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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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Farewell Message from Our President

Dear L-AGS Members,

Frank Geasa, Anne Homan and Arleen Wood are the members of the nominating committee who will come up with the slate of officers for the coming election at our December meeting. We will be calling to ask some of you to consider running for president, or for one of the following offices (listed with the person due to retire at the end of 2008): recording secretary (Rose Marie Phipps), first vice president, program (Arleen Wood), and second vice president, membership (Patrick Lofft). These three persons have contributed greatly to the thriving state of L-AGS today. Our other officers, Barbara Hempill (corresponding secretary) and Larry Hale (business manager), will continue their excellent work for us. Each to-be-vacant position is a two-year term. As we said at the October general meeting, the current officers all enjoyed their two years and did not feel that the jobs were too difficult.

I started thinking about all the work that members do in our organization even though they are not elected to an office. There is the work for the Roots Tracer—Jane Southwick, our editor with her reporters Lois Barber, Marie Ross, Lois Smith, Kay Speaks and Eileen Redmond. Sandra Caulder prints and distributes the copies; George Anderson is the compositor; Vicki Renz is the web editor and Frank Geasa a columnist. Lois Barber is our historian, Marie Ross is publicity chair. Donna Fleckner, our publication chair, has the job of storing our publications at her home, printing new copies when needed, and mailing out copies to buyers. Each year we need an auditing committee; this year Duncan Tanner and Dick Lerche did the audit for us. Mary Maenchen, our hospitality chair, is always cheerfully at her post in the kitchen. Clarence “Parky” Parkison is our Beth Emek site facilitator, helping with lights, sound and much else. At the Pleasanton Library Patrick Lofft supervises our docents: Lois Barber, Mary Dillon, Ellen Fletcher, Bill George, John Waldon, Frank Geasa and Dick Finn. Patrick and Judy Person supervise our library collection. Dick Finn heads up the Family Tree Maker group, represents us on the Tri-Valley History Council, and continues to add to his Heritage Families file. Kip West and Kathleen Young keep him supplied with local obituaries. Dick also manages our equipment. The Master Genealogist group is run by Sue Johnston and Kay Speaks. Kay runs the Study Group and acted as the coordinator for the Alameda County Fair and the seminars. I’m not going to name all the members who helped with the fair and the seminars, but you know who you are. Kay also keeps our L-AGS brochure up to date. Gail Bryan helps the membership chair by maintaining the name tag books and making copies of membership books for new members; she also helped me this year by letting us hold the board meetings at her house. George Anderson sends out the monthly e-mail bulletin to keep us informed about various activities. Our webmaster is Doug Mumma, helped by Larry Renslow, Vicki Renz and George Anderson. Larry Renslow holds the key position of e-mail postmaster, and Sue Silva is our list manager. Whew! I can’t believe how many people help to make our organization a viable one! It shows—our membership continues to grow. George has warned me that by making this list, I have probably forgotten someone—if so, please forgive me.

I have really enjoyed these past two years as your president. I have learned to know many new people, which is always fun. I have learned to appreciate how much effort many of you put into L-AGS—it’s a good thing some of us are retired. Thanks to all of you for your support.

Anne

The Monument on the Mall to World War II Honorees

By Arleen Wood

[Thank you, Chuck Wiedel, L-AGS Member, for the suggestion]

Do you get excited when you find information about a great-grandfather who served in the Civil War? Or a great-great-grandfather who served in the Revolutionary War? Can you imagine how excited future generations will be to find a photo of their ancestor who served our country during WWII to help preserve freedom for the world? You can help make that happen! The source of the following information is from the website:

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com>

The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home. Symbolic of the defining event of the 20th Century, the memorial is a monument to the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the American people. The Second World War is the only 20th Century event commemorated on the National Mall's central axis.

Who May be Honored in the Registry of Remembrances?

Anyone who helped win the war, either a veteran or an American on the home front, is eligible for the Registry of Remembrances. You may enter your own name, or the name of someone you wish to honor for their service during the war. The Registry of Remembrances will be accessible on-site at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. and on the Internet. Registration is free; however, the fee to add a photo is \$10 or to receive a certificate, \$5.00.

How Can I Register a Name in the Registry?

You may enter a name in the registry via the Internet or by mail. To register a name via the Internet, go to:

<http://www.wwiimemorial.com>

Click on the "WWII Registry" button on the left. Follow the online instructions to enter the name you wish to honor. To register via mail, download the form or call 1-800-639-4992 and a form will be mailed to you with

instructions

The Registry combines four distinct databases that can be searched for names of those whose service and sacrifice helped win the Second World War. The Registry includes the names of Americans who are:

- Buried in American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) overseas military cemeteries.
- Memorialized on ABMC Tablets of the Missing.
- Listed on official War and Navy Department "Killed in Service" rosters now held by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA).
- Honored by public enrollment in the Registry of Remembrances.

I registered four of my family members into the Registry of Remembrances a few years ago when they were raising money to build the WWII Monument in Washington, DC. I then notified the children of each honoree and gave them the website so they could view it.

The certificate is suitable for framing and would make a nice gift or memento to add to your genealogy. To view examples, go to the URL cited above; click on WW II Registry; then "search the Registry" and type in the last name "Sogaard." I sent in the three with my name listed as the source.



The Memorial Plaza of the Monument on the Washington Mall, a site dedicated to World War II Honorees.



G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Frank Geasa

If your ancestors happened to be from Metcalfe County, Kentucky, this site has marriage and birth indexes, cemetery transcriptions and a link to the county GenWeb archives with additional databases.

<http://gensoup.org/metcalfe/contents.html>

If your interest is in ancestors from County Mayo, Ireland, this site has transcribed marriage and baptism records for several Roman Catholic parishes in the eastern part of that county.

<http://www.eastmayo.org/>

If on the other hand your Irish ancestors were from County Longford, you will find similar church records plus more at this site.

<http://www.igp-web.com/longford/index.htm>

If your research includes Greenville County, South Carolina, the county's government sites include this one with a marriage index starting about 1911.

<http://www.greenvillecounty.org/MLSearch/default.asp>

Another county site has land record indexes and digital images. Note that it is necessary to drill down in the menus to fully appreciate the extent of what is available on this site.

<http://tinyurl.com/4cbd2r>

If you think your ancestors might have been from Canton Zurich, Switzerland, this site has a list of family names residing there before 1800. The list is sorted by community.

http://www.staatsarchiv.zh.ch/download/Z_BUERG.RTF

Cook County, Illinois has vital records (BDM) records indexed online. The site requires registration but is free. There is a fee if you want record copies.

<http://www.cookcountygenealogy.com/Default.aspx>

This useful and captivating site allows you to quickly create timelines related to someone in your genealogy or you can just create one for fun.

Courtesy of James H Johnson and Arleen Wood.

http://www.ourtimelines.com:80/create_tl_2c.html

This Connecticut State Library site has several indexes of individuals named in state archive records.

Included are court, pension, veteran and prison databases.

<http://www.cslib.org/databases.htm>

If your ancestry traces back to the Isles of Lewis or Harris in the Outer Hebrides, Scotland, you might want to visit this growing site with various data including many of genealogical interest.

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

North Dakota State University site has a marriage index for Cass County, ND (1872 – 1944) at

<http://tinyurl.com/47e327>

while the University of North Dakota has a marriage index for Grand Forks County (1875 -1914).

<http://www.library.und.edu/Collections/og1421.html>

Do you need an early map of Canada 16th – 19th century? McGill University has a digitized collection of many such maps and offers them at 2 different resolutions.

<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/pugsley/>

A link to a growing index of Alaskan marriages taken from many sources covering the period 1745 –1950 as well as other good links can be found using the Researching Alaskan Roots button on this Fairbanks Genealogical Society site.

<http://fairbanksgenealogicalsociety.com/>

Shuffle off to Buffalo, New York with this list of city directories from the 19th century. Be sure to check any table of contents in the directory as some have their alphabetical listings in the middle.

<http://www.buffaloresearch.com/onlinedirectories.html>

The Star Valley Historical Society (Wyoming) has digitized collections of cemetery headstones and obituaries online. These can be downloaded free.

<http://www.svhs.us/index.html>

A Reminder: Dues are Due

by January 1. Please make out your check to "L-AGS," and send it to "L-AGS" at the address on the cover.

Using *Google Patents* to Search a Seldom-used Database

By Kay Speaks

Some time back I was researching Google's many capabilities for a Study Group topic. One of Google's features I discussed was Google Patent Search. As part of the Roots Tracer staff, I was reading a preliminary copy of Marilyn Cutting's article this month titled, *Did a "Divine Hand" Guide my Research in Boston?*, where she mentioned difficulty in finding patent papers filed by an ancestor. Original patent papers are held by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Could Google solve Marilyn's quest? Marilyn mentioned the name of the patented item, the inventor's name and the date. I thought I'd see if Google Patent Search would locate a digitized copy of the original patent document. Google Patents allows for a full text search of over 7 million U.S. patents.

Using Google Patents "Advanced Search" menu, I began my search for Edwin M. Cutting's known patent. In a short period of time, armed with her descriptions and the years, I was able to find a copy of E. M. Cutting's "Railway Signaling Device," patent 726512 dated April 28, 1903. The application was filed August 19, 1902. The document included renderings of the invention, name of the inventor, his patent attorney, witness names and a full copy of the application. Upon searching for the other two patents mentioned in Marilyn's article, a quick search showed one-half interest in another invention had been assigned to E. M. Cutting in 1907. The third patent for the "Railway Tracking Drilling Machine" showed the inventor transferring one-fourth interest to E. M. Cutting of Fruitvale, California, one-fourth interest to two other gentlemen.

Using Google Patents is a much easier way to find scanned images of original patent documents than using the U.S. Patent and Trademark database.

However, if you want to use the government database, once you have found the invention in Google Patents, there is a link to the U.S. Patents and Trademarks database, or use this link:

<http://www.uspto.gov/main/sitesearch.htm>

Be sure to use the "Advanced Search" option.

To use Google Patent Search, go to:

<http://www.google.com>

Click on the "More" down-arrow, and select "Even More," then scroll down until you see "Patent Search," which has a light bulb icon. You will then access the Google Patent Search Beta:

<http://www.google.com/patents?hl=en>

Why did I give you the step-by-step directions and not just the website? Because, wearing my Study Group leader's hat, I wanted you to see what is behind Google's "More" and "Even More" links! There is a plethora of information beyond Google's main menu. First you should read Google's tutorial located in the link to patent search help. Then use the "Advanced" option to research for your patent. Search fields include patent number, title, inventor, assignee, U.S. classification, international classifications, document status, patent type, issue date and filing date. Be sure to use wildcards if you don't find what you are looking for. For example, Edwin M. Cutting was found under E. M. Cutting.

I often search patents for my surnames and have found several ancestors who were inventors. Why don't you give it a try?

[Editor's note to prospective Roots Tracer authors: See what happens when you send articles to be published in the Roots Tracer? Not always, but occasionally, the editorial staff finds additional information to expand or clarify your article!]

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

Added to our library from July 11 through October 13, 2008:

1. Mutnick, Dorothy Gittinger. **Some Alta California pioneers and descendants**. 5 volumes. 929.3794 MUTNICK.
2. McCann, William E. and Edgar J. Hinkel, **History of Rural Alameda County, California**; Excerpts concerning Washington Township; Murray and Pleasanton Townships; and Eden Township, photocopied by L-AGS from the 1937 WPA book. Reprinted and indexed 2008. 979.465 HISTORY.

How I Began

A Three-time Past President of L-AGS Reminisces

By Shirley Siems Terry, Camino, California

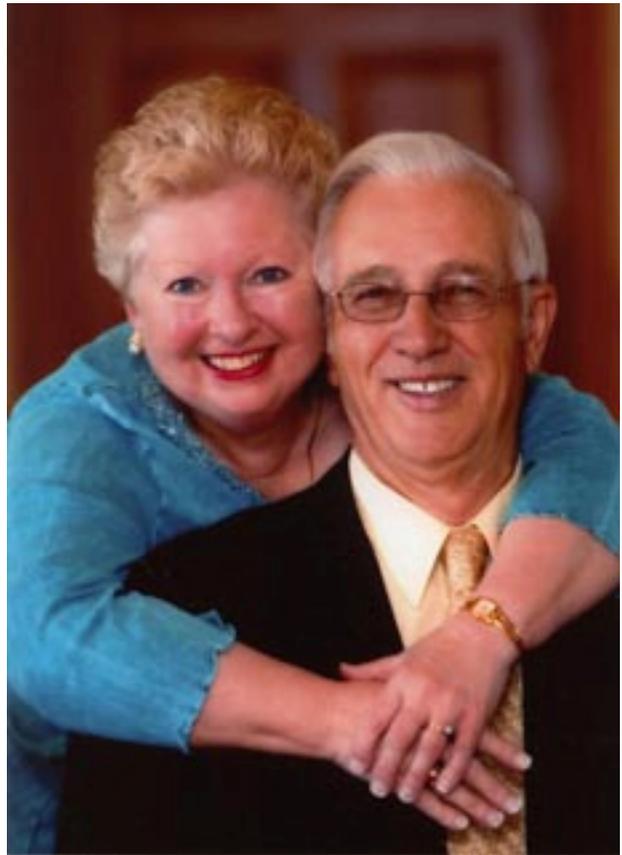
I began my genealogy research when my parents visited us in Pleasant Hill, California, in 1966 on their way home to Oregon from a visit with all our relatives back in Gage County, Nebraska. Mother had just been given a big family Bible which had the births, deaths and marriages of her great-grandparents, Samuel and Sarah (Root) Powell. Samuel and Sarah had left Washington County, Maryland, had several children, and buried one in Ohio before settling in Ogle County, Illinois.

Inside the back cover of the Bible had been pasted the obituary of Samuel Powell and an unidentified group picture of five men and three women in their later years. My grandparents said one of the men was Solomon Emal, Mother's great-grandfather. The family information was written, not on the beautiful blank spaces that the Bible provided, but on yellow lined paper. It was probably written by Hannah (Powell) Emal, my great-grandmother and daughter of Samuel and Sarah, because the last entry was the death of her father in 1882. She died in 1888.

This information came to me at just the right time and place. We had just moved to northern California—a great place to start research. I had an eight-year-old and a new baby and was a stay-at-home mother. That was after working as a secretary to put my husband through two degrees in Oregon and Illinois. Our new son had been born in Washington, where my husband taught at Washington State University in Pullman for three semesters. He then decided to take an engineering job with Chevron.

The Pleasant Hill Public Library was the county library with a good genealogy room. There, I soon learned that I could submit requests for books through the state library system. At that time, Sutro allowed me to send generalized requests giving a surname, time period and several different locales. They kept me supplied with up to a dozen books at a time and I spent my days reading and typing up my finds on my portable Royal typewriter.

All that time I was also writing letters to my relatives asking for information. Somewhere along the line, a Mormon neighbor clued me into the Oakland Temple Library, which was only a 30-45 minute drive but a little hard to arrange with a baby. Then I



Shirley and Wayne Terry, on their 50th wedding anniversary in 2007.

lucked out and one of my first cousins got married back in Nebraska and moved to an apartment in nearby Concord! We worked out an arrangement: she'd come over to do her laundry and baby sit a couple of times a month while I spent the day at the library and read microfilm.

Chevron moved us every year and a half to two years from then on. We moved to southern California, where I continued writing letters to new-found distant cousins. By then I had a brand new electric typewriter, which made me feel pretty up-to-date. I joined the Southern California Genealogical Society, which had evening meetings. I was secretary of that group one year. I made lots of trips to the Family History Center in Santa Monica and a couple to the Los Angeles Public Library.

Every time we moved, I'd join the local genealogical or historical society and find the nearest genea

logical collection. Some were excellent, some not, but there was always letter-writing. Usually we'd move back to the Bay Area between our stays in Louisiana, Texas, New Jersey, Canada, England, etc.

We bought a house in San Ramon in 1971 and moved in and out six times before selling in 1998. The genealogical libraries and National Archives were all within an hour's drive. I was one of the founding members of L-AGS in 1977 and served as president three times. I have also been president of the San Ramon Genealogical Society and El Paso Genealogical Society.

We were in El Paso, Texas, two different times. The saving grace of that city was its excellent genealogical library and genealogical society. My favorite time was two years in Belle Mead, just north of Princeton, New Jersey, with its nearby, excellent historical society libraries. It was also close to one of my favorite genealogical libraries, in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. I loved the history back there and was a costumed tour guide at one of Washington's winter headquarters in Somerville, New Jersey.

All those moves across country also gave me opportunities to visit our relatives, where I'd borrow pictures and have negatives made, visit courthouses, cemeteries, etc. I've always believed in joining genealogical societies where our ancestors lived. The locals need our support.

I recently received the final issue of *The Homesteader*, from my hometown of Beatrice, Nebraska, saying the Southeast Nebraska Genealogical Society has dwindled to a few members. What a shame. I suspect it is one result of the popularity of the Internet.

Beatrice is also the location of the Homestead National Monument of America. Daniel Freeman was allowed to file his homestead a few minutes after midnight when the Homestead Act of 1862 came into effect. He needed to return to duty as a Union soldier. My great-grandmother Lucy (Cobb) Day (1872-1967) worked for the Freeman family as a girl. My grandmother, Bertha (Day) Emal was one of the many volunteers who quilted in costume at the monument. At my last visit to the Homestead National Monument of America I learned of a project to eventually microfilm all 30 million documents of the homestead case files collection. For further information see Land Records Project at:

<http://www.nps.gov/home/>

This Web site has lots of interesting information about homesteads including a graph showing the surprising time period when the most homesteads were filed:

<http://tinyurl.com/5wohta>

Like everyone else, I've been through a dozen or more computers, from DOS to Windows, and three different genealogy programs, from Roots III to the current TMG. I think scanners and digital photography have been wonderful inventions for genealogical use. Although I am an enthusiastic user of computers for my genealogy, I believe we still need to pass along the importance of primary sources and proper recording.

Seminar in San Mateo

Four lectures by Paula Stuart-Warren

San Mateo County Genealogical Society Fall 2008 Seminar

Saturday, November 15, 2008, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

25th and Hacienda, San Mateo

The four one-hour talks are:

The Three R's: Reading, 'Riting, and Research in School Records.

Tho' They Were Poor, They May Have Been Rich in Records.

The WPA Era: What it Created for Genealogists.

Where Are Those Records They Told Me to Check?

Nationally-known Paula Stuart-Warren is a Certified Genealogist working full-time in the area of genealogical and historical research, lecturing, consulting and writing. Paula is a columnist for Ancestry.com and co-authored the book, *"Guide to the Family History Library: How to Access the World's Largest Genealogy Resource."* She has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Minnesota Genealogical Society, the Grahame T. Smallwood Jr. Award of Merit from the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Award of Merit from the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

For more information, see:

<http://www.smcgs.org/>

Exchanging Bags and Hammocks, Names and Numbers

By Douglas Mumma

This story is about my wife's great grandfather, Francis William Gatter, whose ancestry eluded us for many years. [A story about his pocket watch appears in the November 2003 issue of the Tracer]. There was much confusion about when and where he was born. We knew little else about him other than a biographical sketch written in the book, *"Marine History of the Pacific Northwest"*, 1961. From it we knew Francis was a well known sea captain who sailed primarily along the Pacific Coast. A few years ago a cousin discovered Francis' Civil War Pension records in the National Archives. These records have helped unraveled some of the mysteries of his past, but added a few more.

We knew from his biographical sketch that Francis was born in New York. The sketch also tells about Francis returning from a voyage to Calcutta on the merchant ship "Good Hope" the day before the Civil War officially started. After the ship entered Charleston Harbor, the captain was informed about the impending battle and the Confederacy offered enlistments to any of the merchant seaman who would like to join the southern cause. Francis decided to remain on the merchant ship and they sailed out of Charleston Harbor as the battle began. Upon his ship's return to New York, Francis enlisted in the U.S. Navy.

A very strange series of events then occurred which led to a wonderful collection of papers and documents filed in the National Archives Pension files. Francis traded places and complete identity with another sailor named James Henry. Francis had enlisted for only one year and the other fellow, James, had signed up for 3 years and both of them were unhappy about their situations. Francis disappointingly discovered that men with 1 year enlistments were assigned to smaller boats whereas men with 3 year enlistments were assigned to the big ships. To solve this dilemma, they simply decided to change identities by assuming each other's names, etc. It seems like a drastic way to solve a minor problem, but this is what they did. None of



*Francis W. Gatter [1841-1903]
Boston, MA about 1861*

this information would have come to light if it hadn't been for an unusual circumstance. Congress passed the Civil War Pension Act of June 27, 1890. This act allowed anyone who had served in the Civil War and had suffered permanent disability, no matter whether the injury occurred during or after the War, could obtain a pension. In 1890, Francis was living in California and was in command of many different sailing ships plying the water of the Pacific Ocean from California to Alaska. On one stormy voyage, Francis suffered a serious and permanent shoulder

injury when the wheel of the ship suddenly spun out of his hands, hitting him and dislocating his shoulder. The shoulder was not attended to until he returned to port some days later and by now, permanent damage had occurred. So under this new Civil War Pension Act, Francis should qualify. He had served in the Civil War and he had a permanent disability. Needless to say, this must have sounded good to Francis, so he applied. The only problem is under which name should Francis apply? Should it be using his own name or the name he used when he served? He submitted his first application on 17 November, 1890 using the name of James Henry, the name under which he served. He must have had some concern with using the name, James Henry, so Francis submitted another application a few months later, but this time under his correct name.

Needless to say, this duplicity of pension applications was quickly discovered and he was sent a letter questioning this fact. The following is a copy of his reply letter to the Commissioner of Pensions which nicely describes the events in his own words.

The Hon. Commissioner of Pensions
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Your Communication of Feb 20th 1892 received and the contents noted. In reply, I wish to make the following statement: I shipped in the U.S. Navy in May 1861 as a seaman under my own true

and correct name, "Francis W. Gatter" for the term of one year. After being on board the receiving ship "North Carolina" for some time, I saw that men shipped for one year were ordered to small gunboats while the men shipped for 3 years were ordered to large ships. When the Frigate "Wabash" was manned, I asked to be sent to her, but could not have that privilege. When the crew was chosen for the Frigate "Roanoke" a young man about my own age and size named "James Henry", came to me and offered to exchange with me. (I was then chosen as one of the crew of the Gunboat "Albatross"). We exchanged Bags & Hammocks, Names and Numbers and each personated the other. He going as F.W. Gatter on the "Albatross" and I as "James Henry" on the Frigate "Roanoke". After the battle of the Merrimac & Monitor, March 10th 1862, our ship was ordered to New York and put out of commission. And I was sent as one of the first 100 seaman to the Mississippi under "Commodore Foote" and joined and served on the Gunboat "Cincinnati" until I was discharged, sick and unfit for further service. When I was paid off and discharged at Cairo, Ill. in December 1862, I returned to New York and have ever since been known by my own true and correct name, "Francis W. Gatter", but have always kept my discharge from the service and applied for a pension under the name by which I served.

Yours most respectfully,
F.W. Gatter.

Of course, this simple letter of reply was not sufficient proof, so his pension file began to grow over the next 4 years, with a large number of letters, affidavits from fellow shipmates, service records and medical examinations. Finally on May 11, 1895 his pension application was rejected on the basis that they determined that he had no "ratable disability" from his shoulder injury. This news must have been very disappointing, but it did not cause a financial hardship as he was a well paid "Sound pilot" working for the Northern Pacific Steamship Company, guiding large ships coming from the Orient through the treacherous Puget Sound to the home docks in Tacoma, Washington. A job which he could easily perform, even with a permanently injured shoulder.

What a wonderful genealogical treasure he left us hidden in the files of the National Archives, but there is a further catch. Francis had a problem of not always being truthful, even after his discharge from the U.S. Navy. Only in Francis' original enlistment document does he list his place of birth as England. In all subsequent documents, papers, census records, biographical sketch, etc., Francis' place of birth is listed as New York, which was the place that James Henry was born. We can only conclude that he found it "convenient" to continue to use New York as his place of birth after he was discharged from the Navy as he then did not need to file or obtain naturalization papers. He also revised his date of birth by adding exactly two years. The reason for this 2 year discrepancy still remains a mystery. All census records list his place of birth as New York, including information reported about him by his children, 30 years after his death. We therefore conclude that his children, and possibly his wife, never knew he was actually born in England. It was not long after all of this information was discovered in the National Archives that we located descendants of his siblings living in England and Australia. We now have a copy of his official birth certificate and birth date which was recorded in old St. Mary's Church in Bristol, England in 1841.

Post Script – Two interesting and curious sworn depositions were found in the pension file. In the first one, Francis essentially states the exact same facts that he wrote in his reply letter to the Commissioner of Pensions in 1892. The second deposition was written by a William Lyons attesting to the fact that he has known Francis since 1860 and that he was well acquainted with the fact Francis had exchanged identities with a man named James Henry, but returned to using his correct name after he was discharged. Both documents were signed, dated, and notarized in San Francisco on the 8th day of April, 1886. This was four years before he needed to prove he had exchanged identities with another man. One wonders how he would have had such foresight to create this document or whether it could have been predated. Francis, we have discovered, was not above stretching the truth.

*You don't choose your family. They are
God's gift to you, as you are to them.*

— Desmond Tutu

Jane and Mary's Excellent Adventure

By Mary Dillon

Some of you may have read my article last year about my trip to Birmingham, Alabama to attend the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University. This year I managed to convince Jane Southwick to attend the Institute with me to take a class on Irish Genealogical Research.

This class is offered once every three years, cycling with classes in English Research (2009) and Scottish Research (2010). So we had to do it—you never know what you'll be doing in three more years!

We had a good, if long, trip back to Birmingham on Saturday, June 7th. Check-in was Sunday afternoon and Classes ran from Monday to Friday.

Our course instructor was David E. Rencher, a specialist in Irish Research who works at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City. Mr. Rencher was assisted through most classes by David S. Ouimette, also an expert in Irish research who works at the LDS Library and who helped develop Ancestry.com. Our two Davids offered us a wide range of experience and viewpoints in how to find the records we needed for both Northern Ireland (Protestant) and the Republic of Ireland (Catholic). We also had guest speakers on special topics: Thomas Jones, Ph.D., from Fairfax, Virginia, who spoke on Methodology for Reconstructing Lineages from Irish Record Fragments and Dean J. Hunter who spoke on Presbyterian Church Records. All of our instructors were certified genealogists and experts on Irish research.

One of the best sessions was held in the Samford Library Special Collections room where the librarian introduced us to their Albert E. Casey Collection and other Irish materials in the library. Even though the classes went from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day, Jane and I found our way back to the library after dinner on several nights to pour over the wonderful Irish collection.

Some of the topics covered in our class included: Framing the Problem for Overseas Research; Irish Immigration to North America—the causes and clues; Gaelic place names, Irish jurisdictions and tools for finding places in Ireland. There was also quite a discussion on what's new in Irish family history on the internet with a list of free and paid web-



*Jane is ainm dom. Ta cupla focail Gaeilge agam**

sites that could be helpful, websites for Irish libraries, archives, and records offices; and websites for select counties in Ireland. A lot of time was spent learning about both Church of Ireland records and Presbyterian Church records—where to find them and how to interpret what you find. We also looked at Irish wills and land and property valuations.

With the bombing of the Public Records Office, Dublin in 1919, millions of original records were lost, but there was an effort on the part of the government to collect genealogical collections that had been prepared prior to the bombing and they are now housed in the National Archives in Dublin and Belfast and in the Genealogical Office. Some of the collections are totally disorganized, but some are well documented, so be prepared for a hunt. But remember, not all of the records were destroyed in the bombing, and some fragments have been preserved. It is best to do your homework and know what information is housed where before you attempt a trip to Ireland, so you don't waste precious time trying to find something that doesn't exist.

One of the best parts of this class was a chance to schedule a meeting with one of the Davids to discuss our own research and have them direct us to sources that might help.

This class gave us a huge amount of information and allowed for more information to be brought forward during class discussions. We (luckily, for my memory) received great notebook syllabuses with all the source material for the lectures and websites listed.

We both would highly recommend this class or any of the IGHR classes to anyone who is serious about learning how to research in any of the fields they offer. It's a very intense week, but well worth the effort. Also, if you wish to become a Certified Genealogist, these classes count toward that degree. For more information you can check out the IGHR website at www.samford.edu/library and click on the IGHR logo at the bottom of the page. Registration for the June 2009 classes begins in January and they fill up fast.

Jane and I both plan to work on our Irish lines when we visit Salt Lake City in January, 2009 (now we know who to ask for in the Irish section!).

I plan to attend IGHR in June 2009 to take the course on Land Records (no English ancestors!), and will be back in 2010 for the class on Scottish Records. If you're interested in attending next June, let me know and I'd be happy to talk to you about the dorms' and hotels' pros and cons. Also the dining hall food is very good, so plan to get a meal ticket if you go—it will save you a lot of time and money.

IGHR is an excellent way to expand your genealogical horizons.

*"Jane is my name. I know a few words of Irish."

Did a "Divine Hand" Guide my Research in Boston?

By Marilyn Cutting

In early October a friend, who is a fellow Mayflower descendant, and I flew to Boston (she was in first class, I was in "steerage") in order to do research at the renowned New England Historic Genealogical Society. This old six-story building is packed with information. I found lots of information on family lines that I had never researched before, back to the 16th century. It was just a thrill a minute.

One of my goals was to obtain information about my husband's grandfather's patent. We knew that he had patented a "railroad-signaling device." I presumed it was in the early 1900's. I attempted to get information on how to begin this search from one of the librarians at NEHGS. However, he just referred me to a web site, which got me nowhere.

After three 10-hour days at NEHGS, I decided to see some of the sights in this great city. So I took a narrated "duck" tour. The "duck" is a vehicle built in the early 1940's and is capable of going on land or in the water. They were used during WW II. It has a propeller and when about to enter the water, in this case the Charles River, the driver puts it in neutral and engages the propeller and away it goes. When this very informative tour ended, I was right near the old Boston Library, a massive structure with large columns and many architectural details. I started on the top floor (third) and worked my way down. On the second floor was a huge reading room with 40-foot high ceilings and old furnishings. I

took some photos of the domed ceiling and was standing there gazing in awe at this beautiful old structure.

I was about to leave when I glanced to my right and read the titles of the many volumes that were all alike sitting on the highly polished wooden shelves. Much to my amazement each book was entitled "U.S. Patents," with a year stated below. I decided to start with the year 1918 to look for the name of Edwin M. Cutting. When I got to 1908, voila! there it was!...the patent for a "railway track rail-drilling machine." That was odd. I thought he had invented a signaling device. So I proceeded to the next descending year, 1907, and there was a patent for a "train order check system." I am on a roll so decided to continue to 1900, Fanueil Hall can wait. I got to 1903, and there it was, the patent for the "railway-signaling device." I now have the precise dates, the patent and drawing numbers. My goal is to get copies of his original drawings.

This was such a fluke. I am quite sure that a "divine" hand guided me to that very spot where those patent books have been for decades and decades.

Oh, I did get to Fanueil Hall (a large historic festival marketplace) by walking through Boston Commons. It was a delightful walk on a beautiful fall day in New England. I don't want to make anyone feel bad, so I purposely did not mention lobster or clam chowder.

A Casual Question Leads to a Stunning Answer

By Lois Smith

L-AGS member Julie Liu has been researching her family history over a period of years. When she was visiting her family in Kansas City three years ago she decided to find out when her paternal grandparents were married. This was a second marriage for her grandfather, Sam Gilliland, whose first wife died when their children were young. A neighbor woman who lived nearby came to look after the children, and eventually Sam married her. Julie's father, Carl Gilliland, is from this second family.

In Carrollton, Missouri, she found a large collection of local records and an enthusiastic genealogist who worked there and was happy to help her find what she wanted. She did find out when her grandparents were married.

A while later she visited her family again and was chatting with her mother and other relatives about her grandfather's second marriage. Julie's niece asked innocently,

“Grandpa Carl Gilliland was never married before, was he?”

Julie said,

“No, no, that was MY grandfather, Sam Gilliland, not your grandfather, Carl Gilliland.”

That was when Julie's mother, Phyllis, who had been married to Julie's father, Carl, for 50 years, said,

“Well, as a matter of fact, Carl WAS married before.”

And she told the story. As an 18-year-old young man, Julie's father had run off to Kansas City with a 17-year-old girl and married her. Then he went off to World War II. He was injured, and spent two years recovering in a Denver hospital. Meanwhile, the young woman had other fish to fry, so they divorced. There were no children.

Julie was amazed! Then she realized why her parents had been so restrictive about her early social life. No dating until she was 16; it had to be someone from her own Catholic high school; it had to be someone her parents knew and approved of; they even had to know the boy's parents. Because Julie was the first of three daughters they were particularly protective of her.

All this was the result of a casual question rooted in the information Julie had found in her genealogy research.

No More Bottom Shelf Stooping

Pleasanton Genealogy Library Gets Major Upgrade

By Patrick Lofft, Library Docent Chair

Recent improvements in the Genealogy Section of the Pleasanton Library give us, and the general public, major new capabilities:

1. The collection of genealogy reference works is now shelved on the right-hand side of the Library's main floor, immediately adjacent to the former area which tastelessly occupied far-reaching main floor space. This collection is now six shelves TALL versus the three-shelf height that was previously provided. Genealogy reference works are shelved in sequence by their call numbers. Previously, several volumes lay on the tops of book racks which made them difficult to locate.
2. Two-shelves-worth (6%) of the collection (books

that are generally speaking “How to do genealogy” rather than searchable indices, etc.) were moved from the genealogy research catalogue to the general circulation catalogue so that individuals may check them out of the library and examine them at home for a few weeks.

3. The harder-to-reach bottom shelves now contain only the large format books (books that are significantly taller than 95% of all other books).
4. Periodicals are now consolidated on dedicated shelving, up off of the floor, which make the periodicals more accessible. In the near future, the periodicals list on the L-AGS web site will reflect the revised listing of periodicals. See:

<http://www.l-ags.org/libraries/periodicals.html>

5. The L-AGS Genealogy Pamphlet File is also easier to get to in its new location on the right hand side of the periodical shelving.
6. Genealogy docents are available in the Library each Wednesday from 10 a.m. through 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. through 9 p.m. Additional genealogy assistance is available by appointment. Please send eMail to:
<mailto:docents.chair@l-ags.org>.
7. Eventually, the Library will replace the carpet of the main floor space.

Members Helping Members

By Mary Dillon

I have just re-discovered a book I have that belonged to my great-grandfather. The title is *Union Regiments of Kentucky*, published under the auspices of the Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association in 1897. This book is also available on Heritage Quest in full text. Heritage Quest is available at all county libraries, and some non-county libraries.

The listings cover all the Civil War Union regiments from Kentucky.

Contents:

- Union Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association
- Political Conditions in Kentucky
- Military Campaigns in which the Kentucky regiments served
- Biographical sketches of general officers and all those who held commissions directly from the President, including officers in the naval service.
- Regiments: each regiment contains a brief history of their campaigns and a list of officers and privates by company:
 - Cavalry Regiments
 - Infantry Regiments
 - Batteries
 - Engineers
 - State Troops
 - State Militia

If you don't wish to use Heritage Quest for this information, I would be willing to do look-ups for L-AGS members and non-members who might have an ancestor who fought for Kentucky in the Civil War. I can scan pages and e-mail them to

Some Gift Ideas

There are two ways that L-AGS can help with your holiday gift-giving. If you have a relative or friend who is interested in genealogy, but is just getting started, you should consider a gift membership to L-AGS. Whether the recipient lives nearby or far away, the membership handbook, the quarterly Roots Tracer, and the instructive e-mail from members helping members are likely to get the person inspired and soundly started on the right track.

A gift to the L-AGS library may be just the right present. A book bought with the donation can be inscribed with the your name and the name of the recipient. To prevent duplication of books in our library, and to meet the book selection criteria of the library, we recommend that any intended gift to the library be discussed with Judy Person at:

<mailto:library.chair@L-AGS.org>

anyone interested. Contact :

mailto:mary_dillon@sbcglobal.net

and put "Kentucky Lookup" in the subject line.

When Kay Speaks, as part of her job as assistant editor of the Roots Tracer, read the preprint of this story, she did a little research and informed me that if I had an original copy of the book (I don't know yet if I have), it might be worth several hundred dollars on the rare-book market.

Starting Genealogy Research

By Gail Fairfield

I have a vivid memory about how I started my genealogy research. I wasn't looking for anyone, but had accompanied my husband to the California Historical Society

While he sought old San Francisco photos, to amuse myself, I scanned an 1850 census microfilm of the approximate area where I thought my grandfather was born. As it was a small town, I found the family just by scanning through that microfilm. Just seeing his name listed as a 5 year old child in the family group made such an impression on me that I was completely hooked on family research and have never been able to "recover" from the infection.

L-AGS American Military Research Seminar, August 2008

Help! My Great-great-great Grandfather is Missing!

Following his footsteps through military records might uncover his whereabouts.

By Kay Speaks, Seminar Chair

While contacting Footnote.com about donating the use of their software for the Alameda County Fair Genealogy Booth last June, I learned Trevor Hammond, their Sales Manager, was coming to Tracy for a family wedding in August. I suggested he participate in a seminar so he could write off part of his travel costs as a business expense. I told him L-AGS could organize a seminar around his schedule. Footnote.com liked and approved of my idea and last August L-AGS' American Military Research Seminar became a reality. It was another very successful L-AGS-sponsored free event, in association with the Livermore Family History Center.

Knowing her favorite area of genealogy research is military records, I called my dear friend, and L-AGS member, Sue Johnston to see if she would participate in the seminar. I knew we had the makings of another great seminar—Footnote.com's strong military database and Sue's advanced military research expertise. The topic was narrowed to American Military Research, with lectures in the morning and a problem solving workshop in the afternoon. Both Sue and I share a similar passion for teaching good genealogy research methods and techniques. We also agree many researchers attend seminars and workshops to gain knowledge, but don't put what they are taught into practice. By our presenting a problem solving workshop in the afternoon, we hoped to reinforce some of the information learned in the morning's lectures with its practical application in the afternoon. Then to add a little fun and learning during the lunch break, we had a friendly teams Genealogy Jeopardy competition.

Trevor Hammond, "An Introduction to Footnote.com." Trevor has been a marketing manager for Footnote.com

<http://www.footnote.com>

for two years. Prior to joining Footnote, he worked four years for Ancestry.com in customer intelligence and customer support. A native of Utah, he has a BA from Utah Valley University in Business. Trevor introduced us to the many database collections within Footnote. We learned how to determine the status of ongoing Footnote projects (example,

the 80% complete indicator) and how to filter queries to obtain the best and most relevant results. Understanding how the software's logic works and how the software filters using a timeline approach is the key to successful research. Trevor encouraged all users to watch the online tutorial to learn more about Footnote's collections and also to participate in the "Member Discoveries" features of the software. Members can save and upload their personal information to their "My Galley" online folder. By annotating within Footnote's original documents databases and member's personal information, the annotations become part of the website's searchable index. Eventually Footnote plans to combine the original documents and the member's gallery searchable indexes into one large index. Footnote provided an extended free trial period for L-AGS members and seminar attendees to use their software and offered a discount on the first year's subscription fee. Footnote.com was a TechCrunch50 finalist in the vertical social networking category, announced on September 8. PC Magazine gave their website 4.5 stars and said, "Footnote.com instantly brings history to your fingertips." Footnote.com is available free at Family History Centers.

Sue Johnston, "American Military Research Online: What's There and What's Not!" and the afternoon workshop, "Going Beyond the Obvious: Problem-solving with Online Military Records Workshop." Sue joined L-AGS in 2004 and has become one of the sought-after genealogy presenters by Bay Area genealogy societies. She is very happy to call L-AGS her genealogy family and we are delighted she found us! Sue is a Yale University graduate with a degree in physics, who went on to study voice at the Peabody Conservatory. Her interests in genealogy research lead her to become a graduate of the National Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research course, "Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis," and the National Archives' course, "Going to the Source." She teaches beginning through advanced genealogy courses for Las Positas College in Livermore and is a co-teacher of L-AGS Tri-Valley TMG Users Group.

Sue started her military research lecture by stating, “Unlike census records or land records, the term ‘military records’ does not designate a single, unique set of records. Instead, they comprise such sources as draft registrations, enlistment papers, muster rolls, pay rolls, hospital records, courts martial, pensions, headstone applications, and medals, just to name a few. Those records are created by many different government departments, and are kept within each creating department’s record group. Some come with indexes or finding aids, and some don’t. Don’t forget the federal record creation is replicated on the local level. State archives and county courthouses also contain important records. More than 35 million people have served in the military in our country’s history, and each one’s service affected his or her family. A thorough investigation of these records is necessary, but how can a researcher make sense of them? Identifying relevant records, whether available online, or not, isn’t as hard as it first appears.”

Sue introduced a four step approach to military research.

1. Answer these questions. When was the military service? Look to record groups that span this period of time or are specific to this time period. Was service for the Regular Army or U.S. Navy, or in a volunteer unit? Different laws applied and therefore different records were created. Are you looking for an officer or an enlisted person? Again, different laws applied and different records were created.
2. Study the Record Creation Timeline during this time and identify the records created that would have been created for wartime military service and for peacetime and regular army or navy service.
3. Locate and study all records. Many records are available online. These records could be clues leading to original documents. Become very familiar with NARA’s website:

<http://www.archives.gov/>

 which provides access to Archival Databases, the Archival Research Catalogue, the Federal Record Guide and the Microfilm Catalog. Study NARA’s Prologue articles to further your knowledge. Use the same research skills and explore military holdings of relevant state archives.
4. Do you have the best record? “It’s important that you use the best possible record when ana-

lyzing your research problem and forming your conclusions.” Sue provided this list of records in descending order of reliability.

- a. Original documents in original form.
- b. Original documents in digital format, photography, or photocopy.
- c. Original records as reported by the department responsible for those records.
- d. Consolidated lists derived from original records and reported by the officials responsible for the records.
- e. State and local archive name indexes.
- f. Subject lists created by archives, libraries, and historical societies.

Reference: *Susan Goss Johnston, American Military Research Seminar, 9 August 2008, Handout, Page 1, used with permission.*

Attendee seminar handouts:

- American Military Research Seminar, Susan Goss Johnston, 9 August 2008.
- American Military Records Timeline, S. G. Johnston, 9 August 2008.
- State-specific Resources, S. G. Johnston, 9 August 2008.
- Website Key, Susan Goss Johnston, 9 August 2008.

Sue has become a very popular local area genealogy presenter. If you have missed any of her presentations, you may be able to attend her lectures presented to other genealogical and historical societies and libraries. Stay tuned as Sue and I have moved into our “mumbling” stage (i.e., pre-discussion stage) for another possible L-AGS seminar next Spring or Summer.

Random Acts Of Genealogical Kindness

ROARK is a global volunteer organization. With over 4000 volunteers in every U.S. state and many international locations, they have helped thousands of researchers. Volunteers take time to do everything from looking up courthouse records to taking pictures of tombstones. All they ask in return is reimbursement for their expenses (never their time) and a thank you.

<http://www.raogk.org/>

Logan Family History Center Weekly Newsletter, 27aug08

From Newbie to TMG User and Internet Surfer—My Story

By Herb Borchers

My sister started the family genealogy on paper some 30 years ago. I got interested in the family genealogy and started putting the information on the computer about 10 years ago. It was then that I noticed that there were a lot of holes in the family history. By this time both my mother and father had passed away and there were no more family sources for information. Not knowing anything about genealogy, I started my computer trek with the Mormon program Personal Ancestor File (PAF—it was free). About 2002 I got online on the Internet searching for information on my family.

I sent out an e-mail to RootsWeb asking for information about members of my mother's family. A few months later I received an e-mail that starts out with "we might be cousins." I corresponded with this individual and, lo and behold, she lives less than a two-hour drive from here in Camino, California, just east of Placerville. She is Shirley Siems Terry, a former president of our Livermore Amador Genealogy Society, L-AGS. [Editors note: See article in this issue titled *A Three-time Past President of L-AGS Reminisces*, by Shirley Siems Terry] I did not have all the data on my computer at that time, so my sister and I went to Camino to meet Shirley. My sister took all of her paper data on the family, but neither Shirley nor we could find any direct link at the time. We are still looking.

I was impressed with Shirley's computer program as I was looking for something other than PAF. She was using The Master Genealogist computer program (TMG) and she said that this was the latest and greatest genealogy program. SO, I purchased TMG. Boy, when I got this program, I became very confused about what to do with genealogical information. What was a Source, Citation and Repository? Because Shirley Terry, as a co-founder of L-AGS, stays very interested in our Society, she was able to tell me that L-AGS had a class on



A 1934 photo of my father and me—Herbert Herman Borchers, Senior and Junior. With the help of L-AGS, I have learned to use The Master Genealogist software and the Internet to trace our ancestry.

TMG. I found the class and decided I would go and let them explain to me all about Source, Citation and Repository. The rest is history in my search for my family. This TMG class with Sue Johnston and Kay Speaks has been a never-ending genealogy learning experience.

After I began attending TMG classes, I resubscribed to Ancestry.com. When I had first subscribed to Ancestry there was not much information on my family, but gradually over the years they have added more and more. The next step was to put my family history on RootsWeb WorldConnect to see what information I might be able to obtain.

My great-grandparents, Fred and Barbara Jackel, who were living in Baltimore, Maryland, moved to Steele County, Minnesota, in 1870. While living there, their daughter, Anna Marie, married my grandfather, Henry Borchers. Henry and Anna Marie moved to California when my father was 10 years old. His name is Herbert Herman Borchers, and mine is the same, so I am a Junior. One of the responses from WorldConnect told about a brother of Anna Marie, named Walter, who had a granddaughter Lavera. I now know about a second cousin I didn't know I had.

I wanted more information about Fred and Barbara Jackel and their lives in Baltimore, so I contacted the Baltimore Genealogical Society through RootsWeb at:

<mailto:MD-Baltimore-L@rootsweb.com>

One of the members researched the 1860 Baltimore City Directory and found my great-grandfather's home address.

Barbara and Frederick Jackel were Lutherans, so I began looking into early Lutheran Church records. Another member of the Baltimore Genealogical Society, Gary Ruppert, has extensively researched early Germans and church records in Baltimore.

However, I have been informed by Gary that many of the Evangelical and Reformed churches have either combined or closed. He has given me leads to follow in my search to locate the Jackels. I am presently waiting to receive films from the Family History library. If the films don't help, I will write to some of the churches Gary has mentioned and seek more information on the marriage of Barbara and Frederick Jackel and the baptism of my grandmother, Anna Marie Jackel, and her brother, Walter

Jackel.

My advice is to locate the area your family is from, and then contact the local genealogy society and see if anyone has information on your family.

The moral of this whole story is to stay connected to the Internet for new information that comes online, and get your family tree out there so someone else can become connected with you.

Experiences in Rebuilding a Windows Computer (Abstract)

Duncan Tanner

If you ever considered reinstalling Windows on your computer, there are a number of things you should consider. Recently I decided to reinstall Windows XP on a laptop. After I finished, I submitted an article to the Roots Tracer describing my experiences. Even after paring down the article to the bare essentials, it was too long for the Roots Tracer, so the full article is posted on our L-AGS Web site at:

http://www.L-AGS.org/computer_rebuild.pdf

This abstract of the article summarizes some information in the longer article.

Why reinstall?

You have a virus that is causing programs to fail or act erratically.

Your computer is slower than it was originally.

Your hard drive has failed or is making noises indicating it may fail.

Your hard drive is too small. (Only one drive).

Caution:

The rebuilding process is very technical and should not be attempted by inexperienced computer users.

I do not have a recommendation of someone who could assist in a rebuild. Also, this is the first and only time I have done a rebuild.

Preparation:

The preparation steps are very important. When you reinstall Windows all the files and DATA on your computer will be erased. You need to backup ALL your data files. Locating them can be a problem because some programs store data files with the

program or in hidden folders.

Identify all your programs; locate the program disks or files containing the programs. If there is a license key, you will need that also. If the original program file or files are on your computer, make a copy on an external drive or CD.

Windows Install:

You need to locate disks that came with the PC with Windows and any other programs. Frequently there is a Windows disk and a driver's disk. In some cases you have no disks because the rebuild information is hidden on your hard drive. You may need to see if there is a program to create and install a CD or set of CD's. This is necessary if you plan to replace the hard drive.

If you upgraded Windows after you bought the computer, for example, Windows 98 to Windows 98 SE (Second Edition) or Windows ME, you will need to start by reinstalling Windows 98 then upgrade to Windows 98 SE or Windows ME. If you are still using Windows 98, you might consider replacing the computer.

Once Windows is running, you need to get the Windows updates from the Internet to protect your computer. Next you need to reinstall your programs. Lastly restore your data.

The whole process can take several days. Planning and preparation are very critical. The wood analogy applies here; plan and check twice (or more) and rebuild once (Measure twice, cut once).

"A people that takes no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with pride by remote descendants." - Macauley

Chuck Knuthson Will Be Missed

By Jane Southwick

We have had a number of excellent speakers at our general meetings. One of these was the very popular Charles "Chuck" Knuthson. We were sorry to learn that Chuck passed away in February of this year. When he and his wife, Paula, were here with us, you felt as if he was your friend. The knowledge he passed on to us was invaluable. He will be greatly missed.

An article in the July-September issue of the National Genealogical Society magazine described his life. The article mentioned that Chuck was a native Californian, and had been born in Chico in 1946. In 1969, as a U.S. Army Vietnam veteran he settled in Roseville, and after twenty-nine years retired as a Captain of the Roseville Police Department. The article goes on to say that Chuck was a "conscientious researcher, a knowledgeable lecturer, and a generous volunteer." His work included courses taught locally and at the Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy; and he lectured at national and regional conferences around the United States. He worked in Sacramento at the Family History Center and the Root Cellar-Sacramento Genealogical Society. He was president of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society, a board member of the Genealogical Speaker's Guild, and a treasurer and vice president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.

Chuck was posthumously honored with an NGS President's Citation at the 2008 NGS Conference in May; and a Chuck Knuthson Memorial Lecture Fund was established "in honor of his service to the Genealogical community."

The Mutnick Papers

Genealogies of Spanish Pioneer Families in California

Reviewed by Judy Person, Librarian

A set of five spiral-bound volumes, 8 1/2" high by 14" wide, titled *Some Alta California Pioneers*, but often called the Mutnick Papers, was compiled by Dorothy Gittinger Mutnick. This work was published by The Contra Costa Historical Society, of Lafayette, California, in 1982. It was copyrighted in 1989. The set that was purchased by L-AGS for our Library collection is the third printing, and is dated 2004.

Mrs. Mutnick created hundreds of handwritten note cards with information taken from the Brother Henry Collection, which is on microfilm at St. Mary's College in Moraga. She also used other sources. The volumes are a photocopy of these note cards.

Volumes 1-3 contain a listing of the people who came with Padre Font to "Alta California" with the Anza Expedition of 1775-1776. She then added the known descendants of these pioneers. The years covered by this list extend to about 1850. Volumes 4 and 5 list those who came to a pueblo, which was

later named Los Angeles, in 1781. Again, she also lists known descendants.

One of the great values of this work is that it takes families up to the U.S. Census of 1850, or rather, back from the 1850 census, to their beginnings in California.

Mrs. Mutnick gives a much needed explanation of the format. She lists births, marriages and burials for each person. The entries are alphabetical by father's name, with an accompanying list of women not found alphabetically. I couldn't find a simple list of men's names for the northern California volumes, but there are alpha lists for both men and women in the southern California section.

The high price of The Mutnick Papers, \$300, is well justified by its value. One reviewer called it, "Meticulous, painstaking, scholarly." There are no other libraries nearby that have the set. Many thanks to Dick Finn, who suggested it for our collection.

First Three Programs for 2009 Announced

By Arleen Wood, First Vice President, Programs

My two-year term as vice president for programs is expiring in December. As has been customary in past years, I have tried to give the new director a head start by scheduling speakers for the first three months of 2009. The programs are held at our regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
October 14	<i>The Five Civilized Tribes of Southeastern United States</i>	Taffy Coutts
November 11	<i>There's a Scribe in Every Family</i>	David Lowell
December 9	<i>Show and Tell: Members Sharing</i>	L-AGS Members and Guests
January 13	<i>"The Early Pioneers in the Livermore Valley, California Were One Big Family"</i>	Isabel Nolte
February 10	<i>Best of the Genealogy Gems Podcast</i>	Lisa Cooke
March 10	<i>San Francisco Genealogy</i>	Ron Filion

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: tracer@L-AGS.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. We offer ghostwriting help to inexperienced writers.

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