



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST Genealogical Society

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

WHEN AND WHERE

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. Visitors are always welcome. Our newsletter is sent out during the first week of each month.

For information or membership inquiries, contact Harvey Andrews at: wetsu@directcon.net or phone (530) 642-0711.

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ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S EXECUTIVE BOARD - 2014

President:Harvey Andrews
Vice President: Milton Mulligan
Secretary:Carol Sexton
Treasurer:Cathy Chiverton
Program Chairperson:Mary-Lee Gilliland
Library Liaison: Alice Morrow
Newsletter EditorCarol Pirtle
Webmaster.....Paul Hodel

PLEASE visit our website at:

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index>
(Thank you Paul for getting it current.)

THOUGHT TO PONDER

When we study how to become a good genealogist, there is no time left to become one.

UP COMING MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

August 19, 2014 Richard L. Hanson

“Guide to Digital Cameras”

We will be taught how a digital camera works, technology options, how to photograph various types of objects under various light conditions, getting prints made, connecting with computer and what to look for when purchasing a digital camera.

Mr. Hanson was a career computer programmer/analyst, now retired. He authored and self-published seven books (working on the eighth). He has created a database of almost 4,000 scanned family photos and source documents. He is webmaster for the USGenWeb.com – Sierra County, California, website.

Thank You to Cathy Keeler and Carole Waller for signing up to bring refreshments on Aug 19th.

September 16, 2014 Speaker had to cancel

October 21, 2014 Denise Damm

“Fold3”

Denise Damm will present a wealth of original Military documents from the National Archives covering Colonial, Revolutionary and Civil Wars. This is often an overlooked website with genealogists.

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Aug 19, 2014

Checking account:		
Previous balance		\$1592.08
Expenses	\$ 118.10	
Income	\$ 30.00	(\$ 88.10)
Current Balance		\$1503.98

Book can Balance Included \$398.42

Savings account previous balance	\$ 5.05
Adjusted service fee charge of	\$ 5.00
Savings current balance	\$ 10.05

Cathy Chiverton
Treasurer

RECAP OF JULY 15th MEETING

Allan Dolgow entered our Roots & Gold meeting as a speaker and left as a friend. Because of vacations, wedding anniversaries, and other genealogical obligations we had a small group. We gathered around him up front and began feeling that we were at a family reunion as we traveled with him through his journey's experiences. All correspondence had to be translated before being sent. Some translations took nearly a year or more to reach its destination. Many photos were shared.

Allan used the websites of Ancestry.com, Steve Morse One-Step site, Google, and JewishGenWeb.com; just to name a few.

With Allan's permission, a copy of the papers he shared titled, On the 80th Anniversary of the Tragedy in Poleskaya Zemlya "No One Wanted to Die" and "Does History Teach Us Anything?" will be sent along with our August Newsletter as a courtesy to the members who could not attend the meeting. Allan said that members with questions were welcome to e-mail him at: allandolgow@aol.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

ROOT CELLAR SACRAMENTO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

August 20, 2014

Jim Radar

"DNA series 3 of 3"

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
Sylvan Community Center, 7521 Community
Dr., Citrus Heights, CA

Visit the website at: <http://www.rootcellar.org>.

SACRAMENTO GERMAN GENEALOGY SOCIETY

The National Genealogical Society national newsletter competition

Der Blumenbaum editor, Shirley Riemer, submitted copies of *Der Blumenbaum* for this year's competition. The *Der Blumenbaum* was selected as one of the two co-winners for 2014. Shirley traveled to the annual NGS conference in Virginia on May 7th to the annual seminar to accept the award. SGGS is a member of NGS and the prize is one year of free membership.

Aug 26: Warren Bittner, C.G.

"Down to the Basics: Church Records"

This is an overview of German family historians' most valuable records.

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

ONGOING EVENTS
Central Library Programs

The Sacramento Central Library has a great interest in genealogy and provides a number of programs that are ongoing at the Central Library, 828 "I" St., Sacramento. For their class schedule, more information and to register, go to their website at: <http://www.saclibrary.org/>

**SACRAMENTO FAMILYSEARCH
CENTER**

Daytime Classes

The Sacramento Family Search Library 2745 Eastern Ave, Sacramento offers genealogy classes in the afternoon and some evening. Their classes during August 2014 are:

Aug 8 – (Fri at 2:00 pm) Laurie Markham
"What's New in Family Search Family Tree"

Aug 19 (Tue 6:00 pm) Doug & LaRee
Hedrickson

AND ON

Aug 21 (Thurs. 2:00 pm) Karen Stubbs
*"Scanning, and Adding Photos & Documents
To Family Tree"*

Aug 20 (Wed 2:00pm) Marna Ambroselli
"Facebook for Genealogists"

Aug 27 (Wed 10:00 am) Maurina Nuttall
"Introduction to Find My Past"

2014 SUMMER SERIES

"Self-Publishing Your Family History"
(Continued from June)

Marian Kile's Summer Series continues through August, taking us through the different steps to self-publish your family history. Each

class will be presented on Wednesday from 2:00 to 3:15 pm. and then again that night from 6:00 to 7:15 pm.

All classes are free but you need to register to ensure a place – call (916) 487-2090

Aug 6 - Publishing using Lulu.com

Aug 13 - Creating book cover on Lulu.com

Aug 20 - Resubmitting an updated version of our book

Go to their website at:

<http://www.familyhistorycenter.info/>

GENIE RESOURCES

These may be local research locations, websites, webinars, places to write or visit, etc. If you have a source that you would like to share, please contact our Newsletter Editor, Carol Pirtle, at: cpirtledirect@gmail.com.
Phone her at (530) 644-4748

FAMILY TREE WEBINARS

- Aug 6 - **TENNESSEE** Ancestors by J. Mark Lowe
- Aug 8 - Research Recharge—turning Old Clues into New Leads by Lisa Alzo
- Aug 20 - Find a Grave by Russ Worthington
- Aug 27 -**ITALIAN** Ancestors by Ruth Merriman

Visit their site and register for a free webinar at:
<http://familytreewebinars.com>

WISDOM

A wise man once said, "Buy land. They aren't making any more of the stuff."

FAMILY HISTORY CENTER LIBRARY,
PLACERVILLE
UPDATE

The Library has knowledgeable assistants to help us research books, and other items held at this site. They provide a computer for our use. Please utilize the FHC Library on Tues., Wed., or Thurs. from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NEW LIBRARY MATERIALS – Aug 2014

REFERENCE - DICTIONARIES

REF DICT FRE Cassell's French-English, English-French dictionary, 1984.

PERIODICALS. We have received scattered issues of the following periodicals. They will be shelved in the Periodicals and Surnames Room after they are removed from the New Books shelf:

FLORIDA

GA 9 Magazine. (Huxford Gen. Soc.) Covers "Wiregrass" area in South GA and North FL.

GEORGIA

GA 6 Georgia Genealogical Society Quarterly
GA 9 Magazine. (Huxford Gen. Soc.) Covers "Wiregrass" area in South GA and North FL.

MARYLAND

MD 5 Cecil (County) Historical Journal.

MASSACHUSETTS

MA 4 Berkshire Genealogist.

MICHIGAN

MI 6 Acorns to Oaks. (Oakland Co.)
MI 7 Heir-lines (North Oakland Gen. Soc.)
MI 8 Surname Index, 1983. (North Oakland Gen. Soc.)

NEW YORK

NY3 & NY3 Index Tree Talks. (Central NY Gen. Soc.)

TRANSCRIBING SOURCE MATERIALS

Many words have different meanings in various fields - even diametrically opposed meanings. *Transcription* is one of those words. To the musician, a transcription is an *arrangement* or *adaptation* that reflects the *transcriber's originality*. To a serious genealogist, that concept is an anathema.

When applied to historical documentation the word *transcript* means *an exact copy*. Those three words are crucial. That definition is unyielding. When a document - be it recorded on parchment, granite, or film - is transcribed, the result must be *an exact copy*.

The task is not hard - it's nitpicking. Assuming that the researcher is familiar with the penmanship and that the original is legible, the only challenge is to learn a few fundamental rules that center upon six elements:

Arrangement

Never should we rearrange the detail we are copying. It is true, every rule has its exception; but this is one that skilled transcribers rarely break.

The original arrangement often embodies clues that knowledgeable researchers can develop into significant evidence. A collection of records is best left in its original sequence - as are names on a list or entries on a page. Inscribed tombstones should be recorded in physical sequence. Alphabetizing inscriptions or entries "so readers can easily find their ancestor" is the surest way to sacrifice evidence upon the altar of good intent.

Punctuation

If a testator writes: "I bequeath to my nephews Joseph Leonard and Thomas Jones," is he referring to two nephews or three? Adding punctuation to a document, even when it badly needs it,

can totally alter the meaning of the original scribe.

Abbreviations

A witness signs his name as *Jas. Smith* - or is it *Jos.* It must be *James*, we conclude. The family had a *James*, but no known *Joseph*. Should we write out the name in full, so readers can benefit from our knowledge of the family? *No*. There may indeed be a *Joseph* yet unknown to us. Leaving the name in its original, abbreviated form lets the reader know that alternatives exist. If we arbitrarily choose one option and substitute a full spelling, our readers are misled into thinking that the document itself presents that name in full. The appropriate treatment in such a case would be to render the name as "Jas. [Jos.?] Smith."

Similarly, clues to the identities of individuals often lurk in the form of the signature. The William Smith who signs as *Will. Smith* is usually a different man than the one who signs as *Wm. Smith*. John Brown who makes his mark as *X* is usually not the one who crudely scrawls something that resembles *JB*. As transcribers, we are obliged to faithfully preserve each man's effort to identify himself distinctively.

Capitalization and Spelling

As with punctuation and abbreviations, capitalization and spelling should also be rendered exactly as the original presents them. Quirky misspellings and grammatical "errors" can also help to distinguish between people, places, objects, and intents.

Alterations

Transcribers face a frequent need or temptation to insert detail not in the document itself. Some words are illegible, and we feel we must offer alternate readings. Other points need clarifying to make a document intelligible. Fine - if one basic rule is followed.

We can add whatever we feel is absolutely necessary - so long as we place our offering in square brackets. Not parentheses, but []. (A case at point would be the questioned reading of *Jas* or *Jos.* Smith.) Original writers use parentheses. If we, as transcribers, place parentheses around our additions, then readers have no way to discern whether this parenthetical data appears within the original or whether it represents our additives while transcribing.

Documentation

As with all other aspects of research, the material we transcribe must be documented so thoroughly that our readers can easily locate the original. If documentation is lacking on the record we are using, then we must offer a viable explanation of the document's provenance. What do we know of its creation? Where did we find it? Where can a copy be obtained by others?

Six "small" matters. Six nitpicking points to remember. Yet observing them means all the difference between a quality effort and a questionable one.

Of course quality is our goal. Helping others is our commitment. How fortunate it is that such an important area of research is one so easy to master.

Elizabeth Shown Mills, "Transcribing Source Materials," *On Board 2* (January 1996): 8.

THE MASTER GENEALOGIST PROGRAM

The Master Genealogist software program will be discontinued at the end of this year; to my knowledge none of our members are using this program.

HART ISLAND CEMETERY
NEW YORK, USA

Why NYC Wouldn't Let This Woman Visit Her Daughter's Grave

Elaine Joseph visits the graveside of her daughter, Tomika, in February 2014. (Melinda Hunt, Hart Island Project)

Every month, the bodies of about 125 people are shipped from New York City's medical examiner's office to Hart Island just off the Bronx. It's the final resting place for nearly one million people. For over a century, it's where the city has buried its unclaimed dead and in some cases, babies that have died at childbirth or soon after.

The island falls under the jurisdiction of the Department of Correction, and almost every day, inmates from Rikers Island are ferried to Hart Island where they spend hours digging graves. One burial plot can hold 150 adult, pine-wood coffins, stacked three deep. A separate trench of the same size holds 1,000 infants.

Elaine Joseph's daughter, Tomika, was born prematurely in 1978 at a Manhattan hospital and died a few days later. After days of grieving, she was told her daughter's body had been given to the city for burial, but no one knew where she was buried.

It wasn't until over 30 years later that Elaine discovered that Tomika had been buried on Hart Island. She desperately wanted to visit her daughter's gravesite, but there was one problem.

The Department of Correction treats Hart Island like it's a jail, meaning visiting there can be extremely difficult. The department refers to the island as a "secure facility:" it considers the gravedigger inmates as a security threat. In ad-

dition, there is no infrastructure to accommodate visitors to the island.

The visits the department does allow are heavily supervised by guards, and visitors are only allowed to walk to a small gazebo just thirty or so yards from the dock. Almost no one is permitted to walk to the actual gravesites.

After working with the Hart Island Project, Elaine finally visited the site of her daughter's grave in February of this year. She now hopes others like her can make the same trip and is supporting a [bill](#) in the City Council to transfer jurisdiction of the island to the Parks Department. Hart Island would then become a public park with improved access, especially for families with loved ones buried on the island.

WNYC Wednesday, June 11, 2014 by Christopher Mathias

For further information go to HartIsland.net
Be sure to take the time to watch the video.
You will be shocked!

Why Fold3?

Traditionally, the third fold in a flag-folding ceremony honors and remembers veterans for their sacrifice in defending their country and promoting peace in the world.

CRYPTOQUOTE

"A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots".

Garvey. Marcus. Sacramento Bee, Sacramento, California, *Puzzle Page*, July 9, 2014, Pg E2.
Submitted by Linda Galley.