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The Livermore Roots Tracer



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

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

www.L-AGS.org

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Membership News

Welcome to Our New Members

**W. Edward King, Marie (Ferrario) Timmer, Kelly Glenn,
Pat Williams, Pennie Clouser, Ellen Fletcher**

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

Patrons

Kay Speaks, David Steffes, Duncan Tanner

Benefactors

**James W. Bahls, Sandra Caulder, Sandy & DeLynn Clark,
Ted & Gail Fairfield, Richard & Wanda Finn, Richard & Jean Lerche,
David & Bernice Oakley, Betty Ryon**

Total membership as of July 23, 2007: 234 individuals

Meeting News

General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at: Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton. Visitors welcome!

The Family Tree Maker Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Almond Avenue School, Livermore.

FTM Chair *ftm.chair@L-AGS.org*

FTM Forum *ftm.group@L-AGS.org*

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

Study Group Chair *study.chair@L-AGS.org*

Study Group Forum *study.group@L-AGS.org*

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

TV-TMG Chair *tvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org*

TV-TMG Forum *tvtmg.group@L-AGS.org*

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: **tracer@L-AGS.org** or mailed to L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901.

The Roots Tracer Staff

Editor Jane Southwick

Reporters Lois Barber, Marie Ross, Lois Smith,
..... Kay Speaks

Web Editor Vicki Renz

Compositor George Anderson

Printing and Distribution Sandra Caulder

G.R.O.W. Columnist Frank Geasa

Visit our Web site at: <http://www.L-AGS.org/>

Membership Dues

Annual dues are:

Individual	\$18.00
Family	\$25.00
Benefactor	\$40.00
Patron	\$100.00

New members joining in October, November or December are paid through December of the next year. Names of Patrons and Benefactors are published in four consecutive issues of the Roots Tracer. Donations in addition to the dues are appreciated.

To join or renew, make your check or money order payable to “L-AGS” and send to: L-AGS, P.O. Box 901, Livermore, CA 94551-0901.

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

A Message from Our President

In the previous Roots Tracer, I thanked those of you who worked on the seminar; this time I must thank the many members who manned our genealogy booth at the Alameda County Fair. I signed up for two slots this year, and I learned for myself what everyone had said—it was fun! Gail Bryan deserves special kudos for ramrodding the affair for us.

When our home was threatened by fire, one of the last things I thought of saving was my genealogy records. Unfortunately, they are not on a computer because the computer I was using at the time is so out of date that I cannot retrieve the records. So, they are on paper in a filing cabinet—not what I would save in a last ditch effort to gather materials as I was fleeing from flames. Fortunately, I did not have to make those choices since the volunteer firefighters up here in Morgan Territory did a marvelous job in keeping the grass fire from involving our buildings. But it did make me think that I had better get those records on my laptop soon!

The programs planned by Arleen Wood continue to entertain us and give us new information. Beth Twogood’s presentation in June was very well done and gave us some creative ideas about family get-togethers. In July Jane Lindsay and Colleen Huntley invited us to the new Oakland headquarters of the California Genealogical Society and teased us with lists of information available in their library—for example, the Argonaut Index, the records of the Halsten-Gray Mortuary 1859-1957, the burial records of IOOF and a vertical file. If you are not a member, there is a \$5 reader’s fee; the first Saturday of each month is free. A BART station is not far away.

I turned in our petition for Ancestry.com to Rosemary Dukelow at the Livermore Library. Many of you signed it at the July meeting. Hopefully, that and the news that the FHC in Livermore no longer carries Ancestry.com will persuade the powers-that-be in the library administration to grant our request.

We have tentatively scheduled our December meeting to start at 7:00. This year is our 30th anniversary, so we wanted a little more time than usual to visit and eat cake after the regular program. Invite friends who used to be members of L-AGS to attend and celebrate with us. Of course, your friends who might become new members are also welcome to join us.

Anne Marshall Homan

L-AGS Leadership—2007

President	president@L-AGS.org	Anne Homan
First VP and Program Chair	program@L-AGS.org	Arleen Wood
Second VP and Membership Chair	membership@L-AGS.org	Patrick Lofft and Larry Hale
Corresponding Secretary	corresponding@L-AGS.org	Beth Twogood
Recording Secretary	recording@L-AGS.org	Rose Marie Phipps
Business Manager	business@L-AGS.org	Frank Geasa

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Memories of the Alameda County Fair 2007

By Gail Bryan

We completed our seventh year at the fair in 2007. Our booth seems to get more popular every year. A big "Thank You" to all the volunteers who helped to make it a success. Many worked double shifts to fill in empty gaps.

We did cut back our hours and had three computers instead of four as in years past. We did this because the fair administrators wanted to give out fewer volunteer tickets. We also staffed the booth for fewer hours on the slow days of Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, because fair attendance is usually smaller on those days. Our hours on the "slow" days were 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., while on other days they were 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. All days were divided into three-hour shifts. A greeter was available on all shifts. The greeter has an important job that introduces visitors to our booth and explains that our purpose at the fair is to help people who want to start their family history and who want ideas on where to start. Many visitors ask, "How much does it cost?" And of course, it is free.

We also had our maps on which visitors could put pins to show where they were born. A map of Europe was added this year because many of our visitors are from Europe. Our United States map had a pin in every state except Delaware.

We also want to thank Renee Ramig who was building coordinator again this year. She gave us the same spot as last year; right up by the front door and visible when people entered the building. She and her staff were always ready to help with problems, and supplied us with printer paper and additional copies of our handouts of "Free Internet Websites" and Pedigree Charts.

Our Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society (L-AGS) was joined by other organizations:

- The Josefa Higuera Livermore Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- Tracy Area Genealogical Society (TAGS)
- San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society (SRVGS)
- The California Genealogical Society (CGS),
- The Amador Livermore Valley Historical Society (ALVHS)
- Family History Centers (Livermore & Pleasanton)

We each had our own special experiences in helping people, and in receiving appreciation from those we helped. But I feel the best comment I had was one from Renee. She had acquired the latest technology for her building, with four Wii Game Stations and other high-tech devices. She asked a friend who visited, "What was your favorite thing in my building?" and was told "putting a pin in the map where I was born."

Let's hope we can do it again next year. Again "Thanks" to all.

We Get as Well as Give

By Jane Southwick

The volunteers at the fair booth are there to "give information." However, I found that we are also there to "receive information." John, a very nice gentleman from Fremont, stopped by to see how we were doing and said he knew about our L-AGS organization. He wanted us to know about a Web site he has created. On this site he is indexing all of the ships and ship passengers that came to California during the gold rush. The site also contains wagon train lists and Isthmus of Panama information, and is fully searchable. You will find it at

www.pt5dome.com.

One of the reasons we have established our genealogy booth at the County Fair is to encourage visitors to start thinking about their family history. One way we can do this is to show them what is available on the Internet while they are sitting with us at the fair, and then provide them with a list of Web sites they can take home to use in looking for their families. We are grateful to Frank Geasa for composing this Web site list. He also composed a list of foreign Web sites that were in the book that Kay Speaks put together. This book contained finding aids and databases to be used as a reference.

These valuable lists are too long to reprint in the Roots Tracer, but they will be posted on our Web site soon. That alternative has the added advantage of allowing all of the numerous links to be clickable.



Fun at the Fair

Clockwise from top left:

- David Fuess, Barbara Huber and Frank Geasa with rapt patrons.
- Our popular map display on which visitors place a pin marking their birthplace.
- Jane Southwick, Kay Speaks and Frank Geasa help ancestor-seekers.
- The next three photos show Jane, Kay and Frank with different groups of fair-goers. These three, plus Barbara Huber and others, served many shifts at the fair, including, in some cases, more than one a day.

Photos by Gail Bryan





G. R. O. W.

Genealogy Resources on the Web — the Page that Helps Genealogy Grow!

Compiled by Frank Geasa

This Ridgewood Public Library site has indexes of the Bergen County, New Jersey state censuses for the years 1885, 1895, 1905 and 1915. Bergen Co is across the Hudson River from New York City.

http://www.ridgewoodlibrary.org/localhistory/local_history_census_index.htm

If any of your ancestors served in the Australian Army during World War I, you may find the contents of their service records in digitized format at:

http://www.naa.gov.au:80/the_collection/gift-to-the-nation.html

The Marin County Genealogical Society (California) has an ongoing project underway to index that county's marriage and birth records from 1900.

<http://www.maringensoc.org/Resources/marriages-births.htm>

Online indexes, organized by county, of naturalization records for the state of Michigan are available at this History, Arts and Libraries site.

http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17449_18635_20684---,00.html

If your ancestry includes Belgian lines, you might want to visit this site of the Belgian Researchers, which includes some databases both in the USA and in Belgium.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~inbr/index.html>

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum (UK) has a search list with some data on over 40,000 soldiers of The Gloucestershire Regiment in World War I.

<http://www.glost.org.uk/>

This growing site has free BDM indexes of over 134 million England & Wales records since 1837.

<http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

The Contra Costa County Genealogical Society (California) has online birth, marriage and death indexes as well as several voter registers from the late 1800s. There is also a list of burials at Oakview Cemetery, Antioch.

<http://www.cccgs.org/>

The Kansas State Historical Society has an ongoing project of indexing the 1895 state census. Many counties have been completed and can be searched.

The site also lists films for censuses and other subjects which can be borrowed thru interlibrary loan.

<http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/census/>

If your ancestry search includes Newfoundland you will want to visit this Newfoundland Grand Banks genealogy site which has a treasure trove of genealogy search lists including vital records, immigration, voters' lists and much more.

<http://ngb.chebucto.org/index.html>

The Bay County Genealogy Society of Florida (Panama City) has several search indexes including marriage, obituary and cemetery on their site with more transcription projects in progress or planned.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flbcgs/index.html>

This Oklahoma District Court site has public record indexes, including marriages. Some records such as Willie Alexander's are from decades before the inclusive dates shown.

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

This San Fernando Valley Genealogical Society (California) has online alphabetical lists of names in local newspaper obituaries 1911-1945.

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~casfvgs/data3.html>

If your genealogical interest includes Lincoln County, Nebraska, this site offers interesting reading (Buffalo Bill and WWII troop train canteen) as well as search lists for cemeteries, WWI draft registrations and others. One rather unusual list is a Union Pacific Railroad seniority list.

<http://www.lincoln.wathenadesigns.com/index.html>

If you are researching in South Carolina, that state's Department of Archives & History has several searchable indexes including Confederate pensions, state land grants and wills at this site.

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/Archives/default.asp>



The Orphan Train—Christie O'Shea's Story

As told to Jane Southwick

When Christie Hills was growing up in Turlock, California, her family spent their summer vacations driving to Kansas to visit her father's relatives. Her father was Ruben Hills. (When Ruben was much younger the last name was Hill, and sometimes his first name was spelled Reuben.) The family visited Christie's Aunt Elsie, in Neosho Falls, Kansas, and her Uncle Mike (first name, Albert) in Leroy, Kansas, and her grandparents, Edmund and Minnie Frobenius, on the farm in Spring Creek, Kansas. It wasn't until much later, that Christie found out that Edmund and Minnie were not her real grandparents.

Christie moved to Livermore, California to work, and met and married her husband Pat O'Shea. In 1962, Christie and Pat drove to the airport to greet her Uncle Walter, and drove him to Turlock for a reunion with Christie's father, Ruben. Walter Hill had been looking for his brother, Ruben/Reuben Hill for a very long time. This is when Christie discovered that her father had ridden on the *Orphan Train* when he was 12 years old. At that time, she was so busy with her work and her family, that she did not have the time to think about the importance of the *Orphan Train*.

In 1995, she watched a PBS presentation about the *Orphan Train* and realized this was a very important happening. She set about trying to find out as much as she could about her father's experience. She had an old newspaper article that had been published in the Turlock Journal, Thursday, September 13, 1962, which described the reunion between her Father Ruben and her Uncle Walter. It told about their younger lives, but it didn't mention the *Train*.

One day when Christie and I were playing golf, she asked me what I knew about the Orphan Train. Although I didn't know much then, I found an article for her in the July/August 2003 Family History Magazine about "The Orphan Train Movement." In this article, there were sources and databases she could use to contact organizations about her family. One of the very best ones was

www.orphantrainriders.com.

There was also a Kansas web site

www.kancoll.org

and the Children's Aid Society at

www.childrensaidsociety.org.

Christie contacted the editor of the orphan train riders web site, a Mr. D. Bruce Ayler. When Mr. Ayler answered her e-mail with facts about her family, he included the name of someone who was also looking for this family. The person turned out to be Brenda, a first cousin once removed, who lived in Kansas. They began sending information to each other. Brenda had written to the Children's Aid Society asking about her grandmother, Elsie. With the answer she received, there were copies of letters that had been sent to Albert in 1944, and to Elsie in 1961. These letters described the members of the family, including the parents, and the reasons why the children had been placed in an orphanage.

One of Brenda's greatest finds was an item on e-bay. Someone was selling three antique 1911 Children's Aid Society of New York Adoption cards. These placement cards happened to be for Reuben, Elsie and Albert Hill. The odds against such a coincidence must be staggering! Brenda was able to obtain the cards and a few pictures. What a thrill! These items were from the estate of Minnie, the daughter of Edmund and Minnie Frobenius, the

Children's Aid Society, 105 EAST 22D STREET, NEW YORK			
<small>The Society reserves the right to remove the child previous to legal adoption if at any time the circumstances of the home become such as in the judgment of the Agent are injurious to the child's future prospects. Children are not allowed to correspond with any friends or relatives without obtaining permission to do so from the Society.</small>			
NAME OF CHILD:	Reuben Hill (born June 27 1898)	AGE	12 yrs
TO LIVE WITH FAMILY OF			
Edmund Frobenius			
TOWN:	Marion	COUNTY:	Marion
		STATE:	Kan
DATED:	Mar 18 1911	J. W. Swan PLACING AGENT.	
<small>The circumstances of the home become such as in the judgment of the Agent are injurious to the child's future prospects. Children are not allowed to correspond with any friends or relatives without obtaining permission to do so from the Society.</small>			
NAME OF CHILD:	Elsie Hill (born Jan 14 1900)	AGE	11
TO LIVE WITH FAMILY OF			
Edmund Frobenius			
TOWN:	Marion	COUNTY:	Marion
		STATE:	Kan
DATED:	Mar 17 1911	J. W. Swan PLACING AGENT.	
<small>permission to do so from the Society.</small>			
NAME OF CHILD:	Albert Hill (born July 17 1902)	AGE	8
TO LIVE WITH FAMILY OF			
Edmund Frobenius			
TOWN:	Marion	COUNTY:	Marion
		STATE:	Kan
DATED:	Mar 17 1911	J. W. Swan PLACING AGENT.	

family who had fostered and raised these children.

With all the information that has been obtained, including information from the Federal Census, Christie and Brenda are now able to tell the story about their family.

The father of this family was Harry Hill. He was born in Finland and came to the United States in 1882, when he was 17 years of age. He married a first wife, and had two boys, Charles and Henry born in 1888 and 1891. He was married a second time to Sophie Snelver, who was also born in Finland. They were married about 1895, and had five children from 1895 to 1902.

In March of 1908, when their father, Harry, an unemployed carpenter, was unable to care for the children, and their mother, Sophie was very ill, the five children—Walter, Einar, Ruben, Albert Mickel, and Elsie—were placed in the Orphan Asylum Society of the City of Brooklyn. After two years, Walter ran away from the orphanage to take a job. This was the last time Walter had seen Ruben.

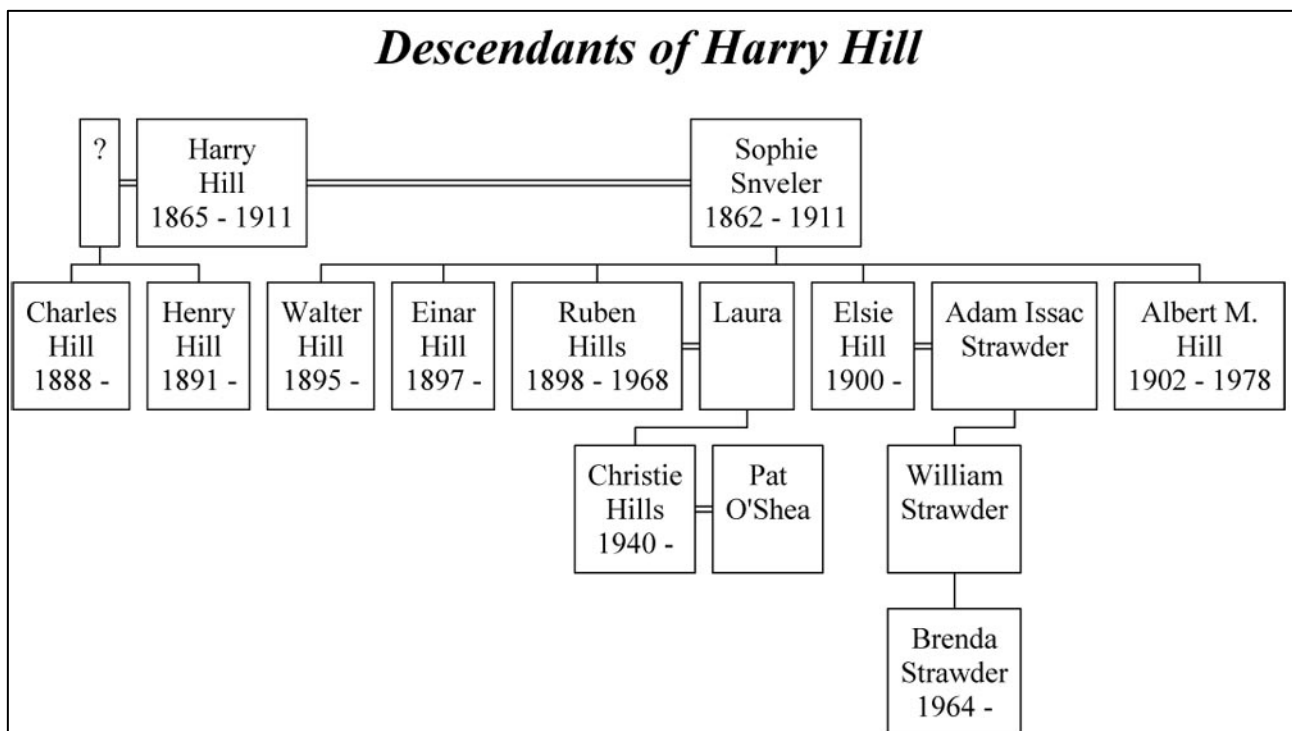
The four children stayed in the orphanage until 1911. By that time both parents had died, and three of the children, Ruben, Albert, and Elsie were surrendered to the Children's Aid Society on March

4th, 1911. Einar went to live with a farmer in Ferdale, New York.

The other three children were placed on an *Orphan Train* going to Kansas. Thirteen days later, on March 17, 1911, in Marion County, Kansas, Elsie and Albert were chosen by Edmund and Minnie Frobenius to live and work on their farm. The two children wanted their brother Ruben to be with them, so on March 18, Ruben joined his brother and sister. They were paid fifty cents a week. Elsie lived there until she was married. Albert and Ruben left when they were about 21.

The *Orphan Train* was begun in 1854. A Charles Brace had formed the Children's Aid Society in 1853 to care for the thousands of neglected children on the streets and in the orphanages of New York. Mr. Brace felt that the children could be placed in farms and homes in the Midwest. There, they could be cared for and grow up to be responsible adults. This was the beginning of foster care. Over 150,000 children were transported by *Orphan Trains* between the years of 1854 and 1930.

Ruben, Elsie, and Albert never talked about their trip on the *Orphan Train*.



Throckmorton Family Reunion at Coughton Court, England

By Beth Twogood

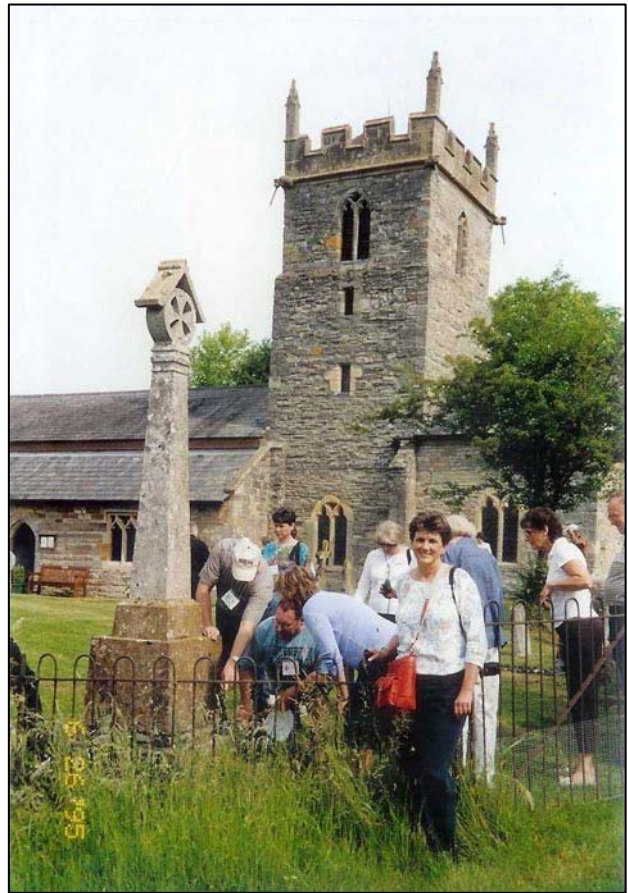
Coughton Court has been the home of the Throckmorton family since the early 15th century. In June 2006, Clare Throckmorton, current resident of Coughton Court, was hostess to 28 American relatives, including my mother, Peggy Norman, and me. She treated us to a formal dinner in her beautiful manor house, which is surrounded by prize-winning flower gardens, and is decorated with historic treasures from the court of Henry VIII. We were exposed to history that was new and fascinating because the Throckmortons were influential and involved in risky politics. The family remained Roman Catholic, and was critical of Henry VIII and his reformation of the Church of England.

After dinner we were entertained in the garden with a production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night". Nearby neighbors were happy to join us for this special treat. There is a small village in the area named Throckmorton, and a connecting road is called Throckmorton Road. Of course, the village pub is the Throckmorton Tavern. The original village church was rebuilt in the 15th century by Sir Robert Throckmorton. It contains tombs of early members of the family. We all enjoyed looking for the name of Throckmorton on the ancient headstones in the churchyard.

Elizabeth "Bess" Throckmorton, born about 1575, was named for Queen Elizabeth I, who was her godmother. When Bess was still very young, she was made the Queen's maid-of-honor, and at court she fell in love with Sir Walter Raleigh, the Queen's favorite escort. In 1591 they were married secretly when Bess became pregnant, but secrets were quickly exposed in the Queen's court. Walter



Coughton Court in Warwickshire, England



Other Throckmorton relatives and I looking for inscriptions at the Throckmorton cemetery.

Raleigh fell from the Queen's good graces and was imprisoned in the Tower of London. Bess was granted permission to live with her husband in the Tower, where she gave birth to two sons. Eventually, in 1618 he was beheaded, charged with treason.

Since we were familiar with this love story, we were pleased to have the opportunity to visit Sherborne Castle, the lovely estate Bess remodeled and decorated when she was planning a long life with Raleigh. After his death, Sherborne was confiscated, and Bess was left penniless and heartbroken.

The family proudly proclaims that all Throckmortons are related, and this fact is confirmed by several scholarly research books published in the past century. "Throckmorton Family History", written by Francis Sitherwood in 1929, includes my father's parents and siblings, neatly connected to John



Mother and I at Sherborne Castle, the estate of Sir Walter Raleigh and his wife, Bess Throckmorton

Throckmorton. He was born about 1600 in England and arrived in Salem, MA, aboard the ship, Lyon in

1630. During the long and stormy voyage, John became friends with Roger Williams. When the two men could no longer live under the strict Puritan laws in Salem, they bought land from the Indians and founded Providence, Rhode Island.

Several generations later in 1800 my branch of Throckmortons migrated from their home in New Jersey to Highland County, Ohio, in a monstrous cloth covered wagon, the Conestoga. It was a difficult and dangerous trip, but they survived and thrived. Both of my parents were born in Ohio.

The Throckmorton history has been well documented because this family could read, write, and keep records as far back as 1100 AD. When we visited the University of Cambridge, we learned that starting in 1560, fourteen Throckmortons matriculated, mostly with law degrees.

This family reunion was voted a big success because we had a great time and learned a lot of history, both family history and English history.

Getting Help at the Pleasanton Library, Or—*What Docents Do*

By Jane Southwick

Over the past years I have read the e-mails the docents send to each other about the patrons they help at the library. I am impressed with some of the people who come in and ask for help, and the help that is given to them.

The policy is to give information about a patron to the other docents so if the patron returns on a different day the docent on duty will be aware of what has already been accomplished. This is a good way to help the docents be more efficient, and ultimately is of greater benefit to the patron. Sometimes a docent will present a question or a problem from a patron to the other docents and another docent e-mails back an answer. Some answers tell where to go on the Web, or what resource to use.

For example:

In January, Frank Geasa wrote:

I had just one customer today. She had done some work on her Spann line and had traced it back to a Jordon Spann who she found on the census and a few other records in Indiana & Illinois. She knows from those that he was born in Kentucky in 1818 but hasn't been able to find him there or to find ei-

ther of his parent's names. We looked rather quickly for the name without luck, but then I spent about an hour showing her how to use the Heritage Quest digital books to search for him, as well as introducing her to USGenWeb, RootsWeb, Cyndi's List, NARA, and how to find the state archives, state libraries and state genealogy societies. She hadn't made use of these but up to this point she had used just books and writing letters for the most part. She was happy to learn of all the other avenues available to explore. She does have an Internet connection at home but wasn't aware of what was available. We also spent just a few minutes discussing how she may approach finding another ancestor, James Grant, in Oregon.

In February, Connie Pitt wrote:

One patron was looking for info on a Stephen Rier-son/Ryerson in North Carolina, Stokes Co. We found a lot of individuals who had put up information on RootsWeb, and one of those individuals added the father for Stephen, who was Adian Rier-son. This was another person for whom she had been looking. Patricia has the Internet, but has not

really used if for family history. I showed her how to get onto other Web sites to look up information.

In March, Frank Geasa wrote:

I had just one patron, a lady from Pleasanton who was looking for her Minihan ancestors who migrated from Ireland to Wales to the USA during the period 1839 - 1862. We didn't find any records immediately but did find several promising sites that she is going to pursue from her home computer. After she left I found that the Library edition of Ancestry had added the 1851 Wales census recently and I did find her family on that census and in the parish and county she thought they might be in. She knew that one ancestor had immigrated to the USA in 1862 but I couldn't find the family on the Wales 1861 census. I think I did find them on the 1861 English census in Staffordshire. I emailed her the three images involved.

In April, Frank Geasa wrote:

It was a fairly quiet day. I had one young man, Frank, come in looking for his grandfather, Joe Inaudi who we found in the 1920 and 1930 censuses of San Francisco. He also was looking for a second grandfather, a Jack or John Varni, also from San Francisco. The best we could do there was to find his Varni great-grandparents as it appears the grandfather wasn't born yet. Frank has a computer at home but it isn't hooked to the Internet. He was very surprised at what we were able to find, and I showed him how to get to several sites, including the San Francisco Genealogy site. I think he will be returning.

Just as I was about to leave, another gentleman came in looking for an Almasan ancestor in Yuma, Arizona. He had found a reference to her being on the 1880 census on one of the CDs but didn't know we had the census available on Ancestry. Pulled it up and printed it. He also wanted to find information on his Bredlau family from Germany but we didn't manage to do that as it was getting on to 2 PM and I needed to leave. He indicated that many of his aunts and uncles from that family are still

alive and in their 90s. I suggested he talk to them while he had the chance. He indicated he was going to come back in this evening with a little more information. He also was very surprised at the amount of information available on the Internet.

In April, Dick Finn wrote:

Only one couple stopped by but they were a kick. They were interested in finding more about her Hoppe ancestors. They were Germans from Russia, who had gone to Canada, then to Illinois, and then on to California. We didn't get too far until the wife said what they really wanted to learn about was her husband's ancestors, especially Major (his real first name) Rider who lived in Pennsylvania in 1930. We couldn't find a Major Rider in Pennsylvania in 1930. I suggested that Major might

I spent about an hour showing her how to use the Heritage Quest digital books to search for him, as well as introducing her to USGenWeb, RootsWeb, Cyndi's List, NARA, and how to find the state archives, state libraries and state genealogical societies. ... She was happy to learn of all the other avenues available to explore.

have been a nickname; no way they said. After a while we did a search of the entire US 1930 census and there Major was, living in New Jersey. That discovery helped them find more Rider family members also living in New Jersey in 1930. When I left at 1:00 they had renewed their computer time and were off and running to find more Riders. I don't know about Mr. but Mrs. was really fired up!

Lois Barber answered Dick Finn:

Dick, you will be interested to know that your Mrs. is hot on the trail of those German-speaking Russians. She is indeed a kick. I arrived at the FHC tonight at 5:50 and she was waiting by the door. I expect we will be seeing more of her.

Leo Vongotfried answered both Dick Finn and Lois Barber:

Two comments, one on each side of the couple. The use of titles as first names is an accepted practice, centered around Georgia in my experience. Whether it is New World Scots or old South is not clear.

Russian-speaking Germans were found along the Volga, imported in large numbers by Catherine the Great. Stalin gave these Volga Germans a hard time during and after the Great Fatherland War. Sounds like we're all going to have fun.

Dog Days of Summer—1941

By Anne Homan

Genealogy is more than names and dates. It is also discovering what was happening in the communities in which your ancestors lived. Genealogists have many sources for their research, and newspapers are an extremely good source. The information in this article was found in our Livermore Library, which has many old local newspapers on film, with film readers available. Check out the libraries where your ancestors lived and see what you can find.

The term “dog days” was coined by ancient Romans. The dog they referred to was the constellation Canis Major, or Big Dog. Sirius, the brightest star in our sky, is in this group of stars. As this constellation began to rise just as the sun set, the Romans believed that the light from Sirius increased the heat from the sun, resulting in hotter and more humid weather. Officially, this time frame in the Northern Hemisphere is between July 3 and mid-August. Most of us today, however, consider all of August and even some of September as dog days—the part of summer that usually is hottest and seems to last longer as we yearn for cooler days of autumn.

August of 1941 in Livermore was a time when the community worried about our possible involvement in the war in Europe. Not everyone was lazy in that summer heat before air conditioning. Red Cross knitters continued their efforts, and Lillian Anderson finished her flight tests. Town fires reminded the city of the greater danger from possible range grass fires in this flammable season. And the crickets were at work. Our local newspaper, the Herald, reported such activities in August of 1941.

Livermore Knitters Add 75 more Sweaters (*August 22, 1941 Page 5*) Substantial addition to Livermore’s contribution to the Red Cross knitting program was made Wednesday, when Mrs. M. J. Clark, local chairman delivered 75 sweaters and 2 beanies to Oakland headquarters. The sweaters were in the following sizes: For 4-year olds, 41; 8-year olds, 16; men, 5 small, 11 medium; women, 2 medium.

Arroyo Dietitian Wins Pilot’s License (*August 29, 1941 Page 1*) Miss Lillian Anderson, dietitian at Arroyo Sanatorium, has completed both written and flight tests which qualify her for a private license. Miss Anderson is not a newcomer to East Bay aviation activities, having put in several hundred hours

on cross country flight over California and Nevada in recent years on a solo license. Now that this license is no longer re-issued she has gone into the higher rating. Miss Anderson, who is a native of Minnesota, has been dietitian at Arroyo for the past eight years.

Takes Blazing Truck to Fire House (*August 22, 1941 Page 3*) Roast beef was on the menu for Herb Madsen, meat truck driver, but he didn’t know it until he stopped on First Street a 5 a.m. Tuesday for a cup of coffee. Then, he discovered the wooden floor of his truck was burning, ignited by flames from a burned out exhaust pipe. He drove the vehicle to the city fire house and turned in an alarm. The blaze was extinguished quickly before any appreciable damage was done, and roast meat came off the menu. Madsen, who resides at 245 East Avenue, San Bruno, is employed by Bayshore Trucking.

Another early morning fire called out the city department at 3 a.m. Thursday when a shed on the Kelly place on Junction Avenue was destroyed. Loss included a bicycle, some chicken feed, and a few articles of furniture. The building was beyond saving when the fire was discovered and Fire Chief H. M. Johnson reported origin of the blaze could not be determined.

Livermore Has Cricket Invasion (*August 22, 1941 Page 1*) Livermore experienced something of a minor scourge of crickets throughout the week as the insects invaded both business and residential districts. They were nuisances in a number of stores. Livermore fared well in comparison with nearby communities in the San Joaquin valley where the invasion was heavy. The bay cities have also been invaded.

What Was Life Like?

By Dorothy Nell Harrell

I found a very interesting article on the Web that I thought other members would enjoy: *What life was like in 1906*. I realized it was too long for the Roots Tracer, so Jane Southwick suggested I simply quote the URL:

http://forums.dealofday.com/What_Life_Was_Like_In_1906-t-174829.html.

Then Kay Speaks pointed out that by putting the phrase “What was life like in” (including quotes) into Google gave 28,000 hits describing life from dinosaur times to the present and for every corner of the globe. Fascinating reading!

Was it the Money?

The Tangled Family Ties of my Great Grandfather Giese

By Frank Geasa

Editor's note: One of the purposes of our Roots Tracer is to instruct and inform. This article is a very good example of this. As you read you may notice that Frank mentions at least eight research methods that he used to find the information for this intriguing story.

When I was growing up I knew very little about my father's family, even his immediate family. I knew his mother's name was Mary and his father's was William. As to our last name of Geasa, he knew it had been changed from something else but he wasn't certain from what—Giese, Geise or something like that was the most I could get from him. When it came to questions about his grandparents, it was as if they were complete strangers. I thought perhaps because his own mother had died just after he turned 9, and his father's mother had died just after he turned 12, there wasn't much discussion of family in the home. Years later however, after he had died and I started to question older members of the family, I began to suspect that while that may have been part of the reason, there were other things also at work here. When I questioned my father's older brother about his grandfather, I received a curt response that indicated he did not think much of the grandfather as he had married "all those women." When I later started researching my great grandfather, I fully expected to find 5 or 6 wives. When I queried a cousin 18 years my senior, the daughter of my father's oldest brother, she didn't know much more than I knew, but did allow that her father had talked about the scandal of his grandfather having married his step-daughter. She also knew the grandfather had lived in Brooklyn, had his own tugboat and was quite well off. The hint of scandal was intriguing enough to pique my interest in this man that was my great grandfather.

My great grandfather, Wilhelm August Ludwig Giese, was born in the city of Wismar, in the Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin (now Germany) on July

5, 1837. His parents were Ernst Martin Diederich Giese and Ernst's second wife Charlotte Dorothea Maria Boldt. According to the 1900 census and several other documents, Wilhelm arrived in the United States sometime during 1860. Being from Wismar, a port city on the Baltic Sea, not surprisingly, when he arrived in Brooklyn, New York he went to work as a seaman. He worked on the lighters in New York harbor. These were smaller boats that offloaded cargo from the larger seagoing ships. He married my great grandmother, Catharina Weber, herself an immigrant from Enkenbach, Pfalz, Bavaria (now Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany) about 1863. He also started using the English version of his name, William. Together they had 4 children—my grandfather William (baptized Peter August Wilhelm) in 1864, a daughter Wilhelmina in 1866, and twins Anna Maria and Catharina Sophia in 1868. My great grandmother Catharina passed away in October, 1876, preceded by

her daughter, Catharina Sophia, in January, 1874. For sake of clarity from here forward I will refer to the great grandfather as William Sr.

In April, 1877 just 6 months after Catharina's death, William Sr. married Pauline Mathilda Hartmann Kaiser, a widow with at least 2 daughters. She had apparently been hired by him to help care for the great grandmother, Catharina, during the illness leading up to her death. In 1882 Wilhelmina passed away at age 16 leaving my grandfather William Jr. and the one twin Anna Marie. According to my older cousin, her father (William III) indicated neither got along with their step-mother, Pauline and left the home in their early teens. My grandfather, William Jr. is living elsewhere on the 1880 census and the last trace I've been able to find of Anna Maria is in a post office list of people with mail waiting to be picked up. This list was published in the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper of 4 April 1886.

First, Bertha was Wilhelm's sister-in-law and his step-daughter at the same time, then she became his third wife, then his sole heiress, cutting out his blood descendants.

Pauline and the great grandfather were married for over 27 years until her death in August 1904.

Their marriage produced no further offspring but in those years they prospered. William Sr. managed to buy his own tug boat which he successfully operated independently on New York harbor, and he was a harbor pilot. Together they purchased a brownstone duplex at 350 17th Street near Prospect Park, in Brooklyn. He even managed to get his name (as William Geasa) attached to a case which wound up in the U.S. Supreme Court after he sued an insurance company in 1877. I suspect the suit was a result of their refusing to pay on an insurance policy he had on my great grandmother.

Just 8 months after Pauline's death, he married for a third time in April 1905. Sure enough, this marriage was in fact to his step-daughter. Looking at the marriage certificate there were the facts. Her name was Bertha Giese, and her parents were Pauline Hartmann and William Kaiser, the same names as I had found earlier on the marriage certificate of Pauline's other daughter. Bertha was herself, a widow and was 44 years old, while the great grandfather was 66. While I was a little surprised to see her surname Giese, this was a fairly common name in the Brooklyn German community. Also her address was the same as William Sr. so I thought perhaps it might even be a mistake. But where was the sandal? As far as I could tell, she had never lived in the home with William Sr. prior to her mother's death and while she was 22 years younger, it was hardly a case of robbing the cradle.

Bertha was married to William Sr. until his death 5 years later in 1910. Pauline and William Sr. were buried together in nearby Greenwood Cemetery, even today known as a somewhat upscale resting place for New York's famous and infamous. When I obtained the cemetery record I was surprised to find a 3rd person buried in the plot, a John F. Giese who had been buried October 12, 1897. I wondered if this could be the great grandfather's half brother, born Johann Friedrich Heinrich Giese in September 1855, in Wismar, to Ernst Martin Diederich Giese and his third wife, Sophia Wilhelmine Timmermine. I did not suspect so, given the 18 years difference in age and the distance between Brooklyn and Wismar. Further, I had found Johann on the 1867 census of Wismar with his mother, sister and his step-father, a day laborer. His mother had remarried



Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York. Wilhelm (William) Giese, his second wife, Pauline Hartmann Kaiser and his half-brother, John.

after the death of Ernst Martin, just a year after Johann's birth.

When I managed to find a copy of John's death certificate however it did show him to be the right age for Wilhelm's half-brother and born in Germany. It also showed he arrived in Brooklyn about 1881, had died of cerebral apoplexy, his occupation was grocer, he was married and he had lived at the corner of Jamaica & Railroad Avenues in Brooklyn. It did not show any next of kin.

Looking in city directories, I found John had his grocery store at 308 18th Street in Brooklyn, just a block away from the William Sr.'s home at 350 17th Street. Looking in the archive of the Brooklyn Eagle newspaper, I found a couple of surprises. Just 2 months prior to his death he had written to that newspaper with a monetary plan "For Remedying the Ills Arising From a Double Standard". In the rather lengthy dissertation he gave his views on the gold/silver standard of the US, and compared it to the monetary system of several other countries. At the bottom was his address of Jamaica & Railroad Avenues. I am still wondering how the knowledge to write such an article came to him. A second surprise came in finding a death notification indicating his wife's name was Bertha. A flash came, and I wondered if this could be the same Bertha who married William Sr.?

Finding the truth turned out to be fairly easy. Looking on the 1900 census taken after John's death but before Pauline's, I found Bertha, age 40 and a daughter, Anita, age 4 living at the corner of Jamaica & Railroad Avenues. On the 1910 census

taken shortly after William Sr.'s death, there are Bertha, age 49 and Anita, age 14 living at the great grandfather's home at 350 17th Street. It seems that when Bertha married William Sr., she was both his sister-in-law and his step-daughter. I now believe Bertha is the one who buried her husband John, her mother Pauline, and her step-father/brother-in-

law/husband William, together in one grave. In the process she also managed to make herself the exclusive beneficiary of the Giese/Geasa estates. I suspect that fact, rather than any scandal, is the source of discontent passed down by my grandfather William Jr.

Livermore Valley History

Building a Community—It Takes Hard Work

By Gary Drummond

Building a city government can be a tedious process. An example is the town of Livermore. The Governor approved the incorporation of our town on April 15, 1876. A month later, five members of the community were elected to a Board of Trustees

The new town was without funds, and since no tax levy had been established, the Board requested the County to turn over the business licenses it had previously issued. Those provided the first source of revenue. A Town Assessor was appointed, and by August he presented his first tax roll.

Meantime, the Trustees were busy creating a set of rules (ordinances) by which the town was to be governed. With the help of the Town Attorney, at each succeeding meeting the Board considered and passed over 20 new ordinances within two months. As fast as they were created, several were amended in a short time.

Ordinance #8 required any citizen owning a dog to buy a license for \$2.00. Failure to do so could subject the owner to confiscation of his property and possessions to be sold at public auction. There appears to be no record of enforcement, but it was repealed and replaced by Ordinance #55 in August, 1882. This later Ordinance simply taxed dogs at \$1 for males and \$2 for females, and the Town Marshal provided a dog tag upon payment.

Another was Ordinance #24 that regulated speed of trains through town. Trains were restricted to 8 miles per hour and they were required to ring the locomotive bell constantly when within the town limits; they could not block the public streets for more than 5 minutes. The train engineer could be



subject to a fine of \$25 to \$100. Then, someone asked if these rules applied to passenger trains: the Trustees quickly exempted passenger trains from the Ordinance's requirements.

In other news, the Board instructed Fred Anthony, the Town Treasurer, to dispose of all the "trade dollars" he had accepted for taxes. (Trade dollars had been coined by the U. S. Government for trade with the Ori-

ent and were extensively circulated on the West Coast. Their value had dropped to actual bullion value, which was 96¢.) Mr. Anthony had a problem. To make the books balance, either the Board of Trustees needed somehow to absorb the 4¢ difference, or it came out of the Treasurer's own pocket. No resolution appears in the Trustees' Minutes.

From a community of 830 people at incorporation, the early town Boards of Trustees created a strong government that continues today.

The Census Taker Rebuffed

Census Taker: "Good morning, madam, I'm taking the census."

Old Lady: "The what?"

Census Taker: "The c-e-n-s-u- s!"

Old Lady: "For lans sakes! What with tramps takin' everythin' they kin lay their han's on, young folks takin' fotygrafs of ye without so much as askin', an' impudent fellows comin' roun' as wants ter take yer senses, pretty soon there won't be nothin' left ter take, I'm thinkin'!"

1890 Harper's Weekly

The Early Pioneers in Our Valley Were One Big Family

By Isabel Whann Nolte

About a year and a half ago I had a discussion with Dick Finn about a booklet that I saw in the reference section of the Livermore Library. The booklet contained the birth and death dates of some of our old families in Livermore. I noted an error in the Twohey family and thought it should be corrected. Dick said that it could not be done. He said, "Why don't you write a book?" I took up the challenge and started on the Fallon family since my daughter married Frank Fallon.

The first Fallon was William Joseph Fallon, Sr. who came from Galway, Ireland. He and his wife, Annie (Coppinger), had eleven children. The girls married into the Twohey, Kelly, Callaghan and Armstrong families. I finally realized that through marriage, the families became one big family. I know that there were many other families during this period that were part of the growing of the city of Livermore, but I chose only those that intermarried.

These are a few of the families that were prominent during the middle 1900s: Armstrong, Barthe, Callaghan, Devany, Gallagher, Mulqueeney, Murray, Polomono, Coppinger, Croak, Deck, Donlon, Dolan, Doolan, Fallon, Gleese, Hansen, Kelly, Leaky, Lindner, McGlinchey, Moy, Mueller, Owens, Murphy, Murray, Nickerson, Owens, Scanlon, Sweeney, Thompson, Twohey and several more.

Here are some that were prominent citizens:

William **Armstrong** was Past Grand Chief Ranger and Grand Secretary of the Foresters of America, Supreme Treasurer of the Foresters of America, Past Grand President of the Y.M.I., Native Sons of the Golden West, Fraternal Order of Eagles, and also manager of the Foresters Hall.

John **McGlinchey** was one of the founders of the Stockmen's Protection Association.

James E. **McGlinchey** received the Eagles Outstanding Citizen Award in 1950.

James **Moy** was one of the founders of the Livermore Rodeo, and also chairman of the committee that put on the first show in 1918.

Patrick **Gallagher** and his wife, Elizabeth Leahy Gallagher, had sixteen children with only fourteen living. Elizabeth was highly respected by many friends for the work she did for the needy.

John J. **Callaghan**, Jr. was one of the organizers of the Stockmen's Protective Association in 1904. He was Past Chief Ranger and one of the oldest members of Court in Livermore.

James Patrick **Gallagher** was one of the most prominent sheep growers in this section of the state for forty years on a ranch south of town.

Many more were prominent in the making of the city of Livermore as it is today. Most of those who originally settled here were sheep herders, dealt in livestock, and were known to be lovers of horses.

Being an accountant, I am used to detailed work, but when it comes to assembling, printing, and editing, I owe a great deal of thanks to Dick Finn who found and corrected my mistakes. I wish researching my ancestors was as easy as researching the Livermore settlers. Also, Barbara Bunshah's obituary books were a God send.

I hope everyone enjoys my book because I enjoyed doing it.

THE EARLY PIONEERS IN THE LIVERMORE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, WERE ONE BIG FAMILY

Isabel W. Nolte. 2007, 192 pages, soft cover, spiral binding, indexed, includes photographs. The author traces many of the pioneer Livermore Valley families related to her daughter's late husband, Frank Fallon. These families include Armstrong, Callaghan, Collier, Croak, Dolan, Doolan, Fallon, Gallagher, Kelly, Moy, Murray, Nickerson, Twohey, and several more. Printed with permission of the author by the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society. Members: \$17.00, non-members \$25.00, shipping \$3.50.

These are copies of actual correspondence received by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City.

"Our 2nd great-grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library."

"My Grandfather died at the age of 3."

*Previously published in
RootsWeb Review: 07 Feb 2007, Vol. 10, No. 6.*

Andersonville

“...somebody’s darling boy, dead, and yet breathing.”

By Debbie Pizzato

My great-great grandmother, Sarah Jane Haning, named all her children after famous or well-known people, and after lesser-known but not forgotten relatives, like her cousin, Royal Hoyt.

Royal Hoyt’s life began in Meigs County, Ohio and ended in the squalor of Andersonville Prison in Georgia. In 1862, during the Civil War, Royal, a young farmer, enlisted for 3 years as a wagoner in Company B, 116th Infantry Regiment Ohio.

The 116th was organized at Marietta and Gallipolis, Ohio in August of 1862 under Colonel James Washburn and served in West Virginia. The Regiment joined Meade’s army on its return from Gettysburg, and by April 1864, marched with Siegel down the Shenandoah Valley where it met with a great loss of 176 men. In June it moved to Lynchburg, Virginia where on June 18, 1864, Royal, age 24, was taken captive by the Confederate Army.

Most likely upon his arrival at the Andersonville train depot, Royal, along with many other prisoners were lined up and ordered to walk the 800 paces to the north gate of the South’s most notorious prison. These prisoners, some already starving and in very poor condition, were to undergo a conflict worse than any battle they had ever fought. They were about to begin a fight for life.

G.E. Reynolds, Co. F, 86th Ohio Infantry, recalled his arrival at Andersonville by writing, *“As the heavy wooden door closed behind us my heart sank within me, and hope which till that time had buoyed me up, fled. And such a sense of utter and hopeless desolation crept over me as I hope never to feel again.”*

While the month of June found the prison authorities pleading for supplies and doctors, Private Aslaksan, 9th Minnesota Cavalry wrote, *“The sight of all this misery, the starved, dying and half-naked humans all around, those with scurvy misshaped limbs, swollen limbs, swollen joints, and festering sores infected with gangrene, all contributed to make the newcomer so unnerved that he would soon*

get into a mental condition of despair out of which the ghost beacon of death seemed welcome.”

Andersonville, or Camp Sumter as it was officially known, was a large military prison established during the Civil War. It was built in 1864, with the first prisoners arriving in February. Approximately 400 more arrived each day during the next few months



A.J. Riddle took this photograph on August 16, 1864, the day Royal died of starvation.

and by the end of July, 31,678 men were confined in a prison originally built for 10,000. During the 14 months of its existence, more than 45,000 Union soldiers were confined there. Of these, 12,912 died from disease, malnutrition, overcrowding or exposure.

In August 1864, there were almost 33,000 prisoners confined within Andersonville’s 26 ½ acres. Royal Hoyt was among the 2,933 prisoners that died during this month.

As Private Northrup, 7th Connecticut Infantry, wrote, *“One poor boy near cried all night and wished to die and suffer no longer; he is an awful object; his clothing is gone but a rag of a shirt; his body is a mere frame; his hair has fallen out from his head; his scurvy ankles and feet are as large as his waist. I never saw a sight more appalling. Than the awful thought that he is a man, somebody’s darling boy, dead, and yet breathing.”* And so it went.

On July 25, 1865 Clara Barton arrived in Andersonville with an expedition of 37 men. With the help of Dorence Atwater’s death list, she used



The bodies were laid to rest side by side in six-foot wide by three-foot deep trenches. A. J. Riddle took this photo at the cemetery in the summer of 1864.

painted boards to mark the graves of the prisoners who had died. A year after Royal's death Clara helped to dedicate the cemetery on August 17, 1865.

What became of the prisoners who left Andersonville? Many died on their way home when the steamboat Sultana exploded and sank. Others died in Northern hospitals, or in their hometown of the diseases incurred at Andersonville. Some survived and many used the written word to tell a tragic story. And some family members named their children after those who rendered service to our country.

Two good sources I use for Andersonville are:

<http://www.sinclair.edu/sec/his102/mcknight/bm06.htm>

National Park Civil War Series, The Prison Camp at Andersonville.

New at the Pleasanton Genealogy Library

Courtesy of Carl Cousineau, Library Services Manager

MAPPING HUMAN HISTORY : DISCOVERING THE PAST THROUGH OUR GENES

Olson, Steve, 1956-
599.9 OLSON

SAXONS, VIKINGS, AND CELTS : THE GENETIC ROOTS OF BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

Sykes, Bryan.
599.935 SYKES

DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, 1840-1929.

929.1072 DATING

UNLOCKING THE SECRETS IN OLD PHOTOGRAPHS.

Frisch-Ripley, Karen, 1955-
929.1072 FRISCH-RIPLEY

MORE DATING OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, 1840-1929.

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FINDING YOUR MEXICAN ANCESTORS : A BEGINNER'S GUIDE.

Ryskamp, George R.
929.107208968 RYSKAMP

RAKING THE ASHES : GENEALOGICAL STRATEGIES FOR PRE-1906 SAN FRANCISCO RESEARCH.

Peterson, Nancy Simons
929.37946 PETERSON

CENTERVILLE PIONEER CEMETERY : FREMONT, ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.

Veronda, Romaine Throckmorton
929.50974 VERONDA

FAMILY TREE MAKER SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX 1937-1999 [COMPUTER FILE]. CD-ROM 929.373 FAMILY

I Recommend

Free Treasures on USGenWeb

By Lois Barber

During a recent stint at the Pleasanton Library as the Genealogy Docent, I had time to do some personal research. This is a perk you might consider when you volunteer as a Docent. I browsed through Ancestry, RootsWeb and USGenWeb looking for new things that had been added since I last had time to visit.

I was born and raised in Richland County, Wisconsin, so of course that was the state that I clicked on at the USGenWeb site. If you want to follow my trail I next clicked on Wisconsin Resources, Tombstone Photograph Pages, Vernon County, and Union West Lima Cemetery. Scrolling down, there were my Dickson relatives! Little Anna J., Great-Grandparents Hiram and Hannah Dickson, and James.



The inscription is not easily readable on this print, but on the GenWeb site it is clear.

Although I have visited this cemetery and taken pictures of these stones, it was a heart-warming feeling to see that someone cared enough to do this work. What is available state-by-state is a real eye-opener. Some have volunteers that must be really dedicated and others are severely lacking.

I recommend a surfing visit to each of the counties on GenWeb that is involved in your family history.

<http://www.usgenweb.org/>

The total amount of information posted there by kind volunteers is amazing. And it is free of all costs to you.

You'll Still Wait 100 Years to See UK Census Returns

By Linda Garrett

I came across a petition that went to the Prime Minister of England in March of this year requesting lowering of the opening of census records from 100 years to 70 years, as is the case in the U.S. This was the response from the office of the Prime Minister of England:

Thank you for signing the e-petition calling for the closure period on census data to be reduced from its present 100 years to 70 years for the 1911, 1921 and 1931 censuses.

The Government understands the frustrations this delay can cause, particularly to people who are researching their family history. But these frustrations have to be balanced against the assurances given to people at the time about confidentiality. This also has implications today, for public confidence in the privacy of information which people provide in future censuses.

Clearly, the importance of the personal information provided in the census is that it enables a detailed and accurate picture to be built up of our society. This is of great assistance to Government and to the community as a whole in helping shape policies and set priorities for the future. But unless people believe that the personal data they provide—which includes details of their occupation and who is living with them—will remain confidential and secure as they have been promised, the danger is that they might feel reluctant to give sensitive information.

It is for this reason that there is a policy of a 100-year delay before releasing the personal data in the census. The purpose is to minimize the risk of embarrassment both to those living and to their immediate descendants. The Government does not believe this policy should be altered or the explicit assurances given to people at the time broken. ...

On a sadder note, the 1931 census records were destroyed by fire during the Second World War.

We know this reply will disappoint many people, but hope you will understand that in the long-term, the reasons given are in the best interests of preserving the census for future generations.



Women's Rights National Park

By Jane Southwick

There are many resources available to locate missing ancestors, but sometimes an off-beat source can prove valuable. Have you ever wondered if any of your ancestors were involved in the Women's Suffrage movement of 1848?

Patrick Lofft and his wife, Charlotte, visited the Women's Rights National Park in Seneca Falls, New York, in June of 2007. They e-mailed the web address

<http://www.nps.gov/wori/historyculture/declaration-of-sentiments.htm>

to some of the members of L-AGS. In addition to the Declaration of Sentiments, the web site gives

information about the park. It describes with pictures and text some of the historic properties which include: a state-of-the-art visitor center; the Wesleyan Chapel where the first Women's Rights Convention was held; and the home of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was the driving force behind the 1848 convention.

It was interesting to read the 100 names of the signers of the Declaration of Sentiments, which asked for equality for women. Some of these men and women were related, and because a biography is given for many of them, you may be able to find a relative who was involved in an historic time in our country.

Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 901

Livermore, CA 94551-0901

Address Correction Requested

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