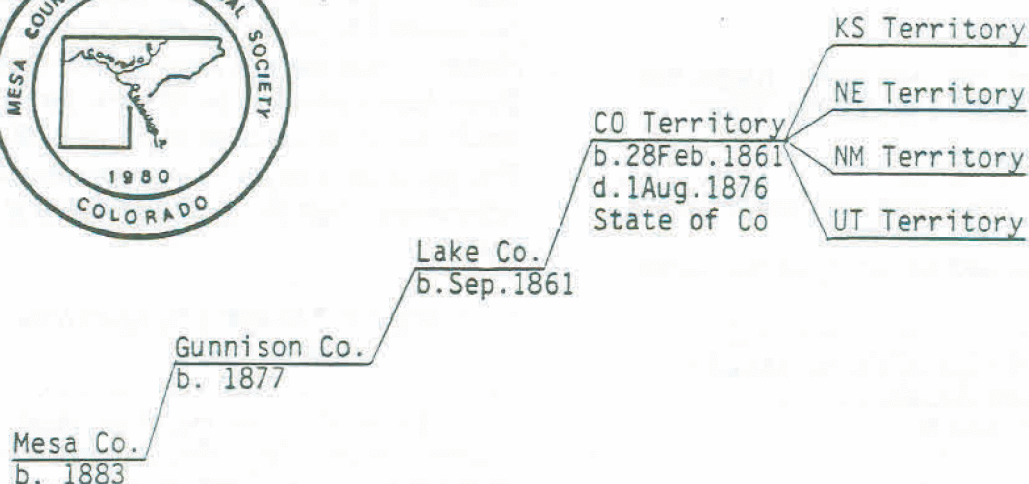
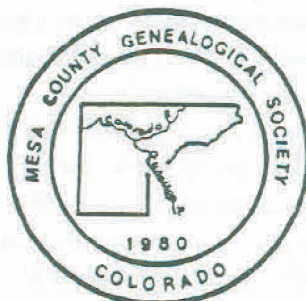


# Mesa Dwellers



**A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE**  
**MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**

MARCH, APRIL, MAY, 1994

VOLUME XIV, NO.1

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

REMINDER.....  
Have you moved? Did you let us know?

A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

\*\*\* CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*

MARCH

- 10 General Meeting, 7:00, Redlands Middle School,  
Dorothy Roper, PAP COMPUTER PROGRAM.  
20 SPRING BEGINS!

APRIL

- 14 General Meeting, 7:00, main Museum, FUNERAL HOME  
RECORDS AND HISTORY OF THE INDUSTRY. Richard  
McCurdy.

15 INCOME TAX TIME!

- 22-23 Cowboy Poetry, Farm & Ranch Days, Main Street,  
Grand Junction.  
29-30 New England Genealogical Society Seminar, Golden

MAY

- 12 General Meeting, 7:00, main Museum, LOIS  
LASHBROOK, HANDWRITING EXPERT WILL ANALYZE AN  
ANCESTOR'S HANDWRITING AGAINST YOURS.  
13-14 George Sweitzer Seminar, Colo. Springs

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MEETING REFRESHMENT DUTIES  
FOR 1994

- MARCH - LaVeta Kay  
APRIL - Pat Blackburn, Liz Mustee  
MAY - Jody Nestler,  
JUNE - Bruce Kolisek  
JULY - OPEN  
AUGUST - Annual Picnic  
SEPTEMBER - Mary Kronvall  
OCTOBER - Wynona Hennessey, Gloria Heitsman  
NOVEMBER - Betty Jean Grosskopf  
DECEMBER - Christmas Party

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NEWSLETTER FORMAT CHANGE.....

*If you have requests for  
information, information you want to share  
with others, or items for the Calendar that  
you would like put in the Newsletter,  
please contact Juanita Moston, [REDACTED]  
If you have comments on the new format I  
would like to know about those as well.  
This publication is for your enjoyment and  
information, help me make it the best it  
can be!*

SOCIETY'S BOOK COLLECTION  
HAS MOVED

The Society's book collection, which  
consists of close to 248 books, plus newsletters  
and periodicals, is no longer being housed at the  
Ancestor Shop. Due to a change in the space  
available at Phyllis George's shop it was  
necessary to move the collection.

Plans are being made for the collection  
to be placed at the Museum of Western Colorado,  
and work is underway to finish cataloging the  
collection. Until the books are actually  
available to be used, please contact the Society  
for more information.

The Society extends its sincerest thanks  
to Phyllis George for maintaining the collection,  
for all her help over the past years, and for  
allowing the Society the use of the space.

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The Mesa County Genealogical Society was  
established in 1980, as a non-profit organization to  
promote an interest in genealogy. A Newsletter is  
published in March, June, September, and December.  
Regular Meetings are held at the Museum of Western  
Colorado, 4th and Ute, Grand Junction, Colorado, at 7:00  
P.M., on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors are  
welcome.

1994 OFFICERS

President: Norm Kronvall, [REDACTED]  
Vice President: Betty Jean Grosskopf, [REDACTED]  
Recording Secretary: Mattie Severson, [REDACTED]  
Treasurer: Mary Lou Kelly, [REDACTED]  
Correspondence Secretary: Wynona Hennessey, [REDACTED]

ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

One Year Term: Mary Kronvall  
Two Year Term: Bertie Albers  
Three Year Term: Donna Roberts

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Historian:  
Program: Dennis Jenkins, [REDACTED]  
Publicity: Bertie Albers, [REDACTED]  
Newsletter Editor: Juanita Moston, [REDACTED]  
Librarian: Dorothy Inscho, [REDACTED]  
Calling: Mary Kronvall, [REDACTED]

Annual dues: \$10 SINGLE; \$12 FAMILY. Membership  
period is March 1st to March 1st. Those with  
delinquent dues (after April 30) will not receive  
the Newsletter.



## A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### **A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT..... By Norm Kronvall**

As the new year begins, our Society also has a new beginning with our library. Phyllis George, of the Ancestor Shop, had to vacate the space that held our library. Many thanks go to Phyllis for housing and looking after the library for these many years. Also, many thanks are in order for all those who helped move, organize, and catalog the books. The collection is in temporary storage and will be moved into our new location at the Museum of Western Colorado very soon. We will have an announcement soon as to when the library will be ready to use.

The "Family History Faire" of the local LDS Stake on February 19th was a BIG success again this year. The Society again had a table with literature about our Society and a selection of books from our library for the guests to browse through. The response was very good. Two people joined the Society right there and many took along an application for later consideration. Many people browsed our books with great interest. Two people spent 2-3 hours on two of our books containing Colonial information and were able to verify many of their ancestors. I observed many people that were just beginning, or are thinking about starting, on their families.

I would like to thank all the members and other non-members for their part in making the Fair one of the highlights of the year for the Society and for everyone interested in genealogy.

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### **PARK OPERA HOUSE, GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN?**

The Museum of Western Colorado has announced plans to build a building that would connect the present museum (the former Whitman School) to the C.D. Smith building. The following Grand Junction News story ran on February 6, 1927; it describes the Opera House that once stood at the site of the proposed new building.

**A Fine Building for the Amusement and Enlightenment of Grand Junction People, It Will Soon be Opened.**

The Park Opera House company are (sic) rapidly crowding the work on their opera house. This will be the best structure of that class in Western Colorado except the Wheeler opera house in Aspen. It is a splendid brick structure 70x120 feet in dimensions with auditorium and gallery. It will have a seating capacity of 750. The auditorium will seat 500 and the gallery 250. It is located between Fourth and Fifth streets on Ute Avenue. The entire building will be appropriated to the exclusive use of the theater. The landing at the entrance is approached by seven steps, and is on a level with the stage. The seating floor has a pitch of four feet to the foot of the stage. The gallery is approached by an entrance separate from that of the auditorium. It will have a greater incline than the auditorium floor, and will cover a semi-circle about half horse-shoe in shape.

In front on the first floor are five rooms, those on one side to be used as ladies' cloak and toilet rooms, and those on the other side by

gentlemen for the same purpose.

The basement is 30x50 feet and 10 feet deep. It will be used as furnace room and for storage of properties.

The stage is 88x70 feet and is provided with six dressing rooms, all on the ground floor. Its height to the rigging loft is 45 feet. This enables the curtains to be elevated without rolling. Sosmon and Landers, of Chicago, are now preparing a full set of scenery. Mr. M.O Whitehead will go to Chicago in a few days to select the furnishings, chairs, etc., for the company. The building is well provided with exits.

By a contract with the park Opera House company, Mr. Edwin Haskell will assume the management of the house. The Park Dramatic company, amateurs of this city, will open the house as soon as it is completed, which, it is now expected, will be about the first of April.

The directors of the Park Opera House company are C.W. Steele, George Wheeler, Orson Adams, Jr., George Ryan, M.O. Whitehead, Ben J. Snyder, J. H. Smith and W. I. Hammond. The officers are C.W. Steele, president; George Wheeler, vice-president, Orson Adams Jr., secretary, and treasurer.



A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE AGAIN**

Membership is for the period from March first to April 30th. Those who have not renewed by April 30th will not receive the Newsletter. Dues are \$10 a year for a single membership and \$12 for a family membership. If you have not already sent in your renewal please do so now.

A brochure containing a membership form and listing all the advantages of being a member is available from any officer.

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**NO FOOTPRINTS ON THE SANDS OF TIME**

or

Oh, for a Court Record on Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Grandpa

By Virginia Scott Miner

*It's nice to come from gentle folk  
Who wouldn't stop to brawl,  
who never took a lusty poke  
At anyone at all.*

*Who never raised a raucous shout  
At any county inn  
Or calmed an ugly lout  
With a belaying pin.*

*Who never shot a revenuer  
Hunting for the still,  
Who never rustled cattle, who're  
Pleased with uncle's will.*

*Who lived their lives as they ought,  
With no uncouth distractions  
And shunned like leprosy the thought  
Of taking legal actions.*

*It's nice to come from gentle folk  
Who've never known disgrace-  
But oh, though scandal is no joke,  
It's easier to trace!*

(The preceding was taken from the Saturday Evening Post, 22 Nov 1941)

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**MUSEUM HOSTING SEVERAL TRIPS**

The Museum of Western Colorado is leading an escorted trip to the Salt Lake Family History Library on April 6-9, and again September 21-24. Call the Museum for more information.

The New England Genealogical Society will conduct a seminar at the Denver West Merit Hotel, Golden, CO, April 29-30; last day to register is April 1st. The first day will cover topics pertaining to the New England area; the next day will cover the Virginia area. David Deerborn is the dinner speaker, his topic is "Identifying Women's Maiden Names". The Museum trip will cost \$175 per person, double occupancy (includes room, and registration). (Conference registration alone is \$75.)

The other trip is May 13-14. George Sweitzer, writer of Civil War, Revolutionary War, and War of 1812 books, is guest speaker at a seminar at the LDS Church in Colorado Springs. Participants will leave Friday, May 13th and return Saturday, May 14th. Registration is \$75 per person/double occupancy, including transportation, nights lodging, and registration fee. (The seminar fee alone is \$15).

These trips are always in demand and fill up quickly. Contact the Museum at 242-0971 for more information.

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**MESA COUNTY MARRIAGE RECORDS BOOKS AVAILABLE**

A chronological listing of marriage records for Mesa County dating from 1883 to 1912 is now available for a charge of \$10 per copy, (plus \$1.50 handling and postage). Information includes the Marriage Certificate number, the page number, the groom's name, the bride's name, and the date of the marriage.

Copies may be purchased by contacting Society member Gloria Heitsman, [REDACTED]

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**1891 BRITISH CENSUS AVAILABLE**

The Family History Library recently acquired the 1891 census of England, Wales, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. Available now at family history centers, it is on five microfiche (number 607A509), title bar is 1841-1891 Census to distinguish it from the previous edition.

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## A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### **NORTH CAROLINA'S REVOLUTIONARY WAR PAY RECORDS**

The following information is summarized from an article in the ARCHIVES INFORMATION CIRCULAR, No. 1, (Rev. 1976), Raleigh, N.C., State of North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Division of Archives and History.

Two of the most perplexing groups of records in No. Carolina State Archives are the Revolutionary Pay Vouchers and Certificates and the Revolutionary Army Accounts. The following are some suggestions they offer to answer some of the questions that most often are asked.

During the years 1775-1783 in the United States there was very little hard cash, or 'specie', and what there was was never sufficiently backed up by bullion in the Continental or state treasuries. "Not worth a Continental" comes from the public lack of faith in paper money that was issued between the outbreak of the Revolution of 1775 and the ratification of the United States Constitution in 1789.

By the end of the war, one dollar in gold or silver was worth \$800 in paper money. Notwithstanding this weak financial condition, bills still had to be paid; soldiers had to be paid; weapons, ammunition, clothing, food, and transportation had to be provided.

#### **PAY VOUCHERS AND CERTIFICATES**

North Carolina and others resorted to a system of 'credit notes', even though there was little or no gold or silver in their treasuries. It worked like this:

In place of hard cash for military service, the soldier would be issued a voucher or certificate as a promise that they would be paid a specific amount of cash at 'some time in the future'. It was used to pay for goods or other services which were bought or impressed as the war progressed. (They describe this system as though a soldier in today's army were to be paid in Savings Bonds instead of U.S. dollars.)

The system of voucher-certificate was adopted because it was almost impossible to determine the value of goods or services in terms of hard cash by means of paper money. Merchants were unwilling to trade goods which were worth \$1 in gold for \$800 in paper money if there was a chance that the following week the value of the paper money would depreciate to a \$1 gold to \$1,000 paper ratio.

The two other reasons for the state's choice of the voucher-certificate system are: First, it allowed the government to defer actual payment of the costs of the war to some time in the future. Most certificates stated they would not be paid for periods of one, two, or more years. This gave the treasury time to try to have the gold or silver in hand by the time payment was due on the certificates. A second reason was that certificates and vouchers could be issued in any amount; no matter how worthless paper currency was, it still had to be printed, and such printings were authorized by the legislature.

On the other hand, any army passing through could issue a voucher or certificate for goods purchased or

impressed simply by completing the details of name, date, amount, etc., on a printed form; or, lacking the printed form, it could be written out longhand. Most of these documents were numbered, but the numbering was left to the discretion of the issuing officer and numbers were frequently duplicated or omitted, making researching by use of a number almost impossible.

The voucher or certificate frequently mentioned the district or place in which a payment was promised; it cannot be assumed that this was the individual's residence. These documents do not give personal information and it is impossible to distinguish between the records which relate to individuals with the same name. John Brown was as hard to identify then as he would be today from any other John Brown.

Few of these documents were redeemed for hard money. The law allowed them to be used in payment of taxes; and after the war, further legislation permitted their use in payment of land entry fees. Many were used in payment of private debts by endorsing them over to someone else. For example, John Brown may have been issued the voucher but he paid his grocer with it, and the grocer paid a bill he may have incurred with it, and the next person paid a bill with it before the last person 'cashed' it in to pay the taxes on his land, or used it as a down payment on a piece of land.

Most of the vouchers and certificates found their way back to the State Treasurer, much in the way checks are returned to the writer once they clear the bank. In the 1780's storage of paid vouchers became a problem and some were destroyed. When it was realized they were needed to record North Carolina's war debts it was decided to cancel them by cutting large holes through the document. These holes can make reading important information on the voucher impossible.

The surviving vouchers are in alphabetical order by the name of the payee and there are more than 200 boxes of them, and approximately 40,000 legible vouchers. However, there is no cross-index of names which appear as endorsements.

#### **THE REVOLUTIONARY ARMY ACCOUNTS**

The Archive houses thirty-one volumes in this series, but there is evidence that shows some volumes have not survived. These records were kept in the fashion of ledgers from 1780 to about 1795 to record various Revolutionary War military payments. Most of the volumes were compiled

Continued next page



## A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### PAY RECORDS, CONTINUED.

between 1788 and 1793 to explain and detail North Carolina's Revolutionary War expenditures when the state's military accounts with the federal government were being settled.

Information varies, but most volumes list the names of the individual with the amount paid; the paid amount was the amount of specie certificate or voucher which was issued to that individual, along with any interest that accumulated. It may be possible to match voucher and account entry but it is a detailed process. In some cases the purpose and date of payment are included; in other cases under remarks you may find a comment regarding the validity of the payment.

Photo copying is not practical because of the separation of entries. In place of a photocopy the Archive can make a certified copy of entries. For a modest charge the Archive can provide a certified copy, but you must give them the full name of the person whose record is sought and the district, if known, where the payment was made.

The Archive does not have service records, muster rolls, or discharges of Revolutionary soldiers. Such records of this nature that have survived are in the National Archives, Washington, D.C. 10408, from whom requests for information should be made on GSA Form 6751, available from this address.

### MILITARY LAND WARRANTS AND GRANTS

To settle some of these pay accounts at the conclusion of the Revolution, North Carolina laid off a section of land in the western area (now the middle of Tennessee) as a "military reservation", and issued Military Land Warrants to Continental Line veterans in payment for past military service. The warrant entitled the holder to a tract(s) of land in the 'reservation'; the size varied from 640 acres for a private to 12,000 acres in the case of at least one Brigadier General.

The heirs of soldiers killed in the war enjoyed the same benefits. If either the soldier or the heir did not choose to use them, they were allowed to sell the warrant. A warrant could pass through several hands before being used for a piece of land.

Those who chose to use the warrant for land were issued a Military Land Grant from the Secretary of State. Copies of the warrant, survey, and grant were filed in this office. North Carolina stopped issuing military land warrants after ceding her western lands to the U.S. Government in 1790, but for warrants issued prior to this date, grants were made by North Carolina up to about 1810, and by Tennessee, considerably later.

Copies of the surviving warrants, surveys, and grants are now located in the office of the Secretary of State, Raleigh, NC, or in Tennessee State Archives, Nashville, TN. An informative brochure, "Land Records in the Tennessee State Library and Archives" is available from the Tennessee State Archives.

### TRY SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS

World War I Selective Service Records are a seldom used source of genealogical information. Almost every male resident in the United States born between the years of 1873 and 1900 was required to register for the draft, even though he may have never actually served in the war. Some twenty-four million registration cards which contain information on the registrant's birthdate, race, citizenship, occupation, employer, nearest relative, marital status and sometimes more information has been microfilmed.

Records are available from the Archives Branch, Federal Records Center, 1557 St. Joseph Ave., East Point, GA 30044. If the individual lived in a metropolitan area a street address is necessary. A fee is charged. Contact the above address for further information and forms.

(Copied from the Bluegrass Roots, Summer, 1987, pg. 57.)

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### CONFEDERATE SOLDIER INFORMATION

If you cannot find your Confederate soldier you can write to: Confederate Descendants Society, P.O. Box 2133, Athens, AL 35611, or to: Rare Collection, T.K. Kennedy, P.O. Box 355, Braddock Heights, MD 21702. Rare Collections has more than 15,000 surgical reports or case histories for Union and Confederate soldiers.

You can find out whether an ancestor carried life insurance by sending SASE to: Policy Search, American Council of Life Insurance, 1850 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20006.

For records of National Cemetery burials, write: Director, National Cemetery System (41-A), Veterans Administration, 810 Vermont Ave., Washington, DC 20420.

No mention of fees was made in this story.

(Taken from Fore-Kin Trails Genealogical Society, Montrose, CO 81401)

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome two new members. Robert Cress and Marian Jacobson recently joined the Society and we look forward to having them share their interests, and expertise with us.



## **CLUES TO GERMAN SURNAMES**

The suffixes of German surnames can give clues as to their home region. Some of these clues are as follows:

bach.....Southwest Germany  
inguen.....Wurttemberg, Baden  
burg.....throughout Germany  
inski.....Upper Silesia  
haus.....Wesphalia  
reuth.....Bavaria

ecke.....Hassen, Thuringia

sli/zke....East Pomerania

(Taken from Colorado Chapter, Palatines to America, Sept. 1993, Vol. 10, #3&4 by way of Zion Genealogical Society Newsletter, by way of Sheboygan CO, WI Genealogist, Mar 1993)

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## **HELP AVAILABLE IN FINDING SCOTTISH ANCESTORS**

Foothill Genealogical Society member Kathy Burnham reports she has had very good luck with the SCOT ANCESTRY RESEARCH SOCIETY. The Society will research an entire family line or fill individual requests for a single item, such as a birth record. Their minimum fee is usually 49 pounds, payable upon registration; some individual research can often be only half that much. Write first for an estimate. The Society's address is 29 b Albany St., Edinburgh EH1 3QN, Scotland.

(Taken from Foothills Genealogical Society Newsletter, Aug/Sept/Oct, 1993 #47)

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## **LOOKING FOR 'OLD COUNTRY ORIGINS'?**

If you know the name of the town where your ancestor lived, contact Rand McNally's Archivist Phil Forrestal, PO Box 7600, Chicago, IL 60680 or call (312) 673-9100. He will locate the town for you.

(Taken from the Aurora Genealogical Society Newsletter, May/June, 1993 by way of Foothills Genealogical Society Newsletter, Aug/Sept/Oct, 1993, #47).

## **TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTOR KIT AVAILABLE**

The Irish Tourist Board is offering a brochure entitled "Tracing Your Ancestors: Ireland". An Irish Ancestral Map gives hundreds of surnames in respective Irish counties; as well as the addresses of Reference Centres of the Irish Family History Foundation, a list of publications and suggested Irish Genealogical periodicals, a discussion on family researching in Ireland. One interesting piece of information is the address of the Clans of Ireland office.

To get your FREE copy call 1-800-223-6470.

(from Longmont Heritage Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2, May 1993 by way of Foothills Genealogical Society Newsletter, Aug/Sept/Oct. 1993, No. 47.)

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## **SOCIETIES INVITED TO CREATE RESOURCE FILES FOR FAMILY SEARCH**

Interested family history societies are now being invited to help create Family Search resource files. It requires transcription of information from records and information into personal computers. New projects being worked on include: United States Civil Death Records. It contains death records for 25 states, including New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois and Ohio. Ellis Island Passenger Arrival Lists. Beginning in 1994 they will create a resource file containing information from the Ellis Island passenger lists of 1892 to 1924; including name, age, marital status, last residence, nationality, birthplace, names of relatives, name of vessel, and date and place of port of arrival. Canadian Census Schedules. This focuses on the 1881 Canadian census.

Projects they invite help on include: 1880 U.S. census; 1881 British censuses; and, Civil War service records. Contact: Extraction Support, Family History Department, 15 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84150. (Taken from Heritage Quest #49,)

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