



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–March 2012

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

March 20, 2012 **Stephen Morse**  
*One Step to Finding Enumeration Districts  
for the 1940 Census*  
6:00 pm at the El Dorado Hills Library

April 17, 2012 **Rodi Lee**  
*The Lives Behind the Names in Mormon Island  
Cemetery*

May 15, 2012 **Bill Taylor**  
*Resources Within The Family History Center*

June 19, 2012 **To Be Announced**

July 17, 2012 **Donald “Bill” Schall**  
*Genealogical Information of locating family  
during the Civil war*

*Programs and speakers for the rest of the year are  
being lined up as we speak.*

## NEXT MEETING **March 20, 2012**

Our March meeting is a special joint meeting of Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society and the El Dorado Hills Genealogy Society. **We will be meeting at the El Dorado Hills Library from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**

We are fortunate to have Steve Morse the creator of the *One Step Website for Genealogists* who will be speaking about his website and about preparing for the 1940 census which will be released in just a few weeks.

Steve Morse is very well known in genealogical circles as the creator of the One-Step Genealogy Website. He originally developed this site to make

it faster and easier for people to search the Ellis Island database and he has gone on to develop applications for searching a wide variety of other genealogy databases. With the upcoming release in April of the 1940 census, which will not be indexed for a number of months, Steve has developed an Enumeration District search tool which will greatly speed up your research in the 1940 census by showing you which Enumeration District to search in. This will be a great help to you in the initial phases of your 1940 census research as well as later on. Steve Morse is not only a very informative speaker, but also very enjoyable to listen to. You won't want to miss this one.

## RECAP OF LAST MEETING **February 21, 2012**

We want to thank Valeree Patritsch for being our greeter at the February meeting and Luana Zylla, Carlyn White and Valeree Patritsch for the wonderful refreshments. We had a total of 25 people in attendance; 22 members and 3 guests.

We were very fortunate to have as our speaker Mr. William “Bill” Teie, co-author of the book “A Place Called Rescue”. Their book was recently released and has become very popular in a very short time. It is loaded with older photos of the Rescue area and has many stories about the various places and families there. Bill put on a fantastic photo presentation for us complete with history, stories, families and tales. He was not only interesting to listen to, but very informative as well. We all came away with new understanding and appreciation for the Rescue area. This book, co-authored by Bill and Francis “Carp” Carpenter, is a must read.

**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>

**TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Now's the time to renew your Roots and Gold Dust membership for 2012.

How many of you realize what a great deal we're getting here. There are other genealogy societies out there that charge a lot more for membership than we do. If I might be allowed to make a totally unbiased remark here, our society offers more than those other ones do. The cost of membership is still being held at only \$15 for individuals and \$22 for families. If you can't make it to the February meeting, just drop a check in the mail, the address is on the front page of this newsletter. If you're going to be at the meeting make sure you bring cash or check with you because our Treasurer doesn't take plastic. ☺

**Your 2012 Roots and Gold Dust  
EXECUTIVE BOARD:**

President:..... Carlyn White  
Vice President:.....Alice Morrow  
Secretary:..... Luana Zylla  
Treasurer:.....Carol Sexton  
Program Director:.....Carol Pirtle  
Library Liaison:.....Judy Williams  
Newsletter/Website .....Paul Hodel

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Spring is always the time for genealogy seminars and this spring in no exception.*

**Sacramento Family History Center Seminar**

Saturday, March 10, 2012  
Sacramento

The theme of this spring's seminar will be African-American research. The keynote speaker will be Antoinette Broussard. Along with the workshops on African American research, there will also be workshops on a wide variety of other genealogical related topics. Lunch is available. Visit their website at <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info> for more information.

**Roots Cellar Spring Seminar**

Saturday, March 31, 2012  
Sacramento

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. The keynote speaker will be George G. Morgan, the Author of "How To Do Everything: Genealogy, 3rd Edition". Seminar topics include:

The Genealogist as CSI,  
Push and Pull: The Reasons for Migration  
Sidestep Genealogy  
Bring 'Em Back to Life: Developing an Ancestor Profile

You can get more information at their website at <http://www.rootcellar.org/>.

**Sacramento German Genealogical Society,  
Spring Seminar**

Saturday, April 21, 2012  
Sacramento

This year's seminar will be "Tracking Down Our German Ancestors" 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 (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 Mr. 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”.

### **Family History Day at the State Archives**

October 13, 2012

Sacramento

This year's Family History Day will be on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the State Archives building. This annual seminar is always a big hit and you will want to follow their blog site at <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com> to learn all the exciting updates to this year's seminar as they develop.

### **GENIE HELP NEEDED**

*My family tree is a few branches short! Help appreciated*

### **ONGOING EVENTS**

#### **Central Library Programs**

The Sacramento Central Library has a great interest in genealogy and provides a number of resources and programs for genealogists. 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 offers genealogy classes every Wednesday afternoon and evening. Visit their website to see what's coming up. <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/>

### **THE INEVITABLE LAWS OF GENEALOGY**

*A great-uncle changed his surname because he was teased in school. He moved away, left no address, and was never heard from again.*

### **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**

Donated by Mary Ann Jones:

US 73 - Women's Diaries of The Westward Journey

US 74 - Frontier Women, "Civilizing the West"

US 75 - Covered Wagon Women, Diaries & Letters From the Western Trails

CA 89 - 49er Irish

Donated by Lorraine Bradford:

NM 5 - Nuestras Raices Journal

#### **Book Reviews**

##### ***Women's Diaries of the Westward Journey by Lillian Schlissel***

The westward movement was a major transplanting of young families. Women were part of the journey because their fathers, husbands, and brothers were determined to go. This book contains the diaries, reminiscences and letters of 103 women. It is a random sampling among the thousands of women who went west between 1840 & 1870.

##### ***Frontier Women by Julie Roy Jeffrey***

This portrait of women in the Western migration covers life on the Overland Trail, the roles they played in bringing civilization to new settlements and reestablishing traditional mores. The book is a modern study of Western Women and presents a glimpse of Western Life from 1840-1880.

##### ***Covered Wagon Women by Kenneth L. Holmes***

This book is comprised of diaries and letters of the western trails from 1840-1849. It gives the reader a look into the lives of these brave women and the hardships they endured. It is like a trip back in time.

##### ***49er Irish by F.D. Calhoon***

The story of an Irish family in California Mines.

##### ***Nuestras Raices Journal by the Genealogical Society of Hispanic America: Spring 2011-Vol 23-Number 1***

This journal contains an enlightening article "Las Vegas Memories" by one of our members, Lorraine Bradford.

## **Volunteers Welcomed**

The FHC could use some additional volunteers. 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 find out how you can help out.

## **CHURCH BLOOPERS**

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

*Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.*

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

For February 2012

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,437.36
Income	\$ 278.00
Expense	<u>\$ 159.03</u>
Ending Balance*	\$ 1,556.33
<i>*Includes the Book Can at \$207.40</i>	
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

## **BILL NYE'S COW AD**

Bill Nye, the humorist, once had a cow to sell and advertised her as follows: "Owing to my ill health, I will sell at my residence, in township 19, range 18, according to the government survey, one plush raspberry cow, aged 8 years. She is of undoubted courage and gives milk frequently. To a man who does not fear death in any form she would be a great boon. She is very much attached to her present home with a stay chain, but she will be sold to any one who will agree to treat her right. She is one-fourth shorthorn and three-fourths hyena. I will also throw in a double-barrel shotgun, which goes with her. In May she usually goes away for a week or two and returns with a tall, red calf with wably legs. Her name is Rose. I would rather sell her to a non-resident."

*From the Mountain Democrat, July 23, 1904, pg 8.*

## **FAMILYSEARCH TO RAISE THE PRICE OF MICROFILM RENTALS BY 50%**

This shouldn't surprise anyone: FamilySearch will raise the price of film loans in family history centers as of 15 February 2012. The cost of short-term film loans was previously \$5.00, but will now cost \$7.50. Prices for short-term film loan extensions, extended film loans, and microfiche loans will also increase.

The price of raw microfilm stock has skyrocketed in recent months and now raw microfilms are almost impossible to find as the microfilm manufacturers are shutting down their production lines. FamilySearch is finding it difficult to purchase even enough raw microfilm stock to make duplicates of existing films. Of course, creating new microfilms is essentially impossible so FamilySearch has already converted to all-digital production for all new products and is converting older products to digital images as rapidly as possible.

You can find the full announcement of the price increase at <https://www.familysearch.org/films/>.

*This article was published in the February 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter.*

## **A BEARRRRY GOOD STORY**

"While camping and fishing in the vicinity of the Shingle Mill, Vincent Campini and Ernest Varozza were interviewed by a black bear. They had lost no bear and the ravenous beast had lost no fish nor fishermen. Thus the mutual surprise was politely compromised."

*An excerpt from the Mountain Democrat, Saturday, August 3, 1901, page 5.*

## **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.

## **South Dakota Archives Digitized for the Web**

Here's an article from the Argus Leader Newspaper, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Feb 9, 2012. If you have family from the South Dakota area, you will want to check this site out. Sounds like they're still adding to it.

### **State Archives Going Digital**

The South Dakota State Historical Society's Archives has gone digital.

The State Archives, in the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, collects, preserves, and makes available manuscript collections, South Dakota state, county and local government records, photographs, maps and other archival materials which have permanent historical and research value. Now, the South Dakota Digital Archives, an online resource that went live in January, makes these collections more accessible to the public, as well as to protect the originals. The website is

<http://sddigitalarchives.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm>.

"This is an exciting online resource that we only anticipate getting more robust," said state archivist Chelle Somsen. "This resource has been in the works for a number of years, and the staff is thrilled to release it to the public."

The government and manuscript collections are being digitized and cataloged by staff archivists and include items such as publications, brochures and audio files. More items are added regularly.

While the resource contains documents from government and manuscript collections, the largest collection consists of photographs, which are made available through the "Preserving South Dakota in Photos" initiative. The archives photo digitization staff are digitizing photographs from the collections and have scanned and cataloged more than 16,050 images that now are available online.

Photographs available online include statewide historic buildings and structures, and photographs from the Black Hills collections, including scenery, towns, railroads and people.

"Currently, we are working with a collection of slides," Somsen said, "but we've digitized prints and negatives and we hope to start working on glass plate negatives next."

The photograph digitization project is funded by private donations and grants. If you are interested in sponsoring a photograph collection, contact the South Dakota Historical Society Foundation at 773-6001.

"The photographs and documents at the State Archives are a wonderful resource," Somsen said. "In order to make them more easily accessible to the citizens of South Dakota, we wanted to make them visible online. The images are useful to authors, film-makers, students, teachers and those who are curious about our state's history."

The website is searchable and contains information on copyright and use rights as well as ordering information.

### **GETTING LOCAL BEFORE YOU MAKE THE TRIP**

On Monday I wrote about [Getting Local with Research](#). While I am a strong proponent of visiting the place of your ancestors, I am also very much in favor of good planning. The further away you live from your ancestor's home the more you should prepare.

If your ancestors lived just five miles down the road you wouldn't need any preparation. Just go and see what it looks like and then continue on with the process of discovery. If your ancestors lived more than fifty miles away then a good deal of preparation will save you a lot of heartbreak.

Here are some suggestions to help you "get local" before leaving home. Searching for these items will be nearly as fulfilling as making the trip.

#### **1) Discover the lay of the land**

Find as many maps as possible of the town you'll be visiting. Look for historical maps as well as a good current road map. Use the maps to get a feel for the lay of the land. Check the historical maps for old cemeteries and old businesses such as mills or blacksmith shops. Perhaps these buildings, or remnants of them, will still be standing.

Next, look at the topography of the land. Make note of the lakes, rivers, ocean or other waterways. Are there mountains nearby; or plains? Is the town isolated or in a built up area? Topography could have greatly affected the history of the town and the movement of your ancestors.

## 2) Locate the cemeteries before you go

The old maps should have helped you locate the old cemeteries in town. Don't presume that these will be easy to find using a current map. Pull up the Bird's Eye view on Bing Maps or Google Earth and see if you can locate the cemetery today. If you have a hard time locating it with these tools then you will likely have trouble in person too. Call ahead to the local town or regional government offices and see if you can find a cemetery supervisor who can give you exact directions.

## 3) Put your preservation hat on

Pretend that you are preservationist bent on saving old houses. Where would you look to find information on the old houses that are still standing? Most governments have some form of tracking system. By tapping into this resource you can identify which houses in town were standing at the time your ancestors lived there. Wouldn't it be wonderful to get a photo of yourself standing in front of a home that your ancestors would have known and seen as well? Better yet, perhaps your ancestor's home is still standing. This information is often found online at the state historic preservation office website.

## 4) Play tourist

Do play the role of tourist and search for tourism materials related to the town or region that you will be visiting. You may be able to locate museums or historical sites that you didn't know existed. Be sure to check for events that will happen at the time you will be visiting. It's fun to take part in a community activity and get a chance to mingle with the locals.

## 5) Contact the historical society

Be sure to check the internet for the local historical society. You might need to write a letter or call to get in touch with them. Many local historical societies are very small. That can translate as limited visiting hours or a small core staff of volunteers. Don't let that deter you. The local historical society should be a high priority if you can make arrangements in advance to meet with them. These are the folks who typically know more about the town than anyone else and can tell you which old-timers have lived in town the longest and are worth a visit.

## 6) Make a Contact List

This is a critical item for every research trip or ancestral home visit. Make a list of the local public places you will want to visit such as the library, town hall, historical society, churches, etc. Include on your list their addresses, phone numbers and hours of operation. Preparation such as this will mean smooth sailing during your trip and will let you quickly change gears should some place be unexpectedly closed.

Let these six suggestions help you "get local" before you leave town. It will help enjoy the journey and the eventual in-person trip all the more!

*From Marian's Roots and Rambles,  
Thursday, Dec 8, 2011. You can visit her blog at  
<http://rootsandrambles.blogspot.com/>*

## **Family Correctness**

*Over the years, families and communities have been known to find ways of making the "Black Sheep" look more presentable when they were included in family or local histories.*

Take for instance the case of Jessie James:

"Mr. James was well known within the Judiciary system of this county."

And then there was Uncle Willie who had gone to Sing Sing's electric chair for murder:

"Uncle Willie occupied a chair of applied electronics at one of the nation's leading institutions. We was attached to his position by the strongest of ties. His death came as a true shock."

***We'll See You at the  
March 20th Meeting !***