

Serving family history of the Livermore, Pleasanton and southeastern portion of Alameda County, in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area of California



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551

Web: <http://www.L-AGS.org>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Livermore.Amador.Genealogical.Society/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1142643925760388/>

December 2024

While we work to find a new editor, this newsletter will feature articles by L-AGS members. In this issue, we pulled from our archives about the computers of 1985.



ROOTS TRACER EDITOR

Our illustrious Roots Tracer Editor, Patrick Lofft, is retiring from the Roots Tracer at the end of the year. We need someone to come on-board asap to begin the transition. Have you wanted to learn publication and work with a publisher? Are you wanting to assist members in telling their stories? This may be your opportunity! We need YOU!

L-AGS Renewal

It's time to renew your L-AGS membership! For only \$25 per year, you support the amazing monthly speakers, the events L-AGS hosts and participates in, and all the other great things that L-AGS does for the genealogical community. Renew now:

<https://www.l-ags.org/application.html>

December 9 Celebration

We would like to encourage members to come in person to the December 9 General Meeting as we will have a retirement celebration for Patrick and Duncan, honoring them both for their years of service to L-AGS.

General Meeting: Comparing Plats of Land with Deeds and Grants

With: J. Mark Lowe

Date: Monday, December 9, 2024 7:00 p.m. (Zoom chat starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Location: Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton, CA and via Zoom-Preregister via ZOOM below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYscOyrrD4pGdI88N7xDMAS1gextKvMAsJ6>

Chair: Program Chair, <mailto:program@L-AGS.org>

Cost: No Charge - Visitors welcome

Details: Please see page 2

Other Special Interest Groups and Meetings

Brickwalls

Topic: *Let's Chat is changing! You can come to chat about genealogy, but we are especially asking you to come with a brickwall or help with a brickwall.*

Date: On hiatus until January

Location: Contact Chair for the Link

Chair: Debbie Mascot,
<mailto:bulletin.manager@L-AGS.org>

Board Meeting

Date: **NOTE CHANGE:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Contact Chair for the Link

Chair: President, <mailto:President@L-AGS.org>

The Master Genealogist Software

Topic: Database Management

Date: Friday, December 6 and Saturday, December 21, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Contact Chair for the link

Chair: Duncan Tanner,
<mailto:tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org>



General Meeting: Comparing Plats of Land with Deeds and Grants

With: J. Mark Lowe

Land Plats of an ancestor's land will likely include his surrounding neighbors. With a closer examination, we might gain an understanding of their lives and place them with their community and local events.

J. Mark Lowe describes himself as "born to be curious." He is a professional genealogist and educator who specializes in original records and manuscripts throughout the South. He coordinates "Research in the South" courses at IGHR, SLIG, and TIGR, worked on several TV series, hosts a YouTube channel, and does webinars.

For additional information contact: Tom Mathews, Program Chairperson, email: program@L-AGS.org



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Chair: Program Chair,
<mailto:program@L-AGS.org>

Cost: No Charge - Visitors welcome

Topics of Future General Meetings		
Month	Topic	Presenter
January 2025	Finding Chinese Railroad Worker Files in the U.S.	Grant Din
February 2025	TBD	TBD
March 2025	Forget me not: The Story of a Milwaukee Pioneer	Jean Wilcox Hibben – PhD, MA

Board Meeting Summary- November 5, 2024

Membership renewals are now due and, while there is a small fee from payment through PayPal, L-AGS is happy to receive payment in whatever form the members are most comfortable. We would like to encourage members to come in person to the December 9 General Meeting as we will have a retirement celebration for Patrick and Duncan.

Research Locations

Livermore Family History Center

Location: 950 Mocho Street, Livermore, California

Phone: (925) 443-2750

Web: <https://locations.familysearch.org/en/us/ca/livermore/950-mocho-st?qp=Livermore%2C+California%2C+United+States&lat=37.68202&lng=-121.76837&r=50>

Special Notes: The entrance is in the front of the building on the right—there is a sign on the door. If the parking in front of the building is full, there is a large parking lot in the rear of the building.

Pleasanton Genealogy Center

Location: 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California

Email: docents.chair@L-AGS.org for appointment with docent

Special Notes: The Pleasanton Genealogy Center, jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library, contains the largest collection of genealogy books, CDs and online databases in the Tri-Valley. Access to Ancestry.com (Library-edition) and Heritage Quest (also available at home with your library card)

Role

President.....
First VP and Program Chair.....
Second VP & Membership Chair.
Corresponding Secretary.....
Recording Secretary.....
Business Manager.....

Name, Email

Julie Liu, president@L-AGS.org
Tom Mathews, program@L-AGS.org
Denise Barr, membership@L-AGS.org
Penny Couser
Susan Davis
Duncan Tanner, business.manager@L-AGS.org

1985 Book Review

By Deborah Conner Mascot (and George Anderson)

For this month's story, I thought I'd pull from the Roots Tracer archives. Vol IV, No, 4 Spring-Summer 1985 to be exact. This was taken from the "Bookshelf" section on page 113 (link: https://www.l-ags.org/tracer/vol_IV_4.pdf). It's a book review from legendary George Anderson the year I graduated from high school. The book was *Computer Genealogy: A Guide to Research through High Technology*.

My high school had a computer lab and it was the math teachers who were in charge of teaching computers. The unfortunate part of this was that there was really only one math teacher who enjoyed computers. For extra credit (allowing me to graduate a semester early, right before this issue was released), the other math teachers allowed me to teach the class and test grading software that the one computer teacher created.

You see, they all knew my part time job was working at Lockheed Missiles and Space and I was heavily involved in maintenance of the computer TERMINALS and backup TAPES. The tapes were nearly as big as me and they lived in the basement amongst the giant computer that now fits in my pocket. I would change out the tapes and catalog them every week and, in between this, I scrolled through hundreds of pages of the green-and-white paper with holes down the side looking for spikes in "1s" versus "0s" that signified a sunspot. With my boss' permission, I also wrote a program in BASIC so that I could type and print my papers from my terminal. When we finally got WordStar, I delayed learning it in case mine was better. Spoiler: it was not.

Had I known genealogy was going to play such an important part of my life at the time this was published, I would have spent less time at work on that computer and more time with my great grandfather, picking his brain. In spite of that regret, I did enjoy George Anderson's article very much, especially since the computer for \$2,000 then now sits beside me as a camera/phone/computer/audiobook reader/library/etc., while I type this on a computer I got for \$700 that does far, far more than that entire basement at Lockheed so many years ago.



Reviewed by George Anderson

Computer Genealogy: A guide to research through high technology. 1985. By Paul A. Andereck and Richard A. Pence. Published by Ancestry Publishing Company, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Paper Cover, 5½ x 8½ inches, 280 + xiv pages, indexed, illustrated, \$12.95.

As I sit at my Apple II + word processor composing this review, knowing that my words will soon be digitally cast into print by Bev Ales' Xerox 860 machine, it strikes me as entirely fitting that the subject of the review is **Computer Genealogy**. Computers are everywhere these days, and nowhere more appropriately than in the dens of genealogists.

Paul Andereck is the founder of **Genealogical Computing**, one of the first periodicals to cater to the computer genealogist (the computer-rooter?). Richard Pence, according to the book itself, is a rewrite journalist; the book is indeed well-written. That the publisher is Ancestry Incorporated, is a hopeful sign of quality.

Computer Genealogy was written for family historians who know that they ought to be using a computer, but don't know where to start. All the basics are here, including a glossary of computerese. The authors pose a number of blunt questions: Are you smart enough to use a computer? Are you too old to learn to use a computer? Can you afford a computer that can handle genealogy? The authors' answers are: Yes, No and Maybe Not. They don't waffle on the cost question - if you can't find at least \$2000, don't bother.

The best part of **Computer Genealogy** is the comprehensive discussion of genealogy software. There is a directory of all known special programs (55 entries!) with prices and compatibility information. There is a checklist to help you decide what you need. And best of all there are 80 pages of sample output - actual reproductions of charts and tables produced by various software packages.

Computer Genealogy should be useful for genealogists trying to decide whether or not to invest in a computer, for those already invested and considering an upgrade, and for those beginning genealogists ("who don't know a Virkus from a Jacobus") who already have a computer and want to know how to exploit it in their new hobby.