

MESA

DWELLERS

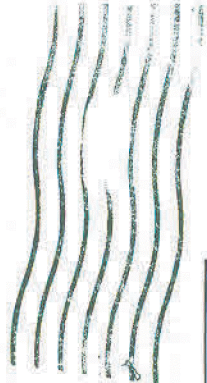
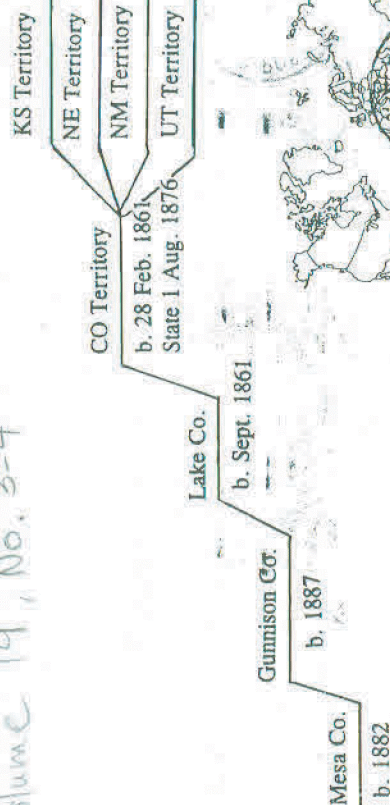


A PUBLICATION OF THE MESA COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 1506

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December, January, February 1999-2000
Volume 19, No. 3-4



Mesa Dwellers

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SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Rick Sheldon
Vice-President	Vacant
Secretary	Mary Halsey
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ELECTED OFFICERS

One Year Term	Wanda Dodson
Two Year Term	Betty Grosskopf
Three Year Term	Dorothy O'Dwyer

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Heritage Quest	
Librarian	Betty Grosskopf
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MCGS Librarian	Gloria Heitsman
Membership	Ron Knapp
Programs	Dennis Jenkins
Computer Editor	Rick Sheldon
Web Page Editor	Rick Sheldon
Newsletter Editor	Vacant

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 currently held at Cross Orchards 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.

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



Calendar

Note: All Society meeting will be held at Cross

Orchards until further notice. Cross Orchards is located at 3073 Patterson(F Road) on the south side of Patterson

December 9

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY. Cross Orchards at 6:00 P.M.

January 1, 2000: Hunker-down for Y2K

January 13, 2000: Melba Futon will present: The Family involvement in American History

February 25-26 2000: Family History Fair at the Family History Center on Melody Lane

Foothills Genealogical Society and Denver Public Library present Arlene H Eakle, PhD. In a Genealogical Seminar, Saturday January 8, 2000 at the Denver Public Library, Lower Level. Registration is \$20.00 per person.

For more information: Contact Ron Weddle at 303-278-2989 or weedlron@aol.com and Paul Kilburn at 303-940-1609 or PDKilburn@cs.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Don't miss a thing! Send your check today.

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New "MFILM" Program From Family History Center

The Family History Center in Grand Junction is currently in the process of inventorying all the films and microfiche and inserting them into a data base program. The project involves confirming the presence of a film in the indefinite files; confirming the title from the Family History Library Catalog, and installing the film into the program "MFILM".

While the patron may have ordered one title, the film may actually contain many titles (or items). What the new program will do is allow the patrons (with the help of the library staff) search for all the items on a film.

The program is designed to allow an inquiry as to a title and if the film is in the indefinite file the title will be retrieved. For instance; if someone wanted to know all the films concerning the state of Pennsylvania, the library aide would type a request for all films containing the word "Pennsylvania" as a part of a title. All the films that had that word in the title would be listed along with a brief description of the content.

All state titles are spelled out fully. There was some consideration given to using the two letter state abbreviation, however the search is not case sensitive. Therefore using the same example as above, entering in the inquiry for "pa" in the title would bring up all titles where those letters appeared anywhere in the title.

The work is in progress and we would hope to have the indefinite completed shortly. The next phase will be to do the same process with the fiche. One note; the present program only allows us to list up to 52 items. Where there are more than this number the patron would be referred to the family history library catalog.

Joe Farrell

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CALIFORNIA RECORDS.

Very recently the Bureau of Land Management posted a database record of patents (deeds) issued by the United States in the State of California between 1856 and 1995. This information has been available for some time in text form on RootsWeb in the USGenWeb Archives at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/ca/ca-land.htm>.

A Winter PAF 4 Class

This class will be sponsored by the Mesa State College Department of Community Education at their UTEC Center. Classes will meet for two hours on Friday evening from 5:30 to 7:30 and three hours on Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:30 for four weeks beginning January 28 and ending February 19.

Participants need to have the PAF 4 program downloaded on their home computers and become familiar with it for two weeks to a month before the class starts. The program may be downloaded free from www.familysearch.org.

You may register for the class after Christmas by calling the UTEC Center at 245-2800.

More Genealogy on PAF 4 The Frosting on the Cake

This class will include a review of the PAF 4 (Personal Ancestral File) basics, the addition of diacritics and Other Events. Sharing information with others (Exporting and Importing). The use of Multimedia (adding pictures, documents, sound, slide shows, etc.), creating Custom Reports (e.g. All my Ancestors Born in Connecticut), SOUNDINDEX, Creating a Web Page and Exploring the Internet. **Contact Dorothy Roper**

Presidential Notes

Just a few observations, have you noticed all of the sudden influx of articles on genealogy? In just the last three weeks there has been numerous pieces written on the subject. From the Denver Post, the weekly Sunday insert, I even notice that several portals on the web Cnet.com comes to mind have broached the subject. Wonder if it has anything to do with the century change?

We are at years end and soon the nominating committee for new officers will be looking for some good people to fill the vacancies, the Society is at a cross-road it needs your help to sustain itself and grow, some wondrous thing are just up ahead for us. Offer your services, we have been to passive and to willing to let the others do the work. Things need to change it's time, to step up to the pump

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LOUISIANA LAND RECORDS AID FAMILY RECORDS

Genealogists who are well qualified to work in "common law" states are often reluctant to work with Louisiana records. The Napoleonic Code, with terms such as marriage contracts or successions requires time and attention to define them. But Land records in Louisiana can yield more genealogical information than other states. The development of the conveyance and recording system of land records in Louisiana established a valid land title (determining if some one actually owned a tract of land, and in what legal manner it was owned). The legal title gives a history of the land and consequently, a history of the people who owned that particular tract of land.

All of the various events of a person's life are reflected to some extent in the records, particularly the conveyance records found in the Clerk of Court records. All events such as marriage, divorce or death, can affect the title of the land.

Land grants were instruments of colonization and were used to help colonize the vast Louisiana Territory. Colonization began in 1682 when the French explorer, LaSalle, claimed land for France. The French language influence on recording names was unique, and is often a problem associating the French version of the names. Persevere, those records are valuable messages of information.

In 1720, German immigrants began colonizing the southern portion of the state, and those land records are available.

However, the German name may have a "La" preceding the surname. In 1762, France ceded Louisiana to Spain, and in 1800, Spain conveyed the land back to France. Ownership during that period are likely to be in Spanish.

In 1803, when the United States purchased the Louisiana territory, the grants had to be registered with the United States to be recognized. Congress validated the claims which arose from earlier grants that had been properly established. In 1838, the Surveyor General had the lands laid out in Section-Township-Range format to define ownership. In Louisiana, the private claim was first surveyed, then laid out within the S-T-R structure.

To find the ancestor's land, each parish has a plat book or a tract book. A column shows who entered the land

and patented it. The state of Louisiana itself had no public land per se. All of the public land belonged to the United States. Louisiana also has indemnity land in lieu of 16 section land. The conveyance of land from the United States government to the individual was still a patent.

A genealogist may find the Federal Tract Book in a Parish Clerk's office and or the state land office in Baton Rouge, LA. Conveyance records are kept by the Clerk of Court. These include probate records, conveyance records, marriage, divorce, birth records, records of suits/litigation records (these are indexed by years), the licensing of physicians, public office holders, incompetency records, and copies of tax rolls (assessors and Sheriffs will also have copies a copy of tax rolls).

The clerk is the custodian of all records, which may include old minutes of the Police Jury. The Police Jury is the governing body of the Parish. Oil Companies in Louisiana are often very good in allowing genealogists to search their records for succession of mineral rights in family lands, and their records reveal much family information.

Louisiana law allows limited trusts(10 years) while other states have more liberal trust laws. Louisiana law prohibits substitution. Regarding the laws of succession in which all children shared equally in an intestate estate, and a parent/or child was a forced heir, a new law or act has eliminated the forced heirship. Genealogists will likely be working during the long period of "forced heirship," and have every member of the family named. Perhaps spouses and parents will be included.

Reference: Edgar Lancaster, "Louisiana Records," The Genealogy Society of Vicksburg, MS, Vol. VI No. 3, March, 1990.

Melba H. Fulton

Life in the 1500's:

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and were still smelling pretty good by June. However, they were starting to smell, so brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the b.o.. Baths equaled a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

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HOLIDAYS: A CORNUCOPIA OF INFORMATION

Dinner at our house? Sure, but it is going to cost you -- not money; bring no food. What I want is a little of your time and knowledge.

Bring photocopies of any of the following: birth certificates, marriage licenses, death certificates, graduation diplomas, obituaries, military records, old pictures (photocopies preferred) that relate to ANY family member. Also be prepared to spend about 10 minutes filling in a History Questionnaire about yourself and your family history as you remember it. Include the children in all the steps too -- their views are just as important and you'll foster an interest in preserving family history in the next generation. Each person must bring at least two items from the list and fill out the questionnaire. The items are placed in protective plastic sheets and in a binder when they arrive, for all to enjoy during the holiday weekend; make a comment section and guest sign-in pages.

This is one method of gathering information and getting your family involved. Once they start to look over some of the items they may remember a few pieces of what has been a puzzle for you, and provide important new leads. Display a copy of the family tree or pedigree charts and encourage them to make what they believe to be corrections or additions.

Try "Pin the Leaf on the Tree." Go to an art supply store and get a large piece of poster board (I prefer 4x6 feet) and draw a tree with lots of branches. Using colored paper, cut out leaves. Start by putting up one leaf for each of your family members and have their name, date of birth, parents' names, etc. written on the leaf.

Make sure that the information you are seeking is on example leaves you have already pinned on the tree. Be creative. Add cutouts from photocopies of old pictures, for example.

Go to the local discount store and purchase several disposable cameras and place them around the house. Have your guests use these at their discretion; you'll be surprised when they are developed at the memories that were captured behind your back.

Family gatherings like Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza, and New Year are nostalgic and most

family members are more receptive to opening their emotional memory banks during this time.

Remember, though, gathering family history is something that should be done with all the respect and consideration you can give. I believe that a good meal is the least we can do for those who have shared their lives, memories, and personal feeling with us. After all, it's all about family and how we have been blessed and the bounties we can share.

by Susan Gitchell

Computer Bits and Bytes

Will the computer world as we know it come to an end? I guess we will know shortly, won't we.

I am constantly amazed at how much the Internet and computers have changed our world in the last 5 or 6 years. There are always the nay sayers out there who are telling that this is not a good thing, this Internet, and I suppose in some instances they are right. But, how it has brought us together in the genealogy world is amazing.

Here's a concept, the next time you travel by car somewhere stop along the way, lets say at the station where you buy gas. Find a bulletin board and post a note that you are looking for you great aunt twice removed. Have all of the pertinent information on the flyer, you know, name, maiden name, date of birth, etc. What do you think your chance are of a reply. Yet, We do the same thing all the time on the Internet. And what successes we have. Plus, the information, (be it right or askew) that we literally have at our fingertips is unbelievable and is growing everyday, as more and more governmental agencies are opening the public files to us. Stop and think about all of the background information that has been gathered that normally could have taken years of effort.

Because of my type of employment I don't get to travel much, but whenever I want, at any time day or night, I can sit down in front of my electronic travel machine and do research in the state archive in Indiana or a county clerks office in Nebraska, or check out land patents through the BLM, or just see what the Family History Library can tell me. Or even more dramatic, send an instantaneous letter to the third cousin, I've never met, asking about the family history and their remembrances.

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FamilySearch.Org Hits the Web

FamilySearch.org, the world's largest online genealogy site, will feature 240 million new names in its genealogy database enabling users to access over 640 million total entries.

Beginning Monday, November 22, the new addition in itself, bigger than most genealogical databases on the web, will represent international data culled primarily from Western Europe, Scandinavia, and Mexico. In terms of size, the upgrade is nearly equal to adding the name of every resident of the U.S. onto the site.

Use of FamilySearch.org, which is provided free of charge by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, has amounted to 1.5 billion hits, exceeding all expectations. It is a barometer of the surging popularity of genealogy worldwide.

"The sheer volume of usage has been remarkable" stated Christofferson, "People everywhere have a desire to find out where they come from, and now those who trace their ancestry to countries outside of the United States, Canada, and the British Isles will find additional help on the site."

Improvements to the site include:

- * Improved search capabilities for specific events, dates, and places
- * GEDCOM file download capability (GEDCOM is a universal genealogy file format)
- * Specific source notations indicating microfilm or book

Since its launch in May, FamilySearch.org has achieved the following milestones:

- * Surpassed the 1.5 billion "hit" mark during the last week of October
- * Averaged roughly 8.5 million "hits" daily
- * Over 300,000 registered users (20% from outside the United States)

More than 236,000 people have received PAF 4.0, a free family tree software program that can be downloaded from the site and allows users to keep and organize genealogy records.

Users submit approximately 1.2 million new names to Pedigree Resource File every month. This allows users to preserve their genealogical research and have it published on CDs.

In addition to the abundance of additional names, users will be able to download a Spanish language version of PAF 4.0. Plans also call for the site to be upgraded with additional language versions of PAF 4.0 including French, Portuguese, and German by spring 2000.

From Mormon News

Books Worth Their Weight

American Passenger Arrival Records: A Guide to the Records of Immigrants Arriving at American Ports by Sail or Steam, by Michael Tepper, 1988, revised 1993 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.), hardbound, 144 pages, \$19.95. What are your chances of finding a record of your ancestor's arrival in America? This book tells you what records are available in the National Archives for the major ports and for what time periods, and how to access these records.

Map Guide to the U.S. Federal Censuses, 1790-1920, by William Thorndale and William Dollarhide, 1987 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.), softbound, 415 pages, \$39.95. 393 maps graphically show how 3,250 counties evolved over the years. Each map shows the current county boundaries overlaid with the boundaries as they were for each census year. An indication of lost countywide censuses appears on all maps, 1790-1920. The impact of new county formations and changing boundaries may determine which county is the keeper of records today, and for what time period.

The Census Book: A Genealogist's Guide to Federal Census Facts, Schedules, and Indexes, by William Dollarhide, 1999 (Bountiful, UT: Heritage Quest), softbound, 188 pages, \$24.95 (Includes CD-ROM disk). This book presents details about all federal censuses, 1790-1930; a list of all published statewide census indexes, whether printed, microform, or CD-ROM; countywide census indexes at the Family History Library; U.S. maps for each census year; a review of non-population census schedules; and printable forms for all census schedules, 1790-1930; plus mortality schedules, slave schedules, 1890 veterans, soundex, and census comparison sheets. The CD-ROM version of the book allows a computer user to print high quality forms, maps, or textual pages directly to their own printer.

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EASTMAN'S BEST ON THE WEB

The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1999 by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author.

From the 28 Nov 1999 issue of Eastman's Newsletter:

The Best Genealogy Site on the Web

For the past two weeks this newsletter has been running a "Best of the Web" contest. I have asked the readers of this newsletter to cast votes by e-mail for the one Web site they think is the best. The word "best" is subjective, I wanted each person to decide for himself or herself what makes that site the "best."

The votes are in and I am pleasantly surprised. This is the third year of this contest and this year the electronic "voting machine" received a lot more votes than in previous years. The same site won both of the last two years' contests. However, the online genealogy world obviously is much more competitive this year. While that site did receive a lot of votes once again, three other Web sites received even more. All the top finishers offer lots of actual genealogy databases.

According to the readers of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, **the best genealogy site on the World Wide Web is the Hessen Web site at:**

<http://users.rootsweb.com/~Kdeuhes/Hessen/index.htm>

One look at this site will show why anyone with German ancestry, especially Hessen ancestry, will find this site so useful. Hessen (or Hesse in German) during the 19th century was a region of Germany with fluctuating boundaries. It was situated somewhat west of mid-central Germany on today's maps. Today there are hundreds of cities, towns, and villages in the Federal German State of Hessen. However, anyone with ancestry from

another part of Germany will still find a lot of resources on this site. A counter on this site shows more than 704,000 visitors in the past two years.

Webmaster Don Watson has obviously put a lot of thought and many, many hours into the logical layout of this site. The following is a brief list of some of the items I found available at the site this week:

- * A very brief explanation of German history
- * Information about the German Empire, 1871-1945
- * History of 16 modern German states
- * "How to" information for the newcomer
- * Maps
- * Hessen Query Board
- * Links to other German query boards
- * The Hessen Club
- * German Cities and Towns on the Internet
- * German music * The Hesse-L mailing list
- * Information on other German genealogy mailing lists
- * A German Language Mailing List will be launched soon

Many of the sections listed above are actually on other sites and connected by links. The Hessen Web site serves as a central point for German genealogy research.

Congratulations to Don Watson and the many enthusiastic members of the Hessen Web site at: <http://users.rootsweb.com/~deuces/Hessen/index.htm> to display a graphic that proclaims it as the "Best Genealogy Site On The Web Awarded by the Readers of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter." That graphic is visible right now at: <http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/roots/bestlogo.jp>

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Other Great Genealogy Sites on the Web

While only one site can claim the title of having the most votes cast for the Readers' Choice Award, there are many other great genealogy-related sites on the World Wide Web. All of these deserve an honorable mention; they all have great information and have gathered enthusiasts. Here is a list of other sites that received a lot of votes in this poll:

Second Place: RootsWeb.com at

<http://wxvw.rootsweb.com>

This site proclaims "Hundreds of gigabytes (millions of pages) of free genealogy data, with more added every day. Over 6 million individuals on file in Roots Web's WorldConnect Project." It is interesting to note that RootsWeb also hosts the Hessen site that was voted number one. If the Hessen votes were combined with the other RootsWeb votes, the result would have been more votes than the next three Web sites combined.

Third Place: Genealogy Exchange & Surname Registry at: <http://www.genexchange.com>.

Quoting from the Web site: "*The Genealogy Exchange & Surname Registry, simply put, is a genealogical data exchange where visitors and researchers alike can go to find specific persons, and exchange specific data with one another. The GenExchange is one of the two or three largest non-commercial genealogy projects on the Internet and is a community effort where visitors and project volunteers can contribute data for the free use of others. The mission of the GenExchange is to further our goal of ensuring permanent free access to as much raw genealogical data as possible.*"

Fourth Place: The huge databases offered by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints at:

<http://www.familysearch.org> I suspect that everyone uses this site. The Mormon Church has spent a lot of money to put much of their information on line and they don't even ask for reimbursement.

Fifth Place: Cyndi's List at <http://www.cyndislist.com>
The winner of the first and second annual awards, this great resource continues to have many fans.

All of the above sites are to be congratulated on their superb work. We genealogists are fortunate to have them.
Subscription information:

To subscribe to this free newsletter, to cancel an existing subscription or to modify an existing subscription in any way, go to: <http://rootscomputing.listbot.com>

If you want to see the current issue as well as back issues of the newsletter, look on the World Wide Web at:
<http://www.ancestry.com/columns/eastman/index.htm>

More Events Coming Up:

The Association of Professional Genealogist-Colorado Chapter presents a free workshop:

Genealogical Society Leader Development Workshop.

1:00 to 5:00 p.m. January 15 2000 at the Denver Public Library. Featured classes are Leadership Principles; Educational Program Development; Record Keeping and Financial Management.

Registration forms can be mailed to CAPG, P.O. box 40817, Denver Co 80204-0817 include your Name, Address, City/State/Zip, Email and Phone Number.

Colorado Genealogy Society announces a **Methodology & Writing Seminar** featuring John Phillip Colletta, PhD.

Friday February 18, 2000 7:30 p.m.

Washington Park Methodist Church, Race & Arizona Streets

Visiting Ancestral Towns in Europe: No Package Tours Available.

Saturday February 19, 2000 10:30 a.m.

Denver Public Library Conference Center

The Library of Congress: An Overview for Genealogists Using Primary Sources: The Challenges and the Rewards Using Artifacts in Genealogical Writing

Registration: \$20.00 Check payable to Colorado Genealogical Society c/o Sharon Boatwright, 2009 S Grant Denver Co 80210 Before February 14, 2000