



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST

Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter – July 2009

Roots and Gold Dust meetings are held at 1:00 p.m. on the third 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. Refreshments are provided.

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

Visit our website @

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index.htm>.

2009 MEETING DATES & AGENDA

July 21	Collateral Research Workshop
August 18	Presentation by the Sons of the Revolution
September 15	<i>{to be announced}</i>
October 13	Officer nominations
November 17	Election of officers
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/Web:	Paul Hodel

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 21 at 1:00 pm

The July meeting will be having a follow up workshop to Pam Dallas' presentation in June on Collateral Research. Please bring examples of where using these methods have helped you. Also, if you are having any research problems, please bring them to share with the other members and let them help you with some of their ideas and experiences.

RECAP OF THE JUNE MEETING

I apologize for having to bring you this recap in the third person, but unfortunately I was in Utah visiting family and didn't make it back in time to be at the June meeting. Thanks to Sandy Madiera and Carol Sexton for letting me know the details.

About 20 people attended, including guests Eloise Miller and Jetta Stedeford.

Pam Dallas, our guest speaker, spoke on Collateral Research, also known as Cluster Research. She explained its meaning and the importance of learning more about your ancestor's siblings, cousins, business associates, neighbors and even enemies to understand the lives and choices they made. It was an excellent presentation and reports are that it was really great. Pam gave many examples of how to make use of these various sources. She even provided 'goodie bags' for everyone containing items for research such as a

pad, pencil, etc. and topped off with a nicely wrapped piece of chocolate candy!

Collateral research is an essential tool for conducting good genealogy research, but it is especially necessary when looking for those elusive answers such as maiden names, and other brick wall problems.

SAY WHAT?

These are copies of actual questions and requests received by the Family History Department at the LDS Library in Salt Lake City.

[*Sorry, I just couldn't let these pass without some comments. Editor*]

- Our 2nd great-grandfather was found dead crossing the plains in the library.
[*Just how big is that library?*]
- He and his daughter are listed as not being born. I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.
[*Off the cuff, I'd have to say no.*]
- Will you send me a list of all the Dripps in your library?
[*We don't have that many, we call the plumber immediately when they start.*]
- My Grandfather died at the age of 3.
[*Frisky little man wasn't he!*]
- We are sending you 5 children in a separate envelope.
[*We will watch for them.*]

NEW AT THE LIBRARY:

Massachusetts - History of Billerica

Surname Biographies: 'The Genealogy of the Lamborn Family and The Descendants of William and Elizabeth Tuttle, Parts 1 and 2'.

Reference: 'We Rode the Orphan Trains' contributed by Harvey Andrews:

BOOK FUND

A big Thank You to all of you who donate so generously to the Book Fund. It is a donation to the future of genealogy and a wonderful gift to others who are trying to find their ancestors.

ROOTS AND GOLD DUST WEBSITE

Stop by, browse and let us know what you think. The website is undergoing constant upgrade and we need your input.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cargdgs/index.htm .

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 3 – 17, 2009
Family History Center Closed

The Family History Center will be closed August 3 - 17. If you have ordered microfilm, be sure to review it before August 3rd (of course it wouldn't be a good idea to order any between now and Aug. 3rd.) If you haven't been using this valuable resource, stop by before the 3rd and see what all they have, that will give you a few days to prepare to go back after the 17th to do some research.

August 22, 2009
Nevada County Genealogical Society's
16th Annual Genealogy Seminar

"Digging For Your Roots" will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2009 in Grass Valley offering a wide variety of classes. Take a look at their website for more information, a schedule of classes and a registration form.

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cancgs/Seminar.PDF>

October 10, 2009
Family History Day, Sacramento

Mark your calendars for Saturday, October 10. Family History Day is sponsored by the Genealogical & Historical Council of Sacramento Valley, California State Archives and Root Cellar

Genealogical Society. This is an all day affair and admission is free. There will be a variety of genealogy classes, various clubs and organizations will have informative display tables in the main room, and it's a good opportunity to visit the Root Cellar Library where they have some good research books, also the State Archives offers tours. There will be more information available soon. Our club should consider having a display table at this informative event

E-MAIL BOOBOO

This guy goes on a business trip to Florida. While down there he sends his wife an email, but he accidentally types the wrong email address and he sends his email to a woman whose husband had just died. She fainted and her daughter read the email.

Dear Honey, I can't wait to see you next week.
Love, Your Husband
P.S. It sure is hot down here!

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.

Contributed by Lin Mizell: Ontario, Canada's adoption records are now open at:
www.ontario.ca/adoptioninfo

TOMBSTONE HUMOR

There was a couple who named their son "Odd." Just the first name, no last name. All through school, kids teased him and he hated it. As he grew into adulthood, he decided that his tombstone would not have a name engraved on it so people would no longer poke fun at him. When he died, the blank stone was put in place and to this day people look at it and say, "That's Odd."

Sutro Library: New Hours

Announcement just received on the new hours for the Sutro Library (as of July 2):

“We are sorry to announce that Saturday hours at the Sutro library have been discontinued until further notice.

The Sutro library will be closed on the second, third, and fourth Fridays in July (that's the 10th, 17th & 24th.)

After July, the Sutro will be closed the first, second, and third Fridays of each month, until further notice.”

Nevada County Genealogical Society Newspaper Index for the 1860's

Do you know where all of your relatives were in the 1860s? Could they have come to California to join in the search for gold?

The Nevada County Genealogical society has just placed a new index on their website of vital record information – marriages, births, deaths, and naturalizations – from the eight newspapers that were in circulation in Nevada County, California during the 1860s.

Check it out at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cancgs>.

LOCAL HISTORY

French Town Cemetery



The little town of Frenchtown is just east of Shingle Springs in El Dorado County. Once a thriving farming and mining community, there is not much left of the town except a few older buildings and the cemetery. If you listen closely though, you can hear the stories of the families who settled and raised their families here.

In 1850, David Watkins, along with five other men (known as the Hennepin Company) came out to California from Ohio in search of gold. They left behind their families and settled just east of Shingle Springs. Here they mined and farmed the land. In 1852 two of the men returned east, one to Ohio and one to Illinois to bring back the families they had left behind.

Among the family members was Mercy Bennett. Born just after the close of the American Revolutionary War, her family left New Jersey when she was 17 years old and moved to Ohio. After her marriage to John Watkins, the couple moved to Illinois. After John's death, her son, David, returned from California and brought her out with other family members. Mercy walked the entire distance from Illinois to California making her moves from New Jersey, Ohio, Illinois and then to California -- a trip clear across the United States. She was 67 years old when she arrived at Frenchtown California in 1853.

The families homesteaded, mined and farmed the land around Frenchtown. At one time, this area was known as having the largest vineyards in all of Northern California. Homestead records show hundreds of acres of grapes were at one time planted in this region. The Watkins families married into the Carbine, Trujillo, Neilson, Carpenter, Turnboo and other families.

Hugh Turnboo came to the area in the 1850's from Tennessee, returning eight times as a wagon master to and from the golden state. When he died, his gun was said to have several notches carved into the handle. Hugh married Lucinda Watkins, daughter of David Watkins, and they had several children who lived in the Frenchtown area. Several of his descendants still reside in El Dorado County and are members of the Frenchtown Cemetery Association.

Other settlers included the Barrette family who settled in Frenchtown in the 1850's and operated a store until 1865 when the mines in the area failed. Guillaume Barrett then engaged in farming and wine making, at one time having 8,000 vines planted. Mr. Barrett died in 1882 and was buried in the Frenchtown Cemetery. His sons continued to farm and in 1915 Phillip Barrett donated the land on which the Frenchtown Cemetery is now located to the Frenchtown Cemetery Association. This land was originally homesteaded in 1876.

The first burial took place in 1860 for L.T. Waters. In 1881, an epidemic of diphtheria swept through the area and left many dead. That same year Mercy Bennett Watkins, she who had traveled clear across the United States on foot, passed away at the age of 95 years. It is said that five generations attended her funeral. Today her great, great, great, great, grandchildren are among the members of the association who maintain this little cemetery on the hill.

French Town Cemetery is privately owned and is maintained by French Town Cemetery Association.

There are many unmarked graves due to the fire that burned many of the wooden tombstones.

(Information provided by Kim Turnboo)

French Town Cemetery is located on the north side of French Creek Rd., just west of French Creek Road. To reach the cemetery, enter through an unlocked gate with the address of 4845. A sign on the gate announces the cemetery is behind it. It is not visible from the road, you proceed up the hill to the site.

GENIE BUMPER STICKER

*Am I the only person up my tree?
Sure seems like it!*

*Have a great month! We'll see you at the next
meeting.*