

THE LIVERMORE ROOTS TRACER

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EDITOR
Gayle Pipes

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ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Margaret Fazio & Judy Williams

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AMADOR GENEALOGICAL ASSOCIATION URGES FOLKS
TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO
COOPERATIVE FAMILY RESEARCH

Nov. 25th Meeting Highlights
England and Scotland Research

COME TO THE LIVERMORE LIBRARY AT 7:30 PM THE FOURTH TUESDAY
OF EACH MONTH

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our thanks to Mr. Dean Flint, Attorney and Genealogist, speaker at our October meeting, who gave us firsthand information on how to search courthouse records. With knowledge gained, we should have few problems when we tackle courthouse records.

Our AGA Library is expanding monthly and we can be proud of its organization by Lucile White. Be sure to use it — it may save you a trip to search for lost information or clues.

An Association such as ours can be the best of it's kind if we all chip in our suggestions.

Editor, Gayle Pipes and his able Associate Editors, Margaret Fazio and Judy Williams, are to be commended for the excellent job they are doing with the Livermore Roots Tracer. Back issues are still needed to make our file complete. If anyone has any they want to part with, please bring them to the November meeting.

Although Wednesdays have been set aside to go to the Archives and Libraries, Wednesdays were set aside because more people indicated they could go on that day — but, we can plan another day also if you will but let us know what day you can go.

We had a great turnout at the October meeting — let's keep it up.

Fran Samans, President

EDITORIAL

A name, a name, what's in a name? Shakespear

When our organization was founded, the name Amador Genealogical Association was selected after prolonged discussion. This name has led to considerable difficulties since it does not give any indication of our location. Over the years we continue to receive inquiries about Amador County genealogy from various parts of the country. When the Amador Genealogical Association is mentioned, the next question always is "Where is that?"

Your board has asked for suggestions for new names and will ask the membership to vote on a change of name at the November meeting. Three new names have been suggested by the membership and recommended for consideration by your board. Of the three names suggested, none contain the name Amador. If we omit this word from our name we will lose a link with the past and people outside our organization will wonder if a new organization has been formed or if our organization has split. They will look at the inscription on the reader - printer in a few years and ask "Who was the Amador Genealogical Association?"

I am, therefore, suggesting a fourth name. The Livermore Amador Genealogical and Biographical Society. While this is a long name, we can simply refer to it internally as the Amador Society, and other organizations and individuals will know who we were and who we are.

Looking over a list of Valley organizations, I find over a dozen that use the location names Livermore Amador in their names. The word 'biographical' gives a better description of our organization since many of us have written and are writing personal and family histories. Nearly all of us have made a beginning on our personal history by the member profiles published in the Livermore Roots Tracer.

As most genealogical organizations mature and their members begin to put their years of research into family histories, they change their name to include biographical to indicate that they are writers as well as compilers. Lets make the change now.

For these reasons I would strongly urge you to select the name the Livermore Amador Genealogical and Biographical Society.

Gayle Pipes, Editor

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Fidelity Savings and Loan Association's 1981 Calendar Art Scholarship Program will be on display at their branch office located at 2059 First St., from Tuesday, November 18th thru Friday, November 21st. The hours are: tues. - thurs. 10 AM - 5 PM, fri. 10 AM to 6 PM. The proceeds will go to benefit the AGA's efforts to purchase a microfilm reader-printer for the Livermore Library. This is how it was advertised. The money raised will go to reimburse our treasury

for the money we have already given as our share of the reader-printer. Members should attend if possible and save any clippings from the paper.

2. Barbara Dittig has resigned as Publicity Chairman. Gayle will ask Judy Hurtz to serve in her stead.

3. Regarding the name change of the Association; the following are the three your board has recommended for your vote:

- A. Livermore Valley Genealogical Society
- B. Livermore Valley Biographical and Genealogical Society
- C. Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

Please consider which of these three you think is best as we will vote on this at the November meeting. Suggestions are still being taken, so if you have one, be sure and bring it.

4. Fran Samans has donated a book purchased at the Mormon Library entitled "Your Life" an aid to writing a family history and also a quantity of stencils. Thanks again Fran.

5. Rosemarie stated that we need one of our members who would be willing to attend the Cultural Arts Council meetings which are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 PM, at the Multi-Services Building near the Police Station. Please, may we have a volunteer, as we are unable to join unless someone from our group will attend.

6. Our speaker last month, Dean Flint, was very well received and was one of the best meetings as far as attendance was concerned. Rosemarie Wade is sending Mr. Flint a letter of thanks from the Association.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our speaker for November will be Charles Smith of Livermore, who will speak on research in England and Scotland. He is well qualified, with 20 years experience in this area. He will have forms to use when searching information from these countries. He will also have early census of England and Scotland. Much of his presentation will be with overhead transparencies.

Since we have such an exceptional speaker, we urge you to give this meeting your high priority. November 25, Livermore Library, 7:30 PM.

LIBRARY NOTES

by Lucile White

New items received this month by the library are:

INDEX TO KENTUCKY WILLS - TO 1851, by Ronald V. Jackson. An index of all known Recorded wills for the state of Kentucky prior to 1851.

The Genealogical Helper Sept/Oct 1980

National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 67, #4, Dec. 1979.

The surname index for all 1979 Quarterlies are in this volume. Donated by Janeva Hotz. Thanks, Jan.

Hayward Area Newsletter, Sept 1980

If you want to use any particular book from the library and can't get to the library, I will be glad to bring it to the regular meeting if you will call and let me know which book you want. 455-0550

BOOK SELECTION: If anyone has a suggestion for the purchase of a book, will you please make a note of it, with your name included, in case there is a question about it, and turn it over to one of the book committee, Lucile White, Pat Saltgaver and Dot Bevard.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Betty Rochin

I was born in San Francisco, California, on December 19, 1919, the second child of three of John and Josephine (Jensen) Peterson. My father was sent to San Francisco by N. Clark & Sons where he worked as a Terra Cotta estimator until he was let go during the depression. He went to work for the Southern Pacific after a time with the WPA.

My mother and father were born in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, where they lived until coming to California in 1919.

My Mother Josephine (Jensen), my Grandmother Josephine (Jackson), my Great Grandmother Josephine (Moses), and my Great Great Grandmother Mary (?) lived and owned most of Metochen, New Jersey, where they had a farm.

My Great Great Grandfather Joseph Coleman Moses was in the dragoons and was sent to develop Fort DeMoines, Iowa. I found a Moses in a Pedigree Chart who was here in 1630, but I haven't made the connection yet. So get busy Betty, or you won't get anything done -- I still have the Rochin side to do.

NEWS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

compiled by Rosemarie Stickney Wade

SPEAKING RELATIVELY - East Cuyahoga County Chapter of Ohio Genealogical Society November and December Issue: Records of the Superior Court of Franklin County - 1857 - 1865; Wm. Oliver Family History 1853 - 1916; Marlene Avery suggests you check your phone books under consulates and inquire if translation services are available; information on veterans headstones or markers; the Armentrout Family History is ready for print; if you are researching in Lancaster Co., Pa. you might want to contact Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, 2215 Millstream Road, Lancaster, Pa. 17602; French's Gazeteer of the State of New York (1860) has been reprinted. It contains almost every place in New York and includes short histories and facts about events and early settlers; Ronna K. Bryan, 675 E. 24th St., Euclid, OH 44123 has a photo of Doctor Robert J. Lawler, Cleveland, OH (1914-19); Ed Ros, 806 First Street, Sandusky, OH 44870, has old photo album of Irish Catholic family, with references to the Donigans, Foleys, McCloskey (a cardinal) Murphys' of Akron and Cuyahoga Falls, OH and Binghamton, N.Y.; Index for Ashtabula Co. Birth Registrations is available; Early 1875 and 1905 Athens Co. Atlases and Indexes available; Ricketts - Morris family Bible - Tenn. and VA; Queries.

DIABLO DESCENDANTS - Contra Costa Co. Gen. Soc., Concord, CA, Oct 1980

The Burton Family Record, a book on the descendants of Allin Burton, born 2 February 1729 in Virginia, and wife, Elizabeth Bassett, daughter of Thomas and Lydia (Howell) Bassett of Cumberland Co., Virginia, is being compiled by Max Coppage, 1356 Elderberry Drive, Concord, CA 94521.

The Pleasant Hill library has three important resources for those who have German lines - the Encyclopedia of German-American Genealogical Research by Clifford Neal Smith and Anna P. C. Smith, American Genealogical Resources in German Archives (a companion volume to the encyclopedia above), and the Preliminary Survey of the German Collection by Ronald Smelser. These books have a short description in the CC newsletter. Carol McClaskey, 545 Hanse, #7, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401, would be grateful for any information on the McClaskey line; Peoria Gen. Soc., P.O. Box 1489, Peoria, ILL 61655, has reprinted the 1888 History of Peoria Co., Ill.

PATHS TO THE PAST - Newsletter of the North San Diego Co. Gen. Soc., Inc. Oct 1980: Added to their library the Leon S. Hollingsworth Gen. Card File. During his long career, Leon S. Hollingsworth (1896 - 1974) accumulated an extensive file of references to persons from throughout the Southeast, primarily Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, and Alabama. The Taylor Foundation has put this collection of about 44,500 cards on microfilm. List of Arkansas Sources.

NORTHWEST IOWA (compiled by Margaret Fazio) - Records of a nurse named Mrs. Abe DeVries who served as a midwife to many early settlers in the Orange City Iowa area. Records date from 1874 - 1893 and list surname, birthdate, sex, parents if given. List of several Sioux Co. Atlases. Marriage records in Plymouth County, Iowa June 1886 - 1889, have been copied and indexes are at the Iowa Genealogical Society.

New York City Public Library, Local History and Genealogy Division, Fifth Avenue and 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10018, has "let's exchange files" which encourages information swap between family researchers. They will answer brief specific questions about any New York ancestor whose name is in the file.

This seems to be a very interested and hard working group of genealogists. If you have roots in Northwest Iowa, why don't you send them a copy of your ancestor chart. They also have Queries.

OHIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - Newsletter, Sept. 1980: Genealogies in the Ohio Gen. Soc.; Calendar of events; chapter news; queries.

WEINHOLD WANDERINGS - Summer Issue, July 1980 - D. Ernest Weinhold, 107 Sunhill Road, Manheim, PA 17545, is the editor of this family publication. It includes the names Frey, Fry and Frye as well as Weinhold and deals with the area called Muddy Creek - E. Cocalico Twp., Lancaster Co. Pa. Full of lots of data and interesting stories of early ancestors, plus photos. Many descendants went to the midwest, to the southwest also.

GENEALOGICAL AIDS

Research in Iowa
by Margaret Fazio

SOURCES: Handy Book, "Genealogical Helper Magazine" (Iowa article in a 1979 issue; July - August 1980 issue has a special section on organizations in Iowa, as well as other states), Olga Miller's book Migration, Emigration, Immigration, Val Greenwood's book The Researchers Guide to American Genealogy, HEW publications: "Where to Write for Birth and Death Records", "Where to Write for Marriage Records", and "Where to Write for Divorce Records." Another valuable source is the Index to the Holdings of the Salt Lake City Library. The microfilm of the holdings of the Sutro Library is in the Livermore Library and has many books on Iowa that can be used through the inter-library loan system.

HISTORICAL DATES FOR IOWA

1788 - French explorers passed through this land much earlier, but the first permanent white settlement was made by Julien Dubuque near the city of Dubuque in this year.

1803 - Iowa land part of United States territory through the Louisiana Purchase.

1812 - Louisiana became a state; Iowa became part of Missouri Territory.

1821 - Missouri became a state; Iowa became part of the unorganized territory of the United States.

1834-36 - Iowa was part of the Michigan Territory.

1836-38 - Iowa became part of the Wisconsin Territory.

1846 - Iowa became a state.

CIVIL COURT ACTION

Law and Equity: Some points on Common Law from Val Greenwood. The terms equity and chancery both describe one type of court proceeding and the term law is used to describe another court proceeding. "Justice" is what is meant by the term equity. It has to do with impartial justice between two parties with a case in controversy (conflicting rights or claims). Except where legal precedent rules, judicial discretion is used to determine whether or not a jury will be used; traditionally, there is no right to trial by jury.

In a law action one seeks to recover monetary damages for harm to himself, his property, his reputation, his earnings. In a suit in equity one seeks to force someone to do something (specific performance decree) or to desist doing something (injunction). Equity courts handle such matters as foreclosures of liens, divorces, receiverships, partitions, trusts, real property controversies (with lis pendens).

The most important kinds of actions at law are founded in CONTRACT AND TORT. Greenwood describes a tort as a wrong or injury arising out of the law, not associated with a contract but involving a legal duty, a breach of that duty and injury as a result of the breach. It involves, he says, injury to one's person (including his reputation and feelings) or his property. Assault, battery, trespass, misrepresentation, defamation and negligence are common torts.

In Iowa: "Civil actions are distinguished as equitable or ordinary, but both are under the jurisdiction of the District Courts in the counties."

MILITARY RECORDS

The Greenwood book has a great deal of information on the American Revolution, as well as, the Colonial Wars. Iowa is mentioned only in regard to the government paying out Revolution War pensions to veterans living there after the War. There are 14 unnumbered manuscript volumes relating to payment of the Revolutionary pensioners in 34 states and the District of Columbia. These are records of payments made to pensioners under the Acts of Congress from 1818 to 1853, and under each state they are arranged alphabetically according to the Act under which the pension was granted..

According to the HEW publication, State office has records since July 1, 1880. Before this date, write to the county courthouse where the event took place. It's a good idea to check the Handy Book for your county's data before writing to the State office. If, however, the State keeps your \$2 and finds nothing, mail the State's letter with a note to the county courthouse and perhaps they can find the record there.

Birth Certificates: Incomplete birth records are available up to 1897, even less complete to January 1819.

An example of the information on a Birth Certificate issued after 1905, would be: name of father, maiden name of mother, birthplace of both, residence of parents at time of birth, occupation of both, date last engaged in work, total time spent in work, number of children of this mother - living and dead, city and state are listed for birthplace of parents.

Death Certificates: Available in some instances from 1880, and complete from 1905. These records give information on the death, but also on the parents - mother's maiden name, place of birth of parents and person, birthdate and or age of person, residence of person at time of death. The only problem with this information is that some death certificates lack the information asked for on the form because it was unknown to the person filling out the certificate and another problem is that the informant's information can be in error for one reason or another. Even though the information might be questionable, it still may help you verify information (names, dates, places, even diseases) you already know or suspect.

Marriage and Divorce Records:

Marriage Records: Marriage records are available at the above address since 1880. The offices of the Clerk of the District Court in each County also has the marriage data prior to 1880 and to the present.

Names of the parents of the bride and groom are given in many counties. Also the ages of the bride and groom. Possibly more information.

Divorce Records: The offices of the Clerk of the District Court in each County have this information. There wasn't a great deal of genealogical information on the document received, other than the date the divorce was granted.

LAND RECORDS AND INDEXES

In Iowa, these records are kept with the County Recorder of Deeds. In most states, local land records are well indexed, both by names of grantors and by names of grantees. There are some limitations to these records that are pointed out by Greenwood on Page 313, but one can generally find records pertaining to your ancestors without a great deal of difficulty.

In Iowa there are no direct indexes to the parties of land transactions, but rather all land records are indexed according to tract. Greenwood explains ". . . under this type of index a line or column is assigned to conveniently-sized tracts (maybe a section, quarter-section, platted block or lot). In such cases it is necessary to know the subdivision, section, township and range (or block #) in order to find the records. These indexes are an asset to those who examine land titles, but they pose problems for the genealogist."

HOMESTEAD ENTRY FILES

This information is for Iowa as well as all other states. Homestead Entry Papers are filed in the National Archives under the names of the individual land offices, usually in two separate series - one series is for those who completed their entries and the other for those who did not. These files cover the years 1863 to 1908. A completed file includes: 1) Homestead Application; 2) Certificate of Publication of Intent to Make Claim; 3) Homestead Proof, consisting of 2 witnesses and the testimony of the claimant; 4) Final Certificate, authorizing the claimant to obtain a patent; 5) When appropriate, a copy of Naturalization proceedings or a copy of a Union Veteran's discharge certificate. For more details, see Greenwood's book, pg. 281.

Homestead entries which were converted to cash entries are in the Cash Entry Files and include all previously-completed Homestead papers. The records in the National Archives are available through the use of a card index located at the Bureau of Land Management. (Check the San Bruno Library)

FINDING AND USING WILLS

In Iowa, the court dealing with probate matters is the District Court in the county where the Will was registered. There are also indexes to Wills. Most are 'direct indexes' (to testators), but some are 'reverse indexes' (to beneficiaries) - mostly found in North Carolina.

To secure a copy of a Will by correspondence, from a micro-film or in any other way, it is necessary to know the jurisdiction that originally produced and recorded that will. Once the proper jurisdiction is found, then the indexes can be used. Greenwood says that sometimes a clue to an ancestor's origins abroad will be mentioned in a will.

IF NO WILL - DIED 'INTESTATE' ** PROBATE

The probate proceedings are usually set in motion by a petition from a person interested in the estate. This petition (called Application for Letters of Administration or a Petition for Probate) tells that the death took place, that the decedent died intestate, and that property within the court's jurisdiction (and sometimes additional property) was left to administer. The amount of the property must be stated, and in more recent years, the names and relationships of those persons who may be entitled to share in that property must be given. This petition is usually filed by the surviving spouse or the next of kin.

Once the petition is filed, a hearing is set and notice is given to all interested parties. Proof of Claims by petitioners is the reason for the hearing. Once proved, the court grants administration. The administrator now proceeds with the estate. In some states there must be a minimum size of an estate to justify an administration grant. In other states there's no statutory limitation on the size of an estate.

One of the important duties of the administrator is to make a complete inventory of the assets of the estate and file it with the court. The court usually will appoint appraisers to ascertain the true value of the estate.

The administrator must make an accurate record of all he does in his role of administrator. At the termination of his trust he must make a final account. These actions are recorded and filed with the court. This final account must be accepted by those interested in the estate and can be disputed. In more recent years, according to Greenwood, and only in some states, a decree of distribution is issued by the court at the completion of the administration, to show proof of title. The decree officially vests the title to the decedent's property in his heirs name. The document is called by various names: decree of heirship; probate decree; assignment of real estate; order of distribution; probate assignment; decree of distribution; certificate of devise.

The value of these records is that they show how the estate was divided and who got what.

GUARDIANSHIP

Guardianship Records are usually akin to probate records and the court process related to probate. In some states they are handled in separate courts, but in most states they are handled by the same court.

In Iowa, guardianship is handled by the County Probate Court. Generally, the jurisdiction is in the county of the child's residence rather than the guardian's. Many times, when guardianship records are with probate records, they'll be indexed and easier to use, but it's not always the case.

A friend who's done work in Pennsylvania's records, told me that many times, the wife as well as the children were assigned a guardian after the husband and father died intestate.

PROBATE RECORDS AND RELATED RECORDS COMPRISE ONE OF THE BEST SOURCES OF GENEALOGICAL DATA. Greenwood believes that these records deal with the "real stuff" of genealogy - the family and family relationships. THESE RECORDS EXIST IN TIMES AND PLACES WHERE FEW OTHER RECORDS EXIST.

Mr. Dean L. Flint, last month's speaker, handed out a printed outline entitled "What to do after you find the courthouse: A Practical Outline For The Genealogist". It deals with just about all the topics I've touched on, and is an excellent reference tool for anyone wishing to obtain records from any courthouse. It is clear and concise and should be taken along when visiting libraries as well as courthouses. Refer to it when writing for records from a courthouse to be sure you are communicating in a language that a county clerk can understand. There is a copy in our library.