

MESA

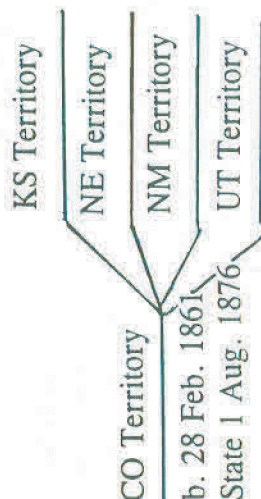
DWELLERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81502-1506

JUNE JULY, AUGUST, 1997
VOLUME 17, NO. 2



b. 28 Feb. 1861

State 1 Aug. 1876

Lake Co.

b. Sept. 1861

Gunnison Co.

b. 1887

Mesa Co.

b. 1882



CLAN
CHRONICLER

1996/1997 OFFICERS

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Vice President	Donna Roberts	
Secretary	Gloria Heitsman	
Treasurer	Betty Grosskopf	
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Three Year Term	Dianna Sheldon

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Historian	Jeanne Edwards	
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Programs	Dennis Jenkins	
Computer Editor	Rick Sheldon	
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Newsletter Editor	Juanita Moston	

Annual Dues: \$10 Singles; \$12 Family. Membership period is March 1st to April 30th. Those with **UNPAID DUES** (after April 30th.) will not receive the Newsletter. **Send a SASE to receive a current membership card if you do not attend regular meetings.**

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.

*** CALENDAR ***

June *NOTE - change of meeting date.

19 Joe Graham of the Celtic Society, 7:00 p.m., Museum of Western Colorado. A presentation about this newly formed organization and some history of the Cornish.

July

10 Sharing Research. 7:00 p.m. Museum of Western Colorado. Members are encouraged to bring examples of successful research and questions about stonewalls being encountered.

August

7 Board Meeting. 7:00 p.m., Joan Chaffin's house

14 Annual Picnic. Hawthorne Park Shelter, between 4th and 5th St. on Gunnison Ave., 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Bring your own service and a favorite dish to share. Door (?) prizes.

September

11 Reschedule of Betty Summer's presentation on *Becoming and Being a Professional*. 7:00 p.m. Museum of Western Colorado.

REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

June	Donna Roberts
July	Dorothy O'Dwyer and Dorothy Roper
August	Summer Picnic
September	Norm and Mary Kronvall
October	Wynona Hennessey
November	Laveta Kay
December	Christmas Party

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK by Joan Chaffin

Thank you very much to the following volunteers who helped at our booth at the Heritage Fair, at Cross Orchards: Betty Grosskopf, Gloria Heitzman, Jody Nestler, Peggy Haubold, Dennis Jenkins, Laveta Kay, Jeanne Edwards, Russ Herre, Wynona Hennessey, Donna Roberts, Norm Kronvall, Ron Halsey, Bill Epperson, Adela Covey and Don Chaffin. We handed out pedigree sheets and had some interested potential members of all ages. We had some wonderful discussions about genealogy, despite having to compete with the entertainment that was going on nearby.

Your President has found another "my last name is not spelled like that". How about Enright ending up in the census as "Ainwright"? Could that have anything to do with an accent? James was born in Ireland and his wife, Margaret was born in Scotland.

MUSINGS FROM 136-YEARS AGO

The following letter was written July 6, 1861 by Louis Rosette, a personal friend of Abraham Lincoln. It is on White House stationery and has survived due to the care given it by his great-great niece, Betty Dougherty, membership chairperson for the Mesa County Genealogical Society.

"Washington, D.C. 6th July, 1861

Sister Anne,

I am here and not well. Have been over in Virginia - seen the rebels - and helped capture some. It is all excitement here - nothing but soldiers and one continual whirl and tromp of hooves. There are a thousand things I think of but it is almost impossible to write - such confusion. I seen J. W. Jones of your place well and all.

I have just returned from the White House on a visit to the President. I had the freedom of the House on account of old acquaintance I suppose, for there are many who go away without seeing him. The best piece of news I can write you is that I am out of the army now and nothing but a Civilian and I intend to settle down and try to protect you in Earnest after this. Every person here are strangers - all hunting office or keeping boarding houses and I am not very favorably impressed with this city. If I can I will stop at home a day or two - but I expect to carry some dispatches to Cairo (Illinois). I don't know how it will be.

Tell all of my friends I am well. It is a horrid thing - this arming brother to shoot brother, still the Union must be preserved - blood flows like rain. It has nearly used me up just what time I have been amongst the soldiers - they all seem anxious for the fight - they are now

shooting at each other over the river. I was arrested while there but soon released by escaping. I made good use of my legs until I crossed the lines of our picket guard. Then after getting amongst my friends I was scary as could be. There are a thousand things to interest one here and I could not tell you about them in a month. A company of U. S. Cavalry just went dashing down the streets for the long bridge. So over we go. Give my love to all the folks and believe me.
Yours, Louis"

COMPUTER CORNER by Rick Sheldon

Once you are using the Internet for genealogical purposes, there are several options that you have available to you for gathering more information or trying to find the "missing link". Thanks to Russ Herre many of us have been made aware of the US GenWeb project to promote genealogical research on the Internet. This is a whole system of genealogical links to all of the States and their counties. From these links there are different avenues that you have access to, from leaving an inquiry to viewing the notes or posting of other individuals and listings of the various societies and organizations that can be utilized in our searches. The best avenue for this is to start with Russ's Mesa County GenWeb site and follow the links to the other GenWeb pages throughout the Internet.

Similarly most of the State Genealogical Organizations will also have listings of the various branches throughout the state. These can all offer inroads for more information and research ideas to aid in finding that one clue you need. Now if you know the site address for the particular State's Genealogical page simply start there and follow the shortcuts to the specifics you want.

But, if you don't know the address then the next step is to do a Web search. There are a couple of different ways to find a search engine or search site. You can access - either www.microsoft.com which will offer several different "brands" i.e. Excite, HotBot, Lycos, Alta-vista, Yahoo, etc. or the Netscape site will do the same thing in their netsearch group. Most of the local providers offer the same thing on their own search page. AOL should have something along the same idea. Just chose whichever one feels lucky and start. For example, since I have family roots in Iowa and have very little knowledge of either the state, the locale, or the family history in Iowa this is what I did.

First, I went to one of the many search engines (mechanism for searching Internet) and chose one of them, in this case HotBot, and in the search string (words or phrases to look for) I entered *genealogy Iowa* no commas, dashes or any other separators and clicked on search.

The response gave me web sites that had both genealogy and Iowa mentioned on those pages. Then it was a case of browsing through the different pages that I thought looked most promising. Since I was most interested in the different counties and societies those pages that included those items in the description were the ones that I started with. I should now bring up the fact that this process is not a five minutes operation but has a tendency to evolve into a time warp, because before you know it you've spend +60 minutes just looking at the various sites to find the "right" page.

After I found a site that had what I was looking for, which happened to be an Iowa County page, I then left an inquiry for information regarding both a cemetery and hopefully some information about a relative. Now these can be a boom or a bust. Some of the postings that I have left withered on the vine and died, while others have led to contacts from both the caretaker of the page and even other genealogy buffs. Case in point, an inquiry on an Ohio County page, linked to the Ohio Genealogical Society had both the county page administrator and two different individuals contacting me about a Great Grandfather who had lived in that county in the early 1800's. One of the individuals wanted information, the other had information to give. This led to various letters or notes, as they were through the e-mail. All-in-all I received some help and the lady with information to give got three more names of Sheldon relatives all searching the same part of the family line, just different branches.

Now from this research I have maps of the county that I was interested in, some geographical data showing this county is still 85 percent farming, information on how the county was developed and more information on why the family moved there. I have also located the cemetery where most of the family residing in Iowa is buried, which also gives me a better idea of the general locals of where the family lived in the county.

So you can see that this process can be used for about anything you want to find on the Internet. You can use the same formula to find maps, locations, public records, or general information about a state or locale. Now, I don't want someone to think that all the public records are out on the Internet because this is simply not the case. But several States, which Indiana and I think Illinois are two, have made available some land records and other state records that can be accessed via the Internet; nor do I want to give the impression that all searches are successful because we know that to not be the truth.

If you want to have a little fun try doing a search just on your last name or names. I stumbled on all sorts of interesting things this way. I found what turned out to be distant cousins, (very distant), a theater in St. Louis named The Sheldon, a very interesting church in the Carolina's by the same name, and if any one is interested

I have pictures of both. As a result of a search of Sheldons done by another individual I found out that there is a Sheldon Family Home page which asked to link my home page to theirs, and thus became a member of the Sheldon Family Association plus was given the name and address with resulting correspondence to the Sheldon Family Genealogist (a paid one by gosh).

OK, on to some other things. If you have missed the last few meetings, the Society WEB page has received some responses from people visiting our page. So we are making a presence out on the Internet and it should get better as more searches pick up our page, and since our newsletter goes out to other Societies they should

make note of **Our Home Page** which is **www.geocities.com/Heartland/Plains**

/8030 subtle huh? Just a mention, if you hit on the society's web site, Russ does take the time to list the upcoming events for both the society and other related organizations so you can keep updated on the monthly programs. The links to other sites are updated as well: the Public Library and the Museum of Western Colorado pages are listed as links so you can go from ours to theirs - not sure about from theirs to ours though. We would like to get more of the members listed on the page, currently we have 17 members listed. If you have forgotten you can [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It was brought up at one of the meetings that some of the members would like a list of e-mail addresses of society members listed in the newsletter. If you are agreeable to having your e-mail address in the newsletter pass [REDACTED]

New PAF News

A new release of PAF has just been announced. They have not made it a windows based program and probably never will, but they have come out with some new enhancements. It looks and sounds like they have made some good changes. Anyone interested in getting the new or upgrade version can call me or Dorothy Roper, [REDACTED]

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USING MAPS FOR GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL RESEARCH

by Carolyn Howard

Maps! Maps! Maps!, a one day seminar designed to introduce genealogists to the benefits of using maps to help solve research problems was hosted by the Family History Society of Arizona and featured guest speaker Ronald E. Grim, Ph.D. Dr. Grim, who worked for the cartographic division of the National Archives for 10 years and has been at the Library of Congress for 14 years, compared the map collections held by these agencies and discussed ways to use maps to research rural and urban neighborhoods in both the United States and Europe and how to locate the appropriate maps.

How can maps help genealogists? They can be used to: 1) place family names in specific locations, 2) trace changing settlement patterns in rural and urban neighborhoods, 3) trace boundary changes over time (state, county, civil), and 4) determine geographical locations and place names.

Many types of maps can be used to place a surname and particular family within a geographic context. Some of these include: estate maps which show the holdings of one family, landownership maps, plat maps, county and regional maps, census enumeration district maps and Civil War maps. In addition to showing roads, bridges, train tracks, and towns, many Civil War maps also include farms and the name of the owner/resident. Maps outlining enumeration districts within cities may also show the names of rural landowners whose holdings are adjacent to the city.

Changing settlement patterns over time are also depicted on maps. By comparing old maps with newer maps, changing geographical neighborhood patterns can be seen. Current streets can be seen to follow roads created in the 1600s and current road names can be seen to be the same as those first given to the road or neighborhood when the area was initially settled. County tax assessor's maps show the development of a town and its rural areas as the population grew. Owner/resident are indicated by name on the early maps and can be discerned in more populous times when used in conjunction with the assessor's printed records.

Land records, court records and census records are recorded at the county level. Birth, marriage and death records are recorded at the parish, county and/or state levels. It is, therefore, necessary for the researcher to be aware of changing boundaries in order to be able to locate the desired records. Maps record and reflect these changes over time.

The first step in finding a map useful for your research is to consult published sources. **Directories of map collections** provide bibliographies and locations of

institutions with map holdings. **Place name literature**, including gazetteers, geographical dictionaries and postal guides, provides a listing of place names and geographic features by state.

Gazetteers contain alphabetical listings of places and give map references (longitude and latitude) to their location. An **atlas** as defined by the dictionary is a "book or bound collection of maps", or "any volume of tables, charts or plates that systematically illustrates a particular subject". In addition to maps, atlases often give information about selected places and the people who live there. **Geographical dictionaries** contain alphabetical listings of place names and give a brief description and a short history of the place. **Postal guides** are alphabetical listings by state of post offices in that state, both past and present, with the year of their founding and closure, and a brief history.

It is also possible to research European locations using gazetteers and geographical dictionaries. The U.S. Defense Mapping Agency published a gazetteer organized on current county boundaries which can be used to research historic German place names. Separate volumes cover East and West Germany and Poland. Geographical dictionaries and gazetteers can be used to research the evolution of newer place names and to discover various names used by that place through time.

After consulting the available published sources the researcher should locate period and historic maps, such as road, county and topographical maps. Place names are persistent over time. That is, once a place is named, that name will continue to be used for long periods of time (even after the reason for the name has been forgotten) and will appear on maps printed after the date the name came into general usage. Look for maps in state archives, historical societies, museums, public libraries and universities with geography departments, to name just a few.

The Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division, has more than 460,000 maps and 50,000 atlases for the United States and Europe, produced by government and private agencies. Most are published maps (landownership maps, fire insurance maps, civil maps), some are in manuscript form, and some are in collections. They are arranged in geographic order, from largest to smallest geographic division (for example - country, state, county, parish). There is no comprehensive listing. Library of Congress collections can be accessed in part on the Internet.

The National Archives, Cartographic and Architectural Division, College Park, Maryland, has more than 2 million maps, and 7-9 million aerial photographs. Included in this collection are census maps, manuscript maps (used to make published maps), and aerial photographs. Each collection of maps has its own arrangement scheme and finding aids have been created

in the form of cards containing a description of the maps in the collection.

Maps for researching rural neighborhoods can be broken down into 1) cultural landscape (streams, lakes, mountains, etc.), 2) settlement features (cities, farms, roads, etc.), and 3) cadastral surveys (land boundaries). Maps allow the researcher to develop a composite picture of the land as it originally appeared and to document and track landownership over time. As the United States was settled, land was first distributed to the people by the state, the federal government, and by original land grants.

General Land Office Surveys

Maps for the non-public land or state land states (the original thirteen colonies plus Texas and Hawaii) are plotted in metes and bounds (so many measured units from a named reference point, in a given direction, returning to the reference point). The State was the original landowner and was responsible for initial distribution of the land. The State Land Office retains the original survey maps. These maps can also be found in the state archives.

Land in public land states was originally owned by the Federal Government which was responsible for its distribution. The land was divided into squares parallel to the baseline and the principal meridian. Each six mile square is called a township and is named according to the baseline (N, S, E, W) and the number of squares away from the baseline. Each township contains 36 sections of 640 acres each which can be divided into quarter sections, and smaller divisions, such as quarter quarter sections. Railroads were granted alternating sections, called railroad lands, which were to be sold by the railroad to finance construction.

Three copies of the original survey plats were made and are retained as follows: 1) The surveyor general's plat - the state Office of the Surveyor General, the Bureau of Land Management, state archives and state historical societies, 2) the headquarters plat (the official copy sent back to Washington, D.C.) - National Archives, Bureau of Land Management in many western states, and 3) the local land office copy - kept in the office where the land was sold and numbered as the land was sold. This land office number refers back to the land entry papers which include the homestead application (HA), the homestead entry (HE), the final certificate (FC), as well as other documents. File notes created during the survey describe the survey, the land and the type of soil. At the end is a general summary for the whole township. The survey and the file notes are recorded in books.

One disadvantage of the general land survey system was that the whole state was not surveyed at the same time. For instance, it took over thirty years to map the state of Kansas. Another was that the mapping was not done by one individual, but was contracted out to local surveyors who were each given a small area to survey.

Some surveys were not done and some were falsified.

Original Land Grants

Some of the land which was originally settled by the English, Spanish or French governments was distributed in the form of land grants to individuals and to groups as reward for service. These original land grants were generally honored by the U.S. government as it gained possession of these areas. In Virginia, the Northern Neck Land Grants were given to an individual and later sold by him to others. In the West (Arizona, Colorado, California), large irregular parcels of land in the middle of squared general land office surveyed land usually represent Spanish land grant lands. This is also true in Florida and Georgia.

County Atlas Maps

Some states began county mapping as early as 1820. County atlases included the towns and roads, and in some states, the names of major landowners. These atlases were created to be sold for profit on a subscription basis in the most populated and wealthy areas. Generally atlases were produced for public land states, rather than state land states, because squares and rectangles were easier to map than metes and bounds and maps were published as atlases rather than as single maps. These atlases included illustrations (lithographic drawings) of prized animals and livestock (for which the proud owner paid extra), lists of subscribers, a map of the county as a whole, and township maps.

There are few county atlases for the western states which were on the frontier and sparsely settled, and there are few for the southeast, which was undergoing reconstruction after the Civil War and were generally too poor to be able to afford them. Content varies. Because they were done on a subscription basis, in some areas only the landowners who subscribed were included. In other areas all land owners were included. The Library of Congress has 1500 single county maps and 1300 county atlases before 1917.

Large Wall Maps

Large wall maps began to be commercially published in the 1850s. They included the names of landowners but not the extent of their land holdings. In Maryland the maps showed the location of freed slaves who had moved there at the encouragement of the Quakers, and also included insets of major towns and the names of landowners. Check the state archives, state library, state historical society for manuscript maps which were used to compile the larger maps which were sold to the public.

Civil War Maps

At the time of the Civil War there were few good maps. The best were the 1840-50 county landownership maps. The opposing armies began to use hot air balloons to draw reconnaissance maps (these included roads, towns, natural features, and farms with the name of the resident) and after battle maps. One map was created for each day

of battle at Gettysburg, showing the location of troops during battle and detailed topographic features. Names of some landowners were included. Buildings were labeled to show if they were built of stone or wood.

Map Resources for Urban Neighborhoods Fire Insurance Maps

Changes in a building can be documented over time using fire insurance maps. These maps were first published about 1860 by Brasher, Heximer and Sanborn, among others. By 1900 Sanborn publishers had a monopoly and fire insurance maps became collectively known as "Sanborn maps". Not all cities are covered by fire insurance maps. Each addition of the fire insurance maps have multiple pages covering various areas of the city and begins with an index map. Buildings are color coded to indicate the type of construction material (frame, brick, stone, etc.), and letter coded to indicate the building use (store, saloon, dwelling, etc.). The house number and street number appear in front of each building and in conjunction with city directories can be used to determine the resident (not necessarily the owner) of the building.

After 1930, rather than publish a new edition each time, old fire insurance maps were updated with pasted on corrections. Under copy right laws, two copies of copy righted material must be given to The Library of Congress. The Library of Congress kept one copy of the Sanborn map under copy right and gave the second copy to a facility in the state involved. Local insurance companies also had fire insurance maps which they gave to local libraries when they were no longer needed.

Real Estate Atlases

These atlases include the buildings colored yellow on the Sanborn maps. They were published for the largest cities only and showed lot ownership by name.

Panoramic or Bird's Eye View Maps

These maps were drawn by artists and depicted cities as they would appear from 2000-3000 feet overhead, and were usually commissioned by the city fathers to show the business areas. The idea originated during the Civil War when military map makers would go up in hot air balloons to make battlefield drawings. Panoramic maps have proven to be fairly accurate and are a good source for tracking construction over time.

Original Town Plans

These maps show how streets and lots were laid out as the town was started.

Ward Maps

Used to indicate voting wards, these maps also show streets and major buildings.

Census Enumeration District Maps

Used to indicate the area covered/assigned to a census taker, they also show streets, buildings, and farm areas.

Street Maps - show street layout.

Topographical Maps

U.S. Geological Survey maps are useful for following the growth of cities over time. They are also useful for pinpointing rural locations when only a named physical feature is known: "I remember they used to live near Carter's Gap at the head of the creek". Using a metes and bounds land description and matching it to features on a topographical map, such as "north at the head of the creek", or "up the left arm of the swamp", you may also be able to pinpoint an historic location.

Thematic Maps

Thematic maps are those which deal with one or two related topics and show statistical information for each block which is included. For example, the WPA real property surveys (found in the National Archives) or one dealing with ethnic patterns in a city. (See bibliography).

Aerial photographs

These included rural as well as urban areas. Early "barn storming" airplane pilots took aerial photographs to sell to the public. By 1943 about 85% of the United States landscape had been photographed. A "parked car survey" done in Washington D.C. to see where cars were parked in the city, had the added benefit of showing the buildings in existence at the time. Aerial photographs were and are also used by many city planning departments who continue to update them over time. Check your city planning department, the county surveyor's office, and your local/regional museum.

There are many more kinds of maps and uses for them than have been discussed in this article. Use your imagination, be innovative, put maps to use to help you solve your particular research problem.

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(NOTE: (*) before a title indicates that it can be found in the Mesa County Public Library. LOC = Library of Congress; NA = National Archives; FHL = LDS Family History Library)

Directories of Map Collections

Map Collections in the United States and Canada: A Directory. Edited by David Carrington and Richard W. Stephenson.

World Directory of Map Collections. Lorraine Dubreuil, ed. Checklist of Printed Maps of the Middle West to 1900. 14 vols. Robert W. Karrow, Jr., ed.

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List of Selected Maps of States and Territories.

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From Sea Charts to Satellite Images. David Buisseret, ed. Panoramic Maps of Cities in the United States and Canada: A Checklist of Maps in the Collections of the Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. John R. Hebert and Patrick Dempsey.

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Fire Insurance Maps in the Library of Congress: Plans of North American Cities and Towns Produced by the Sanborn Map Company. Walter Ristow. Lists fire insurance maps in the LOC, and libraries where duplicate sets of maps can be found.
Union List of Sanborn Fire Insurance maps Held by Institutions in the United States and Canada. Library of Congress.

Gazetteers

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The National Gazetteer of the United States of America, U.S. Geological Survey.

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Leon E. Seltzer, ed. based on the 1855 edition.

Chambers World Gazetteer: An A-Z of Geographical Information. David Munro, ed.

*Lippincott's Pronouncing Gazetteer.

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Atlases (a sampling of the diversity of atlases)

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*Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide. Rand McNally. Business atlas and shipper's guide.

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Edith F. Axelson. Iberian Publishing Company.

Settlement Patterns

*Compendium of Historical Sources. Ronald A. Bremer
population diffusion paths, migration routes and historical trails, English, Spanish and French claims, military reserves.

Census Schedules

Enumeration District Descriptions, 1840 to present.

Verbal descriptions of the enumeration districts by state. (microfilm NA; FHL)

Geographical index to census manuscript schedules.

Maps 1900 to present. (microfilm NA; FHL)

Special Cartographic Catalogs (NA)

"Geographical Exploration and Topographic Mapping by the United States Government, 1777-1952"

"United States Scientific Geographical Exploration of the Pacific Basin, 1783-1899"

"Federal Exploration of the American West Before 1880"

Please contact Carolyn at the Museum of Western Colorado, 970-242-0971 for more information.

IDENTIFYING TOWNSHIPS

Editor's note: One more important piece of documentation that should be copied when searching census records. Taken from *Heritage Quest*, May/June 1997 issue #69, pg. 77

"When looking for your ancestor in later federal censuses, note the post office and the civil subdivisions (township, city, precinct, borough, ward, beat, village) entered by the census-taker at the top of the schedule. These smaller parts of a county can help identify the exact place where your ancestor lived. A useful reference is: Jay Androit, *Township Atlas of the United States*, 1991. This expensive 1,508-page book, found in most good genealogy collections - arranges the states alphabetically, gives an historical summary of each, and lists the subdivisions. Outline maps show the modern (not historical) boundaries of over 70,000 (sic) places listed by the Bureau of the Census. The book should be used in conjunction with local histories which describe the structure of the civil divisions of earlier times."

SHARE YOUR FAMILY STORIES

Don't keep your family's history to yourself. Get your ancestor's stories in print. Submit your stories to the *Mesa Dweller* so we can all enjoy and learn from your research. Include pictures if you have them.