

# MESA

# DWELLERS

A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1506

GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO 81502-1506

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, 1998  
VOLUME 18, NO. 2

KS Territory

NE Territory

NM Territory

UT Territory

CO Territory

b. 28 Feb. 1861

State 1 Aug. 1876

Lake Co.

b. Sept. 1861

Gunnison Co.

b. 1887

Mesa Co.

b. 1882

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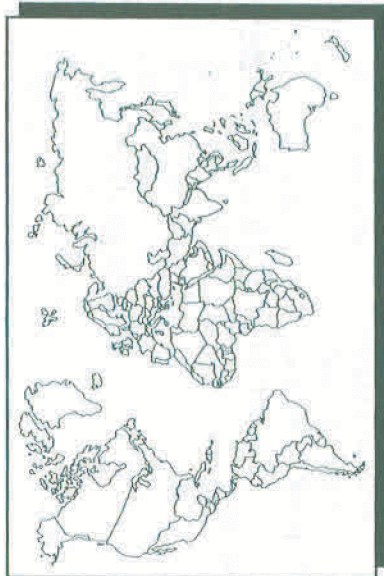
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## 1998 OFFICERS

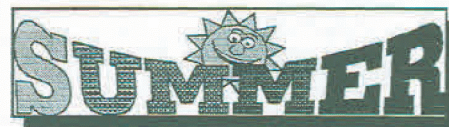
President	Jody Nestler	
Vice President	Donna Roberts	
Secretary	Diana Sheldon	
Treasurer	Laveta Kay	
Corr. Sec'try	Wynona Hennessey	

## ELECTED OFFICERS

One Year Term	Norm Kronvall
Two Year Term	Joan Chaffin
Three Year Term	Betty Jane Grosskopf

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

AGLL Librarian	Betty Jane Grosskopf	
Historian	Jeanne Edwards	
MCGS Librarian	Gloria Heitsman	
Membership	Ron Knapp	
Programs	Dennis Jenkins	
Computer Editor	Rick Sheldon	
Web Page Editor	Rick Sheldon	
Newsletter Editor	Juanita Moston	



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

### JUNE

11 Donna Roberts and Gloria Heitsman will present a program on *Identifying Old Photographs* by analyzing the clothing, hairstyles, props, etc., in the picture.

### JULY

9 *Share Session*: Come prepared to discuss your recent Genealogical Research successes and to ask for ideas on how to get past the Stone Walls that are impeding your quest to find your elusive ancestor.

### AUGUST

13 **Annual Picnic**: Pot-Luck at Hawthorne Park Pavilion, 6:00 p.m.

20 **Board Meeting**, 7:00 p.m.,

### SEPTEMBER

10 **General Meeting**

*NOTE: All society meetings are held at 7:00 PM, in the C. D. Smith Building, 5th and Ute. PARK AND ENTER on the west side of the building using the ramp at the corner of the parking area.*

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## REFRESHMENT VOLUNTEERS

June	Liz Mustee & Pat Blackburn
July	Norm & Mary Kronvall
August	Annual Picnic
September	Dorothy O'Dwyer & Dorothy Roper
October	Gloria Heitsman
November	Joyce Stinson
December	Christmas Party

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Sandra Patterson, Loma, CO, and Shannon Valora, Hayden, CO.

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, C. D. Smith Building, 5th. and Ute Ave., Grand Junction, CO at 7:00 p.m., on the second Thursday of each month. Visitors are welcome.

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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]

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



**SOCIETY LOSES A GOOD FRIEND****Ron Halsey 1951-1998**

Ron Halsey was a very active member of the Society and will be greatly missed. He was born in Sterling, CO to Wayne and Mary Halsey. He was a long time genealogist and had traced his family back several generations. He was an active member of the cemetery committee, and was responsible for compiling all the data gathered by the committee and preparing it for publication. He recently completed the Memorial Gardens records in preparation for publication. His list of contributions to the Society is long and varied; it included donation of a printer, writing grant requests, and many articles for the newsletter.

###

Mary Halsey writes the following letter to the Society and friends of Ron Halsey.

"Ron thoroughly enjoyed genealogy and working with the Mesa County Genealogical Society. He had a great deal of success with his research (we called it dumb luck). He was able to locate numerous relatives - some whom we'd never met. It was amazing how many just happened to be passing through Grand Junction. Loved him anyway.

Thanks to everyone for your support to Ron."

**PRESIDENT'S LETTER** by Jody Nestler

The last few months have been busy ones for the Society and many individuals. The very successful National Genealogical Society Conference in Denver is now history and was enjoyed by an appreciative contingent from our group. As always, Dennis Jenkins was at the forefront of the planning, particularly as Chairman of the Awards Committee. Dennis nominated Mesa County's own Alfred Look for the 1998 Memorial Hall of Fame - David S. Vogels Award. Ultimately Mr. Look was selected as the honoree. Way to Go, Dennis! It is always good to see appropriate attention brought to the Western Slope.

In April, our regular meeting brought us all on

"Candid Camera" as the local PBS station visited, interviewing a couple of the group. It is nice to have this recognition as more and more of the populace learn the joys of searching for their roots. The May meeting was a forum for those who attended the national Conference. The rest of us listened to their reports with great interest. Some brought back tapes of specific interest and indicated willingness to lend them. Dennis displayed the *Colorado Resource Handbook*, a reference guide to Colorado genealogical resources. (See discussion elsewhere in this newsletter). This handbook will be available at the library, Family History Center and the Museum of Western Colorado. We need to thank those members of our society who volunteered assistance at the conference. Many worked many hours, sandwiching in their seminar attendance as they could.

Recently, I received an e-mail from Russ Herre, who initially struck terror into my heart. Due to the fact that Russ is very involved with many web sites, in addition to the necessary task of earning a living, he determined he needed to resign as the web site editor. Russ has done an exemplary job starting this site from scratch, constantly updating and improving. Thank you, Russ, for your hard work; we appreciate you. Fortunately, we have another in our group who is learned in this area and has agreed to continue the web site. Rick Sheldon will be the new editor. We are fortunate to have such knowledgeable people in our group.

We continue to field inquiries and requests for applications to our society. I have asked Rick to put our application form on line; in this way, interested people may download the form and send it in. It makes the application process much easier.

Summer is coming; time to move outside and maybe spend less time at the computer and film reading!?! Don't forget the picnic in August. In September we will be participating in the Celtic Fair once again - September 26, to be exact. See you soon.



## Was There a Doctor in Your Family Tree?



If you are fortunate enough to have a medical doctor in your family tree, you have a new research source to investigate. The National Genealogical Society now offers a research service from the *American Medical Association's Deceased Physician File*. The file is incomplete from 1878 to 1905 but very comprehensive from 1906-1969. And remember, this is from the DECEASED Physician's File. I would speculate that some birth information goes back at least to 1800!

### To request a search contact:

National Genealogical Society  
Attn: Physician Research  
4527 17th Street North  
Arlington, VA 22207-2399

### Include:

First and Last Name of Physician; Time Period; and Location (if known). **Research Fee:** \$15 per name (prepayment required).  
(THE FAMILY TREE, April/May, 1998)

## ENGLISH PEOPLE TRANSPORTED TO THE COLONY



This information was reprinted in the *Colonial Times* in Hobart Tasmania, originally sent to the paper by a colonist to show the people of the colony the type of person being sent from England. These names were extracted from "Gardners Chronicle", and were taken from the lists from "Charles Dickens narrative of Household Events".

### July 25 1851..

...George Viall, convicted of wilfully and feloniously setting fire to his dwelling house, with intent to defraud an insurance company. Sentenced to 10 years transportation.

...George Fawkes, aged 33, was convicted of stabbing, cutting and drowning a young woman named Mary Macbeth, the daughter of the Mitre of Northampton, with intent to do her grievous bodily

harm. Sentenced to be transported for life 26th July 1851.

...The Windsor Burglary.. Thomas Ash, a smith, age 24, was convicted of a burglary in the dwelling house of Mr. Wm. Tucker, a very old man, in his 92nd year and with having wounded him and his housekeeper, Mrs Whittaker, an old woman of 75. Sentenced to be transported for life.

...27 September 1851 Stabbing..Jeremiah Sullivan 59, an Irish laborer, was convicted of stabbing his wife, Julia Sullivan, in the abdomen with the intent to murder her. The wound was of so dangerous a character that the poor woman was 11 weeks in the hospital. Sentenced to 20 yrs transportation.

(Note: this was gleaned from the Internet and can not be verified for accuracy.)

## WHAT IS A 'MAKE DO'?

(Taken from the FAMILY TREE, April/May, 1998)

"Make do's" are one of a kind things. They are made of whatever scraps of materials, i.e., glass, ceramics, wood and cloth that are on hand. "Make do's" may have originally begun as ladies' fancy projects in Victorian magazines using gingham instead of lace, or cotton fabric instead of silk, etc. "Make do's" can also be objects such as teapots or boxes, whose missing parts - handles or lids, etc., - were replaced with homemade versions.

This also applies to newsletters, that when the editor has a hard time finding material and is forced to fill space with stories such as this!

## TOMBSTONE RUBBINGS IN THE NEWS

A few months ago there was a great deal of discussion on the proper way to make a rubbing of a headstone. This may be a way to do it without causing damage to the stone.

Take a piece of Pellon; this can be purchased at any fabric store; attach it with masking tape or some other semi-permanent type tape to the stone, and using a lumberman's crayon smudge or smear like you would with chalk or graphite over the Pellon.

The Pellon comes in white, cream or black and the lumberman's crayon comes in a variety of colors;



they are available at most hardware stores.

Remember, however, that you should always check to see if you are allowed to make rubbings before you begin. In New Hampshire, for instance, it is illegal for a person to make gravestone rubbings in any cemetery without first obtaining the permission of the selectmen or cemetery trustees.

## CELTIC SOCIETY SETS DATE FOR HIGHLAND GAMES



The local Celtic Society has selected Sept. 26th for this year's festivities. Those so inclined may want to get out their plaids and kilts and make sure they are ready for the big day.

Along this line.... Do you know who the Picts were?

Chieftain Hope-Vere Anderson gives the following bit of information.

The Picts' name is derived from the Roman writer Eumenius who dubbed them the "Picti", The Painted Ones, because of the warriors' habit of smearing their bodies with dyes, "woad," before battle.

One of the few clues to their life-style comes from the many carved stones they erected. Historians have not been able to decode the system of symbols they used. Researchers hope the new finds at Tarbat Church, Portmahomack, Scotland will help them understand the symbols.

The Picts once stretched from the Northern Isles of Orkney and Shetland to the Firth of Forth and the Kingdom of Fife whose main town today, Dunfermline, was the ancient capital of Scotland long before Edinburgh. King Robert the Bruce is buried within Dunfermline Abbey.

My personal opinion is that the carvings on the ancient stones were perhaps the true beginnings of what we know as Heraldry. Then, probably after the Stone Age period, symbols were simply transferred to more modern materials, ultimately finishing up as heraldic devices for purposes of identification and

recognition on cloaks over armor (coat of arms) on the battlefield.

Probably, long before the Lyon Court, our ancestors who were the first to claim the land by building fires and hunting wild animals such as the boars in their carvings, used spears and bow and arrow devices which actually have all been depicted in examples of heraldry six hundred years later.

I personally do not think there is anything like a secret meaning waiting to be discovered to decode these ancient carvings.

The early Picts, in my opinion, simply depicted their daily tasks, historic occurrences and mystical tales passed on by ancestors in the way you would expect descendants of Stone Age people to tell their story in "stone".

(Hope-Vere Anderson is the Chieftain of the Clan Anderson Society, Ltd. Taken from the Family Tree, April/May 1998)

## U.S. PASSPORT RECORDS IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(*Everton's Genealogical Helper*, July-Aug. 1994, pg 17.)

Although we accept the requirement of a passport to travel abroad, passports were not required for U.S. citizens traveling overseas before World War 1, with the exception of a brief period during the American Civil War. Even so, U.S. citizens often obtained them for the increased protection they provided while traveling in a foreign country. This was especially true for naturalized citizens (immigrants) returning to the country of their birth. In such cases, a passport could prove their allegiance to the United States, and exempt them from military service in their former country.

Passports are issued by the Department of State, but "old" passport applications - those issued before 1926 - are in the custody of the National Archives.

The earliest passport applications are actually letters requesting passports, and their contents vary widely. Among the usual ingredients was the name of the applicant, the names of those who would be traveling with him or her, his or her residence, age, personal description, etc. A reference might also have been made to the location of the court and date



of the applicant's naturalization.

Beginning in 1906, the applications were standardized, and contain more complete information, including the applicant's name, date and place of birth, current residence, occupation, travel plans, physical description, and a photograph. If others were traveling with the applicant on the same passport, similar information would be included about them.

**In some cases, passport applications would include expired passports, birth or citizenship certificates, or other documents.**

The applications are only available at the National Archives, and are filed chronologically, but there are several indexes to them. For 1834 through 1859, several overlapping indexes have been made. These are usually alphabetic by the first letter of the surname only. Separate card indexes, strictly alphabetic, are also available for 1850 through 1852, and 1860 through 1880.

Book indexes, sorted alphabetically by the first three letters of the surname cover the periods 1881 through 1905 while another card index, strictly alphabetic, covers 1906 to 1923.

Although these indexes go to 1923, passport applications less than 75 years old may not be used without permission.

For more information about passport records in the custody of the National Archives, you should consult **Genealogical Research in the National Archives**, published by the National Archives Trust Fund Board.

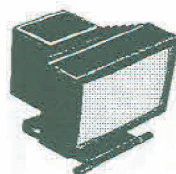
## RESEARCH TRIP A WINNER

By Dorothy Roper

Nineteen enthusiastic genealogists returned May 3, from a five day research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Six of the group were new "first timers". The remainder knew what they could expect and had come back for more. Some of the comments: "This has been a wonderful experience." "It was a great trip. I'll come again." "A very enjoyable group of 'gals' and hosts." "Well planned and executed." "As a first timer, I was very impressed." All were able to further their

genealogy, some in small ways and others greatly.

It's not too *early* to sign up for one of the next trips. The July 22 - 27 trip is less expensive. The September 23 through 27 trip will include the opportunity to attend the Tabernacle Choir Broadcast, MUSIC and THE SPOKEN WORD. To pre-register call the museum at 242-0971.



## COMPUTER CORNER

By Rick Sheldon

### STANDARDS FOR USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH:

*Recommended by the National Genealogical Society*

Mindful that computers are tools, genealogists must take full responsibility for their work, and therefore they:

- learn the capabilities and limits of their equipment and software, and use them only when they are the most appropriate tools for a purpose.
- refuse to let computer software automatically embellish their work.
- treat compiled information from on-line sources or digital data bases like that from other published sources, useful primarily as a guide to locating original records, but not as evidence for a conclusion or assertion.
- accept digital images or enhancements of an original record as a satisfactory substitute for the original only when there reasonable assurance that the image accurately reproduces the unaltered original.
- cite sources for data obtained on-line or from digital media with the same care that is appropriate for sources on paper and other traditional media, and enter data into a digital database only when its source can remain associated with it.
- always cite the sources for information or data posted on-line or sent to others, naming the author of a digital file as its immediate source,



while crediting original sources cited within the file.

- preserve the integrity of their own data bases by evaluating the reliability of downloaded data before incorporating it into their own files.
- provide, whenever they alter data received in digital form, a description of the change that will accompany the altered data whenever it is shared with others.
- treat people on-line as courteously and civilly as they would treat them face-to-face, not separated by networks and anonymity.
- accept that technology has not changed the principles of genealogical research, only some of the procedures.

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#### Source Citing in the 1990's

In 1981, Richard Lackey published his book *Cite Your Sources*; since that publication the genealogist's information world has been broadened and expanded to areas that few could have envisioned. With the advent of home computers, multitudes of genealogical software, electronic databases available to anyone, and the explosion of the Internet, the methods of citing sources has been in what one could call disarray. The standards, listed above, recommended by the NGS show how much things have changed. In 1981 the idea, that digital imagery and electronic databases would be widely available to the amateur genealogists, would have been a concept hard to grasp. You can understand why the confusion, of how to properly to cite sources by genealogists, now exists.

1997 saw the new publication of the book *Evidence!: Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*. by Elizabeth Shown Mills. This is the first major publication that deals with citation in genealogy since Lackey's book. In it Mills has proposed, or suggested, new methods for the numerous forms of electronic media, including CD-ROMS, computer software, electronic mail messages and World Wide Web sites.

When citing information obtained from Internet sites, Mills explores four different cases or scenarios

depending on the source of nature of the material:

- electronic database (family files)
- electronic file (images from public archives)
- electronic Web site
- electronic published paper ( previously published in hard copy)

The basis of her methods of citation are still the same four primary questions: who, what, when, and where.

The other important factor that you need to remember is the quality of the data. In fact, the NGS standards make *two points*: a) compiled information or electronic databases should be used as a guide to location the original records, but never used as evidence to support a claim or conclusion of lineage. b) Always evaluate the reliability of the material before incorporating it into your own files. In other words, if you can't prove or have not proved the claims made by the material, don't use it for anything other than a road map to find the proof. If the material you have is not proved by the author, try contacting the author; if it is an individual they may have the proof that is needed to substantiate the information and have simply failed to list the source. If they have no sources on hand to back their premise you have to treat the data just like a lawyer would; *hearsay is not admissible*.

There are acknowledged problems with using any compiled records. **Commercial database producers rarely start with any original records.** The staff could be adding what they consider value to the data by selecting which records and data fields to compile, filling in missing or incomplete areas with no true guidelines or standards. And submitters may have been careless, submitting data with wrong or misspelled surnames, and incomplete or erroneous data fields.

Using CD-ROM may be more convenient than a visit to a library or family history center, but you should never add data from unverified sources. Gathering and incorporating unsubstantiated, uncited information and making it a part of the family database is not good research or even good judgement.

Even the use of the family history center CD's



should be done with caution. While it is an excellent source for information and research most of us can attest to the fact that the information it contains is not 100% accurate. Many of us have found data that has been submitted to Salt Lake City is in error and "defective".

Electronic data is convenient and very searchable, but it can be lacking in quality and/or documentation. This can create potential obstacles, dead ends or wrong turns. Just like your own research information cannot be taken at face value and it needs to be documented and verified, the same is true of someone else's research. And you should apply the same standards to the research that you give, send, or submit to someone; include all of the documentation and sources you have. List or cite everything that you have used to form your conclusions or claims. Anything you cannot prove, but can only surmise, should be noted as such.

The point of this article is that no electronic aid can really replace or eliminate the research process nor can it relieve you of the necessity of checking for accuracy. They can help, or when taken at face value hinder, but electronic data should be only considered as useful tools, not as primary or final sources.

(Sources: Larry Naukam, *The Quality of Electronic Indexes*, and Drew Smith, *Citing the Sources* **Genealogical Computing**, Winter 1998)

## COLORADO RESOURCE HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

The Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies has produced a *Colorado Resource Handbook* that is a reference guide to Colorado genealogical resources. This 186 page guide lists Colorado libraries with genealogical and historical information, Family History Centers, and publications produced by Colorado societies and their individuals. It lists Colorado GenWeb sites, speakers and topics and available genealogical services. It also has a listing of awards and recognition programs conducted by the Council.

The Handbooks will be placed in approximately 150 libraries, archives, museums and county facilities. The handbook will be available for sale to

other interested institutions and individuals. For those interested in purchasing this Handbook, have your Council Delegate show you a copy and to provide you with an order form. Or, look for the manual in your local library. Price of the Handbook is \$15, tax and S&H apply. Revisions to the Handbook are expected to be made annually.

## ARE THEY REALLY DEAD? By Jody Nestler

I know they lived because I'm here. I know they left sons, great grandsons, etc. because I was born into the family with the same surname. But, where were they laid to rest? After two weeks of diligent searching in many places in South Carolina and Georgia, some of my ancestors' burial locations remain undetected.

My trip to the southland was satisfying in many ways, tiring at times and great fun. The best part was meeting cousins I didn't know I had until the quest for my roots was begun. Thanks to the miracle of the Internet, I have found these very interesting people, now have met them and heard their stories of growing up in a part of the country about which I was pretty ignorant. As one of my cousins put it -- "We knew somebody went west but we didn't know who or when!" I knew most of my grandfather's family remained in Georgia but did not know some were in the same locations as their ancestors migrated to in the early 1820s.

I spent weeks preparing; deciding what I wanted to find for each person, and setting goals for my stay in each state. I used the Internet exhaustively. I used Ancestry.com to access PERSI for publication information. I used Schweitzer's "South Carolina Genealogical Research" book. I updated my computer program with detailed notes on all appropriate ancestors. I made Action Notes with specific goals. I also tried to cut down on the paper copies, anticipating finding more information. I got a break in South Carolina. The library had only one microfilm copier in the archives, but offered to make copies from the film, and mail them to you at a later date.

Thanks to two cousins in Georgia I was able to go directly to lands that my GGGF and my GGF had



in the 1800s in two different counties. One of these cousins has been diligently researching for about three years and had marked a county map with the exact location of lands owned by my GGGF and two of his brothers when they first went to Georgia. Near Rome, Georgia my second cousin gave me an extensive tour of the countryside. My GGF had over 1000 acres of land after the Civil War and a grist mill on the creek. All that remains of that is a marble wheel device used to crush corn. It is leaning against the tree by the creek, not far from Chambers Mill Road which still exists (Chambers was my maiden name). I saw the church my family attended and other home sites of the very large Chambers family.

In South Carolina, I hit pay dirt when I was able to connect with Elmer O. Parker, who has collaborated on several books with Brent Holcomb, a published genealogist. Mr. Parker had prepared a detailed map showing where early lands were located in York Co. Of all my related families. He is a very distant relative, also. I did not know until I arrived in SC that Mr. Parker retired from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. as the Deputy Directory of Military Records! His specialty was the Civil War. He is a spry 83 year old who treated me like long lost family.

I literally chased my GGGF all over Georgia. He and three brothers went first to Fayette Co. (That land now is in Spalding Co.). From there my ancestor went to Barstow County, then to Floyd Co., to Gordon Co., and back to Floyd. Some of you may have run into similar tracings. It makes it very difficult to pinpoint them for long; they just don't leave distinctive tracks at times. All of these counties had excellent libraries and "Georgia Rooms" (for genealogical and historical research). The county courthouses were helpful. I also found the various historical societies helpful. As it happens, each county had exhaustive lists of cemetery headstones. In each location, there were many plots with no headstones. I was disappointed in South Carolina when the historical society informed me that with one exception, the early Presbyterian churches in York Co. had only sketchy vital records prior to the 1840s. Even the

Presbyterian archives in Montreat, NC does not have these records. There were, however, wonderful cemetery books prepared by one man for the entire county. He is still alive but in ill health. I found many relatives but not my GGGF - the one man I wanted to pinpoint.

I learned my elusive David Chambers was willing to fight for land he thought should be his. He and his brother had been granted a Power of Attorney from their father-in-law in Pennsylvania to evict and dispossess anyone found on the land he had bought earlier and never settled. Through a series of many court cases in Yorkville, SC., I learned they tried to do as they had been advised. A document reads: "the said David Chambers on or about ---with force of arms to wit swords guns sticks and staves did break and enter into the close of him ---". My kind and gentle father would have been horrified if he had know what his GGGF did!

I found it fascinating that my Georgia second cousin displayed traits I identified with the Chambers males. He resembles an uncle. We really connected and I hope he and his wife will visit me. My fourth cousin in Griffin, GA does not look like my Chambers line, but a picture of his uncle did show a resemblance.

I ate catfish, grits and black-eyed peas. I listened respectfully as some people I met vigorously discussed "THE WAR". One person wanted to know if my ancestors had come south after the war; in other words, was my family on the "right side" during THE WAR. Confederate Memorial Day is celebrated on April 27 in Georgia. Every state agency is closed; and some even close on Saturday. Every library has extensive book collections about all Civil War battles and, of course, the southern pension information is kept in the Georgia Archives.

Other than the fact I had to dodge tornadoes in South Carolina, I loved traveling in the countryside. I felt I had entered another world. This type of trip brings history alive; I can hardly wait to visit Pennsylvania and travel even further back in time.

##

"Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length." Robert Frost.