



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST

Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–March 2010

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.

Our newsletter is sent out around the first of each month, depending on how fast our editor is.

For information or membership inquiries, please contact Paul Hodel at pljhodel@hotmail.com or by phone at (530)622-3299.

Visit our website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index.htm>.

2010 MEETING DATES & AGENDA

March 16, 2010	“Show and Tell”
April 20, 2010	Speaker: Lynn Brown
May 18, 2010	Meeting and Tour at the El Dorado County Museum
June 15, 2010	To Be Announced
July 20, 2010	To Be Announced
August 17, 2010	To Be Announced
September 21, 2010	To Be Announced
October 19, 2010	To Be Announced
November 16, 2010	To Be Announced
December 2010,	No Meeting

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

RECAP OF OUR LAST MEETING

February 16, 2010

What a great meeting we had. There were 24 people present, including one visitor, Valaree Petritsch, to listen to Linda Todd talk to us about "Scanning Photos and Documents". Linda, with help from her assistant, a.k.a. husband, Norman, gave a very comprehensive explanation on how and why to scan photos and documents into our computers so we can share, review, save and preserve them. She showed us some neat tricks on how to get the best scans and how to work with the software to get the most out of our scanners. She had good audience participation and answered many questions. There were many wonderful comments from the membership about her presentation.

Following Linda's very informative talk, we had our business meeting. February's meeting was an experiment to have the business meeting after the speaker. We'll be listening for your feed back at our next meeting. There is a bus trip to the Sutro Library coming up on March 24th. We discussed the idea of carpooling down to the Sacramento Area to board the bus there. See "Upcoming Events" for more information.

We discussed some ideas as to what sort of projects the members would like to participate in. There was interest expressed in trying to recover and redistribute some of the information collected by the early members of our Society. There also is interest in transcribing more local information.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 16 at 1:00.pm

Our next meeting will be March 16th. Remember many, many, many, years ago when we were in school and we would have Show and Tell. We are asking each of you to bring something of family significance to the meeting to share. You don't have to give a long winded dissertation on what you are showing, just a minute or two to tell what it is and why it is significant to you. Bring whatever you want, a family photo, letter, artifact, story or whatever you want. If we all bring something, it will be a very interesting meeting.

We will be following up on what projects we will be working on. If you have any more information to add to the history of our Society, please bring that with you also.

BECOME AN ENUMERATOR FOR THE 2010 CENSUS.

Would you like a job with the supplier of one of our most basic data sources? Here's your chance to be part of an actual census. The Census Bureau is still recruiting for workers. Most openings are for enumerators working in the field. The jobs are temporary, obviously, and the work is intermittent. Hours are flexible. Information and practice tests (yes, you need to take a test—~~this~~ is a government job after all!) are available on their website www.2010censusjobs.gov. Or call the toll-free jobs line: 1-866-861-2010.

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS:

President:	Paul Hodel
Vice President:	Carol Sexton
Secretary:	Mary Ann Harper
Treasurer:	Linda Galley
Library Liaison:	Judy Williams
Program Director:	Carlyn White
Newsletter/Web:	Paul Hodel

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

If you love genealogy, this is the group to be with, so here's your reminder:

Time to renew your membership in Roots and Gold Dust. In order to stay current, you must renew before May 1st. Cost to renew is only \$15 for individuals and \$22 for families.

If you think a dollar doesn't go as far as it used to, you're usually right. The one exception is the cost of being a member in Roots and Gold Dust. Just think, when the Society was first established 30 years ago, membership dues were \$10. In the mid 80's, it went up to \$12. Today, the cost of membership is only \$15 a person. Talk about inflation in reverse. Don't you wish gas prices had gone up like this? If you need another comparison, a Bay Area genealogical society is \$35 per year and Roots Cellar, in Sacramento, is \$21 per year. To date, 21 of you have renewed or joined for this year.

If you haven't renewed, do it now. If you aren't currently a member, there's an application on the last page of this newsletter. Fill it out and either mail it in, or better yet, bring it to the meeting.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Light travels faster than sound, that's why some people appear bright until they speak!!

NEW MEMBERS

We'd like to welcome some new members. Those of you who have been attending the meetings might remember them because they have been attending some of our meetings.

A big welcome to:

Mary-Lee Gilliland
Marilyn and Ron Parker
Getta Stedeford

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sutro Library Trip

Wednesday, 24 March, 2010

Join the Genealogy Association of Sacramento on their annual all day bus trip to the Sutro Research Library in San Francisco. This will be an all day trip, we'll be at the library the whole time it is open. They will be various pick up sites where you can meet the bus. If enough people want to go from up here, we could arrange to car pool down the hill to meet the bus. Please contact Paul Hodel if you wish to attend. He can be contacted at (530) 622-3299 or by e-mail at pljhodel@hotmail.com. The cost is \$40 to cover the cost of the bus.

Root Cellar Spring Seminar

27 March, 2010

Roots Cellar, the Sacramento area genealogical society will be holding their Spring Seminar in March. It will feature Daniel M. Lynch author of "GOOGLE YOUR FAMILY TREE". Google is available in more than 160 countries and is free to use! By learning to employ some very simple yet powerful techniques, you can reduce the amount of time spent searching through millions of results and instead use that time to closely evaluate a much smaller number of results with far greater relevance to your specific family research. (Also discusses Yahoo, Live.com, Bing.com and merits of other secondary search engines and/or emerging trends.

The location: Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd. Fair Oaks, CA

Hours 9:00 am -3:45 pm

Cost: Members/\$22, Non-Members/ \$27, after March 14 and at the door (if room still available)/ \$32

For more information, visit their website at: <http://www.rootcellar.org/> or contact Sammie Hudgens 916-481-4930, samihud@aol.com

Sacramento German Genealogy Society

Spring Seminar

24 April 2010

Saturday, Annual Spring Seminar presented by the [Sacramento German Genealogy Society](http://www.sacgergensoc.org/) featuring John Phillip Colletta, PhD. He will be speaking about passenger arrival records, breaking through brick walls, naturalization records and lesser-used federal records.

Location: Sacramento Turn Verein, 3349 "J" St, Sacramento, CA

Hours 8:30am to 4:30pm

Cost: Members/\$40, Non-members/\$50, at the door/\$55.

For more information please visit the Society's website at: <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/>.

AUNT ALICE'S WEDDING DRESS

By Alice Lenarz Morrow

My mother had a first cousin, Catharine Lee. She and her husband Don had lived in the same house in Colorado for decades when my sister and I stopped for a visit while on vacation around 1995. We spent a pleasant afternoon listening to stories about Catharine and my mother's childhood. Even though I had been working on our family history for some years at this point, I never thought to ask if Catharine had any old family photos, letters, etc. I suppose I just assumed that this 90ish year old woman would automatically think of anything that might be of interest to us.

Catharine died several years later, and Don sold the house and moved to a retirement community. While cleaning out the attic in preparation for the sale, he found a box labeled "Aunt Alice's Wedding Dress". My mother's mother, Alice (Paine) Langston, lived with Mom's bachelor brother in Denver after Grandpa Langston died. Uncle Henry got a job offer in Massachusetts, and he and Grandma sold their house and packed up what they wanted to take with them to their new home. Apparently Grandma and Uncle Henry thought the move would be temporary, because they asked the Lee's to keep the box until they returned to

Colorado. Don put it in the attic and forgot about it for the next 40 or more years.

The box was given to me as the family historian. In it I found a beautiful two-piece dress complete with bustle cover as well as half a dozen letters from 1905/06, when Grandma was a graduate student at the University of Missouri in Columbia MO (the family lived in the little town of Louisiana in Pike Co. MO.) There was a letter that Grandma wrote to Grandpa before they were married. There was a letter to Grandma from her mother which mentioned attending a Temperance meeting. Great Grandma Paine also said that she had had a "sick headache" the previous day which must have been a migraine – now I know where my migraines come from! There was a letter from Grandma's sister-in-law, the mother of Catharine Lee, which talked about nursing Catharine and her twin sister through whooping cough. A letter from Grandma's favorite brother described his strained relationship with their father (apparently a tyrannical patriarch in the Old Testament tradition) and his decision to move west to Denver where an older brother had already settled.

These letters brought the personalities of Mom's family to life for me. They could have so easily been lost forever. And, if I had asked a few questions on our visit, I would probably have received the box much earlier.

THE INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

The only surname not found among the three billion in the Mormon Archives is yours.

BIRTH RECORDS

From the Mountain Press, January 2010 Newsletter

The old saying that genealogist want to "hatch, match and dispatch" everyone in their families seems true. Everyone wants the dates of birth, marriage and death for each of the entries in their charts. Of all of these dates, the birth date is the hardest to locate in most of the periods of history. There are a number of reasons for this dilemma.

Let's examine some of them and see if there is not a way to slip around that "brick wall".

First, during a long period of our history, the birth of a child was not always celebrated with joy. In families with 10-15 average number of children, a birth could be seen as just one more mouth to feed on a very meager income and supplies. In fact, many times a child is not even named for the first five or so years as the parents wait to see if the child is going to survive those trying years of disease and illnesses. Families did not have the ability to ward off many of the diseases of their day. Children were often very weak in nature due to diet and supplies. A friend of mine always introduced herself as "the throw away baby". She was the oldest of twins and when born in the home, the midwife told the friends gathered to just toss this one aside as she would not survive and then proceeded to work on the mother to deliver the younger sister. The grandmother took the oldest one, wrapped her up and kept her near the cook stove. This kept her warm and with plenty of nourishment, she survived. At 92, she would laugh and say she out lived all seven of her brothers and sisters.

Second, county records were not kept on births for most areas until the mid-nineteenth century. Virginia, including West Virginia, and Kentucky were among the first in the nation to collect birth records. In 1853, a volunteer program was started in each county in Virginia to record in the courthouse the births and deaths within each year. Residents would come in and register the births/deaths that happened in their home for the year with the Clerk. The 1853 book was kept open until about mid-year of 1854 to give everyone time to record the event. The birth records give the name of the child, sex/race, date of birth, parents, occupation and the informant. Many times, both the birth and death would be recorded on the same day. Owners of slaves would record the birth of the slave and the mother's name with the owner listed as the "father". In fact, many times the owner would be the father, but they would also be listed as the "owner". Often it was not the parents who gave the information to the clerk but it might be another relative - especially a grandparent. Most of the states in the Union started after 1900 to collect birth

records and most states have these available for a small fee.

Third, other records such as church records, diaries, letters and newspapers are more difficult to find. For example, church records are very scattered and there is no consistency even within the same denomination as to how the records are kept. Most churches now have archives for various geographic regions. This is usually the first place to look as most of them collect local histories of each of the churches in their area. Other sources are diaries, letters, and newspapers. Many families do not have diaries in their immediate hands, but there are many that have been published for the local area. A local historical/genealogical society would have a listing of these and sometimes there is a relative that has kept a diary that was published and there may be facts you may not have seen before. If you can find a newspaper for your area, it may not even include birth notices. They do record marriages and deaths, but seldom births. However, many church newspapers do record the births and most of these are for a region and not just a local congregation. Check on these when you go to the archives of the denomination of interest.

The most important record for births is the family Bible, if one exists. If you think there is one somewhere in the family, it is worth the effort to try to locate a copy of the pages if you are not able to see the original book. Most families are very protective of these books and will not let them out of their hands. If this is your case, ask for a copy and don't believe them when they say copying will destroy the pages. I've had technicians tell me that if you make 10,000 copies per day for ten years you might see some of the quality of the print diminish, but not much.

In 2008, the DAR chapters of Tennessee collected Bible Records as a preservation source. There were thousands of Bibles brought in to be scanned for inclusion. There is a 903 page printed index as well as a DVD with the actual images of each page of data in the Bibles. This is one of the most complete records available for research.

Finding those birth records is not the brick wall we all want to make of it. It is just another curtain that hides the truth from us. Somewhere the date is

known, you just have to keep searching. I know that from my own research. My wife's mother was one of 18 children and the birth dates were not written down until I became interested in the research. Most of the children were still alive and we gathered their birth dates directly, but their grandchildren did not know until we made the list available. Most of them now have access to the information. This was a family where most of the 18 could not agree on their grandmother's name! I have about six to seven different names for her, but when we finally found the proof of the name, it was settled. The census was no help in this either as she was listed in four census, each differently.

Remember this is a giant jigsaw puzzle. Each piece is important and in time, it will all fit. Happy hunting!

This article reprinted courtesy of the Mountain Press Newsletter, January 2010. You may visit their website at <http://www.mountainpress.com/>. Thanks to Mary Ann Jones for bringing this to our attention and getting permission for us to reprint it.

BUMPER SNICKER

*"I Don't Suffer From Insanity,
I Enjoy Every Minute Of It!"*

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.

Mountain Press

Did you enjoy the preceding article on Birth Records? We got it from Mountain Press, a publisher of genealogical books. Their primary emphasis is the Southern States. The Mountain Press website has a search engine for both locations and surnames and shows a lot of surnames available

in their various books. It is well worth a visit to this site.

They put out a monthly newsletter that is very informative, that is where we got the Birth Record article. If you want to get their newsletter on a regular basis, you can sign up for their mailing list.

If any of your lines came through any of the Southern States, you will want to visit their website at: <http://www.mountainpress.com/>. We want to thank to Mary Ann Jones for putting us onto this site.

Maidu Museum and Historic Site

Those of you who are interested in the really early history of this area will be happy to hear that the Maidu Museum and Historic Site in Roseville has opened its new museum building. Originally opened in 2001 in a temporary building, the new building is a 10,000-square-foot brick roundhouse museum and art gallery. The building is built at a historic Maidu site and has a 5/8 mile, wheelchair accessible trail leading past petroglyphs, bedrock mortars, towering oaks and a year-round stream. The site is located at 1970 Johnson Ranch Drive, Roseville, CA. For more information on this historical site and its new museum, you can visit them at www.roseville.ca.us/indianmuseum.

LOCAL HISTORY

Latrobe Cemetery

The town of Latrobe was established in 1864 when the Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad established a station in the area to provide service to Amador County. Though not a mining town as most in the area in that day, it was for a while a thriving community until the railroad was extended and the need for the station declined. The cemetery is located on top of a hill on the northwest corner of the town. The earliest known interment is that of William Staley's wife Sarah who passed away on May 6, 1865 at 31 years of age. Total, there are 119 markers identifying graves in this cemetery. There

are a number of sites which are identifiable as graves, but are unmarked.



Directions for Getting There:

Take State Hwy 50 to El Dorado Hills at the west side of El Dorado County. Take the El Dorado Hills Blvd / Latrobe Rd exit. Head south on Latrobe Rd. until you reach the town of Latrobe. Just after you get past the city limits sign you will cross the railroad tracks. Immediately after crossing the tracks you will see a gravel road to the right (Old Station Lane). As soon as you are on this road you will see a house on your left. Though not visible, the cemetery is on top of the hill behind this house. Go down Old Station Lane past this house and the road will turn to the left. Just past this turn you will see a road, with a green gate, veer off to the left and head up the hill. Go through the gate and take the road up the hill to the cemetery. The green gate is not locked and the public is welcome to visit the cemetery. Since the cemetery is on private property, please be respectful of this privilege.

THE INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

When you find the obituary for your grandmother, the information is garbled. Her name is exchanged with her daughter's, the whereabouts of her sons is unknown, and the date for her father's birth indicates he was younger than she.

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



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1354

Diamond Springs, CA 95619

(Membership runs from 1 January through 31 December):

Annual Dues

Individual, \$15.00

Family, \$22.00

Date: _____

New Membership

Renewal

Name: _____
(First) (Middle) (Last) (Maiden)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ E-Mail: _____

(The Society sends a monthly newsletter out via e-mail as well as sending out communications to members via e-mail. We will not share your address with others without your permission.)

Please list some of the Surnames and/or areas you are interested in:

(This will assist us in planning programs, workshops and projects)

(Please make checks payable to: Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society)

