

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/>

September 2025

*While we work to find a new editor, this bulletin will feature articles on the last page.
This month, Kate Penney Howard talks a bit about educational records.*

General Meeting: Germans to America's Midwest, 1848-1900

With: Scott Norrick

Date: Monday, September 8, 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, September 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Location: Virtual via Zoom.

Chair: Debbie Mascot,
<mailto:bulletin.manager@L-AGS.org>



Board Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 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, September 5 and Saturday,
September 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Contact Chair for the link

Chair: TBD
<mailto:tvmtg.chair@L-AGS.org>

With: Scott Norrick

- German immigration trends
- Ports of departure and arrival
- Midwest German hotspots
- Local example of German settlement
- Cultural influences brought to the Midwest
- Top sites for researching your German ancestors



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

Cost: No Charge - Visitors

Topics of Future General Meetings		
Month	Topic	Presenter
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
January 2026	Travel Your Tree: Where Ancestry Meets Adventure	Lisa M. Vogeles
February 2026	Online Resources for Researching British Ancestry	Scott Norrick

Board Meeting Summary- August 26, 2025

Family research assistance with L-AGS volunteers has been finalized with the Livermore Public Library, Civic Center Branch. It will begin in January and will be held the first Wednesday of each month from 10:00 – 1:00. Volunteers are needed! Tom Mathews, Program Chair, is organizing and would like 2 volunteers for each session. If interested contact Tom at program@L-AGS.org.

Articles by members can be published in the L-AGS Bulletin since publication of the Roots Tracer 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)*

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Susan & Greg Davis
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Ilene J. Peterson
Peggy Weber
Felicia Ziomek

L-AGS Members 71 active memberships

Tracking Educational Records from September Past

by Kate Penney Howard

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As children return to school each fall, genealogists have a golden opportunity to explore their ancestors' educational journeys. School records represent one of genealogy's most underutilized treasure troves, often containing birth dates, parent names, addresses, and family migration patterns that appear nowhere else. Before compulsory education laws, school attendance was inconsistent and often seasonal. Many rural children attended school primarily in winter months when farm work decreased. City children might start and stop school based on family economic needs. These patterns can help genealogists understand family circumstances and locate missing records.

Research Strategies:

- Contact school district offices for historical records (many keep records 75-100 years), but first, confirm what district holds your school's records.
- Check state archives for consolidated school records
- Look for enrollment records in local newspapers announcing new students
- Search for teachers' personal papers in historical society collections

School records can include maiden names of mothers, exact birth dates, previous schools attended (indicating moves), and siblings' names. Graduation programs, school newspapers, and yearbooks provide social context and may mention family events or circumstances.

Plus, if my grandchildren ever catch hold of my report cards, they will be in fits of laughter. "Katie talks too much." And now, I'm a pastor and genealogical speaker. That tracks! What will your descendants find about you?

Essential Resources:

- State Department of Education archives
- University special collections (many hold local school district records)
- Teachers College archives and alumni records
- Local genealogical society school record projects

Don't overlook less obvious educational records: Sunday school rolls, vacation Bible school attendance, church newsletters and newspapers can be a treasure trove. These documents often survive when formal school records have been destroyed, and they frequently contain different information that can break through research barriers or confirm uncertain family connections.