



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- 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
- December 2011 **No Meeting**
Have a great time over the Holidays and we'll see
you again in January.
- January 17, 2011 **Business Meeting**
Installation of Officers and Good Friendship
- February 21, 2011 **To Be Announced**
- March 20, 2011 **Stephen Morse**
One Step to Finding Enumeration Districts for the
1940 Census

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

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

September 20, 2011

What a great meeting we had. Luana Zylla did double duty, acting both as our Greeter and bringing refreshments. She was assisted with the refreshments by Carlyn White. Thanks to both of you ladies from all of us.

Paul has put out a request for people to serve on this year's Nominating Committee. Milt Mulligan submitted his name, volunteering to be one of the members of the committee. At the meeting, Paul

called for two more volunteers and Mary Lee Gilliland and Carlyn White both responded. We want to thank these three for volunteering. I know they will provide us with a good slate of officers. Contact one of them if you would like to run for election to next year's board.

We were fortunate to have Guy Nixon as our speaker this month. Those of you who have been with the Society for many years might remember his mother, Ruby Nixon, who was a long-time member of the Society. Guy worked with his mother on their family history for many years and then concentrated on their biggest road block, his Native American lineage.

With some very exhaustive research over a number of years, Guy was finally able to break through his brick wall. He was kind enough to share with us some of the things he had to do to find the information on his ancestry and presented the actual case study of his family to indicate the steps he went through, as well as giving us a lot of history and background on the westward movement of the tribes. He continued his narrative talking about his own family coming to California and settling in this area. He talked about some of the stories told when he was growing up and illustrated what his research had found to support many of the "old tales", including one about the sailing ship sailing around the Sutter Buttes during a great flood.

Guy is a great speaker and story teller. He kept us spell-bound the whole time. Any one who is interested in learning more about Guy's research can pick up either of the two books he has written. They are both on sale at the Placerville Newsstand and at the El Dorado County Museum.

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

CALL FOR NEW OFFICERS

You know you enjoy genealogy, that's why you're part of Roots and Gold Dust. We know that you like being a part of Roots and Gold Dust. That's why you're reading this newsletter and why you come to the meetings. You must enjoy the meetings and the programs because so many of you give us a lot of positive feedback. You know you're a responsible, caring person, that's why you're doing all you can so your ancestors will be remembered. Now I may not have the biggest brain in the world and I'm definitely not a candidate for MENSA, but even I can figure out that someone of your obvious caliber could do one heck of a job as an officer in Roots and Gold Dust. And I'm not just talking about our long time members, we have a lot of you "newer" members (we don't use the words "younger" or "older" here!) who may not have had the opportunity to be an officer in some other organization or at work, but you have all the talent and ability to be one. Here's your chance to do just that, be an officer on the Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society Executive Board. You don't have to already know how to do the job, we'll help you learn. This organization isn't that big, so it doesn't require that much time each month. What do you say, are you ready to give something back to the Society?? Give one of the members of our Nominating Committee a call and volunteer your services. You will be the one to reap the greatest benefits from serving.

Here's the number to call: Milt Mulligan (530) 622-6056 or Mary-Lee Gilliland (530) 642-2002 or Carlyn White (530) 663-0017.

NEXT MEETING

October 18, 2011

Harvey Andrews, will please genealogists with his presentation on "**Walking Ruts, Looking for Roots**" at the October 18, 2011, Roots & Gold Dust Genealogy Society meeting at the FHC building at 3275 Cedar Ravine, Placerville at 1:00 pm. Researching our family trees is a lot more than following the Internet. Genealogy is learning about our families through sharing adventures like following ruts, reading, and mapping out methods to locate specific places where and how our ancestors lived and died. Harvey has been researching for over 30 years and has information about his treks via foot and fingers. Attending this meeting will bring a smile to your face and thoughts on how to pursue your past with someone who has a wealth of knowledge and a great sense of humor about how to learn more about your ancestors. Guests are always welcome. For more information, call Carlyn White at 530-663-0017.

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>

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/>

Family History Day 2011 "Sharing the Joy of Genealogy" Saturday, October 15, 8:30-4:00

Family lore, tales of the old country, maybe a faded family document – these are the tidbits of information that spark our curiosity about where we came from and what life was like for our ancestors.

On Saturday, October 15, 2011, the California State Archives will host the 13th annual Family History Day. Learn how to turn your tidbits into a family tree and the many genealogical resources in Northern California available to help you on this rewarding journey.

This is a free, day-long event open to the public. Nearly twenty genealogy classes focused at the beginner level will be presented by local and statewide genealogical experts. More experienced researchers will also benefit by refining their skills. Other highlights of the day include classes in the Archives Preservation Lab and "insider" tours of the Archives. Browse in the Root Cellar Genealogical Library and visit with exhibitors representing genealogical, historical and lineage societies, research libraries and archives. Volunteers and exhibitors wearing period clothing will enhance the festivities.

Location: California State Archives, 1020 "O"
Website: <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com>

(Speakers, classes, exhibitors and other information related to FHD 2011 are continually updated here)

E-mail: fhdmailbox@gmail.com

Sponsors: California State Archives; Root Cellar Sacramento Genealogical Society; Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley, and The California Museum.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Family History Seminar

Don't miss the Family History Seminar at the Sacramento Family History Center on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 8:30 AM to 3:45 PM. Seminar classes will include English Research, Scandinavian Research, Eastern European Research, and German Research. Additional topics will cover the National Archives, Coroner's Records, City Directories and much more. View the [registration form](#) and the [full class schedule](#) at <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/> or pick up a copy at the Placerville Family History Center.

Sutro Library Bus Trip

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

The Sutro Library is transferring their collection to a new building on the San Francisco campus this spring. Because of this, the annual bus trip to the Sutro Library has been moved from their customary date in March to January 25, 2012. Our good friends at the Genealogy Association of Sacramento are once again sponsoring this trip. Any of you who have ever been on one of these excursions knows how enjoyable it can be. We carpool down to Sacramento, get on a bus and have donuts, drinks and great conversation all the way to San Francisco. The bus drops us off at the front door of the library just in time for it to open. We get to spend the whole day using the bountiful resources available there. Then, when closing time comes around, the bus is waiting for us at the front door and they take us back to Sacramento – all without any of us having to fight traffic. It just doesn't get any better than that!

Sacramento German Genealogical Society, Spring Seminar

Saturday, April 21, 2012 in Sacramento

Stay tuned for more information on this coming year's event which will feature Warren Bittner.

AND THE TOMBSTONE SAID:

A widow wrote this epitaph in a Vermont cemetery:

*“Sacred to the memory of
My husband John Barnes
Who died January 3, 1803
His comely, young widow, aged 23,
Has many qualifications of a good wife,
And yearns to be comforted.”*

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.

New Books in the Library

CA 88 - Pioneers of California
Donated by Harvey Andrews

Review of Pioneers of California

This book contains biographies of some 50 men and women who lived in California during the first half of the 19th century. The concise biographies are well researched and very readable, making the book enjoyable as well as good research material. There are many photographs and maps which show how life was in California at that time.

Book Boxes

Many thanks to our anonymous donor for the book boxes donated on behalf of Roots & Gold Dust. These archival boxes will help protect the 4 volumes of *Boston Memorial History 1630-1888* which were printed in 1882 as well as the 2 volume set of *The History of Middlesex County Massachusetts*. Both of these sets are very old and in very fragile condition.

Online Film/Fiche Ordering

It is no longer necessary to go to a Family History Center to order Microfilm/Fiche from the Family History Library in Salt Lake. You are now able to order them from your own computer at home. You will be notified by e-mail when the film ships and also when the film arrives at the Family History Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter

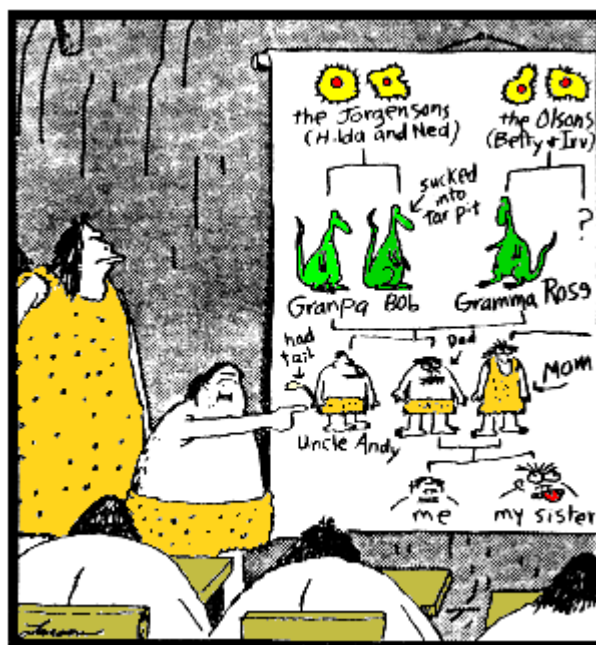
The loan is free but there is a small shipping and handling fee which you pay when you place the order. You may pay with Master Card, VISA, Debit (Bank) Card, PayPal or a Prepaid Gift Card.

Training materials including a User's Guide and Demonstrations, with easy to follow instructions on how to order, are available by clicking on *Ordering Help* on the following site:
<https://www.familysearch.org/films/>

Family History Library Catalog

Coming Soon: Thanks to efforts of Roots and Gold Dust members, a complete inventory or catalog of all the books available in the Placerville Family History Center Library will soon be available. It will be located on our Society's website in the next few weeks. Judy Williams has been heading up this project with the assistance of a number of our members. They have not only inventoried, but corrected errors, organized, re-marked and boxed, as well as getting books back in their correct location. A big Thank You to all who helped.

Judy Williams not only does a fantastic job as our Librarian, but sends us book reviews and updates on the FHC Library every month. Thank You!



Dirk brings his family tree to class
From Far Sides by Gary Larsen

October 2011

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.

More Information to Prepare You for the Release of the 1940 Census

This is a helpful website for those looking forward to the release of 1940 US Census.

An article advises it's not too early to prepare for research of the 1940 US Census when it becomes available April 2, 2012. As of this date however, there's no index completed. So it will be necessary to know the Enumeration Dist of the relative you're seeking.

You may ask "How do I find the Enumeration District"? The article gives tips for that, & also information about the need for volunteers to help with a project working on completing an index. Visit it at: <http://www.1940census.net/>.

SURNAME LIST

By October 5th, we plan to have the Surname Lists updated on our website. Alice Morrow has been diligently working on this project and will need you to review your information once it is posted. Some of you have submitted surnames but have not listed any locations. The lists will be placed on the website by both surname and location so it will be easier for people to contact others who are researching the same surname or working in the same location. Please go to the website anytime after the 5th and check it out. Let us know if you have any surnames, locations, etc. that you would like to add or edit. We appreciate all the help you have given Alice on this project and thank her for her good work.

EL DORADO COUNTY PIONEER CERTIFICATES

At the last meeting, we announced the project in the works to make available certificates to those individuals who had direct line ancestors who lived El Dorado County in the 1800's. While the details are still in development, the certificates will cover two different time periods. The Gold Certificate will recognize the Gold Rush era and will be for those who were in El Dorado County in 1865 or earlier. The other, the Pioneer Certificate, will be for the period just after the initial gold rush when many were coming into the county for not only mining, but also lumber, farming and business. This period will be for those in El Dorado County in 1900 or earlier. Keep your ears open, we will have more details at our next meeting.

CHURCH BLOOPERS

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

"Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered."

JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS

The August Newsletter, with its special El Dorado County supplement was such a success that we would like to do it again for the January Newsletter. Any of you who have stories, history, recollections or anything else pertaining to El Dorado County, please share them with us so we can have another great special edition in January. All of you who helped with the August supplement, Thank You. And to those who will be helping with the January supplement, a Big Thank You !!! Believe me when I say that your Newsletter Editor really appreciates all of your ongoing help and support.

THOUGHT !!

I trace my family history so I know who to blame!

GOLD RUSH BY SEA – RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTOR

We are all familiar with wagon trains - the overland trips of trials and tales of our ancestors. But not all of our ancestors traveled by wagon trains to California. There were many who traveled by ship; over 15,000 people in 1879. Perhaps one of your ancestors took this route to the west coast. Like researching wagon trains, our westward-bound ancestors who traveled by sea diligently wrote diaries and letters. Panama and west coast newspapers reported arrivals of passengers and hotel visitors. There are many other avenues to tracing the steps of your ancestor.

The Panama Canal did not accommodate ocean vessels until 14 Aug 1914. Before the canal, gold-seekers and travelers from the east coast had three routes to get to California from New York: 1) a trip from 70 days to 5 months around Cape Horn 2) to Panama and crossing the isthmus by land 3) overland.



The voyage by sea was not necessarily easier than overland, but a preferred option between 1848-1873 for those who traveled light. It was also favored since a shorter voyage than rounding the Horn.

This route was not reserved for East-coast travelers. Many from the Midwest would take passage down the Missouri River to the Mississippi to New Orleans. From there they would catch a ship going to California.

Like the challenges of the wagon trains, the migration to California through Panama did not lack challenges of its own when crossing the Isthmus. This was an expensive route and the passengers had to travel light, leaving their belongings behind.

Passengers had to get off the steam boats at the mouth of the Chagres River, 75 miles from the closest town, and pay passage to locals to be chartered in smaller canoes (cayucas or bungos) to the town of Chagres or Las Cruces. From there, travelers hired mules or walked the 25 miles to Panama City for passage on a ship on the West coast of Panama heading north. By 1851 the Panama Railroad was used by the gold-seekers, shortening the crossing the Isthmus.

This route was not for those who wanted to carry many belongings. The transport from Panama to California may have required a stay in Panama for several weeks (or months). Many of our ancestors succumbed to the cholera epidemic in Panama City; others were victims of yellow fever, malaria, or dysentery, while waiting. Travelers around the Horn also suffered from disease and epidemics.

From Kathleen Brandt's blog at <http://a3genealogy.blogspot.com/2011/08/gold-rush-by-sea-researching-your.html>

AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDY

*A mouse trap
Placed on top of your alarm clock
Will prevent you from rolling over
And going back to sleep
After you hit the snooze button.*

***We'll See You at the
October 18th Meeting***