



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society



P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter – March 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

April 21, 2009	Land Records w/ Barbara Leak
May 19, 2009	Land Records Workshop
June 16, 2009	Collateral Research w/ Pam Dallas
July 21, 2009	Collateral Research Workshop
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, April 21 at 1:00.p.m

Our next meeting promises to be an interesting one. We will have Barbara Leak speaking with us about Land Records. This is a great source of information for us genealogy types and we all appreciate the opportunity any time we can get new insight into how to glean more information from them. Join us for this interesting meeting which will be followed up in May with a Workshop on Land Records.

RECAP OF THE MARCH MEETING

Another interesting and fun meeting. Of course, everyone was excited about the symposium on Saturday right here in Placerville. By the time you read this, it will probably be over, but a lot of our members will have been there. We will have a booth there and a number of people are interested in the DNA testing.

We had a good discussion on Orphan Trains. Carol Sexton started us off by talking about a family of children who had ridden one of the Orphan Trains to Iowa and were all taken into different homes near where some of her ancestors lived. Of course, as luck would have it, most of these siblings were in families related to Carol. This brought a number of responses and comments from the members. It even turned on a light for a couple of people who have “brick walls”, gave them a new area to research. It was definitely a meeting worth attending.

OUR NEWEST MEMBER

A big Roots and Gold Dust welcome to Alice Morrow of Cameron Park, our newest member.

"I'm just getting back into genealogy after a hiatus of about 8 years. My first job was in the Soundex Unit at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles. After leaving DMV, it took years to break myself of the habit of Soundex coding every surname that I heard or read. And then I got interested in genealogy! I am a semi-retired library assistant, and one of my duties included borrowing census microfilm and other historical materials for researchers. In 1981 a friend decided that I would know how to research his family because I worked in a library. After working on his family for some time it occurred to me that I could use the same methods I was learning to research my own family. Before moving back to the Sacramento area I was a volunteer librarian at the Monterey FHC and a member of the Monterey Co. Genealogical Society. After subtracting the "hiatus" years, I have been doing research for myself and others for about 16 years. I have a lot of catching up and removing of mental rust to do, and will appreciate all the help I can get." Well, her break's over and she's joined the right group if she wants help. Welcome, Alice!

Main surnames she's researching are: Fackler, Langston, Lenarz (Linerz, Lennarts, Etc.), Milroy, Payne, Rowe, Schöner, Schwall.

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN ROOTS AND GOLD DUST

WHAT! You haven't renewed your membership in Roots and Gold Dust?? Don't leave yourself out in the cold; you only have until April 1st before your membership lapses. The dues are \$15 for individuals and \$22 for families. 2009 is 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, Drayus, Forni, Galley, Grosz, Harper, Hodel, Holbrook, Jackson, Jones, Madeira, Millikan, Mizell, Morrow, O'Brien, O'Shaughnessey, Pomeroy, Rich, Sexton, Williams, Wilson, Young, and Zigelhofer

MEMBER'S LIST

People have been asking "When and how can we get a list of the members of the society?" Well, your question is about to be answered. We have the list fairly well compiled: addresses, phone numbers, e-mail, etc. all updated. Once the membership drive is completed the first of April, we will be sending out a list of members to all those who are current members of the society. In other words, if you're paid up, you should have your copy before you get the next newsletter.

GENIE EVENTS

25 April 2009

All-Day Genealogy Seminar in Santa Rosa

Lloyd de Witt Bockstruck will be presenting an all day seminar sponsored by the Sonoma County Genealogical Society. Mr. Bockstruck began his career as a librarian in 1971 and joined the Dallas Public Library in 1973 where he has become distinguished as a genealogical librarian and writer.

His topics in order of presentation will be:

- o Court Records for Genealogical Research
- o Colonial and State Statutes: Overlooked Sources for Genealogical Research
- o Bridging the Atlantic: Finding Your Ancestral Home
- o Substitutes for Birth and Death Records

The Seminar will be held in the Harry A. Merlo Theater at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts, Highway 101 at River Road, Santa Rosa.

Pre-registration is highly recommended to reserve your seat for this event. Price of admission for pre-registration is \$20 for members of the SCGS, \$25

for non-members. Admission at the door, beginning at 8 a.m., 25 April, will be \$30. Send your reservations to Audrey Phillips, 96 Eastside Circle, Petaluma, CA 94954-3609. Questions about registration can also be directed to her by phone at 707-763-4492.

For more information, visit their website at:
<http://www.scgs.org/>

**On a grave from the 1880's in Nantucket,
Massachusetts :**

*Under the sod and under the trees,
Lies the body of Jonathan Pease.
He is not here, there's only the pod.
Pease shelled out and went to God.*

BOOK FUND

The CD, Swiss Surnames, Prior to 1892, chosen by Bob and Jeannie Battersby has been turned over to the library. Harvey Andrews purchased a book on Orphan Trains for information on March's meeting topic and has donated it to the society for use in the library. We had a drawing at the March meeting and Loraine Bradford will be selecting a book of her choice for the library.

There are still two 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.

*"Cemetery: A field of Marble that people take for
Granite."*

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.

Orphan Train Information

To continue the theme of the meeting we just had, here's some sources of information on the Orphan Trains:

The Children's Aid Society.: Probably the best known of the groups active in the days of the Orphan Trains, the Children's Aid Society is still alive and very active. This link includes the history of the society: <http://www.childrensaidsociety.org/>

National Orphan Train Complex, located in Concordia, KS is dedicated to the preservation of the stories and artifacts of those who were part of the Orphan Train Movement from 1854-1929. The Orphan Train Heritage Society of America merged with the NOTC recently and the NOTC now has the resources of both organizations. Visit them at: <http://orphantraindepot.com/index.html>

From the PBS program "The American Experience" presentation The Orphan Trains. Even includes a transcript from the program and credits. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/orphan/>

State Orphan Train societies and projects:
Indiana Orphan Train Project:
<http://www.ingenweb.org/inhamilton/otr.htm>

Iowa Orphan Train Special Project on usgenweb:
<http://iagenweb.org/iaorphans/>

Kansas Orphan Trains Special Project:
<http://www.kancoll.org/articles/orphans/>

Nebraska Orphan Trains Special Project:
<http://www.usgennet.org/usa/ne/topic/trains/Orphan.htm>

Wisconsin Orphan Train Project on rootsweb:
http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wiorphan/site_map.html

This is just a small sampling of the information available on the web. To find more, just type in "orphan train" in your browser's search engine. You'll be amazed at the number of sites that will come up.

Cemeteries and Symbols

I recently ran across an interesting site on the internet. It is kind of half website and half blog. A fellow in Colorado has put it together and it has an excellent section on symbols used on headstones. If you are like me and have questions on some of the symbols you come across, this would be worth your time to peruse. The site is located at: <http://cemeteries.wordpress.com/>

MEET OUR MEMBERS

(In Their Own Words)

Mary Ann Dobson "The Genealogy Bug"

"I was born in Woodland, California, in the area where my mother's family lived and farmed. When I was four, we moved to Sacramento where my father's family lived and where I grew up. I worked as a secretary for several years. My husband Chuck is a geologist and rockhound and polishes gemstones, and we married in 1962. He had a rock shop in Sacramento, and after a few years, I started working there. We quit working at the rock shop in 1975, and moved to Placerville in 1980. After my mother died in 1976, my sister gave me an unfinished 5-generation pedigree chart. My curiosity took over. About 1979, I started concentrating on my father's family -- my maiden name was DUNCAN. I'm still searching for DUNCANs in the U.S. before 1850. Most of them aren't related to me, but I get curious.

A lot of my research and the text of my 1991 DUNCAN book is on my webpages at <http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dobson> "

A visit to Mary Ann's website is well worth your while. I think you'll be favorably impressed and you'll understand why she's nicknamed the "Genealogy Bug".

LOCAL HISTORY Rust Family Cemetery



The Pleasant Grove House started out as a Pony Express station in 1861. In 1864, William W. Rust purchased the Pleasant Grove House and the family ran the House as a hotel for many years. When daughters Alice and Marena passed away in 1869, they were laid to rest on a knoll just east of the house. Two other children, Frank and Hattie, passed away and were also buried there before William and his wife, Louisa joined them. The last interment was William in 1913. The cemetery is marked by a nice iron fence and a granite family headstone. Other children of William and Louisa were: William Jr., Louisa, Julia, Wallace, Thomas, Charles A, John and Bertie.

To get there: From State Highway 50 at Cameron Park, take the Cameron Park Drive exit and head north to Green Valley Road. Turn left on Green Valley Road and go west until almost a mile past Bass Lake Road. The gravesite is on a knoll to the left. Just past this you will see the Pleasant Grove House on the right. There are two historical markers located in front of the Pleasant Grove House.