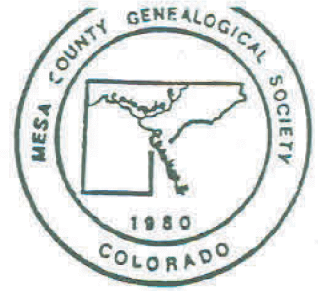


MESA DWELLERS NEWSLETTER

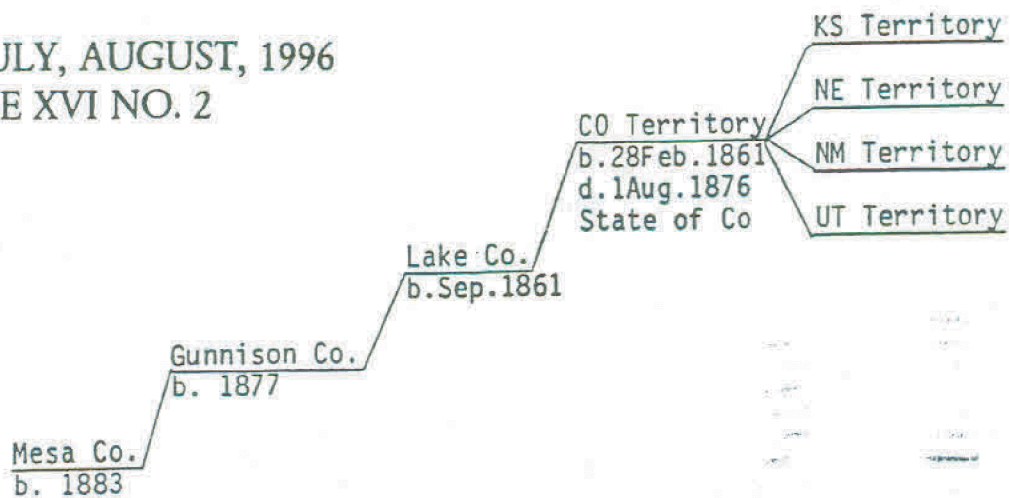


A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

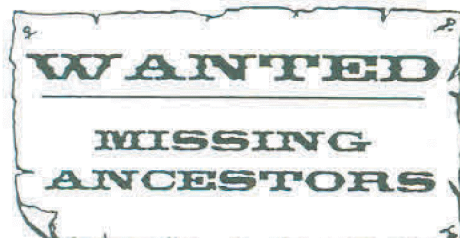
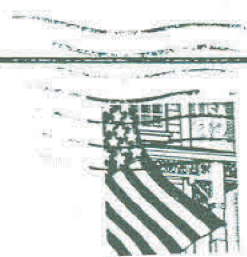
P.O. Box 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81502-1506

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1996
VOLUME XVI NO. 2



MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 1506
GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502



CELEBRATING OUR 16th YEAR

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

*** CALENDAR ***

JUNE

13 **General Meeting 7:00 p.m., Museum of Western Colorado.** Tour Museum's Research Library with Judy Armstrong.

JULY

11 **General Meeting 7:00 P.M., Mesa County Court House, East Side Security Door**
Tour County Recorder, Treasurer and Assessor's offices.

AUGUST

1 Society Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m., at President Joan Chaffin's home

8 **Annual Picnic Get-together, at [REDACTED]**
[REDACTED] **Bring a covered dish and your own service.** Plan to reveal some of your successful research tips.

SEPTEMBER

12 **General Meeting 7:00 P.M., PLACE WILL BE IN SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER.** Rick Sheldon: Computers, Bulletin Boards, Internet, etc.

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 & Ute, Grand Junction, CO at 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

Contributions of neatly typed or written stories, requests for/or giving information, queries, or other information of importance to the membership are welcomed. Please direct your information to Editor Juanita Moston, [REDACTED] Grand Junction, CO 81504-4219. The Society disclaims responsibility for statement of fact or opinion made by contributors, and will not accept material with obvious errors.

Refreshment volunteers are welcomed. Please contact Gloria Heitsman to sign up. Thanks, we appreciate it!

*** 1996 OFFICERS ***

President.....Joan Chaffin.....[REDACTED]
Vice President....Jody Nestler.....[REDACTED]
Secretary.....Gloria Heitsman.....[REDACTED]
Treasurer.....Betty Grosskopf.....[REDACTED]
Corr. Sec'try...Wynona Hennessey.....[REDACTED]

ELECTED OFFICERS

One Year Term.....Donna Roberts
Two Year Term.....Laveta Kay
Three Year.....Norm Kronvall

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AGLL Librarian.....Betty Grosskopf.....[REDACTED]
Historian.....Jeanne Edwards.....[REDACTED]
MCGS Librarian....Gloria Heitsman.....[REDACTED]
Membership.....Betty Dougherty.....[REDACTED]
Newsletter.....Juanita Moston.....[REDACTED]
Programs.....Dennis Jenkins.....[REDACTED]
Publicity.....Juanita Moston.....[REDACTED]

Annual Dues: \$10 Singles; \$12 Family.
Membership period is March 1st to April 30th.
Those with unpaid dues (after April 30) will not receive the Newsletter.

REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

June
July
August.....Annual Picnic
September
October
November
December.....Merry Christmas Party

BIRTHDAY BOX

There is more to this little box that is passed around at each meeting than many of us know.

As a way to raise money, the "birthday box" is passed among those attending each general meeting. Anyone who is celebrating a birthday that month is asked to contribute something to the box. Likewise, anyone who would like to make a contribution in the name of another person can do so at that time.

All the money collected in this way is used to purchase books for the Society's library. Next time the "birthday box" comes by you, please consider putting something in, even if it isn't your special day.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

By Joan Chaffin

What a wonderful seminar Dr. George Schweitzer put on! This was the first time my husband and I had heard Dr. Schweitzer and we enjoyed ourselves very much.

So many people to thank for their help at the seminar! Jody Nestler and Jeanne Edwards for handling the cookie deluge, and all those that brought cookies. Norm Kronvall for supplying the cold drink; and last, but not least, my husband, Don Chaffin for answering questions at the Society's information table.

Now, for all those that continue to search only those names spelled as they think they should be; please read on. While searching for my great grandfather I happened on a typed index of the 1850 Indiana census. Failing to find said ancestor, but sure he should be there I rented the microfilm and searched further for the elusive gentlemen. Sure enough, I found him. I double checked the typed index and once again found him. Seems the typist that tried to read the enumerator's handwriting had listed my ancestor as SITTO, instead of SETH. So, for you skeptics, please follow through even though the spelling is not quite right, you may be pleasantly surprised to find the elusive ancestor was filed under another spelling.

EDITOR' NOTE

"BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU ASK FOR, YOU JUST MAY GET IT."

As you know I am always 'whining' for help, "please give me information that you found useful and that may help others"; you have heard it many times. But, unless you are writing a newsletter you don't know how hard it is to find good information. This time when I "whined" Rick Sheldon took me at my word and gave me a large envelope of information he had "downloaded" off the Internet. Some was worth passing along; whether you use the Internet or not, seems there is something for everyone.

* **Where To Write For Vital Records**, a government publication of 32 pages of information detailing addresses, current fees, and procedures for ordering birth/death/marriage/divorce records and documents from various states. **Order from:** R. Woods, Consumer Information Center - 6A, P.O. Box 100, Pueblo, CO 81002, fee \$2.25

* **New York Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St., New York, New York:** NYC birth records less than 75 years old; marriage/death records less than 50 years old; fee \$15 ea.; available only to actual person or direct descendant with proof of death, or authorized representative of person.

* **New York State Dept of Records, Municipal Archives, 31 Chambers St., NY, NY 10007:** NYC birth records over 75 years old; marriage/death records over 50 years old; old city directories beginning in 1800's; local censuses indexed on address; fee: \$5 to use self-service microfilm reader; \$5 to copy a document (certified).

* **NY State Dept. of Health, Vital Records Section, Genealogy Unit, Corning Tower Bldg., Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12237-0023.** Birth/marriage records for entire state beginning 1881, deaths beginning 1880; **EXCEPT:** records filed in Albany, Buffalo and Yonkers prior to 1914; applications for these cities should be made directly to the local office; NYS Dept of Health does not have NYC records **EXCEPT** for births occurring in Queens and Richmond (Staten Island) for the years 1881-1897; requirements: for birth, record must be older than 75 years and person must be dead; for marriage must be 50 years old and both parties dead; for death record must be 50 years old; time limit waived for direct descendants only where person on record is proven dead or signs written authorization.

* **National Archives, Northeast Region, 201 Varlick Street, NY, NY 10014, (212)337-1300:** 1850-1920 federal censuses, civil war indexes, passenger/ship indexes, naturalization papers for all cases filed in NYC prior to Sept. 27, 1906 (one large soundex on microfilm).

* **New York Public Library, 42 Street, Special Genealogy Reference Collection, New York, NY** including some CD-ROM sources.

Having children is hereditary. If your parents hadn't had any, neither could you!

The **Indiana State Archives** has two searchable databases on-line
<http://dialin.ind.net/~lhoffman/page1.html>
These cover the Land Sales in Indiana Territory.

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* **Allen County Public Library, Genealogy Dept., 900 Webster St., P.O. Box 2270, Ft. Wayne, IN 46801-7270**, (219) 424-7241, ext 3315 (press #5). On-line access number (219)424-1330.

* **St. Joseph County Library, 304 S. Main St., So. Bend, IN 46601, (219)282-4621**. On-line (219)282-4664.

* **Elkhart Public Library, 300 S. Second St., Elkhart, IN 46515, (219)522-5669**, On-line (219) 293-2223.

* **Maine State Archives, Cultural Bldg., State House Station 84, Augusta, ME 04333-0084, (207) 287-5790**. Their records are basically from 1892 to 1955; many town's records are available earlier on L.D.S. microfilms. For post 1955 try the **Bureau of Vital Statistics, State House Station #11, Augusta, ME 04333-0011**

* **Colorado Dept. of Health, Vital Records Section, 3210 E. 11th. Ave., Denver, CO 80220, (303)320-8474**. State office has death records since 1900 and birth records since 1910; some birth records for some counties for years before 1910.

* **Nebraska** - marriage certificates list both parents of the bride and groom, with the mother's maiden name. Isn't that the greatest genealogical coup you have ever heard of?
(All the above information was gleaned from transmittals on the Internet. Your Editor can not vouch for the authenticity of any of the information, and only lists it as a start for those looking for information in these areas.)

MICROFICHE, NOT JUST FOR THE BIG GUYS

Before you consider a permanent way to preserve your precious documents stop!

You too can have your own copies of records on microfiche. The MCGS held a meeting recently at the offices of Advanced Microsystems, 634 Main St. Grand Junction, CO 81501 and witnessed the procedure that takes place to produce a microfiche.

This procedure is very simple: The records are photographed and the film is cut into pieces and arranged in order and photographed again; this is what produces the microfiche. The film is just like what you would see on a roll of microfilm.

There is no damage done to your original document and you have those precious, and

cumbersome documents filed away in a safe place where they can no longer being subjected to damage.

Contact Dorothy Roper, (219) 69 for more information. Dorothy loaned some of her documents for the demonstration at the meeting. She will testify to the worth of the cost and the procedure.

Shake any family tree and you are bound to get a few nuts!

NEW RELEASE OF FAMILYSEARCH HAS SCOTTISH PARISH RECORDS

A new version of FamilySearch, the L.D.S Church's computer tool for family history research, has been released, and it includes a new resource for Scottish research.

The version, FamilySearch 2.23, goes to all Church-affiliated FamilySearch sites, including the Family History Library and FamilySearch Center in Salt Lake City, many Church meetinghouses, and more than 2,500 family history centers throughout the United States and Canada. It is now available at the local Family History Library.

FamilySearch 2.23 features the computerized version of the Scottish Old Parochial Records. This new resource file has been titled "Scottish Church Records".

The Scottish Church Records consist of an index of nearly 10 million names. The names were originally listed in parish registers and similar records of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian). The index also includes records from a few other denominations. Entries date from the 1500's through 1854, with a few later entries. Information available from the index includes given names; surnames; parents or spouses; gender; birth, christening or marriage dates and places; source information. Civil registration - which is government recording of births, marriages and deaths - began in Scotland in 1855. For those seeking information prior to that time, the Scottish Church Records are the most used source and may document as much as 60 percent of the Scottish population during the time period recorded.

Using the Scottish Church Records in FamilySearch, one may search for birth, christening or marriage information for an ancestor. One may also search for spouse or parents. In addition, once the specific parish is

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identified where one's ancestors lived, one possibly can extend pedigree lines and build family groups by conducting parent searches.

It should be noted that Scottish Church Records do not include death and burial records nor do they include some non-conformist church records (non-Church of Scotland records).

For further information on Scottish Church Records in FamilySearch, request the document *Scottish Church Records* from the Salt Lake Distribution Center, catalog No. 34951.

Also included in the 2.23 release of FamilySearch are updates to the Family History Library Catalog and U.S. Social Security Death Index. The compact discs for these updates were released in the last quarter of 1995. The U.S. Social Security Death Index now contains entries through December 1994.

(Source: LDS Family History Library, Grand Junction)

IRISH IMMIGRATION HELP AVAILABLE

If you know the name of the ship your "Irish Famine" immigrant took from Liverpool, write Merseyside Maritime Museum, Pier Head, Liverpool, England L3 10W.

It is believed that about 70 percent of the migrants changed ships at Liverpool.

The Museum may have a passenger list showing the city of origin of your ancestor.

(Source: Family Tree, Oct/Nov. 1995)

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 57.9 million Americans have German roots, but no German ties in Germany.

CIVIL WAR MEDALS AVAILABLE

Unclaimed medals for soldiers from other states who fought in West Virginia regiments during the Civil War are still stored in the small cardboard boxes in which they arrived from New York in 1866.

The West Virginia Department of Culture and History will award to heirs who can provide documentation establishing a line of descent from the Union Army veteran.

A list of veterans, as well as further details, appeared in *West Virginia History*, Vol 45.

Contact the Department of Culture and History, Cultural Center, Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 15305.

(Source: Family Tree, Feb/Mar. 1994)

BEATITUDES OF A FAMILY GENEALOGIST

* * *

BLESSED are the great-grandfathers who saved embarkation and citizenship papers, for they tell when they came.

BLESSED are all grandfathers who filed every legal document, for this provided the truth.

BLESSED are the grandmothers who preserved family bibles and diaries, for this is our heritage.

BLESSED are the fathers who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry, for..to some.. the only link to the past.

BLESSED are the mothers who relate family traditions and legends to the family, for one of her children will surely remember.

BLESSED are the relatives who fill in family sheets with extra data, for to them we owe family history.

BLESSED is the family whose members strive for the preservation of records, for theirs is a labor of love.

BLESSED are the children who will never say, "Grandma, you told that story twice today."

WISCONSIN - DECLARATIONS OF INTENT

Ozaukee County Historical Society has an index which lists 3,561 names of those who declared their intentions to become citizens. This index gives surname, given name, place and year of birth, country from where they immigrated; the date of U.S. arrival; the port of entry; the date of Declaration along with the certificate number. The original certificates are kept at the Ozaukee County Courthouse, and are filed by their certificate number.

Write Ozaukee County Historical Archives at W63, N643 Washington Ave, Cedarburg, Wisconsin, sending an SASE, and they will search the index and inform you of the certificate number along with the information contained in the index. There is a \$2 users fee if you visit in person. This users fee is considered a donation and is used to purchase microfilms of the old Ozaukee County newspapers.

An interesting note: Some of the Declarations of Intent or "First Papers" were made in New York, Michigan, Milwaukee County, and Sheboygan County to name a few. They were perhaps deposited in the Ozaukee County

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Courthouse when the prospective citizen became naturalized.

Wisconsin cemeteries can be located by the Wisconsin Old Cemetery Society, 3500 South 92nd Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53228.

HOW A NAME DIES OUT

In China today couples are allowed to have only one child. In a few generations there will be no brothers, no sisters, no aunts, no uncles, no cousins - only grandparents. No more collateral lines, only direct-line ancestors. And should a couple, several generations from now, not have a child, all the lines of their parents come to an end --no chance to be someone's great-grand parent, never to be researched, cherished, or honored by a future descendant. A sad thought indeed.

You can understand China's policy due to the country's population problem, but isn't finding an eccentric great-aunt, a thrice married great-great grandfather or a notorious third cousin worth the research headaches compared to not having 'extra' relatives at all?

Source: Stark County Ohio Genealogical Society.

DRIVING AND OCCUPATIONAL RECORDS MAY HOLD INFORMATION YOU NEED

Driving records are a matter of public record. For information write to the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles in the state in which you believe a missing person lives and ask for his/her driving or vehicle record. This may provide a current address.

Occupational records in large foreign cities can help find ancestors. In London, for example, there are books listing drapers, coopers, painters, etc.

Source: Ellen Payne Odom Library Newsletter, and Brighton Gen. Soc., Mar. 1993.

PASSENGER LISTS HOLD MUCH INFO.

A customs passenger list normally contains the following information for each passenger: name, age, sex and occupation, country of embarkation and country of destination. For one who died in passage, the date and circumstances of death are given.

Immigration passenger lists vary in informational content, but usually show the place of birth and last place of residence in addition to the information found in the customs passenger lists. Some of the immigration

passenger lists include the name and address of a relative in the country from which the passenger came.

National Archives staff will search the customs passenger lists if, in addition to the names of the passenger and the port of entry, an inquirer can supply the following information: name of the vessel and the month and year of its arrival, or the name of the port of embarkation and the exact date of its arrival. It will also search the immigration passenger lists up to 1954 when the lists are held by the National Archives, if an inquirer can give the full name and ages of the passenger and of accompanying passengers, the port of entry, the vessel and exact date of arrival. The staff will also consult existing indexes to the names on the customs and immigration passenger lists, provided an inquirer can supply the name of the port of entry and the month and year of arrival. Requests for searches should be made on NATF form 81; order and billing for copies of Passenger Lists.

Microfilm copies of available passenger lists earlier than 1935 can be used in the National Archives.

THE MORTON ALLEN DIRECTORY OF EUROPEAN PASSENGER STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS lists by years, steamship, company, and exact date and names of vessels arriving at the ports of New York (1890-1930) and Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia (1904-1926).

This publication is available in some large public and research libraries.

Source: Pinon Whispers, Vol. XV, #4, Southeastern Colorado Genealogical Society

SOCIETY RECOGNIZES ITS OWN FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

At the March meeting the Society recognized Sue Martinez, Mattie Severson, Dorothy Inscho and Wynona Hennessey for many their volunteer hours. They were honored for their dedication in producing a collection of obituaries extracted from the Daily Sentinel newspaper that is available at the Mesa County Public Library, and they have all been involved in the preparation of material for the Society's Cemetery Book that is now being readied for publication - among other projects they have put their talents into. THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!

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GERMAN RESEARCHERS HIT BONANZA AT SCHWEITZER SEMINAR

You could hear a pin drop in the room on April 20th when Dr. Schweitzer presented his program. Over 200 interested people sat for close to eight hours listening to a fast paced information-packed day, and the hint about sitting in the middle of the room was valid. Schweitzer didn't stand still and talked nonstop.

The Museum of Western Colorado is to be congratulated for putting on a very well organized and interesting day. There have been comments on both sides of the aisle, the planning and participating side, about having him return some time in the future.

The entire program was of great interest, however; many comments were that the migration portion was the most helpful. Oh, if they would only teach this kind of history in the schools today!

The following weekend Sue Martinez and Juanita Moston attended a seminar put on by the Colorado Chapter of the Palatines to America in Denver. While Tim Ostwald and Vera Gale did not present their talk in character as Dr. Schweitzer did, both Sue and Juanita felt they came away with more detailed research tips that will help them find their German ancestors.

Both speakers are experts in their field; while Ostwald taught himself to speak and read German, Gale was born of German speaking parents from the Black Forest, and has worked in the Library in Salt Lake.

Contact Sue or Juanita for further information.

HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP!

Jeanne Edwards agreed to become the Society's Historian before she found out there is no job description for the position; so, she is writing her own!

Jeanne would like to have your help with pictures, articles, or any material from 1990 to the present time that relates to the activities of the Society. She plans to make a scrap book using the information.

If you have anything you would like to include in the history of our organization, contact her at 243-7831. We can become so busy with our own activities we forget that there may be something that will benefit others. Please keep Jeanne and your Newsletter Editor in mind when

you come across something of interest. It just may be the thing that solves someone else's problem for them.

THE SEARCH

I started out calmly
in tracing my tree
To find, if I could,
the meaning of me,
But all that I had
was grandfather's name,
Not knowing his wife
nor from whence he came.

I chased him across
a long line of states,
The upshot was pages
and pages of dates.
With all put together,
it made me forlorn.....
I proved dear grandfather
never was born!

When hoping to turn
this confusion around,
I searched at Salt Lake
where records abound.
Then just when it seemed
to be turning to fun,
I found the old man
younger than his son!

When all of my hopes
were fast growing dim,
I came across records
for what must be him.
But facts I collected
next made me quite sad,
For Grandpa, poor soul...
he was never a dad.

I think there is somebody
pulling my leg.
I'm sure that I wasn't
just hatched from an egg.
And, after hundreds spent
growing my "Tree",
I can't help but wonder
if I'm really me.

Source: *Second Boat*, Vol. 15.2, 1994, pg. 16.