



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter–January 2013

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

- January 15, 2013 *Business Meeting  
Installation of Officers and  
Planning for the Coming Year*
- February 19, 2013 *Paul Hodel  
Using Findagrave.com*
- March 19, 2013 *Glenda Lloyd  
Obituaries – “The Dead Said”*

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

## NEXT MEETING

**January 15, 2013**

We didn't have a meeting in December, so all of you should be well rested and ready for the new year! We will be having the first meeting of 2013 on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. There will be parting remarks by outgoing members of the Executive Board and then the installation of officers for the 2013 year. Carlyn White and Alice Morrow will be stepping down as President and Vice-President and Paul Hodel and Milton Mulligan will be attempting to fill their capable shoes.

As you will see in the next little article, we are in need of a Program Director for 2013 so please respond.

You won't want to miss this meeting because we'll be asking you what you would like to see and hear in the coming year as well as what you would like to volunteer to help with. Before the meeting we'll be sending out a listing of some of the opportunities that will be available to you. Keep your eyes open for that e-mail!

## PROGRAM DIRECTOR NEEDED

Due to Carol Pirtle's health issues, she has had to step down from the Program Director's position. She explained what all the surgeon was going to do by using lots of long, flowery medical words and acronyms and we finally figured out she's going to have heart surgery. She has assured us that it is not as complicated as it sounds and that even if she isn't at 100% by then, she'll still make it to the February meeting so she can keep the speaker in line that day. I think the real problem with Carol's heart is that she has the opposite problem from the Grinch That Stole Christmas. He had a heart many sized too small and Carol's heart is many sizes too BIG for her chest!! We wish Carol the very best with her upcoming tests and surgery

So, we are looking for a new Program Director. There are a number of you out there who could handle the job and we want to hear from you. You don't have to be experienced, training will be provided. All you need is a desire to do your part in helping the Society. Contact the incoming President, Paul Hodel, at (530) 622-3299 or at [pljhodel@hotmail.com](mailto:pljhodel@hotmail.com) and let him know that you are interested. But you better hurry before everyone else gets in line in front of you.

## **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/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>

### TREASURER'S REPORT – *for January 2013*

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance	\$ 1,118.19
Income	\$ 175.00
Expense	\$ 63.31
<i>Ending Balance*</i>	\$ 1,230.88
<i>*Includes the Book Can at \$278.42</i>	
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Sutro Bus Trip**

Wednesday, February 13, 2013

Our friends at the Genealogy Association of Sacramento are once again sponsoring a bus trip to the Sutro Library in San Francisco. This is a great opportunity to see the new, and much larger, building that the library has moved to. This is a great opportunity to work on your family history as the Sutro Library is one of the premier genealogy libraries in the United States. Not only that, but you get to sit back and let someone else do the driving which is always nice when going to the San Francisco area. The cost is \$40 for the bus trip. We will car-pool to Sacramento, get on the bus there and spend the trip comparing notes with other genealogists as we enjoy a snack of donuts. We're dropped off practically on the steps of the library

and after spending an exciting day there, we can get back on the bus and let someone else drive us through the traffic. It's a great adventure and opportunity. To make your reservation, contact Melanie Howard at [melnesia@comcast.net](mailto:melnesia@comcast.net) or at (916) 383-1221.

#### **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 much 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 year's Seminar will feature the ever popular Roger Minert who will be bringing along eight of his graduate students to assist him. Mr. Minert is always a very exciting, interesting and informative speaker and this year's 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/>.

**Beginner's Workshop**  
Placer County Genealogy Society  
June 15, 2013, 9:00 am – 3:30 pm  
Auburn

The Placer County Genealogy Society will be having their annual seminar; "Tracing Your Family Tree: How To Begin". This is always a very popular presentation both for beginners and for those who want to sharpen up some on the basics. It will be held at the Auburn Library, 350 Nevada St, Auburn on Saturday, June 15, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. till 3:30 p.m. This is a free seminar.

### **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/>

### **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**

No new books to report at this time. The FHC was closed part of the month for Christmas break, so we gave our Librarian, Judy Williams, a well deserved vacation.

### **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.

### **TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS FAST APPROACHING**

I know we're all recuperating from the holidays, but there is something you won't want to miss out on! You'll want to renew your membership in Roots and Gold Dust Genealogy Society while it's still such a bargain at \$15 per person or \$22 per family. Renew by paying at the January meeting or mail in your renewal. Bring cash or check because our Treasurer doesn't accept plastic.

### **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.

#### **Arkansas Death Certificates May Now Be Ordered Online**

The Arkansas Department of Health rolled out a new service that allows users to search and order state death certificates on the Web. Previously, the records were available only through in-person requests or paper-form submissions.

The new online database currently offers only records of deaths that occurred from 1935 to 1961 on the website, but the department said that workers will be adding records in the coming months. Users may search by last name, death date, county of death and state of birth.

The new database does not contain the actual certificates or any images of any documents. Unfortunately, it is only an index to the records plus an online ordering form. You can find a person's death listed by name, state of birth, Arkansas county of death, date of death, and mother's name. Once

the record is located, you may fill out a form and have a photocopy of the original document sent to you via standard US Postal Service mail within 7-10 business days. Pricing is \$10.00 for the first certificate and \$8.00 for each additional certificate.

The new death records from the Arkansas Department of Health are available at: [https://www.ark.org/doh\\_dcs/](https://www.ark.org/doh_dcs/). That page displays a very simple search form containing fields for first name, last name, and date of death. However, clicking on "Show Advanced Search" brings up a search box showing more options.

My thanks to newsletter reader Lynda Suffridge for telling me about the new online service.

*Courtesy of Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter, December 04, 2012*

### **British Columbia Historical Records Available Online — For Free**

People worldwide now have easier research access to images of the original historical records of births, marriages and deaths in British Columbia.

A partnership between the BC Archives and the Vital Statistics Agency, as well as an in-kind donation by FamilySearch International, has resulted in original records being scanned, indexed and now available from anywhere in the world for printing — free of charge — through the Royal BC Museum/BC Archives website.

Since 1997, the Vital Statistics Agency has provided the BC Archives with annually updated indexes to publicly releasable vital event information.

The BC Archives is allowed to release personal information about deaths that occurred at least 20 years ago, marriages that took place at least 75 years ago and births registered at least 120 years ago.

In the past, the photographed images of actual documents were only available on microfilm at the BC Archives reading room, at a FamilySearch International centre or through a number of libraries across the province.

“This free access to digital images of historical vital event records is long overdue,” said Kathryn Bridge, manager of centralized access at the Royal BC Museum.

“The upload of more than 700,000 scanned and indexed documents in the first few months of test operation is unique in Canada. No other province has made this much rich data available online.”

Provincial registration of births, marriages and deaths began the year after British Columbia joined Confederation in 1871.

The registration records contain information that can be used to trace a family tree, determine medical history, reveal the history of a community or patterns of illness over time.

Birth registrations include name, date and place of birth, parents’ names and the mother’s maiden name.

Marriage registrations include the name, age, birth place and marital status of the bride and groom, the date and place of the ceremony, names of the couple’s parents, names of witnesses and the person who performed the ceremony.

Death registrations include the name and birth date of the deceased person and date, place and cause of death.

Phase 1 of the data upload is substantially complete. Phase 2, now underway, will add more images and indexed information, including pre-1872 records and deaths that occurred overseas during the Second World War between 1939 and 1945.

More than 200,000 images of death records from 1985 to 1991 and approximately 19,000 images of marriage records from 1933 to 1936 will also be added.

Phase 2 is scheduled for completion by the end of the year and will bring the number of scanned records to the one-million mark.

Each year, more vital-event images will be scanned and uploaded as they become available through annual scheduled releases by the Vital Statistics Agency.

To access the images of historical birth, marriage and death records, go online to [http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/Basic Search](http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/BasicSearch) .

*Courtesy of kampoosthisweek.com, November 30, 2012*

## **10 TOP GENEALOGY RESOLUTIONS**

### **Items to Add to Your Genealogy 'To Do' List**

No more excuses! Almost all of us can admit to getting wrapped up in the hunt for ancestors and letting other important things slide (and I am not talking about the laundry). Most of us have notes piled on the floor, shoeboxes full of unlabeled photos, classes we have planned to take, relatives we have been meaning to interview and other researchers we have been intending to contact.

If you're like me and want to take your genealogy research to the next level, choose a goal (or two or three) from this genealogy "To Do" list and get started. Let's make this the year that we finally get organized and really work on improving our genealogical or family history research skills.

#### **1. Interview a Relative**

One thing many of us postpone until it is too late is talking to our own family members. Now is the time to get in touch with those relatives you've been meaning to contact. If you are fortunate enough to have older members in the family, approach them first. Some of them may have information about the family that can't be found elsewhere. If you have already spoken to your parents and grandparents, then extend your research net to include extended family such as brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and cousins.

#### **2. Take a Class or Learn a New Research Skill**

Whether you are a novice or have been researching your family for over 20 years, there is always something new to learn. Get out of your research rut by taking a genealogy class, attending a conference, reading a new genealogy book or learning about a new research skill online. During the next year, make it a point to read and educate yourself about at least one new research technique and then use it to find out something new about your ancestors. There are hundreds of free resources for learning right on the Internet so you have no excuse for not trying something new!

#### **3. Get Organized**

This is the goal most genealogists dread, but which could make our research time so much more effective! Take some time away from your research and organize those genealogy files, clean out your bookmarks and input your scribbled notes

into your genealogy program. If you are overwhelmed by the accumulation of family history records and notes that you have stuffed in boxes and drawers, then set aside a regular time each week for organizing a little at a time. Take heart - you will most likely find all sorts of new clues as you sort out the records you have.

#### **4. Don't Put Off Until Tomorrow...**

Sometimes it seems as if everything else gets in the way of quality genealogy research time. You use a calendar to schedule other important activities, why not genealogy? Whether you use a standard paper calendar or an online version, make it a point to set aside time for personal genealogy research or schedule special events such as genealogy conferences or research trips

#### **5. Label & Store Your Family Photos**

Most of us have piles of precious family photographs sitting in piles or boxes waiting to be labeled, organized, put into scrapbooks, digitized, etc. Don't let another year go by with those photos fading both from light and from people's memories. Get together with relatives and identify as many people as you can and label those pictures. Be sure to use a photo-safe marking pencil or pen! If you have access to a scanner then consider digitizing the photos onto CD-ROM to preserve them indefinitely. Even if you don't have time to create scrapbooks and really get the photos organized right now, make sure you get them out of old envelopes and shoeboxes and into archival quality plastic sleeves or acid-free photo boxes before they are lost forever

#### **6. Two Heads are Better Than One**

One of the best ways to further your research is to join forces with other people researching the same surname or in the same area. Join a genealogical or historical society in an area in which you are researching a primary family line and then get involved in some way. You will meet fellow researchers, benefit from members with years of experience with the records and history of the area and have many opportunities to help others by working to preserve historical and genealogical documents, recording cemetery transcriptions and more. If you spend a lot of time online, then join a mailing list for your surname or area or participate in chats and/or forums with other genealogists with similar interests.

## **7. Keep Track of Correspondence**

How many times have you left a question in a genealogy forum and then forgot to go back and check for an answer? How do you find the person you corresponded with last year about your Smith family again now that you have new information to share? Most of us have address books to keep important phone numbers and contact info for family and friends, so why not use it for genealogy contacts? Make sure to add a note to yourself about the person's surnames and research locations!

## **8. More Than Names & Dates**

Sometimes in the rush to get our lines as far back as we can we forget to take the time to learn more about the people our ancestors were and the times they lived in. Take time this year to record family stories, either electronically or on paper before this oral history is lost forever. Go out and find at least one additional record on each of your direct ancestors, choosing a record which will hopefully tell you more about them than you already know. Census records include interesting information such as your ancestors' occupation, education level and property value. Wills and probate records can provide you with all sorts of fascinating information including debts, friends and even the bed covers and pots and pans your ancestors owned. Tax rolls, immigration records and land records are other good sources for information about the lives of your ancestors. You can also chart your ancestor's life against a historical timeline and learn more about wars, plagues, crop shortages, big storms and other noteworthy things your ancestor may have experienced.

## **9. Put Your Research To Good Use**

The biggest thrill for me in researching my family's history is in sharing the things I find with others. Your family members may be more interested that you realize and would probably love to receive copies of old family photos, printouts of the research you have done or a book of the collected memories and stories of your relatives. It doesn't

need to be professional and it doesn't even need to be complete (when is your genealogy research ever complete?).

## **10. Volunteer to Help Others**

Think back to when you were a beginning genealogist and how difficult it was for you to learn proper research methodology and documentation techniques. Remember also all of the help and expert advice you probably received from other genealogists as you were learning the ropes. Look at this new year as the perfect time to return the favor. Many libraries, including Family History Centers, welcome volunteers to help newcomers in their genealogy departments. There are a lot of online sites where you can volunteer your time to look up records or take photos of tombstones for researchers who can't make the trip to do it themselves. No matter how you decide to help, you will be rewarded with that warm and fuzzy feeling that comes from helping others.

These ten resolutions are all suggestions only - there are many others which may be more appropriate for you based on your own unique research circumstances. The point, however, is to use this year as an opportunity to make changes and improvements in the way you approach your research. Genealogy is a scientific research field as well as an enjoyable hobby which means you should strive to get and stay organized, pay attention to the quality of your sources, stay on top of changing techniques and standards and use excellent documentation procedures. But don't forget about the reason you are doing this in the first place! Make sure you take time to enjoy learning about your family's heritage and share the fun with others. Just do the very best job that you can and the rewards will come.

*By Kimberly Powell on About.com Guide. To view this page in its original form, please visit: [http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/resolutions\\_3.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/resolutions_3.htm). ©2013 About.com, Inc. All rights reserved.*

***We'll see YOU at the  
January 15th meeting!***