



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST

## Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–July 2010

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### 2010 MEETING DATES & AGENDA

July 20: Pamela Dallas - "Extra, Extra! Ancestors are in the Newspaper. The Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of Newspaper Research.

Aug. 17: Meeting at Grace Becker's Home & Presentation by Her on Family Albums

Sept 21: Lynn Brown - Digital Books & Newspapers on-line

Oct. 19: Shirley J. Riemer - "Beginning German Genealogy"

Nov. 16: Election of Officers, "Show and Tell"

December 2010: **No Meeting**

Jan. 18, 2011: Judy Williams - "How to re-search the documents in the LDS library".

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

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, July 20th at 1:00.pm

Pamela Dallas will be speaking on:

"Extra! Extra! Ancestors are in the Newspaper." The Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of Newspaper Research"

Newspaper research is more than obituary hunting. Thorough newspaper research can be tedious, but the payoff is huge. Learn: *Who is in the newspapers.* *What* you need to do to find them, *When* your ancestors may appear in the paper, *Where* the papers are located, *Why* you need to do the research and *How* to find the newspapers.

Pamela lectures nationally and locally on a wide range of topics; speaking frequently at society meetings, conferences and presenting full-day workshops. She is a professional researcher and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild and several local societies. Pamela has served on the board of many societies. She played a key role in the success of the National Genealogical Society Conference held in Sacramento in 2004. Pamela has appeared on local television and radio talk shows to discuss genealogy and has written and appeared in several genealogy instructional videos aired on local TV. /She believes the best part of genealogy is the opportunity to meet so many wonderful people. In her non-genealogy life, she is the Director of Marketing for Eskaton Village Placerville.

### 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

## RECAP OF OUR LAST MEETING

June 15th, 2010

At our June meeting we were delighted to have our own Carol Sexton give a special presentation on Snowshoe Thompson. The man known as Snowshoe Thompson is a local legend, especially noted for hauling the mail between Placerville and Genoa, Nevada on skis during the winter. But there is both fact and myth mixed together in this legend. Carol has done extensive research on him and she wrote and illustrated a brochure about him that was published by the Heritage Association of El Dorado County. For her presentation, she brought a display similar to the one that is located in the Fountain and Tallman Museum at 524 Main Street in Placerville. She covered many of his adventures and his travels, and helped us understand a lot more about the man. Makes you want to head up into the hills to see some of the areas he traveled. More importantly, her descriptions helped us understand the true man by separating the myths from the facts and in so doing helped us appreciate the importance of genealogical work.

Carol has been involved in genealogy and historical facts most of her life, since her parents were genealogical and history enthusiasts as well. She is a past President of Roots and Gold Dust and presently serves as the Vice-President. She is currently the president of the Heritage Association of El Dorado County and is very active in the Shakespeare Club. In 2009, El Dorado County Historical Society and El Dorado Museums Foundation published "A Glittering Pot of Gold", which was written by Lisa Butler with sketches by Carol Sexton to provide visual interpretations of the stories for the book.

## THE INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY

*The family story your grandmother wrote for the family never got past the typist. She packed it away "somewhere" and promised to send you a copy, but never did.*

## FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

The Family History Center will be closed July 30 – August 16, keep these dates in mind if you are ordering any microfilms.

You may be aware that the microfilm printer has been out of service for a few months. It is being replaced with an ST Genie, a digital microfilm scanner, which is being installed as this newsletter is being written. The FHC has also just received some new computers to replace the oldest ones in their inventory

The Family History Center needs volunteers to help staff the library. This is a good opportunity to learn research techniques and you have time to do your own research in addition to assisting others, shifts are only 3 hours. If you are interested in this rewarding experience, contact Brian Bennett the Director of the Library.

## THE ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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](mailto:pljhodel@hotmail.com) or by phone at (530)622-3299.

Visit our website @

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

## TOMBSTONE HUMOR

*In a London, England cemetery:  
Here lies Ann Mann,  
Who lived an old maid but died an old Mann.  
Dec. 8, 1767*

## THE REST OF THE STORY

I think we've all had the opportunity of hearing Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story" at one time or another. You may have also seen the TV shows about "Cold Cases" that were reopened and solved. Well we have our own "Rest of the Story" and our own "Cold Cases" right here at Roots and Gold Dust. As those of you who read the newsletter may remember, in our April newsletter, buried on page 5, was an article entitled "Harvey Andrews Needs Our Help". In this article, Harvey recounted how, as a lad, (many, many, many years ago) he was part of a group of Sea Scouts that brought a load of food and furnishings up to El Dorado County for a family in need one Christmas. Harvey had often thought back on this family and how their gratitude had affected him and he was trying to find out who the family was.

Harvey threw down the gauntlet and Carol Sexton picked it up. In Harvey's words, "Paul, Carol played with the magic computers, using her sense of local history, and solved my old case about delivering Christmas gifts and stuff to a poor family in the Placerville area sometime around 1948. Using newspaper archives, Carol found the item that I was recalling in a Dec 15, 1948 copy of the Oakland Tribune, Oakland, Calif. The item had the name of a family member and Carol was able to trace the family and where they lived way back then. She also found a thank you letter in the Jan 7, 1949 edition of the Oakland Tribune from George Balderston of Somerset, the father of the family we delivered the Christmas goods to. A big thanks to Carol for the research. I will pass this story on to my children and tell them the story of Christmas past."

Ah Ha! The Cold Case is solved, and now for the Rest of the Story. While all of this was going on, I received an e-mail from a lady who was looking for information on her great grandfather and his family who had lived in the Georgetown area. She is the great-granddaughter of John Balderston, father of George Balderston, and her grandfather, Allen Balderston..

## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT

*'Thanks to all for your understanding and patience as I trip over my faults and learn along the way.'*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Family History Center**  
Summer Vacation Closure  
July 30 – August 16, 2010

Our local Family History Center will be closed for their annual summer vacation from July 30 through August 16. The staff will get a well deserved break and be able to come back full of energy and totally revitalized. Please keep this closure in mind when planning your visits and when ordering film.

**Family History Day**  
Saturday, October 9, 2010  
Sacramento

The annual Family History Day will be held on Saturday, October 9, 2010 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at the State Archives building, 1020 "O" St, in downtown Sacramento. Admission is free. Choose from over 20 classes – from beginning genealogy, to internet resources, to specialized research topics. You can also attend classes on preserving family papers. Tour the Archives and learn about the historical documents held there.

For more information, visit their website at <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com>

Did you know El Dorado County Historical Society is featured on the FHD Blog? To see more go to <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com>.

## BUMPER SNICKER

*Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!*

## 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](mailto:pljhodel@hotmail.com) or call 530-622-3299.

### **Heritage Quest at Home Through the El Dorado County Library**

Want to use Heritage Quest to do some of your genealogical research, but don't have an account with them? Well, you could go into your local branch of the El Dorado County Library and log on to one of their computers. OR, you can do it from the comfort of your own home on your home computer. Yes, you can search Heritage Quest while in your pajamas and it's easy to do. Just log into the library's home page at: <http://www.eldoradolibrary.org/>

Click on the button on the left that says "[Heritage Quest](#) - from home with a library card number". You'll get a window that asks for your library card number. Just enter the number on the back of your library card, just under the bar code, and, presto, you're into Heritage Quest. This was so simple, I was even able to do it myself, and that's saying something.

*Thanks to the Genealogy Bug for giving me the heads up on this sweet deal!*

### **The Internet Is A Resource, Not a "Do All" Tool for All Your Genealogical Research**

Julie Miller, a genealogist and writer for the Bloomfield Enterprise of Bloomfield, Colorado wrote a nice article in their newspaper about the need to use some of the "old fashioned" methods of genealogical research and not just the internet. You can read her article at: [http://www.broomfieldenterprise.com/ci\\_15379828](http://www.broomfieldenterprise.com/ci_15379828)

## IS YOUR GENEALOGY DATABASE INSANE?

I don't believe in signing up to receive e-mails, I seem to get plenty without soliciting it. Having said that, there are a couple or three I do subscribe to. I'm signed up on one to receive messages from the genealogy societies in this general area, just so I can stay up to date and hopefully do my job as newsletter editor a little better. Another one I subscribe to is Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. I have to admit that I scan the titles of the articles and then delete a lot of these newsletters, but I also keep a certain number because the articles apply to me. In the June 22<sup>nd</sup> newsletter he had an article titled; Is Your Genealogy Database Insane? Over the years I've heard a number of people question the sanity of genealogists, but this is the first time I've heard someone question the sanity of the genealogical databases we use. In reading the article, I soon realized that the sanity of the program wasn't actually what was in question, but the data that was being put into the program. Now he wasn't talking about the subtle little points that take months of research to prove or disprove. No, he was talking about the baby whose birth date is before its mother was born, or the couple who was married in Germany, but they both immigrated to the US twenty years earlier. Most of us have at least one or two of these sorts of errors in our databases. Some times it's because we got a little sloppy, or in a hurry, or were staying up too late at night inputting. Some are just plain typos. As Dick Eastman says; "I suffer from a disease that I call "dyslexia of the keyboard." While I know how to spell most English words and almost always know the correct dates when I am entering data into my favorite genealogy program, what appears on my computer screen often has two or more keystrokes reversed! The most used key on my keyboard is BACKSPACE!"

He asked the question; "Is Your Genealogy Database Insane?", because most genealogy programs have a "sanity report" built into them. Some will call it "Potential Problems", "Data Errors", "Problem List", "Verify Database", etc. This report will flag all data that is not within a given parameter. Some programs have adjustable parameters; others have defaults that are fixed.



They will flag things like people over a certain age; people married before a given age, children born before a certain age for the mother, and so on. They will also pull up possible duplications of individuals.

Now, the existence of these reports wasn't an epiphany for me. After all, I've run them before and been able to clean up a number of errors. What was an epiphany was when I tried to remember back to the last time I had run a report on my database. I know my short term memory is gradually failing, but running one of these reports is usually has such a traumatic effect upon my ego that I am sure I would remember if I had run one lately. I did go ahead and run a report on my database, but I'm not going to embarrass myself by telling how long it was.

Go ahead and run a check on your database. It won't tell you where all the problems are, but at least it'll show up a lot of the obvious ones. After all, us genealogists like to have everything correct and on the money.

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Pilot Hill Cemetery

History:

Pilot Hill Cemetery, also known as Centerville Cemetery, was established in 1850 for the community of Centerville located near what is now known as the town of Pilot Hill. The Pilot Hill Cemetery was established during the beginning of the Gold Rush. There were many miners and growing communities in this region. While the first recorded burial was in 1850, it is possible that this area was used for burials before that time. In 2002, the property was deeded to El Dorado County and assumed maintenance and operations responsibility. Notable people buried here include David Fairchild who came to California in 1849 and served in the California State Assembly from 1860 through 1861, and Eugene Chappie who was an El Dorado County Supervisor from 1950 to 1964, served in the California State Assembly from 1964 to 1981 and in the US House of Representatives from 1981 to 1987.

There are two parts to this cemetery:

The "old" cemetery has 210 burials with 24 pre-purchased plots and encompasses approximately one acre. The old section is inactive and only available for pre-needs at this time.

The "new" cemetery section is 0.863 acres that has not yet been developed. The new section will be active when the final plans are drawn for the plot layout. Approximately 800 to 1,000 burials could be accommodated on this parcel.



*Pilot Hill Cemetery*

Directions:

From Hwy 49 at Pilot Hill, take Salmon Falls Cut-Off west (follow signs towards fire station). At next intersection, turn left (south) onto Salmon Falls Rd. You will soon come to a fork in the road, take the left fork onto Pedro Hill Rd. The address is 4781 Pedro Hill Road, but the number is not posted.. Go past the fire station about two blocks to road post mile 0.46, turn right on dirt road that heads up the hill to the Cemetery. Cemetery is visible from the road just as you go past it. If you get to Meadow-Croft Lane, turn around and go back, you just missed it.

## BUMPER SNICKER FOR US CEMETERY NUTS

*Gravers:  
We dig deeper  
and leave no stone unrecorded!!!*

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**  
*or One Might Say*  
*From the Cluttered Desk of Paul Hodel*

It's good to be home again. I had a really great time while in Arizona. In fact, I enjoyed myself so much at that ranch site that instead of staying a month, I stayed there six and a half weeks. There is so much history in that area, and the new-to-me plant and animal life was enthralling. Of course, you've heard the saying about "in spring time, a young man's heart turns to love". Well, I meet a new love while there. My new love is an Arizona Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus. Unlike most hedgehog cacti that sends some of their spines straight out from the body of the cactus, these spread theirs outward so they lay flat against the side of the cactus. This cactus grows from the center of its top outward, so there are layers of spines moving downward as the cactus grows. This causes the different levels of the spines to create a rainbow effect on its sides. They aren't a very tall cactus, they only get to be about a foot tall, and they grow in rocky, grassy soil, so they don't show up too well until they blossom. It's a beautiful pinkish bloom, almost going to purple, it'll have from one to eight blooms on each cactus, and the blooms only last a couple of days but they are fantastic. Isn't it amazing how something you don't dare touch with your hand can still touch your heart and mind.



*Arizona Rainbow Hedgehog Cactus*

I did make an interesting observation while down there. I went over to the library one day to do some research and got there before it opened. Out in the foyer of the library building is a little café that serves the library and the government offices around it. What amazed me was the number of retired people sitting there waiting for the library to open with their coffee, pastry and laptops. Coffee I can understand, pastries I love, but if someone had told me fifteen years ago that I would walk into a place like that and see almost every one of those people there working on their laptops I wouldn't have believed it. It wasn't that long ago that anyone who was a baby boomer or older wouldn't touch a computer unless they had too. Then I see something like this.

Of course, one shouldn't be surprised to see us more mature individuals with computers. I'm impressed with the number of our members who use the computer regularly. Most of you not only e-mail, but you keep your genealogy on the computer as well as do your research on the internet. We have a number of members who have posted their family trees on various internet sites and a couple of you even have a webpage. To me this is really impressive. At a time when others in our age group have run away from this new technology, you have run forward to embrace it. You all deserve a pat on the back for rising to the occasion and taking advantage of the tools that have become available to you.

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