



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619
Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–February 2011

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- Feb. 15, 2011 Renee Tully
The Holocaust, Living Through It
- Mar. 15, 2011 Getta Stedford
Researching in the New England States

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

RECAP OF OUR LAST MEETING January 18th

Our January meeting marked the 31st anniversary of Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society and it was a great start to our new year.

Our greeter for January was Alice Morrow and refreshments were provided by Carol Sexton, Linda Galley and Luanna Zylla. Thank You ladies, you did great !

We had twenty-nine attendees which included four guests: Debbie Bruce, Laurin Peterlin, Cheryl Morgester and Brenda Sue Pignata. Welcome to you all. As additional information, Laurin is the President of the newly formed California Chapter of the Slovenian Genealogy Society International.

In the business portion of our meeting we thanked our 2010 Executive Board for the wonderful work they have done. 2010 was a great year for our Society and part of that was because of the hard work of those on the Board. That, of course, is not to diminish in any way the fantastic help and support they got from the members. Without the support of all of you, our Society would be functioning any where near as good as it does. We then installed our new Executive Board for the 2011 year. As you can see from the list below, the faces are almost all the same, just some of the duties have changed. We want to thank Linda Galley, who has been our Treasurer for the last three years for a job well done.

For the program portion of the meeting we were fortunate to hear from our own Judy Williams. Judy had been our Library Liaison between the

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 or by phone at (530)622-3299.

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

THOUGHT TO PONDER

The only difference between a rut and a grave is the depth. So get out of that rut you're in !!

Society and the local Family History Center Library for some time now and has worked at the FHC even longer. Working in the library, she realized there are resources there that are not being utilized. Her presentation was aimed at acquainting our members with these valuable resources the library has to offer. She covered a large number of things that are available and also motivated us, as was obvious after the meeting when there were a greater number of members than usual in the FHC. Thanks Judy, for a great presentation.

**NEXT MEETING
February 15th at 1:00**

Renee Tully will be speaking on "*The Holocaust, Living Through It*".

Renee is a citizen of the world. She was born in Germany, raised in France, lived for a while in Guatemala. When she came to the United States, she first settled in New York, then moved to California and now makes her home in Placerville. She has traveled extensively in South and Central America, Europe and Egypt. This gives her a unique perspective on some of the issues that are common to all of us, no matter where in the world we call home.

She has led tours to Egypt, organized convention, and worked in the Semiconductor industry in the Bay Area. This makes her appreciate the troubles and joys most of us face, no matter what our calling in life. She has been a member of Toastmasters International for many years; this qualifies her to share her experiences during World War II and in the German concentration camp in Auschwitz

On January 27th 1995 she was on the front page of the San Jose Mercury News for the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz concentration camp. She was also interviewed by the Mountain Democrat where her picture appeared on June 25th of this year. She is a frequent speaker at Middle and High Schools in our area.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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

FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

The Family History Center will be closed from February 4th through the 21st. Please keep these dates in mind when ordering films.

BIRTH RECORDS

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 a 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, birth date of, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Library Programs

Upcoming January programs at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento.

January 30, Sunday, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – One-Step Website: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools.; Stephen Morse. Register Online

February 5, Saturday, 10:15 am – 11:45 am – Introduction to Online Genealogy An introductory class to doing genealogy online. Register Online

February 22, Tuesday – Book a Genealogist Schedule a 30 minute sessions with a volunteer genealogist. Available from 1:00 pm through 4:00 pm. Register Online

February 27, Sunday, 1:30 – 3:00 – Discover Your Heritage: An Introduction to Genealogy. An introduction to genealogy presented by Glenda Lloyd. Register Online

For more information and to register, see www.saclibrary.org

Regional Family History Center

Wednesday Classes

The Regional Family History Center at 2745 Eastern Ave, Sacramento has genealogy classes every Wednesday afternoon and evening. Visit their website to see what's coming up. <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/>

Sutro Library Trip

March 9, 2011

Our friends in the Genealogy Association of Sacramento will again be sponsoring a bus trip to the Sutro Library in San Francisco. For those of you who may not be familiar with the Sutro Library, it is a genealogy library located on the UC San Francisco campus and it has a wealth of resource materials. Those of us who participated in this trip last year had a great time. We carpooled down to Sacramento, got on a bus, sat back and ate donuts and chit-chatted with other genealogists until the bus dropped us off at the front door of the library just as it was opening. We spent the whole day doing research and when it was time for the library to close, the bus was waiting for us at the front door

to bring us home. It was a great opportunity to both do research and to meet other genealogists and compare notes. For more information you can contact Melanie Howard, Genealogical Association of Sacramento,

melnesia@comcast.net , 916-383-1221.

** As an added bonus, the Regional Family History Center will have a class on February 16 @ 7:00 pm by Pam Dallas on doing research at the Sutro Library, now how coincidental, and convenient, is that!*

Tracing Your Family Tree, How to Begin

Saturday, March 19, 2011

This free seminar, sponsored by the Placer County Genealogical Society will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at the Auburn Placer County Library, 350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA. This has been a great program in the past, especially for those who are just starting out or have been away from genealogy for a while. You'll enjoy yourself at this one. Reservations are required – so please contact seminar@pcgs.pcgene.com.

In Search of Our German Ancestors

Saturday, April 16, 2011

Sacramento

The Sacramento German Genealogy Society will be holding an all day seminar from 9:00 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. on Saturday, April 16, 2011 at 3349 J Street, Sacramento. The presenter will be Dr. Roger P. Minert, a professor at Brigham Young University and the author of more than 70 books and articles on German genealogy and research. It promises to be an interesting and informative day, so mark your calendar.

CHURCH BLOOPERS

A reprint from an actual announcement in a real Church Bulletin (complete with blooper!)

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

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.

Converting Dates from Very Old Norwegian Church Records

Writing in the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter Member Pages, newsletter reader "Lynn10e" has written a great article explaining how to convert the cryptic dates in the Norwegian church registers that are available online. She also mentions a free application available for Macs, iPads and iPhones that does a similar task. If you have Norwegian ancestry, check out the article at <http://goo.gl/mGThW>

Illinois State Genealogical Society Announces New Website

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) has announced the debut of its newly redesigned website available to the public as of Saturday, January 15, 2011. The new ISGS website, located at <http://www.ilgensoc.org>, features links to ISGS projects as well as links to other records and resources throughout Illinois including those individual genealogical home pages with an Illinois connection!

Visitors are invited to explore the new ISGS website and enjoy these features:

- The current issue of the ISGS Newsletter and archived copies back to 2008
- Listings of ISGS events and events for Illinois genealogical societies
- Highlights of various ISGS projects and initiatives
- Free databases filled with information on Illinois ancestors
- A list of Illinois research resources

New Online Newsletter:

Many of you know that I have gotten some of the information used in our Society's newsletters from the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter. Well, there's a new kid on the block, or at least a new online newsletter, the Genealogy Newslines. The Genealogy Newslines is edited by Leland K. Metzler for Family Roots Publishing Co. Some of you may recall Metzler's name. He was the founder of Heritage Quest back in 1985 and was editor of the *Heritage Quest Magazine* for many years before becoming the editor of *The Genealogical Helper* for Everton Press. After Everton Press went out of business, he co-founded Family Roots Publishing Co. and has started up the Genealogy Newslines as a weekly genealogy newsletter. Being sponsored by Family Roots Publishing, the newsletter does promote some of the books they sell, but there are a number of good, informative articles in it and it has some great links to additional resources, so it is worth getting it each week. To get on their mailing list, just go to Family Roots website at <http://www.familyrootspublishing.com/> and in the upper left corner you will see a box that says "SIGN UP Free *Genealogy Newslines* Newsletter". Just type in your e-mail address and the newsletter will start showing up in a week or two.

SPECIAL CENSUSES COUNTED MORE THAN PEOPLE

How much corn, potatoes, flax, sugar and honey did your great-great grandfather farmer produce in 1860? How successful was your great grandfather's small manufacturing business in 1880? How many men and women did he employ and what did he pay them?

Where would a researcher find such revealing information about their ancestors? In the census - but not the one we usually refer to as "the census."

Researchers are most familiar with the national population survey taken every 10 years since 1790. Those records vary in the information they provide; the census initially began to determine population for elected representation.

But the government also wanted other information, so it created a variety of surveys, called schedules, which provided insight and clues for researchers.

•**Agricultural Schedules** (1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880). In 1850, you'll find only farms that produced more than \$100 a year worth of products. By 1870, farms less than three acres or those that produced less than \$500 worth of products were not included.

•**Manufacturing Schedules** (1820, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900 and 1910). The enumeration includes information about the articles manufactured, such as the item's market value, and the kinds, quantities and costs of raw materials; also, the number of men, women, boys, and girls employed; the quantity and kinds of machinery; and the amount of capital invested.

•**Mortality Schedules** (1850, 1860, 1870 and 1880). These have limited value because only individuals who died the 12 months preceding the population schedules were included. For example, anyone who died between June 1, 1859 and May 31, 1860 could be listed on the 1860 Mortality Schedule. Since most states did not require official reporting of deaths until the 20th century, these mortality schedules may be the only record of a cause of death.

•**Veterans Schedule** (1890). This can be used as a substitute for the 1890 population schedule, which was destroyed by fire. It was intended to record Civil War Union veterans but some Confederates are listed as are some veterans of the War of 1812. The schedules for 1890 are available (alphabetically) for states Alabama through Kansas, and also half of Kentucky. The last half of Kentucky through Wyoming were destroyed or lost.

•**Slaves** (1850, 1860). These are lists of slave owners by name with a count of their slaves. The slaves are not listed by name but by sex and age.

•**Social Statistics** (1850, 1860, 1870, 1880). You won't find information on a particular relative, but you'll get a good overview of the community where

your ancestors lived. For each community, the schedule lists the number of schools, libraries, newspapers, churches, paupers, and average wages paid to some groups of people.

Finding microfilm of these special schedules is a challenge. In 1918 and 1919, the census bureau distributed the originals to various repositories. Many records disappeared and have never been accounted for.

After the National Archives was founded, it attempted to gather them. The archives have complete sets for some states and none for others. You can check the online microfilm catalog at <http://tinyurl.com/c9qfza> to see what's available for use at the archives or for rent or purchase. From this link, <http://tinyurl.com/33t97xw>, scroll to the bottom of the page to find a table of "States and Territories" with links for each. With a click the reader can see what special schedules exist for a specific area.

Ancestry.com has the mortality schedules online for 1850 through 1880 and two state mortality schedules (Colorado and Florida) for 1885. Ancestry also has digitized the available veteran's schedules. Subscribers can access these at <http://tinyurl.com/yajff4b>.

Researchers should check with specific state archives that may have acquired the records for their areas. Local areas with good genealogy libraries also sometimes have microfilm of these records.

By Sharon Tate Moody, Special correspondent for the Tampa Bay Online site:
<http://www2.tbo.com/content/2010/dec/26/BANEWS09-special-censuses-counted-more-than-people/life/>

We'll see you at the FHC on February 15th for the next meeting.

