

TO: All Members of the El Dorado Hills Genealogical Society (EDHGS)

SUBJECT: **DRAFT** Minutes of the El Dorado Hills Genealogical Society Regular Meeting of May 20, 2015.

Secretary Karen Parsons called the meeting to order at 6:21 p.m. in the Community Room of the El Dorado Hills Branch Public Library.

The EDHGS sign-in sheet showed 14 members in attendance: Ronricki Adams, Colleen Allen, John C. Bronaugh, Barbara Cannaday, Catherine Graham, Philip G. Hendricks, Pat Keegan, Astarra Laughlin, Monique Laughlin, Vince Militello, Karen Parsons, Melinda Peak, Ruth Self and Cameron Stumpf.

There were two guests: Cathy Curtis and Mike Roberts (former reporter for the Village Life local newspaper.)

The books which Ruth Self chose to use for 30 days after winning a past Book Bucket drawing had arrived and were given to her.

There was no business report, new/old business nor a speaker at this meeting. This was the “Black Sheep” meeting where our members were encouraged to tell family stories about one or more individuals in their families who, shall we say, strayed from the law and were, hopefully, apprehended at some point.

Pat Keegan started things out by telling of his great grandfather from Cornwall, England who came to the United States in the 1860s. In 1876, he found himself in Austin, NV, a big mining town. He was “out on the town” one evening, came home drunk, “a sad affair”, assaulted his father and scuffled with his son. A pocket knife produced a fatal wound on his father. That man’s tombstone reads: “Beloved Husband and Father”.

Melinda Peak told about her mean great grandmother, Anna Mae Stevenson who was born in Iowa in 1878 and later lived with her mean Siamese cat in Loomis, CA. She had a younger sister Bess.

Anna Mae married John Stevenson and had her first child in 1900. Her husband dropped dead in the street in 1905. Sometime later, Anna Mae married Mr. Brown. In 1920, with her son in college, Anna Mae ran off with a Mr. Jeffers who left his wife and six children. They ended up in Salem, OR on a fruit and berry farm. Later Anna moved to Sacramento and her sister Bess passed away in Nebraska. Anna Mae then went back to Nebraska and married Bess’ husband and the couple moved back to Loomis. After his eventual death, Mr. Jeffers was buried in Newcastle, CA.

Ruth Self spoke about her relative, Luella who, at 16, married John Hight of Ohio. They were married 3 – 4 years and opened a dance hall which was Luella’s idea. When the dance hall burned to the ground to collect the insurance money, Luella had circled around the back and was seen in a “getaway” buggy. Mr. Hight went to the Ohio

Penitentiary for one year.

Monique Laughlin said her grandfather was in prison for check fraud and bad checks in Iowa. His parents had immigrated from Holland. Grandpa passed bad checks for many years. He was eventually extradited to Idaho and was AWOL from the Navy. He spent lots of time drinking with Grandma. Monique also had two uncles in San Quentin Prison at the same time.

When **Vince Militello's** mother-in-law passed away, a small piece of paper was found with the word "Maya" on it. The person about whom that word applied was contacted and it was discovered that the man had been looking for Vince and his wife for thirty years!

Barbara Cannaday told of her great uncle, Billy Haney. His family came from Missouri and he was the third child and only boy and he was "spoiled rotten". When he was 7, his grandfather died and 3 years later, his father died. In 1909, his mother, Rose, remarried. Billy married Clara Santini, lived in San Francisco and their daughter, Ruth was born.

Billy and a pal, George Baldwin, looking for trouble in San Francisco, found a taxi cab, pistol-whipped the driver, stole the cab which ended up with Mr. Baldwin. When caught, Billy was convicted of first degree murder and sent to San Quentin. Shortly thereafter, he was transferred to Folsom Prison with a life sentence.

Phil Hendricks had a grandfather who was an actor and played the role of "Bugs Moran" in the old film "Public Enemy" whose star was James Cagney. The family of the real Bugs Moran sued. The family home was lost in a fire in 1930. Cause unknown. Another relative of Phil's owned a hotel in Scranton, PA.

John Bronaugh tabled his story until our Member Sharing meeting in November.

Guest **Mike Roberts** told of his relative, Babe Lam who was interested in music history, was a "young Elvis" at age 16 or 17, did variety shows in Stockton and brought Blue Grass music to the Bay Area: Arkansas reconnected in California!

Babe's great grandmother was the first woman convicted of murder in Oregon Territory. After ax-murdering her victim she was sentenced to life in prison at hard labor in an all-men's penitentiary. She was moved to an insane asylum in the 1800s where she lived for 12 years, changed her name to "Laam" and died in prison.

Colleen Allen's "creepy" first cousin, Paul Kline, now 52, broke into a home in 1991 and strangled the victim, Danny Webster. In another story, the same man strangled an elderly woman neighbor.

Cameron Stumpf's cousin, who lived in Chicago, beat his wife and 9-year-old son to death. The boy lived just a few days. Another son escaped. The father was never

found and it is believed that he may have committed suicide.

This month's Book Bucket winner was Colleen Allen.

This exciting meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Karen Parsons,
Secretary