

## Reunion in Victorian House

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### **Reunion in Victorian House**

## Article Brings Together Brothers After 60 Years

An old house in the West Adams area of Los Angeles has helped reunite some brothers who had not seen each other in more than 60 years.

The house was the topic of a story that was published Jan. 9 in *The Times*.

Under the headline "Descendants Reuniting in Victorian Residence," the story told about how Tom and Leah Griffith traced the history of the 1902 house they had just bought.

Through the Hall of Records and public library, the Griffiths tracked down the descendants of original owners Alfred Mark and Martha Salyer, who sold their home in 1919. Then the Griffiths held a Salyer family reunion in the house on La Salle Avenue near Adams Boulevard.

Julie Salyer of Whittier read the story and remarked to her husband, Earl, "Isn't this your family?"

Indeed, it was, though Earl Salyer had never met his Salyer cousins and could not remember his half brothers, John (Jack) Salyer, who was at the reunion, or Richard Salyer, who lives in Bullhead City, Ariz.

"I knew it was my family because the story mentioned my grandfather's name—A. M. Salyer," Earl Salyer said, "and I knew from my mother that my grandfather had been in the piano business. He manufactured the Salyer piano."

Earl Salyer and his wife marched over to the house "with birth certificate in hand," Leah Griffith remembered, but it was the day after the reunion. So Earl Salyer has not yet met his cousins or his brother in Arizona.

They have talked on the telephone, though, and Earl Salyer has had dinner with his brother John, who lives in Newport Beach.

Alfred and Martha Salyer had nine grandchildren. All except Earl had kept in touch. Six showed up the day of the reunion. Twenty-three Salyer relatives appeared at once. They represented three generations and ranged in age from 22 months to more than 70 years.

Betty Kanouse, one of the grandchildren and the family genealogist, said she had tried years ago to find

Earl "but this discovery came by virtue of the write-up."

Although Earl Salyer was born in Los Angeles and worked from 1950 until December—when he retired—"driving locally in heavy duty trucking," as he put it, he had been separated from most of his Salyer relatives since he was a baby.

"I saw my father a couple times after I was 21," he said, "but I never got a line on the rest of my family." His mother and father were divorced, and he was raised by his mother and stepfather.

"John Salyer was born about 1907," Kanouse said, "and Earl was born in 1920. Earl was no more than 1 or 2 years old when his parents were divorced. So John and Earl hadn't seen each other for at least 60 years."

She hoped to see Earl Salyer herself, she said, and the Griffiths indicated that they will hold another reunion after they have restored the house.

Earl Salyer is looking forward to its completion and another get-together of the whole family, which will hopefully include his daughter Kerry Lynn Salyer, who was born in 1949 and lives in Northern California.

"See," Leah Griffith observed, "people do read the newspaper. And it can change their lives."