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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

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

Membership Report

April, 2019

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

Patrons

Richard and Jean Lerche, Kay Speaks, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

Kristina Ahuja, Annette Breingan, Linda Driver and Walt Crawford, Arnold and Nancy Koslow, Tom and Natasha Mathews, Bob and Peggy Weber.

Total L-AGS Members as of April 8, 2018; 101 memberships and 120 Members

Meeting News

General Meetings — Except for June 8, 2019 Noon to 4 pm at FHC Livermore, meetings are held on the second Monday 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 L-AGS Writing Group — Meets monthly in Livermore. The encouragement to write your ancestors' stories and your own comes from this enthusiastic group. To join the email list, please send a note to <mailto:changes@L-AGS.org> with "Add me to the Writing Group list" in the subject line.

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

The Master Genealogist Group — usually meets on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (Kay Speaks/Duncan Tanner)

tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org; TV-TMG Forum tvmtg.group@L-AGS.org

Pleasanton Genealogy Center — is jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library. A L-AGS docent is available each Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California. Or by appointment, e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org.

Livermore Family History Center — Several L-AGS members, both LDS and non-LDS, volunteer as docents at the Livermore FHC. They are available to assist you in your genealogy research. The FHC has several subscription research sites not readily available elsewhere and is open Mondays 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday evenings 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. and Saturday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. If the parking in front of the building is full, there is a large parking lot in the rear of the building. [Map](#).

L-AGS Leadership for 2019

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

Contents

Membership and Meeting News.....	2	The Search for Etta M. Franks	6
L-AGS Leadership for 2019	2	Sidney Augustus Northam's Gavel	8
President's Message from Julie Liu	3	My Father and Uncles in World War I.....	9
Hanora Ryan Shanahan-Her Story	4	A Letter I wrote to my Granddaughter	10
My Great-Great Grandpa got killed by Thunder	5	My Great-Great-Grandmother, Bridget Agnes Lyster	12
L-AGS Presents Gena Philibert-Ortega.....	5	Family Reunion 2018	14
		Last full-blooded Icelander in the family	15

President's Message

Last year I was co-program chairperson with Kay Speaks. I had the opportunity to attend the East Bay genealogical program chairperson's idea exchange meetings. I found lots of good ideas from other program chairperson's at those meetings. My fellow program chairpersons were eager to share what worked and what didn't work for them. I will always be grateful for their help.

One of the ideas discussed was to have workshops. Instead of listening to a lecture and then going home to work on our problems alone, work on them collaboratively with other fellow genealogists. For some of us, who else do you know that are almost as excited to hear your genealogy stories. In my family, it is just me. So what Tom Mathews and I are planning for our June monthly meeting is a collaborative approach. We will NOT have our regular monthly meeting June 10th. Instead, we will be meeting at the LDS Family History Center, 950 Mocho St., Livermore, CA on Saturday June 8th from 12-4. This will be a collaborative event and will also be open to the members of the LDS Livermore church. We will divide up into groups of no more than five.

There will be WiFi with free access while in the center to more than a dozen premium family history websites that generally charge \$ for subscriptions:

Ancestry.com	Access Newspaper Archive	Findmypast.com
Fold3.com (previously known as Footnote.com)	American Ancestors (previously known as NEHGS)	19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive
Alexander Street Press - The American Civil War	ArkivDigital Online - Swedish Genealogy	Historic Map Works Library Edition
The Genealogist	Godfrey Memorial Library	Hertiage Quest Online
World Vital Records	Paper Trail	

The portal, I should explain, is access to additional books and materials that may help you in your genealogic research. This will bring fresh eyes to possibly a problem that you have been looking at for a long time.

There is also a hope that some of the non-L-AGS participants will see what a benefit being a member of L-AGS is for our members and possibly to join. I have already seen that reaction from the coordinator that we are working with to set this up.

So I hope that many of you will be able to join us and bring your genealogy problem so we can look at it together and take down some of those brick walls.

Julie Liu

The Livermore Roots Tracer

The Roots Tracer is the quarterly publication of the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. The mission statement of the Roots Tracer is: **“Instruct. Inspire. Inform.”**

We encourage members to submit articles for publication. Material can be e-mailed to: rootstracer.chair@L-AGS.org or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901. Want ghostwriting help? Just ask!

The Roots Tracer Staff

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Printing and DistributionSue Davis,Jean Lerche

Hanora Ryan Shanahan-Her story

By Julie Gilliland Liu

Hanora Ryan came to the United States in 1879 with her parents¹. They homesteaded in Phelps county Nebraska where she later met and married Tom Shanahan in Jan 1896. Between Dec. 1896 and Feb. 1906 they had 6 children and a farm in Axtell, Phelps, Nebraska. Then tragedy struck. Tom's brother was taking care of their mother in Iowa when he died of peritonitis. This meant Nora Root Shanahan, Tom's mother, would no longer live in Iowa but would move to Nebraska to live with her only surviving son, Tom. Tom Shanahan was in the midst of moving his mother's belongings from Iowa to Nebraska by train. The car with Tom and the belongings were dropped off in Hastings to wait for another line connection the next morning. Sometime during the night, Tom was walking on the train tracks and was struck and killed by a train travelling through Hastings². This left Hanorah Ryan Shanahan with 6 small children. The youngest, my grandmother, Margaret Madeline, was 18 months old. Hanorah (Nora) Ryan was able to hold onto the farm for at least 15 years but did finally lose the farm sometime in the late 1920's. From newspaper coverage by Red Oak, Iowa newspaper "The Sun"³ gave considerable discussion to the events that happened, his survivors and the funeral arrangements. The paper also discussed insurance policies that Thomas Shanahan had with both the Woodmen Lodge in Red Oak Iowa and the Workmen Lodge in Axtell, Nebraska leaving his widow with \$2,000. In today's currency this would be equivalent to \$53,398.

So how did she get by? I would imagine with a lot of sheer grit and determination. Nora also had the help of her family. Like most immigrants, they had all settled in the same county of Phelps Nebraska with some of them on adjacent farms. According to family stories my grandmother, Margaret, who was the youngest at 18 months of age at the time of her father's death went to live with Nora's sister and brother-in-law. Richard and Mary had no children of their own and took

care of her until she attended school. Nora Ryan Shanahan's oldest child, Richard, was only 11 when the accident occurred. In the 1910 census⁴, Nora had a hired hand, Louelle Busnoida, living on the farm. But she must have also relied on her family. Her mother, Mary Ryan, is also shown to be living with her in the 1910 census. But by the 1920 census⁵, she and the 6 children now in their late teens and early 20's are managing without hired help. Hanora's mother, Mary Brazil Ryan, died in 1913⁶ so she is no longer there as well. I am sure they hired short term help for the harvest but beside the seasonal help, they got by on their own. However she did it, Nora got through it. She raised the 6 children and they all went on to have healthy and productive lives with children of their own.



Thomas Edward Shanahan Jr., Hanora Ryan Shanahan and Richard Shanahan

To finish the story, sometime after the 1920 census Nora financially lost the farm. The family story is that in the late 1920's, this happened. By 1930⁷, Nora is living with her son Richard who is renting his farm. By 1940⁸, we find Nora living with her youngest son, Michael. Nora died in 1942, while she had been visiting her youngest daughter when she had a stroke. Since there were twins born to Margaret Shanahan Filbin in Sept. 1941, one can only assume that Nora was at Richard and Margaret Filbin's home to help out. Family helping family seems to have followed Nora her whole life.

¹Ancestry.org; Castle Garden.org; Oct. 20, 1879; ship "Italy"; M237, Roll 420, New York, Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820-1957; image 795 and 802, line 13-21.

²Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn99021999/1907-09-01/ed-1/seq-3/ page3 image 3

³"The Sun" Red Oak, Iowa, Friday, Sept. 6, 1907; vol. XXXI, No. 3; in possession of Julie Gilliland Liu

⁴US census, 1910, Blaine, Kearney, Nebraska; Roll: T624_849; Page 5A-B; Line 47-55. ED: 0138; FHL 1374862

⁵US census, 1920, Blaine, Kearney, NE; Roll: T625_993; Page: 4B; ED: 142.

⁶1913 Death certificate; #8364; Nebraska death certificate

⁷US census, 1930, Blaine, Kearney, Nebraska; Page 1B-2A; ED :0001; FHL microfilm:2341019

⁸US census, 1940, Blaine, Kearney, Nebraska; roll:m-t0627-02251; Page: 4A; ED: 50-1; line 11-12.

My Great-Great-Grandpa got killed by thunder

By Shirley Jean Siems Terry, first L-AGS President through November 1978

We don't get much rain in southern California, but we had hard rains as well as even rarer lightening and really loud thunder one early February morning. When I picked my two youngest grandchildren up from school that day, the first thing 6-year-old Cami said was, "My Great-Great-Grandpa got killed by thunder while sitting on his bed." She also related she had told the story to the lunch lady. (I remembered one really loud clap of thunder at 11:30 and suspect that's what prompted the memory.)

I was flabbergasted! I have no idea when I told her the story but am guessing it was on a drive home from school in a thunder storm in 2017 when we had our last heavy rains. She had the gist of the story correct, but it was her 4th Great-Grandfather John Schernikau who was struck and killed by lightening in his bed. My Grandmother Siems, who was 15 at the time of his death, told me about her Grandfather's death by lightening.

This was only another "family story" until I found this article on the front page of the "Nebraska State Journal" published 23 June 1899. It was found "b.c." (before computers) by searching reels of microfilmed Nebraska newspapers at the Nebraska Historical Society Library in Lincoln while looking for family obituaries. You can't find everything on the internet.



Saline County Farmer Killed While in Bed

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society Presents Gena Philibert-Ortega

WHEN: Monday, July 8th, 2019 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Note: Start time is earlier than usual!

**WHERE: Congregation Beth Emek
3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton**

COST: No Charge - Visitors welcome

***Note:** Gena Philibert-Ortega will present two (2) talks.

1st Topic: Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors

"What's her maiden name?" "What happened to her after her husband died?" "How do I start researching my great-grandmother?" This presenta-

tion will explain techniques, methodology, and resources vital to family history research. Enhance your research skills using a 5-step approach to researching (and finding) female ancestors.

2nd Topic: We're Related to George Washington?: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories

I have them and you have them. In fact, we all have them, that story about our family's brush with greatness. Maybe you're related to Jesse James, or your ancestor was on the Titanic, or

Continue on Page 7

The Search for Etta M. Franks

By Annette Breingan

While researching a friend's family history, I was completely stymied by Etta M. Franks. I found her 10 July 1900 marriage to Julius J. Watson in Sacramento, California. From the 1910 census¹, I knew that she was born around 1882 in California and had three children. Also, her father was born in Missouri and her mother in Maine. In the 1920 census,² Julius J. Watson was listed as a widower and was alone with his two sons. So it seemed that Etta M. had died by 1920.

Because Etta M. Franks was born in the U.S. genealogist's black hole of 1882, the first place I would be able to find her in a census would be in 1900. She married in Sacramento in July of 1900 and the census was in June, so I concentrated my efforts on the Sacramento area. There was no Etta M. Franks to be found! I found an Ella M. Franks born in 1881 but her father, Edmond, was from Tennessee and her life was easy to follow. I found an Edna M. Franks born in 1890 but though her father, Solomon J., was from Missouri, her mother was not from Maine. Edna married a Duffy and died in 1918 in San Francisco. Searching the 1900 census for any Etta M. born circa 1882 did not turn up anything that matched. I was definitely at a brick wall.

So, I turned my attention to the Franks family in general, looking for Franks men born in Missouri and living in the Sacramento area. The only men I found who fit those criteria were some of the sons of the large family of William M. and Mary Franks, who lived in Roseville, Placer County. In fact, I had already come across their sons Edmond and Solomon J. It seemed possible that William M. & Mary Franks were the grandparents of Etta M. but I had no evidence.

William M. Franks was born in South Carolina circa 1813 and his wife Mary (Day) was born in Illinois circa 1814. Their first five children were born in Tennessee and their next four in Missouri. By the 1860 census³, they were living in Placer County, California. William M. Franks died in 1879 in Placer County. I found his widow, Mary, in 1880⁴, living in Roseville with her son, John, her daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and two grandchildren. The most interesting fact was that daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, was born in Maine! I finally had a Franks woman who was born in Maine!

At that point, I researched Elizabeth Franks. There were quite a few family trees for her and she was variously listed as being married to John Franks or to his brother James L. There was no mention anywhere of Etta M. but there was another son, Ernest L. Franks, who was born in 1884. Elizabeth Franks married Francis M. Stephenson in 1891 in Roseville. (A side note is that he was the nephew of her first husband.) It was reported that they had a son, Lee Bud Stephenson, in 1893. I could find Elizabeth and Lee Bud later on but could not find them or Francis M. in 1900. I proceeded to manually search the 1900 census for Roseville, Placer, California, and lo and behold, I discovered Francis M. Stephenson there with nine children who were all listed as his sons and daughters, with their mother born in Maine⁵. In the next family entry⁶, there was Elizabeth G Stephenson, born in Maine, and running a hotel. Most significantly, among the nine children with Francis M. were Lee Bird, Ernest L., and Etta M., all listed as surname Stephenson! Their ages were all off by a few years but I had found Etta M. Franks with her step-father. Ultimately, I found a lot more information and details to support this finding.

Etta's mother Elizabeth G. Young was an interesting woman. She was born in Maine in 1860. I don't know how she ended up in California but she had quite a life there! She married and divorced four times, to James L. Franks, Frederick S. George, Francis M. Stephenson, & Edwin C. Smith. Her first marriage ended in tragedy with the death of their two eldest children due to accidental strychnine poisoning. I finally proved that James L. was her first husband from a newspaper article about the children's deaths⁷. Elizabeth ultimately ended up in Chico, Butte, California as did

¹1910 U.S. Census, Sacramento Ward 4, Sacramento, California, sheet 9, family 200, James J Watson.

²1920 U.S. Census, Sacramento Ward 5, Sacramento, California, sheet 2, family 59, Julius J Watson.

³1860 U.S. Census, Township 1, Placer, California, p. 643 (stamped), family 976, William M Franks.

⁴1880 U.S. Census, Roseville, Placer, California, p. 230 (stamped), family 63, Mary Franks.

⁵1900 U.S. Census, Township 1, ED 56, Placer, California, sheet 3, family 49, Francis M Stephenson.

⁶1900 U.S. Census, Township 1, ED 56, Placer, California, sheet 3, family 50, Eliz G Stephenson.

⁷"Franks, Emily and James William", obituary, *Placer Argus*, Auburn, California, 8 April 1882

<p>Descendants of William Marshall Franks b. 22 Oct 1803, South Carolina d. Nov 1879, Placer, California & Mary Day b. ca 1814, Illinois d. 1 Feb 1893, Placer, California</p>	<p>her sons Ernest L. Franks and Lee Bud Stephenson. She died there in 1953.</p> <p>To complete the story on Etta M. Franks, I searched Sacramento newspapers for her obituary. To my surprise, instead of an obituary I found a series of articles detailing her estrangement and ultimately her divorce from Julius J. Watson⁸. With additional research, I found her second marriage to Dr. Harry R Baird and then her death in 1918 in Sacramento⁹. Interestingly, her youngest child and only daughter, Aunnita May Watson, took the name Baird. That had been a mystery until I found her step-father.</p>		
<p>Elizabeth Franks b. ca 1833, Tennessee d. 7 Sep 1889, Placer, California & Daniel Stephenson b. ca 1818, North Carolina d. 13 Nov 1881, Roseville, Placer, California</p>	<p>Francis Marion Stephenson b. ca 1852, Missouri d. 1 Feb 1937, Tehama, California & Harriet E. Ragain b. ca 1862, Kansas d. bef Apr 1910 m. ca 1879 div. bef Sep 1891 & Elizabeth G Young b. 21 Jan 1860, Maine d. 23 Mar 1953, Chico, Butte, California m. 14 Sep 1891, Roseville, Placer, California</p>	<p>So, in summary, with a lot of careful searching I was able to learn the story of the short life of Etta M. Franks. She was born in Placer, California, in October 1881 to James L. and Elizabeth (Young) Franks. Etta married Julius J. Watson in Sacramento in 1900 and had 3 children with him. They were divorced in 1912 and in 1913 Etta married Dr. Harry R. Baird. They lived in Nicolaus, Sutter, California. In November 1918, Etta died of influenza in a Sacramento hospital at the age of 37. Her life was short but eventful and now her story may be told to her descendants.</p>	
<p>James Lafayette Franks b. Apr 1849, Missouri d. 1930, Newton, Missouri & Elizabeth G Young b. 21 Jan 1860, Maine d. 23 Mar 1953, Chico, Butte, California div. 1886, Sacramento, California & Nancy Jane Poor b. Mar 1864, Missouri d. 16 Aug 1925, Newton, Missouri m. 12 Aug 1888, Granby, Newton, Missouri</p>	<p>James William Franks b. 25 Sep 1877, California d. 31 Mar 1882, Roseville, Placer, California</p>	<p>⁸Sacramento, California, <i>Sacramento Bee</i>, 1911-1912. ⁹"Nicolaus Woman Dies", <i>Sacramento Bee</i>, Sacramento, California, 5 November 1918.</p>	
	<p>Emily Franks b. Nov 1879, California d. 31 Mar 1882, Roseville, Placer, California</p>		
	<p>Etta M Franks b. 11 Oct 1881, California d. 5 Nov 1918, Sacramento, Sacramento, California & Julius Jerome Watson b. 8 Jun 1867, Indiana d. 23 Jan 1954, Sacramento, California m. 10 Jul 1900, Sacramento, California div. 10 Apr 1911, Sacramento, California & Harry Richard Baird b. 24 Dec 1874, NJ d. 8 Nov 1952, Sacramento, Sacramento, California m. 1913, Sacramento, California</p>		<p>Louis Lee Watson b. 10 Apr 1901, California d. 29 Jun 1983, Sacramento, California</p> <p>Archie Arnold Watson b. 29 Jun 1904, California d. 1 Apr 1974, Sacramento, California</p> <p>Aunnita May Watson b. 27 Jul 1906, California d. 27 Apr 1989, Sacramento, Sacramento, California</p>
	<p>Ernest Leslie Franks b. 18 Feb 1884, Roseville, Placer, California d. 20 Apr 1960, Chico, Butte, California & Ida May Morgan b. 20 Jul 1878, California d. 29 Jun 1956, Chico, Butte, California m. 25 Oct 1905, Butte, California</p>		<p><i>Continued from page 5</i></p> <p>you're descended from three brothers who came to America. But is it true? Learn the methodology for proving or disproving that family story.</p> <p>Gena Philibert-Ortega is an author and instructor whose focus is genealogy, social and women's history. She holds Master's degrees in Psychology, Women's Studies and Religion. She has been featured at the National Genealogical Society Conference, the Legacy Family Tree Webinar series, and on the PBS series <i>Genealogy Roadshow</i> and the Travel Channel's <i>Follow Your Past</i>.</p>

Sidney Augustus Northam's Gavel

By Patricia C. Northam, Great-Granddaughter

One of my favorite family heirlooms is the gavel that belonged to my great-grandfather, Sidney Augustus Northam (aka "Gus"). The gavel is hand tooled and has several nicks in the wood.



Gavel of Sidney Augustus Northam, J. P.

Sidney was born in Mississippi on 11 January 1867. He died on 7 December 1937 in Daingerfield, Morris County, Texas. In about 1892 he lived in Wister, Le Flore County, Oklahoma and taught in a one room school there¹. Most of his life, he worked as a farmer in Morris County as noted in the Census records for 1900², 1910³, and 1920⁴. During his lifetime, Sidney studied law as well as being the owner of a small restaurant in Daingerfield.

Sidney Augustus signed as the Justice of the Peace on the marriage record of Myrtle Stanfield and Jimmie A. Fletcher. This occurred in July 1915⁵. Myrtle was the half-sister to Bessie Strickland who married Sidney's son, Wardlow Nugent Northam. Bessie and Wardlow married in 1916, so I wonder if Gus was the Justice of the Peace who married them. Their records burned in a courthouse fire so I'm unable to check the marriage record. As Justice of the Peace, Gus handed out fines to people for hunting without a license, settled minor disputes, and charged for minor offenses.

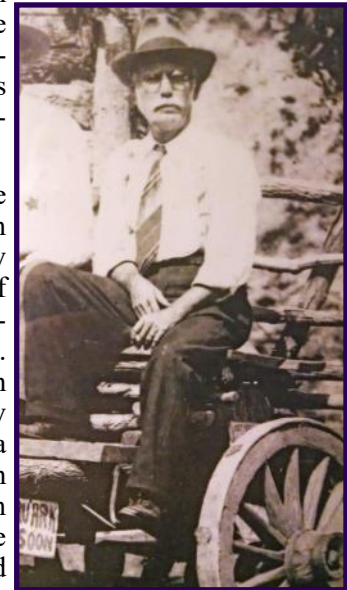
Other documentation showing Gus as a Justice of the Peace was in the 1930 Census⁶ while he was living on Coffey Street in Daingerfield. His 1937 death certificate⁷ indicated he was a retired Justice of the Peace. His gavel was given to Wardlow Northam, his oldest son.

My father, Douglas Northam, was known as "Little Gus" when he was young because he frequently followed his grandfather around. People commented that Doug walked just like Gus. Per-

haps this is why Douglas inherited the gavel after Wardlow passed. It is now in my possession (Patricia C Northam). Douglas said that Jerry Pratt, another grandson to Sidney probably should've received the gavel because he served as a county judge.

One year, Sidney's son Wardlow ran for sheriff so Sidney didn't run for justice of the peace because he didn't want the voters distracted from voting for Wardlow.

Once when Judge Roy Bean was in West Texas, Sidney and his friend Sheriff Ponders were in attendance at a hearing. There had been a gun fight and Judge Roy Bean declared it a suicide rather than charge the one man of murder, because the deceased man had provoked the other man.



Sidney Augustus Northam

¹Letter from Kirleen Jagers Hiatt of Denison, Texas, on 28 March 1996; in possession of Patricia Northam Contents indicated Sidney A Northam was teaching in a one room school about 1892 in Wister, Le Flore, Oklahoma

²1900," FamilySearch.org, S A Northern, Justice Precinct 6, Morris, Texas, United States; citing sheet 6B, family 108, NARA microfilm T623; FHL microfilm 1,241,660

³1910, database with images, FamilySearch; Sidney A Northam, Justice Precinct 6, Morris, Texas; citing enumeration district 114, sheet 2B, family 31, NARA microfilm publication T624 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 1982), roll 1579; FHL microfilm 1,375,592.

⁴1920, familysearch.org, Sidney A Northam, Daingerfield, Morris, Texas, sheet 20A, family 159, NARA microfilm T625, FHL microfilm 1,821,833

⁵Texas, County Marriage Records, 1837-1973, Morris County, Texas, 18 July 1915, database with familysearch.org, GS film 1435332, reference book F p. 78 cn 4644

⁶1930, familysearch.org, Sidney A, Northam, Daingerfield, Morris, Texas, ED 172-1, FHL microfilm 2342112

⁷Texas Deaths, 1890-1976, database with images, FamilySearch, S A Northam, 07 Dec 1937; citing certificate number 62206, State Registrar Office, Austin; FHL microfilm 2,117,400.

My Father and Uncles in World War I

By Frank Geasa

My father Frank X. Geasa, senior, was 1 of 3 brothers who enlisted in the 71st Infantry of the New York National Guard. Edward, the oldest enlisted on June 23, 1916. I have previously written an article on him in Vol. 36, No. 2, May 2016 edition of the Roots Tracer. Paul, the next oldest and my father enlisted in the same unit within days of each other about 1 September 1917. The 71st was incorporated into the 105th Infantry, U.S.A. at Spartanburg, South Carolina on Oct 1,



1917 for training in Spartanburg, South Carolina prior to going overseas. On December 23, 1817 Uncle Ed was transferred to the 102nd Field Signal Battalion and saw combat with that unit serving overseas from May 17, 1918 to March 15, 1919. Uncle Paul and my father served together in Company D, 105th Infantry from May 18, 1918 to October 1, 1918 at which time Paul was severely wounded and evacuated to a hospital in England.

On October 9th my father was transferred to the

Machine Gun Company of the 105th and remained with that unit until his discharge. None of the three ever discussed their experiences in any detail. Except for an occasional casual comment usually in response to someone's question, they were happy knowing they had done their duty to the country. My father's enlistment record shows he served in France and Belgium.

I have 2 pictures of him in uniform. The one, taken during training in Spartanburg shows him as a young 19 year old. The second, taken in St Malo, Brittany, France shows a man more mature beyond the roughly one year that passed until the armistice on



Frank X. Geasa, senior, St Malo, Brittany, France

November 11, 1918. Besides occupation duty until returning home he did manage to do some touring as I have 2 of his souvenirs, a miniature of the iconic Brussels, Belgium Boy statue and a small statue from Mont St-Michel, Normandy, France.

Note: For anyone who might have had someone in the 105th Infantry, a history of the unit including pictures of all it members at inception is available online. It appears to have been digitized by the University of California. <https://archive.org/details/roster105thin-fan00philrich>

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>
9 July- 20 August 1918	East Poperinghe Line	Minor Action
21-30 August 1918	Dickebuch Sector	Minor Action
31 August - 2 September 1918	Vierstraat Ridge	Engagement
27 September 1918	The Knoll, Guillemont Farm, Quennemont Farm	Engagement
29-30 September 1918	Hindenburg Line	Battle
17 October 1918	La Selle	Battle
18 October 1918	Jonc de Mer Ridge	Battle
19-20 October 1918	St. Maurice	Engagement

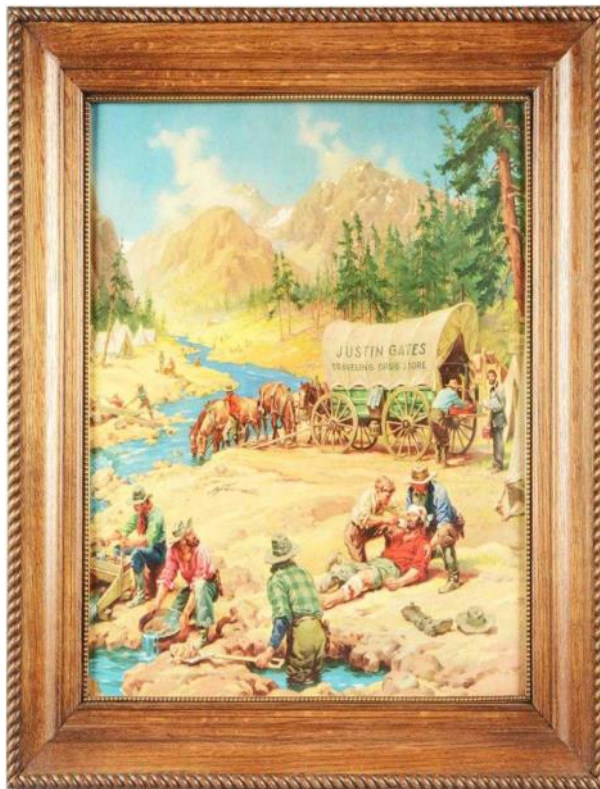
A Letter I wrote to my Granddaughter

By Virginia Decker Loewe

Dear Isabella,

When you told us that you were going to study the California Gold Rush at school, I remembered something that I had not thought of in more than 65 years.

When I was about your age, my father's mother, born Mary Elizabeth Brown, came from her home in Boston to visit us in Chicago. While we were out walking during her visit, we passed a drug store that had a display in its window. It was an advertisement by the drug company, McKesson & Robbins. It was a "diorama" of a man with a covered wagon, from which he was selling medicines to a group of gold prospectors who had collected near his wagon. My grandmother told me that the man with the wagon, who was captioned "Justin Gates," was her great-uncle! She said that he was the younger brother of her grandmother, Julia Gates.



A Man with a Covered Wagon

As I began to look into it, I concluded that Julia Gates (Brown) would have been my great-great-grandmother and so she would be your great-great-great-great-grandmother¹. Julia had three brothers, all of whom became druggists. The oldest was Justin who grew up in Rochester, New York², and when the exciting news of the discovery of gold near Sacramento reached the East Coast, Justin collected medicines to take with him to California³. He did not travel overland as many did, but instead took a steamship from the port of New York to the town of Chagas on the eastern side of the Isthmus of Panama. At that time the Panama Canal had not been built and it was necessary to leave your ship and travel overland by mule through miles of dangerous jungle which harbored malaria and yellow fever mosquitoes and poisonous snakes. If you managed to survive the trip through the jungle, you would be able to board another ship on the west side of the Isthmus. Sometimes there was a long wait for a ship that might be sailing to San Francisco. (Another route he might have taken was from New York to San Francisco by clipper ship down the coast of South America, through the Straits of Magellan, but it was a more than four months sea voyage.)

It has been calculated that more than 25,000 persons made these sea voyages to reach the gold fields, and many died along the way from unhealthy conditions on board their ship, and other hardships. Many of those rushing to find gold in California met sad endings. Most did not even realize that if they arrived safely in San Francisco, they still had 150 miles to travel inland to reach the American river where gold had been discovered.

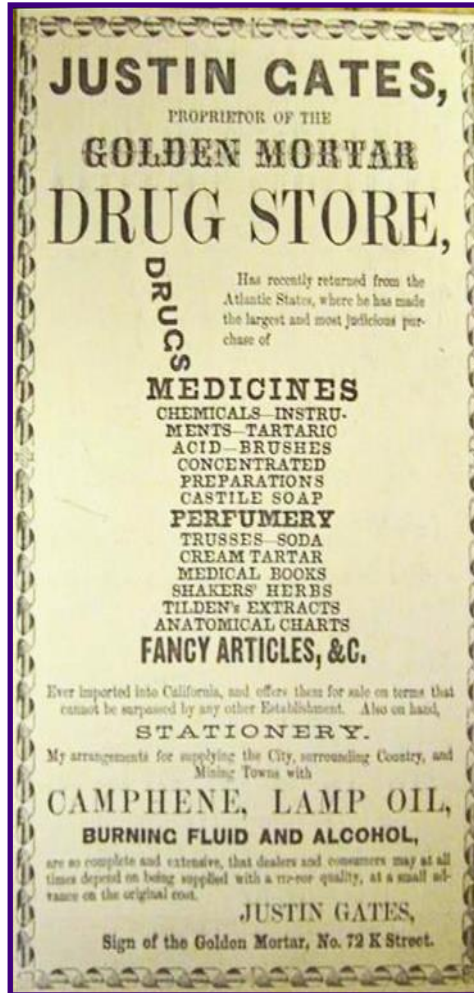
These "gold miners" who arrived by ship were called "Argonauts," probably because of the

¹Justin GATES Jr. is the 4th great-granduncle of Isabella Jolie MILLER.

²California State Library - Sacramento Co. Sacramento, California, Pioneer Index File (1906-1934); A-Z. Sacramento, California: California State Library.

³Justin Gates, age 39, 1866, residence: Sacramento, California; California State Library, California History Section; Great Registers, 1866-1898; Collection Number: 4-2A; CSL Roll Number: 34; FHL Roll Number: 977088

Lineage from Isabella Jolie Miller to Justin Gates Jr.	
Mary Ellen Loewe m: Matthias Robert Miller	
William Edward Loewe Jr. m: Audrey Virginia Decker	
Leon Adrian Decker b: 08 Dec 1903 Cape Girardeau, Missouri d: 25 Oct 1981 Chicago, Cook, Illinois m: 12 Oct 1929 Chicago, Cook, Illinois Audrey Beryl Crawford b: 14 Feb 1904 Richmond, Virginia d: 26 Jun 1989 Livermore, Alameda, California	
Leon Elwood Decker b. 17 Mar 1873 Adrian Township, Lenawee, Michigan d: 13 Jan 1904 Cape Girardeau, Missouri m: 23 Jan 1901 Adrian, Lenawee, Michigan Mary Elizabeth Brown b: 23 Nov 1876 Tecumseh, Lenawee, Michigan d: 25 Jul 1970 Roxbury, Suffolk, Massachusetts	
Millard Pease Brown b: 10 Jul 1848 Rochester, Monroe, New York d: 31 Jul 1899 Tecumseh, Lenawee, Michigan m: 16 Dec 1874 Tecumseh, Lenawee, Michigan Gertrude Ann Helm b: 03 Sep 1850 Tecumseh, Lenawee, Michigan d: 24 Dec 1913 Adrian Township, Lenawee, Michigan	
John Champlin Brown b: 19 Oct 1814 Rochester, Monroe, New York d: 06 Aug 1866 Raisin Township, Lenawee, Michigan m: 01 Sep 1847 Rochester, Monroe, New York Julia Gates b: 10 Oct 1824 Livonia, Ontario, New York d: ??	
Justin Gates, Sr. b: abt. 1797 Otsego County, New York d: 03 Jan 1869 Mendon, Monroe, New York m: 18 Jan 1819 Livonia, Ontario, New York Elizabeth Pease b. 13 Jan 1800 Sandisfield, Berkshire, Massachusetts d: 30 Jan 1848 Rochester, Monroe, New York	Offspring
	Mary Gates b: abt. 1820
	Julia Gates b: 10 Oct 1824 Ontario, New York d: ??
	Justin Gates Jr. b: 1827 Rochester, New York d: 1888 San Francisco
	Daniel V. Gates b: 1828 Rochester d: 1878 Leadville, Colorado
	James H. Gates b: Jan 1837 Mendon d: 1913 Monterey, California



Drug Store Advertisement

Greek myth of Jason who traveled by a ship, the Argos, looking for the Golden Fleece. His crew members were called The Argonauts.

Justin Gates and his brothers prospered from their adventure— certainly more than most of persons who came looking for gold did. By 1855, Justin was no longer in the gold fields but was settled in Sacramento⁴, owning two drug stores and selling the various items which are listed in an advertisement for his business.

Justin married a girl from New York, Elizabeth Van Duesen, in 1858⁵, and later

moved to San Francisco where he again set up a drugstore as did his younger brother, James Henry Gates. The third brother, Daniel Virgil Gates, was also a druggist. Perhaps they got into this business because their father was a physician.

With love, Grandma Loewe

⁴Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. Images reproduced by FamilySearch.

⁵California State Library; Sacramento, California; Sacramento County, California, Pioneer Index, File (1906-z 934), A-Z; California History Room: MIC1W film 734; Roll Number: 43

My Great-Great-Grandmother, Bridget Agnes Lyster

By Andi Winters

My great-great-grandmother, Bridget Agnes Lyster, was born in County Roscommon, Ireland on January 6, 1836. On September 20, 1839, along with her parents, Lawrence and Sarah Lyster and two siblings, Bridget boarded the ship Crusader and sailed to Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. Thirteen years later, the family again emigrated and arrived in San Francisco in 1852 finally settling in Dublin a few years later.

Agnes, as she was known, died in Stockton January 23, 1917. The following is the obituary that ran in the local paper:¹

Pioneer Woman is Dead

Demise Recalls Interesting Episodes of Early Days

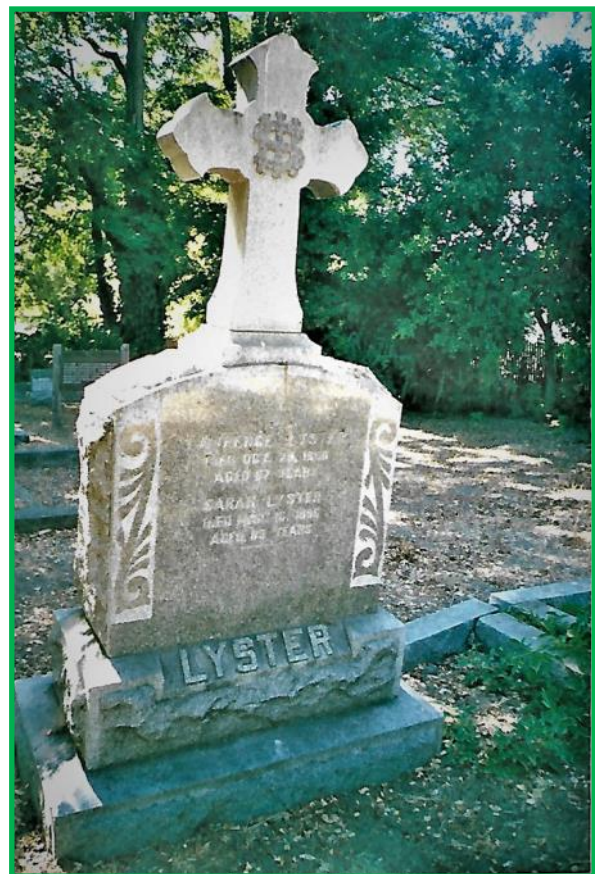
"In the passing of Mrs. B. Agnes McLaughlin in Stockton, Cal., on the twenty-third day of January last, California has lost one more early settler and pioneer. Coming to San Francisco in 1852, the McLaughlin's engaged in business there for a few years, later locating in Amador Valley and finally in Alisal, afterwards renamed Pleasanton. They ran the first post office, conducted the first hotel and general merchandise store. Active in all matters pertaining to the improvement and progress of the town, they erected an adobe building in the center, at a cost of seven thousand dollars, the contractor and builder being obliged to haul all the material from what was then known as Robert's Landing beyond Hayward, through the Dublin canyon, thence to Alisal. At the comple-



Bridget Agnes McLaughlin

tion of same a grand ball was given, the musicians officiating for the occasion being the famous blind orchestra composed of Messrs. Smith, Fuller, Wood and Walker, of San Francisco. A sumptuous repast was served, and the attendance was large from all over the county and will no doubt be remembered by the friends of by-gone days. Their hospitality and generosity was a matter of comment.

The coming of the Central Pacific railroad was heralded as one great event and meant so much to the people that along with others the McLaughlin's donated one hundred feet of land on each side of the tracks for a distance of six hundred feet to assist the great project. Holding big interests in the sheep industry of those days and when things were into its height, by that unknown fate, that none can define, the great drought of 1870 turned the tide of affairs and the McLaughlin's lost heavily. Later disposing of the town posses-



Lyster grave marker, Dublin Cemetery



Four generations with my dad Andrew Larson, taken at Laurel, California approximately 1906: Seated, Mabel Larson holding her son, Andrew, Standing, Bernard McLaughlin, seated on right Bridget Agnes McLaughlin

sions, Mrs. McLaughlin purchased property on the north side of the Hearst Ranch below town, selling it a few years after to go to Fresno county thereby severing the last link of many associations of Pleasanton.

Mrs. McLaughlin was a sister of the late Mrs. M. Lavin of Hayward and L.M. Lyster of Pleasanton. Four children survive her, Mrs. A

Lawrence Lyster to Andrea Larson

Lawrence Lyster b. 1793, Ireland d. 1860, Dublin, Alameda, California m. Sarah Moran b. 1814, Roscommon, Ireland d. 1896, Dublin, Alameda, California
Bridget Agnes Lyster b. 1836, Roscommon, Ireland d. 1917, Stockton, San Joaquin, California m. Bernard McLaughlin b. 1826, Ireland d. 1904, San Francisco, California
Bernard Lewis McLaughlin b. 1862, Half Way House, Pleasanton, Alameda, California d. 1938, Stockton, San Joaquin, California m. Louise Belle Moore b. 1868, Sebastopol, Sonoma, California d. 1890, Sanger, Fresno, California
Mabel Agnes McLaughlin b. 1889, Fresno, California d. 1953, Santa Cruz, California m. Hugo Levi Larson b. 1880, Vedby Krist, Kristianstad, Sweden d. 1950, San Jose, Santa Clara, California
Andrew Bernard Larson b. 1905, Astoria, Clatsop, Oregon d. 1975, San Jose, California m. 11 November 1946, San Francisco, California Lois Katherine Jones b. 1916, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake, Utah d. 2005, Eugene, Lane, Oregon
Andrea Lois Larson

Gandolfo of Seattle, Mrs. H. A. Howes of San Francisco, Bernard and Eugene McLaughlin of Stockton.

The body was interred in the family plot in Dublin.²”

¹I never was able to find the source of the newspaper article but I would guess it's from the Pleasanton News.

²Lyster grave marker, Dublin Cemetery

FAMILY REUNION 2018

By Leora Frise

Our family reunion last year consisted of the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Harold Frise, 1928-1985, and Lois, 1928-2009. The family groups of their four descendants were: #1 Mrs. (Michael) Leora Frise, 1 son, with wife, and 2 grandsons; #2 Duane and wife, Sue, 2 sons with wives, and 2 grandchildren; #3 Mark and wife Mary, 3 daughters with husbands, and 5 grandchildren; and last but not least #4 Marcia and husband Jim, 2 daughters with one husband, and 1 grandchild.

Starting in 2009 with a wedding in Denver, which Lois attended, we have had 8 weddings, through 2016 with a wedding in the Washington State capitol building, attended by 15 members of the Frise family. Although not everyone attended every wedding, these were very enjoyable family gath-

erings, so we were due for another reunion.

We decided that it would take place in Midway, Wasatch Co., Utah from June 28 through July 1, 2018. Several family activities were planned and we were on our way. Marcia kept us updated with a group e-mail to everyone as things developed. Planning started around October 2017 when Mark and Marcia met to initiate the preparations.

Most of us arrived in Midway before Thursday June 28 so an evening with deserts made by Marcia was prearranged. It ended up being at the Best Western Plus Inn in Midway, Utah. We had a conference room with a soft floor covering, which was great with 6 children under 6 running around, and they sure took advantage of it. Of our group, 22 people traveled by air and 9 arrived



Frise Family Reunion - June 2018

by car. Several did not arrive until Friday morning.

For Friday morning they reserved a pony for the little ones and horses for 6 adults. The pony was enjoyed by the 5 and 3 year old girls, and the 18 month old boy, but 2 boys of about 2 were not having anything to do with that pony. It was led around by 2 girls, probably of high school age.

That evening, after fighting traffic, we were all late to the dinner. They had reserved a spot in a public park in Midway, Utah for our gathering. Marcia had divided the menu so that we only had to bring something once for the two meals. Dinner was tacos or salad, fixed either way. A trivia quiz was the entertainment, which included questions about the four siblings. We were divided into four groups, headed by spouses with a member from each family in each group.

On Saturday afternoon, a Heber Valley train ride was planned. We all sat in the same car to visit and take pictures. It was a delightful trip with bandits arriving along the way. They ended up entertaining us with songs and music. We were on the last car and everyone enjoyed looking out the back door, especially the children.

That evening we gathered again for a picnic dinner. The weather was great and we all enjoyed being together. The activity was naming the songs, that Marcia had pre recorded by singers of music popular when each, Marcia, Mark, Duane and Michael graduated from high school. Our group did not do too well and I knew nothing so that did not help. The four groups were the same as the prior day. It was fun. Everyone bought something for the dinners, but it was planned so that we only had one dinner for which to bring something.

The next day they planned a brunch to end our reunion. Most of us started our trips home after brunch.

There were several enjoyable locations in the Salt Lake City, Midway and Park City areas. There is the Salt Lake City Zoo which was a fun place; a museum in Park City, showing the early mines and skiing; a Nature museum also in Salt Lake City; and a museum in Park city showing the Olympic area and a visitor's center

Reunions are fun and it is great to renew friendships. We had family come from Washington, California, Colorado and Pennsylvania. You should try a reunion for your family.

Last full-blooded Icelander in the family

By Ileen Peterson

Here is a great lady I met on line after my aunt died and the cousins and I decided to keep my aunt's genealogy research going.

My dad's cousin, Elinor Benson Stanley, was the last full-blooded Icelander in the family. She did family research and when she was 86 her grown children and grandchildren called her their "On Line Grandma." (I didn't really know her very long because she died in 2003, but we exchanged a lot of information in a couple of years and she connected me with a cousin who has at least 15,000 in his tree and is now adding to FindAGrave.com.) Her obit mentioned that she served in the U.S. Army's 29th General Hospital Corps during WWII. She worked as a dietician at a VA hospital until she retired in 1978.

The DAR joined the nation in celebration of opera singer Marian Anderson's historic concert at Lincoln Memorial on April 9, 1939, the first

time the memorial was used as a national stage. Anderson had offered to sing in the DAR Constitution Hall but could not because a policy at that time only allowed white artists to perform in the auditorium. Our family story is that my grandmother dropped out of the DAR in protest against that policy.

Name:	Elinor Joy Stanley
Maiden Name:	Benson
Birth Date:	17 Mar 1918
Birth Place:	Minnesota
Death Date:	8 Dec 2003
Death Place:	Roanoke, Roanoke City, Virginia
Cemetery:	Sherwood Burial Park

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton
Visitors are always welcome.

Saturday June 8, **NOON** – 4 p.m. LDS Family History Center, 950 Mocho Street, Livermore. Entrance is in the front of the building on the right. There is a sign on the door.

Seminar: Working Together to Find those Stubborn Ancestors

Monday July 8, **7:00** p.m. **Note: Start time is earlier than usual!**

Gina Philbert-Ortega—Topics:

Her Name was Not Unknown: Finding Female Ancestors **AND**

We're Related to George Washington?: Proving (or Disproving) Family Stories

Monday August 12, 7:30 p.m.

Bill Hewitt

Restoring and Documenting an Old Cemetery

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 2301g.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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