



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

December 2011 **No Meeting**  
*Have a great time over the Holidays. We'll see you again in January.*

January 17, 2012 **Business Meeting**  
*Installation of Officers and Good Friendship*

February 21, 2012 **William Teie**  
*A Place Called Rescue*

March 20, 2012 **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.*

## THOUGHT TO PONDER

*I was taught to respect my elders.  
It's just getting harder to find them.*

## NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting will be January 17, 2012. We will not be meeting in December so that all our members can enjoy Christmas time in whatever manner they wish. You all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We'll start of the year 2012 with a bang at our January meeting.

## RECAP OF LAST MEETING

November 15, 2011

We celebrated our annual Finger Food Potluck. The amount of food brought in was so great that we had to bring in an extra table to hold everything. And was it ever delicious! Our fantastic collection of chefs really out did themselves this year

After everyone had a chance to fill their plates and get to their seats, we had a short business meeting. The Nominating Committee for this year, Milt Mulligan, Mary Lee Gilliland and Carlyn White, presented their proposed slate of officers for next years board as: President, Carlyn White; Vice-President, Alice Morrow; Secretary, Luanna Zylla; Treasurer, Carol Sexton; Program Director, Carol Pirtle. There were no other nominations from the floor. The vote of the membership was unanimous. We will have the installation of the new board at our January 17th meeting. This will be a very talented and energetic board and we look forward to the coming year.

We had a number of people bring in things to share including ethnic foods, photos, stories, heirlooms and much, much more. Thanks to all of you who were so kind as to share with all of us.

## **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

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

**THE CLOTHESLINE POEM**

*This is a follow up to last month's article on clotheslines.*

*A big thanks to Great Grandma Cookie, a.k.a. Mary Ann Jones, for sharing this with us.*

A clothesline was a news forecast  
To neighbors passing by,  
There were no secrets you could keep  
When clothes were hung to dry.

It also was a friendly link  
For neighbors always knew,  
If company had stopped on by  
To spend a night or two.

For then you'd see the "fancy sheets"  
And towels upon the line;  
You'd see the "company table cloths"  
With intricate designs.

The line announced a baby's birth  
From folks who lived inside –  
As brand new infant clothes were hung,  
So carefully with pride!

The ages of the children could  
So readily be known  
By watching how the sizes changed,  
You'd know how much they'd grown!

It also told when illness struck,  
As extra sheets were hung;  
Then nightclothes, and a bathrobe, too,  
Haphazardly were strung.

It also said, "Gone on vacation now"  
When lines hung limp and bare.  
It told, "We're back!" when full lines sagged,  
with not an inch to spare!

New folks in town were scorned upon  
If wash was dingy and gray,  
As neighbors carefully raised their brows,  
And looked the other way.

But clotheslines now are of the past,  
For dryers make work much less.  
Now what goes on inside a home  
Is anybody's guess!

I really miss that way of life.  
It was a friendly sign.  
When neighbors knew each other best  
by what hung on the line.

**TOMBSTONE HUMOR**

On Margaret Daniels grave at Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia:

*She always said her feet were killing her  
But nobody believed her.*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

For November 2011

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$1,371.46
Income	\$ 51.00
Expense	\$ 43.10
Ending Balance*	\$ 1,379.36
	*Includes the Book Can at \$232.40
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

## **JANUARY NEWSLETTER SUBMITTALS**

Our August Newsletter, with its special El Dorado County supplement was such a success that we would like to do it again for our 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 you 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.

### **FACT OF LIFE:**

*Life is like a roll of toilet paper.....  
The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.*

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sutro Library Bus Trip**  
Wednesday, January 25, 2012

*It's Not Too Late !*

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! If you're interested, contact Melanie Howard at [melnesia@comcast.net](mailto:melnesia@comcast.net) . Paul Hodel will be coordinating the car pooling from here to the bus stop. You can contact him at (530) 622-3299.

**Roots Cellar Spring Seminar**  
Saturday, March 31, 2012

Roots Cellar of Sacramento will be holding their annual Spring Seminar on March 31, 2012. This is always a very interesting and informative time for all who attend. You can get more information as time goes along at their website at <http://www.rootcellar.org/> .

**Sacramento German Genealogical Society,  
Spring Seminar**

Saturday, April 21, 2012 in Sacramento

This year's seminar will be "Tracking Down Our German Ancestors" and will be presented by Warren Bittner. He will be covering such areas as German Maps and Territories, Gazetteers, Levels of Jurisdiction, Marriage Laws and Customs, and U.S. Federal Land Case Files (which are a big help in tracking your German ancestors). The seminar will be held at the Sacramento Turn Verein at 2249 J Street in Sacramento from 9:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Having heard Warren Bittner speak on two different occasions, I can definitely recommend him. His talks, while specific to German research, cover many of the issues each of us face in trying to do research on "the other side of the Pond".

### **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/>

You might want to stop by the Regional FHC sometime and see the remodeling that has been going on including the new training room. They will now have the capability of not only participating in webinars, but also of putting them on.

## 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](mailto:pljhodel@hotmail.com) or call 530-622-3299.

### **The National Digital Newspaper Program**



Here's a source that Dick Eastman had in his Online Newsletter of November 22, 2011, that is in the process of growing and if you happen to be interested in the dates they have compiled so far, it could be of good use to you.

“David Brunton, a Supervisory Information Technology Specialist in the Library of Congress Office of Strategic Initiatives, writes:

I have heard the National Digital Newspaper Program jokingly described as “putting breaking news online, within 200 years.” In some ways, it's a fitting tag line: the most current newspaper pages released on *Chronicling America* are nearly ninety years past.

He then goes on to describe to describe a joint venture between the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to digitize historic American newspapers. You can read his brief article in the Library of Congress blog at

<http://goo.gl/i0eKY> while the *Chronicling America* project is at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. You will find thousands of old newspapers available online at that address.”

### **1940 US Census Video Available Online**

The 1940 census will become available to the public on April 2, 2012. The date was chosen to comply with the requirement to protect privacy for 72 years. If you want to watch a vintage video, you can learn more about the contents of the 1940 census in a 10-minute movie created by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The movie was created in 1939 or 1940 and is typical of newsreels of that time.

The movie focuses on the role of the enumerators (census takers) but explains who was counted and also provides many details about the 1940 census. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/OwZk6rASC8k>.

*This is an interesting video. Thank you to Eastman's Online Genealogy for this information.*

### **CHANGES TO THE PUBLIC DEATH MASTER FILE (DMF) AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY DEATH INDEX (SSDI)**

Effective November 1, 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed its policy on what records it will use as source material for adding new entries in the Public Death Master File (DMF) which, in turn, is used to create the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

The Agency decided that it can no longer use state death records to add new entries to the DMF. Furthermore, the SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records currently on the SSDI because those entries were made based on information from state death records

The SSA made this decision based on the Social Security Laws, specifically those laws described in Sec. 205 [42 U.S.C. 405]. Basically, the law says that information on state death certificates may be used to correct information already in the DMF, but

may not be used for any other purpose, including adding new entries to the DMF.

The SSA will continue to compile the DMF from a variety of sources including death reports from family members, funeral homes, hospitals, Federal agencies, postal authorities and financial institutions. However, state death certificates which currently generate about 1 million entries in the DMF and SSDI every year will no longer be used.

### **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.

Be sure to visit the Family History Center in January to see the new upgrades!!

#### **Volunteers Welcomed**

The FHC could use some additional volunteers to work there. No special experience is required, just a love of genealogy and a desire to help others. They will provide training and you can either work a weekly shift or rotate and work every other week. Drop by the FHC and talk with them about how you can help out.

#### **New Books in Library**

There are no new books to report for November, but watch for 4 new books on Kansas and 1 on New Mexico in December.

#### **Training**

The Family History Center will be conducting a series of training sessions on the various websites available for our use through the FHC's portal. The classes are scheduled to start in February, 2012 and sound like they will be not only interesting, but very educational. We will give you further notification when their schedule is finalized.

*Please Note: The Family History Center will be closed during the Christmas season, December 23 thru January 2, 2012. Please keep this in mind when ordering microfilm.*

### **FAMILY FUN FACTS**

*"Crazy" is a relative term in MY family.*

### **R&GD MEMBERS MAKE PRESENTATION TO THIRD GRADERS**



*Third Graders arriving at Shingle Springs Cemetery*

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, two of our Roots and Gold Dust members, Mary Ann Harper and Paul Hodel, made a presentation to a group of third graders. All the third grader students from Buckeye School hiked over to the Shingle Springs Cemetery where Mary Ann and Paul were waiting to meet them. The students split up into two groups. Mary Ann took one group and talked with them about what it was like growing up in Shingle Springs in the 50's (that's the 1950's, not the 1850's). Paul took the other half and toured the cemetery talking with them about the history of the cemetery and some of the people who are buried there. He also taught them some basic facts about cemeteries and tombstones as well as cemetery etiquette. After a short break the students swapped groups. The students were all very well mannered and polite and Mary Ann and Paul both commented on how well they participated and how courteous they were. In fact, they enjoyed it so much that both Mary Ann and Paul are hoping to be invited back next year to visit with the next class of third graders.

### **CHURCH BLOOPERS**

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

*The Low Self Esteem Support Group  
will meet Thursday at 7 PM.  
Please use the back door.*

## **TOP 3 ANSWERS TO “WHY SHOULD I BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN A GEN SOCIETY?”**

You look down awkwardly, find an interesting spot on the floor to investigate, tie your shoe...anything, anything you can do to avoid making eye contact. The nominating committee of your genealogical society has asked for volunteers to fill vacant positions. And if you make eye contact, they might invoke Jedi mind tricks and you'll be helplessly brainwashed into something you'll probably regret later.

We've all been there. We attend a meeting of our local organization of interest and there is a call for someone to step up and do something. It may be a position on the board or you may be asked to be the greeter at the next meeting. If you look, you can usually find something the organization needs, even if you invent the position you're volunteering for. Here are three of the big reasons you should offer to do your part.

### Number 3:

**Because organizations actually DO need people in order to continue to operate.**

If no one provided any direction, handled the money, scheduled speakers, or sent out the flyers – you'd have nowhere to go, nothing to do, and be looking around wondering what happened. I've been lucky that others have been willing to fill the roles that I'd rather not. So far, I have done things I am interested in. There may come a day when I have to fill a less appealing role, but at least by initially volunteering for what interests me, I've laid the foundation for a positive experience.

### Number 2:

**More likely than not, the majority of the work has been done by the few...and they're getting tired.**

The more meetings I go to, the more I realize this. True, some people may hang defensively on to that little niche they carved out for themselves, but others continue to do this because they really care, and are not willing to give it up until someone who cares as much as they do comes along. Be that person. Even if some of the personalities involved don't quite mesh with yours, respect what they've

done, the time they've given, and their passion for making their vision a reality. You will have your own passion and vision. Get to know these folks that have been here awhile, appreciate their efforts, and learn from their mistakes. I am a firm believer that if you ever hope to successfully implement future change, you better get a firm grasp on the past and present first. I know everyone wants to take the world by storm, but if that storm comes on too strong, everyone will just retreat to their bunkers. By treating the past with respect and keeping the present involved with the future, you have a much better chance of gaining support.

### Number 1:

**Because if someone who is as passionate about genealogy as you are doesn't get involved, who will?**

I'm not sure this needs much explanation, and this is ultimately why I've accepted positions over the years. This is the bottom line. If you've read this much of this rambling article, you have the passion to help guide your local society. The active membership of most genealogical societies is getting older and if no one is there to step into those roles, they will just go away. "Newbies" will never get to go to their first meeting and learn just how exciting genealogy can be. Let's not let that happen.

Actually, that really was more like one extended answer divided into three segments. But, hopefully, you've gotten the idea and want to share your time and talents for the betterment of the society, its members, and genealogy in general. So what are you going to do the next time you're asked to volunteer? Are you going to look at a spot on the floor, or are you going to raise your hand? 😊

*Thanks to Steve Staats' blog for the major part of this article.*

*Have a Very Merry Christmas*

*And a*

*Most Happy New Year*



*We'll See You at the  
January 17th Meeting !*