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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

October 2021

Patrons

Dick and Jean Lerche, Sue Davis, Duncan Tanner, Tom Mathews, Lois Barber, Shirley Terry

Benefactors

Dick and Wanda Finn, Kristina Ahuja, Cindy McKenna, Linda Driver, Walt Crawford, Ileen Peterson, Matthew Berry, Annette Breingan, Marilyn Glass, Peggy Weber, Barbara Hemphill, Gail and Todd Fairfield, Pam Miller

L-AGS Members

100 active memberships and 114 members

Meeting News

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

General Meetings — Due to Coronavirus-19 General Meeting presentations are the second Monday of each month 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m. Usually held on the second Monday of the 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 — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are weekly on Sunday afternoon via Zoom. 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 changes@L-AGS.org with "Add me to the Writing Group list" in the subject line.

Let's Talk Genealogy — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are weekly on Sunday afternoon via Zoom. To join the email list, please send a note to changes@L-AGS.org with "Add me to the Let's Talk Genealogy list" in the subject line.

The Master Genealogist Group — Due to Coronavirus-19 meetings are via Zoom on the third Saturday of the month, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Location: Contact TV-TMG Chair (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. Due to Coronavirus-19 L-AGS genealogy docents will be unavailable at the Pleasanton Public Library, 400 Old Bernal Avenue Pleasanton, California. Request a mutually agreeable assistance opportunity via e-mail: docents.chair@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Leadership for 2021

President	president@L-AGS.org	Julie Liu
VP/Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Tom Mathews
VP/Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Denise Barr
Corresponding Secretary		Marilyn Glass
Recording Secretary		Susan Davis
Business Manager	business.manager@L-AGS.org	Duncan Tanner

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President's Message

We are beginning the fall of 2021. The FHC libraries are open for limited hours. Please check with your favorite FHC library to check on their hours. They are all dependent on how many volunteers they have available.

December is when we have our annual election for L-AGS board members. Fortunately, all of the elected board have agreed to stay on in their position. Most of our board members have been in that position for 2-4 years already. Duncan Tanner has served much longer, we think it is 10 years, no one is exactly sure how long he has been ably serving as our Business Manager. For the L-AGS organization to sustain itself, new blood is essential for our organization to flourish. It has been my distinct pleasure to work with this group and I know anyone else who decides to step forward will find the same. Please look inside yourself and think if you could help in some way. If the position seems too large maybe as a co-position. We have already made the decision to make all of our board meetings via Zoom for the year 2022, so no commute. For 2023, I foresee this continuing. If you have any questions, please email me president@L-AGS.org.

Following is our slate of board members that will be voted on in December by the membership at our December 13, 2021 meeting. This board will be in place from Jan. 2022 through Dec. 2022. If there is anyone else who would like to put their name up, we would be ecstatic. Please email me Julie Liu president@L-AGS.org.

Julie Liu, President

Sue Davis, Recording Secretary

Tom Mathew, 1st VP, Program

Marilyn Glass, Corresponding Secretary

Denise Barr, 2nd VP, Membership

Duncan Tanner, Business Manager

We are still looking at a hybrid model for lectures starting possibly in the summer. The idea behind this is that those who still want to view the lecture from home can do it and those who want to see the lecture in person can do that at Congregational Beth Emek. We will see how it goes. Other area genealogy groups that have moved to this have had a few hiccups.

Patrick Lofft, our Roots Tracer Editor is always looking for articles for the L-AGS RT. The Roots Tracer is our link to future genealogists. These would be future genealogists who may be researching your family line. If they google your name or the ancestors' name, they may find something that you have written in the past which is now the present. Think of it as a permanent internet library. Consider pulling together an article about your family or a family member. There will be many stories about surviving the pandemic of 2020. Do you have one about that subject? What would you like your great-grandchildren to know? Maybe it is a surprise genealogical discovery you made, put it down on paper.

Something that will be coming up in 2022 is the National Genealogical Society's annual conference. It will be conveniently located in Sacramento, CA. I have included a link for additional information. The dates are May 25-28th. I hope some of the L-AGS' member will be able to attend. Last year it was live

President's Message, Continued on page 8

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

Editor..... Patrick Lofft
Contributors.....
 Gene Block, Jean Bousquet, Richard Finn,
 Vaughn Hysinger, Caye Johnson
Composer..... Andi Winters
Printing and Distribution..... Sue Davis,
Jean Lerche

Extreme Coincidences or DNA -You Decide

By Gene Block & Vaughn Hysinger

According to recent press reports, genealogy is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the United States. There are a number of reasons why people get involved in genealogy. Some people have the same interest that many of those who are featured on the popular TV show "Finding Your Roots" express. They want to know "where their family came from." Some people are curious to know if some of the family stories they vaguely remember their relatives discussing when they were growing up are true or not. And some people trace their family history so they can join organizations like the DAR, while others are interested to determine if going back several generations, certain hereditary diseases are present in their families.

While most people probably do not begin researching their family history in order to discover distant relatives, it turns out this is something that happens frequently which can be quite interesting and a positive experience. This is precisely what happened to the co-authors of this article, Gene Block and Vaughn Hysinger, who are 3rd cousins and who met while each was researching one set of their respective common ancestors.

Both Gene and Vaughn became interested in genealogy several decades ago. As they progressed in their research, each began researching Barney and Henrietta Hysinger, one set of each of their paternal great great grandparents. Gene is related to Barney and Henrietta through their daughter Jenny, and Vaughn is related to Barney and Henrietta through their son, Henry Hysinger.

As they both proceeded with their research, each discovered a woman who lived in Queens, New York who was also researching the Hysinger family. Both Gene and Vaughn independently began corresponding with this woman. At some point she suggested that since they both were researching the same family, they were probably related, and since they both lived in California, they should get to know each other. This was approximately 10 years ago.

Prior to this time neither Gene or Vaughn knew each other, and indeed neither knew the other person even existed. Contact was made, and while Gene and his wife lived in Southern California and Vaughn and his wife lived in the Bay Area, they arranged to meet when Gene and his wife, were visiting their two daughters who live in the Bay Area.

After meeting for the first time, Gene and Vaughn began to share with each other information each had discovered about their mutual set of great great grandparents. Several years later as they continued their research, Gene and his wife relocated to a retirement community in Pleasanton in order to be closer to their two daughters. Shortly afterwards Gene and Vaughn and their wives began to see each other socially from time to time.

It was during these social visits that Gene and Vaughn began to realize just how parallel their lives have been. Consider the following. In addition to their mutual interest in genealogy:

- Each grew up in Missouri and spent the early years of their lives in St. Louis.
- Each was the first in their family to graduate from college.
- Each received their undergraduate degrees from a university located in Missouri.
- Each moved to California after graduating from college.
- Each went back to college part time and obtained a Masters' degree in Business Administration.
- Each obtained their Masters' degree from a university located in Southern California.
- Each is now married to a retired elementary school teacher.
- Each of the wives is named Sandy.
- Even though it is not a family name, each has named a son David.
- Each of their sons named David received their undergraduate degree from a UC System School. Gene's son, David, graduated from UC Davis. Vaughn's son, named David, graduated from UC Berkeley.
- Gene and Vaughn's remaining children all received their undergraduate degrees from schools in the California State University System. Gene's daughters graduated from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo. Vaughn's son John graduated from San Francisco State University.
- Both Gene and Vaughn have children who became attorneys. Both graduated from Catholic University Law Schools. Gene's daughter graduated from the University of San Diego Law School. Vaughn's son David graduated from the University-

ty of San Francisco Law School.

- Both Gene and Vaughn have daughters-in-law who were born outside the United States.

- After Vaughn's first two years in college, he went to work for the CIA for several years before he resigned and returned to college to complete his degree. Gene's son, David, recently retired from the CIA.

- When both Gene and Vaughn left the corporate world, each was a Vice President of their respective companies.

- Both Gene and Vaughn and their wives now live in retirement communities. The communities are located about 25 miles apart.

- Gene has a daughter, and Vaughn has a step-daughter who each live in Lafayette, California, about 1-½ miles apart. Gene has a daughter and Vaughn has a stepson each of whom lives in San Jose.

- Both Gene and Vaughn have ancestors on their mother's side of their families who immigrated to the United States from Wales.

- And finally, both Gene and Vaughn have a paternal great grandfather who committed suicide, (Gene- George Ruffle in 1907), (Vaughn- Henry Hysinger in 1909).

While it might be reasonable to expect that individuals who are related could have some traits in common that are due to family influences, this is not the case with Gene and Vaughn's families.

Barney and Henrietta's daughter, Jenny, Gene's great grandmother, was married to Louis Block. The family had 7 children. The youngest was Henry Block, Gene's paternal grandfather, who was 4 years and 9 months old when his mother died. After Jenny's death, the Block children were split up and sent to live with their father's relatives. Henry was sent to live with Louis's mother, his paternal grandmother.

As a result of the Block children being separated after their mother's death, subsequently there was rarely further contact between the Block and Hysinger families. And according to Henry Block, he had only very limited contact with his own siblings the rest of his life due to the children being separated after their mother's death. It was not until Gene and Vaughn connected through genealogy about 10 years ago that there was any contact between the Block and Hysinger family again.

Lineages - Hysinger-Block	
Barney Hysinger b. Oberlauringen, Bavaria Germany 2 Sept. 1819 d. St. Louis, Missouri 17 Sept. 1897 m. Albany, New York 25 Nov. 1839 Henrietta Rosenthal b. Gleicherwiesen, Saxony Germany 26 Mar. 1818 d. St. Louis, Missouri 25 July 1891	
Henry Saul Albert Bernard Hysinger b. Albany, New York 13 Sept. 1842 d. St. Louis, Missouri 29 Oct. 1909 m. Meredosia, Morgan, Illinois 7 Feb. 1867 Martha Jane Graham b. Illinois 29 June 1846 d. St. Louis, Missouri 17 June 1934	Jenny Hysinger b. Albany, New York 1 Jan. 1845 d. St. Louis, Missouri 11 June 1882 m. St. Louis, Missouri 8 June 1862 Louis Block b. Bouzonville, Moselle, France 21 Nov. 1825 d. St. Louis, Missouri 14 Aug. 1894
Albert Bernard Hysinger b. St. Louis, Missouri 29 Oct. 1875 d. St. Louis, Missouri 6 Feb. 1973 m. 4 Jan. 1898 Elma Grace Graham b. Meredosia, Morgan, Illinois 18 Mar. 1876 d. Clayton, St. Louis, Missouri 19 Dec. 1953	Henry Block b. St. Louis, Missouri 1 Sept. 1877 d. St. Louis, Missouri 11 April 1960 m. St. Louis, Missouri 31 Dec. 1903 Ida Ruffle b. St. Louis, Missouri 28 Nov. 1880 d. St. Louis, Missouri 15 Sept. 1950
Bernard Graham Hysinger b. Anderson, Madison, Indiana 12 Jan. 1908 d. St. Louis, Missouri 1 Jan. 1986 m. Yuma, Arizona 8 June 1940 Hazel Eilene Abrams b. Atlanta, Macon, Missouri 26 Aug. 1917 d. Kirksville, Adair, Missouri 2 Sept. 2005	Raymond Block b. St. Louis, Missouri 12 Nov. 1912 d. Chesterfield, St. Louis, Missouri 25 Sept. 2007 m. St. Louis, Missouri 17 June 1936 Janice Stanze b. St. Louis, Missouri 25 May 1912 d. Creve Coeur, St. Louis, Missouri 22 Mar. 1994
Vaughn Hysinger, co-author of article, living.	Gene Block, co-author of article, living

So how can it be explained that there are so many similarities between Gene and Vaughn's lives? Can the similarities be the result of an extreme set of coincidences, or are the above similarities in their lives somehow the result of their shared DNA? We do not know the answer to that question. We will leave it to you the reader to decide.

His great grandson Benjamin J. Stephenson was described as “one of the most prominent business men and citizens of Knoxville and was well known and highly respected.”³ Benjamin, Isabella, and Sophie Stephenson are buried in the Old Grey Cemetery.

My mother visited Benjamin Stephenson’s daughter, Sophie Stephenson⁴ (her father Henry White Stephenson’s⁵ sister) in 1928 and it was from Sophie that she learned what an impressive family her ancestors were. An excerpt from her letter home to her mother, Harriet White Stephenson Thurston Kincaid, follows:

*The St. James Hotel
Knoxville, Tenn.
June 10, 1928*

Dearest Mother,

Saw Sophia and she is real nice. She told me a little of the family history. Your great-grandfather Col. James White in 1783 made a survey of Tenn. In company with Robert Love and F.A. Ramsey. He returned to North Carolina in 1784 to prepare to move to Tenn.—the government giving him this grant of land in payment of his services in the Revolutionary War. He moved into Tenn. 1785 and founded the City of Knoxville. His son was Hugh Lawson White¹ and he was also famous. Knoxville was first called White’s Fort, but was renamed in 1791. Col. James White laid off the town of Knoxville in Oct. 1791 and sold the land to the people. His name is on the documents. James White was Scotch Irish. Your father’s father’s name was Benjamin J. Stephenson. James was speaker of State Senate. Col. James White married Mary Lawson in 1770 and they were all Presbyterians.

Now I’ll tell you about Hugh Lawson White—the son. He is quite famous as I told you above. He was born in N.C. Oct 30, 1773. Came to Tenn. 1786, married Elizabeth Carrick. He took part in John Sevier’s famous Indian Campaigns. He helped Gen Jackson in the Creek War. Was private Secretary to Gov. Bount of Tenn. Then was a Member of the State Senate of Tenn. Was Judge of the Supreme Court of U.S. Financier of First Bank of Tenn.

Took Jackson’s place in U.S. Senate from 1825 to 1840. Was Secretary of War in Harrison’s Cabinet. Member of U.S. Senate 1841-1857. He was nominated for President of U.S. by Constitutional

Union Party in 1836 to run against Van Buren. The Constitutional Union Party later were called Whigs and went under the name of White’s Whigs, altho he never would recognize it but stayed and remained a true Demo. And upheld Andrew Jackson’s policies.

Now aren’t we of a famous family? The Librarian Mary Nelson is going to send me a list of all our relatives dating back from Col. James White to the present day. So be sure and preserve this letter and read to Mrs. Pence all about our relative who almost was a President. The Court House stands where Col James White built his first home.

Violet

Naturally, when my husband and I visited Knoxville in 2010, the first place we went to was James White’s Fort where we met the Fort historian, Robert A. McGinnis. Mr. McGinnis has undertaken the task of tracing all of James White’s descendants. He has also authored numerous books about historic cemeteries in Knox County with the most pertinent for me being: “Historic Cemeteries of Old Knoxville” and “The Graves of Old Gray Cemetery.” Many of the historic cemeteries of old Knoxville were covered over by freeways. Without this research by Robert A. McGinnis, that history would be lost. Old Gray Cemetery⁶ was established in 1850 and it is there that many of the pioneers of Knoxville are buried because many of the church burial sites were full or already closed to new burials. Robert McGinnis was of invaluable help pointing us to the East Tennessee History Center Knox County Archives⁷ and the McClung Collection to research my ancestors. We spent several days poring over church records and land records searching for births, deaths, and marriages until we could prove that my grandmother, Harriet White Stephenson, was descended from James White. The next task was to find the tombstones and photograph them.

³From the obituary of his widow Isabella McNutt Stephenson

⁴Sister of Henry White Stephenson

⁵The Livermore Roots Tracer, Volume 40, Number 4, p.12

⁶Old Gray Cemetery is the second-oldest cemetery in Knoxville, Tennessee. Established in 1850, the 13.47-acre cemetery contains the graves of some of Knoxville’s most influential citizens, ranging from politicians and soldiers, to artists and activists.

⁷Knox County Archives, 601 S. Gay Street, Knoxville, TN 37902

The White/Baker cemetery was in someone's back yard with only a few remaining headstones. It was only with Robert McGinnis' directions that we were able to find it. Below are the list of FindAGrave Memorial ID numbers for James White, Ben J Stephenson, Isabella M. Stephenson, Sophie Stephenson, Moses White, and Mary L. Baker.

Several years ago when my son and his wife visited James White's Fort, Robert McGinnis remembered me and gave my son and his wife a private tour of White's Fort and even allowed them to bring in their dog.

Find A Grave

List of Memorial ID nos.

James White,
First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 6032668

Ben J Stephenson,
Old Gray Cemetery, 54640701

Isabella M. Stephenson,
Old Gray Cemetery, 54640706

Sophie Stephenson,
Old Gray Cemetery, 54640711

Moses White,
White Cemetery, 97093589

Mary L. Baker,
White Cemetery, 98051204

President's Message, continued from page 3

or OnDemand, the brochure doesn't specifically say it will be OnDemand or not but I am guessing that it may be. [2022-NGS-Family-History-Conference-Brochure.pdf](https://ngsgenealogy.org/2022-NGS-Family-History-Conference-Brochure.pdf) (ngsgenealogy.org)

So for Dec, Jan. and Feb., I hope you will be successful in your genealogical adventures. May you finally break down that brick wall?

Julie Liu, President

Lineage Chart

James White
b. 8 Aug 1747 Rowan Co., North Carolina
d. 14 Aug 1822 Knox Co., Tennessee
m. 13 May 1770 Rowan Co., North Carolina
Mary Lawson
b. 1742
d. 10 Mar 1819

Moses White
b. 22 Apr 1775
d. 30 May 1830 Knox Co., Tennessee
m.
Isabella J. McNutt
b. 16 Feb 1782
d. 26 Mar 1842

Mary Lawson White
b. Dec 1806
d. Mar 1842
m.
Caleb Hodnett Baker
b. 1799 Lincoln Co, Kentucky
d. 1862 Knox Co., Tennessee

Isabella McNutt Baker
b. 31 Dec 1836 Tennessee
d. 30 Jun 1913
m. 22 Dec 1856 Knox Co, Tennessee
Benjamin J. Stephenson
b. 24 Nov 1834 Tennessee

Henry White Stephenson
b. 25 Sep 1858 Knoxville, Tennessee
d. 20 Dec 1924
m. About 1881
Nancy Jane Gardner Frazier
b. 3 Sep 1853 Bigfoot, Frio, Texas

Harriet White Stephenson
b. 21 May Bigfoot, Frio, Texas
d. 3 Nov 1948 El Paso, Texas
m. 19 May 1903 Bisbee, Arizona
William Albert Thruston
b. 10 Mar 1866 Shaftesbury, Dorset, England
d. 25 Apr 1934 El Paso, Texas

Violet Ethel Thurston
b. 1 Nov 1904 El Paso, Texas
d. 4 Apr 1990 Los Altos, Santa Clara, California
m. 24 Aug 1937 Reno, Nevada
Walter Benjamin Collins
b. 28 Apr 1900 Los Angeles, California

Catherine (Caye) Harriet Collins Johnson,
author, living

Gretna Green Marriages

By Shirley Siems Terry

In more than fifty years as a genealogist, I didn't think I had ever heard of Gretna Green marriages until Patrick's call for articles. But I was proven wrong when just this past week I re-watched an episode of "The Repair Shop" on Netflix which I had seen previously. An older man and his son brought in a beautiful portrait of their English ancestor, Mary Holyland, who they said had *eloped to Gretna Green, Scotland in 1775 to marry Michael Carmichael*. The portrait had been painted by G. Newton but the restorer learned that it was a portrait done by Romney and now housed in the Scotland's National Gallery in Edinburgh.

We probably all know of American towns where some of our own relatives eloped to start their married lives. They were usually just across the state or county line. The reasons were often due to pregnancy and/or one or both individuals being under age and not having the consent of their parents. Maybe it was simply financial: the bride's family didn't have the money to spend on a bridal gown and food to feed guests. I don't know of any of my ancestors, including my parents, taking a "honeymoon." It seems honeymoons originated in the 19th century in England and although they did involve traveling, the purpose was to visit relatives that had not been able to attend the wedding.

My own parents, Glen & Arlene (Emal) Siems went two counties over to be married at age 20 (Arlene just turned 20 that same week). They were married 27 December 1937 in Geneva, Fillmore, Nebraska, not because it was a "Gretna Green" but because Mother's first cousin, Rupert Young, was the County Recorder.

Glen was estranged from his parents at the time and simply lied about his age saying he was 21. Arlene's Mother, Bertha (Day) Emal accompanied them and signed for her, and I'm pretty sure they all stayed over at Bertha's Aunt Ellen's house. One advantage of marrying away from home is that relatives and friends were unlikely to see the wedding announcement since it wouldn't be in the local newspaper. I remember the thrill of finding the little announcement in the actual 1937 Geneva newspaper when I visited the Nebraska Genealogical Society Library in the country basement of the Librarian's home after braving lonely, muddy gravel roads to get there. This was before cell phones and she didn't have a copying ma-



*1937 Arlene & Glen Siems' wedding
Geneva, Nebraska courthouse*

chine so I don't have a photocopy. I was very lucky not to have slid into a ditch that day.

The "Gretna Green" for Gage County, in southeastern Nebraska, seemed to be Marysville, Marshall, Kansas, where nine Nebraska couples in my Emal-Day database were married. Marysville is only a few miles across the Kansas-Nebraska state line.

For the Terry family who lived in western Nebraska; Holyoke, Phillips, Colorado, was the place to go for twenty couples in my Terry database!

Eloping to be married does seem a little more exciting and special than going down to the courthouse in your home county to be married by the local Judge or county official.

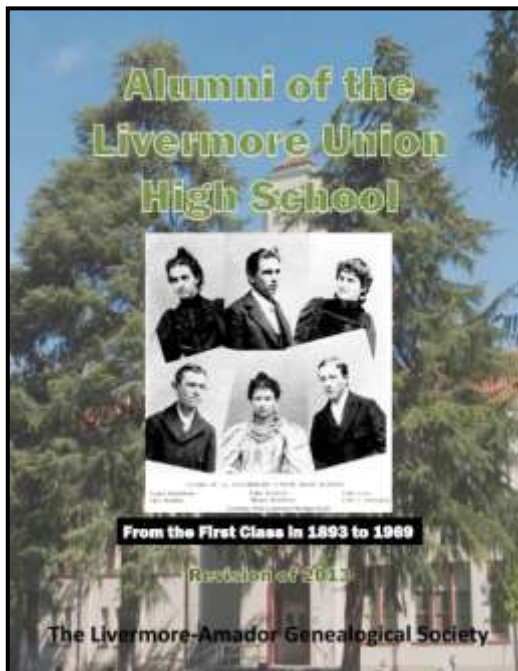
Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society publications of interest to people researching early Livermore area families and businesses

Compiled by Richard W. Finn, past-president

The Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS) has produced a large number of books about the history of the greater Livermore area. You will see from the listing they include information on local cemeteries, burial records, church records, local history, mortuary records, etc. We will highlight half the books in this issue of the Roots Tracer and the other half in the next issue. Even if you are not from this area (like me) I think you will find many of these books very fascinating.

Note: Most of L-AGS books can be viewed online on the L-AGS website. Printed paperback or eBook copies are available (with a few noted exceptions) from <https://www.lulu.com>. Search for L-AGS. The prices for the books range between \$7-\$17. Downloadable eBook versions all cost \$1.19.

ALUMNI OF THE LIVERMORE UNION HIGH SCHOOL - REVISION OF 2013 (5748 names) The book contains an unbroken run of rosters from 1893-1969 of graduating seniors

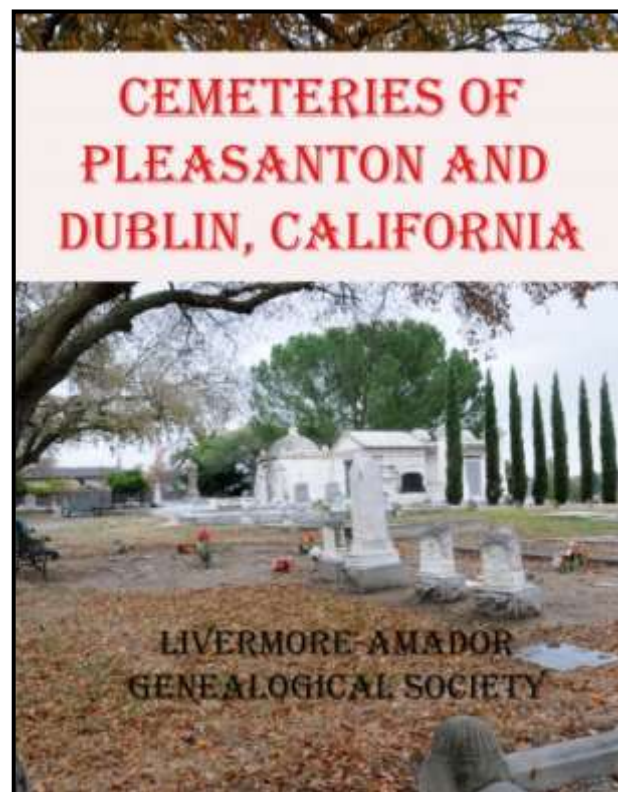


Alumni of the Livermore Union High School

from Livermore High School, the first Union High School to be approved by state authorities in California. Some of the annual rosters were compiled many years after the graduation and include short retrospective biographies of the students.

BURIAL RECORDS OF ROSELAWN CEMETERY, LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA This 115-page book contains 2353 *burial records*, as distinct from *gravestone inscriptions*, in Roselawn Memorial Gardens in Livermore from 1920-1999. Indexed.

CEMETERIES OF PLEASANTON AND DUBLIN, CALIFORNIA Published in January 1990, this book contains 4668 entries from three cemeteries: St. Augustine's Catholic and Memorial Gardens in Pleasanton, and the Dublin pio-



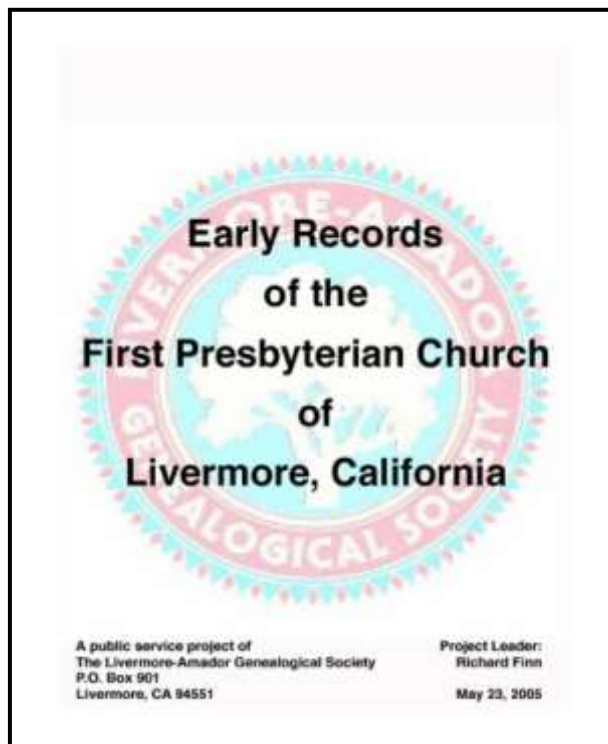
Cemeteries of Pleasanton and Dublin, California

neer cemetery, which dates from 1859. It also contains records of burials from Graham Mortuary, Pleasanton, 1904-1923. Indexed.

EARLY LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA, OBITUARY INFORMATION Printed 2004. Information about 1715 persons for whom obituaries appeared in Livermore newspapers prior to 1906. 70 pages, self-indexed.

EARLY RECORDS OF THE ASBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA Transcription of all surviving pre-1930 baptism, marriage and funeral records for the Asbury United Methodist Church. 621 entries. 2007. 23 pages, indexed.

EARLY RECORDS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA Transcription of all surviving pre-1910 baptism, marriage and death records for the first Protestant church in eastern Alameda County. 1119 entries. 2005. 23 pages, indexed.



Early Records of the First Presbyterian Church of Livermore, California

EARLY RECORDS OF THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF LIVERMORE, CALIFORNIA Transcription of the records of the Grace Episcopal Church for 1900-1916. By Epis-



Early Records of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasanton, California

copal definition, the church was actually a "mission." Separate data sets for Communicants, Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Burials and Families. 2010. 22 pages, indexed.

EARLY RECORDS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF PLEASANTON, CALIFORNIA Transcription of the records of the Presbyterian Church of Pleasanton. Separate data sets for baptisms, marriages and deaths. It includes a list of pastors through the ages, church history and transcription of the church's 1876 founding documents. 2011. 40 pages, index of 1135 names.

FAULKNER'S BUSINESS AND RESIDENCE DIRECTORY OF MURRAY TOWNSHIP, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. Photographic reprint of an 1887 book, indexed and reprinted in 2006. 144 pages, 1986-entry index.

HISTORY OF RURAL ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA; Excerpts concerning Washington Township; Murray and Pleasanton Townships; and Eden township, photocopied from the 1937 WPA book by William E. McCann and Edgar J. Hinkel. Indexed and reprinted in 2008. 160 pages.

The New-France Festival was more than we had ever hoped it would be

By Jean Bousquet

A number of years ago, my husband, Phil, and I traveled an old highway along the Richelieu River¹ where we had learned that Phil's family had lived before migrating to the U.S. All along the river, little communities, each with a distinctive Catholic Church, dot the landscape from Lake George to Sorel, where the Richelieu River joins the larger St. Lawrence River. When we stopped at L'Isle Sainte-Hélène in Montreal, we toured the old fort and found a book called "Canadian Gunsmiths from 1608" (a checklist of tradesmen). Phil's ancestor, Jean Bousquet, was listed as an armorer from 1642-1714 in the Montreal District. We found him in a 1660 census of

Quebec City living at "4 Rue Sainte-Famille."²

We did not really know about the New-France Festival at that time, but knew we wanted to explore the old-town section of Quebec City, just to see if we could learn anything. While we were looking into tourism information, we discovered a number of festivals in Quebec throughout the year. The New-France Festival is the one that really appealed

1 The Richelieu River is a river of Quebec, Canada, and a major right tributary of the St. Lawrence River.

2 4 Rue Sainte-Famille is the house where Phil's ancestor first stayed when he came to North America from France.



4 Rue Sainte-Famille, second house from corner on left side of street facing St. Lawrence River

to us, because it had a good mixture of entertainment, culture, and history.

The New-France Festival was more than we had ever hoped it would be. The first night had a parade, with musicians representing the early French military or Acadian deportees, but which most uniquely featured the "Giants" large puppet-like figures (25-40 feet tall) that "float" down the parade route accompanied by others who may be dressed as aristocrats or peasants, etc. and who interact freely with the crowd all along the parade route³. The festival goes on throughout the city, with entertainment and exhibits set up in various parks. You can move from one park to another, or stay in one park and wait for the entertainers to do the moving. One evening, we went to an outdoor concert by Natalie McMaster, the Canadian fiddler from Nova Scotia, who plays Cape Breton music. The city was more crowded than you would want for most of your visits, but for the purpose of the New-France Festival, the crowds are part of what makes it so much fun. You feel completely safe in the city even late at night.

One of the members on Phil's MyFamily.com page was named Pierre Bousquet, who lived in a rural area not far from Montreal. He was most helpful to Phil, giving him clues about how to find research information and providing snippets of family history to help Phil really make progress on his family tree. That is really what motivated us to make that first trip through the towns along the Richelieu

River. Then, we discovered an old book (through Amazon or Barnes and Noble) that was all about the town where Phil's great-grandfather Jean Levy Bousquet had lived before coming to the U.S. before the Civil War. The book had been published in 1905, and had an early history of the town and its inhabitants, 4 of the first 7 families belonged to "Bousquet brothers." The book is written in French, but can also be found online at www.archive.org. When Phil and I had first stopped in that little town (Sainte Denis-sur-Richelieu⁴) we went into a little museum called "Maison Nationale des Patriotes". There we discovered that two members from Phil's family were primary participants in The Rebellion of 1837-1838⁵. Phil's family members were both convicted of treason. One was sent to Bermuda on a prison ship, and the second was sent to Australia on a prison ship called "The Buffalo." Both men eventually returned to Canada, but their lives had been permanently altered by those experiences. We found quite a lot of historical information about them.

3 Video of the New-France Festival are available at www.Youtube.com.

4 Saint-Denis-sur-Richelieu is a municipality in the southwestern part of Quebec, Canada on the Richelieu River in the Regional County Municipality of La Vallée-du-Richelieu.

5 The Rebellions of 1837-1838 (French: Les rébellions de 1837), were two armed uprisings that took place in Lower and Upper Canada in 1837 and 1838.

Walt and Vi Elope to Reno, Nevada

By Caye Johnson

My mother, Violet Ethel Thurston, and my father, Walter Benjamin Collins, met at a Christmas party in El Paso, Texas when he was visiting there. My mother recalls that all the girls were GaGa over my father, but that he asked to escort her home from the party. Therein began a long distance relationship between my father in Westmorland, California in the Imperial Valley where he had a farm and my mother in El Paso where she was an elementary school teacher.

When Walt stopped answering her letters, my mother asked a mutual friend why. It turned out that a jealous former girl friend of my father worked in the post office and intercepted the letters from my mother. However, the relationship deepened while my mother was attending summer

school at the University of Southern California¹ to complete her degree as she had not completed her degree from the University of Arizona, College of Mines.

They eloped to Reno, Nevada to get married as my father's parents were deceased and it made no sense to get married in the Imperial Valley and it was too far to go to Texas. Plus marriage in Nevada was less trouble and quicker. Following the marriage rites on August 24, 1937, they left for a honeymoon trip to Lake Tahoe, San Francisco, Monterey, Carmel and Santa Barbara.

When Violet returned to El Paso to get out of her

¹Violet completed her degree at USC by correspondence school after she and Walter were married.

teaching contract for the next year, for some reason, unbeknownst to me, they wanted to keep the marriage secret. However, Violet's stepfather and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kincaid, not only sent out announcements about the marriage, but also published it in the local El Paso newspaper. According to the newspaper article, for her wedding Violet wore an ensemble of dark blue crepe with matching accessories and her corsage bouquet was of gardenias.

The newspaper article mentioned that Walter's family was longtime residents of the Imperial Valley, which was true as they had moved there in 1906, and that Walter's father Charles Walter Collins² was prominent in politics which was also true. C. W. Collins was appointed Postmaster of El Centro as his reward for his political activism. However, the newspaper also said that CW came from a family of lawyers. Sort of true: CW's youngest brother, Huber Collins sold law books and was a self taught lawyer, hanging out his shingle in Arizona before practicing in California where he unsuccessfully ran for a judgeship in Los Angeles. And Walter's longtime best friend, Kenneth "Jed" A. Davis, from high school was a bone fide lawyer with a JD degree. Walter and Jed were also fraternity brothers at UC Berkeley, although Walter never graduated.

The newspaper also reported that Violet was visiting El Paso until their home was built in the Imperial Valley. Not quite true, she was there to teach until she could get out of her contract. So don't believe everything you read in the newspaper about your ancestors. Prior to their marriage, my father lived in a water tower on an adjacent farm to which he was embarrassed to bring his bride home to, so he rented a house in Brawley until they could build their house on the farm. He used to boast that he and another Mexican³ built the house. They drew the floor plan on a piece of brown paper. The house was built on a cement slab without

the normal foundation and crawl space. Hence all the plumbing was in the attic. Because they did not have enough money to install electrical outlets throughout the house, they simply pre-wired the appropriate locations and put them in as they could afford. The house was a sturdy wooden structure that withstood all the swarms of earthquakes for which the Imperial Valley is known but was demolished by the new owners.

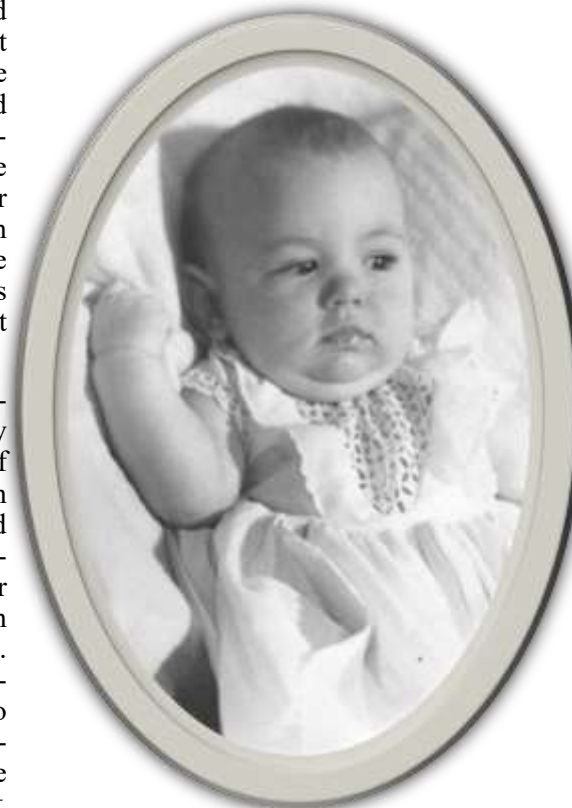
Walt and Vi lived in that house for over 50 years until my father died of heart failure in January 1990. Upon my father's death, I moved my mother to a nursing home in Los Altos to be closer to me where I visited her daily after work. She passed away in April 1990 and their ashes were scattered at sea by the Neptune Society.

Forgot to mention, that my parents adopted my

brother, Charles Walter Collins, when he was two months old in April 1941 and Voile, I popped out 10 months later in January 1942. Surprise, surprise!! That often happens after an adoption.

²More information about CW Collins is in "The First Thirty Years, History of the Imperial Valley" by Otis B. Tout.

³Carlos Avilla, a carpenter in Brawley, California



Caye Collins, 1942



Chester Creek Murders

Review by Patrick M. Lofft

Author, Nathan Dylan Goodwin, was born and raised in Hastings, East Sussex, England. Schooled in the town, he then completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Radio, Film and Television, followed by a Master of Arts Degree in Creative Writing at Canterbury Christ Church University. His interests include reading, writing, photography, genealogy and travelling. As I enjoyed Nathan's prior Forensic Genealogist series I was eager to read his initial novel in the fresh Venator Cold Case series.

This tale begins in March 2020 as the Covid-19 pandemic is first appearing in the U. S. I have to admit that I wasn't sure what to expect with **The Chester Creek Murders**, the first book in a new genetic genealogy mystery series – **A Venator Cold Case**. [Venator is Latin for 'hunter'.] I have grown quite fond of Morton Farrier, forensic genealogist, the star of most of Nathan's previous novels.

The main character in Chester Creek Murders is Madison Scott-Barnhart, or Maddie as she is known, who lives in Utah and takes on difficult-to-solve genealogical mysteries. Maddie's specialty involves the use of modern DNA techniques to solve criminal cold cases. Venator, the company founded by Maddie, is based in Salt Lake City to undertake cold cases referred by police departments from around the U. S.

Maddie has a multicultural team working with her – Becky, Hudson, Kenyatta and Ross, each with specialized skills in the field of investigative genetic genealogy.

We are introduced to Maddie and her team through Detective Clayton Tyler of Delaware County, located in the southeastern corner of Pennsylvania, not far from Philadelphia. [This reviewer lived in Delaware County from 1963 to 1971.]

Maddie has agreed to take on this early 1980's cold case involving the murders of three young women whose bodies were found dumped in Chester Creek.

The general format and structure of **The Chester Creek Murders** is similar to the author's other stories, with important case details being explained to the reader through the use of flashbacks.

Suffice it to say that Venator brings the murder case to a successful conclusion.

This tale provides a fascinating tutorial for professional DNA analysis. As an added bonus the author includes a subplot as a simpler scaled down tutorial for less demanding research needs. The Venator teammates are professional genealogy hunters who access a wide selection of subscription databases: Classmates.com, GenealogyBank, MyHeritage, Newspapers.com; Obituaries on Legacy.com, DNAPainter, FamilyTreeDNA, Google maps; Social media, Twitter, Flickr; Background Check sites: BeenVerified, MyLife, Spokeo, TruthFinder, WhitePages.com, etc.

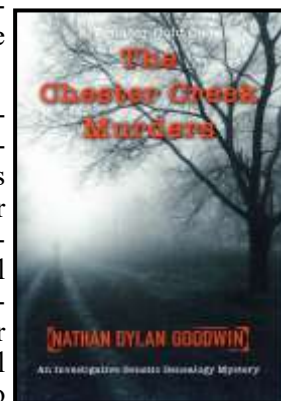
When the online sites are insufficient team members walk down the street to the Family History Library. Author Goodwin expertly leaves the reader hanging at the close of most chapters with a hunger to resume.

What I really liked about the story was that it provides a realistic view of the detailed analysis and plain old slogging work that goes into solving a cold case through genetic genealogy.

It is a fascinating look at how investigators like CeCe Moore, *The Genetic Genealogist* on ABC would solve real life cases.

DNA evidence alone doesn't solve cold cases. Investigators must combine that evidence with genealogical research, building trees up and down generations to find relatives in common with suspects. Serious genealogists will learn worthwhile research techniques. The Chester Creek Murders illustrates alternative research techniques when, for example, a state blocks access to birth records for over 100 years.

A foundation of knowledge about genetic genealogy has been established in this story and, as this is the first book in a new series, future readers who don't understand the basics about how this type of research happens should read this book to stay up to speed on the progress of future cases.



Future General Meetings ~ via **Zoom**

Zoom is a web-based video conferencing tool.
Join the L-AGS meeting through a L-AGS email invite.
First time Zoom participants Learn How at YouTube.com:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9isp3qPeQ0E>

Visitors are always welcome.

Monday December 13, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.	
<i>Janice Sellers</i>	<i>Vital Records and the Calendar Change</i>
Monday January 10, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.	
<i>Lisa Gorrell</i>	<i>Focused Research: Using Research Plans</i>
Monday February 14, 7:00 p.m. – via Zoom – site opens 6:30 p.m.	
<i>Glenda Lloyd</i>	<i>The ABC's of Land Records</i>

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