

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 305

Diablo, CA 94528-8308

President: Frances Lloyd

Coord. Editor: Sharon Clay

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.

3rd Tues. Of the Month

(Except August & December)

Alamo LDS Church

Stone Valley & Smith Roads - Alamo

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April 2002

THIS MONTH -APRIL 16, 2002

CIVIL WAR - WHAT CAN YOU LEARN FROM MEMORABILIA?

Lynn Owens was born and raised in the small Mid-West town of Carlisle, Iowa and moved to Livermore in 1963. His first interest in the Civil War was sparked because of stories his father told him about his Great Grandfather's Civil War involvement and some artifacts passed down. He and his wife are active collectors of Civil War items and have traveled the country looking for items. Learning about the Civil War item you have can add "character" to that genealogical history that you are writing, or help you to learn more about your Civil War ancestor.

LAST MEETING-March 19, 2002

TIMELINES - WHAT ARE THEY, AND WHY USE THEM?

Speaker - Virginia Kish

Notes by Frank Williams

Virginia Kish is an active genealogist and teacher at the Antioch Family History Center. She gave a well-organized talk on identifying and using timelines in your research.

A timeline is a pictorial snapshot of a person's life in comparison to an accompanying timeline of historical events that might have significantly influenced their life. It is usually used to help answer questions or conflicts in the information we have. A timeline can broaden your search, or point out others researching the same material.

What does a timeline for an ancestor consist of? It starts with the birth of the person's parents, and includes:

A. Family events—major physical moves, job changes, etc.

B. Documents placing your person at a given event, place, or date (birth, marriage, etc.).

C. Information placing them by location (example: correcting a false lead which assumed a residence was in another state).

D. How was your information obtained? Weigh the evidence you have for verity.

Prepare a similar timeline for other family members who would have interacted with your study person. Do the timelines match up and reinforce each other, or are there discrepancies that force you to re-

evaluate your data?

Next, compare your person's timeline with historical events which may have impacted their life (civil war, major floods or fires, financial panics, land or gold rushes, etc.).

Virginia gave out an excellent index of historical timelines that are available on the Internet. She also noted several genealogical programs which include timeline forms such as Master Genealogist, Genelines, Family Tree Maker 8.0, Generations Liberty Edition 8.5, Family Origins 9.0, and Legacy.

Her talk showed a thorough familiarity with the subject. Those wanting more information might contact the Antioch Family History Center, where she teaches genealogy classes.

Some of her Internet References include:

Timelines:

Modernism Timeline, 1890-1940

<http://faculty.washington.edu/eckman/timeline.html>

Hispanic-Timeline

<http://www.neta.com/~1stbooks/0fchron.htm>

Medieval Timeline

<http://www.renfaire.com/History/timeline.html>

U.S. History Timeline

<http://www.serve.com/ushistory/timelin4.htm>

Genealogy Timeline

<http://www.execpc.com/~laurag/genealogytimeline.html>

Other resources available at tape library table.

President's message - April 2002

At last, April 2002 and the lines at National Archives have formed. But wait, - April also brings to mind another source of family information. Taxes!

County and state tax lists are available in most cases. Information varies from state to state and from year to year.

Colonial town meetings minutes may contain additional or otherwise lost information. Though the county tax assessor/collector's office is a frequent repository, records can be found at the town/city, county, state, and federal levels; in city, county, state, regional, college and university libraries; with historical and genealogical societies; in the possession of private individuals.... The New England Historic Genealogical Society, NARA, and the Family History Library house many original and copied records.

Tax laws have changed through the years, but taxes have remained. The age of a tithable varied from state to state and also from year to year. The age of a poll also changed. Delinquent tax lists exist at both county and state levels. The U.S. Direct taxes and IRS assessment provide added information for your ancestors. Many tax lists and jury lists from the colonial period have been published. In addition to a tax on persons and land, horses, cattle, slaves, water-courses, household goods, personal property, and windows might be taxed. Land was taxed by both quality and quantity.

Colonial Connecticut town assessors levied taxes on personal and real property. These records, beginning in 1636, may be housed in the town clerks' offices, the Connecticut Historical Society, or various genealogical collections. The Connecticut Historical Society houses the U.S. Direct Tax for 1798.

New Hampshire's non-resident tax, 1849-1874, has been microfilmed. The 1798 U.S. Direct Tax has been published.

Massachusetts tax records are housed at town offices, the state archives and the state library.

Proprietary papers from the 1630s comprise the earliest tax records for Maryland. The 1783 tax assessments and index is housed at the State Archives. County assessment offices house current records.

Records of Virginia quit rents (annual land obligations) can be found from London, England to the Virginia State Library to the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. An annual parish levy for

the support of the church and its activities was paid for by all tithables. The poll tax was, for the most part, the primary source of state income. Each paid an equal annual poll tax. The amount was set by determining the annual expenses of the colony and its counties and dividing the total by the number of polls.

To add to the challenge, some early New Castle County, Delaware lists are held by The History Society of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia.

North Carolina levied a poll or head tax as early as 1715. This tax of a flat amount per person was abolished in 1970.

Early Michigan property tax records are housed by the County treasurer and/or county register of deeds. The state archives houses assessment and general tax rolls

As a result of the 1902 Oklahoma floods and the need for road improvement, funds were collected from a general tax, liquor licenses and a road tax. In addition, all males ages 21-45 were required to give four eight hour days a year to highway work, provide a substitute, or be fined \$5.00 for each absence. Oklahoma tax records can be found in county offices, museums, historical and/or genealogical societies.

Most original Missouri tax records are housed at the county level. The Historical Society and the University of Missouri at Columbia house some original records; the State Archives has microfilmed some county records. Federal land purchased in Missouri before 1850 was deemed tax free for five years; however, livestock was taxed. Thus, these records may indicate a time of purchase.

Colorado tax records are scattered about in county treasurer's offices, libraries, historical societies, and state archives. Some have been lost and some, with permission, have been destroyed

Being truly independent westerners, the Wyoming County assessor and the county treasurer decide when and if their records should remain in the county or be sent to the State Archives.

Nevada publishes annual assessment rolls in local newspapers.

West Virginia was originally taxed by Virginia. These records are housed in the Virginia State Library. Early West Virginia records are housed at the Archives & History Library in Charleston.

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Most county clerks have duplicate copies. Where was the property at the time of the event?

The Texas "old age exemption" in 1841 applied to 45 year olds; by 1871 the exemption had risen to 60 year olds. Other exemptions include Native Americans. Microfilmed Texas Ad Valorem tax records (A tax imposed on the value of real property, occasionally personal property, by a state, county, or city.) for 1836-1976 include poll, personal and real property records. These records are housed at the Texas State Library. County tax lists prior to 1901 are available through interlibrary loan. Records for 1901-1947 are accessible, though not available for loan. Records for 1948-1976 are available upon request.

The Department of Taxation, Territory of Alaska and Department of Revenue, State of Alaska, house tax records. Some records have been published by the State Archives.

And then there is the Sixteenth Amendment. Written by Cordell Hull and ratified on 25 February 1913, it authorizes congress to tax income from all sources without regard to a census and without apportionment among the state. He later authored the revised federal income tax act and in 1916 the Federal and State Inheritance Tax Law. Which brings us to another line - this time at the post office on the 15th!

References: Henry Campbell Black, M.A., *Black's Law Dictionary, abridged sixth edition* (West Publishing Co., St. Paul, MN: 1991); NSDAR, *Is That Service Right?* (Washington, DC: NSDAR, 2000); Charles Van Doren & Robert McHenry, ed., *Webster's Guide To American History* (Springfield, MA: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1971; Alice Eichholz, ed., *Ancestry's Redbook* (Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry, 1992).

SRVGS CALENDAR APRIL 2002

2 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at the home of Frances Lloyd, 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.

16 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at LDS Church, 2949 Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. From I-680 freeway, take Stone Valley Road east 2 & 1/3 miles. The speaker will be Mr. Lynn R. Owens.

18 Thursday - 10:00 a.m. Member Education Class, "Probate Records" will be presented by Dorothy Stanton at her home, 501 El Capitan Drive, in Danville. Please sign up at the general meeting or call. Her phone number is 820-3757.

24 Wednesday - 9:00 a.m. Departure Time for the Library Trip. The trip will be to the National Archives in San Bruno. Phone (650) 876-9009. The new 1930 United States Census is to be available. Carpools will meet behind Albertson's, off Diablo Road in Danville. The Library Trip Coordinator is Michael Fiorenza, phone 820-8294. If you sign up for the trip and wish to cancel, please call Michael or e-mail mfiorenza@earthlink.net. You should also feel welcome to call him if you wish to add your name to the library trip roster. **PLEASE NOTE THE DAY OF THE WEEK FOR THIS TRIP.** This is to permit any car pool group to stay longer than the usual 3:00 pm leave time. The Archives is open into the evening on **WEDNESDAY**. Wednesday also was chosen for the trip to give members who cannot travel on Tuesday a chance to visit a library with our members.

Note: If you are planning on researching the 1930 Census - Do your preparation work ahead of time. This census is NOT indexed (except for a few states) Check the SRVGS Newsletter of January 2002 for research preparation article.

MAY 2002

7 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. Board Meeting at 210 Town and Country Drive, in Danville.

21 Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road. A panel of members will present the program. Each member of the panel will relate one of their special research

experiences.

28 Tuesday - Library trip. It is scheduled to go to the Santa Clara City Library at their temporary location, 3345 Lochinvar Ave.. Phone (408) 248-8205

SRVGS Special Interest Groups APRIL - 2002

GERMAN - Some members of this group will be carpooling to Sacramento on Tuesday April 23 to attend the general meeting of the Sacramento German Genealogical Society. Their meeting location is St. Mark's Church, on Lusk drive at St Mark's Way. The speaker is Barbiel Johnson. The subject is **Emigration from Germany**. If you are planning on going, please call Fran Schweitzer (925) 935 -5744 or e-mail rbtschw@pacbell.net. If you would like to attend the Seminar in Sacramento on Saturday April 13 and you would like to carpool, please call Jerry Martin, 828-4310. There will also be a meeting of group members on Wednesday April 24 (the fourth Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m.. This meeting will be at the home of Fran and Robert Schweitzer, 2493 Lariat Lane in Walnut Creek. Resolution: Let the hostess know if you do not plan to attend group meetings in our homes.

IRISH & CALIF. - Their meeting dates will be April 10 and May 8, (second Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Patty Erickson, 10 Ridge Place in Pleasant Hill. Phone (925) 229-0889. Her e-mail address is russpat@netvista.net

PORTUGUESE - They sometimes meet on the third Tuesday of the month after the general meeting. Confirmation of the meeting will be announced at the general meeting. Bring a bag lunch. The contact person is Millie Freitas, phone: 837-2483

SCANDINAVIA - Those persons interested in Scandinavian research do not meet as a group. They form e-mail groups for each country. The contact person is Marilyn Tanner, phone 376-6733 or e-mail jtanner@nothingbutnet.net.

SOUTHERN - This group will meet April 9 and May 14, (Second Tuesday of the month) at 10:00 a.m. at the Family History Center on Stone Valley Road, in Alamo. The new contact person is Dorothy Stanton, Phone 820-3757 or e-mail dpstant@hotmail.com. Members of this group will no longer be contacted by phone.

PUBLISHING - A future meeting will be scheduled as interested persons express a need. The contact person is Dorothy Stanton, dpstant@hotmail.com. If you are interested in publishing, please plan to attend our July general meeting.

INTERNET - Interested users communicate via e-mail. Members should contact Robert daRoza, vrदारोza@ix.netcom.com to be included.

COMPUTER INTEREST GROUP - They will meet Tuesday, April 16th after the general meeting at about 12:30 p.m. at the home of Peggy Dearman, 749 Morninghome Rd., in Danville.. Bring a bag lunch. This is a genealogy software users group for PC's and will focus on the use of Master Genealogist. Peggy Dearman, 837-1621 or dearman@pacbell.net is the contact person for the group. MAC users do not currently have an active user group of SRVGS members.

CALENDAR OF OTHER EVENTS

13 April Saturday The Sacramento German Genealogical Society will present an all day seminar from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the La Sierra Community Center in Carmichael. Trudy Schenk, AG will be featured. \$ 20 to \$ 35 registration fee. More information at www.sacgergensoc.org/

20 April Saturday The Tuolumne County Genealogical Society will sponsor its annual spring seminar featuring Stan and Rocky Lindaas. Prior Registration required. \$25 registration fee for non-member. Salad buffet included. Contact Kate Prunte (209) 536-0574 or e-mail thegenie@inreach.com. Subjects include Emigration, Immigration, Southern Research and WWI Draft Registration.

11 May Saturday The Sacramento GS and Root Cellars will present their spring seminar featuring Sandra Luebking. Registration begins 8 a.m. at Woodcreek High in Roseville. Further information posted on web site, <http://rootsweb.com/~carcs/Events.html>

14 May, Tuesday The Livermore Amador Genealogical Society (LAGS), meets 7:30 p.m. at Beth Emek, 1866 College at South M St., Livermore.

17 May Friday Rose Mary Kennedy at The National Archives, 1000 Commodore Drive, San Bruno; will present a workshop on "Passenger

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Arrival and Naturalization Records". The time is 9 A.M. to 1 P.M.. Fees are \$15. To register and reserve a space, call (650) 876-9009.

7-10 August Wednesday through Saturday The Federation of Genealogical Societies and Calif. State Genealogical Alliance will host an annual convention in Ontario, CA.



Audio Cassette Library

by Betty Vail

C-234 - COMMON SENSE FOR GENEALOGISTS by Kay Haviland Freilich

This recording is excellent and her speech is easy to follow. Her suggestions will be familiar to an experienced genealogist, but any review can job on'e memory. Ms. Freilich suggests that one start with printed sources with the warning that the fact that something is in print doesn't necessarily mean that it is accurate. She also discusses some of the reasons for and the problems created by name changes. Ms. Freilich uses examples from her own research, but does not refer too often to the material in the syllabus. She ends her speech with tips on how to work with librarians in order to profit from their expertise.

For more information about researching military records, rent the following tapes from the tape library:

M-35 Civil War by Roy Wells

M-17 Personalities of the Civil War by Robert Moog

C-48 Veteran's Records - James D. Walker

C-34 Military Service & Related Records at the National Archives - James D. Walker

C-49 Military Records - James D. Walker

And, now that you are familiar with the Danville Library - don't forget to check the large group of books on Military Records in our reserved section. Some of these include:

1. U.S. Military Records: A Guide to Federal and State Sources, Colonial America to the Present - by James C. Neagles

2. The Great War: A Guide to the Service Records of All the World's Fighting Men and Volunteers. By Christina K. Schaefer.

See your membership guide for other titles and call numbers.



Internet Links

Order your blank civil war pension file order forms by e-mailing to inquire@nara.gov or calling 1-800-234-8861 or 301-713-6800

Check for the fee schedule at <http://www.nara.gov/nara/cfr/cfr1258.html>.

Also read "Changes in Ordering Copies of Original Pension and Service Records from the National Archives at www.ancestry.com/library/view/news/articles4005.asp.

Another article on obtaining civil war information can be found in Kip Sperry's column at: <http://www.ancestry.com/library/print/columns/tips/3239.htm>. Also re-read the article in our SRVGS Newsletter of September 2001.

For more information about researching the 1930 census - see <http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html>.

To Google or Not to Google

Google.com is a very good international search engine. Have you entered your unusual surname in the Google search field just to see what comes up? I hadn't done it in a very long time. But, a few days ago someone hinted that I should do it. I got about 7 "hits". Two were in French, so I skipped those, but the others were interesting. Two indicated my surname in two cemeteries. Several members with that name were in each cemetery. Then another "hit" found my ancestral name as an article in a scanned book of a presentation made in Michigan at the Old Settler's Banquet given to the Rotary Club in 1923. The presenter was talking about my great great grandparents, and there are many pages of history of the area in which they lived (now a ghost town) and of their part in that history. A recent contact has indicated that all of these names are related to one common ancestor, and therefore they are all related to ME. Another few keystrokes to search the current white pages of the U.S. and I had 4 more names and phone numbers. I called two of these, and yes, they are related to me. Two of the 4 names were in the same area of the country as one of those cemeteries, and I found from one of my phone calls, that the 3rd person was raised in the area of the other cemetery.

Of the two people I talked to, one in Minneapolis, and the other in Santa Rosa, were father and son and very interested in learning about their genealogy. The son said he had always wondered about his ancestors, but his father couldn't give him much information. We will keep in touch. I plan to keep trying to reach the other possible relatives in Portland, OR.

The scanned book information turned out to have been written by an aunt's best friend (confirmed that with a phone call to her daughter), and it listed that they had arrived in Boston when they came to America - information I didn't have.

If your family name is common, this will give you more unuseable "hits" than useable, but if it is unusual - you may find a gold mine - as I did.

Those Old Photos - what to do with them?

By Sharon Clay

You have gathered photos from relatives and saved them from ancestors. They are either tucked in shoe boxes, suit boxes or file drawers. If you have been diligent, you have them in archival safe boxes (pat yourself on the back). But, what are you going to do with them. Remember the article "Cleaning Mother's House" from a recent newsletter - when you are gone what is going to happen to them? Besides, even now, wouldn't it be nice to look at them occasionally?

Businesses have evolved to help you solve your problem, and there are several in this area.

Creative Memories - a home "party" business will be happy to show you and your friends how to get started assembling your pictures into acid free albums that are beautiful and attractive to display. As a start, for a minimum charge (about \$10.00) you will come away from one of these parties with 2 pages of your pictures attractively mounted and ready to put in an album. You can find a Creative Memories consultant through the Yellow Pages.

There are also several retail stores from Alamo to Pleasanton that carry all the materials you will need to do your albums in a safe and attractive manner. They also have classes to help you with your creativity. Each store has it's own specialty but many of them carry similar supplies.

In Alamo **The Scrapbook Store** can be found online at www.Scrapbookstore.com or in person at 170-A Alamo Plaza. They specialize in beautiful stickers and papers and supplies. In April they have two classes - Heritage I and Heritage II, to help you give

your photos the dignity they deserve. They will do a class of your choice for you and 5 friends. You can set the time you wish for this. The charge is \$15/ea.. In Dublin - the store is **Pages Through Time** at 7178 Regional Street. This store is a little smaller, but has a good selection of papers, and stickers and also offers classes. It is in the shopping center across from Mervyns.

In Danville, **The Stampers Warehouse** at 101 G Town and Country Drive has classes for scrapbookers, and they feature rubber stamps, stamp crafts, plus papers, supplies and stickers.

In Pleasanton, there are two stores - one is California Stampin', located on Sunol Blvd. in the Raley's Shopping Center. They specialize in rubber stamp crafts, but have a variety of papers, stencils, pens, inks and stickers. They also offer classes in scrapbooking techniques.

The second store has been there only about a year but offers a large variety of classes including "Heritage Scrapbooking", and "Learn to Love Journaling". They have the largest variety of papers, plus lots of stickers, die cuts, stencils and other supplies to make your scrapbooks and albums wonderful. They will also do a specialty class for a group of about 6 people. Each class is about \$15.00, and you come away with finished pages to use in your album.

Even if you don't put your photos in a album - please make sure they are labeled with acid free pen, and stored in an acid free environment, preferable in a fairly constant temperature with filtered light.

How to Reach the Board Members:

President: Frances Lloyd	837-9382
1 st Vice President: Barbara Dittig	648-9364
e-mail: bdittig@aol.com	
2 nd Vice President: (Program)	
Louise Ford	376-4587
Bob Kay	945-7426
Vern Segelke	838-8570
3 rd Vice President (Membership)	
Barbara & Jack Johnson	837-2153
Recording Secretary: Virginia Rood	937-8659
Corresponding Secretary: Audrey Morgan	939-9442
Treasurer: Marilyn Tanner	376-6733
Parliamentarian: Barbara Dyer	820-9738

For the people involved in Special Interest Groups and the other necessary duties of the operation of this organization, please see your handbook.

Treasurer's Report- March 2002
 by Marilyn Tanner

Beginning Balance:		\$5499.15
Income:	\$ 44.50	
Expenses:	141.82	
Fund Balances:		
General Fund	4235.56	
Hospitality Fund	150.78	
Newsletter: Postage...ytd.	(571.05)	
Printing...ytd.	(393.58)	
Publications Fund	673.57	
Society Memberships	(100.00)	
Special Projects	500.00	
NARA Income	99.00	
Cassette Tape Library Fund	164.79	
Library Fund	642.76	
Current Total Balance		\$5401.83

DNA Testing

Several members of SRVGS recently participated in DNA testing after reading "The Seven Daughters of Eve" by Bryan Sykes. We will be sending in another group of tests if there are 6 people who are interested. If you would like more information about how you might be related to one of the 7 Daughters of Eve, check www.oxfordancestors.com. The cost for the test is \$170 per person, a savings of \$50 over individual submission. Check with Suzanne Johnston at 838-8682 or ssj145@aol.com. Also you can talk to Dorothy Stanton to see her packet of results.

Did He Work For the Railroad?

By Barbara McKinlay -

Feb. 2002 Santa Clara County Historical & Genealogical Society. First appeared in *The Searcher*, May 1995.

By the end of the 19th century, railroads criss-crossed the United States, going into small towns and large cities and requiring the help of myriad people including engineers, brakemen, dispatchers, ticket clerks and laborers, to name a few.

At their peak in the 1920s, it's been estimated that more than 2.25 million people were employed by railroad companies. By the 1830s, many short railway lines existed, and Acts of Congress in 1862 and 1865 initiated the first continental railroad. On May 10, 1869, at Promontory Point, Utah, the Union Pacific coming westward met the Central Pacific

moving eastward from California and completed the dream of a railway line across the United States.

What does this mean for family historians trying to piece together information about their relatives and ancestors?

Because much has been written about these railroads and the people who ran them, researchers may uncover many gems of printed information. Newspapers regularly recounted tales of harrowing accidents and often included historical facts about the lines that ran through their cities.

Coupled with this is the fact that railroad employees were unionized very early. Some railroad companies, like the Southern Pacific, had their own medical plans and hospitals. Records were generated that included valuable genealogical data that may still be in existence.

Old memorabilia may also be found, such as employee passes that allowed them to travel without buying a ticket. {This may be a clue to where your ancestor was at the time they were supposed to be on the census in another location}

An additional plus is the romance of rail-roading. Across our country are museums and railroad clubs that collect information about the history of the railroads. For example, the California State Railroad Museum Library (111 I Street, Sacramento) has more than 50 drawers of employment cards for the southern Pacific Railroad dating back to 1903. A good list of railroad archives can be found in *The Source* (revised edition, edited by Loretto Szucs and Sandra Hargreaves Leubking, Ancestry, 1997).

Railroad workers did not receive Social Security because they had their own pension plan. Once the company they worked for is identified, it's easy to write for the records, which are held by the Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush St., Chicago, IL 60611; and if the worker retired in California, then write to the Railroad Retirement Board, 1515 W. Cameron, suite B-360, West Covina 91790. (Note: most of their records pertain to employees from the mid-1930s on.)

In 1989, I wrote for my father's records and received the following: his employment record starting the November 1911 and ending in 1953; and employee's statement of compensated service

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(Did He Work For The Railroad - Continued)

from 1911 to 1939, which included his date and place of birth and the names of his parents; several papers that my mother had filed for a pension and included the names of their children, his date of birth and names of his parents, the names and addresses of his brothers and sisters; a copy of his death certificate; and finally, a historical record of his compensation.

To determine which railroad lines merged, consult Moody's *Transportation Manual*, issued annually by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. It's available at most public and research libraries.

If, as a researcher, you believe someone worked for a railroad, your research will be fun because there's such an abundance of material. Write to the town where he might have worked and see what historical information they have. Also consult directories of museums and associations for sources of information.

Who knows, the engineer may whistle and wave as he rushes by in a cloud of steam!!

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Total of 186 Members



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