



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- July 19, 2011 Dr. Donald MacRea, PhD,
The Scottish Familial System
- August 16, 2011 Paul Hodel
Finding Your Ancestors in the Cemetery
- September 20, 2011 Guy Nixon
*The How and Where to Finding Your Ancestors in
the 'Civilized Tribes' of the Indian Territory*
- October 18, 2011 Harvey Andrews
Genealogy Research on the Internet
- November 15, 2011 Everybody
Past and Present Treats
*Our Annual Show & Tell, Election of Officers and
Finger Food Feast*

More details to follow as we put together the speakers schedule and make arrangements for the workshops. Carlyn is already lining up programs and speakers for the first part of next year as we speak.

RECAP OF OUR LAST MEETING June 21st

Thanks to Carol Sexton for being our greeter at the meeting and we want to thank Linda Galley and Lynn Mizell for the wonderful refreshments. Many thanks for taking such good care of us, ladies.

Good turn out. We had 27 people at the meeting and our speaker, member Getta Stedeford made an awesome presentation. Her topic war Researching in the New England States, but it was so thorough that it applied to a lot of other areas also.

Did you know that many of the people who came from the Channel Islands, in the English Channel, weren't actually English, but could have been Huguenots, French or of some other European descent?

Getta also gave us a good tip for when doing research. If you have an idea of who the first person of your line was who came over to the U.S., start with them and work your way down through their decadency instead of trying to work back through time to them. Sometimes this is easier.

Thanks Getta, your presentation left us feeling a lot more knowledgable.

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>

NEXT MEETING

July 19th at 1:00

I know a number of our members, including myself; have ancestors who came from Scotland. At our July meeting, we will be pleased to have Dr. Donald MacRea, PhD. His topic will be “The Scottish Familial System” which includes the Clans & families, their tartans, the heraldic system and using the Old Parish Records.

Dr. MacRae was educated in Europe and the United States. At an early age he developed a strong interest in the familial sciences of heraldry, genealogy, and the science of names. He holds a Ph.D in etymology from the Universities of Edinburgh and Shelbourne University of Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. MacRae is a member of The Royal Heraldry Society, Scotland; The Name Society, Chicago; Scottish Tartans Society, Scotland; and the International Congress of Heraldic Sciences, Geneva; a Certified Member of the American Genealogical Society, Washington DC; a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in Edinburgh; visiting lecturer of the Humanities Dept, University of Edinburgh. He has been the Director of the American Heraldic & Genealogical Institute in Sacramento since 1968. He prefers to speak on subjects not generally available to genealogical groups, but which can be very helpful to the serious genealogical investigator.

In talking with other organizations where he has made presentations, we have heard many great reviews. I'm sure you'll enjoy his presentation. See you there.

MURPHY'S LAW OF GENEALOG Y

You finally find your great grandparent's wedding records and discover that the 'brides' father was named John Smith.

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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

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/>

Nevada County Genealogical Society's 18th Annual Genealogy Seminar Saturday, August 27, 2011

Two sessions will be offered for beginners, consecutively covering topics such as where to start, charts and forms, references, maps, census records, vital records, etc. For those who don't need the basics, there will be several classes dedicated to Computer and Internet research. Several new presentations are being offered including: “*Eastern European Research*”, “*Searching for Your Irish Ancestors*”, “*Work those Census*”, “*Message Boards & Mailing Lists*”. “*Digging It – Parts I & II*”, and in honor of the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War “*Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)*”. Each participant will have the opportunity to attend five sessions of his or her choice. Registration fee includes a syllabus of information provided by all instructors.

The seminars will be held at the Peace Lutheran Church at 828 West Main Street, Grass Valley, CA. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. and lunch will be available. Cost is \$17.50 for members, \$20.00 for non-members. For more information, contact Joan Bega at 530-346-8909 or bega@dishmail.net .

Family History Day 2011

Saturday, October 15, 8:30-4:00 – follow the blog at <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com>

OUR ROSE IS THE ROSE

El Dorado County is known for being the only county in the state that recognizes our mature ladies. While most counties have a “Teen” or “Miss” pageant, ours is the only county that recognized our Roses. We are honored that our very own Mary Ann Harper was “Sashed” at the recent El Dorado County fair as the 2011 El Dorado Rose.

We know Mary Ann for her tireless work as the Secretary for Roots and Gold Dust. Some of you know her from her years with the school district or from the many years of community service that she and her husband, Harry, have provided to this county. As most of us already knew, she is a very fitting choice for El Dorado Rose.

As stated in the Mountain Democrat article recognizing her accomplishment: “Harper seems to bring extra enthusiasm to the title, seemingly a complete Rose who has been a vibrant, warm and productive blossom throughout her life. Her rosy personality, so full of charm and verve, would only seem to lack thorns.

But that works out well for Harper because it is said that her husband, Harry Harper is her thorn.”

To help those of you who are new to the Society learn a little bit more about Mary Ann, the following is a reprint of her autobiography that we ran in the newsletter two years ago when she was elected as our Secretary:

“I was a 5th generation born in Los Angeles, CA on my mother’s side. My great-grandfather, Rudolph Gunther Weyse was a prominent businessman and had a dirt road named after him by Pioneers, Mr. & Mrs. Horace Wilcox. The Wilcox’ had subdivided their ranch in 1887 and called it Hollywood. The road was named Weyse Avenue which crossed Prospect Ave. Prospect Ave. became the main artery and was renamed Hollywood Blvd. Weyse Avenue became Vine Street. This was the origin of Hollywood and Vine.

This legend along with tales of being a descendent of John C. Fremont is what whetted my appetite and led me to The Roots and Gold Dust Society.



*El Dorado Rose Mary Ann Harper
and her husband, Harry, the El Dorado Thorn*

This certainly has been a daunting task. Now that I am finally interested, I also realize that I am the oldest living member of my family!

My parents moved to Shingle Springs in 1950 and I started the 5th grade at Buckeye School. All of El Dorado County attended high school at El Dorado County High in Placerville.

I started working for El Dorado Irrigation District with the high school’s work experience program in my senior year. I was taught drafting at EID and was hired to stay until 5pm if I could provide my own transportation. I had my royal blue Model A Ford roadster that my dad had rebuilt for me and I was ready. After graduation I stayed with EID.

Harry and I were married the next spring and I stayed with EID for 3 more years. I then went to work for the El Dorado County Auditor as a Deputy Auditor where I stayed for 4 years until I retired to begin the job of Motherhood.

We had 2 children, Todd and Dana. Todd now lives in Monroe, WA, with his wife and our granddaughter, and Dana lives in Shingle Springs with our two grandsons.

When Dana started kindergarten I began working for the Buckeye School District as a classroom assistant. I then became a teacher associate in special education. I just retired in 2006 after 14 years as the Silva Valley School secretary and a total of 32 years with the school district. Work was fun and I enjoyed it, but I enjoy retirement even more. This country wouldn't be what it is without volunteers and I try to do my part by being involved in a number of service organizations and projects over the years.

I love snow-shoeing and cross-country skiing, gardening, live plays & performances, family reunions and dining either at home or out with good friends. Life is good!"

Mary Ann, our warmest and most heartfelt congratulations on the honor and recognition that you so richly deserve.

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.

Regional Family History Center New Hours

The Regional Family History Center at 2745 Eastern Ave, Sacramento, has started opening on Mondays so they are now available five days a week. Their hours are:

Monday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Tuesday	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Wednesday	10:00 am - 6:30 pm
Thursday	10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Friday	10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Mygenealogist.com

From time to time, many of us have to resort to something we all hate to do, get someone else to help us with our genealogy. Yes, I know, we'd all rather do it ourselves, but sometimes, especially when we are talking about an area that is not easy

for us to get to, we have to ask someone else to help us. Sometimes that will be another volunteer as many of us are, and sometimes we need to call in a professional. I was recently contacted by a person whose organization represents a large number of professional genealogists and asked to mention them in our newsletter. While I have never used their services, I give you this as a possible contact. Of course, you want to contact a number of professionals and compare them before selecting one. Mygenealogist.com has a rather extensive website which can be viewed at: <http://www.mygenealogist.com>.

Cyndi's List Launches a New Web Site

The following announcement was written by Cyndi Ingle Howells, owner of Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com>:

"A major upgrade to celebrate 15 years of service EDGEWOOD, WASHINGTON (June 6, 2011) – Cyndi's List is proud to announce a newly upgraded web site. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells. The upgrade has been done by FusionSpan of Maryland. Their staff worked closely with Cyndi to make improvements and to implement new technology and new ideas designed specifically for Cyndi's List and for the genealogical community.

Part of the upgrade was made possible by donations from generous users of Cyndi's List. To date, 20% of what was accomplished in the project was thanks to them. Donors have been listed on the web site."

About CyndisList.com:

CyndisList.com is the world's largest one-woman family history resource, with more than 300,000 categorized links for genealogical research. For more than 15 years Cyndi's List has helped hundreds of thousands of people with their online journey to trace their family history. The site averages 275,000 unique visitors and 5,000,000 page hits every month. Cyndi's List has won numerous awards and consistently remains one of the top genealogical portals for beginners, intermediate, and veteran researchers.

New Familysearch Techtips Website Brings Together Genealogy And Technology

Using technology is not necessary to research one's family tree but it certainly can help! FamilySearch has been involved in providing genealogy information for decades. Now the same organization is assembling technical information on a new web site with the purpose of providing helpful information to you and to everyone else interested in genealogy. The following announcement was written by FamilySearch:

"Genealogy has been a popular hobby for over a century, but the pursuit of one's ancestors is now a decidedly technology-intensive endeavor. To help family historians take advantage of the latest technology, FamilySearch has launched a new section on its FamilySearch.org website called FamilySearch TechTips.

The goal of TechTips is to continue building a bridge between the developing worlds of technology and genealogy, according to FamilySearch product marketing manager Jim Ericson.

"For someone who is already excited about family history, FamilySearch TechTips can introduce them to technologies that will help them climb their family tree," Ericson said. "Those who may not be familiar with genealogy, but are technology enthusiasts, can learn how products can be applied to family history."

Ericson said visitors to FamilySearch TechTips can read about a variety of subjects, such as how to store photographs for the long term, what mobile applications are available for family historians, how to share files and how to scan images. The site also contains step-by-step guides to help users accomplish a technology-related task, like how to join an online research community and why.

FamilySearch TechTips is a community effort that is a cross between a blog and an online technology magazine. Anyone can contribute articles and share their personal experiences. The TechTips articles don't endorse specific products, although they may mention what is available in the marketplace. There will also be content on new technology or trends that impact the world of genealogy.

"People can learn where genealogy technology is headed and how technology may evolve in the future to make life easier for family historians," Ericson said.

The new TechTips section of FamilySearch is available at <https://www.familysearch.org/techtips/>.

RESEARCH NOTE: A Bit of Info about SSDI

A poster on the Association of Professional Genealogists public mailing list recently asserted that she had come across an error in the date of death listed for a person on the SSDI. She questioned how this could happen when the entry was supposedly verified by a family member. In response another poster said that as far as she knew, the Social Security Administration does not accept death reports from private individuals.

Unfortunately, the second poster's information that SSA does not accept death reports from private individuals is incorrect.

It is useful to understand what we refer to as the Social Security Death Index is and is not. For the best understanding of just about anything, an old rule that we baby boomers learned in the 1960s applies: go right to the source and ask the horse!

As a result of a [1980] Freedom of Information Act lawsuit, SSA maintains a record of reported deaths known as the DMF. The terms of the related consent judgment required that SSA make available to the [public], the SSN, surname, and date of death of deceased numberholders. As of June 2007, the DMF database contained detailed information on more than 82 million numberholders. SSA provides DMF data to the Department of Commerce's National Technical Information Service (NTIS). NTIS, in turn, sells the DMF data to customers we broadly categorize as follows: (1) Federal, State, and local government customers; (2) industry customers including financial, investigative, credit reporting, and medical research organizations; and (3) public customers, including genealogists, individuals, etc. Customers can purchase the complete data file for \$1,725 and subscribe to monthly electronic updates for another \$2,600. The electronic updates provide subscribers with DMF additions, corrections, and deletions.

The DMF is not available directly from SSA. That which we civilians refer to as the SSDI (Social Security Death Index) is one of the commercially repackaged versions of the DMF that a vendor has obtained from the NTIS.

The DMF contains nearly 89,000,000 records of Social Security recipients who have passed away since 1936. Most of these records date from 1962 to the present.

Each year SSA adds more than 2 million records to the file. The records include both beneficiary and non-beneficiary records and verified and non-verified data. Sources of death data are: family members; funeral homes; States, Federal agencies (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Veteran's Affairs, etc.), postal authorities, institutions and internal sources from SSA's payment records. Ninety percent of the file includes reports from family members and funeral homes. So indeed most death reports come from private individuals. (Posted May 4, 2011 Craig)

FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

We are very fortunate to have a local FHC and to have their great support of our genealogy efforts. Let's show our appreciation for this by utilizing the Family History Center whenever we can.

New books in the Library

- MA 57
Mount Auburn Cemetery
- CA 92
El Rancho Capay, Tehama County
- MIL 19
Some of the Military Records of America before 1900
- US 71
Mid-Atlantic States and Canada
- OC 14
The Roll of Battle Abbey

Surname Biographies:

- Schadt, Heinemann, Poorman, Kinley
- Sinkler, Sinclair & St. Clair-A Family History
- Jewett Family of America-Quarterlies 2007-2011
- Jewett Family of America, Yearbook
- Leavitt Families, National Association Newsletters

Periodicals, Newsletters, Quarterlies, etc.

- New England Ancestors Quarterlies 2001-2007
- American Ancestors Quarterlies 2010-2011
- New England Historical Genealogical Society E-News 2009-2011

Reminder: A good way to escape the summer heat is to visit the Placerville Family History Center Library. The library has computers with free access to many genealogy sites such as Ancestry, Footnote, Godfrey Memorial Library and many others.

There are also microfilm readers, a microfiche reader, printers and a microfilm scanner/printer. Don't forget your flash drive (with your name on it) so that you can save all the data you find from the microfilm and the internet sites.

Happy Hunting!!

A special Thank You to Judy Williams for keeping us constantly updated on the latest and greatest from the library.

YOUR TIME IS RUNNING OUT !!

You've almost missed your opportunity. We would like to do a special supplement to the August newsletter featuring stories about people and/or places in El Dorado County. It can be anything from the recent past or gold rush. Please write up anything you may know about and send it to Paul Hodel for inclusion in this special supplement. It doesn't have to be long -- even a paragraph will be a big help. I know there are a lot of us who didn't grow up here, but we've still heard stories or done some research in the local area. Let's share what we have with each other and anyone else who happens to peruse our newsletter. E-mail your contribution to pljhodel@hotmail.com. Thanks for your help. Paul

CHURCH BLOOPERS

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

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

We'll see you at the FHC on July 19th for our next meeting.



