



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST

## Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619

Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–August 2010

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### UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

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 research in the LDS library.

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

### NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, August 17th at 1:00.pm

Our August meeting will be a fantastic opportunity for us. In lieu of our regular meeting place, Grace Becker has graciously invited Roots and Gold Members to her home at 6169 Mother Lode Drive. We will be honored to have Grace explain some of the research she has done and how to assemble it in an understandable and presentable manner. She will make her albums, research and memorabilia available for your viewing at this meeting.

Grace Becker is an extraordinary genealogist who has amassed a fantastic amount of information on her family lines. She is also very talented at assembling this information into albums. She has a whole

wall in her house that is a floor to ceiling bookcase filled with family albums, all color-coded by line. She is a charter member of Roots and Gold Dust, having been active in the group before it ever became an official society. She has held various offices in the society for a number of years. She is an avid book collector who has generously donated a plethora of books. In fact, the Family History Center's Library contains over 140 books that Grace has donated. Grace has done extensive research in not only the United States but also in Europe. She might even explain to you about writing a letter to the Queen of England. Yep, Grace did that, and she got a lot of information in return.

Grace has tutored literally dozens of people in genealogy and is always more than willing to help a "Newbie" get started or to help someone who is fighting a brick wall or needs help with the presentation of their material. For those of you who have not gotten to know Grace yet, this will be a great opportunity.

Since parking is limited at Grace and Doug's house, we will ask that some of you plan to meet at the Family History Center and carpool to their house. We will also be setting up a shuttle service from the Park and Ride on the southwest corner of Hwy. 50 and Mother Lode Drive. Please RSVP to Carlyn White so that she will know the number of people attending so there are enough refreshments. Carlyn will also be co-ordinating the shuttle. If you have a van and would like to help with the shuttle service, please let her know. Carlyn can be reached at (530) 642-2730 or e-mail her at [carlyn668@comcast.net](mailto:carlyn668@comcast.net).

## 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. Visitors are always welcome.

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>

### 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

July 20th, 2010

Carol Sexton showed up early and had the room half way set up before anyone else arrived. Loraine Bradford brought refreshment, boy did she! She had a big jug of lemonade and an assortment of I don't know how many types of cookies. (I tried to count how many types she brought but I ran out of fingers.). As if the refreshment table wasn't already sagging, one of our newest members, Luana Zylla brought a yummy meringue pie. Good thing we only meet once a month or we'd have to include an exercise class in our meeting to work off the extra calories. A big thank you to these ladies and to all of you others who help each month to set up the meeting room and then put things away afterwards.

Most of you realize that Elaine Andrews coordinates the refreshments each month. What you may not be aware of is that Elaine and her trusty sidekick, Harvey, set up the refreshment area and put everything back away after the meetings. Thank you Elaine and Harvey for a job well done.

We had 27 people at our meeting, 2½ of whom were visitors. I say 2½ because Maria Pizzicari converted from visitor to member at the meeting. Our other visitors were Mary Swan and Ruth Snyder.

What a great presentation Pam Dallas put on. Her presentation was titled; "Extra! Extra! Ancestors are in the Newspaper." She did a great job of covering the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of newspaper research". We learned that newspaper research is more than just looking up obituaries, it can give us a great view of the lives of our ancestors as well as fill in bits and pieces of facts and relationships. It was an invigorating time with a lot of questions asked and good audience participation. In fact, everyone became so involved that Pam's presentation ran over enough that we hardly had time to discuss any business afterwards. Thanks Pam for a great time.

### GRAVE STONE REQUEST

*I do a lot of photographing of headstones in cemeteries and put them on line. I recently got an e-mail from a lady back east. Here is the actual body of the e-mail. I've omitted the names.*

I see you have entered a gravestone for xxxxxxxx in Saint Patricks Cemetery in El Dorado Co CA. Would there be a gravestone for her husband xxxxxxxx, 1905 – 1990

If there is a gravestone, would you mind sending it to me. Your time is much appreciated. Thank You, xxxxxxxx

Reply, "I'm not so sure the cemetery would want me to take the stone and I'm sure the mail person would be upset with trying to fit it into your mail box!"

## FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

New at the FHC Library: Eight volumes of *World's Popular Encyclopedia* donated by Getta Stedeford. Thanks Getta.

The book fund is starting to build up and we will be having a book drawing at the September meeting. Make sure you're there and have your name on a ticket for the drawing.

*The Family History Center will be closed July 30 – August 16*, please keep this in mind if you planning on doing any research there in August.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

A number of you already do volunteer work, congratulations. Some of you may be looking for something to fill in some of your spare time, or you would like to give back to the community or to genealogy, here is your opportunity. We have two great genealogical resources in this area that can use some extra help.

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 El Dorado County Museum's research room needs more volunteers. They are THE place to go for El Dorado County historical and genealogical information. If you would like to know more about El Dorado County, here's your chance to do so while providing a valuable service to others. Contact Mary Cory at the museum or call her at (530) 621-5865.

## EL DORADO COUNTY LIBRARY DISPLAY

During the month of August, Roots and Gold Dust will have genealogy displays set up in the foyer of the El Dorado County Library at Ray Lawyer Drive

and Fairview Drive in Placerville. Please stop by and see what some of our members have put together to promote genealogy and family history. A big thanks to the Display committee for doing the displays.

## 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.

**Digging For Roots**  
August 28, 2010  
Grass Valley, Nevada County

The Nevada County Genealogical Society's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Seminar will be held Saturday, August 28, 2010. There will be 20 classes, genealogical vendors and door prizes. The \$15 registration fee includes a syllabus of information provided by all instructors. For registration form and more information, go to:  
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cancgs/>

**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.

Some of the classes and their presenters are:

Ethnic/Geographic Research:

*Researching Canadians From Afar* - Lisa Lee  
*Really Cool Ways To Find Black Ancestors Online*  
- Lisa Lee  
*Five Civilized Tribes:Southeastern Tribes Re-located to OK* - Taffy Coutts  
*Getting Started In German Genealogy* - Shirley Riemer  
*Research in England* - Joyce Buckland

Computer/Technical:

*Google - Searching In Depth* - Ron Young  
*10 Free Non-Microsoft Programs* - Ron Young  
*Understanding & Organizing PC Files & Folders*  
- Linda Todd  
*Internet Research* - Jerry Unruh

Record Sources:

*Census Records-The Backbone of American Genealogy* - Glenda Lloyd  
*Civil War Research* - Melinda Kashuba  
*Using Military Maps in Genealogical Research* - Melinda Kashuba  
*Why Vital Records Are Vital!* - Glenda Lloyd

Using Research Facilities:

*Genealogical Resources at the California State Archives.* - Linda Johnson  
*Wonderful World of Archives: A Primer* - Jessica Herrick  
*Genealogy Resources in the California History Room. of the California State Library* - Karen Paige  
*Researching Your Family History at CSH* - Pat Johnson  
*Tour of the Preservation Lab* (2tours) - Juan Ramos & Kevin Turner

Research Strategies:

*Beginning Genealogy I* - Donna Young  
*Beginning Genealogy II* - Donna Young  
*Researching In Burned Counties* - Pamela Dallas  
*Cussin' Cousins: An Open Forum* - Linda Johnson  
*Evaluating Evidence* - Pamela Dallas

Science of Names/Heraldry:

*Science of Names* - Donald MacRae, Ph.D  
*Coats of Arms: Heraldry for Genealogists* - Sebastian Nelson

For more information, visit the Family History Day website at <http://fhd2010.blogspot.com>

Did you know El Dorado County Historical Society is featured on the FHD Blog? See them at the website listed above.

**YOU KNOW YOU'RE TAKING GENEALOGY TOO SERIOUSLY IF....**

*A magical genie appears and agrees to grant your any one wish, and you ask that the 1890 census be restored.*

**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.

**Castle Garden**

If your ancestors entered the US at New York City prior to 1892, they probably came through Castle Garden rather than Ellis Island. The website <http://www.castlegarden.org/> offers free access to a database of information on millions of immigrants from 1830 to 1892. Over 73 million Americans can trace their ancestors to this early immigration period.

**Ellis Island**

The website <http://www.ellisland.org/> offers free access to records for millions of immigrants who came through Ellis Island after January 1, 1892. It has been estimated that nearly half of all Americans today can trace their family history to at least one person who passed through the Port of New York at Ellis Island.



## Google Book Search

The search engine Google has a search for imaged books. There are many books that have been digitized and placed on the internet. Go to <http://books.google.com/>

For example, if your ancestor was William Clayton, put in the name "William Clayton" using quotation marks in the search box. One of the entries it brings up is William Clayton's Journal, which is a record of his journey from Nauvoo, Illinois to the Salt Lake Valley published by the Clayton family. This book has a full view available including pictures. You can go to the blue bar at the top and scroll through the book page by page. You can enlarge the print in the same bar using the magnifying glass with the "+" sign. You can download the book to your computer and print it. You can "search in this book" on the right side. If you remember a story in your ancestor's life about crossing a river, you can put in the word "river" (without the quotation marks) and it will bring up all the entries in the book where the word river is mentioned. If a full view of the book is not available, you can go to the right side of the page and find out where this book is available under "find this book in the library". This particular book is available at the county and city libraries and many libraries throughout the state. If you decide to purchase the book, it will list on the right side where the book is available to purchase. If your local library doesn't have the book, they can often do an inter-library loan with several libraries in other States.

## CAN YOU RELATE

An e-mail from one of our members:

*Sorry, it took me way too long to get this done, but after an intimate relationship with an AT&T guy in India for 3 ½ hrs and 1 ½ hr with a fellow in San Ramon who I could understand a little better, Chris in the Philippians was able to re-establish my email after another 2 hrs.*

*My computer and I have a Love / Hate relationship.*

## LOCAL HISTORY

### Smith Flat Cemetery

The Smith Flat Cemetery was established by at least 1856, although there is reason to believe the actual date is probably earlier. The Smith's Flat House was an important stage stop on the Placerville/Carson Road.



Mining began in 1850 and eventually, this area became a prosperous mining camp as well. Ranching and logging kept the Smith's Flat area going after the mines were shut down. The earliest burial with a headstone has a date of 1859. People probably started to use this land for burials before 1859; however, there are no marked graves with an earlier date.

The Smith Flat Cemetery was used by all of the families in the Smith Flat area. Prompted by State law in 1972, El Dorado County took over responsibility of the Smith Flat Cemetery.

The Smith Flat Cemetery is inactive; the County has not sold public plots there since 1994. The cemetery encompasses 0.77 acres and 160 burial plots have been shown by Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR). Only 109 of these have headstones.

Presently, the only burials to be done at this cemetery will be for family members of previously interred individuals in family plots that are determined by County staff to have the right to interment.

*Information courtesy of the El Dorado County Cemetery Administrator's Office.*

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

*or One Might Say*

*From the Cluttered ~~Mind~~ Desk of Paul Hodel*

Many eons ago when I was a wee child, I remember going out to the local park every Easter Eve for the local Easter Egg Hunt. When I got into grammar school we had a big carnival every year for Halloween for all the kids. One of the high lights of the Christmas Season was loading into the car and traveling the six miles into the city (population 3,500) to see the displays that had been put up on the lawn of the library and courthouse. When I was eight, I joined Cub Scouts and then later, Boy Scouts. Our little church in our little town always had some sort of activity going for the children, and especially for the teenagers. Of course, as a kid, I didn't think about what all went into giving me these great, life building, experiences, and I sure didn't think about who was doing it and why.

Later, when I was in my mid-twenties and living out in the country between Redding and Red Bluff, I happened to see one of my neighbors was starting to burn some brush piles, so I went over to offer my assistance. There nothing like a "neighbor in need", as an excuse to get out of your own chores, even if his only real need is someone to shoot the breeze with. We were standing under the shade of an oak tree, each leaning on a pitch fork and he mentioned about some of the kids that had been over to his place that week to work with his horses. He was a retired cattleman from eastern Oregon who had moved to California for the milder winters, and he was always available to any of the local kids who needed help with their horses or who just wanted to come over and work with his horses. When I asked him why he spent so much of his time working with the kids, he said, "When I was young, a lot of people did things to help me grow up. I can't go back and thank or repay them because a lot of them are gone, but I can repay them by passing the favor on to others."

That was forty years ago. I can't remember that neighbor's name, but I can and always will remember that short but powerful sermon. It had its affect because ever since I've been volunteering to

help with one thing or another. Not that I'm a poster child for Volunteerism, I don't feel that I do anywhere near what I could, but I keep doing something. I'm also not a martyr for the cause either. Volunteering isn't a sacrifice, it has its own rewards. Some are immediate warm fuzzy feelings from doing something for someone else. Sometimes it's someone commenting on how nice it was that you did something for some one. The best ones, of course, are the ones where you can sit back and see where you've helped someone and they really appreciate it, but they never know who it was that did it. And then there's the man with the seven year old son who comes up to you and says, "I hope my son has a Scout leader who helps him as much as you helped me." That's the one where you have to leave before anyone can see the tears forming. So is that why I volunteer? No, I volunteer because of what that neighbor said forty years ago, it's my way of paying back.

All of us have been the recipient of help and assistance from volunteers. We may not be able to return the favor to them directly, but we can pay the debt we owe them by passing the favor on to others. Earlier in this newsletter we had a "Call for Volunteers". Here are just two of the opportunities out there for you. Many of you are already taking advantage of the opportunities. Some of you still haven't, but you can.

## GENIE FUN

*Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people.*

*Jean-e-alogy: the study of Levis and Wranglers.*

*I think my ancestors had several "bad heir" days.*

*My family tree is lost in the forest!*

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