



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

August 21, 2012 **Group Participation**
Breaking Down Brick Walls

September 18, 2012 **Kim von Aspern-Parker**
Organizing Your Genealogy

October 16, 2012 **Donald “Brad” Schall**
*Genealogical Information of locating family
during the Civil war*

November 20, 2012 **Group Participation**
*Annual Fingerfood Potluck and Election of
Officers*

December 2012 **No Meeting**
*Have a Very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*

*Programs and speakers for next year are being
lined up as we speak.*

RECAP OF LAST MEETING

July 17, 2012

We had a fantastic July meeting. Some of you showed up early and had the place all set up, ready to go, and looking great. Luana Zylla was the greeter this month and was waiting anxiously at the door to greet everyone who came to the meeting. Alice Crocker and Elaine Andrews provided us with wonderful refreshments. Our President, Carlyn White, was absent. Something about playing in the sand as they celebrated their youngest son’s 41st birthday. Vice-President Alice Morrow did a great job of conducting the meeting in her absence. What a wonderful group of people we have in this organi-

zation. Everyone is always willing to step up and do whatever they can to make the meetings a success.

Speaking of success, we were fortunate to have Pamela Dallas come speak with us again. Her topic was the Sutro Library. As most of you know the Sutro Library is one of the premier genealogy libraries in the United States and we are fortunate that it is near enough to us that we can do day trips to visit it and do research. Pamela, who has made some wonderful presentations to us in the past, did a wonderful job of covering the Sutro Library. She started with a history of Adolph Sutro and the library, covered the plethora of materials available there, gave us some hints and insights on doing research there and also covered the way the materials were laid out. The library is currently being moved to a newer, larger facility and will now be able to provide patrons with even greater access to its extensive collections. We want to thank Pamela for her wonderful presentation, the great handouts and the favors.

NEXT MEETING

August 21, 2012

Our August meeting will be a workshop format. We will be discussing ways to break through your genealogy brick walls. We all run into brick walls once in a while. You know, those relatives that don’t seem to want to be found. Here’s your chance to get the other members to help you out. Carlyn will be contacting us before hand with a brief questionnaire on any family members you need help on. This will help us prepare to help each other with our brick walls at this meeting.

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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer is half over and the various genealogical societies are starting to announce their seminars for the coming year. We'

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.

Roots Cellar Spring Seminar

Saturday, March 16, 2013

9:00 am to 3:45 pm - Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, 11427 Fair Oaks Blvd., Fair Oaks, California

Root Cellar is excited to host Thomas MacEntee at its 22nd annual seminar. Thomas is a professional genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogy research and as a way to connect with others in the family history community. When he's not busy writing blog posts,

organizing the 2000+ members of GeneaBloggers (<http://www.geneabloggers.com>), teaching online genealogy webinars and more, Thomas MacEntee is busy in his role as "genealogy ninja." Stealth is not easy for a Lane Bryant-sized guy like Thomas but he manages to get the inside track on emerging technologies and vendors as they relate to the genealogy industry. After being laid off from a 25-year career in the tech industry in 2008, Thomas has been able to "repurpose" his skill set for the genealogy community and loves to see other genealogists succeed, whether it is with their own research or building their own careers in the field. *You can learn more about Thomas MacEntee at Web: <http://hidefgen.com/>*

In addition to Mr. MacEntee, there will be classes and conferences. To find all the latest information on this, always, exciting event, visit their website at: <http://www.rootcellar.org/>.

Sacramento German Genealogy Society

Spring Seminar

Saturday, May 4, 2013

Sacramento

This years Seminar will feature the ever popular Roger Minert who will be bringing along with him eight of his graduate students to assist him. Mr. Minert is always a very exciting, interesting and informative speaker and this years seminar will include not only talks by him, but also there will be an opportunity to have one-on-one sessions with his graduate students to get help with your German genealogy. To find all the latest information on this, always, exciting event, visit their website at: <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/>.

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

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 August 2012

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance	\$ 1,523.61
Income	\$ 83.00
Expense	\$ <u>124.70</u>
Ending Balance*	\$ 1,481.91
*Includes the Book Can at \$330.53	
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

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.

Burlington Public Library, Iowa

The city of Burlington is the county seat of Des Moines County, which is located in southeastern Iowa. The Burlington Public Library has made a number of genealogical resources available on its website, including the following:

Cemeteries

Click the first link in this section for an alphabetical list of cemeteries in Des Moines County. The

second link is to cemetery databases on the Iowa GenWeb website. There are ninety-one cemeteries in this online collection. Scroll to the bottom of the page to view a list of alternate names of some cemeteries.

Click the cemetery name to view collected information, which may include a description of the cemetery and its history, a list of individuals buried there, photographs, and census images. The burials databases may include surname, first name, birth, death, and notes. The notes field includes spouse and parent names, number of years the individual was married, age of the deceased, place of birth, military service, and description of gravestone. A camera icon in the "notes" field links to a photograph of the gravestone.

Newspapers

There are three newspaper databases on the website. The second [Burlington] *Hawk Eye* index, covering the 1830s to 1897, is likely the most useful for family history researchers. This database indexes birth, marriage, and death notices from local newspapers. You can search the database by name. If you would like to limit your search to a particular event type or a specific date of publication, click "more search options." In addition, you can browse the alphabetical index by clicking the first letter of the surname. The data fields in the index include full name, event (birth, marriage, or death), newspaper title, date of publication, and page number. Copies of newspaper articles may be ordered from the library.

The *Hawk Eye* database covering 1985 to the present indexes articles and photographs appearing in the newspaper, but does not contain birth, marriage, or death notices. (I was not able to connect to this index.) The third newspaper link connects researchers to the Hawk Eye Online Archives. Full-text articles may be purchased for a fee.

Photographs

The library provides a link to "Daily Life Along the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad," a searchable collection of more than 700 photographs, including more than sixty of Burlington during the 1940s, on the Newberry Library website. Click the image to view an enlarged photograph or detailed information.

In addition, you will find on this website a list of the Civil War units raised in Des Moines County.

You can visit their website at:

<http://www.burlington.lib.ia.us/genealogy/DesMoinesCounty.htm>

Courtesy of The Weekly Genealogist, Vol. 15, No. 28, Whole #591 July 11, 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 books to the library again.

CA 93: *Sierra Trail Blazers - First Pioneer Wagons Over the Sierra Nevada* by James J. Rose

CA 94: *Lucky Land of Lassen - Lassen County Historical Society*

CA 95: *The Covered Wagon* – Shasta Historical Society Publication

CA 96: *California Emigration Letters – The Forty Niners* edited by Walker D. Wyman and indexed by Mary Ann Jones

TN 47: *1837 Tennessee Volunteers – Muster Rolls for various counties* – Institute of Historical Research

US 73: *Journal of a Trapper* – Osborn Russell edited by Aubrey L. Haines

1940 Census Index Project

Following is the latest report from Family Search on the progress of the 1940 Census Index Project as of July 25, 2012

Family Search is excited to announce that we have indexed almost 90% of the entire collection with 31 states fully indexed and available for searching at FamilySearch.org.

Below are the latest statistics for the project. They continue to be very encouraging.

- 134,765,703 names have been indexed and arbitrated.
- 31 states have searchable indexes on FamilySearch.org. These states include Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California,

Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

- 15 additional states are 90% or more indexed and arbitrated.
- 4 states are under 90% indexed. To see the status of all of the states, visit the [1940 US Census state-by-state progress map](#) on the Family Search website.
- The 1940 US Census is currently 89.55% indexed and arbitrated.

As we get close to the end of indexing the 1940 US Census, it will be tempting to let others finish the last of the work. We hope that you keep going and see this project through to the end. Your help is needed and appreciated very much. Thanks again for all your hard work. We appreciate all you do.

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.

THANKS FOR ONE GOVERNMENT **“BOONDOGGLE”**

Yeah, it probably was a boondoggle, one that would have a portion of today's population howling about government waste and deficit spending. But here at *The Legal Genealogist*, all there is - all there could be - is deep abiding gratitude at the bureaucratic boondoggle known as the Works Progress Administration.

First established under and funded by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935,¹ its work wasn't nearly done when, 74 years ago today - on 21 June 1938 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938² that allowed the WPA to continue - and to create some of the most amazing genealogical resources that will ever exist.

Most of us probably know that the Works Progress Administration (“WPA”) was a massive federal project to put people to work in the depths of the Great Depression. It employed millions of Americans on public projects sponsored by federal, state, or local agencies, and as World War II loomed and then began, on defense and even war-related projects.

And in the course of that effort to put people to work, the WPA hired teachers, historians, clerical workers, writers and photographers to document America as it was and to survey what it had been.

There are three major results of the WPA’s works for which today’s genealogists can be forever grateful.

First, the **Historical Records Survey** produced a wide variety of inventories of available vital records, plus bibliographies, cemetery and newspaper indexes. It produced inventories of manuscript collections in archives, historical societies and libraries, public and private. It inventoried church records. It produced indexes to censuses and naturalization records. It produced place-name guides. And these records are widely available around the country and on microfilm through the Family History Library.

Want an index to the Blount County, Tennessee, Burial Records? One was prepared by the WPA - it’s in the [Tennessee State Library & Archives](#).

How about an index to birth records from Starke County, Indiana, from 1894-1938? It’s there in the [Indiana State Library](#). Along with the WPA-prepared index to marriage records, 1896-1938, and index to marriage transcripts, 1899-1938.

Want to know what records existed - and exist - in Oklahoma? There’s a catalogue of American Indian records found at the Oklahoma Historical Society, inventories of federal documents in the Veterans Administration, post offices, relief agencies, and federal courts, inventories of records in all seventy-seven counties and of municipal records, church archives and private collections within the state - and most of the records of what was done are located in the Research Division of the Oklahoma Historical Society⁴

There are the folks who did the soundex indexing of the 1920 census, undertaken as a Historical Records

Survey project of the WPA in New York City. Literally thousands of WPA workers were assigned to that project starting in 1938; it wasn’t finished until 1940.

But that’s not all genealogists can thank the WPA for. There’s also the **Federal Writers’ Project**. It may be best known for having produced a series of guide books of the states now known as the American Guide Series. The U.S. Senate has a [description of the series](#) online, but focusing on the guides barely begins to do the work of the Federal Writers’ Project justice. In addition to the guide books, there were local histories produced, compilations of folklore, books and pamphlets for children and adults and - best of all -all kinds of interview reports.

How about Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gaston of Ogalalla? Check out the 1938 interview with Mrs. Gaston. You’ll discover that he was born 2 May 1859, at Saskatchewan, Canada, and came to Keith County in 1884. She was born 15 November 1869 at La Port Indiana. They were married at Grant Nebraska, 1888, moved to Happy Hollow and had six children: John Franklin in 1892; Isac Iver, 1894; Katherine Marjria, 1896; Charles Adam, 1890; Kenneth Lloyd, 1902; and Dicy Dorritt, 1906. Most of their life story is there.

The Slave Narratives may be the most compelling of the oral histories. There are 17 volumes in the series compiled by the WPA entitled *Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves*. And they’re online at the Library of Congress’ *American Memory* Project in a collection called [Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1938](#).

Mrs. John High of Arkansas was interviewed in 1938 and told of Emiline Waddell, former slave of the L.W. Waddell family, born in 1826 in Rabun County, Georgia, a slave of Claybourne Waddell. She was reportedly born a deaf mute but had hearing and speech restored when lightning struck a tree under which she was standing.

And even *that’s* not all to thank the WPA for. There are also the **photographs**. Hundreds and hundreds available through the [Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Online Catalog](#). Thousands

more available at [the National Archives](#). Thousands more available through state and local archives. Thousands more than that available through online sources such as the [New Deal Photo Gallery](#) at the [New Deal Network](#) of Columbia University.

Oh the WPA may have been a boondoggle, all right. And the money authorized 74 years ago today was definitely deficit spending.

But oh boy ... where would we be without it?

Posted on June 21, 2012 by [Judy G. Russell](#).

Courtesy of:

<http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/2012/06/21/t-hanks-for-one-government-boondoggle/>

HARDTACK SNACK ATTACK?

Try Making Your Own

Our good friend and fellow society member, Carol Sexton, is always coming up with goodies to share with us. This is one she recently turned us on to.

Feeding troops during the Civil War was a vitally important, but difficult responsibility, especially getting food to armies on the move. Another difficulty involved the storage and preservation of food; thus troops got cured, salted meats and dried and pressed fruits and vegetables.

Most Union troops strongly disliked the main staple, "Army bread" or hardtack. Although it was nutritious, soldiers complained they could eat 10 of them in a short time and still be hungry. But the most common complaint was that they were often so hard that they couldn't be bitten into, and that it took a very strong blow even to break them.

Hardtack was eaten by itself, or crumbled into coffee. Probably more were eaten that way than in any other, as they were usually eaten as breakfast and supper, but there were other ways to prepare them. Sometimes they were crumbled into soups, which they served to thicken. Some soldiers crumbed them into cold water, then fried the crumbs in the juice and fat of meat, creating a dish that was known as skillygalee or cush. Some

preferred to eat them toasted, either to more easily crumb them into coffee; or in the rare case when it was available, with butter. A few who managed to save a portion of their sugar ration spread it upon the hardtack.

Sound good? Try making some yourself at home and share the experience of a Civil War Soldier:

- 1 tablespoon of butter or lard
- ¼ teaspoon of salt
- ½ to ¾ cup of water
- 2 cups of flour (cornmeal in the South)
- Preheat to 400°

Use a pastry cutter to mix the butter, flour, and salt. Add enough water make a stiff batter, knead several times. Then use your fingers to spread the dough out flat to a thickness of ½ inch on a non-greased cookie sheet. Cut the sheet of dough into 3" squares and use a fork to punch in four rows of holes, four holes per row into each square. Bake for 30 minutes at 400 degrees. You can also try cutting the dough and punching holes after 15 minutes of baking. Remove from oven and turn the dough over. Bake another 30 minutes. Turn the oven off and keep the door closed, leaving the hardtack inside until cool. Let it age at least 2 weeks before eating it. For an authentic flavor, wait a few months and for some weevils to take up residence.

You can find more information on Civil War Rations at: <http://www.visit-gettysburg.com/civil-war-rations.html>

From: *The Iowa Historian*, July-August 2012, (published by *The State Historical Society of Iowa*)

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We regret that we do not have a message this month from our President, she's still busy trying to shovel the sand out of their motor home. See what happens when you camp at the beach with kids ! ☺

Carlyn White

***We'll see you at the
August 21st meeting!***