



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

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 **Patricia J. Johnson**  
*Preserving Your Family's Archival Heritage*

July 17, 2012 **Donald "Brad" 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.*

## RECAP OF LAST MEETING

**March 20, 2012**

For the month of March, we departed from our usual format and combined our meeting with our friends in the El Dorado Hills Genealogy Society. We met at the El Dorado Hills Library and listened to a double presentation by Dr. Stephen Morse. Dr. Morse is noted for his expertise as an electronic engineer and his work with computer chips. He is also an active genealogist who has produced what has come to be known as the One-Step Website. He gave us a wonderful overview of the website and how to use it and then went on to explain all the information that is available on his website for the soon-to-be-released 1940 census. What a vast amount of information he was able to share with us. We were all very well informed and he does it in such a charming and entertaining manner.

A Big Thank You to all of you, from both societies, who assisted in putting on this program

## NEXT MEETING

**April 17, 2012**

For our April meeting, our own Rodi Lee will be talking about *The Lives Behind the Names in Mormon Island Cemetery*. Rodi is well known in our area for the historical research she has done on El Dorado County. The Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery was created to contain the human remains that were moved from their original locations before Folsom Lake was formed. Rodi has done extensive research on the communities that were inundated by the formation of the lake as well as the families whose remains were moved. With her vast knowledge and background this promises to be a presentation that anyone with an interest in the local area and its families will not want to miss.

## **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

## **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>

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

#### **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

check their blog site at <http://fhdnews.blogspot.com> to learn all the exciting updates to this year's seminar as they develop.

### **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/>

### **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

If you haven't done so already, now is the time to renew your Roots and Gold Dust membership for 2012. Dues for this year are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

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 haven't been able to pay yet, 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. ☺

### **CHURCH BLOOPERS**

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

*Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.*

## 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**

GER 36 a & b – *Ancestors in German Archives, Vol. I & II*. Donated by R&GD Book Can drawing winners Dale Castle and Mary Ann Jones

VT 13 - *Fairfield Vermont Reminiscences 1763-1977*. Donated by Paul Hodel

CA LOC 61 – *Directory of Residents and Businesses of the City of Placerville - 1947*

WV 11 – *Monongalia County, West Virginia Will Abstracts 1796-1816 and Naturalization Records 1776-1906*

### Reviews

*Ancestors in German Archives, Vol. I & II*

“Descendants of German immigrants often do not know where in Germany to look for the records of their ancestors. Records of births, marriages and deaths, together with many other government and private records, some dating from the Middle Ages, have been preserved in about 2,000 German archives. This book details the record collections in these archives that enable researchers to discover and describe German families of the past.” Anyone researching German ancestors should consult this informative guide.

*Fairfield Vermont Reminiscences 1763-1977*

Fairfield is the largest town in Franklin County and one of the largest in Vermont. Many hours were spent researching town records for specific information. Town reports, school and church records were investigated. The memories of older citizens of Fairfield were called upon. An effort was made to put together primarily factual material which had not previously been published.

### **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.

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

*Evening news is where they begin with 'Good Evening,' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT - for March 2012

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance	\$ 1,556.33
Income	\$ 157.50
Expense	\$ 65.21
Ending Balance*	\$ 1,648.62
*Includes the Book Can at \$226.40	
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

### GENIE RESOURCES

In each of the monthly newsletters, we will present 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.

*I'm always happy to receive Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. I find a lot of neat stuff in it that I can share with you. Here are a couple of them.*

### **Pictures of Ellis Island Before it Became a Tourist Attraction**

Ellis Island was closed in 1954 and remained abandoned for years before being resurrected as a tourist attraction and memorial to America's immigrants. The Mail Online has published an eerie series of photographs showing what Ellis Island looked like during those years of neglect.

The photos make it obvious that arrival at the immigration gateway was not a joyous occasion for every immigrant. Illness was common. Some immigrants were sent back to the "old country," including young children who were returned without being accompanied by an adult. Then there is the morgue and the mortuary building where autopsies were performed.

You can see the haunting images of America's immigration gateway at <http://goo.gl/FL6qq>.

Courtesy of Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter  
March 09, 2012

## Search More Than 40,000 Digitized Genealogy and Family History Books

You can search through more than 40,000 digitized genealogy and family history books from the archives of seven important family history libraries in the United States. Best of all, it is available right now and all of it is free of charge. Every word in every book is searchable. No, this isn't on Google Books. It is FamilySearch.org, the same web site that hosts the huge databases online at the same site: FamilySearch.org.

Perform a search at <http://books.familysearch.org> or click on the links to the individual libraries themselves. They are Allen County (Indiana) Public Library, Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library, Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, Church History Library, Family History Library, Houston Public Library's Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, and the Mid-Continent Public Library's Midwest Genealogy Center.

The materials in the collections include family histories, county and local histories, genealogy magazines, how-to books, gazetteers, and medieval histories and pedigrees. Not all the books in all libraries have been digitized just yet. It is an on-going effort. If you don't find what you want in a search today, come back in a few months and try again. The book you seek may have been added by that time.

You can search easily by entering a name in the search box. That operates in more or less the same manner as Google or most any other search engine. However, I'd suggest you first click on "Advanced Search" and then enter a more focused search in the form that appears. Using the Advanced Search will usually result in "hits" that are closer to your exact area(s) of interest.

This has to be one of the greatest online sources available to genealogists today. I am surprised at how little publicity has been generated about this valuable resource. Try it at <http://books.familysearch>

Courtesy of Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter  
March 04, 2012

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The March 20, meeting with Stephen P. Morse ([steve@stevemores.org](mailto:steve@stevemores.org)), co-sponsored with the El Dorado Hills Genealogy Society, was very informative and entertaining. The event was a great success. The participation was great and we all learned and laughed during his presentations; "The One-Step Website" and "Preparing for the 1940 Census". He mentioned Donald and Daisy Duck and Donald's address of 1313, so I sent our R&GDS thank you on our letter head to that address via snail mail. Maybe that seems a little more like I am Daffy Duck to you, but it was worth a try.

Thank you to our R&GDS members and to the EDHGS members. I know how much effort our members contributed and they each deserve GOLDEN awards. I was very proud to be their President. I'm glad I didn't wear a buttoned shirt because it may have been embarrassing to all if the buttons had popped off. Thanks to all who participated and thanks to Paul Hodel for the use of his projector. It worked perfectly for Dr. Morse's presentation.

There are many research resources available. One of them, the "Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society Newsletter", is full of information that can be enjoyed and used by all. It contains many stories shared by our members, as well as other resources. The Newsletter is sent to all the members each month and is then placed on the Roots and Gold Dust Website. Those who use the Website can access past and present newsletters. The Newsletter/Website Editor, Paul Hodel, includes his own research into areas of interest as well as research by our members. Some of the items covered in the newsletter include:

Announcements of upcoming monthly meetings and recaps of the previous meeting.

Upcoming events

Articles that covering resources and ideas for doing genealogy research.

Interesting stories and articles related to genealogy.

The latest updates on new materials available in the Family History Center.

I highly recommend that you use these two valuable tools; our newsletter and our website.

Please take note that some of our best presentations have been from our own members who have done a lot of research in areas that some of us still haven't pursued.

Also, I want to let you all know of the resignation of our Program Director, Carol Pirtle, due to health concerns. I want to thank her for all of her hard work since the beginning of this year. Programs have been set up through July 2012, and Carol has offered to share research and ideas that she is working on for future use. We all hope her health improves steadily and look forward to seeing her at our regular monthly meetings.

Any one interested in applying for this vacant position can call me at (530) 663-0017 or e-mail me at [carlyn668@comcast.net](mailto:carlyn668@comcast.net)

All of our member's ideas for presenters are encouraged and welcome. Members' interests and ideas are what help the Program Director in setting up future programs for R&GD's monthly meetings.

Thank you all so much for being valued members of Roots and Gold Dust.

Carlyn White

### **A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO EARTHQUAKE**

*Linda Galley has been "helping" her husband Art, with his family's genealogy. Among the family records in Art's possession is a letter from his maternal great grandfather, Thaddeus S. Casner to his wife Margaret, written in San Francisco on April 18, 1906, the day of the great San Francisco earthquake. Linda shared this letter with our group recently at a Show and Tell and was kind enough to transcribe it so it can be shared with everyone. Thank You Linda!*

*Linda states: "We have no idea what business Thaddeus was attending to in California. It may have had something to do with the motor he was always improving for electric razors. Thaddeus was born July 16, 1865, died February 7, 1950."*

Dear Sweetheart,

I wish I could talk to you right now, but am awfully glad that you were not here this morning.

A very severe earthquake at 5:15 this morning shook this city to its very bottom and it is practically in ruins and the ruins are on fire adding to the disaster.

Hundreds of people are killed or hurt and thousands are walking the streets afraid to go back into their homes.

Last night the city went to sleep as usual and was rudely awakened this morning at 5:15 by the most terrific earthquake ever known in this state. I was about half awake and of a sudden I heard a terrible bumping and rumbling noise accompanied by an unearthly rocking and jolting sensation which continued for about 30 seconds. In this time I had become thoroughly awake and realized that it would be useless to run so simple sat on the edge of the bed awaiting the cessation of the shake.

I then looked out the window and found the city was in a perfect cloud of dust. I then dressed and went down to the office and asked if that was the method they usually employed to wake their guests. He asked if it was efficient and I told him it was most efficient.

As soon as I got out of my room the extent of the disaster began to become apparent and the scenes are beyond description.

Men and women half clad and with terror written in their faces were making frantic efforts to get out of the building and into some open place, some were crying, some shrieking or moaning, some praying and all was confusion and uproar.

The farther I walked through the city the greater were the effects to be seen. Business blocks which cost hundreds of thousands of dollars were so shattered or twisted that they were useless until rebuilt.

Many buildings collapsed entirely, and but a very few escaped without some damage.

Soon after the shock occurred fires broke out in various parts of the city and soon it was apparent that what was left by the earthquake would soon be destroyed entirely by fire, making the destruction most complete.

I heard a fireman say that there were over 24 fires and to make it worse the earthquake had broken the water supply so that the city was without water and the only way to fight the fires was by using dynamite and blowing up the building in the path of the fire. This has been going on all day, and the constant booming of heavy charges of dynamite and the crashing of tall buildings has raised over the city a pall of smoke that darkens the sun and people walk about in semi-darkness.

Many stories of narrow escapes are heard on all sides and many stories in which friends have been hurt or killed are common.

As the day wore on and the fires became more general the scenes became more confusing.

After the first shock had been over for some time people ventured into their offices or homes to secure some valuable papers or coveted piece of furniture or pet and took them into the street as they supposed a safe distance from the fire, only to find that they had to be moved farther and farther away and in many cases were abandoned entirely. Every kind of wheeled vehicle was pressed into service, sometimes horses could not be had and men would pull their wagon by hand. Trunks, hand bags, bedding, chairs, and clothing of all kind were heaped in piles along the curbing or in the streets and the affrightened (sic) people would sit on them to keep possession.

Ambulances drove at full speed back and forth taking the killed and hurt to places for treatment.

A large skating rink was turned into a hospital early in the morning, but this had to be abandoned about 1 o'clock on account of fire, and it finally burned completely. The U.S. Cavalry soon came upon the scene and also the U.S. regulars - all swarthy looking fellows - and the city was put under martial law.

The parks and open squares are now crowded with a motley mass of humanity and their belongings where no doubt they will camp for today and possibly tonight and tomorrow.

Business is absolutely out of the question as all business places are closed and everybody is interested in acts of mercy rather than trade.

I am leaving this evening by boat for Stockton about 65 miles up the bay where I will try to do business tomorrow and if no other word comes will then start for Salt Lake City.

Will write you again later. Now sweetheart don't worry about me for I am safe and not hurt in the least.

I did not get very badly scared, but became nervous while dressing. However I don't think we will die until our time comes and then no matter what we do it will be just the same,

Good Bye,

Your Loving Husband

T. S. Casner

### **GENIE THOUGHT**

*I looked into my Family Tree once, and I found out I was from the Shady side.*

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