



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 1354, Diamond Springs, CA 95619

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cargdgs/index.htm>

Newsletter – August 2015

WHEN TO COME: Our meeting starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. on the Third Tuesday of each month, except in December. Come a little early to get signed in and to greet your friends.

WHERE TO COME: Our monthly meetings are held in the Primary room at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints building at 3275 Cedar Ravine Road, Placerville, CA. Visitors are always welcome to come and share

OUR 2015 BOARD MEMBERS

President: Richard Wilson
Vice President: Rodi Lee
• Secretary: VACANT
Treasurer: Carol Sexton
Library Liaison: Alice Morrow
Assistant: Judy Williams
Assistant: Catherine Keeler
Programs: Mary-Lee Gilliland
Newsletter Editor: Carol Pirtle
Webmaster: Paul Hodel
Hospitality Carlyn White
Assistant: Luana Zylla

In September, our Nominating Committee of three members will be requesting volunteers to be our secretary and our Programs' chair for the year of 2016.

UPCOMING R&GD MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

AUG 18th Our Members and Guests
 "Round Table Discussions"

SEP 15th Kim von Aspern-Parker
 "Irish Research"

OCT 20th Christine Green
 "British Research, Sans Ireland"

RECAP OF JULY 21st MEETING

*"Finding Your Ancestor's German Home Town
and Getting Started on Your German Re-
search"*

The attendance was 18 members and 8 guests. Our meeting Greeter was Carol Pirtle. Snacks were provided by Elaine Andrews and Judy Williams provided the refreshing beverages.

Joan Gunn informed the ones of us with German ancestors with the techniques, tricks and sources for finding the hometown and how to locate their records for our genealogy search. She is a mentor at WorldGenWeb for Baden-Württemberg studies.

LEGACY 8 USER'S GROUP

Richard Wilson states that our Legacy User's Group will resume on the first Tuesday of October, 6 October 2015. He will refresh our knowledge on Legacy's installation and overview of features on how to set up the program to become what we want our family tree to be. He will also instruct us on how to enter information on our Legacy 8 family tree program.

Please send an email to Richard Wilson at: **richardwilson1204@gmail.com** if you are interested in coming to the user group.

UP-COMING GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY'S SEMINARS

SACRAMENTO GERMAN GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY Aug 25, 2015

Presented by Michael D. Lacopo, D.V.M

"Deconstructing Your Family Tree: Re-evaluating the 'Evidence'"

When information passed on from researcher to researcher doesn't "add up", it's time to tear down the walls and rebuild anew. Erroneous conclusions can sneak into our research uncontested. This is especially true today with so many Internet family trees getting cut and pasted into our own research. Very pertinent and amusing anecdotes will illustrate the various ways in which "facts" are not necessarily true – from clerical errors, bad memory, and just plain old-fashioned bad research.

NEVADA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

22nd Annual Genealogy Seminar
Saturday, August 29, 2015

"Digging for Your Roots"

~ Limited Seating ~ Lunch Available

Peace Lutheran Church 828 W. Main St., Grass Valley, Calif. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Sessions & Door Prizes 9 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. Featuring four sessions by Stephen P. Morse, creator of the One-Step Webpages for genealogy (www.stevemorse.org). Recently, he has created sophisticated search tools for the Ellis Island and Castle Garden immigration websites

Visit Nevada County Genealogical Society at: (www.ncgs.info)

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT To July 11, 2015

<i>Beginning Balance</i>		\$ 1,714.70
<u>Income</u>		
Dues	\$ 22.00	
<i>Book Can</i>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>	<u>\$ 42.00</u>
<u>Expense</u>		
<i>Speakers (2)</i>	\$ 80.00	
<i>Supplies</i>	\$ 59.39	
Postage and Printing	\$ 11.44	
Book Purchases	<u>\$117.22</u>	<u>\$268.05</u>
	\$ (226.05)	\$ 1,488.65
		=====
<u>Savings Account</u>		\$ 10.05
<i>Ending Balance</i>		<u>\$ 1,498.65</u>

A TIDBIT OF EL DORADO COUNTY HISTORY

THE COLOMA ROAD

The earliest roads in the mining region (in reality, mere pack trails) were developed in El Dorado County. The first of these were marked out in 1847-1848 by Sutter and his men (among

whom was James Marshall) as a way to his sawmill on the South Fork. Running along the south side of the river from Sacramento to where Folsom now is, this first trail followed approximately the same line as that taken later by the railroad and the modern highway. From Folsom it continued by way of Mormon Island, Green Valley, Rose Sprigs, and Uniontown (Lotus) to Sutter's Mill, later Coloma; the present route of a quiet country road along which a few mementos of pioneer days still remain. The Green Valley House, still the home of a pioneer woman who came here as a young bride sixty-four years ago; the Sunrise House, with its unique design of sun was under the east and west gables; and the Gordon House, the material for which had been brought around the Horn, still lend the charm of their quaint, old-fashioned dignity to this historic thoroughfare. The Coloma Road evolved from a narrow pack trail into a well-beaten, crowded highway soon after Marshall's discovery of gold in 1848. Over it thousands of gold-seekers directed their eager footsteps toward that cynosure of all eyes—Coloma. Soon after the arrival of each ship at San Francisco, the Coloma Road became thronged with men afoot or on horseback, making their way to the diggings. Mexicans with long trains of pack mules loaded with freight and miner's supplies joined the process. Oregonians, very early, brought in the first wagons. A mail business developed of such magnitude that wagon loads of letters never reached their destination and had to be sent to the dead letter office.

Soon all available land about Coloma was staked out to claims, and newcomers were forced to seek other locations. Thus the mining area quickly expanded in all directions, numerous trails opening up fresh diggings and newer El Dorados for the onward-moving Argonauts.

The first, and for a long time the principal, branch of the Coloma Road turned north at New York Ravine three miles east of Mormon Island. Crossing the South Fork at Salmon Falls (at first by ferry and later, in 1853, by toll bridge this road proceeded as it still does. The road was changed in 1956 with a detour route and new bridge, to Centerville (Pilot Hill), where it branched again, one Fork going through Greenwood to Georgetown. From Georgetown a road led northwest to Spanish Bar on the Middle Fork at the American River, where it crossed over into Placer County. Continuing by way of Paradise and the North Star House, this trail to Todd's Valley and Forest Hill was much traveled during the '50's and '60's. Another crossing farther up the Middle Fork at Volcano Bar led to Michigan Bluff (in Placer County).

Another branch road starting at Centerville took a more direct route from that place to Forest Hill by way of Murderer's Bar, located a few miles above the confluence of the Middle and North forks of the American River. The present Mother Lode Highway follows this road, but instead of crossing the Middle Fork at Murderer's bar it now proceeds directly to Auburn via Lyon's Bridge.

Crossing the South Fork at Mormon Island, still another branch of the Coloma Road paralleled the North Fork, connecting the populous river-bar camps located on that stream. Along the fifteen miles of the North Fork above its Beal's Condemned, Whiskey, Rattlesnake and Oregon bars. At first, crude ferries plied at these points—ships; boats brought up from Sacramento or flimsy rafts, sometimes even beds of abandoned emigrant wagons serving the purpose. Soon regular ferry boats, or scows, large enough to carry a wagon, were constructed, only to be supplanted by rough bridges, which were usually washed away by the succeeding

winter's flood. Structures of a more substantial and permanent character ultimately replaced these first primitive ones. All, however, were built by private capital for profit. So great was the traffic to and from the mines that many fortunes were made from tolls collected by the owners of these pioneer ferries and bridges.

At Whiskey and Rattlesnake bars wire-rope bridges were constructed in 1854, and in 1856. The first regular ferry in El Dorado County was operated at Coloma early in 1849. In February 1851, this was superseded by a bridge also the first in the county. All along the South Fork numerous bridges were erected to take the place of the ferries of an earlier date. The amount of travel was tremendous and the profit reaped from tolls was correspondingly great. At the old Uniontown Bridge it was not uncommon to collect from six to eight hundred dollars monthly during the early '50's, and the Rock Bridge a few miles farther downstream was almost as well patronized.

Of the maze of roads and branch roads radiating from Coloma to the scores of camps which sprang up in all directions, less than half a dozen are being maintained by the county today: to the North the Georgetown Road through Garden Valley (formerly Johntown); the little traveled Ridge Road to Kelsey; to the south the Gold Hill Road to Cold Springs and Placerville; and the present Mother Lode Highway from Placerville via Coloma and Pilot Hill to Auburn. These few old roads, however, are rich in reminders of the historic past; scars of abandoned diggings; here and there the dark mouth of a tunnel reaching into the hillside; foundations of buildings long since vanished, crumbling walls of brick or stone standing mute and neglected by the roadside; remnants of apple orchards; a few gnarled locust trees beneath whose shade inns or farmhouses once wel-

comed the wayfarer; lonely hill-top cemeteries marking once thriving communities.

Extracted from: Hoover, Mildred Brook and Rensch, H.E. & E.G., "*Historic Spots in California*". Published by Stanford University Press, Stanford, California. 1948, Pgs. 82-83.

WHY DID SHE MOVE TO EL DORADO COUNTY?

August 1922 – July 2 2015 – Mary Elizabeth Swan Withington, a 6-year visitor to our Roots club meetings passed in the early hours of Saturday morning as the robins woke to sing her onward and upward. She was born to Rudolph H. Grabow and Edna C. (Rabe) Grabow in Oak Center, Minnesota near Lake City. Her earliest years were spent in cold, wild Northern Michigan as her father was a forester. In the Depression years, they lived in Pasadena, CA. By her High school years, back to Wisconsin and graduated from Indiana University in 1942 at age 20. After a summer at Washington D.C. helping break the German codes in the Signal Corps, she soon married her Navy fiancée who became her husband of 47 years, Richard Lee Swan of Boston.

Despite war-time, or actually because of it, she moved around the country to where Rick was stationed, finally settling back in San Francisco after it was over. They then started their family in SF and the Peninsula. During those years Mary achieved her Pre-school Education degree and taught at two private schools. She also donated a summer teaching on the Navaho reservation. She was active in her church's Sunday school and helped to start a Christian youth activity group which was establishing nation-wide in the 60's. Both she and Rick loved singing in a Peninsula choir and traveling this country coast to coast. After achieving their dream of a house in the country (Los Altos Hills), with two grown daughters, Mary-Lee and Melissa Anne, they retired to San Jose where Rick eventually but too soon passed on.

She continued active though, leading hikes well into her 80's and travelling to Britain several times with Mary-Lee and with a tour to do Gurt camping in Mongolia, also in her 80's. Some years later she met and married (on the bridge over Merced River, Yosemite) her second husband, Frederick Withington. Their time was happy but short as he fell ill a year later: she stayed by his hospital bedside for a year –and friendly as she was, knew all the staff by the end of that time.

She then moved to the Placerville home of Mary-Lee and husband William Gilliland, where she enjoyed our country scenery, walking in the garden, their dogs and lovely days or dinners out. Her greatest joys continued to be part of the Christian Science church and travel –she loved weekend trips around our amazing state, she was also fortunate enough to enjoy time with her grandson, Loren Drew Gilliland and great grandchildren, Eden, 7 and Ina, 1. Her constant gentle cheerfulness is so missed by her family and many others.

This article was written by our Program Director, Mary-Lee, regarding her mother, who was a guest for 6 years at Roots & Gold Dust.

Mary-Lee agreed that I could use it to represent the information that can be gleaned from articles in the newspaper, obituaries, etc. [How many items can you find to include in a research project?]

PLACERVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER UPDATE

By: Alice Morrow, morrrowz@comcast.net

The LDS Placerville Family History Center ("FHC") is open to all researchers and volunteers. In fact, several R&GDGS non-church members (me included) are part of the volunteer staff. And we can always use more! The FHC gives us access to the data base ("FamilySearch.org") and microfilm collections of the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, as well as its own collection of research

books, periodicals, maps and microforms. Much of the collection has been donated by R&GDGS or its individual members. The online Family Search "Portal", which can only be used at an FHC, provides free use of several major subscription genealogy websites (Ancestry, Fold3, etc.)

Volunteers are available during open hours to assist researchers. (Wouldn't you like to become a volunteer?) The FHC is normally open on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Phone # 530-621-1378. If you're coming in the evening or in bad weather, it's a good idea to call first and make sure they are open.

New Library Materials

The following have been placed in the "New Books" section on top of the last microfilm cabinet.

U.S., CALIFORNIA

CA 99 v.1 & 2 History happened here: . . . stories of Elk Grove, Slough house, Sheldon, Franklin, Florin, Wilton, Laguna Creek and other places in south Sacramento County, California.

U.S., GEORGIA

GA 44 Records of Jasper County, Georgia: from the Georgia Department of Archives and History. Judy Williams' Book Can selection. This contains name indexes to county records – marriage, probate, property, court, apprenticeship, etc.

U.S., VIRGINIA

Periodical VA __ Colonial Williamsburg: the journal of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Summer 2014 – winter 2015. Donated by Harvey Andrews. It is not a genealogical magazine, but has many interesting histori-*

cal articles about Williamsburg and early American history in general [*this will be given a call number when I get back to the FHC. I'm doing this article at home, and I don't have the periodicals list with me. It will be the last journal in the Virginia section when it's removed from the New Books shelf after a month.]

FHC Books for Finding Hometowns

These books were discussed by Joan Gunn during her presentation on locating your German ancestor's hometown at the July meeting:

REF 52. *The Handy book for Genealogists; United States of America*, 10th ed. 2002. It describes the types of official records available for each state and for each county.

GER 20b *The German Research Companion*. 2010 ed. *Basic book for German genealogy research*. Pages 68-72 specifically cover searching for the town of origin. Main author Shirley Riemer has been an R&GD speaker.

If your ancestors took a detour to Russia on the way to America, consult:

GER 31 *Germans from Russia to U.S.A.* 1995 compilation by Germans from Russia Heritage Society of "the name of every German from Russia arriving by ship in North America that has been published by the . . . Society . . . through September 1994. . ." (We also have journals of the Society in the Periodicals Room.)

Browse through our German books collection. We have books on German genealogy research in general, plus books on specific areas of Germany which can help you in your quest. We also have books on German ancestry for several states (Georgia, Maryland, New Jersey, and particularly Pennsylvania.) Don't just sit in front of a computer!

If your ancestors did not come from Germany, do not despair. Our collection includes research books and journals on many countries.

Familysearch.org WIKI on German Origins

On the familysearch.org home page, click on "Search", and then click on "WIKI." Just a quick search on "German hometown" brought up the following articles: "German Emigration and Immigration"; "Hamburg Passenger Lists"; "Tracing Immigrant Origins" and "Germany, Locating Place of Origin".

Check the WIKI for similar articles on any country you are researching.

Through The Portal with Alice — WORLD VITAL RECORDS

The Family History Center "Portal" provides free access to a Wonderland of genealogy subscription websites. Please note that the arrangements with these websites require that you have to actually be using a computer at a Family History Center; you cannot simply log on to FamilySearch.org at home for this. Ancestry.com is probably the most popular site on the Portal, but don't stop there.

The *worldvitalrecords.com* data base has millions of records from all over the world. The collections include passenger lists and emigration/immigration records, census records, newspapers, college yearbooks, and many other categories of international records besides the civil and church vital records that the title would suggest. Remember, you can only get free access to it at a Family History Center. Schedule time to really explore this database.