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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

February 2023

Patrons

Anonymous, Lois Barber, Susan Davis, Richard and Wanda Finn, Richard and Jean Lerche, Doris Matthews, Thomas and Natasha Mathews, Duncan Tanner and Shirley Terry

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Kristina Ahuja, Denise Barr, Matthew Berry, Ken Bredlau, Annette Breingan, Vicky Cunniffe, Linda Driver and Walt Crawford, Barbara Hemphill, Cindy McKenna, Ileen Peterson and Peggy Weber

L-AGS Members

Meeting News –

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

General Meetings –

Monday, February 13, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Sara Cochran, Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated Hints More Effectively

Monday March 13, 2023 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Glenda Lloyd, Cemetery Records

Monday, April 10, 2023, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.

Linda Harms Okazaki, Organize Your Genealogy

Let's Talk AND Write Genealogy — When: Sundays at 3:00 p.m. REMOTE via Zoom Chair: Debbie Mascot - Our theme will be the National Genealogical Society 2022 Conference 24-28 May 2022 in Sacramento. Location: Contact talkgenealogy.chair@L-AGS.org

The Master Genealogist Group — Due to Covid-19 meetings via Zoom on the 2nd Friday and 4th Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The Friday meeting is because the Roots User Group in Virginia meets on the 2nd Saturday. TV-TMG Forum Topic: Reports and Problem Assistance; Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Duncan Tanner) <mailto:tvvtmg.chair@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, request a mutually agreeable appointment via e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2023

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Patrick Lofft

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President's Message

We are just beginning Spring 2023. So much is new. The best feelings about a New Year are new beginnings. I am reminded of that in my own family. We have two new additions to our family. With new family additions, it also means new branches to your tree. So how do you get the new grandparents to give you the information to get started. The short answer is benefits sell. I reminded the **grandparents** that their grandchild may need the information for a school presentation. That was the incentive and the information was immediately forthcoming.

So what new discoveries do you have in your family. As we all know, other family members are much more likely to read a tale about an ancestor if it is in story form. The surrounding historical elements add a dose of reality to their situations. Were they possibly living in a sod lean-to? What items were they able to bring with them in a wagon or on the boat? That additional information adds some renewed appreciation for the challenges they faced. What political issues were at the forefront of their lives.

So maybe you are adding to new lines like me or fleshing out your ancestor's lives, it's worth nothing **if no one reads it.**

Write their story and send it to RootsTracer.Chair@L-AGS.org or PMLOfft@comcast.net.

Our monthly meetings were to have been a hybrid version of Zoom. It would have been a tradeoff. Zoom allows us to get some wonderful speakers on a variety of topics but the meeting with friends and the socialization has been missing. So our speakers will be giving their talks remotely. For our forthcoming monthly meetings, get your bunny slippers to meet and chat with us via ZOOM for the foreseeable future. Zoom opens at 6:30 pm for chatting among members with the presentation at 7 p.m.

Upcoming conferences:

March 2 – 4, 2023 RootsTech Connect 2023! Salt Lake City (conference & online event) at 8:00am (MST)

<https://cgsi.org/events/rootstech-connect-2023-conference-online-event>

May 31 – June 2, 2023 NGS 2023! Richmond, Virginia or Online at Home at 8:00am (EDT)

<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Julie Liu, President

Your family history is important!
Share it publicly and with your family through

The Livermore Roots Tracer

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society's Quarterly publication.

Editor Patrick Lofft is willing and able to help you format your information to share with others. Contact Patrick at PMLOfft@comcast.net

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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Contributor.....Leora Frise, Caye Johnson, Patrick Lofft, Ileen Peterson, Shirley Siems Terry, Andi Winters

Composer Andi Winters

Printing and Distribution Sue Davis,
..... Jean Lerche

Homesteading

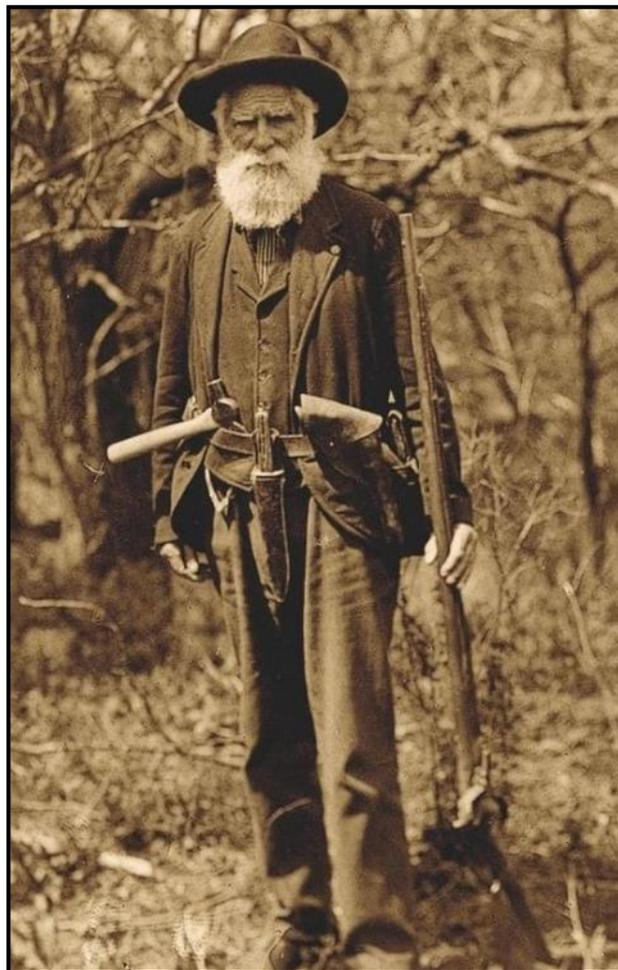
By Shirley Siems Terry

My home town, Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska, is the site of the first official homestead filed under the Homestead Act which took effect 1 January 1863 allowing any qualified person to claim up to 160 acres of federally owned land in exchange for five years of residence and the cultivation and improvement of the property. Daniel Freeman, a Union soldier at the time, requested leave for late December to scout out a claim before reporting for duty in St. Louis on January 2. He didn't think about the holiday until arriving in Brownville, Nebraska, the nearest filing office to his Gage County claim, and attending a New Year's Eve barn dance. He was able to find the recorder's assistant and talked him into opening the office at midnight to take his application so he could get to St. Louis on time. His T-shaped claim already had a cabin built by squatters which he purchased for two oxen and a wagon because the wife was homesick and wanted to go back east.

Daniel Freeman¹ was an intelligent man who had both medical and law knowledge. He married in Ohio before joining the military, but his young wife tired of being alone and disappeared with their three children. After the war, and hastily divorcing the absent wife, Daniel married his dead brother's fiancé and brought her to his prairie home with a dirt floor. Before she left her home in LeClaire, Clinton, Illinois, her father gave her a check for \$1,000 and made her pin it inside her corset in case the marriage didn't work out. Years later, she used it to buy her brother's adjoining homestead when he decided to go back to Illinois. Daniel sued and was sued numerous times. One case was taken to the Nebraska Supreme Court when he sued the school district for allowing the teacher to lead a prayer and hymns in the classroom. He won.

I have visited Homestead National Historical Park, Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska, at least half a dozen times. The original Visitors' Center and Museum, now the Education Center, has a nature

¹The first homestead in the United States was filed by Daniel Freeman on land in southeastern Nebraska. This chronicle of that homestead and the life he built there with his wife tells of the courage, stamina, and pluck of the early settlers through drought, depression, and disease, yet they were ever ready to help a neighbor. "Daniel and Agnes Freeman Homesteaders," biography by descendant Beverly S. Kaplan



Daniel Freeman, 1826 - 1908

walk, the original cabin site, Freeman cemetery and a log cabin which was moved to the site in 1950. There are 100 acres of wild grass prairie as well as the brick Freeman School and newer Heritage Center nearby which has a brick wall with metal shapes of the thirty homestead states with cut-outs denoting the percentage of land homesteaded. Note that homesteads were scattered over the entire state, not just the area of the cut-out. Take a look at the "Living Wall" in the photo gallery at <https://www.nps.gov/home/heritagecenter.htm> All land-entry case files are held by the National Archives in downtown Washington, D.C. If you are researching homesteads in Alaska, Arizona, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, Wyoming, or Utah, you can search for their homestead records (up to 1908) at Homestead National Historical Park for free. You may also search for digitized homestead records from your own computer on Fold3.com and Ancestry.com,

both of which require a subscription. Patent information can be found on the Bureau of Land Management website <https://www.blm.gov> for all states but does not include the detailed information found in the land-entry case files.

I have two personal connections to the Freeman homestead. My maternal great-grandmother Lucinda ‘Lucy’ Cobb 1872-1963 worked for the Freemans and slept in the loft with their children before her marriage to Wesley Day in 1888. My Grandmother, Bertha (Day) Emal 1890-1989, volunteered at the original Visitor’s Center during the 1970s, along with other Beatrice seniors, making quilts which were sold in the gift shop.

Bertha married Elvin Franklin Emal the day after Christmas 1912 and in April 1913 they headed by train to their homestead near Arapaho, Cheyenne County, Colorado. To keep the homestead, they had to live on it eight months of the year. Elvin was born on a homestead near Trenton, Hitchcock County, Nebraska. Evidently, Elvin and two uncles made application in January 1910 since Elvin received his papers 04 February 1915. Grandma told me Uncle Will Snyder lived 1/2 mile west and Uncle Bill Emal lived 1 1/2 miles northwest. Will and Ida Snyder lived near the schoolhouse where the neighborhood church was held. Ida stayed winters alone on the Snyder homestead with Will going back to southeastern

Freeman Family Lineage	
Elkanah Freeman	1772-1852 m. 1800
Hannah Dunham	1776-1855
Samuel Freeman	1803-1887 m. 1822
Phoebe Willis	1805-1890
Daniel Henry Freeman b. 26 Apr 1826 Lewisburg, Preble, Ohio d. 30 Dec 1908 Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska	
m ¹ - 24 Jul 1852 Ottawa, LaSalle, Illinois Elizabeth ‘Betsey’ Wilber, 1837-1876 Jeremiah Gerald Freeman, 1852-1890 Charles Irvin Freeman, 1855-1934 Phoebe ‘Loretta’ Sophia Freeman, 1856-1828	
m ² - 8 Feb 1865 LeClaire, Scott, Iowa Agnes Elizabeth Suiter, 1843-1931 Elizabeth Jane, 1866-1949 Samuel Grant, 1867-1958 James Harvey, 1870-1925 John Allen, 1872-1955 Daniel ‘Danny’, 1877-d. 1880 diphtheria LeClaire ‘Lee’, 1884-1958 Agnes May ‘Sis’, 1889-1956 Mabel Charlotte, 1892-1974	

Nebraska to work. That first year, Elvin and Bertha had an 8 x10 frame house covered by 2’ earthen walls outside with wide board floors that didn’t keep out the centipedes. They had a cook stove and one bed in the northeast corner with a small oak dresser at the foot of the bed. The south wall had a one-leg hinged table 2 1/2 foot long and 20" wide, two chairs and a rocking chair with a cupboard attached to the wall. Bertha washed outside with a wash tub and wash board. They hauled water the first year from Bill Emal's place 1 1/2 miles away. He was a bachelor and lived there with his dog Bruce. Bertha said he was a good cook and baked the best bread and biscuits. One time Uncle Bill drove his team of horses and open buggy from his



Bertha Emal (far right) quilting at Homestead



Homestead Plaque

Nebraska on 17 Dec 1913. The little family made a second trip (for Bertha) to the homestead in April 1914 with my Great-grandma Minnie Emal accompanying Bertha and Helen on the train as far as Manhattan, Riley, Kansas. Elvin "Tude" rode in the box car with a team of horses, a milk cow (Helen was taken off the breast early), household goods, doors, windows, lumber for building a house and a wagon. He may also have had supplies for his uncles. The freight car was unloaded at Weskin, Sherman, Kansas, 12 miles from the homestead.

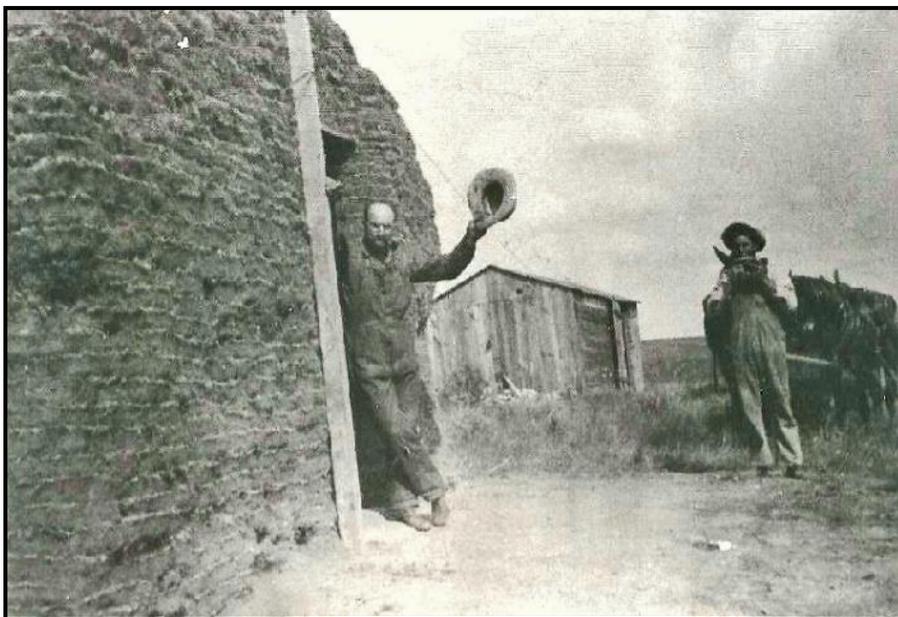
Bertha said they built an "adobe" house 12x16' with two doors, one with glass. The door without glass opened into the little 8 x10' shanty they'd lived in the first year which was moved so they'd have two rooms. The new addition had double windows on the east and west with two doors on the south. It was built of 18" sod and they'd set things on the window sill to keep cool. I assume it also had a wooden floor since the first one did. Grandma said

²Bill Emal's grandfather Solomon Emal was one of eight brothers. Six were in the Civil War. Their father's surname had numerous spellings: Imel, Immel, Emmel, etc. After the war, the brothers were Solomon and William EMAL, Daniel and David EMEL and George, Andrew, Samuel and Franklin EMMEL. Before their marriages their five sisters were IMEL or IMMEL (Ancestry family trees).

homestead back to southeast Nebraska stopping in Kearney County where two great uncles, William Emal and Daniel Emel², had settled. We wonder if it was in November 1914 for Daniel's funeral.

Elvin and Bertha's first child, Helen Virginia, was born in Pickrell, Gage,

they "lived quite comfortable." The second year they had their own 100' well, a real "blessing" with "the best cold water" pumped by hand or with a gas pump. Uncle Bill Emal was a well digger and dug for neighbors in Colorado. After they got their house built, they had their colored neighbors down for dinner: Thomas Ooley and his wife who lived several miles northeast. Grandma said they had been slaves but this was 50 years after the Civil War. When they returned to Pickrell in Oct 1914, Bertha's little sisters, Zella and Leah, had whooping cough which baby Helen caught. Helen, a beautiful baby with auburn hair and blue eyes died of pneumonia at age 10 months 26 days. The Emals didn't end up living in Colorado but Elvin's brother Dave Emal ended up with Uncle Bill Emal's half section which he signed over to a nephew retaining the oil, gas and mineral rights to be shared by his nephews and nieces which included my Mother ending with their generation. Several times through the years,



Caption: Wm and Elvin Emal - CO Homestead

they leased out these rights. I believe the most my Mother ever received was \$406.25 for a four-year lease in 1997. Three years before her death in 2013, she received another \$116.29.

Sources:

Homestead National Historical Park
 "Daniel and Agnes Freeman Homesteaders,"
 biography by descendant Beverly S. Kaplan
 Shirley's family records and files

Is Music in Your DNA or is Your Talent Learned?

By Caye Johnson

Is musical ability/talent inherited or nurtured? When we think of famous composers like Johann Sebastian Bach who came from a family of composers, and child prodigy Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart whose father was a minor composer, we would say inherited. But what about the rest of us who are not as talented? Probably a mixture of having some talent and lots of encouragement and nurturing.

There seemed to be little musical talent on my Collins side of the family, although my father used to sing dirty ditties to me as a baby. However, on my husband's side of the family there seemed to be a lot of musical talent, although much of it married into the family. The Johnson family myth was that his ancestor, Jonas Quist, was a violinist in the Swedish king's orchestra. However, when we visited Sweden in search of the Johnson roots, we discovered that Jonas was the town soldier and that when the king needed someone to provide music on the local "dancing rock", he was enlisted to play the fiddle. A far cry from playing in the king's orchestra. But nevertheless had an element of truth—he did fiddle for the king.

Jonas's son Abraham Bartemus Jonasson (later changed to Johnson) immigrated to Chicago around 1864 or 1865 and helped found the First Swedish Baptist Church becoming the first Chairman of the church. It is undoubtedly where he met his future wife Taran Bertine (Bertina) Christophersdatter Hanson and where his future daughter-in-law Hannah Nylund was the first organist of the church. Bertina's grandniece, Helen Patten (Pat) Hanson Maximoff, was first violin in the Peninsula Symphony on the San Francisco Peninsula in California. Pat actually owned two violins or should I say, a violin and a fiddle. The violin was for the Symphony and the fiddle was for her Fiddling Club.

I don't know if Abraham's oldest son, Aaron, played a musical instrument but his wife Hannah Nylund played the piano and they would often gather around her and sing while she played. All of Aaron's children played an instrument, although none of them became musicians. Aaron's next to youngest son, Earl Gladstone Johnson, Richard's father, married Merlie Margaret Damerau and that was when the musical

Damerau Lineage
Wilhelm Herman Damerau b. 15 Dec 1871 Buchwalde, East Prussia d. 2 Sep 1953 Waupun, Wisconsin m. 18 May 1899 Wisconsin Federika "Rika" Wilhelmina Uecker b. 10 Jul 1863 Alto Township, Wisconsin d. 25 Jan 1947 Brandon, Wisconsin
Henry Damerau b. 28 Dec 1901 Fairwater, Wisconsin d. 6 Jan 1986 Brandon, Wisconsin m. 14 Mar 1930 Jessie Inglis Murray b. 14 Nov 1898 d. 16 May 1998
Robert Damerau—living m. 15 Jun 1954 Betty Ruth Casida b. 29 Nov 1931 d. 17 Jan Denver, Colorado David Damerau--living Annette Damerau—living Karen Damerau Gleichauf—living Karla—living Richard Damerau—living Joyce MarieTrotter—living Richard Lamont Damerau—living Anastasia Vladimirovna Galkina—living Anna Marie—living

part of the family began to really expand. Merlie herself played the piano and an organ that she had inherited from her parents, Herman and Frederika Damerau. She bought a Chickering baby grand piano on which both of her sons, Richard and Roger, took lessons. Richard hated the lessons, but more likely he did not like the way his teacher taught. It wasn't until Richard was a chemistry major at Oberlin College that he began to appreciate music. Richard's first wife, Sondra Wishart, majored in piano at Oberlin and their granddaughter, Persephone (Perci) McHugh, plays the piano and guitar, and composes music but focuses on singing. Merlie's mother, Frederika (Rika), also played the piano and organ but primarily as a hobby. Rika was not versed in classical music and played church

hymns almost exclusively.

Frederika's grandson, Robert Damerou, married Betty Ruth Casida. Betty was not a music major in college, but she did receive a music scholarship at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and was the Assistant Concertmaster of the University of Wisconsin orchestra. After marrying Robert; Betty played in the University of Kentucky orchestra when they lived in Lexington. After moving to Denver, she played the violin in the Denver Symphony for 28 years.

Robert and Betty's three children, David, Annette, and Karen, all played music in high school and took private lessons. Both daughters majored in music in college and went on to play violin in professional symphony orchestras. Annette attended the Spoleto Festival in the US and in Italy, the Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara, California and the Santa Fe, New Mexico opera orchestra plus playing professionally in the Denver, Colorado Symphony and the San Antonio, Texas Symphony. Karen played in a Colorado mountains summer orchestra in Breckenridge, Colorado, the Tanglewood Music Festival in Massachusetts and finally the San Antonio, Texas Symphony. All of Karen's three children played string instruments and Karen used to joke that she had her own quartet. Her older daughter Karla was the Texas State Cham-

pion violinist in high school. However none of the children majored in music in college; instead they all majored in engineering.

Frederika's youngest grandson, Richard Damerou, married Joyce Marie Trotter a school teacher who also sang at the Casa Manana Theatre, the Dallas Opera chorus, and was the paid soprano soloist at the Meadowbrook Methodist Church where they were married. Joyce also sang the lead role in five annual musicals at Texas Wesleyan University. When they lived near Philadelphia, Joyce auditioned for the soprano soloist at the Bala Cynwyd Methodist Church and was selected over others who had studied at the Julliard School of Music and at the Curtis Institute of Music. When not singing, she taught English at the Marion and Bala Cynwyd high schools. Richard and Joyce both continue to appreciate classical music and Richard has installed a good amplification system in their Dallas home. Their granddaughter, Anna Marie Damerou, attends the Conservatory of Music at Texas Christian University on a full scholarship. While still in high school, Anna Marie was a guest soloist with the Denver Symphony at the summer concert series in the Arvada Center. As part of her training, she took lessons from a graduate of the Moscow Conservatory of Music. The instructor only accepted her as a pupil because she was fluent in Russian. Anna Marie's mother, Anastasia, was

✠ In Memoriam ✠

Robbie Robinson, April 29, 1932-Nov. 21, 2022.

Originally published in *Livermore Independent*, December 1, 2022.

On Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 GE "Robbie" Robinson passed away in Livermore, California after a lengthy illness. He was 91 years old.

Robbie was born April 29, 1931, to Aaron and Marlys Robinson. Robbie was a cadet in the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut where he met and married Paula Beckwith. Following the wedding, the couple moved by train to Moscow, Latah, Idaho where Robbie earned his degree in engineering. Following graduation, he immediately went to work for General Electric where he spent his entire career.

Robbie and Paula had three daughters, and eventually settled in Livermore, California.

Robbie was very active in his model train club, duplicate bridge, the Masonic Lodge, Eastern Star, church, family genealogy, sailing his boat on San Francisco Bay and cruising with Paula.

He is preceded in death by his wife Paula and his sister Eleanor Pitman.

Memorial services will be planned after the holidays in both Livermore and Boise, details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to Hope Hospice.

Hanson Lineage
Christopher Hanson b. 1792 Norway d. 1886 Scandia, Republic, Kansas Aleth Simonsdatter b. 1792 Norway d. 1876 Scandia, Republic, Kansas
Taran Bertine “Bertina” Christophersondatter Lars Christopher Hanson b. 23 Aug Norway d. 28 Dec 1902 Stockton, San Joaquin, California m. 1865 Carolina Christina Johnson b. Feb 1837 Sweden d. 6 Sep 1903 Stockton, San Joaquin, California
William Christopher Hanson b. 18 Oct 1866 Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 26 Aug 1960 Kansas City, Kansas m. 14 Jun 1917 Helen Prindle Patten (his second or third wife)
Helen Patten “Pat” Hanson b. 3 Aug 1924 d. 4 Dec 2013 m. 16 Sep 1950 Robert Henry Maximoff b. 29 Nov 1924 Bartlesville, Oklahoma d. 2 Oct 2011 Los Altos, Santa Clara, California

born in Russia and home taught Anna Marie and her two younger brothers until high school.

The other musician to marry into the family is Loraine Dyson who married Merlie’s younger son, Roger Nylund Johnson. She was the first flutist in the Milton Academy orchestra where she had solo performances. She studied flute with William Grass, a member of the New England Conservatory of Music and was the first flutist for the New England Festival Orchestra to perform in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While attending Tufts College, she played with the university orchestra. Lori also plays the piano. On a recent Friendship Force trip to Taiwan, she gave a brief piano recital and in the past has played both instruments at church events. Lori still plays piano almost daily and now sings in a women’s chorus. Both of their daughters took piano lessons and the oldest daughter Allison also took flute and voice lessons. Their younger daughter Erika is an accomplished pianist, although has not played professionally. When Lori and the two girls were

Johnson Lineage
Jonas Quist b. 14 Mar 1790 Carlstorp, Verderlovlo Parish, Kronoberg, Sweden d. 22 Dec 1846 Kiaby Parish KI, Sweden m. 3 Dec 1819 Ana Carlsdotter b. 26 Dec 1787 Kiaby Parish, Kristainstad Ian, Sweden d. 25 Aug 1863 Kiaby Parish, Kristainstad Ian, Sweden
Abraham Bartemus Johansson b. 29 Sep 1828 Kiaby Parish, Kristainstad Ian, Sweden d. 31 Jan 1901 Overlin, Decatur, Kansas m. 1867 Chicago, Cook, Illinois Taran Bertine “Bertina” Christophersdotter Hanson b. 14 Oct 1843 Porsgrunn, Norway d. 16 Marc 1934 Oberlin, Decatur, Kansas
Aaron Bartemus Johnson b. 7 Apr 1868 Chicago, Cook, Illinois d. 14 Dec 1952 Scandia, Republic, Kansas m. 15 Apr 1888 Scandia, Republic, Kansas Hannah Nylund b. 18 Nov 1864 Orebro, Orebro, Sweden d. 8 Sep 1947 Scandia, Republic, Kansas
Earl Gladstone Johnson b. 3 Sep 1902 Scandia, Republic, Kansas d. 9 Jan 1992 Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut m. 22 Jun 1932 Brandon, Wisconsin Merlie Margeret Damerau b. 28 Apr 1905 Fairwater, Wisconsin d. 24 Jul 1992 Norwalk, Fairfield, Connecticut
Richard Damerau Johnson b. 28 Oct 1934 Zanesville, Ohio d. 26 Nov 2020 Pleasanton, Alameda, California m. 29 Dec 1969 Catherine (Caye) Harriet Collins—living Roger Nylund Johnson—living Loraine Dyson—living Allison Johnson—living Erika Johnson--living

all playing piano, Roger and Lori gave us the Chickering baby grand piano (on which both Richard and Roger had taken piano lessons) so that they could buy a better piano—a used 1929 Steinway baby grand—on which to practice.

Growing up in a family that appreciates and frequently listens to classical music is certainly a firm foundation for furthering one’s own interest in music. A little natural talent can go a long way with the proper encouragement and nurturing, especially if one has a genuine love of it.

The Sawtooth Slayer (Venator Cold Case #2)

Review 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. As I enjoyed Nathan's prior Forensic Genealogist series I was eager to read his initial novel in the fresh Venator Cold Case series.

This tale is set in 3 weeks of April 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic is first appearing in the U. S. I have to admit that I wasn't sure what to expect with **The Sawtooth Slayer**, the second book in a new genetic genealogy mystery series – **A Venator Cold Case**. [Venator is Latin for 'hunter'.]

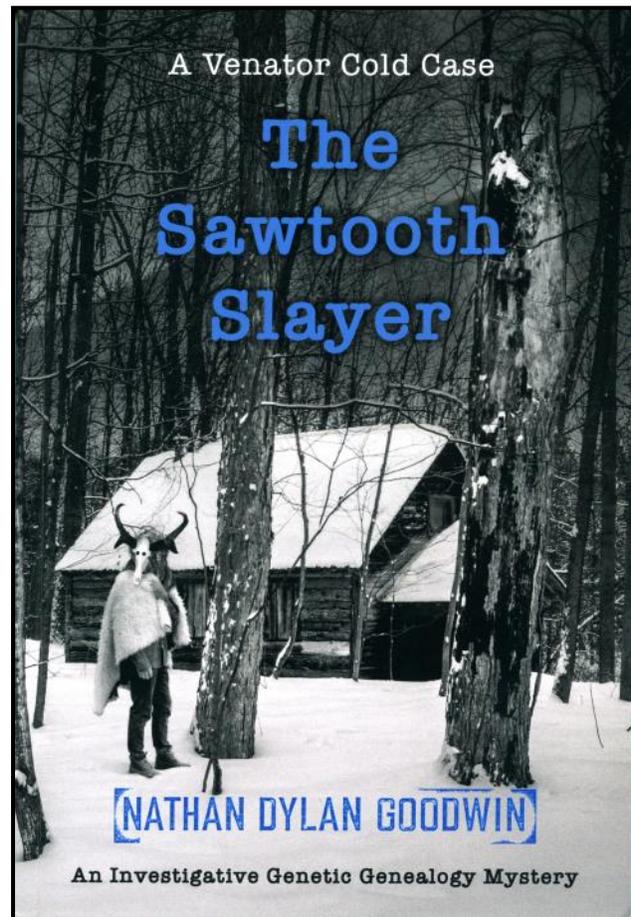
The Venator firm are investigative genetic genealogy specialists noted for researching decades old cold cases, where time was no longer a factor.

This story is initiated with a Zoom conference between Madison Scott-Barnhart, South Jordan, Utah and Detective Maria Gonzalez, Twin Falls, Idaho. A serial killer has murdered four beautiful young women. Since the killer left bodily fluid on the first victim lead investigator, Detective Gonzalez, is seeking real time assistance from Venator to assist law enforcement in the investigation through DNA analysis and genetics to identify potential suspects.

The Venator staffers access numerous \$\$\$ genealogical websites similar to the FHL - FHC network. During the pandemic FHL is closed to researchers. When the online sites are insufficient one staffer sits outside the FHL to access their WiFi for researching records only available at the FHL or FHC. The narrative includes frequent references to the appropriate FamilySearch research wikis.

The story includes a sprinkling of a few short teaser chapters granting the reader brief tantalizing insights to the killer's procedures. There are also intriguing subplots involving each of the Venator staffers. Don't we all have subplots in our everyday lives that impact and distract our concentration on our workday?

I thoroughly enjoyed that the tale provides realistic views of the detailed analysis and plain old all



-nighter dedication that goes into solving an immediate murder case through investigative genetic genealogy. You will surely enjoy reading this tale as it provides captivating tutorials for DNA analysis, genetic genealogical triangulation¹, building and documenting speculative trees² and reverse genealogy³ involving grandparents multiple generations removed.

Disclosure: Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, sent me a copy of this book to review. You may purchase this book through Amazon, Target and other sites in paper-back, Audible or Kindle versions.

¹<https://dna-explained.com/2017/05/16/concepts-why-genetic-genealogy-and-triangulation/>

²Descending genealogical research involves finding the descendants of a specific person.

³<https://thegenealogyreporter.com/reverse-genealogy/>

Trip to Sweden 2022

By Andi Winters

This spring my husband Greg and I received an offer we couldn't refuse: a major cruise company was offering us a 10-day Baltic cruise with reduced fares and free air. Leaving from Copenhagen, Denmark in early June, the cruise ended in Stockholm. I have long wanted to visit Sweden where my grandfather was born so we decided this was our chance. From my research I knew my family was from the south-central part of Sweden. So we made plans to rent a car in Stockholm after the cruise then spend three days touring before flying home from Copenhagen.

My grandfather, Hugo Levi Larsson, left Sweden about 1900. After exploring the Pacific Northwest, he was hired by Southern Pacific as a blacksmith for the railroad. It was through that job that he found a home in Laurel, California. Laurel, in the mountains and lush forests of Santa Cruz County was where my grandmother, Mabel McLaughlin was living with her family. The young couple met and were married in 1904. Throughout his life my grandfather took several trips back to his former home in Sweden including a trip with his pregnant wife and two small children. Yes, the next child, my Uncle Ted was born in Perstorp¹, Sweden. What an experience that must have been for my 20 year old grandmother.

The first time I set foot in the land of my ancestors was on day four when we docked in Karlskrona², Sweden. The June weather was lovely for exploring this small city spread over 30 islands in the southeastern area of Sweden. Karlskrona is the headquarters of the Swedish Coast Guard and a base for the Swedish Navy. Its port was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1988.



My first steps onto Swedish soil in Karlskrona

A few days later we reached our destination of Stockholm. We cruised many hours through the

Larsson Family Lineage	
Lars Andersson	b. 22 Dec 1915 near Hultsgrod, Kalmar, Sweden d. 20 Jan 1861 at sea on way to Denmark m. 29 Dec 1845 Berghem, Alvsborg, Sweden m. Inga Maria Henriksdtr b. 4 Nov 1821, Rostanza, Sweden d. 14 May 1871, Sweden
Anders Gustaf Larrson	b. 14 May 1854 Röstånga, Svalöv, Skåne, Sweden d. 23 Dec 1932 Perstorp, Skåne, Sweden m. 09 Aug 1879 Vedby, Kristianstad, Sweden Petronella Eliasdotter b. 19 Jun 1857 Varsjo, Roke, Sweden d. 15 Jul 1899 Perstorp, Skåne, Sweden
Hugo Levi Larsson	b. 27 May 1880 Vedby, Kristianstad, Sweden d. 19 Oct 1950 San Jose, Santa Clara California, m. 02 Oct 1904 Laurel, Santa Cruz, California Mabel Agnes McLaughlin b. 10 Jan 1889 Fresno, California d. 15 Mar 1953 Santa Cruz, California
Andrew Bernard Larson	b. 05 Dec 1905 Astoria, Clatsop, Oregon d. 31 May 1974 San Jose, Santa Clara, California m. 11 Nov 1946 San Francisco, California Lois Katherine Jones b. 30 August 1916 Salt Lake City, Utah d. 23 Nov 2005 Eugene, Lane, Oregon
Andrea Lois Larson, Living	

Stockholm archipelago of 30,000 islands, skerries³ and rocks that fan out 50 miles east into the Baltic Sea from the city. We had a cruise sponsored tour of the city before disembarking the next day.

After site-seeing on our own we found our hotel then walked to the nearby car rental business to pick up a car for our tour of southern Sweden.

¹Perstorp is a locality and the seat of Perstorp Municipality in Skåne County, Sweden with 6,054 inhabitants (2018). Prior to the municipal reforms of 1862, Perstorp was, just as all local governments, based on a church parish and was integrated with the church. Following the municipal reforms, it became a part of the rural municipality of Perstorp. On 23 May 1935, the municipal community of Perstorp was established.

²Karlskrona is a locality and the seat of Karlskrona Municipality, Blekinge County, Sweden with a population of 66,675 in 2018.

³A skerry is a small, rocky island created through glaciation.

⁴Växjö is a city and the seat of Växjö Municipality, Kronoberg County, Sweden.

Early the next morning we set off for Vaxjo⁴ to visit The House of Emigrants, the Nordic region's largest institute focusing on Swedish emigration to North America. I learned about this place while researching the areas where my relatives lived. As there was a Research Room, I was able to make an appointment with one of the staff to dig into my family history. Together with my guide Gunnar, we went through the many papers I had brought with me.

Included in my trove of family history was a picture with an inscription in Swedish. Gunnar translated it: "Here is your old home if you remember it. Best regards accompany this card. Perstorp July 25, 1904." On the back it was addressed to my grandfather in Laurel. A distinctive house, we thought we would try to find it.

After researching, our conclusion was that only one of my grandfather's brothers stayed in Sweden. Karl Ivar married a German woman and moved to Stockholm after several years in Germany. He died in 1976 with no children. I would need to go back more generations to find any relatives still in Sweden.

Our drive through the small towns and countryside dotted with well-kept farms was delightful. Our day concluded in Villa Soderasen⁵, a B&B



Petronella and Anders Larsson

⁵Villa Söderåsen lies like a heart between society and wild nature.

⁶Söderåsen is a northwest-southwest elongated bedrock ridge in Scania in southern Sweden. On Söderåsen is Scania's highest point at 212 m (696 ft) above sea level. It is intersected by several fissure valleys. The ridge extends from Röstånga in the southeast to the Åstorp in northwest. Söderåsen National Park is located 30 km (19 mi) east of Helsingborg in Scania.

⁷Malmö is the largest city in the Swedish county (län) of Scania (Skåne). It is the third-largest city in Sweden, after Stockholm and Gothenburg, and the sixth-largest city in the Nordic region, with a municipal population of 350,647 in 2021.

just on the edge of the Soderasen National Park. The next day we took off for Perstorp. We drove up and down many streets hoping to locate the house on the postcard. We had no luck in finding the house, nor a city hall or any type of museum, so we stopped at the library. The librarian looked at the postcard we had but she said, although she lived in Perstorp her whole life she didn't recognize the house. Made us wonder if the inscription might have been a joke.

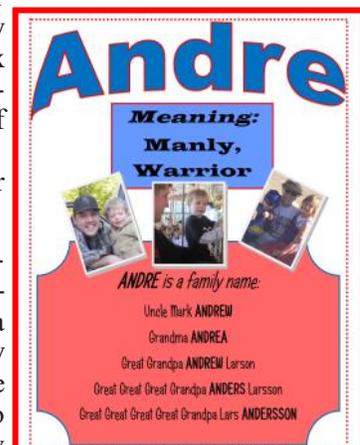
Our next stop was at the Perstorp Church which includes a large cemetery. Greg went one way, I went the other and almost immediately I found the grave of my great-grandparents, Petronella and Anders Larsson! I had no idea I would come across their graves as I had never discovered through my research where they were buried. I was very surprised and happy to find it. I plan to post a picture of the gravestone on Find-a-Grave for future genealogists.

My great-grandfather Anders is particularly important to me. He was named in the old Swedish style from his father, Lars Andersson. Although he never named any of his sons after himself, my grandfather, Hugo Levi Larsson, named his first-born, my father, Andrew. I was named after my father, Andrea. I named my older son Mark Andrew. My younger son named his only son Andre. For six out of seven generations variations of Anderrsson/Anders has been part of our family.

Although we ventured to Vedby Parish, a town or area mentioned frequently in the family archive records we found no other links to my

past. As this was our last day in Sweden we leisurely drove through the lush countryside before hitting the highway to Malmo⁶. The next day we flew home from Copenhagen.

Sweden was lovely and welcoming. I am so happy that I have had a chance to visit. Finding my great-grandparents grave was certainly a bonus. As many have found, researching family genealogy opens doors in many ways.



A poster I made for my grandson, Andre, when he was 2 years old (now 13).

Story of Joseph Frise and Anna Burghard Families

By Leora Frise

When I was doing my Christmas letter I used this picture for my genealogy corner. I decided to use a picture of relatives in Milwaukee WI because my nephew Matt Frise and his family recently moved to the area.

So here is the story of my picture. According to Joseph Frise's Military registration card his address was 2360 W Medford Ave., Milwaukee, WI, I tried looking up the address on Google maps but the numbers have changed they now start with 4400. I was unable to find a similar house.



Frise relatives in Milwaukee 1946-1948; l-r Joseph Frise, Anna (Burghard) Frise, Louis Burghard, Anna (Wirth) Burghard, Tivia Lane, Minnie (Frise) Lane, Marilyn and Sheryl Lane

I looked up the 1920 census and according to it, the following people lived at this address, they were Joseph Frise 28 (head of household), Anna (Burghard) Frise 25 (wife), Louis Burghard 76 (father in law), Anna (Wirth) Burghard 60 (Mother-in-law), Charlotte Burghard 28 (sister-in-law). Son Harold Frise and daughter Minnie Frise were not born yet. This census insert was from Family Search and it shows where everyone was born.

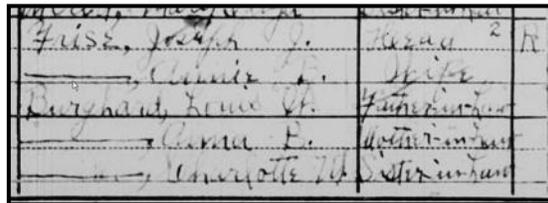
The picture that was taken 1946-1948 shows Harold and Lois Frise, Joseph and Anna (Burghard) Frise, Anna (Wirth) Burghard, (Sheryl Lane says this was her Grandma Tivia Lane), Minnie (Frise) Lane and children Marilyn and Sheryl Lane. My only question is why Anna Burghard was not in the picture because she had been living with Joseph and Anna Frise per the census.

Frise Family Lineage	
Louis George Burghard	b. 1843 Frankfurt, Hessen, Germany d. 1923 Milwaukee, Wisconsin Naturalized, 1873 Sonoma, California m. 1889 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Anna Wirth	b. 1859 Switzerland d. 1952 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Joseph Frise	b. 1891 Glen Grove, Waukesha, Wisconsin d. 1948 Milwaukee, Wisconsin m. 1916 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Anna Burghard	b. 1894 d. 1978 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Harold Frise	b. 1923 Milwaukee, Wisconsin d. 1986 Sunnyvale, Santa Clara, California m. 1946 Washington, District of Columbia
Lois Wenger	b. 1923 Harrisonburg, Virginia d. 2009 Santa Clara, California
Michael Frise	b. 1948 Norfolk, Virginia d. 2021 Pleasanton, California m. 1967 Santa Cruz, California Leora Jones, living

Joseph Frise's military registration card.



Below: 1920 census Frise family



An interesting note: The name Frise was changed from Friese. Joseph changed the spelling before he was married. Minnie said that it was easier to pronounce and I think it was done because Friese was a German spelling, and Frise was a French spelling and we were in WW I, against Germany.

Three Sites Family History Letters From My Files

By Ileen Peterson

While poking through file cabinets I located the following three letters regarding the Family History of my late husband, Michael Jon Sites (25 June 1943 - 20 May 2012).

Biography of Your Dad, William Stanley Sites, My Husband

By Elizabeth Dupire Sites

His parents, John Sites and Agatha, migrated to the States in 1888. One child was born dead in Lithuania, another just after they arrived in Pittston, Luzerne, Pennsylvania but later died. Two years later, your Dad was born on October 13, 1890.

He had typhoid fever when he was 18 months old. It settled in his hip, so he grew up with one leg shorter than the other. They came to the Oklahoma home when Dad was 11 years old. By that time, he had all the education his parents thought he needed, so at 11 years, he went into the mines. He helped his dad. By him working, Grandpa was allotted half again as many cars.

I was born Elizabeth Dupire, November 17, 1897, at Savanna, Pittsburg, Oklahoma.

We were married on November 27, 1913. To this union was born 5 children – Leonard on April 30, 1915, also William Frank February 16, 1917, then you, Frank John, on March 28, 1920, then William James on December 13, 1921, also Charles Leroy November 26, 1925.

Leonard born April 30, 1915; died November 2, 1919.

William Frank, born February 16, 1917; died October 4, 1918

Frank John, born March 28, 1920,

William James, born December 13, 1921; died October 12, 1944

Dad worked in the mines at the time we were married. He earned \$1.84. In 1921, he earned \$5.00 a day. Then the Strike when a disabled person couldn't get work. So in five years, he worked 2 ½ days in the mines. He tied Turnips at 5 cents an hour. Then in 1925 he and three broth-

ers bought out the Hughes Coal Company and things got better. Joe decided to sell his share, so they all sold out to Bartolinas.

Later he got work in little Hope. Then came the depression. After a few years, he got work at Furgmans Coal Company. He worked there until he was sent for a physical exam, which he didn't pass. After a few more years of being idle, he got the job of janitor, which he adjusted himself to and liked very much. All went well, as everyone worked, so \$40.00 a month meant a lot. It meant a steady income. Later there was a raise, so at \$60.00 a month, you were at East Central and Billie in Junior College. We were very happy, as every year meant a raise. At the time of his retirement, his wages were \$125 a month.

Later, his sons enlisted, which made him very sad. When Charles had to go, it was a terrible blow, but the last straw was when Billie crashed. From there on, you know the story. The doctor said Bill died from a broken heart on January 8, 1951.

Elizabeth (Dupire) Sites' Letter – Sept. 22, 1963

Dear Ones-

It was so nice talking to you. So glad all is well there. I am feeling a lot better now.

I'll bet it was nice having Mike home for the summer. When you write, tell him I said hello.

Here are the things you wanted to know. Grandmother Sites' name was Agatha Stipanitis. Both her and Grandfather, John Sites, were born in Kovna (Kaunas) Gubernia, Russian Empire.

Both parents were farmers. Grandpa's brother in Pittston, Luzerne, Pennsylvania sent him his passport and ticket to come to America. (he lost his inheritance when he left there – he was the oldest son). He wouldn't leave Grandma behind so they sold her clothes and dowry for her ticket so she came with him.

My mother's name was Virginia Dussart, born in Pas-de-Calais, France. Her father, Frank Dussart, was a mine superintendent. When his wife Adeline Bauchart died in childbirth, he came to Oklahoma. Later he sent for his two sons, Frank and Reno.

Then several years later, he sent for Mother and her sister, Claire. Claire Zarzi is still living in Staunton, Macoupin, Illinois. She is in her late 80s.

The original Sites name before it was changed was Yasaites.

My father’s name was Elissee Dupire. He was born in Pas-de-Calais, France. Mother and Dad were married in Lehigh , Coal, Oklahoma.

God Bless all of you. Be Precious. Love, Mother

John Jasaitis Sites

(April 15, 1858 - November 21, 1929)

John Jesaitis was born in Lithuania and depending on which public record I believe he was either born in 1852 (1920 Coal County, Oklahoma federal census and death certificate of 1929), April 15, 1858 (Declaration of Intention – Naturalization record of 1908), or 1865 (1900 Harts-horne, Choctaw Nation, Indian Territory federal census). That’s a discrepancy of thirteen years so I’m using the one in the middle, April 15, 1858.

A 1963 letter from Elizabeth Sites said that John and Agata (Stepanitis) were born in Kona Gubania in Lithuania and the original Sites name was Yasaites – this information came to me via Ileen, who was married to a great-grandson of John. Kona Gubania could be interpreted as Kowno/Kovno/Kaunas Gubernia (Russian for province).

John immigrated to the United States in either 1888 or 1889 and lived almost a decade in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, near his brother Adam. Around 1898 he and his wife Agnes (Agota Stefonowicz) Sites and three children, William Stanley, Joseph John, and Maggie, moved to Indian Territory in Oklahoma where John worked in the coal mines.

The 1910 federal census finds the John Sites (Sykes) family in Colgate, Oklahoma in May, with four-year-old Benjamin the newest addition to the family.

Agnes died in 1918 of the Spanish flu epidemics sweeping the nation. In the 1920 federal census John is widowed and living with his children Frank and Benjamin with married son William a couple of doors down. Most of the family stayed in Oklahoma for several generations.

Sites Family Lineage

John Jasaitis ¹
 b. circa 1855 Kovna ² (Kaunas) Gubernia, Russian Empire
 d. 21 Nov 1929 in Henryetta, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
 m. Agatha Stefonowicz
 b. circa 1865-1866
 d. circa 1910-1920

William Stanley Sites
 b. 13 Oct 1890 ³ Pittston, Luzerne, Pennsylvania
 d. 9 Jan 1951 Henryetta, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
 m. 27 Nov 1913
 Elizabeth Belle Dupire
 b. 17 Nov 1897 Oklahoma
 d. 24 Feb 1987 Henryetta, Okmulgee, Oklahoma

Frank John Sites
 b. 28 Mar 1920 Coalgate, Coal, Oklahoma
 d. 12 Jul 1980 Fullerton, Orange, California
 m. 10 Jul 1942 Oklahoma
 Dorothy Dean Agnes Parker
 b. 8 Apr 1923 Heavener, LeFlore, Oklahoma
 d. 2 Feb 2009 Fullerton, Orange, California

Michael Jon Sites
 b. 25 June 1943 Denison, Grayson, Texas
 d. 20 May 2012 Seattle, King, Washington
 m. 15 Nov 1975 Stanford, Santa Clara, California
 Ileen Peterson, living

- Notes:
1. John Jasaitis and Agatha Stefonowicz migrated to the United States in 1888.
 2. The Kovna gubernia (also known as Kaunas) was formed 18 December 1842 by Tsar Nicholas I from seven western uyezdi (districts) of the Vilna gubernia. The Kovna gubernia consisted of those seven uyezdi. Currently, most of the former Kovna gubernia is now located in Lithuania with a small part in Latvia and Belarus.
 3. Per SSN application, Birth Certificate is unavailable, maybe 5 Oct 1892 agrees with 1920 census. Between 1893 and 1905 Pennsylvania counties began recording births within their jurisdiction.



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 **Zoom** participants Learn How with YouTube.com:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

Visitors are always welcome.

Monday February 13, 7:00 p.m. - via **Zoom** - site opens 6:30 p.m.

Sara Cochran

*Shaky Leaf Syndrome: Using Website Generated
Hints More Effectively*

Monday March 13, 7:00 p.m. -via **Zoom** - site opens 6:30 p.m.

Glenda Lloyd

Cemetery Records

Monday April 10, 7:00 p.m. via **Zoom** site opens 6:30 p.m. & To Be Determined

Linda Harms Okazaki

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