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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

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

Membership Report

July, 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 July 8, 2019; 111 memberships and 131 Members

Meeting News

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

The L-AGS Writing Group — 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: For location contact TV-TMG Chair (Duncan Tanner) tvtnmg.chair@L-AGS.org; TV-TMG Forum tvtnmg.group@L-AGS.org

[L-AGS.org](http://www.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 1–4 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

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President's Message

We recently had a workshop to help fellow researchers break through their brick walls. The Livermore Mocho LDS stake graciously gave us a large room and tables to spread out into smaller groups. Sue Davis, Tom Mathews and I happily supplied lots of goodies. We used the WiFi, asked questions, and collaborated on other's research and offered suggestions and ideas. Most people stayed the entire 4 hours. The FHC was well supplied with Ancestry, American Ancestors, the Portal, Fold 3, My Heritage, Godfrey Memorial Library, Newspaper Archive, World Vital Records and Find My Past. Some of the fellow researchers were able to find at least one more generation back in their search. One gentleman found several baptismal records in Germany from the 1800's. He has been back to the FHC several times and found even more German records. One of our board members was able to find at least two more generations and where her ancestor came into the United States. We had about 24-26 researchers there that afternoon. Some of our dedicated L-AGS members who were there to help out were **Duncan Tanner, Sue Davis, Patrick Lofft, Dick and Jean Leche, Tom Mathews** and of course **Sandy Clark, Louise Throop and George Fulton** who are regular volunteer docents at the FHC. This workshop would not have been successful without all of these L-AGS members. If L-AGS does another one, I hope you will be able to join us. Some of us were there to help others with their research and found help ourselves.

We have lost a couple of members lately. One of them was Kay Speaks. Kay has moved back to the Central Valley to be closer to her family. She was a genealogical force to be reckoned with. In addition to being an acknowledged authority on Chinese research for our L-AGS community, she also kept L-AGS apprised of free websites, new websites and other internet type activities. I would love to find someone else that would be interested in doing that. If you think that is something that you could do, please talk to me about it.

We have also had two of our L-AGS members pass away. DeLynn Clark had been a L-AGS member since 1991 and had extensively researched the Wyoming area. Arnie Koslow passed away June 30th. Arnie had only been a member for 3 years but was a library docent and the membership coordinator since January 2019. Our hearts and prayers go with the family members of both DeLynn and Arnie. May they have the strength to deal with this loss.

Have you been able to spend any time doing your genealogy? Mine goes in fits and starts. There are never enough hours in the day for everything I need to do. Recently, I have been working on a dear friend's genealogy. I had done her mother's line a while ago and she was so delighted that I offered to research her step-father's line. I know it is her step-father and wouldn't provide her with eligibility in any organizations like DAR but it was the only father she knew. I was able to get back fairly easily to the early 1800's and as luck would have it, her step-father's ancestor was the first to settle Princeton, Maine. So of course a book was written about him and his neighbors. I found the book had been scanned on FamilySearch.org. It further disclosed the line back to 1654 when the first ancestor set foot in the Massachusetts Colony. So **this is my reminder** to you, be sure to check the books section under each search feature.

When you are doing your searches, are you looking in the search section under books? <https://www.familysearch.org/library/books/> , <https://books.google.com/> , https://web.archive.org/web/*/books

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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!

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The Parks Sisters of Danbury Iowa

By Donna Toole

During the late 1890's and early 1900's, four of my great aunts were seamstresses and milliners in northwest Iowa. From a family of 14 children, these ladies were four of nine girls! Their father was a farmer, who also shelled corn for neighboring farms, and was a lay preacher. The Parks girls had a shop in Danbury, Woodbury County, Iowa. They were Lydia Olive Parks (called Ollie), Lotta Luella Parks (called Lottie), Josephine Ornettie Parks (called Nettie) and Elizabeth Mae (called Mae). These four great aunts were born between 1872 and 1879 and were always impeccably dressed as shown in family photos.

The following is a quote from one of their nieces about Ollie: "As a young lady she did work as a seamstress before her marriage. It is my belief that Olive, Nettie and Mae had a shop in Danbury

as a seamstress, dressmaker and a milliner (hat maker). After marriage she lived in Remsen, Iowa and was a wonderful homemaker and did beautiful needle work for the rest of her life. One of my treasures is a pair of pillow cases she gave us for our wedding gift."

A reprint of *The History of Danbury* by Viola Dimig provides the following information:

"The Platting of Danbury

Richard Henry Loucks, Danbury's first druggist came in 1878. He built a two-story wooden structure with balcony on Main St. The Loucks family lived in the upstairs rooms for a number of years. Mr. Loucks bought a half-block (Crilly home lot) and built a new home there soon after the family came to Danbury. The second story of



Lotta "Lottie" Luella Parks
1879-1911



Josephine Ornettie "Nettie" Parks
1874-1923



Elizabeth Mae "Mae" Parks 1877-1957



Lydia Olive "Ollie" Parks 1872-1942

the drug store was then used as dress making rooms by the Parks sisters, Mae and Olive.”

<http://www.danbury-ia.com/~review/history%20of%20danbury/index.php>

From the same niece is this statement about Nettie: “Nettie was a talented dress maker and served with her sisters in Danbury before her marriage. She continued to sew for many in the Correctionville¹ area and helped in the millinery in Correctionville for some time.”

About Mae, the niece wrote: “Mae was taller than most of her sisters, had dark hair and blue eyes. She, too, was a dressmaker and worked in a shop in Danbury with her sisters before her marriage.”

Many of the women in my Parks family were cursed with asthma or lung disorders. The girls/great aunts’ mother’s obituary states she died “due to asthma, with other complications.” She was only 69. Ollie was 70 when she died; I don’t know the cause of death. Nettie died at age 48 after four years of failing health. Her obituary does not say whether it was a lung issue. Lottie died at age 31, but that was because of a horrible, horrible accident where she was hit by a train. My mother carried an asthma spray contraption with the squeeze bulb at the end as long as I can remember. I seem to have avoided that, mostly by moving away from the farm and our cows.

Since the late 90’s I have been searching for James Galloway Parks the grandfather of these ‘Parks girls’. He was born in 1791. The 1850 and 1860 census reports for Indiana say he was born in Virginia, which I suspect is now West Virginia. Newspapers were sparse on the frontier in Indiana when he migrated there from Ohio around 1829-1832, so I have not found anything on his death or his burial place – along with his 2nd or possibly 3rd wife, my great-great-grandmother.

¹You might wonder about the town’s name “Correctionville.” Woodbury County is located on the western border of Iowa. From Wikipedia is the following information: “Correctionville is a city in Woodbury County, Iowa, United States. It is part of the Sioux City, IA–NE–SD Metropolitan Statistical Area. The population was 821 at the 2010 census. The town name comes from the original survey of the town. Correctionville has been noted for its unusual place name. It is supposedly the longest single-word place name in the state of Iowa.” Under the heading “History” is the following: “Correctionville was platted in 1855. It was so named from its location on a surveyors’ correction line. A post office called Correctionville has been in operation since 1862.”

Lineage - Isaac James Parks - Donna Faye Dempster Toole
Isaac James Parks b. 08 Dec 1849 Randolphe [sic], Indiana d. 26 Feb 1904 Liston, Woodbury, Iowa m. 20 Feb 1869 Nottingham, Wells, Indiana Mary Catharine Ortman b. 03 Sep 1851 Fairfield, Butler, Ohio d. 26 Feb 1921 Remsen, Plymouth, Iowa
Lydia Olive “Ollie” Parks b. 26 Aug 1872 Dexter, Dallas, Iowa d. 08 Apr 1942 Tampa, Hillsborough, Florida m. 30 Nov 1902 Woodbury County, Iowa Ambrose Jermann Josephine Ornettie “Nettie” Parks b. 27 Nov 1874 Dexter, Dallas, Iowa d. 20 Jan 1923 Correctionville, Woodbury, Iowa m. 28 Feb 1897 Danbury, Woodbury, Iowa Albert “Bert” Allen Watson Elizabeth Mae “Mae” Parks b. 31 May 1877 Redfield, Dallas, Iowa d. 1 Jun 1957 Battle Creek, Ida, Iowa m. 23 Sep 1905 Woodbury County, Iowa Thomas Stockton Virtue Lotta “Lottie” Luella Parks b. 04 Feb 1879 Dexter, Dallas, Iowa d. 12 Jan 1911 Correctionville, Woodbury, Iowa m. 22 Feb 1898 Danbury, Woodbury, Iowa Frank M. Stamper Arthur James Parks b. 31 Aug 1883 Shelby, Shelby, Iowa d. 01 Aug 1944 Sioux City, Woodbury, Iowa m. 03 Jul 1907 Neligh, Antelope, Nebraska Bessie Mae Phelps
Pauline Vesta Parks b. 17 Mar 1920 America, Plymouth, Iowa d. 19 Oct 1999 Remsen, Plymouth, Iowa m. 17 Mar 1938 Le Mars, Plymouth, Iowa Lowell Burrill Dempster
Donna Faye Dempster Toole b. Le Mars, Plymouth, Iowa

My Maternal Great-Grandfather-Frank M. Stanze, Both a Lawmaker and a Lawbreaker

By Gene R Block

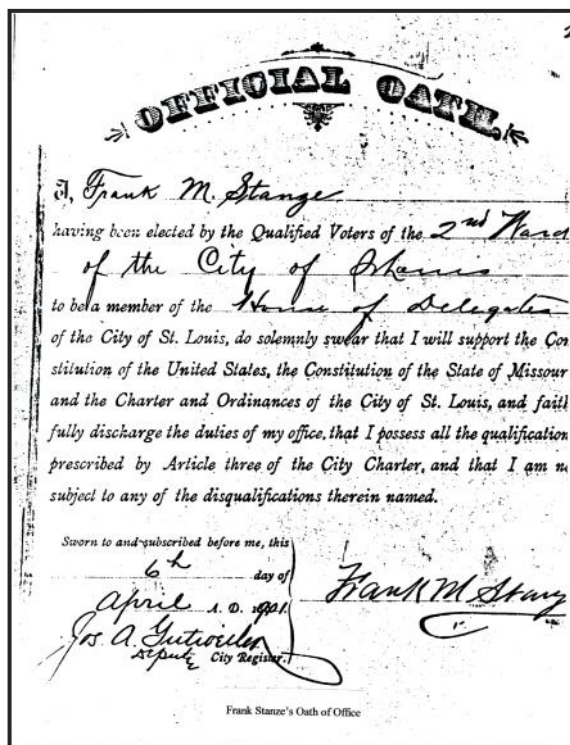
I started doing genealogy in the mid 1970's when both my parents were still alive. I knew all four of my grandparents. So, I quizzed my parents about their grandparents, my great grandparents. My mother knew the names of all four of her grandparents. She did not know the names or have any information about any of her great grandparents. She told me her paternal grandfather was Frank M. Stanze. She had no memory of him as he passed away before she was two years old. Besides his name, she remembered two other things about him. One was that he had been a grocer. The other thing she knew was that the family cemetery plot was located in Bellefontaine Cemetery in north St. Louis. The information regarding the cemetery where her grandfather was buried turned out to be the key to everything I have discovered about Frank Stanze's life.

I called the cemetery and was told that Frank passed away on September 25, 1913. The next time I was in St. Louis I obtained a copy of his death certificate. From this record I learned that his father's name was Franz M. Stanze. Frank's daughter, Marjorie, who provided the information for the death certificate did not know the name of Frank's mother, her paternal grandmother.

I also noticed something very unusual on the death certificate. It was that Frank's place of death was in Room 419 in the St. Louis City Hall. As I thought about this, it occurred to me that someone dying in the City Hall was not a daily occurrence and therefore there might be an article in one of the local newspapers about this event.

When I searched the newspapers published in St. Louis at the time of Frank's death, I found three articles about this incident. However, these articles were not published because of where Frank passed away. Instead they were published because Frank Stanze had, at one time, been an elected official in St. Louis, a fact I did not know. When I showed these articles to my mother, her response was, "Oh yes, I remember now, my mother told me that my grandfather had been active in politics."

One of the articles mentioned that Frank had been elected to St. Louis City's House of Delegates in 1896. Two of the articles mentioned the district he was elected to represent in the House of Delegates.



Frank Stanze's Oath of Office

It is interesting to note that neither of these two articles had all the correct information as to either the date of his election or the district he represented. I was able to later verify that he was elected in April 1901 to represent the Second Ward in the House of Delegates.

Interestingly, Frank ran as a Republican and was elected in a Democratic city. This happened because the loser in the Democratic primary bolted the Democratic Party and ran as an independent in the April general election, which split the Democratic vote and allowed Frank Stanze to win the election by 153 votes. The two losing candidates together received 2267 votes, compared to Frank's 1620 votes. Yet Frank was the one elected.

Since I have never found anyone in the family who has a picture of Frank Stanze, I went down to the St. Louis City Hall to see if they might have one. Unfortunately, they didn't have a picture, but they did provide me with a copy of his Oath of Office which he had signed. Over the next several years I was able to find information



Map of Second Ward

about Frank’s time in office, such as the committees he served on, legislation he introduced, how he voted on controversial items, etc.

Then on a later trip to St. Louis I spent a day at the Headquarters branch of the St. Louis County Library, located in Frontenac. I learned that they had recently acquired a computer program of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which was “key word” searchable for the years 1882-1922. When I entered Frank Stanze’s name into the computer program I discovered that his name appeared in the newspaper a number of times involving issues not related to his duties as an elected official. Several of the articles were reports on incidents Frank was involved in that were very interesting, but not at all complementary. Not surprisingly, none of these incidents ever came down as family stories.

On February 13, 1889, there was an article in the Post-Dispatch about Frank being arrested when “an exciting raid was made by police last night on a gambling den” which was a poker room located on the second floor above Koerner’s Restaurant. After the police raided the card room, one officer was stationed at the door to keep anyone from leaving while the other officer went to summon “the wagon.” Frank Stanze, who in the article was described as “an eminently respectable merchant in the northern part of the city” decided to try and escape before the police returned to take the gamblers to the police station. He attempted to escape to the first floor by jumping on the dumb waiter

Lineage for Frank Stanze

Frank Stanze

b. 1850 Saint Louis, Missouri

d. 1913 Saint Louis, Missouri

m. 1881 Denver, Colorado

Marie Stuart

b. 1859 Leith, Midlothian, Scotland

d. 1933 Saint Louis, Missouri

Fred Stanze

b. 1884 Saint Louis, Missouri

d. 1948 Saint Louis, Missouri

m. 1908 Waterloo, Monroe, Illinois

Cecelia Kipping

b. 1886 Saint Louis, Missouri

d. 1965 Richmond Heights, Saint Louis, Missouri

Janice Stanze

b. 1912 Saint Louis, Missouri

d. 1994 Creve Coeur, Saint Louis, Missouri

m. 1936 Saint Louis, Missouri

Raymond Block

b. 1912 Saint Louis, Missouri

d. 2007 Chesterfield, Saint Louis, Missouri

which was used to bring food and drinks to those in the card room on the second floor from the restaurant below. The article stated that his decision turned out to be “most disastrous to Stanze” as he tore off the kneecap on one of his legs.” The following morning it was reported by the police that in addition he had broken one of his legs “and he would be laid up for some time.” Incredibly, with all his injuries, the police did not take him directly to a hospital, but instead he was taken directly to a police station where he was required to post bond. He was then taken home by a horse drawn “ambulance.” In 1889 the streets in north St. Louis were not smooth, but were cobblestone. It must have been a very painful ride for someone with his injuries on the cobblestone streets. Once he arrived home he had to face his wife who was from Scotland and who, according to my mother, was very tight fisted with money. I suspect she did not approve of Frank’s gambling. I think it is safe to say, that all things considered, Frank did

not have a very good day!

By February 8, 1892 Frank was no longer a grocer but had become a saloon keeper. It is not known if he switched his occupation from a grocer to a saloon keeper as a result of his injuries trying to avoid being arrested several years before. Whatever the reason he had switched occupations, his name appeared in the newspaper for operating "an unlicensed saloon."

On April 16, 1909, after he was no longer an elected official, there was again an article about Frank Stanze in the Post-Dispatch. This time he was accused of opening his saloon on Election Day, April 6th. St. Louis at the time had an ordinance that saloons could not be open on election days before the polls closed.

The police officers who arrested Frank stated that at first Frank refused to open the locked door to admit them, but finally did so. They testified that after they were admitted they discovered "little round circles of beer on the bar and wet places in the sawdust covering the floor." The paper reported that their testimony "was considered as strong as that in many cases where licenses were revoked." The Commissioner who heard the case told Frank, "I want to tell you that the little profit you make by thus violating the law will not justify you in risking your license and that however unpopular the Sunday closing law and the Election Day closing law may be with you saloon keepers, the laws are going to be enforced strictly." He then rendered his decision in this case. Case dismissed!

One of the articles that appeared in the Post-Dispatch at the time of his death stated that he had been working for the City of St. Louis as a street inspector for the past seven months. Just exactly what background someone who had been a grocer and a saloon keeper had to qualify as a street inspector is questionable. I suspect he obtained his position through contacts he had made when serving in the House of Delegates some years before. One of the committees he

served on while in office had oversight responsibilities for city streets. It was probably through contacts that he made at that time which allowed him to be hired as a street inspector.

The morning of his death when he arrived for work at City Hall, one of his co-workers asked him how he felt. Frank replied, "Fine, fine. I never felt better in my life." The paper reported that he barely finished speaking those words when he raised his hands to his head and exclaimed, "Oh my head. How my head hurts", and he fell to the floor. When physicians arrived several minutes later they pronounced him dead. His body was taken to the City Morgue where an autopsy was performed.

Earlier in the article I mentioned that I have never been able to acquire a picture of Frank Stanze. However, from the Coroner's Report I discovered he had grey hair and grey eyes. He was 5' 6" tall and weighed approximately 250 pounds. At that weight, it is no wonder that the dumb waiter he jumped on trying to evade being arrested by the police in 1889 crashed to the ground. He weighed far more than a dumb waiter was designed to carry. And from the police report of the incident when he collapsed in City Hall, I know what personal items he had on him when he died, including \$1.57 cents in cash.

From the information I have located about this maternal great grandfather, it appears he led a colorful and eventful life, though not always complying with all local rules, regulations, and laws. Many of us who trace our family's history discover ancestors who did things in their lifetimes that can make us cringe or be a bit uncomfortable. But that should not stop us from tracing our ancestor's lives. We never know what we are going to discover. And whether the information turns out to be good or bad, it is part of our family's history and it deserves to be documented and preserved.

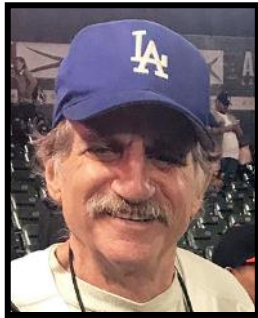


Line of Men Seen at the Bar In Frank Stanze's Place Election Day.

In Memoriam

Arnold Koslow

September 18, 1946 – June 30, 2019



Arnie served L-AGS as the Membership chairperson prior to his diagnosis. Arnie enjoyed researching family genealogy, and took many trips with his wife, Nancy, tracking down family history in graveyards and historical libraries. The time they shared and the memories made on these trips can never

be forgotten. After retirement and at the urging of his wife he joined L-AGS and assisted many researchers as a volunteer genealogy docent at the Pleasanton Library.

Arnold “Arnie” Koslow was born in Brooklyn, New York, to parents Irving and Rose Koslow. He attended City University of New York and Brooklyn College, and had a 48-year career with General Electric/GE Nuclear Energy before retiring.

Arnie enjoyed everything family-related, from coaching his daughters in softball and watching them dance when they were young, to being right there supporting them when his girls became horse crazy. He learned how to saddle a horse and stack hay. When they decided to raise livestock, he earned the nickname “The Brooklyn Cowboy.”

After being in a family primarily of women, Arnie finally got his buddy and best friend when his grandson was born. Arnie loved talking sports history and traveling with him to spring training, visiting Coopers-town and the Basketball Hall of Fame. He was his grandson’s #1 fan and attended as many games as possible.

Arnie was the host of all hosts and loved having all of his family over for holidays. His door was always open to family, friends, neighbors and sometimes strangers. He was always kind and always lent a helping hand. He led by example and is the true definition of a Good Man!

Arnie is survived by the love of his life and best friend Nancy, with whom he recently celebrated

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DeLynn Clark

January 03, 1941 - June 16, 2019



DeLynn Clark had been a L-AGS member since around 1991. In his genealogy pursuits DeLynn investigated his ancestral family records of Star Valley, formerly Salt River Valley, Lincoln County, Wyoming.

He had traced his maternal line (Call) to 1630 and his paternal line (Clark) to 1637 in America. DeLynn had a voracious intellectual appetite, always interested in learning more. As such, he read a tremendous number of books and watched countless instructional or documentary videos during his lifetime. For fun and relaxation, DeLynn read westerns especially those written by Louis L'Amour.

DeLynn graduated from Utah State University in June 1963, moved to Livermore, California and promptly began his career at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory the subsequent month following his successful interview with Dr. Edward Teller. Early during his employment DeLynn earned his Masters in mathematics and physics at the University of California, Davis. His employment with L Division often necessitated testing in the desert near Socorro, New Mexico, on what was then the USAAF Alamo-gordo Bombing and Gunnery Range. He was frequently referred to as both a curmudgeon and a gifted scientist.

He retired in 2001 from his 38 year career as a LLNL physicist. His recent sudden death followed several years of increasingly debilitating medical issues.

DeLynn is survived by Sandy Clark, his wife of 59 years, and their two children, Shane Clark and Diana Clark. He was the eldest of a large family: he is survived by five brothers (Larry, Greg, Randy, Brett, and Kemp Clark) and seven sisters (Linda Freeman, Susan Malone, Shauna Todd, Penny Bezdek, Tamara Holbrook, Clara Fletcher and Cleo Nafziger). He is predeceased by two stepsiblings: James Todd and Sally Gale. DeLynn will be sorely missed.

Most of My Ancestors were Farmers

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

Most of my ancestors, including both sets of grandparents, were farmers. None of my people lived in cities. Here's what I put together for you today.

My maternal Great-Grandfather, Franklin Jacob "Jake" Emal, (1865-1922) was a village blacksmith in Pickrell, Gage County, Nebraska.

His blacksmith shop remained in the family until my Grandfather Elvin Franklin Emal died in 1974. From 1945 to 1974, my grandfather rented the building to my uncle, Willis Siems. (My father and Willis were brothers. My mother was a daughter of E. F. Emal.) Willis Siems, a mechanic, used the building as a garage for repairing farm machinery as well as cars. He used a large sheet of plywood on top of the forge as a workbench for motors and greasy stuff. On one of my visits to Pickrell, Nebraska, Willis removed the plywood, took it all off, so I could take a picture of the forge.

Although my Grandfather, E.F. Emal, farmed most of his life and raised his seven children on farms at age 60 he moved to my home town of



Emal Blacksmith Shop: left back - unknown; back seated: Edgar "Dutch" Emal, Dave Emal, Franklin "Jake" Emal (Blacksmith & Shirley's great-grandfather), Earl "Teet" Emal; standing on right - Elvin "Tude" Emal (Shirley's grandfather); seated in front: Clarence "Tubby" Emal, Jim Montgomery or Elmer Lawrence (maybe the one standing on left is the other of these two) & Doc Fuller. I don't have an exact date but am guessing it's about 1906.

Beatrice, Gage, Nebraska, when his youngest child entered high school. He ended up owning a Tent and Awning shop in Beatrice. On one of my visits to Nebraska after getting hooked by the genealogy bug, I showed him my very large photo album which I carried in a paper grocery bag. He went out to his shop and made a canvas bag for me and my album.



Franklin Jacob "Jake" Emal

In 1988, I began publishing two family newsletters. I named the one for my Mother's Emal and Day families, "The Family Forge", a double entendre to honor our Blacksmith as well as to strengthen, i.e. forge relationships in the family. I used a graphic of a blacksmith's shop. The newsletter was very well received. I published it for five years before talking a cousin into continuing it for another five years.

My paternal Great Grandfather Claus Siems was born in Klein-Fredenbeck, kreis Stade, Germany¹ where he was apprenticed at age 14 as a cabinet maker. Upon immigrating to America in 1865, he went to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and was employed at a sash and door factory for three years before moving south to Lincoln, Logan County, Illinois, where he worked as a cabinet maker for Deming and Bree. After marrying in Lincoln, Illinois, he moved his young family to southeast Nebraska in 1876 and took up farming. There is no record in Nebraska of his pursuing his profession other than mention of him building pews for his church.

¹Klein Fredenbeck in the region of Lower Saxony, Germany

John Edward Finn's Occupations

Richard Finn

John Edward Finn was an interesting person who held a number of interesting occupations – several of which are almost unheard of these days. John was born in April 1857 in the small village of Shottenden near Chilham in County Kent, England. It is interesting to follow John's changing occupations. The earliest I can find for him was in 1880 when he was a wattle gate maker. (To learn a little about wattles go to [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wattle_\(construction\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wattle_(construction))). In his younger years he was also a thatcher. He is listed as a farmer between 1891 and 1901. During that time period (in 1895) we find him listed as a hop grower. This is interesting because we understand he was a strict Primitive Methodist who would not allow any alcoholic drink touch his lips. Before coming to California in 1902 John



Finn family, June 1890 at Canterbury, Kent, England. L to R: Caroline Phoebe Kitchingham Finn 1859-1925, John Edward Finn 1857-1931, Jane Mary "Jennie" Finn Miller 1855-1931, Albert John Finn 1883-1961, Elizabeth Woodward Finn 1820-1901 (husband James Finn 1821-1890), Hilda Phoebe Finn 1881-1960, Sidney Stephen Finn, 1886-1978, Arthur William Finn 1884-1958, Walter Woodward Finn 1888-1971.

Lineage: James Finn - Richard Wesley "Dick" Finn	
James Finn b. bef. 25 Feb 1821 Shottenden, Kent, England, d. bef. 26 Mar 1890 Chilham, Kent, England m. 14 Nov 1843 Thanington, Kent, England Elizabeth Woodward b. bef. 16 Apr 1820 Acol, Kent, England, d. bef. Jul-Sep 1902 Elham District, Kent, England	
John Edward Finn b. Apr 1857 Shottenden, Chilham, Kent, England d. 16 Apr 1931 Oakland, Alameda, California m. 5 Oct 1880 Sheldwich, Kent, England Caroline Phoebe Kitchingham b. Bef. 03 Apr 1859 Hartlip, Kent, England d. 26 Dec 1925 Prunedale, Monterey, California	Jane Mary "Jennie" Finn b. 8 Apr 1855 Chilham, Kent, England, d. 13 Jan 1931 Oakland, Alameda, California m. 1st 11 Aug 1886 Chilham, Kent, England William Miller 1831-1891 m. 2nd 11 Sep 1907 Lower Lake, Lake, California James Jotham Braford 1845-1912
Walter Woodward Finn b. 08 May 1888 Shottenden, Kent, England d. 28 Jul 1971 Sebastopol,	
Wesley James Finn b. 22 May 1915 Oakland, Alameda Co., California d. 10 Sep 1994 Sonoma, Sonoma, California	
Richard Wesley "Dick" Finn b. Oakland, Alameda, California	

was the bailiff of the Hare Farm in Shottenden. Being the bailiff was not a law enforcement position but rather that of being the farm manager for the family that lived in Chilham Castle and owned a number of farms in the greater Chilham area.

But his occupation which I found the most difficult to track down is that of him being a Methodist Lay Rider/Preacher. Family stories tell of John preaching at the Methodist Chapel in Shottenden (the chapel is now a B & B). After the family came to America and California in 1902 he preached at Lower Lake and Middletown in Lake County. During the 1920s he preached at the

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The Needles and Threads of the Ryan Family

By Shannon Bagley Ryan

My maternal great-great-grandfather, Pierce Ryan (born 1797), immigrated from Kilkenny, Ireland to the US via Canada, probably in the year 1833. I still don't know what drew him here – the potato blight had not yet developed in Ireland – but I suspect he had some family in the US.

Pierce was a “tailor and merchant” according to the 1850 Pittsburgh, PA census. The Ryans brought to the US a daughter, born in Halifax, Nova Scotia. They subsequently brought into the world two more sons and another daughter. Some time, probably around 1860, the family moved to Lockport, Illinois.

The eldest son, John Joseph Ryan (born 1836), also became a tailor. That trade was interrupted by his service as a Union soldier in the Civil War and subsequent and permanent injury to his left elbow in the Battle of Chattanooga.

After the Civil War, John married Katherine Connor (born 1844 in West Meath, Ireland) and the family raised ten children.



John Joseph Ryan

1879, Caldwell was not more than a trading post until the Santa Fe Railroad extended its line to Caldwell.

John Ryan had taken a lot of chances moving to Caldwell in 1878 – the location was known for a pronounced lawlessness that many other frontier settlements shared. Since Caldwell was a border town to the Indian Territory, with a constant stream of itinerant cowboys herding steer through

the area, there was a high incidence of saloons, gambling areas, and brothels. The Native Americans in Indian Territory also resented the increasing encroachment of white settlers¹. Gunfights and general chaos, including vigilante murders, took place frequently. Between 1879 and 1885, eighteen city marshals were killed in violent skirmishes².

Nevertheless, many pioneers felt the risks outweighed the alluring possibilities to be had by setting up reputable businesses in the fledgling community before more competition arrived. It was only later, by around 1885, that the trade in cattle had shifted further west and Caldwell became more of an agricultural community.

To be sure, it made sense for John to set up as a tailor once the family moved to Caldwell, since the town probably did not have one yet; whereas, Lockport, Illinois tailoring competition may have been stiff.

By the time the family moved to Caldwell, Kansas, John Ryan had already trained his eldest son Pierce Ryan (named after his grandfather) in the tailoring trade. Not to be outdone, the eldest daughter Elizabeth Ryan opened her own dress-making business in the town.

My mother Phyllis Ryan said that, besides his fallback occupation as a merchant tailor, John tried his hand in Caldwell at breeding the sturdy ponies he could buy from the Indians below the Kansas border, running a saloon, going into business with his Falkenberg son-in-law selling butchered beef, being an active part of the town, a council member of the education board, and helping his son deliver US postal mail when he was

¹John Ryan's youngest son George told his daughter Phyllis that the Ryan house was the last one in town - they apparently lived near the border to Indian Territory, so it was simple enough for folks below the border to pass through the Ryan property to buy goods in Caldwell. The open prairie began just beyond their fence. Three miles into the prairie was Indian Territory. George said that his mother Kate got used to the Indians who came up from the Territory and peered into the windows at odd times.

²Info gleaned from *Kansas Legends – Caldwell, the Wicked Border Queen* by Kathy Weiser, Legends of America,” retrieved from website on 6/8/2017: <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/ks-caldwell.html>



older. He was also instrumental, along with his wife Kate, in getting the first Catholic Church built in town.

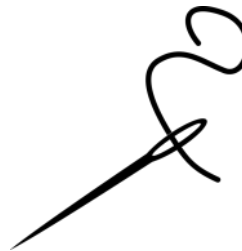
A family anecdote from my deceased maternal aunt Elizabeth Ryan King states that John Ryan provided tailored clothing to the famous gunslinger Wyatt Earp. There is no way to prove this. Certainly, I have not found any documentation that shows that Earp resided in Caldwell. However, it is entirely plausible that Earp could have traveled through Caldwell on the way to various points, as he moved about constantly and also lived in Dodge City, Kansas until 1879 before making it to points much further West, eventually to Tombstone, AZ.

John Ryan frequently ran ads in the local newspaper. The earliest one I could find from 1884 described John as a merchant tailor on “Main Street, over Hulbert’s Hardware Store. Full line of cloths, cassimeres, and vestings³.”

I still marvel that John was so successful at his trade with a practically useless left arm. His Civil War injury devastated that arm – the gun ball had entered below the elbow and out at the elbow point and, according to hospital notes made during his recovery, had a tendency toward gangrene, with bits of bone working themselves out through the wounds. This arm remained disabled till he died. But he was a man obviously determined and able to compensate.

An interesting point about the Ryan family’s sewing vocation is that it did not stop with his chil-

John Ryan’s son Pierce Ryan in his own tailor shop in Hutchinson, Kansas



dren’s generation. John Ryan’s daughter-in-law, Hazel Tobin, who married John’s youngest son George William Ryan, sewed most of the family’s clothing and house coverings. Her daughter Phyllis Ryan (my mother) sewed in the same manner. Her daughters - my sister and I love to sew – by hand and by machine. For a time, I set up a small business sewing specialized embroidered church decorations and took in sewing from others. It is a little vocation – a calling - that I love. Once I found out about the family legacy of this trade, it connected me to the generations that had gone before me. It brought me that much closer to their lives. Sometimes, when my head is bent over a sewing task, I imagine one of those relatives in the same posture next to me and feel thankful for the care and labor made so long ago.

³The Caldwell News, 7 May 1884. Cassimeres are types of closely woven smooth twilled wool fabric, used for suits.

Lineage Pierce Ryan to Phyllis Ryan
Pierce Ryan b. 1797 in Ireland d. Bef. 1860 in Lockport, Will, Illinois m. Mary Sullivan b. 1814 d. Bef. 1868 in Lockport, Will, Illinois
John Joseph Ryan b. 08 Sep 1836 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania d. 26 Nov 1904 Caldwell, Kansas m. 03 Jul 1868 Lockport, Will, Illinois Catherine Conner b. 08 Feb 1844 Mulingar, Westmeath, Ireland d. 04 Feb 1919 Pratt, Pratt, Kansas
George William Ryan b. 04 Sep 1890 in Caldwell, Kansas d. 08 Dec 1965 in Tracy, California m. 22 Feb 1916 in Wichita, Kansas Hazel Margaret Tobin b. 28 May 1891 in Denison, Texas d. 13 Apr 1975 in Martinez, Contra Costa, California
Phyllis Josephine Ryan b. Topeka, Kansas

My grandfather was the Child of Icelandic Immigrants to Minnesota

By Ileen Peterson

My grandfather was the youngest child of Icelandic immigrants to Minnesota. In 1947 he wrote some recollections about his life and work to a friend, which I have summarized as follows:

Sigurd Peterson was born 27 December 1866 on a farm in Lincoln County southwestern Minnesota during a December blizzard. He was the youngest child of Icelandic immigrants and his earliest

memory was herding sheep and cows. This was a job that was handed down from one brother to the next. At first he was proud and happy to have this responsibility until he realized he may be stuck with it for eternity.

Eventually his father moved the family to a small Minnesota town away from the sheep. Sigurd had previously had trouble meeting the state requirement of forty days of school attendance a year, but his grades were tops because teachers boarded with his family. In town, he was actually able to attend four to six months a year.

Sigurd learned carpentry when he was twelve and performed this work on a farm for fifty cents a day. By the age of 15, he decided to go to high school, which he finished in three years. Although he considered himself an expert carpenter, he decided to follow his next older brother to the University of Minnesota (the other brothers were farm-



50th Anniversary Seated Dr. Sigurd H. Peterson and Ruth Taylor Peterson, Standing Maxine Peterson Ott, Sigurd H. Peterson, Jr., and Sharoo Peterson Hersha

John Edward Finn, Continued from page 11

Methodist church in Prunedale. I visited Methodist churches in those three towns and could not find any mention of John. I also made contact with Methodist Archives and they had nothing on him. I did find in county records that he did perform a few marriages.

His granddaughter, my aunt, Easter Finn Foster, remembered hearing him give fire and brimstone sermons in Prunedale when she was young. She told of one very frightening sermon he was giving that was so scary she left and went out to the little outhouse next to the church. While sitting in there

she heard a strange noise next to her and saw, in the dim light, a rattlesnake within a foot of her on the outhouse seat. When telling the story she smiled and said she had to wonder if her grandpa John had sent the devil in the form of a rattler to get her to go back and hear the remainder of his sermon!

John Edward Finn died in April 1931 and was buried at the Pioneer Cemetery in Watsonville, Santa Cruz County next to his wife, Caroline Phoebe *Kitchingham* Finn, and sister, Jane Mary *Finn* Miller Braford. Why the three of them are buried in the same plot is another story!

ers or shop keepers). He ended up registered for Science, Literature and Arts. During his university days, he won many medals in debate and oratory.

During the summers, he sold books and scopes door-to-door in North Dakota, where he met interesting people and earned his tuition. One year he did not earn enough, so he spent the next year teaching in a one room school.

After graduation, he worked in the public library, squeezed in the first year of law school and studied. He decided to take it easy, file for a homestead in Colorado and teach school that winter. He enjoyed the people and the outdoors and planned to raise cattle.

A woman filed a competing claim on the homestead based on some legal issues and during that period of uncertainty, Sigurd received an offer to join the public speaking staff in Corvallis, Oregon. He accepted the offer and planned to stay a year.

Sigurd lost his homestead application in Colorado and stayed in Oregon. He moved from public speaking to the English staff, earned his PhD in English at the University of Washington. During the time he was on sabbatical there, he also earned money building a house in Seattle.

By 1933 he became head of the English Department at Oregon State College. He was also the advisor for the local Sigma Nu chapter and had a print shop in his basement. He published "Friendly Letters" during WWII to keep the frat guys and his family informed about their activities.

When Sigurd retired in 1953, he and his wife moved to the Oregon coast, where he remodeled a cottage to live in and built a four car/two story garage for all his wood-working equipment.

As you can imagine, Sigurd had many interesting stories to tell about his life activities.

Arnold Koslow, Continued from page 9

their 45th wedding anniversary, daughter Amanda, her husband Mario Martinez, daughter Melanie, her partner Darryl Gray, grandchildren Brittany and Dylan, his sister Eileen Levy and her family, his mother-in-law Marjorie Hill, and dozens of extended family and friends.

Published in Livermore Independent on July 9, 2019.

Peterson Lineage Chart

(Icelanders use patronymics, English spelling and alphabet used in this chart)

Peter Petursson b. about 1716 in Iceland d. about 1772 in Iceland Ingibjorg Sigurdardottir
Petur Petursson b. about 1763 Jokuldal, Iceland d. about 1821 Jokuldal, Iceland Halfridur Eggertsdottir
Petur Petursson b. 11 Jul 1793 Fossi I Hofssokn, N-M, Iceland d. 1853 Iceland m. Ingibjorg Vigfusdottir daughter of Vigfus Jonsson and Kristin Jonsdottir b.12 May 1798 Vopbnafirthi, N-M, Iceland d. Iceland
Sigfinnur Petursson b. 29 Jul 1836 N-M, Iceland d. 11 Dec 1915 Minneota, Lyon Co., Minnesota m. 5 Oct 1876 Iceland (second marriage for both, both widowed) Sigurbjorg Sigurdottir daughter of Sigurdur Jonsson and Elin Jonsdottir b. 7 May 1843 N-M, Iceland d. 17 May 1917 Minneota, Lyon Co., Minnesota
Sigurd Harlan Peterson b. 27 Dec 1886 Lake Stay, Lincoln Co., Minnesota d. 5 Jan 1963 Springfield, Lane Co., Oregon m. 31 Jul 1912, Pipestone, Minnesota Ruth Joan Taylor daughter of Horatio Seymour Taylor and Mabel Aldrich b. 16 Dec 1889 Pipestone, Minnesota d. 22 Nov 1974, Corvallis, Benton Co, Oregon
Sigurd Harlan Peterson Jr. b. 19 Feb 1916 Corvallis, Benton Co., Oregon d. 6 Jun 1988 Portland, Oregon m. 8 Jun 1940 Sacramento, California Mildred Ileen Martin daughter of Werner Martin and Lillian Achterberg b. 5 Apr 1919 Oroville, Butte Co., California d. 12 Nov 2000 Beaverton, Oregon
Ileen Joan Peterson daughter of Sigurd Harlan Peterson Jr and Mildred Ileen Martin

President's Message Continued from Page 3

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Some are not public but many are and are readable from your computer. I recommend that you include them in your future research.

Julie Liu

Future General Meetings

Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Visitors are always welcome.

Monday, September 9, 7:00 p.m.	
<i>Karen LaDuca</i>	<i>Ciao to Your Ancestors in Italian Civil Records</i>
Monday, October 14, 7:00 p.m.	
<i>Sean Conley</i>	<i>Irish Genealogy Sources</i>
Monday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.	
<i>Dawn Kosmakos</i>	<i>Meet your D N A Match</i>

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