

Harry Briley

Computers

I attended a [Vintage Computer Festival](#) at the [Computer History Museum](#) in Bay Area. Taking over the entire second floor, most of this youngish retro community enjoys making 40-year-old long-discarded 8-bit computers play iconic games. A Lab-friend, David Youd, invited me. He gladly accepted all my Commodore 64 software last year.

David explained that some people re-manufacture outdated parts or create SD card adaptors to replace slow 1541 disk drives or build safety filters for C64 power bricks. Through a repair video on YouTube, I found the only company (in England) that made the Mylar keyboard contact layer that restored my 'lug-able' Executive SX-64 back to life. Yay!

My part-time business keeps me active updating web sites for various clients. Since none sought system facilitation or database design, I dropped those skills off my business shingle. I still do what I enjoy for the hours I am willing to engage during my retirement years. I hear of retirees who have literally nothing to do after their initial burst of travel who wind up dying too young and aimless.

I remain active in the [Livermore Heritage Guild](#), helping from full-range IT support to replacing fence slats at the Guild's 1880 horse ranch.

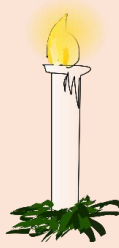
House Repairs

My 60-year-old iron sewer piping became brittle and internally rusted closed, now replaced by ABS in the crawlspace. \$\$\$ The west-side fence line rotted at all posts. My neighbor arranged redwood replacement with split cost. \$\$ Replaced side-gate and I installed LED motion floodlights. \$

Faith

After a couple of years debating about my available time for [Gideons](#) Bible distributions, I reduced my role to be a routine donor. I still help the Treasurer report on-line until they find a replacement.

I have not taught an in-person church class since COVID started except for my [Biblical Greek](#) series on YouTube. I provided outlines for four proposed



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classes for 2023 and hope soon to be back in the traces pulling my weight at church.

I continue to read the Bible in a four-year cycle, underlining and chasing rabbit trails in pre-1984 NIV Study Bible footnotes. I rarely use a single-word Concordance now that [Biblegateway.com](#) gives multi-word searches across Bible translations.

My former Life Group leader, David Stimmel, flew in going to his new home in Virginia. We hiked the Sycamore Grove trail up to the crest of the Del Valle dam one morning. While at the crest, I ran into the Chairman of the [Republican Central Committee](#) who routinely hikes that steep hill. He encouraged me to get out from behind my desktop.

Speaking of Politics

I drove to Anaheim for the [California Republican](#) endorsing convention in April but after the State published the Primary voter guide, making the convention ill timed. I do not have the mettle for contentious internal politics. It is an extrovert arena and my niche is web work and offering my website County voter guide that combines the positions of some valued conservative sources.

On the way home, I visited [Nixon's Presidential Library](#) and the [Fort Tejon State Historical Park](#).

On July 4, after a neighborhood potluck, I watched the old [1776 musical](#). I knew nothing about John Adams and the hubbub between the Republicans (Thomas Jefferson) and the Federalists (Adams).

Reading the 2001 McCullough book [John Adams](#), I noticed unhappy parallels within our local politics. Since the State pays well, ambitious candidates seek power but too many without prior experience.

Therefore, after the Primary, we focused upon School Board and City Council candidates to build up a 'Farm Team', a Democrat tactic for decades.

Indeed, Democrats ran in nearly all non-partisan races without any Republicans. We had only three Republicans win local offices in our entire County.

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Web-site [Memoir](#) Status

After the Republican endorsing convention in April, my uncle John Satterthwaite and I again pored over photos and discovered a hand-written memoir of his mother through 1926. New family data updated the chapter **My Mother** and helped link up headstones of the family using the free findagrave.com tool.

I help that website for our three local cemeteries. I also split my college chapter to create a background chapter about **Socorro** up until 1980. Several other posted chapters had ongoing edits and additions.

Medical

Even with COVID shots in 2021, I caught COVID in June. It felt like a short 3-day cold, runny nose for one day, breathing fine after that, but hacking cough for four weeks. Infected two days before symptoms, I thus infected others unknowingly. I have had a cough all this fall from a bad cold in October.

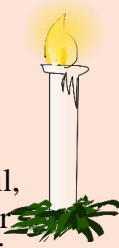
Some ask about my infrequent “essential hand tremors” since 2016. Unless with an episode while eating, I rarely notice it. It occurs when I am tired, hungry, or stressed. It is benign and manageable.

My repaired elbow (two pins and wire wrap) from 2020 does not hang straight. Except for twinges, I do all daily activities and lifting (no push-ups or pull-ups). My broken ribs in 2021 healed. I now bicycle just on pavement and avoid twisty dirt trails.

Enjoyed FAITH Books for 2022

The Genealogies of Jesus – Thomas Tribelhorn, D.Min, 2018 (54 pages) – Originally a lecture. He explains Jewish number groupings (not divination) and shows Bible genealogies often skip names. He agrees that Matthew lists Joseph’s line and that Luke lists Mary’s line, giving textual and Talmudic arguments. He offers reasons for Matthew’s love of 14 and Luke’s usage of 7.

An unrelated appendix shows how the Sanhedrin hauled Jesus before Pilate in a courtyard (in two possible palaces) holding a few hundred loyalists. They made a night arrest afraid of a riot if the Jewish pilgrims discovered their plot, confirming



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that the thousands on Palm Sunday could not be the same cloistered crowd shouting “Crucify”.

Family Lineage Records as a Resource for Korean History (720AD to 1955) – Hildi Kang, 2007, academic version, 269 pages. Her son David edited a more readable version: *When Ancestors Come to Visit: The Sinch’ŏn Kang clan*, 2020, 151 pages.

Northern Korea once had a large Christian population, more so than Southern Korea. This makes the Communist takeover after 1950 all the more tragic. She introduces the flowering and brutal suppression of Christian faith in North Korea.

Her husband, Sang-Wook, switched languages with different scripts for forced shifts in life: Korean, Japanese, American English, and he could read Chinese. He learned basic German and French (using a French/Japanese dictionary at age 19). He did not speak Chinese, but he could read the characters since Korean uses them and because Korean is a phonetic alphabet. Kang can mean “health”, “river,” and other things, and the Chinese character marks identify the variants. Newspapers eliminated the breadth of meaning by using far fewer Chinese characters than just 30 years ago.

Despite his medical grandfather turning his back on Jesus, his grandmother and mother enabled Sang-Wook to be well rooted in faith. His daughter feels significantly fortunate to have a Christian heritage that saw them through Japanese occupation, life under communism, escape to the South, surviving the Korean War, and emigration to UC Berkeley with much evidence of God’s provision throughout.

I only learned the horrific backstory of these Livermore friends in late 2022: Sang-Wook Kang (Physicist from LLNL Bible Study Groups, 1935-2021), Hildi Kang (from Cello and Symphony. 1934-2019), daughter Laura Kang Ward (my student for Biblical Greek), and adult grandsons Michael and Nicolas (from Trinity Church).

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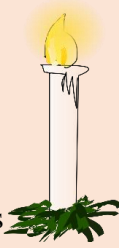
The Horse and His Boy, C.S.Lewis, 1954 (1978 edition), 217 pages – (Book 5 in *Chronicles of Narnia*) While read aloud to my kids over 30 years ago, I forgot the plot and enjoyed the word pictures, speedy action, and lost track of time. The story includes parallel characters of whom I call “The Mare and Her Girl”. Just a plain old fun book.

The Worldly Evangelicals – Richard Quebedeaux, 1978 (1980 reprint), 189 pages with index – This off-putting title is a must-read for Christians active in the 1970s. It explains the range of evangelicals ten years after the peak of the Jesus Revolution. He forecast direction of these branches with uncanny insight as if he wrote this overview in 2022.

Center-Right Evangelicals seemed caricatured (anti-this, anti-that). What he calls the Evangelical Left shocked me saying that they (by 1978) became political and religious liberals (Intervarsity, Fuller Seminary, and orthodox agencies as I observed them). Fuller and Golden Gate were the only local seminaries that held any conservatism in 1978. Radical Evangelicals reflect the socialist and social re-engineering wing indistinguishable from the secular culture (even back in 1978).

All Saints – Michael Spurlock and Jeanette Windle, 2017, 208 pages – Story of Karen jungle mountain fighters abandoned by Britain after WWII and by the US after Vietnam, earning them a genocidal scorched earth future from the Buddhist Burmese military junta. Some families had four generations of Christian heritage and seminary degrees for their pastors. Survivors fled to Thailand living in refugee camps over 15 years. Some of the subgroup were Anglican and heard that Episcopal Churches here did not believe the Jesus of the Nicene Creed.

The US resettlement put them in rural Tennessee without support or language skills. They engaged with a young pastor recently assigned to All Saints Episcopal Church that bordered on closing (similar to my own congregation). As is a trait of God, both the Karen believers and the remnant congregation discovered win-win by helping each other and the larger Karen community. Well written page-turner.



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Enjoyed HISTORY Books for 2022

The Ancient Egyptians: A Popular Introduction, Jill Kamil (1976, 1988), 152 pages, American Univ of Cairo Press, Egypt – A easily readable summary about Egypt (First Dynasty to Roman Era) using categories: Land, Pre-Dynastic era, Government, Travel, Life, Work, Leisure, Current access.

George Washington Crossed Here, Ann Hutton, 1966 (1988 printing), 72 pages – Written in format of a colonial broadside booklet, this covers the backstory of the somewhat fictional Leutze painting “*Washington Crossing the Delaware*”. She covers activities of December leading to the Christmas night crossing describing the dire situation on the ground and in the river.

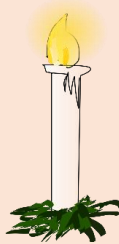
Although a minor success after a string of abject failures for Washington, British General Cornwallis identified it as the pivot that gave traction to the Revolution. Details I did not read about in school.

John Adams, David McCullough, 2001, 751 pages – After watching the [1776 musical](#) (Director Cut 2002) on July 4, I realized that I knew almost nothing about John Adams.

This addictive read revealed the man over his 90 years, his family, and his relationships with Congress. The biography acts as a framework to describe the first 50 years of US Government and investigate key players and scurrilous detractors.

He explores turbulent relationships with France, Napoleon, Britain, insane George III, Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and a hostile partisan Press with press rights to slander that far outstripped Hearst’s fabled “Yellow Journalism”. Jefferson and most Southerners belonged to the Republican Party (States Rights) battling northern Federalists (Big Government).

The cash-poor farmer Adams died with paid-for property of \$100K, no debt, and [never used slaves](#). The flashy aristocratic Jefferson died with a debt of \$100K that far exceeded the value of all properties, including his 130 auctioned slaves and Monticello.



Over a thousand loving and highly political letters went between John and wife Abigail. Adams and Jefferson restored their friendship and both died on July 4, 1825 (things the playwright thought moderns would never believe). The Jefferson scandal with his slave Sally Hemmings was published often during his lifetime (that is, not a recent discovery).

California's Spanish Place-Names: What They Mean and How They Got There – Barbara and Rudy Marinacci, 1980 (Second printing 1988), 268 pages – Reference Book. Uses place-names time wise to sneak in a compact history of California 1534-1870. It covers tension between secular, military, and Mission units, tensions under secular Mexican control, and the overwhelming of 12,000 rural Californios by 250,000 pre-Civil War Americans.

The last chapter helps reader detect fake Spanish names after 1870. Appendixes describe where to visit historic Spanish/Mexican sites, basics of Spanish/Mexican nouns, and 60-page dictionary.

James Barker 1856-1858 Diary: From Texas to Oregon in a Covered Wagon – Prepared by Frank Barker (grandson), 1979, [Lompoc Valley Historical Society](#), 35 pages – A rare find. Extreme south route from Fort Worth [I-20] to El Paso [I-10] through Yuma [I-8] (five to twenty desert miles a day). Uses 1856 spelling. – This is my first wagon train diary from a preacher. It contains far-too-brief cultural insights four years before the Civil War.

He was a 50-year-old Methodist among irreligious train of 50 families that ignored Sundays. At El Paso, the train voted him as manager. While the worst became more so, even his own devotion waned. Regardless, he read the entire Bible each year. His large family scattered among Gold Rush settlers. He settled briefly in Los Angeles ([1857 Fort Tejon Earthquake](#) [largest ever in US at 7.9, I visited there in April], rented farm: barley failure). He then took his wagon north [I-5], observing [220] miles of ruptured fault [15 feet displacement] to Roseburg where he died two years later. His adult children regathered south to Lompoc and hence became part of that pioneer community.

Parallel Paths: A Railroad History of Livermore – Alan Frank, 2022 (202 pages) – While Livermore-specific with old-time business and street names, this book includes an inside history of the railroads that could describe many western towns during the drive(s) to build (and control) six railways to the Pacific Coast. This book created a town microcosm which helped me understand the national struggles in Nothing Like It In The World (Stephen Ambrose) and The Big Four (Oscar Lewis).

Under the Black Umbrella: Voices from Colonial Korea 1910-1945 – Hildi Kang, 2001, 167 pages – Many first-person accounts among first-generation San Francisco Bay Area Korean elders. An appendix gives their post-1945 status.

A Legacy of Service, Kenneth Roed, 2004, 256 pages, California Water Service Group – Corporate history of largest stockholder-owned water utility in the Western US (1926-date) showing amazing survival of 1929 stock-market crash and decades of growth through frequent acquisitions of other water utilities. A portion of Livermore is one of their water districts. Instead of slash and burn corporate raiding, they retained managers and employees at their original geographical area, centralizing only administrative functions (billing, etc.) and a high-tech water-testing laboratory in San Jose.

The book is a study of the sand-shifting interaction between municipal-owned and corporate-owned utilities, the creation and engagement with the California Public Utilities Commission, and maturing management styles over the decades.

The later decades become a blur of names (boring). However, fascinating portions highlight the data processing revolution (1970's onward) and of Continuous Improvement concepts (1990's onward), which matched my own career path.

*Onward and Upward,
Harry*

p.s. – Click on many web links in this newsletter.