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# *The Livermore Roots Tracer*



*Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society*

P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551-0901  
[www.L-AGS.org](http://www.L-AGS.org)

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Number 4

## Membership News

We are grateful for the generosity of these members of L-AGS:

*Patrons*

**Anonymous, Cheryl Kay Speaks, David E. Steffes, Duncan Tanner**

*Benefactors*

**Jolene & David Abrahams, Kristina Ahuja, Sandra Caulder, Ralph J. Crouse, Marilyn A. Cutting,  
Gail & Ted Fairfield, Wanda & Richard Finn, Patricia R. Hansen, Jean & Dick Lerche,  
Cindy McKenna, Madelon Palma, Ileen J. Peterson, Betty Ryon,  
Carl Webb, Peggy Weber, Rhett Williamson**

*Total membership as of October 15, 2010: 235 individuals*

## Meeting News

**General Meetings** are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Map: <http://www.L-AGS.org/maps/Pls-BethEmek.html>

**The Study Group** meets on the fourth Thursday of every month except November and December at 7:30 p.m., at the LDS Church, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore.

Map: <http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Liv-FHC.html>

**Study Group Chair** (Kay Speaks)

*study.chair@L-AGS.org*

**Study Group Forum**

*study.group@L-AGS.org*

**The Master Genealogist Group** meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at 7077 Koll Center Parkway, Suite 110, Pleasanton.

<http://www.l-ags.org/maps/Pls-KollCenter.html>

**TV-TMG Chair** (Kay Speaks)

*tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org*

**TV-TMG Forum**

*tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org*

## L-AGS Leadership for 2010

**President**

president@L-AGS.org

**Barbara Huber**

**First VP and Program Chair**

program@L-AGS.org

**Richard Finn**

**Second VP and Membership Chair**

membership@L-AGS.org

**Kevin Gurney**

**Corresponding Secretary**

corresponding@L-AGS.org

**Kip West**

**Recording Secretary**

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**Anne Les**

**Business Manager**

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**Larry Hale**

## Contents

Membership News.....	2	Douglas Northam, POW No. 1984.....	10
Meeting News.....	2	New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library .....	11
L-AGS Leadership.....	2	My Ancestral Veterans from 1777 to 1900 .....	12
Farewell Message from President Barbara Huber .....	3	Andrew Montour in the French and Indian War.....	13
Instruct. Inspire. Inform. Ad Hoc Learning .....	3	John Montour in the Revolutionary War .....	13
My Relative's Congressional Medal of Honor .....	4	John O'Neill, Private, Co. A, 49 <sup>th</sup> Infantry,	
G.R.O.W.....	5	b. 1830 – d. 1864.....	14
My Service as a Police Department Photographer .....	6	O Brother Jeremy Paul, Where Art Thou? .....	15
John J. Ryan and Benjamin F. Wood,		The Search for My Mexican Ancestors .....	17
Civil War Veterans .....	7	Future General Meeting, Members Sharing .....	20
A Tribute to my Dutchess County, New York, Veterans .	8	L-AGS Membership Renewal .....	20

## Farewell Message from President Barbara Huber

I came to a L-AGS meeting many years ago because a friend invited me and because I was curious to see what L-AGS had to offer me. What I found was helpful information for doing genealogy research. I also found friendship with the members, so my first visit became many visits and soon I became a member.

Here I am, many years later writing my farewell President’s Message. I never thought of ever becoming the President of L-AGS when I became a member. It only seems like yesterday when Anne Homan asked me if I would be President and I said yes.

I have learned many things these past two years and I have a number of people to thank for all their good advice and help. I especially want to thank Jane Southwick for allowing me to have our board meeting at her home for the past two years. Jane has also been my go-to person to answer most of my questions.

All the board members and chair persons for the past two years were very helpful and hard working in each of their positions. My many thanks to all of you. I also want to thank our many loyal members who attend our general meeting. Our program chairman and committee members work very hard to have interesting and helpful speakers for you.

I particularly call your attention this month to the articles in this Roots Tracer that remember the ancestral veterans of several of our members.

I have enjoyed being President of L-AGS these past two years. I will be attending as many meetings as I can in the future and help in any way I can.

*Barbara*

### *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: [trac-er@L-AGS.org](mailto:trac-er@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*

**Editor** ..... Patrick Lofft  
**Reporters** ..... George Anderson, Lois Barber,  
 ..... Katherine Bridgman, Marie Ross,  
 ..... Jane Southwick, Kay Speaks  
**Web Editor** ..... Vicki Renz  
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**Printing and Distribution** ..... Sandra Caulder  
**G.R.O.W. Columnist** ..... Kay Speaks

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## **“Instruct. Inspire. Inform. Ad Hoc Learning Sessions!”**

Let’s try something new! Do you have a special area of genealogy that you would like to share with other L-AGS members or would like to learn more? If you don’t want to share your skills at a formal Study Group meeting or at a L-AGS general meeting, consider doing so at “Instruct. Inspire. Inform. Ad Hoc Learning Session!” Want to spend an hour or two indexing old records or practice your skills on FamilySearch? Meet for an hour with other researchers? These informal gathering with dates and times determined “ad hoc”—will be arranged when the occasion presents itself. An e-mail invitation will be sent to the general membership. Don’t have e-mail? Please buddy up and ask someone with e-mail to share the information with you. Contact Kay Speaks, [study.chair@L-AGS.org](mailto:study.chair@L-AGS.org). Internet accessibility and digital projector may be scheduled for your needs. You will be surprised how much you can learn while sharing your own genealogy or computer skills and experience!

## My Relative's Congressional Medal of Honor

By Barbara Huber

While browsing the Internet one day, I came across a website listing the names of all the military personnel who were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Being curious, I decided to see if I could find any of my family names on the list.

To my surprise I came across the name Pingree, Samuel Everett. The last name was very familiar but I didn't recognize the first and middle name. I immediately searched my Pingree family book entitled *A Genealogical Record of the Descendants of Moses Pengry of Ipswich, Mass.* by William M. Pingry. I found Samuel in the book and traced his relationship to my family line. I discovered that Samuel E. and Lewis C. Pingree, my great-grandfather, were fourth cousins. Samuel E. Pingree was born in Salisbury, New Hampshire, August 2, 1832. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1857. He then studied law in Bethel, Vermont, and was admitted to the bar 1859. He began practicing law in Hartford, Vermont.

In August 1861, at age 29, Samuel enlisted as a 1st Lieutenant in Company F, 3rd Vermont Infantry. He was soon promoted to Captain and on September 27, 1862 he was commissioned Major and then Lieutenant Colonel on January 15 1863. The Vermont 3rd Regiment Volunteer Infantry was organized at St. Johnsbury on July 16, 1861, was assigned to the Vermont Brigade and served predominantly in the VI Corps. The VI Corps was at the Appomattox Courthouse, April 9, 1865, for the surrender of Lee and his army.

Captain Pingree led the charge at Lee's Mills on April 16, during the Battle of Yorktown, Virginia, from April 4th through 16th, 1862. The enemy was

entrenched along the Warwick Line, south of Yorktown. Two of Pingree's companies were selected to attack the enemy's line across a creek. The men slowly waded across the creek carrying their rifle and cartridges above their heads. At the same time the enemy opened fire from their rifle pits. In spite of the deadly fire, Pingree managed to lead his men across the creek, receiving a wound below his left hip. He soon recovered and finding no bones broken, continued to lead his men. Pingree's orders were to capture and hold the works until reinforcements came. Pingree was again wounded by a shot to his right hand that tore away his thumb. The enemy was reorganizing for an assault on their position when orders came to fall back across the creek, which they did.

The fight lasted for about 40 minutes. Of the fifty-two officers and men in Pingree's company, twenty-seven were killed or wounded. Pingree spent ten weeks in a Philadelphia hospital recuperating. He then rejoined his regiment and participated in several more battles in Virginia, narrowly escaping capture at Weldon Railroad. The battle at Fort Stevens in Washington, D.C., on July 11 and 12, 1864 was Pingree's final military action. He mustered out on July 27, 1867.

Samuel E. Pingree returned to Hartford and the law practice. In 1882 Colonel Pingree was elected lieutenant governor of Vermont and in 1884 he was elected Governor. On September 15, 1869, he married Lydia M. Steele, daughter of Sandford and Mary (Hinman) Steele. On August 17, 1891, Congress awarded Samuel E. Pingree the Congressional Medal of Honor, for his actions at Lee's Mills.



1.	Moses Pengry 1610-1695	
2.	Aaron Pengry 1652-1697	
3.	Aaron Pingry-1683-1770	Job Pingry 1688-1785
4.	Stephen Pingry-1712-1794	John Pingry 1726-1795
5.	William Pingry-1771-1846	Daniel Pingry 1769-1886
6.	Stephen Pingry-1795-1870	Asa Bixby Pingry 1818-1871
7.	Samuel Everett Pingree-1832-1922	Lewis Clifford Pingree 1856-1929
8.		My Grandfather-Earl Atkins Pingree 1886-1941
9.		My Father-Earl Clifford Pingree 1907-1964



## G. R. O. W.

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

Compiled by Kay Speaks

**Epidemic Timeline.** Ever wonder why your ancestor may have disappeared and you can't find them in the records? Check to see if there was an epidemic at the time or location. (Jane Southwick, L-AGS)

<http://tinyurl.com/EpidemicTimeline>

**American Indian Research.** This free genealogy website has many different genealogy links, the Native American Records collection is on the Oakland FHC's favorites list. (Marge Bell, Oakland FHC)

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

**Ship Indexing Website.** Approximately 170 resources can be searched in one database. One search can locate mention of ships in different books, magazines, CDs, databases, websites very efficiently. Free search of over 140,000 citations; premium database subscription (\$9.95 monthly) contains 1.3 million record citations. Search for ship's name using your favorite search engine also.

<http://shipindex.org/>

**Illinois State Archives Online Databases.** This website includes a global search feature which includes index records for state, regional, Eastern Illinois Univ., Illinois State Univ., Northeastern Illinois Univ., Northern Illinois Univ., Southern Illinois Univ., Univ. of Illinois at Springfield, and Western Illinois Univ. See the website for a lengthy list of indexed records databases.

<http://tinyurl.com/IllinoisStateArchivesOnline>

**Wikipedia Online World Wide Newspapers Archives List with links.** In some cases it is faster to access the newspaper website by identifying the name from this link and searching for it on Google or another browser. (Marge Bell favorites list, Oakland FHC)

<http://tinyurl.com/Wikipedia-Online-Newspapers>

**The London Gazette.** Listed as the official Newspaper of Record for the UK. The first Gazette was published in 1665. Read the first time user section for better search results. Search by View, PDF copies or order copies back to 1665. Current and histor-

ical research options are available. (Pam Lewis, L-AGS)

<http://www.london-gazette.co.uk/>

**Ontario Genealogical Society Cemetery Locator.** Includes records for all Ontario cemeteries, both existent and non-existent, cairns, columbariums, family plots, and burial registers that have been identified by the society. Many of the cemetery markers have been transcribed and many of these transcriptions are part of the OGS Provincial Library collection.

<http://ogs.andornot.com/CemLocat.aspx>

**Canadian County Atlas Digital Project.** Between 1874-1881 approximately forty county atlases were published in Canada, covering counties in the Maritimes, Ontario and Quebec. Some of these maps and sources attached to them are very detailed.

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

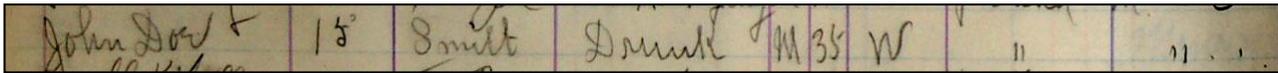
#### MILITARY SEARCH TIPS:

Try using these example search criteria.

- Search by military branch—army, navy/naval, marine, air force, coast guard
- Search by conflict—use decade, name of conflict
- Search for “military records” keyword and median year—“civil war”, 1863 +/- 2, will search records for the period 1861-1865
- Census records include military service: 1840, 1910, 1930 include questions about military service; 1890 Veteran's Schedule lists residence, unit, and years of service of Civil War soldiers or their surviving widows
- Military records created during peacetime or during time of war create different record types
- May find military records for those who never served such as WWI/WWII draft collections
- Filter by “military” then try different options such as collection, location, date, language
- Review and research “Related Collection” options when available

## My Service as a Police Department Photographer

By David Abrahams



*Entry in the jail register for John Doe; September 15, 1930; accompanying officer: Smith; offense: drunk; male, age 35, white, born in Ireland, a miner.*

In 2002, my wife, Jolene, and I became involved with the Livermore Police Department. We found out that the Department had a Citizens Police Academy, open to anyone—who was not a felon—living in Livermore. Jolene attended the second of these academies, and I attended the third. (The Department is now about to start the 18th.)

There was a need for a photographer at the graduation of Jolene's academy. Guess who was asked to do the job! After I graduated from the third academy we both were asked to become volunteers. Jolene's assignment was to lead tours of the Department, while I became their volunteer photographer. Both of us had to go through the same rigorous clearance process as sworn officers, without the physical training part. There were stacks of forms to fill out, interviews, fingerprinting, drug testing, and even a polygraph test. Needless to say, we passed these tests.

My job as the photographer started out with my taking pictures of events such as promotions, retirements, and other non-criminal events. Now I document many of the DUI checkpoints and have taken photos of people being arrested. Mostly I concentrate on the officers and how they do their work. I've also taken photos of officers participating in training exercises. Some of my photos have been used in grant applications, presentations by officers, and in reports.

A couple of years after beginning my volunteer career, the Chief asked me to keep the display cabinets in the main lobby up to date. Our Department often receives plaques and awards for the good things that occur, such as the Department's involvement with Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD).

The lobby is open to the public during normal working hours, so you are invited to stop by and see what we're displaying now! At about the same time, the Chief showed me the contents of a locker in his office. The material in it consisted of miscellaneous

books and papers relating to the history of the Department. Two of what I consider to be very important items stored in this locker are jail registers dating from 1929 through 1939. In these books are the names of all the people who interacted in some way with the local police. Included in the booking information are their names, places of birth, their ages, their occupations, and the reasons for their being listed in these registers.

As we all know, the 1930's were very trying years in America. There was the Great Depression, followed by the Works Project Administration (WPA) to help in the recovery. One of the projects was the Hetch Hetchy water system. The Tuolumne River and lakes in and near Yosemite National Park were dammed and a pipeline built to bring the water down to San Francisco. The pipeline passes through the Livermore Valley and Sunol before passing under the Bay. During that time, miners and laborers working on this and other projects came to Livermore to live it up in the many local bars and taverns. By reading the jail registers and the dates, one can tell when the men got paid and how they spent their money! After spending several hours poring over the books, I obtained permission to transcribe all of the pages to a database. I also photographed every page in the two books, and put all of the material on a CD.

In analyzing the data, I discovered that during the ten years of records, the town drunk was John Doe—having been arrested about 120 times; his wife, Mrs. John Doe, was arrested three times; and their daughter, Miss Jane Doe, was arrested once. Over 2,000 people were arrested for being drunk; the Police Department gave a place to sleep to about 2,500 people (there were a lot of indigents in those days). There are 1,100 miners and 2,500 laborers shown in these registers. It should be noted that no further information as to the disposition of the charges the people were arrested for is available from this transcriber or the Livermore Police Department.

As a genealogist, I am fascinated with data that might lead people to find some additional information regarding their family history. I have had many inquiries from people who have examined the Schellens Index and other data bases I have worked on for L-AGS. Perhaps when you look at the Jail Register CD you might learn that members of your family were in Livermore during the 1930's.

Because of the amount of historical and genealogical information found in the jail registers, I presented copies of the CD to the Livermore Heritage Guild and the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. This CD is now available at the Pleasanton Public Library.

As I wrote earlier, in addition to the photographic work I do for the Livermore Police Department, I

have been maintaining the display cabinets located in the lobby of the building. I change the displays as needed. I want to make sure that we are showing current material or material of historical significance. I will shortly be constructing a display showing our volunteers at work so as to create more community interest in our Police Department.

Currently, I am in the process of creating a database of the historical material, such as plaques, certificates, trophies and other items, and am photographing them as well. My intent is to make this information available to all of the staff so that they can grasp the importance of the history of the Department. So far I have accounted for about 350 items.

I am now known as the Volunteer Photographer/Historian! And enjoying every minute of it.

## John J. Ryan and Benjamin F. Wood, Civil War Veterans

By Shannon Bagley Ryan

Two of my ancestors fought on the Union side in the Missionary Ridge battle of the Civil War on November 25 1863, never knowing that in time their family lineages would converge.

My mother's grandfather, John Joseph Ryan, was a son of Irish immigrants and a tailor by trade. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1836 and mustered into Company C of the 90th Infantry Illinois in 1862 out of Lockport, Illinois. John was injured during the Battle of Missionary Ridge, which was part of the Chattanooga Campaign in Tennessee. A gunshot shattered his left elbow.

After spending many months recuperating, he rejoined his unit in time to "march to the sea" with General Sherman. One of his granddaughters, Katherine Weigel, recalls listening in at family gatherings, hearing her grandmother Katherine Ryan (nee O'Conner) relate war stories about her husband John. John had told her that he was not proud of that march, as it was "something of a rape, ravage, and arson expedition. The only thing he ever took was a silver chain from a table. He much preferred to soak his tired feet in nearby cool streams," according to a letter from Weigel to my mother, Phyllis Ryan. John died of Bright's Disease (a kind of liver disease) in 1904 in Caldwell, Kansas, where he and his wife had made their home after the Civil War. They were one of the first families to live in Caldwell during its early days as a town.

My father's great-grandfather, Benjamin F. Wood, was a farmer. He was born in 1843 in Illinois, eventually mustering into Company G of the 31st Iowa Infantry. He was ordered to be part of the Pioneer Brigade, a specialized unit in the Army of the Cumberland. The Pioneers were soldiers detailed to carry out duties similar to those undertaken by modern combat engineers—cutting roads, repairing bridges, destroying enemy fortifications, etc. After the war, Benjamin married Lucy True and migrated to Reno, Nevada by 1900. In old age, he moved to Tracy, California, to be closer to his extended family, later dying there in 1930.

Benjamin Wood also participated in the Missionary Ridge battle, so these two men could have crossed paths. When my mother, Phyllis Ryan, married my father, David Bagley, the two families became related. A very small world indeed!

### Ancestry's Wars and Conflicts Resources

- Revolutionary War
- Civil War
- WWI & WWII
- French & Indian War
- War of 1812
- Indian Wars
- Spanish American War
- Mexican War
- Vietnam
- Korean War
- Iraq & Afghanistan Conflicts

## A Tribute to my Dutchess County, New York, Veterans

By Kristina Ahuja

Christian Gruntler was born on 17 April 1819 at Markgröningen, Kingdom of Württemberg, now part of Germany. He married Roseanna Catherine Ertzel on 19 July 1846 at Württemberg, Germany. Four years later, Christian and Roseanna emigrated from Ludwigsburg, Stuttgart Region, Kingdom of Württemberg. They boarded the ship Virginia in the port of Antwerp and arrived in New York on 30 July 1850. Sailing with them were their four oldest children Johan Christian, William Thomas, Charles, Hannah Barbara Gruntler. Johan Christian went by the name Christian, so to save confusion, I will call him Christian Jr., and his father, Christian

Sr. Three other Gruntler passengers also appear on this passenger list, Henry, Magda, and Rosina Gruntler.[1]

Like many immigrants at the time, Christian Sr. and his son volunteered for service in the Civil War to get their citizenship. The first to volunteer was the eldest son, Christian Jr. He enlisted 12 September 1861 in Kingston, New York, mustering in with Company B, 20th New York State Militia, also known as the New York 80th Infantry Regiment, also known as the Ulster Guard.

The 20th Militia was one of the oldest militia regiments in New York. It was mustered into the U.S. service at Kingston, September 20-October 20, 1861, for a three year term, and was composed principally of men from Ulster County, New York. Later that year, the 20th was reorganized as the 80th New York Infantry, known as the "Ulster Guard." The Ulster Guard was one of the top 200 fighting regiments and fought in every major battle of the eastern theatre except Chancellorsville.[2]

Christian Gruntler, Jr. left with the regiment for Washington on October 26 October 1861, and was

assigned to Wadsworth's brigade, McDowell's division, and performed picket duty along the Potomac in the vicinity of Upton's hill, Virginia, during the first winter. Out of 110,000 engaged in the Second Battle of Bull Run or the Battle of Second Manassas, as the confederates called it, the Union had 1724 killed and 8372 wounded and the Confederates 1481 killed and 7627 wounded.



*Christian Gruntler, Jr.*  
1841-1862

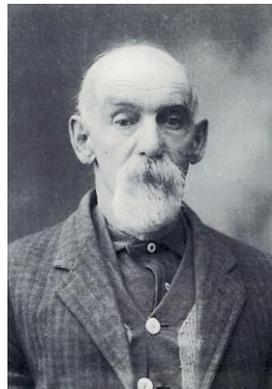
Christian Gruntler, Jr., who had been promoted to the rank of corporal on 8 July, 1862, was fighting under the command of Major General John Pope against Confederate General Robert E. Lee. The major mission was to keep the Confederate forces away from Washington and out of the Shenandoah Valley and draw the

Confederate forces away from McClellan's troops. He was wounded in this battle, 20 August 1862, and died 1 September 1862, in the hospital in Alexandria Virginia. Johann Christian Gruntler, Jr. was born 31 July 1841 in Württemberg, Germany and was only 21 years old when he died serving his adopted country.[3]

An excerpt from a dedication to the New York 80th Infantry describes Christian's death:

*"A fourth member of this company, Christian Gruntler, Jr. had his lower jaw slaughtered by a musket shot in this same battle. Although he lived for twenty two hours, and survived his transport to the Alexandria hospital, the wound was fatal. He must have suffered the acutest agonys since it was impossible for him to swallow, and he was thus incapable of taking either stimulants or nourishment or medicine."*

The people of Red Hook, Dutchess County, dedicated a monument to those who lost their lives in this unit. Christian Gruntler, Jr.'s name is inscribed on the North side of the monument. His death was not the only loss for the Gruntler family. Christian Gruntler, Sr. began military service on 15 September 1861, three days after his son's enlistment. Like his son, he also enlisted in Kingston in Company B, 20th New York State Militia, and was mustered into service 22 October 1861 with the rank of Black-

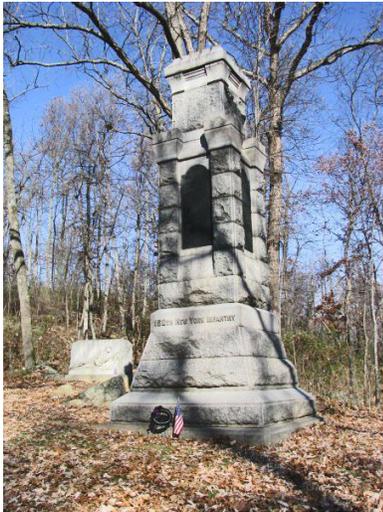


*Richard Martin Lown*  
1844-1923

smith. Christian Sr. survived the war, receiving a discharge for disability on 8 August 1862. His discharge certificate describes him as 5' 6", fair complexion, brown hair, and grey eyes.

An excerpt from a dedication to the New York 80th

Dutchess County, New York, at the age of 45.[6] He is buried with his wife Roseanna in the Red Church Cemetery, in Red Hook, New York. Veterans from this family do not end with Christian Gruntler and his son. My great-great-grandfather was Richard Martin Lown. He married



Three Civil War monuments for veterans in my ancestry. Left: Gettysburg monument to the 150th NY Infantry Regiment. Center: Monument to those who were killed in the 20th NY State Militia. Right: Headstone of Christian Sr. and Roseanna Gruntler, Red Church Cemetery, Red Hook, New York.

Infantry describes Christian Sr. as:

*"a German, who likewise may be said to have given his life for his adopted country, and that country owes a debt to his surviving family. Neither his age nor his physical strength justified his enrollment as a soldier, but he was enrolled, and went forth and performed what duty he was able to perform. Discharged in consequence of ill health, he came home and died of disease, dropsy, engendered by the hardships to which he had been exposed, which he was incapable of supporting."*[4]

By order of General Wadsworth, Christian Gruntler, Sr., was discharged at the General Hospital in Washington D. C., the certificate stating the cause as ascites.[5]

The personal physician of Christian Sr., Dr. Thomas J. Barton, swears that he suffered from the effects of dropsy from the time of his discharge until his death, which was caused by the disease. In an affidavit in his pension file, Captain Walter Van Rensselaer stated "that while on duty in Fredericksburg, Virginia he caught a cold which terminated in dropsy." Christian Gruntler, Sr. died on 4 July 1864 at

Hannah Barbara Gruntler, daughter of Christian and Roseanna (Ertzel) Gruntler 13 June 1869 at Christ Lutheran Church, Germantown (Viewmont), Dutchess County, New York. He was also a soldier in the Civil War serving in the famous Dutchess County Regiment, 150th New York Infantry.

At the age of 18, Richard Martin Lown enlisted as a Private in Company F, 150th Infantry Regiment New York on 9 September 1862 in Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York. He survived the battle of Gettysburg, and then went out west to serve in the Army of the Cumberland under General Sherman. He was part of the infamous march to the sea and was in the Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, which took place a week or so before the Battle of Appomattox on 9 April 1865. He saw the surrender of the last real organized army of the Confederacy. After that, Lown and his unit went to Washington D.C. and participated in the Victory Parade for Sherman's Army. After the Confederate Army surrendered, he mustered out on 8 June 1865 at Washington, D.C., at the conclusion of the Civil War.

Richard and Hannah's last child, my great-great-grandmother Ada Henrietta Lown, was born on 12

December 1882. Ada Lown married Reuben Coon 24 December 1898, in Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York. Nine and 1/2 months later my great grandfather, John Henry Coons, was born. Historically the family name was Kuhn and later evolved to Coon. Family lore says it was Ada who changed the name to Coons. When asked why, Ada replied, "I don't have four legs and I don't climb trees."

[1] Henry Gruntler and Christian Gruntler are possibly brothers although relationship is unconfirmed. They both appear on the passenger list next to each other, both appear on the Wuertemberg immigration index with same number and both as being born in Markgröningen, and they lived together in 1850 in Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York. Researcher has been unable to find Henry after 1850.

[2] Seward Osborne, <http://www.ulsterguard.us/battles.htm>, 2009.

[3] It is unknown whether Roseanna Ertzel was Christian Gruntler, Jr.'s mother. Based on the date of marriage and his birth date, he may have had a different mother.

[4] Address delivered Wednesday, 28 November, 1866 in Feller's Hall, Madalin Township of Red Hook, Dutchess County, New York by Brevet Major General J. Watts DePeyster (S.N.Y), upon the occasion of the inauguration of a monument erected by "This immediate neighborhood (Tivoli-Madalin). To the defenders who lost their lives in suppressing the slaveholders' rebellion and in sustaining the government of the people, for the people, by the people."

[5] Ascites is an abnormal accumulation of fluid in the abdomen.

[6] There are two dates of death, one in the pension file and one on his headstone that differs by one year. The pension file states in several places that the date of death is 4 July 1864. I believe this is the correct date because the affidavits in the record were recorded much closer to the date of death. The headstone reads 4 July 1863; I believe the headstone was done later at the time of Rosanna's death in 1891.

## Douglas Northam, POW No. 1984

By Patricia Northam

This article is a follow-up to "Freedom Ain't Free" (Roots Tracer, November 2005, vol. 25, no. 4). This past April, I attended the First National Convention of the Descendants Group honoring the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor (ADBC) in Reno. This brought forth the memories of former POWs. My father, Douglas Northam, is one of the survivors of the WWII Japanese prison camps. It was an honor to be among the former POWs who experienced such atrocities and hardships during their 3-1/2 years in captivity. The convention included films, an art exhibit, basic research, wives' tales, and four POW panels.

By far the most moving and fascinating sessions were the POW panels. This may be one of the last opportunities to capture the first-hand accounts of their experiences, because there are fewer than 700 former WWII POWs of the Japanese surviving today. Approximately 12,000 were captured on Bataan while about 15,000 surrendered at Corregidor. Of the 27,000 military POWs, about 11,000 died during captivity (about 40%). That any of these men still survive today is astounding.

The men talked of not being allowed to take their canteens or mess kits while being forced to march and stand in the boiling sun during what became known as the Bataan Death March. One man referred to the "zero ward" in the hospital, which was for the men who reacted to the sights of the March.



*My father, Douglas Northam,  
survivor of WWII Japanese prison camps.*

Almost all POWs were moved around to various prison camps. Douglas' camps included Bilibid (3-4 days in May 1945), Cabanatuan (May to November 1945), Osaka Umeda Bunsho (November 1942 to March 1945), and Tsuruga Shi-Osaka 5 (March to August 1945). All POWs who were moved from the Philippines were loaded into the "hell ships" bound for Japan, Formosa, Manchuria, and Sumatra. When my father shipped out on the Nagato Maru on November 7, 1942, he was crammed into the hold with 1600 other men, with little food or water and in deplorable sanitary conditions. By the time his ship arrived in Osaka on November 24th, about 400 had perished in the sweltering hold of the ship.

Punishment was harsh. Men were shot or bayoneted as an example to other prisoners. When put into isolation, POWs were not given any food or water. Men suffered severe beatings, sometimes simply because they stole a potato or handful of rice. Another man was caged as punishment while many were forced to kneel on rocks for hours. POWs witnessed others being forced into trenches that they dug only to have gasoline poured and lit on them and then machine gunned when attempting to get out of the fire.

All POWs (including my father) served on work details, which included carrying and burying the dead. Men were used as slave labor in the mines (coal, copper, lead, and zinc) and in factories. They also worked at the railroads and shipyards loading heavy merchandise for transport. While in Osaka, Douglas worked loading heavy machinery, scrap metal, coal, lumber, logs, rolls of paper, bales of cotton and yarn, and sometimes foodstuff such as rice, sugar, soy beans, potatoes, sweet potatoes, and occasionally canned foods. Sometimes POWs volunteered for extra details in the hopes of getting more food rationed to them. Food rations were always cut when a POW was sent to the hospital.

Food was always a high priority. There was never enough. POWs were given two or three scant meals a day, always rice and watery soup. If there were fish eyes or maggots in the rice or soup you got used to eating them—they provided a little more protein. One POW talked about always getting the NRA leftovers (neck, ribs, and asshole). When Douglas managed to sneak a potato, he would cook it by lodging it near the exhaust pipe on a truck that transported food back and forth. Dad did this until a guard discovered what he was doing.

Due to the lack of proper nourishment, POWs suffered a wide range of conditions including starvation, malaria, beri beri, dysentery, and scurvy, all of which had lasting effects on their health. Whenever a man was sent to the hospital ward, he would want

his medicine, even when he knew it was a placebo made of rice. There were times when Dad was assigned to make these placebos using rice dough and the metal end of a pencil to stamp out the pills. Mentally, a man felt it helped improve his condition.

Red Cross boxes were rarely passed along to the POWs. The Japanese would confiscate them for their own use. So any medicines, vitamins, and foods never found their way to the intended men. The POWs did begin receiving their Red Cross boxes towards the end of the war, which indicated to the POWs that the end was near. There was also a lack of adequate clothing during the winter months, which affected the health of the men.

The atomic bombs of August 6th and 9th of 1945 ended the war with Japan. If the bombs had not been dropped, no POW would have survived, because there was an order that all POWs were to be eliminated. Nor could most have survived another month—they were starving and there was little food available. On August 14, 1945, the Japanese accepted the unconditional surrender. The formal surrender took place on September 2, 1945. The War Crime Trials for Japan took place in 1947, although I've never heard about them. Some POWs testified at these trials. At this time there are no books available about these trials.

The websites that continue to be the best researched and most useful for anyone researching former POW ancestors include:

<http://www.mansell.com>

<http://www.dg-adbc.org/>

<http://www.archives.gov>

[http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us.](http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us)

Additionally, there are numerous links to personal stories on the WWII POW experience in Japan. However, I am of the opinion that the best story is always that of your own ancestor. For me, that would be the story of my father, Douglas Northam.

## New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Julie Sowles, Administrative Librarian

*Added to our library from July 15, 2010 through October 15, 2010*

1. Banks, Charles Edward, *The English ancestry and homes of the Pilgrim Fathers who came to Plymouth on the "Mayflower" in 1620, the "Fortune" in 1621, and the "Anne" and the "Little James" in 1623* - 929.37448 BANKS.

2. Dobson, David, *Barbados and Scotland links, 1627 – 1877* - 929.372981 DOBSON.

## My Ancestral Veterans from 1777 to 1900

By Gary Drummond

*It seems to me that if there is a war somewhere, members of my family have been involved. Your editor has asked for 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century ancestors but I have added a footnote that includes a few more.*

### American Revolution

#### *My Grandmother Drummond's line*

Nicholas Bartlett (unknown-1814) was a soldier in Capt. Ezra Currier's Company, Colonel Drake's Regiment, New Hampshire Militia, (later called the Second New Hampshire). Colonel Drake's Regiment participated in the Saratoga Campaign. The victory at Saratoga was a major turning point in the war for independence. Bartlett's Company was disbanded in December, 1777.

### War of 1812

Jesse Bartlett (1792-1838), Nicholas' son, participated in the 1813-1814 Creek War, in present-day Alabama and in the Battle of New Orleans, with General Andrew Jackson, where he was promoted to Major. He was mustered out of service in March, 1813.

### Texas War of Independence

Bartlett moved his family to Texas in late 1831, settling along the Brazos River. In 1836 he was involved in the Texas revolution, serving as a cavalryman with the rank of private. He furnished his own horse and arms. Bartlett subsequently filed a claim for \$200 for the loss of a "bag horse," a horse to carry the gear that won't fit in the saddlebags of his riding mount.

### Civil War – Union

#### *My mother's family*

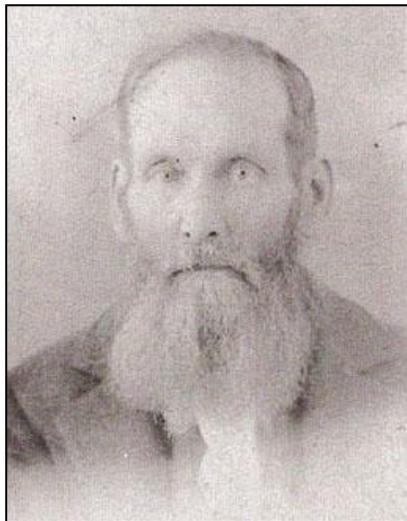
Charles H. Rigdon (1838-1930) was 24 years old when he enlisted on September 17, 1862 as a private in Company C, 106<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. Charles' brother, William H. H. Rigdon (1840-1935) enlisted the same day, but in Company H, 106<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry. The 106<sup>th</sup> participated in the siege and subsequent surrender of Vicksburg. Later it was as-

signed to duty in Arkansas. William fell ill and was confined in a military hospital at St. Louis for three months. After his return, he was assigned to ambulance duty. Both brothers were discharged on July 24, 1865.

### Civil War – Confederate

#### *My Father's family*

My great-grandfather, William Drummonds (1832-1905), and three younger brothers—Sebron (1835-1900), John (1841-1862), and James (1844-1862)—all served in the Confederate Army. William, Se-



*William Drummonds  
about 1900*

bron and James enlisted in the 39<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry Regiment, Company A (the Simpson County Greys) in April, 1862. The 39<sup>th</sup> was sent to Corinth, Mississippi, to prevent Union forces from crossing the Tennessee River into Mississippi. James Drummonds was killed in that action. He was 18 years old. (It's said that his brothers brought his body to Simpson County for burial.) The 39<sup>th</sup> was sent to Port Hudson, Louisiana to prevent Union gunboats from moving up the Mississippi by bombarding them from the heights of the Port. With the river on one side and Union troops pushing from the east on the other, the 39<sup>th</sup> was trapped. The Confederates surrendered on July 6,

1863, the same day Vicksburg was taken by Union troops. William and Sebron were paroled, but neither returned to the 39<sup>th</sup>. Until the end of the war, their records noted "absent: not yet reported to camps; by order of General Polk, [they were] declared deserters."

The fourth brother, John R. Drummonds, enlisted in Company B, 16<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry May, 1861. His military record shows that he was promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> Corporal in September, 1861, promoted again to 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant in April 1862. His organization was sent East. John was killed on September 17, 1862 at the battle of Sharpsburg, Maryland (Antietam to you Yankees). This battle was one of the bloodiest in the Civil War, as each side lost over 28,000 troops in three days

### Spanish – American War

Arthur Rigdon (1868-1900), son of William H. H. Rigdon, above, enlisted as a private in Company L, First Illinois Infantry in May, 1898. Shortly after he arrived in Cuba, he contracted malaria and was returned to the States, where he was discharged on September 1, 1898. He died in a Chicago hospital of his disability on March 17, 1900.

### Epilogue

My father, Garrett B. Drummond Sr., graduated from the U. S. Military Academy in 1923 as a Second Lieutenant. After WWI there was a surplus of officers, so my father became a reserve officer.

In 1941, he was called to active duty, and served until 1944. He was discharged with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. My brother, James E. Drummond, graduated from the U.S. Military Academy in 1955. After a 30-year career, he retired with the rank of Major General. My brother's son, James E. Drummond Jr., graduated from the Military Academy in 1982, but after ten years, he decided he would rather be a baseball coach and high school science teacher.

But there's one more in the pipeline: my great-grandson joined the army last spring.

## Andrew Montour in the French and Indian War

By Mildred Kirkwood

Andrew Montour was my 5th great grandfather. He is listed in the Pennsylvania Archives, Fifth Series, Vol. VI: Muster Rolls relating to the Associators and Militia of the County of Cumberland: a class roll of Captain James Fisher's Company for 1780 and also 1782.

Andrew served by working with the Americans against the French and Indians, although he was a Seneca Indian and part French. He and his mother spoke French and six Indian languages, so they

were very valuable as interpreters. Andrew also went among the Indian groups and brought information back to the Americans that told of the Indian plans and movements. There are letters from George Washington regarding Andrew and asking him to come to see him and bring some Indians with him, including his mother. Washington offered to make Andrew a Captain if he brought at least sixty Indians with him, but there is no evidence that Andrew was ever a Captain.

## John Montour in the Revolutionary War

By Mildred Kirkwood

John Montour is listed in the Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files: "Montour, John or John Mouteur (an Indian), BLW #1572-300-24 Oct 1789 also BLW #301- 300 srv as a Capt the 1st warrant was issued for srv as a Capt. & the 2nd was issued 18 Dec 1806 to Montgomery Montour whose relationship was not given, sol had srv as a Capt of a Co of Delaware Indians during 1780-81." (Montgomery was John's son.)

John Montour was my 4th great-grandfather. He worked much as his father, Andrew, had, going between the Indians and the Americans, and interpreting. There is a lot of information



*John Montour, my  
4th great-grandfather*

for Andrew and John, as well as Andrew's mother, Madame Montour, in the Pennsylvania Archives. There is also a great deal written about the Montour family in "Christopher Gist's Journal" in our library.

**The nearest California library copies of "Genealogical Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files" are at:**

- [Contra Costa County Library](#)  
PLEASANT HILL, 94523, 17 mi.
- [Santa Clara City Library](#)  
SANTA CLARA, 95051, 25 mi.
- [Stockton-San Joaquin Co. Public Library](#)  
STOCKTON, 95202, 39 mi.

## John O'Neill, Private, Co. A, 49th Infantry, b. 1830 - d. 1864

By Patrick M. Lofft

I was led to the following information about my great-grandfather, a Civil War veteran, by a letter, dated June 12, 1918 that was, fortunately, retained among family memorabilia. The Bureau of Pensions, in replying to my grand-aunt's inquiry regarding her deceased mother's former pension, misidentified the death location as Spartansburg, Pennsylvania, but correctly identified the death date as May 10, 1864. Since I was living in Maryland at the time, I visited NARA and requested the complete pension file and compiled service record.

On December 1, 1855, Mary Doyle married John O'Neill in Bardarrig, parish of Kilbride, County Wicklow, Ireland. Together with John's father, Tom O'Neill, all three traveled to America before February 23, 1858 when John signed a Declaration of Intent to become a citizen of Pennsylvania.

On March 25, 1858, John contracted for a bleak farm of 115 acres and 80 perches [115.5 acres] on



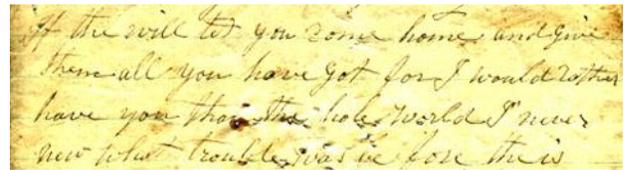
Sundback Road about five miles southeast of Spartansburg in Crawford County, northwestern Pennsylvania. Google Earth now shows that field to be a portion of a slightly larger farming enterprise.

Apparently, farming was not rewarding for John and his family as the 1860s progressed. John learned that volunteers were eligible to collect a bounty of \$100 from the government plus additional bounties from the state and local communities. In 1864, John traveled northeast approximately 30 miles to Jamestown, New York, where on January 20 he enlisted as a private with Company A, 49th Regiment, New York State Volunteers.

Shortly after John entered the army, Mary, poignantly wrote, in part, "Today I was at the tavern and got your letter Dear John you had a home But I

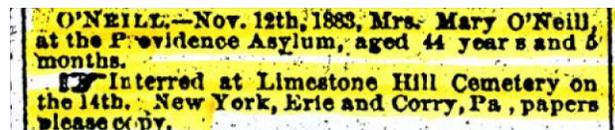
hope you will have one agin Dear John try and see if the[y] will let you come home and give them all you have got for I would rather have you than the hole world I never new what trouble was before this" [sic] This letter contained no periods. Luckily, fragments of this letter survived in a trunk in the family attic. It was among the personal effects returned to Mary following John's death at age 34 during the May 8-21, 1864 battle at Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia. This battle, sometimes simply referred to as the Battle of Spotsylvania, was the second major battle in Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's 1864 Overland Campaign of the American Civil War.

Mary's depression, as hinted at in her writing, be-



came extremely serious during the next seven years. In 1871, the Crawford County commissioners transferred her to the Dixmont Insane Asylum near Pittsburg and proceeded to take charge of the property. According to an article in the Crawford Journal, Thursday, September 1871, "Upon reaching the premises a pitiful sight was presented to the Commissioners. Three girls, aged seven, nine and thirteen respectively [actually the oldest was a boy], were the only occupants of the house, and had been the only tenants for nearly a week. For more than a month previous to that time they had been the abused victims of an insane mother, living as they did, more than two miles from neighbors who might interfere in their behalf."

Mary O'Neill died November 11, 1883, aged 44 years and 5 months in the Providence Asylum, Buffalo, New York.



**John O'Neill 1830 - 1864, m. 1855, Mary Doyle 1837 - 1883**

**Mary Ann O'Neill 1863 - 1943, m. 1888, James Simon Lofft 1861 - 1909**

**Bernard Thomas Lofft 1895 - 1965, m. 1938, Grace Geraldine Eltges 1910 - 1977**

**Patrick Michael Lofft**

## O Brother Jeremy Paul, Where Art Thou?

By Frank Geasa

In 1996, shortly after I got interested in genealogy, I learned about surname lists such as those found on Rootsweb, GenForum and our own L-AGS site. I put the family names and the locations I knew on lists here in the USA, in Europe and eventually in Australia. Over the years these lists have generated some very interesting correspondence with other researchers and sometimes, usually when least expected, acquaintance with a new cousin.

Such an unexpected new cousin contacted me in 2000 after seeing the name O'Connell from Hollyford, County Tipperary, Ireland on our L-AGS site. She is Elizabeth O'Connell, who resides with her family on a sheep and cattle station located at the southern end of the south island of New Zealand. She and I turned out to be related through the O'Connells of County Tipperary, but O'Connell is not her maiden name; she married into another O'Connell family. Her great-great-grandfather Anthony O'Connell came from Birchgrove, a small townland near Hollyford. Anthony had immigrated first to Australia and then moved on to New Zealand trying his luck as a gold miner following successive reports of gold strikes in the 1860s. In 1870 he married and settled in Naseby on the southern island.

At the time Elizabeth contacted me she had recently visited Ireland and while there had obtained extensive lists of O'Connell marriages and christenings during an outing to the Catholic parish church serving Birchgrove. As I had also listed the name Fahey on my L-AGS list, a marriage between a Mary O'Connell and a Philip Fahey on the church list caught her eye. Answering her query about them I was able to confirm that Philip and Mary were my great-great-grandparents. In very short order we determined that Mary and Anthony were siblings making us fourth cousins. With lucky coincidence we both had pictures of our great-great-grandparents and thanks to the Internet were able to exchange copies within a day.

While in Ireland, Elizabeth learned from a living O'Connell descendant that a Daniel O'Connell, had joined the Brothers of the Christian Schools, also known as the De La Salle Christian Brothers, an order dedicated to the education of young and young-adult students. Daniel's father was Denis, a

third O'Connell sibling to Anthony and Mary. Born in 1871, he had been trained in Ireland, taken the name Brother Jeremy Paul and been sent to the U.S. around the turn of the century to teach at a Catholic protectory for troubled youth in Westchester, New York City. Other than that, no one now seemed to know much else about him. Elizabeth enlisted my help in trying to find out what became of him.

I had no trouble locating Daniel O'Connell under that name on the 1900 census. As luck would have it, I was born and lived in the same local area as the protectory for my first 10 years. I had heard the adults talk of the protectory and the construction of the very large Parkchester housing complex after Metropolitan Life Insurance bought the land from the protectory in 1938. I was also aware of the history of the area so I knew I would find that census record in New York County and not Bronx County. In the 1898 consolidation which expanded New York City beyond New York County (Manhattan Borough), the Bronx was created out of the southern part of Westchester County. While it became a separate borough of the city at that point, it wasn't until 1914 that the Bronx was also declared a separate county. From the 1900 census I learned that Daniel arrived in the U.S. in 1898. I was also able to find him at the same location on subsequent censuses through 1930.

With the sale of the land in 1938, the entire operation of the protectory was moved to what had been an annex, the Lincoln Agricultural School located in the hamlet of Lincolndale in northern Westchester County. The school with extensive fields was soon renamed Lincoln Hall. As luck would again have it, after World War II ended, my family moved from the Bronx to the hamlet of Shenorock very close to Lincolndale. My folks' property bordered one of Lincoln Hall's extensive crop fields and many of our friends and neighbors worked at the Hall. Until I left for the Air Force after high school, I often visited the Hall for various activities ranging from sports to church. So when Elizabeth asked me to help find out what became of Daniel, I thought it shouldn't be that hard. Not a good assumption.

In 1981 the Christian Brothers ceased their work at Lincoln Hall, turning the administration and

staffing over to the Archdiocese of New York. An inquiry some 20 years after the change about a Brother born in 1871 didn't yield any information. I next located the contact information for the Christian Brothers district headquarters covering New York and suggested Elizabeth contact them directly. She spoke to someone there who told her they had an index card with his birth date and death date but indicated he had no other information. While we now had the date of his death, we still didn't know his final resting place.

I thought he might be buried in a small cemetery located in a small corner of Lincoln Hall, which I had always understood to be the burial plot for the Brothers. I decided I would visit the cemetery the next time I was in the area. There the matter sat for several years.

Early this past August my wife and I traveled to New York State but not near Westchester County.

We had rented a house in the Cooperstown area and were joined there by long time friends, Don and Ann Mortimer from Mt. Kisco, New York. Don and I have been friends since 5th grade and I knew Don had worked at Lincoln Hall in the 1960s and 70s. I told him about Daniel and discussed the cemetery which he said he also thought was the burial place of the Brothers. Since Lincoln Hall is about 12 miles from Mt. Kisco, I asked if he were in the neighborhood would he stop at the cemetery and see if Daniel is buried there and if he were, would he take a photo. He agreed to do that and I gave him what information I had on Daniel including the religious name he had taken of Jeremy Paul.

About two weeks later Don and Ann drove to Lincoldale to look at the cemetery. When they arrived they discovered the cemetery we thought was the Brothers' burial spot is actually a private family cemetery dating from the 18th century. At this point they could have easily returned home but Don decided to stop at the administration building for Lincoln Hall about a mile away to see if someone could point him to the Brothers' burial ground which he was sure existed somewhere on the facility. When he arrived at the main gate, he was stopped by a security guard and told he couldn't enter the facility. In the ensuing years since he worked there, the nature of the troubled young men at the Hall had gotten rougher and the security tighter. It was no longer the very open facility we had known. The security guard knew nothing about a burial ground but he called the

administration building to see if anyone knew anything about one. Lady Luck once again smiled. The person who arrived to talk to Don was a senior manager who had worked at the Hall for over 50 years and who remembered Don. This gentleman had retired a few years back but when his wife died he found himself bored and as it turned out, lucky for us, had been rehired by the Hall. He told Don there wasn't any cemetery at the Hall now but there was a large plot of Christian Brothers at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Hawthorne, New York approximately 22 miles south in Westchester County.

Since they were familiar with the Gate of Heaven Cemetery—some of their relatives are buried there—and it was just 10 miles past their home in Mt Kisco, the Mortimers decided to pay a visit. At the office a young lady researched the files for a Daniel O'Connell but could not find one. Then Don indicated he thought the Brothers might have been transferred there from other cemeteries. She responded that there was such a plot. She looked at the records for that plot and found a Brother Jeremy Paul whose birth and death dates matched the information I had given Don. With the site marked on a map they quickly found the final resting place of Daniel and those of his deceased brethren numbering well over one hundred.

The stone for Brother Barnabas McDonald, the founder of Lincoln Hall shows he was re-interred at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in October 1981. Given the number of individuals in each plot and the date which coincides with the cessation of the Brothers work at Lincoln Hall, it might be surmised that the deceased Brothers were moved along with their leader.

There was some very serious luck in locating



Daniel O'Connell/Brother Jeremy Paul - or was it just that he wanted to be found?

# The Search for My Mexican Ancestors

By Gabriel Gutierrez

*Presented by Gabriel Gutierrez at the L-AGS general meeting on August 10, 2010*

My family history background began with my parents' arrival into the United States from Mexico in the early 1900s. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, all traveled together. The search for existing family records, birth certificates of siblings, birth and marriage records of parents and citizenship records, as well as conversations with family members in Mexico and older siblings and cousins in the U. S., were very essential to begin the search for my ancestors.

## Brief Background Regarding Names

In Mexico it was a custom to give children their names based on the church calendar. Mexicans traditionally pulled their names from the Bible and the Papist calendar. Many first names may start with Jose, Maria, Maria de Jesus, etc. Do not be surprised if the names of men also have Maria as part of their name, i.e. Jose Maria Martinez. In Mexico a name always carries the father's last name followed by the mother's maiden name. Example: Gabriel Gutierrez Garcia, Ma Guadalupe Gutierrez Garcia, Married: Lupe Gutierrez Garcia de Adame. This is very helpful in locating the correct parents in your internet search.

## General History of Mexico's Records:

The first Catholic Mass celebrated on Mexican soil was in 1518 when conquistador Juan de Grijalva led an expedition up the Yucatan peninsula. Catholic Clergy documented the history of Mexico. In 1563, the Council of Trent formalized Catholic record keeping including race distinction in Catholic Church records. Before the political reform of 1859, non-catholic religions did not flourish. Activities of the Masons, small Protestant Minorities, the educated and liberal populace and others contributed to political reform. A series of laws passed between the reform and the constitution of 1917, promoted religious tolerance and curtailed the powers of the Catholic Church. In 1859 President Benito Juarez established the Civil Registration Office.

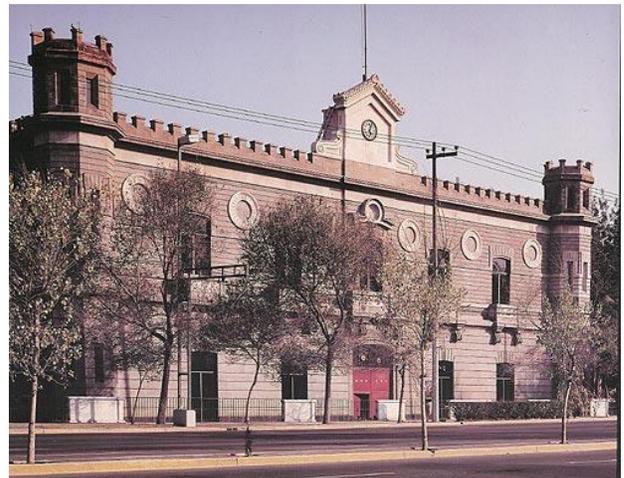
The various Mexican archives include several major types of genealogical repositories:

- National government archives and libraries
- State archives
- Local civil offices/municipal offices

- Catholic Church archives
- University archives and libraries
- Historical and genealogical societies
- FamilySearch via the Internet

In your search you must know the town where the ancestors lived, the parish to which they belonged and the approximate year they were born, baptized or died. If you do not know the towns expand your search to the state level.

Records of genealogical value at the national archives include: church and civil records, censuses, court records, military records, emigration lists and land records. Archivo General de la Nacion is open to the public. You can also request photocopies of records by writing to: Archivo General de la Nacion, Eduardo Molina y Albaniles, Col. Penitenciaría Ampliación, Delegación Venustiano Carranza, 15350 MEXICO D.F. The largest collection of Inquisition documents is now part of the National Archives of Mexico. The LDS Family History Library has microfilmed copies of many records from the Mexican national and state archives, National Government Archives and Libraries, National Archives of Mexico, libraries and other record repositories which are important sources of genealogical and historical information.



## Archivo General de la Nacion

The Bancroft Library in Berkeley holds remarkable collections of original documents reflecting the history of Mexico and Central America as well. A large genealogical source comes from investigations by the Holy Office of Mexico into allegations

that surfaced during the Inquisition. The Bancroft collection of original Inquisition documents makes it the largest single repository of original Mexican Inquisition manuscript records outside of Mexico covering the period from 1593 to 1817.

### **State Archives**

Individual states in Mexico have archives that serve as repositories for their own records. Each state has jurisdiction over its own archives, which are separate from the national archives, and each has its own criteria for their maintenance. The records of genealogical value at the state archives include: birth, marriage, and death records, censuses, land records, some church records, notaries' records, probates, judgments, and court records. Some of the state archives are open to the public.

### **Local Civil Offices/Municipal Records Offices**

Many records in Mexico are created by the local government. Civil registration, including birth, marriage, and death records, started in 1859. Every municipality in Mexico has jurisdiction over its own archives, which are separate from the state archives. Two of the most important municipal archives are El Archive del Municipio and El Archivodel Registro Civil. These offices are comparable to county courthouses in the U.S. Local government archives maintain important genealogical records that include: wills, probate inventories, transfer and land deeds, which have personal information about the parties involved. Many of these civil records have been microfilmed by the Family History Library, and can be researched through your local Family History Center. Digital images of these Mexico Civil Registration Records are starting to be made available online for free at FamilySearch Record Search. You may write directly to the municipio for those records that have not been filmed.

### **Catholic Church Archives**

The type and amount of information and detail recorded in church records varied over time. Later records generally give more complete information than earlier ones. Records of baptism, confirmation, marriage, death and burial have been maintained by individual parishes in Mexico for almost 500 years. These records are especially useful for researching ancestors prior to 1859, when civil registration went into effect. They may also provide information on events after that date that cannot be found in the civil records. Other ecclesiastical records include Inquisition records.

To research your ancestors in Mexican church records, you'll first have to know the parish and city or town of residence. If your ancestor lived in a small town or village without an established parish, use a map to find nearby towns with a church that your ancestors may have attended. If your ancestor lived in a large city with several parishes, their records may be found in more than one parish. Begin your search with the parish where your ancestor lived, then expand the search to nearby parishes, if necessary. Parish church registers may record information on several generations of the family, making them an extremely valuable resource for researching a Mexican family tree.

### **Records not at the Family History Library**

If the church records you seek are not available through the Family History Library, you'll need to write directly to the parish since Mexico has no single repository of church records. Provide a check for the search fee, usually \$10.00 per record, along with full name and sex of the person whose record you seek.

When requesting a photocopy of the original record, include the names of the ancestor's parents, if known, the approximate date and place of the event, your relationship to the person, and your reason for the request. Write your request in Spanish whenever possible.

### **Locating Church Records at the FHL**

Many church records from Mexico are included in the Mexican Vital Records Index from FamilySearch.org. This free, online database indexes almost 1.9 million birth and christening and 300,000 marriage records from Mexico, and a partial listing of vital records covering the years 1659 to 1905. Additional indexes of Mexican baptisms, marriages and burials from selected localities and time periods are available on FamilySearch Record Search, along with selected Catholic Church records. The Family History Library has, on microfilm, most of the Mexican church records prior to 1930. Specific holdings are listed in the Family History Library Catalog. These films may be borrowed from and viewed at your local Family History Center. New records are continually being added. Family History Library offers a CD: Middle America-Mexico Vital Records Index, item number: 50163000, \$7.25. This file contains information from birth, christening, and marriage events from selected localities in Mexico only. These records cover the years 1659 to

1905 and include both church records and civil registrations.

### **Baptism Records**

The following is the type of information you will find in almost all of the Mexican baptismal records. I have translated a Spanish baptismal record to English so you can see the essential information found in the record. This record was found in film number 238076: Title: Registros parroquiales, 1815-1955, Authors: Iglesia Católica. Jesús (Guadalajara, Jalisco) (Main Author), Subjects: México, Jalisco, Guadalajara - Church records, Format: Manuscript (On Film), Language: Spanish, Physical: 125 rollos de microfilme; 35 mm.

Mexico Baptisms, 1560-1950 for Domingo Gutierrez

*Name:* Domingo Gutierrez

*Gender:* Male

*Baptism/Christening Date:* 03 Nov 1896

*Baptism/Christening Place:* Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

*Father's Name:* Juan Gutierrez

*Mother's Name:* Cesaria Ramirez

*Indexing Project (Batch) Number:* 108346-2

*Source Film Number:* 238076

*Reference Number:* v 43 p 143

“In the parish of Jesus, the third of November of 1896; I the Presbyter Andres Ruelas with permission of the Priest, solemnly baptize Domingo who was born the Fourth of August of this year; legitimate son of Juan Gutierrez and Cesaria Ramirez; paternal grandparents Luis Ramirez and Petra Hernandez; maternal Maximo Ramirez and Juana Mejia; godparents Miguel Hernandez and Felicitas Perez whom have been advised of their Obligations and spiritual relationship and affirmed with the Priest. Benito Pardinás”

If you read the above baptismal record carefully you will note that the priest or the Presbyter wrote the wrong last name for the paternal grandfather for Domingo. He wrote Luis Ramirez instead of Luis Gutierrez which I know is correct. There may also be misspelling of names like Martines instead of Martinez and I have found others that may say Martin. So it is important to read all the names carefully and the relationships within those records.

### **Marriage Certificates**

Information noted in the marriage certificate normally include: civil registry information - book and page numbers, names of the marrying couple, date,

time and year of marriage, their ages and their birth dates, occupation, father and mothers names of both parents, their nationality, where they were from originally, their current address, names of witnesses and their occupation.

### **Mexico 1930 Census**

Under the Mexican government, national censuses were attempted in 1868 and 1878. They were not accepted by the people, who feared more taxation and military conscription. The 1895 census was more successful. After the 1900 census, additional censuses were taken every 10 years. Most of the census records are housed in the national archives. The 1930 Census conducted on May 15 was the first in which returns were processed centrally. This Census is recognized as one of Mexico's best planned and executed. Where available, census records can provide a person's age, birth year, religion, birthplace, and occupation. These records can also explain his or her relationship to family members, and provide other family information. The Family History Library has 110 volumes of these censuses and the index on microfilm. An index for v. 1-108 of the Mexican census records at the Archivo General de la Nación in Mexico is available at the Family History Library as: FHL INTL Film 1149544 Item 4 and 1224506 Item 1. The index is divided into districts. The districts that are grouped together are not always from the same state. All localities are listed under the district. The index does not include the census year. However, the information in the index will lead you to the volume and page of the locality you want. Some of the films are at the Family History Library while others need to be ordered from the vault. Padrones, 1752-1865 (Censuses 1752-1865). México, D.F.: Archivo General de la Nación, 1988. (On 41 FHL films beginning with 1520343.)

The 1930 federal census is the only federal census available for public inspection. Some localities, including the Federal District, are missing. The Family History Library has what is available for the 1930 census. It is listed in the Family History Library Catalog under: MEXICO, (STATE), (MUNICIPIO) - CENSUS. Information showing the column headings and their translations as listed in the 1930 census are found in Appendix E. The 1930 federal census is currently being indexed and is online. The index is being created by a volunteer workforce and is more than 60% complete. You can search this index and be linked to the census page.

## *Future General Meeting*

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

**December 14, 2010, 7:30 p.m.**

**Topic: Show and Tell: Members Sharing**

Do you have a genealogical story to tell? We encourage you share your story at our December meeting. We really want to hear from you. The presentation should be brief, 5 minutes preferred, 7 minutes maximum. Dick Finn is very willing to scan your photos and help put together a **PowerPoint** show.

The choice of topic is up to you. Some suggestions or ideas for topics might be to:

- Bring a family heirloom and tell the story of how it came into your possession and its significance to you.
- Tell about your most interesting ancestor. Bring photo(s) if available.
- Tell about an interesting incident you encountered while researching your genealogy.
- Tell about a break-through you made in your research and what resource helped you achieve it.
- Tell how you are sharing your research with your family and others,  
i.e. gifting with old photos, scrapbooks, ancestral charts, created books, other ideas (bring an example(s)).

### **L-AGS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

The annual dues are due and payable on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.

Individual - \$18, Family - \$25, Benefactor - \$40, Patron - \$100

Please bring your check to a meeting or mail with your name and address to:

***L-AGS Membership***, P.O. Box 901, Livermore CA 94551-0901

*The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society is exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) (public charity) of the Internal Revenue Code and California Taxation Code 23701g*

*Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society*

P.O. Box 901

Livermore, CA 94551-0901

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