



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society



P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter – February 2009

Roots and Gold Dust meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Family History Center in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints building at 3275 Cedar Ravine, Placerville at 1 p.m.

Refreshments are provided.

For information or membership inquiries, please contact Carol Sexton at: ecskelsey@yahoo.com

2009 MEETING DATES & AGENDA

March 17, 2009	Orphan Trains Workshop
April 21, 2009	Speaker on Land Records
May 19, 2009	Land Records Workshop
June 16, 2009	
July 21, 2009	
August 18, 2009	
September 15, 2009	
October 13, 2009	
November 17, 2009	
December – NO Meeting	
January 19, 2010	

More details to follow as we put together the speakers schedule and make arrangements for the workshops.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President:	Carol Sexton
Vice President:	Harvey Andrews
Secretary:	Sandy Madiera
Treasurer:	Linda Galley
Library Liaison:	Judy Williams
Program Director:	Dale Castle
Newsletter:	Paul Hodel

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 17th at 1:00 pm
Orphan Trains: Discussion & Sharing

This is one of the ways society cared for its poor children a century ago. Orphan trains carried unwanted children - not all of them orphans at all - from the big cities of the East to the Midwest, where they were put on display and, if lucky, taken into the homes of rural residents.

We will have a discussion on Orphan Trains, so please bring any stories, family history, etc. on Orphan Trains or ancestors who were a part of this project, please be ready to share with the group. Your input is what makes these meetings a success.

RECAP OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING

Our guest speaker for the February meeting, Pamela Dallas, was unable to be there due to car troubles. We had a good discussion amongst the members on a number of areas including relating family stories, discussions on making your mark on signatures, tombstone marking, GenSmarts.com, etc.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER

A big Roots and Gold Dust welcome to Richard Wilson, our newest member. Richard resides in Diamond Springs. Main surnames he's researching are: **Wilson, Clendenen, Imman, Crockett, Lave, Sequin and Denis.**

ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE

Reminder: If you haven't already, it's not too late to pay you annual dues for membership in Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society. You only have until April 1st before your membership lapses. The dues are \$15 for individuals and \$22 for families. 2009 is already showing promise of being an active year for the society and I know none of you wants to miss out on any of the programs, activities and projects that will be happening. You can either pay at the meeting or mail your dues to the society at P.O. Box 1354, Diamond Springs, CA 95610.

So far, the following people have paid up for this new year: Elaine and Harvey Andrews, Bob & Jeannie Battersby Bradford, Canadas, Dixie and Dale Castle, Dobson, Doying, Galley, Grosz, Harper, Hodel, Holbrook, Jackson, Jones, Madeira, Mizell, O'Brien, O'Shaughnessey, Pomeroy, Rich, Williams, Wilson, Young, and Zigelhofer

GENIE EVENTS

Family History Symposium Saturday, March 21, 2009

8:00am to 4:00pm

El Dorado Family History Center
3275 Cedar Ravine Rd, Placerville, CA

Our local Family History Center is sponsoring a Family History Symposium with an emphasis on DNA and Genealogy. This was one of the topics many of you showed interest in when you filled out your questionnaires. The Keynote speaker Ugo Perego, of the Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation, will speak on "The Power of DNA: Discovering Lost and Hidden Relationships". Free DNA kits will be available. There will be a number of other subjects also, with a total of 4 one-hour seminars available to you in addition to the keynote address. Lunch will be available. Registration fee is \$10 per person. A syllabus of seminar materials is also available for \$7 if you want one. There will be a charge of \$5.00 if you want lunch. Information and registration is available on their web site at www.eldoradofamilyhistorycenter.org.

Roots Cellar Spring Seminar

Saturday, March 28, 2009

9am to 3:45pm

Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks
Blvd, Fair Oaks, California

\$22/RC Members \$27/non-Members

\$32 after March 14 and at-the-door

Root Cellar, the Sacramento Genealogical Society, is holding their annual Spring Seminar featuring Geoff Rasmussen from Legacy - Millennium Corporation. It will be a full day of topics to enhance your research abilities, plus food, fun and friends.

The Topics being offered include:

Using the latest Software and the Internet

Publishing to Cd/DVD and the Internet

12 Step Checklist to using your Genealogy Computer Program

Organizing, Planning, and Sharing using Legacy Genealogy Software

For more information, see their website at <http://www.rootcellar.org/>

DRINK THE WATER, Yes or No? A Graveyard Warning !!

Have you ever been walking a cemetery and gotten thirsty? How many cemeteries have you been to that had a hose spigot sticking out of the ground beckoning you? Well, DON'T ! Especially if it's an older cemetery. From the Civil War until about 1910, arsenic was the main ingredient in the embalming fluids used widely throughout the country. Although effective, arsenic is toxic and persistent, and elemental arsenic will never degrade into harmless by-products. In many older cemeteries, the embalming fluids (aka Arsenic) have leached into the ground water, so when you drink the water at that old cemetery, there is a possibility you'll be drinking arsenic. Not good for your body, or your longevity. So the next time a water faucet beckons, think twice before drinking the water, or even washing your hands. If you would like more information on this, there is a good article you can read on the internet at <http://www.waterindustry.org/arsenic-3.htm>.

BOOK FUND

The CD, Swiss Surnames, Prior to 1892, chosen by Bob and Jeannie Battersby was made available to them at the February Meeting. Lorraine Bradford picked up two books for her choice and presented them at the meeting. They are The California Missions and The Goat Doctor of the Sierras.

The previous book purchase was Scottish Monuments and Tombstones, which was chosen by Barbara Zigelhofer. There are still three of you that need to make your selections so please do so as soon as you can. I'm not going to mention any names here, but your initials are: Mary Ann Harper, and Alma Pomperoy.

GENIE RESOURCES

In each of the monthly newsletters, we will be presenting available sources of genealogical information. These may be local research locations, websites, places to write or visit, etc. If you have a source that you would like to share, please contact the newsletter writer at pljhodel@hotmail.com or call 530-622-3299.

Family Search Labs

“Future Tools To Dig Up The Past”

Family Search Labs is endeavoring to provide a free “one stop shopping” experience for genealogists. They have been collecting and indexing a large number of records including both federal and state census records, birth, death and marriage records, military records, probate records and much more. Many of these indexes have links to images of the actual record. They have several different search methods available to you and they have a volunteer indexing project you can participate in. It is an exciting web site and is growing constantly and the price (Free) is just right. Visit them at: www.familysearchlabs.org

On-Line Vital Records & Certificates

There are a number of sites available where you can find not only an index of death certificates, but in some cases actually link to an image of the actual certificate. Now that's cool!

Arizona: Birth Certificates 1855-1932 and Death Certificates 1878-1956 – Arizona Dept. of Health Services <http://genealogy.az.gov/>

Georgia Death Certificates 1919-1927 with links to images <http://sos.georgia.gov/archives>

Missouri Death Certificates 1910-1957 (index for 1958 is in progress – Missouri State Archives at: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Utah Death Certificates 1905-1956 – Utah State Archives <http://historyresearch.utah.gov/indexes/>

West Virginia– West Virginia Division of Culture and History has indexes and images of Birth, Death and Marriage certificates. Years available vary by county so check them out at: http://www.wvculture.org/vrr/va_select.aspx

MEET OUR MEMBERS

(In Their Own Words)

Sandy Madeira

I was born and raised in Bakersfield, CA., so am a Native Californian. My husband Dean, and our three children, lived in San Jose for about twenty-five years. He was with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department and retired as a Captain and for part of those years I was employed by Kaiser Permanente in the out-patient chart room as 'trouble clerk.' (No, not because I caused trouble! 'Troubles' are charts not available for an appointment and it was my responsibility to locate and make sure they were available). We have lived in Placerville for twenty years now and I hope that means we are no longer flatlanders! We now are blessed with three Grandchildren. Since our retirement we have been fortunate to do some traveling around Europe and some of the states plus taking some cruises. While in Switzerland we found the town of Schleithem which is where my Great Grandfather emigrated from to America at

age eighteen. I have luckily been able to trace an ancestor back to the Mayflower (Francis Cooke) and another to Bridgewater, MA. in 1662 (James Keith). I volunteer at our wonderful museum two days a week and enjoy reading, research, travel, knitting and anything outdoors. I am secretary for the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Committee also. I have been a member of Gold Dust for about four years and enjoy the nice people and learning new ways to research.

Surnames I research are **Cooke, Keith, Pletcher, Mengel, Dodds and Aaron.**

Sandy currently serves as Secretary for Roots and Gold Dust.

Linda (Tomasello) Galley

I was born in San Francisco to Frank, a compositor printer, and Lena (Cavallaro), a homemaker. I have one sister. My parents were first generation Italians who lived in the Excelsior district for the first 12 years of my life, then moved to a half-acre farm in East Palo Alto. I graduated from Menlo-Atherton High, got married and worked for Bank of America in San Mateo. The salary of a grocery checker attracted me to a job with Safeway Stores where I became a 'new store opener' throughout the peninsula.

After my divorce I moved to the San Bernardino area where I met my husband, Art, in Rialto. We moved to Atascadero in 1971 to raise our family away from the smog. Our three children were all born in San Luis Obispo. A few years were spent in Santa Maria before moving to Santa Rosa then on to Citrus Heights in 1980. Art found 'our hill' on Green Valley Road in '02 where we built a guest house to live in while a main house was being built. Plans changed, we tore off the porch, and have been under construction expanding for the past year. Art is a semi-retired land surveyor who loves playing with his newly acquired toys - quads and a Bobcat. I take care of the house, the chickens, the 9 grandkids, and my 95 year old mother.

My interest in genealogy began about 15 years ago when I decided to put together a maternal family book. Mom had 8 sisters and 4 brothers who all procreated to produce 40 nieces and nephews. When my oldest cousin's grandchildren were coming to my house to play with my children, and I didn't know they were related, it spurred me on to prevent possible intermarriage. We now number over 400 living Cavallaro's who mostly live in the Bay area. The Tomasello's number less than 100.

After putting a paternal book together it became necessary to work on the Galley side of the tree. Ancestry has provided numerous additions and interesting facts to include to the Galley tree. I located a newspaper article about Art's maternal 4th Greats who were part of the Underground Railroad. I'm now trying to prove the arrival of the 5th Greats, Rowland Craig/Susannah Rabe, as a founding family of Ohio circa 1802.

The paternal Galley's came from West Prussia to Chicago in 1883, where Johann became the head gardener for Lincoln Park. His son, Gustav (Art's gr.father) became the men's clothing buyer for Sears and a land developer. While researching Johann I found his brother Gustav, who arrived in 1873 with his bride. They established a nursery in Cheektowaga, New York that is still in business. The Galley book is still under construction.

We hope to visit Italy and Poland in the near future to further our family trees.

My surnames are **Tomasello, Mazzarella, Pavone, Cavallaro, Messina, Pagano.**

Art's surnames are Galley (Gallei), Bartsch, Dieling, Kurchinska, Casner, Stutsman, Craig, Fleming, Suydam, Lundy, Swearer, Wagner, Milnor, Rabe, Thalman, Jewitt, Wiggins, Light, Brown, Smith.

Linda currently serves as Treasurer for Roots and Gold Dust.