

Serving family history of the Livermore, Pleasanton and
southeastern portion of Alameda County, in the beautiful San
Francisco Bay Area of California



Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society P.O. Box 901, Livermore, California 94551

Web: <http://www.L-AGS.org>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/Livermore.Amador.Genealogical.Society/>

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1142643925760388/>

August 2025

While we work to find a new editor, this bulletin will feature articles on the last page. This month, we have an amazing look at the life of a long-time L-AGS member, Anne Les.

General Meeting: Point of Origin: How to Find Your Ancestral Village With: Lisa M. Vogle

Date: Monday, August 11, 2025 7:00 p.m. (Zoom chat starts at 6:30 p.m.)

Location: Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct., Pleasanton, CA and via Zoom-
Preregister via ZOOM below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYsduiorjgsG9HuhQRKgpaR5Nh3fb9Y91tW>

Chair: Program Chair, <mailto:program@L-AGS.org>

Cost: No Charge - Visitors welcome

Details: Please see page 2

Other Special Interest Groups and Meetings

Fourth Friday Finds

Topic: *Genealogy Friends and Finds*

Join virtually to delve into family history stories, finds, and resources.

Date: Friday, August 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom.

Chair: Debbie Mascot,

<mailto:bulletin.manager@L-AGS.org>



Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2025
at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Contact Chair for the Link

Chair: President, <mailto:President@L-AGS.org>

The Master Genealogist Software

Topic: Database Management

Date: Friday, August 1 and Saturday, August 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Contact Chair for the link

Chair: TBD

<mailto:tvvtmg.chair@L-AGS.org>

General Meeting: Point of Origin: How to Find Your Ancestral Village With: Lisa M. Vogele

Don't know where overseas your family originated from? This presentation covers a variety of sources to explore to locate your ancestors' point of origin before arriving in the United States. Examples and strategies will be provided including: resources for locating town of origin, strategies for name changes, tips for boundary changes, and overcoming handwriting & language challenges.

Lisa Vogele is a professional genealogist and Certified Travel Associate (CTA). She is the Chief Tree Climber at Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry Meets Adventure, a European family history research, travel planning, custom tour & genealogy research tour operator specializing in Italy & Ireland. Lisa is passionate about traveling in the footsteps of your ancestors to make or re-establish connections of personal, historical significance.

In March 2025, Lisa was named the inaugural recipient of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) Fellowship. She is the author of Food & Folklore: A Year of Italian Festivals, a guidebook to assist travelers with incorporating heritage festivals into their itineraries, get off the beaten path, and experience local culture through food and historic events. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), earned a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University in 2019 and a Certified Travel Associate (CTA) credential. Her travel tips have been featured in the Huffington Post, 1000TravelTips.com, and Dream of Italy. She holds a master's degree from Clemson University, was raised in Connecticut, and resides in Colorado. Follow Lisa's travels and discoveries: @travelyourtrees on Instagram and Facebook

For additional information contact: Tom Mathews, Program Chairperson, email: program@L-AGS.org



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Chair: Program Chair,
<mailto:program@L-AGS.org>

Cost: No Charge - Visitors

Topics of Future General Meetings

<i>Month</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
September 2025	Germans to America's Midwest, 1848-1900	Scott Norrick
October 2025	Fishing in Every Pond: Cousin Baiting	Christine Cohen
November 2025	Finding Ancestors' Occupations and Business Records, Part 1	Madeline Yanov
December 2025	Finding Ancestors' Occupations and Business Records, Part 2	Madeline Yanov

Board Meeting Summary- July 22, 2025

Felicia Ziomek, L-AGS Business Manager, presented a biannual summary of L-AGS bank balances, from 2018 to present. The balances have been consistent over this time period.

The Board has been considering various ways of boosting membership and advertising L-AGS to the community. There was discussion about possibly publishing articles in local papers about personal experiences with family research.

Articles by members can be published in the L-AGS Bulletin since publication of the RootsTracer is on hold. Send articles to Deborah Mascot, debbie.mascot@gmail.com.

Research Locations

Livermore California FamilySearch Center

Location: 950 Mocho Street, Livermore, California

Phone: (925) 443-2750

Web: <https://locations.familysearch.org/en/us/ca/livermore/950-mocho-st?qp=Livermore%2C+California%2C+United+States&lat=37.68202&lng=-121.76837&r=50>

Special Notes: The entrance is in the front of the building on the right—there is a sign on the door. If the parking in front of the building is full, there is a large parking lot in the rear of the building.

Pleasanton Genealogy Center

Location: 400 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, California

Email: docents.chair@L-AGS.org for appointment with docent

Special Notes: The Pleasanton Genealogy Center, jointly supported by L-AGS, the Friends of the Pleasanton Library, and the Pleasanton Public Library, contains the largest collection of genealogy books, CDs and online databases in the Tri-Valley. Access to Ancestry.com (Library-edition) and Heritage Quest (also available at home with your library card)

L-AGS Leadership

Role

President.....
First VP and Program Chair.....
Second VP & Membership Chair.
Corresponding Secretary.....
Recording Secretary.....
Business Manager.....

Name, Email

Julie Liu, president@L-AGS.org
Tom Mathews, program@L-AGS.org
Denise Barr, membership@L-AGS.org
Penny Couser
Susan Davis
Felicia Ziomek, business.manager@L-AGS.org

L-AGS Membership

Thank you to our Members, Benefactors and Patrons for the continued support of L-AGS.

Patrons *(Contribute \$100 above and beyond the Household Membership Level)*

Alleda (Sandy) Clark
Susan & Greg Davis
Dick & Wanda Finn
Dick & Jean Lerche
Tom & Natasha Matthews
Duncan Tanner

Benefactors *(Contribute \$40 above and beyond the Household Membership Level)*

Kristina Ahuja
Denise Barr
Kenneth Bredlau
Annette Breingan
Penelope Clouser
Linda Driver and Walt Crawford
Vicki Cunniffe
Patrick M. Lofft
Cindy McKenna
Ilene J. Peterson
Peggy Weber
Felicia Ziomek

L-AGS Members 71 active memberships

Anne Les

Obituary and photo reposted from *The Independent*:

https://www.independentnews.com/obituaries/margaret-anne-les/article_51b876d1-c0cf-48a0-b33c-59266c686bec.html



Deaths are not often meaningful.

Lives, however, are different.

Margaret Anne Newman Les, 90, died on Sunday, June 29, 2025, in Livermore, California, of complications from (and thereby releasing her from) the velvet chains of dementia.

She was born in Riverside, California, and grew up in the Maryland suburbs of Washington, DC. A powerful voice for most of her life for education in general, and for women's education in Science, Technology, Engineering, Medicine, and Mathematics (STEM) in particular, her earliest memories were of climbing into her father's lap and falling asleep while he read civil engineering texts to her.

A second-generation Girl Scout when founder Juliette Low was still a living memory, mother to a third-generation GS, yeah, the fashion shows were lovely, but gather the sleeping bags, ladies, we're going camping.

As a sixteen-year-old freshman math major at the University of Maryland, at a place and time Where Women Simply Did Not Do Such Things, she often found herself the only coed in a lecture hall of several hundred men. "My social life did not suffer", she remembered later, "but I could never skip class, since everyone would notice, and I certainly got the feeling that my presence was cramping the lecture style of some of the professors." Joining, as was customary, a sorority (Alpha Delta Pi), one that had formal dining every day, she soon met one of the busboys, a boxer and Physics transfer student from Massachusetts, Joe Les, and the relation progressed along what was probably customary lines. "It wasn't his proposal that led us to the campus chapel", she once mused. "It was my counterproposal."

They were married in 1954; the partnership lasted until Joe's death in 1997. In the early 1950s, of course, married women were not encouraged to remain in the student body of many universities; perhaps it was felt that their presence and experience would be a bad influence on the single women. In any case, in due course, she gave birth to a daughter Audrey, and to a surprising (pre-ultrasound) set of twins (Daniel and Clifford), all of them scandalously named after nobody on either side of the family.

That gap in her education affected her greatly, and a few years later, after moving to California as Joe took first a position with Hughes Aircraft and then with the Los Angeles schools, she finished her degree at the new San Fernando Valley State College (now Cal State Northridge), with a proud husband and three bewildered toddlers attending her graduation. She taught math at the junior high and high school levels in the Simi Valley schools (principal, wide-eyed, on poking his head in her room and seeing "Detention: Jesus C." on the back chalkboard: "Wow. Mrs. Les takes guff from NOBODY!"). But then, detention in her classroom was always more of a geek-gathering than a punishment, until her retirement in the mid-1990s. For much of the rest of her life she worked to build support systems for women in higher education, so that the automatic-dropout scenario was not to be considered the only route available, and so that women applying for admission to graduate programs would not be automatically asked why they should be taking the position of a man.

A lifetime member and sometime-national leader of the American Association of University Women, during years when that organization was considered irrelevantly small and possibly subversive, she championed the cause of women in STEM graduate

programs, working to help support these women through the all-important thesis/dissertation stages of their academic careers. An AAUW scholarship fund was established in her name by her colleagues in the 1990s.

During that time, when research showed that girls' interest in STEM seemed to wane in the early teen years, at about the time they might be seen as an intellectual threat to their male colleagues, she helped to pioneer the AAUW TechTrek programs, where groups of girls would spend several summer weeks at a University of California campus to not only introduce them to opportunities in these fields, but to start to build networks to combat the isolation that she may have felt in those stages of her career.

She was described by her admirers as a force of nature. Education was important, of course (her three children managed seven university degrees between them); talent, she seemed to feel, might be overrated. If you had it, of course, you were obligated to push yourself to make an impact on the greater world beyond you, and if an extra push was needed, it was there. But doing it for yourself, at a lower level, was also acceptable. The individual, the light and spark within them, was what was important. The freedom to explore, the destination-unknown bicycle trips ("Be back for dinner at 6") or the goat-herding in the hills above Simi ("Watch out for rattlesnakes"), were important, if unnerving, parts of child-rearing. STEM, athletics, the arts, finance: your choice, but commit.

If Joe, a guy who was thrown out of US Navy OCS because "You smile too much, Swabbie!", was the strategist of the team, the master of the mid-course correction, Anne was the tactician, the keeper of the goals even as the techniques changed. Nothing was off-limits: an inheritance from a distant relative turned into a dual-keyboard-plus-full-pedal organ obsession in her 30s; taking up downhill skiing in their 40s, hitherto-unknown large-animal husbandry and associated changes to the typical customs of 1970s American households ("What's all this goat poop doing in my 5" avocado-green shag carpeting? Shoes off at the door!"), finding out the hard way, after a couple years as a beekeeper, that she was allergic to bee stings ("Guess I'd just never been stung. I do appreciate the whole breathing thing though..."), she went through the laborious process of desensitization rather than give up on the hives. A Fullbright year with the family in Australia? What the heck: roll (but stay on their side of the road)! If the septic tank in the middle of her daughter's garden wedding venue gave out two days before the wedding under the pressure of too many visiting relatives, well, shovels were distributed and sod was rolled.

In their later years, Joe and Anne fell hopelessly in love with Lompoc and the California Central Coast. Showing that the most isolated town can be the center of a universe if the right people provide the gravity, they built a next act that would have to pass for retirement, teaching, gathering and then dispersing the family and friends in turn, using the house on 2nd St. as a base of national and international travel. It was from this house, and the freedom that semi-retirement brought, that came much of her most important AAUW work.

Lives can be meaningful. Hers certainly was, likely to people who never knew she existed; certainly to those of us who did, to hundreds of math students for whom prayer was no longer the only way to get through an algebra test, to Girl Scouts, 4-Hers, and TechTrekters, to ABD grad students who no longer had to worry about the groceries, and to a family whom she taught well enough that they can carry on without her.

We're all examples. She happened to be a good one.

A funeral mass for Anne will be held at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Livermore, California, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 30, with a reception immediately following. Anne's family would like to thank the staff of Watermark at Rosewood Gardens, Livermore, for their loving care over the past eight years.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to Hope Hospice of Pleasanton, California.

{Genealogy cross-reference: Second child and first daughter of Edwin Stuart Newman (1906-1997) and Margaret Franke Emery Newman (1912-1987); married to Joseph Walter Les (1930-1997) 1954. Three children: Audrey (Eric Horning), Daniel (Angela Marciano), Clifford (Catherine McCullough)}