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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901

<http://l-ags.org> & <http://facebook.com/Livermore.Amador.Genealogical.Society/>

Membership Report

July 2020

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

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Susan Davis, Richard and Wanda Finn, Richard and Jean Lerche, Thomas and Natasha Mathews, Duncan Tanner, Anonymous

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Matthew Berry, Annette Breingan, Linda Driver and Walt Crawford, Marilyn A. Cutting, Gail Fairfield, Sharon Garrison, Barbara Hemphill, Cindy McKenna, Cheryl and Ken Perkins, Ileen J. Peterson, Peggy Weber and Bob Whitlock.

Total L-AGS Members as of July 16, 2020: 90 memberships and 115 Members

Meeting News

All face to face meetings are suspended indefinitely due to Coronavirus-19.

General Meetings — Are usually held on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map: <http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

The L-AGS Writing Group — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are weekly on Sunday afternoon via Zoom. The encouragement to write your ancestors' stories and your own comes from this enthusiastic group. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Writing Group list" in the subject line.

Let's Talk Genealogy — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are weekly on Sunday afternoon via

Zoom. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Let's Talk Genealogy list" in the subject line.

The Master Genealogist Group — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are via Join.me on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Duncan Tanner) tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org; TV-TMG Forum tvmtg.group@L-AGS.org

Pleasanton Genealogy Center — is jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library. A L-AGS genealogy docent will be available by appointment, Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California. To request a mutually agreeable appointment via e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2020

President	president@L-AGS.org	Julie Liu
VP/Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Tom Mathews
VP/Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Denise Barr
Corresponding Secretary		Ken Bredlau
Recording Secretary		Susan Davis
Business Manager	business.manager@L-AGS.org	Duncan Tanner

Contents

Membership and Meeting News.....	2	The Life and Times of Frances Rinaldi.....	12
L-AGS Leadership for 2020.....	2	Book Review: The Sterling Affair	15
President's Message from Julie Liu	3	Memoir: Out of Harm's Way	16
Thanks for the Posthumous Smiles, Dad.....	4	New Free Records on FamilySearch	16
From the Tin Mines of England to the Coal Mines of Pennsylvania	6	Who are the Parents of Harriet Caroline Clark Gaylord.....	17
Tale of 3 James.....	9	Your Help is Needed.....	17
Centralia PA: The Molly Maguires, the Curse and Fires Below.....	10	Tedro R Riddle named after Theo Roosevelt.	18
		Got Grippe?	19
		Upcoming L-AGS Meetings	20

President's Message

If there are a couple of positives to come out of this whole Covid-19 trial we are all under, we have been able to schedule a lot of speakers who are presenting from quite a distance away. Gena Philibert-Ortega, our July 13th speaker, is presenting to us from SoCal. Our August speaker, Jeanette Sheliga, will be speaking to us from Upstate New York. Stephanie West from Lodi and Susan Goss Johnston from New Mexico. More details are on page 20.

I certainly hope that many of you will choose to participate in our future meetings using **Zoom** using whatever device may be handy: your dial-up telephone either land line or smart phone **OR** Internet enabled tablet (iPad, Surface, Galaxy, Fire, etc.) **OR** computer (desktop, laptop, etc.). We will be sending out a L-AGS email invite with a link to the YouTube video on how to join a **Zoom** meeting. **Zoom** is a web-based video conferencing tool. First time **Zoom** participants may Learn How with YouTube.com: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E> For anyone who isn't sure how to do it, you might look at that first.

From 2019-2020, the US will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment and women's constitutional right to vote.

Suffragists began their organized fight for women's equality in 1848 when they demanded the right to vote during the first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. For the next 72 years, women leaders lobbied, marched, picketed, and protested for the right to the ballot. The U.S. House of Representatives finally approved the *Susan B. Anthony Amendment*, which guaranteed women the right to vote, on May 21, 1919. Today, more than 68 million women vote in elections because of the courageous suffragists who never gave up the fight for equality. Explore the resources below to learn more about the story of the 19th Amendment and women's fight for the ballot.

For anyone who has a Livermore or Pleasanton Library card, you can now access Ancestry Library ed. and Heritage Quest from home. I have not found that to be the case for the Dublin library or the Contra Costa Libraries. I understand that this will be the situation during our continuing adaption to the COVID 19 pandemic.

L-AGS genealogy Docents continue to be available to assist you remotely to develop a research plan when using Ancestry.lib.ed., Heritage Quest, FamilySearch.org, etc. Email docents.chair@L-AGS.org.

Anne Homan has written a book about her life experiences. If anyone would be interested in obtaining a copy, contact Anne at 925-443-9440. The cost of the book is \$20.00. Our reviewer, Richard Finn, said it was very interesting.

What will genealogy research's 'new normal' look like post-COVID? Certainly, there won't be much change, if any; in the way we do our online research. More and more documents will become available as the database companies add more to their catalogs. That would have happened, pandemic or no. In-person visits will likely not be happening right away, or if they are, they will be for very abbreviated periods of time. Teleconferencing apps have the added advantage in that screen sharing will allow both archivist and researcher to share material in the research interview and in offering results. It wouldn't surprise me in the least if libraries continued this service long after COVID is itself, history.

Julie Gilliland 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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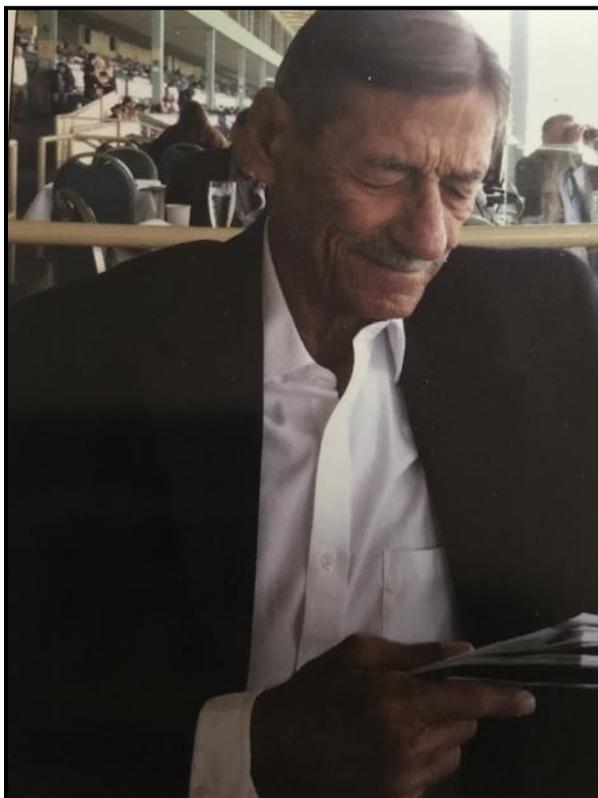
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Thanks for the Posthumous Smiles, Dad

By Deborah (Debbie) Elaine Conner Mascot

My father passed away in 2012, but in the years since, he seems to have reached out to make me smile a few times. I'm not one to believe in such things as an absolute, but anything that brings me a smile and a nice memory is worth a touch of wonder. The last magical moment came this past Easter Sunday through a L-AGS Zoom call in the middle of the Great Quarantine of 2020TM and it connected directly back to the first time from 2012.



Harry James Conner, born April 14, 1943 in Booneville, Indiana, to Pierre William Conner and Signa Viola Felt Conner, died August 30, 2012

Back in 2012, my dad, who was then on kidney dialysis several times a week, decided that after nearly 10 years that way, he was ready to stop. We all knew this meant not only limited time, but marked time. My dad and I were the genealogists of the family, often emailing or chatting for hours over our findings. So while we were making one another comfortable with his decision, I asked him to look up Miles Price when he "got there"

and find a way to send me Miles' parents' names so that I would know it was from him and know he was okay. He laughed and said he'd do what he could. I knew that if I found something on Miles, it would have to be from another realm, as that information is just not here on this planet!

A couple of days after this conversation, the mail brought me Miles' death certificate. I'd ordered it over a year before along with two others. I got the other two instantly, but Miles' didn't arrive until 2012, complete with parents' names (Jacob and Rebecca). One would think that I would be thrilled about this, but I was not. How was I going to know Dad was okay? We wouldn't have a secret handshake through realms or special knock so I'd know it was him.

I called Dad to tell him and we laughed together. He said, "Shorty, if I can find anything when I get there, I'll pass it along." Dad passed away just two nights later and as I was checking my email that next morning for my updated flight information to fly to Oregon, I got an email from a woman named Penny. She was doing some research for her friend and had microfilm from Salt Lake City. She had Googled her friend's family and my information on a blog posting from over 2 years ago came up and she wanted to correct some of the information I had. Oh, and by the way, did I want copies of the baptismal records from Germany and Wisconsin for this part of the family? And since she had them, would I like everything from the paternal line that didn't coincide with her friend's? She'd be happy to make copies for me. And also, it's all in old German script. Would I like it translated? I received three FULL manila envelopes of ancestor trees and copies of original records.

Throughout the next three weeks while I was tending to Dad's affairs, I received unsolicited items EVERY SINGLE DAY from all parts of our family- maternal, paternal, birth, adopted. The data was coming at me so heavy that just in case it was from Dad, I had to have a talk with him to slow it down, as I could not keep up. Every once in a while in the eight years that have passed since then something will happen to remind me of him and make me smile, but nothing quite as jarring as those weeks right after his passing.

At least until Easter 2020 with the L-AGS group! While chatting via video on Zoom, Shirley Terry noted that she lives out of the area now. I remembered that the only other person I've ever known from Long Beach, California was Penny Nugent, as noted above with the German research for me. I went to grab Penny's information (because I couldn't remember the name Penny.) and in doing so grabbed a file folder of information that I hadn't looked at in a while.

Shirley confirmed that she indeed knows Penny and said that she would pass along my thanks again for making a challenging time beautiful for me. As the conversations continued, I thumbed through the other items in the file I'd pulled. There were two papers in an envelope in the file folder I do not believe I had seen before, which is odd, as I'd had that envelope in my possession for over 20 years. Behind the envelope were Dad's school pictures from his first through fourth grades. I had seen those several times and

had scanned them and blown up his face from the group photos. But had I turned them over?

On the back of his first grade picture, in my grandmother's handwriting, it stated, "Taken on Harry's 7th birthday (two days after he went back to school after having polio)." I did know Dad had polio and was absent from school for a year and spent summers on a ranch with his grandparents because of it, but I didn't know exactly when. Now I did. But what is weirder and more other-worldly?

My dad's birthday is April 14. Our L-AGS Zoom call was on April 12, two days before his birthday. Which would mean that he went back to school from having polio EXACTLY 70 years from the date I found that note that I would not have found if I hadn't gone looking for Penny's name during an Easter Sunday L-AGS Zoom call in the middle of the Great Quarantine of 2020™.



Taken on Harry's 7th birthday (April 14). Two days after he went back to school after having polio.

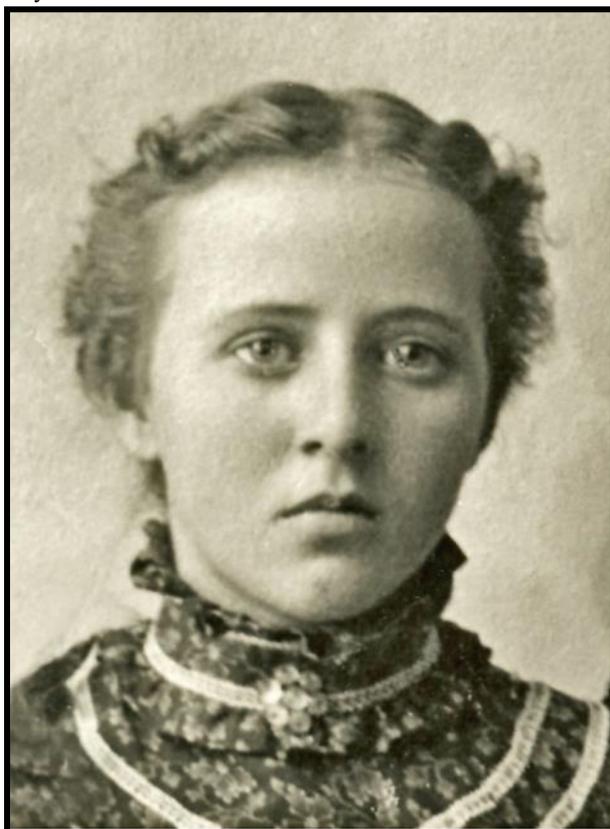
From the Tin Mines of England to the Coal Mines of Pennsylvania

By Shirley Siems Terry, Charter Member and First L-AGS¹ President

I began my research in 1966 long before computers and the internet. Access to copying machines was rare and expensive. I did have the advantage of starting young when all four of our grandmothers were still living. However, we lived in California and all of the grandmothers lived in Nebraska. Our parents were in Salem, Marion, Oregon. A weekly phone call home cost about \$3. I had access to genealogical libraries in the Bay Area and typed a lot of letters, always keeping a carbon copy.

When our parents visited relatives, I would send them with a list of questions to ask. From my husband's maternal grandmother, Grace Carpenter (Finn) Fisher, we learned that she was named af-

¹The original name of our group was the Amador Genealogical Association or AGA. The name was often confused with the Amador County Genealogical Society so the name was changed to the Livermore - Amador Genealogical Society in 1981.



Grace Carpenter Finn

FINN family Lineage	
John Samuel FINN b. Apr 1811 d. 11 Oct 1894 Tavistock, Devon, England m. 3 Apr 1832 Tavistock, Devon, England Jane Lang Rundle b. ca 1812 Tavistock, Devon, England d. Apr 1883 Camelford, Cornwall, England	
Frederick FINN b. 12 Nov 1831 Tavistock, Devon, England d. 12 Jul 1898 Centralia, Columbia, Pennsylvania m. 31 Dec 1850 Whitchurch, Devon, England Grace CARPENTER b. 12 Jul 1831 Bristol, Gloucestershire, England d. 23 Jul 1908 Centralia, Columbia, Pennsylvania	
Francis 'Frank' FINN b. 17 Mar 1851 Whitchurch, Devon, England d. 21 Dec 1920 Lovewell, Jewell, Kansas m. 9 Apr 1874 Bloomsburg, Columbia, Pennsylvania Amelia Atta QUICK b. 27 Mar 1856 Bloomsburg, Columbia, Pennsylvania d. 11 Oct 1939 Mitchell Scotts Bluff, Nebraska	
Grace Carpenter FINN b. 17 Dec 1884 Centralia, Columbia, Pennsylvania d. 3 Dec 1974 Mitchell, Scotts Bluff, Nebraska m. 26 Dec 1906 Mankato, Jewell, Kansas Harvey FISHER b. 20 Jul 1885 Kalkaska, Michigan d. 18 Jan 1954 Kalkaska, Michigan	
Carrie Etta FISHER b. 30 Jun 1910 Callaway, Custer, Nebraska d. 23 Dec 1973 Salem, Marion, Oregon m. 10 Nov 1928 Holyoke, Phillips, Colorado Sylvester "Buck" TERRY b. 16 Dec 1908 Chase County, Nebraska d. 14 Nov 1992 Salem, Marion, Oregon	
Sylvester Wayne TERRY 1938-2010 m. Shirley Jean SIEMS	



St. Andrews church in Whitchurch

ter her own paternal grandmother, Grace (Carpenter) Finn, who was born 1833 in England. I was told that Grace Carpenter married Frederick Finn in a white church near Lovestock, Devon. I searched for Lovestock for almost twenty years before my husband's work moved us to England in 1985 where I was able to find a good map of Devon and saw the city of Tavistock fifteen miles north of Plymouth. My husband and I found the Finn-Carpenter marriage record at the national registry in London. It turns out they were married in the village of Whitchurch which is now part of Tavistock. St. Andrews church in Whitchurch was built of stone. We visited Whitchurch² and attended an evening service in that 15th century building where my husband's great-great-grandparents

²WHITCHURCH, a small scattered village, on an eminence, 2 miles S.E. of Tavistock, has in its parish 918 souls and 6450 acres of land, of which 2523 acres are open commons and wastes, on the borders of Dartmoor, where there are several lead and tin mines, the largest of which is the Wheal Anderton Tin Mine. From: White's Devonshire Directory published in 1850.

were married.

Frederick Finn worked in English copper and tin mines as did his father-in-law, William Carpenter, who died at age 43 in December 1850 by falling down the Wheal Anderton mine shaft. William's daughter, Grace, married Frederick Finn the 31st of that same month. The 1851 census shows Frederick, Grace and baby Francis Finn [born 17 March 1851] with Grace's mother, Susannah, and sister, Thirza Carpenter in one dwelling.

The Anderton Tin Mine, originally called Wheal Ash, commenced work in the early 1840's and ceased operating in 1889. It was run by a James Carpenter. Even though our Carpenters lived in the same small community, we haven't been able to make a connection. The old mine is on the east side of the A386, the later section on the west side at Anderton Farm.

Frederick and Grace had a very hard life in England. Three of their first four children died in infancy. At least two of the toddlers died of "effusion of the brain" as shown on their death certificates. Effusion is defined as "the act of pouring out as the effusion of blood." We're particularly interested in this because granddaughter Grace (Finn) Fisher, had an infant die of bleeding 36 hours after birth. Several of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren are known to have a rare Factor II blood deficiency suffering different effects, i.e. bleeding into muscles or serious loss of blood during surgeries and/or tooth extraction (even baby teeth). The worst is a descendant with a very rare Factor II Hemophilia (hemophilia is usually Factor VIII).

The family lived in Whitchurch, Tavistock, Devon, until about 1862 when copper or tin miner Fred immigrated to Pennsylvania to work in the

REGISTRATION DISTRICT <i>Tavistock</i>								
1851. DEATH in the Sub-district of <i>Tavistock</i>					in the County of <i>Devon</i>			
Columns:--								
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description, and residence of informant	When registered
21	<i>Eleveth December 1850 at Wheal Anderton mine in Whitchurch</i>	<i>William Carpenter</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>about 40 years</i>	<i>Miner</i>	<i>an accidental fall down the shaft of Wheal Anderton Mine</i>	<i>Allan B. Bone Coroner for the Stoke Damerel district of Devonshire Devonport</i>	<i>Tweyth February 1851</i>

William Carpenter 1851 death registration



Miner's oil wick lamp

coal mines leaving his wife and three children behind. In 1864, he sent money for his son, Frank, i.e. Francis, to join him when he was 13 and "old enough" to work in the coal mines. Coal mining was hard work for a man, let alone a boy. Frank's daughter said that the miners had little lights on the front of their hats or caps that looked like tiny tea pots. These pots were filled with tallow (rendered beef fat) with a wick inserted in the middle like a candle so they could see. It took Fred and Frank an additional two years to raise enough money to bring Grace and the other children to America. During this period, Grace supported the family by taking in sewing.

The Finns lived in Centralia, Pennsylvania, during the time of the Molly Maguires. Molly Maguires saw their mission as fighting against individuals and businesses that hurt common people. It is well-known that Molly Maguires were active in the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania, including Centralia. In fact, the group was responsible for murdering Centralia's founder, Alexander W. Rea, on October 17, 1868, as he was driving his buggy from Mount Carmel to Centralia.

In April 1874 Frank married Amelia Atta Quick in Bloomsburg, Columbia, Pennsylvania. Bloomsburg is 15 miles north of Centralia. Amelia was the daughter of John Depew Quick and Osee Van Horn. Osee was a midwife and most surely delivered her

first three Finn grandchildren who were born in Bloomsburg. While in Bloomsburg, the women washed their laundry in the Susquehanna River. The family was in Centralia by the 1880 census and birth of their fourth child.

Frank worked in the coal mines over twenty years before moving his wife and six daughters to Jewell County, Kansas in 1886 following Grace's parents, John D. and Osee Quick. Aunt Etta Young said that Frank's health wasn't good when he worked in the mines and thought Kansas would be a dryer climate. [He might have had asthma, but perhaps it was black lung fever from the mines.] He brought his mining tools home from work after suddenly quitting. Family says they had purchased a farm in Jewell County, Kansas, a couple years previous. This may have been the Quick farm as we notice that John D. Quick had died in December 1884. The move was made by freight train arriving in Concordia, and then by horses and wagon to Lovewell. They stayed at Grandma Quick's home until they got a dugout home ready to move into. They then built sheds for livestock. At least two of their children were born in the damp dugout before Frank built a 2-story rock house with two rooms down and two up. While in the dug-out, Wayne's Grandmother, Grace Finn, crawled up behind her Dad who stepped back onto her foot crushing it. Doctors didn't know what to do for her so she was crippled all her life.



Finn rock house

Tale of 3 James: James (James) Buchanan, James (Jim) O'Hair, and James Ross (Mr. Ross)

By Kelly O'Hair

It was April 1, 1887 and James Buchanan, son of Walter and Jane Buchanan, was working on the farm of Stephen Tutt. Mr. Tutt made whiskey.

Oh, I should state that this is in Wolfe County, Kentucky, and James was working the stills, not an uncommon activity in this area of Kentucky and at this time, James took whatever jobs he could get.

To continue, Mr. Tutt asked James to go pick up some grass seed for the farm, which was fine by James because he could go by the home of young Ellen Ross whom he had fallen in love with. Before leaving, James was sampling some of the liquor, probably to build up his courage before seeing Ellen, but also in case of a confrontation with James (Jim) O'Hair who was also sweet on young Ellen.

James Buchanan was carrying his brother's pistol, which he had loaded with one bullet; he had hoped to trade it to a Mr. Peck for a rifle. He also planned to pick up a new set of clothes when he got into town, to impress Ellen. On the way into town, he managed to pass by a place run by Mrs. Bryd, where liquor was sold, so James had a few more drinks.

After doing his errands in town, he still had the pistol, but got his new suit of clothes and two bags of grass seed. On the way back, once again he stopped at Mrs. Byrd's for a few more drinks, this time a half pint of whiskey. At this point he was pretty toasted, fell off his horse a few times, had trouble holding on to the bags of seed.

Eventually, making it to the James Ross Home (Mr. Ross) where Ellen lived, James was plastered, probably so drunk he had no idea where he was, he was rude and belligerent. Mr. Ross and his son Henry tried to help him.

Somehow, a shot rang out, and it appeared that James Buchanan had shot James Ross (the father of sweet Ellen) with his pistol, in the head. But did anyone see it? Unclear.

A very long trial commenced, some questionable eye witnesses, lots of circumstantial evidence, and with James sometimes saying it was an acci-

dent and at other times saying he did not remember anything, his defense was a mess, he was found guilty. Many in the community did not understand it, there was no bad blood between James and Mr. Ross, and many letters were written to the Judge to try and keep him from being hanged, to no avail.

On June 1, 1888, James Buchanan was hanged in front of a crowd of onlookers. James, before he was hung said "If I am guilty, I deserve to die, but I did not have any intention of killing anyone. If I killed Mr. Ross, I don't remember."

Ellen Ross married James O'Hair (Jim) and moved west, but soon after Jim fell ill and as his life drained away and the end was near, he confessed to the killing of his wife's father, Mr. Ross, who did not like Jim, and explained how he had framed James Buchanan so he could marry Ellen. Jim had hidden the actual murder weapon in a hedgerow and he described the specific location where that gun could be found.

Townfolk found the actual murder weapon and were horrified that they had HUNG AN INNOCENT MAN!

Many strange events and stories followed in Wolfe County after that hanging.

I have NO idea who this James O'Hair is, cannot find any records on the Ross family. But it is an interesting story.

Complete details are in the book "The Hangings of Wolfe County Kentucky", Kenneth Bush, Lulu Press, Inc., Mar 12, 2013



Centralia PA: The Molly Maguires, the Curse and Fires Below

By Shirley Siems Terry, Charter Member and First L-AGS President

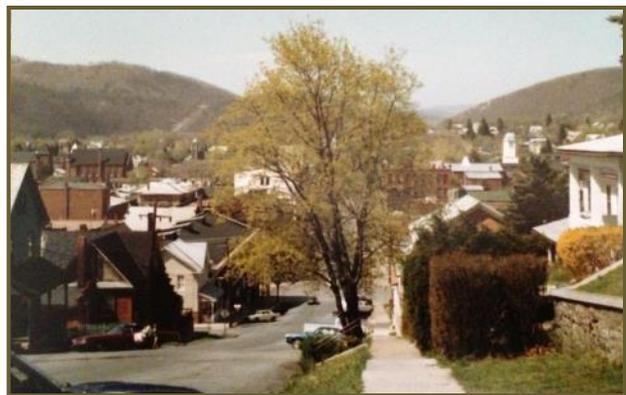
My husband's Finn ancestors were coal miners in Centralia, Pennsylvania, from 1862-1885. Centralia has a most interesting history. In 1842, the land surrounding Bull's Head Tavern in Columbia County, Pennsylvania, was purchased by the Locust Mountain Coal and Iron Company. Their mining engineer, Alexander Rea, drew up plans for a town he named Centreville hoping it would become the center of commerce in the region. The name was changed to Centralia as there was a Centreville, 235 miles west, in Schuylkill County. Large scale mining didn't begin until the Mine Run Railroad was completed in 1854 when massive quantities of anthracite coal could be efficiently transported out of the mountains to market. Centralia was incorporated as a borough in 1866. Its principal employer was the anthracite coal industry.

Alexander Rae, the town's founder, was murdered in his buggy by members of the Molly Maguires in October 1868 on the road between Centralia and Mount Carmel. Ten years later in March 1878, three men were convicted and hanged in the county seat of Bloomsburg. Several other murders and incidents of arson took place during this time period, as Centralia was a hotbed of Molly Maguires activity during the 1860s. A local legend says that Father Daniel Ignatius McDermott, the first Roman Catholic priest in Centralia, cursed the land in retaliation for being assaulted by three members of the Maguires in 1869. McDermott said that there would be a day when St. Ignatius Roman Catholic Church would be the only structure remaining in Centralia. There were descendants of the Molly Maguires living in Centralia up until the 1980's.

The Molly Maguires¹ was named after a woman who published twelve rules in Freeman's Journal on 7 July 1845 against landlords in Ballinamuck, County Longford, Ireland. It was a secret fraternal society and active in Centralia supposedly fighting for the rights of the working class miner, many of whom were Irish immigrants. This pitted them directly against coal mining companies and operation supervisors. One of the Maguires' tactics was the establishment of unions though they were also known for the use of intimidation, threats, and even murder. Things came to a head in 1875 when

unionized miners went on strike throughout the anthracite coal region of Pennsylvania. Violence between miners and company supervisors was widespread. Eventually, the strike and the Molly Maguires were broken by James McParlan, a Pinkerton detective. He spied on the group and testified against them. In 1877, ten men were hanged for their crimes during the strike - six in Pottsville and four in Mauch Chunk, now known as Jim Thorpe.

Centralia came to its maximum population of 2,761 in 1890. At its peak the town had seven churches, five hotels, twenty-seven saloons, two theaters, a bank, a post office, and 14 general and grocery stores. Thirty-seven years later the production of anthracite coal reached its peak in Pennsylvania because production declined due to many young miners from Centralia enlisting in World War I. The year 1929 saw the crash of the stock market, which led to the Lehigh Valley Coal Company closing five of its Centralia-area mines.



Centralia in 1980

¹The Molly Maguires were an Irish 19th-century secret society active in Ireland, Liverpool and parts of the Eastern United States, best known for their activism among Irish-American and Irish immigrant coal miners in Pennsylvania. After a series of often violent conflicts, twenty suspected members of the Molly Maguires were convicted of murder and other crimes and were executed by hanging in 1877 and 1878. This history remains part of local Pennsylvania lore. The Molly Maguires originated in Ireland, where secret societies with names such as Whiteboys and Peep o' Day Boys were common beginning in the 18th century and through most of the 19th century.

My husband was a structural engineer and project manager for Chevron which meant many moves for our young family. While living in New Jersey in 1980, we took the 125 mile weekend trip to Centralia to look for FINN tombstones in the Odd Fellows Cemetery. Since there was no internet searching then, we were surprised to find the little mountain town with pipes coming out of the ground emitting what looked like smoke. There were several vents near the



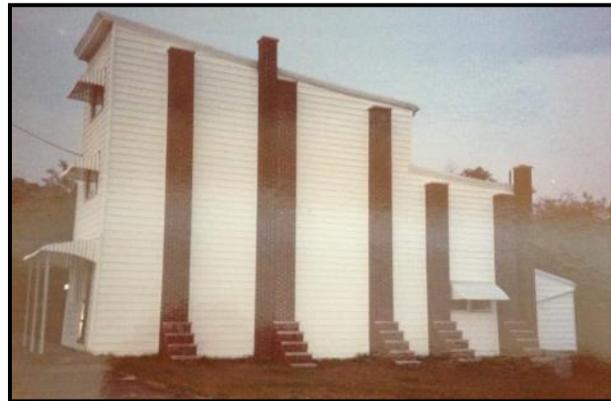
A smoke vent in Centralia

fenced and locked cemetery as well as downtown - even one on a corner by a gas station! The gas station owner measured the temperature of the gas in his underground containers to be more than 100 degrees above normal in 1979, the year before our visit.

We learned that a 1962 fire in the town dump had ignited an underground coal fire which could not be extinguished. It was burning through the tunnels and causing sink holes as the wood and coal support posts burned. Bootleg miners had continued mining in several idle mines, using



Smoke billows from the mine fire – note Centralia Row House with brick supports



Centralia Row House with brick supports

techniques such as what was called “pillar-robbing”, where miners would extract coal from coal pillars left in mines to support their roofs. This caused the collapse of many idle mines, further complicating eradication of the mine fire when an effort was made to seal off the abandoned mines. Three years after our first visit the government spent \$42 million in 1983 to relocate 371 families of the total population of 1000 residents. Many people refused to leave. That year, our daughter’s 5th grade Weekly Reader had an article about the fires. On our second visit in 1989, we took a picture of a curiously narrow 3-story house standing alone with what looked like chimneys along the sides. This had been a row house where one owner refused to sell a house worth \$35,000 so the government spent \$100,000 to buy out the neighbors and build these brick support posts. All houses were condemned in 1992. There were 46 residents in 1995 and still 21 holdouts in 2001. An agreement was reached with remaining residents in 2013 allowing them to

continue living in the town with the stipulation that when they die the rights to their homes would transfer to the state.

A couple years ago my older daughter and her husband had trouble finding the town as nature had taken over. Route 62 has been re-routed around the dangerous area and the old section that ran through the town is now covered with graffiti which lives on if you can find it. Centralia’s fire continues to burn as one of 38 known active mining fires in Pennsylvania.

The Life and Times of Frances Rinaldi

By Felicia Ziomek

Francesca Maria Rinaldi was born in Chicago in October 1921. Her parents, Vincenza and Felix, were both born in Northern Italy. Felix Rinaldi emigrated to the U.S. in 1913, and Vincenza had to wait until the end of WWI when it was safe to travel and emigrated in 1919. They emigrated in search of prosperity. Felix's father, Pietro Rinaldi, was a simple shepherd. Vincenza's father, Pietro Zecchini, was an importer. Vincenza and Felix met in Detroit, Michigan, fell in love and eloped. They left Detroit for Chicago, Illinois where they were married in November 1920.

Frances was the eldest of three children and was the protector to her two younger brothers Pietro (Peter) and Nunzio (nicknamed "Babe" since he was the baby). Her father had various occupations, including operating a restaurant. The family lived above the restaurant, and the family rule was that once you left the family apartment and came downstairs, there would only be English spoken – never Italian.

"We came to live in this country, and it is important to learn the language." During the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, Felix operated a food booth.

Frances' father had a great deal of respect for education. After the children finished their homework, Felix would review it. If any mistakes were made, Felix would require that they correctly perform the problem five times.

Frances remembered seeing her father cry during the Great Depression in 1929, as he worried about how he would provide for his family of



*Felix & Vincenza Rinaldi
1920*

five. During the Depression, the children would help the family by walking along the nearby railroad tracks and collecting discarded bits of coal to use at home. To amuse themselves, they made their own toys from empty soap boxes, tying them together to form a train.

The Rinaldis, though not well off, were a close family. Every Sunday the extended family of Vincenza's sisters and their families would gather for a traditional family dinner. As a result, Frances had a close relationship with her cousins throughout her entire life. In 1933 Frances and her two brothers celebrated their First Communion together. To help defray the cost of the new Communion outfits, the three children worked after school, doing odd jobs such as cleaning the erasers, by banging them together.

Frances' father also worked as a Tailor for Chas. A. Stevens, a leading clothing store in downtown Chicago. Felix made repairs to garments, and Frances dressed the store windows. This led to her attention to detail whenever she dressed for the evening. It was important that her purse color always matched her shoes. Her nail color also coordinated with her outfits.

Frances enjoyed having fun in high school and had many friends. During summers they were found at the beach, sunning themselves. When the movie "Gone with the Wind" was first released in 1939, a group of them skipped school to go down-



First Communion in 1933, l to r: Peter Dominic Roger Rinaldi, 10, Frances Mary Rinaldi, 12, Nunzio Algeo Oliviero Rinaldi, 8

town to see the movie. Who should she run into but her stern father!! “You get right back to school, young lady!” The movie would have to wait for another day...

Frances performed well in school, and her favorite subjects were English, Art and Music. Following graduation from Carl Schurz High School on the north side of Chicago, she dabbled in art and took art classes at the Art Institute of

Chicago. She attended Bryant and Stratton for a year, and took speed stenographer classes, achieving the rate of 200 words per minute.

In her early adult life Frances worked as a Secretary at the Merchandise Mart in downtown Chicago. Eventually she gravitated toward the legal profession and worked as a legal secretary. After WWII broke out, her brother Peter enlisted in the



Rinaldi family 1942, Front, l-r: Vincenza Zecchini Rinaldi, Felice ‘Felix’ Rinaldi; Back: Nunzio Algeo Oliviero Rinaldi, Frances Mary Rinaldi, Peter Dominic Roger Rinaldi

Navy. Just prior to shipping out, the Rinaldi clan gathered for a family photo. Fortunately, Peter safely returned when the war ended, and was also called to service during the Korean War.

Following WWII, Frances saw an ad in the paper encouraging legal secretaries to apply for Army jobs to assist the Nuremberg War Trials in Germany. Frances’ father had forbidden

her from becoming a WAC or a WAVE during the war, but he agreed that she could apply for this position. So off to Heidelberg, Germany she went!!

However, when she arrived, she was told that all the Nuremberg War Trial positions were filled. Would she be willing to work for the Army Sig-

Lineage Chart for Felice ‘Felix’ Rinaldi		
Felice ‘Felix’ Rinaldi b. 28-Apr-1890, Vallestretta di Ussita, Macerata Province, Italy d. 22-Apr-1953, Chicago, Cook, Illinois m. 27-Nov-1920, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Vincenza Zecchini b. 20-Feb-1901, Urbisaglia, Macerata Province, Italy d. 19-Oct-1991, Streamwood, Cook, Illinois		
Frances Mary Rinaldi b. 12-Oct-1921, Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 11-Jul-2008, Pleasanton, Alameda, California m. 1956, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Edward Joseph Campion m. 01-Feb-1963, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Ronald (Roman) Wiezbicki	Peter Dominic Roger Rinaldi b. 19-Aug-1923, Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 19-Jan-2006, Chandler, Maricopa, Arizona m. 1949, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Elaine Genevieve Fuller	Nunzio Algeo Oliviero Rinaldi b. 01-Mar-1925, Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 14-Oct-1993, Evanston, Cook, Illinois m. 26-Mar-1949, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Dolores Helen Voss m. 13-Jun-1952, Chicago, Cook, Illinois Mary May Macintosh
Felicia Martha Campion b. 1957, Chicago, Cook, Illinois		



Frances Rinaldi 1949 in Heidelberg

nal Corps, cataloging Army photos and showing the G.I.s their required training films? Why not! One of the perks of the job was that she could acquire copies of interesting photos for her own collection.

Frances lived in Heidelberg, Germany working for the U.S. Army, for 3 ½ years. During her weekends and vacations, she traveled all over Europe. She toured Germany, Italy, France, and London. While in Italy she visited her uncle Augusto Rinaldi, a Priest. He took her on a personal tour of the Pompeii Ruins. She also visited Rome and was blessed by the Pope.

While in Germany, she got a German Cocker Spaniel named "Bimbo." In 1952, her family requested that Frances come home. Her beloved

father, Felix, was ill. The diagnosis was stomach cancer. He died in April 1953, within a year of her return.

Frances met her first husband, Edward during a rainstorm; she literally bumped into him. Romance ensued and a daughter, Felicia (named for her father Felix) was born in 1957. However, the relationship broke apart, and they split up. As a single mother, Frances moved back home to live with her widowed mother. Vincenza helped her, acting as a caregiver to her daughter Felicia. A few years later, her sister-in-law introduced her to Roman, a man who was to become her second husband. Love ensued, they married, and lived first on the northwest side of Chicago, and then they subsequently moved to the northwest suburbs. Frances enjoyed helping with Felicia's school activities, including acting as a chaperone on Felicia's high school band trips. Frances' artistic side continued, only now it was behind a camera lens. At all family functions, Frances was the official family photographer. She amassed boxes and boxes of photos, slides and negatives chronicling the family.

Frances and Roman eventually moved to Naples, Florida, where she took up "shell art." She crafted photo frames, lamps, figurines, and a wide variety of items out of seashells. They were hoping to retire there, but it was not to be. Frances moved back to her roots in the Chicago area in 1983. She lived there and assisted her mother in her old age, until her mother passed away in October 1991 at the age of 90.

Frances agreed to move to San Ramon, California to be near her daughter in 2002. She was able to visit her two new grandchildren, Andrew and Bridget, in the hospital when they were born in 2003 and 2008 and spend time with them when they were young. She passed away in 2008 at the age of 86.

Book Review: The Sterling Affair (The Forensic Genealogist #8)

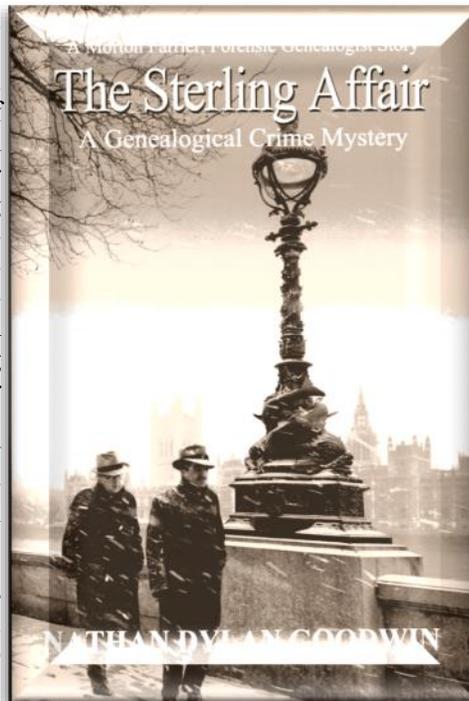
By Patrick M. Lofft

Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, was born and raised in Hastings, East Sussex. Schooled in the town, 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. His interests include reading, writing, photography, genealogy and travelling. Nathan asked me to review this book and having enjoyed his prior tales I was eager to peruse his most recent genealogical mystery novel. Genealogy books usually are one of two categories, either how-to or historical fiction.

In the Sterling Affair Goodwin's central character Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist, pursues two intriguing genealogical quests one professional and the other personal. When an unannounced stranger calls at Morton Farrier's front door, he finds himself faced with the most intriguing and confounding case of his career to-date as a forensic genealogist. This is a fast-moving modern crime mystery.

Goodwin gradually, deftly and purposefully introduces an enticing array of the story's characters. The author craftily builds identities and back stories for apparently random individuals well before each of them become an important contributor to the plot. An apparent suicide takes the life of a ninety-two year old gentleman. During their misadventure at the lake one of three teen age friends falls through thin ice and drowns. Why does a pilot land a Cessna in the very early morning with the transponder switched off without landing lights on an unlit airfield without authorization?

Author Goodwin expertly leaves the reader hanging at the close of most chapters as the tale skillfully uses flashbacks between current 2019 events and mid twentieth century cold war happenings. Our personal genealogy research efforts widen our understanding of the historical context of our ancestors. Similarly Goodwin relates this tale by including the historical context. Recall the 1950's



era Soviet counterespies engaging with MI5 and MI6 versus the KGB, oh my. In the 1950's Gamal Abdel Nasser's rise to popularity in Egypt and the Arab world skyrocketed after his nationalization of the Suez Canal and his political victory in the subsequent Suez Crisis.

The story lines are believable but not so obvious that I solved the mysteries before Morton.

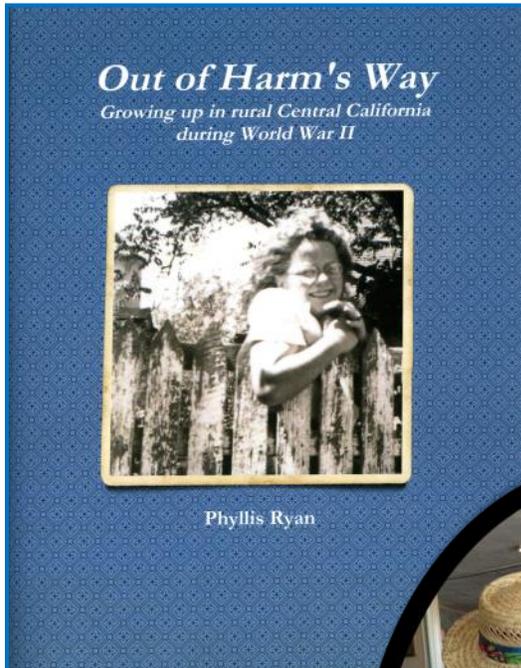
While this is the eighth novel in the series each may be enjoyed as stand-alone stories as the tales do not depend on each other for enjoyable leisure reading. As a bonus serious genealogists will learn worthwhile research techniques.

Morton Farrier models conscientious genealogical research methods. For business purposes Morton Farrier, a professional forensic genealogist, subscribes to and makes frequent use of many commercial research websites. His research weaves his disciplined utilization of GEDmatch, DNA painter and triangulation techniques. Of course Morton devotes considerable time for traveling to many archives which may have the essential research documents. One technique which I, personally, am not yet willing to implement is his commitment of an entire wall in his study to positioning and repositioning sticky notes detailing his research progress.

Disclosure: Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, sent me a copy of this book to review. The reviewed copy will be available for circulation at the Pleasanton Public Library following completion of the 2020 shelter-in-place. You may purchase this book through Amazon, Target and other sites in paper-back or Kindle versions *under \$17*. Previous books in the Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist series are: Hiding the Past, The Lost Ancestor, The America Ground, The Spyglass File and The Wicked Trade.

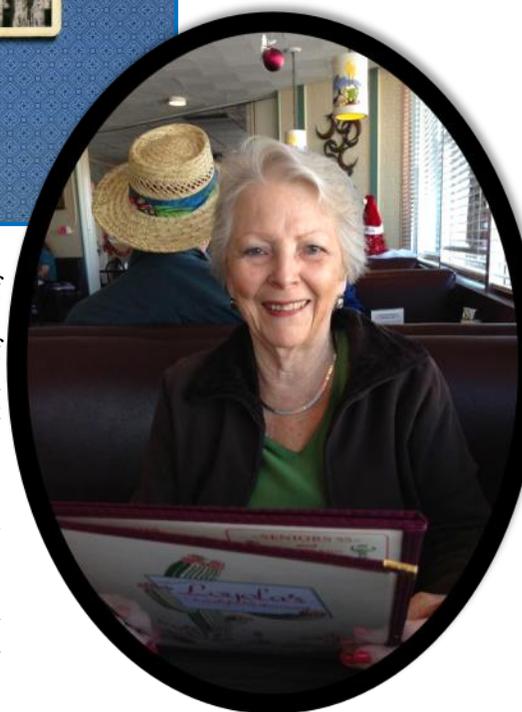
Memoir: Out of Harm's Way, Growing up in rural Central California during World War II

Author: Phyllis Ryan



This is the memoir of a shy, protected girl who finds herself and her multi-generational family thrust into the four years of her country's participation in the global conflagration that became World War II.

A personal story, with family history that might resonate with others from immigrant backgrounds, it can appeal to teenagers, veterans, and California residents of the San Joaquin Valley.



Phyllis Ryan

Her journey relates the numerous relatives who were in active combat, and some of their experiences. Her family's history and its ongoing adaptation to the war effort, gas and food rationing, are touched on here.

Phyllis Ryan is now ninety-one years old, residing in Albuquerque, New Mexico with her youngest daughter. In remembering those early years, she is torn between the bittersweet pangs of developing into a young woman, and the scary atmosphere everyone lived in, the many sacrifices made by so many. She is especially saddened by the atmosphere surrounding us today, with poor leadership, a global pandemic, and the fight within our country

that in the past was saved for war. She wishes she had words of wisdom, but can only hope, along with others, that we survive this with greater compassion and the will to create something better.

The donated copy will be available for circulation at the Pleasanton Public Library following completion of the 2020 shelter-in-place. You may directly purchase this book at \$10 per copy through Lulu: <https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/phyllis-ryan/out-of-harms-way/paperback/product-1n7j4jyy.html>.

New Free Historical Records on FamilySearch: Week of 6 July 2020

FamilySearch added 2M more **indexed obituaries** this week to **United States** collections, along with 300K **Brazilian civil registrations** and 200K **English church records**. New records added for **Canada, Chile, Finland, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, S. Africa, and Sweden**. United

States additions included: **Arizona, California, Hawaii, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Utah and Virginia**.

Search these new records and images by going to [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org) to search over 8 billion free names and record images.

Who Are The Parents of Harriet Caroline Clark Gaylord?

By Jean Lerche

For many years I have thought the parents of my great-great-grandmother, Harriet Caroline, were Samuel Gilman Clark Sr. and Roxanna Frizzle. My assumption is based on a letter my great-grandmother, Emily A. (Gaylord) Ferrell, received from her sister, Mary Frances ‘Fanny’ (Gaylord) Smith. The date of this letter is unknown. Also the origin of the information Fanny shared with her sister is unknown. Were the details passed from Harriet Caroline to her daughter Fanny or was the information from other less direct sources?

Fanny clearly stated that her mother was born 25 Feb 1829 in Canaan, Essex County, Vermont, and died 12 Nov 1900. In the letter Fanny gave the name of Harriet Caroline’s parents as Samuel Gilman Clark and Roxanna Frizzle along with a few details about them. For example, Fanny related that Samuel Gilman Clark was one of the first volunteers in the Mexican War, which is consistent with information I have found about him.

Recently conflicting information has been appearing online in a few family trees regarding the parents of Harriet Caroline. Thus my challenge is to start digging to see if I can find records that clearly document Harriet Caroline’s parents—like a birth certificate with the name of her parents. (I can dream can’t I!) Already I know that her Iowa marriage certificate does not list her parents.

There are other mysteries about Harriet Caroline that maybe one day I’ll solve as well. For example, records indicate that Samuel Gilman Clark, his wife and four children became members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints – Samuel in 1834. None of the four children listed, however, are Harriet Caroline. Also, what brought

Lineage Chart for Harriet Caroline Clark	
Harriet Caroline Clark b. 1829 Vermont d. 1900 California m. Hiram B. Gaylord - 1849 Iowa	
Mary Francis Gaylord b. ~1849 Iowa; d. ~1935 California	Emily A. Gaylord b. 1855 Iowa; d. 1950 Illinois m. Homer M. Ferrell - 1871 Iowa Harriet Mary Ferrell b. 1883 Illinois; d. 1955 California m. William D. Ferrell - 1901 Illinois
	Janet Louise Ferrell - b. 1918 Illinois; d. 2004 Illinois m. Ellis Edwin Smith - 1937 Illinois
	Jean M. (née Smith) Lerche

Harriet Caroline to Iowa? Her husband to be was already living in Iowa before their marriage. Possibly did she come with Samuel Gilman Clark and members of his family when they were part of a Mormon pilgrimage to Salt Lake City? So far there is no indication that Harriet Caroline was part of the group.

While adapting to COVID-19 your help is needed!

Indexing is convenient and vital to making the world’s records searchable online. Try indexing a practice batch with hints provided for each step of the way.

Welcome to the FamilySearch Indexing Guided Tour:

About this tour:

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- Use the **TAB** or **ENTER** key (not the mouse) to move to the next field. This way the system will give feedback for your answer.
- Click **Start Tour** to view the project instructions and get started.
- <https://www.familysearch.org/indexing/batch/1c1b25c3-d57a-4e41-a37a-4720bc538441>

Tedro R Riddle named after Theodore Roosevelt

By Leora Frise



Tedro R Riddle]

Colonel Theodore Roosevelt

My maternal grandfather was named Tedro R (only the initial, no name) Riddle. I figured this out after my mother died and I have always thought I would sure like to share this information with her. Just using Tedro and R and Theodore and last name of Riddle. My grandfather was born in 1884.

The National Parks Service's Theodore Roosevelt Timeline shows that Roosevelt would have been mentioned in the newspapers in 1884. In 1883 he invested \$14,000 in an attempt to become a successful cattle rancher in Dakota. He published three books – *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*, *Ranch Life and the Hunting-Trail*, and *The Wilderness Hunter from his experiences in Dakota*.

He then served in the New York Assembly 21st district 1882 -1884. In 1897 he was then appointed as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. With the beginning of the Spanish-American War in late April 1898, Roosevelt resigned from his post as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Along with Army Colonel Leonard Wood, he formed the First US Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. Referred to in the press as the "Rough Riders". He served in the Battle of Las Guasimas, June 24, 1898, and the battle of San Juan Hill, July 1, 1898.

He served as the 33rd Governor of New York from 1899 to 1900. He served as the 25th vice president from March to September 1901. When President Mc Kinley was shot 9/14/1901, he became the 26th President of the United States serving from 1901 to 1909.

As President he declared Crater Lake a National Park May 22, 1902, created the Department of Commerce & Labor, February 14, 1903, signed the Elkins Act on February 19, 1903 authorizing heavy fines on railroads that offered rebates, was instrumental in the negotiations of the Treaty of Portsmouth September 5, 1905 and won the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. The National Forest Service was established February 1, 1905 and the Antiquities Act for National Monument Act June 8, 1906. He created five National Parks and 18 national monuments. These only name a few things that Theodore Roosevelt accomplished.

Theodore Roosevelt's image was carved into stone on the Mount Rushmore monument. The carving began in 1927 and stopped in 1941.

After watching an old TV show *The Virginian*, Season 1, Episode 7, aired 7 November 1962, one of the actors Victor Jory 1902-1982, I realized that he looks like my grandfather.

Got Grippe?

By Kathleen Young

Now that I have your attention, and you've felt like "shelter-in-place" has had you in its grip, you would be right. Did you know that the Spanish Flu of 1918 was also known as the "grippe"?

According to an Oakland Tribune article entitled [A Look Back](#) in December of 1988, a lot of similarities back then apply today. Large gatherings and performances were cancelled, school districts closed, courts closed, businesses lost employees and even closed all in an attempt to prevent the spread of the virus.

It was interesting how the Oakland Auditorium was used as a makeshift emergency hospital with scenery panels being used as partitions to separate male and female patients.

One of my relatives may have been one of the many patients in that "hospital". Henry Benkiser died of influenza on 7 Nov 1918 at the age of 38. He was a roofer, and co-partner of the Bay Cities Roofing Company on Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, California. His wife Mary MOSNA Benkiser was appointed administratrix of his estate in April 1919, but by the end of the year on 19 Dec 1919 she succumbed to pneumonia at the age of 31. Both are buried at Mountain View Cemetery in Oakland, Alameda County, California.

The following is from the Friday, December 2, 1988 Oakland Tribune:

A Look Back

By Rick Radin

IN THE AUTUMN of 1918, Oakland's Municipal Auditorium became a giant hospital ward when Influenza ripped through the city.



Oakland's Municipal Auditorium

Scenery stored at the auditorium was pressed into service for partitions to separate the male and female patients. Some panels were painted solid colors, but others, like the one at lower right, had fanciful views that must have made some feverish patients wonder whether they were already in the next world. In Alameda County during the 1918 epidemic, 511

people died in less than two months. Nationwide, the toll was 548,000 people dead from the "grippe," as it was called.

Until antibiotics became widely used, the flu was a scourge ranking with smallpox and the plague. During epidemics in 1928, 1937, 1940 and other years, many large gatherings were canceled to prevent the spread of germs. As a result, whole school districts were closed, murder trials were interrupted, performances were canceled, businesses were crippled by employee absences and even movie making was thrown off schedule.

In 1940, the campus Infirmary at the University of California at Berkeley overflowed with **103** flu cases. Some patients lay in beds in the basement.

UC-Berkeley scientists were among those who worked furiously on flu prevention during World War II when the troops overseas were being stricken with the virus. Since there are so many types of flu, vaccinations to this day [Friday December 2, 1988] do not have the lasting effectiveness of measles and polio shots, but antibiotics can cure the pneumonia that is its deadliest consequence.

Future General Meetings - via Zoom

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool.

Join the L-AGS **Zoom** meeting through a L-AGS email invite.

First time participants Learn How at YouTube.com:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

Visitors are always welcome.

Monday Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m. - via **Zoom**

Stephanie West *Canadian Genealogical Resources Online*

Monday Oct. 12, 7:00 p.m. - via **Zoom**

Susan Goss Johnston *What Became of Aaron Case?*

Monday Nov. 9, 7:00 p.m. - via **Zoom**

Bob Trapp *Researching Mayflower Ancestors*

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