found his address in Hayward and a nearby neighbor said they had moved to Pleasanton in 1981. I called information and found his phone number listed. He resided approximately one and a half miles from my home. This man's wife roomed with my mother for three years until my mother was no longer there.....here was my missing link. I was so excited thinking that possibly this woman still kept in contact with my mother. This kind man invited me to his home and explained to me that his wife sits upstairs and stares out of the window all day, and he is her care provider.... another brick wall...so close and yet so far. He was sincere and apologized for this sad information.

After much anguish I hired Tammy Davidson, Private Investigator and owner of Double Edge Investigations, the most compassionate, caring person I have had the pleasure to work with during my search for my mother. Tammy is truly a professional and expert in the industry and I so

very much appreciated her. I located her on a web site through my church. She called me with some news that brought me to my knees. She had found an article in a Stockton Newspaper that disclosed that there were approximately 30-40 full-bodied skeletons found in 2005 by construction workers in an unmarked mass grave on the old Stockton State Mental Hospital site. There were no caskets, no markers or identification found. I made a call the next day to the Tracy Record and they interviewed me. They printed my story about my mother being a missing person, and that she could be a possible connection to these new found skeletons of 2005. My story was in twelve major newspapers including the San Francisco Chronicle, the Pleasanton Weekly News and the San Jose Mercury. My mother's hometown, Yankton, South Dakota, ran a front page story for which I was very grateful. The interview and newspaper articles are posted on YouTube. If you go to <http://www.youtube.com/> type my name 'Joyce Tafoya' in the search box you can hear the interview and read these 2007 newspaper articles.

To be continued: In the next issue you will read the conclusion of Joyce's search for her mother, what she discovers, and her hope for the future.

My Family History Interview with Cynthia Meriam Hodgin Willson¹

By Meredith T. Schley²



Meredith Tahan Schley

Once there was a girl. She was born on April 1st in the 1930's. Her name was Cynthia, but most people called her Cissie. When she was about six, her mother planned a birthday party for her. She invited about fifteen to twenty people. The sad part is, everyone who was invited thought it was an April Fool's Day joke

and nobody came.

She was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Upperville, Virginia. Her mother was Hildreth Gilliam Hodgin, and her father was Gladstone Sydnor Hodgin. She has two younger sisters, Hildreth Lee Hodgin Smith, and Mary Sydnor Hodgin Fisher, who was always called Syd. Hildreth was known as Tommy because Cissie wanted a little brother, and called Hildreth Tommy to make it seem like she had one. Tommy had twenty-

¹From an Interview with Cynthia Meriam Hodgin Willson, September 16th, 2012.

²Meredith Schley, age 10, is Danielle Forestier's granddaughter and an upcoming family historian.

seven cats. Some of them slept in the house and some slept in the barn with Cynthia's brown and white Shetland pony named Strawberry. Cynthia also had an English bull dog named Mickey.

The way she got to school was driving, because it was ten miles away. A driver took her. Her chores were to help in the garden. She didn't earn any allowance. In fact, when she was 14 and in boarding school, she asked for an allowance. She didn't get it, so instead she wrote stories, sent them to a very bad magazine, and then got paid. Then her school found out, and they suspended her for a month.

Computers didn't exist, but she had after school classes. These included fencing, ballet, and piano. Her favorite spare time activity was playing the piano. She was never in the news, such as on the

radio or in the newspaper. Growing up, she had a governess, and learned to read at only five years of age. This woman is my grandmother, Cissie.

Cynthia Meriam Hodgkin Willson
b. Washington D.C.
m. Upperville, Fauquier, Virginia
David Russell Willson

b. Chicago, Cook, Illinois
Hildreth S. Willson
b. Washington, D. C.
m. San Francisco, California

Charles H. Schley III
b. Troy, Rensselaer, New York
Meredith Tahan Schley
b. Berkeley, Alameda, California

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

1. 305.841 BOUDREAU. Boudreau, Dennis M. *Beginning Franco-American genealogy* / by Dennis M. Boudreau.
2. 559.935 SYKES. Sykes, Bryan. *DNA USA: a genetic portrait of America* / Bryan Sykes.
3. 912.77154 NINETEEN. 1992 *Licking County, Ohio atlas: a combined reprint of 1847 and 1854 wallmaps and 1866 and 1875 atlases, indexed.*
4. 917.9465 LIVERMORE. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. *Alumni of the Livermore Union High School: from the first class in 1893 to 1969* / The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society.
5. 929.2 MCCORMICK. McCormick, Claudia. *The Kolbs of Dublin* / by Claudia McCormick; produced by The City of Dublin; genealogy by Gary Myer; historical content by Carol Kolb Strom.
6. 929.2 MYER. Myer, Gary. *The Kolb family genealogy* / by Gary Myer.
7. 929.3741 BENNETT. Bennett, Thomas C. *Vital records of Cumberland, Maine 1701-1892* / edited by Thomas C. Bennett.
8. 970.1 SWANTON. Swanton, John Reed, 1873-1958. *The Indian tribes of North America* / by John R. Swanton.
9. 973.7462 MISSISSIPPI. King, J. Estelle Stewart (Junie Estelle Stewart). *Mississippi court records 1799-1835* / compiled by J. Estelle Stewart King.
10. 974.402 ANDERSON. Anderson, Robert Charles, 1944 - *The Winthrop Fleet: Massachusetts Bay Company immigrants to New England 1629-1630* / Robert Charles Anderson.
11. 976.8 MILLER. Miller, Alan N. *Nineteenth century Tennessee adoptions, legitimations, and name changes* / by Alan N. Miller.
12. 979.401 PATTERSON. Patterson, Loni. *The forgotten pioneers of the gold country* / by Loni Patterson.

As Was the Custom, They Dug Holes in the River Bank!

By Mary L. Maenchen

My ancestors on both of my parents' lines were homesteaders in the late 1800s. My paternal great-grandfather and my maternal grandfather took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1863 which opened the Dakota Territory to settlers.

My father's paternal great-grandfather, Ole Jonson, was born on Langlo farm in 1808 in Byneset¹, Sor Trondelag, Norway. In 1842 he married Ingeborg Olsen, who was born December 2, 1819, on Flak Farm in the same municipality. They moved to Lykken farm where they raised their one son, Ole Johnson. Be-

cause Ole Jonson had taken on the surname of Ingeborg's father, which was Olsen, the name of their son, who became my great-grandfather, became Ole Johnson Olsen.

This great-grandfather, Ole Johnson Olsen, the paternal ancestor who came to the Dakota Territory, was born April 8, 1843. He married Anne

¹Byneset is a former municipality in Sør-Trøndelag County, Norway.

²The area became known as Dakota Territory in 1861. In 1863, the Homestead Act was passed and settlers flooded into the territory. Dakota Territory was split into North and South Dakota in 1887.

³From a book written by my father's sister, Aunt Anna.

Larsen on February 20, 1868. She had been born June 24, 1847 on the Kongvik farm. They continued to live on the Lykken farm. Their eldest son, my grandfather, Lars Olsen, was born the 4th of March 1868.



Lars Lykken family, L-R front: Ole, Lars, Sam, Ovidia, Abbie;

Soon after his marriage, Ole Johnson Olsen spent time in the Norwegian army. When he was released three years later at the age of 28, he boarded a steamship in Trondheim which was bound for Liverpool. There, he boarded the *Campania* which sailed to New York City. The cost was 59 kroner, 60 ore, about \$12.00 American at that time. When he arrived in the

United States he changed his surname to Lykken after the farm on which he had grown up. His full name was now Ole Johnson Olsen Lykken. The reason Ole had traveled to the United States was because land in Norway was becoming quite hard to find and he had heard that there was land available in America. He and the others he had traveled with had heard that there was a great amount of land for farming at the cost of nothing².

Ole traveled from New York to an area in the southeast corner of the Dakota Territory approximately 20 miles south of the headwaters of the Mississippi River. There he found other settlers who had dug holes in the bank of the river and set up their land. Ole followed suit and in 1871 filed a claim to homestead in the Nora-Roseni area of

<p>OLE JONSON - (Lamglo Farm) b. 1808 Norway d. ? Norway m. 1842, Byneset, Sor Trondelag, Norway INGEBORG OLSEN (Flak Farm) b. 1819, Byneset, Sor Trondelag, Norway d. 1843, Byneset, Trondelag, Norway</p>	<p>her passage she became my grandmother because my grandfather Lars married her in March 1896.</p> <p>In my family research, I found many interesting facts in a book on South Dakota at the Sutro Library in San Francisco. I read about how the settlers lived before they could set up a shelter and that in addition to cleared land and a house, they had to plant rows of trees in this area before the government would grant them their land. One of my father's sisters, my Aunt Anna, wrote that the work was hard and "Ole planted a lot of trees." She also said the crops were poor and prices were low. There were lots of grasshoppers for about five years and there was a lack of money. Indians were living on the land. Winters were harsh and cold. Snow was six feet deep on the level and 11</p>
<p>OLE JOHNSON - (Lykken Farm) b. 1843, Byneset, Trondelag, Norway d. 1929, Union County, South Dakota, m. 1868, Byneset, Trondelag, Norway ANNE LARSEN (Kongvik farm) b. 1847 Byneset, Trondelag, Norway d. 1917, Union County, South Dakota,</p>	<p>CHARLES MYERS, b. 1862 Jackson, Jackson, Michigan d. 1955 Rapid City, Pennington, South Dakota m. 1889 Ashton, Spink, South Dakota HENRIETTA LAMBERT, b. 1870 Ripon, Fon du lak, Wisconsin d. 1956 Rapid City, Pennington, South Dakota</p>
<p>LARS OLSEN - (Lykken Farm) b. 1868, Byneset, Trondelag, Norway d. 1946, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, m. 1896, Berisford, Union County, South Dakota, ANNE OVIDIA NORGAARD b. 1872, Lines Oen I Fasen, Norway d. 1943, Akron, Union, South Dakota</p>	<p>My father - LOUIS LYKKEN b. 1905 Beresford, Union, South Dakota d. 1973 - Richmond, Contra Costa, California m. 1926 Rapid City, Pennington, South Dakota My mother - AGNES UNA MYERS b. 1907 Ashton, Spink, South Dakota d. 2002 - Richmond, Contra Costa, California</p>

the present Union County. The claim was for a quarter section 1 1/12 miles west of the town of Nora³. In 1875, when Ole had built a house and been granted his land, he sent for his wife, Anne, and son, Lars. Of the seven children who were born on the farm, only the two younger sons survived. The four little girls and one little boy died. Life and work were very hard. By 1894, Anne needed help, so Ole and Anne, accompanied by Lars, traveled back to Norway to find a mother's helper. They found Anne Ovidia Norgaard, who was 22 years of age, and paid her way back to South Dakota. After she had worked and paid off

to 12 feet high in the drifts. I remember that when I was a child I saw the house Ole built, and it was still standing in the 1940's. My cousin, Marilyn, has seen it lately and says it is the chicken coop now.

Lars and Ovidia had seven children, including my father, Louis, who was born in 1905. They all worked together on the farm until 1925 when my father, Louis, graduated from high school and enrolled in the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City. Grandpa Lars and Grandma Ovidia,

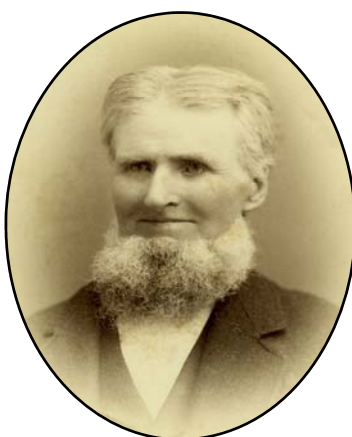
Continued on page 19

Ancestry's DNA Test—A Little Lagniappe¹

By Linda A. Driver

Who can resist a free offer, especially if it is a DNA test? When Ancestry's offer to become a beta tester of its new DNA service² popped into my email queue last November, I immediately grabbed the opportunity along with a credit card to pay the \$10 fee for shipping the test kit. Although I have tracked my ancestors back several hundred years, I still had one unanswered question: Who was the father of Joseph Driver, my great-great-grandfather? Joseph was born out of wedlock and christened Joseph Burton Berry³ in 1820. His mother, Elizabeth Berry, married Jonas Driver⁴ in 1828 and Joseph took his stepfather's surname. Berry was the maiden name of Joseph's mother and there were not any Burtons in the Berry family tree. Was Burton the surname of Joseph's father? Would the test help me discover the truth?

It took two tries to process my DNA. The cheek swab—despite my best attempt to follow the instructions—did not yield enough DNA, so Ancestry sent me a spit test, instead. Not very elegant, but it did the trick. When I got back my results, I was quite surprised. The test showed that I was 45% British Isles, 41% Scandinavian, 12% Central European and 2% other⁵. The British Isles ancestry was no surprise. My grandfather was born in Cornwall and his ancestors resided there for hundreds of years. I also have a lot of Irish ancestors. If you had asked me to estimate my ethnicity based on my family tree, I would have said that I was 85% British Isles and 15% European. What is interesting about the results is that Ancestry's analysis went back further than my family tree—back to my Danish and Viking roots. The areas where my ancestors settled in Yorkshire and Cambridgeshire were originally settled by the Danes. I knew that the Spofford branch of the family came from Spofforth and were possibly of Viking origin.



*Elijah Wiltfong about 1875
in Los Angeles California*



Esther Wiltfong Cocker-ton about 1875-1880

However, it didn't occur to me that other parts of my family might also be descended from the Danes. That would certainly explain the high percentage of Scandinavian ancestry. Ancestry said that it would revise its ethnicity percentages as it obtained more data. For now, however, after a little digging into the history of the Danish settlements in Britain, I'm satisfied that the results are probably accurate.

The AncestryDNA test does not provide raw data. Instead, it matches your results to other Ancestry users who have taken the test and then provides a list of family trees and a method to compare results. At first, the method was quite crude—you had to figure out which surnames you had in common. Now, however, Ancestry provides "shared ancestry hints" or "shared surnames" that help to identify your common ancestors. In my case, Ancestry provided the family trees for several 4th to 6th cousins and quite a few trees for more distant cousins. Unfortunately, some of those trees were private and could not be viewed. Alas, none of the pub-

¹Lagniappe is a gift, usually from a merchant to a customer--a little something thrown in for extra measure. For example, if you buy plums at the farmers' market and the vendor adds a few more plums to your bag without charge, that's lagniappe!

²AncestryDNA, (<http://dna.ancestry.com/>). AncestryDNA is a DNA testing service that utilizes autosomal testing technology. The cost is \$99 for subscribers.

³Joseph Burton Berry was christened 18 Jun 1820 in Horbury, Yorkshire, England, and died about 1857 in Washington Township, Alameda County, California.

⁴Elizabeth Berry married Jonas Driver on 13 Apr 1828 in Horbury, Yorkshire, England.

⁵The exactness of Ancestry's ethnicity percentages should be taken with a grain (or several grains!) of salt.

<p>Henry Hefner b. about 1781 Pendleton County, Virginia d. Tippecanoe County, Indiana m. about 1802 Pendleton County, Virginia</p> <p>Sarah Harper b. about 1785 Pendleton County, Virginia d. 1846 Tippecanoe County, Indiana</p>
<p>Elizabeth Hefner b. 1810 Virginia [now West Virginia] d. 1861 Shell Rock Falls, Cerro Gordo, Iowa m. 1840 La Porte County, Indiana</p> <p>Elijah Wiltfong b. 1812 Darke County, Ohio d. 1902 Los Angeles County, California</p>
<p>Esther Margaret Wiltfong b. 1841 La Porte County, Indiana d. 1919 Holden, Johnson, Missouri m. 1856 Cerro Gordo County, Iowa</p> <p>Ebenezer Cockerton b. 1836 Soham, Cambridge, England d. 1883 Livermore, Alameda, California</p>
<p>John Mathew Cockerton b. 1864 La Grande, Union, Oregon d. 1923 Independence, Jackson, Missouri m. 1884 at home of Anna Julia Young, Livermore, Alameda, California</p> <p>Annie Jane “Jennie” Sweet b. 1857/58 Nova Scotia, Canada d. 1929 Independence, Jackson, Missouri</p>
<p>Mabel Esther Cockerton b. 1885 Livermore, Alameda, California d. 1962 Contra Costa, California m. 1905 Oakland, Alameda, California</p> <p>George “H.” Driver b. 1876 Irvington, Alameda, California d. 1964 Walnut Creek, Contra Costa, California</p>
<p>George Cockerton Driver b. 1908 Berkeley, Alameda, California d. 1955 Alameda, Alameda, California m. 1930 Sacramento, Sacramento, California</p> <p>Grace Symmons b. 8 Jun 1911 Orinda Crossroads, Contra Costa, California d. 2005 Castro Valley, Alameda, California</p>
<p>Linda Ann Driver b. Alameda, Alameda, California m. Castro Valley, Alameda, California</p> <p>Walter Charles Crawford b. Modesto, Stanislaus, California</p>

lic trees included any Burton or Berry surnames. If my 3rd great-grandfather was among the results, I was not able to identify him.

What the test revealed was something entirely unexpected. In 2007, when I first started researching my Cockerton/Wiltfong⁶ ancestry, there was a question about Esther Wiltfong Cockerton’s mother. Was she Elizabeth Workman (as some family trees indicated) or was she Elizabeth Hefner? Workman was the maiden name listed on the death certificate of one of her daughters. However, there was little evidence to support the name. The surname Hefner was the one I had chosen for my family tree based on what evidence was available at the time (at least online). Esther Wiltfong’s father was Elijah Wiltfong. He married Elizabeth “Argabright” in 1840 in La Porte County, Indiana. Argabright was Elizabeth’s married name, and the 1850 census for Wills Township, La Porte County, Indiana, showed a household for Elijah and Elizabeth Wiltfong with both “Argobright” and “Wiltfong” children. A U.S. General Land Office record showed a William Argabrite in La Porte County in 1837. Was Elizabeth’s first husband William Argabrite? At the time of my initial research, the only record connecting William Argabrite and Elizabeth Hefner was an undocumented “Community Contributed IGI” marriage record. Supporting this possibility was an 1830 census page for Tippecanoe County, Indiana, that showed a William “Argabroate” listed next to Henry Hefner. A more recent discovery of a marriage bond for a William “Argubright” and Elizabeth “Heffner” in 1824 in Monroe County, Virginia, confirmed the likely marriage. But was this the same Elizabeth “Argabright” who married Elijah Wiltfong? Was Elizabeth Hefner my 3rd great-grandmother?

To my delight, the AncestryDNA test matched me up to several other Hefners. In fact, one of the trees provided a link to my 5th cousin—a descendant of Henry Hefner, Elizabeth’s father, my 4th great-grandfather. I now have proof that Hefner was the right choice.

For ten dollars and a little spit, I definitely got my money’s worth!

⁶Ebenezer Cockerton (1836-1883) and Esther Wiltfong Cockerton (1841-1919) came to Livermore and settled in the Altamont near Brushy Peak in 1868.

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BUFFALO, N. Y., THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1902.

Body of Adam Witzel of this City was Recovered in the Morning

By Joseph F. Eltges, Editor, The Buffalo Volksfreund

Grandfather of *Roots Tracer* editor

Buffalo, New York, November, 1902

Now that the tragic hardship of last August has become somewhat easier for our family to discuss, I will carefully relate those events for you, dear reader.

It was mid-afternoon about four months ago on Wednesday, August 13, that my mother-in-law, Mrs. Theresia Wetzel, telephoned me at the paper, The Daily Buffalo Volksfreund¹, where I have recently been promoted to the position of editor. At about 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning my father-in-law, Adam, left our house. He was wearing a new suit of clothes, but did not say where he was going or when he would return. She was extremely upset that her husband had not yet returned to their house on Elm Street. He was 78 years old. His general health was excellent, but his eye sight for six months or more had been failing.

By way of background, I ought to provide a concise chronicle of the Witzel family in Buffalo. Adam was the eighth of eleven children. He was born on June 8, 1828 in Darmstadt, Grand Duchy of Hesse, to Johan and Barbara (née Roskopf). Adam and Theresia (née Neubeck) married on March 31, 1851 and soon traveled in second class on the Edwina from Antwerp, Belgium arriving in New York City on May 26, 1851². Adam had already learned the clothing trades and was quickly employed with Altman & Co. as a cutter. Over the next twenty years, he and Theresia became the proud parents of eight sons and five daughters. Ten of their children survived to adulthood. Some of his sons followed him into the clothing trades, while others choose to be an engraver, a watchmaker and a printer.


Two years ago, I married their youngest daughter, Mary Magdalene, and they offered us the use of the back bedroom until we would find a place of our own. Magdalene and I tried to comfort her Mother as best we could. Later one of us remembered that earlier in the day he had asked where he could take a car³ for Niagara Falls. Fortunately, telephone service in Buffalo began in 1879 with the installation of the first telephone in Miller's Livery Stable; by 1881 there were 1,000 telephones installed in Buffalo. After Alexander Graham Bell invented and patented the telephone in 1876, a group of Buffalo investors acquired a Bell franchise and established the Bell Telephone Company of Buffalo. I telephoned both the Buffalo General and the Erie County hospitals. I also telephoned the police asking if they had any information. The officer told me that he had heard a report from Niagara Falls that a man about 60 years old who wore a black sack coat and black

¹The most popular and most important German Democratic Newspaper in the city. The only daily newspaper with a Catholic tendency in the State of New York, it was an official organ of the Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association, and the Catholic Societies and Associations. The Daily Buffalo Volksfreund, when delivered to the home, costs 25 cents every 2 weeks, or with a prepaid subscription costs \$6.00 per year.

²Both Adam Witzel and I, Joseph F. Eltges, left our families and friends in Germany to seek alternate lives in America.

³In 1895, the first inter-city trolley line between the City of Niagara Falls and the City of Buffalo was built by William Ely. Service along this electric railway line began in 1895 utilizing existing trolley lines where possible. A trip of about 25 miles between Niagara Falls and Buffalo took nearly two hours to complete.

Maternal Ancestry Lines to Patrick Lofft

<p>Johann WITZEL b. 1789 Münster, b/Dieburg, Hesse, Germany d. 1844 Münster, b/Dieburg, Hesse, Germany m. Münster, b/Dieburg, Hesse, Germany Barbara ROSSKOPF b. 1791 Münster, b/Dieburg, Hesse, Germany d. 1857 Mainz, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany</p>	<p>Boniface NEUBECK b. ? Germany d. ? Germany m. ? Germany Barbara JOERG b. ? Germany d. ? Germany</p>	<p>Joannis Petri JARDIN b. 1813 Germany d. ? Germany m. 1838 Gerolstein, Vulkaneifel, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany Christina LUX b. 1813 Germany d. ? Germany</p>	<p>Joannes Petrus ELTGES b. circa 1802 Germany d. 1882 Germany m. 1824 Bergweiler, Wittlich, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany Margarethe STOLZ b. circa 1801 Germany d. 1851 Germany</p>
<p>Adam S. WITZEL b. 1825 Münster, b/Dieburg, Hesse, Germany d. 1902 Niagara Falls, Niagara, New York m. 1851 Grossherzog, von Hessen, Germany Theresia NEUBECK b. 1828 Darmstat, Hesse, Germany d. 1906 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>	<p>Jacob ELTGES b. 1836 Bergweiler, Wittlich, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany d. 1908 Germany m. 1872 at Bergweiler, Wittlich, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany Gertrude JARDIN b. 1843 Gerolstein, Vulkaneifel, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany d. ? Germany</p>		
	<p>Joseph Ferdinand ELTGES b. 1873 Bergweiler, Wittlich, Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany d. 1939 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. 1900 Buffalo, Erie, New York Mary Magdalene WITZEL b. 1872 Buffalo, Erie, New York d. 1940 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>		
	<p>Bernard Thomas LOFFT b. 1895 Bellevue Community, Cheektowaga, Erie, New York d. 1965 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. 1930 Buffalo, Erie, New York Florence Irene REDDEN b. 1896 Javatown, Wyoming, New York d. 1934 Buffalo, Erie, New York m. 1938 Buffalo, Erie, New York Grace Geraldine ELTGES b. 1910 Buffalo, Erie, New York d. 1977 Buffalo, Erie, New York</p>		
	<p>Patrick Michael Lofft m. 1963 Buffalo, Erie, New York Joan Marie Heckmann b. 1940 Buffalo, Erie, New York d. 1995 Columbia, Howard, Maryland m. 1999 Santa Clara, Santa Clara, California Charlotte Eleanora Heckmann</p>		

Joseph Eltges & Patrick Lofft

trousers walked into the river and as the wind struck his head it was apparent he wore a wig. I telephoned Jerome Scherer, my brother-in-law, Louisa's husband at his house a couple of miles distant on Dodge Street. I told him that Adam had not yet come home and re-counted what the officer told me. We determined to take the next car to the Falls.

When we arrived at the Falls, we called at police headquarters and asked for a description of the suicide. We said that we suspected it was our father-in-law. The meager description of the suicide tallied with that of our father-in-law. The man was clothed in a dark suit and it was observed that his face was very thin. It is thought that he was an excursionist who arrived sometime during the day. His identity had not been established. We said that Mr. Witzel had come down to the Falls today and as he had not returned on time we were apprehensive. We did not leave our names but said we would return tomorrow and interview the eye witnesses.

On Thursday, we returned to Niagara Falls to seek more information concerning the man who killed himself. When we returned home last evening we said we were quite certain the man who went over the falls was Mr. Witzel. At the Falls, we found several people who had seen the man who committed suicide. We learned that the suicide was bald and wore a wig. One of the men who saw the unknown go to his death on Wednesday said as the man walked into the river the wind struck his head and it was apparent he wore a wig.

A large number of persons were at Prospect Point and saw the suicide disappear. One man had happened to glance up the river and saw the stranger enter the water. He shouted an alarm and a most desperate effort was made by the men at the brink to save the unfortunate. Captain Frank Morse of East Clarence, Jacob Anthony of the reservation police and another man kept their wits as the stranger was swept down upon them. They formed a chain and Captain Morse dashed into the water right at the brink of the falls and grabbed at the coat of the suicide. His fingers caught the cloth but he could not hold on and the man in a twinkling had disappeared in a smother of foam and spray. Captain Morse's effort was a

most desperate one and he was nearly swept to death himself.

The spot where the suicide entered the water was searched but he had left nothing there. It was hoped there might be a note that would serve to identify him. We were told that before entering the water he tied his fedora hat on his head with a handkerchief and when John M. Locher, Jr. called him to come back, he threw a silver half-dollar to him. Women and children screamed as they saw the man floating to sure death in the rapid current.

The body was recovered on Monday, August 18. It was first noticed at about 7 o'clock in the morning by Customs officer Daniel Dietrick from the upper steel arch bridge. Frank LeBlond who lives at the foot of the incline on the Canadian side of the river put out in a skiff, secured the body and towed it to the American Maid of the Mist dock. That afternoon, Adam, August (Gustav), Henry and Teresa Witzel, Magdalene's brothers and sister, traveled to the Falls and positively identified the body picked up in the river that. The body was nude, with the exception of the shoes, socks and a necktie. The left ankle was broken and the skull crushed. In addition the body was badly bruised. The finding of the body is considered exceptional, as but few corpses are recovered after going over the American Falls.

On Wednesday, August 20, 1902, our families participated in the funeral mass at Saint Michael's Church and proceeded to the United German and French Cemetery for the burial. The last four months have been extremely difficult times for our entire family relationship. The Jesuit fathers at Saint Michael's Church have been very graciously assisting all of us in the healing process as we mourn the sudden, unexpected death of our beloved father and father-in-law. As a family, we are not comfortable in acknowledging among ourselves that Adam's death was a suicide. The fathers assure us that these are actually normal reactions and that we will gradually begin to heal as we work through our communal grief.

Sources from August 1902: Buffalo NY Volksfreund, Buffalo NY Morning Express, Niagara Falls NY Gazette, North Tonawanda NY Evening News, Rochester NY Democrat Chronicle, Brooklyn NY Daily Eagle, New York Times.



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Kay Speaks

STATE RESOURCES: KENTUCKY

Kentucky Vital Records Index

<http://ukcc.uky.edu/vitalrec/>

Kentucky Libraries & Archives e-Archives

(free access) <http://kdla.ky.gov/records/e-archives/Pages/default.aspx>

Dept. of Confederate Pensions (1912-1946), free scanned images (some includes marriage, death certificates, combined into one image)

Kentucky Historical Society, Research & Genealogy, <http://history.ky.gov/>

Kentucky Vital Records Project,

<http://kyvitals.com/>

Free Access, Death Records, drill down to digital image of Certificate of Death

KYGenWeb, Online genealogy resources

<http://www.kygenweb.net/vitals/index.html>

100-Year Perpetual Calendar.

A clever online calendar created by Justin White. View 100 years at a glance for years 1753 – 2101, a total of 348 years total.

<http://www.calendarhome.com/cal100/>

The 10,000-Year Calendar, 1600-10099.

<http://calendarhome.com/tyc/tyc.pdf>

Multi Country Calendar Converter.

<http://www.calendarhome.com/converter/>

Don's List

You will want to bookmark this website! Take time to explore. The webpage title is very deceptive. Free digital images.

<http://www.donslist.net>

MAP COLLECTIONS

American Memory Map Collections

memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/

LOC Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Collection includes U.S., Canada, Cuba, and Mexico.

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/sanborn/>

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>

Library of Congress has the largest map collection in the world. Great maps!

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/geogmap/>

University of Texas at Austin, Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection. One of my favorite map sites.

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>

David Ramsey Map Collection has over 36,000 images online, 18th and 19th century and more.

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

Harvard University Map Collection. Among this collection is a 1950 military map of China and a Historic USGS Quadrangles Map of Massachusetts, 1890-1940.

<http://tinyurl.com/9bzqs6b>

Church Records:

San Francisco Church Records Guide

<http://www.sfgenealogy.com/sf/church.htm>

Irish Genealogy church records, digital images online. Search by person, location, date.

<http://tinyurl.com/yay9ona>

Ancestor Hunt's extracted data from Family Bible Records, over 500 pages.

<http://tinyurl.com/72zjn>

Chinese Kinship Titles by William Kiejan Tong, Chicago, IL.

<http://tinyurl.com/8nq38tc>

I want to thank you for following the G.R.O.W. column with me! This will be my last article for the Roots Tracer. I'm enthusiastic to announce that my dear friend and L-AGS member Susan Goss Johnston has agreed to become the future compiler. Watch for a new learning experience! No one can find genealogy resources quite like Sue!

250,000 Glass Plates

Huge archive of photos in Denmark has every person identified!

By Beverly Schell Ales

During my last trip to Denmark in August 2001, I visited

The Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg, Denmark.

Arkivstræde 1, P.O. BOX 1353, 9100 Aalborg, Denmark <http://www.emiarch.dk/adr.php3?l=en>

The National Collection of Books and Documents on Emigration History

“The Danish Emigration Archives was established in 1932 to record the history of Denmark which took place outside the country’s borders and to maintain cultural bonds to those who have their roots in Denmark.

“They collect, catalogue and disseminate the source material of Danish emigration history.

“The collection is comprised of private letters, institutional records, manuscripts, diaries, biographies, etc.

“In the library you will find books, periodicals and newspapers relating to emigration history.

“Furthermore, the Archives maintains a large collection of photographs and portraits.”

It is this last collection which I will write about. There was a German photographer **Johann George Heinrich Ludwig Tonnies** who was born May 10, 1825 and died December 11, 1903. He came to Denmark to pursue his work. He was a prolific photographer using the glass plate method. However, he was not a miserly man and used only new glass plates for his clients. Other photographers would reuse the plates. Now the interesting part is that he collected his glass plates and being a German kept them so that the subjects could have additional prints made. In doing so he kept meticulous records and left a number on the back of each print so as to find the original plate. These same plates are now in the archives of the Danish Emigration Archives in Aalborg and are available for research.

When the number of the photograph is researched in the data base for these photographs the researcher will find the date of the photograph, the name of the person who posed for the photograph, the city, and sometimes a comment or two. In my archives I have two card photographs with

the name of H. Tonnies. The family also has another card photograph but I am unable to get the number at this time.

Mr. Tonnies’ work dates from about 1856-1900. The archives contain over 250,000 glass plates that can be reprinted when you have the number on the reverse of the original. The website for the Museum is <http://www.emiarch.dk/news/Tonnies>. Tonnies information is in Danish. I have a cousin there in Aalborg who has been my contact. I used Google for my search engine and used the above web site information and the Danish Emigration Archives became visible in English.

It was possible to correctly identify two persons on one card photograph through the numbering system. It is probably a wedding picture taken in the same year that we have for the date.

My grandmother also had her picture taken and my cousin has the original. I had copied that photograph and in my files I had identified the owner. This is something that I would like others to do when they are copying a photograph. ALWAYS IDENTIFY THE PERSON AND THE PERSON WHO OWNS THE ORIGINAL. In this case it was easy to call my cousin and she gave me the number. I e-mailed it to Denmark and had the information in a week.

There is another book in these archives, **Bibliotekscentralens forlag, 1986, ©1985; Fotografier i og fra Danmark til og med år 1920 = Photographers in and from Denmark up to and including 1920 by Bjorn Ochsner.**¹ In Aalborg alone over the years there were over 94 professional photographers, men & women. They do not have negatives or glass plates for every photographer but if you visit with your photo cards in hand they may have something to research.

There is another Danish Immigrant Museum whose work is to collect and preserve a vital chapter in Danish-American history. The museum is located at 2212 Washington Street in Elk Horn, Iowa 51531-2116, Phone 712-764-7225, established in 1992 <http://danishmuseum.org/>

Also available at: Getty Research Institute, Research Library, Los Angeles, CA 90049 United States

Continued from page 11

went to Rapid City with Louis to be with him and a younger brother, Sam, who was living there. They lived in Rapid City for a few years and then they went to live and work on the State Farm. Later they lived in Hill City quite near Rapid City. Grandpa Lars died in 1946 at the home of one of his sons in Illinois.

The maternal ancestor who took advantage of the Homestead Act of 1863 was my maternal grandfather, Charles Myers, who was born August 18, 1862 in Jackson, Michigan. What we have been able to find out is that as a young child he was left with a minister and his wife, Cavatte and Autilia Pratt in Jackson, Michigan. He remembered "seeing his mother or sister walking down the street and never looking back." The only thing we know for sure is that his parents had come from somewhere in Illinois. (Hunting the name Myers in Illinois is almost impossible.) When Charles was 12 he was working in a candy store making chocolates. He had 2 years of college. He took Astronomy and was always interested in the stars, etc. He loved to tell of all the pranks he did in school.

One day he heard someone tell him to "go west young man, go west," or so he always said. So that was what he decided to do. Charles joined a wagon train and when it got to Dakota Territory he decided to take advantage of a land grant and become a homesteader. He got a piece of land near the James River and the town of Ashton, Spink County. He lived in a hole he made in the river's bank. There was a family of Indians living on the land. They were quite friendly and they all got along fine. His daughter, Agnes Una (my mom), gave me a lovely small bag made of leather and beads from them.

Charles built a small house and started farming with the help of the people around him. He hauled flour from the mill by horse and wagon. In 1889, he married my grandma, Henrietta H. Lambert, who had been born in 1870 in Wisconsin. Charles and Henrietta and their family of three boys and two girls, one of which was my mother, Agnes Una, moved to Redfield City, Spink County. They found a place near Redfield College about 1907 and he worked at the college for a



Myers family – L-R Grandpa Charles, Paul, Hattie, Ray; rear – George and Grandma Henrietta. There were two more girls later - Agnes (my mom) and Mae.

while. They moved to a farm after a few years. It had the biggest barn in the area. I remember going there almost every year as a kid. His life was always busy. He visited many places but never did find out anything about his parents. Grandpa and grandma Myers moved closer to two of their sons in Rapid City, South Dakota. He died there in 1955.

My research has led me to communicate with many relatives; some of whom have written books, some have obtained family bibles, and others have gathered stories handed down through the family. I am grateful to have such a large family all of whom came down from homesteaders in South Dakota.

Membership Renewal Form

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

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

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P.O. Box 901
Livermore CA 94551

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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
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Benefactor	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/>	Patron	\$100

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