



ROOTS AND GOLD DUST GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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

Newsletter – OCTOBER 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 SOMEONE WHO YOU MET AT THE AUGUST GROUP, if you attended!

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
Pro-Temp Secretary: Carlyn White
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

UPCOMING R&GD MEETINGS AND AGENDAS

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

NOV 17th Everyone Attending
"Annual Finger-Food Pot Luck AND Show-N-Tell AND Election of Executive Officers for 2016"

DEC NO MEETINGS OR CLASSES!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In September, a Nominating Committee was selected, consisting with Carlyn White, Carol Ebert, and Judy Williams. They are to obtain candidates for our Secretary Position and Program Chair position for the year of 2016.

Our September meeting becomes the beginning of the winding down of the year 2015 and the beginning of the Roots and Gold Dust Genealogical Society's New Year for 2016!

RECAP OF September 15th MEETING

The presentation speaker was Kim von Aspern-Parker, a specialist in Irish genealogy. Handouts were sent to members via e-mail. In attendance were 21 members and 4 guests. We hope the guests enjoyed the meeting and will consider becoming a new member in the near future! Please note that the dues you pay in October will continue through December of 2016!!

Our meeting Greeter was Carol Ebert. Snacks were provided by Alice Morrow.

INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT August and September, 2015 Report

Beginning Balance **\$ 1,488.65**

Income:

Dues	\$ 15.00
Book Can	\$ <u>13.00</u>
	\$ 28.00

Expense:

Speakers	\$ <u>60.00</u>
	\$ (32.00)

Ending balance **\$ 1,456.65**

Savings Account \$ 10.05

LEGACY 8 USER'S GROUP

Richard Wilson leads our Legacy8 User's Group on the first Tuesday in each month. On October 6, 2015, he will review Legacy's installation and overview of features on how to set up the program to become what we want our family tree to be. On November 3rd he will instruct us on how to enter information on our Legacy8 Family Tree program consistently. We meet in the same location as our Monthly meetings, the Primary room.

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

PLACERVILLE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER UPDATE - October

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 *Back in time; Stonyford [Colusa Co.] Community History.*

Microfilms on Loan

These are all short-term loans and are due to be renewed or returned by the date given. Please note that the person who paid for a loan has first dibs on using it.

U.S., NEW JERSEY, Burlington Co. Deeds, Due Nov. 3.
0842247 F2-G2 1817-1819, E6-F6 1858
0842265 Q7-R7 1867.

U.S., OHIO, Cuyahoga Co., Due Dec. 10
0877922 Marriage records, v. 26-27 1882-1884.

Through The Portal with Alice — WWII in Fold3

(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.)

I keep returning to Fold3.com, both in these pages and in my research, because it is amassing such a variety of military document collections. Some of them are free. Explore the website at

home first, and then make a list of their subscription collections to search at the FHC. The following is abstracted from the website's description of just a few of their document groups which deal with World War II.

BIRLS [Beneficiary Identification Records Locator Subsystem], a FREE Veterans Benefits Administration database that provides information on deceased individuals including name, birth and death dates, branch of service, and enlistment and release dates.

WWII Cadet Nursing Corps Card Files. This collection contains membership cards providing details on women who joined the Corps.

WWII "Old Man's Draft" Registration Cards. In 1942, the Selective Service initiated a “Fourth Registration” of the draft. Unlike other drafts for World War II, however, this one targeted older men not for military service but for help on the home front. . . The “Old Man's Draft” was a snapshot of American males 45-64 years of age on April 27, 1942. Registrants were asked for a residential address, but also the name and address of an employer. Perhaps most interesting are the physical attributes, providing the government with a pool of citizens who could help out on the home front. Unfortunately records from several southern states were inadvertently destroyed before they could be microfilmed.

500th Bomb Group Records. Search these records for photos and stories of the men who served in the 500th Bomb Group during World War II. Included are memorial tributes to fallen comrades, wartime stories, photos of veterans, campaign details, and tributes to those who fought in the Western Pacific. [This is an example of a collection dealing with one specific military unit; there are others.]

GENIE RESOURCES

Here is information on old Irish naming patterns, as given in a lecture on May 15, 1997, in Rochester, NY, by Ida Troye, Editor of *The Septs*, published by the Irish Genealogical Society, International (IGSI).

Old Irish Naming Patterns

1st son was named after the father's father. 2nd son was named after the mother's father. 3rd son was named after the father. 4th son was named after the father's eldest brother.

1st daughter was named after the mother's mother.

2nd daughter was named after the father's mother.

3rd daughter was named after the mother. 4th daughter was named after the mother's eldest sister.

These patterns were not locked in, so to speak.

Found at this URL:

http://bally.fortunecity.com/mulligan/173/pages/newsletters/i_s_1997-06.txt

BRITISH ARMY RECORDS

British Army records are an important resource for researching both Catholic and Protestant ancestors. Many impoverished young men utilized the British military to uplift their status in life. Also, there were military families for whom the British Arm was a way of life for several generations.

The records used in tracing enlisted men differ widely from those used to trace officers. This article focuses on sources for tracing enlisted men, although some of the sources are also applicable to officers. For deals on records of officers consult the works sited under the "References and Further Reading" section of this chapter.

Army records can help to reconstruct details of the life of an Irish ancestor who served in the Army. They can provide a parish and county of birth and can also show each of the places where he served or received a pension. This information may help identify where he married, where his children were born, or where he died.

Accessing the Records

Most of the British Army records are at the Public Record Office (PRO), Kew and London where they are classified under the heading of "WO" (War Office). The FHL has microfilmed art of the PRO collections. Many reference works refer to British Army records by their WO Number. Whether accessing the collections at the PRO or from the FHL, the WO number is very important because there are so many types of army records. A guide to the FHL microfilms with a description of the sources by WO number is on FHL #990313 item 5.

Identifying a Regiment

A difficult aspect of conducting Army research is identifying the individual

S regiment. Without a regiment, it is practically impossible to access most military records. Methods for identifying a regiment include the following:

1. ***Family Information and Photographs.***
If a soldier is known to have served (or had children) in a certain place (i.e. Gibraltar, Malta, or India) identifying the regiments stationed there during the appropriate time period may be the first

step. *Uniforms* or uniform markings varied among regiments. A uniform in a photograph may help identify the regiment. John M. Kitzmiller's work, *In Search of the "Forlorn Hope: A Comprehensive Guide to Locating British Regiments and Their Records (1640- WWI)* lists where regiments were stationed during particular time of periods. Once it is learned which regiments were stationed at a certain place at a certain time, then records for these regiments can be accessed.

2. **Local Records.** Records such as censuses (especially British censuses), church records, birth, marriage and death records of the soldier and his family, or a death notice in a newspaper may state the regiment. All such sources generated in the places where the soldier or pensioner lived should be searched to see if any provide clues as to the regiment.
3. **District Pensions.** Pensioned soldiers were paid through district offices scattered throughout the Empire, mainly between 1842 and 1862. District records tell when a pensioner transferred in and out of the district, the name of his former regiment and the date of the pension. You do not have to know the regiment to access the records, just geographical area where the pensioner settled (such as Nova Scotia or Canada West). These records form the WO 22 series at the PRO. Part of WO 22 is available on microfilm from the FHL. This includes pensions for Australia, New Zealand, and various other British colonies from 1845-1880.
4. **Historical Research.** Information about battles in which an ancestor fought or about where he was stationed can be used to determine his Army regiment. Works useful for this purpose include Kitzmiller's books, Arthur Swinson's *A Register of the Regiments and Corps of the British Army*, and Arthur S. White's *A Bibliography of Regimental Histories*

of the British Army. Swinson's work provides a chronology of each regiment's engagements. Also included in his work are the various names and regimental numbers used for each regiment over the years. White's book can be used to access other sources on the history of particular regiments.

5. **Vital Records.** For soldiers and their families, vital records can be obtained from two sources: *Regimental Registers and Chaplains' Returns*. Each individual unit kept *Regimental Registers and Chaplains' Returns*. Each individual unit kept *Regimental Registers* which included births, baptisms, marriages, and burials of soldiers and their families that took place both at home and abroad. They cover the time period from 1761 to 1924 and are available at the General Register Office. There is a comprehensive index to births and baptisms for all regiments. Marriages and burials are only partially indexed. Baptisms, marriages, and burials were recorded for soldiers and their dependents by chaplains abroad, beginning in 1796. These *Chaplains' Returns* are indexed (1796-1880) and available at the *General Register Office*. The *Chaplains' Returns* indicate the regiment as well as the place of the event.

Discharge and Pensions

At the time of discharge each soldier was examined and discharged out of one of two hospitals: the Chelsea Hospital in London or the Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin. Records from both hospitals are on microfilm and can be viewed at the PRO or the FHL. Generally, consult the Chelsea records first; if the ancestor is not found, consult the Kilmainham records.

Two sets of records from *Chelsea Regimental Registers* (WO 120) and the *Soldiers' Documents* (WO 97). *Chelsea Regimental Registers* provide lists of soldiers discharged to pension.

From c1750-1843, they provide biographical information. From 1843-1857, biographical information is not given but they do give the district pay office where the pension was paid (see WO 22)The registers are arranged by regiment and date of discharge. A partial index to registers from 1806-1836 is *Index, "Chelsea out Pensioners From 1806-1836, (Source WO120/20-33 at KEW)."*

Soldiers' Documents (1760-1913) consists of a series of documents on discharged soldiers. The documents survive only for soldiers who received a pension. There can be a wealth of information, including age, regiment, birth place, and where stationed. *Soldiers' Documents* are filed alphabetically by soldier's name within the regiment. There is currently a program underway in England to completely index these records, but until such an index is completed, a regiment is needed to access the documents.

A major difficulty with the Chelsea records (or indexes) is that many soldiers had the same name. For this reason, even with a complete index, more will have to be known about a soldier to identify the correct individual. Vital information such as where stationed, where born, when born, or again the regiment would assist in this search.

Kilmainham Admission Books (WO 118) (1704-1922) are arranged in chronological order. Those dating 1759-1822 are indexed. Up to 1822, they generally give the soldier's age and a record of his service and pension. From 1822 on, they usually give other details such as birth place and occupation.

Pay Lists and Muster Books

These records show the service of officers and enlisted men in a regiment during a particular time period (such as three months or a year). These volumes can be used to determine where a particular soldier (and his regiment) were stationed throughout his career. They also can indicate if a soldier was on detachment, which means serving in a location separate from the main body of the regiment. When a soldier

joined a regiment, his age and physical description may be given. When a soldier left a regiment the books indicate whether he was discharged or to what other regiment he was transferred. A regiment must already have been identified before using these records, which are available at the PRO.

Description books

Regimental Description and Succession Books (WO 25) (1756-1878) give brief biographical information (such as birth place) for each enlisted man in the regiment. Many have not survived. A regiment must be identified before using these records, many of which are on microfilm at the FHL.

Addresses

General Register Office: St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London WC2B 6JP, England. Tel: (071) 242-0262.

Public Record Office: Ruskin Ave., Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU, England; Tel: (081) 876-3444; FAX: (081) 878-8905.

Note: I will be donating this book to the FHC, Ireland, *A Genealogical Guide for North Americans*, by Kyle J. Betit and Dwight A. Radford. This article was on Pages 15-17.

I will bring it to the next meeting. If someone wants to just sign it out from me I would be happy to share it from October meeting to November meeting.

Carol Pirtle brings snacks on October 20th and Cathy Keeler will provide beverages!