



Ancestors West

A quarterly publication for the members of the
SANTA BARBARA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
May 2014 Vol. 39, No. 2

THREADS

Unraveling
Michael James
Feely

**Chronicling
America:**
*A Place to Begin Your
Exploration of Historic
Newspapers*

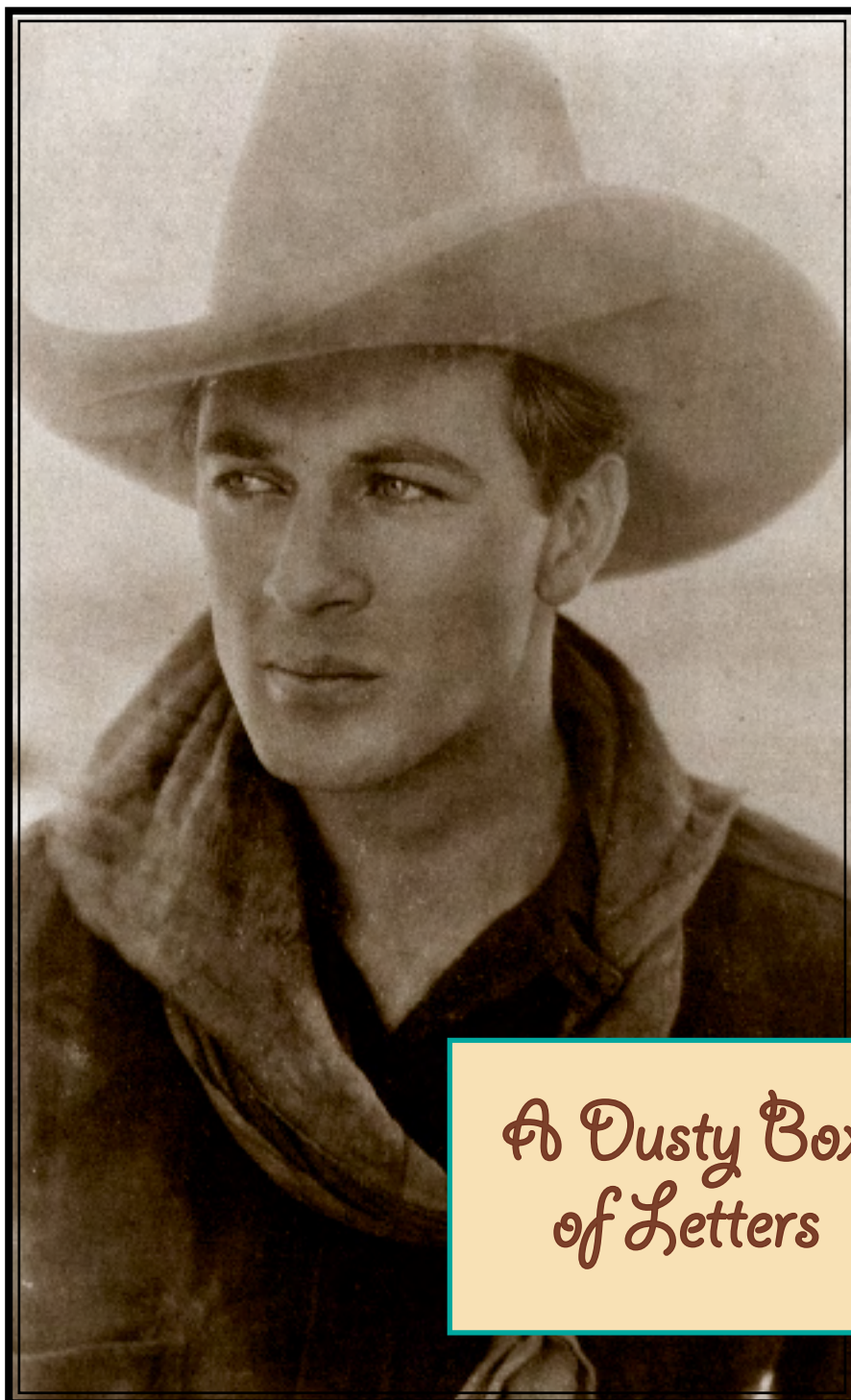
**Worth a
Thousand Words**

**The Wreck of the
Empire Builder**

**Taking Your
House With You**

**Ole Sorem's
Other Daughter**

War Time:
*A Twelve Year Old in
Santa Barbara*



*A Dusty Box
of Letters*



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Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Membership: Benefits include *Tree Tips* monthly newsletter and *Ancestors West* (quarterly publication).

Active (individual)–\$40; **Family** (2 same household)–\$60; **Friend**–\$50;
Donor–\$75; **Patron**–\$150; **Life**–\$1000 (one-time donation)

Meetings: Regular monthly meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month except August. Meetings begin at 10:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance Ave. at State Street in Santa Barbara. Prior to the meeting at 9:30 are sessions for Beginners, Help Wanted, Germanic Research, Italian Research, DNA Special Interest Group (SIG), and Genealogy and Technology.

Established in 1972, the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society (SBCGS) incorporated as a nonprofit 501(c) (3) organization in 1986. Its aim is to promote genealogy by providing assistance and educational opportunities for those who are interested in pursuing their family history.

Ancestors West is currently published quarterly in February, May, August, November. Articles of family history or of historical nature are welcomed and used as space permits (see inside back cover for submission details). As available, current and back issues are \$6.00 each including postage. Library subscription to *Ancestors West* is \$20.00 per year. *Ancestors West* is indexed in the **PERiodical Source Index (PERSI)** published by the Allen County Public Library, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

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From the Editor Pins and Needles

David Petry

PULLING TOGETHER A PUBLICATION like *Ancestors West* is an act of faith. A theme slips out into the water, you crack a beverage, and you wait. The theme is a particular kind of bait, and you hope it attracts a particular kind of fish. But you never know until the last reel whether you'll attract tasty fish, a nice assortment, good fighters, or... go home hungry, or maybe with a mean-spirited catfish.

I believe we have an excellent haul this issue, especially since I continue to forge ahead without a deep understanding of genealogy, or of what a genealogy journal for a society like ours should accomplish in this day and age.

This issue (Threads) and the last (Graves) have focused on the stories of genealogy, the interesting avenues we travel when we do research that are in part anecdotal and personal. The stories take us to unexpected places, offer methods and resources we might use, and reveal a human side to the work. We meet the authors in ways we may have missed in meetings and classrooms.

But I know this is not the whole job of this journal. I hope each of you, as you read this issue, will think about what that job is. A few of you have emailed me, or pulled me aside and told me a thing or two about how this thing should be done. I appreciate the input. It is definitely valuable. I think we're looking for a portal into new means and methods of research, the unique and vital in our own researches, and ways to inspire and connect us to each other and the community of Santa Barbara. If that seems right, help us get there with more pieces; if not, feel free to weigh in (or submit).

Lace doilies

Last issue I admitted my lack of knowledge about genealogy. I am working (slowly) to rectify this. I attended a few of Jan Cloud's sessions at Continuing Education (formerly Adult Ed).

Personal hobbies are therapeutic, but Jan Cloud's sessions took this to a new level. Genealogy is a self-motivated and self-propelled journey of discovery, like all the best pursuits in life. In any such journey, we reach dead ends. The sessions were structured around individuals discussing their dead ends with the group and seeking help. As Jan said, "We should all have a good long list of dead ends at any given time." What an apt and functional metaphor for life itself.

I started working, as well, with Shirley Cobb, an early

member of the Society. Pre-computer, pre-Internet, she built an ahnentafel for her daughters and published it in *AW Vol 8 No 4*, in December of 1982. She showed me her old copy of that journal, and - I admit to having a notation fetish - the old page was etched with over thirty years of penciled additions and corrections. Gary Matz provided her with a clean copy from the online archives, and I took away images of the notated ahnentafel, her more recent 15-generation pedigree focused on her ex-husband, and another one focused on her side of the family. We've begun the process of filling in an ahnentafel that includes all the work Shirley has completed in the last 32 years. It is a rote and slow process, but one that helps teach the connective logic and accuracy of genealogy. In the immediate future, I'll be



Notated page of Shirley Cobb's 1984 *Ancestors West* ahnentafel

looking at software that can take my 'database' of the Cobb family and automatically convert it to pedigree charts and other useful outputs. If you have experience with such products, please contact me. (Better yet, write an article!)

I also pried open a 1979 book by Rummel and Rummel entitled *The Three Sons of Stefan Petry* and sat down with my mother, Nancy Martin Petry, and sorted through old photographs and memories. We built, over the course of a weekend, a pedigree chart that ran back more than 15 generations in some cases, and that died off in just three, elsewhere. But we were able to uncover my mother's grandmother's line and several other lingering unknowns. We found the reputed 'squaw' bride eight generations back on my mother's side (Chal-akatha "Cornstalk" Metis Seney, Shawnee Nation, 1740-1766), and the 'fact' that Ferdinand Petry (1821-1895), five generations back on my father's side, is considered by some to be the inventor of the Franklin Stove, but he neglected to patent his invention.

Returning home, I peered closely at images a high school friend, Robyn Januscheski, had posted on Facebook of a cemetery near her home in Pennsylvania. Pulling names from one of the stones, I located the cemetery and discovered that the very first Petrys to arrive in the United States including Stefan (1729-1764) and his son, George Sr. (1762-1823), who was up my line, were buried in a cemetery just 5 miles away from this cemetery. Robyn graciously spent an afternoon there with her inner and outer lenses and sent me a set of beautiful images from the cemetery.

Finally, to grasp something about the bleeding edge of genealogy, I acquired a 23andMe spit-kit for my wife and myself, and we dutifully shipped off our DNA. We await the results, but I loved the warning on the website: "You may learn information about yourself that you do not anticipate. Once you obtain your genetic information, the knowledge is irrevocable." I would love to know what kinds of calls and letters prompted such a warning. "I am NOT related to Sarah Palin! Or certainly not on BOTH sides!"



Stefan Petry's grave, Chestnut Grove Bretheran Cemetery, Jefferson PA, by Robyn Januscheski.

Down the road

Next issue, the theme will be Whole Cloth. Is there an area of your research that has reached a fullness or completion? Is there a lineage that you have nailed down? A family? I have the notion that what would be satisfying to us as readers would be some hard results, combined with the interesting problems we encountered, how we solved them, and some of the context we learned as a result. Alternately, how about drilling down into a single problem you have pulled apart and solved? And we always want and welcome your pieces on the technology and techniques of genealogy. [Submission deadline is July 10, 2014.](#)

Enjoy.

David Petry
dlpetry@gmail.com

Unraveling Michael James Feely

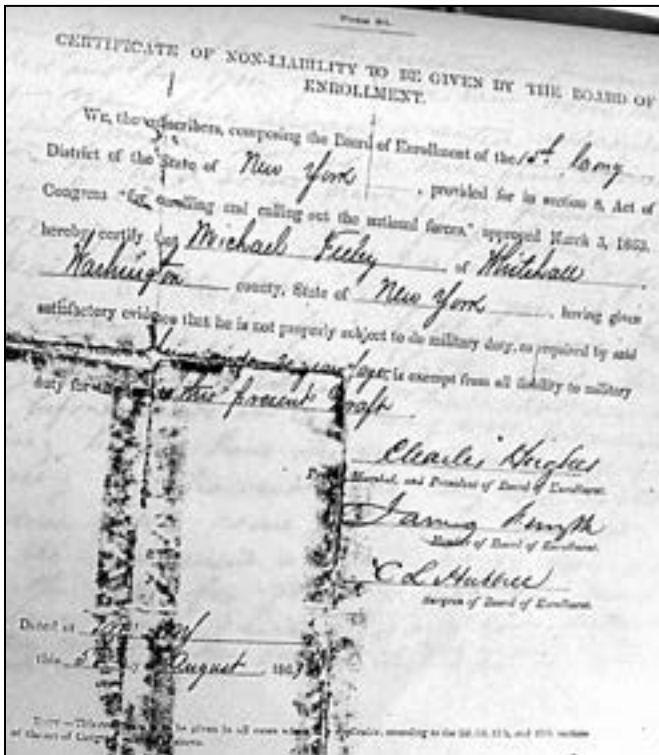
Cathy Jordan

BECAUSE MY MOTHER often spoke with immense pride about her grandfather, I grew up 'knowing' Michael James Feely. But it wasn't until I began to do genealogy that I started to really know him and discover the tangle of threads in his life.

Michael was born 3 November 1844 in the little town of Freshford, County Kilkenny, Ireland; I know this from church records in Ireland. He came to the U.S. aboard the ship *Elizabeth Bentley*, arriving in New York 6 Jan 1851, according to ship's records, at age 6 with his mother, 4-year-old brother, and baby sister. His father John Feely had arrived in August 1850, traveled to Whitehall, New York, and set up a shoemaking shop. I found all the source documents to support these. Michael is listed in Whitehall in the 1860 census and then marries in 1867 in Mexico, Missouri, to Josephine Eliza Mallery. I have evidence that he went to Nebraska and then Kansas to establish mercantile stores and have a large family. He died in Jennings, Kansas in 1903. But what happened in between 1860 and 1867 would prove a tangle for me to unravel. It turned out to be rather like pulling at a hanging thread on an old ratty sweater. The beginning of the mystery was when my first cousin told me a family story passed to him by his father, my uncle. The legend was that Michael tried to enlist to fight in the Civil War and was turned down. Later he did enter service in the place of "a rich man's son." This



Michael James Feely ca. 1867
A family owned tintype



Certificate of non-liability
Provided by my cousin Gordon Feely

family story fired my imagination and off I went to begin research.

Being analytical by nature, I broke down the story into two parts. I first concentrated on tracking down the truth (or fiction) of whether he was turned down for the draft. This seemed to me highly unlikely as I began, knowing how desperate the Union was for troops. I found his Civil War draft registration in Whitehall, New York dated 1 July 1863. He was 20, unmarried, and his occupation was a clerk (likely in his father's shoe shop). This record was found on Ancestry.com. However, further searches of Ancestry and Fold3 yielded no pension records, no service records, and no hint of GAR membership. The unraveling began but with some knots.

About that time I visited another first cousin and was talking about this story; he said that he might have something that would shed some light on my research. He had found a binder of information and among the papers was a copy of a copy of a document labeled "Certificate of non-liability to be given by the Board of Enrollment." It seemed to be saying that Michael was rejected from service for some reason, but where the reason was written there had been a fold in the document and it was unreadable. This was something new! More unraveling but another knot in the thread.

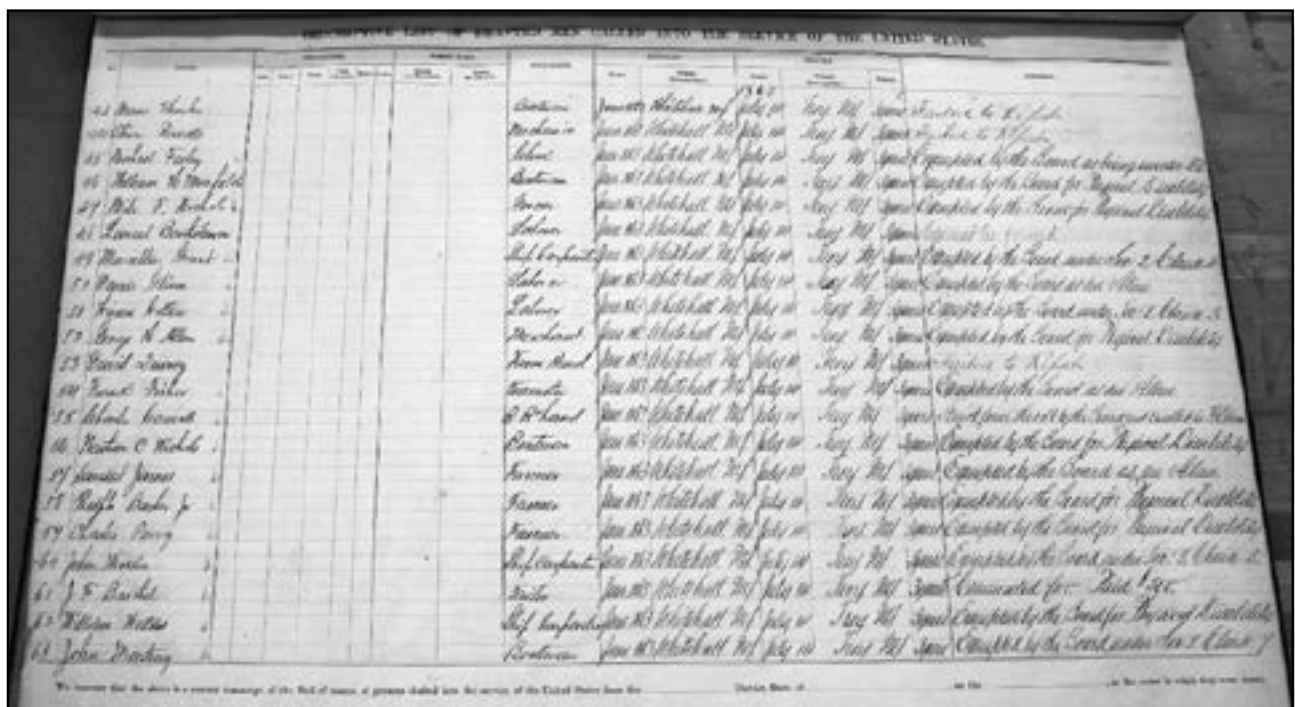
Unable to find out anything else through the Internet, I visited the National Records and Archives Administration (NARA) in Washington, D.C. last summer while on vacation. I spoke with an archivist there, showed her the photo of the mysterious document and asked if she thought the original might be there so I could read what was written in the fold. She went off to do some digging and came back about 20 minutes later to say that it was a New York state document and would be housed at the NARA headquarters in that state. She gave me the email address of an archivist there, told me to send a photo of the document, and gave me possible film numbers that might have it. I went away recharged.

I fired off an email right away. A couple of months later I received the answer that they did not find that document but they did find a logbook. They said the logbook was too big to copy. And that was it! Not one to give up, I asked if someone could take a photo of the

from the *New York Times* about the draft riots and a statement by the New York governor that jumped out at me: "New York Governor Horatio Seymour addressed a portion of the mob today at City Hall, calling on 'my friends' to stop the violence and assuring them the draft is to be suspended." So that explains why everyone was exempt! The draft was suspended in New York at this time!

I had unraveled the first part of the family story - that Michael tried to enlist to fight in the Civil War and was turned down. It was TRUE!

Now I focused on the second part - that he entered service in the place of "a rich man's son." This part turned out to be far messier. I searched certain censuses that might contain Civil War veteran information. He was not in the 1890 veteran census, but I discounted that because another great-grandfather whom I can document as a veteran was also not enumerated in that



Logbook from New York 14 July 1863
Provided by New York NARA

page of the logbook and send that to me. Finally after waiting a few more weeks, I received the photo. It was sort of good news - bad news. The good news was that Michael's name was there and the reason was readable: "Exempted by the Board as being under 20." The bad news was that was what it said, and all the names on that page were exempted for other reasons - everyone was exempted. What? Another great-grandfather entered at age 19 with no problem. And why so many others rejected from the same area in New York? I was past that knot in the thread but there was a lot more to unravel.

Then I turned to a Civil War app I have on my iPad from the History Channel. Since I noticed the date on the exemption logbook was 14 July 1863, I went to what was happening on that date. There was an article taken

census. Then there was the 1895 Kansas state census where all around him his neighbors stated details of their service and he did not. This was not going smoothly at all.

Working on the assumption that the second half of the story was true and knowing now that he could have enlisted in any state after 14 July 1863, I began at the Sahyun Library by looking in each of the 33 volumes of *The Roster of Union Soldiers, 1861-1865* for instances of Michael Feely with any spelling. I found 18 of them. Then I began researching each of them. I could eliminate those who joined prior to 14 July 1863 and those who died in service. This left me with 7 possibilities.

Next I took advantage of classes offered during Family History month at the Sahyun Library. I took a class offered by Sue Ramsey on Civil War research. She had

many ideas, most of which I had already tried. But the gem that I had not tried was the American Civil War Research Database. For \$25 a year it offers wonderful information. I joined and plugged in Michael Feely. I received 7 results, 3 that could be eliminated because they joined too early. I began looking at details for the rest. Bingo! Only one enlisted in New Jersey in 1864 and served as a substitute! This fellow enlisted 31 May 1864 as a private in Company C, New Jersey 6th Infantry, and then transferred into F Company, New Jersey 8th Infantry on 12 Oct 1864. He was a prisoner of war at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Maryland and furloughed from there on 7 Apr 1865. Could this be my great-grandfather? My heart was pounding. I knew that Michael's father reportedly had a brother who emigrated from Ireland to New Jersey (although I have not been able to find him) so that lent a bit of credence.

After talking to Alex Grzywacki, local expert on the Civil War, I sent for the service records from NARA on this one person, hoping that I had reached the successful end of this tangle. Alex did tell me that substitutes were not eligible for pensions nor able to join GAR, something I did not know. When I received the records, they were full of information, even down to physical description and whom he served for. The description was not far off: blue eyes, dark hair (reportedly dark red), dark complexion, 5' 4 3/4" (no male on that side of the family has been tall). However, on closer examination my high hopes for a magnificent find (and a tidy ball of yarn) were dashed. The age was way off (my great-grandfather would have been 20 and the age given was 36), the occupation was listed as laborer (this didn't fit with clerking in his father's store), and the volunteer signed with an X (this also did not fit with clerking in his father's store and I have a beautifully written letter by Michael in the early 1870s to his wife).

Sigh. So there my unraveling unraveled; I ended up with just a jumbled mass of knotted yarn. There is regrettably no evidence to confirm the second part of the family story and I have to tell my cousins that we have not had a 'Eureka!' moment. All frustration aside, I am glad I tugged on that first dangling thread as it sent me on a fascinating journey.

Cathy Jordan has been a society member for 5 years and is researching the family names of Feely, Walsh, Mallery, Pratt, Bayha, Eckhardt, Mitchell, Lemmon, Matthews, McDuffie, Bayne, Wilhite, Farmer, Wood, Shelton, Allen, Griffin, and others. Born and raised in Santa Barbara, she returned in 1981 to raise two sons and take care of her parents. She lives in the house where she grew up. Cathy retired from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department in 2008 from a career in computer programming and support and plunged headlong into genealogy after a visit to the 2009 Open House during Family History Month.



Substitute Volunteer Enlistment paper
Service record provided by NARA

A Dusty Box of Letters

Margery Marcus Baragona

BY NATURE I AM NOT A HOARDER. When faced with the daunting task of disposing of my father-in-law's 'stuff' I was tempted to dump a dusty box of old letters. Randomly, I looked at a few trying to decide whether to save or discard. To my amazement familiar names popped up: Ronald Colman, Gary Cooper, and Rudolph Valentino. I remembered that my mother-in-law had been a secretary in Hollywood but knew little else about her. Forgetting my chores, I voraciously read the 50 or so letters. They spanned from 1924 to 1928. I was surprised at how well Valeria wrote, remembering she had had little education.

She, Valeria Belletti, arrived in Hollywood from New Jersey in 1924 and became Sam Goldwyn's personal secretary. The letters, more like a journal, were to a friend in New Jersey who had the amazing foresight to preserve and return them. Realizing their historical value I wrote to a film historian, Cari Beauchamp,



Valeria Belletti



Gary Cooper

whose book on early Hollywood I had recently read. Letters are generally more authentic than tales repeated again and again. The letters give a great sense of Hollywood in the '20's. Not only was there titillating gossip from the studios, but also the tribulations of a single woman's life. In one aside from her daily work for Mr. Goldwyn she wrote, "Maybe now that Mr. Goldwyn is married he will be a nicer man." Valeria had a desire to be married, a goal she shared with her girlfriends. Men were evaluated as to their potential as mates. Love did not seem to be the first consideration.

It was suggested that the original letters be donated to the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for which we received a generous tax deduction. Cari had various people in the movie industry read the letters and the response was overwhelming; they should be published.

It was seven years from the time I contacted Cari that the letters were finally published. During this time Scott Berg, in his biography of Goldwyn, used some of the letters as did Emily Leider in her Valentino biography.

Pictures were chosen, dates were authenticated (the letters were not edited) and a publisher was found. The book was published in 2006 (2005) by University of California Press and titled *Adventures of a Hollywood Secretary*. Unfortunately, my former husband Tony, Valeria's son, died shortly before I knew they were to be published. At last count over 3,000 copies have been sold in the U. S. and Europe. Recently the book has been optioned by Amazon for a series. Perhaps!

I have learned not to overlook dusty boxes.

War Time: A Twelve Year Old in Santa Barbara

Margery Marcus Baragona

HAVE VIVID MEMORIES of World War II. Here are a few of mine as a 12-year-old girl living in Santa Barbara during that troubled time.

Sundays we listened to the New York Philharmonic on our trusty Philco radio. The December 7th 1941 broadcast was interrupted with news of the attack on Pearl Harbor. I was interested in geography and felt quite smug that I knew where Pearl Harbor was! From then until August 1945 we were at war.

We lived near Hoff General Military Hospital where they had air raid sirens.¹ The abrupt sharp screeching of the sirens scared me. I always imagined the worst as we hunkered down in darkness. After the memorable and newsworthy attack by a Japanese submarine on



Celebrating VJ-Day on State St. in front of Granada Theater

apparently the rescuers did not see me. Finally, frightened and neglected, I crept home. In my own way I was a casualty.

I wanted to do more for the war effort than just collecting tin foil and rubber so I volunteered to work at the shoe ration board, which was located in City Hall. I proudly wore a cute uniform and cap that my father made for me. With any story of hardship I generously gave people coupons.

We too experienced what we called 'hardships;' our saddle shoes were made of plastic not leather. My mother learned to draw a straight line down her leg to look like a silk stocking seam. She mixed the yellow coloring into Nucco to make certain we had "butter."

Being a small family we occasionally traded sugar for real butter from friends who had a cow. Our butcher on State Street provided us with our modest ration of meat although he would reach under the counter to hand me 10 cents worth of hamburger for our dog. I was very disappointed when they canceled Fiesta as I loved wearing my fiery red costume and mantilla to the parade.



Hoff Hospital 1944-1945

Ellwood, just west of Goleta, we went into our serious wartime mode.² Wheeler's, a popular restaurant specializing in pies and located near the attack site, hastily moved into town. My parents could only drive with parking lights. Shades were drawn at night; some people had actual blackout curtains. With all the lights turned off, downtown Santa Barbara, especially State Street, was spooky. My father was an air raid warden. He and the other men patrolled the dark streets proudly wearing their white helmets. My mother made coffee for them during the night (an article and her picture were printed in the *News Press*).

Sometimes we went down Pedregosa Street to the tracks to watch the troop trains go by; that was sad to me seeing these young men leaving their homes to go off to unknown battles. One day a mock air raid drill was planned. I was excited to be chosen as a 'victim.' After the 'raid' the Peabody schoolyard was littered with bodies. I was at the far end of the playground, but



El Centro Bldg.- 21 E. Canon Perdido St. - 1929

English by birth, my father agonized as he listened to Edward R. Morrow describe the bombings of England. Nights when President Roosevelt spoke we ate at a card table in the living room to be close to our radio; I thought of this as a treat.

Due to the war my father, a well-known custom tailor, was unable to get woolens from England and Scotland. Luckily some officers stationed at Camp Cooke in Lompoc wanted custom uniforms; goods for these were more easily obtained.³ It was fun going with him for the fittings and exciting to see the trucks, tanks, guns, and the many men in uniform. We befriended a soldier whom we would often invite to dinner. I wrote to him as he fought in Europe. I thought for his morale he would find my jokes attributed to Jimmy Durante and Bob Hope funny. I also told him what song was number one on the Hit Parade. My diary carefully noted this vital information each Saturday night. Listening to music, my first and lingering love was Frank Sinatra. With a girlfriend we spent hours working on our scrapbooks swooning over each printed word and picture. After nagging my mother she took us to Hollywood (we had a B ration stamp for gasoline) where Sinatra was appearing. For hours I stood on a ledge waiting and finally he walked by. I was able to run my fingers through his hair. A lifetime thrill!

I am embarrassed to remember the night of VJ Day as my parents and their friends celebrated the end of the war. I came out of my bedroom complaining that their gaiety was ruining my sleep! I had become a teenager.

The four years of the war made a lasting impression on me as I was at an emotional and impressionable age.

The author is a native of Santa Barbara, a member of SBCGS, and has published previously.

Photos, John C. Woodward collection.

ENDNOTES

¹ Hoff, a 1,300-bed hospital facility, treated more than 27,500 military patients between 1943 and 1946. The hospital was located on 46 acres at the southeast corner of Hollister – now State – and Las Positas.



Barnsdall Rio Grande Gas Station – Ellwood



Wheeler Inn – Ellwood ca. 1930

² The attack occurred on February 23, 1942 at about 7:00 pm. The 365-foot Imperial Japanese submarine I-17 fired between 12 and 25 140mm shells at the Richfield Oil installation at Ellwood. Slight damage was done to Ellwood pier and destroyed a derrick and pump house.



Wheeler Inn – Interior – Ellwood

³ Camp Cooke, 1941-1953, was a United States Army encampment and training center of 86,000 acres of open ranch lands between Lompoc and Santa Maria. It was named in honor of Major General Phillip St. George Cooke, a cavalry officer who participated in the Mexican War, the Indian Wars, and the Civil War, and was notable for leading a battalion of Mormons from Missouri to California on the route that would become the first wagon route to California, and later was followed by the railroad.

Chronicling America: A Place to Begin Your Exploration of Historic Newspapers

Gage Ricard

“DAVID LUSHER was perhaps fatally injured about 9:30 o’clock this morning as a result of a runaway accident.” So began the story about my great grandfather in the *Toledo Bee* on July 14, 1900. Two days later, the outcome of that accident was reported: “David Lusher, who was thrown from his wagon on Saturday morning on Oak street, by collision of his [horse-drawn wagon] and an electric car, died about 6 o’clock this morning.” The article went on to provide details about cause of death followed by general information about Mr. Lusher, his family, and the funeral arrangements.

Prior to reading the *Toledo Bee* articles, I knew very little about the accident; certainly none of the details so fully reported – and perhaps enhanced for greater impact – in the paper.

In another Ohio newspaper, the *Perrysburg Journal*, I read the tragic story of my grand-aunt’s death at 17 under the headline: “Double Suicide near Moline; Two Young People Clasped in Each Other’s Embrace, Die Together.” Essentially it was a lovers’ leap into the abyss. Over the years, I had only heard that my grandmother’s sister had drowned in a nearby quarry pond as a teenager. I doubt even my father knew the circumstances of her death. Not surprisingly, this very sad story was carried in papers across the country in July 1897, even as far as San Francisco. Yet only recently did I find this story. Albeit dramatic, these are examples of the stories one can find in the newspapers of our ancestors’ era and locale.

That same *Perrysburg Journal* mentioned above enticed new subscribers by promising to give “all the neighborhood gossip and all facts of interest concerning your friends,” in addition to “all the court news of the county.” An enticement that was meant to boost readership then also works to boost readership today... among genealogists! I have found many (fortunately less sensational) tidbits of information about my ancestors in the *Perrysburg Journal*.

Indeed, historic newspapers carry court news and neighborly gossip in the plethora of stories and notices – marriage announcements, obituaries, legal notices, and reports on social functions, pioneer families, family reunions and more. (See figure: “Crago Family Reunion.”) And if read with a critical eye, since errors certainly find their way into stories and notices hastily written and typeset to meet a fast approaching deadline, historical newspapers can help fill in for us the lives of our ancestors within the context of their times.

Fortunately, many of these stories – these threads leading us back to moments in our ancestors’ lives – have become much easier to find and access thanks to

CRAGO FAMILY REUNION.	
The following from the Toledo Blade of Saturday has reference to an old Wood county family:	Reitz and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mull and family, Henry Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Wiseman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schlatter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lusher and family, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Waggoner, Miss Celeste Lusher, Earl Lusher, Mr. and Mrs. Uriah Garner and son, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Swartz and family, Miss Ella Garner, Mr. and Mrs. John Crago and family, Mrs. Florence Kopp and family, Grover Hanley, Miss Bessie Hanley, Edwin Hanley, Chester Hanley, Mr. and Mrs. John Swartz and family, Miss Edith Baumgartner, Mrs. Julia Truman, Miss Verna Truman, Mrs. Barney Waggoner, Merrell Waggoner, Mrs. Samuel Waggoner, Mrs. Ann Waggoner, Mrs. Charles Waggoner, Mrs. James McCutcheon and Mrs. Kathryn Chamberlain.
In honor of the 85th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Sallie Crago, a family reunion was held Thursday, at the home of Mrs. Andrew Hanley in Lemoyne. Among those present were:	
Mrs. Sally Crago, of Lemoyne; Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Snyder, Mrs. Mary Jane Harpel and Mrs. Lavina Lusher, of Toledo; Joseph Crago, of Walbridge; Mrs. William Garner and Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hanley, of Lemoyne; Phillip Harpel, of Kansas; Mrs. Benjamin Bringman and family, of Lemoyne; Mr. and Mrs. George	

Crago Family Reunion: *The Perrysburg Journal* provides the guest list of those attending a reunion held in honor of my 2nd great grandmother on her 85th birthday. The names and places of residence included in this story are welcome finds for this genealogist.

the extraordinary efforts of organizations and individuals to digitize historic newspapers, get them online and make them searchable by all, often for free.

And while there are many free, online resources you can turn to when looking for newspapers relevant to your ancestors’ lives, a good place to start is Chronicling America (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>). Let’s take a closer look at what Chronicling America is, how to use it, and where to get more information.

Chronicling America: A Wealth of Searchable Digitized Newspapers, 1836 through 1922

Since 2005, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and Library of Congress have funded and managed the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP) in an effort “to bring historic newspapers to the public by creating a national, searchable database of newspapers published in the United States and Territories between 1836 and 1922.” The result of that joint effort is Chronicling America, a web site that offers anyone with an Internet connection free access to currently more than 7 million newspaper pages, representing contributions from 37 states and the District of Columbia. Eventually, all U.S. states and territories will be represented.¹

While an impressive number of papers have been digitized with more on the way, it is important to note that the goal of the National Digital Newspaper Program is not to digitize every paper published between 1836 and 1922. Instead, the goal is to provide a selection of historic newspapers chosen by each state to best represent “that state’s regional history, geographic coverage, and events of the particular time period being covered.”² You may wonder why the program only includes newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. It reflects pragmatic considerations. Newspapers published prior to 1836 tend to have quality issues that make them poor candidates for high-quality digital reproduction and the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software that makes them searchable. And news-

papers published after December 31, 1922 have copyright protections.³ Taking these selection criteria into account, there is still an impressive number and variety of newspapers to delve into.

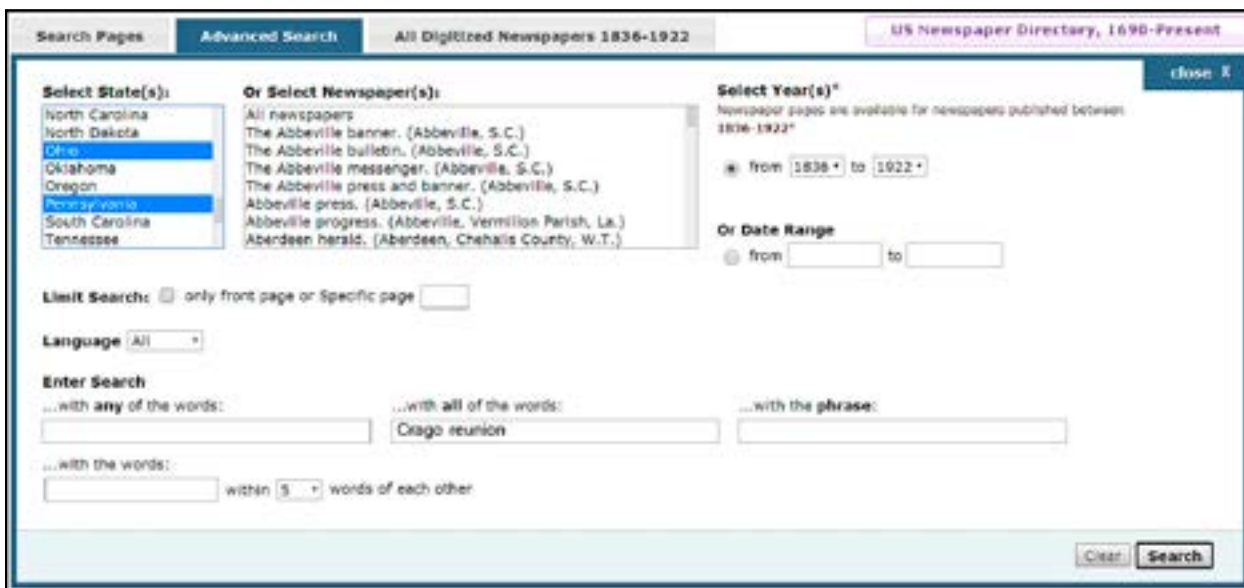
Using Chronicling America

How you search through the digitized newspapers in Chronicling America can be quite broad or narrow. You can simply browse newspapers by state, language, and/or ethnicity. Typically, though, you will probably want to do a more targeted search by entering one or more keywords, a date range, and specific state(s) or newspaper title(s). You can specify one state, all states or multiple states per search. The same options apply for newspapers (one, all or multiple). (See figures: Basic Search, Advanced Search, and All Digitized Newspapers.)

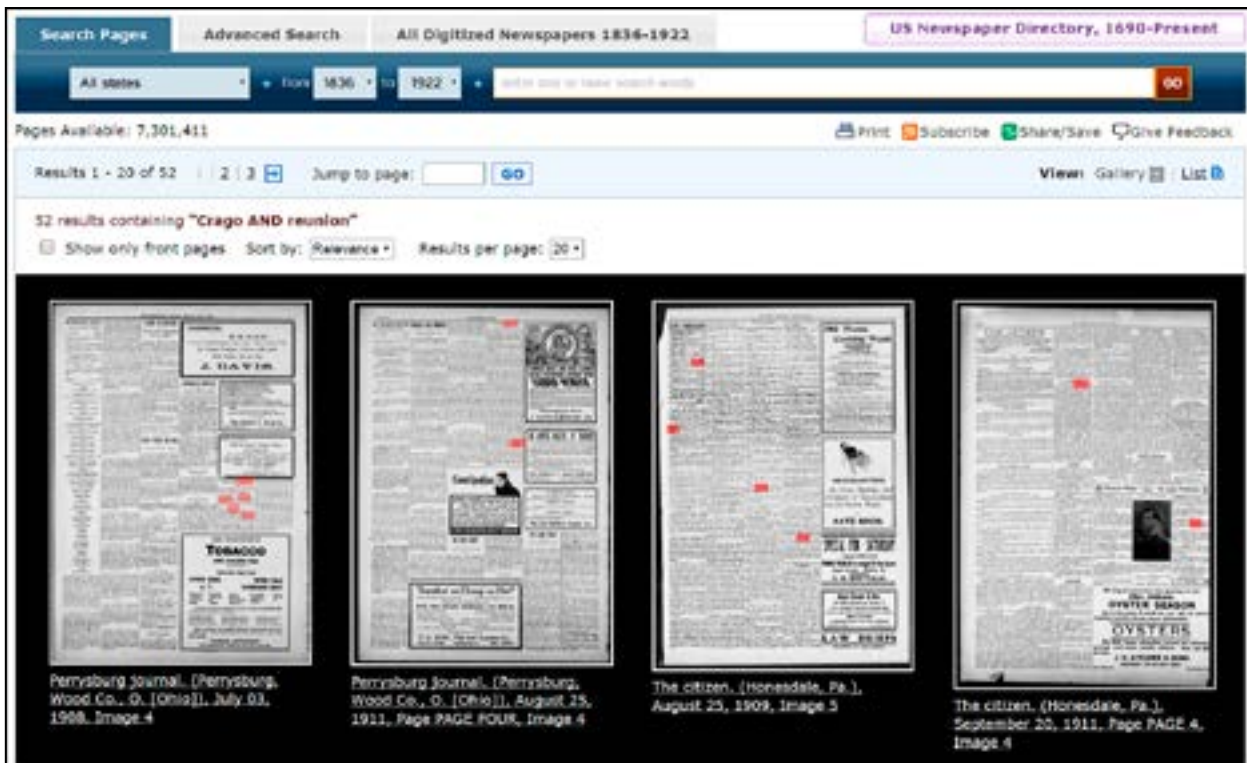
Your search results will display as a gallery of thumbnail images of relevant newspaper pages with search terms highlighted on each page. (See figure: Search Results.) When you choose one of the newspaper-page images to look at more closely, that image opens in an Image-Viewing screen. (See figure: Image-Viewing screen.) Here you can zoom in on a specific article or paragraph of interest and ‘clip and save’ or ‘clip and print’ just that portion of the page. Or you can choose to view and/or save the page as a high-quality JPEG2000 image file, PDF or text file. The text file is the Optical Character Recognition (OCR) interpretation of the newspaper-page image. And that text file will often reveal the limitations of OCR technology in the form of occasional gibberish sprinkled throughout the text. Not helpful when it turns your ancestor’s name into something indecipherable and therefore missed in the search.



Basic Search gives you three filters to use alone or in combination: State (choose “all states” or one state from a drop-down list), years (between 1836 and 1922), and/or keyword(s).

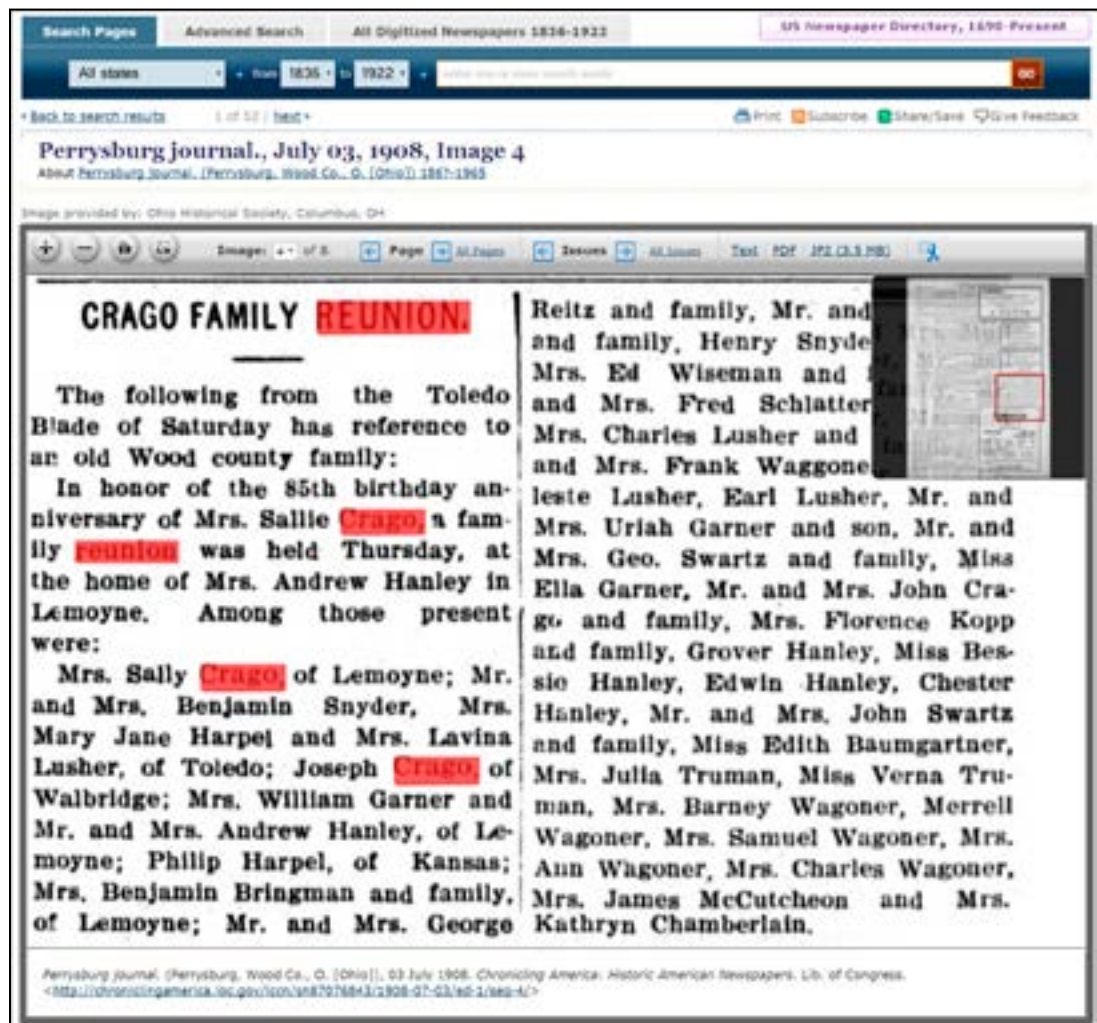


In **Advanced Search** you have additional ways to tailor your search. Here you can select multiple states by holding the CTRL key and left clicking states from a list; enter specific dates (MM/DD/YYYY) not just years; and/or choose a language (English, French, German, Spanish). You can also customize your search to find “any” or “all” keywords; a “phrase”; or keywords by proximity.



Search Results display as thumbnail images with search terms highlighted in red. To take a closer look at any of these images, click on one to open it in the Image-Viewing screen.

The **Image-Viewing screen** includes a menu bar with navigation and viewing options. Above the menu bar is information such as newspaper title and issue date; at bottom of screen is a persistent link to page being viewed. Keywords are highlighted in red.



Search Pages Advanced Search **All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922** US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

Show All Digitized Papers 1836-1922 (1,275) | Download Complete List (also includes LCCN, ISSN) close X

State: Ethnicity: Language:

Pages Available: 7,301,411 [Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#) [Give Feedback](#)

Results: Digitized Newspapers

86 newspapers from **Ohio** are available for viewing on this site.

State	Newspaper	Browse Issues	No. of Issues	Earliest Issue	Latest Issue	More Info
Ohio	Akron daily Democrat. Akron, Ohio, 1892-1902		1101	1899-05-01	1902-12-31	Yes
Ohio	American Lancaster gazette. Lancaster, Ohio, 1855-1860		161	1855-02-15	1860-03-29	Yes
Ohio	Anti-slavery bugle. New-Lisbon, Ohio, 1845-1861		609	1845-08-20	1861-03-04	Yes

All Digitized Newspapers, 1836-1922: View a complete list of all digitized newspapers in *Chronicling America* or filter list by State (choose "all states" or one state from drop-down list), Ethnicity (including African American, Irish, Jewish, Indians of NA), and/or Language. For each paper listed, its history is given along with complete holdings information and years of publication.

Search Pages Advanced Search All Digitized Newspapers 1836-1922 **US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present**

All states from 1836 to 1922

Pages Available: 7,301,411 [Print](#) [Subscribe](#) [Share/Save](#) [Give Feedback](#)

Search U.S. Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present

This directory of newspapers published in the United States since 1690 can help identify what titles exist for a specific place and time, and how to access them. Use the options below to select a particular place and time, using keywords to locate specific titles. Titles currently listed: 152,524.

Browse the Directory by newspaper title:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Select where the newspaper was published:

Select when the newspaper was published:
 from to

Enter keywords:

More search options:
 Frequency: Language:

Ethnicity Press: Labor Press: Material Type: LCCN:

US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present: Gives bibliographic and holdings information on newspapers published in the US since 1690. The directory is accessed by clicking on the purple box in the upper right.

But OCR software is what makes all of these scanned newspapers searchable by converting thousands of images of newspaper pages into computer-readable—and searchable—text. So, although far from perfect, it's a remarkable timesaving aid.

The Newspaper Title Directory

Another very useful part of Chronicling America is its Newspaper Title Directory, which gives bibliographic and holdings information on newspaper titles published in the U.S. since 1690 in all types of formats, not just digital. (See figure: US Newspaper Directory, 1690-Present.) By providing this essentially all-inclusive list, the Newspaper Title Directory can help genealogists identify what newspapers exist and how to access them (online or at a library). The directory lists more than 152,000 newspaper titles, which can be browsed by title or searched by where the paper was published, dates published, keyword(s), frequency, language, ethnicity, and labor organization. For example, if you want to know how many newspapers have been published in Dutch in the U.S. since 1680, the search results will display a list of 42 newspaper titles accompanied by dates and places of publication, where these papers can be accessed, and so on.

Getting Acquainted

There are several excellent tutorials on using Chronicling America to help you find those genealogically relevant stories or tidbits of information tucked away in small-town and big-city newspapers. Although it is not difficult to use the site, it doesn't hurt to get a tour of the site from experts plus some tips on navigation and how to improve your search results. Here are a few guides to get you started, along with the web address for Chronicling America:

- Chronicling America web site <http://chronicling-america.loc.gov/>
- "How to Search for Newspaper Pages in Chronicling America," by the Ohio Historical Society and the National Digital Newspaper Program in Ohio. Note: Succinct 10-page guide to Chronicling America.
- http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ondp/images/4/44/Guide_to_Using_Chronicling_America.pdf
- "Chronicling America for Genealogists," by Jenni Salamon & Kevin Latta for the National Digital Newspaper Program-Ohio, January 9, 2014. Slides from Ohio-based presentation. Note: See slides 15 through 46 for guidance and tips on using Chronicling America.
- http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ondp/images/9/94/Webinar_Chron-Am-Genealogists_20140109.pdf
- "Using Chronicling America and Other Freely Available Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research," by Tom McMurdo, Vermont Digital

Newspaper Program, October 20, 2012. Slides from Vermont-based presentation. Note: See slides 9 through 50 for guidance and tips on using Chronicling America.

- http://library.uvm.edu/vtnp/VT_Genealogical_Society_McMurdo_2012_Oct_20.pdf
- Chronicling America Help <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/help/>

New content is periodically added to Chronicling America so it's worth checking the web site for updates. Alternatively, you can subscribe to receive updates by Rich Site Summary (RSS) or email; just click the Subscribe button on the Chronicling America web site.

Additional Sources for Online Newspaper Collections

Although this article focuses exclusively on Chronicling America, which can be an excellent place to start, keep in mind that there are many web sites that have searchable, digitized historic newspaper collections. No one site 'has it all.' So after you have explored Chronicling America, look at other sites for additional newspaper collections relevant to your family research. For example, Wikipedia Newspaper Archives (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:List_of_online_newspaper_archives) has an extensive, well organized compilation of links to both national and international newspapers. Fellow genealogists will have their favorite sites to recommend, too. Another source for recommended sites can be found in two recent issues of *Family Tree Magazine*. In those, Rick Crume provides a survey of what he considers to be the best web sites for online newspapers. The Sahyun Library has both of these issues available upon request at the Reception Desk.

- Rick Crume, "Online Newspapers Web Guide," *Family Tree Magazine*, March/April 2014, 64-67.
- Rick Crume, "Top Free Sites for Online Newspapers," *Family Tree Magazine*, October/November 2013, 66-68.

Gage Ricard is researching Lushers in NW Ohio, and Ricards in Canada (Quebec Province).

ENDNOTES

¹ The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Division of Preservation and Access. <http://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/preserving-americas-historic-newspapers-experiences-the>, accessed on 3/9/2014.

² The Library of Congress. "About Chronicling America." Chronicling America. <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/>, accessed 3/9/2014.

³ Cole, Bruce [former Director, NEH]. "30 Million Pages to Go: Digitizing the American Newspaper." Paper presented at the National Press Club. Washington, D.C. November 16, 2004. <http://www.loc.gov/ndnp/guidelines/docs/coleNPC20041116.pdf>, accessed on 3/9/2014.



Original paper copies of old Lompoc newspapers

Preserving Lompoc's Old Newspapers

Karen Paaske

LOMPOC VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S historian, Myra Manfrina, had been telling me about the *Lompoc Journal* (1908-1918 with a few prior issues back to 1894) and *Lompoc Review* (1918-1932), early Lompoc newspapers, stored in the library basement and starting to disintegrate. As these newspapers were only published once a week, their content differed from the *Lompoc Record*.

The California Digital Newspaper Collection, with the help of Brian Geiger, PhD, Director, Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research UC Riverside, determined that they would be interested in having the Lompoc newspapers as part of their online collection. Geiger was able to direct us to companies who could perform the digitization to the standards newly dictated by the Library of Congress for digital newspapers.

Volumes of the *Lompoc Journal* and a few loose copies from the Historical Society dating back to 1894 were sent to Northern Micrographics for microfilming and creating .TIFF files. The California Digital Newspaper collection bundled this with a larger order for digitizing.

Once the newspapers are digitized, the California Digital Newspaper Collection, based at UC Riverside, will add them to its database for free. Once they are in that system, they will also be accessible through the Library of Congress site.

The newspapers should be available online by the time this article is published. They can be seen on the California Digital Newspaper Collection (just Google CDNC to find the site). Then open the Titles tab to locate the Lompoc newspapers.

The digitization project for the *Lompoc Review* is only partially funded to date. Donations can be sent to the Lompoc Valley Historical Society, PO Box 88, Lompoc CA 93438.

Excerpts from the *Lompoc Journal*, 1914 Lompoc in 1914 – 100 years ago

April 4, 1914

John Craft was summoned to Santa Barbara for jury duty. Do not go fishing without your license or the game warden'll get you if you don't watch out. Mrs. Poland will entertain the Women's Civic Club at her home Wednesday April 8th, at 2 p.m. Mrs. J. D. Black was in Los Angeles this week buying Easter millinery, which she expects to have on sale the last of next week. One and ten hundredths of an inch of rain favored this locality last Sunday. It came straight down just at the right time to do the most good. Every nimrod that could by any possible means cut loose from business long enough to reach the river and wet a line, has been in pursuit of the festive trout since the first day of the month.

It is customary to say every time it rains that this rain insures a crop, and it seems safe to say it at this time. The total rainfall to date has been 25.60, which is sufficient to mature any crops grown here. This last rain coming at this time just tops off the blessings of the season and the most pessimistic cannot find anything to kick. B. L. Fortney left Thursday on a business trip in the north. He expects to return Saturday. S. K. Shilling has sold his interest in the dray line to N. Alcott, the transfer taking place Wednesday. A. W. Schuler sold his house and lots on G Street to Charley Rudolph and has gone to Fresno.

Alvin C. Reed, of Santa Barbara, came up Saturday and spent Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. A. Reed. He returned Monday. Daniel Maloney calls attention to the fact that he has found one honest newspaperman. In renewing for the Bulletin he enclosed, as he supposed, a \$1 bill. It seems, however, that a \$5 bill stuck to the one and he did not notice it. But when the letter was opened in the Bulletin office the mistake was discovered and the \$5 returned. Mr. Maloney thinks such instances are so rare that this one is deserving of public mention.

Honor list for the third quarter. General honors. Nelson Collar, Myron Douglass, Vivian Saunders, Leoti Steele. Subject honors. Irene Bendasher, gymnastics; Marvin Douglass, American History; Clarence Randles, American History; Amanda Reed, sewing; Vivian Saunders, sloyd, American history, sewing; Leoti Steele, sewing sloyd; Lottie Whipple, English, American History. Others passing in all work. Cecelia Bendasher, Elmer Collar, Howard Kelliher, Albert Meals. Juniors (7 in class.) General honors. Elsie Deitzman, Fae Winn. Subject honors. Elsie Deitzman, gymnastics; Ethel Moore, algebra, sewing; Adeline Perozzi, Latin, sewing, gymnastics; Alverda Winn, sewing; Fae Winn, sewing ancient history. Others passing in all work. Percy Moore, Marie Pierce. Sophomore (15 in class.) General honors. Nellie Mercer, Lillian Perozzi, Wynona Saunders. Subject honors. Enoch Fratis, agriculture, algebra; Nellie Mercer, English, Latin, bookkeeping, sewing, gymnastics, cooking; Lillian Perozzi, sewing, gymnastics; Wynona Saunders, English, sewing, gymnastics. Others passing in all work. Edward Bissinger, George Calhoun, Ralph Lewis, Walter Lewis, Edna Whipple. Freshman (28 in class.) General honors. Gertrude Loynachan, Alison Richardson. Subject honors. Eva Douglass, English; Gertrude Loynachan, English, hygiene; Alison Richardson, English, cooking. Others passing in all work. Elverda Fabing, Louise King, Paul Knudsen, Clare Rudolph, Idella Rudolph, Mia Spanne, Ethel Sresoyich, Clifford Upton, William Wilson.

May 2, 1914

If wind will check the ravages of the sweet pea aphid he is surely getting his this week. Mrs. S. Hebert went to Santa Cruz this week as a delegate to the Rebekah Grand Lodge. L. F. Jennings had a galvanized ironwork room built in the rear of his place of business this week. Everett Brothers have completed the Standard Oil warehouse and pump house and work on other parts of the contract is being pushed. R. M. Crist had roast chicken Sunday morning. His brooder lamp went on a tear and burned the brooder and the entire hatch of chicks. Mrs. R. M. Crist, president of the Lompoc WCTU went to Santa Barbara Monday as the delegate of the local organization to the annual county convention of the organization.

May 9, 1914

C. B. Husted spent the weekend with friends in Lompoc. A new front porch was built on the Baptist parsonage this week. For Sale — Two good hay presses, cheap.



The Lompoc Journal Office and Staff, c1910

Geo. McCartney, Drum Canyon, Santa Rosa. Harris and Paul Crist attended the sale of the Blackhawk Stables outfit Monday at Santa Barbara. For Sale — New Crop Waterwhite, Sage Honey. Thoroughly ripened. \$5 per 5-gallon can. W. J. Oats.

District Superintendent John Oliver gave a very helpful and inspiring address to the young people at Social Hall Thursday evening of last week. The canyons and picnic grounds all over the valley were occupied by May Day picnickers, a large portion of the population of the town spending the day in the woods. The supervisors Monday reappointed C. W. Beers as county horticultural commissioner. No other office is of more value to the county. Mr. Beers, and his efficient deputy, R. C. Wylie, have saved the county untold thousands by destroying and keeping out various pests and plant diseases.

Lee Caudill smashed a finger Monday just to get out of work. W. E. Freeley will act as city marshal while Mr. Bland takes his vacation. Mrs. Fred Olivera had an arm very badly cut Monday by falling through a window. H. E. Harris, Paul Crist, and Jim Alexander made a trip to Santa Maria Sunday in Mr. Harris' auto. Miss Bertha Winn sprained an ankle quite badly while climbing the hills May Day, and has been confined to the house for some days. Mrs. J. C. Long and Miss Hattie Rennie departed Tuesday for Santa Cruz where they will attend Grand Lodge of the Rebekahs as delegates from the Lompoc Lodge. Monday the supervisors let the contract for repairing the Dyer Bridge. It will require a new span eighty-four feet long. The contract was let to the Midland Bridge Company, of Los Angeles, for \$5,241. W. S. Bland and wife, and L. L. Smith and wife started Wednesday for a ten days' trip through the southern part of the state. They will visit at all the principal points of interest and visit friends by the way.

May 16, 1914

Jesus Vasquez and Mary Salazar this week secured a license to marry. A. G. Balaam was transacting busi-

ness in the county seat the first of the week. A petition was circulated this week and quite generally signed, to have Lompoc officially designated as a city instead of a town. J. A. Stambaw is proud of his new ten-inch 124-foot well. The water stands within nine feet of the top and after three and one-half hours steady pumping with pump throwing 1500 gallons per hour, operated by a new two horse power Fairbanks Morse engine, the level was lowered only twenty-nine inches. He has had a tank placed on the hill back of the house which gives a splendid pressure.

Supervisor Twitchell has "yielded to the solicitation of his friends" and will again be a candidate for county supervisor. Earl Simpson is home from Berkeley. Mrs. Wilson of Gaviota visited here this week. Food sale today at the Black building by the WCTU. The new high school building is now complete and it is a beauty. Misses Nellie and Elizabeth Hermes of Denver, Colorado, are visiting with Father Raley. Father Raley and the Misses Hermes visited in Santa Ynez Wednesday and Thursday. S. Hebert is enjoying the delights of a bachelor existence while his wife visits friends in Santa Cruz. For Sale—Two good hay presses, cheap. Geo. McCartney, Drum Canyon, Santa Rosa. Visit the Black building and get some of that cooked food which the ladies of the WCTU are offering. The tree toads are calling for rain, the weather indicates it, and the prophets have promised it. Will it come?

Miss Flora Fabing entertained the ladies of the Catholic Church in honor of the Misses Hermes who are visiting here, Friday afternoon. Ellis Moore returned from Santa Barbara Thursday. Mrs. Meta Ash is visiting her mother, Mrs. Watkins. Mrs. Harvey Hilburn is visiting her mother, Mrs. Paxton. Claude Wakefield who has been quite ill is reported better. George Foote is still confined to the house as a result of a fall. Charley Poulsen and G. G. Stratton were Santa Barbara visitors this week. Miss Ada Oakley, of Santa Barbara, is visiting with her sister, Mrs. Charley Bennett. Mr. and Mrs. D. K. Burnham took dinner with Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Randles at Santa Rita Thursday and visited other friends in that community.

Mrs. Muriel Edwards, the Santa Ynez candidate for county superintendent of schools, is spending the week in Santa Barbara. In the six years that Mrs. Edwards has lived in this valley, during most of which time she has taught in the public schools, she has made hosts of friends who wish her every success in her campaign. Lloyd H. Day, a former Lompoc boy, brother of Mrs. J. A. Stambaw, returned to Lompoc the other day with the intention of remaining for a few years at least. Mr. Day has resided in San Francisco for about fourteen years and for the past eight years has been employed in the general offices of the Southern Pacific. Mrs. Day and the children will remain in San Francisco until the close of school when they will come to Lompoc. Henry Miller, who has suffered for twenty years with tuberculosis of the bones, died at the home of his brother, F. J. Miller, Saturday evening at the age of 43 years.

SIBLINGS TO THE FORE:

A New Display in Find a Grave and Some Reflections on the Lives of Families

Terry Ellen Ferl

FIND A GRAVE launched a new feature on March 21 that caught even frequent visitors by surprise.

Across the entire site the names of siblings were suddenly displayed on the memorials of their brothers and sisters, as if by magic. The site's Lounge discussion forum buzzed with commentary. Members who had

Joseph Smith Reynolds

Memorial Photos Flowers Share Edit

Birth: Nov. 3, 1839
New Lenox
Will County
Illinois, USA

Death: Sep. 18, 1911
Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara County
California, USA

Civil War Union Brevet Brigadier General. Reynolds enlisted in the Union Army on October 30, 1861 at the age of twenty-three with a high school education. He rose through the ranks of the 54th Illinois Infantry Regiment and the Yacobs Sharpshooters from second lieutenant to first lieutenant, captain, major, and lieutenant colonel. He fought in seventeen Civil War battles, was wounded three times, and took part in Sherman's March to the Sea. On July 11, 1865, he was brevetted brigadier general "for gallant and meritorious services." Five days later, he was mustered out after four years of service. After the war, he received a law degree from the University of Chicago, was admitted to the bar, and practiced law in Chicago. In 1857, he was elected to the Illinois state house of representatives for a two year term and in 1872, he was elected to the Illinois state senate for a two year term. While in the state senate, he was a commissioner from Illinois to the Universal Exposition in Vienna in 1873. He also served as a commissioner to establish a state school for mentally handicapped children in 1874. After his wife died in 1890, he moved to southern California to take advantage of the mild climate. At the time of his death, he resided in Pasadena, California. (by Thomas Fisher)

Family links:
Parents:
Isaac M Reynolds (1811 - 1889)
Sus Ann Mathewson Reynolds (1815 - 1891)

Spouse:
Martha A. Carey Reynolds (1803 - 1900)*

Children:
Joseph Sherman Reynolds (1870 - 1930)*

Siblings:
Abiram H. Reynolds (1830 - 1884)*
Sarah Jane Reynolds Hadden (1834 - 1900)*
Joseph Smith Reynolds (1839 - 1911)
Henry J. Reynolds (1839 - 1887)*
Isaac N. Reynolds (1841 - 1910)*
Charlotte E. Reynolds Hadden (1842 - 1894)*
Marion A. Reynolds (1845 - 1910)*
William R. Reynolds (1848 - 1907)*
Noreen K. Reynolds Cook (1853 - 1920)*
Charles R Reynolds (1854 - 1884)*

*Calculated relationship

Burial:
Santa Barbara Cemetery
Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara County
California, USA
Plot: Ridge Section, Loc 403

See Your Cemetery Info (1)

Maintained by: Find A Grave
Originally Created by: Thomas Fisher
Record added: May 04, 2010
Find A Grave Memorial# 31071593

Cemetery Photo
Added by: Thomas Fisher

Photos may be added.
Click on image for full size.

Red, Mar
Added: Nov. 3, 2013

Trucks Field
Added: Nov. 3, 2013

Hollins Lane Co. Illinois
Added: May 10, 2012

There are 14 more photos not showing...
Click on the link below to view all photos...
Do you have a photo to add? Click here

Joseph Smith's very complete memorial with Parents, Spouse, Children and Siblings.



Example of automated sibling records in Find A Grave

lobbied for this change expressed delight while a few expressed reservations about the results (the crowding of displays, redundancy, Find A Grave moving closer to being a tree-site). This new feature, however, is likely to be a great boon to researchers. The sibling displays are hyperlinked to related records, showcasing some of the complexities of families and providing quicker access to the riches in that realm of kinship.

WHAT HAPPENED ON MARCH 21?

The new sibling displays were autogenerated through a program that examined all existing links between the memorials of children and their parents. The siblings are displayed in the Family Links portion of the memorials. In the case of siblings who share only one parent, the sibling name is marked by two asterisks and is labeled as a half-sibling. The order of display is by birth year. An additional feature is the appearance of an individual's name on his own memorial in a pale gray color to indicate where he was in the sibling birth order. As new memorials are created for parents and children, this program will continue to create associated sibling displays automatically.¹

WHAT ABOUT ERRORS?

The automatically generated displays, like some of the displays of parents and spouses, bear an asterisk which denotes that the display is a Calculated Relationship. This means that the data were not directly input but were captured from contributor-supplied data. There will be no errors in a calculated relationship unless a contributor has made an error while creating a memorial. Such an error, when detected, may be fixed through

the edit process available to the manager of the memorial. Any user may notify a contributor of an error in one of his memorials by clicking on the Edit tab in the memorial and following the instructions.

WHAT IS A SIBLING?

Wikipedia defines a sibling as one of two or more individuals having one or both parents in common.² The new Find A Grave displays distinguish only between children with the same set of parents and those who share one parent. The relationships are understood to be biological. Along with full and half-siblings, Wikipedia lists and defines many other types of siblings, some of which are not biologically related. Included in the list are 3/4 siblings (both horizontal and vertical), stepsiblings, milk siblings (wet-nursed), cross siblings, adoptive siblings, foster siblings, and sibling cousins, the latter a larger category that includes horizontal 3/4 siblings.

Volunteers who create memorials on Find A Grave have generally not had to contend with the recent advent of assisted reproduction, surrogacy births, and the changing definitions of parenthood, marriage and the family. Eva Steiner, a lecturer in Law at King's College London, described the situation in 2006 at a congress on comparative law: "Today, in England as elsewhere, the determination of legal parenthood has become one of the most contentious issues in family law. Tensions between different conceptions of parenthood have been triggered by a variety of social factors ranging from the greater instability in family relationships, the end of the stigma against illegitimacy and the fact that being a parent is no longer a matter of necessity but, rather, of choice. These tensions have been further intensified by a greater certainty in the determination of biological paternity."³

The field of Genealogy will eventually be affected by these matters that are creating tensions in the legal world. For now, sibling and half-sibling are seemingly straightforward terms for Find A Grave contributors. It is left to the judgment of the contributor as to how broadly the biological sibling designation is applied. Unusual situations may be described in the biographies of the sibling and/or parents, if desired, but genealogists are advised to use discretion.

Donna Przech, in an excellent article posted on Genealogy.com, addresses the situation posed for genealogists by the rise of non-traditional relationships and living arrangements. She includes timely observations and practical solutions to some of the problems genealogists are encountering.⁴

ARE FAMOUS SIBLINGS DIFFERENT?

The Find A Grave memorials for the famous are managed by site administrators. These biographies are typically lengthy and exhibit the results of considerable research. Two cases among the famed that pose complexities with siblings are the offspring of King Henry VIII and the children fathered by Thomas Jefferson. One of Henry VIII's eight children borne by his six belea-

guered wives likely had and was a 3/4 sibling—namely Elizabeth I. Henry kept his marriages straight but his liaison with the sister of Elizabeth's mother Anne Boleyn resulted in a child believed to be Henry's who would be Elizabeth's 3/4 sibling. Jefferson's fathering of children with Sally Hemings is still disputed in some quarters. His memorial, created in 2001, is managed by site administrators, as is that of Sally. But the memorials for Sally's two sons are not maintained by the site and were created years later. The children's memorials now reflect half-sibling links to the children of Thomas and Martha, which is the result of data entered by volunteer contributors, not by site administrators. The relationships have not been amended by the site, though.

The case of Charles Lindbergh's seven children born out of wedlock with three different women, two of whom were sisters, will pose some coding problems when those siblings pass away and memorials are created.⁵ Though the long-held secret was first disclosed more than a decade ago, the current Find A Grave memorial for Lindbergh lists only the six children he fathered with his wife Anne Morrow Lindbergh. Situations like these are likely to challenge computer coders and memorial creators in the future.

SPECIAL CODING FOR SPECIAL LINKS?

Find A Grave has instructions for HTML code creation in its Help pages. The coding is recommended for creating non-familial links between the biography fields of individuals. One may introduce a hyperlink reference between the memorial biographies of, say, life-long friends or professional associates. Such a link would facilitate the study of the two individuals without the need for a separate lookup. To access the code creation instructions on Find A Grave, click on Help with Find A Grave, then type HTML CODING in the FAQs search box. From the retrieved list, click on the question How do I add a link from one memorial to another?⁶

WHAT ABOUT A PARENTLESS SIBLING?

In cases where a sibling relationship is known but a parent memorial is lacking, the sibling displays will not be automatically generated. The parent may be unknown or may still be living. It is possible for a memorial's manager to create links between sibling memorials by employing some HTML coding, but this will cause duplicate sibling displays when the missing parent memorial is added later. Some contributors did use HTML coding for that purpose before the autogenerated sibling displays were launched in March. This resulted in duplicate sibling displays on those memorials which will now need to be edited by their managers.⁷

MAKING THINGS EASIER

Autogeneration of displays and links has long been part of the Find A Grave memorial creation process. The steps for creating a memorial are nicely sequenced and menus are presented at virtually all stages. Many elements are added automatically. When a spouse or a parent is added to a memorial, the reverse relationship

appears automatically on the associated memorial. Entries from banks of stored data, such as cemetery names, can be added with a few clicks. The desire for the display of siblings seems a reasonable one, and the recent addition of sibling displays is a special bonus since it occurs without any direct action by the memorial contributor.

Terry Ellen Ferl, SBCGS member and resident of Saint Louis, MO, is researching the Ferl, Meyer and O'Shaughnessy families in CA and NY. terryferl@charter.net

ENDNOTES

¹ The following is Find A Grave's description of the new sibling display found in its Help pages:

"How do a person's siblings show up on their memorial page?"

When an individual's memorial page is linked to one or more parent memorial pages, that individual's memorial will show up as a sibling on any other memorial pages that have been linked to one of the parents. The individual's name will show up on the sibling list of their own memorial to help show where the individual was in the birth order of the siblings. Memorials may only be linked to parents and spouses, and sibling links are automatically generated; there is no ability to add sibling links directly to a memorial page."

² Sibling. Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 24 March, 2014. Contributors have doubtless used it, either knowingly or unknowingly, with children known to be adopted or born out-of-wedlock.

³ Eva Steiner, *The Tensions between Legal, Biological and Social Conceptions of Parenthood in English Law*, vol. 10.3 ELECTRONIC JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LAW, (December 2006), <<http://www.ejcl.org/103/article103-14.pdf>>. Retrieved 26 March 2014.

⁴ Donna Przecha, *Marriage in the Modern Age*, Genealogy.com. Date of posting not given. http://www.genealogy.com/genealogy/69_donna.html. Retrieved 26 March 26, 1914. This article may also be retrieved by a simple author/title search on an internet browser.

⁵ Rudolf Schröck, *The Lone Eagle's Clandestine Nests*. Charles Lindbergh's German secrets. http://www.atlantic-times.com/archive_detail.php?recordID=236. Published June 2005. Retrieved 26 March 2014. This is a fascinating account of the secret lives of the pioneer aviator.

⁶ "HTML or HyperText Markup Language is the main markup language for creating web pages and other information that can be displayed in a web browser. HTML is written in the form of HTML elements consisting of tags enclosed in angle brackets (like <html>), within the web page content." HTML. Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. Retrieved 26 March 2014.)

⁷ Diane Gould Hall, a contributor to Find A Grave, explains in her blog why she no longer needs to create code to achieve sibling displays in her memorials. She also illustrates how to delete the duplicate displays. Hall still endorses the use of the coding when a parent is unknown and the display will not appear automatically. See her blog at <http://www.michiganfamilytrails.com/>. Retrieved 26 March 2014.

Worth a Thousand Words

Robert Rothenberg

MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER Isaac's daughter, Minnie Aheroni (Rothenberg), my grandmother, was the keeper of many family heirlooms from Russia and Ukraine. These included a samovar and a brass washbasin with the Russian Imperial Seal stamped on it. It also included a photograph that raised some questions. Who was the subject and where and when was the image taken?

In October of 2013, I sent the image to SBCGS member Gary Matz and he, with the help of other family members and members of the Society, began to unravel the clues. He began by looking for a translation of the text and handwriting on the photo. Russian research outlines from Brigham Young University gave some possibilities for translation.¹

Front of Single Card:

L. Wasilewski (Name of photographer?)
Kieff (Kiev)

We learned that the image was taken in Kiev by L. Wasilewski. It is undated.



The mystery woman of Kieff (Kiev)

Gary's sister, Dr. Cheryl Johnson, was traveling to St. Petersburg, Russia on a trip with her husband, her daughter, Jennifer, and son-in-law Dr. James Borgardt, a consultant for the State Department dealing in nuclear affairs. She talked with the Russian innkeeper where they stayed and she provided a pronunciation of the handwritten name that sounded like "esock" or "esah" or "esach."

This pronunciation seemed to indicate 'Isaac.'

Back of Single card:

"For" (для) and then the person's name - Ueasaka, pronunciation sounds like "esock" or "esah" or "esach."

для isa(ya)(h or kh)a
dl(ya) усаха
for esocha

For Isaac

вл фотография
VL Photography
плю ваццлевсраго
UR vatstslevsrago?

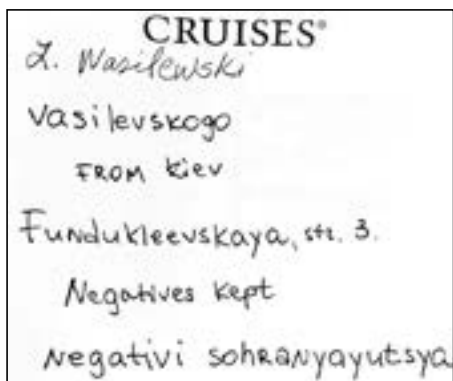
въ кивъ

In Kiev

фчндукеевская уд.3. (Street address in Kiev?)
негативы сорачютс
Негативы Сохраняются?



I sent Gary an email with the photo and current interpretations. He forwarded it to a friend on a cruise ship so it could be shown to a Ukrainian waitress on the ship. The waitress translated a few more phrases:



My great-grandfather was named Eli, Elijah, or Isaac Aheroni (Rabbi), and I deduce from this photo, taken in Kiev, that it may have been his mother (name unknown). We make this conjecture because after the pogroms of 1905, the entire family, except the woman in this picture, left to come to the United States. It seems likely that Rabbi Isaac Aheroni would have asked for a photograph of his mother either prior to leaving Kiev, or after arriving in the States.

However, my research into her records hits a brick wall at this point. I continue to contact possible resources in Mogilev, which is the main city near the shtetl (Rogachev) that they came from, as well as in Kiev. But given the political situation there, it is not a high priority for anyone to assist me right now. Jewishgen is one site that has provided me with an understanding of the historical events at that time.

Trying to locate the street in Kiev led to the realization that Ukrainian is different from Russian, especially in older words. This led to the download of the research outline for Ukraine.²

Initial map searches for the street in Kiev pointed to an estate and a train station 20km southeast of Kiev, but the native translation showed that to be incorrect.

Here is a link for information on the address, "Fundukleevskaya, str.3," with an excerpt of the first 2 paragraphs. The English translation from Russian and Ukrainian is on the web site.³

History of Street Bohdan Khmelnytsky (Fundukleevskaya)

Today we will walk the road, the architecture of which is not inferior to the best architecture quarters Vienna, London, Paris and Madrid. And here left their autographs Alexander Blok, Sarah Bernhard and Konstantin Stanislavsky, as Bogdan Khmelnitsky Street was the true heart of theater in Kiev.

Building modern street began in the early 19th century building of the Kiev University. Today, the younger generation of Kiev associates one of the most beautiful streets of the capital with only a great hetman. However, history shows that it was originally called Cadet, because here you wanted to build a military school. 1869 Fundukleevskaya street was named after the famous Count-Governor Fundukleeva. Ivan Fundukleev was the real father of the city. Under him, the capital building enriched University Institute for Noble Maidens, orphanages, boarding Levashov. Then laid the botanical garden and the Kiev based observatory. Students who rented an apartment at the top of the street, this area was called the Kiev Switzerland.

My great-grandfather and family just before leaving Russia. My grandmother, Minnie, is on the far right. Next to her is her mother Ida Aheroni, then Fannie, Sarah, Isaac, Itzak and Zelek.



Front of Group Card:

Т. Колковъ

So Kolkoy (Name)

(There is also a Kolkoy, Turkey, possible surname or business name source.)

Симфкрололь

Simferopol (Russian: Симферополь; Ukrainian:

Сімферополь)

It is the administrative center of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (in Ukraine)...or of the Republic of Crimea (in Russia).



Back of Group Card:

Profile Medallions

William Henry Fox "Talbot" (11 February 1800 – 17 September 1877) was a British inventor and photography pioneer who invented the calotype process.

The First Photograph, or more specifically, the world's first permanent photograph from nature taken by Joseph Nicéphore "Niépce" in 1826 or 1827.

Louis-Jacques-Mandé "Daguerre" (18 November 1787 – 10 July 1851) was a French artist and photographer, recognized for his invention of the daguerreotype

фотографи

Photograph

Т. Колковъ

So Kolkoy (Name)

Симфкрололь

Simferopol

Негативы Сохраняются

Negative saved

The Crimea city of Simferopol, where the group photo was taken, is something I did not know before but it provides a logical move for my family, out of the Rogachev shtetl near Mogilev, after the 1905 pogroms. My grandmother has told me her personal story of having been cut down by the Cossacks in her shtetl and taken to the Jewish cemetery by someone thinking she was dead, as she was covered with so much blood. Her father, Rabbi Isaac Aheroni, searched for her and found her in the cemetery and took her home to recover. She was 16 at the time. She had shown me the scars on her head, and over her lifetime she suffered from periodic headaches as a result.

After 1905, there were mass Jewish exoduses out of the entire Russian Pale area, to the southern part of what today is the Ukraine. It also may explain how my grandfather, Joseph Rothenberg, reconnected with my grandmother's family, as he was born in Odessa. But his family all originally came from the same shtetl. At that time, there was a large Jewish population in the Odessa area (over 35%). Even in Odessa, a large seaport and trade city, there were pogroms. Everyone began fleeing this latest terror of Cossack attacks and the anti-semitic repression.

From my genealogical research, I know that my grandfather, Joseph Rothenberg, came to America with my grandmother's family. They left from Odessa and arrived in New York in January 1906. They lived in Brooklyn until 1909, when my great-grandfather was offered an orthodox rabbinical position in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. It was a new synagogue and the entire family emigrated there. My father was born there in 1911. In 1920, most of the family, including my father, grandparents, and great-grandparents came to Southern California. Rabbi Isaac Aheroni and his wife are both interred in an orthodox Jewish cemetery in Boyle Heights (East Los Angeles).

The picture research ends for now. (April 2014)

Translation footnote: Google for a "Cyrillic keyboard" to type in the Cyrillic alphabet. Copy and then paste the Cyrillic result into a "translate" Google search. Handwriting recognition comes from the BYU research guides and the Russian and Ukrainian native speakers.

ENDNOTES

1. FamilySearch, Russia, <https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Russia>, retrieved 16 April 2014.
2. Ibid. Ukraine.
3. History of Street Bohdan Khmelnytsky (Fundukleeskaya), <http://gyrno.net/info/en/old/history-streetbohdan-khmelnytsky-fundukleevskaya>, retrieved 16 April 2014.

Ole Sorem's Other Daughter

Alicia D. Watt

I USUALLY REFER TO my paternal grandmother as 'The Evil Grandma.' Although she was ever-present in my childhood, I never liked her. She was strict to the point of domineering, hypocritical, and of the 'children should be seen but not heard' school of parenting. Despite all of that, she taught me a few very useful skills in life: making pie crust, making her beef stew (one of my favorites as a kid), and how to knit and crochet. Grandma Watt, as we called her, was born a Sorem, and this story really isn't about her, but her family. It is also an example of how we as genealogists should examine carefully each document we collect to extract all of the information it contains, and put that information into context with every other piece of information we collect to see what it all really means. I find that writing a narrative is a great way to do this type of evaluation and find any holes in my research while I'm at it. I may not be 'finished' with my research, but in writing the narrative I can see more clearly which questions have gone unanswered and make a plan for further research. This is one example of how I compiled such a narrative.

The Sorems originally came to the U.S. from Norway, then through the Dakotas to California, in the 1920s. Since I wasn't interested in genealogy yet, I didn't ask many questions when Grandma told her family stories. Besides, I was usually concentrating on keeping my stitches even or making a pretty pie while she talked. One story did catch my attention though, and I remember hearing it more than once. Since my families on both sides were Catholic and I went to Catholic school, the scandal of the story grabbed my attention. An illegitimate child? How could this have happened 'way back then' and why would it be discussed so openly? It seemed strange, so I decided somewhat recently to see if it was true or just a family legend.

The story, as I remember it, is this:

My Great-Grandfather Sorem came to America on a ship from Norway. On the journey he met a young Swedish girl who was being sent to America after she became pregnant on the farm where she worked. The two fell in love and were married shortly after they arrived in the U.S. They raised the child, a daughter, as if she were legitimate. This girl died young and was not known by my Grandmother or her siblings.¹

Another version of this story was self-published by my father's cousin in a collection of her father's, my Grandma's older brother, Clifford's, stories of growing up on the farm in the Dakotas. He told it like this:

"My Dad's folks came from Norway. We tried to check on where Grandpa and Grandma Sorem came from, but we didn't have any success. All we could find out was that Grandpa came out of the military service

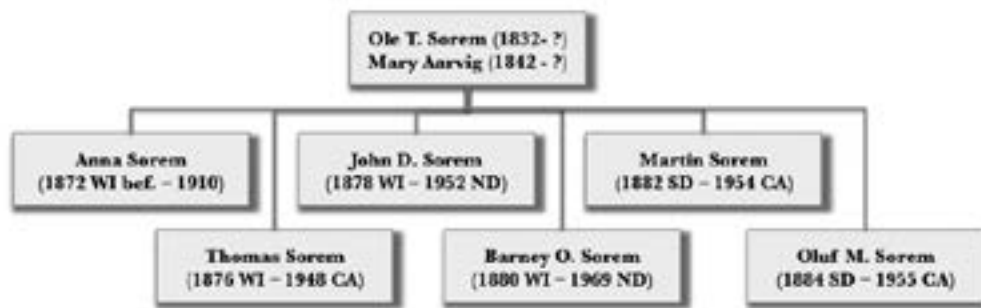


Alice Marie (Sorem) and Louis Watt, 1940s

in Norway and then left immediately on a vessel to the states. On his way over to the states he met a young girl on the boat and they fell in love. She was being shipped to the states because she had accidentally gotten pregnant working on the farm there in Norway. After the birth of her daughter, they were married and went to the Dakotas where they had five boys - Tom, Barney, Marty, John, and my father, Oluf... We haven't been able to check on my Grandma Sorem's background because the first child died as a young lady in her early twenties."²

In evaluating these two versions of the story, I decided that there were a few facts that could be verified or debunked with some good research:

1. Grandma and Grandpa Sorem came to America in the same ship - if this is true, they must have immigrated to the U.S. at the same time, I just have to find a record to prove it.
2. They were married shortly after they arrived in the U.S. - look for a marriage record in the U.S., not Norway.
3. They had a daughter after they arrived in the U.S. - hopefully there is a birth record or a census record to confirm this.
4. This girl died young (early 20s) - if I can find the girl, maybe I can trace her life and find her death record.



The children of Ole Mary (Aarvig) Sorem

Since I had yet to do any research on this branch of the family tree, I began by comparing the stories told by Grandma Watt and Uncle Cliff. Uncle Cliff's story identifies the immigrant ancestors as his grandparents, not his parents, as in Grandma's version. Otherwise, the stories are nearly identical. Uncle Cliff mentions that the illegitimate daughter died in her early twenties, which is a bit more specific than Grandma Watt's "she died young."

Next I did what any good genealogist does: I got on Ancestry.com and figured out who these people were, beginning with my Grandmother's generation. Following the family back through census records, I learned that my great-grandparents were Oluf and Magdalena (Welter) Sorem.³ In the 1910 U.S. Federal Census they were found living in Blaine Twp., Jerauld Co., South Dakota with their eldest son, Clifford, and Oluf's parents, Ole and Mary.⁴ This census also gives more useful information about Ole and Mary Sorem, the immigrants in the story. Here we learn that they immigrated to the U.S. in 1871, that this is Ole's second marriage and Mary's first, and that Mary had given birth to 7 children,⁵ of whom were still living in 1910. The plot thickens! No one ever mentioned that Ole Sorem was married more than once - another thing to investigate at a later date. However, the immigration year is the same for both Ole and Mary, suggesting that they may indeed have come to America at the same time, possibly even on the same vessel.

Shifting my focus to Ole and Mary at this point, I continued to work backward and easily located them in the 1900 U.S. Census. There I found "Ole T." and Mary living with 3 sons in Blaine, South Dakota.⁶ Also of note is that Mary was said to have given birth to 6 children, all of whom were living in 1900, and it was reported that Ole and Mary both came to the U.S. in 1873.⁷ Since there is no surviving 1890 U.S. Census, I looked for other means to fill in that large gap in the timeline. Searching South Dakota Births, 1856-1903 on Ancestry.com, I found birth records for my great-grandfather, Oluf Mathias Sorem on 9 December 1884, and his older brother, Martin, on 19 October 1882, both in Jerauld Co., South Dakota.⁸ I also found that Ole T. bought land in the area, so I sent for the General Land Entry File from NARA in hopes of learning more about Ole and his migration to and within the states.

Since I hadn't worked much with land records at that

time, I really didn't expect much other than perhaps another couple of points on my timeline before 1900. Well, this General Land Entry file, when it arrived on a CD, turned out to hold 37 pages of information relating to the family homestead and the head of house, Ole T. Sorem. Most pertinent to the mystery at hand are that the family came from Wisconsin to Dakota Territory about 1882 (when son, Martin, was born) and Ole quickly applied for a homestead in 1883. To be eligible to be a homesteader, he also had to prove that he intended to become, or already was, a naturalized citizen. So, included in the file are his First Papers giving his name as Ole Toarsen Saarem of Crawford Co., Wisconsin on 25 October 1876. He states that he arrived in July 1871 via the port of Chicago. Other affidavits in the file were required to confirm that this Ole Toarsen Saarem was the same man as Ole T. Sorem, the name having been misspelled by the clerk on his First Papers.⁹

At this point I have collected good evidence to say that Ole T. Sorem came from Norway in 1871. How do I confirm that Mary was a passenger on the same vessel at the same time? I needed to learn more about Mary. From the birth records of Martin and Oluf, it appears that Mary's maiden name was Aarvig.¹⁰ I also learned that at that time in the U.S., if the husband of an immigrant couple became naturalized, his wife was automatically given citizenship as well.¹¹ So it is not surprising that I could not find a naturalization record for Mary Aarvig. Instead I searched for further evidence of the family in Wisconsin. There in the 1880 Census I found Ole T. and Mary exactly where I expected to find them, in Crawford Co., Wisconsin. Germane to the mystery at hand, their oldest child at that time was a daughter named Anna who was born about 1873 in Wisconsin.¹² This must be the mysterious illegitimate daughter I'd been searching for!

Using information from the 1900 and 1910 Censuses I calculated a likely year of marriage for Ole and Mary and I searched both Illinois and Wisconsin for a record of that marriage. I located and requested a potential marriage record for Ole T. and Mary from Wisconsin, but none from Illinois. The Registration of Marriage that I received is difficult to read and appears to have been pasted to the boiler plate portion of the form incorrectly, unfortunately. If I am interpreting it correctly and it does pertain to this particular couple, it says that Ole Thoresen Saarem, a farmer of Freeman,

Crawford Co., Wisconsin, and originally from Norway married Ann Marie Jans dat Ouvia on April 16, 1875 in West Prairie, Wisconsin.¹³ Assuming that Ole and Mary spoke Norwegian, as Uncle Cliff reports in his memoir of life on the farm many years later,¹⁴ perhaps the clerk of the court/registrars had to do some creative spelling to fill out the form? I don't know at this point.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to find any other document that mentions Anna, the lost, illegitimate child. Extrapolating based on the information collected so far, Anna would have been about 9 or 10 years old when the family moved from Wisconsin to the Dakota Territory, so she most likely moved along with them. The only other possible evidence of her existence is in the statement in 1900 that all of Mary's six children were living. At that time, Anna would have been about 27 years old. We would expect her to be married with a family of her own by then, but I have yet to find her anywhere. I have traced the parentage of a couple of other women with the same or similar names from Wisconsin and the Dakotas, but I cannot find a match for this Anna Sorem.

I had hoped that by working forward in time I might find mention of Anna in an obituary of another family member, perhaps, maybe even as the informant on a death certificate. Unfortunately, although I found that Ole and Mary are resting together in Solberg Lutheran Cemetery in Lane, South Dakota,¹⁵ I do not have a date of death for either of them. According to Uncle Cliff's account, Ole died about 1912, when Cliff was 4 years old.¹⁶ There is no mention of Mary's death and the grave markers are only inscribed with the names Mary Sorem and Ola Sorem.

The evidence I have collected thus far tells a slightly more complicated story than the one I heard growing up. All together it gives the following story instead:

Ole T. Sorem (known variously as Ole Toarsen Saarem, Ole Thoresen Saarem, and Ola Sorem) was born in Norway in October 1832.¹⁷ He may have been married once before he came to the United States in July 1871. It seems possible, though it is so far unverified, that he met Mary Aarvig (a.k.a. Ann Marie Jans dat Ouvia) as they crossed the Atlantic on the same ship. It seems likely that this journey occurred in 1871, but the conflicting date of 1873 appears for both Ole and Mary on the 1900 Census. Did Mary come later than Ole, perhaps 1873? Or, since Ole claims to have come through the Port of Chicago, could he have landed first in Canada, perhaps with Mary, and crossed into the U.S. through Chicago in 1873, creating the alternate date?

Importantly as pertains to the family legend, if Anna was born in 1873 and Ole and Mary immigrated in 1871, then Mary could not have been pregnant on the journey to America. Maybe Anna was a Sorem after all? Whatever the immigration date, it appears that Ole and Mary were married about 1875/1876 probably in Wisconsin. So, when next we see them in the 1880 Census with an 8 year old daughter, Anna, it appears that she was illegitimate at birth in about 1873. Still, she is recorded as Anna Sorem, so it appears that she was



Oluf M. and Magdalena Welter Sorem grave, Ivy Lawn Cemetery, Ventura

raised as Ole's own.

Unfortunately, the years between 1880 and 1900 give no more information about her. All we have by way of a clue, so far, is that Mary reports having 6 children, all living in 1900, which suggests Anna is alive somewhere during that time. Anna would have been about 27/28 years old at this time, so it is entirely likely that she could be married and living with her own family by then. However, Uncle Cliff was born in 1908 and lived in the Dakotas among the Sorem relatives until the early 1920s when nearly all of them moved to California to work in the oil fields. If Anna was alive, wouldn't she have still been in touch with the extended family? And if so, why would any mention of her fate have escaped the notice of Uncle Cliff and the other children as they listened to the stories told by parents, aunts and uncles?

Obviously there is still a lot of research to be done here. I have yet to find any passenger information out of Chicago, so I have been unable to find that type of record for Ole or Mary. I don't know when they died, or when Anna died. Was Anna married before she died? Was Ole married before coming to the U.S.? If only I had listened better as a child, perhaps Grandma Watt or one of her siblings knew something more about this! Unfortunately, that avenue of research is now closed to me. Grandma Watt died in 2007 at the ripe old age of 96, outliving most of her siblings even though she was the second oldest among them. I'll just have to keep digging for clues in this mystery.

Alicia Watt has been a member of SBCGS since 2009 and is the coordinator of the Writing Support Group for the society. She has been researching her mother's Baskin family line since 1999. Other surnames in her family are Bradbury, Olney, Randolph, Weems, and Watt.

ENDNOTES

¹ Alicia D. Watt, personal knowledge of a story related by Alice Marie (Sorem) Watt, her grandmother.

² Vandervlugt, Celine R. *C.J. Sorem: The Early Years, Farm Stories*. December 2000, p.6.

³ 1920 U.S. Census, Stutsman County, North Dakota, population schedule, Deer Lake, enumeration district 231, sheet 8A, dwelling 34, family 34, Alice Sorem, daughter of Oluf and Lena Sorem; Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1341 (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 Feb 2009).

⁴ 1910 U.S. Census, Jerauld County, South Dakota, population schedule, Blaine Twp., enumeration district 250, sheet 5B, dwelling 55, family 55, Oluf Sorem, head, Lena, wife, Clifford, son, Ole, father, Marie, mother; Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication

T 624, roll 1482 (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 Feb 2009).

⁵ 1910 U.S. Census, Jerauld Co., SD, Blaine Twp., ED 250, sheet 5B, dwell. 55, fam. 55, Ole Sorem born in Norway, immigration in 1871, second marriage; Mary Sorem born in Norway, immigration in 1871, first marriage, mother of 7, 5 living, Ancestry.com.

⁶ 1900 U.S. Census, Blaine, South Dakota, population schedule, enumeration district 198, page 8A, Ole T. and Mary Sorem and sons Thomas, Martin, and Oluf; Ancestry.com citing NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1550 (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 Feb 2009).

⁷ 1900 U.S. Census, Blaine, SD, pop. sch., ED 198, p. 8A, Ole T. and Mary Sorem immigration year 1873 (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 Feb 2009)

⁸ South Dakota Births, 1856-1903 [database on-line], Ancestry.com, file date 3 Jan 1941, Oluf Mathias Sorem, born 9 Dec 1884, male, Jerauld County, father — Ole Sorem, mother — Mary Aarvig; Martin Sorem, born 19 Oct 1882, male, Jerauld County, father — Ole Sorem, mother — Mary A. Aarvig (www.ancestry.com: accessed 20 Feb 2009).

⁹ Declaration of Intention of Ole Taorsen Saarem, Crawford County, Wisconsin, 25 Oct 1876; Land Entry File 1800-1908; Records of the General Land Office, Record Group 49, patent number 9244, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

¹⁰ South Dakota Births, 1856-1903 [database on-line], Ancestry.com, Oluf and Martin Sorem born to mother, Mary Aarvig.

¹¹ "Naturalization Records," Research Our Records: Naturalization, Natural Archives Website (www.archives.gov/research/naturalization/naturalization.html: accessed 26 March 2010), section entitled "Exceptions to the General Rule" states that: "... 'derivative' citizenship was granted to wives and minor children of naturalized men."

¹² "1880 U.S. Census," database, Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 Feb 1880), entry for Anna Sorem (age 8), p. 18, Freeman, Crawford County, Wisconsin; citing NARA microfilm publication T9-1420.

¹³ Wisconsin State Vital Records Office, Marriage Certificate #288, Ole Thorsen Saarem and Ann Marie Jans dat Ouvia, April 16, 1975, West Prairie, Vernon County, Wisconsin.

¹⁴ Vandervlugt, C.J. Sorem: *The Early Years, Farm Stories*, p.7.

¹⁵ Find A Grave, digital images (www.findagrave.com: accessed 10 Nov 2010), transcription only, gravestones for Mary and Ole Sorem, Solberg Lutheran Cemetery, Jerauld County, South Dakota.

¹⁶ Vandervlugt, C.J. Sorem: *The Early Years, Farm Stories*, p.7.

¹⁷ 1900 U.S. Census, Blaine, SD, pop. sch., ED 198, p. 8A, Ole T. Sorem month and year of birth is Oct 1832.

The Wreck of the Empire Builder

James R. Wilson

AS WORLD WAR II was winding down in August 1945, our family was devastated by the news that my cousin, Rose Ellen Wilson, had been killed in the line of duty. Rose Ellen was a Naval Officer, a WAVE, attached to the Naval Research Laboratories. With two other WAVES and their supervisor, a regular Navy officer, they were being transferred from the East Coast to the West when their train was involved in a collision. For a long time, I have wanted to know more about what happened.

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1945 train crash still leaves scars
One of the worst rail accidents in U.S. history is being remembered today in Michigan, N.D. 89 and 40th Ave. Veterans march in an annual photograph taken at Rose Ellen's home in Landburg, Pa. Miss Jane was a victim of the crash.

Colombian soccer

'An assassin' ready for war
In one of the deadliest shootings in recent U.S. history, a 28-year-old gunman opened fire in a movie theater, killing at least 12 and wounding 70.

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Part One – Sixty Seven Years Later

The weekly online newsletter of a somewhat obscure periodical (*Trains Magazine*, Kalmbach Publishing, Waukesha, Wisconsin) of May 17, 2012 contained an item reading simply:

NORTH DAKOTA TOWN TO COMMEMORATE 1945 EMPIRE BUILDER WRECK

It caught my eye. This was the wreck in which Rose Ellen died. A Google search turned up a contact, Maria Vasichek, her email address, and that the city of Michigan, Wisconsin was planning to dedicate a memorial on July 21, 2012 to the 34 who died in the wreck. My wife said, “as soon as you mentioned the dedication I knew we would attend.” At seven that evening I sent a note:

Good morning Maria,

My cousin, Rose Ellen Wilson, was in the last car and died in the wreck. She was a Naval officer being transferred from Washington D.C. to Seattle. I still have the telegram from the Navy informing her father of her death, and would copy and share it with you should you wish.

With best regards,

Jim Wilson

At a quarter of eight the following morning Maria responded:

Jim,

Thank you for writing to me. I'm currently trying to get in touch with relatives of those who died in the train crash to invite them to the dedication ceremony for the monument. I have been sending out letters to most. When it came to your cousin and I saw she was from Los Angeles and had a common name like Wilson I doubted I'd be able to reach her relatives. Can I ask how it came about that you contacted me? Yes, I would like a copy of the telegram from the Navy. I would like to include it in the scrapbook I'm making for Stump Lake Pioneer Village. They have a train crash display there. I recently bought a letter on eBay that was found on Lt. Adelaide Frances McManus's body who also died in the crash. In the letter Adelaide refers to your cousin as "Rosie" and Lt. Adda Jane Patterson, whose nickname was "Pat." These three girls must of been friends. The letter is framed and hanging in our civic center in Michigan.

Thanks again for writing!

Maria Vasichek

Thus started a way for me to find answers about what happened to a family member. I sent copies of the telegram, two internal Navy memos, Rose Ellen's obituary and a short personal note summarizing her life and what little bit I knew of her naval career. Rose Ellen had served in a unit of the Naval Research Lab-



oratory with two other WAVES; the letter which Maria purchased was written by one of them. Maria's research led her to 91-year-old Dr. William (Bill) Patterson II, a veterinarian researcher, living in a retirement home in South Carolina. Bill Patterson's sister was the third WAVE. He was a gold mine of information. Bill was in touch with a woman who had been friends with his sister and had a letter from her written while the WAVES were stationed in Boston. He also had a newspaper clipping showing the three of them marching arm-in-arm down Broadway in New York City on V-E Day! What a find! Bill also shared the relevant pages of his mother's diary, his sister's obituary, and family photos with me.

As the day of the dedication drew near, Bill felt that he would not be able to attend as he was too old to travel and his wife was confined to an assisted living facility. However, their son would come from Denver. We air-bussed to Los Angeles, flew to Minneapolis, changed planes and flew to Grand Forks, North Dakota, where we rented a car and drove to a very comfortable Holiday Garden Inn. Grand Forks is in the very most northeastern corner of North Dakota. Cross the bridge over the Red River (whose valley is celebrated in the country and western ballad) in downtown Grand Forks and you are in Minnesota. It is so far north that every staff flying the stars and stripes is flanked by one flying the maple leaf.

The *Grand Forks Herald* was planning an article on the monument dedication and asked if I would consent to an interview with Kevin Bonham, a columnist. I agreed and we met in the hotel lobby just after breakfast the next morning. Kevin was accompanied by a photographer and after a few minutes, suggested a photo shoot at the Stump Lake Pioneer Village. We followed Kevin and the photographer to the Pioneer Village, some 130

miles west of Grand Forks. The photographer shot a few pictures while we wander through the old railroad station chatting about Rose Ellen, the WAVES, and the train wreck.

Stump Lake, in the midst of the North Dakota prairie, might suggest a lack of sophistication - which is completely false! Stump Lake is a large body of deep water surrounded by glorious shade trees, replete with camping sites, picnic facilities, a restaurant, and boat launching ramps, which we here in Southern California would envy. The Pioneer Village is a collection of more than a dozen historic buildings from the local area that have been moved to the site and preserved. The Great Northern Railway station which was at Michigan, North Dakota at the time of the accident, is there, housing a collection of memorabilia and a display pertaining to the train wreck. In addition there is a large new building devoted to preservation of life as it was with various 'businesses' set up inside, all furnished with period pieces. A very well done museum.

Kevin and the photographer departed as they had a story to publish the following day.

A group of proud (and rightly so) docents led us on a tour of the rest of the museum. My wife, Margery, and I drove back to the main highway to Lakota, and checked into the SunLac Motel. This was a modest establishment whose dirt parking lot held a scatter of pickup trucks with construction company signs on the doors. After check-in and lunch we drove east 10 miles, back to Michigan for some exploration.

The town of Michigan is 50 miles west of Grand Forks on North Dakota Highway 2. With a population of less than 300 it is a neat collection of carefully maintained houses on well-tended tree-lined streets. There are a few stores, a gas station, a farm machinery supplier, an insurance agency (Vasichek's), a civic center building with an office and desk for the mayor, and the Veterans Memorial Park on First Street at the railroad tracks.

Michigan is the very foundation upon which America is built, devoid of glitz and glamour or foam and froth. If there is a Kardashian in the phone book they are hog farmers down the way. If you eat bread this is where the wheat comes from.

While looking for the civic center and the letter purchased on eBay, I came out of a large building which contained a half-dozen stores to ask directions from an attractive, smiling, bright-eyed young lady. I said, "Maria Vasichek told me of a letter which is in the civic center." She replied, "I'm Maria! I'll show it to you!" The civic center was locked and she did not have the key so we deferred until the following day, the day of the dedication.

The next morning we gathered at the Veterans Memorial Park for the 11:00 a.m. service. Maria had managed to contact the families of 28 of the 34 killed in the accident. Three of the families were represented and a lady who, at age four, had been a passenger on the second section of the train also attended. With proper ceremony the striking monument of black granite was dedicated. On the front is a photo of the wreck and the names of those who lost their lives etched in the stone. The back the monument carries a textual description of the wreck. The dedication capped seven years of bingo games and bake sales by this little town to raise the funds for a memorial to a group of strangers who by utter chance happened to die in their midst. It was a truly touching experience to trace the thread from my cousin who had become a yellowing obituary clipping in our family Bible to this memorial.

Among the speakers was Robert (Bob) Bye, a railroad historian, who had researched and had co-authored an account of the accident.¹

In the years since the Bye and Larson paper, a substantial amount of new information has surfaced. In Parts Two and Three we make an effort to reduce several hundred pages of letters, notes, memos, and reports to a narrative of the travels of the WAVES, the train, and how the accident came to happen.

Part Two - Liver and Bacon

Robert R. Bye and James R. Wilson

One form of literature, and an important resource for genealogists, is the letter home from those in military service. These letters, typically from young people far from home in a time of great change in their lives, paint vivid pictures. Following is a letter from Adelaide Francis McManus to her parents, written August 9, 1945, while on a train being transferred from the East Coast of the United States to a new assignment on the West Coast.



The Michigan Depot Today, Jim Wilson Photo

Dear Folks. Thursday Morning
 It shouldn't have happened to a dog but it happened to me.
 Woke up at six-thirty, dressed and stumbled out to the Diner
 and found it closed. They put a new one on at St. Paul which
 we won't hit for forty minutes, at 8:30, am a mite hungry.
 They really fouled things up as usual. Pat [Jane] and Rosie
 are way up at one end of the car [sic] train & our boss and I
 are about five cars away.


Last night we pulled into Chicago about 5 PM (too late to
 shop for anything) took a double deck bus that brought us
 way out along Lake Michigan via the Lake Shore Drive. Got
 off at the Edgewater Beach Hotel where we had a maroelous
 dinner (Lake Superior whitefish for me, steak for Rosie).
 Wayne King played at dinner.

You'd have liked that - waltz music.
 Later...

It's about 1:05 now. We've just had lunch (delicious liver
 & bacon). Pity the poor civilians. Because of food shortages
 no lunch served on the train except to service personnel. Will
 close this here so that I can mail it in Fargo, North Dakota
 when we stop there for a few minutes.

Love,
 Adelaide

Typical of military service people it starts off with gentle griping about her current situation, proceeds to point out, as we in the military were wont to do, how "they really fouled things up as usual." and goes on with a homey description of her activities of the night before with dinner at a fancy hotel, including the detail of meal choices and background music which her parents would have



Engine #2584 (1st section's engine that was involved in the crash) as it sits today at the Havre, MT Railroad Museum.

1945 Train Crash Monument Dedication Ceremony
 Welcome, Mayor Bernie Linstad
 Guest Speaker, LTC Robert M. Fugere, ND Nat'l. Guard, Fargo
 Guest Speaker, Historian Robert Bye, SD
 1940's Music, Mary Ralston & Lori Temquist
 Guest Speaker, Historian Dr. James H. Larson, MN
 Blessing, Pastor Peter Horn, Michigan Lutheran Church
 Names read of the 34 who perished and recognition of all family members and crash survivors, Mayor Linstad
 Colors by WL Cowper Post #238 Legion and Legion Auxiliary
 Thank you, Mayor Bernie Linstad



Monument, Veterans Park, Michigan, North Dakota, Jim Wilson Photo



Engine #2584 (1st section's engine that was involved in the crash) as it sits today at the Havre, MT Railroad Museum.

**1945 Michigan Train Crash Monument
 Dedication Ceremony**
 Saturday, July 21st, 11:00 am
 Veterans Memorial Park, 117 1st St. West,
 Michigan, ND

On this day we will remember the 34 people
 who perished in the crash and we will greet
 those who survived.

We hope you can attend. Reserved seating
 for all our special guests and their families.

enjoyed. Later in the day she gives a description of her lunch on the train and gloats a bit at having better treatment than the "poor civilians." She closes with the note that she intends to mail the letter when the train stops in Fargo, North Dakota. A very thoughtful letter home sharing her life while away.

With the pressure of mobilization during the World War II, all branches of the military established divisions for women. The Army had WACs (Women's Army Corps). In the Air Force they were Women Air Force Service Pilots (WASP) In the Navy, they were WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).



James H. Larson, left, Maria Vasichek, and Robert R Bye,
Jim Wilson Photo

Ensign Adelaide Francis McManus (Addie), Lt. (jg), Adda Jane Patterson, (referred to as Pat in Addie's letter), and Ensign Rose Ellen Wilson (Rosie) were assigned to the Naval Research Laboratory, Electronic Field Service Group, Project No. 10 in Washington D.C.² The exact nature of their responsibilities are not known, though Project 10 worked with firms developing radar. Addie's educational background is unclear. Jane held a Master's degree in mathematics and had completed a Navy course in radar prior to being assigned to the Naval Research Laboratory.³ Rosie held a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Science.⁴ They would have been a good team for technical work.

The three women first worked together at Raytheon Corporation in Boston early in 1945, Jane having written of her experiences to her friend Mabel Klahr in a letter dated Boston, January 19. They were under the supervision of Lt. (jg) H. C. Bailey who reported to Lt. (jg) Louis S. Stuller, Officer-in-Charge of Project 10.

The three WAVES appear to have been transferred to New York City by early May 1945. The diary of Mary Patterson, Jane's mother, has entries for May 5 and 6, "Jane arrived home," and "Jane left for New York."⁵ A yellowing newspaper clipping shows the trio arm-in-arm as they "sail through a sea of paper on Broadway at 37th St.," New York City on VE (Victory in Europe) Day, May 8, 1945.

It is unclear just where in New York the WAVES were stationed or their duties or supervision, if any, as Bailey had been transferred to Washington D.C. in April in preparation to replace Louis Stuller as Officer-in-Charge of Field Service Group No. 10. Mary Patterson's diary shows entries for July 27, "Jane had gone to Washington, DC, then home for a 10-day leave," and August 5, "Jane left for Washington DC on 7:10 PM train." The Pattersons were living in Royalton, southeastern Pennsylvania, convenient to both New York City and Washington D. C.

Louis Stuller Jr. related, "Louis [his father] had just been home on leave in Maryland in Aug. 1945."⁶ The whereabouts of Rosie Wilson and Addie McManus during this period are not recorded.

Mary Patterson's diary entry for August 7 is, "Jane called from Wash. DC - leaves for Seattle, Wash, tonight - excited about assignment." The three WAVES and their supervisor left Washington D. C. bound for Seattle with a train change in Chicago.

They arrived in Chicago on the evening of August 8, as Addie points out in her letter. "We pulled into Chicago about 5 PM (too late to shop for anything)." The connecting train, the *Empire Builder*, was scheduled to depart from Chicago at 11:15 p.m. giving them a few hours for adventure.⁷ Jane sent a telegram home and Addie and Rosie took a double-decker bus along Lake Shore drive to the Edgewater Beach Hotel where "we had a marvelous dinner (Lake Superior whitefish for me, steak for Rosie). Wayne King played at dinner."

The Edgewater was a Chicago landmark that stood on the lakefront at Sheridan Road near Foster Avenue. The structure, opened in 1916, was expanded in 1922. During the 1920s, 30s, and 40s, the Edgewater Beach was Chicago's place to see and be seen. On any given night Nat King Cole, Perry Como, or Babe Ruth might have been in attendance. Big bands such as Tommy Dorsey, Xavier Cugat, and as Addie recorded, Wayne King, played there. Lake Superior whitefish, steak, and Wayne King playing in the background paints the picture of two sophisticated young Naval Officers having quite a time between trains.

Part Three - August 9, 1945, 7:22 PM Central War Time

Robert R. Bye and James R. Wilson

Beginning to carry heavy wartime traffic by 1942, the *Empire Builder* ran from Chicago to Seattle as two separate trains, often referred to as two 'sections' in



Rosie Wilson, left; Addie McManus and Jane Patterson,
William C. Patterson II Collection

documents at the time. The first train of 11 cars with Pullman sleepers was reserved for those traveling more than 450 miles.⁹ The second train, also of 11 cars, had coaches for those traveling shorter distances. The *Empire Builder* was operated by two railroads; Chicago Burlington & Quincy ran the trains from Chicago to St. Paul, Minnesota, and the Great Northern ran them from St. Paul to Seattle, Washington. The CB & Q ran their own dining cars over their tracks and closed them when the trains approached St. Paul, readying for the exchange with Great Northern diners.¹⁰

With a Chicago departure at 11:15 p.m. and awakening at 6:30 a.m., Addie had a short night and it was understandable that she was so ready for breakfast and a cup of coffee. At 7:50 a.m. Addie started the letter to her parents.

The first train arrived at St. Paul at 8:30 a.m., August 9, and departed at 8:50 a.m. The second train followed with the customary 20-minute separation. In addition to the diner, a freshly serviced Great Northern locomotive and tender, built by Baldwin Locomotive Works (1831-1972) in 1930, a class S-2, Northern (4-8-4), were assigned to the train at St. Paul. The engine servicing, including repacking the tender wheel bearings, had been accomplished the day before. The trains ran without incident through the day. Addie continued her letter at 1:05 p.m., "We've just had lunch (delicious liver & bacon). Pity the poor civilians," with the intention of mailing it when they stopped in Fargo, North Dakota. For reasons unknown she did not mail her letter.

The first train of the *Empire Builder* departed Grand Forks, North Dakota at 5:32 p.m. with the second train following 36 minutes later. The first train passed Niagara, North Dakota at 6:43 p.m.; the second had closed the gap between trains to 24 minutes, still comfortably outside the required 20 minutes separation. Block signals, lights indicating that the track ahead was clear, were not installed on the 200-mile section between Grand Forks and Surrey Junction, North Dakota. Trains were operated by timetable and train orders only. The standard technique of maintaining separation between trains was for the agent at stations to display a 'stop' signal on the train order board, raise a semaphore on a tower, and hold the following train for separation. However, only four of the stations over this distance were open 24 hours per day. Other than that, the rear flagman had fuses (flares mounted on spikes that are stabbed into the rail cross beams so that they stand two or three feet above the roadbed) with a 10-minute burning time, which he could place along the tracks, requiring a following train to stop to extinguish the fusee and then proceed at restricted speed.

The last car in the first train was the Pullman Peoria, a combination of sleeper and lounge, with an observation platform. The four Project 10 members gathered for the evening in the lounge at the end of the last car of their train.



Second section locomotive wearing the shell of Peoria like a shroud
Robert Bye Collection

About four miles west of Niagara the brakeman noticed smoke coming from one of the tender's wheel bearings and signaled the engineer to stop. Testimony indicates the train was stopped from 6:40 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., a full 20 minutes, during which time the hot bearing was repacked and lubricated. The flagman proceeded one-half to three-quarters of a mile back of the train with flag and fuses to warn the oncoming second train. When the repairs were complete he was recalled to board the train. Section 99 of the railroad's operating rulebook states, in part:

"When recalled and safety to the train will permit, he [the flagman] may return. When the conditions require, he will leave the torpedoes and a lighted fusee."¹¹

Torpedoes are small packets of black powder that are placed on the rail and explode when run over, cautioning the crew to be alert for trouble ahead. The flagman left torpedoes and a freshly lighted fusee when he departed his flagging post. It required six minutes for him to re-board and the train to depart. The fusee at the flagging post would have had only four minutes burning time remaining when the train got under way. The portion of Operating Rules Section 99 calls for leaving the fusees and torpedoes "when conditions require," and could be interpreted as requiring a freshly lighted fusee when he re-boarded the train. The stop consumed 20 of the 24 minutes of the separation between the two trains. The engineer of the second train testified that he reduced speed for about a mile after running over the torpedoes, however not seeing a danger, resumed track speed of roughly 60 miles per hour. Section 11 of the operating rules reads, "A train finding a fusee burning red on or near its track must stop and extinguish the fusee. Train may then proceed at restricted speed."¹² The second train engineer makes no mention of coming upon a burning fusee.

The first train traveled two miles, stopping at Petersburg, North Dakota to inspect the bearing. All appeared to be well. Approximately three minutes were lost in this stop. The flagman was only able to proceed one car length (about 80 feet) beyond the rear of the train before he was re-called; he did not leave torpedoes or a fusee. The engineer of the second train testified that in his opinion, "it would have been good judgment for him to leave a fusee burning at that time, as well as the

first time they had trouble” The separation between the trains would have been only a minute or two after this stop. Section 99 of the rule book also states, “When a train is moving under circumstances in which it may be overtaken by another train, the flagman must take such action as may be necessary to insure full protection. By night, or day when the view is obscured, lighted fuseses must be thrown off at proper intervals.”¹³

The train continued a further 6 miles. When approaching Michigan, North Dakota the engineer noticed smoke again coming from the tender bearing and stopped about 1,000 feet beyond the Michigan depot. As the train slowed the flagman hit the ground running with flag and fusee in hand. As the train stopped the engineer climbed down from the locomotive to inspect the bearing. The conductor, who bore ultimate responsibility for the train’s safety, was on the ground and



Looking West across First Street
Collision Occurred at Curve in the Distance, Jim Wilson Collection

ordered the fireman, still in the cab, to “get the train moving.” As the second train rounded a gentle curve coming into Michigan, the stopped first train came into view and the engineer made an emergency application of the brakes.

However it was too late, as Robert R. Bye and James H. Larson phrased it:

“At 7:22 PM Central War Time, second No. 1 struck the rear of the slowly moving train! What followed was a nightmare of escaping steam, twisted wreckage and death.”¹⁴

Colliding at 45 miles per hour, the locomotive of the second train telescoped the length of the last car of the first train, Pullman Peoria, and drove the train forward 165 feet. The shell of the Peoria ended up covering the second section locomotive like a shroud. Thirty-four on board the first train died and 312 from both trains

were injured in the worst accident in the history of the Great Northern Railroad. Twenty in military service, including the three WAVES and their supervisor, plus 14 civilians lost their lives. Olive Brennan, 45, traveling to her father’s funeral was trapped with her upper body out of a window.¹⁵ She survived the impact only to die minutes after she was released from the wreckage six hours later. A 20-year-old porter on his first trip with the railroad climbed a ladder to hold her head and comfort her throughout the ordeal. At one point military medics who were passengers climbed atop the car to support her body with knotted sheets so rescuers could work beneath her. A physician administered sedation and a priest delivered last rites from the ladder.

Myra Gertz Bauman, four years old at the time, was riding in the last car of the second train with her mother and two older sisters, returning from a visit with her mother’s sister in Minnesota. She recalled, “There were many soldiers riding in that car and needless to say, they were happy with the end of the war.”¹⁶ It is doubtful that anyone on board either train knew that the second atomic bomb of the war had been dropped on Nagasaki that morning, 20 hours before the collision. Or that the war would end on August 14, five days after the accident.

Ms. Bauman continued, “The speeding second section of the Empire Builder, which we were passengers on, telescoped the first train. Even though we were in the last car on the second train, we recall the collision as a terrific impact. Luggage and liquor bottles (the soldiers had had their supply replenished in Grand Forks) flew through the air and crashed around us. I remember several passengers around me with injuries, especially bad cuts; and particularly dramatic to me, as I was only four years old at the time, was a female passenger holding her knocked-out teeth in her hand. None of the four of us had injuries, although Mom remembers being stiff and aching for a few days following the accident.”

Richard Desautels wrote, “The day of the crash I was at the farthest west [grain] elevator, which was right alongside of the tracks. I was looking out the north sliding door to watch the express train [Empire Builder], which normally didn’t stop in Michigan. There it came, but instead of flying by it stopped, still on the bypass tracks. [in fact it was on the main line] The engine was directly opposite me, two tracks away. I could see the engineer and another man talking using strong motions and words. The other man, I think he was the brakeman, quickly went down the ladder from the cab to the ground and began running as fast as he could towards the end of the train to the east. The engineer stayed in the cab, then after sticking his head out of the window as far as he could so he could look back hurriedly began climbing down the ladder. Before he could reach the ground I heard another train coming from the east, brakes screeching. But it couldn’t stop in time. It ran into the last car of the express, crushing everything into the front half of the car, the top of the car hanging open over the engine.

I ran to the crash scene at the end of the express. There was no noise, no shouting or crying. By the time I got there passengers were descending from other cars, milling about, not knowing where they were or what to do, not knowing the depot and downtown Michigan was on the other side of the train. Soon people from Michigan began arriving and fire trucks from surrounding towns and ambulances from Grand Forks and Devils Lake arrived. Then began all night rescue efforts.”¹⁷

The local residents responded to the accident with ladders and all tools at hand. The pharmacy opened to dispense medical supplies, and as the sun set automobile headlights lit the scene until floodlights could be set up. Townspeople provided coffee and food for

WESTERN UNION			
NUMBER	RECEIVED BY	CHECK	
N12	XA8B	COK SER	
Dated	ST PAUL MINNOSOTA [sic]	AUGUST 10 1945	5:30 P
To	MRS ELIZABETH MCMANUS		
2500 WEBB AVENUE			
UNIDENTIFIED BODY FOUND IN WRECK WEARING SUMMER SEERSUCKER UNIFORM OF WAVE WEARING BRACELET WITH NAME ADELAIDE F MC MANUS ENGRAVED THERON NO CONFIRMATION YET WILL ADVISE FURTHER LATER			
T F O'CONNELL			
T:18P			

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAMS #1 number N12
Michigan, North Dakota Community Club Collection

rescue workers and typewriters and space for reporters. At 50 minutes after midnight a consolidated train of 18 cars departed with those able to travel.

The navy sent notifications to the next of kin.

Addie did not mail the letter - it was found on her body in a carefully addressed envelope without a stamp. If the soldiers had time to replenish their liquor supplies at Grand Forks, Addie surely had time to mail the letter there, if not at Fargo. Perhaps she was unable to find a place to purchase a stamp. The letter was returned to her parents in New York City with her personal effects. The letter, along with the McManus telegram, were purchased by the Michigan, North Dakota Community Club from a collector and are on display at the Michigan Civic Center. The seller had acquired them in a “large bundle of documents” at a flea market in Eastern Ohio. The history of their travels remains a tantalizing mystery.

The Wilson telegram has been in the family Bible since its receipt.

Rose Ellen Wilson is buried next to her mother at Angelus-Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles, California; Adda Jane Patterson is buried at the Landisburg Cemetery, Perry County, Pennsylvania; Louis S. Stuller’s

body was returned to his mother in Tacoma, Washington. His wife and son, living in Maryland were unable to attend his funeral; however, they did receive the flag which draped his coffin. Adelaide Francis McManus, who so eloquently described her last day, is interred at St. Raymond’s Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City, New York.

In the immediate aftermath of the accident Frank J. Gavin, President Great Northern Railway, issued a telegram to Mr. C. O. Jenks reading, in part:

“Arrange to put out instructions immediately that second or following section of the “Empire Builder” between Fargo and Surrey Jct. shall be held a station apart until the first, or other section, clears the block, putting in any Operators necessary.”¹⁸

This, in recognition that had there been a operator on duty when the first train stopped at Petersburg, the second train would have been held, insuring at least 20 minutes separation between the trains and that there would have been a ‘stop’ signal displayed on the order board at Michigan.

On August 14, 1945, the Coroner of Nelson County, North Dakota held an inquest into the accident, taking 136 pages of testimony. The jury found the engineer, conductor, and flagman of the first train guilty of having caused the accident. This inquest had no legal standing; however, it could have been cited in subsequent litigation. The following day, August 15th, the Great Northern Railway held an investigation into the accident in which they determined the conductor and flagman of the first section were responsible for the

WESTERN UNION	
SA201	152 3 EXTRA GOVT (SUBJECT TO CORRECTION 152 3 STRA ONLY)
CHESTER ELLSWORTH WILSON WASHINGTON DC VIA LOSANGELES CALIF 11	
17:48 [in pencil]	174 SOUTH ATCHINSON FN-[section of printout missing] 1945 AUG 12 AM 12 47
#1 DEEPLY REGRET TO INFORM YOU OF THE DEATH OF YOUR DAUGHTER ENISON ROSE ELLEN WILSON USNR ON 9 AUGUST 1945 AS A RESULT OF TRAIN WRECK WHILE IN THE SERVICE OF HER COUNTRY HER REMAINS ARE BEING HELD AT GILBERT AND SONS FUNERAL HOME DEVILS LAKE NORTH DAKOTA PLEASE TELEGRAPH COLLECT TO THE BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY NAVY DEPARTMENT WASHINGTON DC WHETHER OR NOT YOU DESIRE TO HAVE HER REMAINS SENT HOME OR INERRED [sic] IN ANY NATIONAL OR NAVAL CEMETERY YOU MAY SELECT WITHOUT COST TO YOU IF SENT HOME ALL EXPENSE OF PREPARATION ENCASEMENT AND REASONABLE NECESSARY EXPENSES SUBJECT TO REIMBURSEMENT BY BUREAU OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY NAVY DEPARTMENT IF THE BODY IS SENT HOME PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER OR NOT YOU DESIRE AN ESCORT TO ACCOMPANY THE BODY SINCEREST SYMPATHY IS EXTENDED TO YOU IN YOUR GREAT LOSS-	
VICE ADMIRAL RANDALL JACOBS THE CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL.	
9 1945.	

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAMS #1 number SA201
Jim Wilson Collection

accident and they were “dismissed from service.”¹⁹ The record of the Great Northern investigation has not been found, however, a four-page letter from C. McDonough, General Manager, to C. O. Jenks summarizing the investigation does exist.



Cross Marking the Collision Site Jim Wilson Collection}

Epilogue

What caused the accident? Mobilization for the war and the ensuing shortage of manpower delayed retirement for many; the train crews ranged in age from their late 50s to early 70s each of them with years of experience. Perhaps this was part of the problem, lulled into a false sense of security by years of operation without accident. Block signals were not installed on the 200-mile section between Fargo and Surrey Junction, North Dakota. All stations in this section had order boards which would stop a train, holding it to insure separation; however, only four stations over this distance were open 24 hours per day.

The trains left Larimore, an open station, with 31 minutes separation. The next open station, Lakota, was 36 miles distant. Between were three closed stations at Niagara, Petersburg, and Michigan. The collision occurred 1,000 feet beyond the Michigan station, 10 miles short of Lakota. Only the flagman with flag and fusee could warn oncoming trains. The flagman failed to insure the separation between the two trains; the conductor, who bears ultimate responsibility for the safety of his train, failed to insure the flagman was posting warnings for the following train.

The flagman seemed to have several misunderstandings of his duties to protect the train. At the first stop he left a freshly lighted fusee where he had been flagging, as required by the rulebook. Having left another when re-boarding the train would have been in the interest of safety. While the flagman was 'whistled out' by the engineer at the second stop he did not leave torpedoes or a fusee as they were stopped at a station and did not think it was required. The station was not manned and a stop signal would not be displayed on the order board holding the second section. With the planned

separation between trains having been consumed by the first stop, the first train was in jeopardy of being overtaken by the second train and the flagman should have been regularly dropping fusees for the following train to stop, extinguish the fusee, and proceed at restricted speed until they came to an open station where the second train would have been held for 20 minutes.

The rulebook prohibited the flagman from riding in the rear of the observation car while occupied by passengers "unless necessary for safety." The flagman misjudged the jeopardy which they were in, rode in the vestibule between the last two cars and did not drop fusees from the moving train as he thought "they would not remain lit." The conductor, who by his action when they stopped for a third time, immediately ordered the fireman, who was still in the cab, to "get the train moving" realized the danger of being overtaken; however, he had not gone to the rear of the train to insure the flagman was dropping fusees to protect them.

Robert Bye is a retired locomotive engineer, and railroad historian and has researched and written about this accident; James Wilson is a retired mechanical engineer, family historian, and is Rose Ellen Wilson's cousin.

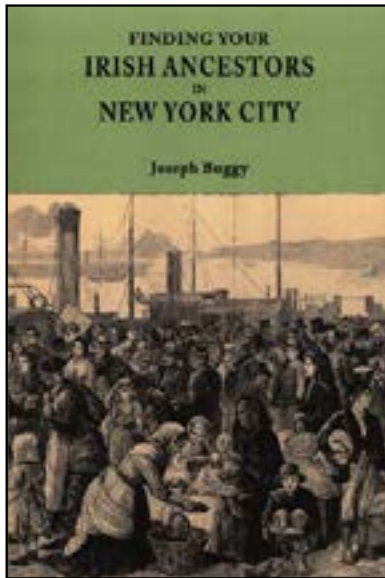
ENDNOTES

- ¹ Robert R. Bye and James H. Larson, *Rear-End Collision – Two Passenger Trains Michigan, North Dakota – August 9, 1945*, Great Northern Railway Historical Society Reference Sheet No. 152, September 1989.
- ² H.C. Bailey, *MEMORANDUM to All Personnel*, Project No. 10, 11 August 1945
- ³ Obituary, Adda Jane Patterson, unknown newspaper & date.
- ⁴ Obituary, Rose Ellen Wilson, Los Angeles Times, August 18, 1945.
- ⁵ Mary E. Patterson, Personal Diary.
- ⁶ Louis S. Stuller Jr. - Maria Vasicek, private communication, June 11, 2012.
- ⁷ Robert E. Bye private communication with James R. Wilson, August 8, 2012.
- ⁸ The Edgewater Beach Hotel, Magic by the Lake, WTTW <http://www.wttw.com/main.taf?p=1,7,1,1,13.html> accessed August 21, 2013
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- ¹⁰ This section relies on the following references: INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION, WASHINGTON, INVESTIGATION NO. 2921 GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY REPORT IN RE ACCIDENT AT MICHIGAN, N. DAK., ON AUGUST 9, 1945; E. CHARLES GRAHAM, INQUEST IN CORONER'S COURT, AUGUST 14, 1945, NELSON COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA; Semaphore-Niles Depot <http://www.nilesdepot.org/centerville/semaphore.html>, accessed August 23, 2013; C. McDonough Letter to C. O. Jenks, August 16, 1945 Synopsis of Great Northern Investigation; and Bye & Larson.
- ¹¹ INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION, INVESTIGATION, 6.
- ¹² *Ibid*, 5
- ¹³ *Ibid*, 6.
- ¹⁴ Bye and Larson, REAR-END COLLISION, 3
- ¹⁵ Bye private communication with Wilson, September 4, 2012.

Ancestors West Book Reviews

Louise Matz

Finding Your Irish Ancestors in New York City, by Joseph Buggy. 166 pages, indexed, paperback \$19.95, shipping first book \$5.50. Genealogical Publishing Company, call 800-296-6687. The Irish experience in New York City is well known! Why has it taken so long for a comprehensive publication on doing Irish research? That rhetorical question has been answered by Joseph Buggy, and his just published (2014) book! Though diminutive, 6"x 9", and only 166 pages, it is jam-packed with terrific information to break down your brick walls on NYC Irish research.



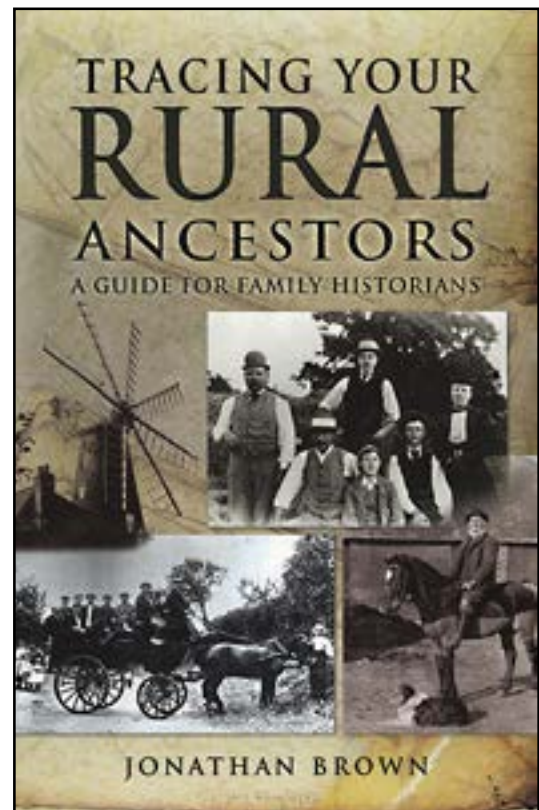
To briefly summarize what is contained in *Finding Your Irish Ancestors in NYC*, the first three chapters cover the basic research record groups such as vital records, the Federal Census and New York State Censuses which occurred between 1855-1925, in the 5 numbered years. Having used these censuses myself, I know they provide a tighter view of your ancestors as they might have moved frequently in the City. He mentions the Emigrant Savings Bank as a unique 'niche' source. Chapters four through six get into the nitty-gritty of his research strategies. I found chapter 5 very interesting in that the author identifies the various wards of the city with the home counties of the Irish who settled there. For example, the Sixth Ward in 1855 had about 14,000 Irish residents primarily from Kerry, followed by those from Sligo and Cork. He describes all the areas of Irish settlement, with associated Irish counties, between 1855 and 1875. This could be a great way to find a place from which your ancestor might have come. After all, they settled with friends, associates, and neighbors. This is known as the 'FAN' phenomena.

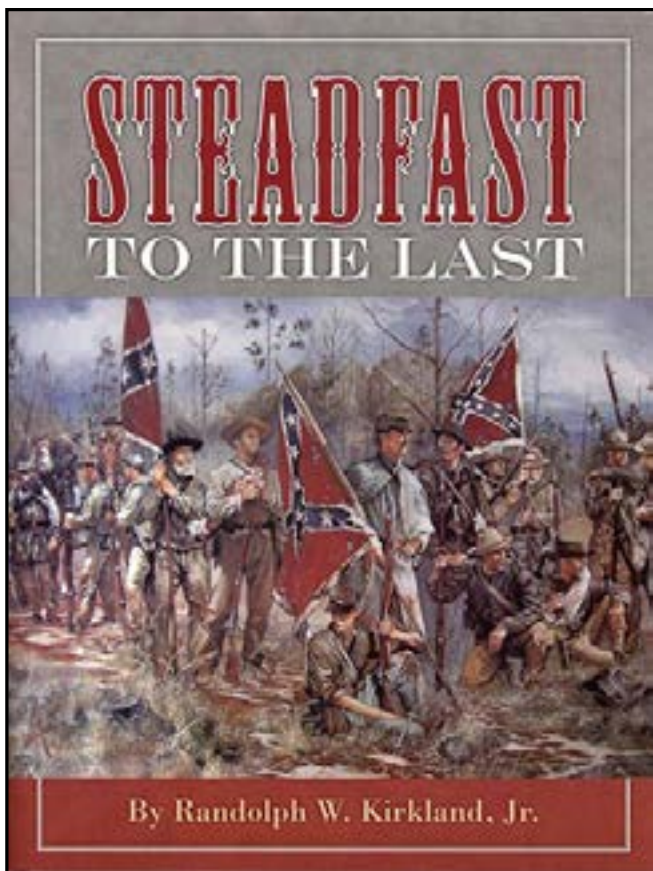
Chapters 7-9 deal with the Roman Catholic Church and the records they produced. An excellent list of the parishes for the five boroughs, their addresses, emails, and the dates of B-M-D records they might have available. Wrapping up this wonderful book (Chapters 10-11) is a comprehensive list of periodical articles about Irish settlement in NYC. He also lists web sites, mostly free, I think, and the many for-fee sites that contain Irish records.

In short, after looking at this book on our Library shelf, you very likely will want a copy for yourself, if you've had trouble finding your 'pesky' Irish who are currently lost in New York City!

Tracing Your Rural Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians, by Jonathan Brown. 162 pages, indexed, paperback \$14.00, shipping \$4.00. Amazon.com vendors. Dr. Jonathan Brown is an expert in the field of English rural life. In the first several chapters he describes life on the farm and all the people who made the nearby market towns function. The period of time discussed is from the 1850s (and earlier) through the 1920s, with some carry-over after WWII, when a modern era of farming developed. No previous book provides a guide to the many documents for rural ancestors and where they might be located.

If you have rural ancestors in England or Wales, such as yeoman, farmers and farm workers, land owners estate owners, or village tradesmen, merchants and business people, then as genealogists this book should be in your library. The first eight chapters discuss in depth the many occupations involved in the rural areas, such as butchers, bakers, millers, blacksmiths, clergy and schools. The text is engaging and you will learn so much more than you thought you knew! After suggestions for research, chapters 9-11 wrap-up very elegantly where the records and information will be found and discusses them more fully. Brown identifies the relevant national and local Offices, Libraries, and Museums where the documentation can be found. Each chapter also has a bibliography for further reading. This is a wonderful series of books, and *Tracing Your Rural Ancestors* is an outstanding example.





Steadfast to the Last: South Carolina Soldiers & Citizens Paroled with the Army of Northern Virginia & the Army of Tennessee at Appomattox C.H., VA and Greensboro, NC April 9th and 26th, 1865, by Randolph W. Kirkland, Jr. 212 pages, appendices, hardcover, \$55, shipping \$4.00. Amazon.com vendors. This work identifies 9,008 South Carolinians who surrendered at Appomattox Court House, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina, at the end of the War Between the States. The two sources for this compilation are the Appomattox Roster, first published in 1887, and reprinted in 1962, and a previously unpublished source known as the Greensboro parole lists held by Brig. Gen William Hartsuff, U.S.A., now in the National Archives.

Arranged alphabetically, the list provides each soldier's name, rank, specialty, company, regiment, brigade, date of parole, and place (Greensboro or Appomattox). This is the third book in Kirkland's trilogy of South Carolinians who stayed under arms until the end of the War. *Broken Fortunes*, at the Sahyun, [975.7/M2/Kir] identifies 18,666 South Carolina soldiers and sailors who died in service to their country and state in the War for Southern Independence. The 2nd book is *Dark Hours*, which identifies over 11,000 South Carolina soldiers & sailors who were held in federal prisons during the War. I have this book on order so that the Library will have a complete set of this excellent series.

Court Records-Genealogy at a Glance, by Wendy B. Elliott. 4 pages, laminated folder. \$8.95, shipping \$4.50. GPC-call 800-296-6687. The At a Glance series of outlines is designed to help all researchers find the important information quickly about the topic. Court records are one of the most helpful resources for genealogists. But do you know the four types of legal cases handled in the court systems? Or can you identify what you'll find in probate records? Do you know how to access the records without actually going to a courthouse or archive? Strategic tips guide your thinking to solve difficult problems. The Sources section tells where the court records are to be found and includes major online sources. Some of the best repositories are also listed.

Our Sahyun Library has a collection of some of these At a Glance folders on the resources shelves. However, I think individuals should consider having folders on topics of interest in their own libraries, or in their traveling research notebooks.



Taking Your House With You

Sharon Summer



William Knickrehm,
January, 1890



Building being moved by the Knickrehm Company in Los Angeles

RECENTLY I WROTE AN ARTICLE titled “A Name Known to Los Angeles Since 1890” which was published in *Ancestors West*, Vol. 39 No. 1. The story’s title were the words my brother and I put on our father’s, Allen F. Knickrehm’s, headstone. His lies next to William and Augusta Knickrehms’ headstones. William, Dad’s grandfather, was the first Knickrehm to live in Los Angeles, arriving in 1882. And he was the first in our family to move houses in the region.

Great-great-grandfather William Knickrehm began his successful house-moving business in Los Angeles about 125 years ago. After my dad died I became intrigued with William and his business. Why did he start the business? Why in 1890? And, in a day with no motorized trucks or other heavy equipment, how were those houses moved?

A good place to start looking for answers was with my relatives living in Los Angeles today. After all William was their great-grandfather too. So I contacted Linda and her brother Bill Knickrehm, sending them a copy of my earlier article so they could read about our ancestors who were buried in the same cemetery as William.

Linda and Bill soon emailed me, telling me about a cassette tape that was recorded by family members 41 years ago and that had been lying in the back of their closet ever since. On the tape several of the adult children of William Knickrehm talk about their father and his house-moving business. Hearing it might offer a

gold mine of information to me, and if I wasn’t excited before I surely was now. Linda mailed me the tape by the next post!

Next came the not-so-simple process of locating a working cassette player. Mine worked for 15 minutes and died. Another wouldn’t start at all. Two friends offered theirs. The first worked for 30 minutes before quitting. The other sounded fuzzy but did its job for the entire tape. Old technology, perhaps, with voices hard to decipher in spots, but I finally heard the stories of those relatives from the past!

Listening to my ancestors talking with each other in 1973 was a curious experience for me. These were my deceased relatives, people whom I knew as a girl. Eerily, they sounded quite as I remembered them.

So why did William start his business in 1890? Aunt Mary’s voice said, “One time he [William, her father] told me that the reason that he had to go in business for himself was that there was a depression. Jobs were so hard to get and he had a family to take care of by that time, so he had no choice but to go in business for himself.”

Never having heard about a depression back then, I poked around on the Internet to see what I could find. Indeed, there had been a deep depression in the 1890s. One web site offered an article titled “The Depression of the Mid-1890s: The Gilded Age ended with the financial panic of 1893.”

William began his business in Los Angeles in the midst of that depression. But how could his business do well in such hard times? Aunt Mary had the same question. On the tape she commented that “I said to Father, ‘Wasn’t it pretty tough going?’ He said, ‘Well, did you ever watch a chicken?’ I said, ‘What do you mean?’ He said, ‘The harder the ground, the harder you scratch.’”

William worked hard, as did many German Americans. Further Internet probing gave me another reason William’s house moving business thrived, which was that Los Angeles was growing very rapidly with many people needing his services. I discovered that the growth of Los Angeles really took off in the 1880s due to the presence of a new railroad, and the activities of promoters in getting people to move to the area. In 1885, the Santa Fe Railroad entered southern California. This set off a rate war with the dominant railway line of the area, the Southern Pacific Railroad. The cost of one-way fares dropped to as low as \$1 for a trip from Midwest cities such as St. Louis and Kansas City all the way to Los Angeles. Meanwhile, promoters published books, pamphlets, and articles about how great life was in Southern California. They talked about the healthy, Mediterranean-type climate that was said to cure sicknesses, and the fertile farm land, and the tourist sites that were celebrated in Helen Hunt Jackson’s best selling novel *Ramona* (1884). These low rates along with the advertising led to a massive increase in the number of people coming to Los Angeles; as many as 120,000 by way of the Southern



Knickrehm house-movers

Pacific in 1887 alone. From 1890 to 1900 L.A.’s population grew from 50,000 to 100,000 and five years later it was nearing 200,000 people.

That’s a lot of people wanting homes moved around town. Aunt Mary said of her father, William Knickrehm, “He was in the right place, at the right time, with the right service.”

With so many more people in Los Angeles, streets were being widened so people needed to get their houses moved back a few feet to make way. Aunt Carrie talked about how, at one point, people would no longer wish to live in the burgeoning downtown of Los Angeles, so William would move their homes all the way down to 70th or 100th Street — only to move the same house back again when the tides of taste turned again. Also, in those times, custom-built homes were built for particular families who would want to keep their own home when they relocated. Further, materials were expensive, especially wood, because of the absence of forests. And since skilled homebuilders were scarce and expensive, moving the house was economically more feasible. So many people sought to move houses rather than build anew.

Now I began to wonder about how the houses were moved, and Bill Knickrehm described the process. He added to what my father had told me when he was alive. Here is what they said.

How to move a house

The house movers would dig down around the foundation (assuming the house had a foundation) and cut openings there at intervals. They would insert wooden beams into these openings, making an interlocking support lattice for the



A building ready to move, Los Angeles, 1925

home. These beams would bear the weight of the house during the move.

The supported house could then be moved by rolling it over large wooden timbers pulled by horses. As the house rolled onto the front-most timber and off the timber in back, the men would bring the now-freed rear timber around to the front so the house could roll onto it. (A man employed by William told Bill that he used to wear out his shoes kicking the timber loose from the back so he could bring it around to the front.) In William's day the horses pulling the house were far up ahead pulling with lines attached to the house's supports. In later years they used jacks to raise the house.

A sad part of William's story was that he was severely injured in a house-moving accident. His daughter, Carrie Knickrehm, said on the tape that it happened in 1893 on the 23rd of June. Three men and William were supporting the weight of a corner of a house they were moving down a narrow street near downtown Los Angeles. A "misdirection" was given to the man holding a chimney support wire to let it go. As a result a corner of the house or the chimney (the tape was garbled here) fell onto William. His whole body was crushed and they didn't think he would live. They took him to his home and laid him on the dining room table and hurried to get a friend who had been a doctor in Germany. The friend amputated his leg just below the knee right there on the table. William then developed a high fever. They had feared he would die, but by next morning the fever broke and he recovered. He got a wooden leg and thereafter walked with a limp, and could still get around in his Model T Ford. Aunt Carrie said, "He had a smashed up body the rest of his life but it didn't seem to stop him any."

William's son, Fred Knickrehm, told the story of his father moving one of the buildings of Santa Monica High School. Fred was 17 at the time and was working for his dad. He said on the tape that a school building had to be turned 90 degrees so that it would face Main Street. The structure was loaded onto six bearings. Before the move William stepped off the distance with his altered gait of a short and long step, drove a stake into a spot, telling his men exactly where to put the building. "And that's what we did. We just swung that bloomin' thing right around on its own axis. When we did, we looked to see [where William guessed it needed to be placed] and saw he missed the 90 degrees by only about an inch."

From family pictures it appeared that William's moving company moved very large buildings as well as homes; some of his photographs show what look like hotels being moved. By 1932, William's son Allen Ironside Knickrehm had taken over the business, The Knickrehm Company, House-Movers. Allen was my



Allen I. Knickrehm, January, 1924

grandfather. He died of heart failure in 1941, a few years before I was born. I have a picture of Allen sitting at a double desk at The Knickrehm Co. The date on the calendar behind him shows January 1924. My father and his brother remembered someone taking this photograph of Allen, and told me all about the items in the picture.

After hearing the cassette tape I decided to call my uncle, Bob Knickrehm, to see what he might know. I found that at age 92 he still has an impressive memory. His mind is filled with facts he remembers easily. During our conversation, Uncle Bob and I confirmed the year William started his business. It was 1890. Uncle Bob told me that his grandfather William never swore; that his favorite 'swear' word was, "Oh pshaw!" (He never drank either, I heard.) When Uncle Bob's father Allen took over the business after William retired, he did so only for a while before becoming ill with heart problems. While Allen recuperated in a number of rest homes or sanitariums around Los Angeles, his wife ran the house-moving business. His wife Caroline was my grandmother (and don't call her Carrie, she didn't like that).

Uncle Bob told me about the 1932 Olympics, held in Los Angeles, and how William moved buildings then. Originally named 10th Street, the street was renamed Olympic Boulevard for the Olympics. The street had to be widened beforehand, and this required more than 3,000 buildings to be set back. The Knickrehm Company won bids to move many of those structures. The entire moving process had to be done, including getting the house up on rollers, even to move it only a few feet. Uncle Bob said the Olympic Village for housing the athletics was set atop the Baldwin Hills in Los Angeles, and after the Olympics, William's company was called

upon to move those structures to various locations throughout the city. He also said that William, and later his son Allen, knew all the intersections in Los Angeles. They knew which ones to use and where the overhead streetcar and utility lines were situated so a house could pass without getting caught in a tangle of wires.

Allen and his wife Caroline carried on the house-moving business until they sold it in 1942. By that time house-moving was less common. After WWII, William's grandson and my father, Allen F. Knickrehm, established an electrical contracting business in Los Angeles. Currently my son lives with his own family in the Los Angeles area. The Knickrehm lineage thus extends

from 1882 and continues into the present, a total of 132 years so far.

Though less frequently than in earlier days, people continue to move their houses. In fact there is a company that moves houses right here in Santa Barbara. The company proudly says, "Moving Hours: Dawn 'til Dusk - 7 days a week," so the tradition of hard work and long hours continues to this day.

Sharon Summer, maiden name Knickrehm, was born in Los Angeles County, and continues the search for her family's stories.

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Author Guidelines - *Ancestors West*

Updated April 2014

Articles for *Ancestors West* focus on useful genealogy or research sources, helpful research strategies, compelling historical accounts, and interesting case studies. The focus are the mutual interests of the Santa Barbara County Genealogical Society membership. Each issue follows a theme that is meant to draw together a selection of content within the journal; submissions are not limited to the theme, however.

Manuscripts

Suggested length is from 250 to 2500 words. Longer pieces or serial pieces are also published. Submit your document in Word format if possible. If not, please submit in text format. Endnotes are recommended, especially for books, articles and web sites. Please follow the *Chicago Manual of Style* and the *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* for usage.

Images

Any piece is enhanced by images. Please provide images if you can to support your piece. The images in general must be over 1MB, and preferably over 2MB, with good quality resolution – clear and sharp to the naked eye when printed at a reasonable size (e.g., 3" x 4" - plus). Please include a caption for each picture, a photo credit or source, and insert the caption in the location in the document where it should appear. The images must be sent as separate files.

Author information

Provide one or two sentences about the author(s).

Deadlines

Submissions with images are due the **10th of the month** in: January, April, July, and October. Address submissions to the editor at dlpetry@gmail.com.

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Authors and other special contributors receive a printed copy of the issue by mail. This is in addition to the copy you may receive as a member of the Society. In addition, *Ancestors West* encourages contributors (and other interested readers) to share articles online via social media, email, etc. The entire back catalog of *Ancestors West*, all the way up through the current version, is available online, and text inside the journals can be located in Google searches that originate outside the sbgen.org web site.

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POT-SHOTS – Brilliant Thoughts in 17 words or less

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