

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 Report

October, 2016

New Member Information

Denise Barr, Paul Eikeberg & Nancy Rivinius-Eikeberg,
Linda Harms Okazaki, Sherri Titus (rejoining), Sandra Warner

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

Patrons

Dick & Jean Lerche, Madelon Palma, Bill & Marlene Silver, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner
& one anonymous donor

Benefactors

Marilyn A. Cutting, Linda Driver & Walt Crawford, Gail Fairfield, Richard & Wanda Finn,
James & Rae Hooks, Cindy McKenna, Patricia Moore, Peggy Weber & Bob Whitlock,
Annette Breingan

Total L-AGS Members as of October, 2016: 136 Memberships and 162 Members

Meeting News

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

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

The Master Genealogist Group usually meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to

12 noon. Meetings for Nov. & Dec. will be on second Saturday. Location: Contact the group chair for directions (tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org).

TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks)

tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org

TV-TMG Forum tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2016

President	president@L-AGS.org	Julie Liu
First VP and Program Chairs	program@L-AGS.org	Marilyn Glass and Diane Wiedel
Second VP & Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Tom Mathews (Temp)
Corresponding Secretary		Nancy Southwick
Recording Secretary		Leora Frise
Business Manager	business.manager@L-AGS.org	Duncan Tanner

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President's Message

As the year comes to a close, I would like to acknowledge the marvelous L-AGS members that we have. The monthly speakers are informative and stimulating. The small groups meetings challenge members to improve and refine their research. But none of this happens by itself. It happens because a team of L-AGS members raised their hand and said they would be willing to help. Sometimes they weren't sure about being able to do the job but more importantly, they were willing to try. With the support and encouragement of other L-AGS members, they succeeded. Maybe they even surprised themselves. But they were willing to try. I would like to thank each and every one of the L-AGS outgoing board members for their work and support. Our outgoing board members are:

1st VP Programs - Diane Wiedel and Marilyn Glass

2nd VP Membership - Tom Mathews assisted by Dick Finn

Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Southwick

A big thank you goes to continuing board members

Recording Secretary - Leora Frise

Business Manager - Duncan Tanner

Our L-AGS organization is flavored by the energy and talents of a large group of very talented and generous genealogists. They add a great deal of value by directing our small groups and committees. Some of the groups that add to the depth of our genealogical talents are The Master Genealogist (TMG) co-chaired by Kay Speaks and Sue Johnston and the Let's Talk and Writing Groups by Debbie Mascot for help with individual issues and provide learning in specific areas. The Library Docents, Dick Finn, Bill George, Frank Geasa, Patrick Lofft, Garl Satterthwaite are available weekly to assist anyone in the community with their genealogical questions. They work resolutely to assist anybody with questions and are always eager to help with that brick wall. The publication of the Roots Tracer happens with the members' contributions and the dedicated work of several of our members: consisting of Patrick Lofft, Vicki Renz, Andi Winters, Sue Davis, and Jean Lerche. Add to that the G.R.O.W column by Susan G. Johnston and Kay Speaks. L-AGS members Dick Finn and Patrick Lofft are actively involved in the Tri-Valley History Council that enriches communication among the historical institutions of our community. Dick Finn also does the L-AGS organization proud with the Tri-Valley Heritage Family database and as the Livermore Historian. Craig Mullins has added his computer talents to maintain and improve our website for a better online visiting experience. All of these efforts contribute to the organization that you currently see and benefit. To celebrate Family History Month each October the following L-AGS members contribute their talents to Tri-Valley Heritage Happenings at the Livermore and Pleasanton Libraries: Arleen Wood, Duncan Tanner, Jane Everett, Judy Person, Julie Liu, Kay Speaks, Linda Driver, Marilyn Cutting, Sandy Clark, Yvonne McNamara, along with the above named docents.

I hope the balance of 2016 is fruitful for you in your genealogical pursuits. Wishing you all the best for 2016 and looking forward to 2017.

Julie Liu

The Livermore Roots Tracer

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

“Instruct. Inspire. Inform.”

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

rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

The Roots Tracer Staff

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Was John Danner a Confederate in the Civil War?

By Patricia C Northam

My goal with respect to my great-great-grandfather, John Danner, was to determine if he served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. Some of the records that I have acquired seem to indicate that this might have been the case. He lived in Alabama during the Civil War so one might presume this to be true. However, so far in my study of the documents I cannot verify this.

In various documents (1850 Alabama State Census¹ and 1860², 1870³, and 1880⁴ Federal Census) my John Danner is also known as John L C, J L C, L J C, John L, and John C. Family lore indicated John was born about 1832 in Germany. So far all the documents I've studied have indicated a birth year about then in Germany/Bavaria. I have not been able to locate a marriage or death record. Since his father-in-law Thomas Owens died in Randolph County, Alabama, and his first child was born in Alabama, the marriage is presumed to be in Randolph County, Alabama, but not verified. County boundaries changed over the years and John's residence later became Clay County, where it might be presumed he is buried. However, thus far, I have not located his death date or his burial place or that of his wife Emmaline.

Family information has indicated that John's wife was Emmaline Owens. In various documents (1860, 1870, and 1880 Federal Census), however, she is also listed as R E, Rebeckah, and Rebecca. Emmaline's mother Rebecca Owens lived with them after the death of her husband Thomas. Also living with John and Emmaline is Catherine Jordan, an unmarried aunt of Emmaline's.

John and Emmaline Danner had three children. Sarah Catherine was born 10 November 1857. Charles T. M. was born in 1864. My great-grandmother, Idella Catherine, was born 25 February 1868. Census records give a variety of



John L Danner

spellings for the children's names as well.

In December 2015, Patrick Lofft, while researching at the US Archives, Washington DC, photographed the contents of the "John Danner" Civil War pension file for me. The pension file⁵ contained 32 records: four for John Danner, Company B, 54th Regiment Alabama Infantry; eight for John Danner, Company B, 57th Regiment Alabama Infantry; and 20 items for H W Danner indicating service in Captain T.P.C Phillips Company, Home Guards of Barbour County.

Though each held information for me to consider, none appear to be my ancestor. The following review and evalua-

tions disclose my reasoning that the files are not for my John Danner.

Company B, 54th Regiment Alabama Infantry

These four records indicated service as a private for the Confederate States in Company B, 54th Regiment of Alabama Volunteers. This John Danner was paid \$60.50 for 5 months 15 days of service and enlisted at Troy, Alabama. (This information can also be found on the Fold3.com website.)

¹Ancestry.com. Alabama State Census, 1820-1866 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Original data: Alabama State Census, 1850. Montgomery, Alabama: Alabama Department of Archives & History.

²Year: 1860; Census Place: Northern Division, Randolph, Alabama; Roll: M653_22; Page: 573; Image: 179; Family History Library Film: 803022.

³Year: 1870; Census Place: Township 19 Range 9, Clay, Alabama; Roll: M593_8; Page: 275B; Image: 196396; Family History Library Film: 545507

⁴Year: 1880; Census Place: Fox Creek, Clay, Alabama; Roll: 7; Family History Film: 1254007; Page: 34D; Enumeration District: 033; Image: 0677

⁵Confederate Pension Applications, 1880-1940. Montgomery, Alabama: Alabama Department of Archives and History.

It is probable this is not my John Danner because of the location of Troy, which is in Pike County. Pike County is quite a bit to the south (approximately 120 miles) of Randolph and Clay counties where my John lived.

Company B, 57th Regiment Alabama Infantry

These eight records for John Danner indicated that John was a private in Company B, 57th Alabama Infantry (Confederate States). Page 2 was the muster roll, showing enlistment as a private from 15 March 1863 through August 1863. Page 3 was the muster roll enlistment as a private at Troy, Alabama in Company B, 57th Regiment, Alabama Infantry. Page 4 shows a payment of \$60.50 while page 5 is the cover for the voucher. Page 6 shows that Capt. Martins headed this group of Alabama Volunteers. Paymaster Capt.



McVoy paid \$60.50 to John Danner for service from 15 March 1863 to 31 Aug 1863, 5 months 15 days at \$11 per month.

Again, it is probable this is not my John Danner because of the location of Troy, which is in Pike County, while my John lived in Randolph and Clay counties.

Home Guards of Barbour County

The H W Danner records, dated from 1909 through 1931, indicate that he lived in Barbour County, Alabama. He was wounded at Atlanta, Georgia in July 1864 and lost his left arm.

1863-09-30-Co-B-54-Danner John Fold 3 Page 4 Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Alabama

Paternal Lineage of Patricia Charmaine NORTHAM	
John C L DANNER b. 1832 , GERMANY d. bf 1900, Alabama ? m. 1850's, Alabama ?	Emmaline OWENS b. c. 1832, Tennessee d. bf 1900, Alabama ?
Idella Catherine DANNER b. 25 Feb 1868, Alabama, USA d. 12 Jul 1960, Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas m. 7 Dec 1882, Clay, Alabama	Ezekial Thomas STRICKLAND b. 21 Feb 1862, Clay County, Alabama d. 20 Feb 1932, Alabama
Bessie STRICKLAND b. 18 Jul 1895, Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas d. 10 Oct 1966, Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas m. 1 Jan 1916, Morris County, Texas	Wardlow Nugent NORTHAM b. 8 Jun 1894, Morris County, Texas d. 9 Jan 1963, Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas
Douglas NORTHAM b. Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas m. Rockwall, Rockwall County, Texas	Hazel Bertha VITAICH b. San Francisco, San Francisco County, California
Patricia Charmaine NORTHAM b. Oakland, Alameda County, California	

His signature showed an “X” for his name. On 12 June 1909, H.W. Danner filed a claim to the board of Pension Examiners of Barbour County that “he is now unable to make a living on account of rumatism [sic] and rupture.”

For some years he collected a pension, but after his death his wife was denied the pension because his service was in a volunteer group and not a State troop. A letter from his wife, G. A. (Georga Ann) Danner, indicated that H W was too young for the regular troops and had joined the Alabama volunteer regiment.

All this information let me know that I needed to verify whether or not this was my John Danner.

No. 100—WEEDER APPLICATION—Printed and sold by Deane Printing Co., Montgomery, Ala.

APPLICATION
FOR THE RELIEF OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS AND SAILORS.

STATE OF ALABAMA,
Barbour COUNTY

To the Honorable Board of Pension Commissioners of said State:

Your petitioner, W. H. Danner, respectfully requests to your Honorable Board, that he be a pensioner of the State of Alabama, and that he be entitled to said pension on the basis of his service in the Confederate States of America, as a member of Company I, First Regiment of Alabama Cavalry, from the 22nd day of November 1862 to the 6th day of December 1862.

In the State of Alabama; that he was honorably discharged from such service on the 6th day of December 1862, and that he did not desert the service of the Confederate States of America at any time during the same.

He has to now reside in the State of Alabama, at the place of Barbour County and Republic.

That he is of the age of 68 years.

That he is now unable to make a living on account of frailty.

That he is now unable to make a living on account of frailty.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
County of Barbour.

Before me, J. W. Phillips, Notary Public in and for said State and County, personally appeared W. H. Danner, who being duly sworn, depose and say that the statements made in said application are true and correct.

Witness my hand and signature this 12th day of June, 1924, and I certify that I am duly qualified to perform the duties of said office in and for said State and County.

J. W. Phillips
Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA,
County of Barbour.

Before me, J. W. Phillips, Notary Public in and for said State and County, personally appeared W. H. Danner, who being duly sworn, depose and say that the statements made in said application are true and correct.

Witness my hand and signature this 12th day of June, 1924, and I certify that I am duly qualified to perform the duties of said office in and for said State and County.

J. W. Phillips
Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama.

Danner, WH application, signed with His Mark

So I searched FamilySearch.org and FindAGrave.com and found that William Henry Danner was born 15 Jul 1847 in Alabama, married 21 Jan 1873 in Barbour County, Alabama to Georga Ann Scroggins, and died 25 Apr 1920 and was buried in Holmes Baptist Cemetery, Arifton County, Alabama. In some documents H W was listed as W H, William, or Will.

The data collected discounts this being my John Danner for the following reasons: 1) to my knowledge my John never lived in Barbour County; 2) to my knowledge my John never lost an arm; 3) during part of his life, my John was a teacher and would have been able to sign his name with more than an "X"; 4) my John's wife was Emmaline Rebeckah, not Georga Ann; 5) my John had three children while H W had nine.

Company I, First Regiment, Alabama Conscripts

This file was from the Fold3.com website⁶. The first page of this file indicated that John Danner was a private in Company I, First Regiment, Ala-

appeared W. H. Danner
petition, and who is known to me, who, after being first duly sworn, deposes that the statements made in said application are true and correct.

W. H. Danner
more

on the 12th day of June, 1924, and I certify that I am duly qualified to perform the duties of said office in and for said State and County.

J. W. Phillips
Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama.

W. H. Danner
or His Brother or Sister

Company I, First Regiment Muster Roll

bama Conscripts (Confederate). The second page is the Company Muster Roll and indicated he enlisted on 22 November 1862 at Barbour County and deserted 6 December 1862 in Barbour County, Alabama.

I think it would be unreasonable to presume that this is the H W Danner in the Archive pension file even though it is in Barbour County as the contents all note this to be John Danner (apparently a relatively common name).

Conclusion

While I still cannot conclude that my great-great-grandfather served during the Civil War, I did find out that the pension files Patrick copied for me do not seem to belong to my ancestor. While studying the various documents and websites, I stumbled across other nuggets of information to help fill in gaps with my family tree. I found out who Emmaline's parents were, where they are buried, and why the Jordan name cropped up. I discovered that some of Emmaline's family worked farms close to John Danner's. Emmaline's family came from Tennessee, something I never knew before. I located a record that indicates John may have also been a Justice of the Peace in 1871, though that may be another John Danner who lived in Montgomery and was a lawyer. I need to follow up on this information. I learned something about the counties in Alabama. So, even though I still have questions about John Danner's involvement in the Civil War, I was pleasantly surprised by being able to fill in other gaps with my family ancestry. As always mysteries will continue. Maybe one day I will break down this brick wall.

⁶Alabama Department of Archives and History; Montgomery, Alabama; Confederate Pension Applications, 1880-1940; Collection #: Microfilm in the Research Room; Roll Description: Dale, J. L. - Daughtry, W. L.

My Cousin Dorothy

By Andi Winters

We should all have a Cousin Dorothy. My cousin, Dorothy Girling, was the one who set me off on the most interesting adventure of family genealogy.

In the mid-1990's she began to put together the information she had been collecting for many years. Altogether she researched six families, each with its own section in the scrapbook that Dorothy compiled. Among the items she added were birth and death certificates, family trees, copies of grandchildren's fingerprints, photos of ancestors, drawings and pictures of old family homesteads and much more.

She was quoted in the local paper: "There was no one famous, but the books show our ancestors' struggles, trials and tribulations in life. They were all immigrants from Europe who came to this country on clipper ships."

Some of her research she credited to the daughter of our great-aunt, Naomi McDannold, a Pleasanton resident for many years, whom L-AGS member, Richard Finn, aided with our family genealogy.



The author's Cousin Dorothy Girling looking over one of the scrapbooks she made for family members.

When Dorothy presented me with the scrapbook for my family in 1998, it included two sections: Larson and McLaughlin. Our grandmother was Mabel McLaughlin Larson, who was the daughter of Bernard L McLaughlin, who was the son of B. Agnes Lyster McLaughlin who was the daughter of Pleasanton (Alisal) and Dublin pioneers Sarah and Lawrence Lyster.

With the lovely materials she made of our family history, I have had the tools to continue the discoveries that she unearthed. As the years went by Dorothy would send me occasional notes to broaden the information on our family and I was happy to be able to share in-

formation I had unearthed.

Dorothy passed away on Feb. 12, 2016 after a fall in her home in Escalon. She was 89 years young, still a prominent artist in her area and still sharing genealogy tips with her grateful family. She left behind three sons including Bobby who lives in Livermore, Harvey in Roseville and Richard in Sonora, along with her life-long companion and husband, Bob.

My life has been blessed by this innovative, interesting, artistic woman who has gifted my family for generations to come, my Cousin Dorothy.

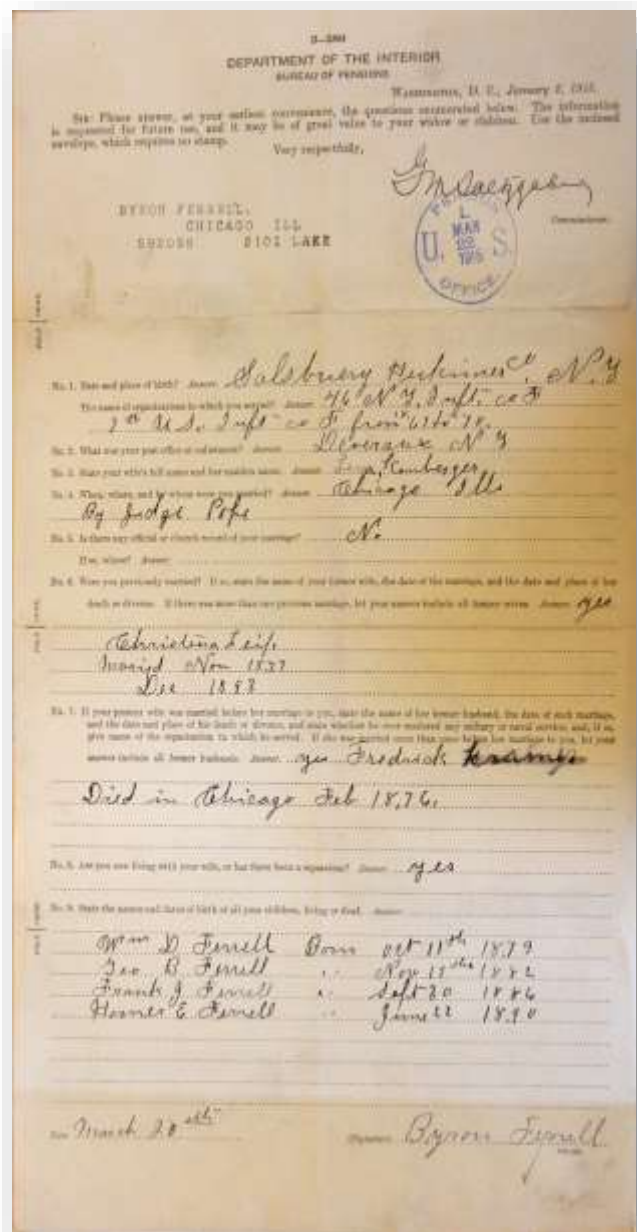
Pension Record Advances Tena Ferrell Research

By Jean M. Lerche

Recently my great grandmother's family history came alive again with information that appeared in a document among my great grandfather's Civil War Pension Records. My great grandparents are Byron D. Ferrell (1847-1923) and Tena Laib Ferrell (?-1894), married December 13, 1877 in Tomah, Monroe County, Wisconsin.¹

On March 20, 1915, Byron supplied requested information regarding his wives and children to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions.² In answer to one question on the document he stated the name of his current wife, Lena Kemberger Kramer Ferrell, and the name of his deceased wife, Christina Leib [sic]. The date of death Byron gave for Christina was Dec. 1893. Not only was the date of her death on the document but also confirmation of her first name. I have suspected my great grandmother Tena's first name may have been Christina but had never found any supporting documentation. Also, at last I had a substantial clue regarding Tena's date of death.

Turning to *The Wisconsin Death Index* for verification of Tena's death date and first name, I found a listing for Christna Farrell.³ The date of death was listed as November 22, 1894 in Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin where she and her husband had been living for several years. I requested a copy of Tena's death certificate from the Wisconsin Historical Society.⁴ The death certificate spells her name Christina Farrell and date of death is November 22, 1894. While there is no date of birth, her age is given as 39. Other information on the death certificate included the cause of death as Bright's Disease and burial in Newadji Cemetery, which is in East Superior, Douglas County, Wisconsin. Her husband's name



Reply to Questionnaire

¹ Wisconsin Historical Society. Wisconsin Genealogy Index: Marriage Record Entry for Monroe County, Volume No. 02, Page No. 0222; viewed online at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org> on March 12, 2016.
² Pension File No. 592098 for Byron Ferrell. Bureau of Pension Request for Information about Wives and Children, January 2, 1915. NARA, Washington D.C.
³ Wisconsin Historical Society. Wisconsin Genealogy Index: Death Record Entry for Douglas County, Volume No. 01, Page No. 0192; viewed online at <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org> on March 12, 2016.
⁴ Wisconsin Historical Society, Microfilm Room, Madison, Wisconsin. *Pre-1907 Wisconsin Death Record*, Douglas County, Vol. 01, Page, 0192, Certificate of Death Number 00836.

or the name of a family member was not included on the death certificate.

My order to the Wisconsin Historical Society also requested a copy of Tena and Byron's Marriage Certificate. Many years ago I found a reference to their marriage in *The Wisconsin Marriage Index*¹ but never sent for the actual marriage registration document. The index lists the groom as last name: Byron and first name: Terrell [sic]. The bride is listed as last name: Laib and first name: Ferra [sic]. The actual marriage registration document shows the husband as Byron D. Ferrill [sic] and the full name of the wife prior to marriage as Tena Laib.⁵ The handwritten script is such that one could construe the n in Tena as two r's. The T looks more like a T than an F. Tena's parents are listed as Charles Laib and Elizabeth Laib, which will be useful in subsequent research.

In genealogy one thing often leads to another. Armed with new information about Tena's first name, I have been working back in time and have located a Christina Laib in the 1860 Federal Census⁶ living with her parents, Charles and Anna, and siblings in Embarrass, Outagamie, Wisconsin. Christina was eight years old at the time of the 1860 Census and her place of birth was given as Pennsylvania. While I have solved a mystery or two regarding Tena, I am enthusiastic to learn more about her early life and family lineage as

⁵ Wisconsin Historical Society, Microfilm Room, Madison, Wisconsin. *Pre-1907 Wisconsin Marriage Record*, Monroe County, Vol. 02, Page 0222, Certificate of Marriage Number 02977.

⁶ *United States Census, 1860*, database with images, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:61903/1:1:MW9J-GXL> : 30 December 2015), Christina Laib in entry for Chas Laib, 1860.



Byron Ferrell Family 1892

the door has opened a bit wider to explore new avenues. The next question to pursue is the date and place of Tena's birth starting in Pennsylvania.

Much appreciation to Patrick Lofft and his sister Sheila for the hours spent at the National Archives, Washington, DC (NARA) obtaining scans of Civil War Pension records on my behalf.

Paternal Lineage of Jean M. (née Smith) LERCHE
Charles Laib m. Elizabeth
Tena (Christina) Laib b. abt. 1855 Pennsylvania ? d. 1894 Superior, Douglas, Wisconsin m. 1877 Tomah, Monroe, Wisconsin Byron D. FERRELL b. 1847 Herkimer, Herkimer, New York d. 1923 South Haven, Van Buren, Michigan
William Delos FERRELL – b. 1879 Tomah, Monroe, Wisconsin d. 1938 Chicago, Cook, Illinois m. 1901 Chicago, Cook, Illinois Harriet Mary FERRELL b. 1883 Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 1955 Newport Beach, Orange, California
Janet Louise FERRELL – b. 1918 Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 2004 Normal, McLean, Illinois m. 1937 Chicago, Cook, Illinois Ellis Edwin SMITH b. 1913 Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 1958, Lombard, DuPage, Illinois
Jean M. (née SMITH) LERCHE

My Father Loved the Great Outdoors

By Tom Mathews

From early childhood Charles Willard Mathews Jr. loved camping and other outdoor activities.

When he found out that his hometown of Marissa, St. Clair, Illinois, did not have a Boy Scout troop, he wrote to their national headquarters and saw to it that a troop was started. He was its first Eagle Scout.

As a father, he participated in scouting activities for all three of his sons. When they grew up and moved on he stuck with it. He served as scoutmaster to troops in Illinois, Maryland, Colorado and New Mexico. He became a member of the Boy Scouts Executive Committee. He wrote the requirements for the backpacking merit badge.

He led canoeing trips in Wisconsin and several backpacking trips through the Grand Canyon.

After he retired he climbed every fourteen-thousand foot mountain in Colorado. There are 53. When he had climbed them all, he climbed several again.

He joined the Colorado Mountain Club where he learned technical climbing and cross-country skiing. He was often called upon to help search for lost hikers.

After moving to New Mexico, he made several trips back to Colorado to work as a volunteer, building the Colorado Trail, a 486 mile hiking trail extending from Denver to Durango. For weeks at a time his only shelter was the tent and sleeping bag he carried on his back.

At the age of eighty his lifetime of bacon and eggs breakfasts caught up with him and his doctor told him he needed coronary bypass surgery if he wanted to keep on living. He refused. He didn't consider time spent away from his beloved mountains 'living'. Within a month he had taken his final trek.

After his passing, I inherited a photo album that had belonged to his father, Charles



Martha C. Mathews, Annie A. Mathews & Rolland Mathews Camping, 12Aug1915

Willard Mathews Sr. In it I found a photograph that made this lifelong passion of his make perfect sense. It is a picture of two women sitting in front of a tent and a young man sprawled on the grass nearby. The younger woman, dressed in white, is my grandmother, Martha Clarke Mathews. The older woman is my great grandmother, Annie Ashwood Mathews. The date on the picture is August 12th, 1915.

Thirty days later, on September 11, 1915, Martha would give birth to Charles Willard Mathews Jr.

Any woman who would go camping in her eighth month of pregnancy can't help but pass on a love of the outdoors to her son.

Heritage Happenings 2016 at the Livermore and Pleasanton Libraries

By L-AGS genealogy docents

While the number of visitors at Livermore Library was down a bit from the high numbers of 2015 the energy level certainly was not. Most of our visitors had no idea they can access Ancestry.com and all of the thousands of records it contains at the library. Others indicated they will be stopping by the Pleasanton Library on a Wednesday for help from a L-AGS docent. Others will be going to the local Family History Center to look at microfilm.

At the Pleasanton Library we assisted over a dozen researchers. One, in particular, arrived with a large organized file box of information, a likewise organized notebook with hints and sites and a database program on her Apple laptop. She had organized her sources and was backing up her data to separate flash drives at least once a day. She asked me to review what she was doing and with some minor suggestions I thought she was better organized than I've ever been.

She was very interested in learning about database sites which would give information about her recent ancestors in the Chicago area and methods for navigating them. I took this opportunity to show her some of the more rigorous ways to use FamilySearch other than just putting in a name

Paternal Lineage of Thomas J. Mathews
Thomas Mathews-3rd great-grandfather b. 1782 Ballymoney, Donegal, Ulster, Ireland d. 1874 bur. Baldwin, Randolph, Illinois m. Nancy Ross - 3rd great-grandmother b. Abt 1791 Anockavall, Derrykeighan Parish, County Antrim, Ireland d. 1861 bur. Baldwin, Randolph, Illinois
Joseph Braden Mathews-2nd great-grandfather b. 1824 Ballymoney, Calharne Parish, County Antrim, Ireland d. 1898 bur. Hill Prairie Cem, Randolph County, Illinois m. 1848 Sarah Brown - 2nd great-grandmother b. 1829 Patterson, New Jersey d. 1857
Alexander J. Mathews-Great-grandfather b. 1851 Randolph County, Illinois d. 1918 Marissa, St. Clair, Illinois m. 1878 Winchester, Jefferson, Kansas Anna Ashwood - Great-grandmother b. 1861 Wilkinsburg, Allegheny, Pennsylvania d. 1933 Marissa, St. Clair, Illinois
Charles Willard Mathews Sr.-Grandfather b. 1887 Marissa, St. Clair, Illinois d. 1948 St. Louis (city), Missouri m. 1914 Monmouth, Warren, Illinois Martha Louise Clarke - Grandmother b. 1890 Monmouth, Warren, Illinois d. 1971 Colorado Springs, El Paso, Colorado
Charles Willard Mathews Jr., PhD-Father b. 1915 Saint Louis, St. Louis (city), Missouri d. 1996 Las Cruces, Doña Ana, New Mexico m. 1938 Carbondale, Jackson, Illinois Jean Evelyn Chandler - Mother b. 1917 Carbondale, Jackson, Illinois d. 1980 Nashville, Davidson, Tennessee
Thomas Judson Mathews b. Washington, District of Columbia

and basic data to do a search. I explained how to get to the data links for a specific state and how to drill down on obviously large browse lists. I pointed out the United

Continued on page 13

Tangible Roots Stretching Back to the Middle Ages

by Danielle Forestier

As previously written, my 5th great-grandfather was John Johns. Johns as a surname is an Americanization of Tchantz, from the Palatinate region of what is now Germany. Many online trees incorrectly put this person in William Penn's group originating in Wales (see May 2016 RT, page 10 title: Tracing Name Origins-Did My 'Johns' Surname Originate in Germany or in Wales?) as there is a Welsh surname that also Americanizes into Johns.

This fall I was privileged to visit Lancaster and York counties and the Pennsylvania State archives in Harrisburg. My goal was to peruse films and early documents that are not online, hopefully one day leading to the identity of another 4th great-grandfather. During this trip, I experienced an exciting and moving moment at the Lancaster County Historical Society (now called Lancaster-History.org).

On my first visit to the library and archives the librarian offered to get the Schantz (there are many spelling variations of this surname) family bible from the vaults for me to see. Of course this had been one of my goals. Half an hour later, in a closed-off room, she opened a large archival wrapped and tied bundle.

As we slowly opened the cover a zephyr of strange and mysterious feelings surrounded me culminating in an aura of awe. I was silent figuring it out. We turned a page. We read the frontispiece. We read the inscription inserted in the bible from the donor. What a gift Oliver Mentzer gave when giving the bible to LCHS in 1924 so it would be properly preserved and cared for.

It is the oldest bible in the Lancaster County Archives. It was printed in 1531. It was the Tchantz family bible, brought with them in the



Tchantz family bible.

Paternal Lineage of Danielle Forestier

(Johannes) John Johns Jr.

b. 1748 Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
d. 1830 Leola, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
m. c. 1774

+Catherine Elizabeth Miller

b. 1755
d. 1829 Leola, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Susannah "Susan" Johns

b. 1796 Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
d. 1884 Sterling, Whiteside, Illinois
m. 1814 Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania

+Jacob Ruth

b. 1792 (possibly) Reamstown, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
d. 1830 Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

Peter Ruth

b. bt 1817-1818
d. 1895 Toutle, Cowlitz, Washington
m. 1841

+Maria Mary Gibboney

b. 1822 Pennsylvania
d. 1907 Toutle, Washington

Edmund Sylvester Ruth

b. 1849 Cherry Tree, Indiana, Pennsylvania
d. 1909 Grants Pass, Provolt, Oregon
m. 1881 Phillipsburg, Phillips, Kansas

+Marie Antoinette Garvey

b. 1861 Bedford, Lawrence, Indiana
d. 1940 Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri

Earl Francis Ruth Sr.

b. 1883 Phillipsburg, Phillips County, Kansas
d. 1936 Kickapoo, Leavenworth, Kansas
m. 1920 Cavernes-St. Loubes, Croix-d'Hins, Gironde, France

+Marie Germaine Forestier

b. 1900 Petit Bourdieu, Izon, France
d. 1988 Sarasota, Sarasota, Florida

Earl Francis Ruth Jr.

b. 1921 Ft. Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas
d. 1997 Oakland, Alameda, California
m. 1942 Kansas City, Jackson, Missouri

+Dorothy Margaret Steil

b. 1919 Mason City, Cerro Gordo, Iowa
d. 1999 Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut

Danielle Forestier

b. Ray, Pinal, Arizona



Tschantz family bible dedication page.

early 1700's, when settling in southeast Pennsylvania. Of course it is written in German (firmly verifying the family did not originate in Wales) and is a beautiful manuscript.

Some pages are worn, the cover is worn, the brass clasps are only partially present, but

it is a link with the persons who took the risk to emigrate from unrest in their native country, brave the wild frontier, carve out lives for themselves and their families, and participate in the founding of the democratic government we enjoy, which principles largely come from the communities founded by William Penn.

To experience the powerful thoughts and emotions of handling this relic and realize that it represents my heritage, the stuff that formed who I am, my children and theirs, all those in between us, nearly 500 years later, is a profound experience I do not expect to have again. I feel exceptionally privileged.

Library, Continued from page 11

States link that is embedded in the list of U.S. states and we examined some of the great links there. We also explored the Books link in FamilySearch. I also introduced her to the GROW column list of sites on the L-AGS site and used it to link to several sites in the Chicago/Cook County area and to newspaper sites. I also introduced her to the Illinois State Archives site and the genealogy database indexes there. We found several records for her in Chicago but could not print them out due to a computer system conversion happening at the library. We did copy them off to one of several flash drives that she had with her so she could print them at home.

On the other hand, another researcher sought information regarding her mother whom she never knew as she was raised by her paternal grandparents. She had both her birth and baptismal certificates bearing both parent's names. Unfortunately, both her mother's given and surname were those virtually generic names like 'Mary Smith.' She had no information regarding her maternal lineage as her father, grandparents and other paternal relatives always snubbed her frequent questions. The 1940 census, being a mere two years after her birth, failed to display a probable family group with that surname.

Most gratifying were researchers' references on several occasions to the saying "teach a man to fish" - isn't that what a genealogy docent does?



Tschantz family bible frontispiece which has the 1531 date



G. R. O. W.

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



When researching
“Records” try using “key
words” not phrases.

Midwest Genealogy Center Genealogy Fillable Genealogy Forms

<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms>

This library is one of the top ranked genealogy resource libraries in the U.S. Free download of fillable genealogy forms and other genealogy information. Spend some time learning of their many resources online.

Arkansas Gravestone Cemeteries and GenWeb linked websites:

<http://www.obitlinkpage.com/hs/index.html> - <http://arkansasgravestones.org>

<http://agp.arkansasgravestones.org> - <http://www.argenweb.net> Arkansas has 7,978 known cemeteries, of which 34% (2,693) of all cemeteries' tombstones have already been digitized and uploaded to this website in an ongoing project. Follow the directions under “Project Info”.

ArkivDigital Swedish Genealogy, <http://www.arkivdigital.net> (subscription site/free tutorials) The largest private provider of Swedish Church Records and other Historical Records online. All images are newly photographed from original documents. Almost 63 million color images—210,000 historical books, documents and records—Swedish church reports, estate inventories, court records, tax/census records, military and other historical records. Approximately 600,000 color images added each month. This is a fee based website. There is a free tutorial section with record examples which provides a good learning experience.

Mexico Independence Day Resources, <https://familysearch.org/blog/en/genealogy-resources> **Mexico Online Genealogy Resources**, [https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Mexico Online Genealogy Records](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Mexico_Online_Genealogy_Records) Genealogy links to Mexico online databases and indexes that may include birth records, marriage records, death records, biographies, cemeteries, censuses, histories, immigration records, land records, military, newspapers, obituaries, or probate records. Ancestry.com, FindMyPast.com, and MyHeritage.com can be searched free of charge at your local Family History Center. Checkout the Mexico Wiki Topics: Links to Beginning Research: Research Strategies and Record Finder. Record Types: Cemeteries, Census, Church Directories, Church Records, Civil Registration, Directories.

My Danish Roots, www.mydanishroots.com Contains featured research articles, research guides, tools & resources, blog. Many tutorials—churchyards and cemeteries, parish registers (vital records, birth, death, burial, marriage). Emigration and immigration, approximately 70% departed to the United States.

Elephind, <http://www.elephind.com> Search four historic newspaper collections all at once: 1) National Library of Australia's Trove Newspaper Collection; 2) United States Library of Congress Chronicling America Newspaper Collection; 3) The Portal to Texas History, and 4) Kent State University's newspaper collection.

Findmypast, Free Irish Parish Records and More!

<http://www.findmypast.co.uk/irish-parish-records>
<http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms>

This company has the largest Irish online collection with over 110 million records spanning centuries of history. Their parish records details daily life from records kept by priests and vicars. This collection includes over 10 million Catholic Parish records, which *will be free to everyone, forever*. Catholic Parish Registers include baptisms and marriages, indexed for the first time—searchable by name, year and place. Be sure to visit their Ireland Billion Graves Cemetery Index. You can access Findmypast's 4 billion records and 11 million historic newspapers *fee based resources* at your local Family History Center.

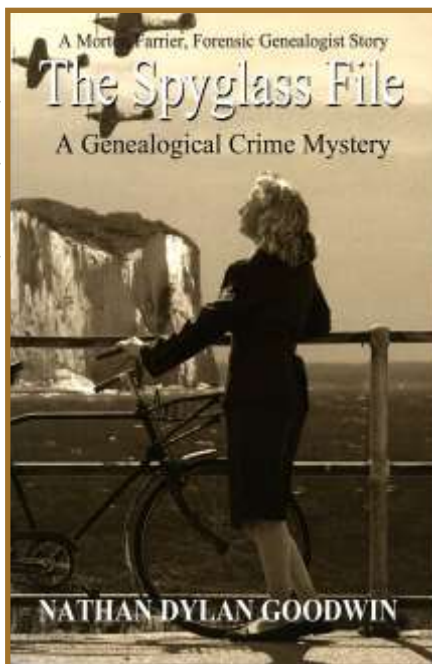
Book Review: The Spyglass File, A Genealogical Crime Mystery

By Patrick Lofft

Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, was born, raised and schooled in the town in Hastings, East Sussex. He then completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, Film and Television, followed by a Master of Arts Degree in Creative Writing at Canterbury Christ Church University. He completed a number of successful local history books about Hastings with other interests that include reading, writing, photography, genealogy and travelling. Nathan asked me to review this book and, as I have not recently read a genealogical mystery novel, I was enthusiastic to read this fun, new page turner.

This is the fourth book of the Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist series. Morton is living with his fiancée, Juliette. As they are about to marry there is considerable urgency for Morton to complete the research for his current client, 75 year old Barbara Springett, an amateur genealogist. Barbara has been unable to locate her own birth reference at the Family Record Centre. During a return visit to FRC and several additional hours of fruitless search Barbara approaches the help desk. 'Have you tried the adoption register?' a young man said. And there she was, Barbara Binney – adopted. Christina Finch was her birth name.

The lead, Elsie (née Danby), age 21, is a 1940's progressive woman. Mere weeks before England declared war Elsie's father selected Laurie Finch, a British soldier, to become her husband. This prearrangement was not to Elsie's liking. Four weeks after their wedding Laurie is sent to France with the British Expeditionary Force. As the BEF withdraws from Dunkirk Beach on June 3, 1940 Laurie is among the rearguard of the fourth battalion of the Royal Sussex Regiment. Three weeks later Elsie receives word that 'Laurie is missing and presumed killed on war service.' She decides to 'do her part' for the war effort by enlisting in Women's Auxiliary Air Force, WAAF, and to temporarily reside with her mother-in-law and sister-in-law. The cohabitants include a



young girl who is pregnant. Elsie's conscientious service in WAAF is rewarded by successive promotions to Sergeant, Assistant Section Officer, Flight Officer and Squadron Officer.

The reader is promptly situated in WWII England. The historical detail is superb. The author's tale wends its 1940's path through the Battle of Britain, the Coventry blitz, pregnancies and half-siblings aided by 2016 laptops, smart phones and autosomal DNA tests. The characters are so well developed that as one progresses through the book they feel like your friends. Author Goodwin expertly leaves readers cliff hanging at

the close of most chapters as the tale skillfully transitions the 75 year chasm. Read to learn whether or not everyone gets to the churches on time.

This book is very well written. Much of this book's content is based on real facts and events. The writer uses the gracious, classy King's English. The internet has changed how we do genealogy research these days but it is good to see that Morton not only uses the internet but still visits archives and libraries and even does some old fashioned foot walking around the areas he is researching. At one point we are gently reminded of the consequences of failing to back up our research laptop each evening to alternate media.

Disclosure: Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, sent me a copy of this book to review. The reviewed copy will soon be available for circulation at the Pleasanton Public Library. With the gift season on the horizon, this would be a perfect gift idea for those who love mysteries and genealogy. You may purchase this book through Amazon, Target and other sites in paper-back or Kindle versions *under \$13*. Previous books in the Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist series are *Hiding the Past*, *The Lost Ancestor*, and *The America Ground*.

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

December 12, 7:30 p.m.

Janice M. Sellers

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust:

What's Buried in Cemetery Records?

January 9, 7:30 p.m.

Katherine Marshall

Research your 1812 Ancestor

February 13, 7:30 p.m.

David Goerss

Researching WW1

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