



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619
Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter: - August 2011

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

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*

Carlyn is already lining up programs and speakers for the first part of next year as we speak.

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](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index.htm)

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT THIS MONTH

There is a special supplement to this month's newsletter. As a genealogy society located in El Dorado County, we have a number of members who have done research in the local area. We have asked them to share some of the results of that they've found over the years. The attached supplement is just a small portion of what people have found on our wonderful county.

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

July 19, 2011

We would like to thank Bonnie Holbrook for being our Greeter and thank Elaine Andrews and Paul Hodel for providing the refreshments. And a special thank you to those who helped set up before the meeting and clean up afterwards.

We had a very wonderful presentation by Dr. Donald MacRae, Ph.D, who discussed the Scottish Familial System with us. It was a fast paced, very informative presentation. Dr. MacRae, a native of Scotland, is extremely well versed and covered topics we don't usually hear about. Scotland has evolved into its own system and following family lines can be a challenge if you are trying to use the tried and true methods we are familiar with in other countries. Thanks to Dr. MacRae, we now have a much broader understanding of where to look and what to look for as well as an increased knowledge of Scottish history, structure, and culture. We also know how the Tartan pattern is properly laid out. His presentation was greatly appreciated by all. Thank You Dr. MacRae.

Mary Ann Jones was the winner in our book can drawing.

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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NEXT MEETING

August 16, 2011

Some of you may have had the opportunity to listen to Paul Hodel make a presentation to the local Family History Center staff on cemeteries. If you did, you already know that we are in store for a great time at our August meeting. Paul's presentation will be on "*Finding Your Ancestors in the Cemetery*". Although similar to the presentation he gave to the FHC staff, this talk will be aimed more at actually getting out in the cemetery and will include tips on reading, photographing and documenting headstones.

Paul has been active in genealogy for over 30 years. He worked for Caltrans for almost 30 years before taking an early retirement in 2005 to care for his sick wife. As a genealogist, he got interested in cemeteries and has taken on cemeteries as his second hobby, or as he says, his obsessions. He is a regular contributor to Findagrave.com and is an active volunteer with the cemeteries in El Dorado County. He has done research in and photographed graves at over 200 cemeteries in 16 different states. Paul will be discussing cemeteries from both a genealogist's and a taphophilia's viewpoint.

FUN EPITAPHS

On the grave of Ellen Shannon in Girard, Pennsylvania is almost a consumer tip:

Ellen Shannon

*Who was fatally burned March 21, 1870
by the explosion of a lamp filled with
"R.E. Danforth's Non-Explosive Burning Fluid"*

YOU KNOW YOU ARE A GENEALOGY ADDICT WHEN ...

You store your clothes under the bed, because your closet is full of books and papers.

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/>

Please note the following message from the Regional FHC:

"Family History Summer 'Walk-In' Public Classes

FamilySearch has provided many, many sources for training. Beginning Tuesday, July 19th the SRFHC will show a video class from the *Research Online Training Courses* that may be found at FamilySearch.org. The classes will be held in the Relief Society Room (public class location) and open for 'walk-ins' on Tuesday and Thursday of each week at 1pm. The schedule of classes for the next 4 weeks is as follows:

July 19 & 21 at 1pm: *Basic U.S. Military Records* - 25 min.

July 26 & 28 at 1pm: *Military Records- Civil War* - 35 min.

Aug 2 & 4 at 1pm: *Revolutionary War Research* - 43 min.

Aug 9 & 11th at 1pm: *WWI Draft Cards & More* - 41 min.

Class handout will be available for those who attend."

Old City Cemetery Tour

August 9, 2011 @ 10 am

Our friends at the Genealogical Association of Sacramento (GAS), the same ones who sponsor the bus trip to Sutro Library each spring, are having a special event in August and we are invited. Melanie Howard, who is a docent at the Old City Cemetery, has arranged a special summer event. She will give a special tour Tuesday, August 9. To avoid the heat of the day the tour will start at 10:00 a.m. The cemetery is located at 1000 Broadway in Sacramento.

The tour lasts about 45 minutes. There will be some walking involved, but not a lot. There will be OCC golf cart to take less mobile members on the tour.

Please park in the lot across from the cemetery on Broadway (unless you have a handicap placard). There are also a few places to park on the grassy area off the shoulder of the roads in the cemetery and in the center of the cemetery by the Archives building. We are to meet Melanie at the front gate.

The cemetery committee does ask for donations to help defray the cost of replacing brickwork and broken borders in the plots. If you would like more information about Old City Cemetery, you may visit their web site at: <http://www.oldcitycemetery.com/>

If you would like to attend please contact Paul Hodel at pljhodel@hotmail.com or call him at (530) 622-3299. He is coordinating with GAS and will try to arrange car pooling.

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
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five sessions of his or her choice. Registration fee includes a syllabus of information provided by all instructors.

The seminar 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>

A RANDOM THOUGHT ON GENEALOGY

*"It's an unusual family that hath neither
a lady of the evening nor a thief."*

FROM THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

April 20, 1934

Grave at Chili Bar to be Dedicated on Sunday

Members of Placerville Parlor No. 9, N.S.D.G.W., will assemble at their hall Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, to go to Chile[sic] Bar to dedicate the grave of Ella Cooage, who died April 24, 1862, at the age of 3 years. The grave recently was located by Mrs. Dora Wood and through her an appropriate plaque for the grave has been obtained. The general public will be welcome to attend the service.

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol

CHURCH BLOOPERS

Real excerpts from real church programs, complete with the blooper:

*Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM –
prayer and medication to follow.*

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.

New Resources Available for Massachusetts

The Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants has added some new resources to its website, all free to the public. In the Online Resources section of the Research menu, you will see the plans they have for providing information. Currently, only the state guides, vital records, and genealogical tools sections have information. Future plans include cemetery, census, church, court, land, military, and town records, city directories, immigration and naturalization, and newspapers.

The genealogical tools section has a PDF file of a pedigree chart. The state guides provide information on the New England states. Here you will find various records sources and repositories in the state. You will also find a list of counties in the state.

Particularly helpful is Franklin County, Massachusetts, where the index for the dockets and files of the probate court from 1812 to 1925 has been scanned and made available online. The images are not searchable, but you can browse through. You can jump down to a particular letter of the alphabet to a list of links with the first surname on each page of the index that starts with that letter. The images load in a new tab in your browser, and loaded fairly quickly with a high-speed internet connection. Having them open a new tab makes accessing easier, as you can quickly open up a new tab with another page instead of having to hit the back button and wait for the page to reload.

As GSMD is able to add to the website, the value will only increase over time. Check it out at www.massmayflower.org.

Courtesy of The Weekly Genealogist, Vol. 14, No. 26, Whole #537, June 29, 2011

Immigrants to Canada Online

In 1803, the British Parliament enacted legislation to regulate vessels carrying emigrants to North America. The master of the vessel was required to prepare a list of passengers and to deposit it at the port of departure. Unfortunately, few such lists have survived and therefore, there are no comprehensive nominal lists of immigrants arriving in Canada before 1865.

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) holds the Canadian immigration records for the years 1865 to 1935. The lists are online, providing 23,482 references to immigration records held at Library and Archives Canada. Those passenger lists are the sole surviving official records of the arrival of the majority of people accepted as immigrants in Canada. However, numerous other sources are available elsewhere, including church records, census records, and local governmental records.

You can learn more at the Library and Archives Canada web site and see what databases they have for you to search at:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/index-e.html> .

Courtesy of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, 5 July 2011.

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED AN INQUIRY THAT READ SOMETHING LIKE THIS ?

I would like to find out if I have any living relatives or dead relatives or ancestors in my family.

FHC LIBRARY UPDATES

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

The Family History Center will be closed for their annual summer vacation from August 1 through August 15.

On-line ordering of film will begin soon. Check in at the FHC when it reopens the middle of August to find out how to order films and fiche on-line.

**CATHERINE (AGNEW) McBEATH
STRONACH**

Alice Morrow could use some help: She received a query about a family from a man in Australia whose wife is a descendant of John Agnew and his son Robert Thomas.

“I found some material on both brothers, but did not find birth records for the children born here, or positive matches and the ships and dates of arrivals and departures for the two families.

Two brothers, John and Thomas Agnew, lived in the Coloma area in the 1850's. Both men's wives were named Margaret. Originally from Scotland, they migrated to Australia and then came here during the Gold Rush. Both families were listed on Dutch Creek in the 1850 census. Thomas and Margaret owned a Sawmill on Dutch Creek. I did not find any property records for John. Both families returned to Australia around 1860.

John's daughter Catherine returned to El Dorado County with her first husband, James McBeath. They had eight children. After James' death, Catherine married Alexander Stronach.

If anyone else (perhaps a descendant of Catherine Agnew McBeath Stronach?) is researching these names I'd like to speak with you! – Alice Morrow”

If you can help Alice, please e-mail her at:
morbrowz@comcast.net

FROM THE PLACERVILLE REPUBLICAN
Wednesday, September 19, 1923

El Dorado Fire

The pioneer town of El Dorado, whose history dates back before the discovery of gold in California, was practically wiped out by the fire on Monday evening, when the flames from the burning forest driven by the heavy wind rushed down upon the town. In the space of a few hours, nearly thirty buildings had been totally destroyed, with nearly everything in them. Furniture, automobiles, clothing, store stock, etc., all went up on smoke.

For a while it looked as though the Hotel Hill would also be destroyed, but by super-human effort the fire was kept away and the building escaped destruction. Many people lost everything they had

and were homeless, saving only the clothing they had on their backs.

Among the buildings destroyed were the following:

- 5-room house and barn of Mrs. W.H. Shinn of Woodridge.
- 7-room house and garage of Chas. Sackett
- Large barn and 40 tons of hay of J.T. Roy.
- 5-room cottage of Lillie E. Hill (her family residence was saved)
- 6-room dwelling, garage, barn and outbuildings of Geo. W. Askew
- The Clark Hotel owned by Seymour Hill
- Joe Wells lost his automobile and all his furniture.
- The Masonic Hall, one of the old historic buildings of the county. This building was insured for \$1,000 and the furniture for \$150. Everything was destroyed by fire except the records of Hiram Lodge No. 41, R.&A.M. and the pictures of the three first Masters.

Only light insurance was carried on any of the property burned.

There was also a large quantity of cord wood burned in this fire, which will be greatly felt this winter.

The fire in its rush upon El Dorado and on toward Shingle Springs burned over the following ranches:

C.E. Pine, Miles ranch, Kelley ranch, Dormody ranch, John Fleming ranch, Wm. Wulff ranch, D.P. Osborne, El Dorado Mining Corp. and the Shaw Mine; J.C. Forni home and barn, the latter worth \$5,000 and 100 ton of hay destroyed; Geo. E. Minor ranch, Stark Bros. ranch, Cantrell Brothers ranch, and the Bartholemew ranch, L.G. Hontoon and Leo Grijalvia ranches, J.M. and W.M. Strickland ranch, F.M. George ranch, Harvey Speers ranch, Anton Pavia ranch, J.F. Nelson ranch, Orrin M. Sackett ranch, J.P. Dunlop ranch, John Chapman ranch and three ranches owned by Seymour Hill.

Among the few dwellings saved were those of Mrs. Servilla C. Shinn, M.J. Williams, Fred Schanee, W.J. Moore, Wm. Barbee, Thos. H. Davidson, Paul J. Schafer, Harvey White and Ralph Sutton; the school house, Hotel Hill, El Dorado Garage and S.P. Depot were all saved.

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol

From
A FEW MEMORIES by Howard H.
Hoover
December 27, 1999

I remember Oakland and a trip to Quincy and Feather River and a search for gold, but no luck-1921. We moved to San Andreas and then Patterson and our trip to see the grandparents. We moved to 13th Avenue and 21st Street in Oakland. I went to the Saturday morning movie (5 ¢) and won a 3# box of candy and was the most popular kid! I got home with a few pieces for my brothers. We moved to El Dorado and went to a one room school (30 pupils). There were two of us in the sixth grade, so the teacher moved me up to the seventh grade and him back to the fifth and had one less class to teach. I think my folks put a little pressure on the teacher to do this. The next year I was the valedictorian of my graduating class of four. These were happy years for me. My folks both worked in the store and I was free to roam around old mines, trap skunks, kill rattlesnakes, etc. I got a job herding milk cows. I brought them in for milking at night and back out in the morning. I rode my bicycle with a handful of rocks to keep the cows on course. Made 75¢ per week, spent 15¢ on a root beer float and banked the rest. In the summer of 1929, I worked in a garage, put new connecting rods in cars and most any other job available-50¢ a day. I entered high school that fall. It was great. I weighted 98 pounds, but went out for football. I got my nose smashed and never made the team. I weight only 145 pounds when I graduated. Scholastically, I went nowhere the first three years but woke up and made the A honor role as a senior. The depression was very bad, few jobs. I worked in a Forest Service Camp one summer, 60¢/hour and at a fruit packing shed for 32¢ /hour.

My mother was pushing hard on me. I enrolled at Sacramento Jr. College in 1935 in Engineering. I wasn't the greatest student, but was pretty good at playing touch football in the street. Went home on weekends and worked odd jobs. The next summer I needed a job to finance my schooling. Brother Matt was working at the Union Mine, so I would ride to work with him, ask the man for a job, he would say no, and I would walk three miles back up the hill to town. This went on for nineteen days before I wore

him down and got the job. It was \$3½ day and we got every other Sunday off. Legally I wasn't old enough to work underground, but I lied a little. Made \$200 that summer and saved \$180 of it. That, with a little help from the folks, took care of my second year of college. I wanted to go out for football, but a motorcycle accident nixed that.

*An Excerpt from Howard's Memoirs of His Father,
Ward C. R. Hoover*

He bought ten acres in El Dorado with a little store. Then leased a big store and was Postmaster. We all worked in the store (I didn't do much). Later sold our interest in the store and built our own store and gas station. Then sold that store and got into real estate and insurance. Bought the whole block at Poor Red's for \$1,200 and sold it a year for \$1,800. We moved a lot around town.

Thank You to Phyllis (Hoover) Stewart, daughter of Howard Hoover. Her father left her many pages of memories he wrote down about his family and she was kind enough to share some of them with us. What you see here is just a brief excerpt from his writings. In them you can see that her Grandfather, Ward, was quite the nomad and was constantly moving from one place to the other. For a while, they lived in the El Dorado area. Howard left the area in the early 1940's

OCTOBER 17, 1910

Bekeart Contributes to Museum.

About contributions to the Park Memorial Museum, in San Francisco the past week, the Chronicle says:

“Not the least interesting article received comes from Phil Bekeart, traveler and author. It is a piece of the famous “Hangman's” oak tree, from which Hangtown, now known as Placerville, originally took its name.”

Phil Bekeart was born and reared in Coloma, and last year spent his vacation at that historic spot. While [t]here he secured the relic which he has placed in the Museum.

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol

We'll See You at the August 16th Meeting !



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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EL DORADO COUNTY SUPPLEMENT

Although few of our Society members are natives of or grew up in El Dorado County, many of them have done research in the El Dorado area. Here are some of the stories they've shared with us.

PINO GRANDE LUMBER COMPANY CABLE CROSSING

A man named George Dean worked for the Pino Grande Lumber Co. in the early 1900's. I met him in the '70s and he spoke of logging on the other side of Slab Creek Canyon. The men took a cable car across the canyon, out of Pollack Pines, to Cable Rock (1/2 way to the other side), switched cars and continued to the opposite wall of the canyon. Cable Rock had been drilled through in two spots as anchors; one cable came from Pollock Pines and the other from the opposite side. Both cable strands were anchored at Cable Rock. Today, one can still see the anchor holes for the cables. Forebay Road, across from the Pollock Pines Safeway store, is the only access for viewing that I know of. I am sure OSHA would have fits if the cable car currently existed because of the tremendous drop to the floor of Slab Creek Canyon.

George was an El Dorado County native and although now dead (he was in his 80's when he passed) he has a number of children (Harry Dean, Fred Dean, a daughter married a Larsen, etc.) still living locally. The Dean Family has been in the County many years and perhaps Harry, Fred or one of the others can flesh out another story.

This article was courtesy of Milt Mulligan. Thanks Milt.

THE COURTHOUSE CANNON

Almost no one notices the cannon located on either side of the entry steps of the El Dorado County courthouse on Main Street in Placerville.

A careful look reveals very little about them. One cannon has no markings at all – the other one simply has U.S. stamped on the barrel. The only other identification is a small plaque that states "Placerville Post No. 108". It is a unique story behind that plaque and how the cannon came to be placed there.

After the Civil War, an organization of Union veterans was formed known as the Grand Army of the Republic or G.A.R. At its peak in 1890, its membership numbered over 400,000. In 1912, the membership was 191,346, but as veterans died, the membership declined until in 1948 the number of survivors was only 16. The local G.A.R. was the Placerville Post No. 108. An 1886 listing shows 26 members from a variety of services and from several states.

In June of 1912, Congressman John Raker of California introduced a bill which was passed in January 11, 1913. It allowed for the transfer of condemned brass and bronze cannon from the War Department to be distributed from the arsenal at Benicia to various northern California G.A.R. posts, among them Placerville Post No. 108. While our cannon are not specifically described, a similar gift to the San Andreas post mentions that their cannon were 1841 model mountain howitzers designed to propel a 12-pound shot and used on the east coast during their early years and they probably saw service during the Civil War.

In August of 1913, the Board of Supervisors approved the mounting of the cannon in front of the newly constructed county courthouse on Main Street where they remain today.

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol

MY FIRST REMEMBRANCES OF EL DORADO COUNTY

By Mary Ann Harris Harper

My parents moved to Shingle Springs, El Dorado County, in 1950 and I started the 5th grade at Buckeye School. It was a 2 room school house. First through 4th grades were in the adjoining converted woodshed and 5th through 8th grades were in the big room. Families provided wood for heat and, because the well was contaminated, they also provided water for drinking.

At that time, Shingle Springs had the Country Store which also had the gas pump, the feed store, the Post Office, a café, etc.

Country Club Dr. in Cameron Park, Duroc Road, Mother Lode Drive, and Main Street, Placerville were then Hwy 50. The Clarence Scheibers from French Creek and the Swifts from Latrobe would drive their cattle up the county roads to Hwy 50, through Placerville and on up to the USFS property for summer grazing. When we would hear the cow bells coming up the road in the spring, it was my job to run down to the end of our driveway and close the gate.

Our telephone was on an 8 party farm line and we all had our own unique ring. Our numbers were only 4 digits. It was long distance to call Placerville and that is where the phone company office was – on Main St. close to where the KFC is now.

All of El Dorado County attended high school at El Dorado County High in Placerville. The buses came in from all over. Finally, they built a high school at Lake Tahoe and those students could stay up there during the winter.

I remember Lotta Kyburz would walk into town (Shingle Springs) from her home off Meder Road. She had a cloth bag which hung across her chest by a long strap and she was always smoking a pipe. One of her grandsons, Dick Ybright, was our resi-

dent deputy sheriff here in Shingle Springs. He responded to every emergency call the volunteer firemen went on and just seemed to be everywhere when needed. He was a great guy and everyone's friend.

Our county had two CHP Officers. Mr. Sabich covered the portion from Placerville east and Charlie Patchen covered the west end of the county. Mr. Sabich had two children; Mary and Spider. They lived in Kyburz and were on the ECHS ski team – Spider was a great athlete who skied on the US Olympic ski team.

I remember when a deer would be hit and injured along the roads or highway, Charlie would respond, slit its throat, put it into the trunk of his patrol car and take it to the county hospital. They had a huge walk-in cold box and relied on venison to supplement their grocery bill. Matilda Frazier was the Director of the county hospital and her husband, Joe, worked with my husband, Harry, for the USFS here on the El Dorado. Once a year when the salmon were running up the river, Joe would ask Harry to help deliver salmon from the fish hatchery to the county hospital using his pick-up truck.

One of my math teachers at ECHS was Dykes Vanderbunt whose son, Skip, went on to play lineman for the San Francisco 49ers football team.

As a side note to this article, we note that the author, Mary Ann (Harris) Harper, was selected as this years "El Dorado Rose", a very prestigious recognition in this county for ladies who have served and been active in the community.

UNION HIGH SCHOOL

Prior to the establishment of a county-wide high school, the districts of Placerville and Coon Hollow joined together to create the first high school. Property was acquired on Clay Street where a building was erected in 1895.

Financial troubles forced the discontinuance of the project. The property was acquired by the county and El Dorado's first general high school was erected there in 1905.

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol

THE BALDERSTON FAMILY



Balderston Station

A number of people have heard of a place called Balderston's Station which was located about seven miles east of Georgetown. In this area also is Balderston Road. Like so many of the place names in this county, there is not only a story, but also a person, behind the name. In this case, that person is John Balderston. His story is similar to so many other stories of people who left their homeland, be it a far away country, or just another state, to come to the Promised Land of California.

The subject of our discussion, John Balderston, was born 10 June 1868 to Allen and Martha (Cocking) Balderston in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England.

The Parents:

Of Allen's early years we have found but little. We first find five year old Allen in the 1841 census of the United Kingdom residing in Lockwood, in Almondbury, Yorkshire with his mother, Sarah Balderston, his grandmother Sarah Balderston, and a ten month old sister, Mary. In the neighboring two houses are other Balderston families that would possibly be uncles and aunts of Allen's. We find in the 1851 census that Allen's mother, Sarah, has remarried to a gentleman named William Makin and Allen is living with them in Huddersfield. His sister, Mary is living with her aunt and uncle, Joshua and Hannah Spencer in Lockwood. By 1861 Allen is 25 and we find him in the household of William and Ann Smith in Huddersfield. He is working as a "servant". It is a good possibility that Allen learned his future trade of Chimney Sweep from Mr. Smith who was also a chimney sweep.

Of Martha Cocking's family we know a little more. She was born January 1842 in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England to Richard and Hannah Cocking. Richard was born about 1791 in Dorcaster, Yorkshire, England and Hannah was born about 1806 in Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire, England. Martha was the fifth of seven children, her siblings being: Richard, Charlotte (who dies as an infant), Charlotte (born after the other Charlotte dies), Luke, Annie and Hannah. Martha's father passed away Dec 1864 in Huddersfield.

Allen and Martha (Cocking) Balderston's Family:

Allen Balderston and Martha Cocking marry in June of 1862 in Huddersfield and reside there for the next twenty years. While in England, Allen supported his family by working as a chimney sweep.

Their first child, Sarah Hannah Balderston is born Jun 1863. Sarah is destined to pass away before her seventeenth birthday in March of 1880. There is a five year span between Sarah's birth and the birth of their next child, John. It is possible that it is during this time that their other child who also died was born.

John Balderston, our subject, is born 10 June 1868. By this time, Martha's widowed mother has come to live with them. John's birth is followed by a daughter, Charlotte Hannah Balderston, born February 1871. James William Balderston is born on 25 October 1874 followed by George Allen Balderston, born 25 February 1877.

By 1882 Allen and Martha decide to follow her sister, Annie, and brother, Luke, to the United States. They arrive in New York City on 6 March 1882 aboard the ship Egypt. With them are their four children: John, Charlotte, James and George. Also with them is Martha's mother, Hannah Cocking. The family travels to Austin, Lander County, Nevada where Martha's sister and brother both live with their families. For whatever reason, Allen returns to England and leaves the family in Austin. While in England he passes away September of 1885 in Huddersfield. Shortly thereafter, all three families move to El Dorado County, California. This is probably due to the silver mines in Austin giving out about then. There is no record of Martha's mother, Hannah Cocking,

in El Dorado County so it must be assumed that she returned to England or died before the families arrived there.

The Other Parts of the Family:

Though they are not part of the focus of this discourse, it should be mentioned here that Martha's sister, Annie came to the United States before her and married William Elge, a Canadian who had fought with the Grand Army of the Republic in the Civil War, and had moved to Austin, Nevada. Although Annie and William never have any children of their own, they are always close to the rest of the family. Martha's brother, Luke Richardson Cocking married Mary Jane Hill, who was born in Lancashire, England. They were married in Huddersfield in September of 1860 and immigrated to the United States in 1862 along with their baby girl, Mary. After arriving in the United States, they dropped the Cocking name and went by Richardson. They settled first in Utah before going to Austin, Nevada. They have a total of seven children. Luke dies in 1893 and is buried in the Pioneer Cemetery in Coloma. Mary outlives him by 20 years. She and many of their children are buried in Placerville Union Cemetery.

Martha:

The three families all initially settle in the Georgetown area of El Dorado County. Martha Cocking Balderston remarries a man named Jacob Ebberlin in April of 1887. Ebberlin dies in September of 1889 and Martha then marries John Colby Hayden and they lived several years at the Works Ranch about seven miles above Georgetown. John Hayden dies in 1896 and Martha sells their property and moves down to the Coloma area where she purchases a comfortable home for herself and her son James who cares for his mother until the time of her death in 1915.

Martha's two youngest sons, James and George, never married, but stayed close to the rest of the family all their lives. They are buried next to their mother in the Turnbeaugh plot in the Uniontown Cemetery in Lotus.

Charlotte Hannah Balderston marries James Calvin Turnbeaugh of a very prominent family in the Lotus area. They would go on to have seven children and the family will be well known in the county.

Charlotte had a big heart and her caring for so many people, both in and out of her family, in their last days is renowned.

John Balderston:

Our subject, John Balderston, marries Florence A. "Fannie" Bragg on 22 December, 1898. About this same time he purchases land about eight miles above Georgetown where he establishes a fruit orchard and also farmed produce. On occasion he was employed in mining and was a contract mail carrier. Shortly after settling in, they start what will become known as Balderston's Station, a combination store, restaurant, stage station, and café. It was a very popular stop for not only the local residents, but for anyone going up into the mountains. Their fruit and produce was known far and wide, as was their friendly hospitality. Balderston's Station becomes *the* place to stop whenever going into or out of the mountains.

John and Fannie have eleven children, two daughters and nine sons. Their youngest child, a baby boy, died along with Fannie in the 1920 influenza epidemic. The other children are Lizzie, John, Allen, George, Ted, Harry, Ellen, James, Earl, and Edward. Of his sons, at least five of them serve in World War II. Half of the children stay in the El Dorado County area after they grow up, the rest move to various areas, a couple even out of state. Son Allen will go on to build his own place, known as Camp Virner, east of Georgetown on the Wentworth Springs Road.

After Fannie's death, John continues his business enterprises and on 24 December 1926 he marries Hulda Williams, nee Croswhite, a widow from Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County, California. They continue to run the station together.

On 24 August 1944, John closes his store as usual, goes home and after supper goes out to work in the garden. He retires to bed as usual but becomes sick and the doctor is called from Auburn but John was dead from a heart attack by the time he gets there. His death is a shock too many in the community and in the county and his funeral is largely attended.

John Balderston is buried in the family plot in Georgetown Cemetery. In the John Balderston family plot are also buried, both his wives, Fannie and Hulda, his daughter Lizzie and two of his sons,

Harry and Edward. His son George E. Balderston and many of his family are buried in another family plot in the next section over and down the hill a ways. Also buried in this cemetery are his sons John "Jack" and Earl as well as his mother's sister and her husband, Annie and William Elge. John's mother, Martha, his brothers James and George and his sister Charlotte and some of her family are buried in the Turnbeaugh family plot in the Uniontown Cemetery in Lotus.

And what became of Balderston's Station? After the Balderstons, it was run by a number of other folks. The last locals to own the station were the Frazier's from Volcanoville. They sold to some people from the Bay area who didn't understand mountain people or their way of life and in 1962 the station was closed and three years later it was torn down.

Prepared by Paul E. Hodel.

FROM THE MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT

March 28, 1896

Joseph Elder was yesterday on trial before Justice Carpender upon a charge of battery committed upon Emma Davis, a dissolute woman of this city. The evidence showed that he had been for some time living with the woman and has been supported by the earnings of her shame. Before going to press the trial was completed and resulted in his conviction. Time for judgment waived and W.R. Tong then interceded for defendant with an eloquent plea for leniency which was cut short by the Court, who said that while in cases of this kind he deemed it to the interest of the public to impose a fine such as could be paid, still the punishment must necessarily be severe. \$50, in his opinion is the minimum that should be imposed and at such figure he fixed the fine with the alternative of 50 days in jail. Then turning to defendant he said that the evidence in this case shows you to be guilty of another offense for which you will get the full benefit of the law unless you leave immediately upon payment of your fine. *Thank You Carol*

MARY SWANSON

Mary Swanson died 10 Nov 1853, according to a letter signed by her daughter Mary and her husband William Sherman. They just said "California". Some articles on descendants in Tulare County CA histories indicate the family went to Mud Springs, Eldorado County, where Mary's son John Swanson engaged in mining and ran a trading post for "a year". Another article says the family left Illinois on March 5 and got to Placerville in August. An interview in the Porterville Recorder in 1923 with Matilda Duncan (Mary's granddaughter and John's daughter), says the family came to Placerville and that in 1854 her father moved to Tulare County. Matilda lived to be 83 and was quite a character. She basically raised my grandfather.

Northern California Marriages 1850-1860 says that Mrs. Chloe Swanson married Hale B. Tharp in Eldorado County 24 Dec 1854. Chloe was Mary Swanson's daughter-in-law, who married Hale Tharp after her husband died on the trip to CA. One other item says that John Swanson tried his luck in Solano County (Suisan City) in between Placerville and Tulare County.

I don't have any proof Mary Swanson died in Placerville, but it seems likely that the family was still living there at the time of her death.

One of the stories I've heard said that she had to have 4 wagons to haul all of her things to CA. Some of the other family who came out with the Swanson's were Myers. Mary Swanson was born a Myers. One of that family was a founder of Oceanside, CA. What I found in the deed books was in Putnam County, IL is a petition for partition of the land Mary still owned in Putnam County, IL. The handwriting was atrocious and it went on for pages and pages.

This article was provided by Mrs. Sharon Koleber of Loveland, Colorado, descendant of Mary Stewart and a friend of Mary Ann Dobson. If any of you happen to know if Mary Swanson did indeed die in El Dorado County and where she is buried, Sharon would love to know.

FATAL AFFRAY

From The Empire County Argus, Published in
Coloma
26 Nov 1853, pg. 2 col. 3.

“FATAL AFFRAY – On the evening of the 18th of the present month, an affray occurred at American Flat between two young men in a house of ill-fame kept by one E. Williams, about a woman. The names of the young men were Edward Turner and “Kentuck.” Turner was intoxicated and assaulted Kentuck, and was on the point of taking his life, when the latter drew a knife and stabbed him in the left breast. Turner lingered until the morning of the 20th, when he died at 7 o’clock.

Dr. M. Vrooman, of Spanish Flat, was called immediately after the occurrence, but the knife had entered the left lobe of the lung, producing internal hemorrhage, and he told young Turner he could not save him. Turner said, “It is hard, but I do not blame Kentuck. He did right.”

This is the second murder which has been committed at that house within the past three weeks, one of which (the first) led to the murder of an innocent man by the mob; making three murders at that village in a short space of time. The victims were all young and vigorous men. How long will such houses be tolerated?

“Kentuck” was arrested and on examination before Justice Southworth, of Georgetown, was acquitted.”

Article courtesy of Alice Morrow. Thank You Alice

WHAT HAPPENED TO JOHN WING?

If you study the history of the Rescue area, the name Wing is going to show up someplace. If you are out at Jayhawk cemetery, look for the largest, most elaborate family plot and you will find lots of the Wing family there. The family starts out in the area in the 1860’s. Louisa Pelton, was born in Canada and the family migrated to El Dorado County. She was a daughter of Samuel Pelton who, in 1854, built the Sunrise House in the area that is now Green Valley Rd and Ponderosa Rd. John Wing was born in England and came to the United

States in the 1850’s. The two were married in the early 1960’s and set up housekeeping in the Rescue area. There were six children born to the union, the last one, Leonard was born in January 1874. Then John Wing disappeared.

The story is that he came in from the field one day, and didn’t say a word. He just took his gun from the gun rack and was never seen again. When he failed to return home that night, the Sheriff was notified and a search conducted. They searched everywhere they could think of, including the woods and old mine shafts but never found any sign of him. The family kept going mostly through the efforts of Louisa and the oldest son, George.

Some years later a man came to the Wing house. The only one home was George’s wife. The man asked several questions about who lived there and seemed to know the neighborhood quite well. He asked questions about “Mrs. Wing” in particular. When George Wing arrived home, his wife told him about the man and from her story, George was sure the man must have been his father, John Wing. The man was never seen or heard from again. So the questions remain. What happened to John Wing? Why did he leave and where did he go?

Prepared by Paul E. Hodel

BIG CUT IS BORN

From the Mountain Democrat of March 13, 1886

On Saturday last the workers at the mining claim in Coon Hollow let daylight through Sacramento hill, by tearing down the last piece of dirt that remained at the end of the wash on the Placerville side. There is now a clean cut through the hill about 130 feet deep, and a task begun 30 years ago has been accomplished. A noticeable result of the cut is the presence of a strong current of air continually sucking through the channel. When that long-looked-for first locomotive comes to Placerville, it will no doubt pass over in smooth roadbed made from the bedrock of this famous mining claim. The roadbed is ready, but where, oh where, is the locomotive?

Article courtesy of Carol Sexton. Thank You Carol