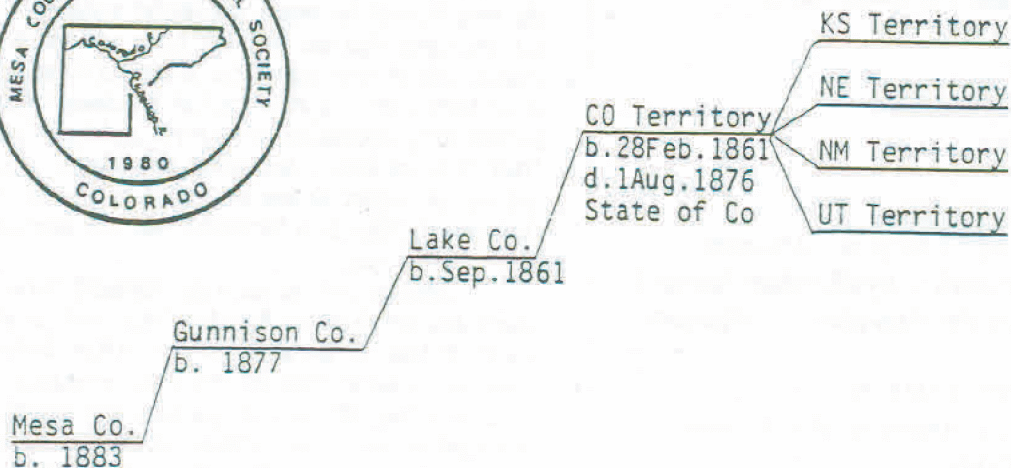
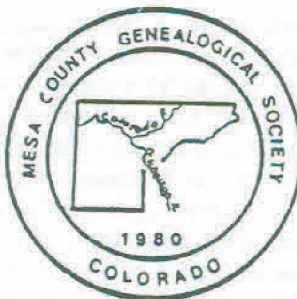


# Mesa Dwellers



A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE  
MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

DECEMBER, 1994 - JANUARY, FEBRUARY, 1995

VOLUME XV, NO. 4

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

*Season's  
Greetings*



## A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### \*\*\* CALENDAR \*\*\*

#### DECEMBER

- 8      *General Meeting, 6:00 p.m. Museum,*  
          *Annual Christmas Pot-Luck Party*
- 21     Winter Begins
- 24     Christmas Eve
- 25     MERRY CHRISTMAS
- 31     New Year's Eve

#### JANUARY 1995

- 1      HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- 12     *General Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Museum,*  
          *"Using Tax Records", by Caroline Howard*
- 25     *Advanced Class for Genealogists, Museum*

#### FEBRUARY

- 9      *General Meeting 7:00 p.m.*  
          *SAR (Sons of the American Revolution)*
- 12     Lincoln's Birthday
- 14     Happy Valentine's Day
- 20     President's Day
- 22     Washington's Birthday
- 25     History Faire, Family History Library

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### MEETING REFRESHMENT DUTIES FOR 1995

December - Christmas Party  
 January - Margo Lurvey - Joyce Cress  
 February - Sue Martinez - Mattie Severson  
 March - Dennis Jenkins  
 April - Pat Blackburn - Liz Mustee  
 May - Betty Cayton  
 June - Donna Roberts  
 July - Norm Kronvall  
 August - Annual Picnic  
 September - Wynona Hennessee  
 October - Betty Jane Grosskopf - Gloria Heitsman  
 November -  
 December - Annual Christmas Party

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### 1994/95 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Norm Kronvall, [REDACTED]  
 VICE PRESIDENT.....Betty Jane Grosskopf, [REDACTED]  
 RECORDING SECRETARY.....Mattie Severson, [REDACTED]  
 TREASURER.....Mary Lou Kelly, [REDACTED]  
 CORRESPONDENCE SEC'TRY....Wynona Hennessey, [REDACTED]

#### ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS

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

### PAST MEETING UPDATE

In September Wanda Dodson, a "Master Embroiderer" showed a number of her works and explained the the process she went through to become designated a Master. We were all impressed when she said her first submission had to be resubmitted several times, for things that the human eye could hardly see. A style called 'blackwork' was particularly impressive because you could not tell the front from the back. She showed many styles of her work, and you can expect to see some of it on display over the Christmas Holiday in a Victorian home the Embroidery Society decorates.

October took an entirely different turn. Bertie Albers and her daughter Mary Lou Kelly took us on a migration tour of the world and the United States. Many genealogists never find out why their ancestors landed in the places they did, but if you know your history you can soon find out why. For example, many Germans came to the Louisiana area because they were used as human ballast for cotton ships returning after unloading the crop in the old world. For a fee of about \$5 the immigrant could get to the New World if they wanted to go where the ship was headed.

President Norm Kronvall led us through the research process involved in the Swedish Records. The 'state' church records go back as far as about 1527, when the Royal influence abolished the Catholic Church and set up the Lutheran Church. Records prior to 1686 are sketchy at best, but from then on they are quite detailed and correct. The Salt Lake Library offers a number of books on how to research these records, and the Swenson's Research Institute, Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. can order records direct from Sweden for researchers. They are on both film and fische.

A process called patronymics is used in the development of names in Sweden. It is something you need to be familiar with before you start looking for your Swedish ancestor or you will be lost in all the prefix/suffix changes. Even if you are not into Swedish research this was very interesting.

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#### 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 unpaid dues (after April 30) will not receive the Newsletter.



## **NEW MEANING FOR EVERYDAY WORDS**

Many phrases have different meanings today than in Colonial times. A wife listed as domestic simply meant that she was 'at home'. Senior and Junior in old records have other uses than father and son. If two men had the same name in one town, the older man was senior, the younger junior, even if they were not related. In the 1600's a man might name an older son 'senior' and then a younger 'junior'. Alias means different things, none criminal. It usually meant illegitimacy and the surname of the father was joined to the surname of the mother. A niece could be any female relative, usually a granddaughter. Nephew could be an illegitimate son, but usually a grandson. A cousin could be a nephew or an uncle. A brother could be an in-law, lodger, or church brother, or an adopted brother. A gentleman was often used for pensioner, one of independent income. A person listed as crazy could be ill, or in poor health - but not insane. The term inmate was used to designate a man who did not own real estate, not someone serving time in prison for a crime. (The Family Tree, Dec/Jan, 1993)

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## **GERMAN IMMIGRANTS REGISTER FOUND**

The German Emigrants Register, P.O. Box 1720-D-2840(W), Diepholz, Germany, will help you find unknown German Places from which your ancestors came. The index includes deserters from the armies of Prussia, Wurttemberg and Saxony, 1871-1918; persons who were sought as missing heirs and may have left long before; and persons who were absent from their hometown and who were searched for by authorities.

The Index covers the entire former German Empire, I.E., Prussia, Alsace-Lorraine, Bavaria, Saxony, Wurttemberg, Baden, Oldenburg, Hesse and the other minor German States.

To find out whether the German place of origin of your emigrant ancestor is on file, please send his/her full name, date of birth, occupation, denomination, year of emigration or year of earliest abroad and the same data for all known family members. Please indicate if you have knowledge of the German state of origin. You will be billed only if there are positive results.

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## **MORGAN COUNTY, COLORADO CEMETERY BOOK AVAILABLE**

A book containing about 450 pages of Morgan County burials as of December 31, 1993, whether marked or not, and all tombstone inscriptions is now available. This book also contains cemetery addresses and plot maps.

The information includes: cemetery name, surname and given name, date of birth, date of

death, section, block and lot numbers. Owners names are included whenever available as well as military and organization information that is inscribed on the stone.

Contact the Ft. Morgan Museum, 414 Main Street, Fort Morgan, CO 80701 for prices and to order your copy.

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## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS AVAILABLE LOCALLY**

Do you have a document that is "Greek" to you? Well, there are several people in the Grand Junction area who may be able to put it into a readable form for you.

The Mesa County Public Library has a list of people who can translate languages from Filipino (Tagalog, Aduano, Hocano), French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latvian, Russian, and Spanish, into English.

It may be worth your time to check them out if you feel your document holds a key to some information about your ancestor.

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## **LONDON PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OFFERS MILITARY RECORD INFORMATION**

The Public Record Office in London has published a new Readers guide, in the same series as the popular Making Use of the Census. The new work will be called Army Records for Family Historians. It is the first book for many years to describe the War Office records held by the PRO most used by genealogists. The new Guide covers records from the time of Elizabeth I to the Suez Crisis of 1956.

This book looks at the most important records for tracing a soldier in the Army and also describes some of the less well known documents which can be very useful in fleshing out a person's career. Among records covered by the book are militia records, records of foreigners and colonial subjects serving with British forces and women who served in the Army. There are also chapters about tracing people who were in the Army during the two world wars and other campaigns of the twentieth century.

The Guide sells for 4.75 pounds. Cheques should be made payable to the Public Records Office with the order sent to Fiona Prothero, PPRD, PRO Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR.

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## MISCELLANEOUS MILITARY INFORMATION.....OLD MILITARY RECORDS AVAILABLE BY MAIL

If you need military records of those serving prior to World War I, write General Reference Branch (NNRG), National Archives & Records, 7th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20408.

For World Wars I and II, and subsequent service write National Personnel Records Center, Military Records, NARA, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63132.

(The Family Tree, Apr. May, 1994)

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## CIVIL WAR FACTS

\* Figures from government records indicate that 78% of the Civil War was fought by boys 15 to 18 years old. The Battle of Gettysburg was composed largely of boys not old enough to vote.

\* When searching Civil War records ignore family tradition and search both the Union and Confederate records, especially if your families lived in border states. Do not limit your hunt to direct ancestors. It may be your direct ancestors' brothers' records that contain your genealogical gem! (Genealogy Digest)

\*If things are not confusing enough! To find the battle an ancestor fought in remember the North named battles after water in the area (lakes, creeks, or bogs); the South named their battles after land. Examples: Sharpsburg (a town) and Antietam (a creek), or Manassas (a town) and Bull Run (a creek) refer to the same battles. (The Family Tree, Aug/Sept., 1993)

\*Wisconsin is the only state to have its Civil War enlistments computerized. During the Civil War Wisconsin received credit for 91,379 enlistments and reenlistments into state regiments for the Union Army.

For more information contact Mark D. Van Ells, Archivist/Historian, 608-266-1854, or write Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 West Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703

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## RAILROAD WORKER RECORDS

If your ancestor was a railroad worker, you might find information from the State Historical Society Railroad Museum in the appropriate state or: United Association of Railroad Veterans, 187 Illinois Street, Patterson, NJ 07503. You may write the Railroad Retirement Board, 844 N. Rush Street, Chicago, IL 60611. The Railroad Retirement Pension was set up at the same time as Social Security, and railroaders received their own Social Security numerical prefix. Railroad pension records are available from the Railroad Retirement Board at the Chicago address. (The Family Tree, Dec/Jan, 1993)

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## RAILROAD PENSION APPLICATIONS

Information on the railroad pension applications can be very helpful. They may contain the following: claimant's address, race, sex, date and place of birth, father's full name, mother's maiden name, the entire employment history, and the retirement compensation history. They also show the claims made by the widow or widower, with the proof of the marriage and death of the retiree.

Supposedly, five years following the last payment that was made to the pensioner the records are sent to the Archives and then thirty years after that they are destroyed. As it stands now these records will not be available for research after a 35 year period following the individual's death.

Curt Witcher, President of The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FSG) was to plead the case of researchers in October at the Richmond, VA conference with the National Archives representatives who were at that conference as well. If you care to write letters of support to Witcher regarding this issue address them to: Curt Witcher, President, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Allen County Public Library, P.O. Box 2270, Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270; or to the Director, Office of Records Management, National Archives and Records Administration, 8th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20408. The date of the Richmond Conference has past, however, letters supporting the preservation of these records should not be ignored, whenever they are received.

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Society member Gloria Heitsman recently wrote regarding the fact they were threatening to dispose of railroad retirement records. She shares the following (14 Oct. 1994) response to her letter.

"Dear Ms. Heitsman: This is in response to your letter regarding the disposition of Railroad Retirement Board (RRB) pension claims folders. In light of the concerns which you and other genealogists have expressed, we have initiated a review of the current disposition schedule for these records. Pending completion of this study, our Chicago Federal Records Center, which stores RRB case records, will withhold from destruction any files that are eligible for disposal.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will be back in touch with you when we complete our review.

Sincerely, James J. Hastings, Director, Records Appraisal and Disposition Division of the National Archives at College Park, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 10740-6001"

In light of this letter we are able to determine that letters regarding this matter are being received and considered. We need to continue, whenever possible, to write letters protesting the destruction of files, or to make them more readily accessible to researchers. They do work!



## **SOCIETY MEMBER QUERY**

Has anyone had experiences with naturalization records from Park County (Fairplay, CO)? I am attempting to find the naturalization records on my grandfather who emigrated from Sweden to the United States in 1892. His Elks Lodge Application states that he was naturalized in Fairplay in 1893. When I contacted, in person, the Clerk of the Courts of Park County she said that the naturalization records were transferred to the Colorado State Archives; however, when I contacted the Archives they did not have the naturalization records from Park County. The Archives said they had taken some records from Park County, but not any naturalization records. I went back to Fairplay a second time and searched the basement where older records were kept but was unable to find anything.

If you have had experiences with naturalization records in Park County, or have any suggestions for me, I would appreciate hearing from you. John J. Flynn, 3057 Avalon Dr., Grand Junction, CO 81504, (303)434-3753.

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## **DISPOSAL OF THE PUBLIC LANDS FEDERAL LAND PATENTS**

Land records are a very valuable source of genealogical information and often are the only records we can find in the early 1800s of our ancestors. Land records may include county deeds, property tax records, grantor/grantee indexes, colonial and state land disposal records and the records created by the federal government from the disposal of public lands.

The Congress of the Confederation passed the Land Ordinance on May 20, 1785 which provided for the first surveys (rectangular) to start in the fall of 1785. The first survey in Ohio was begun in 1785 and with numerous changes in surveying procedures and laws governing the disposal, the surveys proceeded to the west and south. When an area was finished being surveyed, parcels were granted to the states, to railroads, sold to qualified applicants, given to those who served in specific wars, homesteaded for a filing fee, as well as other methods used for disposal.

This process of surveying and disposing of the public lands created different kinds of records. These records include survey notes, survey plats, tract books, serial registers, various indexes, patent application files, and a patent certificate. A patent certificate is an instrument by which the federal government grants title to public land. The original patent is very hard to find today, unless the patentee kept it in good condition and passed it down to his or her descendants. However, a copy of the patent was retained by the Land Office and today is held by the Bureau of Land Management. Also, a patentee would usually record his patent in the county where the land parcel was located. Unfortunately, not every

patentee did this immediately after receiving the patent.

Another problem is that no master patentee index exists for these patents. They can be found by knowing the legal land description for the parcel. The patent application files created during the process of obtaining the patent are organized by state, land office, authorization for disposal and legal land description.

There have been many efforts in producing indexes of the patentees and one very important effort is now underway at the Bureau of Land Management Eastern States Office (BLM-ESO). That office has jurisdiction over all states bordering the east and west bank of the Mississippi River. Of those 31 states, 13 are Public Land States; the remaining 18 include the 13 original states plus 5 states carved out of them. These 18 states are called State Land States and handled the disposal of their own lands.

The 13 Public Land States mentioned above include Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and Florida. The remaining 17 Public Land States west of these states are currently managed by 11 BLM state offices. Note, Texas and Hawaii took care of their own land and thus are not public land states.

The BLM-ESO is in the process of computerizing and indexing the information shown on the patent certificates issued in the 13 Public Land States under their jurisdiction. The first phase of the project includes the patents issued after passage of the April 24, 1820 Act of Congress which provides for cash entry sales of public land. This phase also includes other acts of law passed after 1820 which allowed for homesteading and numerous other ways to acquire a land patent from the federal government. In 1908 Land Offices began keeping a 3"x5" card index of the patentees. Thus, it was decided that the first phase of the project would cover the period of 1820 to 1908. The second phase of the project will pick up all the remaining patents issued prior to 1820 and after 1908. It is hoped that a third phase will be funded to index the patents issued in the 17 western public land states of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, California and Alaska.

So far the states that are completed and in the computer at the BLM-ESO include Louisiana, Florida, Arkansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Mississippi and Ohio. Of these eight, the first 4 (underlined above) are on CD-ROM discs and available for purchase through the Government Printing Office at \$15 each. ESO-BLM is in the process of completing Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Alabama and Missouri. BLM-ESO will have the patent information for all 13 states available on CD-ROM when the project is finished.

(Continued next page)



## **PATENT RECORDS, continued**

Everyone is welcome to use the BLM-ESO public room computers to access these indexes if you are able to go to the ESO in person. You can personally set up an account with the BLM-ESO; you will be charged \$2.00 per minute plus your own long distance telephone charges via modem. A \$35 communications software (Columbia University's KERMIT) is recommended since some communications software will not work. In the future it is expected that the 11 Western State offices would have methods to access the database in ESO-BLM. Also, major libraries, including Salt Lake City Family History Library, would be expected to carry the CD-ROMs.

I am currently involved with the ESO project as a contact to help get the information out to interested individuals, and have an account set up at the BLM-ESO to access via modem all states that have been completed. I can get copies of the patents through the mail by indicating so on the modem. The real cost occurs in the use of the long distance telephone hookup.

By working in the late evening or weekends the cost of accessing a few patents is about \$1.50 (approx. 10 minutes).

I am willing to help find patents that were issued to ancestors in the states currently available at no charge on the CD-ROM, or, at actual telephone cost (\$1.50 to \$2) if the modem is required (note, Wisconsin is available only on the modem today, but, I expect to get the CD-ROM for Wisconsin in early 1995). Remember, this is for the period of about 1820 to 1908. I need the name of the ancestor(s) both male and female, the state and county in which they may have received the patent, and approximate year, if known.

The next level of research you should consider is to get a copy of the file created by the Land Office and your ancestor during the process leading up to the issuance of the patent. The homestead patent application files contain as much as 5 years of paperwork that can provide important genealogical information. These files are stored in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

For information on obtaining the CD-ROM discs, sending for BLM Land Office copies of patent certificates or getting a copy of the patent application file from the National Archives you can contact me at the Grand Junction BLM office at (303)244-3018 or my home (303)434-3409.

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## **"LOST" PENSION RECORDS**

An ad in the Family Tree, October/November, 1994 caught your Editor's eye. It advertised: American Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Seminole War records. Effective with the Jan-Feb 1994 issue the American Genealogy Magazine began publishing a series of pension lists abstracted from thousands of obscure documents, not included in previously compiled pension records. A one

year, bimonthly, subscription is \$22.50, from Datatrace Systems, P.O. Box 1587, Stephenville, TX 76401 (817) 965-6979.

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## **HISTORY FAIRE COMING IN FEBRUARY**

You will want to mark February 25, 1995 on your calendar. For the fourth consecutive year the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints will host a history 'faire'.

Displays will revolve around the collection and preservation of family history. Guest speakers will be announced later. Things you can expect to see include information and tips on how to make your genealogical journey a faster and easier trip. You can expect help with the computerized 'information highway', how to put a family reunion together, there will be tours of the Family History Library, and tips on how to use the vast amount of information that is available.

Many area organizations and businesses will have booths with helpful hints on how they can assist the researcher.

This is the event of the year for beginner as well as professional genealogist.

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## **ADVANCED GENEALOGY CLASS OFFERED BY MUSEUM**

The class is entitled "If These Walls Could Talk", and is in response to the many requests for more than the 'basics' in genealogy research. Starting January 25, through March 1, 7-9 p.m. the six classes will cover architectural styles, oral history, and social history and how they relate to using various forms of public records. These include tax records, court house records, deeds, wills, plat maps, various books, and oral histories, just to mention a few.

Information on how to prepare an application for historic building inventory and how to fill out the application for either state or national historic designation for a building or site will be included.

The deadline for preregistration is January 18th, there is a fee of \$30 for Museum members. \$35 for others. Contact Donna Roberts or Caroline Howard at the Museum of Western Colorado, 242-0971 for more information.