



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- 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
- August 21, 2012 **Group Participation**
Breaking Down Brick Walls
Programs and speakers for the rest of the year are being lined up as we speak.

10 REASONS I DIDN'T RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP THIS YEAR.

- My dog ate my newsletter so I didn't get the reminder.
- I was going out to my mailbox to mail my renewal when I got distracted. I set the envelope down for a moment and forgot it and the wind blew it away.
- I only attend every other meeting, so I only have to renew every other year.
- I was going to pay at the last meeting, but then I found out the Treasurer doesn't take credit cards.
- I wrote myself a reminder to renew, but now I can't remember where I put the reminder.
- I put a dollar in the book a few months ago, does that count?
- I've been paying my monthly bills for so long using the computer, that I've forgotten how to write a check or use cash.

- I used my last check to pay for my renewal, but just as I finished writing it, my gold fish jumped out of its bowl and landed on the check and ruined it.
- You really mean you don't take credit cards??
- Oh, wait, that wasn't my dog that ate my newsletter, it was my gold fish.

Seriously folks, if you haven't renewed yet, you need to. Our Executive Board has been working very hard, for at least the last three years that I know of, to keep from raising the cost of membership in our Society. They've gotten pretty inventive when it comes to saving money, but speakers cost money as does postage and printing. When people don't renew on time, the Board has to assume that they won't have any more income for the rest of the year and they have to adjust the program accordingly. Let's all make sure we have paid our membership for this year so they can provide us with the best program possible. And to you who have already renewed, Thank You so much for being so timely.

Your 2012 Roots and Gold Dust EXECUTIVE BOARD:

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



Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

April 17, 2012

If you missed the April meeting, you missed a great time. We had 22 members present and three guests: Nancy Smith, Dorothy Worthington, and Elise Mattison.

We were greeted at the door by Alice Morrow who got us signed in and then gave us our name badges (especially helpful for those of us who have a hard time remembering names). Our refreshments were provided by Luana Zylla and Mary Ann Harper who designed our refreshment table around the upcoming Earth Day. Thank you, ladies, for taking such good care of us.

Our program this month was presented by our own Rodi Lee who spoke on *“The Lives Behind the Names in Mormon Island Cemetery”*. When the Folsom Dam was being built, all of the cemeteries and grave sites that would be inundated by the new lake were located, documented and then moved to what we know today as the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery. Rodi has spent the past few years researching and writing about the communities and the people of these areas which are only memories and stories now. She is probably the most knowledgeable person there is on the combined histories and the genealogies of these places. We were very fortunate to hear her speak and share so many photos with us of the areas and

the people. Her presentation really made the people come alive once again. She also brought in a number of books she has put together on the places and people she talked about. What a fantastic experience this was. Thank You Rodi !!

If you would like to visit the Mormon Island Relocation Cemetery, it is located on Shadow Fax Lane, just south of Green Valley Road right at the Sacramento / El Dorado county line.

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>

NEXT MEETING

May 15, 2012

At the coming meeting, we will be fortunate to have Bill Taylor talking with us about “*Resources Within The Family History Center*”. Bill Taylor currently serves as the assistant director for the El Dorado Family History Center. He has been active in family history research for over 15 years. Bill is an experienced Internet researcher and has a knack for finding elusive ancestors, dates and places. He brings twenty-plus years of experience teaching professional seminars in industry to his love of family history.

Bill will introduce you to the resources within the Family History Center (FHC). The local FHC is a branch of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City containing the world’s largest collection of genealogical records that include names of more than 3 billion deceased people. The FHC is also a portal to many premium subscription family history websites through FamilySearch and its many partner organizations. Literally mountains of information are waiting at your fingertips and you can search through them from the convenience of a computer in the Family History Center. This class will show you how to access these online libraries to find records and original documents of your ancestors then take digital images of those records home with you, even including full digital copies of books. The online resources are continually expanding. Currently they include large local history collections, US and UK census records, birth, marriage, death and parish records, extensive military record collections, complete digital images of Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files (that are often full of genealogical information), Civil War Pensions, digitally archived newspapers and publications, naturalization documents, passenger lists, over a million maps and atlases, libraries of photos, and much more.

CHURCH BLOOPERS

A reprint from an actual announcement in a real church bulletin (complete with blooper!)

*The Fasting & Prayer Conference
includes meals.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is coming on and the plethora of spring seminars comes to an end. As you look forward to the fall seminars, take a look at some of the ongoing opportunities that are available through the Regional Family History Center and the Central Library in Sacramento.

Family History Day at the State Archives

October 13, 2012

Sacramento

This year’s Family History Day will be on October 13th 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

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/>

TREASURER’S REPORT –

for May 2012

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Checking Acct: Beginning Balance | \$1,648.62 |
| Income | \$ 98.00 |
| Expense | <u>\$ 121.80</u> |
| Ending Balance* | \$ 1,526.82 |

**Includes the Book Can at \$202.53*

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Savings Account | \$ 10.05 |
|-----------------|----------|

WORM DIRT CAKE

At our April meeting, in honor of Earth Day later that week, Luana Zylla fixed us a wonderful refreshment known as "Worm Dirt Cake". May not sound tasty, but it sure was delicious! A number of you asked for her recipe, so here it is:

Ingredients:

1 to 1 ¼ lb. Pkg. Oreo Cookies
1 (8oz.) Pkg. Cream Cheese
½ Cup Butter, softened
1 Cup Powdered Sugar
3 Cups Milk
1 (12 oz) tub Cool Whip
2 (3 ½ oz) Pkg. Instant Vanilla Pudding
½ tsp Vanilla
Gummy Worms and/or other critters

Instructions:

Crush Oreos. Put 1/3 of the crushed Oreos into a clean flower pot. Set aside

Mix butter, cream cheese, sugar and vanilla together. Set aside.

Combine milk and pudding mix. Fold Cool Whip into the pudding.

Fold together pudding mixture and butter-cream mixture.

Layer this mixture (about 1/3 of it) into the crumbled cookies in the pot. Next, add another layer of cookies, continuing until all the ingredients are used.

As you're layering the ingredients, decoratively place several gummy worms and critters in the "soil" so they will be seen emerging.

Chill in refrigerator for 3 to 4 hours before serving.

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

New to the FHC Library this month we have:

"Finding Your Scandinavian Ancestors"

"Sacramento Coroner's Records-Vol. I"

"A War of 1812 Death Register"

INTERPRETING THE VALUE OF THE 1940 DOLLAR

The Value of the 1940 Dollar by Philip Hermann

A few questions in the 1940 census required answers in dollar amounts. To fully understand the dollar amounts in the 1940 census one needs to consider inflation and convert the 1940 dollar amounts to 2012 dollars.

Below are comparisons, made using the U.S. Department of Labor's inflation calculator, between 1940 and 2012 dollars. (The inflation calculator allows you to compare dollar amounts for any year between 1913 and 2012.)

1940 Dollars = 2012 Dollars

\$1 = \$16.26

\$1,000 = \$ 16,261.64

\$10,000 = \$162,616.43

For some context, here is a list of common goods and their prices in 1940 dollars, taken from www.thepeoplehistory.com/1940s.html.

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Pork roast | .39/lb. |
| Ground beef | .55/lb. |
| Coffee | .42/lb. |
| Bananas | .11/lb. |
| Nylon hose | .20/pair |
| Men's suit | \$24.50 |
| Sealy mattress | \$38.00 |
| Ford Super Coupe | \$1,395.00 |
| Average Home | \$3,920.00 |
| Average Salary | \$1,725.00 |

From the New England Historical Society's Newsletter:

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.

10 CENSUS QUESTIONS THAT LEAD TO MORE ANSWERS

You'll get more than just answers in a census record: you'll also find clues in each one that point you to other record collections. Here are 5 of the 10 favorite next-step clues from the census. Use them to learn more about your family's history and craft a few new searches, too! We will continue with 6 thru 10 next month.

1 - Census question: Free white males; free white females; other free persons; slaves

Years appeared: 1790-1840 (question changed slightly through the years)

Where it leads: Other census records

In the first six censuses, only heads of household were listed by name. All other people in the household are noted through tick marks. Here are two ways to use those:

Say in 1830 your ancestor's home includes a tick mark for a young male. But the 1840 census doesn't have someone who would fit the same characteristics living in the household. This can be a clue that the young male started his own household. Search for the family surname nearby

A slave under the age of 26 in 1820 may have lived to be enumerated by name in 1870. Work backwards from 1870 searching for the former slave's surname to see if any slave owners with that surname lived in the area. Then see if their households included a slave with matching criteria.

2 - Census question: Street name; house number

Years appeared: 1880 and 1900-1930 (note: the census today still includes street addresses)

Where it leads: City directories

Look to the far left column on census forms (in the years listed above) and you'll find the name of the street. The box to the right of the street name is the house number. Put those two together and you have your family's street address.

Use the street address to help pare down possible matches in city directories. Also, add addresses from the census and city directories to a timeline for a better look at your family's migratory patterns.

3 - Census question: Age at first marriage; number of years in present marriage

Years appeared: Age at first marriage, 1930; number of years in present marriage, 1900-1910

Where it leads: Marriage indexes and records; previous censuses

These sound like innocuous – and frankly, nosy – questions. But “age at first marriage” and “number of years in present marriage” can be very revealing.

At first glance, they're both straightforward: simple math can lead you to marriage indexes and other marriage records.

Age at first marriage, however, could lead you to a different story. Say a husband was born in 1885 and his 1930 census record indicates his age at first marriage was 20 – his first marriage, therefore was 25 years ago. His wife, who was born in 1902, was also age 20 at her first marriage – but that would make her first marriage just eight years prior. While neither answer indicates that the current marriage is the first one, the fact that the husband initially wed 17 years before his wife means you have at least one additional marriage to search for. Start your search for the husband's previous marriage in marriage indexes. Also check the first census following what would have been his initial marriage to see if he's listed with a former wife.

4 - Census question: Mother of how many children born; how many children living

Years appeared: 1910

Where it leads: Death and birth records; obituaries

Who knew two small boxes could hold so many clues? On the 1910 census, mothers were asked to list the number of children born and the number of children still living. A quick count will tell you if every child born to a mother is listed with her on the census page. Missing some of the living children? That leads to additional 1910 census searches for them. [Start locally; even married children often remained in close proximity to dear old Mom.]

Never heard of other children? Mom may have had a previous marriage that no one mentioned, or a child may have been institutionalized or disowned. Search for Mom in earlier census records to see if you can learn more. A discrepancy between the number of children born and the number living leads to death indexes, death certificates, and obituaries.

Tip: You may be able to focus your search for death records by looking for gaps of more than two years

between the ages of the living children – often a sign that a child is missing. However, don't assume that all discrepancies are related to children who died young. Search for death certificates and other information from the time Mom entered child-bearing years through 1910. And remember to look for all of the children in birth records.

5 - Census question: Place of birth; naturalization status; immigration year

Years appeared: Birth (1850-1930); immigration year, naturalization status (1900-1930)

Where it leads: Immigration and naturalization records

There are some census questions that are pretty straight-forward, like place of birth: if it's a foreign country, you know immediately that you'll want to find a passenger list or border crossing – or possibly even both.

Naturalization status can lead you to naturalization records filed prior to the census day and year (in 1920, you'll also find the naturalization year). Pay particular attention to the years associated with each person in the family – it wasn't unheard of for family members to arrive in America at different times, on different ships, and through different ports. Passenger lists were not standardized (prior to September 1906, neither were naturalization documents), so details listed for two different family members could vary greatly. Locate immigration-related records for everyone in the family and you may land on even more answers.

Thanks to Carol Sexton for locating these for us.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Rodi Lee, Thank you! Your presentation was really informative and fun. You did a great job of summarizing all the information you've spent many years researching. The binders you brought are all so well documented and interesting. I wish we would have had more time to share and review them with you. The information you have on some of the families; the Poors, Simpsons/Hickock (families who were in the El Dorado Hills area), Russells/ (Folsom/Colfax area), and Knights (Folsom area) show the thoroughness of your research. Your

binders are true trophies. Sharing historical facts and information with others is golden.

We had to climb over boxes stacked in the storage area that were in front of the meeting materials we needed for the April 17 meeting, but we learned that those boxes contained new computers to be used in the library adding to our learning capabilities in the FHC library soon. Hurray !!

At the end of the meeting, it was thanks to Alice Morrow and her sweet voice that doesn't carry too well, that I yelled QUIET, so she could be heard. Honestly I didn't know the reason she was trying to get your attention, but many thanks for wishing me a Happy Birthday in advance. I'm almost up to "Sweet 19". ☺

I want to share some words I received in a birthday card I received from my brother. I think they apply to most of us in R&GDS.

“REMEMBER WHEN? WHEN grown-ups seemed glamorous? WHEN people said “thank you” and “please”? WHEN Moms called their kids in for Supper at dusk? WHEN you played hide and seek and climbed trees? Remember WHEN “downtown” seemed far away? WHEN you caught lightening bugs in a jar? WHEN drugstores had fountains, and most kids had a bike? WHEN you had a wish for each star? WHEN no one had pedigreed dogs? WHEN you read comic books by the ton? WHEN you bought penny candy? WHEN you drank chocolate milk? WHEN you expected each day to be FUN?*

If these simple things bring a smile to your face whenever they're heard told, It means YOU were lucky enough to have such good times.....(It also means YOU'RE kinda OLD!)

* (*I still expect each day to be FUN!!*)

All of life is an adventure and new discoveries make it worthwhile. Sharing with people like you definitely makes it very interesting. HAPPY DAYS to all. See you at our May 15th meeting.

Carlyn White

***We'll See You at the
May 15th Meeting !***