

*George Anderson*

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# The Livermore Roots Tracer



Vol IV Sp-Summer 1985

No 4

Livermore - Amador  
Genealogical Society

PO Box 901 Livermore, California 94550

OUR NEW ADDRESS IS NOW  
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ROOTS TRACER EDITOR ADDRESS IS

454 Dover Way  
 Livermore, CA 94550

PLEASE ACCEPT OUR HUMBLE APOLOGIES FOR FAILING TO PRINT THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE ROOTS TRACER THIS YEAR. Due to circumstances beyond our control, we were unable to get her to press on schedule. By combining our Spring and Summer Issues, we will complete last year's volume and begin our new volume with our new fiscal year in the Fall.

NEW DUES & NEW FISCAL YEAR

Members	\$10
Family	\$15
Senior/Student	\$ 5
Contributing	\$25
Supporting	\$50
Life	\$100

The Beginning Of Our Fiscal Year  
 Has Been Changed From July  
 To September. New Officers  
 Will Take Office In September And

DUES THIS YEAR WILL RUN JULY-SEPT 86.



BLOOD DONORS NEEDED

Kent White (Lucile's Husband)  
 is in Tracy Hospital and in need of donations.  
 Have your Blood Bank contact the Stockton  
 Blood Bank.

ROOTS TRACER

Volume IV SPRING/SUMMER 1985 No. 4

Officers for 1984-85

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Deadlines for Tracer are Summer Issue, June 15; Fall Issue, September 15; Winter Issue, December 15; and Spring Issue, March 15. Please send all queries to: Mrs. Judy Williams, Query Editor, 1944 Mars Road, Livermore, CA 94550.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Hacienda Business Park Community Room, Suite 107, 4637 Chabot Drive, Pleasanton. Dues are \$9 per year payable July 1 of each year.

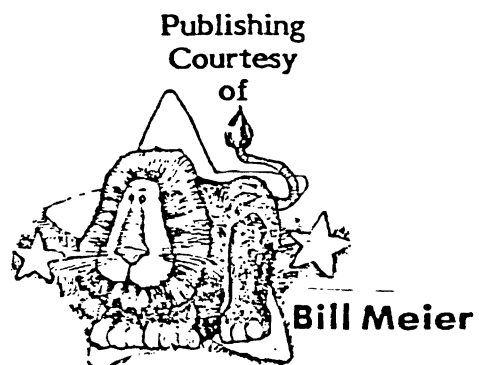
For more information call:

443-7095,  
443-2576, 447-6861

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Word Processing - Beverly Ales



## EDITORIAL NOTES

It is with much regret that I announce that our Librarian Lucile Swift White will be moving to Tracy this month. Lucile has been with our group from its early years. She has been a wonderful friend and helper to all, especially new members, with patience and interest and information to assist the struggling beginner. She continued to be interested in your research even after you'd become an "old" member and was always a good listener when it came to sharing exciting finds. Thanks for all your help and friendship Lucile. We're going to miss you. Lucile's new address and phone number is: 812 Clover Road, #79, Tracy, CA 95376; 209-836-1070

Our L-AGS Library was packed up and moved to RoseMarie Wade's home temporarily, until new quarters can be finalized. It is hoped that all will be settled by mid-May and it will be back in business. More up-to-date report at the May meeting.

Welcome new members; Lee Meola, 2383 Fern Trail, Kilkare Woods, Sunol, CA 94586, 415-862-2531; Mr. Hayden/Haydon (?)(I need to get your address and phone number.); and Velma Gruidl, 1937 Fourth St. #4, Livermore, CA 94550, 415-455-8722.

New members are encouraged to contact Membership Chairman Barbara Dittig (447-2701) to receive a copy of the L-AGS Handbook. It contains a phone list of the members, the By-Laws, and the holdings of the L-AGS Library. It also contains a "Meet The Members Profile" sheet that the Tracer would like you to write up and submit to the Editor so that we can publish it in the quarterly and make our members aware of the surnames you are searching.

## SOCIETY NEWS

A big thank you goes out to the members who are helping with the Fitness Day activities in Livermore on Sunday April 14. This is a fun way to assist in fundraising.

Our March Meeting was very informative and thought provoking. Our speaker was Margaret Malone, (a L-AGS member) a volunteer from Post Adoption Center for Education & Research (PACER). Margaret did a great job telling us about her quest for her "birth" parents. She had some ingenious approaches to finding out certain facts that were being withheld from her. There is more than one way to skin a cat.

## DID YOU KNOW

"Relict" on a tombstone means the lady was a widow when she died.

"Consort" means the spouse was still living. (Speaking Relatively, Jan - Feb 1985)

Abbreviations for the 1900 Soundex Citizenship Status:

**A** -Alien; **NA** -Naturalized; **PA** - 1st Papers filed.

Genealogy Jargon: nepos - grandson; neptis -granddaughter; ab nepos - great-great-grandson; ab neptis - great-great-granddaughter; ux, uxor - wife; virgin, virgo - in bonds or licenses of England, an unmarried woman; relecta - widow; relectus - widower

## ODDS AND ENDS

The Hot-Z Company, P.O. Box 66, Morrison, Missouri 65061, puts out some nifty little "Pockets Full of Memories" Albums. Three of these booklets are entitled: Grandma's Story, Grandpa's Story and My Family Tree. They cost \$6 each and that includes postage and handling. Excellent idea for Mother's Day or Father's Day or the birthday of a parent or grandparent. They are colorful little albums that ask questions that stir the memories, for instance: How did you fix your hair Grandma? Did you ever get a spanking? When did you meet Grandpa? There is space for answering these questions and they are asked in a chronological order.



## FEATURE

### An Idea That Worked

Member Madge McDonald has been having success tracking cousins in Germany that were lost track of in the early 1950's when the German Uncle who had kept in touch with the American Uncle died. She was at a loss for figuring out just how to go about writing to these cousins when all she had was a 34 year-old address. She tried writing to the address in hopes of finding a relative, but received no reply.

She was told by a German visitor to send it to the Registrar's Office in the town of the old address and that in the event that the family had moved, she would be informed of their next address. And sure enough, they returned her letter through the Consulate in San Francisco with a new address. So, she readdressed the letter and sent it to the Registrar's Office in the new town and in addition, sent a personal one to the address in the new town. She is eagerly waiting to hear from either source.

Evidently, German law requires that you register your whereabouts each time you relocate. How long this has been in effect is unclear. Can anyone tell us?

If you would like to write to a Registrar's Office in a town or villiage in West Germany, you can use the following address: **An das Ordnungsamt dev Stadt, \_\_\_\_\_ (town), West Germany (zip, if you have one)**. If the town is very small, put the name of the nearest larger town. (By the way, Madge McDonald wrote her letter in English. The return letter was in German however.)



## Gruenwald's Laws of Genealogy (Die Pommerschen Leute, April 1985)

All of us have learned to live with Murphy's Law: "If anything can go wrong, it will." Peter's Principle holds sway: "In a hierarchy every employee tends to rise to his/her level of incompetence."

I offer for your consideration my own laws based on the observation of the activities we go through in pursuit of our elusive knowledge.

**1st Law:** A family genealogist is without honor in his/her own clan. (My brother could care less, my cousins blink at me. Maybe someday a niece, nephew, or grandchild will say thanks.)

**2nd Law:** There is a positive, but not significant, relationship between the amount of correspondence and the amount of information gleaned.

**Corollary I to 2nd Law:** The more urgently desired the information is, the slower is the reply to an inquiry.

**Corollary II to 2nd Law:** Given two identical surnames as a result of research, one of which is your ancestor, the other has all the information.

**3rd Law:** Serendipity has solved more genealogical puzzles than perspiration.

**Corollary I to 3rd Law:** All persons will spell their names any way they wish. (Laib and Lipe are cousins, Black and Bleck are the same, Tews and Taves are cousins, all Grunwalds that use an "e" in the name put it wherever they feel like -- including using 2 of them.)

**Corollary II to 3rd Law:** All ancestors use any first name (and/or nickname) they wish so as to avoid using the first one on their birth certificate.

With this against us what keeps us going?  
**THEOREM I** which states: Everybody has got to be someplace at sometime!

(submitted by Bill Wolcott)

## They Call It Genealogy

by Shirley Siems Terry  
(former L-AGS President)

My Mother once was given an old Bible  
with loose page.  
It seemed a gift from Heaven  
telling of our heritage.

It sparked in me an interest  
to trace my family tree;  
I merely thought to satisfy my curiosity.

I started with the gold mine  
preserved in that good book,  
My Grandpa's Grandma's lines, POWELL and ROOT,  
worth another look.

I tried to trace the TERRY'S,  
my husband's name, now mine;  
A distant cousin, a good fairy  
gave me reams upon this line.  
An inspiration, helper, teacher  
all rolled up in one.  
She helped me with the FOSTERs too  
and made the work more fun.

I wrote letters on the SIEMS;  
it is my Father's name.  
I also traced the EMALs  
from whence my Mother came

My Father's Father had a wife;  
the DAMKROGERS came in then.  
My Mother's Father had one too;  
the DAYs I came akin.

This grew by twos and fours;  
my Mother's Mother's Kin.  
To complicate things even more,  
my Grandpa's Pa came in.

And then a generation back again  
the names exactly double;  
I had so many names by then,  
my search ran into trouble.

Life was hard and getting worse  
a hundred years ago;  
From Germany then all my Father's  
ancestors fled.  
SIEMS, WISCTEN, DAMKROGER,  
SCHLAKE and SCHERNIKAU --  
To Illinois and Nebraska where  
they all met and wed.

I found I had some COBBs,  
a HOUSE and BENGES in my past.  
The CHARLES, ARNDTs, RANKs and  
SNYDERS also in my cast.

The RUDDERs and the SCHUNKs were there  
a little farther back.  
The FISCHERs, FINNs and DINNELLs too;  
Oh! How could I keep track!

I filled up forms and files,  
wrote letters by the score.  
Relatives across the miles  
just added more and more.

This hobby without end in sight  
is called genealogy.  
It's lots of work,  
but much delight with each discovery.



Reviewed by George Anderson

**Ancestry's Guide To Research: Case Studies In American Genealogy.** 1985. By Johni Cerny and Arlene Eakle. Published by Ancestry Publishing Company, P. O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Paper Cover, 5½ x 8½ inches, 364 pages, indexed, illustrated, \$10.95.

The publisher is Ancestry Incorporated; that's good. The authors are Cerny and Eakle, who compiled **THE SOURCE**; that's certainly good. But do we need another genealogical how-to book? My conclusion after reading **Ancestry's Guide To Research** is that the world could probably have done without it. However, it has a different approach from most, it is interesting and useful in parts, and it will sell. Furthermore, it is worth reading if for no other reason than that every genealogist should get a refresher on fundamentals periodically.

Almost one-third of **Ancestry's Guide To Research** (113 pages) is devoted to a single chapter entitled "Tracing an American Lineage." In it, Ms. Cerny details how she documented the ancestry of one of her grandmothers, generation

by generation. Clearly, she is describing her loving labors of many years, and clearly she has done an excellent job, but I cannot get turned on by stories - didactic or not - about someone else's kinfolk. The authors would surely respond that case studies are what the book is all about, and the subtitle says so.

There are sections I liked better:

**Oral History:** there is a good list of questions to ask during an interview.

**Surname Registries:** fifty-four different registries with addresses and characteristics are listed.

**Pioneer Migration Patterns:** this contains a nice description with maps.

**Rules of Evidence:** these are worth rereading frequently.

**Ancestry's Guide to Research** is given "free" with new memberships in Ancestry's Research Club. New members pay \$24.95, for which they get this book plus a number of other goods and services, said to be worth \$39 in all. Members can order other books at a discount; for example, **THE SOURCE** can be bought for \$32 instead of the list price of \$39.95.

**Computer Genealogy: A guide to research through high technology.** 1985. By Paul A. Andereck and Richard A. Pence. Published by Ancestry Publishing Company, P.O. Box 476, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. Paper Cover, 5½ x 8½ inches, 280 + xiv pages, indexed, illustrated, \$12.95.

As I sit at my Apple II + word processor composing this review, knowing that my words will soon be digitally cast into print by Bev Ales' Xerox 860 machine, it strikes me as entirely fitting that the subject of the review is **Computer Genealogy**. Computers are everywhere these days, and nowhere more appropriately than in the dens of genealogists.

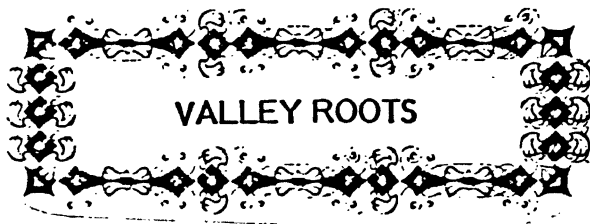
Paul Andereck is the founder of **Genealogical Computing**, one of the first periodicals to cater to the computer genealogist (the computer-rooter?). Richard Pence, according to the book itself, is a rewrite journalist; the book is indeed well-written. That the publisher is Ancestry Incorporated, is a hopeful sign of quality.

**Computer Genealogy** was written for family historians who know that they ought to be using a computer, but don't know where to start. All the basics are here, including a glossary of computerese. The authors pose a number of blunt questions: Are you smart enough to use a computer? Are you too old to learn to use a computer? Can you afford a computer that can handle genealogy? The authors' answers are: Yes, No and Maybe Not. They don't waffle on the cost question - if you can't find at least \$2000, don't bother.

The best part of **Computer Genealogy** is the comprehensive discussion of genealogy software. There is a directory of all known special programs (55 entries!) with prices and compatibility information. There is a checklist to help you decide what you need. And best of all there are 80 pages of sample output - actual reproductions of charts and tables produced by various software packages.

**Computer Genealogy** should be useful for genealogists trying to decide whether or not to invest in a computer, for those already invested and considering an upgrade, and for those beginning genealogists ("who don't know a Virkus from a Jacobus") who already have a computer and want to know how to exploit it in their new hobby.





## In The Beginning - Nottingham

(Cover Photo)  
by Dixie Carter Newbury

In the middle 1800's the Livermore Valley was on the route to the Sierras taken by people seeking their fortunes in the gold fields. Early pioneers saw the possibilities of the valley as a place for a way-station for the travelers and as grazing land for their cattle. By 1855, many ranches were established. Among these pioneers was Robert Livermore from England, Robert and Thomas McGlashan, William Mendenhall, and Antone Bardellini. P.G. Mayfield, who had a clothing store in St. Louis, came to the valley about that time and built the first hotel in the settlement of "Nottingham." Later, Adolphus Ladd came from Ireland, established another hotel, and soon the town became known as "Laddsville".

To quote Marilyn Calhoun in the book **Early Day in the Livermore Valley**, it was a "wild and woolie" area, criss-crossed by roads, inhabited by Indians, and bears roamed the surrounding hills. Laddsville became the business center of the valley and met the needs of travelers with two hotels, several saloons, a harness shop, and a general store. A small school building was located behind the present Livermore High School. The early buildings were of adobe construction -- the first frame house was built in 1846. "Yankee Joe" Munros, of Chilean descent, came to the valley in the 1850's and by 1869 he too operated a hotel until 1874. A report dated 4 October 1888, in the local newspaper, *The Echo*, stated that an old landmark on the property of Mrs. Etta Cozad was being razed. It had been built in 1866 to house a Chinese laundry. The Catholic congregation held their first Mass in their newly constructed building near the present Corporation Yard, on 29 September 1872.

When William Mendenhall donated land immediately west of Laddsville for the town of Livermore the old town slowly lost its identity and became a part of the new town.



## Ride to Benefit Cowboy Museum

Alamo, California -- Hap MaGee, the valley's best-known cowboy who recently died at the age of 62, will be remembered along with other famous cowpokes such as K.C. Tibbs and Slim Pickens in a museum and library in Kern County, says its founder Paul deFonville.

Many of the Old West artifacts MaGee spent much of his life collecting also will be displayed there, said his wife Ruth.

DeFonville said fund-raisers for construction of the Cowboy Memorial and Library in Walker Basin, 46 miles east of Bakersfield, are now under way. Much of the money is expected to be raised during a three-month horse ride by deFonville and two others from Bakersfield to Washington, D.C., he said.

At the end of his ride, deFonville said he expects to receive a presidential proclamation sanctioning the museum and library as the authentic preservation of the cowboy way of life.

About \$500,000 is needed to construct the museum and library, deFonville said. It will feature films, displays and books about the Old West as well as MaGee's collection.





## St. Michael's Cemetery Part VII

Moy Plot - large plot covered with stone, no names inscribed

Callaghan, P. - lg. plot covered with stone, no names inscribed

Callaghan, H. - lg. plot covered with stone, no names inscribed

Floyd, Mary Ann, mother, July 15, 1861 - April 30, 1927

Floyd, Frank died November 24, 1935

Floyd, John J. Jan 16, 1892 - June 2, 1966

Floyd, Mary

Floyd, Sadie

Floyd, Charles

O'Hara Plot - lg. plot no names inscribed

Dolan, Michael 1812 - 1904

Dolan, Catherine 1833 - 1910

Dolan, James 1853 - 1933

Devany, Thomas 1852 - 1915

Devany, Catherine 1861 - 1938

Devany, Thomas M. 1882 - 1952

Devany, Mary J. 1890 - 1960

Devany, John Leo son of Thomas and Catherine, Sept 17, 1884 - Apr 21, 1886

Kelly Plot:

Devany, Julia J., mother, wife of Daniel E. Devany, Native of Pennsylvania, Dec 28, 1894, aged 28 years

Devany, Michael Native of Co. Roscommon Ireland July 13, 1890, aged 73

Devany, Mary wife of Michael Devany Nov 2, 1881, aged 48

O'Connolly, Owen Jan 20, 1900, aged 53 years

O'Connolly, P. Native of Tyrone Ireland, Dec 6, 1884, aged 26 (?)

O'Connolly, J. Native of Tyrone, Ireland, Dec 17, 1886, aged 30 years

O'Brien, John born Co. Cork Ireland, died Apr 26, 1880, aged 70 years

O'Brien, Margaret wife of John

Cardosa Plot - lg. cement plot, no names inscribed

Rodrigues Plot: Em Mimoriade Maria Florinda, extremo amucher de Antonio J. Rodrigues

Falleo eu a 20 de Decemero de 1890 Comedade de 42 annos desconce empaz e tambien

Manoel Seu Filho Falleceo com 3 mezes d'edade

Murray, Catherine E. Aug 29, 1879 - Jan 11, 1947

Murray, Daniel J. Dec 13, 1875 - Apr 29, 195\_

Murray, Peter 1833 - 1887

Murray, Margaret, wife of Peter 1834 - 1909

**St. Michael's Cemetery Part VII (continued)**

Murray, John H. 1862 - 1922  
Linder, Margaret Nov 10, 1873 - Nov 21, 1953  
Linder, Joseph Aug 7, 1879 - Mar 9, 1940  
Downs, Hylde Claire Aug 12, 1910 - Feb 23, 1957  
Curington, Margaret C. Oct 31, 1906 - Feb 3, 1952  
Fitzgerald, Michael C. died Jan 6, 1897  
Fitzgerald, Jane S. died July 7, 1890  
Lefever, Bernys G. died Feb 19, 1912  
Fitzgerald, Eliza  
Fitzgerald, Mary A. died May 20, 1927  
Fitzgerald, George S. died Aug 14, 1930  
McCauley Plot: McCauley, John A. July 11, 1877 - June 25, 1895  
Stones: Mother, M.D., John, Father, Uncle  
Green, John Native of Co. Longford Ireland died Dec 15, 1895, aged 69 years  
Green, Anna Native of Co. Longford Ireland died Oct 11, 1898, aged 65 years  
Green, Thomas H. 1862 - 1941  
Green, Mary E. 1866 - 1936  
Concannon, Thomas J. Jan 4, 1893 - Nov 29, 1945  
Concannon, James  
Concannon, Mother  
Concannon, Father  
Concannon, John  
Concannon, Mary E. Sept 30, 1875 - May 1, 1950  
Noone, Thomas J. Sept 9, 1870 - May 23, 1929  
Noone, Margaret C. Aug 15, 1877 - Jan 26, 1943  
Concannon, Ellen G. Nov 9, 1885 - Apr 21, 1972  
Concannon, Sarah K. May 10, 1887 - Apr 18, 1978  
Murphy, Daniel J. 1863 - 1921  
Murphy, Mary E. died 1956  
Murphy, Margaret J. died Dec 1, 1905, aged 18 years  
McDonald, Leah I. Nov 14, 1941  
McLeod, Norman died Aug 21, 1935  
McLeod, Delia died May 4, 1906, aged 67  
McLeod, A.J. died Mar 24, 1905, aged 68 years  
Silva, Annie F. Feb 13, 1941  
Gunn, Edward Native of Co. Fermanach Ireland, died Jan 20, 1911, aged 70 years

**St. Michael's Cemetery Part VII (continued)**

Gunn, Carolyn died Apr 10, 1935, aged 84 years, Native of Co. Cork Ireland

Coburn, O.J. 1852 - 1939

Coburn, Margaret 1852 - 1913

Ponte, Antonio A. 1871 - 1918, Natural do topo St. Jorge Acores (Azores?)

Dorame, S. (wooden cross)

Cruz, P. (wooden cross)

Burns, Michael 1859 - 1891

Burns, Margaret 1864 - 1915

Pritchard, Anne Nov 22, 1888 - Feb 15, 1972

Burns, Leo M. Nov 7, 1890 - Mar 9, 1975

Taylor, Joseph R. 1851 - 1919

Taylor, Catherine 1860 - 1938

Taylor, Louise 1886 - 6 weeks old

Taylor, Wilbur 1897 - 1899

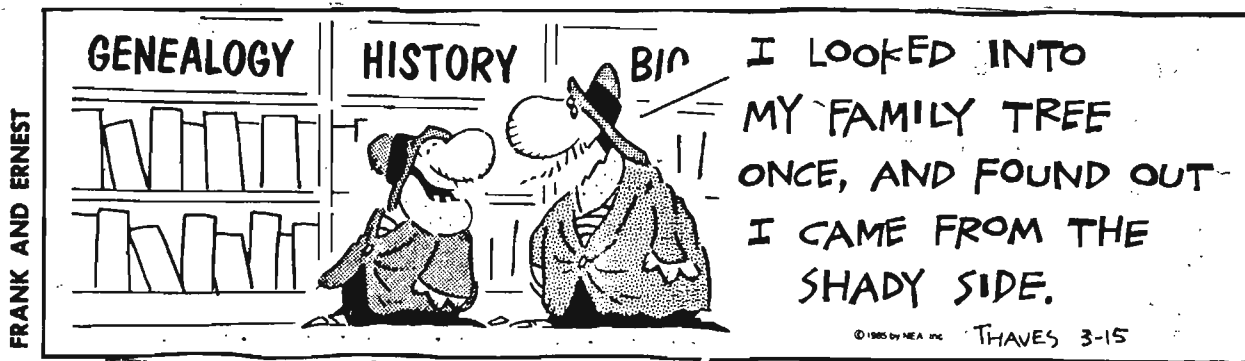
Taylor, Mary 1893 - 1906

Taylor, Edwin 1881 - 1963

Moy, John father, 1853 - 1912

Moy, Mary Ann mother, 1858 - 1944

Moy, Joseph R. father, 1898 - 1964



## MEDICAL FEATURE: Joseph's Disease

### Genealogy and a Family Medical History

We all know the joys and frustrations in researching the lives of our ancestors, but, for many of us, it is no more than a hobby that becomes an obsession. For Livermore resident, Rose Marie Silva, the study of genealogy has become a study with a more intense meaning as published in the March 1976 edition of **Today's Health Magazine**.

For some 150 years her family had been saddened and shocked by a debilitating disease that took the lives of both men and women at an early age -- in the prime of life. The disfiguring and lingering deaths could not be explained and were thought of as the "family curse."

When her father was stricken and died at age 39, and more recently, her brother became a victim, Mrs. Silva went into action. She felt that the condition had been hidden long enough and present and future generations of her family should not have to suffer before seeking help.

She contacted the National Genetics Foundation and found this was a rare degenerative nerve disorder brought to this country by Antone Joseph, a Portuguese seaman from the Azores who jumped ship and settled in California in 1845. The disease has been passed on to six generations of the family.

Mrs. Silva began an intense study of her family. She traced the lives of dozens of relatives, specifically recording the medical history of each one until she established a pattern of how the disease was passed on through the family. Her research has helped geneticists do a more sure diagnosis with hopes of leading to effective treatment and a possible cure. When the article was written, Mrs. Silva had located over 600 descendants and was still counting!

To quote Ruth Bernini of the National Genetics Foundation, "too many families suffer from a serious genetic disorder and do nothing about it. The adults in many families hide the existence of a hereditary disease from their children so that they grow up making family planning decisions of their own without knowledge of a critical element in their heritage."

The most accurate means of doing a family medical history is to obtain death certificates of as many family members as possible. These certificates include the report of the attending physician and are found in records of the county in which the person **died**, not necessarily where the person lived.

The March of Dimes has a worksheet called the Family Medical Record where information can be recorded. Also, there is available a booklet entitled "Genetic Counseling" that explains genetic screening. Information of how to obtain this booklet and worksheet can be found at the local March of Dimes office - check your phone directory.

(Editor's Note: A copy of the **Today's Health Magazine** article was donated by Mrs. Silva to our library. She spoke to our membership several months ago on this topic and held us spellbound. Genealogy takes on an added urgency under these conditions. Through Mrs. Silva's contacts, we are now exchanging quarterlies with The American-Portuguese Genealogical and Historical Society, Inc. of Taunton, Mass.)



## FROM OUT OF THE PAST

### Threshing machine welcome sight to early farmers.

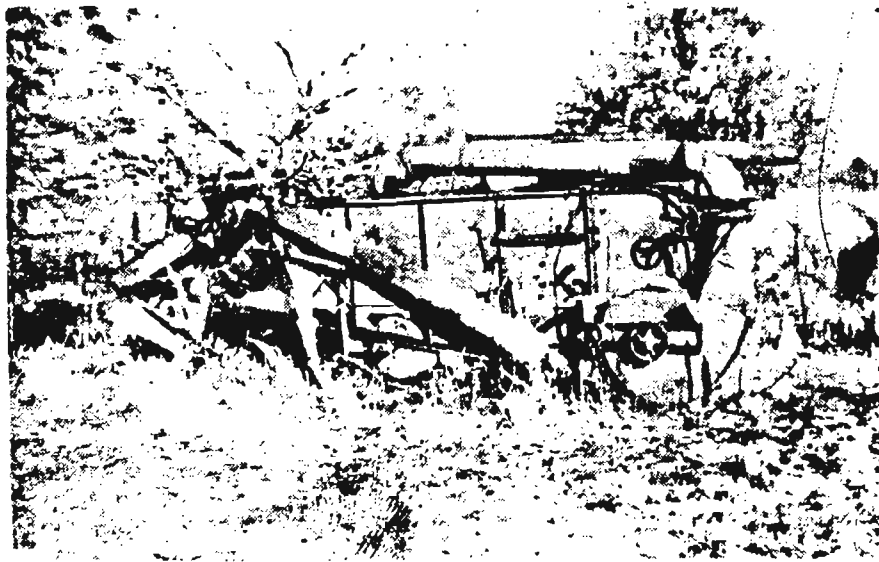
My dad, Everett Lee, ran this machine until 1947 or '48. He bought it used from a man named Post southwest of Greeley. It had a fifty-foot endless belt and he had to twist the belt to make the machine run the right direction. He had to get the belt pulley on the machine and the belt pulley on the tractor lined up just right or the belt would jump off. He pulled it with a 1938 "A" John Deere. After the belt was lined up, he backed the tractor up until the belt was tight and locked both brakes. The long spout on top of the machine was cranked up and down by a hand wrench and the spout also had a swivel on it so he could turn it right or left.

The straw pile was usually blown on top of a framework of tall hedge poles. Three sides of the framework would have double poles about three feet apart around it. The fourth side was left open and always faced the south so the sun could shine in in the winter time.

Hog wire would be stretched on three sides and over the top. When a farmer turned the cows in to the stack they ate everything but the roof and three sides, then a straw shed, which was very warm, would be left for the rest of the winter. Cattle would do well on a straw stack.

Some teams pulling the bundle wagons were afraid to be pulled along the side of the threshing machine. I remember only one runaway. The team ran about a quarter of a mile and stopped in a barbed wire fence. The load of bundles and bed of the hayrack and driver came off at the same time. They were just pulling the running gears. The horses weren't cut up badly, but were all tangled up in their harness.

My mother, Loree, and the rest of the neighbor women started fixing dinner real early. The table would be piled high with food. "Enough to feed a threshing crew," no doubt. But when dinner was over nothing was left but chicken bones and bare dishes. Whomever we threshed for, we always ate dinner there. Farmers also took their turns to get their grain threshed. The



threshing machine was replaced by an Allis Chalmers five-foot pull type combine.

by Larry Lee

(Linn County Historical Society,  
Kansas. Feb. 1985)

(submitted by Nebraska-born Bill Wolcott)

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### Counting Iowa Counties by Schoolmarm's Rhyme

Through the late 19th and early 20th centuries, generations of Iowa schoolchildren mastered the names and gained fleeting acquaintance with the locations of Iowa's 99 counties by memorizing a poem whose author has been lost to history.

Tantalizing scraps of the poem continue to skip through graying heads. The result is letters such as the one Paul Ringler, retired editor of the Editorial Page of the Milwaukee Journal, recently addressed to us from Solana Beach, California.

"Too many years ago, in Plainfield, Iowa, Miss Toy made us suffering school children learn by heart a poem that listed Iowa's 99 counties. Not the greatest poetry known to man, of course, but parts of it have stuck in my head. And that's the trouble. I feel a desire to fill in the blanks, to rattle off once more the Iowa counties in rhyme, to impress friends and relatives."

Librarian Lida Lisle Greene of the Iowa Historical Library receives several such requests - from all over the country -- yearly. Thanks to Almeda Brenton Harpel, who learned the poem from her teacher, Mattie Ferguson, at Adel in the early 1870's, Greene has no problem with requests for copies. Harpel wrote the poem as she remembered it in 1923 for publication in the **ANNALS OF IOWA** (Vol. 13, No.8, P 619) under the title, "The Counties of Iowa." "If she told us the name of the author it has slipped my memory, although the lines have stayed with me," she said. And here they are:

### IOWA COUNTIES

Our Home is in Iowa  
Westward toward the setting sun  
Just between two might rivers  
Where the crystal waters run

We have towns, we have cities  
We have many noble streams  
We have nine and ninety counties  
And we'll now repeat their names

Lyon, Osceola, Dickinson,  
Where Spirit Lake we see  
Emmet, Kossuth, Winnebago,  
Worth is near Lake Albert Lee

Mitchell, Howard, Winneshiek  
And Allamakee so fine  
Make just eleven counties  
On the Minnesota line

Clayton, Dubuque, Jackson, Clinton  
Together with Scott and Muscatine  
Lee, Louisa and Des Moines  
On the eastern side are seen

Van Buren, Davis, Appanoose,  
Decatur, Ringgold, Wayne we spy  
Taylor, Page and Fremont  
On the Missouri border lie

Pottawattamie, Harrison, Mills  
Monona, Woodbury, Plymouth, Sioux  
Make all the counties that around  
The border of our state we view

Next we point to O'Brien  
Palo Alto too and Clay  
Hancock, Cerro Gordo, Floyd  
Next see Chickasaw we pray

Fayette, Bremer, Butler, Franklin  
Next upon the map we see

Wright and Humboldt, Pocohantas  
Buena Vista, Cherokee

Ida, Sac, Calhoun, Webster  
Hamilton with name so rare  
Then comes Hardin, Grundy, Black Hawk  
Then Buchanan, Delaware

Jones, Lynn, Benton, Tama, Marshall  
Story, Crawford, Carroll, Boone  
Let us not your patience weary  
We will have them all told soon

Cedar, Greene, Johnson, Iowa  
And Poweshiek by the same  
Next is Jasper, Polk and Dallas  
Names of Presidential fame

Guthrie, Audubon, Shelby  
Cass, Madison and Adair  
Warren, Marion, Mahaska  
And Keokuk is there

Henry, Jefferson, Wappello, Monroe  
And Washington we missed  
Lucas, Union, Clarke and Adams  
And Montgomery fills the list

(submitted by Editor's Aunt  
Janie Jerman Bennett)

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### NEWS OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

RoseMarie Stickney Wade

Information in this column is taken from our exchange newsletters. Check the collection in L-AGS Library for more items that could be of interest and help to you.

#### Illinois

Illinois Mason Records: Information on the name, birthdate, place of birth, occupation at time of petitioning for membership, and date degrees were conferred for every Mason who received degrees in Illinois since 1840 is available by writing to the Office of the Grand Secretary, P.O. Box 4147, Springfield, IL 62708.

(NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST, N.W.  
Suburban Council of Genealogists in Mt.  
Prospect)

#### Ireland

A new IRISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY was formed in September 1984. The objects of the society is to promote Irish family history through

the indexing of parish records and census returns, collect old wills, estate rentals, tombstone records and other genealogical sources. They will have a newsletter dealing with activities of members, including indexing projects in upwards of ten counties, work on indexing of the Catholic parish registers in Tipperary, Clare, Laois and Offaly is nearing completion. Progress has been made in Westmeath, Longford and Carlow Counties and has been started in Wesford, Louth and Monaghan Counties. If you send a query please state county and at least two international reply coupons. They are interested in learning about Irish families that settled in U.S. Dues: 5 pounds per year, to: The Secretary, Michael J. Byrne, Convent View, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland.

### Common Surnames

The twenty most common surnames in the U.S. are as follows: ANDERSON, BROWN, CLARK, DAVIS, HARRIS, JACKSON, JOHNSON, JONES, LEWIS, MARTIN, MILLER, MOORE, SMITH, TAYLOR, THOMAS, WALKER, WHITE, WILLIAMS, and WILSON.

In 1790, the most common surnames were: ADAMS, ALLEN, BAKER, BROWN, CLARK, DAVIS, GREEN, HALL, HILL, JOHNSON, JONES, MILLER, MOORE, REED, SMITH, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, WHITE, WILLIAMS, and WILSON.  
(Federation of Genealogical Societies Newsletter, Dec. 1982)

### Place Name in the United States

Having trouble finding a PLACE NAME here in the United States? Have you looked in every possible atlas and gazetteer and it's not listed? Then, contact the UNITED STATES BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES, giving them as much information as possible as to possible location and dates concerned. The address is as follows: Donald J. Orth, Executive Secretary, Domestic Geographic Names, U.S. Board on Geographic Names, National Center Stop 523, Reston, VA 22092. (Stagecoach Library For Genealogical Research, Magnolia, TX, Jan. 1982)

### New Hampshire

Need help in New Hampshire? Nancy L. Dodge, 28 Ball St., Portsmouth, NH 03801 has mapped, recorded and indexed all known burial places in 7 northern NH towns: Clarksville, Columbia, Dixville, Pittsburg, Stewartstown and Stratford. These towns are completed and are in 2 indexed volumes and deposited in four libraries. Nancy

has no plans to publish but for a SASE (Self-addressed-stamped-envelop) will be happy to check her index of over 15,000 entries. Her next volume will be Hereford, Quebec and south in Vermont along the river towns of CAnaan, Lemington, Bloomfield and Brunswick. Thank you Nancy.

### Ohio

The Ohio Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 2625, Mansfield, OH 44906 has a copy service on the 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850 & 1860 census of Ohio. Send \$1 for copy of index page of the surname you are interested in. With this copy you will be sent a map of Ohio showing the townships and codes used in the 1850 & 1860 census index. The researcher may then select the names he wants copied, giving name, code, page number, roll number (if needed). Information on up to 5 families on the same roll for \$2, plus 25¢ for each additional name on the same roll. Family on another or second roll \$1 plus 25¢ for each additional family on that roll. (Federation Newsletter)

### German Surnames

Problem Solver -- Most Germans had two and three Christian names. Also, suffixes of German surnames can give clues as to their home regions:

bach . . . . southwest Germany  
 burg . . . . used throughout Germany  
 haus . . . . Westphalia  
 ecke . . . . Hessen, Thuringia  
 ingen. . . . Wurtemberg, Baden  
 inski. . . . upper Silesia  
 reuth. . . . Bavaria  
 ski/zke. . . east Pomerania

For further information, see  
 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GERMAN-AMERICAN  
 RESEARCH, by Clifford Neal Smith - pages 93 - 98.

(Genealogy Guild of the LaSalle Co.  
 Historical Society Newsletter, May 1984)



## California's Sutro Library

Supported by nineteen public libraries and one Friends organization, the California State Library Foundation was able to add a number of needed resources to the genealogy and local history collection at Sutro to conclude the first year of the Cooperative Acquisitions Project. The additions included fifty-seven reels of microfilm from the Cox Library collection of county, state, and local histories and sixty-three reels of microfilm of heavy demand U.S. Census Records. Both acquisitions have allowed the Library to reduce the waiting lists for these materials.

Additions from the Cox Library covered the states of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Vermont, Virginia and West Virginia.

The U.S. Census records include high demand reels from the 1830,1840,1850,1860,1870, and 1880 U.S. Census and will significantly reduce the waiting lists for these items.

The 1984-1985 Cooperative Acquisition Program will focus on the addition of microfilm copies of the invaluable local and family histories in the collections of the Library of Congress. Please direct your inquiries to the Sutro Library, S.F. State University, 480 Winton Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132.

## Grave Witching

"Grave Witching" . . . an item in the Peoria Genealogical Society Newsletter tells of a lady in Winterset, IA, who uses two copper rods to locate unmarked graves. When the rods cross, she has a grave and can determine the size of the body so she knows if it is an adult or a child. Joyce B. Hensen, editor of the P.G.S. Newsletter says "Does it sound bizarre? Well, ye old editor has done it -- but with two coat hangers!" Cut off the hook part, straighten one end out, the other end to make an 'L'; hold the short end in your hand, extending the long end outward. Let it balance on your hand, walk over the area slowly and "Walla", you have a witching stick. Try it - it's fun!! (Note: does this mean you have to dig up the body to see if you were correct?????)

## Newspaper Files

The following questions were published in an article on using newspapers in research (by Caroly Haws in "The Searcher"), as those which may be addressed to a "live" newspaper when help is being sought.

Explain that you are engaged in extensive genealogical research and would appreciate help on:

1. Do you have a morgue of old newspapers? How far back?
2. Can your office make a specific search for me?
3. Are there reproducing facilities available to you? Fees?
4. Are there any restrictions on use of these newspapers?
5. Is there any type of index to the back issues?
6. If early issues are not in your office where are they available?

The writer concludes with: Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope, and thank them for their assistance. (AW/TST Oct 15, 1984)

## Secret Society Records

Listed below are addresses for some of the Secret Societies of America. Genealogists searching for family records may find them helpful.

Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE), organized 1898, headquarters - 2401 W. Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53233

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (BPOE), founded 1868, - 2750 Lake View Drive, Chicago, IL 60614

Knights of Columbus (K of C), founded 1882, -Columbus Plaza, New Haven, CT 06507

Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, founded 1864, - Room 201 Pythian Bldg., 47 N. Grant St., Stockton, CA 95202

Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite of Free Masonry (Masons), founded 1813 - 33 Marrett Road, Lexington, MA 02173

Loyal Order of Moose, founded 1888, - Moosehart, Il 60539



Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF),  
founded 1819, - Sovereign Grand Lodge, IOOF, 16  
West Chase Street, Baltimore, MD 21201

Improved Order of Red Men, founded 1765.  
This secret society may have participated in the  
Boston Tea Party in 1773. The Great Council,  
Box 683, Waco, TX 76703

Imperial Council of the Ancient Arabic Order  
of the Nobles of The Mystic Shrine for North  
America (Shriners), founded 1872, - 2900 Rocky  
Point Drive, Tampa, FL 33607

Patriotic Order, Sons of America (POSOSA),  
founded 1847, - P.O. Box 1847, Valley Forge, PA  
19481

(Illinois State Gen. Soc. Sept 1984;  
San Joaquin Gen. Soc. Vol.5 No.5, 1984)

### California Statewide Death Index, 1940-1981

Now available on microfiche in the Genealogy  
Room of the Los Angeles Central Public Library.  
It gives the name of the deceased, initials of  
spouse, death date, age at death, county of death.  
(L.A. Westside Genealogical Society)

### UCLA Research Library

On the third floor of the UCLA Research  
Library in the section designated as CS can be  
found over 200 volumes of the transcribed Parish  
Registers of various sections of England -many  
full indexed. In every case an effort was made to  
publish the earliest records of the Churches,  
rarely going past the early 1800s, but since these  
are the most difficult to read, these projects are  
of particular value. Unfortunately, the UCLA  
card catalogue lists this material by the name of  
the Society that supervised the transcribing. The  
cards tell only the number of volumes in a  
particular set that are available. The Parishes  
are not mentioned by name. WAGS will  
periodically include in its Newsletter lists of  
these printed parish records at UCLA.

(Whittier Area Gen. Society,  
Vol. 3 No. 10)

### QUERY CORNER

Needs Help in California:

**John Thomas Downey**, died ? 1962, Suisun  
City, CA. Need exact date and occupation from  
Obituary.

**Reynold A. (Jim) Stoneking**, died 23 Nov 1967  
in Oakland, CA. Believe he married a Marjorie  
A. Davis (divorced with 2 children) on 1 Oct  
1934 in Hayward, CA. Would like copy of  
Obituary if there was one.

**Inez Mae (Bruner) Weiser**, last known address  
-Lafayette, CA; son Clifford lived at 21  
Tefflemire Dr., Lafayette in 70's and early 80's -  
but no response. Would like Obituary or exact  
death date of Inez Mae who died probably  
between 1970-1975, but no State record. (Did  
you ask the State to check Alameda County?  
She could have died at a large hospital in  
Oakland or Berkeley. Also San Francisco County  
is a possibility if she was at a hospital there.)

Looking for relatives of **Charles Barnes**. His  
wife Lenora (**Gearhart**) died in 1981. They did  
live at 17447 Bernardo Oaks Dr., San Diego.

Richard D. Stoneking  
5205 N. Wyandotte  
Gladstone, MO 64118

Will be glad to check this area for Obits.

#### In Memoriam

Former member **Edna Lenz Murray**,  
a native of Okarche, OK, and  
a Livermore resident  
for 24 years, died in a local hospital  
on  
Wednesday, April 24, 1985,  
at the age of 63.

MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS USEFUL FOR  
GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

NATIONAL ARCHIVES-SAN FRANCISCO BRANCH  
1000 COMMODORE DRIVE  
SAN BRUNO, CA 94066  
TELEPHONE: 415 876-9009

The following National Archives Microfilm Publications concerned with genealogical research may be viewed in our Research Room, 8:00AM to 4:30PM (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri) and 8:00AM to 8:30PM (Wed).

FEDERAL POPULATION CENSUSES, 1790-1910

M 637 1790 First Census (Original Schedules)  
T 498 1790 First Census (Printed Schedules, including the list of 1840 pensioners,)  
M 32 1800 Second Census  
M 252 1810 Third Census  
M 33 1820 Fourth Census  
M 19 1830 Fifth Census  
M 704 1840 Sixth Census  
M 432 1850 Seventh Census  
M 653 1860 Eighth Census  
M 593 1870 Ninth Census  
T 132 Ninth Census of Minnesota  
T 734-T 780 The 1880 Soundex Index for each State  
T 9 1880 Tenth Census  
M 407 1890 Soundex  
M 496 1890 Eleventh Census. Most of this census was burned in 1921. All that remains is the information on these 3 reels of film.  
M 123 1890 Special Schedules Enumerating Union Veterans and Widows of Union Veterans of the Civil War (Kentucky to Wyoming).  
T 1030-T 1083 1900 Soundex Index for each State.  
T 623 1900 Twelfth Census  
T 1259-T 1279 1910 Soundex Index for 21 States.  
T 624 1910 Thirteenth Census

OTHER CENSUS RELATED RECORDS

T 1210 Enumeration District Plans For The 1900 Census.  
T 1224 Enumeration District Plans For The 1910 Census.

INDIAN CENSUS RECORDS

M 595 Indian Census Rolls. California and Nevada Indians only.  
7RA3 Index and Final Rolls to Citizens and Freedman of the Five Civilized Tribes in Indian Territory. ca.1907(Dawes Roll)

MILITARY RECORDS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

M 860 General Index to Compiled Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers.  
M 879 Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Naval Personnel.  
M 804 Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files.  
M 881 Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During The Revolutionary War.  
M 246 Revolutionary War Rolls(by units) 1775-1783.

WAR OF 1812

- M 602 Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served  
During the War of 1812.  
M848 War of 1812 Military Bounty Land Warrants, 1815-1858.

MEXICAN WAR

- T 317 Index to Mexican War Pension Files, 1887-1926.

INDIAN WARS

- T 318 Index to Indian Wars Pension Files, 1892-1926.

CIVIL WAR

- M 533 Index to Compiled Service Records of Civil War Volunteers from California.  
M 548 Index to Compiled Service Records of Civil War Volunteers from Nevada.

OTHER MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS

- T 135 Selected Records Relating to Fremont's Expeditions and the California  
Battalion, 1842-1890.

GENERAL MILITARY RECORDS

- M 233 Register of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914,  
M 690 Returns from Regular Army Engineer Battalions, 1846-1916.  
M 691 Returns from Regular Army Coast Artillery Corps Companies, 1901-1916.

LETTERS OF APPLICATION AND RECOMMENDATION DURING  
THE ADMINISTRATION OF:

- M 406 John Adams, 1797-1801.  
M 418 Thomas Jefferson, 1801-1809.  
M 438 James Madison, 1809-1817.  
M 439 James Monroe, 1817-1825.  
M 531 John Quincy Adams, 1825-1829.  
M 639 Andrew Jackson, 1829-1837.  
M 687 Martin Van Buren, William Harrison, and John Tyler, 1837-1845.  
M 873 James Polk, Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore, 1845-1853.  
M 967 Franklin Pierce and James Buchanan, 1853-1861.  
M 650 Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson, 1861-1869.

Provides some biographical information and interesting background  
data on persons seeking Presidential appointments.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS

- T 1220 Selected Indexes to Naturalization Records of the U.S. Circuit and  
District Courts, Northern District of California, 1852-1928.

OTHER RECORDS

- M 756 Internal Revenue Assessment Lists for California,1862-1866.
- M 217 Attorney Rolls of the U.S. Supreme Court,1790-1951.
- M 587 List of U.S. Consular Officers,1789-1939.
- M 586 List of U.S. Diplomatic Officers,1789-1939.
- T 577 Index to Names of U.S. Marshalls,1789-1960.
- M 841 Records of Appointment of Postmasters,1832-1971.
- T 1207 Private Land Grant Cases in the Circuit Court of the Northern District of California,1852-1910.
- T 1214 Index to Private Land Grant Cases, U.S. District Court, Northern District of California,1853-1903.
- T 1215 Index to Private Land Grant Cases,U,S. District Court, Southern District of California.
- T 1216 Index by County to Private Land Grant Cases,U.S. District Court, Northern and Southern Districts of California.
- M 68 List of North Carolina Land Grants in Tennessee,1778-1791.