



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- July 17, 2012 **Pamela Dallas**
*The Library of Congress – A Researcher's
Favorite Library*
- August 21, 2012 **Group Participation**
Breaking Down Brick Walls
- September 18, 2012 **Kim von Aspern-Parker**
Developing Good Research Habits
- October 16, 2012 **Donald "Brad" Schall**
*Genealogical Information of locating family
during the Civil war*

NEXT MEETING **June 19, 2012**

At our meeting on July 17th, we will be fortunate to have Pamela who will speak about "*The Library of Congress – A Researcher's Favorite Library*". The Library of Congress, the largest library in the world has invaluable materials to help genealogists with their research challenges. Law requires that two copies of each copyrighted book published in the United States be sent to the Library of Congress. In addition to these resources, the library has original newspapers, maps, a selection of unpublished manuscripts, city directories, musical instruments, sheet music, prints, and photographs, many materials on microfilm, microfiche, and valuable ongoing projects that are invaluable for research. She will also share her knowledge about research at the *Sutro Library* in San Francisco. This library is known as one of the premier genealogical libraries in the country and is considered to house the largest genealogical

collection west of Salt Lake City. Learn how to make the most of their international holdings.

Pamela is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, National Genealogical Society and several local societies. She has served on the boards of several societies, including Vice President of the Genealogical and Historical Council of Sacramento Valley and Regional Director of the California State Genealogical Alliance. She played a key role in the success of the National Genealogical Society Conference held in Sacramento in 2004, serving as Deputy Local Host Arrangements Chair. Pamela has appeared on local television and radio talk shows to discuss genealogy and has written and appeared in several genealogy instructional videos aired on local TV. She is a local, regional and national speaker and believes the best part of genealogy research is meeting wonderful fellow researchers.

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>

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

June 15, 2012

At the June meeting, we had 28 people in attendance, including 4 guests. We would like to thank Aaron Tassin for doing a bang-up job as our greeter and Sandy Beals and Bonnie Holbrook for the great refreshments and drinks. Some of us left the meeting feeling rather full!

We were very fortunate to have Patricia Johnson, Senior Archivist and the Volunteer Coordinator at the Center for Sacramento History, give a demonstration on "*Preserving Your Family's Archival Heritage*". She gave an excellent presentation. Some of our members brought in their photos and documents as examples and Pat explained the how's and why's as to the best way to preserve them. She also did an excellent job of answering questions the various members had. At the end of the meeting, we had a drawing to win a box of archival materials she had brought in for a door prize. The drawing was won by Mary Swan. Patricia is available, by appointment, to answer your questions regarding archival and preservation of your family treasures. She can be reached at:

551 Sequoia Pacific Blvd.

Sacramento, CA 95811

916-808-7074

pjohnson@cityofsacramento.org

www.centerforsacramentohistory.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is here and the plethora of spring seminars has come 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/>

Sacramento Family History Center

2012 SUMMER SERIES

The Sacramento Family History Center is excited to announce their 2012 Summer Series. They will provide a ten week program taking you through the different steps to self-publish your family history. This summer series can also help if you want to publish a family book of journals, biographies, family stories, or more.

Starting June 13th, 2012 there will be a different one hour class every **Wednesday** at 2:00pm with the same class repeated at 7:00pm. There are a number of noted speakers putting on these classes and it promises to be a wonderful experience for everyone attending.

All classes are FREE but you need to register to ensure a place. Call 487-2090 or stop by the LDS Church Family History Center at 2745 Eastern Avenue (just off of Marconi). Additional information and a list of classes is available on their website at: <http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/>.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

for July 2012

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance	\$ 1,483.61
Income	\$ 90.00
Expense	\$ 50.00
<i>Ending Balance*</i>	\$ 1,523.61

**Includes the Book Can at \$223.53*

Savings Account	\$ 10.05
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**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

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.

Genealogy Tool Kit Published by Foundation for the (U.S.) National Archives

The following announcement was written by the Foundation for the National Archives:

WASHINGTON, April 18, 2012 -- Step-by-Step Guide to Family Research at the National Archives.

The Foundation for the National Archives announces the publication of the *Genealogy Tool Kit: Getting Started on Your Family History at the National Archives*, written by National Archives genealogy archives specialist John P. Deeben.

This 160-page step-by-step guide was published by the Foundation and launched in April 2012 to coincide with the celebration of the National Archives' release of the 1940 U.S. Census. The Foundation has long supported research at the National Archives, including its annual support of the Archives' Genealogy Fair, and the development of genealogy products such as this Tool Kit and other archival and research-oriented items.

The *Genealogy Tool Kit* will help family researchers at all levels of experience to explore how their ancestors interacted with the Federal Government over the course of their lives. Did they enter the United States from a foreign country? Apply to become an American citizen? Enlist in a

regiment during a particular war? File for a patent, homestead, or pension?

Through such questions, and many more, the *Genealogy Tool Kit* helps genealogists to navigate the records at the National Archives, from census and naturalization records to military and federal land grant records. With checklists to track the readers' progress, family trees to fill in as ancestors are discovered, and room for taking notes, the Tool Kit will also serve as researchers' own record of their family history research project.

The *Genealogy Tool Kit* also includes the personal discovery stories of Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero, documentary filmmaker Ken Burns, and author and journalist A'Leia Bundles, as well as inspirational accounts from several other family historians.

The Tool Kit is available for purchase in the Archives Shop in Washington, DC;

by phone at 202-357-5271, or via email at nationalarchivesstore@nara.gov

The Foundation for the National Archives is an independent nonprofit that serves as the National Archives' private-sector partner in the creation of and ongoing support of the National Archives Experience, which includes permanent exhibits, educational programs, traveling exhibits, special events and film screenings, and historical/records-related products, publications, and media. The Foundation helps the public understand the importance of the holdings of the National Archives by presenting the depth and diversity of the records through award-winning, interactive educational exhibits and programs. It generates financial and creative support for the National Archives Experience from individuals, foundations, and corporations who share a belief in the importance of innovative civics education.

1885 and 1895 State Census of Iowa

By Delpha Musgrave, Coordinator, Iowa County Records Project, State Historical Society of Iowa
Through our partnership with *FamilySearch.org*, the Iowa County Records Project since 1974 has focused on preserving the state's valuable records. These records, microfilmed at both the county and state levels, include State of Iowa censuses, vital records, land, and probate records.

Recently *FamilySearch* and the State Archives entered into a scanning project of the indexes of the 1885 & 1895 State of Iowa censuses.

We are excited to report as of May 17th everything has been entered and both census indexes are now available at familysearch.org.

In the near future, images of each record will be uploaded. A brief notation will be added to the "Library/Special Collections — CENSUS MATERIALS" section on our website--with the added "Go to" link posted.

Please check out the index to the 1885 & 1895 at the following addresses:

For the index to the 1885 State Census, go to: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://familysearch.org/searchapi/search/collection/1803643>

For the index to the 1895 State Census, go to: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/show#uri=http://familysearch.org/searchapi/search/colection/1803957> Newspapers

Yolo County, California, Archives Open to the Public Two Days Per Week or by Appointment

For those of you looking closer to home for information: The Yolo County Archives in Woodland, California, is open to the public two days per week or by appointment. Researchers are welcome 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesdays and noon to 4 p.m. on Thursdays. Up to four researchers are able to use the facilities at a time. Reservations are recommended. To make an appointment, call 530-666-8010. You can also contact them by e-mail at: archives@yolocounty.org.

According to new archivist Analu Josephides, the top four accessed records are obituaries, newspapers, Board of Supervisor minutes and land records. Coroner's reports are also popular. Other documents available to the public are marriages, probates, assessor documents, war veteran records, criminal and civil cases, tax assessments, yearbooks, land deeds, farm bureau records, hospital records and more.

Within the archives, primary records date back to 1850. Secondary records, such as photocopies, can pre-date 1850.

"The archives are evolving with the times," Josephides said. "With greater access [to the

records], the community can discover that much more about who they are." Going paper-less is encouraged at the archives, and researchers are welcome to bring in a flash drive on which to have documents scanned.

The Yolo County Archives is also looking for volunteers to assist in the following areas:

- General Research
- Transcribing documents using Excel and/or Word
- Genealogy Research

Courtesy of the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter, June 17, 2012

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

Many thanks to Mary Ann Jones for donating the following books to the library:

CA 92 – My Checkered Life, Luzena S. Wilson in Early California; Author, Fern Henry.

CALOC 63 – Coloma Cemeteries; Edited by Lynette Mizell, Coloma Cemetery Committee.

CALOC 64 - Coloma-First Town of the Mountains; Author, Alan H. Patera.

CALOC 65 – Coloma Then & Now Memoirs of Buzz Winje; Author, Buzz Winje.

CALOC 66 – The Life and Adventures of James W. Marshall; Author, George Frederic Parsons.

CALOC 67 – John A. Sutter; Author, Werner C. Dillier.

REF 133 – Sharing and Publishing Your Family History; Author, Carolyn Hutchinson Brown.

(Watch for more books on Early California Settlers)

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.

NO, FAMILY NAMES WERE NOT CHANGED AT ELLIS ISLAND

A saying often heard when discussing genealogies is "The family name was changed at Ellis Island". Dick Eastman, who produces the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter wrote a wonderful article that addressed this in his 17 April 2012 Newsletter.



There is a family myth amongst tens of thousands of American families: "The name was changed at Ellis Island." The stories claim the immigrant arrived at Ellis Island and was unable to communicate with the officials. A record was then created by someone who assigns the immigrant a descriptive name.

This fairy tale refuses to die. Let's look at a few simple facts:

1. Passenger lists were not created at Ellis Island. They were created abroad, beginning close to the immigrant's home, when the immigrant purchased his ticket. In 99% of the cases, the clerk filling out the forms and creating the passenger list in "the old country" knew how to speak, read, and write your ancestor's language. That clerk filled in the proper name. In the case of Eastern European or Oriental languages, those forms even included the correct non-Roman characters. To be sure, spelling variations were common as the immigrants usually were illiterate and often didn't know their own alphabets or how to spell their own names. The clerks wrote what they heard, which may or may not be the same spelling used elsewhere. In fact, there might not be a "correct" spelling. However, what was recorded **ALWAYS** sounded correct, especially when pronounced in the immigrant's language.

It is unlikely that anyone at the local steamship office in "the old country" was unable to communicate with the immigrant or his/her family. Names were most likely recorded with a high degree of accuracy at that time. Those lists of names were later delivered to immigration officials at Ellis Island.

2. The idea that the immigrant was unable to communicate with officials at Ellis Island is ludicrous. In fact, one third of all immigrant inspectors at Ellis Island in the early twentieth century were themselves foreign-born, and all immigrant inspectors spoke at least three languages. In addition, Ellis Island and other ports of entry also hired an army of interpreters, most of them as part-time employees. These interpreters always (repeat: **ALWAYS**) could speak, read, and write the languages of other immigrants. If a new immigrant arrived and no interpreter was available for his or her particular language, that immigrant was detained at Ellis Island until a qualified interpreter was located and brought in for the interview. Most immigrants were processed through Ellis Island within a day or two but there were cases where immigrants were detained for several days until an interpreter became available and proper documentation could be completed. Nobody passed through the process without being interviewed by someone in a suitable language.

3. The passenger lists were always prepared in "the old country" by steamship company officials. If any immigrant arrived at Ellis Island and provided a different name to officials, he or she was always denied entry. If a brief investigation could not clear up the mystery, the immigrant was shipped back to the old country on the steamship's return trip.

NOTE: Many immigrants were refused entry for a variety of reasons and were returned. Estimates seem to vary from 12% to 18% of all would-be immigrants were denied entry into the United States and instead were sent back to their originating countries. The fates of most of these returnees has not been well documented.

4. Later immigrants had to verify their correct names every year. Starting in July of 1940, the Alien Registration Act required every alien resident in the United States to register at their local Post Office in January. As part of the registration process, the immigrant had to provide **ALL** names

by which he or she had ever been known, including his or her full name as used in "the old country" as well as the name used currently. Alien Registration requirements applied to all aliens over the age of fourteen, regardless of nationality and regardless of immigration status.

Despite these facts, the Ellis Island name-change story (or Castle Garden, or earlier versions of the same story) is as American as apple pie. However, there is little to no truth to these stories.

When Did the Names Change?

After processing through Ellis Island and settling within the United States, many immigrants DID change their names. In numerous cases, the names were changed for them by public officials, schoolteachers, shopkeepers, and neighbors. Anyone from Eastern Europe, with a name LONG on consonants and short on vowels, learned that his name often got in the way of a job interview or became the subject of ridicule at his child's school. Any change that might smooth their way to the American dream was seen as a step in the right direction. In many cases, these later name changes were made without court papers or any other official recognition.

In any case, the records at Ellis Island and other ports of entry always contained the original names, although with frequent spelling variations.

Courtesy of Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter, April 17, 2012

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the July meeting, we will have the current membership list available for all to review.

If you have any corrections or changes to be made, please tell Carol Sexton or you can let her know by e-mail at eckelsey@yahoo.com

Thanks, Carol, for updating the membership list.

At the June meeting, Patricia "Pat" Johnson gave a wonderful presentation! The documentation she shared with us was very informative and very useful to all genealogists. Thank you so very much for the displays and explanations as to why certain archival documents should be carefully stored and enabled to breathe.

Here are some of the statements I heard about Pat Johnson after her presentation: "She's certainly is knowledgeable"; "Her enthusiasm about how to save old stuff showed throughout her presentation"; "It is nice to share with someone who seems to enjoy what she does while accomplishing archiving important documents for the people." "It would be fun to set up a group tour to visit the Center for Sacramento History and meet with Pat again."

Thank you, Pat, for a great program.

On June 8th Roots and Gold Dust was represented at the Wagon Train Event in Camino by Alice Morrow and Carlyn White. Our booth was next to that of the El Dorado County Historical Society with Carol Sexton and Lisa Butler featuring their book *A Glittering Pot of Gold*, authored by Lisa with sketches by Carol. It was a great way to combine genealogy and history together. Our member, Mary Ann Harper, 2011's El Dorado Rose, was also there for the celebrations.

Mary Cory, director of the El Dorado County Historical Museum, allowed our group to have a display at the museum during the El Dorado County Fair June 14 through June 17. The assistance we received from Mary and her staff was wonderful.

The story board we used at both places was made by Judy Williams and Maggie Killakey and showed the genealogical history of Mary Jo O'Shaughnessy. It was also on display at our June meeting.

The agenda for 2012 is now complete. Brad Schall, who had to cancel for July, has been rescheduled for October. Pamela Dallas, who has been a speaker at R&DGS several times, will be our guest at next month's meeting. We are always lucky to have her come and share her vast knowledge and share her information about library research.

Researching the branches in our own family tree can teach us so much about geography and history that we can share with our friends in Roots and Gold Dust. The people we meet there make it so much fun to belong. Several of our members also attend other genealogical society and FHC library events.

Keep researching and have a wonderful holiday.

See you in July!

Carlyn White

We'll see you at the July 17th meeting!