



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- Mar. 15, 2011 Getta Stedford  
*Researching in the New England States*
- Apr. 19, 2011 Doug Noble  
*Early Railroads of California & El Dorado County*
- May 17, 2011 Richard Wilson  
*Creating Your Own Family Albums*
- June 21, 2011 Paul Hodel  
*Finding Your Ancestors in the Cemetery*

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

## RECAP OF OUR LAST MEETING February 15<sup>th</sup>

We want to thank Fran Forni and Mary Ann Harper for the great refreshments and the beautiful table setting, you could really tell they were still in the Valentine's mood. Thank You Ladies!

Carlyn White was our greeter this month and was she ever kept busy! Talk about a huge turn-out of people! To say we were inundated with guests would be putting it mildly. We had twenty-two guests at this meeting. I think that's almost as many guests as we normally get in a year. Between her speaking abilities and her topic, that Renee Tully can sure draw in the people. And did she ever do a fantastic job.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to Renee and her able assistant, Conrad Tracy, for this fantastic program. Renee was born in Germany and as a young girl, she and her mother moved to France. In her late teens, they were arrested and sent to the infamous concentration camp at Auschwitz. They survived and were later transferred together to another camp where they were eventually liberated. Her stories of life in the camps, the hardships, their struggle to survive and, most especially, her mother's great humor and faith in God and the strength it brought to her and Renee were very heart touching.

After the war, Renee had a most interesting life, moving from Europe to Guatemala and then to the United States. She has lived an eventful life and her positive, cheery and upbeat view of life is so very refreshing. Thank You Renee !!

### 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>

## NEXT MEETING March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00

Our March meeting promises to be interesting and informative. Our own Getta Stedford, who has done extensive research in New England, will give us some of her insights. As many of you have family who lived in the New England states, this will be one meeting you'll not want to miss.

Getta was born and raised in western Pennsylvania; attended and graduated from a college in Ohio. She has lived all over the United States with California being her longest address of record since she left home at age 18. Her Grandmothers left bags and boxes full of paper scraps for her. You can imagine what she found when she opened them fifty years later. Over the years she has written articles for local newspapers, served on a School Board, taught Sunday School, worked with the Literacy Program, coached kids' softball teams, and been member of lapidary groups.

Getta enjoys watercolor classes, stained glass, knitting, crocheting, and herb gardening. She loves to listen to people and ask questions for each person she has met and those she still will meet, as each has hidden gems of knowledge from either life experiences or their family stories.

If she could wiggle her nose and have her one wish answered, it would be to have all grand and great-grand parents verbally record their memories for the future. Games, food, holiday traditions, gardening tips, what new things came into existence during their lifetime and all those little tidbits that Historians dealing with the big picture usually miss. Having lived all over these United States, she feels quite lucky. She has seen this country as a resident having time to learn of the various areas from New England, the mid-west, the south and west. While most people only get a week to ten days to cram everything in, she has lived long enough in each area to be a part of what makes each area unique. Genealogy has only increased her "kid in the candy store" condition. She has discovered that her life has led her to many areas where her ancestors have been before her.

## FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

We have four books, which were donated by Sacramento Regional Family History Center.

- Genealogies of Rhode Island Families-Vol 1
- East Tennessee History – Index
- History of Roane Co., TN
- Genealogical Records of Utah

Ancestry .com is now available at the FHC. They now have the library edition of Ancestry, so you'll want to stop by and check it out.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the upcoming training session on Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. 1) Colette Cook will talk about the upcoming procedures of ordering microfilms on-line. 2) Bill and Louise Taylor will give an overview of the new portals at the FHC (including Ancestry.com). The featured speaker will be Paul Hodel, he will give a presentation on Cemeteries.

Future Training Sessions are scheduled for June 1, September 1 and December 8 (which will be a potluck). These sessions have been very informative and they are open to everyone.

## THOUGHT TO PONDER

*Life shouldn't be a journey to a grave with  
the intention of arriving in an attractive,  
preserved body,  
But to skid in sideways, chocolate in both  
hands, body used up, worn out and  
screaming, "What a ride!"*

## 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

## ROOTS AND GOLD DUST PIONEER ANSWERS CALL

Long time genealogist and founding member of Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society, Grace Lee Becker left us peacefully on Monday, February 7, 2011.

Born April 27, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan, Grace was an avid and tireless genealogist and a most wonderful person who lead a full and productive life. Many of you had the opportunity last August of being hosted in Grace's home by her and her husband, Doug. We had the good fortune to sit at her feet as she talked of her life, her many adventures, and her family lines. Grace is a descendant of the McCoy's of the Hatfield and McCoy feud fame and traveled east to visit with them and learn of the family. She is of Cholmondeley descent and is a cousin of Queen Elizabeth of England, whom she has corresponded with. She even had Chicago gangsters in her family tree. Grace's search for her family ties covered many years and the information she collected filled dozens of family albums which filled an entire wall of her house.

From these gatherings, the Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society was formed. Grace held many positions within the Society over the years and after 30 years, was still a member in good standing at her passing. Her passion for books encouraged her to build up not only her own private library of research materials, but to help the Society build a research library of its own, which eventually was donated to the Family History Center. Grace's legacy lives on each time our Society donates another book or CD to the FHC.



*Members peruse some of Grace's Family Albums.*



*Mary Ann Harper and the late Barbara Zigelhofer visit with Grace during our visit in August 2010*

Grace was part of a small group of ladies who got together in the 1970's to do genealogy together.

In her professional life, Grace was in law enforcement and was, for many years, a member of the California State Police even assigned to Ronald Reagan and his family during his tenure as Governor. She also worked for Areojet General Corporation and El Dorado County Sheriff's office in a variety of administrative positions.

In her private life, she is the mother of Michelle Rynn of Surprise, AZ.; Brain Pearson of Sacramento, Calif. and the stepmother of Bruce Becker of Seattle, WA.; and Terri Jorgensen of Salyer, CA, children of her devoted husband of 34 years, Douglas B. Becker, who survives her. She is a proud grandmother and great-grandmother. She is survived by brothers Thomas Thrasher of Surprise, AZ.; and Robert Thrasher of Carmichael, Calif.

Grace has left us, but she will continue to live as each of us remember her, whenever someone uses a research book in the Family History Center, and as long as there are genealogists in this world.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **Central Library Programs**

Programs are ongoing at the Central Library, 828 I Street, Sacramento. For their class schedule, more information and to register, see [www.saclibrary.org](http://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 carpoled 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](mailto:melnesia@comcast.net), 916-383-1221.

### **Sacramento Regional Family History Center**

#### **Sixth Annual Family History Seminar -**

March 12, 2011

From 8:30 to 3:30. Keynote Speaker will be Lisa Lee speaking on "Finding Your Unfindable Relatives". There will be beginning, intermediate

and advanced classes on African American Genealogy and Family History Research. For flier and registration, see:

<http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/form>

### **Placer County Genealogical Society Seminar**

Saturday, March 19, 2011

**Free Seminar:** *Tracing Your Family Tree:  
How to Begin*

When: Saturday, Mar 19, 2010

Where: Auburn Placer County Library  
350 Nevada Street, Auburn, CA

Reservations required - [seminar@pcgs.pcgenes.com](mailto:seminar@pcgs.pcgenes.com)  
For more information, visit their website at:

<http://pcgs.pcgenes.com/>

### **Root Cellar's 20th annual Spring Seminar**

Saturday, April 9, 2011

The Seminar will be featuring Geoff Rasmussen who will discuss Legacy software for genealogical research. The seminar is from 9:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m. at the Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, California. Registration details are at [www.rootcellar.org](http://www.rootcellar.org). Contact Sammie Hudgens (916) 481-4930; [samihud@aol.com](mailto:samihud@aol.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.

### **Family History Day 2011**

Saturday, October 15

8:30-4:00

Follow the blog at <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com>

## TIPS FOR BREAKING DOWN THAT BRICK WALL

As your family tree grows, sooner or later you'll inevitably hit a "brick wall" in your research. It'll probably seem as though the trail for your ancestors has gone cold. But don't fret - solving these mysteries is one of the joys of family history. Use these tips to get going again

### Re-check everything:

- Re-examine how you got to this point in your research.
- Something that didn't seem important when you found it may provide an all-important clue.
- Check for any mistakes you may have made earlier: a small error in your research, a date or name for example, can create a knock-on effect.
- Question everything you think you know about your missing ancestor and check for proof.
- Don't rely on what you have been told by others but seek evidence for yourself from the records.

### Search all available sources:

- A dead end doesn't mean the end of your research, simply that you will have to try another approach.
- Double-check and cross-check details such as your ancestor's name, age and place of birth.
- Locate all possible records for the person, in every census and BMD record, but don't limit yourself to just these records.
- Broaden your search. If you have exhausted all the core records, branch out and try other possible sources, such as passenger lists and military records.
- New resources are published online all the time so re-check websites, but don't forget your local studies center or family history society.

### Consider name variations:

- You should expect to start to encounter variable name spellings beyond 1850.
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- Think creatively; how could your ancestor's name be spelled phonetically? Try different vowels and possible alternative spellings.

### Consider age variations:

- Double-check ages on all available records to look for discrepancies.
- Your ancestor may have altered their age at one time or another, e.g. to enlist in the army, to gain employment, or to minimize a disparity in age at marriage. Misinformation in one record tends to create a knock-on effect and recur in later records
- Your ancestor may not have known their real date of birth – and neither may the informant on the record, e.g. a death certificate. Ages were commonly rounded, usually to the nearest five or 10 years.

### Contact others:

- Even if you have interviewed relatives before, ask them again about your missing ancestor, in case they remember something new.
- Use genealogy message boards to see if anyone else has researched branches of your family tree and has useful information to share (but always double-check it for yourself).
- Share your family tree online in hope of attracting other researchers who might have information about your ancestor.

Sometimes you just need to take a break, work on another line for a while and then come back to the brick wall with a new perspective.

These tips were found in [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk)

## CHURCH BLOOPERS

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

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

## TOUR THE CALIFORNIA STATE ARCHIVES

One Friday each month, the California State Archives will be providing a free, behind the scenes tour of the California State Archives!

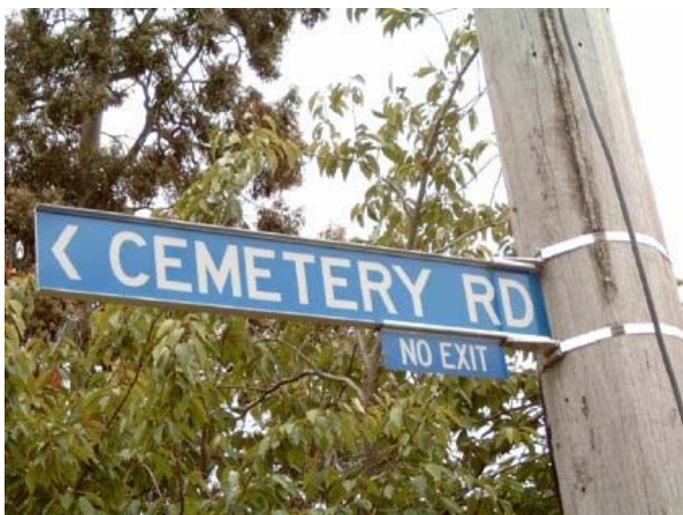
Everyone who is interested in California's rich history and its state government is invited to tour the State Archives' collections of historic records, which include more than 100 million documents, 20,000 maps and architectural drawings, 250,000 photographs and thousands of video and audio recordings.

Tours will begin at 12:00 noon and will last approximately one hour. Right now, they are scheduling tours on the following dates for 2011:

March 25  
April 29  
May 27  
June 24  
July 29  
August 26  
September 30  
October 28  
November 18  
December 30

You can call (916) 653-2385. or visit them at: <http://www.sos.ca.gov/archives/tour.htm>.

### CAUTION SIGN



*Always Read the Fine Print !*

## SPECIAL CENSUSES COUNTED MORE THAN PEOPLE

- THE UPDATE -

Well, Harvey Andrews responded to the article I included in last month's newsletter on Special Censuses. In Harvey's words, "You're full of prunes." I'm fairly sure he was smiling when he said that – at least I hope he was. Anyway, Harvey went on to say:

“The proper title for what you listed as "Veterans Schedules, 1890" is the "1890 Special Federal Census of Union Veterans and Widows of Veterans of the Civil War," or at least that's what is on the cover of my hard copy, Books I, II, & III, for the State of Missouri. I have found these books to be very helpful in tracking my ancestors who were in the Union Army and were living in Missouri in 1890. It identifies military units for the individual, whether he was wounded or injured by accident, contracted a disease on active duty, and identifies the county/township where he or his widow was living in Missouri in 1890. This Special Census is a good lead for pension records which contain a lot of information on the veterans/widows listed.”

Harvey says he'll be glad to loan his books to any of you who are researching Missouri in the 1890 period. He also has other census records in print for Douglas County, 1870 - 1910, and Ozark County, 1850, Missouri, if anybody needs them.

Thanks Harvey for the information and your kind offer.

*We'll see you at the FHC on March 15<sup>th</sup> for the next meeting.*

