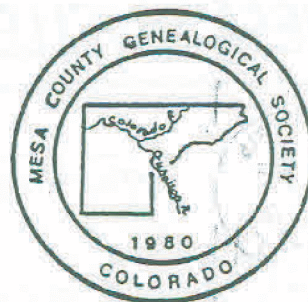


MESA DWELLERS



A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81502-1506

1996
DECEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY, 1997

VOLUME XVI NO. 4



O' Family Tree,
O' Family Tree

MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Mesa Co.
b. 1883

Gunnison Co.
b. 1877

Lake Co.
b. Sep. 1861

CO Territory
b. 28 Feb. 1861
d. 1 Aug. 1876
State of Co

KS Territory

NE Territory

NM Territory

UT Territory

MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, CO 81502

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CELEBRATING OUR 16th YEAR

MESA DWELLERS

December, January, February, 1996/96

Vol. 26 No.4

1996/1997 OFFICERS

President	Joan Chaffin	
Vice President	Jody Nestler	
Secretary	Gloria Heitsman	
Treasurer	Betty Grosskopf	
Corr. Sec'try	Wynona Hennissey	

ELECTED OFFICERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AGLL Librarian	Betty Grosskopf	
Historian	Jeanne Edwards	
MCGS Librarian	Gloria Heitsman	
Membership	Betty Dougherty	
Programs	Dennis Jenkins	
Newsletter	Juanita Moston	

*** CALENDAR ***

December

12 6:00 pm, Christmas Party, Museum of Western Colorado. Bring a pot-luck dish and your own service. A program will follow dinner.

25 MERRY CHRISTMAS

January

1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

9 7:00 pm, Museum of Western Colorado. Share your research successes and stonewalls.

February

6 7:00 pm. Board meeting, at Juanita Moston's home, [REDACTED]

13 7:00 pm, Museum of Western Colorado. Prelude to TRAILS WEST, Family History Faire. Trails that went through Grand Junction. Bill Chenoweth and Jack Nelson.

March

13 7:00 p.m., Mesa County Public Library, Kiva Room. Update of the reference materials available, including new books and review of the AGLL film ordering procedures. Kay Oxer and Betty Jane Grosskopf.

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.

You can get anywhere from anywhere: Don't wait to be sure you're starting from the right place.

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, or [REDACTED]. The Society disclaims responsibility for statement of fact or opinion made by contributors and will not accept material with obvious errors.

NOTE: For what-ever reason, we have had a difficult time finding willing members to volunteer for the Refreshment Committee. It's nice to have something to share with visitors at meetings, but if the membership doesn't contribute we will be forced to discontinue having refreshments. Please let us know your opinion.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

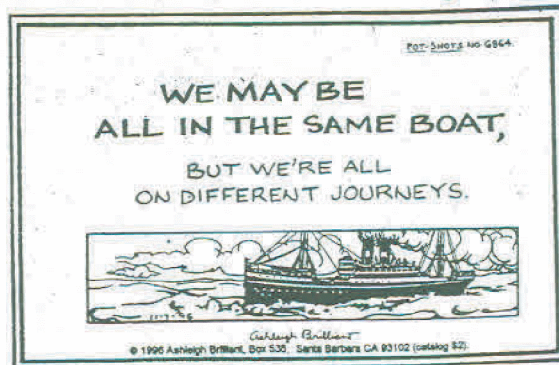
Evaline Robinson, Director, Family History Library. Walter H. And Pat Pollock, of Boulder, CO; and Iona L. and Bobby J. Clark, of Palisade. Welcome!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS NEARER THAN YOU THINK

Consider sending your 1997 membership renewal early this year. Your check for \$10 for single members, or \$12 for family membership now will relieve you of getting those annoying notices that we will be sending about the first of March.

POT-SHOTS

Ashleigh Brilliant



MESA DWELLERS

Mesa County Genealogical Society

December, January, February, 1996-97

Volume 16, No 4

SILENT DISASTER By Juanita Moston

What may well be one of the worst environmental disasters ever to hit a library befell the Pennsylvania State Library in May 1995.

Over 700,000 books, maps, and microfilm stored on the lower floor of the library were contaminated with lead-paint dust because the state Department of General Services, by its own admission, ignored accepted lead-paint-removal methods during the restoration of the Forum Building, where the library is located.

Other books suffered mold damage due to water leakage. Since the closing of the lower floors on May 24 there has been no access to these volumes of research materials.

Contaminated materials include all newspaper microfilms from 1719 to 1965, bound and unbound newspaper volumes pre-1944, all federal and state documents received before May 1995, all bound periodicals, all unbound periodicals pre-1944, periodical microfilms pre-1970, all books published pre-1960 and a number of 19th century rarities. Materials in the reading rooms on the main floor of the library remain accessible.

The estimated cost of cleanup - and whether the state is willing to pay it - and when the closed portion of the library will reopen are the key unanswered questions. From the time the black dust was discovered on the books until a consultant was hired to examine the damage and suggest a cure, nine months had elapsed.

A spokesperson for the Education Secretary said they would "do whatever is necessary" to regain access to the collections and get the contamination cleaned up as quickly as possible. Christine Ewing, chief of staff of Commonwealth Libraries says that until there is a report there is no way to project the time the collection will once again be open to the public.

The lead-paint dust is not uniformly distributed through-out all the books in the lower level, and the hope is to reopen sections as they are cleaned and not wait until the entire job is done to use the materials.

Whether the damage occurred due to unstoppable bureaucratic momentum, budget considerations, or a gamble that nothing bad would happen has not been determined. Experts, however, agree that if the recommended guidelines for lead-paint removal had been required, the cost would have been less than it will be now,

following the cost of the cleanup.

You can bet that until someone accepts blame in this case there will be no movement toward paying for the cleanup and getting the books back in circulation. In Danbury, Conn. a cleanup and restoration project is underway following a library fire in which over 50,000 children's books were damaged. Each page of each book must be wiped with muslin cloth and a deodorizing solution applied before they are usable again. This project has been underway since Feb 1996.

As genealogy researchers we can only hope that this is an isolated incident and that most libraries are well cared for institutions which have the same regard for the written word as we do.

American Immigrant Wall of Honor

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation offers those with ancestors who may have arrived through Ellis Island the opportunity to have the name of the immigrant placed on the wall.

This distinction is not limited to Ellis Island arrivals exclusively, but to all of America's immigrants.

The wall will close in 1997 and the names will be added in 1998. It is located near the Main Building on Ellis Island.

If you wish to register a family member on the Wall of Honor you are required to send a \$100 registration fee.

The current Wall of Honor contains over 500,000 names. The new wall will have limited space; they do not say how many new names it will accommodate.

The Ellis Island Foundation restored the Main Building and created the Ellis Island Immigration Museum.

If you need more information and a form to register your ancestor, contact them at the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 5200, New York, NY 10164-2880.

FINDING WOMEN ANCESTORS

Tracing the Women in Your Family, Twenty Methods, by John L. Andrews, Jr., is available for a \$2 cash donation or stamps from Program, Old Darlington District Chapter, SCGS, PO Box 175, Hartsville, SC 29551-0175. Please include 64 cents for postage and a large envelope. (The Family Tree, Oct-Nov-Dec, 1996)

WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

As 1996 draws to a close I want to take this time to thank all those who gave their support throughout the year. A BIG thanks to the officers and board members; and thanks to the members at large who came forward to help on many projects.

As you know, I have been working on the records at the Orchard Mesa Cemetery, and every so often I have run across the name "John Doe" or "Baby Doe" and this started me wondering where this term of identification came from. Thanks to the Mesa County Library we have the following: "JOHN DOE/RICHARD ROE. Whether or not there actually was once a *John Doe* is not known. What is known is that the name John Doe has been used since the fourteenth century in legal documents. In his fascinating book *Information Roundup*, George Stimpson tells us that the first use of the name may go back as far as the Magna Carta (1215)." *Morris Dictionary of Word and Phrase Origins, Second Edition*, William and Mary Morris, Harper Row.

Program Chairperson Dennis Jenkins has expressed his desire to retire. Dennis has done a great job. We try to do our best for you, but we realize not everyone is going to like every program. If you have suggestions or requests for future programs please let me know; and if you are interested in working on the program committee let me know.

Talk about last minute projects - at 1:30 pm on a Sunday afternoon I found out the large display case at the Mesa County Public Library was available. By three o'clock Gloria Heitsman and Betty Jean Grosskopf had pulled together books and photos and other information and had the display up! Great work!

TRIVIA.....

Longmont Heritage reports they will be including old burial records from the Shaw Mortuary/Howe Mortuary up through 1910 in future newsletters.

Studies have shown that after 1850 Ohio pioneers frequently moved to counties in other states that were on the same latitude as their home county in Ohio.

Yucaipa Valley Genealogical Society reports you can contact the United Methodist Archives Center, General Commission on Archives and History of the United Methodist Church, Drew University, P.O. Box 127, Madison, New Jersey 07940 if you are seeking an ancestor with a Methodist connection. An initial search will be made at **no cost** if the ancestor was a minister, but with a cost for photocopying, and be sure to send the SASE.

Offer to do research. LAPL@worldnet.att.net Lou Ann Lunsford will do look-ups for the following cemeteries in Arkansas: Witherspoon Cemetery, Polk Co., complete thru 1983. Ramick Cemetery, Dallas Co., complete thru 1970. Barnes Cemetery, Dallas Co., complete thru 1995. Hunter's Chapel Cemetery, Dallas Co., complete thru 1970 (mostly Phillips' in this cemetery) New Hope Cemetery, Grant Co., complete thru 1968. Leola Cemetery, Grant Co., complete thru 1968. She can provide names of cemeteries in various counties in Arkansas, and has an index of every cemetery by name in every county of Arkansas.

The Aurora Genealogical Society of Colorado reports the Modern Woodmen of America, an insurance/social organization founded in 1883, required each prospective member to fill out an application which included much information of a genealogical nature. If an ancestor was a member, the present office *may* have information. However, they do have a long term policy of destroying the member's applications when that member dies, but they report it is not necessarily applied. Write Modern Woodmen of America, 1701 1st. Ave., Rock Island, IL 61201, Attn Historian Gail A. Lewis. In an unrelated submission obtained on the Internet, there is another address to write as well, Woodmen of the World, Woodmen Tower, 1700 Farnam Street, Omaha, NB 68102.

Rotterdam was one of the major European departure points for immigrants coming to the US in the 18th and early part of the 20th centuries. Information is available from the gementee Haus (Government House), Coolsing, #40, NL 3011 AD, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Records of Embarkation from Le Havre for 1780-1840 are in existence. Le Havre was the port of embarkation for many emigrants from Switzerland and southern Germany during that period. These are records that have not been filmed by the LDS. They include birth date or age, birthplace, parents' names and spouses' maiden names. You may inquire about these records: Groupement Genealogique du Havre et de SeineMaritime, B.P. 80, F-76050 Le Havre Cedex, France. Be sure to enclose three International Reply Coupons purchased at your local post office. (The Family Tree, Oct-Nov-Dec, 1996, pg. 24B)

The Associated Daughters of Early American Witches preserves names of those accused of witchery in early America and location of living lineal descendants. Write to Mrs. Charles Loucks, 1408 20th St., Arlington, VA 22202.

The Census Bureau is being encouraged to add the maiden name of each married woman in future census records. You can express your opinion to Mr. Harry Scarr, Acting Director of the Census Bureau, Washington, DC 10223. It is suggested that you send copies of your letters to your senators and representatives as well.

Ancestors born in Virginia? Consider this if a reference is made to a person having been born in Virginia as early as 1728 to as late as 1863; it could mean they were born in:

1. any part of Illinois from 1781 to 1818.
2. any part of Indiana from 1781 to 1818.
3. any part of Kentucky from 1775 to 1792.
4. any part of N. Carolina from 1728 to 1792.
5. any part of Maryland from 1775 to 1792.
6. any part of Ohio from 1778 to 1792.
7. any part of Pennsylvania from 1752 to 1786.
8. any part of Tennessee from 1760 to 1803.
9. all of West Virginia from 1769 to 1863.

The United Methodist Archives for the entire United States is at Drew University, PO Box 127, Madison, NJ 07940. Please include a SASE when requesting information. (Speak/Speake/Speakes/Speaks Family Bulletin, Vol 17, #4, June 1996.)

Ancestors on TV in January

Ancestors is a series of 10 half-hour programs that will air on PBS stations beginning in January 1997. Produced by KBYU-TV this series of informational programs will feature on-location stories of people who have been successful in their research; as well as an expert who will offer tips for the beginning family historian.

Watch for broadcast times in your local newspaper TV section. You might want to run out and stock up on video tapes so you can copy the segments that are of interest to you.

"Experience is the name genealogists give to their mistakes."

101 COUNTIES AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

The Illinois Regional Archives Depository System is open to the public, and they will answer mail queries for the state's 101 counties.

IRAD does not charge, nor need an SASE. They will send you a list of the holdings for each of five counties per request at no charge. They will search for the requested information on two names at a time by writing Information Services/IRAD, Illinois State Archives, Archives Building, Springfield, IL 62756.

NEW BOOKS *** NEW BOOKS

The Society happily accepts contributions of books and research material. These contributions can be in memory of a person, or simply because you think the material would be an asset to our Library.

Recently, Betty Jean Grosskopf donated "**Land and Property Research in the United States**", by E. Wade Hone, in memory of her brother Bruno Muller Gifford. "**Colorado Voters in the 1861 Territorial Election for a Delegate to the 37th Congress**", copywrite 1996 was donated by Joan Chaffin. "**Notes On Southside Virginia**", covering Nattoway and Amelia Counties, was donated in the name of Melba Fulton and Wanda Dotson.

Thanks to these generous folks for their donations.

6th YEAR FOR THE FAMILY HISTORY FAIRE

Mark Feb. 21/ 22, 1997 on your calendar! The sixth annual Family History Faire is featuring "trails" as the theme. Santa Fe, Smoky Hills, Oregon, Mormon, all the big ones and maybe even some lesser known trails will be highlighted this year.

There will be special exhibits featuring the Oregon Trail, Santa Fe Trail, and the Mormon Trail, with special features about the Old Spanish Trail and its relationship to Grand Junction; as well as local groups and organizations who will be participating.

Classes and workshops will be offered Friday evening from 6 pm to 9 pm. Exhibits, more classes, entertainment and food will be featured on Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm.

Editor's Note: The following is part of a list of Principal Emigrant Trails that was copied from the Internet by Wynona Hennessey. It was contributed by Lou Ann Lunsford, and is only part of the many trails that brought pioneers to new territories.

1. Bolivar and Memphis Trail. 2. Chickasaw Trail. 3. Lower Harpeth Trail. 4. Great South Trail. 5. Black Fox Trail. 6. Cisca & St. Augustine Trail. 7. Cumberland & Ohio Falls Trail. 8. Catawba Trail. 9. Tennessee, Ohio & Great Lakes Trail. 10. Warrior's Path of Kentucky. 11. Old South Carolina State Road to the North. 12. Unicoi Turnpike. 13. Augusta & Cherokee Trail and the Augusta and Savannah Trail. 14. Tombigbee & Arkansas River Trail. 15. Trail from Natchez to the Lower Creeks. 16. Lower Cherokee Trader's Path. 17. Kanawho Branch of Great Indian Warpath. 18. Pecatonic Trail. 19. Old Roebuck Road. 20. Pumunkey-New River Trail.

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Kansas County Abbreviations. Submitted by Wynona Hennessey. The Kansas Heritage Server thanks Stephen Chinn (chinn@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu) for providing the information to the Internet. Sources: Everton, George B. The Handy Book for Genealogists. 6th Edition; Kansas Annual Report. Leavenworth: State Ag. Assn. 1864; Official Kansas Transportation Map. 1991-1992; Rydjord, John. Kansas Place-Names. Norman: Univ. Of Oklahoma Press 1972.

ID County	County Seat	Date County Created	Former County	Former County Seat
AL Allen	Iola	1855	Original	
AN Anderson	Garnett	1855	Original	
AT Atchison	Atchison	1855	Original	
BA Barber	Medicine Lodge	1867	Harper	
BT Barton	Great Bend	1867	Ellsworth	
BB Bourbon	Fort Scott	1855	Original	
BR Brown	Hiawatha	1855	Original	
BU Butler	El Dorado	1855	Irving	Towanda
CS Chase	Cottonwood Falls	1859	Butler	
CQ Chautauqua	Sedan	1875	Howard	Elk Falls, Boston
CK Cherokee	Columbus	1855	McGee	
CN Cheyenne	St. Francis	1875		
CA Clark	Ashland	1885	Ford	
CY Clay	Clay Center	1857	Original	
CD Cloud	Concordia	1860	Shirley	
CF Coffey	Burlington	1855	Original	
CM Commanche	Coldwater	1867	Kiowa	
CL Cowley	Winfield	1867	Hunter	
CR Crawford	Girard	1867	Bourbon	
DC Decatur	Oberlin	1873	Norton	
DK Dickinson	Abilene	1855	Original	
DP Dogniphan	Troy	1855	Original	
DG Douglas	Lawrence	1855	Original	
ED Edwards	Kingsley	1874	Kiowa	
EK Elk	Howard	1875	Howard	Elk Falls, Boston
EL Ellis	Hayes	1867		
EW Ellsworth	Ellsworth	1867	Saline	
FI Finney	Garden City	1883	Sequoyah	
FO Ford	Dodge City	1873		
FR Franklin	Ottawa	1855	Original	Ohio City
GE Geary	Junction City	1855	Davis	
GO Gove	Gove	1868		
GH Graham	Hill City	1867	Rooks	
GT Grant	Ulysses	1873		
GY Gray	Cimarron	1887		
GL Greeley	Tribune	1873	Hamilton	
GW Greenwood	Eureka	1855	Madison	Columbia
HM Hamilton	Syracuse	1873		
HP Harper	Anthony	1867	Kingman	
HV Harvey	Newton	1872		
HS Haskell	Sublette	1887	Finney	
HG Hodgeman	Jetmore	1879		
JA Jackson	Holton	1855	Calhoun	
JF Jefferson	Oskaloosa	1855	Original	
JW Jewell	Mankato	1867	Mitchell	
JO Johnson	Olathe	1855	Original	
KE Kearny	Lakin	1873	Finney	
KM Kingman	Kingman	1886		

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ID	County	Seat	County Created	Former County	Former County Seat
KW	Kiowa	Greensburg	1886		
LB	Labette	Oswego	1867	Neosho	
LE	Lane	Dighton	1877	Finney	
LV	Leavenworth	Leavenworth	1855	Original	
LC	Lincoln	Lincoln	1867	Ellsworth	
LN	Linn	Mound City	1855	Original	
LG	Logan	Oakley	1881	St. John	
LY	Lyon	Emporia	1857	Breckenridge	
MN	Marion	Marion	1855	Chase	
MS	Marshall	Maysville	1855	Original	
MP	McPherson	McPherson	1867		
ME	Meade	Meade	1885		
MI	Miami	Paola	1855	Lykins	
MC	Mitchell	Beloit	1867		
MG	Montgomery	Independence	1867	Labette	
MR	Morris	Council Grove	1855	Wise	
MT	Morton	Elkhart	1881	Stanton	
NM	Nemaha	Seneca	1855	Original	
NO	Neosho	Erie	1855	Dorn	
NS	Ness	Ness City	1867	Hodgeman	
NT	Norton	Norton	1867	Billings	
OS	Osage	Lyndon	1855	Weller	
OB	Osborne	Osborne	1867	Mitchell	
OT	Ottawa	Minneapolis	1860	Saline	
PN	Pawnee	Larned	1867		
PL	Phillips	Phillipsburg	1867		
PT	Pottawatomie	Westmoreland	1857		
PR	Pratt	Pratt	1867	Stafford	
RA	Rawlins	Atwood	1873		
RN	Reno	Hutchinson	1867		
RP	Republic	Belleville	1860		
RC	Rice	Lyons	1867	Peketon	Beach Valley
RL	Riley	Manhattan	1855		
RO	Rooks	Stockton	1867		
RH	Rush	La Crosse	1867		
RS	Russell	Russell	1867	Ellsworth	
SA	Saline	Salina	1860	Original	
SC	Scott	Scott City	1873	Finney	
SG	Sedgwick	Wichita	1867	Butler	
SW	Seward	Liberal	1855	Godfrey	
SN	Shawnee	Topeka	1855	Original	
SD	Sheridan	Hoxie	1873		
SH	Sherman	Goodland	1873		
SM	Smith	Smith Center	1867		
SF	Stafford	St. John	1867		
ST	Stanton	Johnson	1873		
SV	Stevens	Hugoton	1873		
SU	Sumner	Wellington	1867	Cowley	
IH	Thomas	Colby	1873		
TR	Trego	WaKeeney	1867	Ellis	
WB	Wabaunsee	Alma	1855	Richardson	
WA	Wallace	Sharon Springs	1868		

WS Washington	Washington	1855	Original
WH Wichita	Leoti	1873	
WL Wilson	Fredonia	1855	Original
WO Woodson	Yates Center	1855	Original
WY Wyandotte	Kansas City	1859	Original

Irish Memories, Submitted by Caroline Howard

The Ludlow Massacre

At the beginning of the 20th century laborers had to work long hours in dangerous conditions for low pay. Accidents and deaths were common occurrences. Some progress in improving conditions was made by the labor unions. Strikes were their most effective tactic although the strikes frequently led to conflict with the authorities.

Bitter strikes occurred at Telluride, CO in 1901, and Cripple Creek, CO in 1904. In 1903 10,000 coal workers went out on strike, demanding shorter hours and better pay and working conditions. After an explosion killed 13 men the state militia stepped in to break the strike.

The troubles continued. Around 1912 miners and their families began to build and live in tent cities. They picketed mines and railroad stations. Armed confrontations and deaths occurred and the governor called in the National Guard. Conflicts between the strikers and the soldiers escalated.

In April 1914 the soldiers raided the tent city of Ludlow Station for the fifth time and killed a number of civilians, including women and children. Ludlow was located north of Trinidad, Colorado, at the junction of two large mines. The National Guard and barricaded miners had battled the whole day before the Guard gained control. When the battle was over 5 strikers, 1 soldier, and 1 boy had died of bullet wounds. Two women and 11 children hiding in a cellar suffocated when the guard set fire to the tent city. National newspapers called it a massacre and the whole country awaited developments.

Civil war raged in the coal fields for ten days between miners and company guards and soldiers. The miners overthrew the authorities in Trinidad and set up their own government. They burned mine property and besieged the large mines. It was not until President Wilson sent in 1600 federal troops with orders to disarm everyone - miners, owners, soldiers - that the fighting stopped.

The Walsh commission, properly known as the United States Commission on Industrial Relations, an independent investigating committee formed in 1912 by Congress, called the owner of the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company, John D. Rockefeller, to testify about his responsibilities in the Ludlow situation. The commission had the authority to regulate labor conditions, investigate the causes of strikes, and negotiate between employers and employees. In 1915 the Colorado General Assembly passed new labor and strike prevention laws. A workman's compensation law was also passed.

* * *

In early 1996, the Museum of Western Colorado and Mesa State College conducted an Elderhostel in Grand Junction, Colorado. One of the participants was Allan Lavelle from San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Lavelle got into a conversation with Brenda Bechter, the Museum's Director of Education, about his Irish ancestors who lived and worked in Naturita, Colorado in the 1920s. Mr. Lavelle was born there. After he went home Mr. Lavelle began sending musical instruments used by and

photographs of his family to the Museum as donations. The instruments were accompanied by many fascinating letters detailing their history and the history of his family. The letters give insight into the beliefs and political interests of the Irish immigrants of the time. Mr. Lavelle has kindly given permission for the parts of his letters which would be of interest to family history researchers to be published.

Quoting from the letters:

You mentioned your [Brenda Bechter's] interest in the European labor struggles and of your own grandfather coming to this country as an immigrant. I remember as a child how the Irish & Italians (in Colorado) often shared many of the same types of stories, that many of them left Europe for one reason or another, often associated with labor problems. As industrialism spread (in Italy), many workers became bewildered and were often displaced. I recall, as a child (in Denver), some of our friends and neighbors had grandfathers who worked in the marble mines and quarries of Italy, migrated to the U.S. and gradually worked their way to Colorado by way of the mines and steel mills of Pennsylvania and Colorado. Before drifting into Denver, many lived in and around Pueblo and Trinidad (I think). Some of the old Italian grandfather's boasted of working in the same mines and quarries that produced marble for the old Roman Emperors and the marble for Michelangelo's famous sculptures. Anyway! The Italians and Irish often lived cheek by jowl, shared the same religion and generally got along quite well. This is the violin of which I spoke to you. It was made in Germany about 1885-90. It was owned by my Mother **Mary Scholastica McDonald**, of **Leadville, Colorado**, where she was born in 1899. She was the "Belle Of The Town" (the "Nice" part of town), for her Father was the leading Doctor. Her mother's surname was **Gillgallon** and her Father was **Dr. A. J. McDonald** a prominent Physician and Chief Surgeon and was, I believe, one of the "Pioneer Doctors" who survived the Flu Epidemics and was associated with St Vincent's Hospital in Leadville until his death in the middle twenties.

My Mother learned to play the violin at Loretta Heights Academy which was outside of Denver. Later, after she married my Dad in 1919, and honeymooned in Climax, the young couple moved to **Naturita**. All my life, my Mother complained about my Dad dragging her down to Naturita where she had to live like a true pioneer. She often played the violin for her friends and neighbors and often on Saturdays, played for dances and other social gatherings at **Telluride** and other such places where the miners went to play baseball and dance. As I grew up I often heard her play it with a Trio made up of Cello, Viola and her Violin.

These tools are from the toolbox of one **John Richard Lavelle (Jack)** my father. He started out working for Union Carbide as an electrician in the "Little Joe Jr." mine at what is now called **Uravan**. This was from 1919 to about 1925... Most of the miner's who worked with my Dad in those days had to be quite handy, and with tools such as these did, in fact, build their

own furniture, repair the house, etc. My Dad even made his own tool box and many of his own tools. As a kid I even used these tools and am probably the one who didn't take care of them. Darn kids!!

I think Uravan is a contraction for uranium/vanadium and was coined after World War Two commenced and there was a demand for uranium. When my Dad worked there they were mining pitchblende which is found in petrified trees and from which radium was extracted. Radium was "the rage" back then and according to my Mother, Madame Curie and her husband did in fact journey to "Little Joe Junior" and dined with my parents.

My paternal Grandfather was born in 1875 in **Furness County, Ireland** between **Achill** and **Newport** which is on **Clew Bay**. He was one of five boys plus one sister. The entire family managed to emigrate to England, thence to Wales, where the boys who were old enough (about ten or twelve), worked in the mines long enough to save enough to emigrate to the U.S. (Pennsylvania) where they worked in the coal mines long enough to go somewhere else. Some of them like my Grandfather and his brother Tom ended up in Colorado, working wherever it was possible, often in the mines. Eventually my Grandfather got on the force of the Denver Fire Department in the 1930's and retired as a "Fire Captain", a job of which he was immensely proud. The region in Ireland from which the Lavelles left was always known for its men willing to "make things right". It was here that all the tenant farmers first shunned an unreasonable Landlord named Boycott. I think this was in the late 1840's. Also I have a photograph of "Lavelle Pub" near Achill, Ireland which, according to some, was a "Hangout" for some of the earliest "Molly Maguires" who intimidated unreasonable Tax Collectors and Brutal Landlords. When callous mine owners in Pennsylvania tried roughshod methods on Irish miners, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, or at least some of their members, resurrected the "Mollies". Anyway such people did form the nucleus of some of the early Labor Movements and I think Colorado has long been in the forefront of Labor Legislation for some of the above reasons.

Many of the Irish were rural people no longer able to live off the land because of high taxes, the potato famine etc., but like my grandfather, his six brothers, mother and other family members worked in the mines of Wales to earn enough to travel to the U.S. to work where they worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania, then some of them drifted into Colorado, some becoming "Hard-rock" miners, the others working in coal or whatever took a strong back and hard work, paid low wages for very long hours and promised an early death. Is it any wonder they drifted into political and social "activism"???? or why Colorado has an interesting history of being in the "Labor Movement" almost from the beginning????

My Grandfather and his brother's went by many names for when they originally came from Ireland their Gaelic name was **O'Maolfhabhail**, later changed to **O'Mullavelle** which was still hard for Americans to pronounce. It was then changed to **Lavelle**, as it is now, but even then some of our relatives are known as **LaVelle**, **Level**, **Lovell** and so on. Many of them were engaged in economic, and political struggles and in early days some who preceded my grandparents and uncles were notorious "Molly Maguires" in Pennsylvania before drifting on to Colorado. I think I may have a bagpipe that may have been used to stir up the fighting spirit...

My Grandfather and many Uncles all seemed to always be

strumming the banjo and guitar or playing the bagpipe and fiddle and rousing "Anti British", "Anti Mine Owner", "Damn the Pinkerton Bastards" & "Remember Ludlow" songs. Some of we kids somehow or another could whack out the melodies for those songs. I will be happy to send you one or two of these instruments if you would think you could use them in a display of one kind or another though I think they might offend visiting tourists from England with the slogans painted on them. The family had musical instruments of all kinds and I have memories of horrendous sounds that drove me crazy when I was a kid. Fiddle & bagpipes - I hated with a passion as a kid. Today, I love the fiddle and even play one.

I believe I told you I had an "Irish Guitar" used by the miner's. On the front of it it says 'Erin Go Braugh' (Ireland Forever Free) on the back it says: "Capitalist Mine owner's Strike-breakers, Pinkerton's, English Mine owners are all filthy rotten bastards! May they all rot in hell!!" My cousins and I all learned to play it somehow, and I still do. This instrument was used by some members of the family, for as I think I may have told you, my grandfather and his mother along with four brothers, left Ireland but got only as far as Wales where they all worked in the mines long enough to book passage to America. For many years they worked in the mines of Pennsylvania, drifting into Colorado probably in the late 1880's. As a young kid all I heard about was what happened in Ludlow, Colorado in 1914 and on fourth of July's the entire family would go there and talk about what happened. How they figured in the scheme of things, I don't know, but must assume they might have been a part of it and I can still hear my dad say to me: "I want you to remember what happened here Boy! Don't ever forget!!"

Although I am not certain I think some of my close relatives were involved in many early "Labor Struggles" in Ireland, Wales, Pennsylvania and Colorado, for such were the main topics of conversation during leisure hours when I was a kid and at least once a year, our family and several others made a pilgrimage to Ludlow and we were told "To never, ever, forget". As a small child I didn't know what they were talking about. I do know that four O'Mullavelle brothers were hung in Furness, County Mayo for early "Molly Maguire" activities against the British, then later in Pennsylvania, members of the family were involved in similar struggles with the "Bloody Mine Owners" in Pennsylvania and later, of course, in Colorado. As a young man I thought that being a member of the Sinn Fein went along with being an "Altar Boy". Anyway, at this late stage of my life, I am beginning to understand more about my early life and the forces that shaped my personality. As an act of youthful rebellion I married the first Protestant girl I ever met and we have celebrated our Golden Wedding Anniversary recently.

Editor's note: You may address correspondence for Allan Lavelle to: The Museum of Western Colorado, PO Box 20000-5020 Grand Junction, CO 81502-5020 Attn: Carolyn. **Place your correspondence in a stamped envelope with Mr. Lavelle's name on it and it will be forwarded.**