



# ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

P. O. Box 1354 Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
Roots and Gold Dust Newsletter - January 2014

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## UPCOMING MEETING DATES & AGENDA

January 21, 2014 *Linda Johnson*  
*Cussin'Cousins: An Open Forum for Frustrated Genealogists*

February 18, 2014 *Craig Manson*  
*Evidence and Proof*

## MEETING IDEAS FOR 2014

Our Program staff is already planning for our meetings in 2014 and they could use your thoughts and ideas. Here's your chance to share those great ideas you've been having but were too shy to share before. If you have any suggestions please contact Mary-Lee Gilliland at 642-2002 or e-mail her at [maryleegilliland@yahoo.com](mailto:maryleegilliland@yahoo.com).

## YOUR 2013 ROOTS AND GOLD DUST EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President:.....Paul Hodel  
Vice President:.....Milton Mulligan  
Secretary:.....Luana Zylla  
Treasurer:.....Carol Sexton  
Program Chairperson.....Mary-Lee Gilliland  
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 Richard Wilson at [richardwilson1204@gmail.com](mailto:richardwilson1204@gmail.com) or by phone at (530) 957-2862. Visit our website @ <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index.htm>

## NEXT MEETING -- January 21, 2014

At our January meeting we will be installing the 2014 Executive Board and saying goodbye to last year's board. Following the formalities, we are fortunate to have Linda Johnson speak to us about "Cussin' Cousins: an Open Forum for Frustrated Genealogists". Linda's background goes back to her college years with a Master's degree in Public History, and with an emphasis on Archival Work. She interned at California State Archives, became an assistant archivist at Center for Sacramento History and a year later became collections manager for Special Collections, Shields Library at UC Davis. She is back at the State Archives currently as lead for the Education and Outreach Program.

## RESULTS OF THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

We were fortunate to have such a great Nominating Committee for this year's election. Linda Galley, Richard Wilson and Carol Pirtle did a fantastic job. Thank You! The membership overwhelmingly supported the committee's recommendations. The 2014 Executive Board will be composed of:

President	Richard Wilson
Vice-President	Milt Mulligan
Secretary	Carol Sexton
Treasurer	Cathy Chiveron
Programs	Mary-Lee Gilliland

Appointed positions are:

Librarian	Alice Morrow
Assistant Librarian	Judy Williams
Newsletter Editor	Carol Pirtle
Web Master	Paul Hodel

Installation of the new board will take place at the January meeting.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

*for January 1, 2014*

Checking Acct: Beginning Balance	\$ <u>1424.19</u>
Income	\$ 30.00
Expense	\$ <u>2.04</u>
Ending Balance*	\$ 1,452.15
<i>*Includes the Book Can at \$360.42</i>	
Savings Account	\$ 10.05

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **Root Cellar Spring Seminar**

Saturday, April 5, 2014

#### **Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Software And Webinars**

Geoff Rasmussen, speaker

Geoff Rasmussen is the father of four budding genealogists. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a degree in Genealogy and Family History and has served as director and vice president of the Utah Genealogical Association. He is a dynamic genealogy speaker on all forms of genealogy technology, and as host of the Legacy Family Tree webinar series, has spoken virtually to

nearly 100 different countries. He has authored books, videos, articles, and webinars, and develops the Legacy Family Tree software program. He will be speaking on:

*Timelines and Chronologies: Secrets of*

*Genealogical Success*

*Googling Around with Google and Other*

*Fun Technology*

*The Latest in Digital Imaging for Genealogists*

*What's New in Legacy 8*

For more information and to print out a registration form, visit the website at:

<http://www.rootcellar.org/>

### **Sacramento German Genealogy Society Annual Seminar**

Date: May 10, 2014

Location: Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church  
11427 Fair Oaks Blvd, Fair Oaks, CA

#### ***Spotlight on the Latest German Research Tools***

*Presenter: Kory L. Meyerink, A.G.*

Kory Meyerink is a true professional with more than 35 years of experience in every aspect of the field of genealogy: research, writing and editing, librarianship, publishing, data and personnel management, acquisition, leadership, conference management, teaching and speaking. He is an Adjunct Professor at BYU and a part-time faculty member at San Jose State University. He is the Director of German Studies at the National Institute of Genealogical Studies and is an Internationally known and popular speaker on a wide range of genealogical and LDS topics, having presented over 300 engaging lectures on dozens of topics in more than 20 states and Canada. SGGS will be posting more information on this seminar as the date gets closer.

Visit their website at: <http://www.sacgergensoc.org/>

### CHURCH BLOOPERS

Real excerpts from real church programs, complete with the bloopers:

*Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.*

## 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 <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

### Regional Family Search Center Wednesday Classes

The Regional Family Search Center at 2745 Eastern Ave, Sacramento offers genealogy classes every Wednesday afternoon and evening. Visit their website to see what's coming up. <http://sacfamilysearchlibrary.org/>.

*Note, the center has just expanded their hours and days of operation. The new times are:*

Monday	10:00 – 4:00	
Tuesday	10:00 – 9:00	<u>OH 44</u>
Wednesday	10:00 – 9:00 (NEW)	
Thursday	10:00 – 9:00	
Friday	10:00 – 4:00	
Saturday	9:00 – 1:00 (NEW)	
	(on the 2nd Saturday)	

## 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.

The FHC is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. till 8:00 p.m.

*The Family History Center Library will be closed for the Christmas holidays from December 22nd through January 4<sup>th</sup>.*

### New To The Library

The following books, which were donated by "Jackie's Library", have been placed on the shelves:

Roots & Gold Dust Newsletter

## NEW YORK

NY 48 Early Justice of the Peace Marriages  
a b c d Performed In Buffalo, Erie Co., N.Y. From 1840-1880 Section 1, 2, 3 and Index  
NY 49 Erie Co., NY Genealogical Depositories Of Local Records

## NORTH CAROLINA

NC 41 Hiwassee Reservoir Cemeteries  
NC 42 An Abstract of North Carolina Wills 1760- 1800  
NC 43 Buncombe Co., NC Index to Deeds, 1783-1850  
NC 44 Cemetery Inscriptions of Buncombe a&b Co., NC - Volume I & V  
NC 45 Old Buncombe County Heritage-NC  
NC 46 Cherokee Co., NC Census, Family Names and Trades/Professions 1840-1860 & 1870 Census Index  
NC 47 Miscellaneous North Carolina Research

OHIO Licking County, Ohio 1860 Census  
a&b Part I & IV

## OKLAHOMA

OK 3 Pryor Cemetery  
OK 4 1860 Census of the Free Inhabitants of Indian Lands West of Arkansas (Oklahoma Indian Territory)

We have been fortunate to have Judy Williams serve as our Librarian for many years now. Judy is stepping down as Librarian and has been doing a great job this past year preparing Alice Morrow to replace her. Of course, you can't totally take Judy out of the library and she will be staying on as an assistant to Alice. We also need to thank Judy for all the other work she's done for the Society.

*Thank You, Judy for all your dedicated service.*

## AMAZINGLY SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES

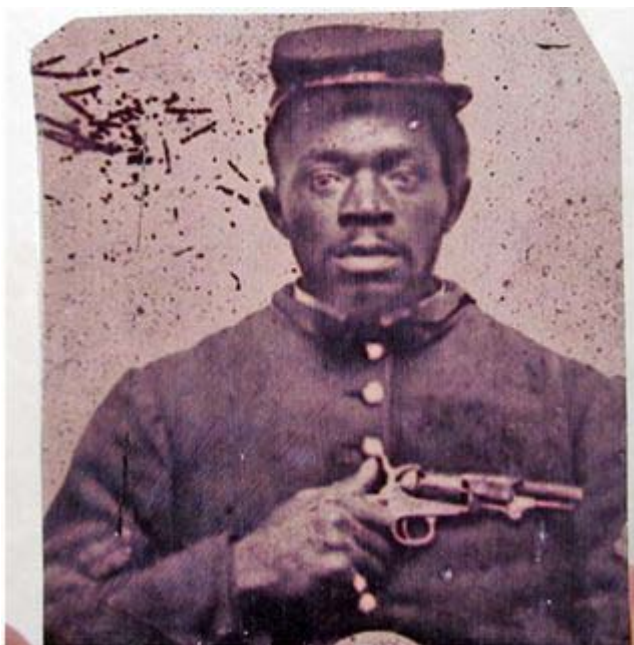


*Avoid Cutting Yourself When Slicing Vegetables By Getting Someone Else To Hold The Vegetables While You Chop.*

## 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.

### **Online Database Lists Union and Confederate Civil War Soldiers**



The **Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS)** is a computerized database created by the National Park Service that contains very basic facts about servicemen who served on either side during the Civil War. Genealogists, historians, and Civil War buffs can now go to a single source to find 6.3 million service records of Union and Confederate soldiers.

The most popular database of the CWSS is the Names Index Project, a project to enter names and other basic information from 6.3 million soldier records in the National Archives. The facts about the soldiers were entered from records that are indexed to millions of other documents about Union and Confederate Civil War soldiers that are maintained by the National Archives and Records Administration.

Other information includes histories of regiments in both the Union and Confederate Armies, links to descriptions of 384 significant battles of the war, and other historical information. Additional information about soldiers, sailors, regiments, and battles, as well as prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records, are also being added over time.

Searching the free database for soldiers is simple: go to the Web site, and click on **FIND A PERSON**, then select the appropriate choice from a pulldown menu: soldiers, sailors, regiments, cemeteries, battles, prisoners, Medals of Honor, or monuments. A new screen appears with blanks for entering search criteria. For instance, selecting **SOLDIERS** produces an entry screen asking for Last Name, First Name, Union or Confederate, State of Origin, Unit, and Function. You fill in as many blanks as possible, leave any unknown information blank, and click **SHOW RESULTS**. Within seconds, a new list appears showing all the entries in the database that match the criteria that you specified.

The data for each soldier usually is very brief, primarily giving a reference where information may be found on microfilm. For instance, here is one typical entry:

Eastman, Albert P.  
Regiment Name: 1st Regiment, Maine Heavy  
Artillery

Side: Union:  
Company: A,M  
Soldier's Rank In: Corporal  
Soldier's Rank Out: Second Lieutenant  
Alternate name:  
Film Number: M543 roll 6  
Notes:

With the above information, I know that I can view the original record on the National Archives and Records Administration's microfilm number M543, roll 6.

The Web site's data is not restricted to information about military personnel. It also has sections for politicians, activists, spies, religious leaders, regiments, battles, prisons, and more, as well as lengthy descriptions of the social, economic, political, and military aspects of the war as it impacted all Americans.

Historians generally accept 3.5 million as the number who served in the War Between the States. So, why does the database contain 6.3 million soldiers? "There are duplicates, mostly because of men who served in more than one unit and name-spelling variations," explained John Peterson of the National Park Service. The service manages 13 national cemeteries related to Civil War battlegrounds.

This is a great database! The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a cooperative effort by the National Park Service (NPS), volunteers from the Mormon Church, Federation of Genealogical Societies, and United Daughters of the Confederacy.

You can access the free Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System at: <http://www.civilwar.nps.gov>.

*Courtesy of Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter, 16 December 2013.*

### My Genealogy Hound

My Genealogy Hound is a new, free website that makes available thousands of biographies extracted from numerous pre-1900 county history volumes. The biographies are organized for easy viewing by county or by family surname. Currently, biographies are available for Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, and Tennessee with many more states to be added soon. In addition, My Genealogy Hound also features a selection of free, vintage county maps from Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Tennessee with additional states to be added soon. And they have maps of those areas also.

My Genealogy Hound is available at [www.MyGenealogyHound](http://www.MyGenealogyHound).

### AND THE LETTER SAID.....

Actual excerpts from real correspondence received by the Family History Department in Salt Lake City.

*I have a hard time finding myself in London. If I were there I was very small and cannot be found.*

## NINETEEN KINDS OF DEATH RECORDS AND THEIR USES

*This article comes from the World Vital Records Blog site. It lists some good alternatives to Death Certificates you can use. We ran their article on Birth Certificates in last month's Newsletter. Please note that this article was published on World Vital Records and therefore has references to that site. Using this article in our newsletter does not constitute a recommendation to subscribe to this website.*

Last month, I listed 28 places to find birth information, and the number could have been higher. Death records are less ubiquitous, probably because documents with birth dates accumulate for a lifetime. But there are still several excellent places to find death records, and some of them have a wealth of other information.

### Death Certificates

The official record in modern times is a **death certificate**. Depending on the time and place, it may be issued by a doctor or other medical practitioner who attended the deceased, or by an official registrar of vital records. Besides providing the name of the deceased and the time and place of death, it may include various details. In fact, death certificates can be interesting reading. (Sorry, is that too grim?)

You may find:

- cause of death (sometimes in grisly detail)
- last place of residence
- age at death
- birth information
- marriage data, including marital status and spouse's name
- burial information
- parents of the deceased and their birthplaces

As with birth certificates, every jurisdiction has its own rules about when death certificates become publicly available, who can obtain them in the meantime, and the processes for obtaining them. The Internet is your best friend, when you need to find where and how to obtain an official copy of a death certificate. For example, if I were searching for my brother's death certificate, I'd start with this search term: "Colorado death certificate."

For genealogical purposes, WorldVitalRecords itself could prove to be your best friend. We have indexed hundreds of millions of death records from around the world, and many of our one billion family tree records also contain death information.

Most US states began recording deaths in the early decades of the 20th century. Many US counties started decades earlier. In New England, towns began recording deaths as soon as they began to be towns. There is similar variation from nation to nation, and often within nations.

In the United States, for most deaths since the 1930s, the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is useful and could be considered an official source. It is available at WorldVitalRecords.

### **Other Sources**

**Church records** often include deaths and burials.

**Obituaries** are fairly reliable sources of death information, because they tend to be written within a few days of a death. They are rich, but less reliable, sources of other information, which is less proximate. They may contain birth and marriage data, as well as the names of family members who preceded the deceased in death, and surviving family members and their spouses. It's common to find information about education, military service, and professional activities, among other bio-

graphical information. However, bear in mind that obituaries tend to be written on short notice, with short deadlines, and at a time of emotional stress. Writers usually are relying mostly on memory, with a minimum of documentation and little time to remember, research, and write. Moreover, the emotion of the moment and a reasonable desire not to offend family members may color both the selection and wording of biographical detail. If you can't find an obituary at WorldVitalRecords (often you can) or elsewhere on the Internet, check the library for local newspapers. The funeral home involved, if you can identify it, may keep a file of obituaries, too.

**Funeral programs** tucked away in drawers, boxes, and files can be good sources of death information.

**News articles** and **death notices** in newspapers are reasonably reliable, contemporaneous sources. (Of course, obituaries often run in newspapers, too.)

**Family histories, family Bibles, and family member journals** can be good sources of information as to the timing and circumstances of someone's death.

**Siblings, children, other close relatives, neighbors, and close friends** may be good sources of clues, at least, and a general sense of when and how someone died, even if they don't remember precise dates.

**Cemetery records** may even include obituaries. And by all means don't forget **tombstones**, where death information is literally carved in stone. (You can search millions of tombstones at WorldVitalRecords.)

**Military records** may have death information, if the individual died in military services. **Military pension records** generally include death information, regardless of the time and circumstances of death. In fact, a spouse's military pension records may include an individual's death information, too.

**Probate records** often have death information.

**That box in the attic** probably won't be as fruitful a source of death information as it is of birth information, but it may still be useful. Letters, bills, and other documents may have actual data or at least offer clues.

**Census records** can offer circumstantial evidence of the year — perhaps I should say the decade — of someone's death. If the 1930 census lists great-grandpa but the 1940 census doesn't, this may suggest that he passed away between those two censuses. **Tax records, city and phone directories, and land records** can narrow the time down further.

### **Duplicate!**

As always, when your search leads you to a record, don't just record the information in your tree. Record the source, too. And if you find an actual document, upload it to your tree, share it with family members, and put it in a file folder — all of which will help others to find it.

*Posted by David Rodeback on October 23rd, 2013  
on the World Vital Records blog at:  
<http://blog.worldvitalrecords.com/2013/10/23/nineteen-kinds-of-death-records-and-their-uses/>*

## **Cemeteries of El Dorado County** **PLACERVILLE UNION CEMETERY**



*Grand Army of the Republic Section*

For over a century beginning in 1871 Placerville Union Cemetery was the largest burial park in the Placerville community. Originally known as Union Cemetery, it was developed in 1871 by the F. & A. Masons, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, Independent Order of Red Men, and the California Grove of United Ancient Order of Druids, it was laid out on 2.45 acres on the south side of Bee Street. In those days it was known as Union Cemetery. The Grand Army of the Republic has a dedicated area within the Independent Order of Red

Men section. The first official burial in the cemetery took place in the Masonic section when John Roy was buried in May 12, 1871. Union Cemetery was soon THE place to be buried and a number of deceased were moved from other cemeteries to Union Cemetery. Among those buried in Placerville Union Cemetery include Frederick Sieg, founder of the Druid movement in California; J.F. Rutherford and W. C. Jones, members of Company H who were killed at Manzanita Hill apprehending escaped convicts; the Wrenn and Rantz families of well known doctors in the Placerville area; Joseph Staple, Deputy Sheriff who was killed apprehending the Bullion Bend stagecoach robbers, the first peace officer killed in the line of duty in El Dorado County, and the Rev. C. C. Peirce, the preacher who spent his life traveling El Dorado County and ministering to the souls there in the second half of the 1800's.



*Grave of the Rev. C.C. Peirce*

In 1895 the Knights of Pythias acquired 1.54 acres adjacent to the original cemetery at the lower end and in 1931 the Native Sons of the Golden West acquired 0.381 acres on the south side of the Druid section. At the same time the Fraternal Order of Foresters No. 889 acquired 0.38 acres next to them. From 1951 to 1964 the cemetery was operated by the Masonic Lodge until the Grand Lodge of California ordered the Masons to get out of the cemetery business. In 1965 a non-profit corporation took over the cemetery operation. The cemetery was cleaned up and all sections united. Between 1968 and 1979 crypts and niches were added in order to generate income for the cemetery and accommodate more burials. In 1991 another set of crypts and

niches were built on the west side of the cemetery. In 1998 the management of the cemetery was changed to a local group of citizens.

Prior to 2005, the cemetery was operated by a private corporation. In October 2006 the land was deeded over to the County of El Dorado and is currently managed by them. The Placerville Union Cemetery encompasses 4.75 acres and includes over 6,000 ground plots. Approximately 95% of the plots are used or have been purchased for future use; however, a field survey and inventory is necessary to determine the exact number and if there might be any plots available for sale in the future. There are a few individuals who wish to sell their plots. For information on these please call the cemetery administration office at (530) 621-7594.

### **A NOTE FROM OUR OUTGOING PRESIDENT**

2013 was been a memorable year for me. Not only did I get to indulge my passions of genealogy and cemeteries, but I meet and married a very wonderful lady. Not only is Sherida sweet, kind, and beautiful, but she is also long suffering and has been very patient with all that has been required to convert my bachelor pad into a home for two while trying to move all her stuff up here from the valley and work on her house so we can sell it. She is looking to retire after the end of the school year and then she will have more time to join me in the cemeteries and all those other places where we look to find our hidden relatives.

One of the highlights of each month is the monthly meetings of the Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society. I really love our little organization. There are so many wonderful and knowledgeable folks to

meet with each month. It doesn't matter if someone is brand new to genealogy or has been involved in it for decades, everyone is friends and always more than helpful to each other. I feel very fortunate that I have had the opportunity in three of the last four years to serve as your president. But the time has come to step down and I feel very comfortable that I am leaving that office in capable hands. I have always been impressed with Richard Wilson and I know that he will serve admirably as President. I was fortunate to have wonderful people to work with on the Executive Board, and Richard is coming into office with a wonderful slate of officers to support him. It takes more than just a board to make an organization run and I have always appreciated all of you who have stepped up to the plate and done your share to support this Society. I know Richard and this new board will receive the very same support from each of you.

In 2008 I took over as the Newsletter Editor and then, in early 2009, we created a web site and I have functioned as the Web Master since then. It's time to add a little new blood and vigor to the job, so Carol Pirtle will be taking over as the Newsletter Editor after this edition is sent out. The two of us will be working together for a while as she gets up to speed. I think you will be pleased with the Newsletter she will be providing you each month. I will be staying on as Web Master for the time being. Maybe with only having one job instead of three, I will be able to not only keep current with everything, but also be able to do some improvements on the site.

Thank you for your support, your assistance, and for being the wonderful friends that you are.

*Paul E. Hodel*

***We'll Be Looking Forward To Seeing YOU  
At The January 21st Meeting!***