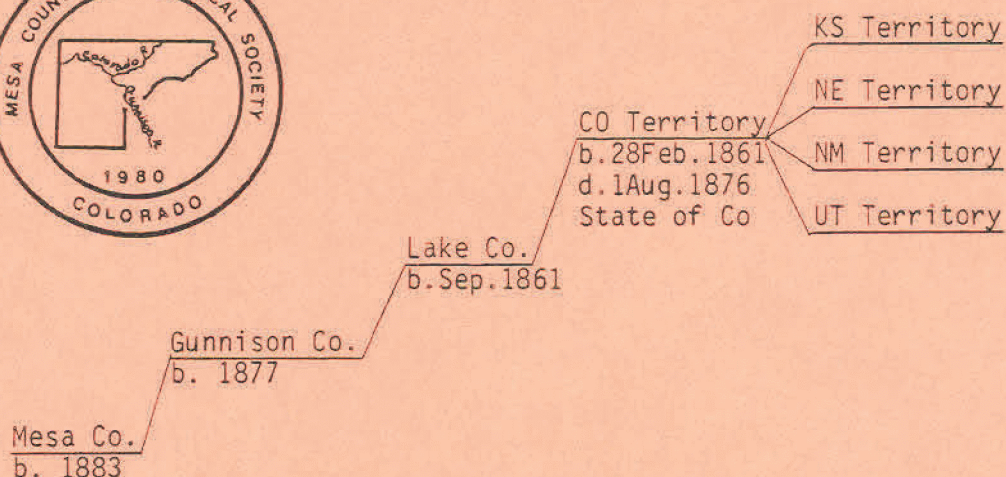
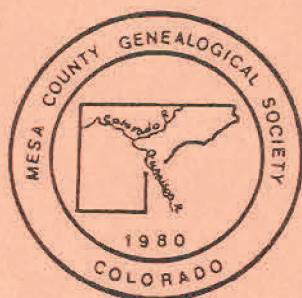


Mesa Dwellers



QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE MESA CO. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME VII

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Mesa Co. Genealogical Society
P. O. Box 1506
Grand Junction, Colorado 81502

SOCIETY ESTABLISHED 1980

MEMBERSHIP YEAR MARCH 1 TO MARCH 1

ANNUAL DUES: \$10.00 SINGLE, \$12.00 FAMILY

MEETINGS: SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH - 7:00 P.M.

HELD: E. L. BACON ROOM, UNITED BANK - DOWNTOWN 359 MAIN

1987 OFFICERS

President	Donna Roberts	818-2152
Vice President		
Recording Secretary	Betty Ann Morse	818-2152
Treasurer	Wayne Brennan	818-2152
Recording Sec.	Phyllis George	818-2152

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

Miles Devine	818-2152
Faith Stebbins	818-2152
Dorothy Inscho	818-2152

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Publicity	Donna Roberts	818-2152
Parliamentarian		
Editor	Phyllis George	818-2152
Co-Editor		
Librarian	Dorothy Inscho	818-2152

QUARTERLY PUBLISHED

APR, JUL, OCT & JAN 1

President's Message

After just getting back from spending four days at the L.D.S. Genealogy Library in Salt Lake City, you can well imagine my enthusiasm over what is available with just a little more research. I have often wondered when you would reach a "burn out" stage and wouldn't want to stay at the library just a few more hours or days.

One thing really came to light this visit - the amount of information there is in printed books. So often we have gotten into a habit of looking thru reams of film and microfiche and ignore what is on the shelves for our inspection. The availability of histories, biographies and a multitude of other types of information right here in our own community at the various libraries and the Ancestor Shop is amazing. I would venture to guess that a lot of us haven't even gone completely through the books in our own personal libraries much less libraries of fellow members of the Genealogical Society.

Why have I gotten on a "Soap Box" about using the "printed word"? I just happened across a book of church records of Windham County Connecticut, and found family baptism records, marriage records and even the signature of a Grandfather (6 times) written in 1731. And just think, I didn't even look at the books until two hours before we left Salt Lake.

Donna Roberts



DON'T FORGET!

Dues are due and payable now. This will be the last Quarterly you will receive until dues for 1987 are paid.

Remember that dues are the only income our Society has--without them we cannot operate. Let's all get behind our Society and make it the best one in the State of Colorado.

We have several projects that need to be finished and three or four people can't do it all. We need help. Volunteer to help with the cemetery project, the obituaries for the Library and for whatever else the Society needs help with.

REMEMBER: YOU DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



We still need help to finish the cemetery records. Right now we are working on Mondays from 10 to 2. Four people have worked 47½ hours and just got through the A's and the Veterans cemetery. If you can help Please, contact Dorothy Inscho at [REDACTED] or Phyllis George at [REDACTED]

A little training is needed before you go out on your own, on a day that suits you. You also need to take a table to work on and your own chair, and a good sharp pencil and an eraser and the desire to complete a project.



31 Mar 1987 NEW BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY

The Ancestor Shop has recieved the seven volume set of "THE COMPENDIUM of AMERICAN GENEALOGY" by Frederick A. Virkus.

This set of books contains 54,000 lineages, spanning at least eight or nine generations. There are 425,000 names indexed in the seven volumes and 6,000 pages that are illustrated with photographs.



A REMINDER, For those who signed up to do the:

OBITUARIES

REFRESHMENTS

APRIL	ENDA ANDERSON	DONNA ROBERTS
MAY	GERTRUDE SCHAEFER	WAYNE BRENNAN
JUNE	DOROTHY LAYMAN	GERTRUDE SCHAEFER
JULY	DOROTHY INSCHO	PHYLLIS GEORGE

REMEMBER to pick up the key at the bank before 4 o'clock on the day of the meeting for those who are serving refreshments.



PROGRAMS

APRIL: Arlene Eakel's video "Family History for Fun and Profit"

MAY: Justina Nelson from the Germans from Russia group

JUNE: Fraternal Organizations

JULY: Linda Malzana, Slides of Cemeteries, Tentative

UNDERTAKERS

The following list of businessmen also served as undertakers and some as coronors in Mesa County. The names were extracted from newspaper obituaries and Grand Junction and Mesa County City and Business Directories. Some names may have been missed. They are listed in chronological order to the best of our knowledge.

STOUGH
B. R. HALL
THURSTON & SMITH
MOORE
M. O. WHITEHEAD
HARVEY C. BUCKLIN
W. H. BANNISTER
J. S. GOURLEY
CALLAHAN & R. A. YUNKER
CALLAHAN
STARKS & DeYARMAN
EDMOND A. KROHN
THEODORE F. VOORHEES
F. C. MARTIN
CALLAHAN-EDFAST
JOHN M. McLEAN

CEMETERY RECORDS

As stated at our last meeting, all the cemetery records have been put into the computer. To date over 25,000 records have been typed into the computer by two R S V P volunteers, Jerry Montgomery and Theola Meders. Jerry Montgomery has alone input over 22,00 records. The Society should be very grateful to these two ladies for their many hours of work.

Palisade, Memorial Gardens, Fruita, Crown Point, Whitewater, Fairview, Glade Park, Little Park Road, Gateway and Veterans are complete and now they need the printout proof read against the source material so the computer can be edited.

Hundreds of hours have been spent on this project since its beginning, but a considerable amount of time and effort need to be applied to the project so that the past effort is not left without value.

HISTORY OF COLORADO
Wilbur Fisk Stone
The S.S. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago 1918

William H. Bannister

The life record of William H. Bannister, if written in detail, would present a story giving every phase of pioneer development and experience in the far west. He now makes his home at Grand Junction, where he is living retired from business activity, enjoying in well earned rest the fruits of his former toil. He was born in Harrison, Harrison county, Ohio, May 26, 1850, a son of J.B. and Sarah A. (Odenbaugh) Bannister. The father was a native of Kentucky, born in 1812, and the mother was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1822. The former died in 1906 and the latter in 1904.

William H. Bannister was about two years old when the family removed to Laporte, Indiana, and was a youth of fifteen years when they started for the far west. They reached Oskaloosa, Iowa, on the 2d day of June, 1863, and on the 12th of that month again resumed their westward journey, their outfit consisting of ox teams and wagons. In the caravan with which they traveled there were about twenty wagons and ten of these had five yoke of oxen to the wagon. Each party was supplied its cooking mess and each man was armed with an old four-foot muzzle loading rifle and there were also a few flintlock rifles in the party. As they journeyed onward they would see an occasional squirrel or rabbit and sometimes a covey of quails. As they proceeded the farms became more widely scattered and at length they reached the great American desert, extending from the western borders of Missouri to the Rocky Mountains. Day after day they traveled on, covering only from twelve to fifteen miles daily. One of their first unusual experiences was to see what they believed to be a lot of rats but which proved to be prairie dogs. On one occasion the young men and boys in the party started in pursuit of what they believed to be a little crippled antelope. They chased the animal unsuccessfully for some time and the old guide, one of the forty-niners, laughed at them, saying they were chasing a jack rabbit. Later, however, they succeeded in killing a number of antelopes and upon the trip they also came across great herds of buffaloes. On one occasion they noticed the signals of Indians and for some days were followed by the Indians but were not molested save once when a brave young man, George Porter by name, was on guard. Before starting out for guard duty he told his mother that he had had a bad dream the night before—that trouble was coming to him. In the night they heard the growling of a bloodhound that had attached himself to their wagon train. The men took their guns and went out, and only a hundred yards from there they had been sleeping they found the body of George Porter, who had been tomahawked. On another occasion a man with wife and two children, a girl and a boy, overtook their train. The men of the party told the man that he and his family might travel with them, but he said that he must reach Denver at a

certain time and would not listen to their warning, saying that he could take care of himself. He started on with his family and the next morning, when the party with which the Bannister family were traveling had gone only about five miles, they came upon the smouldering remains of a wagon and found nearby the dead bodies of the man, his wife and the boy and knew that the little girl had been taken into captivity by the Indians. Such were some of the experiences that came to the travelers who make that long and arduous journey across the great American desert. At length they saw upon the horizon what appeared to be a distant chain of mountains. Soon afterward they met parties returning who advised them not to continue the journey, but they decided to do so and on the 23d of September, 1863, reached Denver. There Mr. Bannister of this review was offered a tract of one hundred and sixty acres of land near Cherry Creek on what is now known as Capital Hill, in exchange for the pony which he rode, but at that date it was considered a dishonorable business trick and an insult to try and secure a man's horse by such absurd and disreputable methods. Denver was little more than a collection of frontier cabins in which everything was on sale, but there were few purchasers for anything save foodstuffs. Coffee and sugar at that time sold for a dollar per pound and flour at twenty dollars per sack. After a brief period the Bannister family started for Pueblo and through the period of their residence there they shared in all the hardships and privations incident to life on the frontier. They were indeed far separated from the civilization of the east. It was six weeks after President Lincoln was assassinated before the news reached Pueblo.

Before Mr. Bannister left Pueblo the town had become a place of about eight thousand inhabitants. In 1867, however, he and the family determined to establish a home in western Kansas, near Sun City, and it was there that William H. Bannister met and married Miss Laura King, the wedding being celebrated on the 23d of September, 1877. They entered upon a happy married life and through the intervening years have shared with each other all the joys and sorrows, the adversity and prosperity, which have checkered their career. Mr. Bannister tells the story of his residence in Kansas in this way-that he "farmed for one year and chased his hat for two," thus describing the winds that continually swept over that region. In 1879, therefore, he left Kansas with his wife and removed to Trinidad, Colorado, where they remained for three years and then went to New Mexico, settling on the Vermejo. About a year later they removed to Raton, New Mexico, where Mr. Bannister engaged in mercantile pursuits. They found the country very wild and unsettled and many lawless men lived in that section. Mr. Bannister tells many interesting tales concerning the methods followed by this gang of lawbreakers, of the way in which they would shoot up a town, of the little regard they had for human life and the defiance which they manifested toward all law and order. Mr. Bannister continued in merchandising in a small way at Raton until 1886, when he removed with his family to the western slope, locating in

the Plateau valley. There he developed a ranch on Mesa creek and also established a small store. He likewise planted the first orchard in the Plateau valley, for that district was then a new and undeveloped region. The deer were running wild all over the valley and but few ranches had been cleared for farming, the chief pursuit being stock raising, so that every rancher put in his alfalfa field. In time Mr. Bannister's orchard became profitable and he sold most of his fruit in the home market, raising the finest small fruit ever produced in that section. He also filled the position of postmaster at Mesa, Colorado, for a number of years and was likewise justice of the peace. At the same time he carried on diversified farming, fruit growing and stock raising and also conducted his store and was the first postmaster at that place. Thus his life was most busily passed in that locality for a period of nine years, when on account of the ill health of his wife he was advised by a physician to seek a lower altitude. Accordingly he sold his business there and removed to Grand Junction, where he purchased the hardware store of William Neff, which he conducted for two years. He afterward purchased the Whitehead furniture and undertaking business, in which he continued successfully for fifteen years and on the expiration of that period turned his store over to his children. He has also conducted two fruit ranches at Palisades and through the period of his residence here has witnessed a growth and development in the region that seems almost incredible.

To Mr. and Mrs. Bannister have been born three children: Pearl, who is now the wife of James Silcox, general manager of the Fruit Growers Association at Grand Junction; Ollie, who is state senator from this district; and Earl, who passed away November 23, 1918. Both sons were married. After many hardships and privations Mr. Bannister is now enjoying a well earned rest and his former toil has supplied him with all of the comforts and some of the luxuries of life. He is a Knight Templar Mason and has held every chair in the blue lodge, chapter and commandery. He is also a member of the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

THANK YOU

A big "THANK YOU" to Phil Powers for his gift to the Mesa County Genealogical Society. He donated his book "POWERS FAMILY GENEALOGY" to the Society Library. Phil has done what all of us would like to get done. Thanks again Phil.

QUERIES

To make our Quarterly a really good one, we need members to submit some queries. You would be surprised what you might gain from them. Let's try to have at least a half a page of queries in the next Quarterly coming out in July. Send them to the Editor.